

# Merry Christmas

Newsletter no. 437



## The Presidents report

With Christmas fast approaching, we hope you can join us for our last club night of the year on December 12 (note a week earlier than usual) and our club picnic at Cornwallis on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

At our December club night we plan on having a bit of a laugh with a game of "I'll show you mine if you show me yours!" photo competition. Bring two photos. One of when you were aged around 5 years old and one at any other stage of your life where you might be difficult to recognise eg dressed for a fancy dress party. We will try & guess who is who. For the adult photos we might cover up some of the photo using post-it notes and slowly reveal more of each picture just to make it more interesting. The less revealing required to identify the person in the photo, the more points you will get! We will also have a globe for a little game of "Where on earth have you been", so you can show off a little and put red dots on all the parts of the world our members have ventured to this year.

Plans are underway to celebrate our clubs 40<sup>th</sup> birthday in March. We do hope you can attend. The committee has decided on a venue – lunch at Swanson RSA on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> of March, which will be subsidized by the club. See full details in this magazine. Do RSVP to Joy as we do need to know what numbers we are dealing with. We thought it would be nice to invite former members who are no longer tramping with us as a result of having moved away or no longer tramping due to health/age issues. If you can think of anyone who you would like to have included on this list, please let me know.

Geoff Yates proposed trip to the Gold Coast in June next year is gaining momentum with 11 booked so far and accommodation in place. Don't leave it too late to make a decision if you are thinking of coming as this trip will have number limits and a close off date.

Our intrepid traveller Paul Thurston has been keeping me up to date with his adventures on the high seas cruising from the Europe to the Caribbean. He gave me a chuckle that I could relate to, when he tried his best (for a boy from Tahape) to order coffee in French. *Puis-je commander un café blanc s'il vous plaît* he carefully says, only to receive a reply of *soit's one American coffee to takeaway right ?* in perfect English !

Our last club night was very entertaining with Denise Vazey giving us an amusing account of her recent trip to Tanzania, helped along with witty comments from the floor. I take my hat off to her. Climbing Mt Kilimanjaro is not a walk in the park. Well done.

As usual our club will take a short break over the Christmas period and a reminder there is no January club night.

I would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and trust your Santa sack gets filled with lots of tramping gear so we will see you out next year enjoying some of the many events the club hosts

*Peter*

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# WEST AUCKLAND DISTRICT TRAMPING CLUB

## 40<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION LUNCHEON

*Since 1977 our wonderful club has provided tramping opportunities to both local and faraway places and most importantly fellowship & friendship*

*(and even a little romance here and there!)*

*We would love you to join us for lunch to celebrate this milestone.*

*WHEN: Saturday 11 March 2017 12noon*

*(meal at 12.30pm – three course buffet)*

*WHERE: Swanson RSA, Swanson Road, Swanson.*

*COST: \$10 per club Members & Former Members.*

*(\$10 Subsidy per member)*

*(Complimentary lunch to Veteran & Honorary members)*

*\$20 partners and others*

*Buy your own drinks*

*RSVP : to Joy Prebble via email or phone*

*098135330 021 02735420 [joyprebble@xtra.co.nz](mailto:joyprebble@xtra.co.nz)*

*Hope you can make it!*

*A tramp to Fairy Falls (the location of our club's first ever tramp) will take place the next day and lead by foundation member Bruce Fletcher.*

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## Activities

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### 11 December

### Comans – Ahu Ahu

8.30am

Grade: Moderate/Difficult

Meet at Glen Eden ready to leave at 8.30am, or at the end of Log Race Road by 9am. We have done this track many times usually going down Comans then up Ahu Ahu; this time we will do it the other way around for a change. We will head down the usual way and visit the carving, look at the fabulous view and breathe in the brisk sea air.

When we reach Karekare we will then walk to Tunnel Point, along the sand to the boardwalk and up to Zion Hill track back to Karekare. Back to the carpark via Comans, then for those that want a challenge, a time trial on the steep hill to the carpark. Those that don't want to join in can take the longer route and meet at the cars.

**Leader:** Trish Hopkins P: 021 127 3862 E: [waitakereforever@gmail.com](mailto:waitakereforever@gmail.com)



### 12 December

### Final Club Night 2016

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

Come join us and enjoy nibbles, punch and mingling with fellow trampers and friends.

Please bring a photo of yourself when you were a young little mite, around 5 years old and one at any other stage of your life where you might be difficult to recognise eg dressed for a fancy dress party so we can pin it on the wall for other members to guess who the photo belongs to. Should be a lot of fun!



### 14 December

### Wednesday Night Walk – New Lynn

7.00pm

We will finish off what we started last time we did this. You may remember we visited the Ambrico Kiln & then the heavens opened. We decided to walk but realised it was not going to stop!! All completely drenched, we abandoned the walk & came back to my place for an early supper. Hopefully this time we will have better weather and enjoy a ramble around the sights of New Lynn!!! You are also welcome back to my place for a cuppa & cake. Meet in the park cnr Rankin Ave & Clark St Extension.



**Leader:** Louis Allerby P: 0211906472 E: [louall@xtra.co.nz](mailto:louall@xtra.co.nz)

## 18 December

## Picnic Cornwallis Beach

Back by popular demand, the club will be celebrating our end of year Christmas picnic at Cornwallis again this year. With the aid of a gazebo, we won't have to worry too much about the weather. There are a couple of activities planned to keep you entertained and of course a lovely shared lunch. Bring either a salad or dessert to share. The club will supply the meat for the BBQ. You are more than welcome to bring family along to this event.

We are hoping to secure "Site 2" as this has a large sun gazebo. Park at either car park at the end of Pine Avenue (1st road on left after Mill Bay). In the event another party beats us to site 2, we will set up a little further along the beach in the direction of Cornwallis Wharf. We should be easy enough to find.

Please email Peter if intending to come to help with planning.

E: [tait@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:tait@slingshot.co.nz)

BYO drink, plate, cutlery & a chair.



## 25 December

## World Tour

Meet Glen Eden 11.55pm Saturday 24 – please note change of meeting time

Owing to the date, we will be doing an early start on this Sunday morning.

Meet at usual place by 11.55 pm Saturday night. No need to car pool, sled transport will be provided for a very quick world tour. Please dress warmly as the sled is very exposed to the elements. No need to bring lunch, in the past adequate cookies, milk, sweets & alcohol has been provided on route.

Driver will have us back to meeting place before sunrise, on Sunday morning.

Leader: Mr S Clause



**01 January**



**08 January**

**Nothing formal planned for this day**

Ring around if you feel like a tramp

or just chill out & relax



**15 January**

**Kuataika Track - Anawhata**

8.30am

Grade: Moderate

Fare members \$6 non members \$11

Kuataika Track – Anawhata. From Anawhata we will be following the track & stream walking north towards Wainamu junction. This tramp will include some hill climbing and stream crossings so be prepared for wet boots, but hey its summer so enjoy!



Leader: Dave Spiers P: 835 3272

E: [spiersy37@gmail.com](mailto:spiersy37@gmail.com)

**22 January**

## **Karamatura Track**

9.30am

Grade: Introductory/Moderate

**Fare:** Members \$5 Non members \$10

This is an easier start for the new year so we have a later starting time of 9.30am.

We will be covering the Karamatura & Fletcher tracks. A guaranteed good walk in a beautiful part of the Waitakeries with great views over Huia. This is going to be an easy to moderate tramp with some climbs and some nice views. Approx 3hrs.

**Leader:** Astrid Crouth P: 021 489 673 E: [phil.astrid@xtra.co.nz](mailto:phil.astrid@xtra.co.nz)



**29 January**

## **Slip Track**

8.30am

Grade: Moderate

**Fare:** Members \$5 Non members \$10

Meet as usual at Glen Eden 8.30 then a short drive towards Scenic Drive. We will be covering a couple of tracks around Nihotupu Tramline. Lots of good shaded bush walking. Aprox 4 hours.

**Leader:** Sandra Everitt P: 827 7849. 021 980 731 E: [sandraeveritt@hotmail.com](mailto:sandraeveritt@hotmail.com)



**05 February**

## **Pakiri Beach (Waitangi Weekend)**

8.30am Glen Eden (or 10am at Pakiri Beach)

Time: 4-5 hours

Members \$20; non-members \$25

Make the most of summer and our beautiful coastline with a one-way tramp along the very scenic route from Pakiri Beach to Matheson Bay (via Goat Island) in the Leigh area.

Why not make a weekend of it and book into the Pakiri Beach Holiday Park? I don't think the club has ever stayed there before (<http://www.pakiriholidaypark.co.nz/>). Please make your own booking and let the leader know so we can plan transport shuttles for the Sunday walk.

**Leader:** Paul Williams P: 09 425 9877 E: [pgrwilliams@xtra.co.nz](mailto:pgrwilliams@xtra.co.nz)



## 12 February

8.30 Glen Eden

## North Shore Coastal Walk

Grade Moderate

We will be aiming for a North Shore beach/coastal walk on this Sunday. Details to follow depending on the wind & tides closer to the date.

**Leader:** Colin Spencer P: 8385706 022 4356839 E: [broncol@windowslive.com](mailto:broncol@windowslive.com)

## 19 February

Time: 8.30am

Grade: Moderate

Time: 4-5 hours

Fare: \$6 members, \$11 non members

New leader! Peak of summer, so a wonderful opportunity to splash about in the lovely Wairere stream that passes through Goldies Bush. Great swimming opportunities, beautiful bush and great views from the northern end of Te Henga Walkway.

**Leader:** Louis Allerby P: 8279047 E: [louall@xtra.co.nz](mailto:louall@xtra.co.nz)



## 20 February

## Club Night - Robin Kewell – Film Maker

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

Robin Kewell Film-maker for the past 30 years, started as a stunt cameraman, went on to making many documentaries for TV. Worked on filming the Eden Project in Cornwall from when it was a seed of an idea through to completion. Over 3000 hours of footage shot over 7 years. The Eden Project has been described as the 'Eighth Wonder of the World' and Robin was privileged to be involved from the beginning, capturing a 'warts and all' story of how a dream turned into reality. Robin will present to us a special selection from the feature documentary 'Eden the Complete Inside Story' and will be there to answer questions on any aspect of the project.

## 26 February

Time: Please yourself. Why not make a weekend of it?

If intending to only come for the day on Sunday, catch the 9am Fullers ferry from town (no Glen Eden meeting). Notify the leader you are coming.

Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup> of Feb is race day on Onetangi beach where all manner of races take place, not only horse races. Bet you won't want to miss this one! A real carnival event. There will be walks and swims planned around this event. I plan on making a weekend of it at, most likely staying at the Hekerua lodge Backpackers, unless anyone has access to a bach we could rent??? Check it out at [www.hekerualodge.co.nz](http://www.hekerualodge.co.nz)

**Leader:** Peter Tuohy P: 8283274 E: [tait@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:tait@slingshot.co.nz)



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## Trip reports

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### **Karekare Mt Donald McLean 30 October Leader Lynne Flood**

Present Lynne, John, Val E, Trish, Louis S, Louis A, Kate, Nicola, Colin, Annette, Christine, Sandra, Denise and visitor Evan

Fourteen of us met at Lone Kauri Road on 30 October. We started off down Odlins Track and had morning tea at the campsite, then up to Orange Peel Corner and up Walker Ridge Track to Karamatura Forks and on to Mt Donald McLean for lunch. It was a beautiful sunny day, with lovely views and we relaxed on Mt Donald McLean. We kept a good pace up and got back to the carpark by 2.30. Incidentally, it took the same time to get to Mt Donald Mclean as it did for the return trip. There was a lot of uphill and a fair bit of mud and it was a good workout. Some of us went to Just Plane Interesting for coffee.



### **Piha Valley 20 Nov Leader Mandy Adams**

What a lovely day - good company, good scenery and a couple of grunty hills to ensure the leader led from behind...or the middle...!

9 of us set off from Glen Eden and met the 10th member at the car park in Glen Esk Road.

We set off on Piha Valley track but within seconds turned off to start the grunt up the Home track.

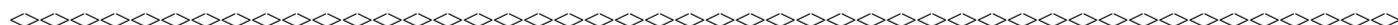
The cool morning seemed to heat up rapidly as did the heart rate and I think it's fair to say we were pleased to stop for morning tea at the top of the steep section of the track where it intersects with Connect track.

The rest of the walk on Home track is a meander (slosh?) through the Waitakere mud until we came to Centennial track. This led us down to Black Rock Dam where we all crossed the stream on the slippery rocks with no problems.

Once over the river we turned onto Forbes track and so started the 2nd grunt of the day. The Forbes is very steep but I prefer this kind of steepness because it's more of a climb and clamber than a steady grind up a never ending slope! There's some good views on the way up too. The top of the track delivered us to within 5 minutes of McKenzie junction where we had a leisurely lunch and enjoyed the glorious sunshine.

We then set off down the Mckenzie track and eventually reached the stream in Piha valley which we crossed with no problems and then strolled down Piha Valley back to the cars.

My thanks to Astrid, John M, Lynn, Jonathan, Craig, Sandra, Louis S, Trish, Shirley O.



### **Rotoroa Island 25,26 & 27 November Leader Val Ellis**

We all met at Pier 4 in miserable weather on Friday at 6p.m. for our 6.30 departure. Ferry was cancelled to the Coromandel due to the bad weather so apart from four who disembarked at Orapiu we had the ferry to ourselves.

Some of us had our tea on board with a glass or two of wine, a good start to our weekend. An uneventful hours journey to the Island where we were met by Sue and her trusty van to take our luggage to our lodge where we settled into our Bunk Rooms. There were just twelve of us, so we were able to spread out.

Saturday was fine, so after leisurely breakfast we walked down

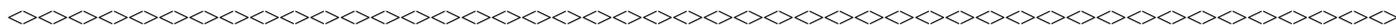


to Southern Loop Track and admired the Chris Booth Sculpture, returning via Men's and Ladies Bays. After lunch some of us visited the Information Centre, relaxed at Ladies Bay, a swim in clear, cool water and prepared our salads and desserts for our dinner party. We carried on with the tradition of different coloured shirts and found our seats with the appropriate coloured Jelly Beans. Sue had fun setting the table as *Arthur* had done a menu with the colour that we wore plus what we had made. We were **international Chefs** from the *cities of the world*. BBQ operated by *Brian and Tom with the Beer Handy!!*. Some of us had an early morning walk and a refreshing swim, others visited the Cemetery and explored the rest of the Island.

Sue picked us up at 4.45 and we departed at 5.15 for Auckland and returned home by car and train after a lovely relaxing weekend.

We saw Oyster Catchers and Dotterel Chicks, *parents not too happy to see us though*.

The weekenders were, Val, Sue, Astrid, Pam, Brian and first timers to the island, Nicola, Kate, Mandy, Tom, Annette, Hadeel and Nariman. Thank you all for another great weekend at this lovely Island. **We will return!!**



### **Karamatura Valley 04 December Leader Lynne Flood**

Lynne, John Miller, Dave, Angela Williams, Peter, Louis A., Val E, Jonathon and visitor Emma set out up the Karamatura Valley to Tom Thumb track and up Goat Hill and enjoyed time up there in the sun and looking at the view.

We found a sunny bank for lunch and relaxed and then back to the Karamatura valley. It was a very short day, weather was beautiful and we enjoyed icecreams at the Huia Store.



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## **Advance Notices**

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### **Wednesday night walks**

We are currently running these whenever someone offers to lead a walk. If you are willing to lead a Wednesday Night walk, please email me and let me know when & where and I will advise members.

Contact: Jill Engle P: 625 4325 E: [jengle23a@vodafone.co.nz](mailto:jengle23a@vodafone.co.nz)

# Club trip

## Gold Coast Hinterland Rainforest



14-23 June 2017

Leader: Geoff Yates ph 8108456

With daily June temperatures around 21°C and only 1 day in 10 dropping to beneath 18°C where would you rather be spending next winter?

Lush rainforests, ancient trees, spectacular views, extensive walking tracks, exceptional ecological importance and natural beauty make this *Gondwana Rainforests of Australia World Heritage Area* an outstanding place to visit.

The intention is have a base for the week, (possibly in the Nerang area, a few km inland from Surfers Paradise) and take day trips into the magnificent Lamington National Park and other reserves in the area. Nerang is the gateway to the Gold Coast Hinterland's Rainforest Reserves.

Check out some of the proposed day trips at:

<http://www.nprsr.qld.gov.au/parks/lamington/about.html>

- Binna Bura area
- Green Mountain area
- Coomera Falls Circuit (17.5km)
- Dave's Creek Circuit (12km)
- Ballan Tui Falls (12km)
- Blue pool and Stairway fall (14km)
- Warrie Circuit (17km)

There are currently one-way **airfares** direct to Coolangatta advertised on Expedia for an amazingly low **\$16 (+taxes \$63)** on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June. You would have to move mighty quick to secure such an amazing bargain! Check with Geoff to see what flights others are on who have already committed to this trip. It is always much more fun travelling together.

Main costs to consider:

Airfares: approx \$300-400 return (unless you are lucky to score one of the above)

Accommodation: Shared cost

Car hire + fuel: Shared costs

Travel Insurance: \$50 +/-

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## Items of Interest

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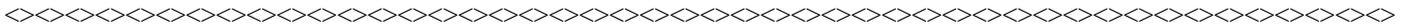
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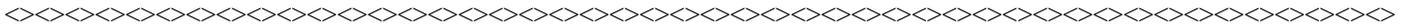
M:027 8821240



Peter wrote to Land Transport to see if there is going to be an open day/tunnel walk before they go live with the SW motorway extension. This is planned, but no date set yet. Keep an eye out for any news of this event & let Peter know if you hear of anything. It would be a good thing to add into our program.



If you are looking for suggestions to give the family for your Christmas present, Shaun Barnett has written another book that looks like a good summer read "A bunk for the night".



Fleetwood Mac (not the real ones!) are putting on a show at Titirangi RSA on Friday 9th of December. Could be a good night out. \$20 booked online or \$25 at the door. Keep an eye on their website as this event could sell out  
[www.titirangirsa.co.nz](http://www.titirangirsa.co.nz)



**Trip Grading:** *All times include breaks.*

**Introductory** – Easy, minor climbs, good tracks around 3 hours duration. No experience required.

**Easy/Moderate** – Average tracks, some hills, 3 – 4 hours, reasonable fitness required.

**Moderate** - Moderate climbs, rough tracks, maybe stream crossings, 3 –4 hours, good level of fitness required.

**Difficult**- Long, steep climbs, very rough tracks, difficult stream crossings, 4 hours or more.  
For experienced trampers only

*I would like to thank all that have contributed to the magazine over the last 12 months with up and coming club activites, tramps, trip reports and photos etc.*

*Wishing you all a very **Merry Christmas** ....Louis Allerby*



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

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