



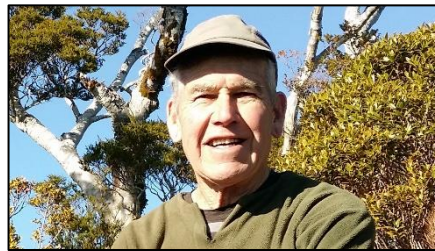
# Newsletter

September 2019

Email: Secretary: secretary.motuekatc@gmail.com

Website: Under construction

Sadly no longer with us, our friend and tramping companion Dave Wilson. We will miss you Dave.



## Stories from the past:

In the September 1982 Club Newsletter, the committee was organizing a trip to Farewell Spit.

“The trip to Farewell Spit date has been changed to Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> as the tides for the previously advised date are unsuitable. The trip takes 5 hours which means that we would have to leave from Collingwood Motors at 1.00pm and return about 5.30 – 6.00 pm. It has been suggested that we arrive at Collingwood for lunch before we head off for the Spit. The costs are as follows: \$18 per adult, \$12 per child under 15 years. There must be a minimum number of 5 and a maximum of 20 people going to fill the bus. Free tea and coffee and cordial are provided at the lighthouse but bring your own snacks etc. If anybody is interested contact either A. Cummings or the Club Guide before Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> and preferably before so that firm arrangements can be made.

If members are sufficient a mini bus will be hired but this will depend on the interest shown. Costs for transport to Collingwood will depend on the numbers going. So if you have thought of going there before or know of a friend who might be interested, we would be pleased to see you.

(signed) Robbie Gibbs”

If you want to do this trip now, the cost is **\$160** for an adult, and **\$58** for a child. You should have gone in 1982, and you could have had free cordial as well.

# Trip Reports



## 28 April Richmond Hills (instead of 3 day Blue Lake)

Weather negated our opportunity to walk to Blue Lake but was fine enough for a trip up to the fire lookout on the Richmond Hills.

After a circuitous drive, we finally arrived at the carpark that leads to entry to the Richmond hills. Seeking help from a local walker sent us south along the road for about half a kilometer before stepping onto a narrow track beside houses that rose



steeply upwards for some way. Given we were going to a lookout it was expected that the walk would be a steady up and it continued to be so, mostly through forest, both pine and regenerating natives. We had morning tea at a table sitting in an opening which offered great views over Richmond. Lunch saw us at the lookout in the sun, but niggled at by a cold breeze.

The walk back down, with more local directory assistance, followed the path of the 50plus walks. Just below the clear top the two Yvonne's stopped to try and decipher the identity of some dark lumpy shapes; Ann and I (a little ahead of them) had already separately decided they were fungi and were at a loss as to what they could be spending so much time pondering over. We greeted many families, some with dogs, walking the track, as we neared Richmond and the exit which was near to where our cars were parked.

It was a satisfying day out with good company, views and exercise. I can't comment on the food.

Muriel with Yvonne J, Yvonne H, Ann, Wendy and Christine.

(Photo: YH)



## 2-3-4 May Lake Sylvester



There were three of us on this adventure. The weather forecast was grand, no need for serious weather checking – it was all clear to go many days out and stayed that way.

On day 1 we enjoyed the walk up the hill to Sylvester Hut, had lunch in the sun, spread out our gear and walked up to the lake. The lake level was so low we could walk part of the way around it, then clambered back up the hill and explored in and around the tarns and to viewpoints where we could see “the Marie tarn”. It was warm and sunny, a bit breezy in exposed places, but just perfect for a mooch around

Back at the hut, we were joined by an Englishman, and enjoyed a very interesting and informative evening of conversation with him. Just as well, as at this time of year the nights are very long and dark – and thus we were able to defer going to bed until the late hour of 9.30.

Day 2 took us back to Sylvester Lake and Lake Iron, and from there sorted out a route to take us above Lake Iron for a wonderful walk along the tops, up and around various little peaky-bits, botanizing and enjoying the vegetable sheep. A lovely calm sunny day, so we were in no hurry as we ambled along and down back to the hut. Our Englishman had departed, and was replaced by a young Englishwoman. She was so enamoured with the



surroundings that by dark, she was lying outside on the bench in her sleeping bag watching the stars – as we all did, but it got a bit cold.

Day 3 started in a leisurely fashion, warm and sunny again, so we sat outdoors, watching with great interest the cloud that filled up Cobb Valley, right through to Motueka Valley, whilst

we sat above looking down at Mt Campbell (a small island in a white sea), Hoary Head (a large island in a white sea) and Crusader, a sharp pointy island in the same white sea. Mt Campbell disappeared “under” a few times.

Both mornings we were visited by two kea, who sat in a tree near the hut and looked at us, did a circuit around us once or twice, and disappeared. Nice to see them.

Having plenty of time, we gave the hut and toilet a good clean and sauntered off downhill. Back at the car, we headed off to the quarry further up from the Sylvester car park for lunch in the sun, and then checked out the track built by trappers which we think is intended to go behind Lake Lockett and down to Lake Iron – thus providing a circuit route. The bit of track we walked didn't seem to have improved much since I first saw it being constructed probably 4 years earlier, but we thought it would be worthwhile finding out more, and putting it on a list to check it out some time in the future.

A very enjoyable weekend with Wendy, Yvonne H and me, Yvonne J. (Photos: Yvonne H)

**12 May Pepin Island** – cancelled due weather

## **19 May Wainui to Wharawharangi Hut and Separation Hut**

There were five members today: Phil (leader), Serene, Christine H, Christine G, and Ken (scribe). It was a fine sunny day with a few morning clouds inland and over Farewell spit, otherwise clear sky above and a cool southerly wind, noticeable by late afternoon. It was a longish but very pleasant day trip.

Our route took the Sunday daytrip option of Wainui to Whariwharangi Hut to Whariwharangi Beach and onto Separation Point and return the same way back to Wainui.



Noted during this trip were a pair of NZ falcons soaring above Wainui carpark, and weka throughout the day. We had morning tea break at the top of the hill junction with Gibbs Hill track.

Lunch break was at Separation Point. There were a couple of mature seals spotted and the continuous tape recording from some gannet colony was still squawking away non-stop

along with its 6(?) ceramic gannets in an apparent attempt to lure in gannets to start a new colony.

Finally, there was a magnificent huge full moon as we descended down Takaka Hill road back to Motueka at the end of our long day. A pleasant day out with pleasant MTC company.



*(Gannet photo – (Takapu) and NZ falcon (Karearea) - from Birding New Zealand website with thanks)*

## 26 May Dew Lakes

A carload of five club members departed Motueka on a stunning autumn day and arrived at Maitai dam shortly after 9am. Although cool in the shade, we soon warmed up in the sun on the climb up through the cutover production forest. The last time I walked to Dew Lakes, the first section of the track was

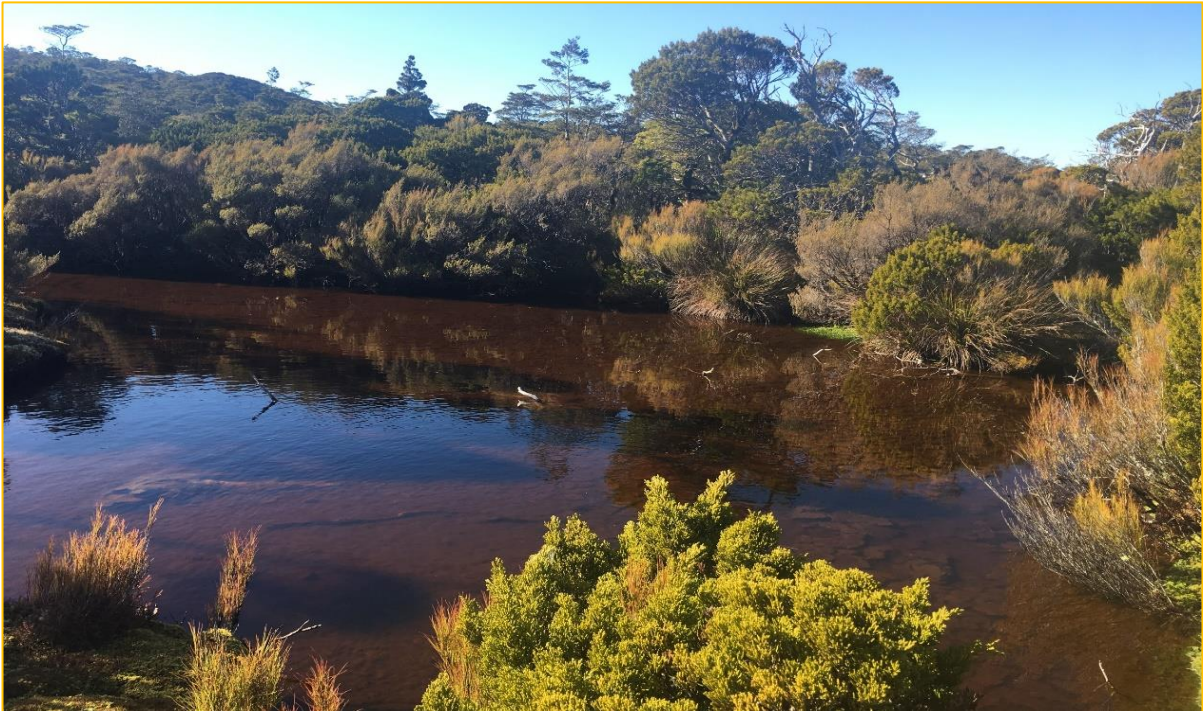


within standing conifer forest, but that has now all been clear-felled. It is now a rather stark landscape until you enter the native forest.

One of the appealing features of this trip is that the track passes through the ultramorphic or mineral belt with its characteristic stunted vegetation dominated by dracophyllum, manuka, tussock and southern rata. We made good progress and soon arrived at Rush Pool, a small damp clearing in the forest, covered by rushes – although there is now no obvious open water, but that may reflect the summer drought. After a brief inspection, we opted to continue to the site of the early Maori argillite quarry where we stopped for smoko. There is ample evidence of past activity at this site with argillite flakes spread over a wide area.



The local Maori were reputed to have carried up hammer stones from Nelson boulder bank to break the argillite rocks into workable sizes and shapes which would finish up as tools, weapons or ornaments.



After a pleasant break sitting in the sunshine, we pushed on up the ridge noting the cut vegetation from recent track maintenance work. The climb is considerable starting at around 160 metres at Maitai dam to Dew Lakes at 920 metres. The grade, however, is pretty steady and before long we were passing through several large semi open areas on the ridge where we got the benefit of great views up to Dun Mountain and across to Coppermine Saddle.

As we approached the crest of the Bryant Range, the track levels out and right on midday we arrived at Dew Lakes, just in time for lunch. We picked a sheltered spot on elevated ground and enjoyed the resident bellbirds, as we admired the emergent mountain cedar trees and abundant bog pine which surrounds the tarn.

After a good break, I had a poke around and discovered some old temporary markers leading off through the forest before the first lake and discovered why they are called Dew Lakes – plural. There is a number of delightful little lakes framed by this characteristic bog vegetation leading out to a large open area on the ridge south of the first lake. From here there is a broad view south into Mount Richmond Forest Park and Mount Fishtail, and down into Pelorus Valley. In all my previous visits to Dew Lakes I never realized the extent of the tarns. I invited the others to come and have a look and they were similarly impressed.

However, we reluctantly decided it was time to head back and retraced our steps back down the track to Maitai dam, with a couple of stops on the way. It was an uneventful return journey and we arrived back at our vehicle shortly after 3pm in time for an icecream stop in Nelson.

An enjoyable day out in the hills.

Thanks to the company of Yvonne H, Christine H, Helen and Barbara.

Dave

*(Photos: Yvonne H)*

*Right is a picture from a previous trip to Dew Lakes which someone had in their archives. It was too hard to resist a reminder of the way we once were....*



1-2-3 June Linkwater – not enough interest – so was replaced with:

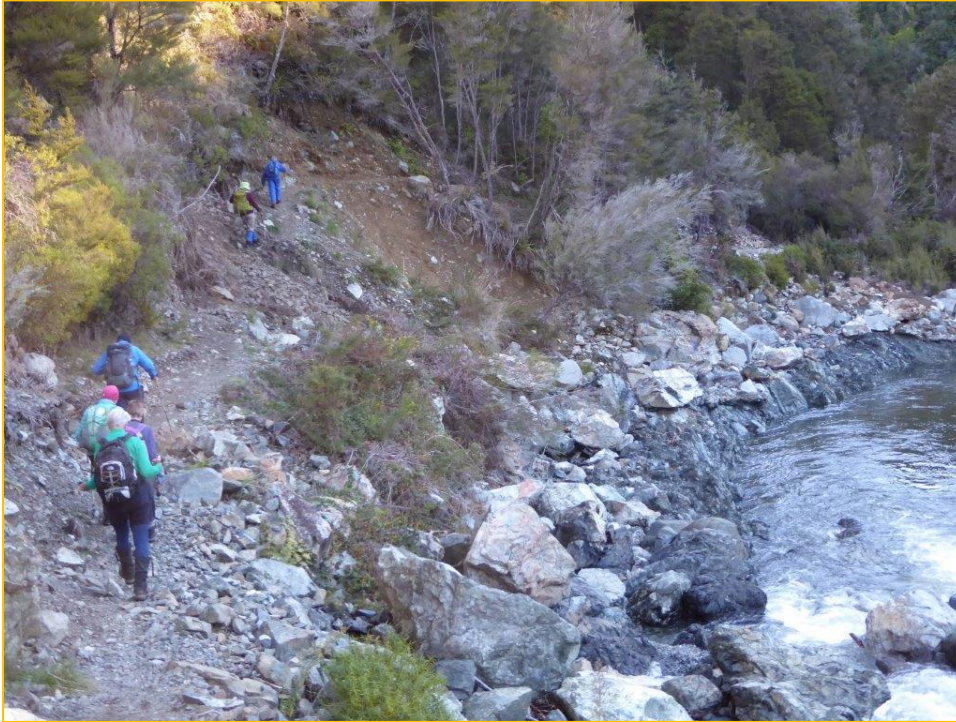
## 2 June Hacket Hut

A cold and frosty morning and a beautiful clear blue sky was a great way to start this day's



trip up the Hacket River to the hut. The temperature dropped as we drove up Aniseed Valley, and the Hacket car park was in deep shade and very chilly. There were a number of cars in the carpark sparkling with frost from their overnight stay.





We were in the shade up to the swing bridge and stopped for people to don a few more woollies. The swing bridge was nicely coated in ice, and a careful crossing ensued. The next few kilometres were also in shade, but finally we found a small

bit of track in the sun, and – pretty much blocking the track – enjoyed our morning tea, moving our legs for the few people passing by. The “few” people became a torrent as the day wore on. There were family groups with dogs, family groups with babies, family groups coming back after an overnight at Hackett hut – full of joy at the experience.

The hut was reached, and lunch was enjoyed in the sun. Then it was back onto the chilly track for the return journey. Frost was still lurking on the ground, and very little sun had reached most parts of the track.

A lovely day out, enjoyed by Mike, 2 x Yvonne, Wendy, Christine H, Ken, Eddie, Bob, Sarah (welcome back Sarah after a long absence – we hope to see lots more of you in the future).

Yvonne J

*(Photos: Bob)*





## 14-19 June “Absolutely Positively” Wellington

We changed the date for a variety of reasons - most related to ailments and it certainly paid off. The weather was the best it could be, and if we had gone at the scheduled time it would have been pretty terrible.

Seven members went from Motueka: Barbara, Dave, Laurie, Moppie, Muriel, Yvonne H and Yvonne J. Eddie and Joyce joined us for some of the Wellington activities and ex- member Richard came down from Wanganui for the Escarpment Walk.

### Sunday 14th June – The trip begins

We travelled by ferry or plane and got to our Lyall Bay accomodations in good time to get settled, and for most of us, off to Wellington City (by bus) for a bit of a wander around, Indian food in Cuba Street and Westside Story at the Opera House. An excellent production and a most enjoyable night out.

### Monday 15 June – Matiu Somes Island

Using our Goldcards (yes, all of us) we confidently boarded our first bus to travel free into Wellington CBD and the ferry terminal, where we met up with Muriel, Eddie and Joyce. We again used our Goldcards for ferry tickets to Matiu.

The weather was a bit drizzly, but we had a calm journey over to Matiu where we checked our bags for rodents and plant life.

We had a very pleasant few hours on the island, walking the tracks and enjoying the views. We hunkered down in the museum



up top for lunch whilst wandering around reading the information panels.

Matiu Somes Island is owned by local iwi (Taranaki Whānui) following a Treaty settlement, and is managed by DoC. Much has happened there. It was first occupied by Maori, and by mid 17th century there were two Maori pa on the island. In 1866 a lighthouse was built, and replaced in 1900. It hosted enemy alien internees during wartime, and became a

quarantine station for humans and animals. During the second world war it was fortified with anti-aircraft gun emplacements, and also there was a degaussing station (if you don't know what this is, see end of report under "Biodiversity and Other Stuff")

The degaussing station captured our attention. There was a "talking machine" at the location, out of which the women who conducted this operation told their stories. They were just girls at the time, recruited by the Navy from the Girl Guide movement. In their late teens and early twenties they were alone on the island for a week or so at a time, living in a cabin, and running the degaussing of (our) war ships.

Since 1981, thousands of volunteers have worked to return the island's landscape from livestock paddocks to native vegetation as existed on the island prior to the arrival of European settlers.

Since pests were eradicated the island has become a sanctuary for native plants, birds, reptiles and invertebrates including tuatara, kakariki, North Island robin, little blue penguins and weta. We certainly enjoyed the kakariki, but didn't come across Tuatara – the latter hibernating in some warm hidden spot.

On our return journey we stopped off at Eastbourne, had lovely warming food and coffee in a café by the wharf. Eddie then took us on an exploration of the Eastbourne area. Back on the ferry to return to the city, we had a surprise second journey out to Matiu before being taken back to the city.



Back at the lodgings, we cleaned ourselves up, and set off in two cars to go to Eddie and Joyce's home for dinner – with delivered pizza and byo. A very pleasant evening indeed and thank you to Eddie and Joyce for your hospitality and for sharing your amazing train set, Eddie.

Coming home, I (the writer) and my co-driver managed to disobey the GPS momentarily and ended up driving through Wellington International Airport departure drop-off zone, but my ever-patient GPS and co-driver got us out of there without payment of parking fees, and we returned safely to Lyall Bay headquarters.

Writer: Yvonne J (with thanks to DoC publications for information on Matiu Somes Island)



## Sunday 16 June Kapiti Island



The day dawned fine for our Kapiti Island excursion as we motored up from Lyall Bay to Paraparaumu Beach to board the Kapiti Nature Tours vessel, Te Aike, a large aluminium catamaran with twin 250hp outboards. We initially assembled for

a check-in at a local café for a bag inspection, and had time to enjoy a coffee and scones. Launching off the beach from a large tractor and boat trailer, we were soon on our way across to the island.

On landing on Kapiti at Rangatira Point, we were immediately welcomed by vibrant birdsong from the resident korimako population. We made our way to the visitor shelter for an introduction and briefing on Kapiti Island from one of the company tour guides. We were also fortunate to have Robert Hawke from Paekakariki accompany us for the day. Bob is a regular



guide for both tour companies who have concessions from DoC to operate on Kapiti Island. Bob and I started off in the NZ Forest service as ranger trainees way back in 1965, and still often go off tramping together.

As we made our way to the start of the trig track, we were lucky to catch a glimpse of one of the two resident takahe at a supplementary feeding station. We passed by the old whare which was the original farmhouse when the island was farmed in the 1870's and later used as the first caretaker's accommodation. It has since been restored and has an historic building classification. It was also home to Richard Henry, resident caretaker for a number of years after he moved up from Fiordland.

Bob guided us up the steep trig track with frequent stops to identify various bird calls and interesting trees and plants. We soon heard and sighted tieke (North Island saddleback)

flitting through the foliage. Tieke were introduced to Kapiti Island from their last New Zealand refuge on Hen Island off the Bay of Plenty coast.

Bob also drew our attention to the significant kohekohe trees which produce flowers and fruit directly from the trunk. They are winter flowering and their stunning little clusters of white flowers were evident. The remnants of last season's fruit were seen on the forest floor, and provide a valuable food source for forest birds.



As we progressed up through the forest, we passed a fine stand of tawa trees with their



characteristic light green foliage. We finally reached the summit, Tuteremoana at 521 m above sea level, in time for lunch. The views from the lookout tower were stunning with the almost vertical western cliffs of the island immediately below us. We also looked directly across to the top of the South Island and could see landforms extending from Stephens and Durville Islands down to the Kaikoura ranges.

However, soon it was time to leave the resident weka behind and head back down via the easier grade Wilkinson track. We stopped at one of the supplementary feeding stations for hihi (stitchbird) which were transferred onto Kapiti Island from their only NZ refuge Hauturu (Little Barrier) Island. The feeding stations are necessary as hihi are unable to compete for food resources with korimako and other resident forest birds on Kapiti. We were entertained by almost continuous visits from korimako and occasional hihi. The aggressive tui are unable to fit through the small entry apertures on the feeding stations but are often seen chasing other birds away.

On the way down our party was treated to a close encounter with a group of tieke,





whilst I witnessed a weka locating and extracting a very large earthworm which it vigorously devoured. Soon we were back down to Rangatira Point in time to reboard our ferry, which steamed up the coast to the north end of the island to unload and pick up other clients, before we headed back to Paraparaumu Beach to be met by the tractor and boat trailer awaiting our arrival.

A most enjoyable day out on Kapiti island. Thanks to Bob for his informative and entertaining commentary which was enjoyed by Yvonne H, Laurie, Moppie, Yvonne J, Muriel, Barbara, Carolyn - a friend of YH, and I, Dave.

Dinner at the Parrot Dog Brewery just along the road in Lyall Bay. Excellent food and a good variety and interesting beers.

### **Monday 17th June Escarpment Walk Pukerua Bay to Paekakariki.**

I was walking the Paekakariki Escarpment track, high up on the cliffs above Pukerua Bay, and had paused to admire the view. I was looking out to sea, when a sinister voice behind me said:



“How would you like to write up this outing for the Club newsletter?” I looked at the sheer drop at my feet, a hundred or more metres down to SH1, swallowed hard, and in a shaky voice said “certainly!”

The voice was Yvonne H’s. She’d earlier invited me to join the club’s walk along the escarpment, during the Wellington trip, and I’d been delighted; I hadn’t yet done the walk (since Robin and I left Motueka for Whanganui two years ago), and having the company of my old friends from the MTC was a bonus.

The Escarpment Track was constructed as part of the Te Araroa Trail, and obviously serves a vital task of getting walkers off the already-overloaded two-lane highway that runs around the coast between Pukerua Bay and Paekakariki.



The walkway greets you with a large signboard warning you that ***'the walk should not be attempted by those without a reasonable level of fitness, or who suffer from vertigo'***. And unlike some of the 'health and safety' warnings that litter the landscape these days, this one means what it says. But within those limitations, it's an excellent experience.

The construction of the track must have been quite a major engineering job, as such things go: significant lengths of it have been dug out of almost sheer cliffs, access to which is via long flights of steps – without handrails – up and down. Several deep gullies are crossed on suspension bridges.

The effort is regularly punctuated with signage covering the history, flora and fauna of the area; this even extends to the creation of a special area of driftwood, rocks, and plants which has been built as a haven for the scarce geckos which live in the area.

Our day was sunny, but with a fresh breeze off the sea. It's an indication of the nature of the track that our early grumbles about the icy wind became increasingly appreciative as we climbed higher and higher up the track.



The stats for the track are: 10km long; up to 220m high, and taking a time of 3 – 4 hours. Access is excellent, with railway stations at each end (take your Gold Card), and trains running every 20 – 30 minutes. I think we'd all recommend doing it from the Pukerua Bay



end, because of slightly fewer downhill flights of steps, and also because of the cafes etc at Paekakariki. It's apparently pretty popular at weekends, but we had it largely to ourselves on this weekday. If you get the chance to walk it, I don't think you'll be disappointed.

The group: Yvonne H and Yvonne J, Dave, Barbara; Muriel, and scribe, Richard .

We ate excellent food again. This time at Spruce Goose - another eatery just along the road from our accommodation.

## Tuesday 18 June Zealandia and e-Biking

Moppie and Dave had to get back to Motueka and the southerly wind was starting to blow so we had a variety of activities.

Moppie walked to the airport going through the tunnel under the airport that she had only just learned about, wheeling and carrying her luggage whilst coping with her recovering broken ankle.

Muriel went back to taking care of her grandsons.

Dave and Barb hired ELECTRIC bikes!! - they said it was because there was a cheap offer on Grab One, and it was definitely the right decision as they were the only ones to do the scheduled trip in the cool southerly wind (*that's an ex-Wellingtonians view of a howling gale, with sand blowing every which way – Ed and Wellington trip participant*). Dave had to cut his ride short going from the Wellington waterfront around Oriental Bay, Evans Bay up to Maupuia and back, and then via Seatoun, and Breaker Bay back to Lyall Bay and



then directly back via Kilbirne and Evans Bay to the bike hire place and taxi to the airport. Barb continued the quest of the southern coast and rode through Houghton and Island Bay to Owhiro Bay and back to Lyall Bay and then reverse trip back to follow Dave's route to return the bike. A great new trip for them and they did like the power! Barb had lunch at the Maranui Surf Club so was our representative to another great local eatery.

Yvonne J, Laurie, Yvonne H and Eddie went off to Zealandia - our third sanctuary for the week, and were able to see takahe again and reinforce our sighting and sounds of the saddlebacks and stitchbirds. No tuatara were sighted sunning themselves in their enclosure so we need to go back for a summer trip.

We again made the most of the Goldcard - catching the first bus after 9 am and Eddie made us run for the afternoon bus which we caught at a few minutes to 3pm - the bewitching hour for Goldcards in Wellington.

Dinner was had a bit further along the road at a very good Thai restaurant in Hataitai.

All in all, we had a most enjoyable and informative trip and it was great to catch up with Eddie, Joyce and Richard.



We learned lots about how to get around the city using public transport - train and boat and bus, and heard some great stories about what access “our age group” gets to the city and surrounds with the use of our “paid forward” cards.

Yvonne H

(Photo left: Dave and his i-phone – looking very “cool” and “with it”).

*(Photos: Yvonne H, Muriel, Yvonne J)*

**21-24 June ATNP Various destinations – Cancelled due no takers**

## **7 July Moa Park**



Dave had us on the road early. The sun was struggling to make its presence when we arrived at Canaan car park on a very frosty morning. The track was puddly after recent rain and some of us had a slip during the walk back down.

Morning tea was enjoyed at one of the track junctions where a few rays of sun pushed through the canopy. We were delighted to see a sturdy, safe new table at Moa Park shelter



after some of us had experienced the tip over action of the old one, sometimes with nasty consequences, lunch scattered afar and even injury.



As the day was still young we set off to Porters Rock for lunch. This part of the track had a section that was thickly carpeted with golden bronze dracophyllum leaves.

We basked on the rocks like lizards, eating and enjoying the sounds and visits of bellbirds, tomtits, robins and tui. All day we

heard bird song at volume suggestive of healthy populations that pleased us all. Dave and Phil got themselves to the top of the tallest rock just to prove that they could.

We returned via the farm valley and were back at the cars just as the sun was about to leave the carpark. Another satisfying day out.

Writer Muriel. Leader Dave, with Yvonne H, Christine H, Barbara, and Phil.

*(Photos: Muriel)*

14 July North Branch of Graham River cancelled due weather and replaced with

### **13 July Abel Tasman Coastal Track**

Four of us – Moppie, Yvonne H, Yvonne J, and Debbie sauntered along the track, lunching at Stillwell Bay. We met a few people coming into the park as we walked out, but otherwise it was pretty quiet.

On our way in, at Tinline Bay morning tea stop, we met a group of men running the track. At afternoon tea stop again at Tinline, the same

group ran past, having been up to Holyoakes, down (almost) to Anchorage and back along the track. Very impressive. I was reminded of a recent article in FMC magazine about two



young folk setting out on a challenging adventure, and at John Tait hut being met by “a group of kind elderly ladies” who made them cups of tea and stoked up the fire to get them warm and dry.

Yvonne J (for Moppie – leader)

## 21 July Great Taste Trail

I know everyone was waiting for a cancelation call on the morning of the 21<sup>st</sup> as we’d had rain all day Saturday and heavy rain into the early hours of Sunday morning. I duly consulted with Dave W and the result was yes let’s do it!

We all met at the car park at the end of

Sandeman Lane: Yvonne H, Laurie, Dave, Barbara, Phil, Serene, Yvonne J, Heather and myself.



We set off along the trail with some slightly dubious looking weather up to MacDonald’s and across to the more scenic part of the trail. It was a gentle uneventful ride out to Brightwater for our first stop and a timely cuppa for everyone at HQ café.

Then it was on to Wakefield with some people staying with the trail and some heading off with Dave to go over Mt Heslington Rd with us all successfully regrouping to stop for lunch in Wakefield. Again there was a small splinter group heading off for the bakery and pies with the remainder having lunch at the café.

We were then back on the road again with yet another division amongst the troops with some of us heading off trail to skirt round the trail and meet up again on the other side.

It was a lovely ride through the countryside, parts I had not been to before, and to top it all off the weather was fine, cool but no rain!

Thanks to everyone for coming. Debbie.



## 28 July Cable Bay Walkway

Seven of us braved the damp day to walk from the Glen to the high point looking down onto Cable Bay. Fortunately the heaviest rain we encountered was on our drive into the Glen from the highway. The winter bugs claimed one walker who called us to cancel as we sat waiting for the rain to subside.

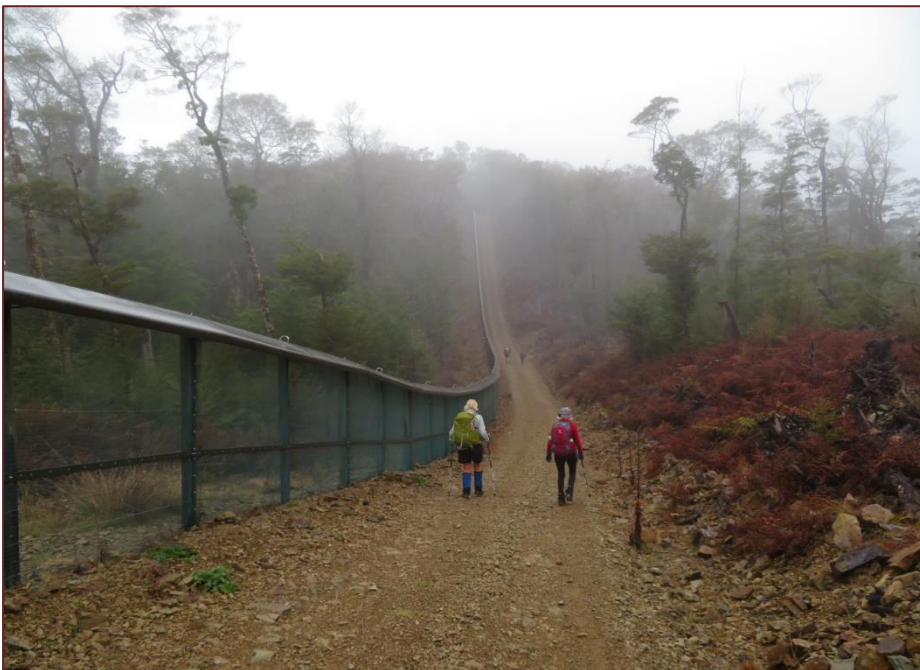
After the almost obligatory false start up the wrong road, we crossed the stream and headed up the hill alongside the trees. A short while later good views were had looking back to Nelson and the boulder bank. As a cold wind was blowing from the sea, we sheltered in a dry 'ditch' for morning tea. The usual chit chat took us through the bush to the open section. There, the party split, in part due to the winter bugs again taking their toll. Four of us continued up the steepish climb to a sheltered lunch spot overlooking Cable Bay. We did see a couple of very new lambs .

The mist was swirling around the air strip on our return down the gravel farm track back to the start where the others were sitting watching various boats - just managing to keep warm. All in all a good day even though a little damp.

Judy, Wendy, Muriel, Dave, Barbara, Yvonne H and Mary (scribe)

**3-4 August Salisbury Lodge** – cancelled due weather

## 11 August Barnicoat Range/Jenkins Hill/Third House



Participants  
Yvonne J, Debbie,  
Wendy, Jean W,  
Christine H, Dave,  
Ken, Phil.

The route was:  
Marsden Valley  
Quarry, Involution  
Track, Ridge, Third  
House, Dun  
Mountain Trail and  
Redwood Glade to  
Brook Street.

We assembled at  
the carpark on

Marsden Valley Rd end and set off at 9am up the Involution track. The weather was dry with some blue patches overhead. The track climbed through mostly secondary scrub and forest but there was a good variety of flora including some large straight-trunked beeches with

plenty of bird song and the odd inquisitive bush robin. Towards the end of the climb several mountain bikers were enjoying themselves on the downhill run.

Then we headed in a northeasterly direction. However instead of a bush track we soon encountered the Sanctuary fence (which was unexpected by the leader!!!) and walked on the adjacent service road which was a mixture of steep downward grades and even steeper upward ones. It was with relief we intersected the "old" track for the last few metres to Third House shelter. As we consumed lunch the rain started but it was not to last and we partook of our repast while cyclists and runners cheerily wished us well.



After lunch and with skies clearing we walked down Dun Mountain Trail as far as Cummings Corner where we followed the Sanctuary fence once again till we passed through a beautiful glade of *Sequoiadendron giganteum* and Eucalyptus, some of the former over 50 metres tall. The walk ended on upper Brook St where Ken had parked his car.

The 5 hours of walking from A to B was made possible by Ken's solution to the transport issue - so thank you Ken for providing a shuttle service. As we made our way back to Mapua/Motueka the heavens opened; therefore we were pleased the weather gods smiled on us that day.

Phil *(Photos: JeanW and Yvonne J)*

17-18 August Fenella – cancelled

### **18 August - Holyokes Coastal Track Circuit**

We had a good turnout for this walk, particularly as it was a substitute for Fenella hut – which had to be cancelled due to road closure. Disappointing not to get a weekend at Fenella, but fingers crossed for a later trip when the slips have settled on the Cobb road.

According to the photos, it was a very nice sunny day. We were Muriel, Christine H, Yvonne J, Yvonne H, Marie, Heather and Margaret.

Some discussion took place on which route to take and in which direction. We finally decided to head up the hill just past Tinline, NOT to go to Holyokes,







but to turn off just prior to then, drop down to the coastal track, and back to Marahau. Bit of a grunt up, bit of a slippery greasy slope coming down, but soon we were trotting back stopping at Tinline for a final cuppa before heading back to Marahau.

I seem to recall there were plenty of stops to check out the views, to

progress conversations that had to be abandoned on the steeper slopes and to enjoy such a pleasant day out.

Yvonne J – scribe for the day (Photos: YJ)

**25 August Mt Evans – cancelled**

**1 September – Dun Mountain – cancelled due various reasons including access**

## **7 September Canaan to Wainui Hut and return – Heritage Walk**

Road works on Graham Valley Road to Flora meant a change of plan from an original heritage trip to Mt Arthur hut and beyond.

We set off, as former club members did on 2 September 1984, from the Canaan carpark following the track up through the bush edge towards Wainui hut turn off.

There was lots of talking, remembering old friends and a stunning day to share. Yvonne H provided ginger



crunch for morning tea as we rested on an extra long log on the ridge at Canaan. The Edmonds' recipe she used for the ginger crunch may have been the same one eaten in 1984 and enjoyed just as much. We all loved the crunchiness of it and reminisced lots.

Ten members, Mike, Jess, Sarah, Muriel, Yvonne H, Ann, Bill, Carol, Anna and Christine (our newest member who joined that day), set out that fine morning. AND we then met two ex-members Helene and John B, which is why there is a photo with twelve people in it! A good turnout for the MTC.



In recognition of it being a heritage walk, we had the oldest (age) and current longest serving member on the walk.

During morning tea the trip plan altered to one of climbing up to the lookout point on Moa track and then returning to the car park via the farm track.

It was an enjoyable day out in a much appreciated area of the MTC tramping Club's tramping environment.

Muriel

(Photo: YH)

## 15 September Gordon's Ridge (replacing Dun Mountain Trail)

Four of us travelled, optimistically, towards the turn off on Wai-Iti Valley Road that heads up to Inwood Lookout carpark. It is marked from the road turn off with orange triangles (there are a number of forks). The weather was due to clear up. Some other walkers must have believed that too.

The track climbs up through bush and some open areas until it comes out into an alpine landscape. The dracophyllum plants stood out with their bright orange foliage and pale lichens were scattered amongst them. The track was very exposed and a cold wind assailed us. The cloud hung onto the ridge above but as we climbed the cloud began to be almost around us. It was morning tea time. Dave found us a little space with some slightly larger bushes and rocks to hunker down in. It was out of the wind and as we were cold, we had a chance to warm up.





Unfortunately the cold wind continued, light rain and no change in the cloud had us deciding our best option was back down and to go to Falkner's Bush park in Wakefield for our lunch - which we ate in warm sunshine. We were entertained there by a very large dog and a much smaller dog that was tethered to the large one. The owner sat nearby as the two dogs got exercise. The smaller moving around the larger continuously but only able to go as far as the tether allowed. An amble for one and a bounding frolic for the other. Very amusing.

Dave (leader) Barbara, Ann and Muriel (scribe)

(Photo: Muriel)

**14 September – Cobb Hydro Station open day** - postponed

**21-22 September Nydia Track** (instead of Sylvester Hut due road closure)



On a very fine Saturday five of us travelled to Duncan Bay and the start of the Nydia Bay Track. Lea was with us for her first encounter with MTC.

We began walking at 10.30, and as the sign said, it did take us six hours to get to the Lodge around 4.30pm. The track up to the saddle rises steadily but not overly steep. We had morning tea on the beach at Ngawhakawhiti Bay at 11.30 and lunch in the sun just over the saddle at about 2pm. The pet eel was still in its pool and gazed at us expectantly with very blue eyes. We had no morsels that it fancied. There were several smaller fish swimming close by, but it didn't show any interest in them either.

The walk leads near to the shore and past a number of homes, chalets and farmland before it turns towards the Lodge and there is only half an hour to go - but first a largish stream needed to be crossed. It was running very low and Yvonne J amused us by climbing into two TDC rubbish bags and walking in them across it. (*ed required great moral fortitude not to delete that bit*).

There were four young people at the Lodge but still enough rooms available for us to each have a room of our own for the night. Luxury. The generator proved easy to start and the califont gas heaters made for instant hot water and hot showers! Our evening conversation related to topics of climate change, dried food meal options, local politics, what time to leave in the morning etc.

Another fine morning and dawn chorus greeted us. Some were up soon after six, as was one of the young people, a doctor; she planned to run through to the Kaiuma Bay end of the track, turn around, and then run back to Duncan Bay. She passed us later where, after having just crossed the saddle, we were eating our lunch. Some time was spent trying to identify plants on our return and noticing the ferns and nikau palms and the first flowering clematis.



We arrived back at the car at 2.30pm and into Motueka before 5pm. A very pleasant weekend in an attractive area of the northern South Island.

Ann, Yvonne J, Yvonne H, Lea and (leader) Muriel

*(Photos: Lea)*

**29 September Beeby's Knob** – cancelled due weather

## Bits of history and bio-diversity:

### A bit more club history:

The club recently had a “heritage walk” to commemorate a trip in 1981, being the earliest record we have of trips made. The walk didn't follow that of 1981, due to road closures and weather, so Wainui had to suffice.



Below are copies of the Club's cashbook for 1980/81 showing membership. Some of you may find names listed that are familiar to you.

MOTUEKA TRAMPING CLUB. 1980-81

Receipts.			
April	17	Travel Lighthouse trip	\$ 96 90
	9	John Bloss Subscription	5 -
	17	Ian Goodman Subscription	8 -
	"	" Donation *	2 -
		Joyce McFadgen Subscription	5 -
		Judith Haycock Subscription	5 -
	"	" Donation *	1 -
		Norma Haycock Subscription	5 -
		Mr. & Mrs. McDonald Subscription	8 -
		Mr & Mrs Shee Subscription	8 -
		Mr & Mrs Pons Subscription	8 -
		Robyn Goodman Subscription	5 -
		Eric Ellis Subscription	8 -
		Rev Elliott - Kaitiaki	2 -
		Pat Curran Subscription	5 -
		Joe Fox Subscription	8 -
	22	W. J. Marshall Subscription	8 -
		R. A. Gibbs Subscription	5 -
	27	Travel Bark Bay trip	19 -
May	13	Rosemary Solwell Subscription	5 -
	15	Market Day (2 deposits)	130 -
	16	Market Day (1 deposit) included \$13 - for Big Raffle	59 04
	17	J. W. Gibbs Subscription	5 -
June	5	Marguerite Bester Subscription	5 -
	9	Peter Munro Subscription	6 -
	9	Peter Munro Monogramme	2 -
			431 94



Receipts

		brought forward		\$ 431 94
Apr	June	13 A. Cumming	Subscription	\$ 9 - ✓
		14 J. Knapp	Subscription	\$ 6 - ✓
		17 Ron Way	Subscription	\$ 6 - ✓
		19 Sharon Best	Subscription	\$ 6 - ✓
		19 Sharon Best	Donation *	\$ 4 - ✓
		21 Doug Turner	Subscription	\$ 6 - ✓
		25 Denis Shaker	Subscription	\$ 9 - ✓
		25 Travel Cobb-Graham Valley	surplus -	\$ 6 - ✓
		27 Jane Blair	Subscription	\$ 6 - ✓
		27 Cushta McMurtry	Subscription	\$ 6 - ✓
		30 Robert Atkins	Subscription	\$ 9 - ✓
		30 Barry Mills	Subscription	\$ 6 - ✓
		30 G. Trewavas	Subscription	\$ 6 - ✓
July		2 A. Brookes	Subscription	\$ 6 - ✓
		3 Alan Atkins	Subscription	\$ 6 - ✓
		4 Brian Hartshorne	Subscription	\$ 9 - ✓
		6 P. Fry	Packhire	\$ 7 50 ✓
		7 Big Raffle (\$13 - raised on Market Day + banked)		\$ 272 50 ✓
		8 David Payne	Subscription	\$ 9 00 ✓
		8 Freda Alison Turniciff	Subscription	\$ 9 00 ✓
		14 Christine Shee	Subscription	\$ 6 00 ✓
Nov		28 Cheque for travel to Fen. Hut (2 adults)		\$ 10 00
Dec		13 Chan Jendenam	Donation Trav. Fund	\$ 2 -
		13 Cheque for travel 4 members Xmas tramp.		\$ 16 00
		13 Golden Bay Alpine & Tr. Club	Donation *	\$ 5 -
				\$ 874 94



## Degaussing on Matiu/Somes Island

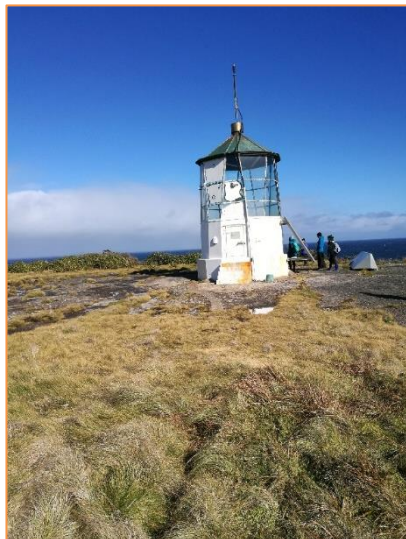
Degaussing station – consisted of 12 detectors between two buoys 125m apart, about 1km off the eastern side of the island. Allied and British merchant ships were required to pass over the range to get a reading. They would then be advised by the Women’s Royal Navy Service (WRENS), if they needed to be degaussed – which was reducing the magnetic signature of the vessel by a copper cable hung around the hull. A concrete pad, foundations and some fencing can still be seen at the site of the station, which was demolished by the navy at the end of the war.



*The only flowers found on that icy day up the Hacket. Coprosma grandifolia or Kanono.*



*White basket fungus Ileodictyon cibarium – ATNP July*



The humble remains of Puysegur Point Lighthouse, Preservation Inlet, Fiordland. If you ever are awake at night and listen to the 4am National Radio marine weather forecast, you will be aware of Puysegur Point. There was a fine wooden lighthouse built in 1879, burnt to the ground in 1942, and a much smaller lantern room was erected in 1943 with bits from Godley Head Lighthouse, automated in 1943 and de-manned in 1990. The lighthouse keepers’ houses were all demolished. However, the lighthouse is still operating.

*(Photo: yj from a recent visit there)*

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