

**West Auckland District Tramping
Club**



November 2018
Newsletter no.458

The Presidents Report

I'm writing this report a little earlier than usual, as I will be away when the November magazine is due out. Thanks Jill Dingle for filling in as Editor for the November Newsletter & our normal trusty Editor will be away as well. We are both about to head to Southern Africa for what should be quite an adventure (although hopefully not quite as adventurous as last year's trip to Nepal!). If you want to keep track of our overland adventure checkout the Tour Operator's website www.africa4us.com. We will be travelling from Cape Town to Livingstone in Zambia, a whopping 5000km journey through deserts, wetlands and numerous National Parks. I would have preferred to have gone at a cooler time of the year, but this is the most suitable time of the year for me to take leave from work. Today's temperature in Botswana a blistering 39 degrees – heck!

We are still knocking about ideas for a club Christmas picnic location. We do have the offer of a nice garden in TeAtatu, with a large undercover area, which would be good, but still open to suggestions. (We did look at West Lynn Gardens, but they have a minimum visit price of \$130). Any suggestions let a committee member know so it can be discussed at the Nov (5) Committee meeting.

As the track closures list grows, there are ways in which you can help in the effort to getting at least some of the local tracks open again. The Auckland Council recently held three volunteer days on the Mercer Bay Loop walk with around 35 volunteers helping to resurface the track. Volunteers have been moving gravel to site, forming, shaping and compacting the track and improving drainage. New stairs on some steep section of the track have also been built with the track nearing completion soon. If you are keen to help, check out the Council website.

We had a very entertaining evening last club night with an interesting guest speaker Gael Ogilvie sharing her recent experiences of the many highlights of South America. It was also lovely to see Bruce & Maureen Fletcher back after a lengthy absence. November's guest speaking will be providing a rear insight to North Korea having been one of the few westerner's to gain access to this off limits country AND with a TV crew in tow. You might have seen this article of TV some months back with West Auckland man Adrian Riegen visiting the Miranda migrating birds destination in North Korea. It should be unique talk. Do try and make the effort to attend.

Peter

Activities

18 November

Arataki – Beveridge



8.30am Glen Eden

Grade: Easy/Moderate

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

Timing: 3-4 hours

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

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. Shakespear Regional Park, Wangaparoa Peninsula – Leader Jill Dingle

8.30am Glen Eden – car pool from there if preferred.

Grade: Easy

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 to car pool at Royal Reserve, Massey (off Royal Road) at 9am Leader: Jill Dingle P: 021 294 5700 E: jill.dingle@gmail.com

2 Dec Point Chev - Meola Reef- Western Springs – Colin Spencer: Leader

8.30 Glen Eden

Grade ; Easy/Moderate

Timing; 3 hrs

Fare members \$3 non- members \$8

We will meet at Glen Eden, usual time 8.30am. Then carpool to the reserve at the end of Walker Rd Point Chevalier, where our walk will commence.

Low tide is 9.37am. So we will follow the foreshore along to Pt Chev. beach (maybe a little muddy) and on to Coyle Park. From there we will continue on the roads, through to the Meola reef area and explore a bit of the reef (Optional suitable footwear required, Oyster shells and rocks on reef are sharp), then it is on to Western Springs via Jagger's bush walk. After leaving Western Springs we will make our way through Pt Chev, and back to Walker Rd. reserve. This should be an easy walk, mainly flat, with only one uphill section.

Colin Spencer Ph 838-5706 or 022-435 6839

9 Dec Upper Mangatawhiri – Hunuas – Lynne Flood: Leader

8.30 Glen Eden

Grade ; Moderate/Difficult

Timing; 4 – 5 hrs

Fare members \$7 non members \$12

Meet 8.30 Glen Eden. Or meet 9.15 at Upper Mangatawhiri Campground.

We will go up Lilburne Road. This is a four wheel drive road with steady uphill for 1 to 1 1/2 hours to Piggotts Hut. We will then do the Rata Ridge Track. This is quite rough and steep in parts but there is lovely bush and beautiful views. It would probably take 2 hours, then back down Lilburne Road. The tramp in total would be 4 1/2 hours plus lunch. Start with clean boots to prevent spread of Kauri dieback.

If meeting at Mangatawhiri Campground please let leader know. Ph Lynne 622-0436

10 December

Christmas Club Night

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



**Join us for our last club night of 2018.
(Remember it's a week earlier than normal.)**

There will be prizes for the best, worst or funniest trip stories you can tell. Bring any photos you may wish to share too. Supper will be provided.



16 December

Our Christmas function will be held at Ray White premises.

(A workplace Sunday BBQ courtesy of Louis Allerby.)

At : 36 TeAtatu Road from around 11.30am (time will be confirmed in next newsletter). Plenty of parking available.

The Club will provide sausages; please bring a plate of food to share, your own drinks, glass, plates and cutlery.

Dec 23 and Dec 30 – no tramps planned.

Wednesday Night Walks

Trish will be leading one on Wednesday 21st November, leaving Sunnyvale train station car park at 7pm. If you can take a wednesday night walk please let Jill E know and she will circulate details to Members. Having one fortnightly would be great!

Next Year, 2019

6 January Goat Island - Paul Williams: Leader

8.30 am Glen Eden
Grade: Medium - Difficult
Timing: 5.5 hours
Members \$7 Non members \$12

Being the height of summer we will do a coastal walk so people can swim. Goat Island to Ti Point wharf. This is a 5.5 hour walk along farmland, some roads, coastal tracks & beaches, and some boulder walking.

Meet in the main Goat Island car park, travel time is approx 1hr 30min
NB; Paul will not be at Glen Eden for the 8.30 meeting time.

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

13 Feb Goldies Bush *open again* - Astrid Crouth :Leader

Time: 8.30am
Grade: Moderate
Time: 4-5 hours
Fare: \$5 members, \$10 non members

Only recently re-opened, so we are fortunate to be able to get back into the Wairere stream that passes through Goldies Bush. Great swimming opportunities, beautiful bush and great views from the northern end of Te Henga Walkway.

Leader Astrid Crouth 817 5552

20 January Orakei Basin and Orakei Domain - Marcia Clarke : Leader No Glen Eden Meeting

Introductory Tramp – Grade Easyish
Timing: Approx. 4 hours

Today we will explore the Orakei Basin and the streets and reserves leading to the Orakei Domain. If time, we will continue to the Michael Savage Memorial Park with its views out to Rangitoto Island.

Main Meeting Point: 10 a.m. Orakei Railway Station. Alternatively, meet on the 8.50 a.m. train from Henderson (8.56 Glen Eden, 9.02 New Lynn).

This train reaches Britomart in time to catch the 9.47 a.m. train to Orakei. People who prefer to travel by car can park in the Kings Plant Barn car park just past the Orakei Railway Station, Orakei Rd.

Leader Marcia Clarke 021 033 1029

27 Jan Auckland Anniversary weekend – No planned trip

Planning through to February 2019 as follows:

3 Feb North Shore Tramp.

Track and details to be finalised. Details will go on website at a later stage.

Leader Geoff Yates 810 8456

10 Feb Hunua Ranges- Hunua Falls.

Glen Eden 8.30 or 9.30 at location, see below

Grade; Moderate

Timing 4+ hrs . Fare members \$8 non members \$13

Meet at Glen Eden to car pool, or meet at Hunuas Falls car park 9.30am. We will be doing the Massey Loop Track & Cossey Gorge.

NB; Mandy will not be at Glen Eden for the 8.30 meeting time. Trampers, please call Mandy when leaving Glen Eden to confirm the numbers going to Hunuas.

Leader Mandy Adams 528 2078 021 177 6057

17 Feb Huntly to Ngaruawahia Hakarimata Track

8am meeting Glen Eden - NOTE EARLY START

Grade: Medium/Fit

Fare: Total cost per car will be approx \$45 so 3- 4 passengers is ideal, minimum of 2 cars will be required for car shuttle or key swap.

Timing: 4-5 hours for shorter version down Summit Track Option

: 5-6 hours to do the whole Hakarimata Track

Starting from Parker Road in Huntly we head up the Hakarimata Track to the summit tower where we will get lovely views. Shortly after leaving the tower we have the option of taking Summit track or carrying on the Hakarimata. Here we can split the group if numbers allow it. Its a great tramp with lots of tree roots and only a little mud.

Leader: Trish Hopkins 021 1273 862

24 Feb Tabora - Wellsford

8.30 am Glen Eden

Grade: Medium

Timing: 5.5 hours

Members \$7 Non members \$12

At Tabora, on the way to Wellsford. If coming from Auckland, look for Wharehine Rd on the left after Tauhoa, not all that far before Wellsford.

If you miss it, the Port Albert Rd is some kms further along, and is the road to take if coming from Wellsford.

Either way within 6 kms or so after finding Wharehine Rd, you will come to Run Rd.

5 kms down this road you will see Atiu Regional Park signposted, carry on to meet at the Atiu carpark at 10 am. Travel time is approx 45 min from Glen Eden.

Dave Spiers, 835 3272. 027 275 5357

Our tramp began with a wander along the string of historic baches near Rangitoto Wharf. Our inspection of the museum bach was limited to peering through the windows - with the view of some rooms being better for tall people – but most of us recognised items from the past. After a morning tea stop at the last cottage we joined the coastal road which afforded some novel views of the city beyond the mangroves and partly submerged rocks. We also marvelled at the variety of plants successfully conquering the once barren lava.



The McKenzie Bay beach was rather slender at full tide and we had to stroll towards the far end to see the nearby red and white striped lighthouse. The road to the summit from here rose gently but the gradient stepped up for the final climb and it was good to pause to admire the great views of the gulf islands from the boardwalk-staircase.

Brown quail entertained us while we ate our lunch on the summit while tui and saddlebacks, so abundant on the island, continued to make their presence felt. After circumnavigating the rim track we headed down to the lava caves making a short deviation to inspect an hornito, a sort of volcanic tower. Most braved the tunnels but with less torches than people we groped our way slowly over the uneven floor. With ample time before our ferry sailing we progressed slowly down the main track having leisurely stops at the interpretation boards. We remarked that we had been lucky that clouds kept the temperature to a pleasant level for most of our day traipsing along Rangitoto's dark basalt trails although we had enjoyed a



Our group was Chris, Christine, Jan, Jim, John, Lynne, Shena and newcomers Cheryl, Jacky, Kevin and Kim
[Photos from Chris Green](#)

