

Wanganui Trampler

May - July 2019



Quarterly Journal of the Wanganui Tramping Club (Inc) Issue 261
www.wanganuitrampingclub.net

From the Editor

Another summer has gone and we are heading towards another winter of fun! Our Photo Competition is running again (see pg 19). So now it's time to select your best photos to enter or to get creative and start clicking! Our fun mid winter dinner is on July 20 so make sure it is in your diary (see ad on pg 38). The AGM will be held 5 June (see ad page 20). And lastly looking well ahead, the Old Timers Get Together will be held Sunday 4 August (see ad pg 61).

Enjoy!

Our website is:

www.wanganuitrampingclub.net

All contributions may be emailed to

trampermagazine@gmail.com

No email? Handwritten contributions are perfectly acceptable.

Jeanette Prier



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Cover: Cherry on the way to Rangipo Hut		

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

The Wanganui Trampler
Official Magazine of the Wanganui Tramping Club (Inc.)
P.O. Box 7324
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ISSUE 261

MAY - JULY 2019

*From the
PRESIDENT*

What a summer we have had for tramping. Now that we are well into autumn, the cooler days make it even better. Again, we have been fortunate to have had a great range of tramps. Even more pleasing is to have new drivers willing to share the driving of the vans. This is really appreciated by all - thank you.

I read of the ongoing problems trampers are experiencing in accessing some areas. We are all familiar with the issues in the north-western corner of Ruahine Forest Park - so many great places to visit. There are always many sides to all stories, so we need to be respectful of what it may be like for the property owners. May we remember this when entering private land. Our farm tramps remind me of how lucky we are to have so many friendly and welcoming farmers who do allow us access.

Possum Lodge is now officially on the market. Hopefully we can look forward to a good outcome in the future.

It is now that time of year whereby we look at, or offer, our nominations for club executive positions.

The AGM will be held on Wednesday 5th June. Nomination forms will be available at the May meeting or available through our secretary.

My tenure is nearing completion and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many people who have supported me and helped towards the general running of the club.

Happy tramping
Margret McKinnon

Possum Lodge — An Appreciation

Doris Hamling

Irene and I sat on the verandah. What a great place to relax after a good day skiing — a good view and plenty of visits from birds.

“Colin said the Lathams want to sell.”

“Wow. I would love to buy it, but ...”

“So would I.”

“Perhaps our families could join?”

“Or perhaps the tramping club could buy it.”

So that evening and every tramping club activity for the next few weeks it was “should the club buy Possum?” Some did not agree but eventually in 1994 the lodge became club property.

Since then Possum has been very useful — to try tramping, to stay the night before or after a major tramp, or have rest day. For several years we had a week in the school holidays. Families came and went, giving children a chance to live with unknown children and enjoy outdoor activities.

Possum was an old farm cottage so it needed maintenance. Many major jobs were done after a suitably skilled club member visited. They came, saw a need, gathered gear and volunteers and spent a good weekend.

The native bush opposite Possum is worth a visit. Perhaps a half hour stroll or a three hour walk and a chance to get lost or meet goats. There is a creek to cross. I said “we need a bridge”. A few weeks later Brian Heywood was ready with gear and helpers to build the bridge. He named it The Bridge to Elsewhere.

I don't really want to change the script but I could add in italics on the bottom of the story this sentence:
Clarification: The club bought the land only but was given use of the lodge by John Latham.



Warm thoughts beside the lodge's blazing hearth 2005



Enjoying a yarn on the Possum Lodge verandah in 1994

Let's wander where the WIFI is weak

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). All are welcome.

Pleased to Meet You! New Members



Grant Adkins, Rita Hodson, Janice O'Brien, Marianne Schumacher, John Tarrant and Phillip Thomsen

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
August 2019 Issue of the
Wanganui Trampster
to the Editor by
July 16th 2019
(Earlier appreciated)
Thank You! - Jeanette



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Club Activities

MIDWEEK

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

Coordinated by:

Margret McKinnon 344 3899, email margretjean@gmail.com

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:

May 9 & 23

July 4 & 18

June 6 & 20

Aug 1, 15 & 29



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**



Add another dimension to your tramp - Go Geocaching

Geocaching is a real-world, outdoor adventure that is happening all the time, all around the world. To play, participants use the Geocaching app and/or a GPS device to navigate using coordinates to find cleverly hidden containers called geocaches. There are millions of geocaches in 190 countries waiting to be discovered—there are probably even some near you right now.

Geocaching started in early 2000. When the website launched, only 75 geocaches had been hidden. Today, there are over three million geocaches and millions of active geocachers playing the game. Geocaches come in all different shapes, sizes and difficulties, and are hidden in both rural and urban settings.

Geocaching is a great way to find remarkable destinations that you would not have otherwise discovered as well as a cache to find during a lunch break or at a rest stop. The caches are hidden along many tramping tracks often at a good viewpoint or interesting site.

To begin your adventure, you need a GPS or a cellphone and the geocaching app. If using a cellphone, caches need to be loaded into lists and downloaded to be off line as



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many tramping tracks are out of cellphone range. If using a GPS, caches can be downloaded from a computer onto your GPS.

To get started, create a free basic account and use **Geocaching.com** or the free **Geocaching® app** to search for geocaches near your location. Whether you are off to find your first geocache or your ten-thousandth, the Geocaching® app is your ultimate geocaching toolbox.

Once you find a geocache, open it up and sign the logbook. You may discover some trade or swag items (small toys, keychains, trinkets) inside the geocache. The general rule of thumb is if you take something, leave something of equal or greater value. Then, place the container back exactly how you found it and share your experience online with the rest of the geocaching community.



Cache is hidden under a rock and covered by stones. The cache has a log book to sign before re-hiding the container

There are other types of caches to be found and we find the Earth caches one of the most interesting as you learn about the earth science of an area.

EarthCaches: There is no physical container to be found. Often sited in national parks. They highlight unique physical features of the site. **EarthCaches must provide an earth science lesson.** They should provide accurate but non-technical explanations of what visitors will experience at the site. For example EarthCache at White Cliff boulders explain how the boulders are formed and on the Atene Skyline walk show the cut-off of the river. Several questions and observations need to be logged with the owner of the cache.

There are puzzle caches where a code needs to be solved to get the coordinates as well multicaches where there are several clues to be found before reaching the final hidden cache.



Mike at Whitecliff boulders

There are over 200 caches in Whanganui to get you started. If anyone is interested in finding out more about this activity, please contact me (June Miller) for help in getting started. We have logged close on 2000 caches found all around the world including Antarctica.

Join the world's largest treasure hunting community!

Tramping Trips

Confirming your place

For ALL trips (not TT2), 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.

If making a booking for any trip you may enquire from the leader advertised, a time for estimated return. Please be advised timing cannot be guaranteed for whatever might occur on the day and this will be the call of the leader in charge.

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.





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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 club rooms before leaving. These details must also be emailed to the four PLB contacts:

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

Need help? We have a list template – ask Barbara or Dorothy.
For leaders without computers/email, phone details to
Barbara 348 9149 or Dorothy 345 7039.

Special Notice

Trip leaders must report any accident, damage or incident that occurs on their watch. This is important for insurance or ACC claims and must be reported on the same day by phone to one of the club's van conveners. A written report, using the pink form in the trip satchel, must be completed and included with the completed trip sheet and van fees, secured in the Ziplock bag and left in the drop-box in club cupboard. Any personal injuries or health episodes should be noted.

Van Work

Not Housework - Vanwork !!

We have new brooms in the vans that should sweep clean, as long as they are used. One broom has a long handle and the window washer has an extendable arm for high windscreens. It's become the tradition that whoever occupies the front passenger seat cleans the windscreen.

Reminder too, please remove boots and change dirty clothing before the homeward journey. We are all responsible for keeping our vehicle floors and seats clean.

May to July 2019 Club Activities

*Note: Trip cost estimates are based on 8 cents per kilometre
(this will vary with increases in fuel prices)*

May 4-5	Waihohonu Hut	Dorothy Symes
Sat-Sun	Dorothy had a team going to this hut in Tongariro National Park last October but had to pull the plug because of a horrendous weather forecast. Now the trip is back on the list. Join her and enjoy a delightful walk through the stunning landscape and overnight at a plush hut.	
Mod	Approx cost \$27 + hut fees	

May 4 Sat-Tues	Tongariro Northern Circuit	Brian Doughty
	By waiting until May the hut fees will be half. This trip will be made up of four days with reasonably easy walking around a really cool part of Tongariro National Park.	
Mod	Cost to be calculated	
May 11 or 12 Sat or Sun	Goodbye Possum Lodge	Bruce Thomas
	After more than 25 years we are saying farewell to our Raurimu home away from home. This is a nostalgic trip, a chance to recall old memories of good times and cosy nights. There may be an opportunity to visit the farm air strip and explore the track we made in the nearby reserve - two popular pastimes on past visits.	
Easy	Approx cost \$21	
May 11-12 Sat-Sun	Shutes Hut	Dave Scoullar
	From Comet Rd off the Taihape-Napier Rd, it's only a 2-3 hour walk to historic Shutes Hut which has heating and mattresses. There are only 4 bunks, so it may be necessary to take tents or flies. In the northern Ruahine, this is an area not often visited by us.	
Mod	Cost to be calculated	



- May 18
Sat
Pot Luck Meal Suzanne Roberts/Robert Lakeland
Suzanne and Robert have moved house and have generously offered to host a pot luck meal in their new riverside abode, 3 Riverbank Rd, starting at 6pm. Don't bother to phone up — just turn up.
- May 18 or 19
Sat or Sun
Marton Sash and Door Track Dorothy Symes
This tramp at National Park keeps pulling us back. It's flat, has interesting bush, logging history, mountain views and is a circuit. What more could you ask? Dorothy will choose the day with the best weather.
Mod
Approx cost \$20
- May 25-26
Sat-Sun
Kime Hut Shane McCulloch
Kime is an iconic hut on the tops of Tararua Forest Park, reached from Otaki Forks. Visitors also get the bonus of walking past historic Field Hut. Shane would love to see the new(ish) Kime Hut, hopefully with no crowd and before the snows arrive. A chance, too, to go to Hector peak, highest point in the southern Tararua, and see the memorial cross.
Mod
Approx cost \$29 + hut fees
- June 1-3
Sat-Mon
Top Gorge - Longview Huts Circuit Mike Cole
A relatively easy relaxed walk in Ruahine Forest Park visiting these two huts, one a shack in the bottom of a valley seldom visited by humans and the other a classy spacious hut with amazing views on the tops.
Mod
Approx cost \$40 + hut fees
- June 2
Sun
Magnificent Mangaweka and Beyond Margret McKinnon
We will check out a little bit of history in Mangaweka, including the old power dam on the banks of the Rangitikei River. Following that, a farm walk which is familiar to me!
Easy/mod
Approx cost \$16 plus ice cream money.
- June 8-9
Sat-Sun
McIntyre's Hut Dorothy Symes
Club members Bob and Maureen McIntyre have a cosy hut on the way to the Mangapurua Valley beyond Ruatiti. It's a great base to explore the area which is steeped in history and has beautiful bush. A chance to visit the Mangapurua trig on Sunday, depending on the weather. Bring a small pack for lunch.
Easy
Approx cost \$25

June 13 Wed	Trips Meeting	Dave Scoullar
	Decisions, decisions and still more decisions as we ponder tramps for the spring months of September, October and November. Join the conversation by coming along to 7 Wairere Rd at 7.30pm or phone up with your ideas.	
June 15 Sat	Quiz Night	Dave Scoullar
	For once the date doesn't clash with an All Blacks test match, so there are no excuses for not turning up for our annual quiz night in the club hall. Form a team of four or join up with others on the night. A fun time guaranteed plus a good supper. 7.30pm start.	
June 15 or 16 Sat or Sun	Bushy Park	Esther Williams
Easy	You may have trodden the public tracks at Bushy Park but Esther will introduce us to a few lesser used. At the homestead we will dine on hot soup and crusty bread. She will choose the better day. Approx cost \$4	
June 22 or 23 Sat or Sun	Burton's Track	Roger Kealey
Mod/fit	Roger will take the group along Burton's Track (Scotts Road to Mangahao Road), part of the Te Araroa Trail which lies between Palmerston North and Shannon. The track begins among plantation pine forest and progresses through native bush with one or two stream crossings. About 6-7 hours walking. Approx cost \$25	
June 29 or 30 Sat or Sun	Whangaehu Beach Walk	Brian Doughty
Easy	Brian wants to walk from Whangaehu Beach to Turakina Beach to investigate the feasibility of rerouting the Te Araroa Trail this way and getting it off SH3. Join him and explore a bit of our seldom visited coastline. Approx cost \$3	
July 6 or 7 Sat or Sun	Sledge Track Crossover	Dave Scoullar Roger Kealey
Mod	This is a favourite track near Palmerston North. We have now done both loops but this will be the first time there has been a crossover. Be there when history is made as Dave and Roger lead teams from the Manawatu and Wairarapa sides! Lovely bush. They will choose better day. Approx cost \$20	

July 13-14 Sat-Sun	Kahui Hut	Shane McCulloch
	Overnight in this historic hut on the Egmont National Park round-the-mountain circuit and explore the area. There is a track up behind the hut which leads to the summit and Shane wants to check out the old track past the Pyramids, so there's plenty to do.	
Easy/mod	Approx cost \$28 + hut fees	
July 20 Sat	Club Dinner	Esther Williams
	A winter occasion with lovely steaming food. This year it will be held in the Camera Club rooms. Wear a mask if you wish to dress up. Food details will be organised at the club meeting July 3. 6pm start.	
July 27 or 28 Sat or Sun	Tongariro Alpine Crossing	Esther Williams
	A chance to experience the alpine crossing of Tongariro in winter conditions. The club has gear you can borrow if you do not have crampons and ice axe.	
Fit (7-8hrs)	Approx cost \$28 plus \$7 for a massive hot drink afterwards.	
July 27 or 28 Sat or Sun	Manawatu Gorge Walk	Dorothy Symes
	A must-do walk, Te Apiti – Manawatu Gorge is an icon and the divider of the Manawatu and Hawke's Bay regions. Covered in ancient bush and home to a variety of wildlife, the area is steeped in legend. Explore the 11km track and you'll come face to face with the sculpture of Whatonga, an ancient warrior who stands guard over the forest. Great views also of the wind farms. Dorothy will choose the better day.	
Mod	Approx cost \$18	
Aug 3 or 4 Sat or Sun	Manawatu Wander	Val Wackrow
	Our Palmerston North-based ex-president Val has hosted some interesting walks in and around that city and now plans another. The walk route is as yet undecided, but there will be new paths to explore and hopefully a new bridge to cross. As she says, Palmy has lots of walking to offer. Val will choose the better day.	
Easy/mod	Approx cost \$12	
Aug 4 Sun	Old-timers' Afternoon	Dorothy Symes
	It's time for the old-timers to gather and enjoy reminiscences of past tramps. The venue will again be the home of club treasurer Dorothy Symes, 77a Liverpool St, from 2-4pm. Ex-members are welcome. To help with catering, call Dorothy by July 31 if you plan to come.	

- Aug 10-11
Sat-Sun
Gourmet Meal Trip Dave Scoullar/Juliet Kojis
This year's gourmet meal trip will be to Waingongoro Hut in Egmont National Park. Enjoy a weekend of walking in a great area and eating a splendid evening meal with contributions to be made by all participants. There could be snow around but this is a snug hut.
Easy/mod
Approx cost \$21 + hut fees
- Aug 14
Wed
Trips Meeting Dave Scoullar
It's the middle of winter but summer will be on our minds as we ponder where to go in the hills in December, January and February. Join us at 7 Wairere Rd at 7.30pm and make sure your favourite place is included.
- Aug 17-18
Sat-Sun
Powell Hut Tracey Hooper
Tracey is taking us to the newly rebuilt Powell Hut in the eastern Tararua and plans to visit nearby Mt Holdsworth and return. She is hoping for snow or at least icicles. A good track all the way to this popular hut and sweeping views of the Wairarapa plains.
Mod
Approx cost \$35 + hut fees
- Aug 24 or 25
Sat or Sun
Lake Rotokare Margie Campbell
Barbara Francis
We will visit this lake which is located approximately 12km from Eltham. We plan to walk both tracks. The easier one, the lake walkway, is about 4km around the lake edge. We will also tackle the ridge walk of about 6km which will allow us to see the predator-free fence and enjoy the vistas. The better day will be chosen.
Mod
Approx cost \$20
- Aug 31-Sept 1
Sat-Sun
Trains Hut Brian Doughty
Brian keeps being drawn back to Trains Hut in the Waitotara. Join him and learn about the charms of this area which has been a playground for us since the club began. Access the hut on a good track alongside the Waitotara River.
Mod
Approx cost \$18 + hut fees



It feels good to be lost in the right direction

From our archives... January 1989

VALE TRACK-BUILDER OTTO

At the aged of 86 Otto Schaefer deserved to put his feet up. But that wasn't his way. Otto was a true blue bushman. And it was appropriate that when he died it was in the foothills of his beloved Tararua.

Mr Schaefer's body was found last November near a farm at the start of the track to the Ohau shelter -- a fitting end to a man who had spent the last 15 years making the Ohau catchment area a safer place to tramp and hunt. He made it a personal project to build and maintain a good walking track from the Ohau shelter to the confluence of the North and South Ohau Rivers

He saw the need for this track when a young man drowned in the upper reaches of the Ohau. Despite DOC not approving of the plan, he went ahead with it, anyway, with his typical strong drive.

Footnote: Because of slips, this track, which we know as Oz's track, is no longer passable.



Parking at Mangatepopo

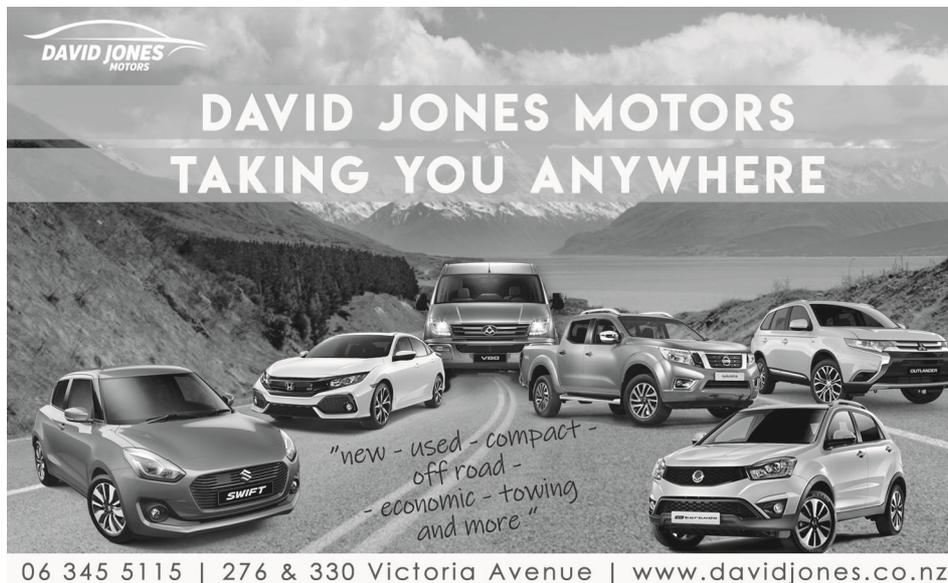
If members wish to park at Mangatepopo, Ketetahi or Whakapapa there is a procedure for obtaining a permit:

Email tongarirovc@doc.govt.nz

Give the date of the trip and vehicle registration number:

HRP862 (white van), KYW145 (silver van)

Ask for the permit to be emailed back to you.



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Relay for Life

By Dorothy Symes

Well, What a day it was !! Twenty five members from our club participated in this event at Cooks Gardens on 23 March. The **Relay for Life** is a major fundraiser that enables Whanganui Cancer Society to provide essential services to those on the cancer journey, along with their families. Behind the scenes, Margie Campbell and Brian Doughty were the prime movers and organisers for the WTC team

Each team member pledges a minimum of \$100, and donations are sought by sponsorship, morning teas and the like, and straight-out begging. Thank you to all for those generous donations. Throughout the 12-hour continuous relay, at least one team member must be on the track. .

After an opening ceremony, Brass Wanganui led Cancer Survivors on the first lap, then all teams joined in. Proudly was Wanganui Tramping Club's banner borne aloft!

The total raised by all 33 teams was \$48,108. Of this, \$3702 came from our WTC team, an outstanding result that won the Society's trophy for the team that raised the most money. Our team should take a bow and be proud of their individual efforts, showing care for the community while encouraging sponsorship from friends and relatives. Margie and Brian deserve a big pat on the back too for their planning and keeping in touch with the team. The weather was great, the entertainment non-stop and it was fun for everyone all day and into the night. Several club members came along to lend support and enjoy the activities, and the entire event was enjoyable and a great success.

Two special mentions: Brigitte Hund, as a result of a mishap the day before, was taken to A&E where a broken collar bone was revealed. She returned from hospital 'reinforced' and saw the relay through to the last lap at 10pm. And there goes Earle Turner, peeling off the laps most of the day. At the end, he took the inside fast lane and RAN the last lap. Iron Man masquerading as Peter Snell.



PHOTO COMPETITION 2019

This year's deadline is Wednesday 3 July 2019

This year all entries shall be received as electronic image files. There is no need to print off any images.

Ways to submit your entries:

- a) On a memory stick
- b) Using a link to a dropbox (or similar) site with the link emailed to Basil Hooper
- c) Emailing image as an attachment directly to Basil Hooper. (Make sure your software does not downsize your image with this method.)



Baz's email address **bas.hooper@xtra.co.nz**

Please don't leave it to the last minute to send your photographs. If there is spare time I can try to remedy any issues with them. The images will be judged on a screen that takes an image size of at least 1920 x 1080 pixels. It is in your interest to present the images at least as big as that.

If possible, rename images with your proposed title. And include in associated documentation your name, the class you are in, and the category of the entry.

There are two classes: Novice and Open - entrants who have previously won a category in Novice will be in the Open class.

RULES

- 1) All entrants must be financial members of the club in the year up to that point.
- 2) All photographs must have been taken by the member submitting them, and taken on club or private mountain biking outings and tramping trips within the previous two years.
- 3) Entries must not have been entered in any previous club competition.
- 4) Limit of two images per category per person (total of eight images).

CATEGORIES

- Human Interest** Anything that involves people
- Pictorial** Landscapes, views etc. People can be included but not dominate the image.
- Natural History within NZ** – Landforms, flora and fauna etc.
(Defined as: non-domestic life forms, geological and meteorological features etc - must not contain features of human intervention.)

And the special subject for this year:

“A Hidden Treasure” – Only limited by your imagination!!

Winners will be announced at the club meeting Wed 7 August

Organiser: Basil Hooper ph 346 5597

Email bas.hooper@xtra.co.nz



Wanganui Tramping Club
AGM

Annual General Meeting
Wednesday. 7.30pm 5th June 2019
Deerstalkers Hall : Peat St. Wanganui

<p>AGENDA:</p> <p><i>Join us for supper at the meetings conclusion</i></p> <p><i>We look forward to a great turnout</i></p>	<p><i>Normal monthly Club Business</i></p> <p><i>Apologies</i></p> <p><i>Minutes of previous AGM to be circulated prior</i></p> <p><i>Matters arising from those Minutes</i></p> <p><i>Presidents Report</i></p> <p><i>Financial Report</i></p> <p><i>Club Reports</i></p> <p><i>General Business - Subscriptions, Awards.</i></p> <p><i>Election of Officers. President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Committee.</i></p>
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Our BOMBs group has become increasingly popular with many new inquiries from people wanting to join our Tuesday biking. Last year, to limit numbers we decided to only accept new members who have an active interest in tramping as well as cycling. Primarily, we are a tramping club with cycling being a subsidiary group to help keep us active. Please remember this ruling before encouraging family and friends to join the group.

Exceptional weather has enabled most of our trips to go ahead. Unfortunately, the only cancellation was the February group going to the Timber Trail. With bad weather forecast for the weekend it was decided the track would be too slippery and dangerous for the trip to continue. However, the March group of 13 people went ahead and experienced a fantastic 87km ride through native forest across Mount Pureora, over several long suspension bridges, down to the village of Ongarue. I would encourage people to cycle this beautiful trail. So much history to explore and outstanding accommodation and services on offer.

In February a group of 13 cycled the New Plymouth Coastal and Te Henui Pathway. A fantastic day out with incredible scenery, especially cycling through the Te Henui Pathway.

On 9 April, 19 cyclists went down to the Peka Peka Expressway. Daylight saving finishing the previous weekend made it easier to get an early start to the day. We started at Kapiti Road, biked north to Peka Peka where we had morning tea at Harrisons Garden Centre, then travelled back south down to QEII Park, had lunch with views of the beach and Kapiti Island, then travelled back via the coastal track, through Raumati and back to Kapiti Road. Approximately 44km were covered.

My ever-grateful thanks our drivers and to all who assisted and helped load bikes onto the trailers on these trips. Without your continued support these excursions would not be possible. Also, a big thank you to the people participating. So good to see your continued enthusiasm.

Safe cycling

Carolyn Shingleton

Cycling was new in Wanganui in the 1890s and there was much debate whether this was a suitable activity for "the fairer sex". Several women were fined for furious riding and one newspaper correspondent declared, "*What is really important is whether cycling may not take up too large a proportion of women's time and prove destructive to the individual, the home and the state.*"



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Remembering a life ended too soon

Dave Scoullar

Juliet Kojis and I have been privileged to take part in the commemoration of a life ended too soon. In 1969 Tristram Harper died when he fell about 30m down a crevasse on the Otira Slide on Mt Rolleston in Arthur's Pass. The 22-year-old student was coming down after climbing the 2275m mountain. He was glissading — skiing on his feet — when he lost control and went over the edge of a crevasse.

Exactly 50 years later — on 22 March — a group of some 20 relatives (Tristram was Juliet's cousin) climbed to the place where he died. Included in the party was Eric Saggars, who was in the rescue team which worked into the night to recover Tristram, only for him to die of injuries, shock and exposure while being winched up the face strapped to a stretcher.



Taking a break on way to the foot of Mt Rolleston. The final destination was about a 2km further up the valley

Our three hour walk began on the Otira Valley Track up the Otira River and then off track up to the foot of the Otira Slide beneath Mt Rolleston. The precise spot was hard to identify as the snow has receded since 1969 but we picked a place to build a huge cairn for Tristram.

It was the same day as the national remembrance for the mosque victims so at 1.30pm just as they were being remembered around New Zealand, we held hands and focussed on them — and Tristram. It was a poignant, unforgettable moment, particularly for Pauline, Tristram's sister. Visiting Arthurs Pass will never be the same for us.



TRAMPING TUCKER

BY UNCLE HAL

Mung Bean Sprouts

Irene Back's recipe for mung bean sprouts: In a plastic bag put two spoons of mung beans, cover with water and soak 12 hours. Drain and rinse twice daily until sprouted, approximately two days. Irene used two plastic bags, one with small holes in it, which is easier to rinse the sprouts, and another plastic bag without holes to be tied to the outside of her pack. Sprouts make a delicious crunchy topping to cracker biscuits.



This recipe from Irene was used on a club trip to the South Island in 1989.



The Guys and the Gals

Barbara Gordon

A head-count through trip lists for 2019's first three months reveals a noticeable gender imbalance. Of total trampers, 131 were men and 188 were women.

Where are the men? Have injuries on the sports field/up ladders/on the farm taken their toll on knees and hips?

My theory (yes, unscientific) is this: After decades managing homes and families, working and commuting - and generally putting the needs of others before our own - we wimminfolk arrive at the middle and retirement years. While our Boy Scout brothers were camping out, going on footy trips, military training, pighunting and roaming unfettered, we were likely being schooled in housewifery and embroidering teaclths for our glory boxes. The ideals for '50s female youth were uncompromising. Pighunting and other unladylike pursuits were forbidden; we stayed home and helped Mum.

But fast-forward a few decades. The birds having flown the nest, we are surprised to reach the Goldcard Years. Hurray! At last, *our* time. We forsake the office and GO MAD: having a life and having a go, making up for our dull and sober youth (well, mine was). And don't we enjoy our tramps out there in the hills and mountains, doing things our mothers declared dangerous or unseemly. There's the warm companionship of good buddies and our lifetimes furnish endless conversation topics.

Hmmm ... Is that the reason for a dearth of men on our trips? All that conversation? Spare a thought then for tramps led by Roger and Barry, who each found themselves the only male in the company of 11 chattering women. One solitary rooster in the fowlhouse.



Longdrop's **PACK TALK MAY 2019**

*Some drink deeply from the river of knowledge but others only gargle. --
Woody Allen*

Congratulations to our two new life members, Irene Back and Nelson Tizard. Irene is a former president and has been actively involved with the Four Friends Trust for decades. Nelson used his accountancy skills on behalf of the club for many years. This brings our life members up to eight. According to the club's constitution we can't have more than ten at one time.

Congrats also to editor Jeanette Prier who qualified for 70 candles in April.

It went a bit quiet in the van when the Tracey Hooper group returning from the Kaweka over the Napier-Taihape Rd realised they were getting low on fuel and might not make it to a fuel stop in Taihape. They did but the needle was close to empty.

Jim Gordon was pleased to learn that delivering *Tramper* magazines to outlying letterboxes clocks up more than 40km on his motorised iron horse.

BOMBS bikers have discovered something trampers have always known: Autumn is the time to keep eyes peeled for roadside apples, peaches and blackberries. Public land, help yourself.

"I think I've got a bit of blossom-end rot", some were startled to overhear. Turns out he was talking about his tomato crop.

John Newton's state-of-the art electric bike has drawn envious looks. A computer that gives all sort of information. Trouble is, it's all in Chinese.

The BOMBS' Timber Trail ride was a great adventure, although Julie fell off her bike in fright when confronting the first high suspension bridge.

Beehives were noticed at Lake Namunamu, some painted red and some yellow. Deadpan Ray asks, "Do you know why some hives are red and others are yellow? Well, the bees in the red hives go for manuka while the bees in the yellow hives only go to yellow flowers." One of the group responded, "Biggest load of garbage I've ever heard." Transpires she is a beekeeper and this her first acquaintance with Ray, that wellspring of interesting information.

“Ignorance and brute force gets it done every time.” — Graham Sutcliffe on how to handle our ongoing problems with closing the van door.

Call it a Downton Abbey moment ...

Dorothy Symes: “I didn’t do my ironing this morning.”

Sandra Rogers (Lady Violet/Maggie Smith): “What’s ironing?”

March was marriage month for a couple of blokes with club links. Congratulations to Philip Kirkwood. Also to Adam Howie, son of Ken and the late Chris Howie.

Barry Hopper, you’re a legend! How else do you describe him after he produced beers for our five-day Waitotara Warriors after he picked them up?

Don Gordon may be a stalwart trumper but he has strong rowing roots on which he drew to give an ‘oarsome’ talk at the Whanganui Regional Museum re-opening on the feats of the NZ Army Eight following World War One

Our Southern Man Brian Sixtus was among those fighting fires in the Nelson district. We even saw a glimpse of him on TV. He spent two nights at the fire which he described as “a brief but good experience.” A highlight was seeing 21 helicopters parked in a paddock, something he said you wouldn’t see at any air show.

Are women tougher than men? Ask yourself after the 7 women and 7 men divided into 2 groups for a skinny dip in the Waipakihi River. All 7 women went into the freezing river but only 1 man.

How to cause a shock wave: tell trampers who have just completed a 9.30hr day that the hut they are planning to overnight in is closed! The team arrived at Kapakapanui Hut to find tape around it saying it was closed for renovation. The website said it was closed 15-22 February but this was March so they stayed there anyway. Front runner Mark Sutherland yelled out that the hut was locked and there was relief when it turned out he was joking.

We’ll miss Ray Stevens on our regular stop at the Westmere service station. He certainly was a character and a great provider of free lollipops. RIP Ray.

How discreet we are! When three females went bathing in their birthday suits in the lake at Waipipi they did so in a far area, dubbed Skinny Dip Corner, and the blokes stayed away.

When a black and white cat was spotted on the beach on the Wapipi walk it was thought it was feral but it turned out to be very friendly and even followed us for some distance — apparently a resident of a nearby house.

Julie Kears: "Do I need poles on this walk?"

Leader: "You'll have to decide."

Julie: "I come on these trips so I don't have to think."

Privilege has its rewards. When trip leaders Brenda Collins and Laurel Stowell stopped the Wednesday group for lunch at a small hut on a Mangamahu farm, they got to relax in comfy chairs from the hut while everyone else got to sit on the ground.

At the Mangamahu hut we got an insight into the DIY skills of Adrian Pike who decided to fix up some loose iron sheets. No hammer? No problem. Adrian used a brick to bang in the nails.

"This is what it must have been like building the Burmese railway," murmured John Newton after a tiring morning on pine clearing. (Harden up, John!)

We are a playful bunch and nothing brings this out more than a playground. So it's not surprising that the slide at the Kaupokonui Beach Camp was popular on our South Taranaki beach exploration trip.

Graham Sutcliffe is a man on a mission. On his annual South Island trip he reached DOC hut No 282 and he's aiming to get to 300 in the next 18 months which will put him in a special club. Of course we know he's already special.

"I'm taking off my fashion statement," said Cherry Channon, slipping off her rubbish bag skirt after improving weather meant it was no longer needed.

While the house warming at Cherry and Johnny's new place is still on the back-burner, Robert and Suzanne Lakeland opened the doors of their new Riverbank Rd home in March which included a few clubbies just back from a weekend of pine clearing on the mountain but not too tired for nibbles and drinks. They will also host an at-home soon. See trips list for more details.

"One good thing about Rotorua is that you can fart and nobody notices." — anonymous clubbie in Whakarewarewa Forest.

"Lake Waikaremoana not so great" said the heading on Mike Miller's letter in *Wilderness* magazine. He shared his experiences of the walk, pointing out its shortcomings but also praising the overall experience. Mike, you should have been a diplomat! And his letter started a conversation, prompting another letter in the next issue of the magazine.

Sandra looked shocked, as well she might. Meeting a local on the Waikanae-Paekakariki walk, she was told "all the cafes are closed today." The helpful man

added, “and there are no trains.” Only kidding, of course.

Pinus contorta continue to be few and far between on the south eastern slopes of Mt Ruapehu. On our annual weekend in 2018 a total of 330 were removed by 20 trampers from our club, Hutt Valley and the DOC rangers. In 2019 the same number of people on pine removal weekend got 367. Many of them were quite big and needed a lot of sawing.

A couple of our pine pulling team, Dee Ess and John Newton, scored a chopper ride as part of a short film made on the decades-long conservation exercise. To see film google New Zealand Herald local focus.

The good news is that all the *pinus contorta* has finally been removed from Karioi Forest, so no more seed source. The bad news is that about 10% of the wilding pines on the slopes we patrol each March are actually *pinus radiata*. Karioi Forest is full of *radiata* but it's more invasive in the lowlands than the high country.

Pine clearing has a number of traditions and a new one is that ranger Dan van der Lubbe provides venison steaks for dinner — yummy!

A big tick for Juliet Kojis who spotted and pulled a *pinus contorta* in Arthur's Pass a couple of weeks after the pulling weekend on Mt Ruapehu.

Film stars of sort are Carolyn's bike riders who rode the Timber Trail in March and were photographed for the Timber Trail Lodge's web site.

Talking venison, the take a kid tramping weekend ended up at Blyth Hut where a hunter had just shot a deer and offered the meat. Yes please, said Dee Ess, who took home some nice back steaks.

Oscar Wilde said that “to lose one parent may be regarded as a misfortune; to lose both looks like carelessness.” So what would he say about Linda Hart who managed to leave behind both her wallet and her boots on a weekend tramp?

As the Tuesday bike group grows in numbers, it is interesting to observe that nearly all the new bikes being purchased are E bikes. An exception has been a pedal bike acquired recently by Ross McBeth.

Mark Kennedy's involvement in about 20 Masters Games, having organised the mountain-biking section for many years, rated a mention in the *Wanganui Chronicle* along with his advice that “people should do it until they can't walk any more.”

Dee Ess was surprised to open his pack after returning from four days in the Tararua to find a stowaway — a large weta. And then another one turned up in his dirty

clothing basket! They now reside in his garden.

Jacky Evans and Dorothy Symes are off to the Rugby World Cup in Japan later this year. Ross McBeth is also heading for the big event.

We are pleased to hear that John Hamling has made a good recovery following his collapse at Kai Iwi Beach, an event which made front page news in the *Whanganui Chronicle*. Best wishes also to Darrell Grace, who was briefly hospitalised recently after a fall. Others with battle wounds include Brenda Collins (bruised ribs in a fall from her bike), Brigitte Hund (fractured collarbone after tripping on the footpath). And Barry Hopper will be off-track for a while with a broken ankle.

Also figuring prominently in our local daily was Philip Warren and his olive oil operation at Upokongaro. Long Drop has tried the Moa Valley product and gives it the big tick.

If you've met Peter Panton of the Taumarunui TC, you'll have seen his trusty wagon. Sadly it's no more. Here's how Peter reported its demise: "Was coming back from Te Maire when a rock came off the top of a bluff. It was too late to stop and so ran over it putting a big hole in the transmission gear box. Wrote off my 1990 Toyota Corona station wagon. Had it for 29 years and had done 490,000km. Now got a 2007 Toyota RAV4."

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Linda Hart is eyeing up another multi-day trek in Europe but she has something to remind her of her two times on the Camino — a tattoo of shell discreetly placed on the inside of her right ankle. A shell is a symbol of the Camino.

C'mon you weekend trampers, take some photos and send them to the *Tramper*. In the May magazine all but one of the centrefold colour photos were from day trips.

Spotted in Kime Hut, a small cardboard box with the words: "Emergency toilet roll. Break glass." And sure enough inside was a toilet roll.

We will try to link up with the new Hawera Tramping Club, formed as a branch of the Mt Egmont Alpine Club. The motivation to form the branch is to clearly identify the club's location and primary activity when the term 'alpine' might be seen as a deterrent.

Helpful hint: By looking at the distance between the contour lines on your map you can get an idea of the steepness of the country. The closer the contour lines, the steeper the country.



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Birthday girl Peg (97yrs young) with the 772 walkers in the Rose Garden



Waipipi



At Ratana on the Rail Trail



Trampers enjoying the usual after tramp treat!



The Wanganui Trampers



Timber Trail Bikers



Weraweraonga



Waipakiki



Lake Namunamu



PLB would have saved the day

When 60-year-old Warren Jones went on a four-day solo tramp in Tararua Forest Park he did everything right — except one. He had enough food, clothing and shelter and used the hut log books. But he didn't carry a PLB and that could have cost him his life. It certainly led him into a stressful situation and caused a lot of people, including the Defence Force, a lot of work.

After he slipped on a rock in the Waiohine River, hurt his ankle and banged his head Jones got out of the river but was disoriented. So he stayed put and waited to be rescued, but that took several days after he was reported as overdue.

“I could see them (helicopters) flying over me for two days. I tried to get their attention but I was a needle in a haystack, make that a needle in a thousand haystacks. It's a terrible thing to just have to wait for someone you don't know to save you,” Jones said. Helicopter-spotters using thermal imaging found him sheltering under a rock shelf near the riverbed below Angle Knob.

Kahurangi National Park grows

A total of 64,400ha of conservation land in the Mokihinui River catchment on the West Coast north of Westport, including 15km of riverbed, has been added to Kahurangi National Park. Announcing the largest addition of land to an existing national park in New Zealand's history, Conservation Minister Eugenie Sage said national park status will ensure stronger protection of the Mokihinui area's significant cultural, ecological, historic and recreational values.

A proposed hydro-electric dam for the Mokihinui River in 2007 attracted considerable public interest and strong opposition because of its environmental impacts. The decision in 2012 not to proceed was followed by a groundswell of support for giving national park status to the Mokihinui catchment and adding these lands to Kahurangi National Park.

The addition to Kahurangi National Park is equivalent in size to Abel Tasman and Paparoa National Parks combined and is twice the size of Egmont National Park.



Kahurangi National Park

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Theft endangered public

A recent discovery by a member of public that was reported to DOC, could have had some devastating consequences for unsuspecting visitors to the Hapuawhenua Viaduct. Thieves removed seven railway sleepers from the eastern end of the Hapuawhenua Viaduct, leaving an exposed hole with an estimated 4m fall to the bottom. To the unsuspecting walker or cyclist across the viaduct, the exposed hole would not be visible in low light or fog, nor would you be aware of this hazard when cycling at speed.

Alarmed and disappointed, DOC says it is extremely fortunate that this was brought to their attention before anyone was seriously hurt. Rangers have repaired the viaduct and DOC is considering future barriers to prevent this from happening again.



Hapuawhenua Viaduct

Originally built in 1908, the viaduct was restored and reopened to the public in February 2009 and now forms part of the Ohakune Old Coach Road, walking and cycle trail. The trail has an estimated 14,000 visitors per year, so attracts a lot of tourism to the Tongariro district.

Catlins national park proposed

Invercargill MP Sarah Dowie is investigating the possibility of establishing a national park to encompass the entire Catlins. This follows news that yellow-eyed penguin deaths at Curio Bay, in the south Catlins, reducing the colony to a single nesting pair from three last season highlighting the need for greater protection for endangered species in key areas, she says.

As opposition spokesperson for conservation, Dowie said she is doing policy work to establish a park to link corridors of reserves to create a stronger connection between land and sea.

A Catlins Coastal Rainforest Park already exists, however, a national park will create the mechanisms for better protection under the Conservation Act and further enhancement of the area, Dowie says. She will begin the task by determining the land status in the proposed park area, which takes in the 100km scenic route between Southland and Otago at either ends of the Catlins, including private land. Meanwhile, National has endorsed the Catlins national park proposal.

Ex-AB's mountain challenge

Former All Black tighthead prop Carl Hayman sets off in August on a two-month quest to conquer Mt Makalu in Nepal. Located 19km southeast of Mt Everest in the Himalayas, Mt Makalu's four-sided pyramid features the world's fifth highest peak, standing 8481m. Wanaka's Guy Cotter and Christchurch's Rob Hall, making the climb in 1995 shortly before his death on Mt Everest, are thought to be the only New Zealanders to scale Makalu.

Hayman played 45 tests before ending his New Zealand rugby career after the 2007 World Cup. He played over 300 professional games for Otago, the Highlanders, Newcastle and Toulon, where he won three European titles, but he admits to nerves about this next life challenge. "I've done a bit of mountaineering in my time but nothing of that level," Hayman, 39, says.

Aside from the personal challenge, he takes on the adventure to help the people of Nepal. Since retiring in 2015 he has been aligned with Samara, the French charity.

Limit climbers on Everest

Climbing the world's highest peak is a "massive physical" challenge which should be undertaken only by qualified climbers, Norbu Tenzing, the son of late sherpa Tenzing Norgay, said during a visit to Mt Taranaki.

Tenzing, who was in New Zealand with his brother Dhamey Tenzing Norgay at the invitation of the New Zealand Maori Tourism Council to promote ethical tourism, believed there should be a limit on the number of climbers attempting to scale Mt Everest, or Chomolungma.

After witnessing the "hordes of trekkers" on the Tongariro Alpine Crossing he saw similar challenges in Nepal and New Zealand, he said. "There seemed to be some parallels between Nepal, trekkers in general, and the environment over here. I'm here to learn from people here and see the parallels here with issues we are dealing with back home."



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May 2019 Quiz

1. Name the former Minister of Conservation named last February as patron of Wellington eco-sanctuary Zealandia.
2. According to Lonely Planet, what was the second most popular activity to do in the entire country in 2018?
3. How many companies tried to make a go of mining copper in Coppermine Creek in the southern Ruahine, starting in 1887?
4. According to the cycling gurus the Kennett Brothers, what percentage of the Heaphy Track is unrideable?
5. In millimetres, how much geological uplift is estimated annually for the Ruahine Range?
6. What sound effect might you hear in a canyon?
7. Where would you find NZ's largest collection of northern hemisphere trees and shrubs?
8. Name NZ's longest continuous cycle trail
9. Which river flows past the Mangaturuturu Hut?
10. Predator Free Wellington wants to eradicate all pests from which peninsula this year — a world first for a sprawling urban area?

Answers on page 43

From Golden Bay Weekly 8 Feb 2019

Historic Kaituna Track reopens

When ex-tropical cyclone Gita tore through the Bay last February, it took out several footbridges along the Kaituna Track, washed out sections of the pathway and effectively closed it (*GBW*, 18/5/18). While the Department of Conservation concentrated on repairing the damage inflicted on the Great Walks, a group of local volunteers got together with the aim of restoring and reopening the historic track. And now they have achieved their objective.

One of those volunteers, Keith Tomlinson, says they have collectively put in over 600 hours of hard graft during the past nine months. “Most of the work has been done by four guys – Darryl Wilkens, Brian Sixtus, Pat Mulcahy and myself. It’s amazing how quickly it happened. We’ve also had good support from DOC who finished a section that needed a by-pass.”

While access through to Knuckle Hill and beyond has been restored, the repaired track presents a bit of a challenge. Around 15 minutes’ walk from the trailhead at Kaituna, a DOC sign warns that the track beyond is officially classified as a route: “Routes are generally unformed and lightly cut and cater for experienced back country users who have navigation and river-crossing skills...”

Those without extensive tramping experience can still enjoy a pleasant stroll through the native bush along the bank of the Kaituna River. And a new riverside

picnic site provides a sheltered, tranquil spot for a bit of refreshment.

Keith says that their work is far from done and is looking for volunteers to join the crew to maintain the track and restore the ecology by controlling predators. “It will require continual maintenance. We really want people with good practical skills. We want to focus on setting up trap lines, but need some financial support.”

He adds that the group are expanding their initial mission by re-establishing a route through to Mangarakau. “We are looking to work on other tracks that DOC have pulled back from.”

Jo Richards



Kaituna Track

UPSET WHEN A HUT BECAME A BREWERY

When Lorraine Freeman arrived at a DOC hut in Tararua Forest Park a brewing operation was the last thing she expected to find. But that is exactly what she and her husband stumbled on at Roaring Stag Lodge.

A "nice young American guy" had taken up residence at the hut with a huge pot and was using water from the nearby river to brew large bottles of beer. Freeman was even more surprised to find that eight of his friends planned on joining him later that day to help drink the beer, and that DOC had no problem with the operation.

"You wouldn't be allowed to brew beer at the local town park, so why would it be OK to do it in a national park?"

The man told her DOC had been to the hut and seen what he was doing, and didn't say anything, Freeman said. "I thought that was really odd, to be honest."

DOC Wairarapa operations manager Kathy Koukamau said a ranger had come across the "brewer" but found the man was "personable and friendly" and had a current annual hut pass. "While we certainly wouldn't encourage this behaviour, our ranger made a call that, from what he witnessed, the man wasn't bothering other users at that time." Had the man taken up residence at the hut rangers would have moved him on.

Freeman said she came across others on her way back to the hut who decided to sleep elsewhere upon hearing about the man's plans to drink beer with his friends that night. "In total, that we know of, there were 11 people that changed their plans because of this one guy."

Another trumper said she also came across a group of travellers who seemed to have overstayed their welcome at the Gridiron shelter in Motueka when she was hiking there in January.

Six travellers appeared to be living in the lower shelter in Kahurangi National Park and had told her they had been there nearly a week, hanging laundry, giving one another haircuts, and tending to an open fire. "My concern was that it meant that no-one else could use it, they took it up for at least five or six days and seemed to have no intention of moving on."

DOC products standards and policies manager Chris Bowen said there were 190,000 hut bookings each year, 40% of which were made by international visitors. Incidences of behaviour contradictory to DOC's Hut User Code were extremely rare.

A small minority of users displayed anti-social behaviour or dodged hut fees. He encouraged anyone who witnessed concerning behaviour or misuse of huts to report these online via DOC's website, its hotline, or let its visitor centre staff know. Criminal behaviour would be reported to the police for action.

DOC HUT USERS CODE

1. Keep huts clean and tidy. A broom, brush and pan are provided — please use them, and leave muddy boots outside.
2. Conserve gas when using gas heaters and cookers. During cooking always open a

- window or door to allow dangerous carbon monoxide fumes to escape.
3. Keep an eye on boiling water and food, and be sure to turn gas heaters off overnight and make sure it is properly off when you leave.
 4. Keep wood burner fires contained and never leave them unattended. Only burn dead, dry wood and be careful with hot ashes. Make sure the fire is extinguished before leaving. Use wood sparingly and replace any you use for the next visitors.
 5. Share huts with others by being considerate. Make room for late-comers and keep quiet if others are sleeping.
 6. Share boiled water with other trampers to help conserve gas.
 7. Carry it in, carry it out - Recycle all of your rubbish. Take two bags, one for recycling and the other for rubbish/food scraps to carry out with you and dispose of responsibly.
 8. No smoking in huts, take your cigarette butts out with the rest of your rubbish.
 9. Hunters must follow the Firearms and Safety Code.
 10. No dogs allowed inside huts.
 11. Before leaving, close doors and windows securely.
 12. Always pay hut fees.



NEW TRACK'S OPENING DELAYED

The Paparoa Track will now open on 1 December 2019, replacing the previous opening scheduled for the end of September 2019. The new opening date will allow more time for track construction crews to complete the 55km track, which runs from Blackball on the eastern side of the Paparoa Range to Punakaiki on the western side.

Crews working on the track encountered more difficult terrain than expected on the Paparoa tops. The revised opening date ensures these crews can complete the track's construction safely. The Paparoa Track will be New Zealand's 10th Great Walk, and the first Great Walk designed for both mountain bikers and walkers.

DOC Project Director Tom Hopkins says the new date still allows the track to open for the 2019/20 summer season. People will be able to book their visit when bookings open in June 2019.

The Paparoa Track is being built in conjunction with the Pike29 Memorial Track. This track links to the Paparoa Track, taking walkers and riders to Pike Valley's memorial site and interpretation centre, built to commemorate the lives of the 29 miners who lost their lives in the 2010 Pike River Mine Disaster.

The Pike29 Memorial Track will open once efforts to re-enter the mine have been completed and the site is transferred from the Pike River Recovery Agency to DOC to manage. The completion of the track will be celebrated in an event in Blackball on 30 November 2019.

Condolences

We convey our condolences to the following members of our tramping family...
The Kjestrup family on the death of John
Brigitte Hund on the death of her mother
We apologise if we have overlooked any deaths.

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QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Helen Clark
2. Tongariro Alpine Crossing
3. Four companies
4. 3%
5. 4mm
6. An echo
7. Eastwoodhill Arboretum near Gisborne
8. Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail at 320km
9. Mangaturuturu River
10. Miramar Peninsula

WTC Trip Reports

Life's a Beach

Sat 26 Jan 2019

Scribe: *Dave Scoullar*

On trip: Mike Miller, Virginia Baillie, Margret McKinnon, Chris Rothman, Helen Adams, Julie Kears, Sue Campion, Jeanette Prier, Brigitte Hund, Adrian Pike, Juliet Kojis and Dave Scoullar.

Visiting the South Taranaki coast for the day provided an open brief and the 12 keen beach bunnies managed to cover a lot of ground, starting with a 90-minute walk along the beach from Hawera to Ohawe.

Heading along Surf Highway, at Pihama we visited a cemetery and viewed a memorial there for 12 seafarers who drowned in a wreck off the coast in 1901. On to Opunake for lunch on the sea front. Then to Pungarehu to visit the impressive Historic Cape Light and Museum and watch the locals fishing for herrings. The replica lighthouse has been developed into a four-floor museum and educational facility.

Diverting on a back road, we headed beside the sea towards Whanganui and stopped for a look at the real Cape Egmont lighthouse, still in operation.

The attractive Kaupokonui Beach and camp was next to be explored and we even came across a whale burial ground there before we turned for home, pausing briefly to view Dalvanus Prime's gravestone at Nukumaru. A good day out but no one ventured in for a swim!

Footnote: If you wish to visit the lighthouse museum on Bayly Rd, it's open 11-3pm on Saturdays and Sundays. Entry is by donation. Everyone agreed it's a gem.

Waipipi Trip Report

Wed 30 Jan 2019

Scribe: *Graham Ellett*

A warm sunny start for the 24 trampers set for a day of nostalgia. In 1971 about the time of 'Think Big' days, an American company pushed forward a mining venture, to extract titanium magnetite from Waipipi's sandhills to be used in steel furnaces in Japan. This extended the life of their brick kilns.

We gained access through Alexander's farm and walked to the site where two massive transformers once supplied power to run the mining area. Barry H remembered much of what it was like 40 years ago. The power needed to run the lights and motors was equal to what was needed for Marton township. No wonder the lights at Waverley went dim when the dredge started the 1350 hp motors used to drive the 102,000 ltrs/minute suction pump and the 2m revolving grinder on the front of the two dredges.

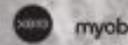
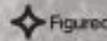
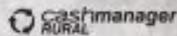
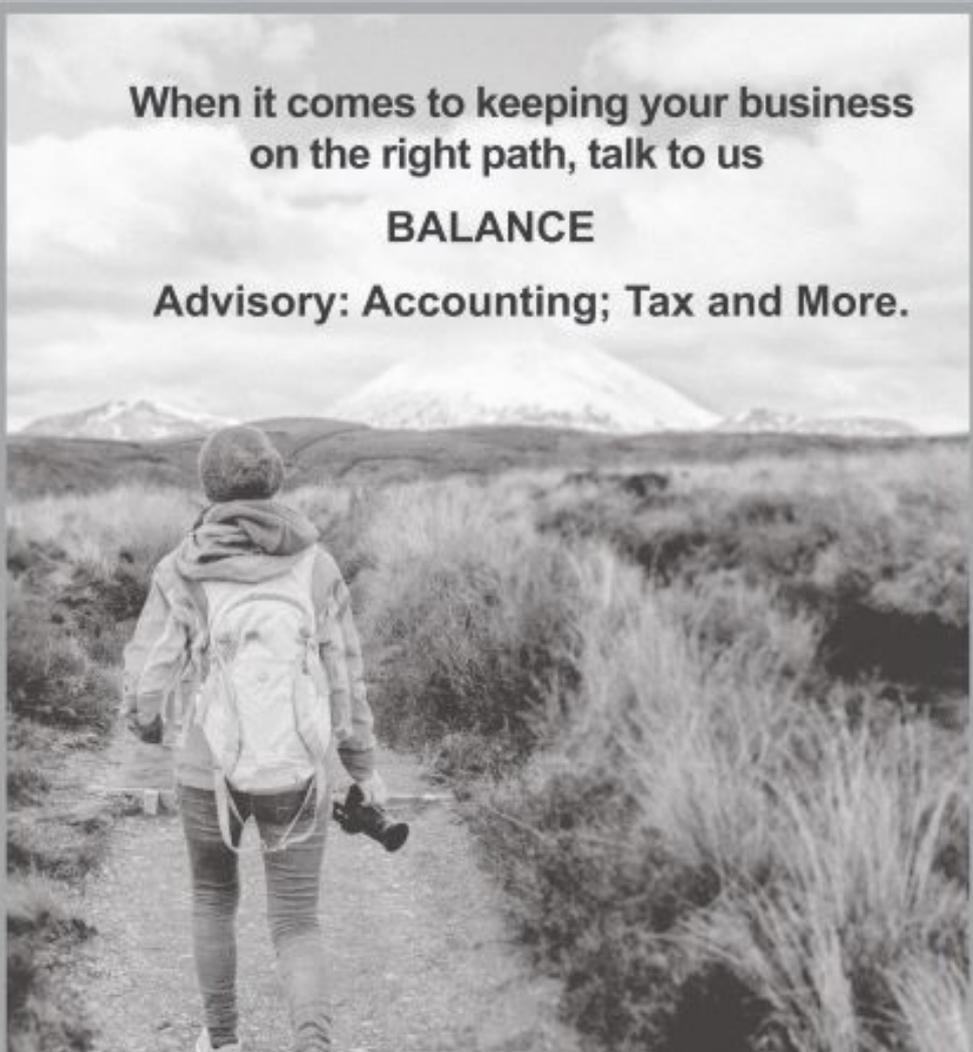
Cables and winches steered the floating vessel. One man operated it, digging 8m into the man-made 'pond'. An 18 inch flexible floating pipe shifted something like 150 million tonnes of sand to the nearby concentrator, an eight-storey floating mass of metal and motors.

The sand was passed through a revolving screen to remove debris, timber, large

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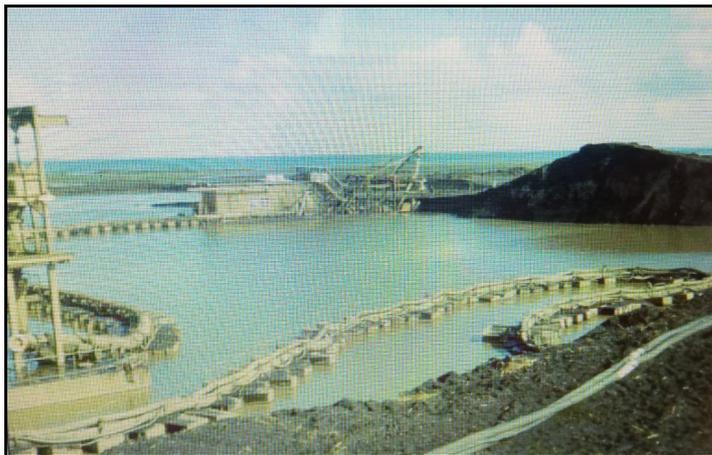
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lumps. Next, the ore slurry passed 16 revolving magnetic drums before being pumped through spiral separators. During the years of mining these were modified, modernised and improved. They became so much more efficient that some of the tailings were processed again.

The Conservation Department allowed only a certain amount of land to be uncovered at one time and the land, once mined, had to be restored. About 900ha of land was mined in total.

We crossed the flat land which was formerly sand hills. Many changes had taken place. The scrub was removed, top soil skimmed off, the pond formed, sand sorted, and settled. Hours spent bulldozing, levelling without getting stuck in the liquefaction, and spreading the top soil. Finally, grass and oats were planted. Some years later a mineral deficiency was found in the soil affecting stock health, solved with the application of much fertiliser.

Now, holes are being dug on this flat fertile land to test foundations for the 30 big wind turbines that will be arriving shortly.



Ironsand dredge and floating concentrating plant at the former Waipipi mine, near Waverley

We headed to the beach for our cuppa then walked along the coast to Snapper Rock. Lunch was eaten up on the cliff tops, after a conversation with a friendly coastal cat, followed by a short walk to where the ore had been stockpiled awaiting shipment so many years back.

The concentrator was at times 9km away from the storage. Twenty-one pumps were needed to shift the ore. Two long concrete walls, some scrap and the sealed hoppers are all that remains. A massive gantry once rode on the wall rails spreading the ore to let it dry. 250,000 tonnes could be stored. The 3.5m wide tunnel beneath housed a 1m wide conveyor belt used to help the ore mix to a slurry with water pumped from the Wairoa stream. Large pumps moved the slurry through the 12 inch

steel pipe 3km to the 11m floating buoy held by 14 x 25 ton anchors. The ships, some as big as 130,000 tonnes, could still load in any wind conditions or directions at 1300 tonnes/hour.

Fifteen million tons were sold to Japan for approximately \$50 million. At peak production, 100-150 people were employed. The safety record was impressive with only one person, an electrician who fell, losing his life at work. Three crew were lost on the 'Wairoa' mishap.

Our day ended with a short walk to the Waipipi settlement where some trampers swam in the Wairoa dam.

MacNab's Makirikiri Rd

Thur 31 Jan 2019

Scribe and leader: *Earle Turner*

This was a very hot day and 12 of us went out in the hot sun. They used to say only mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the midday sun. We didn't have any mad dogs with us but I don't know about the Englishmen. However we found a good sized tree to have morning tea then another for lunch.

Another good walk with refreshments at the local café.

Trampers were Sharron Prouse, Fred Verschoor, John McClintock, Jeanette Prier, Beverly Barnett, John Baxter, Judith Harrison, Margaret Lankow, Don & Katy Gordon, Kate Jones, and Earle Turner.

Smith Stream Hut

Sat-Sun 2-3 Feb 2019

Scribe: *Dave Scoullar*

The Smith Stream Hut foursome of Dave Scoullar, Val Wackrow, Brigitte Hund and Graham Sutcliffe set off early for the eastern Ruahine Forest Park. We drove another 1.5km past the Sunrise car park and parked just above the Waipawa River.

Slightly upstream and on the southern side of the river is a signpost marking the start of the track which follows the forest edge to the park boundary. It passes through open regenerating scrub and forest to Middle Stream (two crossings) and climbs steeply to a 1104m peak. Then comes a steep descent to Smith Stream which is narrow but only ankle-to-knee deep. We picked our way down the stream with many crossings for about 1km before making a steep climb out to the hut.

By now the drizzle we had encountered early in the tramp had become heavier and we were pleased to reach shelter in 6hr 20min, well outside the 4-5hr we had expected. Built in 1958, the four-bunk hut is the best remaining example in Hawke's Bay of the original Forest Service SF40 designed huts constructed in the 1960s and '70s for deer cullers. Luckily, we had the place to ourselves and, in fact, didn't see another trumper the whole weekend.

The return was uneventful and completed in almost exactly the same time in overcast weather but no rain. As far as I am aware this was the first club trip to Smith Stream Hut since 2011 when Russell Donaldson led a party of five which included Val. They came a different route, via Hinerua Hut. It is a good walk through varied terrain.

Mangapurua Trig

Sat 2 Feb 2019

Scribe: *Dorothy Symes*

Led by Roger Kealey, this trip called for a 7am start for the two-hour drive to Ruatiti Valley. The track starts 4km short of Mellonsfolley, a western-style ranch established in the last 10 years. The track entrance sign said 4½ hours to the trig. Stopping for morning tea and walking uphill on a gradual metalled track, we made it in 3½ hours and weren't hurrying. Arrived at trig for lunch in bright sunshine, taking in the impressive hillscapes. The views were a little hazy on this warm day, but far-reaching and spectacular.

We picnicked near the recently installed monument remembering WW1 soldiers who were allotted land, with hopes and promises, only to become disillusioned by the harshness of conditions. The interpretation board displayed photos of many of these settlers, and nearby is a flagpole and memorial plaque installed by the Haworth family. A place for reflection of former hard times when giving up would not have been easy. There is still some evidence of sites where families undertook the challenges.

Returning, we stopped off for afternoon tea at McIntyre's cabin which is still maintained and used by WTC members Bob and Maureen.

On the walk were Linda Hart who went the extra distance to the trig, Robert Lott, Pippa McLay, Adrian Pike, Fred Verschoor, Kelly Derby, Anne-Marie Harper and myself - and new to our country from the UK, Nick Andrew.

Harris Farm Walk, Whangaehu Valley

Wed 6 Feb 2019

Scribe: *Laurel Stowell*

It was Waitangi Day when 17 from the club met up with guide Brenda Collins for a walk to a high point between the Whangaehu and Whanganui River valleys. After a long stretch of sizzling weather this day was cloudy, with light rain, and it was delightfully cool.

We headed past the houses in the valley bottom for a climb up a winding stock track to the ridge top. Views were infrequent, due to the cloud and misty rain. But when the clouds parted we could see another spur across the Whangaehu, with all its curves and complexities.

We skirted around a fenced area of native bush and had lunch by a little cabin fitted out for overnight stays. Then it was time to head back down to the homestead on a different farm track. Before leaving we were treated to a cup of tea, cake and ice cream on the porch. Cherry and Mike even had a swim in the homestead pool, and pronounced it refreshing.

The Old NZ Railways Trail - Turakina to Okoia

Sun 10 Feb 2019

Leader and scribe: *Dorothy Symes*

Leaving at 7am, reaching Okoia was an option – or Fordell. We had a very full day and the early summer morning was fresh and pleasant, the best part of any day.

The Wanganui Trampex

48

May - July 2019

And so thought the 17 others on the trip. Again, I enjoyed the challenge of getting it off to a start after two previous trips. This 18 km walk is not hard, just long – it's 26km to Okoia. Permission was obtained from 18 land owners and all were gracious and encouraging - one farmer even turning off her electric fences for us.

We started from Turakina bridge and followed the old railway line, beginning with some rough clambering and climbing, watching for ankle-injury pine cones hidden in long grass. From the flat farmland we had the first views of the Ratana Church, where we stopped under shady trees for morning tea. Two church clergy approached and invited us inside where we heard about Prophet Ratana and the significance of the stars and moon symbols. The Ratana Church visit was a privilege and a real treat. We were later asked to pose for a photograph in front of the meeting house, from where we could hear kapa haka practice.

The rail line did not go through Ratana but passed south of the village where we saw the remains of a siding. We walked on in rising temperatures through farmland and a pleasant shaded glade, pausing at the site of the tragic accident Easter Saturday in 1938 (*Google for details*).

The walk continued to the beach road, across SH3 and Whangaehu bridge, veering right and on to the next farm. We took a lunch break and continued across several farms. We noticed embankments and numerous cuttings, probably manually excavated. Earle was a big help remembering some of the special features. He has a great sense of direction and is an expert at stock control – both needed today. We didn't get as far as Okoia – Fordell pub got in the way. It was open for a private function and the guests seemed happy for us to partake of cool refreshments there.

The group were interested in the history associated with this trip and pleased with the experience. Now it remains for me to update the list of farmers for next time. Thank you Bruce and Roger for getting us started and waiting for the phone call to pick us up. I would also like to acknowledge Betty Luff, who entrusted me with the history of the rail line that was put together by her husband Tom, a stalwart of WTC.

Lake Rotorangi

Thur 14 Feb 2019

Scribe: *John Newton*

Two vans with 19 trampers headed inland from Patea. We stopped and parked several kilometres before Lake Rotorangi and began walking uphill through farmland flanked by beautiful native bush on Rotorangi farms.

Views from the top were just reward for the puff uphill. Lake Rotorangi, the longest man-made lake in the country, stretched out 46km below us. After lunch in the lake campground we crossed the earth dam and entered the native forest for a kilometre circuit of stunning views and bird song.

A walk down the road in blazing hot sun brought us back to the vans. But all agreed it was a top tramp.

Top marks to leader Earle. Trampers were Ann, Barbara, Carolyn, Don, Fred, Jim, John x 3, Judith, Julie, Kate, Peter, Ray, SallyB, Sandra, Sharron and Beverly.

Waione Cokers Track

Wed 20 Feb 2019

Scribe: *Dorothy Symes*

I remember doing this track about three years ago with Tracey and Basil. It was very wet and muddy then, albeit a new location. With summer weather this was an opportunity to give it another go. The trail is part of the Te Araroa and is located north of Mangatepopo School Camp and past the Outdoor Pursuits centre. Sue Haden and I shared leadership and were accompanied by 19 other trampers.

We parked across the road near a helicopter pad beside the DOC sign marking the track entrance. The day being hot, we expected the track to be dry. It was, apart from a few slippery sections where recent heavy rain had created some deep ruts. The bush provided some relief from the hot sun. Others on the track were a class of young people from St Kentigern's College in Auckland. We were treated with views of the Whanganui River and arrived at our lunch-time destination by Mangatepopo stream, to find it was now a river. Basil led the team, hoping we might get to the Whanganui River, but this was not to be.

The map showed quite a number of other tracks, streams and rivers and we had to decide our direction.

The river was too deep and swift, and with so many people to account for we agreed to turn back. We found a good lunch spot and then returned to the start, with an ice cream/coffee stop at National Park. A good day out with good

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company. Thank you Barry, Bruce and Royce for sharing driving and Basil for your wise guidance.

Waitahinga Trails

Thur 28 Feb 2019

Scribe and leader: *Earle Turner*

Nineteen did the trails on a nice day but not as hot as some tramps lately. We entered the trails from the main signpost where Basil Hooper had cut the grass around that area, then out to the pines area where Audrey (Basil's sister) had sprayed the almost waist-high grass, very much appreciated.

Morning tea was at Croppers Clearing then on to the dam for lunch. The new track down to the dam is a good improvement. I didn't crash this time. After lunch, back up Harry's Ridge to the vans.

On trip: Beverly Barnett, Jim & Barbara Gordon, Grant Adkins, Sharron Prouse, Jiri Krivanek, Kate Jones, Jacky Evans, Bob Conybeer, Margaret Chainey, Don & Katy Gordon, Fred Verschoor, John McClintock, Ray Walton, Sally Brotherston, Suzanne Roberts, Val Cowan, Earle Turner.

Waipakihi River Valley

Wed 6 Mar 2019

Scribe: *Cherry Channon*

It was an early start on a fine autumnal day for 14 trampers to head to the Waipakihi River Valley in the Kaimanawa Forest Park, off the Desert Road. The valley provides relatively easy walking with frequent river crossings and often no defined track. There are many excellent camp sites along the way with inviting swimming spots at almost every turn, although the sandflies soon reminded some of us not to dally too long.

The Waipakihi River is stunning with crystal clear water skipping merrily over white stones and rocks. On our return trip after lunch we seven women could no longer resist the desire to have a swim in the glimmering, shimmering water with sun-dappled sparkles glistening and dancing on the surface of a particularly deep pool. The men carried on downriver and after a moment's hesitation we stripped off and amid shrieks of sheer joy we plunged into the cool depths. It was breathtakingly invigorating!! On catching up to the seven men we discovered that only one had swum, the rest being of the variety of scaredy-cats! Well done, Dave Scoullar, at least you kept up with the ladies!!

Field Hut

Sun 10 Mar 2019

Scribe: *Margie Campbell*

Ten of us left at 7am, headed for Otaki Forks where we would set out for Field Hut. We had in tow David Scoullar and his four travelling companions who were going further afield. We would leave them at Field Hut.

It was great weather for such a walk – not too hot! Vans parked up, packs on and off we went. Across the Otaki River, a bit of meandering through open country before starting the uphill stretch/slog to reach an elevation of 900m and our destination, historic Field Hut. It was a bit of a slog but we all made it which was great. Morning tea and lunch on the track and a bit of R&R at the hut before heading back down again.

Our group: Margie Campbell & Barb Francis (leaders), Marie O’Leary, Sharon Casey (guest), Linda Clarke, Anne Condon, Jeanette Prier, Kate Jones, Margaret Stratford and Brigitte Hund. Let me pay special mention of our two drivers, Linda and Brigitte: They did a marvellous job, both behind the wheel for the first time. Special thanks to you both.

Tararua Multi-Day

Sun-Wed 10-13 Mar 2019

Scribe: *Dave Scoullar*

On trip: Lyneke Onderwater, Mark Sutherland, Tracey Hooper, Mike Cole and Dave Scoullar.

The forecast for the four days in Tararua Forest Park was a bit dodgy but our luck was in and the weather didn’t play a big part in the trek which was shortened from five days because of a running race over the Southern Crossing on the first scheduled day.

Day 1: We hitched a ride with the day trippers to Otaki Forks and walked with them to Field Hut. After lunching there it was on to Kime Hut, a hot climb over the last hour but windy and low cloud at the hut which was reached in 6:30hr. Only one other person at Kime, a Polish-Spanish 19-year-old bloke who was an interesting character.

Day 2: It blew hard overnight but the day dawned calm and clear which was great for the walk over the exposed tops and the views were brilliant. The track was muddy in places, churned up by the runners the previous day. Clag was coming in when we dropped off at Aston peak and descended to Elder Hut, reached in 6hr. We all jammed into the four-bunk hut. Luckily no one else appeared.

Day 3: Raincoats were on as we went down Renata Ridge in misty drizzle. Renata Hut was reached in 4hr and we had lunch and pondered whether to stay or move on to Kapakapanui Hut which was our rendezvous spot with the Wednesday group the following day. With the prospect of heavy rain over the next 24 hours, we decided to go to Kapakapanui which involved a grunty climb, finally reaching our destination in another 5.20hr. Again we had the hut to ourselves.

Day 4: It rained overnight but we awoke to just light drizzle and relaxed until the Wednesday team’s front runners arrived about 12.30pm. By then the drizzle had stopped. Then it was back to the van in about 3hr to round off a great four days in the hills. The only disappointment was the lack of bird life.

Kapakapanui Hut

Wed 13 Mar 2019

Scribe: *Juliet Kojis*

It was always going to be hard to stay completely dry on the trip to Kapakapanui Hut, near Waikanae, but luckily the weather wasn't anywhere near as bad as expected. The day began with nine stream crossings and then a steady climb to the hut over a greasy track. But the bush was beautiful and any drizzle soon departed leaving only drips from the trees.

Two of the party stopped short of the hut but the other three got there for lunch and the waiting multi-day party. We all descended to reach the van by mid-afternoon, noting that the stream had dropped since our earlier crossings.

On trip: Juliet Kojis, Esther Williams, Margret McKinnon, George Neil, Cherry Channon, plus five multi-day trekkers picked up at the hut — Lyneke Onderwater, Mark Sutherland, Tracey Hooper, Mike Cole and Dave Scoullar.

Pitangi Track

14 Mar 2019

Scribe and leader: *Earle Turner*

Seven of us did the track. It was fine weather but it had been threatening the day before. It was a good tramp but when we got back to the van and boots were taken off, everyone remained sitting on the grass as if they were stuffed. I had to ask them nicely to please hop in the van so we could get to the cafe before it closed - we made it and had our debriefing. All was good.

Present: Barbara Gordon, Carolyn Shingleton, Judith Harrison, Julie Kearse, Ray Walton, Sharron Prouse, Earle Turner.

Take a Kid Tramping

Sat-Sun 16-17 Mar 2019

Scribe: *Margret McKinnon*

Three children and three adults left Whanganui 8am for Mt Ruapehu, meeting up with Sarah and Cameron at Ohakune. The carpark on Ohakune Mountain Road had many cars when we set off for Blyth Hut (the destination had been changed to suit the abilities of the children). The morning was a pleasant temperature and we soon found ourselves at the Rotokawa swamp – tadpoles were soon discovered. A quick snack was had at the Waitonga Falls before the first stream crossing. There was some apprehension noted as rocks and logs were negotiated.

At the junction to the Blyth track, packs were dropped and we moved onto the next bridge. Unfortunately it wasn't a swing bridge as I was hoping so back to the junction we retreated. Many distractions including the 'Stink Bush' got them up the hill to Blyth Hut and lunch. The hut appeared to be pretty full so we decided to return back to Lupton Hut, which proved to be the perfect spot – unoccupied, carpeted, light, and beside the Mangateitei Stream. Rock pools were soon found and the afternoon was spent, by some, getting wet. Such a brave lot!

Quiddler was played before tea then it was back outside to 'dam' the stream. More card games before bed then all fell asleep fairly readily after climbing into sleeping

bags.

Breakfast and more stream time was had before leaving the hut for home. The children's increased confidence was very apparent as they negotiated the streams again prior to lunch at Waitonga Falls. Back to the van and then farewells to our 'Taihape two'. Icecreams were enjoyed in Raetihi and then it was a very quiet trip returning to Whanganui. A great fun weekend with super kids and amazing adults! We hope to do another Kids Tramp in the future.

On the trip – David Scoullar, Juliet Kojis and her granddaughters Ella-Rose, Molly and Olivia. Also Sarah, Cameron and Margret McKinnon.

Rangipo Hut from Tukino Ski Field Car Park

Wed 20 Mar 2019

Scribe: *Graham Sutcliffe*

Weather conditions were good on this very exposed part of Mt Ruapehu. Panoramic views are obtained from this walk which goes as far as the Kaimanawas. This is a very rewarding tramp and total tramping time is about four and a half hours, making it a very good day trip when you factor in travelling time.

Those enjoying the day were: Andrew Milham, Bruce Thomas, Cherry Channon, Diane Harries, Dick Mitchell, Dorothy Symes, Esther Williams, George Neil, Helen Atkinson, Laurel Stowell, Margaret Chainey, Pippa McLay, Richard Rayner, Shane McCullough and leaders Barry Hopper & Graham Sutcliffe.

Taupo Trip

Mar 25 - Apr 1 2019

Scribe: *Dorothy Symes*

This was a very busy week with very special walks up to six hours long planned for each day and interesting sights around Lake Taupo. Our leader was Helen Atkinson, our driver, Jacky Evans; three other cooks - Margaret Chainey, Jennie Anton and me. Only five this time, with so much else on at home.

Day 1: We set off from Jacky's at 8.30 am for our base camp, Omori in Pukawa Bay on the western side of Lake Taupo. Our first walk was about three hours, through mostly native forest with impressive bird song - never heard the like.

Day 2: An earlier start this day to accomplish the 26km on the Waihaha Trail, a shared cycleway. A week day so only half a dozen bikes and no other walkers. Easy walk and lovely views of Waihaha river, the waterfall and magnificent gorge rock faces.

Day 3: Tongariro River walk, also popular for cyclists and a lovely walk. Impressive efforts have been made clearing the fearsome blackberry, a significant change from the last visit. The day ended with a visit to the National Trout Centre, an impressive reserve and museum.

Day 4: Another good day from Spa Road in Taupo to Huka Falls, then after lunch along the mighty Waikato to Aratiatia Rapids. Water colour was stunning. Missed the rapids release at the dam though – our timing wrong.

Day 5: We tackled Mt Tauhara east of the Taupo township, a privately- owned ancestral mountain off the Napier-Taupo Road. Track was tricky in places and

needed extra care. Magnificent views over Taupo and the lake, ending with a dip in Tokaanu hot pools on the way back to base.

Day 6): A six-hour walk after morning tea on the lake edge. We passed a group of people “Green Taupo” whose task for the day was planting 4,000 trees. On from Whakaipo, up and around the summit and down to Kinloch, quite easy on a wide leafy track. Wonderful views again.

Day 7: Our last day, and a six-hour walk into and out from Waihaha Hut. As we crossed the bridge from the SH7 carpark we looked over the side to see a pair of whio (blue duck) – a treat to start our day. Moved on reluctantly, passing more spectacular views of the gorge’s prominent rocky faces through lovely bush. Some magnificent old trees on the way to the nine-bed hut.

Then home after a great week. We were very grateful to Jacky who willingly dropped us off at a number of start points before driving to the destination and walking in to meet us.

"The Island"

Thur 28 Mar 2019

Scribe and leader: *Earle Turner*

Tramp was around "The Island" on the Parapara. This is over three properties, a nice flattish walk of 11km. Weather was really comfortable, not too hot. Plenty of cattle to keep the odd person twitching. Another good day with a stop for refreshments along the way. A van full.

Namunamu & Ngaruru Lakes

Sat 30 Mar 2019

Scribe and leader: *Earle Turner*

It is a nice walk in there. The Namunamu lake is used by the family for kayaking. There is a pontoon built out over the lake with seats to have your morning tea on, and a slide into the lake. The other lake has a lot of black swans, a few ducks and mai-mais. Another good day out with a stop at Hunterville on the way home.

Seven of us out there - Esther Williams, Rita Hodson, Kelly Darby, Ray Walton, Barbara Francis, Fred Verschoor, Earle Turner.

Café Tramp Manawatu Gorge

Sat 13 Apr 2019

Scribe: *Sandra Rogers*

Nice weather. Great track. Impressive trees. Good coffee at the Herb Farm.

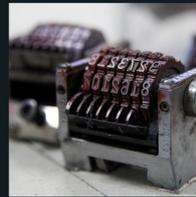
On the trip – Sandra Rogers, Glenda Howarth, Carolyn Shingleton, John Baxter, Janice Handley, Julie Kearse.





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HUT NEWS

Makeover for scuzzy hut

Waiotauru Hut in the western Tararua Forest Park is described in Jonathan Kennett's *Tararua Adventure Guide* as a "scuzzy old bulldozer shed which is one of the least appealing huts in the park." But better things lie ahead as the hut is currently being demolished and rebuilt. Our club last visited the hut a couple of years ago on a Wednesday day trip from Otaki Forks, approximately 3h 30m away. Kapakapanui Hut, in the same area, is also being renovated.



Old Waiotauru Hut

New huts in Kaimai



Te Whare Okioki Hut

The 12-bunk Te Whare Okioki Hut is expected to open soon, the first of four new huts along the 82km North-South Track being upgraded by the Kaimai Ridgeway Trust which is creating a new multi-day tramp in the Kaimai Range by building huts and rebuilding old tracks. The trust has taken over maintenance for seven huts and 150km of tracks in the range and about 100 volunteers are restoring huts and recutting tracks which were reportedly in terrible condition.

Rebuild on West Coast

Manson Nicholls Memorial Hut located at Lake Daniell near Maruia on the West Coast is to be rebuilt. The hut is on the Lake Daniell Track. The new 20 bunk hut will be built to accommodate school groups, families and people seeking an easy tramp or first tramping experience. The existing hut was to be pulled down after Easter. Construction of the new hut will begin in spring and it is expected to be open by the end of February 2020.



Manson Nicholls Memorial Hut

Fires cause concern

DOC is concerned by evidence of illegal fires near Grassy Flat Hut on the Styx River on the West Coast and thanks members of the public for raising the alarm. The fire was spotted from the ridge tops surrounding the hut by a member of the public who noticed smoke. Immediate discussions established that there was no major wild fire threat to the area but DOC's investigations subsequently found several areas of burnt tussock on Grassy Flat.

Possum Lodge Update April 2019

Verbal reports on the status of Possum Lodge have been given at our monthly club meetings which take place on the first Wednesday of each month (except January).

The Committee considered listing Possum Lodge on Trade Me Property but the logistics of attending Open Homes and arranging viewings with prospective purchasers was thought to be too onerous.

The property has now been listed with Property Brokers Taumarunui to be sold by Deadline Treaty. Commission payable is 4% plus \$500-\$600 for advertising and marketing plus GST.

The Latham family decided not to make an offer for the property and in February 2019 they asked for one-third of the total sale price as payment for the cottage. The Committee considered that unreasonable. Following discussions at the 18 March meeting an offer was made being 10% of the net sale proceeds after expenses ie registered valuation, commission, conveyancing, GST etc. Two follow-up emails have been sent to John Latham but to date there has been no response.

The Property Brokers link is below.

<https://www.propertybrokers.co.nz/residential/tuu67798/>

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TT2 Report

Thur 24 Jan: A new walk to start the year with a great response of 34 people. This week we headed to John and Victoria Kay's property in Tayforth Road. We walked through their orchard, down their neighbours' drive to Westmere Road then through Bryan Christie's property. Bryan proudly showed us the trophy he had just won in the Burma Rally at Vintage Weekend with his impressive 1929 Ford Model A. His wife kindly saddled up her pony and cart for us to view them going through their paces. Our walk then proceeded down Cameron Road East and West with a visit to Robbie Julian's to see her Appaloosa, quarter horse and calves. We returned to John and Victoria's for morning tea.

Thur 7 Feb: Today we met at Peat Street for a walk over the Aramoho Railway Bridge to the Glen Logie Rose Gardens for our morning tea - 20 people attended.

Thur 21 Feb: Due to the wet weather a shorter walk was taken around St Johns Hill - 16 people attended.

Thur 7 Mar: A walk over the Westmere Walkway today. A beautiful sunny day, and 22 people attended

Thur 21 Mar: This week featured a walk around St Johns Hill, via Bens Place and over to Barbara Gordon's for our morning tea. Barbara participated in the Cancer Society's 'Relay for Life' on 23 March and as a fund raiser she put on scones with jam and cream for the 26 who attended.

Thur 4 Apr: This week 20 of us supported the Transit Bus service and took the 9am bus from Trafalgar Square Bus Stop to Aramoho Park, walking along Somme Parade and the river pathway back to town.

Hiking is a bit like life! The journey only requires you to put one foot in front of the other. . . . again and again and again. And if you allow yourself the opportunity to be present throughout the entirety of the trek, you will witness beauty every step of the way, not just at the summit.

Unknown

Club Merchandise

These items are available to members: :

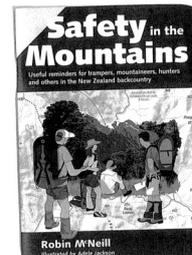
- T shirts \$28.00, Polo shirts \$36.00. Women's and Men's styles, each with embroidered club monogram
- Club logo stickers for leaders to place in hut intention books on overnight stays - no charge



- Embroidered monograms, may be stitched to packs – or camouflage that hole you burnt in your sleeve sitting too close to the candle when playing cards - \$8.50 each



- Pack liners \$5.00 each
- There are also some Mountain Safety books at \$12.00 each



Apparel: If you can get three people to order with you, costs can be kept to a minimum. To place an order phone Barry Hopper 345 3969

WTC Handbook

The Wanganui Tramping Club Handbook for new members has been updated and will be printed shortly. An electronic version will be available on our website.

Club Officers

For 15 years, along with other contributions, Russell Donaldson has calculated the statistics and monitored running costs for the club vans, a background task done month after month. Thank you Russell.

We are fortunate to have the expertise of Barry Hopper's wife Jenny who backs up each week the regular banking for our trips. Carolyn Shingleton is another willing helper who looks after the club's gear equipment and Margaret Chainey is our new Librarian. Thank you all.



IT'S THE FRIENDS WE MEET along THE WAY THAT HELP US APPRECIATE THE journey

Bring along your photos, enjoy reminiscing

Old Timers Get Together
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Sunday August 4th 2pm
*Dorothy's new home,
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Dave Scoullar	Doris Hamling	Irene Back	Nelson Tizard

FOUNDING MEMBER

Margaret McGuire

PRESIDENT	Margret McKinnon	344 3899
VICE PRESIDENT	Cherry Channon	347 9914
IMM. PAST PRESIDENT	Val Wackrow	027 688 8801
SECRETARY	Frances Gibbons	345 8952
TREASURER and COMMUNICATIONS	Dorothy Symes	345 7039
COMMITTEE:	Basil Hooper Barry Hopper Bruce Thomas Carolyn Shingleton Michelle Mackenzie	

NEW MEMBERS	Barbara Gordon	348 9149
TRIP PLANNERS	Dave Scoullar	343 2836
MAPS	Basil Hooper	346 5597
EQUIPMENT / GEAR	Carolyn Shingleton	347 7644
FIRST AID	Juliet Kojis	343 2836
LIBRARY	Margaret Chainey	345 4305
VEHICLES	Bruce Thomas	345 6532
	Cherry Channon	347 9914
FMC	Val Wackrow	027 688 8801
LONG TRIPS/VAN USE	Margret McKinnon	344 3899
WAITAHINGA TRAILS	Basil Hooper	346 5597
POSSUM LODGE	Bruce Thomas	345 6532
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PERSONAL LOCATOR BEACONS		
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WELFARE OF CLUB MEMBERS

Please contact Sandra Rogers if you hear of illness, hospitalisation, bereavements and the like. Phone 348 7630.

**Sender:
Wanganui Tramping Club
P.O. Box 7324
WANGANUI 4500**



Take a kid tramping-Mt Ruapehu