

Merry Christmas



West Auckland District Tramping Club
December 2017
Newsletter no.448



The Presidents Report

Namaste. I'm writing this a little ahead of time, as I am in Nepal until the night before our December club night.

I do hope you can make it to our December club night on the 11th (remember a week earlier than normal) for a bit of Christmas fun & don't forget our end of year BBQ at the Kaipara Sculpture Gardens on the 17th. See details in the club program.

The recently completed Waterview shared path now open giving us another 3km of walking and cycling options – perfect for our Wednesday night walk programme. From my house I can now cycle to the city & all the way to St Helliers in one direction, out to Henderson and the Twin Streams path to the west and Mangere/Stonefields in the south! Plans are now underway for a path between Avondale and New Lynn. I have noticed an increase in cyclist using the path beside the North Western motorway as they zip passed me as I crawl along the motorway. Got to be a message there!

As if kauri die back was not enough to be faced with, now we are being asked to look out for Myrtle rust. Myrtle Rust is a serious fungal disease that affects plants in the myrtle family including Puhutakawa, Manuka and Rata. This fungus has the potential to desecrate many of our native plant species. MR attaches to young soft and actively growing leaves, shoot tips and young stems. Initial symptoms are powdery bright yellow or orange/yellow pustules on leaves. Keep an eye out. If you think you have seen MR do not touch or disturb the plant. Take photo and contact Min Primary Industries on 0800 809966. www.mpi.govt.nz for more info.

Batty about bats? Did you know you can borrow a bat detector for free from AKL council and go batty with a bit of bat spotting. The bat detector picks up the ecolocation (sound navigation) calls that bats make (that humans can't hear) and converts them into audible clicks and buzzes. The stream restoration and pest control work carried out by Project Twin Streams has attracted insects that bats eat and brought bats back into urban areas. How cool is that? Activity best done at dawn & dusk in summer. Email biodiversity@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz to borrow a bat detector.

The club has had a great year with a large range of activities. Your hard working committee has put in a lot of effort to bring together a variety of tramps, club nights and social events. A couple of highlights would have to be our club's "bush walking" expedition to the Gold Coast and our 40th birthday celebrations in March.

With no January club night, our trip program might not be 100% complete at the time of this Newsletter going to print, so do keep an eye out on our website for any additions and changes that might not appear in this newsletter. During our Christmas break, do feel free to gather up fellow club members for an impromptu tramp.

I would like to wish everyone a very happy & safe Christmas. I trust Santa is good to you and fills your sack with lots of tramping goodies that you can put to good use in the New Year.

Peter

Contents

President's Report
Calendar of activities
Trip reports
Items of interest
The Committee

Activities

Sunday 10 December

Ambury Park

8.30 Glen Eden

Grade; Easy

Timing; 4+ hrs

Members \$5 Non members \$9

Meet at Glen Eden at 8.30, for arrival at [11 Ashcroft Avenue](#) at about 9.00am. We will go across Ambury Park and have morning tea at Stonefields under the Avo trees. We can go from there down the rest of the causeway and lunch down the left side of Puketutu Island. We can go as far as we like down there. I will leave a vehicle at the beginning of the causeway to take the drivers back to Ashcroft so, don't worry, it won't be too long.

Leader Lynn Flood 622 0436

11 December

Christmas Club Night

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

Join us for our last club night of the year. (Remember it's a week earlier than normal).

Following on from the success of last years "guess who I am baby photo", please bring along your favourite tramping photo for our board with a brief description of where it is. Then tell us the story behind the photo and why it is so special to you. We will have a couple of other activities, nibbles and drink to get you in the spirit of Christmas.



13 December

Wednesday Walk

7.00pm:

Falls Hotel , Henderson.

Colin Spencer will lead a walk down the pathway to the NW motorway and back up the other side of the creek.

17 December

Christmas Picnic - Kaipara Coast Sculpture Gardens

10am (Glen Eden or 11am at gardens)

Fare: \$10 + \$8 admission

The club will revisit the weird and wacky world of sculptures at the wonderful Kaipara Coast Sculpture Gardens at Kaukapakapa. The club will put on a BBQ and supply the meat. Please bring a plate to share and your own drink, plate, cup, cutlery and a seat. The venue is under cover, so don't let the hint of rain put you off. Either meet at Glen Eden for car-pooling or go straight to destination (also known as the Kaipara Garden Centre 4km north of Kaukapakapa village).

www.sculpturegardens.co.nz



Feel free to bring family, but in the interests of helping with the planning, please email Peter to RSVP.

Leader: Peter Tuohy P: 8283274, 0274389944 E: tait@slingshot.co.nz

20 December

Wednesday Walk

7.00pm:

Ceramco Park Glendale Road in Glen Eden. Kathy and Denis Baden will lead.

24 December

Enjoy your christmas celebrations



Happy New Year everyone



07 January

8.30 Glen Eden

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

North Shore

Grade ; Easy

Timing; 4 hrs

Please contact Shirley for details

Leader Shirley Bulog Ph 810 9303 Email: sbulog@hotmail.com

10 January

Wednesday Walk

7.00pm:

23 Craddock street, Avondale.

A walk from Peter Tuohy's place around the interesting parts parks and reserves of Avondale and Carrington Tech or maybe a surprise on the night.

14 January

Martins Bay to Sandspit (North Rodney)

8.30 am Glen Eden

Timing: 5 hours

Grade: Medium - Difficult

Members \$7 Non members \$12

Our one-way walk will mainly follow the foreshore and pass Scandretts Bay, Goldsworthy Bay, Algies Bay and Snells Beach. It will involve walking on rocks, sometimes boulders, sand, sometimes bush tracks, and perhaps water!

If you intend driving independently to the Martins Bay start point please advise the leader for car shuttle planning purposes.

Travel distance to Martins Bay is approx 1hr 15min

File note: High Tide

6:31am - Low Tide 12:26pm – High Tide 6:41pm – Tide Levels 2.9m high and 1.0m low.

Leader: Paul Williams 09-425 9877 pgrwilliams@xtra.co.nz

17 January

Wednesday Walk

7.00pm:

Hobsonville circuit

Leader Jill Dingle 0212945700 hm 8323459

Park at Hobsonville Shops in the Countdown supermarket carpark for a walk out to Hobsonville Point and back. Could be a 2 hour stretch of the legs but easy pathway.

21 January

Piha – Home Track

8.30 Glen Eden

Grade; Moderate

Timing; 4.5 hrs

Members \$5 Non members \$10

We would start on Winstone Track from Piha Rd and do a loop in the Piha area which takes in Winstone, Connect, KiteKite, Piha Valley, Centennial and Home tracks. Some of these tracks have gravel to make the tramping easier and we will have a couple of easy stream crossings.

Leader Mandy 021 177 6057 mand@ihug.co.nz



24 January

Wednesday Walk

7.00pm: **Taumanu Reserve/Onehunga Reserve circuit**
with Marcia Clarke. Ph 0210331029

Meet at Taumanu Reserve carpark at the end of Seacliff Rd, off Carlston Street, Hillsborough.

A pleasant 1 and quarter hour walk taking in a lake, board walk and the foreshore.

28 January Auck Anniversary Weekend **East Tunnel/Andersons/Tramline/ Peripatus**

8.30 Glen Eden

Grade Moderate

Timing; 5.5 hrs

Members \$3 Non-members \$8

Head up East Tunnel, cross Scenic Dr to Anderson Track. Follow Anderson to Fenceline, Tramline, up West Tunnel back onto Anderson return to Scenic Drive. Here we can choose to finish on Peripatus or go back down East Tunnel which will take an hour off our time.

So plenty of choices to make the day suitable for everyone who wants to go tramping but able to change routes along the way.

Leader Trish P: 83544056 E: waitakereforever@gmail.com

31 January **Wednesday Walk** Please see our website for details of this walk

04 February

Pararaha Valley

8.30 Glen Eden

Grade ; Moderate/Difficult

Timing; 4+ hrs

Fare members \$6 non members \$11

Pararaha Valley and Cowan Stream Time of the year again for a scramble up the most dramatic valley in the Waitaks. A challenging day for intrepid trampers.

Not easy.

Start and finish Lone Kauri Rd.

Hopefully warm enough to follow team leader in for a dip.

Voluntary or not.....

Leader Dave Spiers, 835 3272.

07 February

Wednesday Walk

Please see our website for details of this walk

11 February

Huia

8.30am Glenn Eden

Huia, we will head up the Fletcher Track and along the steep spur to the main ridge overlooking Huia. From there we will walk the ridge to Donald McLean Track and up to Mt Donald McLean (389m) summit. Returning via the Karamatura Track alongside the stream. This track was very muddy when we did it last year so hopefully not so much mud in February. The Fletcher track is steep, so a good level of fitness is required.

Leader Denise Vazey 027 329 0052 vazey@xtra.co.nz

Grade: Moderate

Fare: members \$5 non members \$9

14 February

Wednesday Walk

Please see our website for details of this walk

18 February

Chatham Reserve Sanders - Paeremoremo

8.30 Glen Eden

Grade ; Easy

Timing; 4 hrs

Fare members \$5, non-members \$10

We will first park to explore Chatham Reserve then go to Sanders Reserve. Opened in Nov 2011 this park is in the area surrounded by Albany & Paeremoremo. There is a good gravel walking path that will take us along the ridge above the water to some tree carved sculptures. From there we can go down to the beach where there are two sheltered bays. High tide is 10am so bring a towel if you wish to go swimming.

Leader Geoff Yates 810 8456

Grade: Moderate

19 February

Club Night - Wasps !!

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

Julia Schmack from Auckland University Biology department chose to work on the ecology and control of *Vespula* wasps as they are invading various regions of the world and have become a severe pest in New Zealand. She is interested in the drivers of wasp invasion, it's assessment and control. With her PHD, she would like to contribute to the outstanding research on *Vespula* wasps in New Zealand that has been pursued over the last decade.



This will be very interesting as we have all felt the effect of these invaders while tramping in the Waitakeres.

21 February

Wednesday Walk

Please see our website for details of this walk

25 February

TBA

28 February

Wednesday Walk

7.00pm

25 Feb Exhibition Drive - Arataki

Meet as usual at Glen Eden then a short drive past Titirangi. We will park at Nihotupu Filter Station on Scenic Drive and go up to Arataki via Exhibition Drive & Beveridge Track. Shaded walking all the way

Leader Annette Ellis 827 6303 Email annette.ellis@phitek.com

Trip Reports

Browns bay, Long bay and Grannies bay return – Nov 19. Leader Jill Dingle

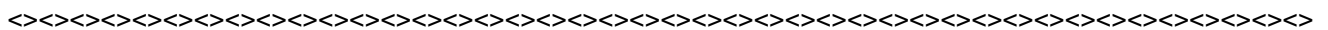
Thanks to Jim D for offering to be at Glen Eden and no one turned up on the drizzly morning in question. Anyway he came to Browns Bay alone to meet up with myself, Johnathon, Lynne and John M.



There is damage to x2 of the coastal tracks I had planned to use and so to comply with ARC we took the alternative route over to Torbay. With a high tide present it was basically a street tour to Long Bay apart from 2 sections of walkway.

I was hoping to be able to enter Vaughan Homestead at the Northern end of Long Bay but there was no Volunteer Care- taker about. We continued on the new walkway to as far as Grannies Bay and had lunch there while the weather persisted. There has been much change in the landscape inland from the Bays and I look forward to the day when don't have to return on the same pathway but can loop around from Okura Estuary and back on some new inland route to the new landscaped wetlands at Long bay which is a very attractive area.

Back at Torbay at around 1pm the wind had really come up and blown all the rain away and the sailors were out in the thick of it so we had ice creams and enjoyed a rest while they battled in the bay. We were home by 3pm and didn't feel too beaten up by the outing in the fresh air.



BIRKENHEAD/ CHELSEA - KAURI POINT 03-12-17 Leader: Colin Spencer

Eleven members set off from Little Shoal Bay, in beautiful sunny weather.

We proceeded up the hill and then down to Birkenhead wharf, where we stopped briefly checking out some local fishermen who were trying their luck. We then carried on toward Chelsea sugar works, and stopped there for morning tea. We spotted some Koi Carp in the lake.

It was soon time to move on, so we followed the track towards Kauri Point, exiting onto Chelsea View drive. Turned right there instead of left, which added another twenty minutes to the journey. Never mind it happens.

We then took some very steep steps down to Kendall bay, at Kauri Point. It was now close to midday so we sat on the grass area near the beach and had lunch.

After we had eaten, we made our way back toward Chelsea via the coastal bush track, and then on up to Birkenhead shopping area, where we took a look at the landslide that has taken away the carpark. An ice cream or a cool drink was purchased from the shop, before heading back to Little Shoal bay via Le Roys bush. All back at the cars around 2pm

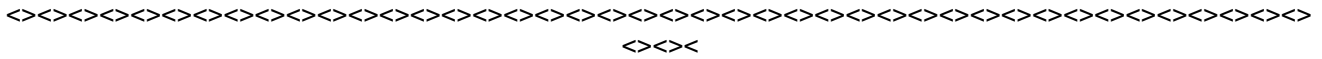
Thanks to the members that came with me today.

John & Lynne, Cathy & Ian, Astrid, Mandy, Pam, Jill Engle, Jonathan, & Jim

Items of Interest



; to Craig Flower who has just rejoined the club. ph 574-5126 mob 021 0242 8617.



Ian Song & Cathy Gong's email correction - cathyg68@gmail.com

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

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*I would like to thank all that have contributed to the magazine over the past year with Club activities, trip reports, tramps & photos.
Wishing you all a very Merry ChristmasEditors*