

## **18 January Puhoi to Dunn's Bush Leader Sandra**

Nine people turned up on a lovely sunny day for our first club tramp of the year.

We started with a slog up the hill climbing 100 metres above historic Puhoi Village, a very pretty walk through bush and grasslands to a high point overlooking the village. This is part of the Te Araroa Trail.

Once we got to Remiger Road (5.2 kilometres one way) we had some road walking then a very steep overgrown paddock to climb - John Walter wasn't happy ( you should come out with us more than once a year John)

A bit more of private road then another climb to Dunn's Bush where we were able to sit out of the sun and eat lunch. We could have continued on but majority voted we turn back, we will have to go and do the extra another time. All up we walked over 16 kilometres, a good day.

The pub and a beer would have gone down well but there was a full house of very noisy revellers there so we settled on an ice cream from the General store.

## **02 February Waiheke Island Crossing Leader Colin**

Fourteen club members joined me today for the walk from Rocky Bay area to Onetangi. After meeting in town at the ferry buildings we boarded the ferry bound for Waiheke. On arriving at Matiatia, we were met by Brian, Sue, and Val.

From there we got the Rocky bay bus, and after half an hour, we started our walk. Dave decided to go off on his own and check on a house that he once lived in

Morning tea was had on the Tawa track high above the bay, after which we continued on to the Whakanewha park area. From there it was up the Nikau track to the cascades where we had lunch.

After lunch we made our way north via the Peacock Sky winery, and then on to the Trig road and past the Eco zip line. We continued on down at this point toward our destination Onetangi

By this time we were all starting to get quite hot, and on arrival at Onetangi around 2pm, most of us hit the water for a very welcome cool dip.

While in the water we spotted a familiar figure, wearing a bright orange hat, walking along the foreshore. It was Dave. He had spent the day with friends and had just been driven back to Onetangi. He joined us for a swim.

Soon after our swim some of us headed off for a beer at Charley Farleys, while other members decided to make their way home, after another great Waiheke outing.



## **09 February Mahurangi Regional Park Ramble Leader Ralph**

With the weather we have had since the New Year it was no surprise to wake up to another sunny day although speaking for myself I am starting to quite look forward to a few cooler days.

Fortunately on this day the sun's heat was moderated by a south westerly breeze and some coolness in the air as our six trampers gathered in the carpark behind the beach at Sullivans (Otarawao) Bay.

When you start at sea level there is one sure thing and that is, anywhere you go is likely to be uphill and today was no exception. Having somehow negotiated through or over one of those pedestrian gates that had obviously never had a test run by its installers we began the first climb up to Ngarewa Drive. The first climb of the day is seldom a totally welcome experience but a short road walk taking us to the driveway down to Mita (Otuawao) Bay was on an easier gradient with not too much traffic that early in the morning.

To descend this driveway to Mita Bay through some pleasant bush is certainly easier on the lungs than ascending it but did require a concentrated effort not find yourself doing an unplanned sudden sit down.

All was quiet and serene down at the campground making for a relaxed morning tea stop. With the tide still a bit high to attempt a coastal route to Sullivans Bay we ascended what could fairly be described as the steep track up to Tungutu Point with its spectacular views over the Mahurangi area.

A steepish descent took us back to just above sea level for a bit of flat walking before our last significant climb for the day up the track to visit Cudlip Point before descending to the Te Muri estuary where the tidal stream mouth was still running high enough to prompt a boots off crossing.

Sitting on the grass in the shade of pohutukawa trees to dry our feet resulted in a progression to this very pleasant spot becoming our relaxed lunch stop watching campers including some young and very young trampers go by loaded up with their gear as they timed their walk out for the low tide.

After lunch we opted to take the more inland Te Muri Track before veering back through the campground where only two tents remained with the occupants looking remarkably relaxed considering that they would need to pack up to catch the low tide if they were going out that day as they indicated.

Back at the estuary after a beach walk and unsuccessfully looking for Dotteral chicks (they are there but well disguised) some opted to remove their boots again although with a bit of local knowledge and an extra lower tide and stream it was not impossible to do a quick skip across with dry feet if your boots were of the more water resistant type.

With full low tide getting closer we took the coastal route over the rocks back towards Sullivans Bay with some of us taking the opportunity presented by a lower tide than usual to do a dry foot side trip to Pudding Island.

Back at Sullivans Bay just after 2.00pm it was apparent that the park has become increasingly popular over the last few years with the carparks now filling up. Despite it being nearly full low tide this beach is always good for a refreshing dip and we all took advantage of this opportunity

