

Wanderers Tramping Club Inc



BULLETIN

January – April 2024

www.wandererstramping.org.nz

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 2022/2023

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

Trip Programme

TRIP DATE	TRIP DETAILS	BOOKING INFORMATION
28 January	Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park Hamilton	Dianne Lee Phone/Txt : 027 272 6617 Email : leedi444@gmail.com Bookings not required – just turn up
11 February	Tapapakanga Regional Park Firth of Thames	Colin Standing Phone : 07 855 1335 Txt : 027 326 6886 Email : standings@xtra.co.nz Open : Monday 29 January
25 February	Piako River Walk Morrinsville	Sue Grocock Phone / Txt : 027 440 2448 Email : rongee@xtra.co.nz Open : Monday 12 February
10 March	Homunga Bay to Waihi Beach Waihi	Dianne Lee Phone/Txt : 027 272 6617 Email : leedi444@gmail.com Open : Monday 26 February
15 – 18 March	Fabulous Socks Long Weekend Away Ruapehu	Dianne Lee Phone/Txt : 027 272 6617 Email : leedi444@gmail.com Open : Monday 5 February Close : Monday 4 March
24 March	Deverson's Medium Gorge Kawhia	Colin Standing Phone : 07 855 1335 Txt : 027 326 6886 Email : standings@xtra.co.nz Open : Monday 11 March
7 April	Mahaukura Track Pirongia	Sue Grocock Phone / Txt : 027 440 2448 Email : rongee@xtra.co.nz Open : Monday 25 March
21 April	Tuakau Day Out Pokeno/Tuakau	Carol Davies Phone / Txt : 0273190852 Email : grandmacarol@xtra.co.nz Open : Monday 8 April

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 2024 tramping year. I hope you all had a safe, fun and happy Christmas and New Year and are ready to have another great year on the track with friends.

The Christmas trip was attended by 26 people who thoroughly enjoyed the bird sanctuary talk, Christmas cake and off course the pub lunch, best turn out all year.

This year we will visit some old favourites, possibly some new places but always a great day out. Our membership has dropped quite a bit and we are now around 50 members. We are keeping costs and the use of vans going for this year with annual reviews. So, if you have not paid your sub yet please do so and remember to book early for the tramps.

On a sad note, the 2023 year ended with several of our long standing members passing including Keith – founder and life member (54y), Jenny (10y) both long serving committee and club members, also Marie who had been a member from way back. They will be missed but will be remembered every time we are on one of their favourite tracks.

Just a gentle reminder - COVID is still around, so if you are feeling off or unwell consider not coming out due to the close seating in the vans and your fellow trampers health. Also, if you are prone to TRAVEL SICKNESS please consider others and take or carry a remedy with you. Prevention is better than the other. This is not a club responsibility - you are responsible for your own wellbeing.

The committee are preparing for a long weekend away at Ruapehu at the Taupo Ski Lodge - Friday 15 to Monday 18 March. See the write up for more info. Register your expression of interest so we can make plans - these trips take quite a lot of organising.

Cheers Dianne
see you on the track





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. Please be aware you may be asked for your vaccine pass or may be asked about your vaccination status. 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.

CLUB MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

Wanderers Member Name Badges

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

Only \$12.00



Embroidered Wanderers Tramping Club Badges

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

Only \$10.00



To purchase a badge see Ron on one of our trips

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 backpack
- 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, 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 28 January

Hamilton

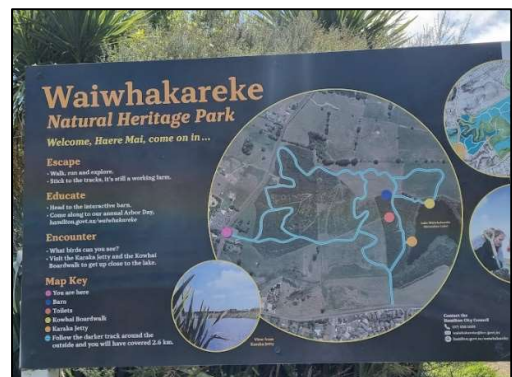
G1/Social

Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park

This is the first tramp/walk for the year so we are doing our usual turn up/local/social walk and coffee at the Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park opposite the Zoo. We will meet at the bottom of the new viewing tower by the car park. This is a short walk (1-2 hours). We will meet at 9am and finish with a coffee at the Zoo café after the walk.

The park is 60ha in total and has easy walking tracks with a loop and connecting tracks. Suitable for walkers looking for an easy walking trail in peaceful surroundings. The park is on its way to becoming a self-sustaining sanctuary that represents the original ecosystem diversity of the Hamilton Basin. The park has a peat lake (Waiwhakareke or Horseshoe Lake), and wetland ecosystems with native plantings being restored.

Start :	Meet at the heritage park car park under the tower for 9am start
Cost:	\$5.00
Leaders:	Dianne
Bookings:	No bookings required – just turn up
	Contact Dianne
	Phone/txt 027 272 6617



Sunday 11 February**Firth of Thames****Grade 1+****Tapapakanga Regional Park**

This is a lovely 7.5 km coastal walk for a summer day. The Regional Park is on the western shore of the Firth of Thames. We park the vans in the car park adjacent to the Ashby Historic Homestead and the walk begins along the beach. The Tapapakanga Stream has to be crossed (depth depends on the tide and you may like to bring sandals or crocs to protect the feet from the knobbly stones).

Once across, the track turns up a short hill and then meanders through bush and Pohutukawa with good views across the Firth of Thames. After about 2km the track veers inland to become a farm walk, climbing to a trig at 128 m. The track continues across the working farm back to the start point.

There is a beach for those who would like to swim, so bring your togs.

When the swimming is done, the vans will relocate to Waharau Regional Park where those that wish can partake of the Waharau Bush Walk, a pleasant 2 km walk through regenerating forest.

Make sure you bring sun hat and sunscreen.

Expect to walk about 4+ hours total.



Depart: 7.30am

Return: 5pm approx

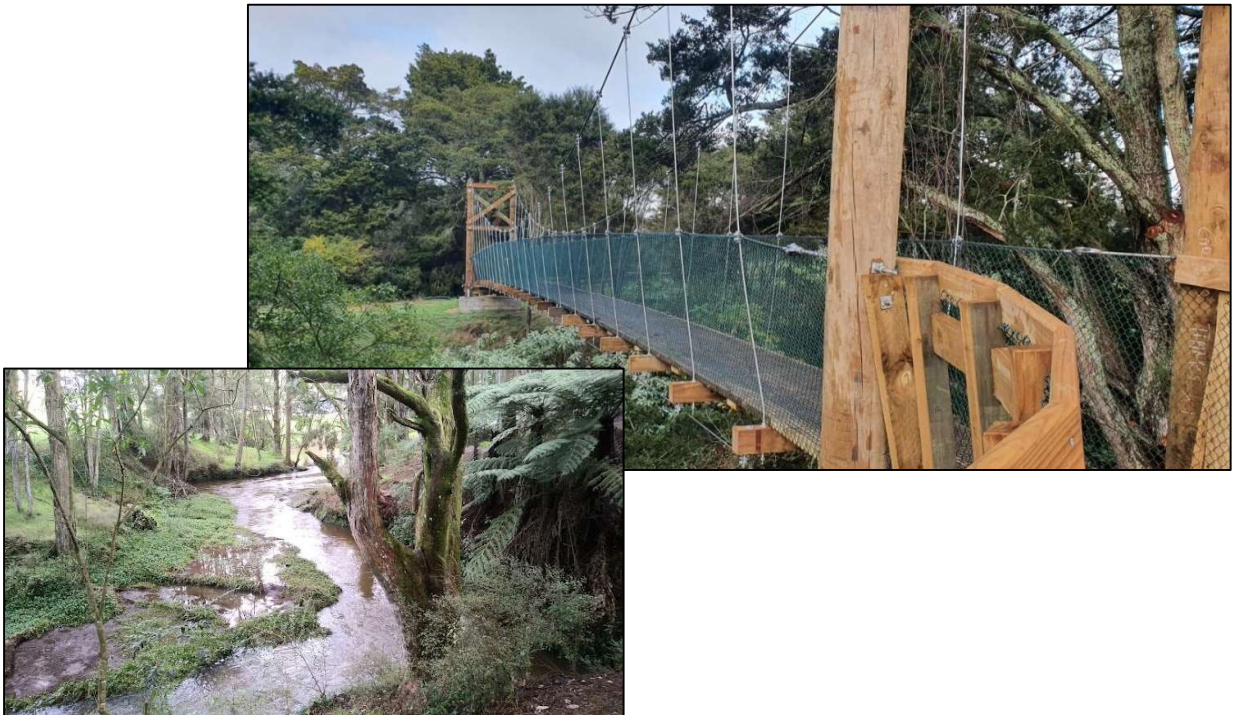
Cost: \$25.00 (members)
\$30.00 (non-members)

Leaders: Colin and Margaret Standing

Bookings:	Open	Monday 29 January @ 6pm
	Contact	Colin or Margaret
	Phone	07 855 1335
	Txt	027 326 6886
	Email	standings@xtra.co.nz

Sunday 25 February**Morrinsville****Grade 1****Piako River Walk**

We will turn off main Morrinsville Highway, left into Lorne Street then left into Cureton Street to the Morrinsville Domain to park the vans. We will start a gentle walk along the riverbank and exit at Homewood Park Drive. We can either walk back to the vans the same way or via the town streets and visit a choice of cafés along the way. Approx 2-2 ½ hours walking.

**Depart:** 8am**Return:** 4pm approx**Cost:** \$25.00 (members)
\$30.00 (non-members)**Leaders:** Sue and Friends**Bookings:** Open Monday 12 February @ 6pm
Contact Sue Grocock
Phone/txt 027 440 2448
Email rongee@xtra.co.nz

Sunday 10 March**Waihi****Grades 1+ & 2+****Homunga Bay to Waihi Beach**

We are off to the beach!

Grade 2+ Walkers will be dropped off, starting at Ngatitangata Road (at the top of Homunga Bay), and ending up in Waihi Beach. You will walk via Orokawa Bay before finishing at the north end of Waihi Beach. This part of the track between Orokawa Bay and Homunga Bay is narrow and steep in places, with steep drop-offs of 80m or more to the ocean below. Great views on a good day.

Total walking time for Grade 2+ approx. 5 hours

Grade 1+ Walkers will go with the van to Waihi Beach, have morning tea before we start the walk over to Orokawa Bay to meet the Grade 2+ group and returning back the same way to Waihi Beach. This is a well-formed track but can be tide dependent at the beginning/end.

Total walking time for Grade 1+ approx. 3-4 hours.

There is an additional walk if time permits for those who want to give it a go from Orokawa Bay to William Wright Falls takes about 1.5 hours return and starts at the northern end of Orokawa Bay. The track is NOT maintained and has a lot of cutty grass with multiple stream crossings. It has not been surveyed.

Coffee/Ice cream on way home time permitting.



Depart: 7.30am

Return: 5pm approx

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

Leaders: Dianne, Pam and Barbara

Bookings: Open Monday 26 February @ 6pm
Contact Dianne
Phone/Txt 027 272 6617
Email leedi444@gmail.com



FABULOUS SOCKS WEEKEND AWAY

Ruapehu

Friday 15 – Monday 18 March

3 nights - All Grades



We have booked the Taupo Ski Lodge which is at the top of the Bruce Road. It is a fully equipped lodge sleeping 26 in bunk rooms. These weekends are loads of fun with options offered to keep you entertained even if you don't want to tramp/walk.

Plan

Meet at Turangi Z Station for lunch then travel all together up the mountain with a couple of stops for shortish walks on the way to be at the lodge for around 3-4pm.

Saturday and Sunday will have a couple of walk/tramping options. On Saturday night there will be the Fabulous Socks theme so start dressing them up as we have guest judges and prizes plus we will also have a fun quiz.

After the lodge clean up on the Monday, we are planning to leave around 10am via Taupo to the Wairakei BP for lunch and nextdoor to the Wairakei Terraces and Hot Pools for a soak (bring your togs and Gold Card). From there we will head home.

Meals

You will need to provide your own breakfasts and lunches. We are going to have 3 teams for dinner/dishes/clean up to share the load. You will be asked to contribute to one dinner over this period. This means you only do dinner and dishes once over the whole weekend.

Cost

- Accommodation \$60.00 (total for three nights) to be paid to treasurer Colin by 4 March to confirm your place
- Transport \$80.00 (approx) to drivers (to be confirmed) to cover all transport for the weekend.

Bookings/Expressions of Interest

Open Monday 5 February
 Contact Dianne
 Phone/txt 027 272 6617
 Email leedi444@gmail.com

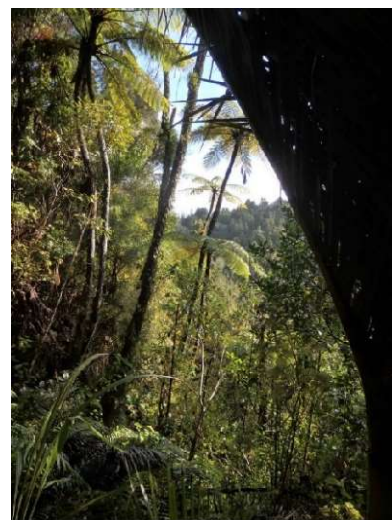
- Leave name, contact details and if happy to be a driver or need ride
- Transport and other details will then be sent to the people attending
- There is a lot of organisation that goes into the weekends so confirm your place for a unique, fun time

Sunday 24 March**Kawhia****Grade 2****Deverson's Medium Gorge**

The track starts and ends at Te Kauri Lodge near Kawhia and takes us through variable bush with some large limestone outcrops and cliffs. We descend into the gorge and cross a stream (wet feet and mud could be part of this trip).

After lunch we start the ascent, steep at times along a ridge with some great views of Kawhia and return to the lodge.

Expect to walk about 4½ hours



Depart:	8am	
Return:	5.30pm approx	
Cost:	\$25.00 (members) \$30.00 (non-members)	
Leaders:	Colin Standing and Glenys Morrow	
Bookings:	Open	Monday 11 March @ 6pm
	Contact	Colin
	Phone	07 855 1335
	Txt	027 326 6886
	Email	standings@xtra.co.nz

Sunday 7 April**Pirongia****Grade 1+****Mahaukura Track**

This track starts at Grey Road car park Pirongia (by the lodge). This is a gradual climb up to the lookout. Should take approx 4 hours there and back if we go to the lookout. Option to walk as far as we wish and return.

**Depart:** 8am**Return:** 4pm approx**Cost:** \$25.00 (members)
\$30.00 (non-members)**Leaders:** Sue and Friends

Bookings:	Open	Monday 25 March @ 6pm
	Contact	Sue Grocock
	Phone/txt	027 440 2448
	Email	rongee@xtra.co.nz

Sunday 21 April

Tuakau

All Grades

Tuakau Day Out

Today is a mixed bag of activities and should be achievable by all grades. We will arrive at Queen's Redoubt, Pokeno approx. 8.45am where the museum will be opened for us with a short talk given by one of the museum volunteers. There will be a short time to look around. This was the launching place of the invasion of Waikato at the start of the land wars 1863. We may have morning tea here before moving on.

From here we will travel to the Tuakau Museum which will open up for us and a short talk given. We will have a longer time to look around as the museum is larger with a variety of displays. Sir Edmund Hillary lived in Tuakau and went to primary school there.

We will move on to Alexandra Redoubt to see the remaining fortifications. A local historian will give a little talk. This is the best preserved and most original of the redoubts built by British Forces. There is a 45 minute bush walk at this site and we could have lunch here after the walk.

Then we will go to Vivian Waterfall/Te Wai Heke o Maoa at Harker reserve, with a 45-minute bush walk here. We will have to relocate the vehicle to the other end of the track. If some people don't want to do this walk, they can stay in the vehicle and come into the waterfall from the other end. It is only a few minutes' walk in. Hopefully we will have time to go to the Pokeno Waterfall before returning to Hamilton.

Option to wear good walking shoes rather than boots as we will be going into the museums first. The bush walks could be muddy so either your good walking shoes or boots. The tracks are undulating so poles are your choice.

Glenys and I did this walk with the Monday Bush Walkers and had a most enjoyable day. Thanks must go to Elisabeth, our leader on that day, for sharing her information.

Depart:	8am	
Return:	Late afternoon	
Cost:	\$25.00 (members) + \$5 cash for museums \$30.00 (non-members) + \$5 cash for museums (\$5 koha for museums to be collected at the beginning of the day)	
Leaders:	Carol and Glenys	
Bookings:	Open	Monday 8 April @ 6pm
	Contact	Carol
	Txt/Phone	027 319 0852
	Email	grandmacarol@xtra.co.nz

Where We Went



Mangaokewa

Sunday 27 August

After quite a bit of fiddling around to adjust the seats in one of the vehicles we made a bit more room in the back for our packs. Finally, we were off to Te Kuiti for the walk in the Mangaokewa reserve. It was a bit overcast but no wind and a pleasant temperature.

The Grade 1's set off along the true right of the stream, a nice fairly flat walk, very pretty bush. There were a few places that were a bit tricky due to recent weather events. A big slip and a couple of places where the water had undercut the track.

The Grade 2's were dropped off near the rugby grounds for the start of a track that led to the reserve. They passed some huge bluffs and when arriving at the reserve they set off along the left side of the stream. The track was undulating, with a couple of significant ups. Also, a couple of slips/areas of undercutting. There must have been rain overnight as it seemed quite wet, and therefore muddy/slippery in some areas. The 1's drove to the reserve to start their walk there.

At one point the two groups emerged onto the riverbanks opposite each other, it was starting to drizzle. The tracks then went back into the bush and the 2's reached the turn around point first, they had lunch under some trees just as a heavy shower came through. They were not happy with the thought of more rain on those slips.

Just as the 2's were leaving the 1's appeared and were very ready for their lunch, so they took over the spot under the trees. There was a discussion on the condition of each half of the track, both sides saying their side was harder than expected. The 2's continued their loop but the 1's were not going back along their track, they opted to go back the way the 2's had walked!

The 2's enjoyed the track on the true right and made good time, back at the vehicles a few opted to wait there, and the rest walked back to the start at the rugby ground car park.

At around the same time the 1's emerged from the track on the left side of the river and once in the vehicles they drove to pick up the others. The rain had stopped, and the sun had come out, so the return walk was more enjoyable, both groups thought that the other grade had had the better track!

Thank you to the leaders Colin and Ron.

Carol

Wairere Falls - Kaimais

Sunday 10 September

Seven of us set off in two cars and split into two groups to start walking, Ron, Glenys, Carol and new member Patricia heading to the top, and John, Margaret and Colin to the first viewing platform, which in itself is a good heart-warming effort.

Our group set off planning to have morning tea at the first viewpoint while the others had theirs in the car park. The car park is quite large and well maintained with 2 toilets. This is a very popular walk, and indeed was quite busy the day we were here. In fact, someone said “It is like the Hakarimatas of the Kaimais”

Wairere Falls must be one of the most beautiful walks in the Waikato in my opinion. The amazing huge rocks and boulders covered in intense green mosses, some of which are precariously hanging over the path, and you hope that while they have been there for hundreds of years perhaps, that they will stay for another few hundred.

The majority of the first part of the walk is alongside a beautiful bubbling stream with lots of small waterfalls over the rocks. There are at least two bridges that cross the river and provide great photo shoot opportunities. There are many inviting looking little swimming holes, although I wasn't quite tempted this time. I have swum there in the summer, but of course at that time of the year the water is lower. It would be nice if it could be the other way around!!

After our morning tea at the first platform, we set off for the top. I should have said there are a number of steps up to that platform. You certainly need a rest after them. It was a bit muddy near the top and an amble over a fallen log or two, but the view is certainly worth it. We didn't get 'a free shower' from the blow back of the waterfall on this occasion, however sometimes, if the wind is blowing the right way, you can't get near the lookout at the edge without getting quite soaked. We chose to have our lunch back at the first platform, as there is nowhere very suitable to sit near the top.

I would like to leave this bit out, but Carol and Ron won't let me. As we were nearing the carpark (about 10 minutes away), I needed to use the bathroom. So I said to them “I'm going on ahead to go to the loo”. I went on ahead thinking they will be right behind me about when I reach the carpark. However, they took it that I was heading into the bush. After some time, I was thinking that they were taking a while to come down and then I get a phone call from Carol wondering where I was as they were all still waiting for me on the bridge! Hence, I wasn't too popular when they arrived down. Important lesson to make your intentions clear. Not a great introduction for Patricia, but I hope we haven't put her off. It was nice getting to know her, and we really hope to see her again.

It was a lovely day, and Wairere always offers a fabulous walk.

Glenys

Aongatete Loop Walk

Sunday 24 September

A hardy collection of eight trampers we met up for the trip to Aongatete and after the heavy rain the previous night it was decided that no one would attempt the long loop track which had three river crossings. Despite a few showers on the way over we arrived at Wright Rd to cloudy skies but no rain.

A quick bite for morning tea as we got our gears ready and even though the skies were cloudy it was not too cold. We started on the nature loop track an easy flat walk through beautiful bush with information posted about the various trees along the way. Unfortunately, many of the trees marked had grown so much that it was not possible to see the leaves as they were so high in the canopy, never mind John was with us and was able to give us plenty of information about the trees and there were plenty of impressive specimens to admire of puriri, rimu, nikau palms, mamaku, pukatea among others.



After the nature loop we took a detour to the swimming hole, this was a steady downhill track and when we reached the bottom the river was quite swift through some rocks with some larger pools which would be nice in the summer but no one was game for a dip this day.



Then it was back to climbing up the track which was not so much fun as down! (There is always an up following a down.) Along the way we spent some time trying to identify a flower that was spotted high in the canopy, we decided it was likely some type of clematis and later in the day we found some more draped high in the trees it looked like it was a climber or vine of some type.

After lunch back at the carpark we set off along the lower loop track this was a more rugged track with a steady climb uphill and after the turn off from the long loop track

there were many roots to negotiate and climb through making it a bit more challenging than the earlier one.



The birdlife was abundant and we heard or saw fantail, kereru, robin, tui and kaka. Then there was the inevitable walk down again through the trees and roots and around a couple of windfalls. There were many large specimen trees and it was really lovely bush to walk through, we made good steady progress back to the junction with the nature walk and back to the cars.

It was a very pleasant day with great company despite the cloudy skies and at least we did not get wet and had the obligatory ice cream and coffee stop on the way home.

Catherine Hunter

Brook Park - Te Kuiti

Sunday 8 October

Ten, resolute, trampers set off, in two cars, for Brook Park. There was some early morning fog around, but had mostly cleared, by the time we got to our destination. Once there we headed for the band rotunda where we could eat morning tea in comfort rather than sit on wet seats.

It was a perfect day for tramping, not too hot or too cold. We headed for the highest point, everyone walking at their own pace. I was very impressed by the lovely scenery and open spaces. It was hard to believe that just a very short distance away was civilization.

As we climbed to the highest point there was plenty of time to look around. One of the most notable features of the park, was the number of interesting trees, both exotic and native.

The group spent some time enjoying these and discussing what species they were. When we reached the climax of our walk there was a convenient seat to sit and enjoy the panoramic views. It was amazing how many volcanoes could be seen from this vantage point.

The walk down was without mishap and all too soon we had returned to the band rotunda where we had lunch. We then got back into the cars to head for home. Stopping at 'The Big Apple' for our ubiquitous ice cream or coffee. The very large yoghurts with real fruit were very popular! As were the alternative ice cream cones with so many choices of flavours.

We arrived back in Hamilton early afternoon and the weather was still fine.

Thanks to the leaders and the drivers, a pleasant day.

Margaret Standing



Luck at Last Mine - Whangamata

Sunday 22 October

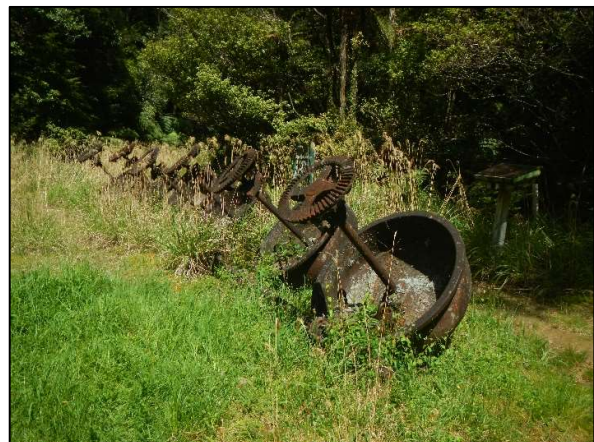
The journey there was uneventful, we are fortunate that we have volunteers, from the Wanderers to drive us to our destination and home again safely. The first part of the walk was down a gravel road used by logging trucks, not particularly scenic but the only route in. Fairly soon, though we entered a forest/bush track, along the Wharekawa River which was very pleasant and in sunshine. It was necessary to be careful along this track due to the recent extreme weather, but there were no major hazards.

As planned, we had lunch at the battery site and there was a choice of eating this, in the full sun, or in the shade. Then, there was time to explore for those that felt so inclined. Most of the group climbed the hill to investigate the mining site and the relics lying around, one of the most interesting was the large ore ovens. Unfortunately, there wasn't time to explore the Mine itself. Some of the group chose the lazy option and instead they had a conversation about the British Monarchy in past centuries. Very erudite!

After lunch, we enjoyed retracing our steps, the walk through the bush was just as enjoyable on the way back. It was very hot though which some of the group found a little difficult. We all walked at our own pace, some walking quickly, some more slowly. However, it seemed that everyone found the tramp agreeable,

Thank you to our leaders and the drivers, you are very much appreciated. Personally, I found it very satisfying to be able to walk in the bush, alongside the beautiful river, enjoying my surroundings.

Margaret Standing



New Find Claim (Big Stope)

Sunday 19 November

With initial numbers booked for this trip at 16, this gradually dwindled over the week as the prospect of bad weather got hold.

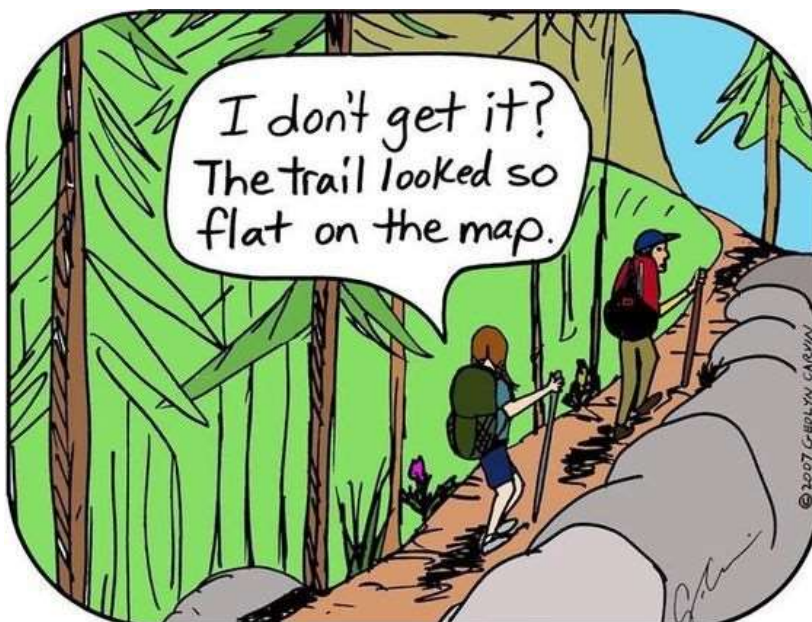
Nine brave souls ended up setting out (3 Grade 1's and 6 Grade 2's). Arriving at Waiorongamai the rain was light and the day warm. The top of Butler's was achieved without much problem and the G2's continued up the High Level Pack Track to reach Quartzville – the site of the old miners camp.

Here it was decided that due to the wet and potentially dangerous conditions (slippery and with some unguarded deep holes to negotiate), the trek up to the stope would be aborted. The group decided to walk down past the remains of Hardy's Hut to the top of May Queen Incline to look into the well-guarded stope there.

Then onwards and downwards beside the May Queen to reach the top of Butler's again, for lunch. With near continuous light rain it was then down the Cadman Track back to the van. Noticeable on the trip was the number of very active waterfalls alongside and crossing the track – not seen like this before.

Back at the van, the G1's were already dry and warm and it was decided to make our way to Te Aroha Number 2 Bath house for a very welcome dip. All-in-all a good trip especially to see the waterfalls.

Colin Standing



Christmas Trip Miranda Bird Sanctuary

Sunday 3 December

With the weather forecast not so good 23 members and guests turned out for this social occasion (plus Bernie and Anne Cloke to meet at Miranda). The trip to Miranda was without incident we arrived at our destination the Pūkoro Shorebird Centre which is an independent charitable trust that is committed to 'Keep the Birds Coming'.

After a cup of tea and the traditional Newstead Playschool Christmas cake (yum), the group settled down to listen to an interesting talk on the shorebirds visiting the area and particularly the Godwits.



The plan was to walk to the hides (but nobody seemed particularly keen on that idea), so it was back into the vans for a short trip to the hides along the mud flats to see who was there. A wide range of birds could be seen with some up fairly close. The wind and rain then got the best of us and we returned to the Shorebird Centre to change into our glad rags ready for lunch or browse in the shop.

Then on to the Bay View Hotel, Kaiaua for an enjoyable lunch and time to chat and catch up.

An enjoyable day despite the weather. Thanks to Dianne and Pam for organising.

Margaret Standing



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 Repellent
- Sunscreen
- Torch / Head Torch
- Trekking Poles
- Tent

FOR HUTS

- Toiletries
- Sleepwear
- Lightweight Clothing / Footwear



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