

Quarterly Journal of the Wanganui Tramping Club (Inc) *Issue 264*
www.wanganuitrampingclub.net

From the Editor

A new decade and another fun year of tramping and cycling to look forward to. Once again we have an exciting list of trips for you to participate in.

Remember if you have an item of interest you would like to share please send it to me to include in the next "Tramper". Photos from your trips are also welcome.

Our website is:

www.wanganuitrampingclub.net

All contributions may be emailed to

trampermagazine@gmail.com

No email? Handwritten contributions are perfectly acceptable.

Jeanette Prier



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The opinions expressed and articles published in 'The Wanganui Tramper' 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 264

FEBRUARY - APRIL 2020

*From the
PRESIDENT*

Happy New Year Members! May 2020 be a memorable year for all. There is a wonderful selection of outdoor activities to enjoy, and I hope you are “OUT THERE DOING IT” as the saying goes!

In November 2019 members voted overwhelmingly to remain in our current club rooms. Reasons given were mainly location, car parking, secure parking for club vans and the annual cost of the premises. Some members suggested an upgrade of our premises would be desirable including the kitchen and toilet area, interior painting and the removal of some of the deer heads. Your committee will start the new year meeting with the Deerstalkers and Hunters Club to discuss our “wish list”. Regular updates will be outlined at our monthly club meetings held on the first Wednesday of each month except January. Your attendance at these meetings will keep you abreast of progress and is your opportunity to contribute ideas and comments. You may also be asked to participate in a 'Working Bee' to assist with painting or preparation.

The Rescue Helicopter Dutch Auction following the BBQ on 4th December raised the amazing sum of \$1,203.00. This amount will be shared equally between the Taranaki and Manawatu Rescue Helicopters, both services having been used by injured tramping club members in the past. Grateful thanks to Ridgway Lythgoe for donating a bicycle (sold for \$136), Helen Atkinson for raffling some of her precious whitebait (raising \$129), and of course our esteemed Auctioneer, Brian Doughty. Thank you to all those who donated items for an excellent cause.

Our “Trip Leaders and Co-ordinators” have a varied range of tramps and trips on offer over the coming months, check out the latest *Trampler* magazine. As usual, please assist the trip leader whenever you can.

Keep safe and Happy Tramping!

Cherry

Committee Comments

Leaving time for trips in the van: The pre-trips information sent out is always defined for you.

Please make sure you are assembled and ready for embarking at least 10 minutes earlier.

The leader will always instruct driver to leave on time.

Tramper Advertisers

I'm sure the majority of WTC members want to support our Advertisers when making purchases.

The Club appreciates their support and we hope that members reciprocate. You will note from the November *Tramper* that we have three new advertisers.

Masterbuilt James O'Donnell and Hunting & Fishing have made way for the new advertisers. Both have been supporting the WTC for ten years plus. Our best wishes go with them - and a big **Thank you !!**

Dorothy



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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



Judy Gerke, Veerle (Vee) Geens, Lyn Kuzman, Allan Loader,
Linda McBride, Chloe Palmer, Tracy Collins and Zac Clark.

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
May 2020 Issue of the
Wanganui Trumper
to the Editor by
April 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:

Victoria Kay email jvhwkay@gmail.com, 027 688 8190

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:

February 13 & 27

March 12 & 26

April 9 & 23

May 7 & 21

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 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

MUSINGS ON LEADING TRAMPING TRIPS

By Dave Scoullar

Different leaders have different styles. But for all, leading a tramping club trip comes down to two areas — preparation and participation. The following is a personal take aimed at weekend trips but is also applicable to day trips.

Preparation

Leaders should prep themselves as thoroughly as possible on their trips — location, route, hazards (if any). A recon is good but if not possible check out the reports of others who have been there (go onto websites of other tramping clubs). Is the track open? Is the hut still there and available? Check the DOC website. What is the weather forecast? (consult www.yr.no). If wet, are there river crossings that might be dodgy? Sound preparation will mean nasty surprises on the day are less likely.

So your trip is advertised in the *Tramper* and the calls come in. Check out the candidates. Is the trip suitable for them? Are they fit enough? Do you know them? Have they got the right gear? Is anyone on meds? The leader can turn people down if unfamiliar with wannabes and is dubious about taking them, particularly on multi-day trips. Also decide numbers. On a multi-day you may wish to restrict numbers and set up a waiting list.

Have a map and study it so you will recognise things along the way, e.g. stream crossings. Work out how you will manage food. Will you prepare all the dinners or share cooking duties? Will folk bring own breakfasts or will you provide? How about tea, coffee, milk powder, snacks etc?

Do you need tents, flies, groundsheets, ropes? Should folk bring sleeping mats? You will need at least one cooker, gas bottles, a serving spoon, tea towel, dish wash liquid. You must also try to anticipate whether huts will be full and how much room there is on the floor. Don't make promises about being back at a certain time as this brings pressure. Plan for the best outcome but prepare for the worst.

Participation

The day of the tramp arrives. After posting a list of participants in the club and with the email contacts, picking up the PLB and first aid kit and getting the van out, make sure all cars in the yard are parked in the right place. Ensure all your people are introduced to each other with a special giddy to any new member.

When you get to road end distribute group gear equally. Make sure everyone knows who has the first aid kit and PLB. Get out a map and show everyone where we are going and what to expect in the terrain. They are participants, not sheep being herded along. You may lead off or put someone else in front. Appoint a tail end Charlie and make sure everyone stops and regroup at all track junctions.

Now you are away set a reasonable but not too fast a pace. Stop regularly so the group doesn't get disconnected. The promise of stops gives the team something to look forward to. Think hard before splitting the party. During short rests check how everyone is getting along. If necessary redistribute gear.

You are the leader but you will have opportunities to discuss options (e.g. where and when to have lunch and afternoon tea) so some things can be decided by consensus. Don't be a dictator. Make sure everyone is on board as far as they can. Be approachable.

When you get to the hut make a hot drink and discuss sleeping arrangements. Who is less agile and so gets a bottom bunk? Who gets up in the night? Check for aches, pains and blisters and treat if necessary. Get out the cards or organise other recreation.

Next morning you may wish to leave early but be patient. Some people take a while to get going. Don't bark, even if your good nature is tested. The pace may be slower if folk are feeling the strain from the first day. Understand their problems and offer encouragement.

If you feel tired, ask someone else to drive the van home. Aim for an ice cream stop when you can, also collect the money for the trip and fill out the running sheet. Maybe you can recruit someone to do the trip report — perhaps a first timer to this location. You don't have to do all the jobs. In fact, make sure you don't. Our trips should aim to be collaborative as far as possible.

Because you seek consensus doesn't mean you should shrink from hard decisions only you can make like calling off a trip in advance because of bad weather or other factors or during a trip for reasons of safety, injury, bad weather etc. These are tough calls but you can always return another day. Try to have a Plan B but when all else fails and you pull the plug you will earn respect for being decisive, even if there is disappointment at the time. The word "no" may be hard to say but you might have to use it.

You may be the leader but the others are leaders in waiting. By example you can teach good habits, that being leader isn't all that difficult and that it brings its own rewards, not least seeing people enjoy themselves and taking home good memories. Be mindful that it's not just your trip, but their trip. Have fun, enjoy, don't stress. You are not God. People are forgiving. They may even like you more when you show you are fallible, believe it or not.

Paper given at the club's workshop in October 2019.



From our archives... February 2014

TAKING CARE OF SENIOR SKIN

Overgrown wilderness tracks make passage difficult, trampers pushing past cutty grass, stumps and bush lawyer. Consequently we are bruised and cut prompting one member to comment "this is a tramping trip not a blood bank." Another scenario awaits on the slippery river banks and tracks with same results.

The plasters in first aid kits do not do a good job on senior skin i.e. more skin comes off with the dressing. The products which do the healing trick are Covermed (scissors also required) and wide Micropore tape brought in a dispenser. Flash your Grey Power card for a discount!

Tramping Trips

Confirming your place

For ALL trips (not TT2), you must contact 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:

btwtcvau@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.

February to May 2020 Club Activities

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

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 jet boat trip thrown in — how memorable will this be?	
Mod	Cost to be calculated	
Feb 8 Sat	Omaru Hut and Beyond	John Cook
	John 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 14-16 Fri-Sun	Snowy Hut Circuit	Dave Scoullar Mark Sutherland
	Dave and Mark are off to Tararua Forest Park in quest of the mysterious Snowy Hut which doesn't appear on maps. From there they will head for Elder Hut and on day three will come down Renata Ridge and then along a leading ridge back to Waiotauru Forks. Some river travel and a lot of off track tramping and new territory.	
Fit	Approx cost \$30 + hut fees	

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---|----------------|
| Feb 15 or 16
Sat or Sun | Tongariro Loop Walk
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. | Cherry Channon |
| Mod | Approx cost \$18 | |
| Feb 19
Wed | Trips meeting
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. | Dave Scoullar |
| Feb 22-23
Sat-Sun | Cascade Hut
An overnight trip in the north eastern Kaimanawa Forest Park, off Clement Mill Rd. Approximately five hours to hut, return same way. Great bush and expect to see whio. | Basil Hooper |
| Mod/fit | Cost to be calculated. | |



- Feb 29-March 1 **Pine Clearing** Dave Scoullar/Juliet Kojis
 Sat-Sun 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!
- March 6-13 **Golden Bay Rambles** Brian Doughty
 Fri-Fri Another bumper week of interesting day trips in the fabulous Takaka area under the guidance of knowledgeable local Brian Sixtus. The plan is also to overnight at Fenella Hut in the fabled Cobb Valley. The trip is full but you can go on the waiting list.
 Easy/mod Cost to be calculated
- March 7 **Rangataua Wander** Cherry Channon
 Sat Club member Peter Finucane is keen to show us around his home territory of Waimarino and will take us on a loop walk that follows a couple of DOC traplines. This finishes on a mountainbike track and then the main Rangataua forestry road. He took Taumarunui TC on this last September who gave the trip a big tick.
 Easy/mod Approx cost \$16
- March 14 or 15 **Spot the Waterfall** Tracey Hooper
 Sat or Sun This waterfall is in Tongariro National Park off the RTM track from Tukino skifield. A beauty of a waterfall, we can climb above and gain some great views. Tracey will choose better day weathewise.
 Mod/fit Approx \$25
- Mar 15-26 **Mt Cook Area** Jacky Evans Sun-Thurs
 We will be exploring the Mt Cook area, day walks only, including, 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. Trip closed but you can go on the waiting list.
 Easy/mod Cost to be calculated
- March 21-22 **Tararua Explore** Dave Scoullar
 Sat-Mon Mark Sutherland
 Dave and Mark are back in Tararua Forest for another interesting three-day circuit linking the North Ohau and South Ohau huts,

	attempted but not completed several years ago. River, ridge and off-track tramping. Approx cost \$25+ hut fees	
Fit		
March 28-29 Sat-Sun	Rangi Hut/Deadman's Margret is keen to do the Deadman's Track and Rangiwhia Hut is a perfect jumping off spot. She will go to the hut on the Saturday and return to the van via Deadman's, which will take approximately five hours on a well-marked track with lovely views of the Ruahine tops. Approx cost \$25 + hut fees	Margret McKinnon
Mod		
March 28 Sat	Rangi Hut Day So you would like to visit Rangi Hut but just for the day. That's cool. You can accompany Margret's team to the hut and then wave them goodbye. One of the best day trips on our books — a well-graded track through bush and then into the tussock with fab views. What's not to like? Approx cost \$19	Margaret Chainey
Easy		
April 3-5 Fri-Sun	Mt Ruapehu Both Mike and David are members of the Wanganui Ski Club and they have arranged for us to stay in their lodge. Using it as a base, Mike and David have many options for	Mike Miller David Taylor

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Easy/mod	a fun three days on Mt Ruapehu and environs including climbing to the Crater Lake if the weather is suitable. The snow should be soft so crampons should not be needed. Cost to be calculated
April 4– 6 Sat–Mon	Wairarapa Cycling Carolyn Shingleton Cycling two trails over this weekend in the Wairarapa -- the scenic Greytown Trail to the train station at Woodside and the Martinborough Wine trail. Easy, flat trails.
Easy	Cost to be calculated
April 10,11 or 12 Fri, Sat or Sun	TAC Night Crossing Esther Williams Having pioneered night crossings of the Tongariro Alpine Crossing, Esther is our resident expert and those she has guided have been ecstatic with the experience. Esther will choose the best of the three nights available over Easter to ensure a good experience.
Fit	Cost to be calculated
April 13 Mon	Manawatu Gorge Dorothy Symes Why do we return so often to the Te Apiti-Manawatu Gorge? Because this 11km walk is such a beautiful, peaceful bush place and so accessible. As a bonus the track also gets us up close to the wind turbines. A great way to spend Easter Monday.
Easy	Approx cost \$18
April 15-19 Wed - Sun	Footsteps of Colenso Dave Scoullar Mark Sutherland Missionary William Colenso was the first European to cross the Ruahine Range and did so eight times. Dave and Mark intend following his usual route, starting on the western side. The five-day odyssey will take the team up onto the tussocky tops with extensive views and there will also be river travel.
Fit	Cost to be calculated
April 18-19 Sat-Sun	Gold Creek Hut Graham Sutcliffe Tucked away in the eastern Ruahine, the four-bunk Gold Creek Hut was one of the first Forest Service huts to be built in the range in 1958. While it is out of the way of the more popular tramping tracks and has been rarely visited by our club, Gold Creek has been on Graham's bucket list for some time. Who can occasionally be heard in the creek outside the hut.
Easy/mod	Approx cost \$39 + hut fees

April 25-27 Sat-Mon	Holly Hut-Pouakai We will make a start at the North Egmont Visitor Centre and go to Holly Hut for night 1. Then to Pouakai Hut nice and early to climb up to the trig. Day 3 we go over Henry Peak and out. If you have wondered about doing some mountain tramping, this is a great start. Approx cost \$35 + hut fees	Tracey Hooper
Mod/fit		
April 25 Sat	Puketawa Walk Puketawa is a private walk that goes through a bush reserve on a farm between Raetihi and Ohakune. It is a steady climb from farmland to a high point where good views can be obtained looking towards Raetihi, Ohakune and the mountains. We will join Taumarunui TC on this one. On top of the transport fee there is an access fee of \$5 or a donation. A new walk, so it should be popular. Cost to be calculated	Bruce Thomas
Easy		
May 2 Sat	Lake Rotokare This popular bush reserve near Eltham has a flat 4km lake edge track and also offers a longer ridge walk which allows a close-up view of the impressive predator-free fence. Always a popular destination for its birdlife and ambience. We will be joined by the Hutt Valley Tramping Club. Approx cost \$20	Dave Scoullar/Juliet Kojis
Easy		




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May 2 Sat	Pot Luck Dinner Suzanne Roberts/Robert Lakeland Suzanne and Robert have offered their beautiful house at 3 Riverbank Rd for a pot luck meal and to host the visiting Hutt Valley Tramping Club. Roll up at 6pm. Bring own plates, cutlery and glasses.
May 3 Sun	Sledge Track Shane Wilson The Sledge Track in the Kahuterawa Valley remains one of Manawatu's walkway adventures and has been popular with our club for many years. The track has plenty of interesting bush, views and history in the form of old mine shafts. We will be joined by the Hutt Valley Tramping Club.
Mod	Approx cost \$17
May 3-8 Sun-Fri	NSW Coast Mike and June Miller This is a three day hike along the NSW coast from Yamba to Minnie Waters walking the coastal trail, sleeping in motels or cabins each night. June will be driving from site to site with packs, so day packs only will need to be carried. Average distance about 18 - 20 km daily. Lots of opportunities for swimming on pristine beaches. The trip is full but you can go the waiting list.
Mod	Cost to be calculated
May 9-10 Sat-Sun	Taranaki Weekend Dave Scoullar The Rugby World Cup and poor weather ruled out our annual trip to Taranaki last October, so Dave plans it again in May when, hopefully, neither rugby nor the weather will interfere. We do our own thing on Saturday, stay in New Plymouth, see a movie and then team up with New Plymouth Tramping Club on the Sunday. Always a fun weekend.
Easy/mod	Cost to be calculated
May 9 or 10 Sat or Sun	Waiinu Adventure John Baxter Calling all beachcombers — this one is for you. Waiinu Beach-based Graham Ellett has a number of options to choose from and the walks on his patch are always well planned and a pleasure. He will make his choice on the day and choose the better day weather-wise. John is in charge of marshalling the troops and transport.
Mod	Approx cost \$8
May 16-17 Sat-Sun	Parks Peak Hut Shane McCulloch Shane is busy picking off huts and this time he has in his sights Parks Peak Hut on a ridge at about 1300m in the eastern Ruahine. He calculates it is about a five hour walk with one river to be crossed.
Mod/fit	Approx cost \$40 + hut fees

May 17 Sun	Egmont Exploration	Dave Scoullar
	Join the New Plymouth TC in a walk into some unknown territory in Egmont National Park. They know this place like the backs of their hands. The plan is to follow the stream above Wilkie's Pool and circle over to the Manganui ski field. Those who wish for an easier tramp may return back down the stream instead of going up and over. Should suit a wider range of fitness.	
Easy/Mod	Cost to be calculated	
May 23 or 24 Sat or Sun	Mikimiki Walkway	Adrian Pike
	Situating in the eastern foothills of the Tararua, this is a native bush-clad track which has regenerated well after logging in the 1930s. It is a pleasant and well-graded track along a river that follows old bush tramlines. There is also a loop track with a magnificent stand of redwoods. Adrian will choose the better day.	
Easy	Approx cost \$26	
May 23-24 Sat-Sun	Waikamaka Hut	Tracey Hooper
	The Waipawa River bed provides the route into the delightful sub-alpine heart of the central Ruahine Ranges. A short distance from the Waipawa Saddle is our destination, Waikamaka Hut. A great introduction to Ruahine tramping or a return for those who know how beautiful this area is.	
Mod/fit	Approx cost \$39 + hut fees	
May 30 Sat	Cafe Tramp	Sandra Rogers
	Join Sandra on another of her famous cafe tramps. And, yes, there is some tramping involved as well as serious coffee drinking. Sandra is heading for Dawson Falls in Egmont National Park and eyeing up the Kapuni Track and Wilkie's Pools loop. 8.30am start.	
Easy	Approx cost \$21 + coffee money	
May 30- Jun 1 Sat-Mon	Orongorongo Valley	Mike Cole
	A new area as we have not been much before in the Remutaka Forest Park. An easy walk into the hut, only two hours, and then we can do a couple of excursions from there. Should be able to cater for all levels of fitness. Be in early to book your place.	
Easy/mod	Approx cost \$65	





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BY UNCLE HAL

Baked Spuddies

Ingredients: 4 medium sized potatoes, 2 Tbsp Worcestershire sauce, 3/4 cup Gruyere or Edam grated cheese, 1 Tbsp chopped chives, 2-3 rashers bacon sliced or 100g shredded ham, salt and pepper to season.

Method: Wash the potatoes and prick with a fork. Bake at 200deg C for 40 minutes or until tender. Cut off the top and scoop the flesh into a bowl. Add the sauce, half the cheese and chives or spring onions, bacon or ham and a good seasoning of salt and pepper. Place on a baking tray and top with the remaining cheese. Bake at 200deg C for 12-15 minutes until hot and golden.





Happy New Year to all. With the fabulous weather we have been having, there's plenty of biking to be done. Great to see many keen cyclists out over the Festive Season, with 14 arriving at the i-SITE for a ride on Christmas Eve day and 20 turning up on New Year's Eve day.

We had two very successful trips on the Hauraki Rail Trail towards the end of 2019. I look forward to planning more trips away in 2020, but do need your input as to where you would like to go. Our first planned trip away this year will be to the Wairarapa, with rides in Greytown (Woodside Trail) and Martinborough (Wineries Trail). Easy cycling. Before trips please make sure your bike maintenance is up to date to avoid any problems when away.

There are pros and cons about hiring bikes on trips and the biggest pro in hiring is that it's not your bike that gets damage on the bike company shuttles. We had a recent incident with a shuttle company and several of the bikes had minor damage, but one new e-bike did incur more severe damage that is still being rectified.

Another point to remember for e-bikers is to carry your battery key. Sometimes if a problem occurs with the electrics, just taking the battery off and then replacing it back onto the bike can rectify the error.

I have checked with the bike shops and it is recommended for safety reasons that your e-bike battery is removed before transporting the bike on a carrier/trailer. Keep safe out there on all roads, and Happy Cycling

Carolyn

Borrowing Bikes

A number of our bikers have offered to lend bikes. If you would like to borrow a bike so that you can go riding with your family or friends contact Carolyn who will put you in touch with someone who has a spare bike.

Carolyn ph 347 7644



Bombs Group 1 - Hauraki Rail Trail

Thur 31 Oct– Tues 5 Nov 2019

Scribe: *June Miller*

A leisurely start for ten eager riders and their bikes at clubrooms. Caroline ferried luggage, Mike and Trevor collected the trailer. Bikes secured, luggage stored, everyone aboard for Matamata. Mike and Trevor did a great job driving, finding coffee and lunch stops at Taihape and Tokoroa. We spent the first and last night in Matamata at a motel with roses blooming, Helen Chitty meeting us there. A meal was enjoyed at an excellent Italian restaurant.

Friday: At 9am we were collected by Hauraki Cycle Trail Company who delivered us to Miranda hot springs and transferred luggage to our Thames motel. By 11am we were on the trail. Already some riders were looking forward to the first coffee stop, after which we rode along stop banks enjoying the wetlands with its birds. We spotted royal spoonbills, pied stilts and a godwit, as well as many unidentified birds. There were mangrove swamps on one side and lush farmland on the other with cows and little calves. The surface was variable, the stock banks having been washed away in places and the surface repaired with gravel. We became more confident with the cattle stops: some rode at speed, others slower and cautious. We soon reached Bugger Café for a welcome lunch break. Crossing the new Kopu bridge with its cycle lane, we headed for our Thames motels. Fish and chips on the wharf, as the sun set on our first day. We rode 38 km.



Saturday: Our shortest riding day, Thames to Paeroa - 34 km with a coffee stop at the Cheese Barn. Then through farmlands with cattle stops and narrow bridges, before reaching the outskirts of Paeroa and lunch at a new café beside the trail. We soon reached Pedlars Motel and spent the afternoon shopping, looking for antiques, and even buying a complete steam punk outfit. Mike suggested a ride to Te Aroha for a hot swim 23km away, but he was the only one to ride 46 km for a swim. An excellent Indian meal was enjoyed by all.

Sunday: For many, the highlight was a delightful ride to Waihi through Karangahake Gorge, with waterfalls, tunnels and historic mining relics. The sheer beauty of the gorge was enjoyed on a beautiful sunny and warm day. A coffee stop before the window walk and then via the 1 km tunnel to Waikino railway station for lunch. After, we travelled 9 km by train to Waihi. Some rode into the town and others rode back to Paeroa to relax before dinner at a Thai restaurant with some returning to the curry house. A 48 km ride today.



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Monday: A hot day was forecast, so started 8.30am for our longest ride, 23 km to Te Aroha across many narrow cattle stops with concrete struts. Many of us were now confidently riding through the first stop across the muddy road and through the next cattle stop. Morning coffee/brunch in Paeroa before tackling the last stretch of 37km back to Matamata - a new trail not yet officially open and it took us a while to find it. It had a good surface running next to a quiet country road with farmland and mountains in the distance. We needed to deviate onto the road as bridges were not complete. A high point was 'no cattle stops', especially welcomed by Julie. Also, there were no trees, no toilets and no cafes, but Mike found two huge oak trees at a farm gate where we enjoyed a packed lunch before the last stretch into town. It was now about 27 degrees with a head wind, so we were all glad to reach our Matamata motel. We returned to the same Italian restaurant for another excellent meal, and dessert or gelato.

Tuesday: Our last day. Farewell to Helen, bikes bags and riders loaded and homewards, with coffee at Tirau and lunch at Taihape. Apart from a slow puncture needing a new tyre and tube in Thames, a brush with rocks in the path and a slight topple at a cattle stop, everything went well and all had a great time.

The Bombs were Jan, Helen, Sandra, Julie and Trevor, June and Mike, Andrea, Anne, Kate and Jeanette. Many thanks to Caroline for her excellent organization and planning.



Garden Tour

Sat 7 Dec 2019

Scribe: *Dave Scoullar*

When we had our first tour of club members' gardens a few years back we had a half a dozen gardens to explore. This time there were 13 and our planning did not take into account such a large number. Clearly three hours was not enough time to get around.

In hindsight, it would have been better to have done a split, with half the gardens to be accessed in the morning (say 9am to noon) and the others in the afternoon (say 1-4pm). It was also suggested that the tour should be in November when the gardens are in full bloom.

Nevertheless, those who did tour say they enjoyed the experience and the wide diversity of gardens on the list. Many gardens got at least a dozen visits, with more than 30 people turning up at Dorothy Symes' place for pikelets and a cuppa at the end of the day. So it was a worthwhile event. Thanks to all those who hosted visits.





Longdrop's

PACK TALK FEB 2020

Every story has three sides — yours, mine and the facts. — Foster Meharny Russell

We only have it every two years but the Dutch auction for the Palmerston North and Taranaki rescue helicopter services is truly a night of fun and hilarity. Auctioneer Brian Doughty was in top form. The auction and whitebait raffle raised just over \$1200 with the top bid of \$136 for a bike generously donated by Ridgy Lythgoe.

Another prized buy in the auction was a macrocarpa bowl carved by Brian Sixtus and snared by David Taylor. The macro came from Possum Lodge.

The return of the club's Garden Tour was a success but it has been suggested that, if repeated, the format needs refining. For instance being scheduled earlier in the spring. See trip report for further musing.

Thanks to all those who led or supported the six Tuesday twilight walks in November and December. They attracted members of the public and are firmly in line with our mission to encourage walking. A report on these trips appears elsewhere in the *Tramper*.

The twilight walk group didn't get down in the dumps when the designated leader failed to show up for the tour of the old Castlecliff dump site. No way. Jennie Anton stepped forward and did a great job guiding the group. And when the leader for Harry's tea house was also a no-show, Earle Turner was a more than adequate substitute.

This must be every leader's nightmare: You are getting the vans out and one won't start. Dee Ess ushered in the New Year with this scenario — just after 5am! When the white van resisted jump and push starts, it was abandoned and two cars taken along with the silver van. Turned out the battery had completely failed and it was later replaced.

When Phil Thomsen was heard to suggest that he didn't live in a dead end street, but rather the more classy French version "cul de sac", Brigitte Hund suggested the German version "sackgasse". Long Drop hears that being of a suspicious nature, Phil fact-checked on Google, in case Brigitte had mischievously suggested he use the term for "home of the deranged farter".

Rozy and Frank Rawlinson are the first clubbies to sleep overnight in the silver van. Rozy had a reasonable night in the luggage compartment but declared it would suit a shorter person. Frank, meanwhile, was less impressed with the narrow back seat, commenting he had to keep turning himself over “like a rotisserie”.

‘Tis the season ... for birthdays! Scottish-domiciled member Eric Hart was on his annual visit to Whanganui when he had a significant birthday in December. Happy 70th, Eric. Celebration of John Kay’s Big Birthday in Perth was unfortunately scuppered by a stay in an Australian hospital. Bad luck indeed – but good luck having a nurse in the household? Belated Happy Birthday, John. Marie O’Leary had a 60th Birthday bash at Whangaehu in January. And Happy Big Milestone February Birthday to Don Kilpatrick.

Just when we thought we’d been everywhere and done everything we discover the Whangamomona, on a combined WTC and Taumarunui TC weekend involving 23 people. WTC leader Dorothy Symes is using lots of superlatives. She says it was a great experience that bears repeating.

Julie Kearse’s addiction to Yellow House Jaffas is extreme and she’s always happy to accept donations – one memorable morning she scored eight. Filching abandoned ones left behind by previous customers is a bit intemperate, though.

Nonnie Cowper may be less inclined to join TT2 walks, after winning a pretty fabulous recliner armchair.

Pre-Christmas Taumarunui trip was a great success. Just one disappointed TTC member. “Where’s Earle? I was going to teach him pole-dancing.”

One by one, stealthily, they’re taking over Whanganui roads. Electric bikes, that is. The latest to join the – ahem! – revolution are Walter Lennox and Don Gordon. And mountaineer Esther now whizzes up Portal Street with the aid of a battery.

Shane McCulloch and Andy Milham are our 10 percenters. No, not the 10% we allow to get lost but the 10% who went swimming after the Whitecliffs Walkway tramp. Two out of 20 on the trip going swimming equals 10%, get it?

When someone commented on the Whitecliffs Walkway trip that there were terrific fossils at Waiinui Beach, guess who piped up: “Here, too. Look around.” It had to be our Wednesday joker George Neil.

Crikey, it seems some tramping weekends can endanger your health. On the Taumarunui weekend Helen Atkinson went down with suspected food poisoning and a member of the Taumarunui club hurt her leg in a fall. It was later found she had broken her ankle.

The bad breaks don't end there. As Diane Glennie related to clubbies, she slipped on a rock after seven hours walking over McKinnon Pass on the Milford Track and broke her wrist. Just ten minutes from the lodge. She says she did have quite an adventure being helicoptered out to Invercargill Hospital. Then there is Barry Hopper who endured a difficult year after his leg break which wouldn't mend.

Apart from that, a number of our tramping family had health issues or operations in 2019. We offer a sincere wish for a full recovery and a return to joining us as we explore our wonderful outdoors in 2020.

Someone likened it to Piccadilly Circus and others to a Grey Power convention meeting but the Rangiwahia hut car park was certainly unusually congested when the arrival of 14 Wednesday trampers in two vans coincided with the arrival of 30 members of the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club in a van and several cars.

Returning from the beach it's common to bring a souvenir, a shell or maybe an odd-shaped rock. Not Mike Miller. His reminder of the Waiinu to Mowhanau walk is a small toy blue car found near Ototoka Beach.

A little humour aimed at himself from Adrian Pike drew laughs at the club workshop in October. Going through the rules for using the van he ended by suggesting the driver counted everyone onto the van and make sure no one was left in the toilet — a direct reference to the time he was left there in Levin.

"I have good reason to sweat" confessed Esther Williams after a stuttering start to her Wednesday trip to Maude Peak in Egmont National Park. It all turned out well in the end on a fabulous sunny day in which we accomplished our mission of climbing Maude.

Shane McCulloch can't make the upcoming pine clearing weekend but he's already shown willing by pulling 301 pinus contorta on the trip he took into Kaweka Forest Park at Labour Weekend.

Winners are grinners so look for them on the faces of Ross McBeth and Dorothy Symes. Ross got a big payout in the Metro Club draw and Dorothy did likewise on a sweepstake on the Rugby World Cup in Japan.

They have the reputation of being hard to spot but Laurel Stowell and Rozy Rawlinson showed that long tailed cuckoos aren't so elusive when they encountered a pair in a mating manoeuvre at Kiwi Saddle Hut.

We all have to do our bit for the planet and John Newton's "bit" on the riverside twilight walk was to pick up plastic straws. He finished with a large handful and murmured darkly about returning them to the fast food outlets from which he suspected they had come.

Something was missing from the pre-Christmas one-day trip, or more correctly someone. Ridgy Lythgoe decided it was a tramp too far and handed the trip to Dick Mitchell. We note that Ridgy has largely withdrawn from walking to focus on jaunts on his E-bike.

“My Spanish is getting more fluent with every sip (of wine),” said Brigitte Hund as she enjoyed her time on the ‘international table’ at the Taumarunui Tramping Club’s end of year BBQ which was crashed as usual by WTC members on their annual Taumarunui weekend.

We have an interest in two women walking the full Te Araroa Trail this summer. They are Robyn and Kate, daughters of club members Ron Chapman and Mark Sutherland. Kate’s experiences so far were shared in an interview in the Chron in December.

What is it about our club and Labour Weekend tramps? We don’t seem to learn that this is a danger time for spring-fed rising rivers. In the last few years we have struck problems on the Ngaruroro River, Pohangina River and in 2019 the Tauarau River. So let’s keep away from rivers this Labour Weekend!

We received an interesting communication from Michael Thomas of Tauranga who says his mother was brought up at Possum Lodge, previously their family home and farm. Back in the 1920/1930/1940s this was owned by her parents, Thomas and Agnus Hunter, now deceased and buried about 2kms down the road from Possum in the old cemetery. He plans to take his family for a visit.

It’s been recorded that three clubbies went to the Rugby World Cup in Japan but there was a fourth — Brenda Bishop got her trip in a draw. Now that’s one heck of a prize!

Jacky Evans’ health issues at the rugby world cup in Japan haven’t put her off attending the next showpiece event — she’s counting the days to the 2023 world cup in France.

A prize which eluded us was for club of the year at the Whanganui sports awards in November. We were one of eight nominations and put up a good case but the winner was Rangitikei Area Distance Riders.

The Bombs often arrange some interesting visits as added value to the Tuesday rides and one that stood out in 2019 was to the vessel YWAM Koha at Castlecliff. We were lucky enough to get a full tour. Several of the Bombs have expressed interest in joining the mercy mission in the Solomons for a couple of weeks in mid-2020. Good work Jan Pavarno for arranging the visit and putting on morning tea, in return for donations. Around \$150 was raised for medical work in remote Pacific islands, notably dentistry and cataract surgery.

Dick Mitchell and George Neil are top of the class at Okoia School. They were surprised in the last week of term to each get special awards for their roles as weekly Rotary readers with pupils there.

We continue to follow with interest Graham Sutcliffe's path to 300 huts. He has been busy knocking off more lately and has only a handful to go to qualify for the 300 Hut Club. Watch this space.

Graham, Barbara Francis and Margie Campbell will be crossing their fingers for their Paparoa Great Walk experiences in March. Workers repairing the damaged track aim to re-open the middle section on 1 March.

The forecast was only so-so but in the event Mike Miller's Paekakariki Escarpment walk experienced great weather earning him the title of "Magic Mike". The man himself opined: "The only difference between Magic Mike and Mad Mike is a small wind change."

Some might suggest it was more "Mad Mike" than "Magic Mike" on the Hauraki Rail Trail when he opted to ride an extra 46km to enjoy a hot pool in Te Aroha. No one else was mad enough to join him on the return trip from Paeroa to Te Aroha following an already busy day in the saddle.

Longdrop was on HRT #2 and can't speak highly enough of Carolyn Shingleton's organisation and leadership. A neat and easy trail with the only blips being two broken mirrors, some knee and elbow scrapes and one flat tyre — luckily on the day we returned home. Meanwhile, E-bikes rule, outnumbering conventional mountain bikes on both trips.

Spotted enjoying a swing in the children's park in Waverley, John Baxter was unrepentant. "It doesn't say anything about age on these things," he said.

Lost-property items garnered from vans recently included an unopened box of Cadbury's Favourites! Too late, gone.

Paekakariki Escarpment walkers noted that at the foot of many staircases someone has placed a sea shell with a one word message written on it, such as love, give, and laugh. How sweet.

Ridgy has been called a few things but to be dubbed Chef de Mission in a Dorothy Symes email is a new one. But it does sound a bit grander than Sausage Chef at the club's end of year BBQ.

"It really is a plum day," mused Dave Taylor after both he and Dee Ess turned up at a Wednesday tramp with plums for the troops.

You may have missed it but the UK naturalist and broadcaster David Bellamy died in December aged 86. We mainly remember him from TV ads declaring “old man’s beard must go!” A larger-than-life character who cared deeply about nature and our environment, he later attracted criticism for dismissing global warming.

Victoria Kay has taken over as Wednesday tramps co-ordinator, replacing Margret McKinnon who has been six years in that role. She says, thanks for the support and while she has enjoyed the contact and camaraderie, it’s time for a change. We say, thanks for the good work, Margret.

When Graham Ellett asked Dee Ess to say grace at the Waiinui Beach BBQ, he shook his head and wife Glenys did the deed. Later he told Graham he thought he was being asked whether he wanted a beer!

Fortunately, we don’t need the first aid kit often and the first time it came out in 2020 wasn’t to bind anyone’s wounds. It was to use tape to mend a child’s sandal.

Helpful hint: When we attend an at-home it is good to bring our own plates, cutlery and drinking glasses. This removes the burden of the hosts having to provide these and then facing a big wash after all the happy guests have departed. Remember this when we go to our next at home on Saturday May 2nd. See trips list for further details.



February 2020 Quiz

1. Which native bird, common elsewhere, is completely absent north of Hamilton other than on the Coromandel Peninsula?
2. Are more of NZ's 25 species of butterfly in the North or South islands?
3. The new Powell Hut in the eastern Tararua is hut number what at that site?
4. Is it ok to scatter ashes on Mt Ruapehu?
5. Where is NZ's southernmost rata forest?
6. Mueller Hut was voted hut of the year in 2019 but which hut was runner-up?
7. Where do you find Ara Harakeke (The Flax Pathway)?
8. The kakapo was second in the 2019 bird of the year contest to what bird?
9. If you belong to the NZ Speleological Society what do you explore?
10. In the 2018-19 season how many huts were restored or rebuilt by Backcountry Trust volunteers — 8, 18 or 28?

Answers page 47



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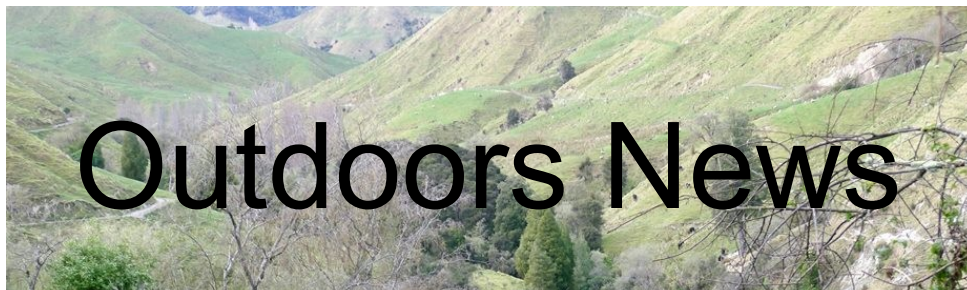
Lunch on the trail - Hauraki Rail Trip



Shaw's Property Parakino



End of the day at Whangamomona Hotel



Outdoors News

Advisory system for TAC

This summer walking season DOC has been implementing an advisory system for 'bad weather days' on the Tongariro Alpine Crossing. Until the end of the summer, DOC will assess the weather and if necessary, apply a “Not Recommended Today” advisory for the crossing.

Tongariro Public Safety Senior Ranger Theo Chapman says the advisory supports visitors to make informed and safe decisions before they attempt this challenging 19.4km hike. Many track users are not experienced hikers, misjudge how challenging the track is and are often not appropriately dressed or prepared for changeable alpine weather conditions.

The advisory has been implemented alongside other initiatives aimed at ensuring visitors are safe and have a great experience. Initiatives include enhanced pre-visit information, safety signage at key decision points and Kaitiaki Rangers assisting hikers on the track.

Paparoa's partial closure extended

Extreme weather on the West Coast has continued to stymie efforts to open the middle section of the new Paparoa Track, DOC says. The track was affected by a slip in the weeks leading up to the opening of the new Great Walk on 1 December and could only be partially opened.

The slip worsened due to ground saturation causing further slipping, and contractors were unable to continue working safely in the area until the conditions improve for track construction. As a result, DOC extended the partial closure. The affected period is from 22 December 2019 through to 29



Slip on Paparoa Track

February 2020. It is anticipated the middle section of track will open on 1 March 2020.

The problem area is between the Moonlight Tops Hut and the Pororari Hut. This area has a formal closure in place making it illegal for any unauthorised person to enter. Meanwhile, a mountain biker caught cycling through the construction site in the track's closed area may be prosecuted.

Pledge for TA walkers

Te Araroa trail walkers are being urged to take the new TA Trail pledge. The aim is to increase the understanding and need to respect the environment, Māori culture, private property and other outdoors people before beginning their 3000km journey.

The initiative is part of Te Araroa Trust's ongoing efforts to help raise awareness of responsible behaviour in the outdoors among New Zealanders and international visitors. Behavioural messaging is becoming increasingly important as the number of walkers increases. Most TA walkers are respectful and responsible in the outdoors, but a few need a helping hand.

The pledge draws on behavioural messaging from many existing outdoor codes of conduct, including the Tiaki Promise, Outdoor Access Code, Leave No Trace care codes and the Outdoor Safety Code.



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Tracks reopen following repairs

After a big effort by DOC teams, the Pakihi Track reopened in time for the summer peak. The classic historic track is part of the Motu Trails National Cycleway. It travels 20km through thick forest south of Opotiki. Repairs took place at a number of slips and washouts, as well as general track maintenance.

Many cyclists tackle the Pakihi by riding a 90km loop from Opotiki. Others take a shuttle van from Gisborne and start riding from high on the Motu Road back towards Opotiki.



Pakihi Track

Meanwhile, the popular Diamond Lake Track near Wanaka reopened following extensive repairs. The track closed last May after heavy rain caused substantial rockfall within the Diamond Lake Conservation Area. Following a geotechnical assessment, the stabilising of the landslip was completed by industrial abseilers.

Shared vision marks 30 years

New Zealand Alpine Club and DOC are celebrating 30 years of managing huts together in the West Matukituki Valley, Mt Aspiring National Park. On 11 December 1989, NZAC and DOC signed a management agreement after deciding there were mutual benefits in sharing responsibilities for the huts that the NZAC had built.

Since then, the iconic Aspiring Hut has become increasingly popular with walkers, mountain bikers and family groups, with more than 3000 people overnighing there last summer season. Further up the valley, the French Ridge hut is popular, while Colin Todd Hut on Tititea/Mt Aspiring remains a destination.

DOC and NZAC have met regularly each year building a strong and enduring relationship and ensuring the huts in the valley remain havens in the wilderness for the public and club members.

Rain wrecks routes

DOC is assessing the future of foot access to Ball Hut and the Tasman Glacier after 1000mm of sustained rainfall over eight days collapsed the glacier moraine at Husky Flat, cutting off access to Ball Hut and Ball Pass route from the Tasman valley. The route up the Hooker valley was also severely damaged by the heavy rains.


A DOC ranger and two local guides walked up the Tasman Valley route towards Ball Hut and confirmed that the torrential rain has scoured out the loose glacial



Ball hut

moraine at Husky Flat where a 300m wide gulf has obliterated the track. This totally rules out foot access to Ball Hut and the eastern approach to Ball Pass crossing. Climbers will not be able to access the upper Tasman and Plateau/Grand Plateau areas on foot.




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Whanganui Sports Awards 2019

Barbara Gordon

No, WTC was not judged Sports Club of the Year, but preparing the nomination reminded us what a splendid club we have. We quoted our Objectives – "... fostering walking, climbing, mountaineering and other outdoor pursuits; developing facilities for trampers; contributing to track creation and upkeep; protecting native flora, fauna and natural features, with social interaction a key objective." Website and Facebook, *Tramper* magazine were highlighted in the nomination, along with processes for vehicle maintenance, new members' induction, library and maps, tramp convenors, welfare, and communications responsibilities. Then there were the workshops on snowcraft, river crossing, leadership, bike maintenance, first aid, safety.

Wide-ranging age groups and levels of ability are catered for. Take a kid tramping, assisting school outdoors education, oldtimers' gatherings, and the twilight tramps have been worthwhile community outreaches. So has fundraising for rescue helicopters and the Cancer Relay for Life.

WTC participates in the Summer Nature Programme and enjoys relationships with DOC/Mangaturuturu Hut, Friends of Mana Island and other groups. We noted the more than 50 years of pinus contorta forays on Ruapehu and weed eradication at Whitiau Scientific Reserve, and formation of Waitahinga trails.

Resources include two modern vans and a bike trailer, three personal locator beacons, mountaineering and camping equipment for loan, a well-stocked library.

These were just some of the features highlighted in the nomination. Many of our 250 members are active volunteers behind the scenes, keeping WTC well-run and thriving. With a steadily growing membership, we can be proud of our club.



Condolences

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



Bruce Thomas on the death of his mother Joyce.

We apologise if we have overlooked any deaths

Lady bicyclists: What not to wear

The jeers of menfolk were incidental compared to the get-up recommended for daring Victorian women cyclists:

“As few petticoats as possible, dark woollen stockings, a gown neatly and plainly made of woollen flannel. If stays are worn, they should be short riding ones: tight lacing and tricycle riding are deadly foes. Collars and cuffs are the neatest. Flowers, bright ribbons, feathers etc are in the worst possible taste and should be avoided.” Leg ‘o’ mutton sleeves and suitable millinery completed the ensemble.



This stern directive was issued 1895:

“We as the trustees are responsible to the public for the conduct of the schools and the morals of the pupils. I consider that for our boys and girls to see their women teachers ride up to the school door every day and dismount from a bicycle is conducive to the creation of immoral thoughts...”

We had Miss Jarman, who swept through Otaki school gates on her tricycle, a galleon in full sail across the playground. I don't recall immoral thoughts - simply admiration and wonder.

- Barbara Gordon



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FOLLOWING IN EXPLORER'S BOOT PRINTS

By Dave Scoullar

The energetic Anglican missionary, botaniser and explorer, the Rev William Colenso (1811-99) is the inspiration for a Wanganui Tramping Club multi-day trip in April which aims to cross the Ruahine Ranges.

He and wife Elizabeth worked at the Waitangi (Ahuriri, Napier) mission station from 1844. During this decade he made numerous long exploratory journeys through the central North Island in the company of Maori guides with the aim of reaching the Maori settlements of the upper Rangitikei district, known as inland Patea.

His travels took him through trackless forest, over the Ruahine Ranges eight times and also across the Rangipo Desert and past Ruapehu and Tongariro to Lake Taupo. He also walked down the coast to Wellington and explored the Ureweras. To do this he had to overcome a major problem — he suffered from vertigo — at times crawling over dangerously high places.

Writer and explorer Philip Temple says Colenso “contributed more to the European exploration of the North Island than any other man.” And biographer Peter Wells (*The Hungry Heart: Journeys with Willam Colenso*) says that when crossing the Ruahine he carried his essentials — coffee and figs, books of the Romantic poets and a sense of strong self-belief.” Wells adds, “one could almost call him the patron saint of trampers.”

Our April trip will follow in Colenso's boot prints when he made the first west-east crossing by a European. On Mokai Rd, before reaching our start point, we will pass a memorial to Colenso. We will also encounter a commemorative cairn to him at the foot of the Colenso Spur in the Makaroto catchment on the eastern side of the range.

The latter, erected by the Royal Society of New Zealand, acknowledges Colenso's vast collection of alpine plants which has contributed greatly to today's knowledge of the natural history of the ranges. Many species have been named after him. And, of course, Lake Colenso.

The Colenso Spur cairn was last seen by the club on a Labour Weekend trip about 10 years ago. The wording on the plaque is: “Colenso Spur. Along this route in February 1845 William Colenso made his first journey to cross the Ruahine Range.”

We plan to enter through Mokai Station and exit on the Makaroto River, joining up with Graham Sutcliffe's weekend trip to Gold Creek Hut for the trip back to Whanganui. See trips list entry for April 15-19.



TT2 Report

17 Oct (Carolyn Shingleton) Today was a full day trip to New Plymouth for 22 walking Te Henui walkway (off the Coastal Walkway) to Cumberland Ave and return, 5.9 km. Lunch was at Lake Rotomanu Reserve, followed by a walk to the Te Rewi Bridge. Then it was off to the Christmas Shop in Egmont Rd - expensive but well worth the visit. A very enjoyable day out.

Fred Verschoor led a small group on a local walk around St John's Hill, stopping at Barb and Jim's for morning tea.

31 Oct (Sandy Gibbard) Today's enjoyable walk for 22 was around Wanganui East, starting from the car park on Anzac Parade. On the way home we stopped at Shane's greenhouse for vegetable purchases and morning tea.

14 Nov (Brenda Baxter) Fine weather after a wet night for 17 of us on a farm walk over the hills in Putiki. We enjoyed our morning tea in Ray's garden.

28th Nov (Julie Kears) Nineteen walked from Aramoho Shopping Centre to Roberts Ave, and up the Roberts Avenue hill. We walked back to the shopping centre via back streets of Aramoho. Another sunny spring day.

12th Dec (Julie Kears) Nineteen met at the club rooms and explored the wetlands via Parkdale Drive. After morning tea at the Band Rotunda by the lake, we returned to club rooms via Ben's Place. A sunny summer's day for our final walk of the year.



REVIVED TWILIGHT WALK PROGRAMME A WINNER

The return of tramping club run twilight public walks in November/December was a success. While numbers were not big, the majority of support came from members of the public and so this was a good outreach for the club. Here is a brief rundown:

5 Nov (John Newton): Thirteen trampers met outside the Virginia Rd entrance to the lake to be guided around the farm land comprising the Lithgow estate. A new perspective on the houses in Lithgow Drive and also good views of the city over to the east.

12 Nov (Dorothy Symes): Twenty-two people lined up for the walk around the bridges, of which 16 were members of the public. First was Cobham Bridge and while some peeled off earlier some made it as far as Aramoho railway bridge.

19 Nov (Mike Cole): Twenty-three joined the walk around the replanted old dump site at Castlecliff. The native trees are growing well but the tracks are overgrown and we saw no signage. A bonus was watching two kite surfers scudding over the water near the yacht club.

26 Nov (Dave Scoullar): Twenty-one braved a brisk head wind to walk from the Landguard Bluff army huts alongside the river to opposite the port, noting the remains of various anti-erosion projects and the skeletons of old vessels lodged in the mud.

3 Dec (Juliet Kojis): Luckily the rain cleared in time for the walk around the St John's Hill walkways which attracted 10 people. The highlight was the visit to the wetland at Mt St Joseph's which is open to the public but little-known in the community.

10 Dec (Brian Doughty): About 25 people were drawn to rural Brunswick Rd and the novelty of a walk in a pine forest to the late Harry Stimpson's quaint tea house, made famous for its appearance in a TV advertisement.

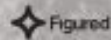
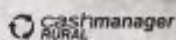


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DOC INCREASES ONLINE BOOKING OPTIONS

Ten DOC campgrounds and five huts were added to the online booking system in time for the 2019/20 summer season. DOC Booking Services Manager Ross Shearer says evidence from other facilities on the booking system shows visitors can be confident of taking their time getting to their destination knowing they will still get a space when they get there.

Having the new facilities on the system also means people can check in advance to see if the places they plan to visit are already heavily booked and then choose to go somewhere else if they want a quieter experience.

Moving huts to be bookable will not exclude others from using them as they won't be locked and shelter in a storm is guaranteed. Similarly, there is nothing stopping people sleeping on floors or verandas if that's what they choose to do and while hut tickets are still accepted, making a booking will be the only way to guarantee a bed.

Ross Shearer says more facilities will be added to the booking system over time and customers will soon see that the system, which works equally well on desktop or mobile platforms, has the benefit of allowing them to manage their own bookings at campgrounds and huts.

Along with the extra offerings, regular booking system users will also see a pricing review has resulted in five of DOC's high demand serviced huts having fee increases. The pricing review has also seen increased fees for all of DOC's Serviced Alpine Huts making prices more consistent and reflecting the higher costs of managing the

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huts in the alpine environment.

Backcountry hut prices have not changed since 2010. During this time, some huts have experienced high growth in visitor demand and now reach full capacity at peak times. DOC says the price increase is to better reflect the value of the experience and will also mean user fees come closer to paying for the cost of providing for the hut network without being too much of a financial hurdle for users.

Angelus Hut in Nelson Lakes increases to \$30 a night (was \$20), while Pinnacles Hut in the Coromandel, Siberia Hut (Mt Aspiring), Welcome Flat Hut (Westland) and Peach Cove Hut (Whangarei) increase to \$20 a night from \$15. New prices applied for bookings made from 1 October 2019.

DOC says the hut network continues to cater to all budgets. All other fees, including those of Great Walk huts (various prices) remained unchanged for this season. Basic huts are still free, while standard huts are \$5 and non-bookable. Serviced huts and lower demand bookable serviced huts are \$15.

The prices for backcountry hut tickets and the Annual Backcountry Hut pass also remain unchanged. Bookings can be made online. Annual hut pass holders can use their hut pass number to create a booking by contacting any DOC booking office.

Campgrounds added to the online booking system: Lake Paringa (South Westland), Otto/MacDonald's (South Westland), Lake Mahinapua (Hokitika), Hans Bay/Lake Kaniere (Hokitika), Goldsborough (Hokitika), Boundary Creek (Central Otago), Cameron Flat (Central Otago), Kidds Bush (Central Otago), Pleasant Flat (Central Otago), Trounson Kauri Park (Kauri Coast).

Huts added to booking system: Woolshed Creek Hut (Mt Somers, Canterbury),



QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Korimako (bellbird)
2. South Island
3. Hut number four
4. No, it is not allowed by the National Park Management Plan and contravenes practices associated with tapu
5. Auckland Islands
6. Balloon Hut, Kahurangi National Park
7. It's a shared pathway between Pukerua Bay and Paremata
8. Hoiho (yellow-eyed penguin) — the first seabird winner in the 14-year contest
9. Caves
10. 28

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Bookworm reviews new books in our club library

Join Dunc on the ultimate bike ride



At last a book for the cyclists in our club. In August 2015 Londoner Dunc Wilson quit his job and became the first person to circumnavigate New Zealand on a bike. This 10,940km journey followed one rule: cycle the closest available route to the coastline.

Wilson's book *The Big Loop: Biking Coastal New Zealand* candidly details this 240-day cycling adventure through native bush, ragged coastlines, farm stations and more, demonstrating how acquainting oneself with our country is best achieved under 100 km/h.

It wasn't always fun. One chapter is headed: The closest I came to quitting. And from Whanganui he endured a day being pelted by cold winds and consistent rain cycling 159km to Kaupokonui in Taranaki.

Bookworm's verdict: An informing and amusing account of 4.8 million wheel revolutions.

Bruce Ansley loves tramping and roaming the South Island's back country. A full-time author since 2007, his latest book is *Wild Journeys* in which we are invited to discover a world of wild, mysterious and audacious journeys in New Zealand.

Among other things Ansley retraces the path of a surveyor across the Southern Alps, follows a Maori raiding party along the West Coast, sails around the North and South capes, walks through the valley under the Two Thumb Range to mythical Mesopotamia and sets off on a hunt for South Island's "Grey Ghost".

There is also a chapter on volcanic New Zealand which includes a visit to White Island about which he comments drily, “amazingly, people want to visit this island ... volcanic watching could be dangerous to life and limb.” And so it has turned out.
Bookworm’s verdict: An enjoyable, informative and easy read.



MAJOR REPAIRS COMPLETED IN TIME FOR SUMMER

2020 began well for visitors to Egmont National Park and the Mangapurua Track with DOC announcing that major repairs at each location have been completed.

A notorious slip zone on Mt Taranaki's Round the Mountain Track is fully accessible after being off limits to trampers for almost two years. A steep gut, where one of the most recent slips occurred on the western slopes of the mountain, has been cleared of over-hanging boulders — the size of a small car — along with loose rock and volcanic debris.

A team of abseilers, with a geotechnical engineer, spent two days de-scaling the steep cliff face using crowbars and airbags to stabilise the slope. A series of steps for walkers was later built by DOC at a cost of \$60,000.

DOC Taranaki senior ranger Dave Rogers said the time delay to fully open the track between North Egmont visitor centre and Holly Hut was due to a number of route options being assessed before a final decision was made. In the meantime trampers had been walking up the Kokowai Ridge to join the Pouakai Crossing, adding 60-90 minutes to the journey.

DOC staff and geotechnical engineers examined re-routing the track either higher or lower than the existing route. Both options were discounted due to either impassable 20-30m high bluffs, potentially treacherous winter snowfall and ice conditions, and lack of strong anchoring points for any bridge spanning gullies.

The risk of debris falling from the cliff face has been averted but still exists due to the mountain's geology. The cliff face is one of a number of areas prone to slips, known as 'Slip Alley', on the route between Humphries Castle and the Kokowai Junction — the largest being the 100-year-old Boomerang Slip.

Meanwhile, the Mangapurua section of the Mountains to Sea cycle trail has re-opened following extensive work. This key section of trail to the Bridge to Nowhere has been closed since April 2019.

Improvements include: The track has been widened through most of its length; repairs have been made to culverts and downhill sections; temporary barrier fences along drop-offs have been installed (in the longer term they will be replaced with more permanent options); grass and scrub have been cleared (including uncovering a section of the original Bridge to Nowhere settlement road); bluff sections have been widened.



Bridge to Nowhere

WTC Trip Reports

Kohitere Forest Walk

Sun 6 Oct 2019

Scribe: *Adrian Pike*

This walk has not been done by the club for some time, however nine of us headed to Kohitere Forest near Levin. Starting from the Denton Road car park we took the well-formed road through the mature pine forest and onto the Arapaepae Lookout Track. Views of Levin township from this lookout point are extensive and impressive. This is a lovely spot and where future trampers should have morning tea. From there we headed to the Trig point B18X which is 377m above sea level. Once again we enjoyed a lovely view of Levin with Lake Horowhenua in the distance.

Our descent was uneventful until the road became very muddy and we decided to take the dryer zigzag path through the pine forest back to the track which should have led us back to the Denton Road carpark. This was a nice track which unfortunately ended when we came face to face with a deer fence. After scrambling around the perimeter fence looking for a way out the farmer appeared on his quad bike and advised us to follow the deer fence to the Koputaroa Stream. We followed the deer fence to the stream which got us back onto the correct trail leading back to the car park.

A great day was had by all - and thanks to Brenda for getting that set of car keys back to the rightful owner. Trampers were Fred Verschoor, Margret McKinnon, Brigitte Hund and her niece Elias, Linda Hart, Marie O'Leary, Brenda Thomas, Helen Atkinson, Adrian Pike.

Waitahinga Trails

Wed 16 Oct 2019

Scribe: *Mike Miller*

This walk was led by Esther - to the dam and the Waitahinga trails, a working walk with loppers and saws. The track was in reasonable shape and supplejack and tree falls were cut back.

Esther with her wonderful bird call knowledge identified calls of grey warbler, shining cuckoo, long tail cuckoo, robin, fantail, tui, falcon and whitetail.

We also saw a few goats. Basil taught us shortcuts as only he knew how, and there were nine of us on the walk. The weather very misty with occasional rain

Sutherlands Bush, Laird Reserve

Thur 24 Oct 2019

Scribe: *Jennie Anton*

Eleven eager trampers ventured out for a day in our glorious nearby bush tracks. The weather forecast wasn't encouraging, but light rain in Sutherlands Bush and shelter from the afternoon wind at Laird Reserve made for a pleasant day.

As soon as we stepped over the fence stile, there was a different world. Shining cuckoos were disturbed by our presence to begin with. The kahikatea trees very majestic, and tui and kereru were seen in the afternoon.

Laird Reserve had magnificent matai and rimu and an easy soft forest floor track.

Thanks to leader Earle, and Ray, Margaret S, Margaret L, Kate, Sharron, Julie, Barbara F, Mary, Jody and Jennie.

Whanganui River Road/Parihauhau Crossover

Wed 23 Oct 2019

Scribe: *Laurel Stowell*

An intrepid group of 13 set out on this, led by Rozy and Laurel, who had tried it out. It was the worst weather at 8am, heavy rain, vicious wind gusts, and four had already bailed out. But Met Service said the rain would ease, and so it did. Six took the River Rd side, led by Rozy, starting from John Thurlow's place. Seven started on the Manson farm on the other side, with Laurel.

They had a charming walk through a misty valley, then a very steep ascent to a ridge, all on farm tracks. There Laurel chose the wrong route to get to the track on the other side and was just starting to panic when the other group arrived, having chosen the right crossing place. Relief, and a very early lunch on the ridgeline. We started down after that, with one group passing the house of the missing Brett Hall before hitting Thurlows' QE2 block and the river road.

The others got to have a good talk with landowner Rob Manson on the Parihauhau side - and discovered he has been a friend to Whanganui trampers and rambles for more than 20 years, happily sharing a property in Kohi Rd, and now this one.

The total walking time was about four hours, and we had a lovely stop at Cafe 444 in Upokongaro on the way home.

Shutes Hut

Fri-Mon 25-28 Oct 2019

Scribe: *Shane McCulloch*

I wasn't expecting many for this trip but nine of us left Wanganui for four days of adventure. We had a three-hour drive to the car park at the end of Comet Road, then it was a short climb before dropping 750m to the river. It was quite a steep descent, but when we got to the river it was running too high to attempt a crossing. After a stop for lunch we climbed back to Comet Road. So after 10km of walking we ended up staying at Comet Hut three feet from the van.

The next day we headed for the Kawekas. Frank decided to hitch back to Wanganui as he was dubious about a knee problem so we dropped him off on the side of the road, well supplied with food. We found a three-day track and set off from the Lakes car park for Rogue Ridge which would take us up to the tops. Once on the tops we followed the ridge to the Kaiarahi trig in some pretty windy conditions, but had some wonderful views of the mountains. From there we descended down to Studholme Saddle Bivouac which has just been done up, and followed the stream to Studholme hut.

After breakfast we decided to take the ridge behind the hut to get back to Studholme Saddle then back to the trig. We turned on to another ridge heading for Castle Camp (a chicken wire hut with plastic, mostly for the workers doing the pine control work). It made a good place for lunch. We carried on across the tops to Kiwi Saddle hut, a very nice clean and tidy hut,

The next morning was a climb up the Smith Russell track to Kuripapango trig, during which I managed to pull out 350 pine seedlings on the way, then a drop down to the van and out by noon.

Shane McCulloch, Andrew Milham, Grant Adkins, Rozanna and Frank Rawlinson, David Scoullar, Laurel Stowell, James Stuteley and Giels Thopson.

Peat's Farm, Makakaho

Wed 30 Oct 2019

Scribe: *Tracey Hooper*

Basil and Tracey took the group out to Peats Farm at Makakaho, with one steep climb to get to the bush. No mistletoe in flower yet, disappointingly. The group enjoyed walking over this big station farm in good weather. Two vans plus a vehicle today.

Mangaturuturu Hut

Sun 3 Nov 2019

Scribe: *Phil Thomsen*

Doughty's dazzling darlings dare distinctive *Dracophyllum*-dotted desolation

I understand that 14 members headed off from Wangers at 7am; however I had stayed the night at Ohakune, so could sleep in. Soon after 9am the bleary-eyed trampers arrived at the ranger station in a van and Brian's ute. I volunteered to Brian to do the trip report; after a few (rather offensive, I thought) mutterings about the scurrilous bottom-feeding muck-raking gutter press, Brian grudgingly assented.

After a 15 minute ascent of the Ohakune Mountain Road, we headed off on our walk. I hadn't done the trip for about 35 years, so was keen to see the beautiful valley again. As a bonus, Basil took most of us on a detour route through montane forest (mainly mountain toatoa); while Brian headed straight for the hut to complete his objective, a survey of the disintegrating memorial seat at the hut. At one stage, Esther heard a falcon, which Sue then spotted.

Fred had a bit of a bung knee, and took a fall not far from the hut. A bevy of women cooed over him solicitously, which I think he found quite gratifying, but eventually he got himself mobile again. Esther looked a bit disappointed to see him pick himself up, as she had been fingering her personal locator beacon, interested in bringing a fleet of helicopters thundering in to Fred's aid. Maybe next time, Esther.

At the hut, we found Brian in deep contemplation over the repair job, supine on the ground with his hat pulled over his eyes. Everyone was keen to find some shade, as it was pretty roasty hot.

We headed back straight after lunch, being concerned about Fred's mobility. This time four men (self included) kept station with him to help where necessary. He did take another face-plant; his male carers being slightly less sympathetic than the

gentler sex. The comments were pretty much in the line of wondering how long the vultures would take to pick his bones clean. Fred decided that it would be in his best interests to get moving again.

This happened at the Cascades. Young Tristan challenged me to have a swim with him in one of the melt-water pools, which I foolishly accepted. Was it cold? Well, suffice it to say that my essential male organs retracted into my body, and my voice has reached a higher pitch than previously. Anyway, score on the swim front:

Boys: Two

Girls: Nil. Just saying.

I got back to my car about 4pm, shooting ahead of the rescue party, since I had a dinner engagement back in the metropolis. A very pleasant day, well led by Brian aided by Basil, and entertaining company.

Those on the trip: Brian Doughty, Basil and Tracey Hooper, John Cook, Phil Thomsen, Shane Wilson, Garry McElwain, Fred Verschoor, Patty Gray, Julie Loggie, Esther Williams, Tristan Harris, Sue Gibbison, Helen Adams, Rita Hodson.

York Road, Stratford Trip

Thurs 7 Nov 2019

Scribe: *Don Gordon*

The York Road track follows part of the old Egmont Branch railway line used for metal quarrying in the early 1900s. The metal was used for Taranaki roads and rocks for Port Taranaki. A number of historic sites are signposted along with information boards. A lot of old infrastructure remains. The line was closed in the 1940s. Access the end of York Road off SH3 6km north of Stratford. An easy graded track 5/6 km. Walking time about three hours.

A beautiful day with stunning views of Mt Taranaki from the road.

Fifteen in the party - on the way home ice creams at Stratford and calls at the Fonterra shop at Eltham and tomatoes at Patea.

Deadman's Track

Wed 13 Nov 2019

Scribe: *Dave Scoullar*

The weather was perfect for a bid to get around Deadman's Track via Rangiwahia hut in the western Ruahine. The Rangi car park was unusually congested when a big contingent from the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club arrived at the same time as us.

All 14 on this trip made it easily to Rangi for a regroup after which seven opted to tackle Deadman's which the club hadn't completed for some time. When the others turned around a half hour beyond the hut, the seven marched on and lunched near the high point of Mangahua (1583m), enjoying great views of the Ruahine tops.

The previously light wind was now stronger and we moved briskly down to get shelter and once into the alpine bush again stripped off our coats for the very pleasant last leg back to the car park. The Deadman's circuit was completed in six and a quarter hours. The hut party had left for home shortly before.

The seven who conquered Deadman's were Adrian Pike, Bruce Thomas, Esther

Williams, Helen Atkinson, Jiri Krivanek, Laurel Stowell and Dave Scoullar. The hut seven were: Diane Glennie, George Neil, Jeanette Prier, Juliet Kojis, Margret McKinnon, Mike Miller and Trish Smith.

Kaweka Range

Sat-Mon 16-18 Nov 2019

Scribe: *Tracey Hooper*

The range is not so far when accessed from the Taihape/Napier Rd - we entered the park from the Lakes carpark. With good weather we decided to go straight to Studholme Hut (6hr). The wind on the tops was moderate, blowing us around when we had to navigate some boney ridges, but we got there in good time. The bivvy came first, then we had to face another half hour walk to reach the hut, a four-bunker with two sleeping on the floor.

Day 2 was equally windy on top. Mike and John decided to brave it and head to Kaweka J, the rest of us got blown around and waited at the MacKintosh Hut track where we found a nice clearing in the sun. Down to the hut, where we all had beds for the night. Another lovely day when out of the wind.

Day 3, and out past the old Kaweka Hut site, where there is a plaque placed from the Heretaunga club. Interestingly the track took us to the hut, whereas on the map it didn't. So DOC really want you to see the old hut site. Out in good time and not home too late.

Basil and Tracey, Mike Cole, Shane Wilson, John Melsop, Lyneke Onderwater.

Wairarapa Weekend

Sat-Sun 23-24 Nov 2019

Scribe: *Dave Scoullar*

This was a weekend of two day trips with other tramping clubs and both events were thoroughly enjoyed. Magically fine weather certainly helped. On the Saturday we made the long drive to Greytown and up the Waiohine Valley to meet Nick, Murray, Chris and Jan from the Hutt Valley TC. The plan was to walk along the Mt Reeves track to find a newly-placed plaque which marks the geographical centre of New Zealand's Extended Continental Shelf (as opposed to the centre of NZ marked by a monument in Nelson).

The 6km walk began up a gravel road, went steeply across a farm and then through pines to regenerating bush. Gorse lined the well-beaten but uncharacteristically dry track much of the way and eventually we came to the one metre in diameter stainless steel artwork just before point 785m. It was a quick return for a tramp of 7hr 30min.

Following a comfortable night in a cabin in Masterton we went to Mt Holdsworth and met Barry and Liz from the South Wairarapa TC. They took us on an unofficial track alongside the Atiwhakatu Stream. Opposite Donnelly Flat we climbed steeply to Pinnacle trig (877m). Points of interest were hearing kaka, seeing many dead rats killed in the trapline which runs all the way to the trig, and the haze over the range from the Australian bush fires. Another swift descent got us back to the van in 5hr

15min.

The success of the weekend encourages us to plan further such outings in the Wairarapa in future. On trip: Adrian Pike, Esther Williams, Juliet Kojis, Margret McKinnon, Brigitte Hund, Dorothy Symes and Dave Scoullar.

Weraweraonga

When? 27 November 2019

Scribe? *Cherry Channon*

Where did we go? Weraweraonga Track

Where's that? Waitotaras

What did we see? Stunning views of Mt Taranaki and Mt Ruapehu

How many people? Seventeen trampers

Weather? A perfect day

Pohangina Valley

Sat 30 Nov 2019

Scribe: *Phil Thomsen*

Margie's mundane menagerie meandered morosely 'mong
memorable Manawatu miro

Eighteen trampers in three vehicles headed off on a cloudy early summer morning, but we broke through into sunshine when we got to the Manawatu (one of the lesser miracles; it usually being the other way around). We stopped to join up in Ashhurst; however one car didn't appear. An anxious cellphone call revealed the reason – an emergency coffee stop (proving that the three necessary elements for life are oxygen, food, and caffeine).

We set off for our first trail, Fern Walk, soon before 10am. We stopped soon after for morning tea by Barbara's Babbling Brook, which was most pleasant. During the walk we were pleased that we were under forest canopy almost all the time, as it turned into a stinky hot day. The forest was mainly tawa, with some big emergent rata, kahikatea and rimu. A highlight was the ferns, and there were identification and interpretation signs by the different fern species, which was useful. We also took a short side-track to a giant northern rata, which has a hole through it that was useful for poking tramping poles through to prod unsuspecting fellow club members and elicit girly squeals from the unsuspecting victims. There were also a couple of lookout points over the beautiful Pohangina valley.

When we got back we moved the vehicles a short distance to the second walk, the Pettifar and Gilchrist loop in Totara Reserve. We had lunch a short distance into the forest, and then set off again. This forest was quite different, being more dry, stony river terrace, and the main large trees were totara, with a few miro and suchlike. There was a little confusion over the correct trail, but we got back safely to the vehicles by 3pm. A second stop in Ashhurst, this time for an obligatory ice cream (very welcome), and then hi-ho for home and a welcome beer.

The trip was ably led by Barbara at the front of the troupe, and Tail-End Charlene aka Margie bringing up the rear.

Those on the trip: Margie Campbell, Barbara Francis, Lyn Kuzman, Sharron Prouse, Linda Woolston, Murray Voss, Beverly Barnett, Phil Thomsen, Earle Turner, Marilyn McGlone, Beth Evans, John Glenn, Julie Kears, Kate Jones, Andrea Bunn, Kelly Darby, Adrian Pike, Diane Weeks.

Whangaehu Beach to Turakina Beach and return

Wed 4 Dec 2019.

Scribe: *John Baxter*

On this temperamental day weather-wise, we had a short drive down to Whangaehu Beach. We were on the beach in one hour ready for our day. The gusty north westerly was on our backs for most of the morning (at 24°C) but none of the 11 people seemed to complain much. A really interesting walk complete with the spotting of oyster catchers and dotterels plus a very large seagull nesting colony. All this was before we actually reached our destination of the Turakina River.

Sue decided that her intrepid pioneering and adventurous spirit would take over, so she removed her shoes, rolled up her pants and waded across the Turakina River to give us an indication of depth. It saved us all getting wet.

We reached the river mouth in about 1½ hours, so the walk home was very casual after lunch. Entertainment was provided by George chasing a seagull chick in the marran grass. Luckily the wind had dropped on the way home, so the walk was very pleasant and informative. Ably led by Graham Sutcliffe, complete with his conscientious clean-up crew who collected about three buckets of rubbish on the way back.

On the trip: Adrian Pike, Bruce Thomas, Carlos Sotet, Esther Williams, George Neil, Graham Sutcliffe, John Baxter, Margret McKinnon, Zac Clark, Marilyn McGlone, Sue Gibbison.

Maude Peak

Wed 11 Dec 2019

Scribe: *Sue Gibbison*

On the convoluted backroads of Taranaki Maude did her best to flummox our intrepid leader. But despite a series of deadends, challenging reversals, advice from backseat drivers and even the occasional expletive, our vanload of trusty trampers eventually found the end of Maude Road and the start of the track.

We galloped across the hay paddock, admiring spectacular views of both Henry and Maude, with a snow-streaked Taranaki beyond. We paused for morning tea at the edge of the bush, drinking in the view from Port Taranaki all the way up the coast to Karioi and eastward as far as a distant blue Ruapehu, Tongariro and Ngauruhoe. We laboured uphill through the gradually diminishing bush until at last we broke free of the treeline, just in time for lunch.

Daypacks were ditched as we continued upwards in clear, calm and sunny conditions to conquer the peak of Maude. By now Taranaki had pulled on a cap of cloud, but familiar landmarks like the green roof of Holly Hut, the boardwalks, the trail to North Egmont and the tarn were all sparkling clear. After a lie-down at the

top we scuttled back to the van, with a few skipping down the steps to Mangakotukutuku waterfall.

Adrian took the wheel for the return journey. As we made a beeline for the icecream shop, a lone voice was heard to protest that Esther's scenic route had been much more interesting.

Participants: Esther, Adrian, Brian S, David S, Juliet, Garry, Helen, Margret, Shane W, Tracey, Sue G.

Taumarunui Weekend

Sat-Sun 14-15 Dec 2019

Scribe: *Dave Scoullar*

This was another highly successful weekend hosted by the Taumarunui Tramping Club in good weather. We began with a 4½ hour loop walk north of the town involving a walk up a gravel road then through beautiful podocarp bush, farm land and pine forest. We were guided by three TTC members.

Returning to the town, we diverted to Cherry Grove for a look at the Whanganui River and then stocked up on food at the supermarket before settling in at the camp ground. Four people opted to tent. The TTC's end of year Christmas BBQ at the camp ground was a blast with a big turnout of friendly TTC folk.

Unfortunately, one of our members was ill overnight and asked her husband to collect her while the rest of us went to Horopito on Sunday for a walk in a DOC bush reserve. Our numbers were bolstered by 11 from the TTC.

Not long into the walk a TTC lady fell and hurt her lower leg (later found to be a broken ankle) and she and her husband returned to their vehicle. The rest of us completed a four hour loop walk mostly on a 4WD road but including an overgrown former mountain bike track. Only one of our members had been in this area before but we agreed it was worth putting on a future trips list.

On trip: Brigitte Hund, Dorothy Symes, Julie Kearse, Helen Atkinson, Jacky Evans, Ross McBeth, Shane Wilson, Peter Finucane and Dave Scoullar.

Whakapapa Village to Desert Road

Sat 21 Dec 2019

Scribe: *Dick Mitchell*

An early, 6am, start for Cherry Channon, Lyneke Onderwater, Esther Williams, Mike Cole, Bruce Thomas and leader Dick Mitchell. We also had the pleasant company of Jacky Evans who had volunteered to drive the van around to Desert Road to pick us up. Thanks Jacky.

With the Parapara newly reopened we were able cut the driving time and start walking in the cool of the morning. I found it pleasant to get the series of ups and downs done at the start rather than at the end of a long day's walk. There were a few others going to Tama Lakes plus one or two coming from Waihothonu but fairly quiet numerically.

The track was dry and firm and the opportunity taken for both photography of our magnificent mountains and botanising. Esther and Lyneke both have sharp eyes spotting many tiny alpine plants.

We looked in at both the old and new Waiho honu huts, the latter being quite palatial. Esther managed to score a hot cup of tea when she introduced herself to the hut warden as a kindred spirit.

Jacky had walked into the hut for lunch and was waiting for us at the van. Then it was on to Waiohuru for ice creams and back home via Fields Track. A long day out but with splendid company and great weather it was a very pleasant way to end our tramping year.

Whitecliffs Walkway

Wed 1 Jan 2020

Scribe: *Dave Scoullar*

A lot was crammed into this trip to Whitecliffs Walkway which began at 5.30am and ended exactly 12 hours later. However, it was a stuttering beginning when the white van wouldn't start. With 20 eager first footers on the trip, white was abandoned in favour of the silver van plus two cars.

The team covered the 194km to Pukearua near Waitara in time for low tide and walked the 5km along the beach to the Te Horo tunnel in an hour, spotting two horse riders and a fisherman on the way. The 80m long tunnel, built in the 1800s, was used for droving until the 1960s.

Going inland and finding no markers indicating the walkway, we wandered over farm tracks and up a steep hill alongside the Kapuni to Auckland gas pipeline before getting back on the correct path. After a long staircase up another big hill we were rewarded by great sea views before heading down and across farm land and then on a road back to our transport in 5hr 30min. Two brave souls went for a swim and declared it very refreshing.

Distance walked was 14km on an overcast but warm day with little wind — a good workout for the first day of the new decade.

Whangamomona Weekend

Fri-Sun 3-5 Jan 2020

Scribe: *Dorothy Symes*

Leaders, Garry McEwain and me, along with Peter Panton, Taumarunui TC. Garry grew up in Whangamomona and we were lucky to have his and Peter's local knowledge. Twelve from Wanganui and 11 from Taumarunui made for a big group. The weekend's walks were relatively easy and the weather was perfect. We covered some good distances too, near-full days.

Saturday at 6.30am we set off from Te Wera Lodge Forestry Camp, passing by Whangamomona village 23km and then another 36km to Hobbit tunnel and Tangarakau turnoff to Moki Road to meet with the Taumarunui team. From there we drove 7km on a metal road to the start of the Rerekapa Track and were on our way at 8.45am. We followed the river all day, pausing at the lovely Rerekapa Falls

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at 3.5km. Another 7km to Rerekapa 16-bunk hut, established by Waitara Boys Life Brigade in 1971. We carried on for another hour on a muddy track through native bush and patches of farmland, incidental old buildings and huts. One establishment sported a good bath, shower and a wetback for hot water. After lunch we retraced our steps, encountering a group of horse-trekkers - who did nothing to improve the slippery muddy areas. At 3pm we drove a further 7km to Mangapapa Road for an easy 1km walk to Mt Damper Falls - second-highest in North Island - spectacular and worth the effort.

We arrived early for our dinner date at Whangamomona Hotel, but management were accommodating and brought our time forward. There was time for refreshments and a wander around the village, with history and photos at the hotel. After a beautiful meal, TTC followed us back to Te Wera and, like us, were surprised to see the fantastic facilities there.

Sunday began with an 8am start and 40min drive to the well-defined Whangamomona Track. We had intended to reach the Bridge to Somewhere but had to consider our fuel situation for a pick-up trip. The bridge destination would have been about two hours further, but we hadn't topped up fuel at Stratford. However, the trip was as just as good, and featured some picturesque gorges. Next stop was the two tunnels and the big Arnold iron bridge over a deep ravine. No horses on this track, but a group of motocross bikers stopped for a natter.

So, back to the track end and farewells to TTC members. Wouldn't mind a repeat attempt at Bridge to Somewhere, with perhaps a start on Matemateonga Track. Te Wera Lodge was certainly a good discovery for accommodation – check their website. There's no cellphone coverage and a radio would be an advantage. Peter did a sterling job of planning for such a big group and it was wonderful having Taumarunui club with us - and special thanks to our drivers Jacky and Garry.

Rewi Alley's Cottage, Waitotara

Wed 8 Jan 2020

Scribe: *Graham Sutcliffe*

Rewi Alley is possibly better known in China than in NZ for his endeavours there during a revolution. However this cottage was built by him and Jack Stevens; both had been wounded in World War 1 and then they received a farm grant from the government.

After a slow trip in we parked the vans at the top of Moeawatea Road. We walked down the hill to a ford and then proceeded along the Whenukura Valley Road for about 3 km. This road is closed to traffic from June to October. The valley is farmed by two non-residential farmers and is mainly used for manuka honey production with a smattering of beef cattle and sheep.

This is a good outing and those enjoying (I hope) this day were – Adrian Pike, Allan Loader, Barbara Gordon, Bruce Thomas, David Howard, David Scoullar, David Taylor, Esther Williams, George Neil, Heather Mackenzie, Jenny Williamson, Judy Gerke, Juliet Kojis, Margaret Chainey, Olivia (Juliet's granddaughter), Rita Hodson, Terry Mullins, Trish Smith with leaders Graham Sutcliffe and John Baxter.

Mangaehuehu Hut

Sat 11 Jan 2020

Scribe: *Bruce Thomas*

Eleven of us arrived at the car park on Mountain Rd in chilly but fine weather. At the Blyth Hut intersection we were well warmed up and ready for a morning tea stop. The track was in very good condition and stream crossings were no trouble, some were dry. I think I only saw two puddles all day.

The wind was just a gentle breeze and quite welcome at times. Time taken was about 3½ hrs each way, including stops. Everything was in our favour and it was an excellent day.

On the trip were Bruce Thomas (leader), Dianne Weeks, Chris Rothman, Victoria Kay, Kim Whyte, Barbara Francis, Helen Atkinson, new member Zac Clark, Jiri Krivanek, Dorothy Symes and Heather MacKenzie.



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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Please contact Sandra Rogers, phone 348 7630 or Margaret Chainey, phone 345 4305 if you hear of illness, hospitalisation, bereavements and the like.

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