
West Auckland District Tramping Club
February 2018
Newsletter no.449



The Presidents Report

Happy New Year everybody – if it is not too late to say that!

Hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and time to relax. I normally work through the Christmas period, preferring to take my chances that the weather is more likely to be conducive to outdoor activities at the end of January. I have recently had a week off and enjoyed time in Golden Bay, one of my favourite spots in New Zealand.

It was great to see a good turnout at the club's Christmas BBQ at the Kaipara Coast Sculpture Gardens. Seems like a long time ago now. This is such a delightful spot. I would recommend a visit to those who have not been.

I read in a recent Back Country bulletin that Barbara Marshall has passed away. Some will remember that Wellington based Barbara came to one of our Club Nights some years back and give us a talk on her work as Secretary of the Federated Mountain Clubs, a (then) voluntary role she held for many years. Barbara was one of a kind and was one of those delightful characters who called a spade a spade. Barbara did considerable work helping FMC get to where it is today.

For our members who are not constrained by the working slog, Manawatu has a walking week coming up 9-11 March cleverly called "*There's lots to do in the Manawatu*". I suspect this is a region of New Zealand that most of us have not spent much time exploring by foot. For more detail see <http://mailchi.mp/12a0874cdccd/twelve-inspiring-walks-in-the-manawatu-from-9-11-march-2018?e=bdede091ce>

Kauri Dieback. Now if there was ever an elephant in the room, it would have to be this mother of a problem. Auckland Councils and the Te

Kawerau Iwi Authority & Settlement Trust have long grappled with the issue of how to best manage the issue of our wonderful kauris dying. Recent surveys have shown the problem to have grown substantially requiring more action to try and combat the problem. Most will be aware of the Rahui that has been placed over the Waitakere Ranges and the Councils closure of many tracks. While the ability to manage a complete park closure is well recognised, even track closures will have wide sweeping implications on an area well used for recreation and commercial interests. The majority of our members live out west and belong to our club so they can enjoy the wonderful bush on our doorstep. As a club we need to respect the situation and comply with the restrictions imposed. This will have a significant effect on our club program with a large percentage of our tramps normally in the Waitakere Ranges. We will endeavour to have much more trips the avoid entering the Waitakere ranges. Any trips that involve the Waitakere's will require participant's full cooperation of having pristinely cleaned boots and vigilant use of any hygiene stations. Leaders will be instructed of the club's expectations and have the right to refuse to take those who do not adhere to this requirement. We will monitor the situation and review as required. We must now be more innovative and come up with alternative destinations for our Sunday tramps. Geoff for example, suggested Chatham Reserve, which is now on the program in February. While I have lived in Auckland for over 30 years and thought I had been everywhere, I have never heard of Chatham Reserve, let alone been there, in my defence, it only opened in 2011. As the role of Trip coordinator will now be significantly harder I ask that all club members put forward at least 1 trip suggestion each. Be creative, think about your area or access to private land you might have. Remember Louis Segedin's role of Trip Coordinator is not meant to be a role where he has to think up a trip for each Sunday. His role is to co-ordinate the suggestions put forward. Please do your bit here so we have a fill and interesting program on offer.

The recent tragedy of two young people being swept away while crossing a (normally benign) stream in the Cascades is a stark reminder of how quickly things can change. If in doubt, never attempt to cross a stream. They can be very unforgiving. Our club had a trip planned the day after this tragedy and deluge which involved considerable time in a streambed. The trip was modified to reflect the conditions. Safety is paramount.

I hope one of your New Years's resolutions is to get out more and get fit. Getting involved in the many club activities is not only good for your health it is great for the sole. Hope to catch you on the trail soon.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Recently your committee discussed the issue of kauri dieback disease in the Waitakere Ranges and the rahui placed by Te Kawerau maki. The committee has decided that, for now, we will continue to schedule "some" tramps in the ranges. However, in doing this we have a responsibility to be absolutely compliant with all hygiene measures available at track entrances. In short we must obey the signs every time. All signs say to clean your footwear then spray with the Sterigene solution. The key point is the cleaning because Sterigene does not kill all spore stages of the disease. The best way of achieving this is for club members to thoroughly clean their footwear before leaving home. We would appreciate all members taking part in tramps to be particularly vigilant in this endeavour from now on please.



Activities

18 February

Chatham Reserve Sanders – Paremoremo

8.30 Glen Eden

Grade: Easy

Fare: \$5 members \$10 non-members

Timing: 4 hrs

We will first park to explore Chatham Reserve then go to Sanders Reserve.

Opened in Nov 2011 this park is in the area surrounded by Albany & Paremoremo. There is a good gravel walking path that will take us along the ridge above the water to some tree carved sculptures. From there we can go down to the beach where there are two sheltered bays. High tide is 10am so bring a towel if you wish to go swimming.



Leader: Geoff Yates P: 810 8456 E: yatesfamily13@gmail.com

19 February

Club Night - Wasps!!

7.30pm Kelston Community Centre Cnr Great North Road & Awaroa Rd

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CARPARK TO THE COMMUNITY CENTRE IS CLOSED UNTIL EARLY MARCH. PARKING AVAILABLE ON THE STREET.

Julia Schmack from Auckland University Biology department chose to work on the ecology and control of *Vespula* wasps as they are invading various regions of the world and have become a severe pest in New Zealand. She is interested in the drivers of wasp invasion, it's assessment and control. With her PHD, she would like to contribute to the outstanding research on *Vespula* wasps in New Zealand that has been pursued over the last decade.



This will be very interesting as we have all felt the effect of these invaders while tramping in the Waitakeres.

21 February

Wednesday Walk

7.00pm:

PLEASE KEEP AN EYE ON OUR WEBSITE FOR WEDNESDAY NIGHT WALK UPDATES

25 February

Exhibition Drive - Arataki

8.30 Glen Eden

Grade: Easy

Fare: \$3 members \$8 non-members

Timing: 3-4 hrs

Meet as usual at Glen Eden then a short drive past Titirangi. We will park at Nihotupu Filter Station on Scenic Drive and go up to Arataki via Exhibition Drive & Beveridge Track. Shaded walking all the way.



Leader: Astrid Crouth P: 8175552 021489673 E: phil.astrid@xtra.co.nz

28 February

7.00pm

Wednesday Walk

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04 March

8.30 Glen Eden

Anawhata – Cannibal Stream

Grade: Moderate-Difficult

Fare: \$5 members \$10 non-members

Timing: 4-5 hrs

From the end of Anawhata Road, down the hill to the beach and at the far end of the beach, head over the sand hills and along the ridge to Cannibal Stream and on to the wild and rugged Parera Bay. This will be a medium-difficult tramp. Best to wear trousers to cover the legs. There are pools for a swim in the stream.



Leaders: John Miller & Lynne Flood P: 6220436

E: jmiller1954@gmail.com or lynneflood.healthwise@gmail.com

07 March

7.00pm

Wednesday Walk

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11 March

8.30 Glen Eden

Waitawa Regional Park

Grade: Easy-Moderate

Fare: \$10 members \$15 non-members

Timing: 4 hrs

Join Peter and revisit one of Auckland's newer regional parks to see how it is developing. Waitawa Regional Park is 50km South East of Auckland and has good swimming opportunities with a high tide of mid afternoon. Easy & scenic walking. For more inspiration see the website <http://regionalparks.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/waitawa>



Leader: Peter Tuohy P: 8283274 0274389944 E: tait@slingshot.co.nz

14 March

7.00pm

Wednesday Walk

PLEASE KEEP AN EYE ON OUR WEBSITE FOR WEDNESDAY NIGHT WALK UPDATES

18 March

Murawai

8.30 Glen Eden

Grade: Moderate

Fare: \$5 members \$10 non-members

Timing: 4-5 hrs

Today we have lots on offer and will view the gannet colony, a bush walk, a private farm, a walk in the forest and a walk on the beach. This walk has something for everyone, approximately four to five hours. After the tramp we can enjoy an ice cream or coffee at Sand Dunz Cafe.



Leader: Pam Goldie P: 0212146457 E: myneverendingsummer@hotmail.com

19 March

Club Night

7.30pm Kelston Community Centre Cnr Great North Road & Awaroa Road

We have a proposed speaker to come along and talk about his adventures and tramping in Europe. More details to follow in next magazine.

21 March

Wednesday Walk

7.00pm

PLEASE KEEP AN EYE ON OUR WEBSITE FOR WEDNESDAY NIGHT WALK UPDATES

25 March

Montana Walkway

9.30 Glen Eden

Please note the later meeting time for Glen Eden – 9.30am.

Please inform Kathy if you if you intend to meet at Cascade Kauri at 10.00am

Grade: Easy

Fare: \$5 members \$10 non-members

Timing: 4 hrs

Montana Walkway. Up, up, up - along and down down down. Lots of fun - could be mud if its been raining but come out and have fun on one of the only circuits we can still do.



Leader: Kathy McDonald P: 094268201 0274 533 747

Trip Reports

Ian Wells - Nihotupu Dam 7 Jan Leader Louis Segedin

The first tramp for 2018 and a good turnout for a couple of different tracks off Piha Rd. After meeting as usual we car pooled in good kiwi style (ladies in one vehicle and men in the other) and drove to Nihotupu Dam car park. We first walked the Ian Wells Track, managing to turn a 1 hr walk into almost a full 2 hrs. The Ian Wells Track is much underrated track, probably because it stops at Cutty Grass Track and it's able to be made into a comfortable loop walk. Enhanced by a couple of stream crossings, and some good Waitakere mud pools, we eventually had our first snack stop at Cutty Grass, just in time to sing Happy Birthday to Mandy! A short break and then we made good time back to the car park at Piha Rd. Too early to go home we then walked down to the Nihotupu Dam for lunch by around 1.30. We passed the two sign post (several walking minutes apart), both which clearly stated, Picnic Area 5 mins, and eventually got to the picnic area for a well deserved late lunch. A cool breeze stopped Colin & Dave from sleeping in the sun, so a short lunch stop saw us heading back to our cars in about 20mins.



Good walking with a good team, thanks to everyone; Pam, Colin, Jill Engle, Val, Mandy, Jim, Dave & Heather.



Martins Bay to Sandspit 14 January Leader Paul Williams

We started our walk in the Rodney Domain bush, above the Martins Bay Holiday Park. The campground was packed with holidaymakers and the day's event seemed to be building sand sea creatures on the beach – very creative. After morning tea we climbed the hill to Scandrett Regional Park and briefly experienced light rain as we crossed the farm. Lisadian Homestead was closed but some of our group were able to peak through windows to see the restored interior, then we passed the three baches that remain from the days when the family farm had become more of a camping ground. One of the baches was previously owned by Geoff Moon, a Warkworth vet and a renowned naturalist and photographer, and another was owned by the family of Trelise Cooper.



The next bay was Goldsworthy, then we stopped for lunch as we approached Algies Bay. After rounding the point to Snells Beach some walkers decided to take a short cut across the bay but became bogged in black mud, one down to the knees!! After a wash down we continued along Snells Beach and Whisper Cove to Brick Bay Beach where we found a confused kereru. Because of the incoming tide along the edge of the Matakana River we entered the bush (and found some hills) and followed tracks built by locals on our way to Sandspit. We encountered several quirky artistic creations as we descended to the motor camp and our shuttle cars.



Our walk took five and a half hours in generally hot conditions. Joining me were Lyndell & Ralph (plum supplier and driver), Jill D (driver), Dave S (driver), Heather, Christine M, Peter (Glen Eden despatcher), Angela W, Jim and Colin.



Karekare 21 January Leader Mandy Adams

8 of us gathered at Glen Eden on a very humid morning. Three of the group (Belinda, Bryan and Nikki) are potential new members and it was a pleasure to meet them.

We piled into 2 cars and met up again at Karekare carpark. We started the slog up Zion Hill track. This track has recently been extensively upgraded and some of it re-routed. The uphill section now stays close to the cliff edge

all the way up but strangely by-passes the lookout. It is an easier gradient but possibly slightly longer than the old track.

We stopped for morning tea at the top of the hill and cooled down in the shade. We then continued down through some beautiful bush to the junction with Buck Taylor track. We followed Buck Taylor down the hill for about 15 minutes then turned right at the Piha Valley track junction and headed towards the sand dunes. A hot sandy walk to Tunnel Point followed but the beauty of the place makes the trudge in the heat totally worth it. It was a concern to see a cat and 2 kittens on the track. The wetlands in this area are a bird sanctuary. A park ranger arrived while we were there and he was made aware of the cats.



We had lunch under a lovely Pohutakawa near the Tunnel. We then made our way back to Karekare following the old bush railway earth works and then onto the beach. I noticed some new sand dunes in this area and also noticed that the rocks that have been buried in sand for at least 15 years are beginning to appear again, These are at the base of the cliffs as you walk around to the Southern end of Karekare. There were also visible some of the old rail 'Bolts' (nails?) after many years of being under the sand.

We got back to the cars to find the carpark 'jam-packed'. Karekare was buzzing!
I think we all enjoyed the day. My thanks to Kathy, Astrid, Jill, Colin, Belinda, Bryan and Nikki



Parau Track there and Back 28 January Leader Trish Hopkins

Hot...hot...hot. Eleven keen trampers started out on the Parau Track. 4 of us were planning on doing the long version, to the dam then return on the same track to the cars, the other 7 opted for the 3.5hr one way trip. So after a quick car shuttle we got started a little after 9am. If the one way trampers thought they would have an easier day they forgot who the leader was!!

Parau track is a lot of uphill that's for sure and the heat made things a little more difficult. Everyone worked so hard we made it to the dam for lunch in 3 hrs, INCLUDING a few drink and catch breath stops and morning tea.



At 12.30pm after a nice lunch Christine, Sandra, Shirley O and I waved goodbye to Dave, Heather, Jim, Craig, Jill D, Louis S and Sheena as they meandered down to the cars. I thought the track would be easier going back but in the bush we had no breeze and no air. Thankfully we all had heaps of water, and I finished my second bottle as we walked out to the cars. Boots off, crash on the grass for 10mins then on the way home by 2.45pm.

Thanks everyone, a brilliant day, good hard workout, no mud and a bit of a chat. Perfect Sunday



Pararaha and Cowan Streams 4 February Leader Dave Spiers

With a forecast for thunderstorms and 2 people having drowned after being swept away in the Waitaks the previous afternoon, an attack of the cautions was experienced, so a shortened circuit of the Cowan Stream only was commenced.

Which entailed a short traverse of the top of the Pararaha anyway, where it was evident by the fresh debris stuck in the trees that the stream, even at the top of the valley, had been almost 2 metres higher after the downpour of the day before.

The Cowan Stream also showed signs of having been in flood, and was still moving well. Our happy group consisting of Colin, Craig, Lynne and John, Lynne's 13 year old grandson Xavier and me, had great fun as we slipped slid sloshed and scrambled up past the many dramatic waterfalls.



A rather compact group, the weather seeming to have put those less adventurous souls off (that is, the majority of the club, wimps....). But though it was cloudy, the rain held off, and never was there a sign of a thunderstorm, bummer it, we could have done the full trip after all! But with threatening skies and lower temps, there was no swimming, such a pity the weather was not hot like recently.

Not too much of a worry about us spreading the dreaded Kauri dieback disease on our feet either, said feet being in a constant state of being washed every few minutes. Not many Kauri by the Cowan Stream anyway, probably not having recovered much since the milling onslaught of the past. Generally most trees seemed to be Rewarewa and Kanuka. And one lone Pohutukawa at the top of the valley.

The Cowan is one of the gems of the Waitakeres. Later a social time was had over coffees at the Packing Shed Cafe. Great day out.



Huia 10 February Leader Sandra Everitt

I drew the short straw for this trip, Denise was supposed to be leader – I think the rain put her off!!

Five hardy (or stupid) trampers turned up at Glen Eden for our tramp at Huia. We headed up the Fletcher Track with a sprinkling of rain to keep us cool the day was extremely humid.

That hill just seems to go on and on, three quarters of the way up we decided to stop for a snack and to sing Happy Birthday to John – Lynn forgot the cake!

By the time we reached the junction to Donald McLean the rain was very heavy so we decided to have an early lunch and head down Karamatura track. The stream was very fast flowing.

We arrived back at the cars around 12.30 drenched and looking forward to a nice warm shower.

Thanks to Shirley, Lynne, John and Louis S for keeping me company.

Items of Interest



Friday 23/03 Hopetoun Brown plus Carnivorous Plant Society 8.00-11.30pm Tickets \$30.00

Saturday 24/03 Free Family "Village Day" 12.00 – 6.00pm FREE
Don McGlashin 8.00-11.30pm Tickets \$40.00

Sunday 25/03 Flicks @ Lopdell
The Characteristics of C Minor & Genius Within-The Inner Life of Glen Gould 4.00pm
Shadows of Light Lopdel Theatre 7.00pm

For more info & bookings www.titirangifestival.com



The Committee including non- committee Assistants(last four).

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