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**West Auckland District Tramping Club**  
**October 2018**  
*Newsletter no. 457*

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### *The Presidents Report*

Paparoa Great Walk. Work continues on the country's latest Great Walk, which will span 55 kilometres between Punakaiki & Blackball. Both new 20 bunk hunts (Moonlight tops & Pororair) are completed, along with 18 km of new track, which will be a shared tramping/mountain-biking route. The scheduled opening date is Easter 2019. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> new great walk developed in 25 years. If it is like the other great walks it is going to prove very popular and a great access to the local community and New Zealand as a whole. Perhaps something for the bucket list?

Thinking of bucket lists, I read an article recently of something that was a little different and while not exactly tramping, had a degree of appeal that I would not mind doing. The disused railway line between Gisborne and Wairoa has been turned into a rail bike adventure. <http://www.railbikeadventures.co.nz/index.php> Any takers?



Would anyone be interested in representing our club on the Auckland Track Users Forum? I am a little over committed to take on another task. The ATUF (as the name implies), is a group of representatives from various track users, mainly Tramping Clubs, who meet from time to time. Its objective is to work closely with the Council and other officials in regard to future tramping options in the Waitakere and possibly some volunteering to help speed up the reuse of some tracks currently closed. A good knowledge of the Waitakere track network would be an advantage. See me if interested.

I see my suggestion to the Western Leader that the "What's On" section have the day of the week added beside the dates of each event has been taken up. Our club sometimes gets a mention in this paper and knowing our events are on a Sunday is beneficial to readers without having to reach for a calendar.

It was great to see a good turnout for the last club's guest speaker on Conservation Dogs. Hope to see you all again for this month's talk on trekking in Peru.

*Peter*

**PS. A reminder to book your movie & dinner @ Ryders. See details on following page. Cut off date is Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October.**

*Someone has paid \$30 into our bank account without their name!*

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## Activities

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### 14 October Coastal Walk – Titirangi

8.30am Meet at the entrance of Pinesong, Avonleigh Rd not Glen Eden!

Grade: Easy

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

Timing: 3-4 hours

From Avonleigh Road we will walk down to Maori Bay and around the picturesque coast to Jenkins Bay Titirangi at low tide. This maybe slippery and muddy in places. We will return overland with welcome stop for coffee at The Village.

**NB;** Change of meeting venue outside Pinesong,66 Avonleigh Road, off Godley Rd, Green Bay

**Leader: Val Ellis P:817 6813**

### 15 October ClubNight South America

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

Gael Ogilvie will be coming along to talk about her recent South American tour and hiking up to Machu Picchu. This should be a very interesting evening.

As usual we will mix and mingle afterwards with a cuppa and bickies.



### 21 October Labour Weekend

No tramps planned so kick back & relax or ring around if you feel like a walk



### 26 October Ryders Theatre Dinner & Movie “DOUGH”

An old Jewish baker (Jonathan Pryce) sees his struggling business boom when his young apprentice (Jerome Holder) accidentally drops marijuana into the dough.

Cost: \$30.00 which includes dinner & movie. BYO drink and glasses. The club will supply Dessert. Please pay direct to WADTC bank account **12-3034-0697604-00** & use your name & "Movie" as reference.



## 28 October

## Rangitoto Island

No meeting at Glen Eden  
Meet at the Ferry Building 9.00am

Grade: Moderate

Timing: 5 hrs

Fullers Ferry departs Auckland 9.15am,  
Devonport 9.25am  
Return ferry leaves Rangitoto 4pm  
Cost: \$33 return (discount for gold card  
holders)



Enjoy the unique landscape and birdlife of Rangitoto Island. We will take the Coastal Rd to Mackenzie Bay and from there ascend to the summit. A visit to the lava cave (torch recommended) will precede our return to the wharf.

Please ensure footwear is completely clean and pack your lunch in rodent proof containers.

**Leader:** Christine Major P:378 4404 021 109 5750 E: [christinemajor25@gmail.com](mailto:christinemajor25@gmail.com)

## 04 November

## Waiheke Island

No Glen Eden Meeting

Grade: Moderate

Timing: 3-4 hours

Today we will explore the scenic north west corner of Waiheke, including Mataitua, Owhanake and Oneroa.

Meet on the 8.50am train from the Henderson station or the 8.56am train from the Glen Eden station, arrival time at Britomart is 9.37am. Or, meet on the 10am Waiheke ferry from the ferry buildings.

Don't forget your gold card if you have one.

Medium tramp of about 3-4 hours plus ferry and train trips.



**Leader:** Pam Goldie P: 021 2146457

## 11 November Hunuas – Upper Mangatawhiri Dam

8.30am Glen Eden or 9.30am at location (see below)

Grade: Moderate/Difficult

Fare: members \$8 non- members \$13

Timing: 5 hrs

Meet at Glen Eden as usual to car pool, or meet at Upper Mangatawhiri Dam carpark 9.30am at the end of Moumoukai Road. (The road on some maps changes its name to ARA Drive part way along.)

Ernie's track goes through some good bush and there are also some good views.



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

## 18 November

8.30am Glen Eden

## Arataki - Beveridge

Grade: Easy/Moderate

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

Timing: 3-4 hours

**Leader: P:**

We will park at Arataki visitors centre, then walk the Beveridge track, Exhibition track, walk along the Scenic drive to Mt Atkinson. There will be a sweet treat waiting so bring your flask, then back the way we came via Kohu road.



We will leave Glen Eden at 8.30, please let Denise know if you are going straight to Arataki.

**Leader:** Denise Vazey P: 027 329 0052 8271552 E: [vazey@xtra.co.nz](mailto:vazey@xtra.co.nz)

## 19 November

## Club Night - Bird Watching in North Korea

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

New Zealand has no diplomatic ties with North Korea. We last sent a diplomat there in 2014. The highest-level contact is a group from the Pukorokoro Miranda Naturalists' Trust, led by a West Auckland builder, who got to highly militarised regions to count shorebirds. As Adrian Riegen, the group leader, puts it: "These birds recognise no borders, they don't recognise any of those political structures we put up... They go where there's food in the mud flats. They don't care which country it's in."



## 25 November

8.30am Glen Eden

## Shakespear Regional Park

Grade: Easy/Moderate

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

Timing: 3 + hours

Meet at Glen Eden as usual to car pool or meet at Shakespear Park 10 am.

Travel time from Glen Eden to Shakespear is about 60 - 70min.

Exact route of walk not determined at this stage but we should be able to spend 3 hours on the tracks in the area.

Alternatively call Jill to meet at Massey Reserve, Royal Road at 9am or if you intend to meet at the Regional Park.

**Leader:** Jill Dingle P: 021 294 5700 E: [jill.dingle@gmail.com](mailto:jill.dingle@gmail.com)



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## Trip Reports

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### **Mt Richmond – Hamlins Hill 26 August Leader Geoff Yates**

After a quick car shuttle to drop the cars down at Van Dammes Lagoon we set off. Mt Richmond is one of the smaller volcanic peaks but it has a nice circuit around it. We detoured over to Otahuhu Creek to look at the start of the portage – the narrowest strip of land between the two harbours. It would have been interesting to see it a couple of hundred years ago when it would have been important. After this we headed down to Hamlin's Hill.

The views from the top were very nice, but the cattle had made it very muddy. We stopped for our morning break at the clearing with an old water tank amongst the regenerating bush.

The weather was fine and after our break we dropped down to the walkway and continued past Sylvia Park to Panmure Basin. We continued around the Basin until we reached a place near the shag colony where we stopped for lunch. After lunch we headed over to look at the old fencible cottage at the end of Panmure. At this stage several members of the party decided to head directly over to Van Dammes while the rest of us climbed Mt. Wellington for another nice view, after stopping enroute to look at the new railway station.

Finally we headed back to explore Van Dammes lagoon, arriving back at our cars around 3.

Members out for the day: Dennis and Cathy, Sandra, Colin, Val, Peter, Jonathon, Jim, Angela, and her friend Kim.



### **Riverhead Forest 16 September Leader Shena McGregor**

It was a lovely spring day. The forest tracks had dried out considerably after the longest dry period for many a month. We met again at Sawmill Road. I had originally thought of driving from there to another entry point but I came up with the brilliant idea of "hey, we're a tramping club, we will walk there." So after a walk of about 1 1/2 kilometres we re-entered at Browns Road and straight into an off road track. When people had had enough of "off roading" we popped out onto the gravel again. Sometime later I heard someone say that they were hungry. I had forgotten about morning tea so we found a grassy spot. Lunch was at a large open area that is used as a venue for events held in the forest. We were visited by two dogs, 1 of which was going to have a date with a date.

The Kumerahou (Pomaderris Kumeraho, Gum Diggers Soap, Poverty Weed) was in full bloom and a lot of us were carrying a sprig of it. At one stage I went ahead and did a recce and saw a magnificent clematis but forgot to point it out to everyone. It turned out to be the only one I saw. The birds were in full song. Twice we spotted pig tracks. Our singing of "When Johnny comes marching home... and The ants went marching..." would have scared them off.

At the finish we compared distances ; 2 people said just over 18 kms, my GPS watch said 16.34, Map My Run (on the computer) was 15.50 and someone else had just over 14 kms.

Thanks to Sandra, Jacky (a friend from Line Dancing), Pam, Jill D, Angela W, Kim and Neicia (a friend of Pams).



### **Puhinui Reserve 23 September Leader Sandra Everitt**

I was pleasantly surprised to have ten other trampers join me for our "walk in the park". We all tried the fancy musical toilets before continuing on our circuit of the park. With lovely views out to the Manukau there was discussion about what the white platform sitting out in the water could be. Colin got his binoculars out for a proper look and he and Peter Scott decided it had to be something to do with the airport. The locals were having a tree planting and they tried to persuade us to join them but we were happy to have an easy day and continue our walk. The area is well used, the week before when I was checking it out, the local schools were having a

cross country day and the area is also used for equestrian events. Next to the park is a large area used for motocross so there is a continual buzzing of motor cycles coming from that area.

We were finished early so drove a few kms to the airport area where there is a small sculpture park where we had our lunch and a look around before heading home

Thanks to Jill Dingle, Colin, Bronwyn, Jim, Jill Engle, Christine, Peter Scott, Angela, Pam & Jonathan

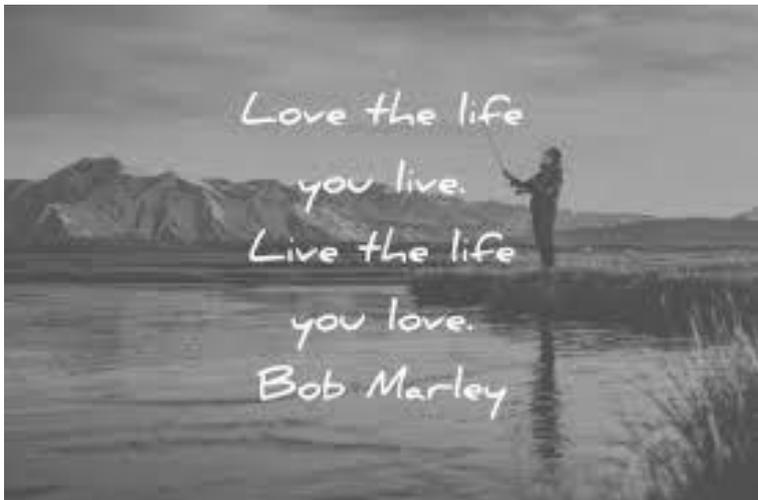


**Karangahake Gorge – Dickey’s Flat 30 September Leader Peter Tuohy**

While a lengthy drive, the Karangahake Gorge is undoubtedly one of the most scenic spots south of Auckland. That is the reality if we want a bush walk now unfortunately. Having assembled at the main carpark, which fills very quickly, we headed off up the Waitawhata valley in beautiful weather, exploring the tunnels and windows along the way until we reached a lovely spot beside a Dickey’s Flat waterfall for a break. Continuing on, we reached the popular Dickey’s Flat campsite, which despite it only being the beginning of spring had a number of campers staying. This is a very pretty spot and at \$8 a head is an idyllic spot for a weekend getaway. From the campsite, we backtracked and climbed the Dubbo Track to the top where we enjoyed our lunch before making our way along a level track high above the rivertaking in the views. Back at the cars we enjoyed a welcome refreshments at the quirky Talisman Cafewhere my sister joined us who by share coincidence, was passing through at exactly the same time. There are certainly plenty of options in the area, so we will no doubt return again sometime soon.



We are looking for suggestions for our Christmas Picnic.....if you have any, please email:  
Peter Tuohy [tait@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:tait@slingshot.co.nz) or Jill Engle [jengle23a@gmail.com](mailto:jengle23a@gmail.com)



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

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