
West Auckland District Tramping Club

May 2017

Newsletter no.441



The Presidents Report

We are almost at the end of another financial year when we hold an AGM in which we review how we are tracking (get it!) and bid farewell to a couple of diligent committee members, but welcome some new (old?) faces to the committee for the year ahead. Trish (Treasurer) and Colin (Membership officer) are both taking a break from the committee and we thank them for the wonderful jobs they have each done. Our auditor was particularly impressed with the manner in which the financial records have been kept and presented to him for auditing purposes. Well done Trish. Please make an effort to attend the AGM. It is normally a pretty quick meeting followed by a bit of light entertainment. After the AGM we will take a look back at the history of local icon "Lynn Mall - the 1st American style shopping centre to come to New Zealand" along with a little observation quiz. In contrast, with so many avid travellers in our club, we are sure many of you have a funny/memorial or disaster tale to share. We encourage to you come along with one of each.

Ever fancied being an "Ambassador"? Sounds a pretty fancy job title! Later in the magazine more detail is available about the volunteer task of being a Kauri die back ambassador whose role is to raise awareness about the disease and help educate people on how they can stop it spreading by using the cleaning stations at track entrances. There are so many ways in which we can give back to our community/environment. Our last guest speaker Natalie was from the Whau River Catchment Trust. They too are always keen to hear from volunteers to help with their cause. Check them out too. <http://www.whauriver.org.nz/the-friends-of-the-whau-inc>

With snail mail post on the decline the cost of sending items rises proportionately. Currently it costs our club \$6 per year to post out FME bulletins to members. We do our best to counter that by handing out as many as we can in person at club nights and on tramps. I find this magazine very informative and a great read, but not everyone does, so in the interests of not wasting valuable resources, rather than asking who does not want this magazine, we are trying a different tact by asking that if you DO want to continue to receive this magazine to let Trish know so you can be kept on the mailing list via waitakereforever@gmail.com.

As you are likely to be aware, our national body the Federated Mountain Club Association, which we are a member of, has raised its fees by \$5 resulting in our club paying \$15 per person per annum to them. While FMC do a good job and we don't begrudge their need for funding, it is a matter we will need to look at as a club. This means a significant percentage of what we charge our members (\$25 ordinary membership), goes to FMC leaving us only \$10 per person to run our own club. In addition, there are an increasing number of our members entitled to only pay the veteran sub of \$15, resulting in 100% of their sub going straight to FMC. This matter will be discussed at the upcoming AGM.

Many of us have enjoyed walking the 9 Great Walks dotted around New Zealand. I heard an article on the radio the other day stating there was going to be a price hike. Get it – price hike.... ☺ Ohhh never mind, I'll leave the jokes up to Colin.

Happy tramping!

Peter

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REMINDER - Annual Subscription 2017/2018 - \$25.00

Subscriptions are due on 1st April 2017 and are payable *no later than 31st May 2017*.

Veteran Members who have been financial members of the Club for twenty one years or more have the option to pay only \$15.00.

IF PAYMENT IS NOT RECEIVED BY 31ST May 2017 a penalty of \$5 will be added to the amount due.

Post your cheque, including your name and any changes to your address, phone numbers or email to - West Auckland District Tramping Club (Inc),
P.O. Box 20-058
Glen Eden 0641

Payment can also be made by Direct Credit to WADTC –

ASB 12 3034 0697604 00

Please include your name.

If you do not wish to renew your membership, please advise the Treasurer on 835 4405.

Activities

14 May

8.30am

Bethells - Wainamu

Grade: Moderate

Timing: 4-5 hours

Members \$6 Non members \$11

Bethells tramp, we will do Wainamu Houghton track to the trig and back down around the lake.

Leader: Jill Dingle P: 021 294 5700

E: jill.dingle@gmail.com



15 May

Club Night - AGM 2017

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

It's that time of the year again when we can have our say and nominate great people to represent the club on the committee. We have sufficient nominations for our committee, so don't fear coming along if you think it might result in you being coerced onto the committee. After the AGM we will take a trip down memory lane and watch a DVD on the opening of Lynmall, which is now more than 50 years old. With many of our members being long term West Auckland residents, I'm sure it will be fun remembering how things looked in the 60's. Also with many intrepid travellers in our club we are keen to hear of your funny, scary or horror stories. Think of one of each and bring them along to share verbally.



21 May

Nihotupu Dam

8.30am

Grade: Moderate

Fare members \$5 non members \$10

Timing: 5+ hours

Starting from the picnic area at the foot of Lower Nihotupu dam after a short climb we have a steep hill, we cross a couple of streams to Nihotupu Ridge track junction then onto Panto track for 3.1k to join the Farley Track 3.2k which then loops back onto the beginning of Parau track.



Leader:Sandra Everitt P: 827 7849 021 980 731 E:sandraeveritt@hotmail.com

28 May

Whatipu - Kura Track

8.30am

Grade: Moderate/Difficult

Timing: 4+ hours

Members \$6 Non members \$11

From the top of Whatipu Road we will follow the Omanawanui track along the rocky ridge, passing some steep drops and rock climbing over a couple of high points. Some steep climbs and descents, particularly west of the trig point. From the last high point we will drop down to Whatipu Beach.

From the beach we will walk the Kura track making a good loop walk of around 4 hours.

Leader: Annette Ellis P: 827 6303 E:annette239@gmail.com



04 June Queens Birthday – Anawhata - Pareoha

8.30am

Grade: Difficult

Fare members \$5 non members \$10

Timing: 5 hours

"Anawhata to Kuataika Stream, then following the stream down to Pareoha Bay.

This tramp is suitable for experienced trampers or fit people who like a bit of a challenge. Pareoha Bay (not to be confused with Parera Bay) is rugged and wild and marvellous. The tramp takes about 5 hours. It's best to wear long trousers to prevent your legs getting cut and scratched from the scrub."



Leader: John Miller P: 622 0436. E: jmiller1954@gmail.com

11 June Henderson Valley to Te Atatu Peninsula

8.30am

Grade: Easy

Fare: \$4 members \$9 non members

Timing: 5-6 hours

Opanuku Stream to the coast. You will be pleasantly surprised by how much off street walking there is on these tracks. We will see countryside, bush, parks, rivers, wetlands and enjoy amazing city and harbour views on the way. This is a lovely walk in the park and is approximately 16 kms or about five or six hours (including stops), the tracks are easy walking and the gradient is moderate. (If you are interested in doing a part of the walk only, please contact the leader.)

We will need to organise a car shuttle back to our cars.

Leader: Pam Goldie P: 021 2146457



18 June Coast to Coast- Onehunga - Britomart

8.15am

Grade: Easy

Timing: 5-6 hours

We will meet at Glen Eden railway station, board the 8.24am train (**PLEASE ARRIVE BY 8.15AM SO AS NOT TO MISS IT**) to Newmarket, and then transfer onto the Onehunga bound train. On arrival at Onehunga we will commence the walk. According to Google maps the actual walk is only 2hr 10m about 10k. An additional option along the route is the One Tree Hill climb in Cornwall Park, and also a stop in the Auckland Domain. On arrival in downtown Auckland we will travel back to Glen Eden by train again. Time duration for the day given the transport and stop overs lunch etc around 6 hours approx. If you are a **GOLD CARD HOLDER** like myself this will work out to be a very cheap day, and given that we will be on main roads, for those who do not wish to complete the whole journey there is plenty of buses along the way.



Leader: Colin Spencer P: 838 5706 022 435 6839 E: bronspen@gmail.com

19 June

Club Night - McNeil River Bear Sanctuary

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

Another very interesting talk by Geoff Glover from Manukau Tramping Club who has recently been to the McNeil River State Game Sanctuary, just north of Katmai National Park and Preserve on the Alaska Peninsula and 250 miles southwest of Anchorage, protects the world's largest concentration of brown bears. The sanctuary protects about 200 square miles of wildlife habitat, and it's not uncommon for 20 or more brown bears to feed together at McNeil River Falls; up to 74 have been spotted there at one time.

Members \$2 please to help cover Club costs.



25 June Waitakere Golf Course - Cascades

8.30am

Grade: Moderate

Fare members \$4 non members \$9

Timing: 3-4 hours

Usual meeting time of 8.30 then a short 20min drive to park at the Trig station on Scenic Drive. We will head straight down Pukematekeo Track to Waitakere Golf Course then another 2hrs around Cascade & Fence Line tracks, finishing on Anderson Track. A short walk along Scenic Dr and back to the cars by the trig station. Total walking time will be about 4 hrs. Big wide city slicker tracks, with the exception of going down the Pukematekeo Track.



Leader: Louis Segedin P: 021 43 9900 E: louisegedin55@gmail.com

Leaders can now check various track conditions before a tramp via this link:

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/auckland/alerts>

Trip Reports

Piha South 5 March Leader John Miller

Ten of us met at Glen Eden then travelled out to Piha. It was a fine day but a bit windy. We explored the area around The Gap, firstly climbing up onto Camel Rock. There were great views from there. Then we went up the other side of The Gap and, with a bit of bush bashing, worked our way along the cliff tops. Coming back we had lunch at The Blowhole, a place new to some of the party. Then back to the start.

Present were: Colin, Craig, Dave, Heather, John, Jonathan, Louis S, Lynn, Lynne and Sarah.

Ian Wells/Cutty Grass 07 May Leader Trish Hopkins

I was looking forward to this walk as I had never done the whole of Ian Wells track. I used to do a trap line that ran from the Alpine hut down Remus Roe Stream, up the top end of Ian Wells to Cutty Grass and back to the hut car park but the necessity of doing the Piha Road end of Ian Wells never presented itself. I had been to the old dam but didn't venture up the track.

When asked to lead a tramp in May I decided it was a good opportunity to explore the complete track with some good company. Eleven turned up which quite surprised me considering my reputation (well earned I guess) of liking a speedy tramp with minimal rest stops. So off we tootled up Piha Road and as we Jan had never seen the Auxiliary Dam we stopped there so she could take photos of the fabulous graffiti.



After that we walked Ian Wells and although it was muddy as I had heard it wasn't any worse than a lot of good old Waitakere tracks. I was actually quite pleased to be able to point out where the trap line was as we did the first stream crossing and felt quite clever being able to remember where to cross again to complete the other half of Ian Wells to get to Cutty Grass. After all I stopped doing this track a couple of years ago

We had morning tea at the Alpine Club hut then had a look at the track behind the hut, topped up our water and returned to the cars. The return trip seemed sooo much different to the tramp there. A wander around where the stream crossing meets the trap line, reminded me just how much hard work was involved with doing that job. The people like Leonie from ATC who first took me on this track and who have done this for years are amazing.

An interesting day with a nice diversion. Thanks Christine, Peter S, Louis A, Peter T, Jill D, Annette, Val, Jan, Sandra, Colin and MEEEE!

Advance Notices

Dome Valley - Sunday 2 July.

Out of Auckland tramping - Paul Williams is organizing another tramp in Dome Valley.

It will mean an earlier start from Glen Eden and take about as long to get to Warkworth as it usually does to drive through New Lynn!

Plan ahead if you're keen enough and details will be in next months magazine.

Items of Interest

Kauri Dieback prevention appeal –

Our native kauri trees are dying from kauri dieback disease and the only way to prevent the spread of this disease is by cleaning our shoes and equipment before and after visiting kauri forest. Unfortunately compliance with our cleaning stations is still low, and we want to spread the word and help increase this, and increase our trees' chances. We have ambassadors stationed at some of our high use stations in the Waitakere Ranges Regional Park and they have spoken to thousands of visitors to raise awareness and wish to extend this programme and have volunteers helping out at those stations, and others around Auckland, on upcoming holiday weekends – Queen's Birthday (3-5 June) and Labour weekend (21-23 October).

It would involve talking to visitors about kauri dieback disease and how it's spread, how they can help and perhaps demonstrating cleaning methods on the station if necessary. If you have a few hours spare on one of those weekends, please let us know. We will set you up with everything you need, including some identification as a volunteer for the kauri dieback project, some collateral to distribute and all the information you will need to answer queries. We will also hold a short health and safety briefing for those able to help out.

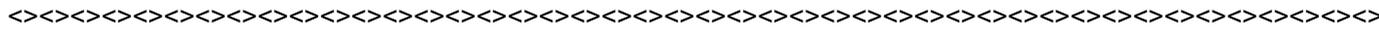
The slots would be about three hours long, (in the morning, or afternoon), from approximately 9.30am-12.30pm and then another slot 1pm – 4pm. We would like to have people at the following stations in the Waitakere Ranges: Fairy Falls, Glen Esk, Kakamatua, Cascades, and Karamatura; some of our local west parks with cleaning stations and at some of our North Shore parks with cleaning stations (e.g. Le Roys Bush).

Please let me know if you are able to help, when you are free (including day and time), where you would prefer to volunteer, and if you would like to bring someone else with you on the day.

It can be weather dependent. If it is hosing down with rain for instance and you'd rather not be out there, just let us know, and we can swap your day.



Kind regards
 Amanda Peart
 Contractor
 Auckland Council Biosecurity
 021 026 33642



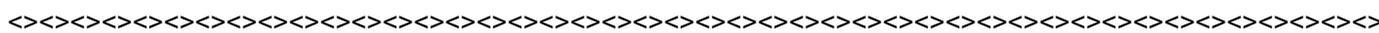
For Sale - Kathmandu Gluon 55 litre pack

Red/black, little used & in good condition.

\$100.00

Contact Jancis P: 09 410-5151

(Image not actual pack)



FMC Pack Liners for Sale

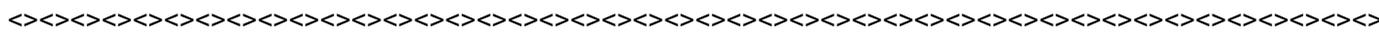
\$2.50 each

I am taking orders, as soon as I have

orders for 10 I will get them

Ph Trish 8354405; mob ph or txt 0211273862

email waitakereforever@gmail.com



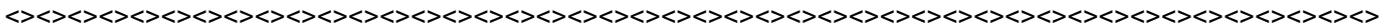
If you wish to receive your FMC Magazine by post, please contact Trish so she can update her list. The FMC Magazine is also available on line or you could come to **Club Nights**, collect your mag, have a cuppa & a natter as it would be great to see you.



New Member



Jan Gillespie
P O Box 5936
Wellesley St
Auckland 1141
09 426 8777
027 358 1456



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

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