



The Presidents Report

The dilemma of how to best manage the Kauri dieback issue remains the most important issue ever faced by the authorities concerned, which of course affects us as a club. Jill Engle, Ralph Lyon and myself attended a short notice meeting organized by the New Zealand Recreation Association on the subject where speakers from Auckland Council, DOC, Ministry of Primary Industries and the President of FMC gave presentations. We were left in no doubt that all are grappling with understanding the disease and how to best control it while trying to find a balance that would see compliance from park users. Any decisions must comply with the Local Govt Act, Waitakere Ranges Heritage Area Act and the Reserves Act, which in itself is no mean feat. A 5 year survey shows the spread of KDB in the Waitakeres has doubled in that time with 262 positive detections. Some infected trees show no symptoms and some dying trees are not as a result of Kauri dieback.

At the 20 February meeting of the Environment and Community Committee, Auckland Council "proposed" to close the forested areas of the Waitakere Ranges Regional Park with some exceptions by the 1st of May 2018. The proposed closure is subject to an engagement process with those who use and benefit from the regional park including: concessionaires, businesses, recreational groups, and people who live within the Waitakere Ranges or visit the Waitakere Ranges Regional Park (over 1 million visitors per year). The Council is working alongside Te Kawerau a Maki on confirming the proposed closure area and any tracks that will stay open. The criteria for a track that is proposed to stay open is any of the following;

- outside the closed forested area
- track surface is to a standard where a person can arrive with clean footwear and gear, walk that track in any weather conditions and not have soil on their shoes as they leave the track and after using a hygiene station.
- in an area away from kauri

A small number of tracks that meet these criteria will remain closed as they no longer provide a meaningful destination.

A final decision will be made at the 10 April 2018 Environment and Community Committee Meeting, with any changes introduced from 1 May 2018. The Council wants to hear what you think about the proposed closure. Please provide your feedback by filling out the feedback form.

<http://engage.ubiquity.co.nz/surveys/preview/DIObEdZUUE2Y0QjViSmkvw/intro>

Please also share this link with as many people as you can. The survey also lists tracks currently closed, proposed closures and proposed exemptions.

On other matters, the committee has decided that now that our Post Office box has an annual rental fee of \$175 per annum, we will close it. We get very little mail via this method now days. Jill Engle is happy for any snail mail to go to her personal address and will be notifying senders accordingly.

If you fancy a fun night out, you are most welcome to join a couple of us going to the Titirangi RSA on Saturday the 24th of March to hear singer Don McGlashon. Let me know. Tickets \$40.

Walk in win! If you could benefit from a \$500 Rebel Sports voucher, check out

http://ouraukland.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/articles/news/2018/2/explore-auckland-with-aki-paths-and-win/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ouraki_edm&utm_content=Explore%20Auckland%20with%20Aki%20Paths%20and%20win%21%20%7C%20OurAuckland

Alan Harwood is now the club's point of contact for overdue parties. Even if only doing a bush recce let him know by phone or by leaving a note in his letter box, as that is where we will look for your intentions of you don't return as expected. Many thanks to Miriam for her many years of service in this role.

Ecomatters is an interesting organization with a wonderful array of activities that is likely to appeal to keen outdoors people. Check them out in our program and online at <http://www.ecomatters.org.nz/ecowest-festival/>

Peter

Activities

18 March

Murawai

8.30 Glen Eden

Grade: Moderate

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

Timing: 4-5 hrs

Today we have lots on offer and will view the gannet colony, a bush walk, a private farm, a walk in the forest and a walk on the beach. This walk has something for everyone, approximately four to five hours. After the tramp we can enjoy an ice cream or coffee at Sand Dunz Cafe.



Leader: Pam Goldie P: 0212146457 E: myneverendingsummer@hotmail.com

19 March

Club Night

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

Jacqui Knight is going to talk about butterflies, she is also looking at starting a natural butterfly centre in Tui Glen. She is also interested in Monarch butterflies as part of the Monarch Butterfly Trust.



21 March

Wednesday Walk

7.00pm:

PLEASE KEEP AN EYE ON OUR WEBSITE FOR WEDNESDAY NIGHT WALK UPDATES

25 March

Ahuahu – Comans Loop

9.30 Glen Eden

Please note the later meeting time for Glen Eden – 9.30am.

Please inform Kathy if you if you intend to meet at the end of Log Race Road, off TeAhuahu Rd at 10.00

Grade: Moderate

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

Timing: 3+ hrs

Ahu Ahu / Comans Loop. Down to Karekare Beach and then a grind back up again. Should be about 3 to 3 1/2 hours so just a Sunday stroll.



Leader:Kathy McDonald P: 094268201 0274 533 747

28 March

7.00pm

Wednesday Walk

PLEASE KEEP AN EYE ON OUR WEBSITE FOR WEDNESDAY NIGHT WALK UPDATES

01 April

8.30 Glen Eden

Easter Weekend

Had too many Easter eggs?? If you are keen on a walk for some **eggercise**, ring around or meet at Glen Eden to plan a day out.

Eggselent!!



08 April

8.30 Glen Eden

Riverhead Forest

Grade: Moderate

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

Timing: 4 hrs +

We meet as usual in Glen Eden or at Sawmill Road Riverhead 9am.

The walk is a mixture of gravel roads and some off-road tracks. We make our way to the Trig where we have a great view over Auckland. There are a couple of options towards the end of the walk; the shorter option is 12 kilometres or extend it to about 13.50 kilometres.



Leader:Shena McGregor P: 021 1865200 E: shenamcgregor@outlook.com

15 April

8.30 Glen Eden

North Shore Volcanoes

Grade: Moderate

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

Timing: 5-6 hrs

A stroll through North Shore parks from Onepoto domain to Lake Pupuke before walking down the coast to Devonport. As only two of the volcanoes are intact scoria cones, this is a much flatter walk than the title suggests.



For car shuttling purposes please contact the leader if you wish to go directly to the start of the tramp.

Leader:Christine Major P: 021 109 5750 E: christinemajor25@gmail.com

16 April

Club Night

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

Phillip Donnell, an active member of the Auckland Baptist Tramping Club, life member of Forest & Bird and regular contributor of articles to "Wilderness" magazine will be here to give a presentation of "50 of the Best" walks in NZ that he has done plus a few extras that deserve "honourable mention" along with some poetic asides. Phillip will also talk about the book he has written "Into The Wilderness"

22 April

Brittomart City Ramble

8.10 Glen Eden

Grade: Easy

Timing: 4 hrs

Meet at Glen Eden Train station in time for the **8.23 Am Train**.

(Remember free travel for all goldcard holders) We will all be on the last carriage.

I have graded this easy, but there are 3-4 uphill sections. After arriving at Britomart, we will make our way up through Vulcan Lane to Albert Park, then on through Government House grounds and past the High Court down to Stanley St. From there we will head up to the Domain, then down Ayr St to Shore Rd and along part of the Hobson Bay Walkway, On up Brighton Rd to St Stephens Ave down to Dove-Myer Robinson Park. There is an option for those who wish to, to take a bus back to Britomart, otherwise we continue walking along Quay St to Britomart.

Looking forward to your company, hope you can join me

Leader: Bronwyn & Colin Spencer P: 838 5706 or 021 02351490



29 April

Mahurangi Explorer

8.30 Glen Eden

Grade: Moderate

Fare: \$12 members \$17 non-members

Timing: 5 hrs +

This day could include visiting three beaches with a few hills and paddocks between them, an estuary crossing, perhaps some shoreline rock walking and tide permitting, a visit to the Pudding. Approximate finish time around 2.30pm to 3.00 pm
As we will be crossing an estuary a small towel would be useful to dry your feet after crossing with bare feet and if summer lingers you may wish to bring your swimming gear for a dip at the end of the day.

If you are planning to go direct to the meeting place Sullivans Bay in Mahurangi Regional Park please be there by 9.25am and advise the leader.

Leader: Ralph Lyon P: 09 426 0327

E: longacres@slingshot.co.nz



Trip Reports

Waitawa Regional Park 11/03/18 Leader Peter Tuohy

In an effort to have tramps away from the Waitakere Ranges, Sunday's tramp was around the outer circuit of Waitawa Regional Park, the Puweto track. The club has visited this park South East of Auckland a couple of times since it's opening a few years ago. On each occasion it looks better and is getting more developed with the original felled pine trees being cleared away or burnt. I'm so pleased the Auckland Council purchases such land when it becomes available. Regional parks like this around Auckland are fantastic. The views from many vantage points throughout the park are spectacular. With several pointy fingers of land jutting out to sea it is easy to see why the site was favoured by the Maoris. There are numerous recreational activities available in this park, frisbee golf, fishing, overnight campervanning & mountain biking. Mataitai Bay is a great swimming beach at all tides. If you haven't been out there to check it out, I recommend it or you could get inspired by the 7 minute video found at <http://regionalparks.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/waitawa>



Hope our two newbies Catherine and Karla enjoyed their day out.



While not a West Auckland Tramping Club trip report, the following gem appeared in a recent Pukekohe Tramping Club newsletter (reproduced with their permission).

"We were in a rush to catch the train so had no time to drive around looking for the best parking space. I spotted a space on Onslow Road between a driveway and a side street and quickly pulled in. We got our packs out and I locked the car, but before we took off I noticed it was too far out from the kerb - I couldn't leave it like that all day. I dropped my pack on the verge and quickly re-parked the car. Quick check - perfect - grabbed my pack and off we dashed. Great timing – we even got to the station before the Pukekohe train. We took the ferry to Devonport and had a lovely day, finishing at the cafe on the pier. Just before arriving back at Papakura, I started searching for my keys and couldn't find them. Must be in there somewhere - we emptied everything out of my pack, checked jacket pockets etc. - no luck. So,... where could I possibly have lost them? - so many possibilities. The train? - station staff gave me the number for lost property at Britomart. I got a recorded message saying leave details and contact number and if it was urgent, they'd get back to me in 2 days (if the item was found!). My passenger M--- suggested phoning her husband who could pick us up and I could then get my spare key from home (half an hour's drive away) and go back up for the car. But first I decided to retrace our steps - perhaps I'd dropped them when I did up my shoe laces or put my pack on. When we got back to the car, M--- tried the passenger door - it was unlocked! I opened the driver's door – the keys were in the ignition, the radio was on and... the engine was still running!!"



Items of Interest



Friday 23/03 Hopetoun Brown plus Carnivorous Plant Society 8.00-11.30pm Tickets \$30.00

Saturday 24/03 Free Family "Village Day" 12.00 – 6.00pm FREE
Don McGlashin 8.00-11.30pm Tickets \$40.00

Sunday 25/03 Flicks @ Lopdell
The Characteristics of C Minor & Genius Within-The Inner Life of Glen Gould 4.00pm
Shadows of Light Lopdel Theatre 7.00pm

For more info & bookings www.titirangifestival.com



The Committee including non- committee Assistants(lastfour).

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