



Warblings

Out West



West Auckland District Tramping Club Newsletter No. 416

2015

Warbles from the Editor.

I look forward to receiving notifications or reports from trip leaders, photographers and anyone who has taken part in the activities of the Club.

Cut-off date the 10th of the month please.

My regular contributors will be

- Lynne Flood: Trips and tramps planned
- Malcolm Robinson: Wednesday evening walks during the season.
- Wendy Bassett: Social events
- The Committee: For any announcements

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Website Photo of Ladies Bay, Rotoroa Island. Val's report to follow

Club Calendar of Activities

2015

Sunday tramps and what to bring: Meeting place and car-pooling takes place, unless otherwise stated, from Glen Mall, Glen Eden at the Post shop. Please be there **BEFORE 8.30am** to meet the Leader and give your contact phone number for the intentions form. **If you intend to meet the leader at the track you need to contact the Leader the night before the tramp.**

Reasonable fitness and comfortable walking (weather appropriate) attire, plus your food and drink for the day are essential

Owing to fire the March, April and May Club nights will be moved to MONDAY and will be in different rooms at the Kelston Community Centre

The February meeting is still on the third Tuesday of the month

TUESDAY 17 February
ACTIVITY ROOM 1

Club Night - Waterview Tunnel

7.30pm



We have all heard of "Alice" the boring machine creating the motorway tunnel under Avondale (under Peter's house to be more precise!). Jocelyn Shaw, Communications & Stakeholder Manager of the project will be coming along to our club night to talk to us about New Zealand's biggest roading project ever. The talk comes highly recommended so don't let anything get in the road and come along.

18 February

Wednesday Night Walk – Alberton House

7.00pm

New trip. Meet outside 23 Cradock St Avondale. Tonight we will visit historic Alberton House in Mt Albert & climb Mt Albert. The custodians have agreed to open up especially to show us though the grounds and the house. This is a magnificent old homestead. There is an admission charge of \$10 (or \$8 if we get enough for a "group discount"). Exact cash preferable. Make the effort – you won't be disappointed! Supper at Peter's afterwards.

Leader: Peter Tuohy 828 3274 027 438 9944

22 February

Waitawa Regional Park

8.30am

After rave reviews following our first visit to Auckland's newest Regional Park last year, we will return for further exploration. Excellent swimming beach, so bring your swimming kit.

This park is 13km east of Clevedon and was for many years ICI chemical storage land.

For more inspiration see <http://regionalparks.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/waitawa>

Peter Tuohy 828 3274 027 438 9944

\$15 members, \$20 non members

25 February

Wednesday Night Walk – Massey

6.45pm

Meet outside my house, 1/47 Zita Maria Drive, Massey, for a walk round the area (parking round corner in Clylma Street). An hour to an hour and a half - see how we go. I'll be doing the worst bit first where I will need the last of the daylight! Refreshments available afterwards in my unit for those who would like.

Wendy Bassett 832-2869 or 021 156 0140

1 March	Nikau Caves, Waikato	8.00am
<p>Guided Cave tour costs \$40 for adult and \$20 for children; around 1km of caves with glow worms, stalagmites and stalactites. One guide per 10 guests. Please note we leave Glen Eden at 8am. Travel takes over an hour; through Pukekawa towards the coast via Glen Murray. A change of clothes is necessary as you will probably get wet/muddy. There is one narrow area to pass. We could have a farm walk afterwards. There is a very good on-site café.</p>		
Geoff Yates 810 8456		\$20 members, \$25 non members
4 March	Wednesday Night Walk - Massey	6.45pm
<p>Meet at the Massey Community Hall car park at the corner of Don Buck and Redhills Roads. Along the back country of Westy-land to Crows Road and back up the other side of the black stump, then via Chamberlain Road to get back to the car park. Be prepared for no footpaths – but nice views of the far-off cityscape!</p>		
Jill Dingle 832-3450 or 0212945700		
7-8 March	Tititiri Matangi Island	
<p>Trip currently sold out, but contact the leader re any cancellations.</p>		
Denise Vazey 827 1552		
8 March	Anawhata	8.30am
<p>From end of Anawhata Road, road bash to start of track and down Anawhata Stream to the beach. This involves stream crossings and opportunity for a swim.</p>		
Lynne Flood 622 0436		\$7 members, \$12 non members
11 March	Wednesday Night Walk – Hobsonville Airbase	6.45pm
<p>Meet at the Catalina Café for a walk around what is left of the airbase. Walk includes a look at the new wharf and continues around the shore line past new housing development. Coffee at the Malthouse at Greenhithe afterwards.</p>		
Shirley 810 9303		
15 March	North Rodney	8.30am
<p>Meet at the Dome Café on SH1. We will start on the Dome Kauri Grove Walk followed by an unmarked track into Waiwhui Valley, then connect with the Te Araroa track and loop back to Kauri Grove before returning to Dome Café. Estimated time 5 hours walking plus stops. As the leader lives in Leigh, he will not be at regular Glen Eden meeting point. Please contact Paul if you are intending to travel straight to the Dome Cafe. Contact Peter Tuohy 0274 389 944 if intending to meet at Glen Eden.</p>		
Paul Williams 09 425 9877		\$10 members, \$15 non members
MONDAY 16 March	Club Night - Weta Translocation	7.30pm
COMMITTEE ROOM		
<p>Chris Green works for the Department of Conservation (DOC) and he will talk to us about the 10 year programme to safeguard the future of the iconic wetapunga – aka the Little Barrier Island Giant Weta. Starting in 2004 when DOC eradicated the rats from Hauturu Little Barrier Island Chris has run a monitoring programme to measure the population changes on the island. Then in 2008 a few wetapunga were removed to Butterfly Creek (near Auckland Airport) to initiate a captive colony to supply weta for release onto new islands in the Hauraki Gulf. Subsequently Auckland Zoo also started a second colony and progeny from both colonies have now been released onto both Motuora and Tiritiri Matangi Islands. Come and see how these wetapunga are getting on and what lies ahead in this 15+ year recovery programme.</p>		

22 March

Muriwai

8.30am

A pleasant day at Muriwai. We will be visiting the gannet colony, then we will walk down Grass Track Road and back through the forest and along a lovely stream. This is an easy tramp and will take approximately four to five hours. Bring your togs if you would like to finish with a swim. We can also have a coffee or ice cream at the café.

Pam Goldie 021 2146457

\$5 Members, \$10 non members

New Member

Marie Holden
1/32 Canal Rd, Avondale 1026
Mob 021 1280123

WELCOME

Taupo - Oxfam 2015

March 28 - 29, 2015 at Lake Taupō, 100km in under 36 hours.

This is the 10th Anniversary (and my fifth 100k) of this walking adventure.

My friend of 30yrs and his 14yr old daughter & I are walking as Team Tengu. (Tengu is a mischievous Japanese goblin).

We are already training and have room for one more should you be interested.

You can get an idea of the size of the challenge by going to <http://www.oxfamtrailwalker.org.nz/>

We have already been training in, over & through much of the Waitakere Ranges and are looking for one more pair of boots to fill.

If anyone is interested in walking for Oxfam, just give me a call.

Regards

Louis Segedin

Hm: 817 6478 Mob: 021 439 900 Email: louis@rocketkitchen.co.nz

Rotoroa Island - 5th 6th 7th December 2014

Val Ellis

Eleven met at 5.45pm on Friday for our 6pm departure to Rotoroa Island, an hour's journey. Most of us had our tea on the Ferry while others ate before. A truck met us on arrival at 7.15pm to take our luggage up to the Superintendent's House, a ten minute walk. We settled into our bunk accommodation and unpacked our food in the well equipped kitchen. Some of us had a walk before settling into our bunks for the night.

Saturday: We rose at our leisure and after breakfast and an early morning swim for some hardy trampers, we set off to explore the island admiring the Chris Booth sculpture on the Southern Loop Track where we had morning tea. We returned to the house for lunch, and the afternoon was spent visiting the Northern Track, swimming at Ladies Bay, visiting the Exhibition Centre and making our salads, and desserts for our dinner party. We wore different coloured tops for the dinner and found our seats with the appropriate coloured Jelly Beans. Sue and Brian had fun setting the table, as Arthur had done a menu with colours that we wore plus what we had made for dinner. We were International Chefs from the cities of the world. A fun night, Chefs Peter, Brian and George were in charge of the barbeques. A very enjoyable dinner. We later went for a walk to see the sunset and the moon rising.

Sunday: A day to relax again and enjoy an early morning walk, swim and explore the rest of the Island. We formed our own groups. Several of us met the ferry at 10 with just Jeff being the only Sunday visitor, Peter was his guide for the morning. We returned for final packing and the truck picked us up at 4.45pm for our 5.15pm departure. We arrived at Downtown Auckland at 6.30pm where we all departed for home by car, bus or train.

A great weekend and the accommodation was excellent. We were very lucky with the weather, warm and sunny. Thanks to everyone for your help. We will return to this very beautiful island.

Introductory: St Heliers/ Glendowie Area - 1 February

Wendy Bassett

A total of 5 people turned up for this walk which was good as I was not too sure as to how easy it would be.

We started on a uphill appropriately named Cliff Rd and looked at the beautiful homes and went to a vantage point lookout where it was quite windy. There was the odd drizzle so we were not sure whether to put coats on yet or not. We were brave trampers and carried on through to Glover Park and at a quick pit stop we did put them on as the rain was getting harder.

On through the park and a bit of street walking. We then crossed on to Churchill Park - it is amazing having this oasis in the middle of Auckland. There are a few little tracks you can walk round - great for walking dogs or taking the kids.

We declared the morning tea stop at the school to seek shelter. After a break we carried on through to Glendowie Reserve and on to Tohuna Torea Bird Reserve and stopped at what once was the musical toilets but are no more. We had lunch at the bird reserve and looked across the water to Half Moon Bay.

We then followed our tracks back to Churchill Park. We followed the path a different way back round and a couple of people nearly wandered into other people's backyards. We also took some pictures of someone's rabbit sculpture in their back yard using a cellphone. Not sure if it was a scarecrow or not. Hopefully pictures in the next magazine. Homeward bound to the cars and cafes.

Everyone seemed to like it and enjoy themselves. Thanks for coming

Piha Valley - 25th January

Trish Hopkins

A beautiful day to go tramping, very blue sky, hot and muggy but the tracks were mostly under the trees so it was a pleasant day in the bush. Lovely to catch up after Christmas and chat about what we did over the break. A couple of new faces as well as one or two we haven't seen for a while.

As most of us have tramped this area quite a few times I decided I wouldn't do a refresher recce. Ooops the beginning of Home Track eluded me and we ended up going the opposite way to the plan and found ourselves legging it up Kitekite. A good mistake as it turned out as Kitekite is a little easier to walk up than the Home track especially in the heat.

I said it wouldn't be a long day, hoped to be finished and back in Glen Eden by 2.30pm. Everyone was pretty fit and rearing to go and I think most of us got back there about 2.15pm with a few staying behind to have a swim. A great day thank you everyone

Whatipu – 8th February

Trish Hopkins

Weather forecasts are often (should I say usually) inaccurate but in this instance we were appreciative of an overcast misty sky to block the sun and keep down the heat. Six of us including a new lady Suzi started off climbing the Kura at 9.30am. We were pretty close to my estimated times at each checkpoint but decided to give the Mt Donald McLean trip a miss as the sky was not very clear for a good view. We knew there would be beautiful views from Gibbons track later on and hopefully by then the mist and haze would have cleared. Christine, Peter W (been out with us on a couple of tramps so far and Wednesday night walks), Claire and I led the way with a small gap back to Louis S and Suzi. These two were chatting away about FOOD!!! Sharing recipes and ideas by the sound of it so maybe the next pot luck dinner should be at one of their houses. During our break we had discussed the pitfalls of tramping in the Waitakere Ranges without a map and surprise surprise on the way down Gibbons we meet up with one group who had walked from Karekare and were trying to find their way back then another group wanting to get back to Lone Kauri Road! We sort of gave them directions but without a map these people were going to struggle to get to their destinations quickly.

Carrying on down Gibbons (still chatting about food Louis and Suzie?), sure enough the views were amazingly clear and vibrant. The contrasting colours of sky, sea, marshland and cliffs was breath taking. A long day of hard work and we all loved it, Suzi in particular felt quite proud of herself for sticking with it, I wonder if she can walk today! We got back to the cars at about 3.15pm which was excellent going.



Two for the Road

By the time the newsletter is received, we will have been on the road for approaching 4 months, except for a 2 week break in Auckland over Xmas - New Year. We have covered a lot of ground and seen and done a lot, but there is still so much more.

Since the December newsletter we have caught up with ex club members Ray & Carol Twist in Rangiora and Paul & Glenis Hazlewood in Ashburton.

The first week in the new year was spent looking around Christchurch. There is much evidence of the devastation from the earthquakes but a huge rebuilding programme is going on in the central city and former satellite towns are now a major feature of the rebuild. We also took the opportunity to ride the Little River rail trail.

We subsequently followed the inland Canterbury route to Timaru and then to Oamaru. We are now concentrating on the A2O or Alps to Ocean Cycleway which runs from Mt Cook to Oamaru.



Alps to Ocean Cycleway:

This Cycleway runs for some 300km from either Mt Cook or Lake Tekapo to Oamaru, basically following the Waitaki Valley. It could be a good idea for a club trip at some stage, taking at least a week to complete. It would possibly need a support vehicle of some sort due to the distances involved and to keep costs down. Current commercial operators appear to be charging \$2,500-\$2,800 for full support including accommodation and meals.

It would be advisable to start at Tekapo as the Mt Cook start involves a \$200 helicopter ride across Lake Pukaki.

Stage 1-Tekapo to Twizel. This is a 56km section which follows the Tekapo Canal to Lake Pukaki, then follows a largely off-road section to Twizel.

Stage 2-Twizel to Ohau Lodge-38km. This stage follows Glen Lyon Rd out of Twizel, Lake Ohau track and then Ohau Rd.

Stage 3-One of the most interesting. A 41km section from Ohau Lodge which includes a high point at 900 metres asl before descending down Quailburn Rd and a short off- road trail to Omarama.

Stage 4-Omarama to Otematata. This is a 24km section which includes an awesome 13km off-road section to Sailors Cutting followed by an on road climb to the Otematata Saddle and all the way down to Otematata.

Stage 5-Otematata to Kurow is a 43km section on road to Lake Benmore and around the shores of Lake Aviemore, then to Kurow.

Stage 6-Kurow to Duntroon is a 23km totally on road section.

Stage 7-Duntroon to Oamaru is a 55km section involving the spectacular Elephant Rocks and limestone outcrops and some sections on quiet back roads and a final section on old rail bed. It would be quite challenging for a final day as there are a number of ups and downs.

The trip would need quite a bit of organising as there is not a huge amount of infrastructure in place at the moment, thus the envisaged need for some kind of support. It is an awesome and different ride.

Till next time.

Bruce & Maureen

The Committee

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And finally just for a laugh

A true story from the pages of the Manchester Evening Times.

Last Wednesday a passenger in a taxi heading for Salford station leaned over to ask the driver a question and gently tapped him on the shoulder to get his attention.

The driver screamed, lost control on the cab, nearly hit a bus, drove up over the curb and stopped just inches from a large plate window.

For a few minutes everthing was silent in the cab. Then the shaking driver said “Are you Ok? I’m so sorry, but you scared the daylights out of me.”

The badly shaken passenger apologised to the driver and said “I didn’t realise that a mere tap on the shoulder would startle someone so badly.”

The driver replied, “No, no, I’m the one who is sorry, it’s entirely my fault. Today is my first day driving a cab. I’ve been driving a hearse for 25 years.”



The February newsletter was created by Christine Major but the usual compiler is Jill Dingle
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