

Wanganui Trampler

November 2017 - January 2018



Quarterly Journal of the Wanganui Tramping Club (Inc)
www.wanganuitrampingclub.net

From the Editor

Spring has sprung!! Typically for spring we are experiencing a variety of weather. Many of us have had pleasant surprises on trips experiencing much better weather than that forecast! Many others are longing for the end to wind and rain. Summer is coming and we can look forward to our Christmas BBQ and The Dutch Auction. See page 58 for advert.

Our website is:

www.wanganuitrampingclub.net

All contributions may be emailed to Jeanette at

jvprier9@gmail.com

This is a new email address for me but emails sent to my old address will continue to be forwarded.

No email? Handwritten contributions are perfectly acceptable.

Jeanette Prier



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Cover: Linda having fun on the Tongariro Crossing

The opinions expressed and articles published in 'The Wanganui Trumper' are not necessarily the views of the Wanganui Tramping Club Inc.

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ISSUE 255

NOVEMBER 2017 - JANUARY 2018

*From the
PRESIDENT*

Lately, without realizing it, a theme of safety and accountability has crept into my thinking. I'm not sure if this is influenced from a 'previous life' or recent enforced time off tramping. Either way, it all needs considering - without dampening our enthusiasm for the outdoors of course.

I am thrilled there has been much interest shown in the pending River Safety Course. It is hoped in the future we can attend more courses that are of interest to us. Navigation and Map-reading has already been requested. I welcome any other ideas/requests.

Daylight Saving has commenced and there is a distinct buzz as summer trips are planned. For the leaders – when writing your trip description please consider the confusion that sometimes arises in regard to Track Grading.

The change to Club Rules project is well under way but it will be some time yet before remits are presented at a Special Meeting.

As I write this report, I am aware Christmas is getting much closer. We have a busy calendar to look forward to. Let us reflect not on 'what the Club is offering us, but what we can offer the Club'.

Many thanks go out to all the people who spend time organising our trips, and to those who work tirelessly behind the scenes keeping everything running smoothly.

In the meantime, stay safe in the outdoors, and may I be the first to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Margret McKinnon

COMMITTEE MATTERS

A committee is a cul-de-sac down which ideas are lured and then quietly strangled.

- Sir Barnett Corps

This is the first “Committee Matters” – topics from WTC committee meetings you need to know about, summarised here by Dorothy.

1 New PLB contact

Trip leaders, please remember to send your trip lists also to Barbara Gordon. As well as being on the lookout for new names, Barbara is an extra PLB emergency contact. Email: barbarajgordon@xtra.co.nz

2 New Van

The club will take delivery of a new, silver, van at the end of October/early November. With both vehicles powered by diesel, the Treasurer will no longer be able to distinguish them by the different fuels. There will still be the range of fuel charges when calculating trip costs, based on daily prices displayed at stations. Details in the van folders will be updated.

3 Weekend Tramps

We now have two lists for weekend tramp emails: Day Tramps and Overnighters. Contact Dorothy if you'd like your E address to be added.

4 Bike Trailer

There has been an increase in the daily charge for the bike trailer - \$4 per person.

5 Waitahinga Trails

Now is the time for the council's ten-year planning, and with interest shown recently by two WDC representatives the club is hoping for some support. We are committed to the maintenance of the trails and lately it's been suggested we establish a 'Friends of Waitahinga' group. Club members and partners might be keen to help? There will always be something to do out at Waitahinga. It's a very special place and our club is proud to be associated with it.

6 Van hire

Hiring a vehicle is sometimes a good option and Pegasus Rentals have a range of vans and cars for hire. Their yard is at 31 Heads Road, phone 345 0088.

Remember, *Tramper* editor and the club committee always welcome your comments and feedback.

Dorothy

Club Nights

Club Nights are held on the first Wednesday of each month (except January). Meetings are held in the Hunters & Deerstalkers Hall, 100 Peat Street at 7-30pm

Club Night Programme

For details of the Club Night programme please see "Scroggin" column in the Wanganui *Midweek* newspaper (generally the week before)

Pleased to Meet You!

New Members



Michelle Mackenzie

Our membership database needs to have the correct information so we can keep our members informed and up to date.

If there are any changes to your contact details please let Barbara Gordon (membership, ph 348 9149) or Dorothy Symes (treasurer, ph 345 7039) know as soon as possible.

Copy for the
February 2018 Issue of the
Wanganui Trumper
to the Editor by
January 16th 2018
(Earlier appreciated)
Thank You! - Jeanette



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TRAMPER ADVERTISEMENTS

Many of the advertisements in this magazine have been updated and two are new. The club is very grateful for their generous support. All are now acknowledged on the club website and have a link to their website. Members, you are urged to support them.

Thankyou

Club Activities

MIDWEEK

Wednesdays: A more challenging midweek day tramp is offered weekly, planned by rostered leaders.

Coordinated by:

Margret McKinnon 344 3899, email mjmckinnon@xtra.co.nz

Thursdays: A tramp every second Thursday. No bush bashing, generally over better tracks and a little easier. Planned and led by Earle Turner.

Coordinated by:

Val Cowan 345 0456, email otterval@gmail.com

Coming months' Thursday trips will be on the following dates:

January 18

March 1, 15 & 29

February 1 & 15

April 12 & 26



TT2's (the second Thursday walk): Alternate Thursday mornings.

Leader **Carolyn Shingleton 347 7644** will advise the meeting place and time. Easy, ideal for the more senior member / recovering from injury / or for that extra walk with companions.

WEEKENDS



Overnight/multi-day tramps are advertised in *Tramper* along with the leader's contact details.

Weekend DAY Tramps: Ask to be on the email list if you are interested in Saturday or Sunday day trips. Contact **Dorothy Symes 345 7039**

Mountain Biking: Mountain bike trips are held from time to time. Enquiries to **Mark Kennedy 343 1135 or 027 757 1888**

Tuesday Biking (BOMBS): Depart from the I-Site 9.00am Tuesdays. Ask to be on the email list.

Contact **Carolyn Shingleton 347 7644** .



COMMUNICATIONS

I have been doing my best to keep up with changes to email addresses of those affected by the Vodafone/Clear termination. When updating the club database, I advise trip coordinators who keep you all in the loop. Everybody – and especially new members – should check junk mail folders for club communications too, as there have been reports of our emails ending up there. If you have any changes please phone me 345 7039 and leave a message if necessary.

Stop Press!!

Please remember our **Dutch Auction at the December 6th club meeting**. There will be no guest speaker and the auction will follow the pot luck barbecue in the Blind Centre grounds next door to our club rooms. Last year the auction would have gone all night if there had been the parcels. It was such a lot of fun and we were able to donate around \$700 to Palmerston North Rescue Helicopters. Please start collecting those mystery parcels – but please, no ‘booby prizes’ ! See advert elsewhere on page 58.

Dorothy (Communications)



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CLUB'S VIEW ON PLANS FOR THREE NEW SHARED TRACKS AND E-BIKES

The Wanganui Tramping Club has given its views to DOC on a partial review of the Tongariro National Park Management Plan which aims at providing for the construction of three proposed new tracks; to use existing and historic tracks for a shared walking and cycle tracks; and to allow electric power-assisted pedal cycles (e-bikes).

Additional shared-use walking and mountain biking tracks are proposed in these locations:

(a) Turoa to Ohakune: 22km using a mixture of existing, historic and new trails to provide Round the Mountain walkers an alternative to the road and extend the Mountains to the Sea trail. The proposed route extends from the Turoa Skifield base area, follows the Mangawhero Valley down to the Waitonga Falls Track, then along the historic Blyth Track and Bennett and Punch Tramway, finishing near the Ohakune Field Centre/Ngati Rangi office.

(b) Mountain Road through to Horopito, creating a loop with the Old Coach Road. This 11km will connect the proposed Mountains to the Sea track extension above and use sections of the historic Cowan's and Punch and Bennett tramlines.

(c) Horopito to National Park (The Missing Link) includes a 600m section linking with the Mountains to Sea trail. The short section of the proposed route that is within the National Park. The Missing Link is a trail being proposed by Ruapehu District Council as part of the Mountains to the Sea Cycle trail and is proposed to extend from Horopito to National Park Village.

The club says in its submission that it supports the extra tracks but emphasises the need for sufficient track width to accommodate walkers and bikers. It agrees that a trial period for the shared-use tracks is not practical and supports a proposed monitoring programme and sanctions if environmental or social effects prove to be unacceptable. Restrictions on mountain biking activities and events are supported.

E-bikes on park tracks where mountain biking is allowed is supported, if cautiously, but the club wonders if there should not be a trial in a more controlled area first. Restrictions or exclusions on e-bikes, if deemed necessary, are supported and the club is also concerned about speed and would like a speed limit on tracks, while accepting this will be hard to enforce.

The club supports e-bikes having a maximum power output not exceeding 300 watts but questions how DOC will identify more powerful machines and is concerned at the prospect of what amounts to motorbikes in the park. DOC said it is waiting for the outcome of Treaty settlements before planning a full review. The time frames for this are unknown. Issues beyond the scope of this partial review will be considered at the time of the full review.

A Tenderfoot's First Tramp

Barbara Gordon

Do you remember that first-ever tramp? If you were very young, maybe not. Tramping was a daunting concept in my childhood and produced stern warnings, “*Never go into the Tararuas – very dangerous. You’ll get lost/drowned/eaten by wild pigs.*” Then along came JC, sister’s hubby-to-be. I was just 15 and JC was terribly old, in his 30s and a member of Levin-Waiopēhu club. One Saturday he offered to take Sis and me into the wilds of Otaki Forks. Five minutes to get ready!

A few minutes’ drive and we started our trek into the foothills. For one raised on the plains of Te Horo, the climbs were challenging as I puffed and wheezed uphill. Unfamiliar ferns and bush ‘gardens’ were a far cry from Mum’s strident tiger lilies and marigolds. Spellbound, my frequent breathers enabled a good look. But the over-riding memory? THE BLISTERS!! What I wore on my feet is forgotten, silly little dress shoes or possibly those white tennis shoes we had back in the day. But I survived, and later JC persuaded me that yes, of course I could walk along the beach to Cape Kidnappers, see the gannets - and walk back again. And he was right.

I visited JC, then in his 90th year, at the Levin hospital just a few days before he died. The window in his little room faced east, towards his beloved Tararuas. By then the remnants of JC’s sight had gone and so I described the view of the ranges. As we talked of tramping in the hills, I took the opportunity to say “Thank you *thank you* JC, for introducing me to the New Zealand outdoors.”



Condolences

We convey our condolences to the following members of our tramping family...
Sue Haden on the death of her brother Michael.
Ada Cameron on the death of husband Tony.
Bob McIntyre on the death of his brother Neil.
Mark Kennedy on the death of his father-in-law Ron.
We apologise if we have overlooked any deaths.

From our archives... April 1987

NO SOFTIES IN THE SPIRIT OF '87

The spirit of independence and enthusiasm is alive and well in our club 35 years after its establishment. This is clear from the Great Stove Carry to Mangaturuturu Hut. Vigour and vision is also manifested in the range and scope of trips which take us into areas we know well. But we also have more adventurous members keen to extend the boundaries of their experiences and thereby add to the collective knowledge of the club.

The group of enthusiasts is steadily opening up the Waitotaras. These explorations will pave the way for others to follow, should they wish. The Waitotaras is an obvious area for those who savour a challenge with map and compass. Other areas are also being targeted for more imaginative or demanding trips.

Attempts to climb Ruapehu, Ngauruhoe and Tongariro in a single long weekend have been consistently thwarted by the weather. We have enough determined types in our ranks to crack this one eventually. Who says the world is going soft?


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Tramping Trips

Confirming your place

For ALL trips, you must phone the leader to confirm your place on the trip. For day trips the latest you can phone the leader is 7pm the night before the trip. For weekend trips phone by Wednesday evening.

What you will need

Good waterproof clothing including leggings or over-trousers is necessary. Woolen balaclava or hat and suitable mittens or gloves are **essential** for mountain trips.

You should carry your own immediate first aid supplies. Check with the leader for more details of what is required for the trip. Take lunches for each day, and your drink requirements, plus emergency chocolate, sweets and/or scroggin. On overnight (s) trips, all other food is supplied by the leader.



Rules For Those Leading Tramps

The destination and brief location, plus the list of participants, is to be placed on the notice board at the clubrooms before leaving. These details must also be emailed to the five PLB contacts: *** **NOTE CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR RUSSELL D.** ***

russelladonaldson@outlook.com (Russell Donaldson)
btwtcvaux@slingshot.co.nz (Bruce Thomas)
tiger2@slingshot.co.nz (Earle Turner)
dorothy@displayassociates.co.nz (Dorothy Symes)
barbarajgordon@xtra.co.nz (Barbara Gordon)

We have a list template – ask Barbara or Dorothy. Leaders without email: please phone destination and names to Barbara 348 9149 or Dorothy 345 7039

November 2017 - February 2018 Club Activities

Note: trip cost estimates are based on 8c per kilometre

- Nov 4 **Pot Luck Dinner** Sandra Rogers 348 7630
Sat Sandra is famous for her hospitality. So gather at 1
Lancewood Place at 6pm bearing food, and enjoy a great
night of chat and scrumptious eats. No need to phone, just
turn up.
- Nov 5 **Rhodo/Cafe Ramble** Sandra Rogers 348 7630
Sun It's rhodo time and Sandra is off to check out the scene in
Taranaki. Bring extra money for admittance to gardens plus
the obligatory cafe stop. 8.30am start.
- Easy Cost to be calculated
- Nov 8 **Trips meeting** Dave Scoullar 343 2836
Wed Gosh, it's barely summer and we are meeting to ponder trips
next autumn -- March to May. Be in on the action by joining
Dave at 7 Wairere Rd at 7.30pm or phone him with your trip
ideas or requests. The last trips meeting had a bumper
turnout and the trips were quickly filled. In the words of
Labour's election slogan: Let's Do It.
- Nov 11-12 **More of Turangi** Margret McKinnon 344 3899
Sat-Sun Margret is taking a relaxed weekend trip to Turangi.
Saturday - Mt Tauhara or Opepe North and South Tracks

- (Taupo - Napier Rd). Sunday - Urchin Trig, Kaimanawa's or Tongariro River Trail. Plenty to choose from and can be changed to what people would like. Private accommodation. Could leave Friday evening if that suited everyone.
 Easy/Mod Approx cost \$45
- Nov 11 **Wharite Peak** Dave Scoullar 343 2836
 Sat You've seen the peak towering above Woodville, now get a close-up view with Dave, climbing there via Coppermine Creek. Plenty of magnificent views are the reward for a steady climb. Rangitikei and South Wairarapa tramping clubs have been invited to join us.
 Mod Approx cost \$18
- Nov 13-20 **Rotorua Ramblings** Jacky Evans 345 6858
 Mon-Mon This trip will link up with the Rotorua Tramping Club for several tramps, along with interesting tramps around Lake Tarawera and other walks in the area. The trip is full but if you are interested in being on the waiting list contact Jacky.
- Nov 18 **River Safety Course** Margret McKinnon 344 3899
 Sat Outdoor Training New Zealand is running this course at Otaki Forks. It will cover river dynamics and hazards, how to evaluate sites for safe crossing, methods of crossing, preparing clothing and equipment for a crossing, managing a group crossing, pack floating and how to self-rescue if swept away. All important stuff for trampers.
 Easy Approx cost \$23 + \$30 course fee
- Nov 19 **New Sledge Circuit** Val Wackrow 027 688 8801
 Sun A new bridge over the Kahuterawa Stream on the Sledge Track near Palmerston North has opened up some fresh tramping opportunities in the nearby hills. This tramp got a thumbs-up from the Wednesday Wanderers in July. Join Val as we explore new territory. She will choose the better day.
 Mod Approx cost \$15
- Nov 21-24 **Northern Tararua Crossing** Tracey Hooper 346 5597
 Tues-Fri A classic multi-day trip, the Northern Crossing covers some famous Tararua peaks, including Mitre (1571m), the highest

		in the park. Overnight at Te Matawai, Tarn Ridge and Mitre Flats huts. If cancelled this trip will re-present in early December.
Mod/fit		Cost to be calculated, 3 standard (\$5) huts
Nov 25-26 Sat-Sun	Puniwhakau to Aotuhia	Basil Hooper 346 5597 The plan is to start at the Puniwhakau Road end, up to the letterbox junction and across to Omaru Hut for the night. Next day along the Matemateaonga Track to the Kurapete Track and down the old road to Aotuhia -- home of the "Bridge to Somewhere". A chance to enjoy some great bush country with an interesting history.
Mod		Cost to be calculated.
Dec 2-5 Sat-Tues	Northern Tararua Crossing	Tracey Hooper 346 5597 This is the default weekend if Tracey's trip fails to go ahead on Nov 21-24.
Dec 2 or 3 Sat or Sun	Paekakariki Escarpment	Esther Williams 347 8456 / Juliet Kojis 343 2836 A chance to complete the popular Paekakariki Escarpment, beginning from Paekakariki village. The slip near the end now has a track and handrail across it. Connect with the train at Pukerua Bay. Flourish the gold card!
Mod		Approx cost \$17 plus a drink/ice cream at the end.
Dec 9-10 Sat-Sun	Taumarunui Weekend	Dave Scoullar 343 2836 Our 7th year of joining with Taumarunui Tramping Club pre-Christmas. On the Saturday we have a farm walk close to Taumarunui, going around the top of Lairdvale Valley. On the Sunday we will visit the Stanton Memorial on Mt Ruapehu. Stay at the Taumarunui camp ground and join TTC's end of year BBQ. Always a fun weekend.
Easy/mod		Cost to be calculated
Dec 9 or 10 Sat or Sun	Raumati Loop	Roger Kealey 348 8141 The Raumati Loop starts at the Mackays Crossing entrance off SH1. Then it will be over the ridge to Paraparaumu, skirting Coastlands and on to a sheltered track through the sand dunes and regenerating coastal vegetation. This

- Whareroa Stream Walk continues on down to the beach and south to Queen Elizabeth Park. Roger will choose the better day.
- Mod Approx cost \$23
- Dec 17 **Mangaturuturu Hut** Royce Johnson 343 2222
Sun The alpine flowers should be at their best when Royce leads this day trip into the Mangaturuturu Hut. Of course, it's always the right time to visit our special valley in Tongariro National Park.
- Easy Approx cost \$18
- Dec 17-20 **Mangaturuturu Hut and Valley** Tracey Hooper 346 5597
Sun-Wed This is a favourite spot for the Hoopers. There is so much to see and do in the valley. Most exploring is off track, and hopefully the alpine flowers will be out to complement the many waterfalls. The Wednesday group will come in for their Christmas celebrations and clean-up and we will hitch a ride back to town.
- Easy/mod Approx cost \$30. Free hut. Bring \$5 pressie for Santa sack.
- Dec 21 or 22 **Tongariro Alpine Crossing** Ridgway Lythgoe 348 7507
Thurs or Fri Join Ridgy's annual end of year walk which will be over the magnificent Tongariro Alpine Crossing. He will choose the best weather day. He is looking for a vehicle relocater to meet us at Ketetahi.
- Mod/fit Cost to be calculated
- Jan 2 **Mt Tihia** Dave Scoullar 343 2836
Tues Our first trip of 2018 is a combined outing with Taumarunui Tramping Club to climb Mt Tihia, near Turangi. Our last climb there was aborted by bad weather but we are assured the views are fabulous across to the Kaimanawa and Umukarikari Range to Pihanga, lakes Taupo, Rotopounamu and Rotoaira, and the nearby mountains. At 1165m Tihia isn't a big climb but the rewards are significant. If time permits we will call in at Te Porere redoubt on the way home.
- Mod Approx cost \$25

Jan 5-8
Fri-Mon

Kaimanawa Multi-day Tracey Hooper 346 5597

This time the trip is being offered in reverse. We didn't reach Cascade Hut last time due to windfalls but this time we'll organise access in advance. Starting at Clement Mill Rd, we'll stay at Cascade, Boyd and Oamaru huts. The preferred track out would be through Poronui Station, if transport can be arranged. With lush beech forest, river crossings, this is a very interesting area.

Mod

Cost to be calculated. Standard (\$5) huts

Jan 6
Sat

Cafe Trip Sandra Rogers 348 7630

A chance to start working off the Christmas pudding. Join Sandra in a visit to the interesting coastal settlement of Scotts Ferry, plus a forest and beach walk. Bring extra cash for a cafe.

Easy

Cost to be calculated

Jan 13
Sat

Blyth Hut Graeme Aitken 345 5100

This is a pleasant walk in Tongariro National Park. Blyth Hut is reached by leaving the Round the Mountain Track. A gentle climb through beech forest brings us out onto more open country. Good views of the mountain and countryside from the hut. This walk is particularly suitable for families.

Easy

Approx cost \$18

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- Jan 13-14
Sat-Sun
Ten Man Hut Graham Sutcliffe 348 8211
Visit this hut in the Tongariro Forest Conservation Area, starting Whakapapa Bush Road from Owhango. This will be a loop track with options. Peter Panton (Taumarunui Tramping Club) will be our guide and there is a strong possibility of members of his club joining us. Depending on our group we may stop at Possum Lodge on the Friday night.
Mod Cost to be calculated
- Jan 19-23
Fri-Tues
Around Mt Taranaki Dave Scoullar 343 2836
Following the successful multi-day trip around Mt Ruapehu in April, Dave is set to go around Mt Taranaki -- again in a reasonably leisurely fashion -- over five days. Two of the days are a bit longer and more strenuous. If you haven't got this magnificent trip on your CV, now is the chance to do so.
Mod/fit Approx cost \$37 + hut fees
- Jan 20 or 22
Sat or Mon
Waitahinga Trails Bruce Thomas 345 6532
We've done these trails so many times but somehow the novelty just doesn't seem to wear off. Lovely bush and a bit of history thrown in. Bruce will choose the best day weatherwise for the best experience.
Easy/mod Approx cost \$6
- Jan 26-28
Fri-Sun
Kaimanawa-Waipakihi hut-Waipakihi River Loop Mike Cole 344 7275 or 021 160 6875
Could be a Great Walk, but don't tell anybody in case they actually make it a Great Walk. Panoramic views of the mountains and lakes on the way to the hut and a river walk the second day, camping by the river that night.
Mod/fit Approx cost \$38 + hut fees.
- Jan 27 or 28
Sat or Sun
Otangane Loop Margret McKinnon 344 3899
This loop walk, west of Pahiatua and new for us, is an extension of the Sledge Track. The loop starts with a 400m steep climb after crossing the Otangane Stream. This pretty walk is well-marked on a recently upgraded track. Great views from the top. Several small streams to cross. Six hours-plus walk.
Mod/fit Approx cost \$18

- Feb 3-6
Sat-Tues **Ruahine Circuit** Dave Scoullar 343 2836
Taking advantage of Waitangi Day, Dave plans a Ruahine circuit taking in Iron Gate, Top Gorge and Leon Kinvig huts. Given reasonable weather, this should be a wonderful four days in bush and on tops.
Fit Approx cost \$32 + hut fees
- Feb 3 or 4
Sat or Sun **Marton Sash and Door** Dorothy Symes 345 7039
A very popular circuit at National Park that also usually includes a cafe visit. Join Dorothy for a bit of history and some beautiful mountain views. She'll choose the day with the best weather.
Easy/mod Approx cost \$20
- Feb 10-12
Sat-Mon **Aotuhia Boots or Bikes** Tracey Hooper 346 5597
We love this area so we keep coming back. With the Matemateaonga Track up the road, the old Whangamomana track to the pub, and the many tracks on Aotuhia Station itself, there is plenty to do. Stay in the shearers' quarters.
Easy Cost to be calculated
- Feb 10 or 11
Sat or Sun **Mt Taranaki summit** Esther Williams 347 8456
In 2017 we ascended Mt Ngauruhoe. Join Esther now in climbing Mt Taranaki. Non-climbers also welcome to wander to Tahurangi Hut from Stratford Plateau.
Fit Approx cost \$21
- Feb 16-18
Fri-Sun **Hawke's Bay Cycling** Mark Kennedy 027 757 1888
or 343 1135
Leave on Friday evening. Saturday we will challenge ourselves on the tracks of Te Mata Peak. Sunday we will check out the tracks at the Eskdale Mountainbike Park. Stay in cabins at a motor camp with takeaways on Friday night and a pub meal on Saturday night.
Mod Cost to be calculated
- Feb 17 or 18
Sat or Sun **Burton's Track** Roger Kealey 348 8141
A crossover tramp walking from both ends, Scotts Road south and Mangahao car park north, on Burton's Track in the Tararua. The track is 17km long and has spectacular

views. There is a variety of roads and trails -- forestry into mature native bush, passing by attractive open clearings, and also a few streams to cross. Midway is Burton's whare site where there is much to be absorbed historically of the trail built by Jim Burton in the early 1900s. Roger will choose the best day.

Mod Cost to be calculated

Feb 24-25 **Waikamaka Hut** Ken Howie 344 4452
Sat-Sun

This hut in the eastern Ruahine is not far from Sunrise Hut, but we don't visit it much. Ken will wander up the Waipawa River and over the saddle to the hut and next day, weather permitting, will come back via Te Atuaoparapara (1687m) and Sunrise Hut.

Mod/fit Approx cost \$36 + hut fees

SUMMER PROGRAMME ASSISTANTS NEEDED

Can you help? The Wanganui Tramping Club has a close association with the Whanganui Summer Programme, leading and helping with trips over the years. There are four trips in the January 2018 programme on which leaders need assistants. They are Mangawhio Lakes/Waiinu Beach (5th Jan), Opunake Walkway (12th), Lake Rotokare (13th), and Silica Rapids/Tongariro National Park (26th). Assistants get free trips. If you can help please contact Dave Scoullar 343 2836.

Medicinal Plants

Koromiko

The young leaves of the Koromiko (hebe series) if eaten raw are an excellent cure for diarrhoea.

Three or four of the young leaf buds found at the top of the branchlets should be eaten. Chewing these young shoots may also relieve stomach pains. During World War II this plant was taken to the Middle East to relieve dysentery in New Zealand soldiers.

There are an enormous number of varieties of this plant found throughout New Zealand from sea-level up to 5,000 feet. The plant forms a small to medium sized bush with narrow leaves and bear sweet scented white or lilac flowers shaped rather like a bottle brush.

(From: *How to Survive in the Bush, on the Coast, in the Mountains of New Zealand* by Flight Lieutenant B Hildreth, 1974.)



November 2017 Quiz

1. Joe Blyth of mountaineering fame was an Ohakune headmaster who it was said taught students 4 Rs -- reading, writing, arithmetic and ...
2. Name the town in Ruapehu District Council in which nearly all the street names start with O
3. Which river joins the Whanganui River at Taumarunui?
4. Although referred to as native cedars, botanists say the two New Zealand species of *Libocedrus* should really be called native what?
5. We know where Karioi is but where is Mt Karioi (756m)?
6. Which outdoors magazine has the slogan "see more, do more, live more"?
7. What does the Beaufort scale measure?
8. Which fungus-like disease was first identified in the 1970s on Great Barrier Island?
9. When the Paekakariki Escarpment Track opened it was projected that 30,000 people would walk it over it in the 2016-17 summer, so how many did?
10. What is the difference between the Milford Track and the NZ cricket team?

Answers - see below.



QUIZ ANSWERS
1. Ruapehu -- Blyth climbed the mountain 147 times
2. Owhango
3. Ongarue River
4. Cypresses -- as they have the scale leaves of the cypresses not the needle leaves of the cedars
5. Pirongia Forest Park
6. <i>Wilderness</i> magazine
7. The scale of wind strengths (invented in 1805)
8. Kauri dieback disease
9. More than 60,000
10. Not everyone has walked over the Milford Track



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Limericks

Out tramping with the doughty Jan
It's essential you have a plan
Our femmes always want to know
Exactly where they're going to go
Especially when led by a man!

There was an old trumper named Neil
Who the pace was starting to feel
He reckoned his pack
Was worse than the rack
And sapped the spring in his heel

Ridgy was the bold man from DOC
On the ball, a real rock
He guarded our river and park
For kiwi, wood pigeon and lark
His confidence you couldn't knock



TRAMPING TUCKER

BY UNCLE HAL

Weetbix Loaf

Ingredients:

1 cup of sultanas, raisins or dates
1 teaspoon of baking soda
Half a cup of sugar
4 crushed Weetbix
3 tablespoons of butter
Walnuts optional



Mix together well and pour over 1 cup of boiling water. Leave for 5 minutes to cool.

Add 1 beaten egg and 1 cup of self-raising flour. Bake at 175deg for 1 hour or until cooked.

TRAMPING 2016-17 REVIEW AT AGM

Weekend report from Dave Scoullar

This last year (June 2016-June 2017) has offered many tramping opportunities. As far as weekend trips are concerned, numbers taking part have been relatively small but there is an enthusiastic core group looking for more adventurous exploring. We will continue to cater for them.

Day trips at weekends have also fluctuated but often had up to a dozen participants. And, of course, we had a number of multi-day trips, including several in the South Island.

Wednesday report from Dave Scoullar

Wednesday trips have been very successful and often peaked at around 23 or 24. The model of shared leadership, with people rostered to lead tramps, is working well.

Thursday Report from Earle Turner

We had 25 Thursday tramps, a mix of farm tramps, beaches and forests. All enjoyable, although numbers were down on previous years, some of this due to inclement weather and other distractions.

I would like to thank Barbara Gordon for the five years she organised the tramp list for me very efficiently, and for Val Cowan who has taken it over and is doing a great job as well. Thank you Ray Walton for your work as Tail-end Charlie and your help in keeping large groups together. Thank you to the many unnamed helpers, also.

The tragedy of the year for me was losing Margaret Walford. I miss her cheek and the fact that she was always there to drive a van, unless she was on another of her trips around the country. Thank you Thursday trampers for your support and making it worthwhile leading the group. May it continue.

TT2 report from Carolyn Shingleton

The TT2 walks have a good following on the alternate Thursdays. Depending on weather there can be up to 30-plus people for various walks around the city. Popular days are when the Gold Cards are used for a bus trip to the outskirts of the city and walking back to town. We are continuing to try out new routes around the city to keep the walks interesting.

Most importantly, is the great camaraderie among the group with several members opening up their homes and gardens for the morning tea breaks.

Longdrop's **PACK TALK NOVEMBER 2017**

He who laughs last thinks slowest

The general election was memorable for a number of things, not least the passion of a few clubbies, but we are a tolerant lot, aren't we? And did you notice that the NZ Outdoors Party, which flies below the radar, picked up 20 party votes in Whanganui? Look up its website and you may find yourself nodding when you see its aims.

The tow rope carried by the silver van proved useful on the annual Taranaki visit in October. A car with New Plymouth Tramping Club members got stuck in the mud when it veered off a rough farm track. When we couldn't push it free, out came the tow rope, hook to the van -- and it was "job done!"

Further on the mud theme ...deep mud almost proved the undoing – but not quite -- of sockless, sandal-wearing Ridgway on a wet and squelchy midwinter tramp in the Turakina valley.

“Unhand me, Sire!” Send for Barb G or Jude H if the van’s back door jams -- they can fit through the gap. One’s trou became impaled and ripped in the process and Earle’s attempt to unhook was a mission fraught with peril – and entertaining for onlookers.

As if having her bike lock refuse to open wasn’t bad enough, one Lady Trumper entered loo at Waiinu Beach only to find she could not budge the lock to get out. Trapped, abandoned, struggling. With his trusty pocketknife, Ray Walton saved the day, releasing the prisoner after some anxious moments. Pocket knives and CRC are recommended as essential pack items. *(Footnote: This drama reinforces the wisdom of leaving your pack on the track – or outside the loo. Someone noticed and sent for help!)*

Meanwhile, the locked-in and then rescued Lady Trumper says she was more concerned about missing out on Grahame Ellett's legendary hospitality, admitting later, "I was terrified -- I thought all the food would be eaten!"

A senior BOMBer (the one with the white hair) wonders whether to be flattered or offended to hear, “Isn’t it wonderful – riding a bike at your age?”

The September trips meeting was a full house and the trips list for Dec-Feb was filled quickly. Well done, team, and well done to the 15 folk who will lead trips in that quarter. We look forward to another bumper turnout at the November trips meeting.

Clubbies on the Paekakariki escarpment in July were intrigued to notice that some of the stoat traps had eggs and some had golf balls!

More intrigue for the Wednesday Wanderers a few days later when visiting the plane crash site near Mt Bruce. Passing the track junction they found attached to a tree a map indicating the exact location of the remains of the 1952 crash.

The BOMBS don't rest on their laurels, no way! A group of nine head for the South Island again in late January, doing the Otago Rail Trail, Roxburgh Gorge, Clutha Gold Trails plus the West Coast Wilderness. That's approximately 350 kms in total.

Sandy Henare may not be a name you recognise but he's the farmer who came to our rescue when Katy Gordon broke her ankle in Harrex Forest. Barb G recalls, "He ferried us back and forth and I hate to think what would have transpired if not for his extraordinary help that day." Why are we mentioning this? Because Sandy died last month. RIP Sandy.

Wednesday chat ...

Cherry Channon (on a break on a warm morning): "I wonder if I should start stripping off?"

George Neil: "We'll tell you when to stop."

The Camino walk sure is flavour of the month. Next clubbie to give it a go will be Dorothy Symes who is due to head off on the 800km challenge in May 2018.

Meanwhile Dorothy has been waiting with eager anticipation for the move into her new house which is due to take place before the end of the year. A good venue for future "at homes"? You bet.

Small is good! Ask Ridgy, who bought a very small car and then waxed eloquent about it in the *Chronicle*.

Our Tree Planters of the Year Award goes jointly to Cherry and Johnny Channon after placing some 1200 natives on their Westmere property. Look

for the plantings on the left on the state highway about 200m past Blueskin Rd.

We wish a big Get Well Soon to life member Derick Matthews who was hospitalised by a stroke in September. Also a continued good recovery for David Beech.

Unbelievable! Just when her broken big toe was mended Diane Harries managed to break a toe on her other foot when she accidentally kicked a wooden chair, so don't expect to see her on the track for a while.

Also in the wars was Bev Sinclair whose trip to Peru included an unscheduled overnight in a Peruvian hospital.

And yet another member in strife was Dorothy Symes when she tripped on a safety cone and banged her head, resulting in two stitches in an eyebrow and a big black eye. Then she trod on a nail while inspecting progress on her new house. Ouch!

And what's this with Don Gordon? After foot surgery kept him off the tracks for several weeks, he was at last ready to start some easy walks and - *what?*

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The other hoof has gone seriously lame after Don followed Diane H's example, only this time it was a table that got in the way.

Note the woes of Diane, Bev, Dorothy and Don were all non-tramping, however someone nursing a genuine tramping injury is Royce Johnson who hurt his shoulder on the Tongariro Alpine Crossing.

Is this a trend? In recent weeks Wednesday Wanderers have managed to insert a bit of retail therapy into their weekly outings, visiting a woollen mill, cheese bar and snapping up tomatoes at a vegetable stall.

While it would be unkind to call him dozy, Graham Sutcliffe has been known to fall asleep in the van when returning home from a tramp, but surpassed himself when he took a kip during morning tea at Papaiti. The temptation to tiptoe away and leave him to it was almost overwhelming.

Julie Kears and her answer phone have been strangers. How do we know? Because she rang to apologise about not answering an invitation to attend a 70th birthday -- nearly four years after the event.

Van driver Earle admits his road navigation isn't always spot on -- "there's a turn up here I sometimes miss, but not by much."

If you looked closely at the photo of the River City Big Band in *Midweek* in August there was a familiar face on the extreme left. It belongs to John Newton, who plays the trombone in the band when he isn't seeking out interesting new tramps for the Wednesday Wanderers.

Watt's this all about? Dee Ess also appeared in *Midweek* because of his connection with the refurbished Watt Fountain and Whanganui's first mayor, William Hogg Watt. Now finding the hills a bit steeper in his 70s, Dee Ess was heard to muse that he wished Watt had been responsible for the fountain of eternal youth.

Then it was the turn of Juliet Kojis in the media. An article in *River City Press* spotlighted her great great grandmother Mary Ann Muller, a pioneer suffragist.

Lay Down Jacky Evans didn't waste much time on the Burton's Track outing. She lay down -- or more correctly fell down -- soon after leaving the van.

It was George Neil to the rescue when two French tourists' car had a flat battery at the North Egmont car park. He rallied the Wednesday troops to push-start the van, no small task given that the two most muscular trampers, Mike Cole and Shane Wilson, had chosen that time to go missing.

"Housework is like cooking and gardening -- a necessary evil" -- the wisdom of Sandra Rogers.

Save your pennies (cents) and dig out your contributions for the Big Dutch Auction which will feature at the December meeting after the customary BBQ. All proceeds will go to the rescue helicopter service. Auctioneer Brian Doughty will prise the cash from us on the night.

Ridgy is the first to admit he's not the powerhouse tramper he used to be but that doesn't mean he isn't up for his traditional pre-Christmas tramp. It's the Tongariro Crossing so should be popular. Refer to the trips list for more details.

Earle's helpful advice to Dorothy when she grabbed an ongaonga shrub to help her up a steep bank -- "squeeze harder!"

Oldtimers will remember former clubbie Tony Cameron who died in August aged 87. Tony was a guy who liked up-to-date gear. Longdrop recalls he was one of the first with a Gore Tex raincoat and when we were climbing the track to Waiopehu hut and wondered how close we were, Tony introduced us to a gizmo which showed our height. RIP Tony.

Cherry Channon's Big Idea -- a rubbish bag converted to a water-proof skirt - - is admired but so far hasn't taken off in the club. Bruce Thomas did try it but admits he was put off by some comments by fellow clubbies.

The hoi-polloi, subsisting on cheese doorsteps and plastic-wrapped muesli bars, envy The Earle's dainty packed lunches, choc-a-bloc with toothsome home-baked morsels and sandwiches with the crusts cut off.

Now we are getting a shiny new club van to replace the silver van, you may wonder how long we've had club vehicles. The first trip using our original club van was to Mangahao hut in the western Tararua on the weekend of 7-8 August 1993. On this trip was Kevin Broome, who was instrumental in persuading the committee to buy a van. So we'll mark 25 years of club vans in August 2018.

Another Big Anniversary coming up next year is the 60th birthday of Mangaturuturu Hut. We plan to mark this event, so mark your diaries for the weekend of 7-8 April.

Logging beyond Mangawhio Lakes means that this trip could be off our tramping list for a while. A new logging track led the Wednesday Wanderers a wee bit astray but Earle was up for the challenge and got the team back on course.

Graham Sutcliffe was wondering how long he has been in the club. "I keep telling people it's 20 years." So he asked Dorothy to check the records. Said Dorothy: "Those were the days when the minutes were written on parchment."

Helpful hint: Hypothermia can progress quickly with as little as 30 minutes between the initial symptoms and unconsciousness. Keep a close watch on your mates during wet, cold and windy conditions.



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TOM LIGHTS UP A BURNING DESIRE

Just when you thought all the material by and about the late, great Tom Luff had been included in the book we published about him earlier this year, something else turns up. The poem below, by an anonymous author, appeared in the *Tramper* of August 1985.

**"Tom, Tom the tramping man
Made the porridge with the raisins in
And macaroni cheese with the CAYENNE in
"For our plans have been changed"
Said our Tom, now estranged
From his trampers with tongues all on fire!
"We're going over the top, that takes more than a hop
Thought I'd light up a burning desire!"**

TRACKSIDE POO CAUSES STINK

While DOC moves to alleviate toileting issues on the Tongariro Alpine Crossing, there are now reports from a DOC contractor of human waste and toilet paper littering the Milford Track, hiked by about 14,000 people every year.

The unnamed contractor said the amount of human waste visible in the area was "disgusting" and the situation was out of control. He said the track got busier every year, but many tourists did not seem to understand how to use a toilet.

"At some of the DOC camp sites, even though there are toilets there, for some reason some individuals only use the toilet paper and they'll poo outside the toilet. It's just disgusting."

DOC acknowledged there was a problem, but denied that it was widespread. Recreation manager Richard Davies said only a small number of tourists caused any problems. The department will boost staff time by 3000 hours in the lower South Island and increase the number of toilets available.

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Great Short and Great Day Walks Announced

Some of New Zealand's finest tracks, including the Tongariro Alpine Crossing, have become part of a new network of Great Short and Great Day walks. Developed by DOC in partnership with Tourism New Zealand, the Great Day and Great Short Walks are an expansion of the highly successful Great Walks brand aimed at promoting more of the best walking experiences available across the country.

Tourism Minister Paula Bennett said in September, "We're bringing new facilities and a new, higher profile to some of the best walking experiences New Zealand has to offer as part of Budget 2017's \$76m investment in DOC's infrastructure. This is a chance to draw more tourists off the beaten track and enable more communities to benefit from increasing visitor numbers."

The Budget 2017 funding will allow DOC to better manage the impact of visitor growth, while also protecting biodiversity and threatened species.

Releasing the list of walks, Conservation Minister Maggie Barry said



Cathedral Cove

"While many are already top quality, others will see investment to make them truly world-class, with new facilities such as toilets or improved track surfaces. DOC's own research has shown tourists are looking for shorter, easier experiences and we're meeting that demand by highlighting the best through this new brand."

Great Short Walks (30 minutes to 3 hours)

Mt Manaia, Northland; Mangawhai Cliff, Northland; Rangitoto Summit, Auckland; Cathedral Cove, Coromandel; Wainui Falls, Golden Bay; Charming Creek, West Coast; Cape Foulwind, West Coast; Devil's Punchbowl, Arthur's Pass; Kura Tawhiti, Canterbury; Lake Matheson, West Coast; Fox Glacier, West Coast; Tasman Glacier View, Mt Cook; Blue Pools, Haast Pass; and Lake Gunn, Fiordland.

Great Day Walks (4-6 hours)

Te Whara - Bream Head, Northland; Cape Kidnappers, Hawkes Bay; Tongariro Alpine Crossing, Ruapehu; Hooker Valley, Aoraki; and Roy's Peak, Wanaka.



Hooker Valley



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THE CALL OF TRAINS HUT

Brian Doughty led a trip to Trains Hut in late October. It will be interesting to learn if those on the trip had an experience similar to the anonymous writer who penned this poem which appeared in the *Tramper* of April 1964. This was a time when we visited Trains much more regularly and the track was rather gnarly.

As a Trains old-timer, Brian was just the man to fill clubbies in on its history and our long association with this part of the Waitotara.



Trains Hut

TRAINS HUT

Yes, I'm off to Trains again,
So on with the old boots and heavy pack,
Up the bush-clad valley along an abandoned road
That is now only a wet, muddy track.
Into the bush I tramp,
Away from work and all that,
Where the lazy river flows below,
And I'm still on a muddy track.

Eleven miles of ferns and bush,
Well worth coming but I wish I was riding a hack,
Instead of dodging stinging nettle
And slipping on this old muddy track.

Past the hair-raising bridge, tunnel and falls
Till around the bend you spot the shack,
And you know you can rest and enjoy yourself,
You are at the end of the muddy track.

Firewood to be cut, water to be fetched,
And exploring to be done before I hit the sack,
To bed early, tomorrow will be a busy day
At this clearing at the end of this muddy track.

Glow worm caves and beautiful bush.
What a weekend -- I'll be back
With good strong boots and putties
I'll beat that muddy track.

WTC Trip Reports

Around Mt Ruapehu

Thu-Tue 13-18 Apr 2017

Scribe: *Dave Scoullar*

On trip: Tracey Hooper, Dorothy Symes, Cherry and Johnny Channon, Margret McKinnon, Dave Scoullar and Brian Sixtus (days 3 and 4).

Day 1: We set off from Whakapapa Village despite an ugly weather forecast. It rains eventually but the predicted severe winds don't arrive. Waihohonu hut, reached in 4¾ hours, is nearly full and during his lively talk the warden congratulates us all on our boldness in venturing out despite the dire weather warnings.

Day 2: Showers dominate the day, plus some wind. We plod on through the desert landscape after a quick visit to the Ohinepango Springs, glad to reach Rangipo hut in 6¼ hours. The hut is overfull. High point is a group of Koreans who have a banquet complete with mini-lanterns. Low point is when Dorothy falls at the loo and hurts her left wrist, diagnosed as probably broken.

Day 3: Another showery day to Mangaehuehu hut (6¾ hours). Dorothy is helped along but manages gamely. Track is very muddy in places and broken board walks and steps don't help. Brian arrives as we close in on the hut and carries Dorothy's pack. He also provides wine, crackers, cheese, chippies and hot cross buns for happy hour. Hut is again overfull thanks to a large group of air cadets, but we all fit it.

Day 4: The day starts promisingly with our first view of the mountain. A heavy shower arrives as we get to the car park on Ohakune Mountain Rd. Basil Hooper is there to take Dorothy home. Brian ferries us up the road and we walk into Mangaturuturu hut in heavy rain. The hut, reached in 5½ hours, is overflowing. Clearing weather reveals a light dusting of snow on the mountain. Brian's lavish happy hour spread is repeated.

Day 5: Our longest day, 7¼ hours to Whakapapaiti hut. We say goodbye to Brian. With heavy rain in the early morning, we worry about crossing the Mangaturuturu Stream, but we cross without difficulty. Again, intermittent showers plus many stream crossings. The track is badly eroded in places and we are pleased to see smoke coming from the chimney and to share the hut with only three others, plus a tramper who arrives mid-evening and camps on the deck.

Day 6: The day begins dramatically with a cooker incident caused by the gas bottle not being screwed on tightly enough. Fortunately, no casualties. A lovely morning with a frost, snowy mountain and full sun for the 3¼ hours to Whakapapa Village. Raincoats stay in packs all day. Thus ends our six-

day Easter Weekend, 70km trip, enjoyed by all despite the less-than-ideal weather. Returning home, we visit Dorothy with her newly-plastered wrist. She is the heroine of the trip, walking for two days with two broken bones and no complaints.

Castle Rock

Sat 8 Jul 2017

Scribe: *Dorothy Symes*

Castle Rock in Kaimanawa Forest Park was our destination and Andy Beck our leader. Entry is inland from the Desert Road opposite the track to Rangipo Desert and hut. As we parked and kitted up, we were optimistic of some great views. Mt Ruapehu was spectacular, then we turned our backs on her and went the opposing way to "The Rock". Gradually ascending, the occasional peep behind brought doubts that it was going to *stay* a great day. We left the track and high-stepped through heather, climbing to the first high spot for morning tea and to take in the views. Following the defence area boundary, marked by poles, we wandered through pretty moss-covered trees, emerging half an hour later into the open again - and cooling down. Then into another small bush area and finally out on to the last open space.

We could see Castle Rock and decided there might be a good lee-side spot for lunch. The Rock itself is a rather like a grand fortress - surely there would be a place around it where we could shelter from the icy breeze. This was not to be. We all upped sticks, hurriedly lunched and quickly retraced our steps down to where it was warmer. Fortunately we were all well attired and were soon back to the van.

The views? No. The clouds had come down just as fast as we were going up. Disappointing, but still a good walk - maybe a better option for the Springtime. The cold we encountered could have been dangerous, but all safely achieved.

Fishers Track

Sun 16 Jul 2017

Scribe and Leader: *Dorothy Symes*

A full van of hearty Wanganui trampers left at 7am for the Railway Café at National Park where we had arranged to meet Peter Panton and eight Taumarunui trampers. On the way snow was visible on the hills close to Raetihi and then on the ground as we travelled on. It was a stunning day, with sunlight enhancing the snow-white countryside, really pretty. All were well prepared and equipped with poles, spikes, warm gear and coats.

From the café our two groups headed north to the start of the track. Fishers Track is part of the Te Araroa trail and a popular bike track. It is well-

constructed with a decent four-wheel drive surface. But today the track was covered in at least 200 mm of snow. It was slow going and care had to be taken on the ice.

At the turnoff to the Tupapakuraa Falls track on the left, our group split for those wanting to reach the falls. Time, and the condition of that track, didn't allow for any risks. The trees were heavily snow-laden, weighing down on to the track and preventing passage. The entire track is 17km and normally on a day trip the leader can choose how far to go, taking into account the return time.

Despite being slower and with some hold-ups, the wonderful views could be taken in at leisure. The central plateau was just magic, the three mountains snow-covered to their bases. We could see Hikurangi (the one near Taumarunui) in the distance and Mt Egmont/Taranaki too, in all its snow-covered splendour.

Despite some of our party having been coerced into this "no snow up there" trip, all thoroughly enjoyed the day and were pleased they had done it. I may not live it down - it will be remembered! Finally, it was hot chocolates and lattes and farewell to our Taumarunui friends

Paekakariki Escarpment Track

Sun 23 Jul 2017

Scribe: *Margaret Chainey*

Eight trampers left Wanganui at 7am. Cold and raining on the way down, but fine and no wind as we neared Wellington. We knew there was a slip further along the track but with Esther's instructions we climbed over the rope that said "Track Closed". Track in great order although maybe a little steep at times. There was a series of up to 20 steps at a time with stunning views across to Kapiti, and the rail line and main highway far below. We thought we would be able to get across the slip which was about 6 km along the track, but decided against it, taking our time on the return walk. By doing this we missed out on the train trip back. We met a number of locals also walking the track.

Back at the van, a book sale was in progress in the village hall, and some of our group bought all of the Wilderness magazines on sale.

When the slip is cleared we should consider this tramp again. A really enjoyable day, thanks to Esther and Juliet. On this trip: Esther Williams, Juliet Kojis, Dorothy Symes, Margaret Chainey, Dave Scoullar, Shane Wilson, Ross McBeth, and Roger Kealey.

Kaiparoro Track, Eastern Ruahine

Wed 26 Jul 2017

Scribe : *Barry Hopper*

The Wanganui Trampers

42

November 2017- January 2018

Leaders were Graham Sutcliffe and Barry Hopper. A 7am start - and what a beautiful morning to go tramping. Two hour drive over into the Wairarapa where the weather was, as expected, clear and sunny but a little on the cool side. Drive to the end of the Kaiparoro Track and a pleasant surprise at the start of the walk: the forestry company had constructed a heavy duty steel bridge across the stream, so no wet boots today.

The track immediately starts uphill at a very acute angle which very quickly sorted out the men from the boys and had everyone looking for their second wind within minutes of the start of the climb. Once up onto the tops there were some very good views out across the Tararuas and eastern Wairarapa. Excellent clear track all the way up to the trig station at 808m where, because it was so warm and sunny at the clearing, we decided to have an early lunch.

We headed back down from the trig about 300m and to the destination for today's tramp, the crash site and grave of RNZAF Pilot Officer David Leary. This off-shoot track was very well marked unlike some previous trips to this site. After about 40 minutes we were down at the crash site and grave which was marked by a polished aluminium cross with David Leary's details and the date of the crash, July 5th 1952, 65 years ago.

There is still considerable wreckage at this very isolated site, both aero engines are still visible although with some 30m of vertical separation between them. There is still cockpit instrumentation panels and even one of the pilot seats is near to the grave site.

All of this is on a very steep southern side of a very heavily forested ridge line which would almost never see the light of a lovely sunny day.

Return to the vehicles and on to Eketahuna for ice-creams, then the Downtown Mall Food Hall in Main Street in Palmerston North, and from there return to Wanganui.

Those enjoying the beautiful hike and weather were: Andy Beck, Barry Hopper, David Scoullar, David Taylor, Dick Mitchell, Dorothy Symes, Esther Williams, George Neil, Graham Sutcliffe, Jacky Evans, Kevin Ross, Margaret Chainey, Margret McKinnon, Rozy Rawlinson, Shane Wilson, Sue Haden, Tracey Hooper and her German guest Lars, and Murray Laing.

Hostile Natives Waiinu Beach

Wed 2 Aug 2017

Scribe: *Shane Wilson*

Nine trampers set out from Ototoka Beach to Waiinu Beach. The day was overcast with a moderate south-east breeze which helped push the trampers along the beach. After walking about 4km on deserted beach, two young seals were spotted resting above the high tide line. Then further on near Snapper Rock, was a group of five adults and two young seals resting on the rocks. Some

of the group moved into the sea when we arrived. They stayed swimming just offshore, keeping a close eye on us. Two large adults remained on the rocks, guarding their territory. It was then decided we should turn back, rather than disturb them any longer. With the wind in our faces and passing rain showers, we arrived back to the van unable to complete our walk to Waiinu Beach.

On the trip were Cherry Channon, David Taylor, Dick Mitchell, Esther Williams, George Neil, Laurel Stowell, Margret McKinnon, Nelson Tizard, Shane Wilson.

Mt Tongariro Loop

Sat 5 Aug 2017

Scribe: *Tracey Hooper*

It makes a very memorable day when you get a blue sky day in the middle of a run of terrible days. Our snow trip ended up a day walk starting from Tongariro Crossing track turning left onto Mt Tongariro. For newbies to cramponing Andy Beck and Shane Wilson, it was a perfect place to have a play around without getting into really serious stuff. With half of the walk in snow, it took seven hours to complete our loop, coming down off the ridge behind Mangatepopo Hut.

Waiaua Gorge

Sat 5 Aug 2017

Scribe: *Dorothy Symes*

Expectations ??? With storms, bad weather and rain, rain and more rain the week preceding the trip, the day before I contacted the DOC ENP to check out our chosen track. DOC advised there could be storm damage and tree falls on the western side of the mountain. Evidently less-used tracks aren't on DOC's agenda for urgent attention, but as we "were taking in a tramping club outing we should be okay". Also they'd appreciate any photos and reports we could bring back. The weather forecast was good and we now had another reason to go - to report back on track conditions.

Despite advising people of the beautiful native bush and magnificent views to be had, we could only muster five. But off we went, all aware the trip could be aborted if there were undue risks; there was also a river crossing to consider.

Well, what a day - absolutely magnificent!! The track was wet but not much wetter than usual. The terrain, easy - can't change that. The river crossing easy, and the hut in perfect sunshine for our lunch stop. It seemed we could put a hand out and touch the mountain's wonderful glistening peaks. There was little storm damage to report to DOC. A super, fabulous day was enjoyed by Andrea Bunn, Linda Hart, Cat Mellows, myself and our driver Ross McBeth.

Gourmet Meal Trip

Sat-Sun 12-13 Aug 2017

Scribe: *Dave Scoullar*

On trip: Juliet Kojis, Shane Wilson, Sandra Rogers, Margaret Lankow, Kate Jones and Dave Scoullar.

A great weekend started with the short walk to Alice Nash Memorial Heritage Lodge (what a mouthful!) in the western Ruahine. A young couple and a six-year-old girl were in residence doing a jigsaw puzzle. They had a fire going, so we had a warm hut.

We did a short walk towards Tunupo trig, noting the many branches broken by snow, and collected wood for the firebox. Our return to the hut coincided with thunder and lightning and a short but heavy hailstorm.

The couple and child departed with the jigsaw two-thirds complete and the women in our party picked up where they left off. Happy hour began at 4pm and this is what you missed:

Cheese, crackers, dips, fig relish and nuts

Choice of soups -- pumpkin and vegetable

Garlic bread, salad, Moroccan lamb

Fruit crumble

After dinner mints

The evening ended with a lively quiz.

Sunday dawned sunny and the jigsaw was completed apart from one missing piece. We did two walks -- along the track towards Iron Gate Hut and then down to the Oroua River camping sites before lunching and packing up. Gourmet Meal Trip 2017 was declared a great success.

Tongariro River Loop Track

Wed 16 Aug 2017

Scribe: *Dorothy Symes*

Where could we go this time? Difficult choice, with all the recent rain.

Winter hasn't been too kind and has forced tramp cancellations, hence the decision to pick the river trail which is not normally affected by bad weather. Heavy, pouring rain overnight until 4.30am and I was on the brink of aborting plans. We had to consider road conditions: ice on Desert Road and slips on Parapara. Then abruptly the rain stopped and all eleven were at the carpark for 7am departure.

At Turangi I-Site (start of river trail) we checked track conditions: all sweet -- go! Forecast was cloud with a shower or two. We were on the track at 9.30 am for the 16.5km walk. From I-Site, the trail goes south, over SH1 bridge and up to viewpoints overlooking the river, then swings left to overlook Turangi itself. Then onwards on the true left of the river down to the

Red Hut Bridge, about half way. The walkway itself is well formed, through patches of low scrub and native forest with a range of species from manuka to tall totara. The track followed the true right of the river back to I-Site.

Back by 2.30pm, we chose to skip Rotopounamu and make for the Railway Café at National Park to indulge those yum cakes and hot drinks, and share Shane's chips. The day out was thoroughly enjoyed by all, and concluded with lots of stories and banter on the way home that kept us awake. And no rain and not even that cold.

Snowcraft 1

Sun 20 Aug 2017

Scribe: *Shane Wilson*

The weather forecast was pretty murky, but we ended up making a break for the mountain on Sunday morning. The Wanganui crew met at Blind Centre in the rain and we made our way pessimistically up the island in the dark. As it got lighter the rain lessened and by the time we reached Ohakune Visitor Centre, where we changed into our snow gear, things looked promising. Not ideal...but the cloudy day was gentle and there were glimpses of sun.

We arrived at the Turoa carpark as a convoy. Once we were ready (wearing our helmets), Grant led us up to the lodge area where we put on our crampons - and instantly got swooped on by ski guides who were concerned we might want to crowd their slopes. Once they were assured we were only interested in finding a quiet corner somewhere, we headed up to our little valley to the north west of the main ski area.

The day was slightly spoiled by a powdery topping of snow on the mountain. But the videos we'd all watched and Grant and Dwight's confident instruction (assisted by Dieter and Malcolm) saw us all happy to test ourselves in ideal weather conditions...not too windy, not too wet and not too cold. A bit more sun would've been good but there was enough to make the goggles seem worthwhile.

Once we all got our confidence up we were soon to be found hurtling ourselves off, or climbing up, any slightly steep slope we could find. Rounding us all up for the next lesson was sometimes difficult as WE JUST WANTED TO GET OUT THERE! We learnt how to use crampons and ice axes for walking up, down and across slopes. Self-arrest techniques were a challenge as the powdery snow meant that gaining any meaningful speed was restrained, but with practice most of us figured out how to get adequate acceleration.

A session on sampling snow and ice for avalanche risk gave us all a bit of a rest late in the afternoon, as did a quick look at how to find someone who may have been buried after an event. Once the learning was over we all went for a bit of a

walk that involved looking desperately for a challenge. I guess the fact we didn't find much of one meant that those of us who were booked for the next session were ready.

The day ended with a bit of café confusion in Ohakune, but eventually we all ended up in the one place for a feedback session and group photo. Those of us booked in for Snowcraft 2 were chomping at the bit and the rest were more than happy with the skills they'd developed.

On the course were Michelle Mackenzie, Ady Gilbert, Andrew Beck, Derek Barrett, Phil Kirkwood, Pippa McLay, Shane Wilson and Mike Cole.

Mangawhio Lakes, Waitotara

Wed 23 Aug 2017

Scribe: *Graham Sutcliffe*

This is a great walk and the lake can be accessed from two areas – Waitotara Valley, or Lakes Road which was used on this occasion. All were impressed that, since the main lake blowout when it lost a depth of up to five metres, the forestry company has concreted not only the ford but also the sides of the outlet, preventing further erosion.

Earle, our pathfinder for the day, took us over a section that none had previously walked (I'm not sure that Earle had either). There is still a lot of pinetree windfall over the track but nothing that can't be circumnavigated – just slows the team. Weather was fine and warm and the fifteen out on this excursion – Andra Beck, Margaret Chainey, Cherry Channon, Graham Ellett, Glenda Howarth, Ken Howie, Royce Johnson, Juliet Kojis, Kathy O'Donnell, Kevin Ross, David Scoullar, Laurel Stowell, Earle Turner – had a really good day. The leaders were Dorothy Symes and Graham Sutcliffe.

Wainui Beach

Thur 24 Aug 2017

Scribe: *Julie Kears*

EAT now EET : On a perfect, almost-spring day 16 keen beach walkers arrived at Wainui Beach to be met by Graham Ellett. Graham, who lives at Wainui, proved to be a very informative host. Walking towards the Waitotara River, a fascinating find was the Ventifacts. These interesting cone-shaped rocks at first glance appear to be shaped by humans. However they are naturally formed by a combination of wind and sand. Essential ingredients are two or three opposing winds, suitable stones and sand. 'Ventifact' literally means 'formed by the wind'.

Lunch stop was by the Waitotara River and we returned along the beach. Then began Earle's Escapism Tours (EET) - previously Earl's Adventure Tours (EAT). Firstly one of our members was locked in one of the public

toilets. Fortunately Barb was on hand to offer moral support, however no amount of banging, pushing and pulling could dislodge the lock. The trapped person was terrified that by time she was freed the rest of the group would have demolished the afternoon tea provided by Earle and pikelets made by Graham.

Meanwhile back at the vans was another trapped member. The van's back door was unable to be opened, so someone kindly offered to climb through the opening made for that scenario. Unfortunately she too became stuck, straddling the opening with one leg in the passenger compartment, the other in the luggage compartment. Her tights were firmly lodged on the metal spikes, and there began an exercise in lifting and juggling. With three support people they were able to help her balance, and dislodge the tights several times only to become stuck again. Eventually she was freed.

Then it was time to try and free the person still waiting patiently in the toilet. Ray and his trusty pocket knife came to the rescue, making short work of the jammed lock. I noticed on my next trip in the van that Earle had placed a piece of hosing over the offending metal, the stress of helping to free the trapped lady obviously proving too much for him. Rumour has it that this was the second day in a row that Earle was observed 'holding ladies' legs'. Finally we were all able to enjoy our afternoon tea in the sunshine. An enjoyable and entertaining day out. Thanks to Earle for driving and leading, Ridgy for driving and Graham for hosting.

Tongariro Alpine Crossing

Sat 26 Aug 2017

Scribe: *Linda Hart*

It was a cold, frosty but cloudless morning when we set off from Wanganui Base Camp at 6am. Everyone was pleased the forecast was brilliant and we were looking forward to getting some lovely views and photos on this Winter crossing.

At Raetihi we stopped at the 'facilities' and Esther handed out the ice axes and crampons (oxygen masks, defibrillator and stretchers might have been handy too!) and we eventually set off from the car park at 9am. It was a brisk walk across the Mangatepopo Valley and a not so brisk walk up to the base of Ngauruhoe where, after recovering, we put on our crampons as there was serious snow here. This is where the fun began....

We must have looked like the eleven dwarfs (all knobbly knees and whiskers - and that's just the women ...), wielding ice axes and looking determined as we went onwards and upwards out of the fine weather and into cloud and strong icy winds - although we were all pretty 'Happy' at this stage! It was a long hard slog along the ridge to the Red Crater, the

crampons ("gin traps" was one description!) making our steps very heavy. The cold wind was whipping at us, trying its best to dampen our spirits. We huddled by a large rock to have a 'picnic lunch' which lasted about 10 minutes - it was so cold our teeth were chattering too much to chomp into our sandwiches!

The steep descent to the Emerald Lakes (barely visible) was easier on the heart but harder on the knees and it was still very exposed to the wind. It felt quite surreal being surrounded by the smell of sulphur and the Snow White landscape. It was odd to have the place just about all to ourselves - clearly the DOC warning signs of avalanches and thermal activity had put other hikers off!

We passed Blue Lake - (which was white of course, being covered in ice, snow and cloud) and carried on in near white-out conditions, until we started the zig-zag descent to Ketetahi Hut. Out of the snow, we removed the crampons and our pace increased with the lightness of feet and knowledge that we had survived, and civilisation wasn't too far away. The sun appeared (hoorah!) and the view over Lake Rotoaira and beyond was stunning. Knees and hips complained as we made our way through the forest and eventually to the Ketetahi car park where our van was waiting to whisk us off to the pub for a well-deserved something or other. There wasn't a 'Grumpy' in sight!

Dwarves on this trip were: Leader - Esther Williams, Mike Cole, Rachelle Enderby, Linda Hart, Ady Gilbert, Sally Gray, Royce Johnson, Cat Mellows, Shane Wilson, Pippa McLay and Derreck Barrett.

Otaki Forks

Sat 2 Sep 2017

Scribe and Leader: *Dorothy Symes*

Seven of us left the car park at 7 am, planning three separate walks in the area. The first was the Arcus Loop, named for the Arcus family who farmed there in the 1930s. After crossing the Boille Flat bridge, we had an early morning tea at a pleasant little hut - quite old, with a concrete floor. The loop took an hour, with easy gradients.

We then drove about 1.5km past the caretaker's house to the next walk, Fenceline Loop - not that we could find a fence or anything about the name's origins, although there was an information board. The track climbed gently from 150m and flattened off at around 290m in lovely native bush along the side of a hill. The bush opened in several places, allowing views down to the river below and across the Tararua Range. There were several stream crossings but nothing too tricky and we completed the loop after two hours.

We decided to venture on to the third walk, Waiotauru Track, in spite of a notice "Closed", to see how far we could go. This track shares the start point with the Fenceline Loop. We didn't get too far before meeting two young fellows who told us we were close to the slip. They'd just come over the slip but advised us to 'give it a miss'. We had a look though – it would have been *very* tricky - and returned to the carpark.

So, with a little time on our side, we decided to take a look at Lake Papaitonga, south of Levin and 4km west from SH1. We spent about 45 minutes on a maintained pathway through native bush, with lookouts over the lake and the lush stands of young Nikau palms which should grow to become quite spectacular.

We stopped for the usual ice cream at the honey shop and were home by 4pm. Andrea, Roger, Barbara G, Margret, Ross and Margaret C all enjoyed the day with me. Another great day - and no rain!!!

Sutherlands Bush

Thur 7 Sept 2017

Scribe: *Jan Pavarno*

In spite of an extremely adverse weather report, nine hardy souls lined up for the Sutherlands Bush, Lairds Bush walk.

Conditions underfoot were muddy, but the bush was lovely with lots of bird life and amazing fungi, no doubt due to the warm wet spring weather.

The rain held off until lunch time, and we made it to the van before we got too wet. It was decided, given the conditions, that for health and safety reasons we should adjourn to the Yellow House for coffee and cake, and leave the mud and the rain to sort itself out.

Leader: Earle. Team: Jim, Barbara, Sharron, Sandra, Kate, Julie, Carolyn and Jan.

Burttons Track

Wed 20 Sept 2017

Scribe : *Dorothy Symes*

Cherry and I were aiming for something different and chose this track with help from Esther. We learned it was possibly 14 years since our club had explored the area. We expected to simply find the Scotts Road turnoff between Palmerston North and Shannon, but no signpost. Eventually we found Scotts, a good uphill climb with nice views. It took 1¾ hours from Wanganui, with 45 minutes from the SH1 turnoff; just as well we left at 7 am.

The start of the track featured an interpretation board and a bridge with locked access - we got through via a platform at the side. Onwards now over the network of forestry roads: few signs and none pointing to Burtton's track

but, with powers of deduction, we eventually made it to places we could identify from the info we had. An hour's steady climb saw forest plantings change to native bush regrowth. Along the forest park boundary the gradient increases until a signpost and style marks entry into the Tararua Forest Park. The track then descends 300 metres to the No 1 stream – which we didn't quite make. After lunch we retraced our steps through some deep mud and beautiful native bush, before reaching the forest roads again.

It was a really good day out with fine weather. For next time, Burttons may offer a good crossover tramp. Beyond our endpoint, there are river crossings (The Tokomaru) and 15 minutes over private land before re-entering the forest park. From here, the track is the historical trail built by Jim Burton himself over 100 years ago.

The day was enjoyed by 18 trampers. Thank you to Cherry for help and our drivers Bruce and Earle.

Rotokare / Cardiff Walk

Sat 23 Sept 2017

Scribe: *Dorothy Symes*

Another trip to Rotokare, frequently featured in *Tramper's* trips pages. Six of us left at 7.30am, and met the Stratford Tramping Club members – 18 of them. Audrey Thompson, one of the enthusiastic volunteers with the community-led Rotokare Charitable Trust, briefed us on the history and establishment of this predator-free scenic reserve and what it takes to keep it that way.

We were shown the new walkway on the lake's edge. This track is supported by district and regional councils, and there are other sponsors for the numerous projects undertaken. Each time you visit there seems to be something new and interesting. The reserve hosts abundant bird life and Audrey talked of the introduction of the hihi, or stitchbird. And how do they keep the birds from straying from the reserve? *Feeding stations* – regular feeding and the work of committed volunteers. Audrey had just finished making 300 nesting boxes.

After our talk, it was on and up the famous 1220 steps to take in wonderful views of Lake Rotokare and her lowland native swamp forest where the lake's edge pathway meanders. Up the steps close to the predator free fence and beyond a little, we diverted downwards at the 'honeymoon lodge' to the top of the lake below and continued on the path back to the carpark. We were treated to many sightings of the hihi, which were not at all shy of visitors. (The 'honeymoon lodge' is a shed for holding all the stuff required for the maintenance on the upper levels of the reserve.)

We were too late to do the Cardiff, but everyone enjoyed a good day and good weather.

Mangaehuehu Hut

Wed 27 Sep 2017

Scribe: *Dave Scoullar*

We lucked a terrific spring day for the wander into Mangaehuehu Hut in Tongariro National Park, just the odd light shower. The track was amazingly non-muddy despite a deluge the previous day. Lunch at the hut, which was very tidy. In all we covered 19.2km in a six and a half hour tramp.

On trip: Shane Wilson, Bruce Thomas, Cherry Channon, Jeanette Prier, Esther Williams, Margret McKinnon, Jacky Evans, George Neil, Dave Scoullar and Juliet Kojis.

Rotokare Scenic Reserve

Wed 4 Oct 2017

Scribe: *Cherry Channon*

Rotokare Scenic Reserve, 12km east of Eltham, is a 230 ha forested hill country area which includes wetlands and a natural lake. Nine trampers enjoyed walking the upper track along the predator proof perimeter fence before descending through mature native forest which provides habitat for many bird species including Tui, Bellbird, Kereru, Grey Warbler, Hihi (Stitchbird) and the recently translocated Tieke (Saddleback). The highlight of the day was spotting a Saddleback who seemed to be just as interested in us!

The new boardwalk and viewing platform on to the lake gave us a different perspective of this pest free sanctuary and is an ideal place to sit and contemplate the surroundings, watch the wildlife and be entertained by bird song.

No visit to Eltham would be complete without stopping at the Eltham Cheese Factory to buy some excellent, well priced cheeses then on to Patea for tomatoes and the obligatory 'tramper' ice cream. Great weather and an interesting day.

Taranaki Weekend

Sat-Sun 7-8 Oct 2017

Scribe: *Dave Scoullar*

The 25th anniversary of the annual Taranaki visit was very much a tramping weekend of two halves.

Day 1: This was a day of sedate tramps in mainly drizzly weather. First we did the Te Henui Walkway in central New Plymouth, a beautiful walk which winds inland from the coast. There and back over Te Henui, which is gazetted as a national walkway, was about 12km. The paths were mostly in great shape and there were many interesting reserves and extensive plantings of camellias, magnolias, native and exotic trees. Moving on to Bell Block, we did the Hickford Park Pathway through farmland and coastal plantings, hooked up with the Coastal Walkway and then did part of the Mangati Walkway. The evening was the usual meal and movies combo.

Day 2: An early start to meet five members of the New Plymouth Tramping Club. Together we drove around the coast to Kiri Rd and over a rough farm track to Kopac Lodge on the edge of Egmont National Park. From there NPTC led us into the park on a two and a half hour walk in showery weather along a rough track to the scene of a Ventura bomber crash site where the total crew of five airmen died in 1944. The track had many windfalls but worse was battling through the supplejack the windfalls had dragged down. Secateurs and loppers would have been very handy. The NPTC crew were surprised at the state of the track which is usually in much better shape. (It isn't a DOC track.) Lunch was at the crash site where the wreckage of the aircraft, which crashed on a training flight from Ohakea, was spread over a large area. We returned to our van rather sodden for a total walk of 5hrs 20min. A stopover at McDonald's in Hawera was the opportunity for hot drinks.

Another good Taranaki visit and thanks to NPTC for their hospitality. On trip: Shane W, Jacky E, Ken H, Dorothy S, Diane W and Dave S.

Dawson Falls –Plateau Area

Wed 18 Oct 2017

Scribe: *Barry Hopper*

Departed at 7am for two-hour drive to the Dawson Falls Visitor Centre, with a pick up at Waitotara on the way. Weather forecast was for fine and cool, maximum temperature of 8° and 1% precipitation. At the Visitor Centre we picked up a young couple from Peoples Republic of Czechoslovakia, doing a gap year and working their way through New Zealand. We headed off into the bush at 9, crossing a very nice and very new pedestrian bridge on the way to the Plateau.

Arrived at the Plateau at 10 to find the weather very cool, very windy and that 1% precipitation a very wetting very heavy mist. It was too exposed on the Plateau for morning tea so we retreated back onto the track for some protection from the elements. Then everyone put on their coats and we set off down the Enchanted Track, with very little visibility because of the wet mist which was even thicker now. I had forgotten the number of steps involved in this track down off the mountain and around to the Waingongoro Hut, where we arrived at midday for lunch.

Following lunch in the hut, we returned to the Dawson Falls access road and down to the falls for a look through the mist which by now was starting to clear. Returned to the vans at the Visitor Centre where we farewelled our Czech visitors and back down the road to Macas in Hawera for coffee, back in Wanganui 6.30pm.

On this very enjoyable tramp were: Bruce T, Cherry C, George N, Jacky E, Jeanette P, Kathy O'D, Margret McK, Shane W, Susan H, Kevin R, Tracey H, and joint leaders Graham S and Barry H, not to mention our Czech visitors Valdi and Johnathon.

Outdoors News

Most Great Walks cost more

Hut fees will rise 6 to 30 per cent, during peak season, for seven of the country's nine flagship walks. Hut fees on the Milford Track are set for the steepest rise, going from \$54 a night to \$70, while Kepler and Routeburn will both increase from \$54 a night to \$65. DOC will also introduce seasonal prices on the Abel Tasman and Rakiura but there is no increase in fees for huts or campsites for Lake Waikaremoana and the Whanganui Journey.

DOC recreation, tourism and heritage director Gavin Walker said the increases are part of the department's first review into pricing for the Great Walks in five years and are designed to increase revenue by almost \$900,000 per year without significantly reducing visitor numbers.

There has been a 35 per cent increase in the patronage of the Great Walks network over the last three years. The tracks hosted 120,000 people over the past year and the more popular Great Walks are operating at more than 90 per cent capacity over the summer period.

Angelus Hut bookings extended

Angelus Hut in Nelson Lakes National Park will now require bookings for Labour weekend and Queen's Birthday weekend (Friday to Sunday nights). Earlier bookings were required during the peak season which runs from late November to 30 April. The change is in response to a huge increase in visitor numbers at the Angelus Hut over these long weekends in recent years. Reports of up to 52 people crammed into the 28-bunk hut prompted the Rotoiti/Nelson Lakes Office to extend the booking system to cover the two holiday weekends from October 2017.



Angelus Hut

John Wotherspoon, Operation Manager, said, "In alpine areas winter conditions can prevail well into November. It's likely there will still be snow at Angelus Hut and on the various routes leading to the hut. DOC can provide a safer and more enjoyable visitor experience with the booking system in place as visitors are assured of an allocated space in the hut or campsite."

Wardens protect sacred lake

The New Zealand Defence Force has airlifted a shelter to Nelson Lakes National Park that will house volunteer DOC wardens tasked with protecting the world's clearest lake. A RNZAF helicopter moved the shelter to beside Blue Lake. Also known as Rotomairewhenua, the lake has the clearest natural fresh water in the

world and is considered sacred by the local iwi, Ngati Apa Ki Te Ra To.

Phil Crawford, senior ranger in the DOC's Nelson Lakes National Park's office, said visitor numbers to Blue Lake have increased significantly in the past two years, as word has spread about the amazing clarity of its water and with more people walking the Te Araroa Trail.



Blue Lake

"This is putting pressure on the environment, with visitors leaving toilet waste in the nearby tussock and washing dishes or bathing in the lake. Wardens will enable us to manage high numbers of visitors by staying overnight in the area and ensuring that the lake and environment are protected."

Popular camp site upgraded

DOC is prepped for another busy season on the Milford Road with upgrades to the popular Cascade Creek campsite. Cascade Creek, at the southern end of Lake Gunn, is now equipped to host up to 300 visitors a night with the establishment of 120 formal camping sites. DOC recreation and historic principal ranger Grant Tremain says the upgrades were in response to the growing number of visitors looking to spend time in the Milford area.

In April, work began to expand the site's capacity, including new toilets, improved kitchen facilities and extra space for camper vans, taking the pressure off Milford Sound and spreading the load during peak times.

Another benefit was that the upgrades could be done with minimal disruption to both the land and the people recreating on it, Grant says. "Historically, this site has had a variety of uses over the lifespan of the Milford Road and has been operating as a campsite for many years."

Rating NZ on toilet cleanliness

DOC is being forced to spend increasing sums of its Great Walks budget on flying out human waste and maintaining toilets. Director General Lou Sanson says helicopters fly constant trips from the nine tracks that are attracting record numbers of tourists, 70 per cent of whom are from overseas.

"The biggest thing for us is the amount of human waste that we're shifting -- the unglamorous side of the huge boom is that we fly everybody's human waste off all camps on the Whanganui River and all the Great Walks," he says. The department's workers pride themselves at keeping toilets clean as possible. "People form a different view of a country if it can't keep its toilets clean."

DOC owns 32 per cent of New Zealand and 14 national parks. Last year, of 3.2 million tourists, 1.4 million of them visited the conservation estate. This number is forecast to almost double to 2.7 million by 2025.

Hut closed, base burned

Closed since storms hit the Coromandel region in March, DOC's largest hut, the 80-bunk Pinnacles Hut, won't open until just before Christmas at the earliest. Heavy rain washed out the main access road and tracks and significant work is needed to remove slips and resurface parts of Kauaeranga Valley Rd. DOC has used the opportunity to make repairs to the hut.

Conservation also took a hit in Pureora Forest Park with the loss of the field base located on Barryville Road. The ex-New Zealand Forest Service building was destroyed in the early hours of the morning in September in what was described as a weather-event related fire.

Within 15 minutes the fire had taken hold of the building, destroying a large part of the office and cafeteria. Shocked staff were left to salvage what they could from the remainder of the office, while arrangements for alternative accommodation and security for the site were put in place.



Pinnacles Hut

Wanganui tramping club
Possum Lodge
Country Cottage Accommodation Kaitieke Rd, Raurimu

Rural setting overlooking native bush, 9km from national park township.
Two bunk rooms for 10, plus lawns for tents.
Microwave, zip hot water, kitchen utensils, pot belly for bathroom hot water.

Club Members	Visitors
Adults \$10/night	Adults \$12/night
Children \$5	Children \$6
Families \$25	Families \$28

Contact Bruce Thomas (06) 345 6532 or
Tresha Newman (06) 342 4843

PARKING RESTRICTIONS ON TAC

DOC is urging people planning to hike the Tongariro Alpine Crossing this summer to use shuttle services as parking restrictions are now in place at both road ends of the popular one day walk. Changes this summer season, between Labour Weekend and 30 April 2018, include a four-hour time-restriction for private vehicles at the Mangatepopo road end.

This gives visitors time to enjoy short walks, but those wanting to do the entire hike, which takes an average of six to eight hours to complete, will need to use shuttle transport.

Developing a stronger appreciation of the cultural and environmental values of Tongariro National Park, a dual World Heritage Area, is also on the agenda.

Local kaumatua, Te Ngaehē Wanikau, said: “The mountain peaks and all waterways on Tongariro and his peaks, Ngauruhoe and Ruapehu, are sacred to the local hapū Ngati Hikairo Ki Tongariro.” He asks visitors to keep their own safety and well-being paramount and also to respect the sanctity of the maunga tapu (sacred mountains) by not touching or entering any of the waterways, including the alpine lakes.



DOC is removing access signs to the peaks and visitors are asked to stay to the marked and formed tracks. This summer there will be additional toilets in place on the hike and people are encouraged to use them, as defecating on the tracks or in the alpine vegetation off-track is unacceptable, offensive and a health hazard.

Visitors can expect to see more conservation rangers at the beginning of the track.



“The world is a book and those who do not travel read only a page” - Saint Augustine



Wanganui Tramping Club

Grand Dutch Auction

It's on again. . Wednesday 6th December
Following our Christmas pot luck BBQ 6pm in the Blind Centres Garden

Proceeds will go to Rescue Helicopter Palmerston North or Taranaki. Your club committee will decide distribution as we obviously spend time in both camps and have used both in recent years. A very worthwhile cause. Bring heaps of money. The entertainment alone is worth paying for with the antics our famous Auctioneer can get up to.

Who else could it be!! Brian Doughtly.



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 we can help with our pre-purchase inspections*



BOMBS

After several postponements due to weather, we finally got to Kapiti to cycle the new Peka Peka Expressway on 22 August. Weather was great and it was well worth the delay to wait for such a nice day. We started at New World carpark in Kapiti Road, biked north to Peka Peka (approximately 12 km) where we had morning tea at Harrisons Garden Centre – a really nice café. After refuelling we travelled south down to QEII Park, had lunch while taking in the magnificent views of the beach and Kapiti Island. Some opted to cycle on to Paekakariki and others came back via the coastal route - hilly and steep in places, but only for a short time before we were back on urban roads through Raumati to Kapiti Road. An easy and enjoyable track to cycle. Total distance about 43 km, with a few additional kilometres for those who cycled to Paekakariki. This was such a popular trip that a second expressway ride took place 17 October. Unfortunately, a trip to Turangi in September to cycle the Tongariro River path was postponed due to wet weather. This will proceed at a later date.

On 11/12 December we have another trip organised from Raetihi to Wanganui via Pipiriki and the Whanganui River Road, staying overnight at the Convent in Jerusalem. Twenty cyclists and two support drivers are booked in.

My grateful thanks to Ken Howie, Ross McBeth and Earle Turner for their untiring support driving and also to the many other people who assist in loading bikes on the trailer. Finally, a big thank you to our group. So good to see the continued enthusiasm and to see you all out there enjoying yourselves in all types of weather.

Carolyn Shingleton



Tailwinds





Ed Boyd
Director

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Thursday Trampers Two – TT2

3 Aug: From Peat Street car park, over Dublin Street Bridge, Anzac Parade River walk, Aramoho Railway Bridge, up to St Johns Hill and around lake, and back to Peat Street via Deer Park. A cool southerly breeze but sunny for the 18 walkers.

17 Aug: From Kowhai Park, up Durie Hill and back via Putiki and the Cobham Bridge. An invitation from Margaret Lankow to have our morning tea at her home in Putiki Drive was welcome for the 17 who attended, as there was very blustery wind.

31 Aug: Car-pool arranged for Bason Reserve to see the daffodil display. Overcast, with 19 attending.

14 Sept: This week a bus trip to Castlecliff, returning to the city via the cycle path. Warm and cloudy with a light shower encountered. Two new members attended (Clive and Ann), 24 people.

28 Sept: Barbara G led us via Nuns' Walk to the wetlands behind Josephite Retreat Centre on Hillside Tce, then around St Johns Hill to view beautiful spring gardens. Barbara and Jim opened up their lovely garden for our morning tea break. A cool overcast morning for the 15 walkers.

12 Oct: Jan Pavarno led us on the highways and byways of Castlecliff – Wanganui's "up and coming suburb". A lovely historic walk around the very old and the very new parts of Castlecliff, finding a WW2 gun emplacement bunker in the sand dunes, seeing the old tram terminal in Rangiora Street, walking through the dunes to the site of the Port Bowen disaster, along beside the Karaka Stream, then down on the beach to the Longbeach Drive beach access track. We returned along Karaka and Cornfoot Streets, completing our walk down the newly developed Rangiora Street and cactus gardens. A sunny morning with 25 people attending, including four grandchildren.

Carolyn Shingleton



Note from Helen Buskey in England:

In June I went to Koblenz on the Rhine in Germany to a global walking festival. There is an opening ceremony where the flags of all the attached countries are represented. As there were no walkers from NZ to carry the NZ flag, I volunteered. What I did not know was that, after walking through the town, we had to go on stage. The ceremony lasted about an hour and my arms were falling off! (See photo on back page.)

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