



Motueka Tramping Club

Newsletter

January 2022

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Happy New Year!!!

I trust 2022 has started well. We had some wonderful trips last year, some cancelled and replaced with other equally enjoyable journeys. A few of us have participated in two trips so far this year, so make a resolution to join some club adventures, keep fit and enjoy the company of your fellow members.



And from President Rob:

Dear fellow trampers

Again, another year has passed by. 2022 is now on its way and the first 2022 Newsletter is in front of you. I wish you all the best for this year in good health and a lot of good tramping! And of course, all the other nice things life is offering.



I hope this will be the last year having restrictions due to Covid. I hate the two-tier Covid-society we are living in now and sincerely wish that people keep both feet on the ground. Rarely do you know better than your doctor, and in general by far your best chance is to rely on your doctor's advice. So it is with scientists who have a far better view on now-a-days knowledge, and can make better balanced decisions than we, having average knowledge, can. It is the wise person that listens and reacts to those who are known to know more about a certain subject!

Having said that, the biggest challenge for the coming years is to tame the "wild beast" of misinformation and populism on the internet. The internet by itself though is a fabulous medium. Our little tramping club would be struggling with gradually declining membership if there had not been internet. Our club website has been found, and new members are enrolled. Maybe it is partly due to Covid, but I also believe it is a result of our website.

So stay strong, enjoy life, join tramping trips, and socialize. 2022 will be a wonderful year! I trust omicron will find its way to the exit!

Rob Bruinsma

It was with sadness that we reported to you recently about the death of our old club member and long-standing President, Jean Jenks. She had reached the grand age of 90, still walking and botanizing with friend John B. Jean was a great gal. Photo below taken at Waiuta Christmas fancy dress party a few years ago. Jean is centre front in lilac!!



We knew how to party then!!

Trip Reports:



10-12 September Fenella Cancelled due weather and replaced with:

12 September ATNP Anchorage Hut



Heavy rain, snow and gale force winds were not ideal for a weekend in the mountains, so it was Plan B. We set off in lovely sunshine, happy to be out again. Stopped at Appletree Bay for morning tea and then continued on.

Sarah was interested in spotting where the orchids (*Earina mucronata*) were located at the entrance to the track down to Watering Cove.

YJ took great delight in showing us mistletoe growing on Kanuka in the area around the lookout, that Helen showed her on a previous visit. Of course we could see it everywhere once we knew what to look for. (see end of report for photo)



We arrived at the hut for a late lunch and after settling into a bunk room two brave people went for a swim. A circuit walk via Pitt Head to Te Puketea Bay was undertaken where there was a lot of clematis flowering - which we decided seemed early.

The hut was only about a third full so social distancing was not a problem in the evening and with a good fire going we had great discussions over dinner. The next morning we retraced our steps with lots of botanising going on. Stopped at Appletree for lunch this time and the same two brave people went for a

swim again.

A stop was made for an icecream at Kaiteriteri which was a good way to finish a lovely trip. It was great there were so few people on the track. and we wished it was always like that.

Thanks to Yvonne J, Yvonne H, Sarah Sm and Debbie for their company.

Scribe Ann

19 September Mt Robert Circuit cancelled and replaced with:

Killdevil

Having consulted the weather gods (Yvonne and Yvonne) our initial tramp to Bushline via Paddy's and Pinchgut was changed to Killdevil Track, Golden Bay.

Eight of us - Debbie, YvonneJ, YvonneH, Eddie, Maggie, Sarah Sm, Ann and myself set off at 9.30 to kill the devil. A quick pic of the group with masks on, Yvonne H won the mask competition in her very stylish paua shell mask!

The weather was stable with no wind. A steady pace was kept up the zigzag track with Sonya aka mother hen making sure she wasn't scuttling off too fast at the lead, and YvonneH at the tail end keeping everyone in check.



There was a small stream crossing at the start with some glad to have nana poles to assist. A few stops were made on the climb up to look at views out across the valley to see the road up Takaka Hill and down the valley



towards Golden Bay - and to get some breath. There was a lot of bird life as we walked through the protected private land area. A large slip on a hill could be seen as we were about ¼ of the way up. There were no mad mountain bikers seen all day and it was great to have the track to ourselves.

We lunched at the top before walking down a bit to tin hut. Lovely panoramic views amongst the scrub. Some of us went on to see the tin hut, definitely just a shelter, no bunks or fire but could be a blessing in a howling gale. We also walked on a bit further to a huge outcrop rock which we climbed up and looked out to beautiful views across valleys to Devil Range with the emerald green Waingaro River below.

A reasonable pace was made back down to the cars to meet up with the non-Tinline group. Just then the weather decided that a nice day would come to an end. About 4pm?

Sonya

19 – 23 October 21 Old Ghost Road

The Team: Lynda, Margaret, Marie, Moppie, Yvonne H, and Yvonne J.

This report is made up of contributions from each participant with their various impressions of the trip. Long tramp, long report!



<Overview - Margaret

As Mae West said, “Too much of a good thing can be wonderful!” and so we lucky six found for our five day tramp of the OGR.

The actual weather was better than forecast; the huts were not as full as bookings suggested; our packs were lighter than normal as the huts provided stoves, cooking gas, pots, plates, cutlery etc;

Covid was still basically an Auckland thing and did not curtail our activities at all;

the scenery and views were as superb as ever;
our botanists enjoyed discovering small, interesting plants;
when we did need assistance, the PLB and helicopter rescue worked perfectly;
and the lost glasses were found – in a very safe place, of course!

Thanks to the amazing vision and perseverance of the OGR track and hut builders and maintainers, we had a fantastic tramp.

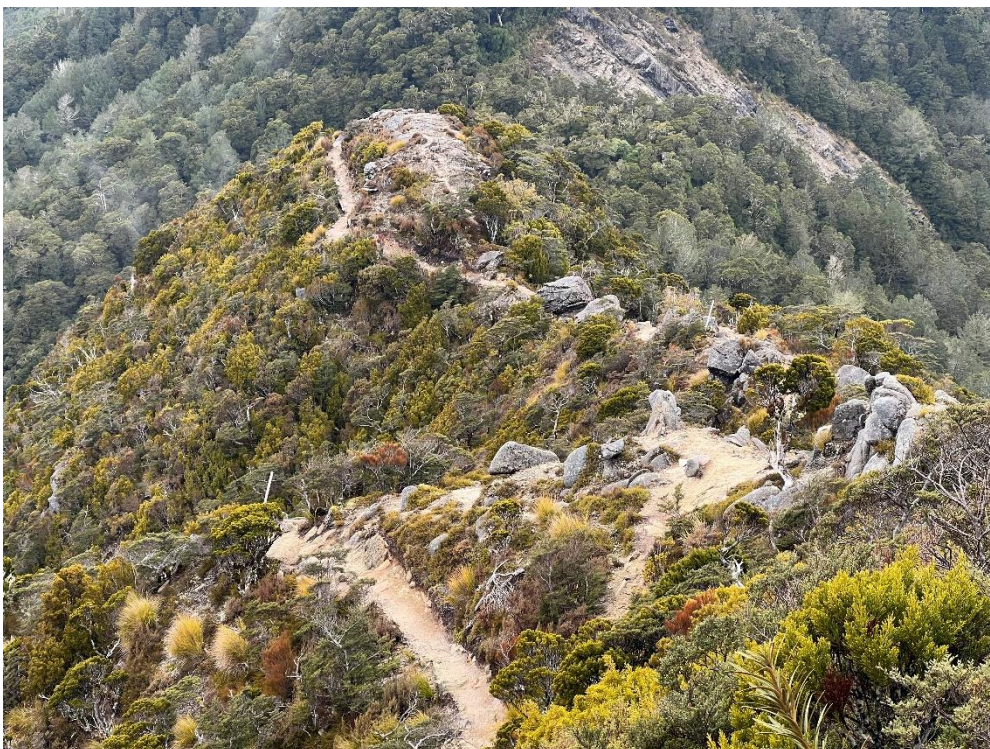
<The alpine bit - Marie

The second day of the OGR provides some easily accessible ridge top walking with spectacular views of mountains in all directions. Bald Hill and Rocky Tor (1456m) are passed on the way from Lyell Saddle Hut to Old Ghost Lake. From the hut the lights of Murchison can be seen with Nelson Lakes in the far distance.

The varied alpine vegetation along the way shows the way plants have adapted to the frequently harsh environment.



<The Boneyard - Moppie



On day four of Old Ghost Road we reached the “Boneyard”. Tectonic forces have created a network of interconnected faults which have sheared and tilted the geology. Massive earthquakes can occur along these fault lines. The biggest yet was the 1929 Murchison Earthquake which killed 17 people and created the area known as the Boneyard. Today, the whole hillside is still covered with rubble and rocks the size of houses. Halfway

across the Boneyard we spotted a sign saying “No stopping or loitering for the next kilometre”. So we made

our way quickly across, but we couldn't resist a photo of Lake Grim - dark and forbidding - and Lake Beautiful - a glorious blue colour.

<The first timer on a long MTC Trip - Lynda

5 days and 4 nights seemed very daunting as I was gathering my belongings and kai ready to tackle Old Ghost



Road. I knew I had the great benefit of being lead by Yvonne and four other very experienced trampers.

The scenery was stunning and equal to our 10 Great Walks.

The weather behaved beautifully, a great group to walk with along the trail and what seemed like a staged

evacuation by the rescue helicopter for our injured leader. It was so organised and by the book when the helicopter whisked her away within the hour, I was thinking they were demonstrating to the newbie how it is done. We carried on to complete OGR and as Hillary said, 'we knocked the bugger off'. A great experience.

<The fourth timer (of the complete track) and botanizer - Yvonne J

For 2 x Y's, this was our fourth crossing of OGR. Trip 1 was wet on days 3 and 4, Trip 2 was wet on days 4 and 5. Trip 3 was beautiful weather all the way, as was Trip 4 - beautiful weather - except that 1 x Y didn't finish the journey. No doubt she was more disappointed than I at not having her company to complete the 4th traverse.

Well, I love the alpine section of this walk. We took this day slowly, enjoying being in the mountains with huge views - and with the usual wondering



about "what mountain is that over there" - and a fair chunk of botanizing on my part. Bit early in the season this time, but still lots of plants to enjoy and keep us guessing.

Second most favourite bit is the bone yard - lots of corybus orchids peeking out from under very large rocky outcrops, but alas not yet in flower. The terrain before and around Stern hut had some very interesting plants to look at. For instance, some moss which looked as if it had fungi growing out of it turned out to be moss sporophytes - according to my book "the mature phase in the life cycle of moss". These things produce and distribute spores. A wee tap puffed out masses of white pollen looking spores. It is also interesting to observe the differences along the track between seasons, and in the forest type once over the hill and onto the west coast.

Five of us completed the traverse in good heart and sound of body (well, sort of) to enjoy coffee and cake at our favourite coffee cart at Waimangaroa, before the journey home.

The alternative route out. And not quite fourth timer (of the complete track) - Yvonne H

The bit that really took my attention early on this trip was the variety of lichens, mosses, fungi and other mostly ground level plants enjoying the damp places. I took lots of photos. But being helicoptered out on the fourth day had to be the unexpected highlight. My ankle had been fine for the 3 and a half days on the track. It had been diagnosed as having been sprained a month ago but had recovered nicely. However as we progressed down-hill towards Specimen Creek Hut it became clear that my mildly sore ankle was becoming unable to weight bear.



There was an abundance of knowledge and experience in the group - medical, problem solving and strategic. We had regular discussions, problem solving and plan modifications until we decided I wasn't going to make it to Specimen Hut (and recover there for the next day - an early plan/fantasy), and the decision was made to make it to Goat Stream Hut, where a helicopter could land, and we had the shelter of the hut if we had to wait awhile, became the plan. Once there I took my role as the injured person very seriously and lay on a bunk enjoying listening into the process of the PLB release and how we were going to be sure to be seen by the helicopter. In 50 minutes the helicopter arrived, I was piggy-backed to the chopper and with one pilot and 3 paramedics taken directly to Nelson Hospital. I totally commend the skill and care I received throughout the whole experience, you team.

My photography efforts while in the helicopter had to be interrupted for the blood pressure measure and retelling of the injury event, but that didn't take long

and I got some good pictures of the lush native forest, the less than beautiful forestry areas, farming and housing areas and then into the city. Also perfect take-off and landing.

The x-ray showed a fracture, and somewhat confusing to the medics, it appeared to have had a few weeks of mending. It wasn't just a sprain I had a month ago! So into a moon boot and using crutches for the next few weeks. YH

(Photos: YH, YJ)

28-30 September Mangarakau Swamp

Tuesday

We set out from Motueka with the intention of walking the Puponga Hill track on the first day. However after spending rather an extended time enjoying the delights of the café in Takaka we decided to start from the Wharariki beach end with the goal of at least making it to the Cape Farewell lighthouse. We were greeted along the track



to the beach with the sight of some juvenile seals cavorting in the stream and later as we traversed the sand dunes they came out of the water and posed for the cameras. A bit of a slog up the steep undulating terrain at the back of the beach gave us a spectacular view of the shoreline and there were many stops along the way to enjoy the views and catch our breath.

Across the paddocks there were lots of lambs sticking close to their mothers who viewed us with suspicion.



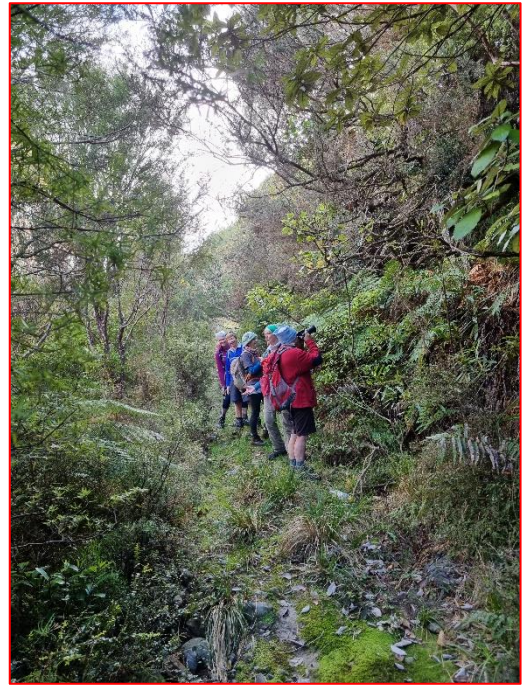
Lunch was enjoyed under the lighthouse before walking back the same way and then driving on to Mangarakau Swamp.

During the day there had been lots of talk about climbing to the base of the bluffs across the road from the swamp but after settling into the cosy house with a cup of tea this idea began to wane and we settled for a shorter walk in the late afternoon to Lake Mangarakau, a very peaceful spot where we could watch the ducks and admire some plants along the way. No sound from the bitterns though.

Wednesday

After a very convivial evening most of us had such a good sleep that we missed hearing the bittern that Ann said she heard in the night, but it was nice to know they were there (*see bittern photo at end of Newsletter*)

After breakfast we drove to the end of Snake Creek Road and walked a track that leads to an old bridge across the Patarau River. The first part of the track is through low scrub but then enters forest and follows the river with tall rata and rimu trees and dense patches of ferns. A local group has been developing



this track to join with the Kaituna Track but it is still in the early stages of development. We were not expecting to be able to cross the river but this group has marked a spot where it is possible to cross the river where it is relatively shallow when not in flood. We managed to get across and explore for a bit on the other side before coming back

and finding a sunny spot for lunch. The native clematis were flowering profusely in places and we also came across some heavily flowering Toro (*Myrsine salicina*) near the track. Exploring this track further might be something that could be done on a future trip.

After lunch we retraced our steps and drove back to the house where we spent the rest of the afternoon exploring the tracks around the swamp and admiring the amazing work that the Friends of Mangarakau have done to enhance the area.

Thursday

After a wild and rainy night with no chance of hearing bitterns we awoke to a fine morning and after cleaning up set off for the Knuckle Hill walk. Although mostly uphill the gradient is fairly gradual so it was a pleasant start at an easy pace with the trees sheltering us from the blustery wind. The rain in the night had made the track quite wet and the small waterfall along the way was very picturesque. We sat down for morning tea just where the track deviates to Knuckle Hill.

Once off the main track and starting to climb through a narrower rocky track through very low vegetation we became much more exposed to the wind and by the time we reached the top we were all ready to find a sheltered spot for lunch which was only available by hunkering down in the thick vegetation.





The views of the Wanganui Inlet and out to Farewell Spit are spectacular from the trig and lots of photos were taken. Concentration was required on the return trip to make sure not to fall on slippery rocks and it was a pity that it was too early to enjoy the pretty sun orchids that are common on the track but everyone agreed it was well worth the effort.

On the way home there was the obligatory stop for icecream in Takaka. A lovely few days with great company and gaining the knowledge that there is more to explore in this beautiful part of the country.

Participants: Debbie, Yvonne J, Moppie, Ann, Chrissy, Helen (leader) (Photos: YJ)

3 October Hackett

Four of us set off over to the Hackett area. The track takes you past the turnoff to Whispering Falls then at a track to the right you turn and start climbing a reasonably steep ridge. We puffed our way up to the top, which comes out on an old road, made by miners looking for chromite years ago.

After a stop for morning tea, we carried on along the track which is quite high above the river. It eventually takes you down to the main Hackett track.

The day was a bit overcast but pleasant for walking. We reached Hackett hut about noon where we ate lunch. We took the route back over a low saddle and onto the track which goes up to Browning hut, sort of doing a bit of a circle, eventually coming back onto the main track and to the car.

Everyone enjoyed their day out. Participants Marie, Margaret, Sonia L and myself Christine as leader.

8-9 October Cape Campbell Lighthouse Walk

Day 1

We set off in two cars, participants being Judy, Debbie, 2 x Yvonne, Sarah, Helen, Moppie, stopping at Pelorus for coffee (of course) and at Havelock where we walked the end section of The Link Pathway from Queen Charlotte Road to the entrance to the marina. Very interesting bit of estuary. We enjoyed birds, plants and

the interesting "stuff" at the harbour entrance. Sadly the Link Pathway is no longer available as a through walk/bike as recent storms have eroded large sections of track

We then drove to the southern side of Blenheim and walked Wairoa Lagoons Shipwreck walkway. As this starts and ends at the Blenheim sewerage works, there were some doubters and lack of enthusiasm amongst the group due to less than auspicious start/finish point, but we did have lunch there by the ponds, and walked the track as a circuit. It is a very interesting bit of coastal saltmarsh.



The wreck of the ship Waverley rests along this pathway, very rusted and sad. The ship was towed from Wellington to the mouth of the Wairau River where it was to be sunk to form a breakwater. Before being scuttled, it was swept up the channel in a flood to where it now lies, in the Wairau Lagoons.

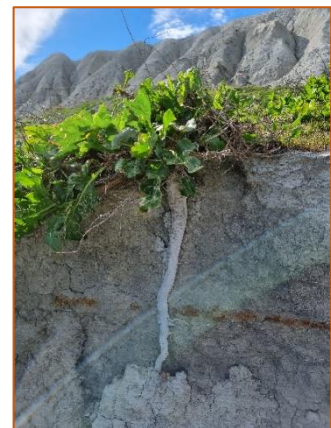
We headed off then to our accommodation at Ward. Leader does admit to having a little difficulty finding the place, due to looking for it in the wrong town - always did get those towns mixed up! After settling in, we had a very nice birthday celebration for YH whose birthday it was that day. She even contributed her own cake.

YJ

(Photo: Judy)

Saturday

After a slight detour we found our way to Marfell's Beach to begin our walk. Although the tide was still fairly high we were able make our way along the beach without getting our feet wet thanks to the power of the November 2016 earthquake. The re-shaping of the land was very evident with the bare



coastal strip and



intertidal zone still struggling to be colonised with plant life. Inevitably the first to gain a footing were the weeds. We were surprised to find the most abundant and thriving was silverbeet!

We stopped for lunch just below the lighthouse and were entertained by a small family group endeavouring to launch their dinghy. Having wheeled it

on the trailer to the top of the beach which would once have been shoreline, they were then faced with a considerable expanse of bare rock before the actual water's edge. We admired their persistence and



enterprise as they dragged and man-handled it, even employing bits of driftwood as rollers. They deserved a cheer as they finally motored off across the Bay.

We studied the very comprehensive information boards put up by the Peters family who own the land surrounding the lighthouse and discovered the 7.8 magnitude earthquake raised the shoreline by between 1 and 2 metres and shunted the Cape Campbell Peninsula 6 metres closer to Wellington.

Eighteen shipwrecks occurred off this coast between 1845 and 1947, so a

lighthouse was vital. The original wooden structure was built in 1870 but became unstable. Its replacement was built in 100 cast-iron sections and shipped from the foundry in Thames in 1903. It took five days with eight horse teams and wagons to bring them ashore from the surf boats. That it survived the 2016 earthquake unscathed is a testament to its design and construction. Originally painted white, the black stripes were added later to make it stand out.

Judy (Photos: Judy, Helen)

We made our way home, stopping at Havelock for the inevitable icecream. A very enjoyable trip, thank you to participants Judy, Debbie, Yvonne H, Sarah, Helen and Moppie for your splendid company – and me YJ who did lead her party astray on a couple of occasions.



17 October Bike Ride Tapawera/Tadmore/Glenhope – Cancelled due weather



28 October to 1 November Wellington – Cancelled due ? Covid scare



It was a very lovely day, with a bit of misty cloud about the tops from time to time, but no wind and warm-ish.

Our group was Marie, Brian, Ann and myself, YJ. We headed up Paddy's track, stopping from

time to time to admire views, have morning tea, and trying to locate Ghost Lake Hut on OGR track (we did the reverse of this on OGR trying to locate Bushline Hut – or at least Robert Ridge). Who knows on both occasions whether we were looking at the correct bit of mountain range.

We had lunch at Bushline Hut (which according to two young things who arrived to stay the night, it was going to be full up).

We had a leisurely crossing of the ridge, looking at plants,



admiring the view, discussing the very large signs erected by DoC advising of the hazards of going to Angelus and wondering how some people seemed not to understand the message which was IN SUCH LARGE PRINT.

We saw two Karearea. Lots of pimelia in flower (which one?), and Ranuncula (but which one). I just love being up on Robert Ridge. Jean Jenks took me there for my first ever alpine botanising trip many many years ago. I have loved the alpiners ever since.

We made a swift descent to St Arnaud village shop for icecream.

YJ

5-7 November Kaihoka Lakes - Wyllies based trips

Day 1

We had a seamless pick-up of 7 ladies (yes, all ladies again) in two cars, proceeding briskly to Wholemeal Café in Takaka for lovely muffins/coffee. Thence onto Limestone Road, and Wyllies farmhouse. We have stayed here many times, so no surprises.



Without delay, and ably shepherded by Moppie, we headed off down through the farm, sizing up cattle beasts and their newborn offspring - and up the hill onto Lunar Tops. There are many and varied rock formations looking very much like lions, dragons, craggy old men and lizards – and other forms best not to mention.

We botanized a bit and enjoyed the massive sea views, the incredible landscape, and the farmland behind the dunes. It was a beautiful calm, warm day – a bit rare judging by the almost horizontal nature of most of the trees along these cliffs.

We did a circular journey, and then back through the farm to our accommodation – a big house with lots of rooms and beds. Drinks and nibbles were conjured out of chilly bags, dinners prepared and eaten, lots of discussion on what we had seen, what the plants were, the wildlife encountered and a few yarns were told.

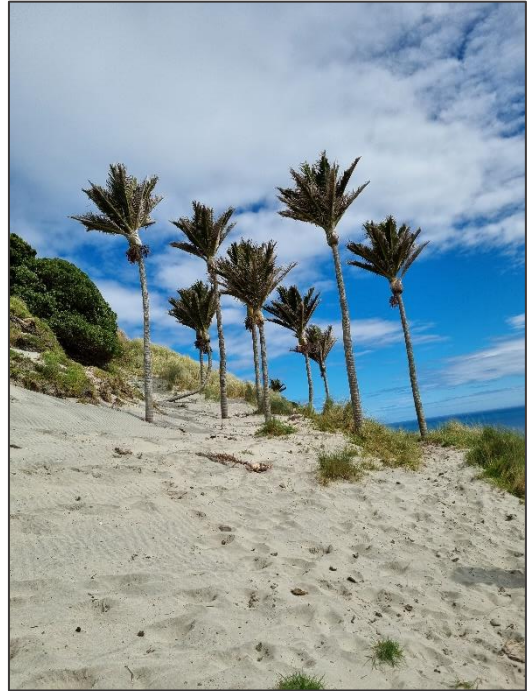
A very enjoyable day, thank you Moppie. YJ



Day 2 – Morning - A stroll to Kaihoka point and back

YJ, Moppy, Anne, Marie and Sonya set off via Kaihoka Lake to do a circuit via Kaihoka point. We walked up to the lake, and along the track and beyond out onto private land, admiring the lush Nikau forest. We were then into pasture of the neighboring farm and on up past cattle yards to the headland. As we walked up a steep track, we could look down past a small stand of Nikau to Kaihoka beach; such a great view. Not as many Nikau as in past years and a lot of the sand dunes had been taken over by grass.

We had morning tea out on Kaihoka point after going along a ridge line with steep drop offs on either side. Following sheep tracks we found a nice spot out of the wind looking south towards Anatori way down that coast. All of the farm has numerous intriguing rock sculptures, some of which had faces or even one that looked like Puff the Dragon. We quickly descended down the sand dunes, once a route was decided, turning into 12-year olds as we descended with hoots and hollas of delight, we came out onto Kaihoka beach. Judy and Kathy joined us and 3 sea nymphs had a swim whilst the others watched. We walked back through the valley, via the middle route, admiring the rock outcrops above us and came into the forest of very thirsty looking Rimu. Lots of other interesting fauna; Tanekaha (celery pines) were growing amongst Nikau. Back to the farm house for lunch and a rest before the afternoons walk. Sonya



Part 2 Afternoon

All of us YJ, Moppy, Anne, Marie, Sonya, Judy, Kathy went in convoy to the neighboring farm. Fergusons. This



farm is situated on the northern headland of Westhaven Inlet at the end of Limestone Road. We met up with a family member who produced a map and suggested a route. She said not to mind the bull in the paddock with his girls - just walk quietly past them.

We spent the entire afternoon until about 7pm exploring the beautiful coastline. We walked across the narrow part of the headland to the west coast and followed that coastline around to the mouth of Westhaven Inlet. We were able to do this

because of the extremely low tide which at two points can make passage around the headlands impossible. We all enjoyed the remote beaches, caves, rock pools (where the sea nymphs had another swim). A couple of guys were donning on wetsuits to get paua and maybe crayfish. The rock cliffs were fascinating to see, the layers and colours etc.



The walk around the inlet proved to be a navigation challenge as some parts were either pugging in soft sand or soft mud. A light breeze kept us cool; not a lot of bird life - we only saw one oyster catcher. We discussed about staying at Dickkies and/or the Fergusson's cottage in the future and spending more time over on the coast. Maybe not the inlet. Some fishing would be good to try.

We were lucky to enjoy the whole weekend with beautiful weather and not much wind.

Sonya (Photos: Sonya)

Day 3 - Last day at Wylie's Cottage

We woke early to a beautiful morning and after an imitation of whirling dervishes the house was cleaned in record time and we left soon after 8 am.



A visit to Kaihoka Lakes followed with the more energetic (Ann, Yvonne and Marie) walking, and the ones keen for a swim going by car. The lakes (although with the raised water level, it was one lake rather than two) were idyllic. There was not a breath of wind and there were perfect mirror-like reflections of the beautiful nikau and other native trees in the water. Sonya, Kathy and Moppy had a very enjoyable swim in the silky clear water, serenaded by native birds, with Judy as photographer. What a way to start the day! Absolute magic and much warmer than

the sea swims the previous day!

Meanwhile, the walkers had arrived and Yvonne and Judy set off round the lake on an orchid hunt, successfully finding some hooded orchids close to the track. Sonya and Marie stayed for some contemplative time by the lake, whilst the others continued along the lake track. The bird sounds were incredible and it was good to have some orchids pointed out to us on the way back which we had walked right past on the way!

Next stop was Pupu Springs. There was a very large coach on a tour with ladies from the North Island. On chatting, we discovered that they had previously been to French Pass and we were visualising the situation if we met their coach when we were travelling by car on such a road!

It was a pleasant walk to the springs, with lots of bird song, including the distinctive sound of the shining cuckoo. The springs looked pristine and crystal clear in the sunlight with a beautiful energy.

Finally, coffee time! We decided to visit the Wholemeal Café again for our fix of caffeine and cakes, always a treat. Some were tempted by the amazing plant shop on the way.

Lunch was a picnic at the Grove which Moppy added to the agenda when she discovered that Sonya had never been there before. It didn't disappoint and is always impressive.

We enjoyed our lunch in the picnic area, Yvonne was amused by the 3 mad Poms, Moppy, Judy and Kathy all sitting in a row in the sun at the picnic table, whilst the others found shade. When you've been brought up in England, you get used to making the most of every bit of sun!



Time to head home! Goodbyes were said after a very enjoyable weekend with good company and spectacular scenery in a quiet and little visited part of NZ. It was such a privilege to be on this trip and I thank Moppy for her great organisation and efforts to keep everyone happy. Kathy *(Photos: YJ, Sonya)*

14 November Mt Malita Cancelled due weather

20-23 November Angelus – Cancelled due weather

28 November North Branch of Graham – Cancelled
Replaced with

27 November Ackersten Bay, ATNP

The mountain forecast for Graham River trip was for rain, wind and low temperatures. This was the 5th attempt!

Ten members started out from Marahau. There were plenty of Joggers on the track. At Appletree, after morning tea, there was an enthusiastic weed pulling session and the beach was almost weed free by the time we left. Many thanks to YJ.

We continued on to Akerstan where there was quite a breeze but we found shelter. 6 members took to the water which was pretty nippy. Our lunch was accompanied by a pesky weka. In fact there were plenty of weka in the park with small ones being taught bad habits by their parents.



On our return we found some lovely Caladenia orchids, and at Tinline we did the bush walk as some had not done it before. Such beautiful bush. Sonya spied a couple of swimming holes. It was a very pleasant day.

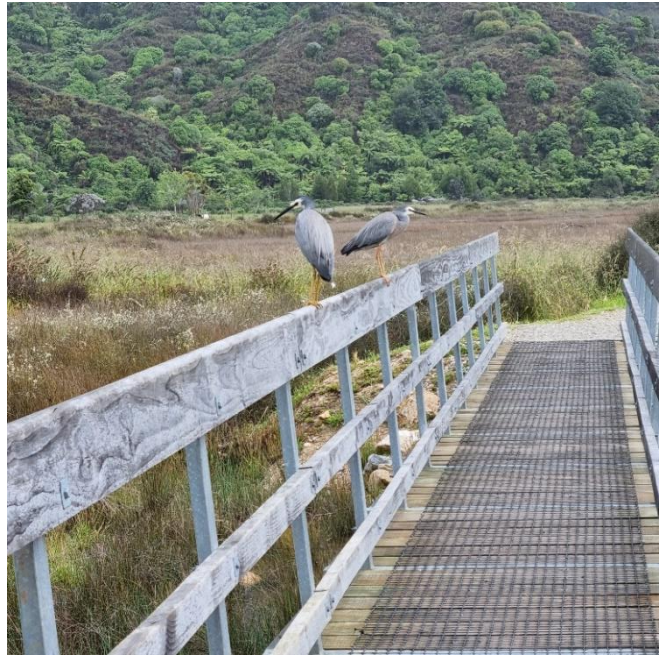
Participants: Ann, Birgit, Eddie, Helena, JeanW, Judy, Rob M, Sonya, YJ and myself , Moppie.

3-6 December – Cobb Hostel based walks - Cancelled due weather and replaced with;

6 December – Appletree Bay

Rain was the main topic over the whole weekend with feelings of regret on Sunday when it turned out to be a good day. On Monday we couldn't stand it anymore and decided to put the rain jackets on and give them a good test on reliability. We were not disappointed except for Ann who now has to give her jacket a good spray to get it water proof again.

Ann, Yvonne H, Yvonne J and Helena had a very nice walk into Abel Tasman National Park to enjoy a lunch at Appletree Bay. Over lunch, our cups of tea became diluted with rain water, and so lunch was very quick - but still we so enjoyed the beauty of the lush green foliage and the small creeks, turned waterfalls.



A very special experience which the four of us really enjoyed, and thank you YJ for being so persistent!!

Helena

(Photo YJ)

12 December Christmas Picnic at Rabbit Island – *Where Were you??*

The weather seemed to be challenging – while it was quite wet in Motueka, the TDC webcam showed a



reasonably dry sky over Rabbit Island early morning. As forecast, the skies cleared at midday and the weather was lovely for the afternoon of the Christmas Picnic.

Yvonne J, Yvonne H, Laurie, Judy and I sat in the sun, eating our offerings and discussing a range of topics from the source of our Christmas lunch through to nudity! (*really? us?*)

)/We went home happy and refreshed, before lunch turned into afternoon tea.

Merry Xmas and Happy New Year... Heather

(Photo: YJ)

19 December – Picnic and Swim at Appletree Bay

It was a beautiful day to set out on our walk. We had Judy, Yvonne H, Rob M, Ann.

It was a leisurely start with a stop at Tinline for morning tea. We then moved on to Appletree Bay, we had several stops to view orchids, before arriving in time for lunch

Disregarding the tale of not swimming after a meal Yvonne, Ann, Rob and myself went for a swim. The water was a good temperature, we were well refreshed and ready for the return journey.



A very pleasant stroll in ATNP as always. Debbie *(Photo Oystercatcher family Judy)*

Sunday 2nd January Mt Arthur

Seven of us ventured off on a hot day to climb Mt Arthur. After a stop at Arthur Hut for morning tea we climbed up behind the hut to great views all around. Four continued on at a pace to conquer the top but three of us decided to botanise instead.



A beautiful tiny green orchid was the highlight to find, and also spotting lots of edelweiss on a scree slope, among many other plants identified.

Three of the four heading for the top made it to enjoy their lunch while one sat further down amongst some more orchids.



We all grouped together at Arthur Hut and after cooling off and munchies we all walked back down to a very full carpark.



A good day was had by all even if some did not make it to the top

Thanks to Helena, Yvonne J, Sonya, Bob, Birgit

and prospective new member, Janet for joining me, Ann.

(Photos: YJ)

7-8-9-10 January Waiuta – Cancelled and replaced with:

9 January Pupu Springs Hydro Walkway

This was a clever alternative on Debbie’s part to choose an easier trip for a very warm day which mostly would happen in bush and alongside water – which, oddly enough was used for a dip by one member.

The “activities” for the day started with coffee and cake at Wholemeal Café (which was buzzing with people) and thence onto the hydro walkway. We walked in a clockwise direction, doing the more exposed track before the temperature rose.

We had lunch alongside the water-race and indulged in a spot of “lunch box” races in the fast flowing water. This was the result of watching a group of walkers enjoy their annual “boat” race using a coconut and a banana, interspersed with plastic drink bottles scientifically filled to a certain level to ensure the “boats” travelled smoothly to the end of the course. I believe the coconut won.



Not to be outdone, we launched our “boat” lunch boxes. Ann’s sea-worthy craft was the winner but there may have been some skull-duggery involved!!



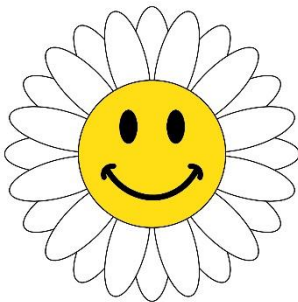
We then spent the rest of the journey looking for koura (fresh water crayfish) in the water-race. They are very hard to spot, but we all managed to sight and even photograph some – though said photos not worthy of publishing. The skill to finding a koura involved lying on the track, as you can see.

We had a really fun day, finishing with



icecream at Takaka in the shade of a big shed. Participants were Rob, Brian, Bob, Chrissie, YJ, Janet, Debbie, Ann, Helena.

Yvonne (for Debbie)



A big thank you to members who wrote wonderful reports, sent fascinating (and sometimes un-publishable) photos and shared their collective memories for all to enjoy.

Don't forget that these reports are stored in the club's digital archives for generations to come - well, hopefully so...

Your editor, YJ.

Bits of history and bio-diversity:

Korthalsella salicornioides - dwarf leafless green mistletoe.

ATNP Sept 21



Godwits at Marahau (*Photo: Judy*)



Australasian Bittern (Matuku)
(stolen from a web site)

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