

Warblings

Out West



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

West Auckland District Tramping Club Newsletter no. 414

November 2014

Contents

Club calendar

President's report

Trip reports

what's coming up?

Letters to the editor

Committee

New Members



The group at the summit: Peter Tuohy's trip to Maungatautiri – report to follow

Club calendar of Activities

2014

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.**

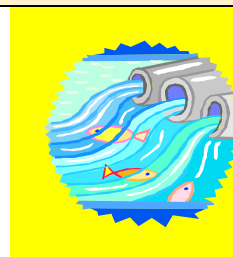
Reasonable fitness and comfortable walking (weather appropriate) attire, plus your food and drink for the day are essential.

Club nights are held on the 3rd Tuesday evening of each month at the Kelston Community Centre in Activity Room 2, at 7.30pm, unless otherwise stated.

18 November Club night, 7.30 NOW AT AVONDALE HIGHBURY HALL, 99 ROSEBANK ROAD, AVONDALE (due to fire at Kelston Community Centre.)

This month's speaker is Pamela Gill who is Neighbourhood facilitator for sustainable neighbourhood's stream project covering the Glen Eden and Henderson areas. She also works with the Greater Glen Eden project which is focused on connecting Glen Eden community.

The talk covers work on the stream projects to date and current projects in the Glen Eden area. Pamela is an engaging speaker with a true passion for our local environment and community connections.



19 November. Wednesday Night walk Massey North 6.45pm

We will gather at the Kemp reserve in Kemp Road Massey for a walk to the Westgate area and across to Westpark Marina then back via Moire Park, ending with supper at the Dingles.

Leader Jill Dingle mob 0212945700

23 November Tramp Hakarimata Walkway –Waikato Glen Eden 8.30am

First we travel to Taupiri Mountain and climb through the bush to the summit. Great views which include the Wind Farm near Raglan. Back down another track. This takes about an hour. These tracks are away from the sacred burial grounds. Aficionados of ramshackle, corrugated iron farmyards filled with happy animals will love the one we see here from a distance. I certainly do. There is also a lovely green wharenui. Then 15 minutes drive to the Kauri Loop Track on the other side of the river. Clean boots for this please. The track takes two hours or so and includes two lookouts over the Waikato and many, many, many steps. Caution! Do not read the sign at the start telling you how many steps there are. It's actually quite an easy walk, popular with the Waikato locals. Bags of gravel may be waiting to be carried. Then to the cafe at Mercer and home.

John Miller 622 0436

\$20 members, \$25 non members

26 November Wednesday Night walk. Greenhithe 6.45pm

Including parks and the new wharf. Take the Tauhinu Rd turnoff, onto Greenhithe Rd. Park by shops at No. 10 Greenhithe Rd. Drinks/coffee at the Malthouse afterwards.

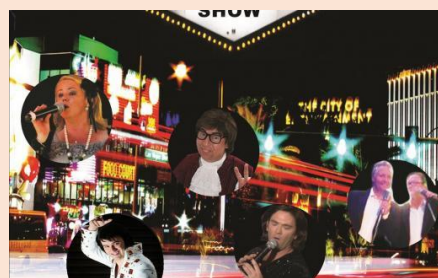
Shirley Bulog 810-9303

28 November Social event Friday evening.

Another great night is planned at the Titirangi RSA. "The Las Vegas night" is in town with some legendary performers. Austin Powers, Neil Diamond, Elvis Presley, Tuxedo Boys & Tracey Brown. These nights are awesome and always loved by all that attend. Preshow dinner is planned for those who want it.

Wendy has only 5 x \$20 tickets left.

Wendy Bassett ph 8322869 (before 8.30pm please)



**29-30 November - weekend backpacking tramp- Kaimais - Transport to be coordinated prior.
Leave Auckland 8 am.**

Approximately 2 and a half hours driving to Te Tuhi Road near Matamata. After a lunch break walk into Mangamuka Hut via Te Tuhi Track. (3 to 3.5 hours). This includes a bit of a grunt uphill. The hut is only 3 bunks and there may be others there so tents or bivis would be in order.

Sunday 30th

Retrace track back to Te Tuhi Track and then follow North/South Track to Wairere Track and Falls. Descend from there to Goodwin Road (5.5 to 6 hours). Back to Auckland.

This will be a self-catering trip or form own food groups. Most of the tramp will be in dense bush but you will be rewarded with the view from the top of the Falls on the way out and night views over the Hauraki Plains from near Mangamuka Hut.

Contact Paul Thurston 022 631 1068 if you intend coming. Texts will be OK as I may not be able to answer when you ring. Trip description in "Weekend tramps in the Kaimai Ranges" Pages 75 to 80.

Leader Paul Thurston 838 0315

30 November no home tramp arranged but meet up if keen

Glen Eden 8.30

3 December Wednesday Night Walk - Titirangi 7.00pm

Meet at Titirangi Library, down Otitori Road, track to Titirangi Beach and up the bush track, then either right or left at Park Road and back to Library.

Lynne Flood 817-5178

4 December – (Thursday) Visit to Gibbs Sculpture Park and Farm from 10am to 2pm.



**Meet at Kaukapakapa at 930 and /or carpool by arrangement from Westgate
Only x10 permitted to visit farm at this booking.**

Still 5 places left.

Contact Jill Dingle. 8323459 or 0212945700

Bring your lunch and the sunshine.

5 December. (Friday) Rotoroa Island Weekend 5th 6th of December 2014. Downtown Ferry Terminal

360 Discovery Ferry departs on Friday at 6 pm- returning on Sunday at 4 pm.

Please book seat for Ferry. Telephone No 0800 3603 472 one to two weeks before the 5th of December.

Bring sleeping bags, pillow case and towels.

Bring Breakfasts 2, lunch 2, meat for "Pot Luck Dinner" for Saturday night.

We can have our Friday Dinner on the Ferry as trip will be an hour long. BYO.

I will contact everyone as to what to bring for Salads and Desserts for our Party on Saturday night.

Further information on Rotoroa Island go to website on www.rotoroa.org.nz

7th December. (Sunday) Day trip to Rotoroa Island

Glen Eden 8am

360 Discovery Ferry leaves from Pier 4 at 8 45am.

Please book, Telephone No 0800 3603472 or on line 360discovery.co.nz


Fares, Adults \$49.00 Gold Card, \$44.00.

Any other information contact -

Val Ellis 817 6813

p.s. There is no shop on the Island so bring food and drinks



10 December	Wednesday Evening Walk - Green Bay to Blockhouse Bay	7.00pm
Meet at Portage Road, Green Bay beach and walk along the cliff walkway to Blockhouse Bay, then back through roads and parks. Bring a torch		
Denise Vazey	827-1552	
14 December	Twin Peaks-Huia	Gleneden 8.30am
Start from Karamatura, up Twin Peaks and back down via Tom Thumb. Should be dry underfoot and a good workout.		
Lynne Flood	817 5178	
\$5.00 for members		\$10 for non-members
17 December	Wednesday Evening Walk - Oponuku & Oratia Streams	7.00pm
Meet at Sunnyvale railway parking and enjoy a lovely walk along the Oponuku and Oratia streams. Majority of the walk is off the road, on park pathways, and mostly level. We can make this walk as long or as short as we like on the night as there are a lot of options to take different exits from the Oponuku walkway if anyone wants to get back sooner; alternatively we can add more if everyone is feeling energetic and wants to walk off some of the Christmas Pud !!		
Trish Hopkins		835-4405 / 021-127-3862
December 21st NOTE: Room 1, Kelston Community Centre. (usually room 2)		
CHRISTMAS CLUB NIGHT.		
Due to the lack of entries last year we will not be running a photo competition. We will have a "Bring and Buy" and social evening instead. Bring along any tramping and camping gear you no longer need; attach your name and a suggested price to it and it could be just what someone else is looking for. It will be an evening for you to catch up with fellow members, buy or sell, with supper provided by the Committee. However, if you do have great photos bring them along to share.		
2015		
21 Jan.	Wednesday Evening Walk - Avondale	7.00pm
Meet at 23 Cradock Street, Avondale. Be enlightened by a walk encompassing no less than eight religious places of worship around multicultural Avondale. Hopefully we can arrange a viewing inside the magnificent Swaminaraya Hindu Temple and join the resident monks for supper inside a Buddhist stupa (gold coin). Expect the unexpected! Dress conservatively.		
Peter Tuohy	828-3274 / 027-438-9944	
28 Jan.	Wednesday Evening Walk - Glen Eden Hills	7.00pm
Meet at the Kelston Community Centre for one of my favourite walks through the cemetery to the back hills of Glen Eden, and back round a nice little loop. A couple of hills, but nothing too difficult for us. I may try to get you lost in the cemetery on the way back just to test your directional skills!		
Trish Hopkins	835-4405 / 021-127-3862	

President's Report

Our Secretary responded to FMC's survey regarding their AGM and Executive elections after input from several members. We were concerned they seemed unaware of the legal requirement of incorporated societies to submit their financial report for their members' approval at an AGM.

We also expressed our perception of FMC Executive having less interest in engaging directly with clubs. However we did acknowledged our appreciation of the key advocacy role undertaken by FMC.

Jill Engle

Mt William and Miranda. 12 October 2014. Lead by John Miller

The weather was fine for this trip, which was undertaken by six of us. We drove to one end of the track where we left Lynne's little car and carried on in Peter's to the other end. Chris was waiting there for us. The walkway started off in farmland before entering bush which accompanied us until we emerged onto farmland again and the trail up to the Mt William summit at 373m. Here we stopped for a break and admired the views. The leader seemed reluctant to move on from this spot and had to be coerced to do so by the others. The rest of the walkway was a pleasant walk through more farmland.

We decided to all cram into Lynne's little car, which also seemed reluctant to move on but then bravely transported us back to the start without incident.

Next stop was the Miranda Shorebird Centre where we had lunch accompanied by the sound of frogs. A member of the party, wondering why the frogs fell silent, prompted this from Peter: "Perhaps they croaked." Surely a Quip of the Year contender.

After lunch we walked out through the wetlands to a beach and a bird hide. We noticed silver beet growing wild. This plant tasted salty and is an example of a garden plant that escaped into the wild.

In 1996 a house, approximately 3km south of Kaiaua, was removed from the foreshore area. Relicts of human occupation are still visible including some garden plants and this plot may be the original source of some garden escapes along the coastal strip.

A few clumps of a small onion *Allium vineale* var. *compactum* are conspicuous by their bluish purple flowers when in bloom. Much more prominent along the length of the high tidal shell bank garden are green beets *Beta vulgaris*. This was almost certainly introduced to the area originally as a cultivated vegetable – probably as silverbeet or Swiss chard – but it might now be identified as wild beet.

Swiss chard, silverbeet, beetroot, sugar beet, spinach beet and sea-kale beet are all domestic varieties of the same species *Beta vulgaris* and the garden escape variety along the Miranda foreshore is one of these cultivars that have flourished. The raw leaves are quite salty to the taste but when cooked they are just like silverbeet or Swiss chard.

(Source: Department of Conservation)

The day concluded with ice creams at Kaiaua.

Thanks to Chris, Jill D, Lynne, Peter and Sandra for a great day.

John



.....
Intro Cascades area October 26 Lead by Wendy Bassett

Well I turned up a Glen mall and waited for a grand total of 1 turned up - yahoo.

So I had a chat to Val Ellis. We said well at least do a couple of hours see what happens so we headed out to the cascades and the car park was packed so we managed to squeeze the car in on the side of the road.

We grabbed a map and decided to do the Upper kauri track and had morning tea at the junction with the Cascades and then headed down there instead of continuing on. Man they have done heaps of work in this area with the steps they put in. My thighs and hips were feeling it and then came the up hills again!! It was a struggle huffing and puffing, have lost my fitness but got there in the end. We then connected with the fence line and more stairs yah!!! There were heaps of Young Families out walking which was great to see. Maybe they are our future trampers; quite a few tourists too; bit like Queen Street on a Friday night.. Anyhow we had lunch on our club seat looking at the magnificent kauri tree. We finished off doing the Auckland city track so we did a few hours and Val was really good company. We chatted in between my moans and huffs and puffs she kept me going and we had a nice drink at the Railway café.

We are so lucky to have this Park in Auckland sometimes you don't realise till you're out there walking through it to have it on your doorstep.

We were lucky with the weather no rain no wind. Thanks Val for coming along. All in All nice day.

Wendy

LABOUR WEEKEND PATARURU Maungatautiri and Te Waihou springs lead by Peter Tuohy

While Pataruru does not feature highly on most people's "must visit" list, it is a very central location for exploring South Waikato. A good sized party of 12 exchanged the big smoke for the little smoke and undertook three day tramps in the area making the most of the first long weekend since June.

Saturday's mission was to walk the "Across the Mountain" walk of Maungatautiri Mountain. Via prior arrangement the Out in the Styx Guesthouse house shuttled us from the South Entrance of the reserve around to the North Entrance for a very reasonable \$10 per head. Certainly saved a logistically challenging car shuttle. Maungatautiri Sanctuary is a national treasure surrounded by the longest pest proof fence in the Southern Hemisphere providing the birdlife that lives within a great habitat in which to live and replenish their numbers. The walk took about 5 hours and while not well sign posted as far as timing are concerned is a rewarding experience. The short and sharp side trip to the summit of Pukeatua Peak was well rewarded with panoramic views in every direction. Being a stunningly bright day, we could easily pick out many of the landmarks of the region including snowcapped Mt Ruapehu & Tongariro. The information centre at the South Enclosure manned by volunteers is also a great asset to the park. Back in Pataruru we all dined out at a local Indian Restaurant who were no doubt very pleased to have a few JAFFA dollars as we were their only customers.

Sunday's walk involved a slightly complicated car shuttle before our walk commenced from Little Waipa campsite along the Waikato River Trails cycle/walking path. As luck would have it we arrived in Arapuni village around lunchtime, so being true Aucklanders we sniffed out the one and only café in town being the infamous Rhubarb Café. Our walk after lunch become even more scenic with great viewing points overlooking this very pretty section of the Waikato River. Our walk concluded at Jones Landing. Both Jones Landing and Little Waipa are free camping spots and were well used by a number of campers. A late afternoon gamble of visiting the Okororie Hot Springs paid off. Internet research has this location receiving a wide range of reviews from "disgusting" to "wonderful gem". At \$5 a head admission we all decided it was a wonderful gem and were delighted with our little discovery that most in the group had never heard of, let alone visited. While very "old school" with individual changing sheds, the pools were clean and a perfect temperature – not too hot, not too cool. There was even a large bamboo pole floating in the pool as a buoyancy aid for the more vertically challenged folk who could not reach the sandy bottom. A potluck dinner back at the motel followed.



Monday's weather did not look promising, but thankfully the Scotch mist cleared and we proceeded with a walk along Te Waihou Walkway to the stunning waters of Te Waihou Springs. Most had not been here before and were very impressed with the clarity of the water and the freshness of the taste.

At the furthest end of the walk beneath two giant Redwood trees, there is a circle of boulders with plaques attached with great quotes. All started with the words "Dust if you must..." If you ever need an excuse as to why you should skip the housework and don some tramping boots and head for the hills our

favorite ditto was "Dust if you must but there's not much time, with rivers to swim and mountains to climb, music to hear and books to read, friends to cherish and a life to lead".

Enjoying the wonderful housework free weekend were Brian & Karen Sellers, Louis Allerby, Ralph & Lyndell Lyon, Sue Russell, Brian Kettle, Dave Spiers, Peter Tuohy, Lynne Flood, Sandra Everitt & John Miller.
Peter

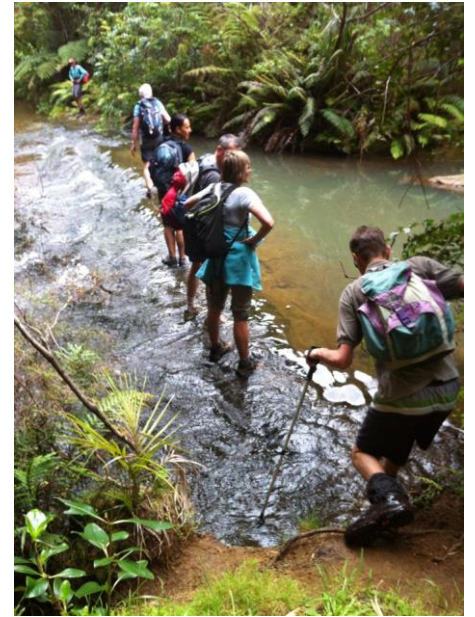
GOLDIES Bush November 2- Leader Peter Tuohy.

A Goldie but a goodie. Goldies Bush is one of my favorite tramps, so did not mind leading it for Pam. We took the usual route of following the Mokoroa Falls track to the waterfall lookout. With no sign of the slip mentioned on the DOC website, we made our way down the beautiful Mokoroa stream passing some inviting swimming holes to return to in the summer.

At the massive footbridge, we left the stream and climbed the Te Henga track passed numerous stands of young Kauri. Let's hope these magnificent specimens do not succumb to the Kauri dieback. Lunch was had at the end of Constable Road overlooking the sea in perfect conditions. We returned via the Te Henga & Goldies Bush Tracks with the obligatory pit stop at the Swanson Café.

Trust Marie, on her first outing with our club enjoyed her day and hope to see you out again soon.

Peter



Pot luck dinner 18 October theme Young at heart social event arranged by Wendy Bassett



This event was a good night with a total of 16 people turning up we had from school girls to pippi long stockings to a rapper to two rough looking westies coming in, Awesome costumes Jill and Doug Dingle. And a big shout out to Pam Goldie and Jill Engle and Sandra Everitt and Miriam Harwood you all looked so cool. We sat down to mains which we had heaps of variety. After a rest we played pass the parcel which was fun as I haven't played since I was small Then I did a bit of a tidy up my forte in the kitchen and then we had pudding - all so good for the figure. After that we did blind man's pin the pin on the world map and then we did hula hoops with Sandra Everitt and Lynn Flood the winners After that a dice game. It was so cool seeing people made the effort to dress up. It was fun especially pass the parcel and the Hula hoop. Had a bit of a boogie and so cool to see many people and catch up Thanks to those that came and supported this event and thanks to Jill Engle who arranged for us to use the room at the village (a great spot) and organized the presents. Wendy

What's coming up

Trips away

Able Tasman / Heaphy- First two weeks in Feb. 2015.

If you would like to join our small group and make your own booking arrangements contact Jill, Lynne, Denise or Astrid regarding the itinerary.

Hollyford April 2015(Easter)- Contact John Miller- Could be 1 or 2 more places left.

Letters to the Editor

Two for the Road

I thought Two For The Road might sound like an appropriate title.

We have now been on the road for just over 2 weeks and have very quickly decided that this is the life.

Highlights so far have included:-

1. Cycling the Taylor River & Wither Hills area in Blenheim.
2. Cycling around one of Blenheim vineyard circuits.
3. Hiking part of the Queen Charlotte Walkway from Anakiwa.
4. Part of the Nydia Walkway from near Havelock to the top of the first saddle where there we had views all the way to the seaward Kaikouras.
5. Hikes in the Pelorous Bridge area.

We have now moved on to Nelson which has the amazing Great Taste cycle trail. So far have done the Richmond to Rabbit Island section which was spectacular.

Have also had a meal out with Dave Wheeler and we are going on a hike with him up the Dun Mountain trail. He appears to be enjoying life down here.

We don't miss the working life at all.

Bruce & Maureen



The Committee

Jill Engle	President	6264325	jengle23a@vodafone.co.nz
Christine Major	Secretary	3784404	christine.major@clear.net.nz
Trish Hopkins	Treasurer	8354405	waitakereforever@gmail.com
Denise Vazey	Vice President	8271552	vazey@xtra.co.nz
Lynne Flood	Trips Coordinator	8175178	floods@ihug.co.nz
Peter Tuohy	Committee	8283274	tait@slingshot.co.nz
Malcolm Robinson	Wednesday walks	6274495	malc.joan@gmail.com
Chris Green	Printing for mag.	8385888	cogreen@actrix.co.nz
Shirley Bulog	Supper co-ordinator	8109303	sbulog@hotmail.com
Wendy Bassett	Social Convenor	8322869	wmbm87@value.net.nz
Mark Vazey	Gear Steward	8271552	vazey@xtra.co.nz
Miriam Harwood	Overdue parties	8189314	m007harwood@gmail.com