

Wanganui Trampler

November 2019 - January 2020



Quarterly Journal of the Wanganui Tramping Club (Inc) Issue 263
www.wanganuitrampingclub.net

From the Editor

This issue contains the winners of our photo competition see pages 32 - 33. All entries can be seen on our website under 'Competitions'. Congratulations to all winners - there are many stunning photos. Events to look forward to over summer are our Christmas Barbeque and Dutch Auction - see page 4 - and returning after five years our members garden ramble - see pages 13 and 48 for information.

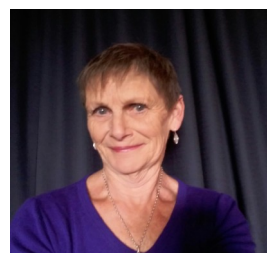
Our website is: www.wanganuitrampingclub.net

Email all contributions to trampermagazine@gmail.com

Please keep sending me articles, poems, quotes or pictures that you think will interest other trampers or bikers.

Happy tramping !

Jeanette



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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
WANGANUI 4541

ISSUE 263

NOVEMBER 2019 - JANUARY 2020

*From the
PRESIDENT*

Sport Whanganui has invited the Wanganui Tramping Club to put forward a nomination for Sports Club of the Year. Barbara Gordon, with help from others, collated and presented our nomination with her usual proficiency. The nomination included information on the Effectiveness of the Club – considering structure, planning, training courses and volunteers; Contribution to the Community – Take a kid tramping, Twilight tramps, Scroggin's column, Waitahinga Trails and our club's contribution to the Summer Nature Programme.

With all of the above plus our website, Facebook page, *Trampler* magazine and the variety of tramping and cycling trips available, as well as pot-luck dinners, the annual photo competition and quiz nights, Wanganui Tramping Club members know that we have an awesome club - let's hope the judges agree!

There are many interesting and varied tramping and cycling trips on offer over the next few months, something to suit everyone. If you haven't been on an overnigher before then bite the bullet and try it out – you may be pleasantly surprised!

Whether it's mountains, ranges, farm or forest walks, fun weekends or rail trails, take advantage of some of the wonderful opportunities that are available for tramping and cycling, and enjoy!

Take care, keep safe and I'll see you on the trail.

Cherry

Committee Comments

Twilight Walks: Commencing 5 November 2019 for six weeks, open to the public.

Assistant Welfare Officer: Margaret Chainey will assist Sandra Rogers. Please advise either one if you hear of someone who would like a visit.

Waitahinga Trails: The quarrying for sample rock is now completed and the trails have reopened.

Club Rooms Cleaning Roster: This was well supported and works a treat. Thank you to our volunteers, well done.

Clubrooms: Members are invited to reply to the notice *The Way Forward* regarding our clubrooms. Your views and comments are welcome.

E-Tramper: Some members prefer to access the *Tramper* magazine on the website. Please advise Dorothy if you do NOT wish to receive a hard copy *Tramper*.

New Advertisers: Thank you to **Caroline's Boatshed, Wanganui Auto Electrical** and **The Yellow House** for supporting the WTC. We trust your association will be acknowledged by members.



Wanganui Tramping Club
Grand Dutch Auction

It is on again. Wednesday 4th December
Following our Christmas pot luck BBQ 6pm in the Blind Centres' Garden

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

Who else could it be!! Brian Doughty.

..... DON'T MISS THIS EVENT



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



Sue Gibbison, Patty Gray, Laraine Hughes , Cherie Johansson, Jody Johnston, and Martin Rutledge

Our membership database needs to have the correct information so we can keep our members informed and up to date. If there are any changes to your contact details please let Barbara Gordon (membership, ph 348 9149) or Dorothy Symes (treasurer, ph 345 7039) know as soon as possible.

Copy for the
February 2020 Issue of the
Wanganui Trumper
to the Editor by
January 16th 2020
(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:

Nov 7 & 21

Jan 16 & 30

Dec 5 & 19

Feb 13 & 27



TT2's (the second Thursday walk): Alternate Thursday mornings. Leader **Julie Kears 345 0142** will advise the meeting place and time. Easy, ideal for the more senior member / recovering from injury / or for that extra walk with companions.



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

Contact **Carolyn Shingleton 347 7644**

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

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**

BRIAN MOSEN

I am a Life Member of the Tongariro Tramping Club, established by Raetihi-Ohakune people in 1933. My father Neville Mosen joined with others in 1936 to build the Mangaiti hut. Access to this hut was through Horopito, up the same track that was used part way by those who later built the Wanganui hut in the Mangaturuturu.

I first tramped the three hours it took to get into the Mangaiti hut when I was nine. As it was Easter, I well remember hearing the red deer stags roaring all weekend. My early recollection of the Mangaturuturu Valley was not a pleasant one. I was about ten when with a party of TTC members we got caught in a storm on the waterfalls at the head of the valley and I nearly got hypothermia. We didn't have the quality wet weather gear trampers have today.

My next visit to the Mangaturuturu occurred after a bush short cut was made between our hut and the Mangaturuturu in the early 1950s. This route avoided the long haul up to the pole line. With a school friend we summer-camped in the area where the Wanganui hut was to be built, but we didn't know this at the time. Although only in our early teens, we enjoyed the solitude and scenery of the place. We swam in and built a raft on warm Lake Surprise. We were disappointed having to leave early because our eating utensils and plates were washed away after we'd left them in the water to clean overnight.

It must have been 1958 when I tramped through with my father and friends to attend the opening of the Wanganui hut. I recall being offered some sparkling wine which, in the hot sun, had an immediate effect. The trouble was that after a snooze I had to tramp back to the Mangaiti hut.

It was interesting to find out recently that Brian Carter got the idea of a hut in the Mangaturuturu from Arthur Saxby, a TTC member who took me and a mate up to the summit when we were 13. It was a long climb from Mangaiti hut in the days before the Ohakune Road was finished.

My only other visit to the Wanganui hut was when on an Easter trip around the mountain we were more or less snowed in for three days. At first there were only a few of us but by the second day the one bunk was full. The protection offered and the company was much appreciated.

I have just retired to Wanganui and it's great to see your club so active. I am going to join the WTC as an associate member. Don't do any serious tramping these days but it is now only two hours before I can be spending a comfortable night in Mangaiti hut. If any WTC members are interesting in using this 'private hut' they can contact me on 347 7731.



Brian Mosen, Arthur Saxby and Rob Bowater



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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.

November 2019 to February 2020 Club Activities

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

Nov 9 Sat	Pot Luck Meal Hey it's time for another pot luck meal, this time at the mansion of Julie and Trevor Kearse. It will be another night of eating, chat and laughs. See you at 1/1 Parsons St at 6pm.	Julie and Trevor Kearse
Nov 9-10 Sat-Sun	Charlie's Clearing As the track from Puniwhakau to Charlie's Clearing is currently closed owing to a missing bridge, this weekend could be just looking around the area or spending some time trying to find the old stock tunnel. We will need to check out the situation a little closer to the day.	Brian Doughty
Mod	Cost to be calculated	
Nov 9 or 10 Sat or Sun	Mt Wainui Great views of the Kapiti coast, Mt Egmont and Wellington Harbour from this vantage point. Start at Whareroa farm near Mackay's crossing. About 6-7 hrs walking, some of it uphill.	Mike Cole
Mod/fit	Approx cost \$24	
Nov 13 Wed	Trips Meeting You know the drill! Turn up at 7 Wairere Rd at 7.30pm and we'll sort out tramps covering March/April/May. If you can't make it and have an idea of where to go, give me a call.	Dave Scoullar

Nov 16 or 17 Sat or Sun	Ridge Road Ridge Road lies west of Taihape and we have been there before, but this time we are seeking the perfect weather conditions to enjoy the amazing views that can be had. Most of the climbing will be done in the van — we can then enjoy an easy 13km walk.	Margret McKinnon
Easy/mod	Approx cost \$19	
Nov 16-18 Sat-Mon	Kaweka Range We will take the Taihape/Napier Rd and enter the Kaweka Range, starting from Kurakapango to Kiwi Saddle Hut for night one, then onto Studholme Hut tucked in a lovely little spot out of the way for night two. We will then take the route either past Mackintosh Hut or down the Rogue back to the carpark. Challenging terrain requiring hill fitness.	Tracey Hooper
Mod/fit	Cost to be calculated	
Nov 23-24 Sat-Sun	Wairarapa Weekend This weekend will feature a couple of interesting day tramps in the eastern Tararua. On day one we will go 6km up the Reeves track near Greytown to view a new plaque that marks the centre of New Zealand's Extended Continental Shelf. Hutt Valley TC have been invited to join us. After camping the night near Mt Holdsworth, we	Dave Scoullar



Mod	will join South Wairarapa TC for a walk up Pinnacle Ridge. Cost to be calculated	
Nov 28-Dec 3 Thurs–Tues	Hauraki Rail Trails	Carolyn Shingleton
	Bombs will have second group cycling the HRT and exploring the walks and history in the Karangahake Gorge. Starting at Thames and cycling to Paeroa, Waihi, Te Aroha and completing the trip on the new section of the trail from Te Aroha to Matamata. Trip full but you may go on the waiting list.	
Easy	Cost to be calculated	
Nov 30 or Dec 1	Pohangina Valley Walks	Margie Campbell Barbara Francis
Sat or Sun	Join Margie on two easy walks in the Pohangina Valley — the Fern Walk in the Totara Reserve and the Pettifar and Gilchrist Loop. Total walking time is about four hours. Margie will choose the better day weather-wise.	
Easy	Approx cost \$18	
Dec 6 & 7 Fri & Sat	Goat/Kid Run Marshals	Margret McKinnon
	Last year the weather forced a change of course and our services were not required. This year we hope for nice weather and an interesting day. Eight marshals are required for positions on the Horopito Track and at the Mangaturuturu Hut. We will stay at the Hut on Friday night then return home on Saturday after the last runners have passed through.	
Easy	Cost to be calculated.	
Dec 7 Sat	Self-Guided Garden Tour	Dorothy Symes
	The popularity of garden rambles continues and we are encouraged again to run our own. So on Sat 7 December you are invited to visit 13 diverse gardens which will be open from 12.30pm to 3.30pm. Use your own transport and visit as many or as few gardens as you wish. As a finale you are all invited to my place 77 Liverpool St for a cuppa or a cold drink. See locations of gardens on Page 48.	
Dec 8 Sun	Mangaturuturu Valley Exploration	Basil Hooper
	Basil knows the Mangaturuturu Valley better than anyone in our club, its twists and turns, slopes and crevices — and its spectacular waterfalls. The valley is a hidden delight, often overlooked as we journey to and from our hut. Basil will go offtrack and show us what we've been missing. Note: If the weather is unsuitable he will reschedule this trip to the weekend of Dec 14-15.	
Easy	Approx cost \$18	

Dec 14-15 Sat-Sun	Taumarunui Weekend It's time for our combined Taumarunui and Wanganui Tramping Club tramps and end of year BBQ in Taumarunui. On Saturday the tramp will be a bush, farm and road walk north of Taumarunui. We stay in the local camp ground and join TTC's BBQ. The Sunday tramp is undecided but it will be on our way home. Always a fun weekend.	Dave Scoullar
Easy/mod	Cost to be calculated	
Dec 21 or 22 Sat or Sun	Tongariro Romp Ridgway enjoys a leg stretch in Tongariro National Park and he has a crossing of the park in his sights — Desert Road to Whakapapa Village. A reasonable track through stunning scenery. This may be a crossover if there are enough people. Ridgway will choose the better day. A great end of year tramp.	Ridgway Lythgoe
Mod	Cost to be calculated	
Jan 1 Wed	Whitecliffs Walkway Start 2020 with a flourish with a romp around the picturesque Whitecliffs Walkway, north of New Plymouth. The loop walkway uses the Kapuni to Auckland gas pipeline route, crossing farm land and ridge tops and has a spectacular beach section. It's a long drive so we will make an early start. Best not to celebrate too enthusiastically on New Year's Eve! New Plymouth TC has been invited to join us.	Dave Scoullar
Mod	Cost to be calculated	

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Jan 3-5 Fri-Sun	Whangamomona Weekend	Dorothy Symes
	Yes two nights based in the Whangamomona Village. There will be options for accommodation, the iconic hotel or the campground nearby. Peter Panton and members from Taumarunui are to join us. Peter is familiar with the area and will guide us to Tangarakau and Mt Damper falls, Moki track and perhaps to Reid Hut and back to the village. There will be more detailed information closer to the new year. Garry McElwain will share the guiding, reminiscing days where he was brought up.	
Easy/Mod	Cost to be calculated	
Jan10, 11-12 Fri Sat Sun	Mountain Biking Hawkes Bay	Mark Kenneddy Mike Cole
	Travel over to Hastings on the Friday afternoon and camp there in cabins or tents for two nights and do some of the trails in the area on the Saturday.	
Moderate	Approx Cost \$70	
Jan 11 or 12 Sat or Sun	Mangaehuehu Hut	Bruce Thomas
	This well-appointed hut in Tongariro National Park is a great spot for lunch. Wander along a good, mostly flat track with a lot of board walk and lovely mountain views. What more could you ask for? Bruce will choose the better day.	
Mod	Approx cost \$18	
Jan 18-20 Sat-Mon	Waitonga Forest	Tracey Hooper
	This area was discovered last year by the Hoopers, and they are keen to do some more exploring. The walk into the hut is a flat easy three hours, along an old tram line. There is a beautiful waterfall to visit and some more tracks to discover. The drive to Eastern Taranaki is an event on its own.	
Easy	Cost to be calculated	
Jan 18, 19 or 20 Sat -Mon	Zekes Hut	Adrian Pike
	This track can be notorious for mud, but in January it will be just perfect! North of Taihape and before Waiouru, the track is tucked away in the Hihitahi Forest Sanctuary. Views of Mt Ruapehu from the top before the track drops down to Zekes Hut. 2½ - 3½ hrs each way	
Moderate	Approx cost \$20	

Jan 23 & 24
Thur & Fri

Waiinu Beach

Margret McKinnon
Esther Williams

This outing proved popular last year, so the club has again hired the Patea/Waitotara Fishing Club venue - a lovely spot with lots of room for camping, BBQ and a house that sleeps seven. Plenty to do on land and sea. We will take a van for 'Overnighters' and the other for Day Trippers who may like to join us for the evening BBQ.

Easy

Cost to be calculated.

Jan 25 & 26
Sat & Sun

Take a Kid Tramping

Margret McKinnon

This venture is planned for the school holidays, so gather up the grandchildren and come join us. Lots of fun was had last year and this will be the focus again this time. The location has not yet been decided as that will be determined by the abilities of the children. Mangaturuturu Hut will be a possible option.

Easy

Cost to be calculated.

Jan 25 or 26
Sat or Sun
Mod/Fit

Alternative Tongariro Crossing

Mike Cole

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Approx. cost \$25



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Feb 1-2 Sat-Sun	Pouakai Hut	Margie Campbell Merilea Wainhouse	Pouakai Hut is in a lovely location with stunning views of Mt Taranaki nearby. A board walk leads most of the way to the hut. This is a great entry level tramp, ideal for new members or those who have little or no experience in overnight trips.
Mod			Approx cost \$32 + hut fees
Feb 1 or 2 Sat or Sun	Stanton Memorial	Shane Wilson	Join Shane when he goes through wonderful rock formations and close to majestic waterfalls in Tongariro National Park as he takes us to the memorial to Warwick Stanton, aged 18, who died in a blizzard in 1931. A special place not far off the Round the Mountain Track.
Mod			Approx cost \$23
Feb 8-12 Sat-Wed	Matemateaonga/Mangapurua	Brian Doughty	We did this one a few years ago and it was a great success. Join Brian on a five-day tramp from the Matemateaonga Track to Ruatiti via the Mangapurua Track. Start Kohi Saddle, then Pouri Hut, Puketotara Hut to river, then to Mangapurua Track, Johnson's, and McIntyre's. Two great tracks and a jetboat trip thrown in — how memorable will this be?
Mod			Cost to be calculated
Feb 8 Sat	Omaru Hut and Beyond	John Cook	We will accompany Brian on the first day of his five-day epic, starting at the Kohi Saddle and walking in to Omaru Hut and beyond on the Matemateaonga Track. This is a beautiful bush area on a well-established track.
Easy/mod			Approx cost \$28
Feb 15 or 16 Sat or Sun	Tongariro Loop Walk	Cherry Channon	Our Ohakune member Peter Finucane is guiding us on a loop walk in Tongariro National Park, starting at the Blyth Hut car park, proceeding to Blyth, moving onto the open country above the hut and then swinging back to the van down a ridge parallel to the Turoa Mountain Road. This will take us through some new country and promises to be an interesting tramp as it involves both the current Blyth and previous Blyth Hut sites.
Mod			Approx cost \$18
Feb 19 Wed	Trips meeting	Dave Scoullar	What's this? High summer and some guy wants us to figure out trips for June/July/August? That's right, so come along to 7 Wairere Rd at 7.30pm and help that guy do the business. Or call him.

Feb 28-Mar 1 Sat-Sun	Pine Clearing	Leader needed
	Our annual visit to the south east slopes of Mt Ruapehu to clear pinus contorta. A cruisey day in an area not otherwise visited, with Hutt Valley Tramping Club members. Camp in a beautiful glade of beech trees and eat well (venison on the last two years). A wonderful weekend when we combine doing our thing with doing something positive for the environment.	
Mod		Free!
Mar 15 - 26	Mt Cook Trip	Jacky Evans
	We will be exploring the area - day walks only with, subject to weather, making it to Mueller Hut. On the way down two nights at Rangiora so one day we can walk in the Oxford Forest into Ryde Falls. There is possibility there will be cancellations between now and then so a waiting list is available.	

TWILIGHT WALKS RETURN

After an interval of a few years we are reinstating our Tuesday summer twilight walks programme, which will also be open to the public. These are free trips with no club vehicles involved. There is no need to register in advance with leaders, just turn up. The walks should last approximately two hours. **All walks start at 6pm.**

Nov 12	Round the Bridges	Dorothy Symes
	Leave from i-SITE on the riverbank off Taupo Quay for a walk around the bridges. Head to the Cobham Bridge first. How many bridges will we do? That will be up to those taking part.	
Nov 19	Bignell St Reserve	Mike Cole
	When is a dump no longer a dump? Mike provides the answer with a walk around the replanted old dump site at Castlecliff. You may be surprised at the transformation. Meet at Yacht Club in Gilbert St.	
Nov 26	Riverbank Wander	Dave Scoullar
	An interesting walk along the Whanganui riverbank from Landguard Bluff to opposite the port. Various artefacts along the way. Meet at the small concrete building on the riverbank just past the army camp near the airport.	
Dec 3	St John's Hill Walkway	Juliet Kojis
	St John's Hill has a number of interesting walkways which Juliet will explore, with a side walk to the wetland at Mt St Joseph's. Meet at the Gull Service Station.	
Dec 10	Harry's Tea House	Brian Doughty
	The late Harry Stimpson had a tea house in a pine forest off Brunswick Rd, 2.92 km from Somme Parade (292 Rural Number). Brian will be waiting at the gate to guide us on this plantation forest walk.	

November 2019 Quiz

1. How many sub-species of weka are there?
2. The Government aims to eradicate all dangers to native birds such as rats and stoats by what year?
3. Which valley has the highest sediment runoff of any catchment in the Horizons region?
4. Of rewarewa, kaikawaka, kowhai and manuka, three are good for fires and one isn't -- which is the odd one out?
5. Where would you find Man o' War Bluff?
6. Which NZ bird's Maori name is the same as a hut on the Whanganui River?
7. Why is hard beech given that name?
8. We know Zekes Hut near Waionu but what's the only other hut beginning with Z?
9. Name the oldest US conservation organisation
10. For some years after 1928 the upper Whanganui River steamer terminal moved from Taumarunui to where?

From our archives... November 2007

EXPLORING OUR OWN DEATH VALLEY

Twelve intrepid trampers signed on for this trip in Egmont National Park which may have gone where no Wanganui clubbies have been before. Starting at the Puniho Rd end, we went up the Stony River to Pyramid Stream, an area hit by massive erosion.

We didn't know how far we would get but kept going. The Pyramid bed rose steadily and became quite narrow and reminiscent of Death Valley but the stream was shallow. It seemed do-able and so it turned out as after many crossings but few wet feet we finally reached the RMT, now closed at this point because of persistent erosion at the crossing of the Pyramid.

From the confluence to the RMT took two and a quarter hours and the party was pretty pleased at the mini adventure as they followed the Puniho track back to the van.

10. Kiritika landing
 9. The Sierra Club
 8. Zoo Hut in southern Marlborough
 7. Because silica in the timber makes it very hard to cut
 6. Tieke (Saddleback)
 5. On the Whanganui River
 4. Kaikawaka
 3. Pohangina Valley
 2. 2050
 1. Four -- North Island, western, buff (Chatham Islands) and Stewart Island

QUIZ ANSWERS



Hawkes Bay Cycle Trails

Sat-Tues 14-17 Sept 2019

Leader/scribe: *Lynn Tebbutt*

On a sunny Saturday morning twelve members of the Bombs biking group assembled at clubrooms in preparation for an 8am departure. We reached Kennedy Park in Napier just after midday where we unloaded our belongings, claimed our beds and got sorted for our first trail ride.

The Water Ride (33km return) heads north on Marine Parade around Port Ahuriri where we stopped for a lunch break. Back on the bikes we headed north past the airport, crossing the road at Bay View where we joined the marked limestone paths. Unfortunately one of our riders had a bike malfunction and took a tumble onto the path, injuring herself but able to continue (a cracked rib was diagnosed, with rider returning home next morning).

Sunday we were away at 9am for our Coastal Ride (56km return) south to Clifton Café, punctuated by morning tea stop at a bakery in Clive, a slight deviation off the trail. Lunch was held on the lawn at Clifton Café with a few riders sampling locally-made Rush Munro ice cream. A brief stop was made at Clearview Winery where some did a wine tasting. We continued our return home with a fairly brisk head wind, arriving back at our accommodation around 4pm.

Monday we were on the road by 9am heading for the Hastings Golf Course at Bridge Pa. After a very tasty morning tea we set off on the Wineries Ride (41km return) which took the form of a triangle around the local orchards and vineyards including the Gimblett Gravels, and a quick stop at Roy's Hill to take in the views. A highlight of this trail was riding along the stopbank - vistas of spring blossom - and down Oak Avenue. After lunch at Hastings Golf Course we added an extra 5km ride out to Sileni Vineyard.

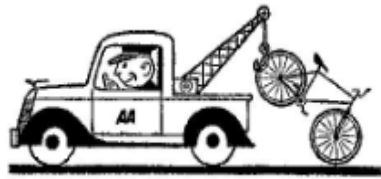
Tuesday marked our final day of trail riding, the Puketapu Ride (24km). We headed west on Kennedy Road to Pettigrew Green in Taradale where we joined the limestone trail up the western side of Puketapu River, coffee and scones at the Puketapu Hotel, and then an easy ride back on the eastern side of the river.

We were back to the clubrooms around 5pm. Feedback from the trip has been very positive. We were lucky to have favourable weather and a great group of people.



On Tuesday Jan came out with us biking
Everything was going much to her liking
Then came the cry "I have to stop
My back tyre has just gone POP!"

The AA will help me with my plight
I am a Member and have an e-bike.
After a phone call and a long wait
Her bike was repaired, wasn't that great.



Book Review

Grandma Gatewood's Walk, by Ben Montgomery

The inspiring story of the woman who saved the Appalachian Trail

Reviewed by Barbara Gordon

In farmer's dungarees and some extras in a sack over her shoulder, 67 year old Grandma Gatewood set out in 1955 to become the first woman to walk the Appalachian Trail "just for the heck of it". Her bunions were troublesome, so she cut holes in her tattered tennis shoes to let them breathe. Dinners of berries and beds of fallen leaves alternated with the hospitality of kind strangers on the way. And that was just the start; Grandma kept walking for the next 18 years.

Tenacity, borne of a hard childhood and abusive marriage, saw Grandma overcome perils and storms. Her saga is an absorbing tale of grit, toughness and determination and sits well alongside Bill Bryson's **A Walk in the Woods**.



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Trampers Horoscope

Phil Thomsen

I thought it was about time the club had a scientific forecast for their tramping endeavours. I've followed best astrological practice with that below; although of course we Leos are far too sceptical to believe in this kind of thing.

Aries



With the advent of summer you are inspired to sing sing sing! Filled with the love of nature and your fellow trampers, you will fill the forest with enchanting melody. Coincidentally over the next few days there will be a gathering of ornithologists in the same vicinity investigating reports of calls from the long-extinct New Zealand screech owl. However all they will find are some stunned birds under the trees, with their wings stuffed over their ears, which they will find inexplicable.

Taurus



You will buy an elite tramping pack for \$800. It features downpour-retardant super-materials, space-age aeration facilities, and can transform into a handy two-person tent. You will be a little disappointed by how surprisingly uncomfortable it is to wear, and how easily objects seem to fall out of its 14 handy side pockets. Others on your Ruapehu trip suggest that you are wearing it upside down. Ignore them, they are just jealous.

Gemini



Fired up and motivated, you will take on the Durie Hill steps. However the police will take a very boring and pedantic attitude when they issue you with an infringement notice. You will remain aggrieved at their ludicrous limitations on your use of your "go anywhere" SUV. Go figure.

Cancer



A magic time for you. Everything you touch will turn to gold. People will be in awe of the air of dignified intelligence that you exude, so long as you avoid opening your mouth. Even trampers walking up hills behind you will be enchanted by spring-like fragrance of the sweet and refreshing farts that you emit. Buy a Lotto ticket.

Leo



Fellow trampers will be captivated by your new back-country GPS, which has been marketed as taking you to your chosen destination within 0.0001mm. They are, disappointingly, a little less impressed when your guidance for your trip to the Mangaturuturu Hut ends up in the confectionary aisle at the Trafalgar Square Countdown instead. However as compensation you will note that Whittakers chocolate is down to \$3.95 this week.

Virgo



Romance and love bloom for you this month. A chance encounter with a fellow tramp on a trip leads to a wild uninhibited romp and an unintended pregnancy. Your spouse is a little less enthused when they find out. Beware flying cutlery and mixing bowls this month; and your car suffers mysterious but massive panel damage.

Libra



You will be asked to write up a trip report for The Tramp. Your report on your fellow tramps will be awash with integrity - frank, truthful, and insightful. Beware suits of defamation and libel heading your way. For some reason your string of Christmas cards will be disappointingly diminished this year.

Scorpio



You will lead a WTC trip, and will thrill the participants with your leadership skills. You will inspire with your thunderous elocution, clarity of vision, and inspirational motivating guidance. You will receive fawning admiration, yea, adulation, from all on the trip, which you will find quite gratifying. Ignore those smirks and sniggering between the members that you seem to catch a glimpse of sometimes; they matter not a jot in the shadow of your greatness.

Sagittarius



You will volunteer to do the meals for an overnight trip. It all seems a bit daunting when between them the group requires something that has to be vegan, free from saturated fat, gluten, cholesterol, GE, lactose and carbohydrate; but dense in fibre plus the A, B, and C vitamins. You will be sure they will be all thrilled with the plate of steamed kale that you serve up. For those few who dare voice an unwarranted discontent, you will throw the serving spoon at them and tell them to f**** off. Be prepared for a moment's stress: the last item you will fish out of the stew will be one of your socks; which may explain the unusual flavour. However you will be relieved to find it wasn't one of your clean ones.

Capricorn



Sorry to say, but be warned that you've got a difficult time ahead. After you drive off for a weekend tramp, your car will break down a block from home. When you walk back home you will see your loved one locked in the embrace of a trusted friend from WTC. Not knowing what to do, you will ring the AA to come and start your car. However the trauma will be relieved when you find out that it is just a loose electrical connection, so you can get to the tramp after all.

Aquarius



Being entrusted to drive a WTC van for the first time, you are careful to obey all the road rules carefully. You will be disappointed when, half way up the Parapara highway, a police patrol car stops you, and after patiently waiting for 27 cars to go past you, suggests that you drive just a leedle beet faster. When you point out that you are simply sticking to the speed limit, and point to a sign, the officer will rather boringly suggest that the “4” on the sign is the State Highway number, not the speed limit. Well how were you to know? For some reason you won’t be asked to drive again.

Pisces



Overcome by a spiritual yearning, you will search out the path of enlightenment and insight. Inquiries during a tramp with WTC will suggest a path to One who is Older and Wiser. One who Sees All; Hears All; Knows All. One who knows the Path and the Way and the Destination. Following up on this, you will make a hesitant inquiry to the Source of Wisdom. However there will be a period of frustration when you receive a missive back suggesting that there is no-one home at the Doughty residence; please leave a message.



TRAMPING TUCKER

BY UNCLE HAL

Christmas cake for busy people

1kg fruit — mixed fruit or a personalised mixture of raisins, currants or sultanas etc

2 cups of self-raising flour

2 cups of orange-based fruit juice or 2 cups of cold tea (or can go half and half)

If you wish put in some cinnamon and/or ginger

Mix and put in 20cm baking time (lined 2 or 3 times with baking paper) in the middle of the oven at 150deg for around 90min

If it looks like it’s going to burn on top put some tinfoil on it

This recipe was published in 2014 but we thought it was worth repeating since we are still busy people





Longdrop's **PACK TALK NOVEMBER 2019**

I haven't been everywhere — but it's on my list.

A bleak July day for the six BOMBS who showed up. And hear this – five were riding old-style, proper pushbikes and the solitary PREB was too embarrassed to turn on his motor. Do E-bikes make you soft?

Disappointing when tramps are scuppered by foul wintry weather. *“The cure for this ill is not to sit still and frowst with a book by the fire. But take a large hoe, and shovel also, and dig till you gently perspire.”* - Rudyard Kipling

First it was BOMBs (Backsides on Mountainbikes), then PREBS (Pensioners Riding Electric Bikes) ... Jim Gordon is now founding member of OPOBs - OLD People on Bikes (cheeky). When you hit a big number like 80 it's time to celebrate with mates and Jim had plenty of them around for the big event, with a warm sunny day for a garden party on the first day of Spring.

So, who's the latest PREB to go the E-bike way? Yes, Dorothy, that doyenne of delectable dainties (ask the oldtimers).

That oldtimers' get-together was a great occasion, with an impressive sum total of birthdays. Raised voices feature when the hard-of-hearing gather, and the decibels were high as each pocket of conversation drowned out others. “Eh? Speak up!” A rowdy laugh-filled afternoon and hugely appreciated by the *Trampers Emeriti*. The PR value to WTC would be ‘gold’ and Dorothy is to be lauded for making such a memorable event happen. The afternoon was a smash hit with 44 attending, including two of our most senior trampers, Peg Walsh and Darrell Grace. The latter managed to enjoy the afternoon and left with his teeth, glasses and hearing aids intact.

Cold drizzly weather led to a change of destination for the August gourmet dinner tramp. The food was as good as always and the hut on the north-west face of Mount Bastia warm and cosy. Hut-baggers had a one-night-only chance to tick off Kojis hut before it reverted to 7 Wairere Rd.

WTC boasts a few handy chaps skilled in unlocking public toilet doors with pocket knives. One whipped out his pocketknife with a flourish to deal to an apparently jammed door. Who was more startled – WTC boy scout, or the senior lady enthroned inside?

AA membership now extends to E-bikes and proved its worth for Jan Pavarno when a puncture had her call them - even though somewhat embarrassed at the sight of her bike atop a big tow-truck.

It's Murphy's Law that if two club vans go out together and there's a mechanical

problem, it'll involve the one travelling second. Sure enough when a van got a puncture on the Parapara it was the one behind and the other sailed blissfully on to Raetihi before getting the message that all was not well behind.

Murphy's Law No 2 is that the driver is always the last trumper back to the van, leaving the others to wait and wait to get at their change clothes.

Wednesday trumplers have a tradition of bringing a gift of sweets to mark special occasions but Esther Williams lifted the bar when she produced a 1kg bag of chocolate fish. Far too many to get through but the midweek warriors gave it a shot.

The biggest laugh at the photo contest was a shot of Graham Sutcliffe having a kip during a lunch stop. A shame he left early and couldn't join in the merriment.

Margret McKinnon gave herself the title of "wally of the week" after a senior moment — taking a cup of tea shortly before turning up for a surgical appointment. As a result she had to wait a month for the procedure to take place.

Margie Campbell cheerfully admitted she was a "bag lady". Hard to escape the handle when she was working in a bag shop in Victoria Ave.

Doesn't Sue Haden, who was on the selection panel for the 2019 inductees to the Whanganui Sports Hall of Fame, qualify for this honour herself? She was a sports rep in badminton, swimming and tennis. Maybe someone should nominate her.

A welcome addition to the club archive is a photo album from the late life members Cecily and Derick Matthews which has many interesting snaps including the great stove-carry to Mangaturuturu Hut in the 1980s.

All roads lead to coffee shops! Sandra Rogers led a group of bikers along the Manawatu River Walkway shouting "coffee calling!"

Trumplers take falls. So do bikers, but their tumbles can hurt more. Two members of the BOMBS had barely set out when they came off on a slippery section beside the City Bridge. Ouch and ouch.

Then Earle Turner found the bike ride from Palmerston North to Linton was hazardous, coming off twice - the second time a spectacular dive down a bank. He was heard to murmur "maybe biking is not for me." He didn't tell wife Margaret when he got home but she guessed when she saw the dirt on his shoulder.

When the rain came down George Neil quickly donned his plastic rubbish bag kilt, a little black number inspired by president Cherry. But is it a kilt? David Howard says otherwise, "No George, it's a skirt!"

On the surface, Ridgy visiting the Tui brewery at Mangatainoka two days in the row looks decided dodgy but he explains that the second visit was to take fresh photos of the iconic Tui tower after the first batch didn't come out. Yeah right. (But it's true)!

Most Wednesday trumplers waiting to be picked up stand around idly but not Suzanne Roberts. When the trip leader apologised for taking a while to get to her,

Suzanne explained she had occupied her time by cleaning her drain.

Les Walker moved to Te Awamutu 2007 and died in 2017 aged 90 but he remains a legend in our club. Now his family has produced a wee booklet on him — a sort of This is Your Life. The booklet was taken to the old-timers' afternoon tea and is now in the club library.

The BOMBS rallied round after Don K had surgery to bring meals and make themselves available as needed. A real biking family caring for one of their own.

Similarly, the Wednesday team were very concerned when one of theirs, Juliet K, felt unwell and turned back early on Fisher Rd. Several members phoned up in the days following to check out her condition. In the event, she was almost right the day after.

Pssst! The word was out that the Man with the Notebook, aka Longdrop, was overseas for six weeks from 1 September. So gaffes and weird statements by trampers wouldn't be recorded? Wrong! His spies were still out there and busy — as you can see from this column.

As far as Longdrop knows, Barbara Francis, Margie Campbell and Graham Sutcliffe will be the first in our club to tackle the Paparoa Track in early 2020. We look forward to learning about their experience of the newest Great Walk.

Many clubbies have been on overseas jaunts recently but the one who gets the prize for the most exotic location is John Newton, who made a brief return to Iraq in August where wife Lauren had been training social workers.

He's a sharp one, is George.

DeeEss (when the group diverted on the track: "We are off piste."

George (quick as a flash): "Piste off!"

You've heard of bother boys but how about bothy boys? We have a couple of the latter, club members who live in Scotland but come to Whanganui in summer — Ian Kirk and Eric Hart. For background on what bothies are all about see an article on page 45.

Carolyn Shingleton and the BOMBS will be keeping their collective eyes on a new cycle trail under construction in Central Otago, the Lake Dunstan Trail. It will run 52km from Clyde to Cromwell and the first part will be completed by this summer.

Outdoors wisdom ...

Tired trumper: "This track is too muddy and too long."

Helpful trumper: "If it were shorter it wouldn't reach the hut."

After a total of 179 people from the Tararua Tramping Club gathered on top of Kaukau to commemorate the club's centennial, it's the turn of the Parawai Tramping Club on the Kapiti Coast to party hard, celebrating 50 years of tramping on 8-10 November.

Did-you-know corner: Chris Swallow, killed in a motorbike crash on the Isle of Man in August, was described as a "running lunatic" when in 2011 he completed a 74km

double Tararua Southern Crossing run, before two years later going near 100km from Putara to Kaitoke along the spine of the range.

Helpful hint: You may wish to have dry feet, but keep your boots on when crossing rivers. They protect your feet from bruising and cuts and make your footing more secure.

Thursday walkers on Raetihi's new Makotuku River walkway found themselves alongside a very serious-looking Army exercise, alarming when two heavily-weaponed officer cadets approached - a pleasant exchange ensued. Up to 50 kilos of equipment might be carried. Nearly as impressive was a white linen table napkin, produced with a flourish for Sally G's picnic.

1949 was a good year for babies, with Sandra Rogers, John Kay, Trevor and Julie Kears among those celebrating their three-score-years-and-ten milestone. Any more Babyboomers?

The September bike trip to Hawkes Bay was a huge success with lovely weather. Unfortunately though, bad luck for Brenda B who returned home early with a fractured rib. We hope it soon mends.

Some do live dangerously. One BOMB (nameless, for fear of retribution) neglected to mention to spouse the purchase of new electric bike. And got away with it for a couple of months before being sprung. *Fait accompli.*

Our spies report that on an overnight trip in October the illustrious leader had problems with his belt and his pants kept slipping down. An ever-helpful lady tramper offered to assist and yanked his pants up until a high pitched squeal reverberated around the bush. Further assistance was vehemently rebuffed in a less than manly squeak.

Sad to record the death of former club member Robert Gedye. A bit of a character, Robert hadn't been out with us for a long time as he travelled the country in a house truck under the adopted name of Medicine Lone Wolf. RIP.

Adrian Pike has an interesting tale about how car keys were found and returned to the owner on a tramp he led to the Levin area in October. It's a bit long for this column but ask him. A tale worth telling.

Dee Ess says he's no longer sniffy about E bikes. He appreciated his when he clocked up 78km in a day touring WW1 grave sites in France. (One more PREB coming up?)

Soon after the Wednesday group did their annual stint pulling pink ragwort at Whitiau Scientific Reserve, a photo appeared in the media of Barbara Francis and Margie Campbell trashing the weed. Hot news? Not really. It turns out this photo was taken on the club's visit to the reserve in 2018.

Bad news as well for WTC with closure of SH4, with many of our destinations leading north. Let's hope the solution is not too many years away.

Join journey to middle of Middle Earth

While the centre of NZ has long been marked by a monument in Nelson, it turns out that the true point, geographically, happens to be in the Tararua Ranges — and the club will visit that exact spot in November.

More than a decade after the UN recognised that our territory includes our underseas continental shelf as well as the land mass above the sea — adding an extra 1.6 million sq km of seafloor to our exclusive economic zone — the heart of NZ has been marked with a plaque.

The circular stainless steel artwork by conceptual artist Billy Apple is one metre in diameter and was installed with the aid of a helicopter earlier this year. The image on the plaque shows the outline of the main islands that make up NZ sitting inside the silhouette of the extended continental shelf boundary. The exact coordinates are inscribed around the plaque.

The location is about 6km along the Mt Reeves track. Access is from Waiohine Valley Rd, about 10km from Greytown. The club will visit the plaque on Saturday 23 November during a weekend trip to the Wairarapa. Hutt Valley Tramping Club has been invited to join us. For more details see trips list or phone Dave Scoullar at 343 2836.



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Tramping Club Photo Competition



Winner Pictorial - Novice



Winner Pictorial - Open



Winner Natural History - Open



Winner Natural History



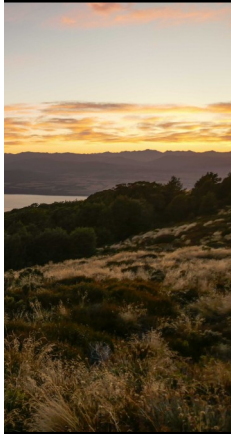
Winner Hidden Treasure - Open



Winner Human Interest - Novice



Competition Winners 2019



Winner Human Interest - Open



story - Novice



Winner Hidden Treasure - Novice



Novice

See results on page 35 for photo captions and photographers



Andy and Julie on their wedding day in Quebec



Lake Mangawhio

The 2019 WTC Photo Competition

We had another successful photo competition this year. Just under 100 entries kept our judge busy.

The images are a great record of what the club has been up to in the last year. Many thanks to Heather Mackenzie for the judging. I am sure the diverse range of subject matter in our special category (Hidden Treasure) gave her an extra challenge.

“Hidden Treasure” evoked such a varied response from club members and made it a fun inclusion in the categories. I have no idea what our special category should be this year! Give me some ideas and we will make our mind up in the next couple of months.

Cheers

Baz

Results:

Pictorial

Open

- 1st *Kepler Sunset* Pippa McLay
- 2nd *Ruapehu from a distance* Mike Cole
- 3rd *Mt Ngauruhoe in the snow* Derek Barrett

Novice

- 1st *Arakam Tse (6423) from near Dingboche* Shane Wilson
- 2nd *Ngauruhoe and Upper Tama Lake* Dianne Glennie
- 3rd *Reflections of Jerusalem while biking down the River Rd* June Miller

Natural History

Open

- 1st *Bellbird* Derek Barrett
- 2nd *Tui on flax* Di Harries
- 3rd *Young sea lions at Stony Bay* Derek Barrett

Novice

- 1st *Ngauruhoe (volcano)* Shane Wilson
- 2nd *The difference between a flower and a weed is judgement* Linda Hart
- 3rd *Pensive Stag* Sally Anne Gale

Human Interest

Open

- 1st *Home before the storm* Bev Sinclair
- 2nd *I told you I could do it!* Basil Hooper
- 3rd *Log jam South Beach Stream* Royce Johnson

Novice

- 1st *Puncture* Mike Miller
- 2nd *Symes Hut* Shane Wilson
- 3rd *Tea break at new Quail Hut* June Miller

Hidden Treasure

Open

- 1st *Tikitapu Nature Walk* Royce Johnson
- 2nd *Out for a walk (hidden treasure)* Di Harries
- 3rd *The rugged cross* Tracey Hooper

Novice

- 1st *Little Sherpa* Shane Wilson
- 2nd *Hiding spot found* Sally Anne Gale
- 3rd *Seafood Chowder at Arrowtown at the end of the Kepler* Mike Miller

All photos may be viewed on our website www.wanganuitrampingclub.net under Competitions.

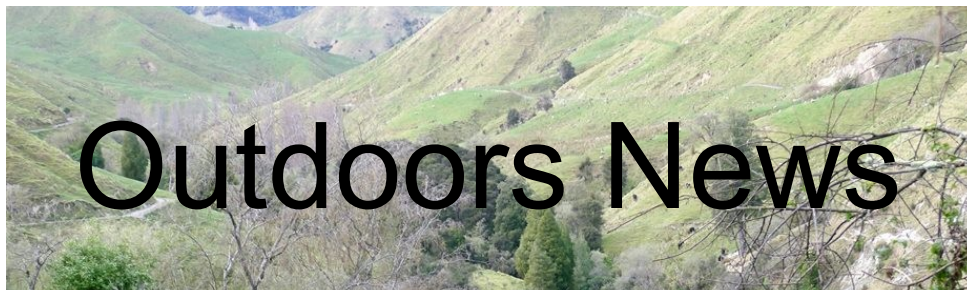


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Trampers drawn to closed road

The closed Manawatu Gorge road, deemed too dangerous for traffic, is attracting so-called “guerrilla trampers,” despite warnings of high risk and prosecution. The NZTA has advised that people walking there put themselves at risk of serious injury or death but for some its allure is too great.

Several trampers who regularly walk the road were interviewed in a *Dominion Post* article. One said he never felt a level of danger that was any higher than he had experienced in other places and expected it would eventually be officially designated a walking trail.

Another enthusiast said the gorge was a “ruby in the dust,” offering both biodiversity and tourism opportunities but weeds were taking over creating problems for the nearby scenic reserve.



Manawatu Gorge Rd

New shelter opened on TA trail


The last *Tramper* featured a photo of the old shed which has been converted into a shelter on the southern end of Burton’s Track, which is on Te Araroa Trail. As well, a new shelter has been built about four hours’ walk to the north to mark the halfway point on the trail. Palmerston North City council built the shelter near the 1500km mark in the Gordon Kear Forest.

Ian Argyle, a trustee of the Manawatu Te Araroa Trust, spoke at the opening ceremony in June. He was a driving force in the creation of the Sledge Track and improvements to Burton’s Track. His family once owned and farmed the land on which the new shelter is situated.

With the new TA walking season underway, the two shelters will be welcome stopover points for through walkers.

Mt Taranaki running feat

The last time our club went around Mt Taranaki we did it over five days so what to make of the two Taranaki adventure racers who have set the record for circuiting twice in less than a day? Tom Hadley, 19, and Tom Spencer, 23, completed the


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The first to achieve a double circuit of the mountain using the RMT, they began at 5.30am at the Stratford Plateau carpark. They headed anti-clockwise in bitterly cold conditions. After completing the first circuit in 8h 45m they decided to keep going. The final hours took their toll as they called on their past experience in long distance endurance events to finish at 1.30am.

In 2017 Hadley summited Taranaki's four peaks — Mt Taranaki, Pouakai, Kaitake and Paritutu -- in a record 9h 45m, while in the same year Spencer was part of a three-man team that set a record for climbing five peaks, including Fanthams Peak, in 12h 7m.

Hump Ridge wins battle

Winner and losers in the battle of the Great Walks. The winner is the Hump Ridge Track which is set to become the newest Great Walk. The 61km trail near Invercargill will receive a \$5 million upgrade to be added to New Zealand's top tier of tramps by 2022, Conservation Minister Eugenie Sage announced.

But while Hump Ridge is getting a facelift, two other routes missed out. Plans to add the Queen Charlotte Track to the Great Walk list



Hump Ridge Track

were

dropped due to "insurmountable challenges" around public access to all parts of the 71km tramp. And work continues to get the Te Paki Coastal Track in Northland put on the list. The three walks were the finalists following public submissions.

"Te Paki, Queen Charlotte and Hump Ridge are all phenomenal walks, making the decision a tough one," Ms Sage said.

Tracks repaired and reopened

Magnificent views of alpine glacial lakes and the landscapes of the Southern Alps await visitors to the repaired Hooker Valley Track in Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park. DOC partially closed the popular Short Walk in March after extreme flooding washed away 120m of track and structurally damaged a swing bridge. The same storm event destroyed Waiho bridge on the West Coast and indefinitely closed Fox Glacier glacier valley access road.

Contractors spent a month repairing and strengthening Hooker Valley Track's damaged second swing bridge and have created 257m of the new walkway.

DOC has also re-opened ten tracks in Tauranga after successful upgrade work to help prevent the spread of kauri dieback disease. The tracks were closed in November 2018 while the work was underway to ensure the safety of the public, the contractors and the kauri.

New rules for Everest climbers

All climbers seeking a permit for Mt Everest must have prior high altitude mountaineering experience and demonstrable training, a high-level commission for the Nepalese government has ruled. The recommendation was issued by the body charged with looking at the issue of high-altitude safety after a deadly season which was blamed on inexperience and crowding near the summit. Eleven climbers were killed or went missing on Everest mountain in May.

The Nepalese panel was set up after climbers and guides criticised officials for allowing anyone who paid \$11,000 to attempt to climb Everest. Some veteran guiding companies had long warned of the dangerous consequences of inexperience and crowds on the summit slopes.

Climbers to Everest and other 8000m mountains must undergo basic and high altitude climbing training, the panel said.

Condolences

We convey our condolences to the following members of our tramping family...



The Stevens family on the death of Donald
The Charteris family on the death of Robert (Bob)
The Gedye family on the death of Robert (aka Lone Wolf)
Hinemoa Ransom-Boyd on the death of her husband Edgar Boyd
John Cook on the passing of his mother, Frances

We apologise if we have overlooked any deaths

From Golden Bay Weekly 28 June 2019

Going beyond the Kaituna Track

The small dedicated team that toiled to reinstate the Kaituna Track have now set their sights on re-establishing a historic trail through to Mangarakau and beyond.

When ex-tropical cyclone Gita dumped its load on the Bay 16 months ago, it washed out several sections of the Kaituna Track. With the Department of Conservation's resources stretched, volunteers including Brian Sixtus, Keith Thomlinson, Daryl Wilkins, Des Clark and Pat McAuly, stepped forward to restore the footpath. After months of manual labour, the track is navigable once more, but the team now plan to open up a forgotten spur that branches off at "the Forks" – a junction approximately 3km from Kaituna Track car park.



On the right track: Volunteers take a breather. From left, Keith Thomlinson, Brian Sixtus and Daryl Wilkins. (Absent: Des Clark, Pat McAuly and Andrew Lamason). Photo: Supplied.

Brian Sixtus, one of the volunteers, explains. "If you go right that takes you to Knuckle Hill; if you go left, that takes you to the old goldfield at Te Tai Tapu. The gold-miners found a way from the goldfield to Kaituna; that's what we're trying to resurrect."

Despite being abandoned long ago, Brian says that some trace remains of the late nineteenth century ridge-line path as it crosses into the remote Te Tai Tapu block. "Surprisingly, there's still some sign of it."

Approximately 2.5km from The Forks, along the old bench track, sits a relic of the area's industrial past. "The

chimney is just a fireplace; I've resurrected that and made a grate for it", says Brian, adding that it's already been put to good use. "The Wednesday Walkers went up on the first of May and boiled the billy there."

For one visitor, it was case of renewing an acquaintance with an old friend, says Brian. "We invited Paul Kilgour up to the chimney; the first time he'd been there since 1997. The previous year he'd been up there with Graham Beardmore."

From The Chimney, the team plan to plough on, opening up a trap line all the way to Mangarakau.

While the volunteers have supplied the bulk of the labour, Brian is quick to acknowledge the generous support they have received from other organisations,

especially DOC and The Rural Service Centre. "We've had funding from the RSC Community Trust for equipment including safety gear, GPS devices, a personal locator beacon and pest traps."

For those interested in discovering the trap line, Brian warns that it's a good two-hour walk from the Kaituna car park and he advises caution especially at the two river crossings. "It's a remote location; there's no cell-phone coverage out there."

Jo Richards

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Contact Epic Mountain Bike Race around Lake Hawea

It all started last winter when my daughter who lives in Christchurch said, Dad I am thinking of doing the mountain bike race round Lake Hawea. What is that, I said. "Well, once a year, Contact Energy who own the hydro stations there, negotiate with the landowners to open their stations to mountain bikers." Before I had got my brain into gear I said, Right, I will do it with you.

On further investigation it seemed like a real challenge. It was 95km long over rutted farm tracks, across stony river flats, and carrying the bike across three long 50-metre braids of the Hunter River which flows into the top of the lake. There were lots of hills, all steep and stony. The race was on April 13th and we put the bikes on the car and over on the ferry.

The day dawned cloudless but a chilly 3 degrees. The start was 7am, just getting light. We set off with about 150 others along the first rutted track which soon led up some really steep hills, through gates, and across many small creeks with no bridges. And permanently wet feet from pushing the bike through the creeks one was not brave enough to ride across. We were so lucky with the weather, it was a brilliant day with clear skies and no wind. The scenery was absolutely spectacular with the glacial blue lake surrounded by sheer mountain side.

After four hours we got to the Hunter River crossing – a case of carrying your bike across three 50-metre stretches of swiftly flowing braided river, while balancing on the smooth river rocks and trying not to fall in. It was freezing cold, so that was not an option. It was well organised with volunteers directing riders and a helicopter at the crossing in case of any injuries.

We then continued down the other side of the lake to Dingleburn Station. There traditionally some local ladies were supplying, for a gold coin donation, some really delicious scones with jam and cream, washed down with hot coffee. Proceeds to the local pony club. They were fantastic and everyone was so helpful and friendly.

On the section down the lake, there were lots and lots of steep hills and one section with really steep drop-offs into the lake, so one had to be really careful. I came across a German cyclist looking frustrated, with his bike upside down. He had a puncture but his pump would not inflate the tyre. I stopped and lent him mine, but the new tube he put in was defective. We took it out, patched and inflated the punctured one and he was away, and very grateful. It did delay me for half an hour.

Then onward to the end, arriving just before prize-giving after ten hours in the saddle. All in all a wonderful experience much enjoyed, probably even more in retrospect. For anyone who fancies a real challenge I can recommend it.

Mike Miller



TT2 Report

25 Jul (Val Cowan): Twenty-six walkers met at the Splash Centre and wandered through the streets of Springvale admiring a lot of new builds in the area, then to Mosston Rd and to Caversham Park for morning tea.

8 Aug (Beverly Barnett): Beverly led 31 on this week's walk around the streets of Castlecliff and down to the beach. We enjoyed a sunny winter's day, with morning tea at Beverly's home in Longbeach Drive, a fabulous spot with spectacular sea views.

22 Aug (Julie Kears): It rained relentlessly the previous night and more was forecast. Amazingly, 19 hardy souls turned up, the weather cleared, and we had a great walk over Cobham Bridge to Putiki and then up the stairs to Durie Hill. We had our morning tea on Jeanette's verandah - a lovely spot.

5 Sep (Bev Sinclair): Wet, wet, wet. We decided we'd give the walk a miss, go for a coffee and then home to the fire. No such luck! Three intrepid trampers turned up all decked out in their wet weather gear and they were going walking come what may! Surprisingly we enjoyed a great stroll around Bason Reserve, with lots of interesting information from Bev.

19 Sep (Sandra Rogers): We left from the Aramoho Shopping Centre and walked to Hylton Park via Brunswick Rd. Hylton Park is a 10 km maze of mountainbike trails through open fields and forest. A good day out for 30.

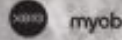
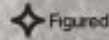
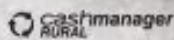
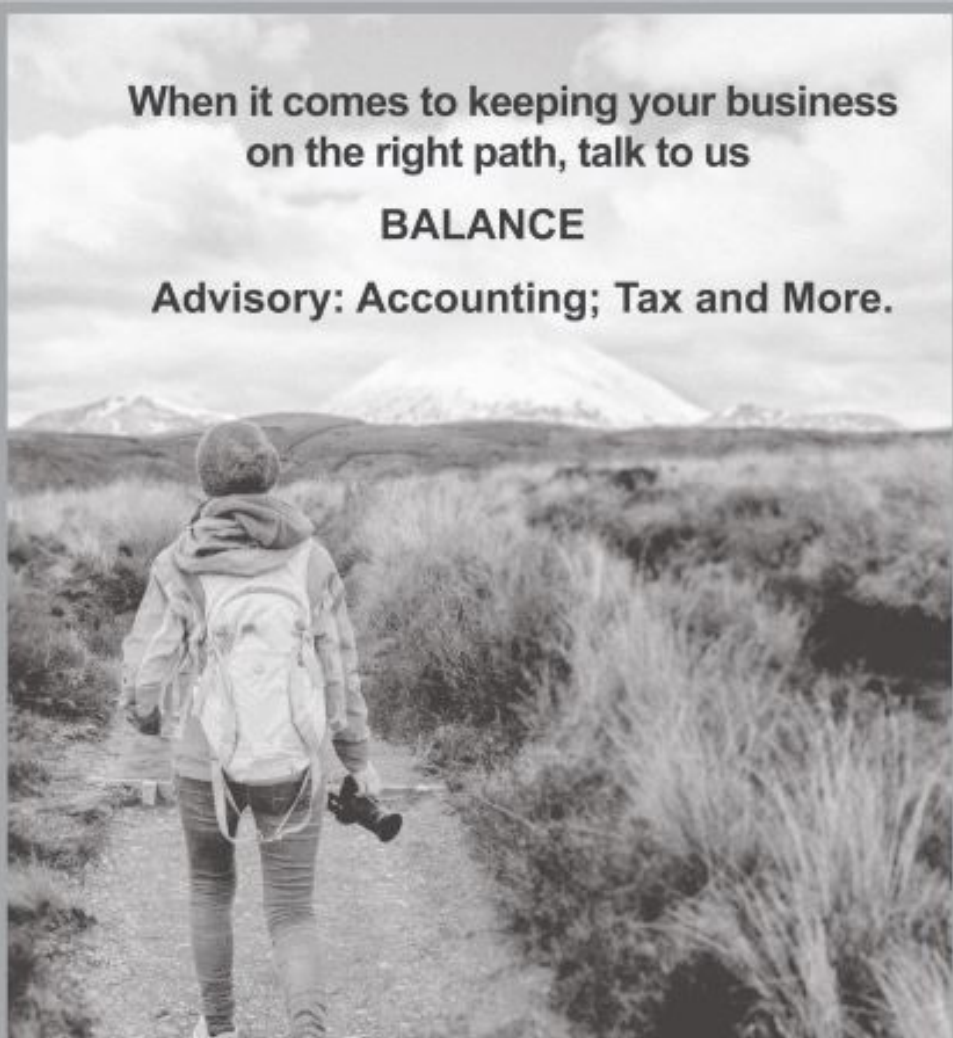
2 Oct (Sharron Prouse): Eighteen had an interesting day out. Sharron took us for a good workout up Cracroft Drive, Putiki. Thanks to Sally for hosting us at her lovely home, for morning tea.



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HOW TRAMPERS TAKE SHELTER IN UK

By Dave Scoullar

We are proud of our near-1000 network of back country huts but if we consider they are unique, we are wrong. There are also huts in England/Wales/Scotland. More than 100 rustic huts — called bothies (rhymes with frothy) — are scattered through these countries and regularly visited by trampers. And unlike NZ, they are free!

Left unlocked with most offering little more than a roof, four walls and perhaps a small wood-burning stove, the buildings are an indispensable if little known element of British hill culture. Most are re-purposed structures such as crofters' homes, shepherds' huts or mining outbuildings. Their interiors are often dark and dank, with cold stone floors that double as sleeping platforms. Toilets mostly consist of the great outdoors, along with a small spade and posted instructions to deposit waste a considerable distance from the building.

The bothies have been salvaged from various states of disrepair by the Mountain Bothies Association, a charitable organisation founded in 1965 whose aim is "to maintain simple shelters in remote country for the use and benefit of all who love wild and lonely places."

Some date to the 1700s. Collectively, since they came into recreational use in the 1930s as weekend getaways for working-class labourers, bothies have developed a culture that values communal respect for fellow visitors, for the bothies themselves and for the land on which they are situated.

Bothies are regarded as a portal. As one writer put it: "In all their understated glory, they allow for prolonged access to Britain's rugged, restorative and majestic hidden corners, places that might otherwise prove unforgiving or impractical as day-hike destinations for the casual explorer."

However, fans fear its culture has been imperilled by their mainstream success with information on the internet and the publication of guide books. A Scotland-based member of our club, Ian Kirk, has experience of bothies and supplied the following report.

MOUNTAIN BOTHIES ASSOCIATION

Working in London in the 1980s, my company was sending me to Aberdeen for a week and I decided to go north on the Friday for a bonus weekend of backpacking in a remote area of the central highlands. I had a tent with me but on the Saturday afternoon there were rain showers as I approached a deserted two-storey house on the moor. I had seen nobody else that day and a notice outside declared it was a bothy, free to use and merely asked for respect of the building.

The location indicated that it belonged to the local estate and that shepherds would use it occasionally as well as passing strangers like myself. I settled in for the evening with a large table to sit at and set my gas burner up for a hot meal. Luxury with all that space! Although I ate and slept on the floor of the large living room, I did explore other rooms. In one I discovered the wallpaper was missing but the lining paper underneath was still there but was made from old newspapers. One was dated 1896!

There were public notices on it and a section “Missing People”. This listed several people whose friends or relatives had gone abroad. One entry caught my eye - “Looking for brother James Kirk, formerly from East Glasgow, last known whereabouts when he sailed for Wellington, New Zealand.” Large numbers of Scots emigrated to NZ and were subsequently cut off from their Scottish roots and friends. Newspapers might find their way to distant lands. My family have little knowledge of our antecedents but there has always been a tradition that the first male in each generation was named “James”.

My father and brother both had James as a middle name. Could the lost friend have been an earlier relation of mine? I slept that night alone in the bothy, but thought a lot about having possibly made a vague distant link to a relation.

In 1996 I took a week off work in mid-summer and chose to go solo backpacking in the Knoydart area on the west coast of the Highlands — the “last wilderness in Great Britain”. I started walking on a track which passed under the rail viaduct, now made famous as the “Harry Potter viaduct”. I had a tent with me but on the first night the weather was not good and I passed a bothy where I decided to stay for the night.



No, not a hut in NZ but a bothy in Scotland. Photo by Eric Hart, a Scotland-based club member.

There was another couple also there and we had a jovial evening over our separate meals and shared wine and whisky! Next day I set off and eventually reached the heart of the mountains. Again I came across another bothy and as the weather was still not good I decided to stay the night. Another couple were there, but they declined a whisky. I had intended to eventually walk across the hills to the west coast with its views across to The Isle of Skye — a three- day tramp.

The rain next morning made me decide to leave my camping gear behind in the hut and I went out for a day's tramping, including a couple of high tops. With no sign of improvement in the weather I stayed on for another two, tramping over more hills — even with flakes of snow in the midsummer. I was on my own all the time and read a booklet in the bothy about the MBA. I was hooked .

Eventually I tramped out of the stunning lonely mountain scenery and on returning home joined up with this worthwhile organisation whose efforts keep the bothies in good condition and open to all. This is done by volunteers as individuals or clubs. Members also work as volunteers to repair these buildings.

Many of the bothies were homes before the crofters were thrown out in the 19th century by landowners who saw more money in sheep than crofters. Many of those crofters emigrated to New Zealand and other colonies.





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Garden Tour

Saturday 7 December

12.30pm to 3.30pm

Bastia Hill

- 1 David Scoullar and Juliet Kojis – 7 Wairere Road.

Wanganui East

- 2 Robert Lakeland and Suzanne Roberts – 3 Riverbank Road.
There's a pool, bring togs.

Springvale

- 3 Fred Verschoor – 81 Purnell Street.

Aramoho

- 4 Laurel Stowell and Richard Thompson – Delhi Avenue.

St John's Hill

- 5 Julie and Trevor Kearse – 1 Parson Street.
6 Phil Thomsen – 4 Taranaki Street.
7 John and Lauren Newton – 26B Virginia Road.

Otamatea

- 8 Bev Sinclair – 23 Dickens Lane (off Pickwick Rd, off Gt North Rd).

Brunswick

- 9 Lynn and Jill Moorhouse – 116 Blueskin Rd

Tayforth

- 10 Victoria and John Kay – 228 Tayforth Road.
11 Leonie Symes – 217a Tayforth Road.

Central City

- 12 Ridgway and Sylvia Lythgoe – 3/18 Campbell Street.
13 Dorothy Symes – 77 Liverpool Street.

Enjoy and have fun !!

Trip Report Competition 2019

Judged by Esther Williams. The judge had 32 writers to enjoy. Firstly, a mention of a prolific writer who goes under pseudonyms Scroggin (ok for newspapers), Longdrop (ok for the Trampler), and Dave's Raves, Book Worm, Quiz, Hut News. Other publications include the Chronicle's Conservation Column and Wilderness magazine. Was a pen suitable or should we have donated a new keyboard as a prize?

3rd Prize: Cherry Channon describes an autumn trip to Waipakahi River. The water was "skipping merrily, glimmering, shimmering" and the female swimmers' reactions "shrieks of joy."

2nd Prize: Barbara Gordon tramped the Waihohonu Valley before Christmas. She describes the landscape as "spectacular and undulating", the walk as gruelling ... a hobbling totter on stiffening joints.

1st Prize: Sue Haden went on a Waitahinga Trails work party. The adverbs enliven the report: Juliet diligently spraying signs as Tracey wildly swung her samurai sword. The verbs: renailed, replaced, cleared debris. Readers were delighted to hear about "pinky" Basil's hammer and the discovery, after two years, of his best farm shovel. The new track to Tom's Ridge where Mike and Shane had been busy

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WTC Trip Reports

Sledge Track Crossover

Sun 7 Jul 2019

Scribe: *Roger Kealey*

A group of five started the tramp at the Palmerston North end of Sledge Track and made their way east over the top to the Wairarapa. It was a cloudy day to start, with some rain later on. Team Roger met up with Team David (Scoullar) and his band for lunch and an exchange of keys in this crossover.

The first uphill part of the tramp was challenging with lots of steps but well-marked and would provide good views in nicer weather. After meeting with Team David the downhill section of the track deteriorated and became quite difficult to navigate – very steep and rocky. Team member Maura was a great help in finding the way. Lots of work to be done on this section of the track yet! But a good (long) day out with a great team. The best ice creams at the BP station just over the bridge in Palmerston North ...

In Roger's van were: Roger Kealey (leader), Andrea Bunn, Dorothy Symes, Mike Cole and Maura Skilton.

Tokomaru Road West Walk – McIntosh Farm

Thur 18 July 2019

Scribe: *Sandy Gibbard*

The long and winding road, deep gullies and steep hillsides, through bush, scrub and farmland, led us to the more open area of the McIntosh farm. Still some gullies hiding here and there to remind us of where we were – in the back and beyond of Brunswick.

With a friendly, low-slung, 'farm dog' (pet critter) for company, we headed off past the sheep yards, noting the well-conditioned cattle nearby. Across the road we skirted deer-fenced areas where large mobs of deer swarmed away as we approached. Morning tea beside the deer fence ensured we had an interesting perspective, and entertainment in idyllic surroundings. Those with good eyesight could make out the sea on the horizon.

Then we were descending into a gully through bush and pines, when a frightened and frightening scream rang out. Nearby, out of sight, something was in trouble! Down but not out was a young deer suspended upside down by its feet, entangled in the wires of the fence. A very excited low-slung critter had recognised an opportunity for some sport! With some ingenuity, tramping poles were used to release the twisted wires and the ungrateful deer bound off without so much as a thank you!

Onwards and upwards we went. It was a beautiful day, but an occasion for crampons and sticks, given the rain of the previous few days. Lunch stop was as usual, with a fabulous outlook, while we debated which route was best to reach the road we could see across the gully. However, what looked like one gully turned out to be three gullies. But with a bit of route revision, the road was eventually reached and a straight-forward home run back to the van. Sunshine, good views, a little bit of adventure and good company, made for a great day out.

Blyth Hut, Mt Ruapehu

Wed 24 July 2019

Scribe: *Graham Sutcliffe*

Two vans with 13 trampers started. However the first van reached Raetihi for the usual comfort stop but not the second. We were waiting and wondering when a vehicle pulled up and passed on the message that the second van had a flat tyre and would be another 15 minutes. Can't remember this ever happening before.

This walk is on an excellent track and passes Lupton Hut (the High School hut). Conditions were perfect for tramping, no wind, no rain, and not cold. On the way back 11 members walked down the Old Blyth Track, built back in the early 1900s, which more or less follows the road down for 4 km. Bruce and Graham drove the vans down for the rest of the team. Thanks to Dorothy Symes for helping in the leadership, with Barry Hopper still on the injury list.

Those out on this day were Bruce Thomas, David Scoullar, Diane Glennie, Esther Williams, George Neil, John Baxter, Juliet Kojis, Margaret Chainey, Maurice Mildenhall, Mike Miller, Sally Gray; leaders Dorothy Symes and Graham Sutcliffe.

Manawatu Gorge walk

Sat 27 Jul 2019

Scribe: *Phil Thomsen*

Dorothy's Dyspeptic Desperados Dazzled by Distant Dappled Daylight. Sixteen keen trampers set off on a gloriously sunny winter day over the Gorge walk, passing various others who had the same idea. The trip ended up being a double cross-over, with groups starting from both ends (I'm told by the experts that it wasn't technically a double cross-over, but, like, whatever!) The trail is through attractive native forest, mainly tawa with some fabulous emergent rimu and northern rata. The east-heading twelve had morning tea at the statue of Whatonga, a distant ancestor, which is 6.2 m high and made of galvanised steel.

After another hour or so we had lunch at the Te Apiti lookout, with close views of wind turbines. John Baxter had regaled us during the drive over of his time working for PowerCo, when he climbed up the inside of the towers several times ("not something you would want to do every day!"). During lunch we were joined by a handsome bellbird, feeding from nearby karamu berries. Other birds we spotted or heard were tui, kereru, harrier hawks, waxeyes, grey warblers and fantails. Most of the walk is in mature forest, with occasional short T-junctions leading to lookout points over the gorge itself.

11km later, at the Woodville end, *sensational bonus alliteration* (hat tip to Virginia) Dorothy's Disobedient Dozen Darded Dangerously Downhill Dodging Disastrous Dropouts. We then drove the vehicles back to the Ashhurst end (Martin tried to drive towards the Saddle Road, but Dorothy felt it might be nice to go back to pick up the four who travelled the other way). We arrived to find the others dancing anxiously from foot to foot wondering when they should start walking back to Whanganui. A pleasant stop at the Lavender Farm near Ashhurst for an obligatory coffee or ice cream, then we were back in Wangers by 5.30pm.

Those on the trip: Dorothy Symes, John Glenn, Barbara Francis, Diane Weekes, Phil Thomsen, Cherie Johansson, Martin Routledge, Virginia Baillie, John Baxter, Maureen Naylor, Sandy Gibbard, Julie ("Hopalong") Kearse, Trish Smith, Beth Evans, Kim Whyte and Carolyn Shingleton. A brilliant day, and thanks to all for sharing your pleasant company!

Tongariro Winter Crossing

Sun 28 Jul 2019

Scribe: *Esther Williams*

A Short Summary of a Long Day.

The Highs: Beautiful, clear, windless weather the whole day. Some of the group wore short sleeved tops, it was so warm. Walking through South Crater was a cracker, sparkles through the snow. Emerald Lake was stunning. One lake was opal, not frozen because it was heated thermally. Some of the group avoided the sheer slope to the lakes and walked on the western side of Middle Crater.

Good company, well prepared and organised. I learnt a lot. A meal at the Station Cafe and Restaurant ended the day as we collaborated on this report. Alex ordered two desserts; she needed help to finish the Four Chocolate serving. Homeward-bound the heater created "more sweat than climbing to the South Crater!"

The Lows: Walking poles are useless and dangerous in snow conditions. No purchase on ice. An individual on ascent of Ngauruhoe, shouted out occasionally. Slow progress. What did the calls mean?

Unprepared trampers, one in sneakers, shorts and light top with a very small pack, no alpine equipment.

Another in Levis. Suggestion: Signs in Mandarin with illustrations of winter gear at the start: boots, crampons, hat, gloves, ice axe and PLB.

On the trip: Esther Williams (leader), Chloe Palmer, Sara Samuelu, Tracey Hooper, Alex Gates, Pippa McLay (driver), Derek Barrett, Mike Cole, Luke Colmer, Brenton Barker.

Manawatu Wander

Sat 3 Aug 2019

Scribe: *Carolyn Shingleton*

The weather was perfect to explore Palmerston North's new pathway He Ara Kotahi. The name means 'A pathway that brings people together' and that's exactly what it does. We passed many people out cycling and walking with children and dogs on the 5.6km track out to Linton. A good wide trail with excellent views of the river and district while walking amongst the trees and farmland. There are four bridges to traverse, the last being the Kahuterawa Bridge, 45 metres long connecting the pathway to Linton Camp. After lunching at Linton we returned the same way and added another 3.8km by continuing the loop around the Fitzherbert Ave Bridge, over into the Esplanade and then indulging in coffee or ice-creams at the café before returning to Wanganui.

Present: Cherry Channon, Carolyn Shingleton, Sandra Rogers, Julie Kearse, Brigitte Hund, Sharron Prouse, John Baxter, John McClintock and Fred Verschoor

The Oldtimers' Get-together

Sun 4 Aug 2019

Scribe: *Barbara Gordon*

A wonderful afternoon of reacquainting and remembering, at Dorothy's home. Conversation was high-volume, with some of us hard-of-hearing! Peg, she who summited Taranaki at the age of 70, was there. So too was Doris, wearing her special Swan-Dri with its badges, only wishing she had more opportunities to wear it. Eileen, Darryl, Winston and Heather, Colleen, Bob and Maureen were among the 40-odd who came to enjoy the afternoon, some out-of-towners. I had a super time making my way around the room, listening to the stories.

Graham recalled when Maungaturuturu hut site was first chosen - dead trees everywhere, possibly from the Raetihi fire. It seemed to rain every night as they worked on the job and the builders were glad when the hut reached the roof-stage (was there a roof shout?). Late one afternoon they were surprised to have a nattily-dressed man approach and ask, "Which way back to The Chateau?"

June's first tramp was Harakeke forest - so weary at the end she made a bee-line for the beach and cold water to relieve aching muscles. She got fitter, and has since ticked off Queen Charlotte track and many of the Great Walks – Waikaremoana, Kepler, Routeburn and Milford – with her favourite local tramp Mt Zion Station. One overnighter had her waking, startled, with the face of a gentleman in the party, fast asleep but in uncomfortably close proximity!

His father ruled that Colin was too young to go on overnight tramps and it was forbidden until he was 21. His favourite region was Waitotara valley, this also the destination for Sacred Heart girls pursuing Duke of Edinburgh awards – taking them up one side of the valley and back via Moeawatea. Colin's essentials called for two pairs of socks and a wrist-watch that served as a compass.

Brian Mosen (Tongariro Club) and his coppers camped in the Maungaturuturu valley as teenagers in the 1950s, before the hut was built. Stumbling across the hut's opening ceremony, young Brian was given his first-ever taste of sparkling wine. He promptly fell asleep, waking to the prospect of another three-hour trudge back to Horopito.

Rob lived in Ohakune for 40 years and he and his brother were heavily involved in constructing the Mountain Road to Whakapapa. The old Blyth Track, formed in 1908, was four feet wide - enough for a packhorse. Mountain Road was a community effort, with fundraising events and voluntary labour. Locals loaned bulldozers and the Army helped too, a good training exercise. Gambling nights were a popular fund-raiser and usually featured beers smuggled in to this 'dry area'. The road took 12 years to complete and carries plenty of traffic today.

Everyone enjoyed the get-together enormously and I only wish I'd garnered more yarns. Dorothy obviously made a huge effort and we thank her warmly for cooking up a storm, the result a spectacular afternoon tea. It was significant and positive PR for our club and I hope we continue to provide a special something for our *Trampers Emeriti*.

Gourmet Meal Trip

Sat 10 Aug 2019

Scribe: *Dave Scoullar*

Kojis Hut was the place for this year's gourmet meal trip, a changed venue following a bad forecast for Egmont National Park. It was snug and warm — and very close to home! It was a convivial evening of companionship beside a warm fire enlivened by George's jokes and yarns. The feast:

Nuts/potato chips/crackers and cheese

Moroccan chicken/lasagne/couscous/risotto/mince pie and rice

Choice of three salads

Pumpkin cake/fruit salad/stewed plums/apple pie and chocolate raisin balls

Limoncello/spiced apple juice/wine and beer

Happy diners: George Neil, Juliet Kojis, Jacky Evans, Bruce Thomas, Phil Thomsen, Dorothy Symes, Margret McKinnon, Esther Williams, Ken Howie and Dave Scoullar.

Atene Skyline Track

Wed 21 Aug 2019

Scribe: *Dave Scoullar*

Eleven dedicated trampers descended on the Atene Skyline Track for the first Wednesday tramp there in two and a half years. A team of six tackled the circuit from the northern end and a team of five from the southern end. The track was a bit greasy and slippery but the occasional windfalls were not an issue and it was a good day out.

The northern team completed the 16km in just over seven hours and the southern team was an hour slower. Remember when we used to race around the Atene in six hours or less? Let's face it, we are slowing down! At this rate we'll be struggling to even make the eight hours which is the time on the DOC signs at the Atene. But it's about enjoying the journey and we certainly did that.

On trip: George Neil, Bruce Thomas, Dorothy Symes, David Howard, Graham Sutcliffe, John Hamling, Margaret Chainey, Sue Gibbison, Suzanne Roberts, Terry Mullins and Dave Scoullar.

Lake Rotokare

Sat 24 Aug 2019

Scribe: *Barbara Francis*

Due to unforeseen circumstances our trusty leader Margie Campbell was unable to lead the trip to Lake Rotokare. I was to be her support person and was thrown right out of my comfort zone arriving at the clubrooms to find I was to lead the trip for today. "Panic!!" Something Benjamin Franklin said came to mind, 'Failing to plan is planning to fail.'

Wow. I've got 21 people waiting for instructions on arrival at Lake Rotokare. Some wanting morning tea early, some saying get going. Are they all here, who is in the toilets? Who do I choose to carry the PLBs and first aid kit?

What if they say No! Who will be Tail End Charlie? A lot to think about when you haven't had to before.

Whoops, I forgot to take the fuel card with me when we left the van.

After an early morning tea and a 4km walk around the lake through some beautiful bush although a tad muddy, and some beautiful birdsong, we arrive back at the car park for an early lunch in the sun. A half hour for lunch seemed more than adequate for me, although some were more than happy to enjoy the sun and solve the problems of the world. No sooner was lunch finished, discussion turned to where will we stop for icecreams or coffee? "It's your decision" says Dorothy, "you're the leader."

A great walk up and around the predator-proof fence with some great views before arriving back at the vans to work out the \$'dollars and collect the money.

Whew we are on our way home, me thinking my job was done. But NO, I forgot to tell the driver to fill up with fuel at Westmere service station, never mind we duck down to Z in Dublin Street, no biggie. My passengers weren't complaining (out loud, anyway) and all seemed happy with their day out.

Thanks to Margret, Mike and Murray for driving and putting the vans away, saving me the hassle. But wait, there is the paperwork to be done. The 1220 steps we climbed seemed like a breeze compared to the cryptic puzzle of the Trips Record. Odometer readings, start, end, dead running, cars, early drop offs, X fuel prices, adults, juniors - plus, minus and divide!!!

It was a beautiful day and well worth the journey to Lake Rotokare, 12km east of Eltham, to the country's largest wetland and lake habitat inside a predator-proof fence with an abundance of plant, bird, fish etc.

I'm hoping my inexperience at leading hasn't put the new trampers off coming out again. Nice to see Patty, Julie and Beth joining us. We were also joined by Alex Gates from Taumarunui.

A saying I sometimes quote is "Excellence is only what you repeatedly do." Will I lead again? That remains to be seen.

Mangaone Walkway

Wed 28 Aug 2019

Scribe: *Margret McKinnon*

Two van loads left the clubrooms car park at 7.30am. Destination the Mangaone Walkway, east of Te Horo on the Kapiti coast.

The walk follows an old logging track, crossing from the North Mangaone Rd to the end of South Mangaone Rd. On the way in we met a woman driving out from her isolated, 'off the grid' home. She was more than ready for a chat and we learnt that they were selling up and moving to civilisation.

The bird sounds were plentiful. There were a couple of small stream crossings and the occasional 'wind fall'. After two hours we reached the Mangaone South road end shelter and enjoyed our lunch. The return walk was uneventful. Ice-creams were enjoyed on our homeward journey. Good weather and good company completed the trip. Leaders, Cherry Channon and Margret McKinnon.

Train's Hut

Sat 31 Aug 2019

Scribe: *Shane McCulloch*

Eight trampers left Wanganui at 8 am on Saturday. The weather was beautiful and the track was its usual muddy self. We stopped at Tunnel Gully for lunch. There were a couple of washouts on the track. We reached the hut early afternoon and tried out the new veranda. Had our evening meal and a good night's sleep. On the way out we stopped for lunch at Karapara then had an ice cream at Waitotara.

Shane Wilson, Andy Milham, Alexandra Gates, Mark Sutherland, Robert Lott, Gary McElwain, Terry Mullins, and Shane McCulloch (leader).

Mangamahu

Wed 4 Sept 2019

Scribe: *Sally Gray*

Brenda Collins and Laurel Stowell led 14 trampers (who fully expected to encounter plenty of rain and were therefore dressed appropriately) on a farm walk near Mangamahu. The walk was in two parts, both loop tracks, both very steep and fortunately not too muddy. The first longer loop started just up the road from Brenda's farm, climbed steeply up a farm track, looped around and then pretty much straight down to the road again. It was certainly a case of pick your own path on the downward slope! We had lunch at the Mangamahu Hall. Brenda had brought her kettle and tea and coffee, and there were flush toilets! A big thank you to Brenda for this succour.

After lunch we did a shorter (but just as steep) loop up a track to the airstrip. Then it was another mostly straight-down section to the Mangamahu Community Church where we had the chance to go inside the lovely wee building.

However, far from any rain, the sun came out and it got hotter and hotter. Layers were coming off left, right and centre. First it was the jackets and gaiters, then the long-johns and several upper layers until most of us ended up with just shorts and t-shirts and still feeling the heat. There were some legs exposed for the first time in a while - I think the colour is called Winter White!

Clouds massed on the hills as we drove home and the first spots of rain fell just as we arrived at the club rooms. Perfect timing for the end of a great outing with a wonderful group of people.

Maude Peak

Wed 11 Sept 2019

Scribe: *Richard Rayner*

This trip began with some uncertainty as our leader Esther, driving the lead van, had some difficulty finding the road in to the start of the track; I think she now plans to donate her road map to the Early Settlers section of the museum!

At the road-end the 13 of us headed off in sunshine, albeit with a chilly breeze, and were soon in attractive bush, away from both wind and sunshine. It wasn't long however before we started to encounter a series of light showers, which filled in more significantly as we climbed. The rain probably slowed us somewhat, but much

more of a factor was the state of the track as it got steeper. I think we'd grade its condition as DD – Definitely Dryweather. It was increasingly slithery and washed-out, as well as encroached on from both sides by wet scrub.

We encountered two young German men who'd been to the summit; their account of things was not encouraging: the going would become more unpleasant, and there was no view because we were already now in low cloud. There was accordingly no voice raised in protest when, a couple of hundred metres' altitude from the top, our leader passed the word back down the line: "Turn back."

By the time we'd got back down to the turn-off to the Mangakotukutuku Falls it had stopped raining and there was an opportunity for a late lunch. Some of the party did the 10-minute trip in to inspect the Falls, while the rest continued on downhill, finally emerging into sunshine and warmth, with scarcely a breath of wind.

I hope this account hasn't put you off going to Maude Peak; it's actually got the makings of a good outing. Esther intends re-scheduling this trip when the weather's more cooperative, and I suspect a good proportion of us will be ready to come back for another go.

Whitiau Scientific Reserve

Wed 18 Sept 2019

Scribe: *Graham Sutcliffe*

We had a beautiful 17°C day with no wind when a few club members helped pull out pink ragwort at Whitiau. This is a rare area virtually unchanged for centuries. However this weed has tried to take over and each year volunteers help by pulling out, to try and contain.

This is a fun and cruisy day out – definitely no pressure and pulling out at your own pace. It is a feel-good day as we are helping conservation in a small way. Also DOC always supplies bountiful morning and afternoon teas.

Unfortunately only five club members answered the call with another club member turning up at the DOC office in answer to their paper ad. It was embarrassing to phone DOC our number. I sincerely thank the following who volunteered: Bruce T, Graham S, Juliet K, Laurel S, Lyneke O and Roger K.

Manawatu Gorge

Wed 25 Sept 2019

Scribe: *Dorothy Symes*

The plan was Marton Sash and Door Trail at Erua off SH 3 but a weather report for a cold and unpleasant day with heavy rain was forecast. So, good old favourite Manawatu Gorge, with only seven brave souls venturing into the elements. It's good to have this track as a back up, notably when not so safe near the mountains. Bruce Thomas and Adrian Pike were our drivers - thank you.

On the day we were pleasantly surprised with weather not so grim as expected. We only had one light shower which was toned down with the protection of the lush spring growth above on the treetops. We tramped the 5.9 km from the south end and

visited the windmills and ventured out to side-track lookouts, enjoying lovely views over Ashhurst and farmlands and down into the gorge itself to the river and railway line. About turn and back to the car park via an alternative loop road. The tracks were in great condition, providing a workout with as much energy as you want to expend.

We made our way to the herb farm café 1km off the road to Bunnythorpe. Once settled with our coffees, the skies opened up with a heavy downpour. It was cosy and pleasant there until we could wander back to the van and head for home, arriving 4.45 pm. The others who enjoyed the trip were George Neil, Diane Glennie, Gary McElwain and Esther Williams.

Higgie's Farm, Fordell

Tues 26 Sept 2019

Scribe: *Sally Gale*

At 9am on a bright, windy cold spring morning, 14 (13 from WTC and 1 from Manawatu TC) set off in the two tramping club vans. The drivers were Don and Earle. We made our way to Fordell and then down to 530 Denlair Road, past Paloma Gardens, to our destination Higgie's farm and parked to the side of their shed. All rugged up we set off through the gate opposite and down the steep track. Arum lilies were in full bloom. Great views off to the right were to be had especially on the return.

The walk was a surprising one.

We dropped down the side of the conifer clad track, which later also doubled up as trail bike track, then we came across 30 abandoned cars - the paint work looked quite good. Earle spun a tale as to how they got there, which had us all amused.

As we reached the valley floor the track opened out to a very sheltered area. We followed the directions of the sign '*Guy's Boat House, Simone's Summer House*' and came across a lake with fantails flitting about. I was glad that I was not part of this former Nudist Camp because it would have been a bit scratchy as we had to bush-bash along the overgrown lake side track. We found both, along with a solar heated outdoor shower and an outdoor bamboo walled flush toilet! Don checked it out first - I thought it was a twitchers' hide with back pack hanging up! We explored both 'houses' which were both past their heyday and found the 'boat' - a kayak complete with paddle. Then made our way up to a concrete circular roofed bamboo clad BBQ construction, plus adjacent outdoor camp kitchen overlooking the lake. As we moved on there was chance for a final flush toilet stop. A clang made us all jump as a pine cone dropped on the metal toilet roof! Fred was looking very amused. Did it drop or was it lobbed? Mmm

On our way looking for another lake we walked over pine needle carpeted track under conifer trees, over marsh, and then an area of silver ferns. After lunch, Jude showed some of us how to put a pack on 'army style' which was quite ingenious. The tracks were steep and muddy in places but were mainly good. We heard grey warblers but of course never saw them.

As we climbed back to the top we were met with the roaring cold wind, and the bleating of lambs being docked in the Spring sunshine.

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We returned about 2pm by van along Okoia Road and met 'Mr Black Pig' trotting in the middle of the road, he'd escaped again! Refreshments at Whanganui East finished a very enjoyable trip led by Earle. Cost \$4 each. Distance walked: 6km.

Note: Rita from the Manawatu Tramping Club joined us and said their drivers rode for free, but they had to clean the outside of the van also as part of their driver duties.

Pouakai Hut

Wed 9 Oct 2019

Scribe: *Mike Miller*

Adrian Pike and I led a tramp to the Pouakai Hut on Pouakai Mt on Mt Taranaki.

The weather was kind and after lunch at the hut we had amazing views of Mt Taranaki mirrored in the Alpine Tarn.

There were 16 on the trip including overseas guests.

A very enjoyable day.



Mount Taranaki

Mitre Flats Hut – Tararua Forest Park

Sat–Sun 12-13 Oct 2019

Scribe: *Graham Sutcliffe*

The track to Mitre Flats follows the Waingawa River and is named Barra Track after Bert Barra, a renowned deer culler who after retiring lived alone in a powerless hut in the area, working on the track until he died at age 93. The track travels through good bush and there were many tall rimu, beech, miro and matai trees interspersing the forest canopy. The track is extremely root-infested which made for slow progress. However the roots helped in scrambling down and up from the many creeks.

The track eventually comes down to the river where a rope wire bridge gives easy access to the hut. This was built in 1988 and sits in a broad clearing. It is a good size with two platforms for mattresses and the usual cast iron stove.

The following took advantage of a perfect weekend weatherwise: Cherry Channon, David Davidson, Tracey Hooper, Margret McKinnon, Mark Sutherland, and leader Graham Sutcliffe.

Egmont Ramble

Sun 13 Oct 2019

Scribe: *Dorothy Symes*

Eleven departed at 7.30am - foggy but clearing as we journeyed to Stratford Mountain House on the eastern side of Mt Taranaki in Egmont National Park. The mountain was beautiful in bright sun, promising a good day's tramping. We met a new member at our destination, Lyn who had been staying with her daughter Melanie at Inglewood. She brought Melanie along too, making our party 13.

First, we consulted the maps for I had not done this track for forty-odd years. But others remembered, so we headed for Wilkies Pools on the western side of the mountain near Dawson Falls.

We first ascended the Enchanted Track and an hour and a half later met Ridge Track then left to Wilkies Pools. The Enchanted Track was pretty much steps all the way but despite requiring a manicure, not too tricky. The views down deep valleys and bush-clad ravines and distant farmland were magnificent. Ridge Track provided respite without the puff needed earlier, although wet and muddy in places. There were two boulder rivers, which probably would have been impassable if there'd been heavy rain; we were lucky. Wilkies Pools was a good spot for lunch.

Then we made our way back up Ridge Track for 15 minutes, with some turns before Waingongoro Track, a signpost leading us over to the swing bridge. Then it was straight forward, mostly downwards, finishing two hours later.

The whole day was spent in beautiful native forest. With the sun going down and getting cooler we treated ourselves to hot chips and drinks at the Mountain House. Then, farewell to Lyn and Melanie and back to Wanganui with Murray our driver - thank you.

No injuries, a bit pooped and ice-cream at Patea. Jiri, Kate, Margie Chiet, John, Beth, Andrea, Helen, Rita and Maureen from Feilding and Dorothy were pleased with their achievement and thoroughly enjoyed the day.

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 - \$10 small and \$12 large.
- 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 or Dorothy Symes 345 7039.



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Jim's 80th Birthday celebration - message on cake reads "Jim took up biking because he looks so good in Lycra"