

A photograph of four hikers crossing a rocky stream in a mountainous area. The hikers are wearing backpacks and using trekking poles. The background shows a steep, rocky hillside with sparse vegetation under a clear blue sky.

Wanganui Trampler

August - October 2020

Quarterly Journal of the Wanganui Tramping Club (Inc) Issue 266
www.wanganuitrampingclub.net

From the Editor

Only one more month of winter and we will be into spring. What a wonderful thought! Plus we have longer days to look forward to as well !

Now is a good time to sort out all that gear you no longer use or need and bring it along to the gear sale on club night September 2 (see ad page 8).

If you have an article or information you think others would enjoy please email it to:

trampermagazine@gmail.com

Our website which contains comprehensive information about the club is:

www.wanganuitrampingclub.net

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 266

August - October 2020

*From the
PRESIDENT*

Unfortunately Cherry is unable to be with us at present so we wish Aiden a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing Cherry back tramping in time.

Who would have thought, given that most of us had never heard the word 'Covid' previously, that something like Covid 19 could have such a devastating impact on our lives not to mention our club - from shutting down all trips, and changing the way we used our vehicles to who we should or shouldn't sit with in level 3 and 2 when we were allowed to start tramping again.

Your committee endeavoured to comply with the Ministry of Health Covid 19 requirements to enable us to operate our trips to meet these operating standards. Going forward we should continue to manage our tramping club in a responsible post-Covid period, remembering that we may not be out of the woods just yet. Covid aside, I see that winter is knocking at our door and your trips committee have planned some great weekend and day trips. So if winter trips are your thing, wrap up warm and enjoy.

Brian Doughty
Vice President

Committee Comments

20 July 2020

Following recent email troubles, the essential task has been to keep you informed. Installation of *Mailchimp* to enable bulk emails has now been completed by Sam of **Safemode**. Now when you open a WTC bulk email, you'll see a blue bar with "double click here to open" – do that and the message is revealed. There's more that *Mailchimp* can do, and Carolyn and I have been hard at this. I have also started training on a new system with our accountants, Doyle and Associates.

Consequent on July's AGM, there have been no changes to your club officers and committee.

Housekeeping and reminders -

- Look for seat covers in the pocket behind driver's seat. Please remember to remove boots too - muddy or not.
- Back door, HRP white van: There is a message on the front dash to explain how to treat the back doors. Take a read - it works.
- We missed our gear sale during Covid levels - see advertisement page 8.
- The deferred E night is scheduled for club meeting on 7th October. Diane will present the website, with tips for viewing members' trip photos, and I will take questions about financial matters in the cheque-less society.
- We really value those who lead our tramps. They arrive early and they want to get home too, so please help out by grabbing the van brooms at end of day.
- This one is a Very Big Please! To avoid cash-up chaos, please bring a mix of notes and coins so you can hand over the correct money. Plan ahead! Suggested is a \$20 note, a \$10, a \$5, two \$2 and two \$1 coins. What's left is for ice cream. And remember to top it up afterwards, in time for the next trip. 'Chaotic cash-ups' have become a problem especially with larger groups.

Your help with these matters is appreciated.

Dorothy -- 'Dotcom'

Note: Dorothy's new email address is dorothy.symes@whanganuitramping.org.nz

To walk in nature is to witness a thousand miracles
Mary Davis

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



Ben Morris, Bruce Anderson, Mari van Baarson, Paul Lowe, Terry Kennedy and Sheryl and Doug Trigg. 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
November 2020 Issue of the
Wanganui Trumper
to the Editor by
October 16th 2020
(Earlier appreciated)
Thank You! - Jeanette



Raewyn Doughty Boot Award



Congratulations go to Diane Harries who was awarded the Raewyn Doughty Boot at the AGM this year. This was awarded for her work in creating and maintaining our website. Well done Di!

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.

Coordinated by:

Val Cowan 345 0456, email otterval@gmail.com

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

Aug 13 & 27

Sept 10 & 24

Oct 8 & 22

Nov 5 & 19



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

Leader **Julie Kears** 345 0142 will advise the meeting place and time. Easy, ideal for the more senior member / recovering from injury / or for that extra walk with companions.



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

Contact **Carolyn Shingleton 347 7644**

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

WEEKENDS

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



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

August 2020 Quiz

1. What population centres are the southernmost natural limit of pohutukawa on the west and east coasts of the North Island?
2. What percentage of original pohutukawa forest remains?
3. In 2003 what animal was returned from Kawau Island to Australia to help with a recovery attempt?
4. Why did Captain Cook call Ti Kouka cabbage tree?
5. Why did early settlers use cabbage tree trunks to make chimneys?
6. Whitehead (Popokatea) are only found in the North or South islands?
7. The famous 25m Tararua ladder has over or under 70 rungs?
8. How many eyes does a tuatara have?
9. How many three-wire bridges are there on the Dusky Track? (clue: more than 20 and less than 30)
10. With its 47km-long predator-proof fence, name the largest ecological island on mainland NZ

Answers page 48



**CLUB NIGHT
Sept 2nd**

Following the successful
TRAMPING GEAR SALE
at one of our club meetings last year, it has been
decided to Calendar the event as an annual opportunity

*Pricing and selling will solely be the responsibility for those with
gear to sell and those negotiating a possible purchase.*

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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 your arrival home.

What you will need

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

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





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Rules For Those Leading Tramps

The destination and brief location, plus the list of participants, is to be placed on the notice board at the club rooms before leaving.

These details must also be emailed to the four PLB contacts:

btwtcvaux@slingshot.co.nz (Bruce Thomas)
tiger2@slingshot.co.nz (Earle Turner)
dorothy.symes@whanganuitramping.org.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.

Aug to Nov 2020 Club Activities

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

Aug 8 Sat	Mangaturuturu Hut John is leading a winter trip in to our hut in Tongariro National Park. He may go in from Horopito or the usual way off the Turoa Mountain Rd. Either way, it is a marvellous place for lunch and there should be snow around as a bonus.	John Cook
Mod	Cost to be assessed	
Aug 9 Sun	Old Timers' Afternoon This has become a traditional outing with Dorothy once again the hostess at her 77 Liverpool St home. A 2pm start and look forward to a flash afternoon tea. It is a pleasant opportunity to reflect and catch up. Many members may not have emails so let any oldtimer friends know, please. If you are no longer a club member Dorothy will take the opportunity to record your emails to make sure you are all advised each year.	Dorothy Symes
Aug 15 or 16 Sat or Sun	Tongariro Winter Crossing A chance for an invigorating winter trip, plagues and weather permitting. Snowcraft course/experience an advantage, but instruction given en route. Bring your ice axe and crampons, or else borrow the club's.	Esther Williams
Fit	Approx cost \$25 plus \$ for a snack at National Park in the evening.	

Aug 15 or 16
Sat or Sun

Annabell Homestead

Brian Doughty

The Annabell house sits on a four-acre remnant of the 1200 acre Waitotara Valley property bought by JR Annabell in 1890. This house was built by JR's son, Bernard Annabell, in about 1920. The 30 minute walk from Makakaho Junction is along a clay road. The Annabells relied on a swing bridge across the river to Ngamatapouri village rather than this road and remnants of the bridge may still be seen. The sadly neglected house sits in a diverse setting of mature trees planted by Bernard. We will do a short loop from the house up to the original house site and a view over the Ngamatapouri church and will continue the loop through the pines in which the main property has been planted.

Easy

Cost to be calculated

Aug 22
Sat

Pot Luck Meal

Sandra Rogers

Sandra's home at 1 Lancewood Pl, St John's Hill, is yet again the venue for a night of good eating and sparkling conversation. Her pot luck meals are legendary, so we are in for a treat. No need to phone her, simply turn up at 6pm with a food contribution, plus your own plates, glasses, eating irons and drinks.



Aug 23 Sun	Egmont Circuit Bruce has been eyeing up a bush circuit in Egmont National Park. Parking at the Mangaoraka picnic area off Egmont Rd, he will proceed along the Ngatoro Track to the North Egmont Visitor Centre, then down the Ram and Kauai tracks back to the transport. A good day out in the goblin forest where ferns and moss hang from twisted tree trunks.	Bruce Thomas
Mod	Approx cost \$25	
Aug 29-30 Sat-Sun	Gourmet Meal Trip This is our annual tramp where we focus on a flash dinner with everyone contributing but also enjoy a leisurely wander. The 2020 location will be Maketawa Hut in Egmont National Park, which has hosted this particular trip in the past. A great location and hopefully there will be some snow around. A reasonably short walk from the North Egmont Visitor Centre.	Dave Scoullar/Juliet Kojis
Easy	Approx cost \$25 + hut fees	
Sept 5 or 6 Sat or Sun	Tama Lakes These lakes are a popular destination accessed from Whakapapa Village. A well-groomed flattish track with just a bit of climbing to reach the lakes. A highly recommended early spring outing.	John Cook
Mod	Approx cost \$22	
Sept 9 Wed	Trips Meeting A chance to plot trips for December/January/February — prime tramping months. Roll up at 7 Wairere Rd at 7.30pm or phone or email at dkmscoullar@gmail.com	Dave Scoullar
Sept 12-14 Sat-Mon	Holly Hut-Pouakai We start at the North Egmont Visitor Centre and go to Holly Hut for the first night. Then to Pouakai Hut nice and early to climb to Pouakai trig. Day 3 we go over Henry Peak and out. If you have wondered about doing some mountain tramping, this is a great start.	Tracey Hooper
Mod/fit	Approx cost \$35 + hut fees	
Sept 12 or 13 Sat or Sun	Waiinu Adventure 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 of trip on the day and choose the better day weatherwise. John will marshall the troops and transport.	John Baxter
Easy/mod	Approx cost \$8	

Sept 19-20 Sat-Sun Mod	Kime in Snow Kime Hut in Tararua Forest Park in winter should be fun as long as the weather is good. If the weather is bad we won't bother. Approx cost \$28 + hut fees	Michael Cole
Sept 26-27 Sat-Sun Mod/fit	Ngamoko Hut This hut on the Pohangina River in the Ruahine will be accessed from the west via the steep Shorts Track, turn south at the top of the range and pick up a track leading down to the hut. No rivers to cross which is prudent during the spring thaw. Return the same way. We last visited Ngamoko about 10 years ago. Approx cost \$25 + hut fees	Shane McCulloch
Sept 26 or 27 Sat or Sun Mod	Castle Rock One of the best views of Mt Ruapehu is from Castle Rock, a fortress-like outcrop along the Kaimanawa Forest Park walkway a few kilometres north of Waiouru. Adrian will follow a 4WD track up to a poled route climbing gradually in rolling tussock grasslands with spectacular views. He will choose the better day. Approx cost \$21	Adrian Pike
Oct 3-4 Sat-Sun	Whangaehu Hut We haven't been to this hut in Tongariro National Park for a while. It is the highest hut in the North Island situated in a stunningly	Michael Cole

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	beautiful area. Easy enough to get to but anywhere beyond it will require snow skills. Approx cost \$30 + hut fees \$10	
Mod/fit		
Oct 3 or 4 Sat or Sun	Puketawa Walk This is a private walk through a bush reserve on a farm between Raetihi and Ohakune. It is a steady climb to a high point with good views. Later it is hoped we can take a guided tour of places of interest in Raetihi, including the new walkway. We will join Taumarunui Tramping Club. On top of the transport fee there is an access fee of \$5 or a donation. Puketawa is a new walk, so it should be popular.	Bruce Thomas
Easy	Cost to be calculated	
Oct 10-11 Sat-Sun	Tutuwai Hut This is a circuit trip in the Tararua, starting from Walls Whare near Greytown. We will go anticlockwise via the venerable Cone Hut then down the Tauherenikau River to overnight at the 20-bunk Tutuwai Hut. Next day we climb steeply behind the hut to return via the Reeves Track, passing the Centre of New Zealand plaque.	Dave Scoullar
Fit	Approx cost \$40 + hut fees	
Oct 10 or 11 Sat or Sun	Waitahinga Trails These trails, pioneered by our club, are a magnet for those who want to immerse themselves in beautiful bush on a not too demanding wander. Close to the city yet offering a remote experience, the trails tick all the boxes. Terry will choose the better day	Terry Mullins
Easy/mod	Approx cost \$6	
Oct 17-18 Sat-Sun	North Kapiti On the northern end of Kapiti Island the owners run an overnight all-inclusive travel to the island, accommodation and meals with kiwi observations. Booking are not open until September but please register your interest.	Esther Williams
Easy	Approx cost \$400	
Oct 17 Sat	Manawatu Gorge The 11km Te Apiti-Manawatu Gorge keeps drawing us back because of its beautiful, peaceful bush and proximity to Whanganui. As a bonus the track also gets us up close to the wind turbines.	Dorothy Symes
Easy	Approx cost \$18	

Oct 18-20 Sun-Tues	Wairarapa Biking #1	Lynn Tebbutt Mike Miller
Easy	First of two cycling trips to the Wairarapa. Cycle three trails -- the scenic Woodside Trail to the train station in Greytown; the Martinborough Wine trail; and The Henley Park Lake trails in Masterton. Flat trails. Trip full but you may go on the waiting list. Cost to be calculated	
Oct 24-26 Sat-Mon	Mystery Trip	Dave Scoullar
Mod/fit	Labour Weekend is too good to pass up but on the other hand the weather is often fickle. Dee Ess is keeping his powder dry until a few days before the weekend before deciding on his location, but it looks like it could be the Tararua. Register interest with him and he will keep you posted. Cost to be calculated	
Oct 24, 25 or 26 Sat, Sun or Mon	Lake Rotokare	Dorothy Symes
Easy	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. Approx cost \$20	
Oct 31 Sat	Egmont Exploration	Dave Scoullar
Easy/mod	Join the New Plymouth Tramping Club on a loop walk into some unknown territory in Egmont National Park. The plan is to start at Dawson Falls, follow the stream above Wilkies Pools and climb over to Kapuni Lodge and back down the track. Those wishing for an easier tramp can return down the stream. This outing should suit a wide range of fitness. Approx cost \$21	
Nov 1-3 Sun-Tues	Wairarapa Biking #2	Carolyn Shingleton
Easy	Second cycling trip to the Wairarapa. Cycle three trails — the scenic Woodside Trail to the train station in Greytown; the Martinborough Wine trail; and The Henley Park Lake trails in Masterton. Flat trails. Trip full but you may go on the waiting list. Cost to be calculated	
Nov 7-8 Sat-Sun	Stock Tunnel	Shane McCulloch
	For Shane and others, it has been tempting for years to find this digging in the middle of nowhere in the general area of the Matemateaonga Track. If all goes well, he would like to spend the	

Mod	night at Charlie's Clearing. Tramp begins at the end of Pukiwhakau Rd, inland from Stratford. Cost to be calculated.	
Nov 7 or 8 Sat or Sun	Deerford Track This loop track in the western Ruahine is a good workout with beautiful bush and enough climbing to let your legs know you have been on a real tramp.	Mike Miller
Mod	Approx cost \$20	
Nov 11 Wed	Trips Meeting Trips for March/April/May will be decided at 7 Wairere Rd. Meeting starts 7.30pm. Otherwise phone ideas or email at dkmscoullar@gmail.com	Dave Scoullar
Nov 14 or 15 Sat or Sun	Sky Waka Ruapehu's premier new attraction, the Sky Waka gondola, takes us to a wonderful destination on the mountain. Enjoy the ride, views, an alpine stroll — a unique all-round experience.	Esther Williams
Easy	Cost to be calculated.	
Nov 15-23 Sun-Mon	Waiheke Island Jacky's latest multi-day trip will take her to Waiheke Island to the annual walking festival there. Five days of walking in areas not usually open to the public. Trip is full but you can go on the waiting list.	Jacky Evans
Easy	Cost to be calculated	
Nov 21 Sat	Pot Luck Dinner Suzanne and Robert have offered their beautiful house at 3 Riverbank Rd for a pot luck meal. A great night out — guaranteed. Don't bother to phone up, just turn up at 6pm with your contribution to the meal. Also bring own plates, cutlery, glasses and tippie of choice. As a bonus, enjoy a walk in their lovely riverside garden.	Suzanne Roberts/Robert Lakeland
Nov 20 or 21 Sat or Sun	Sledge Track This is one of Manawatu's walkway adventures which has been popular with the club for years. The circuit track in the western Tararua foothills has plenty of interesting bush, views and history in the form of old mine shafts.	Shane Wilson
Mod	Approx cost \$17	





Bombs Report

The popularity of Tuesday biking continues to grow with the majority of our group now sporting e-bikes. For safety reasons, changes have been made to eliminate the congestion of having one large group on the roads. We now have two or three smaller groups (depending on numbers) leaving the i-SITE for different destinations and ending at a designated café for our social get-together afterwards. These changes have been in place for a few weeks and seem to be working well, with many riders enjoying being in a smaller group.

If you would like to lead a trip out of town, there are club vans and trailers available to us. Vans need to be booked (*avoid tramping days*) and cycle trailers are available. I am willing to assist with any preparation required.

Safe and happy cycling
Carolyn



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CYCLING IS BAD FOR THE ECONOMY



Hilarious but true too

A cyclist is a disaster for the country's economy -
He does not buy the car & does not take a car loan -
Does not buy car insurance - Does not buy Fuel -
Does not send his car for servicing & repairs -
Does not use paid Parking - Does not become Obese

Yes,.....and well, damn it !! Healthy people are not needed for economy. They do not buy drugs. They do not go to Hospitals & Doctors. They add nothing to country's GDP. On the contrary, every new fast food outlet creates at least 30 jobs - 10 Cardiologists, 10 Dentists, 10 weight loss experts apart from people working in the outlet. Choose wisely: A Cyclist or a KFC ? Worth thinking about!!

PS: Walking is even worse. They do not even buy a bicycle!!



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Longdrop's **PACK TALK AUGUST 2020**

How much happiness is gained and how much misery escaped by frequent violent agitation of the body. -- Dr Samuel Johnson

First day of down to Covid Level 2 and there was no stopping 19 Thursday trampers, weary of 50 days locked down at home, on a two-way walk along South Beach. Own cars to get there, and social distancing for each group of 10. Some walked south, the rest towards the river mouth. A few were wishing they'd done more long walks during lockdown but SO good to shake out the boots and get back into it on a calm autumn day.

Covid-19 had a lot to answer for but those photos posted by Earle Turner were a bit much, didn't you think? But let's give the man credit — he led that first tramp after the lockdown was loosened. Second was a Wednesday group which went to Tongariro National Park.

The households of stuck-at-home trampers must be unusually spick and span, going by reports of spring-cleans and Man's Gardening requiring chainsaws, axes and crowbars. One five-foot-nothing asked hubby if he could help her clean the high parts of kitchen walls. "Sure", he responded, "I'll lend you my big ladder."

Some clubbies used the lockdown fruitfully. For instance Basil Hooper and Murray Laing grew beards and Barry Hopper, with less ambition, grew a moustache. Must say they all look rather distinguished. We hear Tracey Hooper isn't impressed but no word of how Mesdames Laing and Hopper like their hirsute husbands.

Mike Cole's trip to Remutaka Forest Park at Queen's Birthday Weekend was a virus victim. Mike had booked a hut from DOC — they are all bookable in this forest park — and he got a call to say all bookings were cancelled. Later he tried to rebook for Queen's Birthday and was told he was too late, they'd all gone. A shame DOC couldn't have communicated better and given those with original bookings priority.

During lockdown Scotland-based member Ian Kirk mused, "I was thinking of booking a haircut with Graham my hairdresser in Wanganui. Although I might get a flight there within a few days I would still face a 14-day quarantine."

Our Wellington-based member, Graeme Lythgoe (twin brother of Ridgy) had his own covid lockdown drama. He led a party of 10 in the Cobb Valley and other

places in March and was in Reefton when Level 4 arrived, so ended up flying back on the Wednesday as van booking was two days later on the Friday. Graeme didn't manage to return to Renwick (Blenheim) to recover his van until mid-June.

After lockdown ended our club trips were rushed with big numbers particularly on some trips. TT2 organiser Julie Kears told the AGM there were 33 on one trip — “too many really” — and BOMBS supremo Carolyn Shingleton says getting nearly 30 cyclists on a Tuesday means they are now split into two or even three groups.

We remember that glorious autumn weather during lockdown with no tramping and turning soft. Several wet wintry Thursdays in a row was hard to take, resulting in two shorter Plan B's and even a cancellation. But spring is coming!

The annual club dinner in July was another great event. Numbers were down — 27 turned out — but they had a fine evening with terrific eats and chats. Thanks to Julie and Esther for organising.

Some folk were ill and couldn't make the club dinner. Fine. But shame on those who passed so they could watch the Hurricanes beat the Blues. Plenty of rugby folks but only one club dinner a year! We hear that two regulars at club dinner piked out this time, pleading exhaustion after three under-10s over school holidays.

Shame, too, on the Wednesday Wanderers' menfolk. When Graham Ellett led a trip to Opunake, he had a team of eight — all women! It wasn't a nice day weatherwise but it looks like a case of women NOT being the weaker sex.

Mary G, who's in the Gold Card age group, sports a Swandri-type jacket, with buttons, but it's her woollen trousers that are even more noteworthy. Her mother bought them for Mary's trip to Mt Cook when she was in Form 2 and they're still going strong. Made in New Zealand, without a doubt.

Club members often joke about age and driving in our vans. But after the Manawatu Gorge walk when we queued for ice creams at Ashhurst, the server asked whether we were from a rest home. There was no response. Of course we don't qualify — we drive cars and prepare our own kai.

Was that the sound of gnashing teeth, tearing hair and intemperate language as Dorothy and Carolyn got their heads around new email and accounting techno packages? Congratulations to both for nailing it.

Who else loved Lyneke Onderwater's thumbnail description of herself with her *Midweek* Conservation Comment column? She wrote: Lyneke was the green sheep in a conservative farming family. She is middle-class by descent, lower class by income and happy with her lot.

Alarm bells must have sounded when the name Kevin Ross appeared in the deaths column of the local rag. But we are pleased to report it wasn't our club member who shares the same name.

Congratulations to Diane Harries for being awarded the Raewyn Doughty Boot — for those who work in the background — at the annual general meeting for creating and maintaining the WTC website.

One for the BOMBS to think about: The Forgotten World Highway has been listed as the 10th best cycle ride in the world by Lonely Planet.

Dorothy Symes didn't get anything for writing the best trip report, not even the kiss from judge Brian Doughty, suggested by president Cherry. Her report was on a multi-day trip based at Taupo. Second was Carolyn Shingleton (new track from Palmerston North to Linton) and third Dee Ess (Wairarapa weekend).

The AGM was a quiet affair with the entire executive being re-elected unopposed. Basil Hooper noted, "All the women are in the top jobs." President Cherry, "That's exactly where they should be!"

Shane Wilson is our new cover bloke — back page of the February magazine, promoted to front page in May.

When Fred Verschoor remarked on a Wednesday tramp, "There's no wind," a fellow tramper who will remain anonymous, responded, "I could change that!"

If your chef is Graham Sutcliffe just hope mushrooms are not on the menu. Their addition to his meal on the Paparoa Great Walk is still being talked about by those who shared the journey.

Just 97 years young and Darrell Grace is back in the news, featuring in a documentary about the annual reunion of a group of dentists which was free online at the 15th Documentary Edge Festival.

It was almost fresh meat for dinner when a deer veered in front of a van on the way to the Mataimoana Trig at the end of the 'Moe' Rd, inland Waverley. Later the same day the Wednesday group did come across some fresh meat in the form of a newly butchered sheep as they went down a steep ridge to the Tawhiti Stream.

A reference to Wednesday trip leaders Margret McKinnon and Sue Haden as 'walking wounded' was a bit puzzling. We knew Margret has had health issues but Sue? Turns out Sue broke a bone in her hand on the Hooper bush bash in the Waitotaras a week before she and Margret were set to lead on a Wednesday.

Sue and Margret are two of a number of clubbies who have been in the wars so we offer our best wishes also for a speedy recovery to Sue McBride (recovering at her Porirua home after open heart surgery) and Aiden (Cherry's son, injured in a work place accident).

Another tramp, another battle with the door on the silver van. John Newton muttered the van should be called the Hotel California (as sung by the Eagles, “you can check out ... but you can never leave”).

Congratulations to Audrey and Nelson Tizard who celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary on 23 July 2020.

The 2020 club quiz was a battle of five teams with Trio — Ann-marie Harper/Steve Hormann/Ridgy Lythgoe coming out the winner.

The day trip to the plane crash site and grave near Kaiparoro trig in the northern Taranaki prompted remarks about how lonely the grave is. To which one person remarked, “Yes, but how many graves get visited by 26 people on the same day?”

Everyone knows Sandra Rogers is the club’s cafe queen. But it seems she may have an unlikely rival. After a Wednesday tramp Dee Ess spurned an ice cream stop and had all his people sitting in the comfort of Stratford Mountain House enjoying hot drinks.

Good on Bruce Thomas stepping up to lead a day trip to Tongariro National Park after designated leader Cherry Channon was sidelined with a family issue. That’s a good thing about our club, we help each other.

The trouble with computers is that they sometimes change words they don’t recognise, as Scroggin the tramping columnist in *Midweek* has discovered to his cost. Remutuka Forest Park was changed to Rematch Forest Park. Scroggin failed to pick up the error and it appeared that way in print. Ouch!

An ouch also for Shane Wilson while walking into Mangaturuturu Hut with the Wednesday crowd. Everyone was crossing streams carefully to keep feet dry but Shane went to the other extreme with a face plant that left him wet all over. No injury, fortunately, except to his dignity.

Further to the above trip, clubbies stopped to visit the Holl memorial between the Cascades and the club hut and it turned out to be the 93rd anniversary of Horace Holl’s drowning in the nearby stream on 27 May 1927.

A friend of Esther was the recipient of a very tidy man’s jersey courtesy of the same trip to the club hut. It was found on the track and after the men all turned it down, Esther passed it on to a new owner.

Graham Sutcliffe has been tramping forever, so when he says he has never been muddier than on the Kiritaki Hut trip we take notice. That’s muddy! Kiritaki Hut wasn’t Shane McCulloch’s finest hour when it came to lighting fires. The former Boy Scout used all his wiles, but the fire wouldn’t take and his

Magnificent Seven had to rely on their thermals for warmth.

You can learn a lot about a person when you observe how they play cards and other games. Based on the game of Bananagrams on the Mystery at Omori weekend, we have a number of extremely devious people in our club who are not above blatantly cheating!

Prepare to welcome back a wanderer. Regular Wednesday tramper Sally Gray and husband Stephen are reportedly returning home to Whanganui in August after touring the country in their camper van since July last year.

When conditions warmed on a Tongariro National Park tramp and people shed garments, Jiri Krivanek earned some admiring glances with his bright blue shorts.

You can't tell a book by its cover. Or a magazine, it seems. The May edition of *Walking New Zealand* promised an article on Bushy Park but if you want to read it, you will look in vain. Ouch!

Dinging one club van is bad but two — that's practically a hanging offence. Sadly, Dee Ess, driving one van, did it when he parked just a shade too close to the other van in the Whakapapa Village car park. Double ouch!

From the Archive: Followed by a horrible silence ... did you hear about the tramper eating a meal of over-ripe venison who asked why the rice was in the stew?

Relocations ... we hear that Dick Mitchell and Brenda Collins have moved house — no, not together, silly!

It can't possibly be true. BOMBs assembled at i-SITE as usual for the Tuesday bike ride - and down came the rain. While four tough guys headed for distant parts, the remainder scuttled straight to the Yellow House and stayed there in the warm.

Long Drop humour: A tramper was walking along one day when he came to a river. Seeing another tramper on the far bank he called out, "How do I get to the other side?" The other tramper thought a bit and then called back, "You are on the other side."

Helpful hint: If you are on an overnight tramp on a wet day and your raincoat is soaked, when you reach the hut turn the arms inside out and hopefully they will be nice and dry when you put the coat on next day. (Thanks to our Southern man Brian Sixtus for that bit of wisdom.)



TRAMPING TUCKER

BY UNCLE HAL

Carol's Rice Pudding



Cook 4oz rice, straining at least twice during cooking to prevent stickiness. After last straining add 1/2 lb sultanas, 2 despn. sugar, 2 tabs milk powder, 1 pint cold water, then mix well and simmer over fire for 20 mins. — *Wanganui Tramping Club Recipe Book*



The advertisement features a central circular logo for 'THE BIKE SHED' with 'Sales & Repairs' at the top, 'Wanganui' in the middle, and 'Est 2001' at the bottom. To the right are logos for HARO BIKES, SPECIALIZED, SCOTT, and ALANTI. Below these logos is the text 'Huge range of E Bikes, Apparel, and Accessories!'. At the bottom, a black bar contains the address '70 RIDGWAY ST, WANGANUI', the phone number 'PHONE 345 5500', and the website 'www.bikeshed.co.nz'.



Mangawhio Lake walk



*Shane after a dunking.
Mangaturuturu walk*



George cranking up his Fordson. Top of the Moe



Omeri trip

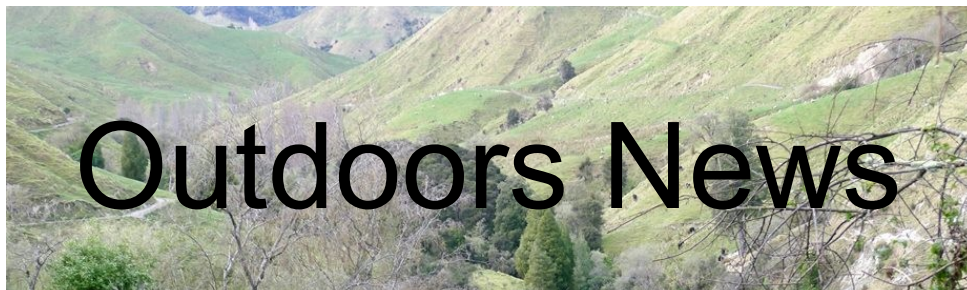


*Forestry hut in pine forest on
Marton Sash and Door*



Ruahine Forest Park





Big infrastructure investment

Vital conservation and visitor infrastructure destroyed by a severe flood event in Fiordland in February is being rebuilt through a \$13.73 million Budget 2020 investment announced by Minister of Conservation Eugenie Sage. She says this investment means iconic Great Walks such as the Routeburn track and the full length of the Milford Track should be ready to re-open in time for the summer season.

Extreme weather significantly damaged more than 440km of walking tracks, with the Milford and Routeburn Tracks sustaining the most damage. Lake Howden Hut and 32 bridges were damaged, along with other huts, campsites, and facilities.

The funding, over four years, is contingent on ministers approving an action plan. The package comprises: \$9.52m capital expenditure (material and labour costs of replacing assets such as tracks, bridges, and huts) and \$4.21m of associated operating costs for the assets repaired and replaced.



Routeburn Track

Flooded river claims trumper

The body of a missing trumper in Hawke's Bay was found 500m downstream from the swollen Makaroro River that he and his companion had attempted to cross at Queen's Birthday Weekend. High river levels and bad weather conditions meant the search in the Ruahine Forest Park had to be delayed.

The search resumed for the man near the bottom of Gold Creek Ridge Track where it and the Sparrowhawk Track meet the river. Police said the body was located with assistance of a drone. At low flow the Makaroro is not considered a problem provided trampers select their crossing spots.

Commenting on the drowning, Napier Tramping Club President Kelvin Shaw says the river was "well flooded" after heavy rainfall and would have been very difficult

to cross. "The river isn't very deep normally but is fast flowing at the best of times," he said. "They wouldn't even be able to bind together to follow the principles of river crossing."

Great Walks booking bonanza

DOC reported record opening week results on the eight Great Walks that opened for 2020/21 bookings in June. The result was a 36% increase in all bookings, including a 47% increase on the newest Great Walk, the Paparoa Track, and a 48% increase in bookings on the Heaphy.

With 92% of these bookings made by Kiwis, DOC said this demonstrated a huge domestic appetite to explore home and connect with our natural and cultural heritage.

While hut spaces on the walks were already at 75% capacity, there were still



Slip on Paparoa Track



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opportunities for those happy to camp or were flexible with dates. Further Great Walks opportunities are set to become available as repairs progress on the Milford and Routeburn tracks. DOC manages around 1000 huts, 14,000km of walking tracks and 13,000 historic and cultural sites.

Upgrading sensitively at Oparara

Work to improve safety and provide for the protection of the sensitive environment of the Oparara Basin near Karamea has begun. The work includes track surface and toilet upgrades. The

improvements are part of a \$5.7m Provincial Growth Fund project to ensure visitors going to Oparara Arches can be managed appropriately.

Further work, including safety improvements to the 16km access road, rerouting walkways, and installing stairs and viewing areas to avoid sensitive areas is planned over the two stages of the project. Video surveillance equipment

will be installed to alert DOC if people enter the Honeycomb Caves restricted area.

DOC project manager Aideen Larkin says the landforms of this area form a large part of the character of the place and work will be undertaken in a sensitive manner. Most of the roughly 8000 people who visit the Oparara annually are domestic travellers



Oparara Basin

Couple committed to Mt Taranaki

Hawera couple John and Helen Cooper are close to notching up 40 years of volunteer work supporting the DOC's management of Egmont National Park – including painting, hut construction and even building steps on tracks. The retirees are humble about their ongoing commitment to working on the mountain. “We’ve done bits and pieces up there since the early ‘80s,” John says.

An early piece of work the couple were involved in was the construction of the 10-bed Syme Hut at Fantham’s Peak. “That was back in about 1986 – a joint project between the Mt Egmont Alpine Club and DOC,” John says.

Although he doesn’t consider he and wife expert step builders, their efforts “seem to be holding up all right.” They’ve now built more than 200 steps along the track. John has a professional engineering background which has been crucial to their work. The couple’s conservation commitment also extends to Lake Rotokare.

Popular hut open after rebuild

A hut at Lake Daniell in the Maruia Valley near Springs Junction in the West Coast area which has been a popular first tramp for many generations of families has been rebuilt and is open for use. The hut was first built in 1976 as Manson-Nicholls Memorial Hut to commemorate the lives of three trampers who were killed in a 1974 landslide which destroyed a fishing club hut across the lake.



Kohanga Atawhai - Manson Nichols Hut

The hut has now been renamed Kohanga Atawhai – Manson Nicholls Hut which translates to “Conservation Nest”. The walk is a great one for families and first time trampers, taking just two to three hours on easy terrain through magnificent red beech forest to reach the new hut on the shore of Lake Daniell.

The new hut has separate hut warden quarters and contains 20 bunks. There are camp sites and a cooking shelter outside for camping and day-visitor use. Beginning this summer season, the hut will be added to the DOC booking system and bookings will be required to secure a bunk.

Condolences



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

Mary-Anne Sleyer on the death of her partner John
Sue Hayden on the death of her brother in law Andy
Jude Harrison on the death of her husband Ted

We apologise if we have overlooked any deaths.

Track to re-open despite risks

After receiving a risk analysis of the cliffs at Cape Kidnappers/Te Kauae-a-Maui, DOC and Hastings District Council say people will be able to access the DOC track at the end of the beach later in the year – but warn that the risks are high.

The landslide and rockfall hazard presented by the cliffs above the beach is significant, unpredictable, and potentially fatal, according to the final Quantitative Risk Assessment report. This technical report was commissioned after the 2019 landslide that seriously injured two tourists.



Cape Kidnappers Walk

The QRA compares the risk for people travelling along the beach as equivalent to the risks faced by people undertaking mountain climbing. Before the DOC track can be reopened, some of this work to address visitor risk issues needs to be completed. This work will be completed over the next few months, aiming to reopen the track in time for the gannet season.

Signs at the Clifton Beach entrance will be updated to note the risk, along with information on the DOC and Hastings District Council websites. The walk along the beach will not be promoted.



It feels good to be lost in the right direction



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FMC pushes new West Coast park

Federated Mountain Clubs is campaigning for a 'Wild Rivers Park' on the West Coast, calling for greater protection of more than 5000km² of conservation land.

The park would encompass two large tracts of land on either side of Westland Tai Poutini National Park, stretching from Mt Aspiring National Park to the south and Arthur's Pass National Park to the north. The land includes 517km of tramping tracks and 84 DOC huts, along with 75 glaciers, 122 peaks over 2000m and 3330km of waterways.

The land is predominantly Stewardship Land with a relatively low level of legal protection. FMC says the park would help protect the land from mining and hydro schemes which have been proposed in the area. It's not clear whether the park would have the same level of protection as a national park.

The idea forms part of FMC's 'KiwiShare' campaign promotion to get political parties to support policies that help backcountry recreation. Other policies include giving Kiwis first dibs on hut bookings, more funding for kauri dieback research and more money for DOC.

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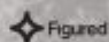
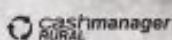
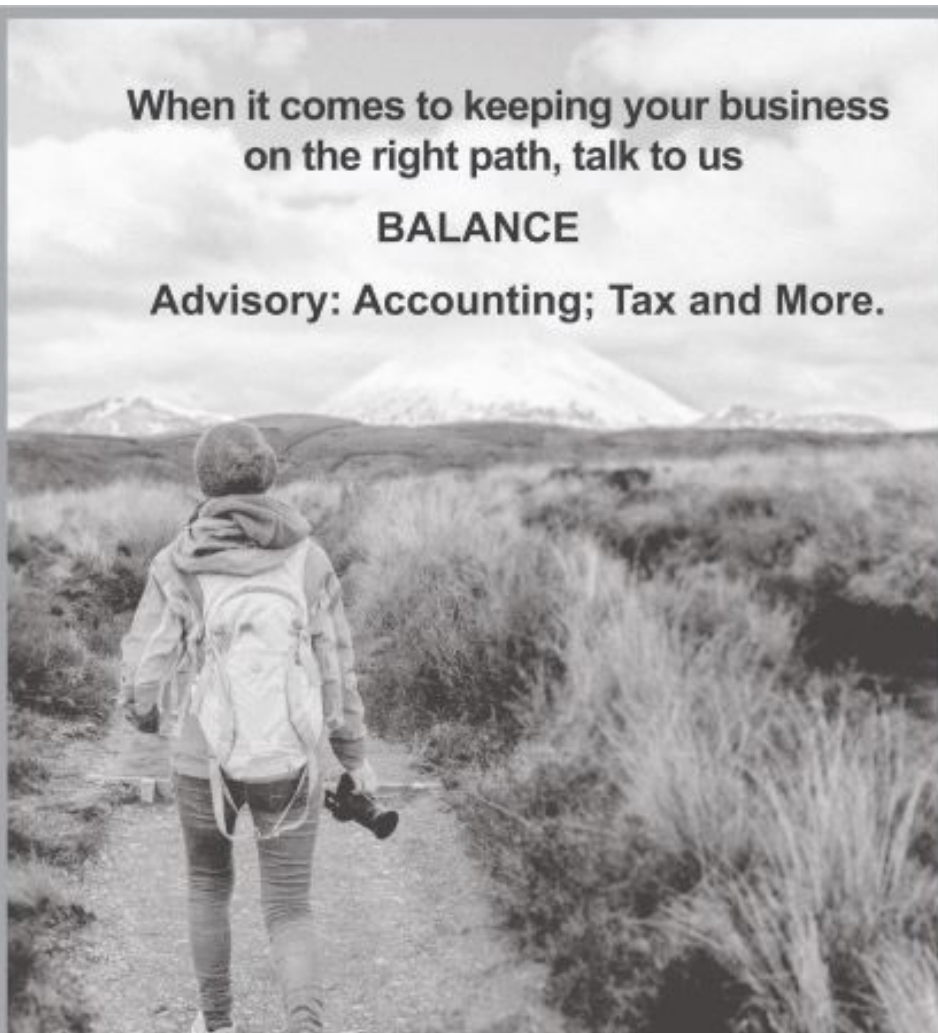
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WTC Trip Reports

Matemateonga-Mangapurua

Sat-Wed 8-12 Feb 2020

Scribe: *Brian Doughty*

Day 1: It's surprising how many trampers don't mind a 5am start when going bush for five days with a great bunch of likeminded people like Brian Sixtus, Baz Hooper, Grant Adkins, Dorothy Symes, Shane Wilson, Andy Milham, Gary McElwain, Mark Sutherland and Brian Doughty - along with the day trippers. The biggest issue is time taken to get to our starting point, Kohi Saddle, hence the 5am start.

All sorted at the road end we were under way about 8.15 knowing that ahead was a group from Hamilton, so their van told us. What we didn't know was how many and when they left - this could see us being at our night stop, Pouri Hut, all together. Good time was made to Omaru Hut, our intended lunch stop and where the day trippers left us on their return journey as we took off for Pouri. Good time was made along this section but we did see signs of track deterioration. Arriving at Pouri the lack of firewood was noticeable and no wood shed; seems DOC hadn't been here for a while.

Day 2: Up early as this was to be one of our longer days, something like 7.5hrs of tramping to cover 22 km and not knowing what track conditions would be like. Well, we found out after reaching the end of the benched section where the track again showed signs of lack of maintenance. When we arrived at Pouri on Saturday the log book had no DOC staff being in the area for about 18 months and then not doing a lot of work. Just prior to our lunch stop the Hamilton puzzle was solved. They were doing a crossover and were a day in front of us. Lunch done, we took off for Puketotara Hut where we were to spend the night. To our surprise again no firewood, with the hut surrounds looking rather untidy and tired. Our long day over we reached Puketotara for a late evening meal then hit the sack just after dark. As luck would have it, we were treated to a full moon and kiwis romping around the bush at night.

Day 3: No pressure today but some up early catching those fresh morning photos. As our boat wasn't due at the landing until 11-ish, we had time for a leisurely trot downhill. But alas, it wasn't to be, some 75 metres from the river Dorothy had something of a slip/trip/fall, and (unknown to her at the time) a broken bone in her right foot. After getting her to the river it was decided to send Dorothy to Pipiriki, then home to Wanganui by mail van after the boat had dropped us at the Mangapurua Landing. Bidding farewell to Dorothy we took off to the Bridge to Nowhere for our lunch break, just beating a boatload of tourists. The single boys on the trip were pretty keen to see some real people, especially young females. Arriving at Johnson's camp for the night we had completed another longish day. As a surprise waiting for us at Johnson's, per courtesy of Heather and Winston Oliver after their visit, was cake, cider and a beer "well worth the journey". Thanks you guys.

Day 4: No need for an early start as we had only to get to the McIntyre “Settlers Return” after a leisurely three-hour walk along the original Mangapurua Valley road. Unfortunately there have been major road works for a bike trail like you’ve never seen before. Honestly, in some sections this road is now five to seven metres wide which seems to me to take away the A in adventure wilderness experience for outdoor recreation. What on earth would possess someone to create such havoc in an iconic historical area? Well another rant over, what a pleasure to stay at the “Settlers Return” owned by the McIntyre family from Wanganui: neat and tidy, lawns all cut. All we had to do for rent was to split the firewood and stack in the shed, job done. Thank you, the McIntyres.

Day 5: Again a rather slow start to the day while we waited for the day walkers to arrive with the van. We had anticipated they would reach us by lunch time but some of them turned up around 11 am. After putting the pressure on we had lunch with them and all left for the road end, with vans arriving about 2.30. Then off to Raetihi for the usual drink and ice cream, then on home. Thanks to our day trippers/drivers, for without them this trip wouldn’t have been possible. Thanks heaps for those who came on the five day bush walk, without you it would have been boring. And our thoughts go to Dorothy for not being able to complete the trip.

Tongariro Loop Walk

Sat 15 Feb 2020

Scribe: *Cherry Channon*

It was a perfect day and an early start for 13 Wanganui trampers to enjoy a walk in the Tongariro National Park led by our Ohakune club member Peter Finucane.

We started at the Waitonga Falls carpark and proceeded to Blyth Hut where we stopped for a snack. Peter then led us above the hut into open tussock country then cross-country and down a ridge parallel to the Turoa Mountain Road which took us through some interesting territory. We made a stop at the site of the Old Blyth Hut where a dilapidated sign and some rubble showed where the hut once stood. Apparently it was prone to vandalism due to its proximity to the road so DOC burnt it to the ground! Surely that was the ultimate act of vandalism!!

Scratched, bloodied and bruised after battling through dense foliage we arrived back at the van happy and pleasantly satisfied. It's testament to a great day's tramping if there is the odd scratch and a bit of blood, isn't that so??

Rangataua Wander

Sat 7 Mar 2020

Scribe: *Cherry Channon*

If walking in dappled sunlight beneath mature beech, rimu and totara trees is your happy place then you will love this track. Peter Finucane, our Waimarino clubbie, led us on a loop walk that follows two DOC traplines. The understorey of regenerating native bush and ferns was pleasant to walk through with a gurgling mountain stream keeping us company part of the way. As the trail is not a developed track it is overgrown in places and we often needed to clamber over fallen trees. The

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trapline finishes on a mountain bike track before joining up with the main Rangataua forestry road. The NZ Army have been using the road over recent months and caused considerable damage – ie potholes large enough to swallow a small vehicle! We left the van at a parking area off the main road and Peter shuttled our small group of six to the start of the first trapline in his 4xwheel drive vehicle. This trail is part of the Rotokura Ecological Area at Karioi which is off SH49 south of Ohakune. It is a summer walk as the area gets very muddy and you wouldn't want to be there during the 'Roar' .

We started the day at 7.30am travelled up the Parapara, met Peter at Ohakune, followed him to Karioi then returned to Wanganui at 5.30pm via Fields Track.

Wairere Stream Circuit

Wed 20 May 2020

Scribe: *Dave Scoullar*

The first Wednesday trip for two months and it was a joy to get out in brilliant sunshine in Tongariro National Park with very few other people around. Starting at Whakapapa Village, we went up to the end of the Ridge Track and then continued off-track around the flank of the mountain until we spotted the Wairere Stream below.

The team dropped to the stream for lunch and then wandered along the banks, admiring the way the stream has carved its way through the rocks, until reaching the RMT at Taranaki Falls. We went down to the falls and continued along the lower track back to the vans to complete five hours of leisurely tramping. All 14 of us agreed it was so good to be back.

On trip: Juliet, George, Esther, Marilyn, Suzanne, Robert, Bruce, Helen, BarbaraF, Adrian, Diane, Jiri, Cherry and Dave S.

Mikimiki Walkway – Eastern Tararua Foothills

Sat 23 May 2020

Scribe: *Adrian Pike*

Under Covid-19 Level 2 conditions, eight intrepid trampers hopped into the van and departed from the club rooms at 7.00am, with an additional four following in Anne Condon's car. With a courtesy stop at Eketahuna and a pleasant drive along Mikimiki Road, we arrived at the car park at 10am. In cool cloudy, partly sunny conditions and with no recent rain to speak of, the track conditions were good.

With 7.5km completed through the regenerated native forest and a hill climb of 568 metres we arrived at the Kiriwhakapapa Road campsite. This is a lovely spot with an ablution block and large dining shelter where a big wooden table and bench seats have been securely fixed to the concrete floor. This provided a welcome rest opportunity and it was good to put our packs down for a moment.

After lunch we started the return tramp by taking a small detour through the beautiful and majestic redwood forest before rejoining the old bush tram track again. By 4pm we were all back at the car park, having completed 15.40km or, in Margie Campbell's case, 32,586 steps. Following a quick change of clothes we were back on

the road and returned to the club room some three hours later. A number of trampers had never done this walk before and expressed their appreciation and contentment on completion. A great day was had by trampers Marilyn McGlone, Helen Atkinson, Barbara Francis, Fred Verschoor, Linda Hart, Brigitte Hund, Margie Campbell, Chris Rothman, Anne Condon, Andrea Bunn, Helen Adams and Adrian Pike.

Bottles Track Exploration

Sat-Sun 24-25 May 2020

Scribe: *Dave Scoullar*

With the weekend tramp cancelled, Mark Sutherland suggested we run our own trip, nothing too strenuous. The two of us decided to go to the eastern Tararua, maybe Roaring Stag Hut or Herepai Hut. A large number of cars in the parking area suggested others were also anxious to escape from lockdown. It was such a nice day we opted for Herepai as we would have time to go up onto the open tops.

We got to the hut in just under three hours to find two possum trappers in residence. Conditions were excellent to wander for an hour above the hut onto Herepai (1125m) and we turned around at the lonely cross for Stan Evans (wonder what his story is?). Getting back we found a party of eight from Wellington had arrived and the hut was a lively place.

Next day we opted to return via the Bottles track which begins 15 minutes back down the track from the hut. I had seen a report by Manawatu Tramping and Ski



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Club and they had provided a map of their route, which was helpful. The track was overgrown and had only a few informal markings so we needed to stop frequently for corrections.

The track led north to an unnamed stream which we followed down to a fork and then up the main stream for a few hundred metres before going off at right angles at the toe of a spur leading to point 655. Again there were occasional ribbons or blazes but also some time looking around. Eventually we started to drop down and came out onto the main track five minutes from the swing bridge just before the car park.

We got back in three and a half hours and enjoyed knocking off a route that I have always been curious about.

Mangaturuturu Hut

Wed 27 May 2020

Scribe: *Bruce Thomas*

Our usual pre-Christmas trip to the hut didn't happen last year due to lousy weather conditions. Then came lockdown, but we finally made it.

We opted to circumnavigate The Cascades on the way in. Once we found the start of the detour it was an interesting change of scenery down through the bush and then along the adjacent gully to meet the normal track just before the hut. One reason for the trip was a hut clean but the hut was in excellent condition so only a bare minimum was needed.

After lunch in the sun it was a pleasant trip out via the normal route. The weather was perfect, the stream levels about normal but there were a few wet feet, plus Shane's most unexpected dunking on the way in.

A good day. On the trip were Bruce, Adrian, Esther, Shane W, Dave and Juliet, Barbara F and Suzanne.

Wilkie's Pools and Kapuni Track

Sat 30 May 2020

Scribe: *Sandra Rogers*

Starting off with a clagged-in chilly day, the weather cleared to a cloudy day and not so cold. This is a lovely easy walk through goblin forest. Wilkie's Pools are a series of waterfalls. Very pretty. The first half of the track is very civilised, but the return loop is an easy tramping track.

On the trip were Sandra Rogers, John Baxter, Kate Jones, Dorothy Symes, Ben Morris, Paul Lowe, Sharron Prouse, Carolyn Shingleton, Jennie Anton, Linda Johnstone plus her grandson Eli Kuehne.

Mangawhio Lakes – Waitotara

Wed 3 Jun 2020

Scribe: *Graham Sutcliffe*

This is a great walk and on this occasion we accessed from Lakes Road. The track is in good condition and the walk combines forestry roads and bush tracks. Since last visit there have been more forestry roads in places and subsequently more logging which gave the area a different feel.

Weather was fine and warm and the 21 out on this excursion had a really good day. Those attending were: Alison Suter, Allan Loader, Bruce Thomas, David Scoullar, Dorothy Symes, Esther Williams, Fred Verschoor, George Neil, Helen Atkinson, Jiri Krivnek, Juliet Kojis, Linda Hart, Malcolm Hutchins, Marilyn McGlone, Mike Miller, Robert Lakeland, Shane Wilson, Suzanne Roberts, Victoria Kay, and leaders Graham Sutcliffe and John Baxter.

Marton Sash & Door Trail

Sat 6 Jun 2020

Scribe: *Dorothy Symes*

We did it again, the Marton Sash & Door trail, popular with our day-tripping weekenders. We set off at 7.30 am on a slightly overcast day with only a brief sprinkle of rain, ideal for the 22km track in a lovely part of Central North Island on the edge of Tongariro National Park. It is accessed from SH4 on to Erua Road, with parking for two vans 500 metres from the main road. We had 22 takers and divided into two groups, heading in opposite directions from the carpark. Van group number one was co-led by Bruce and myself, the second group led by Dick.

The track is named for the joinery company that manufactured window sashes and doors from the timbers milled there. An easy to moderate walk, but it's easy to go off-track if not watching out! The track is maintained by volunteers and is in good condition, apart from the signage which could do with some attention.

Group Two headed north-west through the forest, past an old forestry hut and following the main trunk rail. It's easy to miss the signs there, same green as the foliage and hardly legible. Both groups had good maps. The second group crossed the bridge on Erua Road, veered down to the left and walked up alongside the gravel road to a wide track with views out over the Waimarino Stream. At the top of this track it was a right turn out and on to the gravel road. Another right turn and down to the first left and up about 500 metres, brought us to the entrance to MS&D trail. Soon we were into picturesque native bush, passing a toilet and through an old tramway with remains of sleepers and rails. It's worthwhile to stop at the interpretation boards and learn of the area's fascinating history.

Eventually both groups met for lunch together at the railway line, before continuing on their respective ways. Surprisingly, each arrived at the carpark at almost the same time. I felt it was a good and worthwhile experience - thanks to drivers and leaders. A great day !!!

Ahoroa Ridge via "Top of the Moe"

Wed 10 Jun 2020

Scribe: *Tracey Hooper*

Twenty-three trampers: Being such a large group to travel along a narrow bony slippery ridge, we decided to try and halve the group by suggesting an alternative, to walk further out the Mataimoana Road, where more pleasant walking conditions and views could be enjoyed. Nine folk took this option, leaving 14 to take the more adventurous tramp that had been advertised.

Basil led the group straight down a ridge, which steadily took us down to the Tawhiti Stream, then plummeted even further when we reached the expected "end of the world". Sitting having lunch a dog then hunter came along, an elderly man who loved the area and had just hung a sheep in a tree that he had shot. Basil had heard about this fellow and they caught up with bush gossip. We reached the stream then started the climb up to reach the Moe road. The man and his friendly dog had already caught up with us, the sheep on his back. We met the other group who had kindly moved the vans to meet us so we did not have to walk the road – five hours including lunch. Leaders: Basil and Tracey Hooper

Tararua Plane Crash

Sun 14 June 2020

Scribe: *Dave Scoullar*

The visit to a plane crash site and grave near Kaipororo trig in the northern Tararua attracted a big turnout — 16 from our club and 10 from Hutt Valley Tramping Club. First task was to cross the Makakahi River which resulted in wet feet for many. Then steeply up a logging track onto a marked track through beech forest and uncut bush, eventually breaking out onto the flat tussock-covered summit of Mt Kaiparoro (808m).

After lunch there at the trig and enjoying the views of the main range on this clear, sunny day, we doubled back for about 300m and then headed south down a gloomy but well-marked spur to the wreckage of an Airspeed Oxford NZ2124 which crashed while flying from Masterton to Ohakea on 5 July 1952.

A massive search failed to find the plane until deerstalkers stumbled on it more than a year later, on 24 July 1953. The body of the pilot and only occupant, RNZAF Flying officer David Leary, aged 27, and an experienced pilot, is buried at the site with a small marker.

The return was uneventful, completing a round trip of five hours and another enjoyable combined trip with a fellow tramping club

Footnote: The site is 633m south and 116m west of the trig. This was the last of the six Oxford aircraft to go missing in New Zealand. Like three others before it, NZ2124 crashed in the Tararua.

Manawatu Gorge

Wed 17 Jun 2020

Scribe: *Bruce Thomas*

The plan was a crossover on the gorge track but some last-minute information that maintenance work was being done and a section of the track was closed threw a large spanner in the works. With two full vans plus one car we went anyway. One group to each end, both to go as far as possible, have lunch and then turn round.

The Ballance Rd end group were keen to get started, some had not been to that end before and others had forgotten how much uphill there was. The idea was to go to the intersection where an alternative track heads out to the gorge road. This was much further than we thought which was good on this day and was where we met

the work party. After a brief friendly discussion we carried on out to the road and back around to the van in light drizzle. To finish the day was a walk round the loop track with a detour to the huge totara.

A short day but still a good one for all participants.

Whakapapa – Wairere Stream

Sat 20 Jun 2020

Scribe: *Bruce Thomas*

We arrived at the near-empty car park at 9am to meet Peter Panton and his group from Taumarunui and Peter Finucane from Ohakune.

We were soon on our way up the Ridge Track and then beyond into very colourful alpine growth. A spot sheltered from the cold breeze, with clear views out to the west, provided a welcome stop for morning tea. We then followed a low bluff-type formation, veering left all the way and down into a gully with a small stream crossing. Up and over to the next gully with a fairly steep downhill to cross the fast flowing Wairere Stream. There were some wet feet this time but it landed us at the perfect lunch spot. After lunch we followed the stream down to Taranaki Falls and out via the lower track to complete a really good day.

Our group was – Bruce T, Dorothy S, Margaret C, Rozy R, Brigitte H, Stuart K, Anne-marie H, Margie C, Kim W, Shane W, Margret M, and visitors Mathilde Gaudez and Maralyn Ruby.

Mt Taranaki Loop

Wed 24 June 2020

Scribe: *Dave Scoullar*

Midwinter, early start, a dull day forecast — so few will turn up for the 13km loop walk in Egmont National Park, right? Wrong! Twenty-three people voted with their boots and were treated to a neat day out.

The tramp began at Stratford Mountain House and proceeded along the track towards Dawson Falls, diverted up the Enchanted Walk to the plateau and then down to Waingongoro Hut for lunch. Then it was back along the track to the vans, with a diversion by about half the troops along the Patea Loop Walk. We encountered low cloud and mist, surprisingly mud-free tracks and it wasn't too cold with no need for raincoats.

The day ended in a very civilised fashion with hot drinks at the Stratford Mountain House. Cheers!

Alice Nash Memorial Heritage Hut

Wed 8 July 2020

Scribe: *Adrian Pike*

Table Flat Road / Petersons Road – Ruahine Forest Park

With questionable weather conditions and rainfall predicted to exceed 30mm for Levin and the Tararua Ranges, the tramp to the Kohitere Forest was rescheduled to the Alice Nash Memorial Hut in the Ruahine Forest Park, where only 8mm of rain

was expected. In cool, damp, misty and drizzly conditions we set off for the hut from the car park at the end of Petersons Road. The track, which is a former logging road, is in good condition and goes through beech forest and over a very attractive timber arched bridge constructed in 1961. It took about 45 minutes to reach the hut where we had smoko and enjoyed views of the Oroua Forest. Following smoko we walked the track to the Tunupo Trig for an hour before turning back to the hut for lunch. Snow patches on the forest floor created a most picturesque and fairy-tale scene. Even though the weather conditions were not ideal, it was a most enjoyable day for us all, particularly those who had never done this tramp before. The intrepid trampers were – George Neil, Esther Williams, Barbara Francis, Margie Campbell, Bruce Thomas, Terry Kennedy, Dave Scoullar, Maralyn Ruby, Allison Suter, Mike Cole and Adrian Pike.



QUIZ ANSWERS

1. New Plymouth and Gisborne
2. 10%
3. Parma wallabies
4. Because he used the inner leaves as a vegetable to protect his crew against scurvy
5. Because they are fire-resistant
6. North Island
7. Over 70 rungs
8. Three — the third eye is in the middle of the forehead
9. 21
10. Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari

TT2 Report

28 May: Jennie Anton led 21 walkers from Peat St through the Wetlands via Parkdale Dr and on to Virginia Lake. After morning tea at the lake we headed back to Peat St via Ben's Place.

11 June, Jennifer Garrett: 26 walkers met at the crematorium and walked to Mosquito Point, taking the opportunity to check progress on the new bridge. We had morning tea at Waireka Estate. An interesting walk which we hadn't done before.

25 June: Julie Hamilton-Gibbs took a record number of 33 walkers who braved the cold but sunny day. We met at the Stadium and headed over to London St, and on to Virginia Rd via the track above the Deer Park. Up to the Lake for morning tea, returning via Ben's Place.

9 July, Margaret Stratford: 22 walkers met on the river walkway by the BP Service Station. We walked over Cobham Bridge and out to Landguard Bluff for morning tea. We noticed lots of hail and ice on cars, roofs and lawns from the hailstorm in the early hours of the morning. Fortunately the weather improved and although cold we enjoyed another lovely sunny day.



**Clouds come floating into my life, no longer to carry rain
or usher storm, but to add colour to my sunset sky**

R Tagore

Vandals hit DOC facilities

Visitors to the Pureora Forest are being urged to report damage and suspicious behaviour after a DOC shelter was targeted by vandals for a second time. The shelter, which is used by trampers, quad bikers or mountain bikers, was damaged in a suspicious fire in late 2019.

It was repaired by volunteer duo Murray and Judy Bramald but it was subsequently targeted in June, by vandals who have daubed it in extensive graffiti. Oscar Emery, DOC Maniapoto District Operations Manager, says a second bout of willful damage at the site undermines the commitment and effort of Mr and Mrs Bramald and DOC staff.



The shelter is about a 30-minute bike ride into Pureora Forest from the Piropiro Rd entrance, making it one of the most easily accessible DOC assets on the popular Timber Trail. Earlier this year vandals used angle grinders to cut padlocks on bollards on the Maramataha Bridge and Okauaka Bridge – part of the Timber Trail. A number of other bollards and gates were also compromised and damage was caused to bridges and tracks.

Let's wander where the WIFI is weak

TWILIGHT WALK PROGRAMME 2020

After a few years of rest, Tuesday twilight public walks returned successfully last November/December. The revival will continue this year. All walks begin at 6pm and will be approximately two hours. There is no need to register, just turn up at the start point. The programme is:

November 10: Brenda Baxter (345 9922) leads a walk around Putiki, starting at the BP service station in Taupo Quay. Get a new perspective on this suburb.

November 17: Dave Scoullar (343 2836) has picked a low tide to lead a group over to Corliss Island. Be prepared to get wet feet. Park in Landguard Bluff Rd.

November 24: Bruce Thomas (345 6532) will take a group along the Aramoho walkway/cycleway to the new Upokongaro Bridge. Park at the cemetery.

December 1: Jan Pavarno (344 7574) will lead a group on a walk around her home patch of Castlecliff, leaving from outside her house at 17 Seafront Rd.

December 8: Dorothy Symes (345 7039) will go around Westmere Lake, followed by Virginia Lake. Park at Westmere Lake.





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HOW TRAMPING BECAME PART OF JESSIE'S DNA

Taking a kid tramping can be life-changing as this piece, compiled as a writing exercise by London-based Jessie Scoullar, shows. She and her five siblings all began tramping as children with their Dad and the Wanganui Tramping Club.

From as far back as I can remember, Dad took us kids tramping. (In other countries this is called hiking, bush-walking, or rambling — in New Zealand, it's officially known as “tramping”.) Day trips, weekend trips, sometimes as long as a few days at a time, we'd don backpacks with waterproof coats, stubby apples from the back garden and sandwiches wrapped in grease-proof paper, and set off in the car to drive to some back-of-beyond location.

Whether as a family or as part of a club outing, inevitably there'd be carsickness along the too-long trip down back-country lanes, and once on the walk itself, complaints at Dad's frequent over-estimation of our stamina. Mountain ranges, river valleys, forests and lakes in between -- none were safe from our marauding treks.

When it was just me, Dad and my brother Guy, we'd often play “ambush”, taking it in turns to range out ahead and make an attack from a concealed location. I'd listen with fascination to stories from my older sisters about multi-day treks with insufficient food, where the kilometres back to the carpark stretched impossibly and hopelessly ahead.

Or the rite-of-passage navigation down the Whanganui River by canoe, which I eventually completed aged 15. Most weekends my Dad was out on a Sunday day trip, or a two or three day weekender, and most often he'd take us kids along. I think it gave my Mum a break from us and it gave them a break from each other.

Even though I used to rail and complain about tramping, it's become a part of my DNA. Two or three years ago I began a regular habit of going on hikes around the UK countryside. I take a train to some tiny town in Sussex, and my friend Phil drives up from Brighton and meets me in his car.

He's in charge of maps and directions, and we both take responsibility for putting the world to rights, enjoying the freedom of the open air and the effect it has on our ability to enjoy open discussion. Being out in the countryside has become as necessary to me as breathing, and if I don't make it out for a walk in a given month, I feel myself gasping for it. (Which has been tough during the lock down!)



Jessie Scoullar, aged 15, on a multi-day club trip around Mt Taranaki in 1995



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From our archives... February 2008

A MIND-FOCUSSING RIVER WALK

Athol Hughes had promoted the walk down the Ngaruroro River from Cameron Hut as a stroll of three to four hours but it turned out to be something more than that. In fact, the 8km trek took six hours and 16-mind-focussing river crossings before we got to Cameron car park.

We began our crossings with two teams of four but as they became more difficult we went across as an eight-strong unit. Ridgy and Athol did sterling work, sussing out the best crossing places and giving directions as we proceeded.

On at least two occasions we had to sidle around rock faces as the crossing spots were too dodgy. The wind swirled so hard in places that water and spume flew off the river surface — a spectacular sight. Fortunately, after the first half dozen crossings they got a little easier and we tackled the water with more confidence.



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MAGAZINE EDITOR	Jeanette Prier	345 1651	trampermagazine@gmail.com
------------------------	----------------	----------	---------------------------

DISTRIBUTOR	Jacky Evans	345 6858	stoned@slingshot.co.nz
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WEBSITE	Diane Harries	343 2222	d.vanillablue@gmail.com
----------------	---------------	----------	-------------------------

FACEBOOK	Heather Mackenzie	347 1250	mackenzieheather56@gmail.com or 022 616 5670
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Please contact Margaret Chainey, phone 345 4305, if you hear of illness, hospitalisation, bereavements and the like.

Sender:
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Approaching the Cascades