



Newsletter

April 2019

Email: Secretary: secretary.motuekatc@gmail.com

Website: Under construction

A message from our new President, Rob Bruinsma -

Hi fellow trampers.

The AGM on 16th of April appointed me as president of Motueka Tramping Club. First, thank you all for the trust put in me not screwing it up 😊. I am confident that I won't.



When we came to New Zealand 6 years ago, we had to find our way in this foreign country and were keen to become involved in the local community. Of course, having a job was helpful, but becoming a member of Motueka Tramping Club and Motueka 50+ walking group was a far greater help. What struck us was the friendly, welcoming, helping and social character of these clubs. I specially liked the less strictly organised MTC. Probably this is because as a Dutchman it is in my genes to appreciate a more flexible approach to rules and habits. Developing other aspirations like playing golf, biking and spending time in Europe with (grand)children and old friends meant that we did not join as many tramps as we would have liked to, and as we did in the first years.


I realise that one of the challenges of my term is that I will spend 5 months of the year in Europe. Modern communication systems and internet will make it possible to stay involved as president and I am confident that the committee is capable enough to handle this situation.

My contribution as president of Motueka Tramping Club will be focused on keeping the characteristics of a friendly, welcoming, family-like club, based on a solid organisation. I hope we can interest new members with the goal of keeping our average age at the same level 😊, and that we can offer both more challenging and easy tramps to suit the broad range in level of fitness of our members. I am also keen to investigate the possibilities to present ourselves as a tramping club on the internet to facilitate communications.

I surely hope that we can meet on one of the tramps in near future, although it will probably be not until next spring/summer.

Rob

Our new committee is:

President	Rob Bruinsma			
Vice President	Dave Wilson			
Secretary	Not yet appointed			
Treasurer	Mike Tooker			
Committee	Debbie Hickling			

Stories from the Past:

The following is a letter from Noel Barrett, Relieving Secretary for Motueka Tramping Club dated 19 February, 1978. This is the oldest document we hold. It was mailed out to members. Note the telephone numbers and party line, and the use of slides for viewing photos

“Fellow Trampers

The holiday tramping has been a great success with several tramps having taken place. The well planned and long awaited Milford Track left 15 members very happy and completely satisfied. There will be a write up of it in the Motueka News on Wednesday night. The Tramping Club has been invited to Heather Tait’s place, Marriages Road, Mapua on the 12th March for a get together and slides will be shown on the Milford. Bring along slides and photos of recent trips, together with swimming togs and tea. If further information required phone Heather at Mapua 714. The club has bought Moirs Guide Book, Northern and Southern Sections. It describes tracks and routes from approx. Arthur’s Pass, south. The club has also added two 60ft ropes to the equipment we own. For use of equipment and books phone Robbie Gibbs.

There will be a weekend tramp to the Lake Cobb area February 25th. Contact Geoff Trewavas trip leader phone 1254. On March 4th and 5th there will be a family trip to Salisbury Lodge. Anyone interested in this phone Frazer Walls 846-M. Joe Fon will still lead a trip from Lewis Pass to Lake Rotoiti for approx five days near the end of April. Robbie Gibbs has a pair of size six tramping boots for sale, \$15.00. Phone 1324.

Safe tramping to you all. Noel Barrett, Relieving Secretary”

Trip Reports

20 January Cobb to Lake Peel – cancelled due high winds

25-26-27 Flanagans – Cancelled due no takers

3 February Pearce Resurgence

We left Motueka at 8am on a beautiful summer day to start our walk at 9.00.

We had to cross the river at the start, so there was no doubt whether or not we were going to have wet feet. Following the river upward, we had to cross it multiple times and the path led us through beautiful



native forest with spectacular views. Some parts of the track were tricky because we were walking through high grass and not able to see where to put our feet on the sometimes narrow trail. Fortunately nobody slipped, so this time there was no need for a helicopter.

Around noon we reached the resurgence and decided to go to the Nettlebed Cave before lunch. The disappointment of not being able to find the entrance did not last very long. We had a very pleasant and relaxing lunch, sitting on the riverbank in the sun. Finally we managed to tear ourselves away from this lovely spot to follow the track in opposite direction back to the cars, reaching the cars safely.

We ended the trip with a glass of wine and a beer in the leader's home and could look back on a perfect tramping day.

Participants were Rob (leader), Phil, Gerda, Serene, Dave, Barbara

8-9-10 Speargrass – Cancelled due weather

17 February Lodestone and Hodder

The party of Christine, Serene and Phil left Flora carpark at 8.50 on a morning with hardly a breath of wind. The track was very dry, and we made good time to the top of Lodestone for morning tea. The cloud that had been masking Mount Arthur had cleared and the panorama from Richmond Range to Golden Bay was stunning.

We followed the ridge track down towards the saddle leading to Hodder...there was some good scrambling in this section.

We heard a kaka calling and were visited by the usual bush robins and weka. When climbing up from the saddle the beech forest was stunted and it appeared as a " hobgoblin" paradise.

Lunch was had on the ridge, then we made our way down to Flora stream. The track was interesting as we sidled down and it reminded me of my early tramps as we went from one tree marking to another.

After a break at the stream we cut up to Flora road and walked out to the carpark.

18kms of up and down left us pleasantly tired as we made our way home.

Phil – leader, and photographer



21-22-23 February Kaihoka Lakes, Whanganui Inlet

Sadly Moppie couldn't make it, so four of us went, with Wendy having some familiarity of the farm and coastal walks offering to help us find our way.

We, that is Anna, Chrissy, Wendy and Yvonne H, stayed at Wylie's old farmhouse. It is a large old, comfortable house with accommodation for about 20 people; we had two rooms each and there were still spares. There was a reasonably tuned piano in



the house and we were able to have the pleasure of Chrissy's extremely competent playing, and even a bit of singing.

The date had been arranged for the very low tides so we could get around the coast, which worked, and it also attracted the paua fishers and the fishing inspectors. We didn't get any paua.

On day one we explored the farm and the beach and made our way up to the Nikau palms. We made a fast decent on the sand slopes with three of us managing to stay vaguely upright and one of us doing a pretty spectacular head over heels down. No broken bones or even sand in the eyes ,so all well for the journey back to the house.



On day two we explored the amazing rock formations known as the lunar cliffs. We could not see from afar how we could possibly get to the tops but Wendy's memory and a little bit of going ahead to check, meant we got to the top, walked along to the coast and with the low tide dropped down to the sand and around to the main bay and through the farm back home. We took dozens of photos of so many different shapes and types of rocks, and trees and rocks that had weathered together to form incredibly distinctive formations. It was a stunning day in a most remarkable environment.

On day three we went to Kaihoka Lakes and noted that while they were still beautiful, there had been some change with the low rain fall this year.

Yvonne H

(Photos: YH)

3 March North Branch Graham – Cancelled due no takers

**8, 9, 10
March
Cupola
Basin**

This very enjoyable trip started with a water taxi ride from Kerr Bay to Lakehead jetty – 12 minutes



zooming up the lake rather than a 2.5 hour slog gives you a head start for the journey up Travers Valley to John Tait hut. For those who have not been up the valley, there are lovely sections of beech forest, followed by broad sweeping river flats of golden tussock and grasses. There was a brief stop for lunch by the river, but the sandflies had us moving on quickly.

John Tait hut sits in an open grassy area alongside the Travers River, with a very interesting long trek through an avalanche zone to get to the toilet. In fact, the hut has its own “John Tait hut avalanche zone” warning sign. We can only presume that the hut was built in this location prior to it becoming an avalanche risk. Despite all that, a peaceful stay ensued.



First night only a few house guests and one tent. Second night, an almost full hut. People were heading to, and coming from every which way, and thus very interesting conversations of the journeys travelled, and the routes to follow the next day. We were somewhat pleased on our last night that we were simply walking out next day, whilst others appeared to have some very ambitious plans.

Our middle day was spent at Cupola Basin, a 2.5 hour walk from John Tait hut. The walk up starts gently following Cupola Stream, but after a very awesome chasm, ends up almost hand over hand climbing. Thank goodness for good sturdy trees to swing from in monkey like fashion. We spent a very special few hours in Cupola Basin, fossicking about looking at rocks, plants (of course) and the fabulous views of Mount Hopeless and the basin. Dave,



needless to say, required a little more exercise and headed up a vast scree slope “to see what was on the other side”. We watched this small speck move slowly up the gigantic slope until we lost sight of him, but a hour or so later he wandered into Cupola Hut – partly satisfied with his journey, didn’t quite get to see “the other side” and vowing to have another go at a future time. We re-traced our journey back to John Tait, where we watched with some slight dread as more and more people kept arriving. However, we ended up with a bunk or two to spare, and a very interesting evening.

We were Yvonne J who sort of led this trip (well, I did book the water taxi) Yvonne H, Anna H (a first timer with our club for an over-nighter) and Dave. Thank you all for a great three days, and Anna for joining us on this expedition. We did enjoy your company.

Yvonne J (ps) We also got a water taxi back from Cold Water Hut, in company with two gentlemen who were celebrating their success conquering Angelus and were early-celebrating with scotch, deviously concealed in a water bottle.

All photos: Anna

17 March Waitui Gorge

Heather was unable to lead, so we used the group leadership model and all contributed to find our way there and back.

Lovely day, but we were reminded yet again how that road goes up and up and up. We admired the very tall, straight kahikatea, the subject of many past trip photos (* see below). Lunch took place at the hut. It was pleasing to see some good growth in the native bush since our last trip. A very pleasant day.

This report is a combined effort, short though it may be, by YH and YJ. Members on that day also included Arif, Christine H and Muriel.



(Photo by Mike, taken January 2013 on a previous tramping club trip. Usually many photos are taken of this tree, by different people, but on 17 March 2019, no-one did. Thus I (ed,) ratted around and found this old photo taken by Mike. Interestingly Muriel and Yvonne J were on both trips. Thank you Mike for photo, once again)

24 – 28 March Old Ghost Road

The weather was looking a bit suspect so Dave, Laurie and Yvonne H sweated over the weather radar and decided that with some modifications of daily leaving times we could miss much of the rain and decided the trip was on - and all but one person came. She was going to sleep in a tent so it was a very good call.

Ten of us - Arif, Barbara, Bob, Dean, Dave, Gerda, Heather, Rob, Yvonne H and Yvonne J walked the 82 kilometre track - and one - Laurie- did a day's ride to Lyell Hut and back.

We drove to Lyell and left our cars there, and Hikenbike transported us from the Rough and Tumble back to Lyell. They provided a very economical, comfortable and friendly service and will also do car repositioning if required.

Day 1 - Motueka drive to Lyell Carpark then walk to Lyell Saddle Hut

After a smooth ride to Lyell including, for some, a bakery or coffee stop, we started off with a group photo before we finally hit Old Ghost Road.



The weather could not have been better this first day. Some morning clouds were burning off while we very gradually climbed up the hill. Laurie came along for just one day and soon passed us walkers on his bike. We slowly followed, enjoying the scenery and each others company. After the first part through lush green forest we came to some more open spots with views over the mountain range. At one of these we stopped for lunch.

What made the biggest impression on me this day (and the next ones) was the amount of work that has been put into the development and maintenance of the path. New railings are still rising on the narrow steep parts of the trail, and they already seem to have saved some bikers lives. We all chatted with Paul Jennens from Mapua, who was one of the early OGR track builders and was still working on building the railings.



We met quite a few bikers today, some doing the hard job biking up, while others just peddling down after a helicopter ride up. We were almost at the last kilometer from Lyell Saddle hut when we saw Laurie coming down towards us. We said goodbye and walked on to the hut.



Even though it was an easy climb we were happy to be there and remove our boots and packs. And then our late afternoon/ evening rituals start - find yourself a bed, get cleaned, make drinks, do stretching exercises for the “healthy group”,

check out everybody’s dinner and of course have a nice talk with the other group members.

Monday - Day 2 Lyell Saddle to Ghost Lake Hut 12km

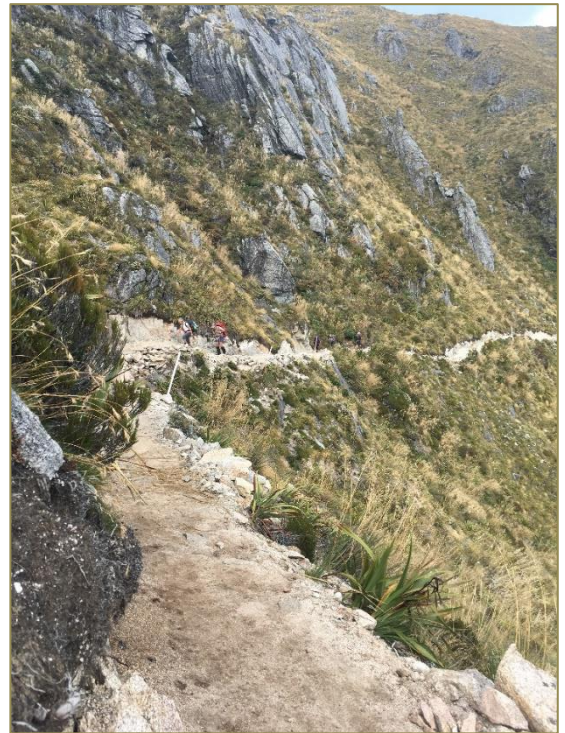


The day started with a half day walk between Lyell Saddle Hut and Ghost Lake Hut. The weather remained dry but was windy on the ridges - as evidenced by a sideways landing of a helicopter during our morning tea break near Mt Montgomery, watching mist moving upward, downward and horizontally all in a small space.

During this part of the walk we left the original miners' tracks and embarked on the purpose-built mountain bike route - hats off to the designers and builders as it is a marvelous feat of engineering.

With lunch eaten at the hut we had time to fill in. Some of the group had a rest, some started their muscle-stretching routine to revitalize tired limbs. Barbara certainly made the most of her "refreshment" as she and Dave climbed the ridge high above Ghost Lake on an epic journey of their own.

Some of us opted for lesser treks and checked out



the lake and a little of the next day's track.

It was good to see kea flying during the day, and a group of 3 visited the hut in the evening. And although we felt we had ventured into the wilderness, we were amazed to be able to see the lights of Murchison from the hut at night

Tuesday – Day 3 - Ghost Lake Hut to Stern Valley Hut 13kms

This was the day for rain and gale force winds. We set off from beautiful Ghost Lake and hut at 8am. It was a 3-4 hour journey, and we reasoned we could get to Stern before "the worst" of the weather hit us. Well, it started gusting as soon as we poked our heads above the ridge, drizzled soon



after, and light rain from thereon.

But what a spectacular journey. We dropped down out of Ghost Lake hut, and then up a beautifully graded track to Skyline Ridge. Venturing onto the ridge, the track seemed to be taking us in the direction of a “lemming leap” as the ridge got narrower, and narrower, with bicycle-defying twists and turns. When all seemed lost and we must do the lemming leap, a set of steps appeared. 300 of them, was it? The first two sets had a handrail, beautifully carved and polished as if just straight from a grand old building, but next lot had no hand-rail. Dave cautioned us to keep at least 3 metres apart to avoid a human domino collapse. There was silence as we eyed the next step and positioned our feet and balanced our body to make a stately descent. And stately it was! Nervous giggling at the bottom, and much wonder-ment as to how a cyclist would manage to carry his/her bike down – and what about up the steps, we exclaimed. Deeming it absolutely impossible, we wended our way through leafy forest and then onto the grassy valley floor of Stern Creek.



Now Stern Creek was indeed looking stern, fast flowing with brown water and waves, but glory be, there was our hut, a tidy 150 metres away from this torrent. A bit more giggling about how we supposed OGR engineers and planners would have checked out how high the river got in flood over the last 100 years, and that it should be “ok”.

We were all shedding copious amounts of water by then as we crowded into the boot room. Layer after layer of clothing was discarded until a stage was reached where it paid to keep eyes lowered. Lunch happened first, cups of tea all round, and then the fire was lit – the hut steamed as it dripped, but within a few hours, we were able to condense our gear enough to let our 3 new friends, all from Motueka, have space to repeat the shedding and dripping performance.

We had a lovely afternoon chatting, telling tall stories and wondering what the weather would do now, though to hell with it, for now we were warm, dry and fed. A little bit of cabin fever was setting in, best solved by having a snooze.

Dave's birthday was celebrated, a gift was produced (which birthday-boy declined to carry out) and new Motueka friends produced some cake (having had a pre-arranged food drop).

The rain became heavier as the night progressed, and Stern Creek raged and thundered by – but good planning prevailed, and the hut didn't bob down the river as we supposed.

Wednesday -Day 4 - Stern Valley to Specimen Hut. 25 kms

Our longest day and lots of rain predicted.

We knew there were 21 bridges on the track so felt confident that we would get across the rivers, but we had also read "be aware that some remaining (unbridged) waterways and trail sections have potential to flood under heavy and/or sustained rainfall".

And we had had both heavy and sustained rainfall overnight providing raging rivers, and the streams and water falls flowing across the track meant we got lots of river crossing practice. But the rain and winds on the day were not extreme, so we experienced pretty significant water flow without the added risk of accompanying bad weather. We laughed like children as



we splashed through water up to our knickers (and over the knickers for the shorter ones amongst us) holding firmly to our partners.

Having played in the water long enough we climbed on up the Earnest Valley, past Lake Grim and Lake Cheerful (we think we could tell which was which but they were both a bit glum) and then the climb through the Boneyard.



The boneyard zone resembled an orchard, with hundreds of flowering shrubs, which we believe are *Olearia Avicenniifolia*.

On over the Solemn Saddle and Hanging Judge to the head waters of Goat Creek catchment. We considered crossing the streams - 2 of them - to historic Goat Creek Hut, a possible afternoon tea shelter, but there was no way anyone was going to get across that day. We



knew our fellow Motuekians from Stern Valley Hut would not be staying there that night, so we took a photo and found shelter at Mokihinui Forks Hut to enjoy our food.

Goat Hut to the forks is 8 km of podocarp forest along the South branch of Mokihinui River and then it is 3km to Specimen hut at the head of what,

on that day, was truly the mighty Mokihinui River Gorge.

We arrived at Specimen Point Hut in the sun and were able to dry our clothes thus avoiding another sauna sleeping experience.

Thursday -Day 5 - Specimen Hut to Welcome Bay/ Seddonville/ Rough and Tumble - Advertised 4-6 hours, Actual about 5hrs



Leaving our last wonderful hut, which was perched high above Mokihinui River, we felt the camaraderie of shared adventures, so smug with all our gear super dry, sun shining, birds singing and a growing sense of achievement.

We meandered through the gorge high above the muddy, powerful Mokihinui, crossing bridges over rain swollen tributaries, waterfalls and mini gorges. Lots of mining relics on this old historic track. Great stopping points, to look in awe at the remains of an old bridge which had spanned the river, reminding us of bridges we still lose today through extreme weather events. Birds making



their presence known with song or playful antics. Narrow, rocky tracks hugging into high rock faces and then a gentle ending with a wide, flat, bush surrounded track.

A lovely peaceful, relaxed, warm, dry day to end our fantastic (and exciting at times!) tramp. We were surprised that there were no walkers or bikers coming towards us and found out



later that because of the heavy rain, people were asked to delay their trip in - all the more space for us!

Yummo pizza, nachos, beer and coffee at the lovely rustic Rough and Tumble Bush Lodge. The friendly staff made us so welcome and what a way to end our memorable adventure!

Report writers Barbara, Gerda, Yvonne J, Heather, Yvonne H

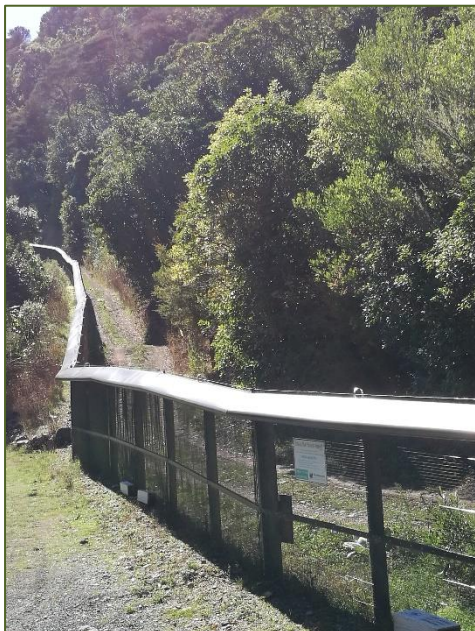
The party indulged in a bit of whimsy when the rain stopped and we discovered we didn't have to ford a swollen river after all.



(Photographers: for Newsletter and for Slideshow at the AGM are: Yvonne H, Laurie H, Dean, Bob, Rob, Gerda, Arif

31 March The Brook Waimarama Wildlife Sanctuary

This was a big outing – two participants – but neither had been to the Sanctuary before, so it was all new and exciting. We were a bit early – the sanctuary didn't open till 10am, thus coffee was partaken at Tahunanui, sitting under an umbrella, looking out to sea.



On arrival at the Sanctuary, it was discovered that one member of the party had come equipped with just a handbag – a capacious one, but no sandwich or drink within – and wearing designer sneakers. However, valiantly we struck out along the track, following our mud map – which we swear wasn't drawn to scale, and soon were not sure where we were in this deep, dark jungle. Lots of fantails kept us company but no advice from them, so after a while on a slippery muddy slope, we decided we had “done” the sanctuary, returned the way we had come, and headed off to Yassa for a very nice lunch. The one member who had brought a sandwich was only too pleased to bin it when faced with the delicious stuff on offer at the café.

The Sanctuary is a wonderful undertaking, the 14km perimeter fence, enclosing 715 ha of land, is very impressive, and the old concrete water dams were interesting. However, it has a way to go yet, but thinking of other well established sanctuaries around the country, it will serve our district well as a safe haven for our wild-life, and we are grateful to those who took the initiative to start this very large and demanding project. In due course, the sanctuary hopes to be home to kiwi. We will look forward to a visit in a few years time.

Leader: Nameless, and follower also nameless.

5-8 April Awatere Tussock Track

Eight members, Anna, Arif, Debbie, Judith, Muriel, Wendy, Yvonne H and Yvonne J, took part in the private walk in the Awatere Valley Marlborough. We stayed in a farm cottage on the first night and then walked to Gregan Hut - a very comfortable and well heated spec hut with a very adequate kitchen, shower and flush toilet. We stayed there two nights. The walks were on the farm of our hosts, Simon and Lynda Harvey www.tussocktrack.co.nz It was an



excellent place to stay and the walks, especially day 2 ,were through interesting country and really worth doing.

Day 1 Farm cottage to Gregan Hut

We stayed in a beautiful farm cottage the first night and headed out into the tussock hillside at 8am on a stunning autumn day. Following the white posts we meandered up to a lookout which gave 360 degree views of the surrounding countryside. We spotted our destination against the hillside well protected



from the harsh climate that would be expected in the off season. A well deserved shower and meal was enjoyed followed by a relaxing evening of games and reading.



Day 2 The High Tops

It had snowed overnight and the higher hills were well covered. The weather was windy and cold as we headed for the cliffs behind the hut at about 8am. The first hour and a bit was up steep grass and tussock country and we could see a light covering of snow on the peaks we were headed for. The highest point of the route is just under the

Twin Peaks at about 1200m and with the wind, snow and loose scree it was a bit challenging. We got the strong southerly at Billy Goat saddle but sadly not the view - Mt Tapuaenuku was out there somewhere. We soon came to Top Hut - a shelter with tea and

coffee and even beds, where we had lunch while very heavy rain pelted down. By the time we set off again the rain was over and we descended through steep tussocky country and then down a rocky creek and back to Gregan Hut at 630m for another warm and pleasant evening.

Day 3 Gregan hut back to farm headquarters

We all wished we had today's weather yesterday as we woke up to an almost clear blue sky. We left the hut around 9 am. As the river was still very high from yesterday, we decided not to follow the normal route along the river but go via the musterer's hut



which was meant to be a museum. We actually never got there and were the first group ever to do a unique detour! This took us along a wonderful ridge and across a river which had us practice linking up and crossing it and following a very muddy track back to the farm.

Back at the farm we heard the farmer's son talk about his shooting spree, shooting pigs and goats the day before, and we said goodbye to the wonderful farming couple who made our trip such a success.

Reports by Anna, Arif and Yvonne H

7 April Ben Nevis – Cancelled due weather

12-14 April Waingaro Forks Crossover – cancelled due lack of interest

27-29 April Blue Lake – cancelled due weather and replaced with:



Other Stuff

If you haven't yet read your latest FMC magazine March 19, then turn to Uncle Jacko's Cookery Corner for some very informative information on page 56 headed "Toilets", Who would have thought.....

Bits of history and bio-diversity:

Editor still seeks contributions to this section



Blue pink gill - Entoloma hochstetteri – in abundance within 1 km of Rough & Tumble Lodge, Old Ghost Road end. (Photograph: Yvonne H, Identification: Mike)

This information from Wikipedia:

Entoloma hochstetteri is a species of mushroom found in New Zealand and India. The small mushroom is a distinctive all-blue colour, while the gills have a slight reddish tint from the spores. The blue coloring of the fruit body is due to three azulene pigments. Whether Entoloma hochstetteri is poisonous or not is unknown. The Māori name for the blue mushroom is werewere-kokako because the colour is similar to the blue wattle of the kōkako bird. This species was one of six native fungi. It has a small delicate epigeous fruiting body which may be found among moss or leaf litter.

Family: [Entolomataceae](#)
Kingdom: [Fungi](#)
Genus: [Entoloma](#)
Species: E. hochstetteri



(Photo: Anna – a friendly robin, Travers Valley)



One of several kea that visited at Specimen Hut, Old Ghost Road.

Club members have reported seeing more kea this summer season, than for many years. One very pleasing viewing was of 4 kea just above Arthur Hut

Newsletter Editor: Yvonne J (yvonnejay@xtra.co.nz) who thanks scribes for their written contributions and photographers for lovely photos