
West Auckland District Tramping Club
February 2019
Newsletter no.460



The President's Report

A belated *Happy New Year* or perhaps *Chinese New Year!* 2019 is the year of the pig hopefully bringing you good fortune and wealth. I also hope Santa was good to you and brought you lots of shiny new tramping toys for you to enjoy. It seems a good number of club members had a New Year's resolution of "*get out on more tramps in 2019*" as we have had a very pleasing number out on the tramps so far this year along with some newbies. I have managed 4 out of 5 so far and am feeling pretty chuffed!

Trust all that came to our Christmas BBQ had an enjoyable time. We tried something a little different this time with a very local venue hoping this would make it easy for people to get to. Good to see such a good crowd.

The Auckland Council is seeking feedback on prioritisation of Waitakere tracks to be worked to enable them to be reopened while meeting the objective of protecting the forests kauri trees. If you would like to provide your personal feedback, see more information in this Newsletter.

While on the subject of kauri, the Arataki visitors centre is the venue for some upcoming Kauri Science Series. If you are interested in learning more about the science behind the kauri dieback there are several one hour long talks about the work going on around New Zealand to find out more about the disease. Held on Sunday mornings the upcoming presentations are as follows:

10 March Dr Monica Gerth: Microbiology and Mataranga collaborative approaches to kauri dieback disease

14 April Dr Amanda Black Forest fragmentation and land use changes how these affect the survival and virulence of kauri dieback

May 26 Dr Bruce Burns Kauri the rise and descent of an extreme species

As we are experiencing a very hot summer (bring it on!), it is important to remember to plan accordingly. It is imperative that you have plenty of water (perhaps with rehydration power added) and suitable cool clothing a hat and sunblock. Jill Dingle posted an informative article on our club's Facebook page on the subject of heat stroke which is worth a look.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/wadtc/?fref=nf> or <https://sectionhiker.com/a-close-call-with-heat-exhaustion/>

About seven years ago our club was approached by David Partis of Design Hand who very kindly offered to create us a new website. The generous offer resulted in the lovely, easy to navigate website which is our strongest marketing tool we have to attract new members and keep current members informed of what is happening in the club. David has also very generously hosted our website for this time free of charge. Due to a change in career direction David is no longer able to continue hosting our website. We have subsequently moved the website to a new host for which there is an annual fee of around \$75.

There is a saying, if you want something done, ask a busy person. Our trusty Trip Coordinator Louis Segedin is one such person and now finds himself over committed due to his generosity. Subsequently, he has advised he needs to relinquish this role. I am very grateful that Trish Hopkins & Lynne Flood have come forward and have agreed to jointly take on this role. With the current closures of so many of our regular stomping ground tracks, I ask that you assist these guys as much as possible with trip ideas and offers to lead or response enthusiastically if (when!) they contact you with a resounding "*Sure, I'd love to help out and lead an upcoming tramp!*" We are all about having variety to keep it interesting and cater to the varying abilities and interests of our members. Many hands (feet?) make light work as they say.

One of our latest "retirees" Dennis Badan has been making good use of his new found freedom and undertaken parts of the TeAraroa Trail. Read a summary of his experience to date in the trip report section.

Club "veteran" Wendy Bassett recently celebrated a milestone birthday. So important was the event, there was even an article in "*The Auckland Times*". Check it out in this Newsletter. Happy Birthday Wendy.

Hope to see you on the trail soon making the most of this great summer.

Peter

Activities

17 February

Huntly to Ngaruawahia Hakarimata Track

8.00am Glen Eden

Grade: Moderate/Difficult

Fare: Total cost per car will be approx \$45 so 3 - 4 passengers is ideal, minimum 2 cars will be required for car shuttle or key swap.

Timing: 4-5 hrs for shorter version down Summit Track option or 5-6 hrs to do the whole Hakarimata Track.

Starting from Parker Road in Huntly we head up the Hakarimata Track to the summit tower where we will get lovely views. Shortly after leaving the tower we have the option of taking Summit track or carrying on the Hakarimata. Here we can split the group if numbers allow it. It's a great tramp with lots of tree roots and only a little mud.



Leader: Trish Hopkins P: 021 1273 862 E: waitakereforever@gmail.com

18 February

Club Night - Africa

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

Peter and Louis will give a presentation of their recent trip to Africa. They will be taking you through South Africa and Namibia with lots of anecdotes and pics and at next club night in March they continue with Botswana and Zambia.

Afterwards we will have a cup of Rooibos tea & rusks!



24 February

Tapora - Wellsford

8.30am Glen Eden

Grade: Moderate

Fare: members \$7 non- members \$12

Timing: 5.5 hrs

At Tapora, on the way to Wellsford. If coming from Auckland, look for Wharehine Rd on the left after Tauhoa, not all that far before Wellsford.

If you miss it, the Port Albert Rd is some kms further along, and is the road to take if coming from Wellsford.

Either way within 6 kms or so after finding Wharehine Rd, you will come to Run Rd.

5 kms down this road you will see Atiu Regional Park signposted, carry on to meet at the Atiu carpark by 10 am. Travel time is approx 45 min from Glen Eden.

Advise Dave beforehand if you will be going directly to Atiu..



Leader: Dave Spiers P: 835 3272. 027 275 5357 E: spiersy37@gmail.com

03 March

Lake Wainamu

8.30am Glen Eden

Grade: Easy/Moderate

Grade: Easy/Moderate

Fare:

Time: 3.5 - 4 hours

Walk around Lake Wainamu and along the stream. If you want a workout climb the sand dunes!



Leader: Craig Flower P: 021 1080 904 E: craigflower123@gmail.com

09 March (Saturday)

Dome Valley

8.30am Glen Eden

Grade: Moderate/Difficult

Fare: members \$12 non members \$17

Dome Valley bush walk from Dome carpark. We will tramp in as far as time & conditions allow on the day. This walk is weather dependant & we will come back the same way rather than do a car shuttle.

Travel distance to the Dome Cafe car park is aprox 90km.



Leader: Shirley O'Sullivan P: 6309132 E: shirley.osullivan@gmail.com

17 March

Murawai

8.30am Glen Eden

Grade: Moderate/Difficult

Time: Aprox 4hrs

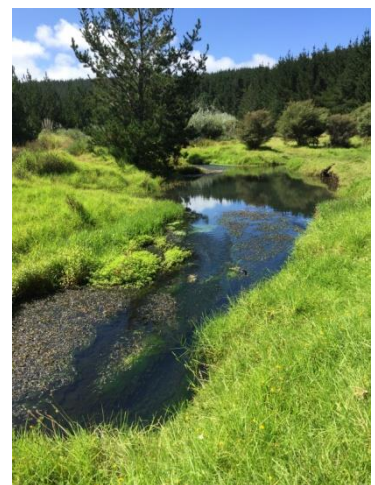
Fare: members \$10 non members \$15

Be at Muriwai beach main car park by 9.30 to beat the heat so we can get a good work out on the beach. We will go north to the stream have a rest before taking in some of the forest round the edge of Houghtons farm. We will return to Motutara Rd and then Oaia Rd and down through the bush track to the gannets. Coffee and ice creams can be had at the shop back at the car park.

Any one who wants a lift with Jill Dingle - meet at KFC Westgate at 9am . We could car pool from there.

Call leader if making your own way to the start .

Coordinator at Glen Eden to be arranged.



Leader: Jill Dingle P: 8323459 021 2945700 E: jill.dingle@gmail.com

18 March

Club Night - Botswana & Zambia

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

Peter and Louis will give a presentation of their recent trip to Africa. They will be taking you through Botswana and Zambia with lots of anecdotes and pics.

Afterwards we will have a cup of Rooibos tea & rusks!



24 March

Paddle and Peddle

No Meeting at Glen Eden

Grade: Easy

To make the most of this fabulous summer and add a little variety to the program, Peter will be leading a paddle and peddle day. The plan is to take our bikes to town on the train, peddle around to Orakei Bay, pick up a kayak at Fergs and paddle around into Hobson Bay and under the Orakei Road bridge and as far up towards Meadowbank as possible then continue peddling along the waterfront, returning to same way. Very easy paddling.

Bring your own kayak if you have one and meet at Orakei Bay or hire one single kayak \$35 or a double kayak \$30 per person.



As kayaks need to be booked in advance, please register your interest a minimum of 1 week prior.

No petrol fare, only train fare. Catch the Glen Eden train departing 8.36am or meet at Fergs Kayaks at 9.45am

Leader: Peter Tuohy P: 8283274 027 4389944 E:tait@slingshot.co.nz

31 March

Huia Dam Road

8.30am Glen Eden

Grade: Easy

Timing: 3 hrs

Fare: members \$5 non members \$10

Easy walking from the lower Huia Dam up to the upper dam. This is mostly on a gravel forestry road.

Low tide is 1.30pm so we can do some foreshore walking if we wish.



Leader: Louis Segedin P: 021 439 900 E:louissegedin55@gmail.com

Trip Reports

Leigh to Ti Point Wharf 06 Jan Leader Paul Williams

For the first walk of the year we had very hot and sunny weather, with the emphasis on hot! We started out with 16 walkers and by the time we reached Ti Point wharf we still had 16, but numbers certainly don't tell the whole story.

Fortunately the walk had been shortened so we started from Leigh CBD instead of Goat Island. First we went along the Leigh harbour-side track to Omaha Cove, then up the hill and down again (tramping seems to be like that) before heading past the wharf towards the harbour mouth, stopping below the Leigh cemetery. Our first scramble of the day was up the mini-cliff on an informal track to a lookout point with sheer drop-offs on three sides. After morning tea under shade in the cemetery we looked at some interesting headstones then negotiated a section of council track and continued along the Leigh cliff-top walkway to Matheson Bay. We had lunch under pohutukawa trees, some also enjoyed a cooling swim and we connected with an overseas visitor who joined us for the remainder of the walk.

Then we got onto the challenging stuff – rocks, mini cliffs, boulders, more rocks, volcanic remnants but we also enjoyed isolated beaches and several walkers took the opportunity for more quick swims. One of our team found the going difficult but others were probably pleased that the pace was slower than normal. We eventually got to Ti Point and there was growing concern for our suffering trumper but after another rest we carried on because we were now in farmland and the track was easier, plus we were heading towards houses and road access.

Part way along the Ti Point track Jim's condition became worse so Jill D and Denise took him to a nearby house and called an ambulance from Warkworth. After many checks and subsequent chest x-rays he was diagnosed as suffering from severe dehydration and spent a night in hospital on a drip.

Thanks go to Dennis & Mark (non-walking car shuttle drivers), Louis S (Glen Eden dispatcher & TEC), Dave S, Heather, Jacky, Alan, Angela, Jim, Peter (who drove Jim's car back to Auckland), Louis A, Jill D, Jonathan, Ian, Cathy, Denise, Colin and non-member Georgia for joining me on this memorable walk.



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Goldies Bush 13 Jan Leader Astrid Crooth

Fourteen happy trampers (5 non members) met at Glen Eden carpark. After Peter sorted out the car pooling we were on our way and met up with 3 others at the Horseman Rd end.

It was a great day for tramping - sunny with occasional cloud and even a spot of rain that lasted just long enough for most of us to put on our coats before it stopped again.

The track descends and we took the first turn to the left. Our morning tea spot was just over the bridge and down by the stream. From here on we



follow the stream and cross it many times (16 times?) This is also where the team building exercise starts with members helping each other cross the stream and get up and down the banks. I think Peter deserves star of the day for this.



We had a welcome lunch by a nice pool of water where Colin and Peter had a "refreshing" swim.

The Mokoroa Falls were not too far away now and after a group photo, without Louis, we headed up to the lookout (group photo with Louis)

and back to the cars.

It was lovely having Jane and Helene join us for the first time. We are lucky to have Goldies bush open again and with it being so close to home. It is a special place to be and even more so on a hot summer's day.



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OrakeiBasin, Orakei Domain & M J Savage Memorial Park Walk 20 January Leader Marcia Clarke

A hike of Two Halves was the order of the day for the 13 club members and three newcomers that joined me on my Orakei Urban walk. First, we followed the scenic Orakei Basin circular track which is entered across Orakei Road opposite the entrance to our meeting place, the Orakei Station carpark. We walked the track anti-clockwise, but I would recommend another time walking clockwise as there are fewer stairs to climb up that way. Also, the way we went meant we passed the ideal morning tea stop too early for our break. The walk, of about an hour, took us around the margins of the basin, once a volcanic crater but now filled with sea water. At the end of this track we emerged again onto Orakei Road and, after a short refreshment break, headed along the road to Ngapiipi Street, a sharp left up Ngaiwi Street then down to the Orakei Domain. By this time the sun had come out, so we headed for the welcome shade under some mature trees. Further across the Domain we tackled more stairs followed by more street walking, through the Orakei Marae to the M J Savage Memorial Park and through the park to the memorial itself. From here there were great views of the Waitemata Harbour, Rangitoto and various beaches along Tamaki Drive. Our lunch spot was out of the wind on the steps of the sunken garden below the main memorial site. Our return walk was along Tamaki Drive, past Kelly Tarlton's and Orakei Domain again before we headed up to and along Paritai Drive where all the luxurious mansions are situated. From there it was back to the station carpark. Although we finished relatively early, about 2pm LouisA informed us we had done a creditable 11.5 kms.



Thanks to all those club members and non-members who came along. I appreciated it that, despite quite a lot of street walking nobody, at least not in my hearing, complained.

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Hunua Ranges-Hunua Falls 10 Feb Leader Mandy Adams

On a gloriously fine day, 15 of us gathered in the Hunua Falls carpark. After a thorough boot scrub at the flash new scrub & spray station we were across the swing bridge over the Hunuariver and having a quick briefing on where our walk would take us today.

Due to the later start to the day we had morning tea quite soon into the walk. This helped fuel us for heading up, up and up again through some beautiful bush to the Cossey Dam lookout. It was a perfect day for walking, a decent breeze to keep the heat at bay and mostly in the bush to further keep the heat at bay.

The view from the Dam lookout was beautiful. It was a crystal clear day and the water sparkled in the sunlight. Some of us lingered at the view and took a few photo's. From there we dropped down to the dam where we had lunch in a shady spot. With good company, a spectacular view and munching on lunch all was well in my world and it would have been very easy to have spent the entire afternoon there! We eventually dragged ourselves away and walked around the dam Rd to the start of the Cossey Gorge track. This is the start of the loop back to the carpark. It is a very scenic walk which eventually takes us down to a shallow stream crossing. From there it is a short walk back to the swing bridge and another flash Boot scrub station.

A lovely day out with a great bunch of people. My thanks to all who joined me on this lovely little walk.

Items of Interest

The TeAraroa Trail Experience – Denis Badan

My adventure began in late November and took me from Cape Reinga, over challenging and varied terrain, to Auckland, one month and 500 km later. What a journey!! It involved many challenges and experiences, some good and some not so good. I soon learned that the TeAraroa is often described as a journey rather than a set trail so travelers can undertake the trip how they like. There are the purists who walk every step of the way and there are others that deviate or jump ahead by hitch hiking etc. (I would probably fit into the latter).

One of the highlights for me was completing Ninety Mile Beach-very remote and tough walking on sand but I enjoyed the expansiveness of the coastline. Meeting fellow TA walkers was equally rewarding as they all had different backgrounds and stories of why they were doing the TA. At times they were very welcome company. Trail Angels (people that help TA walkers with food, accommodation, advice etc) appeared unexpectedly in places, often after a very long day and consequently were very welcome. The TA also passed through different landscapes ranging from beaches, farmland and forests and provided much needed variety on the walk.



Not so memorable were the severe blisters and shin splints which developed along the way, two long days of tramping Raetea Forest in Northland, knee-deep in mud the whole way and some long arduous road walks connecting up different tracks.

After a two-week rest back in Auckland it was then off to walk the Bluff to Queenstown section. Two weeks into that walk at a hut in a remote part of Southland developed cellulites as a result of infected blisters. My foot was swollen like a balloon and I could no longer stand on it. Fortunately, I carried a PLB which I then activated. Within the hour the rescue helicopter was flying me off to Invercargill Hospital. To me this highlighted the importance of carrying a PLB otherwise the outcome may have been very different.



Have I finished with the TA? No, hopefully I will fill in some more sections of the trail later this year.

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Easter Weekend – Lynne Flood

I propose to leave Auckland early on Easter Friday and head to the bach at Ohope.

We would camp on the Friday night at the bach which is near the beach and swim.

The next day, Easter Saturday, we could do a day walk in the Ureweras. I have been in this area and there is beautiful bush and bird life and the kokako are well established and we saw and heard them. After the tramp we can head back to the bach for a swim. There is a lovely cafe up the road with takeaways and fresh fish for dinner. We would go home early to midday on Sunday to beat the traffic into Auckland.

It is my brother's bach and he is happy for us camp on the lawn, not enough room for everyone inside. I have spare tents if you need one. We would pay a nominal amount for water and power. He possibly would come on the tramp with us, so we would have his expert guidance. Peter is the President of the Whakatane tramping club.

Please contact Lynne Flood 6220436 if you are interested. We can arrange carpooling.

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The Auckland Times

3 January 2019



Ms Bassett Turns Half a Century

by I.P. Knightly

This week marks the 50th birthday of predominate Auckland resident Ms Wendy Bassett and plans are under way to see her engage middle age in style! Ms Bassett's friends and family have been organizing the birthday celebrations for several months in order to give her forthcoming dotage the full recognition it deserves.

Local venue "The Greasy Spoon" in Avondale Heights will be the venue for the event, and the kitchen staff have been working around the clock to create an exciting menu of soft and easily-digestible dishes with pureed vegetables for Ms Bassett and her guests to enjoy.

It's sure to be the highlight of Auckland's social calendar this year!

When interviewed for The Auckland Times, Ms Bassett's friends and family said that they were looking forward to celebrating the special day. "Wendy is a wonderful daughter, sister and friend and we want to give her the birthday party she truly deserves".

In order to make Ms Bassett feel more comfortable on her big day, guests have been invited to attend in costume to match the age of the birthday girl. We hear that local costume stores have almost sold out of walking frames, grey wigs and reading glasses, so we're sure that Ms Bassett is going to feel right at home!

Most importantly, the local fire department is on standby to put out any potential blaze from the large number of candles on Ms Bassett's birthday cake.

Authorities have been keen to reassure the public that a large blaze is very unlikely, as it is envisaged that by the time organizers are able to light the 50th candle, the first few will have already gone out.

The party organizers plan to welcome Ms Bassett to the dining deck with a red carpet laid on in her honour. There will also be number of signposts and ushers should Ms Bassett forget why she is there or should she become lost or confused on her way from the car to the door.

Ms Bassett herself is looking forward to the party and the celebration of, in her words, "it's the 29th anniversary of my 21st birthday".

As Woody Allen once said, "I recently turned 50. Practically a third of my life is over." We for one are sure that the best years of Ms Bassett's life are still to come and we wish her a very happy birthday.



MIDGE MARSDEN
BLOCKHOUSE BAY BEACH
Friday 15 February 6.00pm-9.00pm

With a career spanning four decades, Midge Marsden is one of New Zealand's pre-eminent rhythm and blues artists – a true Blues Legend.

His excellent musicians and unstoppable energy guarantee a great show every time. After many years of performing at Music in Parks, Midge claims this is last – so don't miss him!

The Flaming Mudcats are regarded as one of the New Zealand's premier RnB acts. They have performed at festivals and clubs throughout New Zealand, Australia, the Pacific Islands and the USA.



Their energetic live show ranges from butt-shaking beltors to soulful grinders and nearly everything in-between.

Midge Marsden is entertaining at Blockhouse Bay Beach Reserve on Friday 15th February from 6 - 9pm.

Meet up with other Club Members, bring a blanket, dinner and drinks.



April Club Night Speaker **Jeremy Scott**



As a toddler, Jeremy Scott suffered from a huge hole in his aorta valve that cruelly denied him the opportunity to live the life of a normal healthy child. At just four years of age Jeremy underwent Open Heart Surgery at the hands of renowned surgeon Sir Brian Barratt-Boyes. Thirty four years later with practically no experience or training, Jeremy took the unbelievably courageous plunge and began a 2 ½ year, 51,916km bicycle ride that would see him cycle through 29 countries from London to New Zealand.

While separate encounters with the Iranian and Filipino Mafia had Jeremy fearing for his life, it was the beautiful acts of kindness offered by strangers throughout the world that will forever warm his heart.

If you want to be inspired, Jeremy will be a must to come & listen to. Go to the link below to see what you will be in for. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RX_rHCu_TDw

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Congratulations!

As of 2nd February 2019
Mark and Denise Vazey
officially became
Veterans



.....of the West Auckland District Tramping Club.

Members please delete Trish Hopkins land line from your phone list
- no longer in use.



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Geoff Yates is looking for interest in another variation of his Gold Coast tramp early this June. Please contact Geoff on 09 810 8456 or email: yatesfamily13@gmail.com



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TRACK REOPENING PRIORITATION

The Auckland Council is seeking feedback on prioritisation of Waitakere tracks to be worked to enable them to be reopened while meeting the objective of protecting the forests kauri trees. The information gathered through this process will assist with the development of a detailed five-year work programme and higher level longer term plan which will take into account community preference, opportunities to "bundle" track work for operational efficiency and resources.

In making decisions to reopen tracks the following will be considered:

- Priority on recreating coastal connectivity, providing for multi-day walking opportunities and kauri-safe access to identified iconic destinations,
- tracks opened once they are of a standard where they protect and support forest health,
- avoid high value non-symptomatic kauri ecosystems, and
- provide a range of recreational opportunities that where possible are concentrated to the forest edge.

You have until 14th of March 2019 to give your feedback via https://engage.ubiquity.co.nz/surveys/qy7r6z2grpjn51h013c4ylkrq80czhhtwxb_wm2fmmmp0km9b3d2svwpd_c3j or if a little old school via post to: Track Plan Consultation, Arataki Visitor Centre, PO Box 60228, Titirangi, Auckland 0642

You will find a link to the track map and list in this survey, but it is also attached for your convenience.

We are also holding a series of public information evenings and drop-in sessions.

- **Info evening:**, Piha, Barnett Hall, 7 Feb 6.30 - 8pm
- **Info evening:** Titirangi War Memorial Hall, 21 Feb 6.30 - 8pm
- **Drop in session:** Huia Community Hall, 23 Feb from 1 - 3pm
- **Drop in session:** Arataki Visitor Centre, 28 Feb 3 - 6pm

We would appreciate your support in promoting this consultation to regular park users and locals, by sharing this OurAuckland story across your social media channels: <http://ourauckland.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/articles/news/2019/01/have-your-say-on-waitakere-track-reopenings/>

Ngāmihi / Kind regards

Kauri Dieback Project Team, Auckland Council

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

Peter Tuohy	President	828 3274	tait@slingshot.co.nz
Jill Engle	Secretary	626 4325	jengle23a@gmail.com
Trish Hopkins	Treasurer	021 1273862	waitakereforever@gmail.com
Louis Allerby	Vice President/Editor	627 3110	louall@xtra.co.nz
Trish Hopkins	Trip Coordinator	021 1273862	waitakereforever@gmail.com
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