



### *The Presidents Report*

What a fun night a bunch of us had at the Titirangi RSA the other Friday night booging away to all those famous ABBA hits. Not sure we want to admit it but we all knew the words of the songs which just goes to show our age!

Auckland Council is looking for volunteers to help their Ranger team with working on upgrading tracks so they can be reopened sooner. There will be both week and weekend opportunities to get involved. They are also looking for people to help with ongoing checks and maintenance for open tracks. If interested email [kauri@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:kauri@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz) and register your interest.

I did enjoy Bruce's 30km cycle last weekend (though might have been a bit easier if I had found the time to put a bit more air in the tyres!). You certainly see things going on that while driving you just do not have time to observe. We all commented on the huge number of cranes dominating the skyline in the CBD & Newmarket at present. We certainly live in a rapidly changing city. There were also a couple of cycle ways I had not ridden on (despite driving past some most days). Thanks Bruce for doing your bit to add variety to our program and helping keep the calendar full.

Do you know don't know your Manuka from your Kanuka, then help is but an APP away. The AUT's Institute for Applied Ecology New Zealand (AENZ) has developed a great little APP to help you identify native trees. How cool is that? You can use your smart phone to identify plant characteristics like leaf appearance, fruit colour and bark texture that match the tree to be identified. While downloading the NZ Tree APP, I also discovered another little gem New Zealand Bird calls. You can even save bird calls as your ring tone!

Your new committee has had its 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. Most of the committee remains from last year and will continue with the same roles they had undertaken previously. We are grateful for their efforts as many hands make light work.

A question was raised at the recent AGM as to why "Social" spending was considerably higher than the previous year. You can be rest assured the committee has not secretly been having a bit of a knees up. Given time, we were able to come up with a perfectly good explanation! It is more to do with coding. For example we spent around \$500 on adapting our website for be compatible on smart phones for which the expense was (incorrectly) coded to Social.

Wrap up warm and continue to get out there during the winter. There's nothing quite like a brisk walk on a windswept beach to blow the cobwebs away.

*Peter*



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## Activities

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### 17 June                      Introductory Tramp around Lake Wainamu

Grade: Easy

Meet at TeHenga walkway car park for a 9.30am start.

Carpool at Swanson railway station at 9am or ring Jill by 9am if going directly to Te Henga walkway carpark as there is no cell phone coverage at Bethells, ororganise own car pooling if coming from Glen Eden.

This will be an easy fun day on the sand dunes and bush track in the Lake Wainamuarea.

Prizes for the best performances on the sandcliff.

Phone 0212945700 (home ph 098323459) by 9am as no cell phone reception at Bethells.

**Leader:** Jill Dingle P:8323459 0212945700 E: [jill.dingle@gmail.com](mailto:jill.dingle@gmail.com)



### 18 June                                      Club Night – Mt Aconcagua

7.30pmKelstonCommunity Centre Cnr Great North Road &AwaroaRd

Jim Morrow is back with us once more to entertain us with another talk, this time, about being part of an expedition to the summit of Mt Aconcagua, Argentina, the highest peak outside the Himalayas. Looking forward to this talk so hopefully we will see you at this club night.



### 24 June                                      Dome Valley

8.30 Glen Eden

Grade: Moderate/Difficult

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

Timing: 4+ hrs

Dome Valley bush walk from Dome car park. We will tramp in as far as time & conditions allow on the day. The walk is weather dependant and we will come back using the same track rather than do a car shuttle.

Travel distance to the Dome cafe car park is approx 90km.

**Leader:** Shirley O'Sullivan P: 021 423 340 630 9132 E: [shirley.osullivan@gmail.com](mailto:shirley.osullivan@gmail.com)



**30 June/01 July**

## **Anawhata Roast Dinner & Overnighter**

**Accommodation \$20 per night per person**  
**Meal \$12 per person**

Another mid winter roast beside the open fire in the Alpine Sports Club Hut.

This will be the fourth year that I have done this & I am certainly looking forward to you all joining me at the hut again for another great evening of wine, food and laughter.

The Alpine Sports Club Hut is only a short walk off Anawhata Road & sleeps 22. On Sunday we will drive to the beach for a walk/tramp.

Please contact me with interest as numbers are required for catering.

**Leader:** Louis Allerby P: 021 1906472 E: [louall@xtra.co.nz](mailto:louall@xtra.co.nz)



**08 July**

## **Waterview Walk**

9.30am Glen Eden (alternatively meet at the Valonia St Reserve carpark, New Windsor at 9.45am)

Grade: Easy

Fare: members \$3 non members \$8

Timing: 4 hours

As there is no Kauri in this area, it is open and free to walk! We will start at the Valonia St Reserve and follow the new walkway/cycleway along the Alan Wood Reserve, cross New North Rd and follow the walkway through the parks all the way to Waterview. We will then follow the Oakley Creek Walkway to rejoin the walkway at Phyllis Reserve and back to the start.



**Leader:** Bruce Fletcher P: 522-6982 M: 021-135-3022 E: [fletchermb@xtra.co.nz](mailto:fletchermb@xtra.co.nz)

**15 July**

## **Hunuas – Upper Mangatawhiri Dam**

8.30am Glen Eden or 9.30am at the location, see below.

Grade: Moderate/Difficult

Fare: members \$8 non members \$13

Timing: 6.5 hrs

9.30am Meeting point is the Upper Mangatawhiri Dam carpark at the end of Moumoukai Road. (The road on some maps changes its name to ARA Drive part way along.)

Upper Mangatawhiri Dam, Ernie's Track, Rata Ridge Track Loop and back to upper Mangatawhiri Dam via Lilburne Road (not a public road).

The Rata Ridge track could be avoided by tired trampers meaning a 5 hour tramp. Bush, a river crossing, mud, minimal board walking, a "pretty cool" bamboo grove, a disused mine, a couple of uphill slogs, easy bits too and great views.



**Leader:** John Miller P: 622 0436 E: [jmiller1954@gmail.com](mailto:jmiller1954@gmail.com)

## 16 July Club Night Peter Crossley – Auckland Sea Caves

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

Peter has been exploring and documenting Auckland's lava caves for 50 years. This was coupled with the fortune of joining the Auckland University as a technician in Geography, now Environment. Part of the work included geology and cave studies. Since retiring Peter is now almost full time liaising with other cave researchers and enthusiasts to preserve the caves from being destroyed.



This will be a deep and rewarding talk, not to be missed!!

## 22 July St Heliers to Tahuna Torea Nature Reserve

9.00am Glen Eden

(alternatively meet at the playground at the Southern end of St Heliers beach at 9.30am)

Grade: Easy

Timing: 3-4 hrs

Fare: \$4 members \$9 non-members

We then head up the hill to Achilles point to check out the view. Then to Glover Park and from there to Churchill park in Glendowie where we will have morning tea. Churchill Park is a lovely bit of 'rural' experience right in the heart of Auckland. We follow the park through to the Tahuna Torea nature reserve on the Tamaki estuary (<https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/parks-recreation/get-outdoors/find-a-walk/Pages/tahuna-torea.aspx>)

We will have lunch at Tahuna Torea then head back on a slightly different route through Churchill Park



**Leader:** Mandy Adams P: 021 177 6057 E: [mandyadams101@gmail.com](mailto:mandyadams101@gmail.com)

## 29 July Exhibition, Beveridge, Arataki Nature Trail

8.30 Glen Eden

Grade: Easy/Moderate

Fare: \$3 members \$8 non-members

Timing: 3-4 hrs

We have done this walk at the beginning of the year - but I thought it would be nice to do again as they have just re-opened the Beveridge track last week. The Exhibition track is a flat walk and we will start at the Nihotupu Filter station. The Beveridge track has a bit of a climb with a lovely morning tea setting just before Arataki Centre. Crossing the road there we will walk the Arataki Nature trail.



**Leader:** Astrid Crouth P: 021489673 E: [phil.astrid@xtra.co.nz](mailto:phil.astrid@xtra.co.nz)

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## Trip Reports

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### Mt William – Miranda 27 May Leader Louis Allerby

Five of us met at Glen Eden in the cold & rain. Headed off to Mt William arriving there at 9.30am where we met up with Lynne & John. After donning on our boots & packs we headed off up to the trig. The weather was better than in Auckland so we were hoping for a relatively dry day. The walk up consisted of a nice section of native bush, very similar to the Waitakeres with lots of mud. Up further we emerged from the bush to open farm land up to the top. There was a brisk wind & once we reached the trig we snuggled on the sheltered side of the hill to have morning tea & take in the great views. On the downward we struck a heavy downpour & the temperature certainly dropped. The walk up to the top & back down again was aprox 2.5 hours including the break.

We then drove back to Pokeno where Peter & I purchased the bacon for lunch & spotted Dave licking a huge ice cream. Headed off to Miranda & arrived at the Pukorokoro Miranda Shorebird Centre & down came the rain albeit only for a short while. The centre kindly allowed us to set up the cooker under the shelter on their verandah which was sheltered from the southerly as well. Made everyone a couple of bacon butties each, tidied up & we then headed off for a walk to the bird hides.

Thanks to Dave, Colin, Jonathon, Peter, Lynne & John who braved the cold & a little rain to join me on this tramp.



### Leitch's Clearing Queens Birthday Weekend Leader Lynne Flood

There were five of us, myself, John, Louis S, Dave and my grandson Xavier. We left Auckland at 7.00am on Saturday morning and we all met at the Whatawhata Cafe for breakfast. We arrived at the end of Leitch Road at about 11.15am in fine weather. The track starts off on an old four wheel drive track and soon leaves the farmland behind and followed the ridge in nice bush at an easy gradient and down to the river. This took about 3 1/2 hours by the time we stopped and had a lunch break. The hut was clean and tidy and we stocked up on firewood as we expected rain on Sunday. Xavier was in charge of the fire. As his father said, 'he wouldn't be allowed to do that at home!'. The fire heated the wetback so there was beautiful hot water. The hut was full that night with three Korean men who cooked outside and sat on tiny stools and sang. There was a group of young French people who cooked up beautiful food from scratch and there was a young woman hunter with a friendly dog called Gus that Xavier played with. The next day promised rain and we set off anyway, up the valley. The track soon left the grassland behind and up the head of the valley we enjoyed lovely bush and rugged landscape. We had a quick lunch, in the rain, and then headed back down to the hut to get the fire on. There was a point at which we lost the markers and had to go back and retrace our steps. Xavier thought we were lost! On Sunday night we had the hut to ourselves and actually all slept in until 7.30am. We left about 8.30 and it took about 3 hours to get back to the car. Our tire seemed to have gone down and Dave and Louis ably pumped it up, thank you. It was an enjoyable break with good company.





**Cycle - St Heliers to Westhaven& Return 10 June Leader Bruce Fletcher**

It was one of the colder days of the year, but a good group set out from St.Heliers by 10.45.

Brian and Sue had come by train, Colin who joined us just beyond Mission Bay had also come by train- thanks to the Goldcard. A number of people were out walking this morning which made for a good game of "dodgems" in a number of places. We made good progress to Queens Wharf where a break was taken, one or two taking the opportunity to look over what appeared to be a car show on at the "Cloud". Those of us on the pension quickly decided that the price ranges counted them out of our league.



Onwards to Westhaven where a lunch break was taken in rather cool weather. Jill decided to leave us at this stage to join Doug who was looking after their grandson. An unwell Louis also joined us for a while at this stage. Leaving Westhaven we soon found a cafe to warm up in over a coffee or two. We then cycled through Victoria Park, up to the pink viaduct and Upper Queen Street. Brian, Sue and Colin left us at this stage to return out west by train. The ride down Grafton Gully to Beach Rd is fantastic to say the least. We then retraced our steps back to St.Heliers, a great 30km ride.

Members of the group-: Bruce; Peter; Dave;Christine; Jill; Brian; Sue; Colin; Cathy; Ian.



**Waikowhai Walkway 20 May Leader Denise Vazey**

12 walkers met at Green Bay beach at 8.30 and I had to apologise straight away because I managed to get the tides wrong. I had planned to walk from Green Bay to Blockhouse Bay on the coastal walk and then at low tide around to Lynfield Cove.

There was a quick organisation of the car shuttle and a change of starting point. We started at Lynfield Cove which is at the end of Gilletta Road. There are some nice views of the harbour from the track and some lovely native bush. We saw a large Kohekohe tree, which has small white flowers that grow on the branches of the tree. Many of us had never seen a flowering Kohekohe tree before. Morning tea was on the stairs going up to Cape Horn Road. There were some trees down on the track in this area due to recent storms. We occasionally had to walk on the road and through Hillsborough cemetery .We had lunch at Taylors beach. The last section incorporates the new boardwalk to Onehunga reserve, where we had left the cars. We finished in 4 hours.



Thank you to Christine, Sandra, Trish, Val M, Marcia, John, Lynne, Jim, Shirley, Angela and her student.

The next day whilst gardening at the bottom of my section, I found a flowering Kohekohe tree. Possums love the flowers so perhaps trapping in the area is working.




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

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