



Motueka Tramping Club

Newsletter

September 2022

Email: secretary.motuekatc@gmail.com
Web site: www.motuekatrampingclub.org

Public Notices

Christmas Party – not to be missed

Put on your calendar: Sunday 18 December

Picnic at Rabbit Island



Details will follow.....

Next Programme – Summer 2023 (crikey!!)

Is there a tramp/walk that you would like to do?

Somewhere you really want to go?

Then contact Ann (2lidsworth@gmail.com) to discuss your idea

New Club Members

We welcome Kirsty, Trish, Sonia
and Dave



President's Prose

I was recently at a conference of research on kiwifruit. One of the outstanding features of each presentation was the effect that the particular research had on everything – not only the fruit or plant, but consumer health, consumer acceptance, orchard production, orchard ecology, workforce/workplace satisfaction etc. People are being encouraged to think outside their own square. So how does Motueka Tramping Club shape up in the overall scheme of our community? How well do we – each member - engage with our community and reach out to those we think could benefit from what we offer? Do we want to engage with other groups? Remember that local body elections are coming up; maybe this is a good time to question candidates on how their policies will affect the development and usage of our special outdoor spaces.

Heather

Trip Reports



3 April Lodestone

It was a beautifully calm and sunny day when we arrived at Flora carpark with no sign of the chilly wind that is often felt there. Having decided to walk the track in a clockwise direction we set off toward Flora hut.

We crossed the stream without getting wet feet as it was so low, and made steady if slow progress up the steep slope towards the top of the spur. Once on the spur the track is a lot less steep until closer to the summit where it gets a bit more exciting with some bluffs to go around and a steep little gut which was challenging for some.



At the summit we enjoyed a clear blue sky with spectacular views of nearby Mt Arthur, and all the way to the Kaikoura Mountains to the east and Takaka Valley to the north.



After a photo opportunity exchange with a large family group, we sat down to have lunch on the northern side of the slope to shelter from the cool breeze though it became quite hot in the sunshine.

We noticed that on the bare patch where vegetation had been burnt in a fire some time ago, there were a few weedy plants which were just about to set seed. Some of our number who spend time weeding as volunteers on conservation land are very familiar with this weed and were horrified to think that it would establish this far into the park, so we carefully removed these plants (not generally allowed on public land as it is too easy to mis-identify plants!) hoping to reduce the seed source for at least a while. While doing this we noticed a variety of native alpine plants which were establishing there, taking advantage of the open space, including a lovely little

mountain buttercup.

After this diversion we carried on down the steep incline of the second spur, but it was not long before the terrain became less challenging and we made good time getting back to the carpark before 3pm. A wonderful day of good weather and good company, being Kathy, Maggie, Birgit, Marie, Yvonne H and Muriel.

Helen (Photos: Helen)

30 April to 2 May Great Taste Trail

Day 1

Great organizing by Gerda.... Four people: Gerda, Rob, Muriel and Katerina. Unfortunately Moppie had to drop out. A great three day trip, starting with a ride up Community Road and over the top to Tasman. Then on to Mapua and across to Rabbit Island via the ferry. We left the official Great Taste Trail and took the back track which followed the inlet edge and as the tide was in we had stunning views across the sunshine lit water. Reaching a fork near the end of that track, we went left on the narrow and named bike track and came out near the Rabbit Island bridge. We left the Great Taste Trail onto Cotterell Road and went by the Appleby Recreation Reserve to cross under the road onto the stop bank and rode it all the way to Brightwater, via Waimea river. After refreshments at the HQ we went back on the official trail and rode on to the Wakefield pub where we enjoyed good food and accommodation for the night.



Katerina

Day 2



A grey almost damp Sunday morning greeted our start. Gerda and I left before 8.30am.

To make a longer day's ride we headed up 88 Valley to Hiwipango and then back, mostly down, Wai Iti Valley road to join the official trail a little south of Belgrove. The other two were to follow the true trail all the way to Tapawera. A slight misadventure saw that distance extend so by Tapawera it was only 7kms shorter than our 88 Valley ride. The rain stayed away and the sun was out soon after we emerged from the tunnel.

We met very few riders but once at Kohatu

noticed many more riding through from both directions or arriving at the cafe, a popular lunch stop.

The ride to Tapawera was new to me and Katerina and very pleasant. The pub's separate accommodation is new and very comfortable but not sound proof. Clouds gathered and thickened during the late afternoon and a wet day was forecast. Some cross-country off road bikies were in the pub having their prize giving amid lots of clapping. They too stayed overnight but fortunately retired early! Muriel

Day 3

Low cloud shrouded the hills. The rain in the night had abated but looked imminent. Raincoats handy, we set off towards the Baton River and the new cycle bridge. First through the valley from Tapawera on sealed roads, then onto a thick gravel road where traffic forced us into the deeper gravel on the edge, a long climb up and over the hill and a light shower of rain then down to that bridge, complete with a smart new toilet. We were soon onto Baton Valley Road. The weather remained dull, not very inviting for stops so we rode non stop until we reached the Baton road bridge.



Katerina parted from us there to visit nearby family. The remaining three of us went along Dovedale road to the turn off for Jacob's Ladder, through Orinoco Valley and the inland road to Central Road, then to the other side of Motueka and along Pah Street where I parted from Rob and Gerda. I was back at my house for a slightly late lunch. It would be good to do it again at a more leisurely pace.

Muriel

(Photos: Muriel)

8 May Mount Malita



After a cool start (specially wading a very cold river first thing), we soon warmed up as we started climbing uphill through open areas and some lovely bush. The bush has some of the best mature lancewoods to be seen along with some big mountain cabbage trees.

We summited in time for lunch with great views. It took a bit of hunting to find the hut and a few people went in to find it well stocked and very clean and tidy.

On the way down we came across two sets of chairs well placed for a photo shoot.

A good group consisting of Sonya L, Una, Yvonne J, Moppie, Rob and Gerda, some of whom had not been on this walk before. A very nice day out.

(This was Gerda and Rob's last trip with Motueka Tramping Club, as they departed soon after to return to the Netherlands. We will miss them on our future adventures. Ed)

Leader Ann. (Photos: YJ)



15-16 May Fenella Hut - Cancelled due weather

22 May Canaan

We were 8, Leader Moppie and Heather, Ann, Marie, Christine H, YH, Judy and YJ.

After a seamless pick up of ladies at the right place and the right time, we arrived at the top of the airstrip to be greeted by two young frisky kea, who hopped about, flew about calling loudly, regarded us with great

interest AND took undue interest in our two vehicles – belonging to Ann and Heather. With some trepidation we left the kea in charge, the car owners having decided which bits of the cars were required for future driving, and which could (and most likely would be) found entertaining to the kea. More later....



It was a lovely day, warm and sunny in some places and definitely chilly when exposed to the brisk south-westerly which developed a bit later. We had morning tea on an interesting rocky outcrop, and lunch by the musterer's hut – which looked bleak and damp in the shade. For

entertainment during the walk we had goats, some beautiful looking cattle, and a battalion of sheep determined to mow us down.

We had a visit to the quarry for another sit in the sun before continuing back up the hill, some via the short cut and some up the road.

NOW on arrival back at the cars, the kea had indeed enjoyed Heather's roof rack and we found on the ground little bits of the black stripping from the roof rack. Heather philosophically picked up all the pieces, said it was fix-able and both car owners were somewhat relieved not to find the cars totally wrecked.



We had a lovely day.

Thank you Moppie for your organisation, and especially for your contact with the property owners who have willingly let us walk their property for many years. Moppie's friendly association with this family over the years has given the tramping club such enjoyment of this private land.

Yvonne J (for Moppie who takes off tomorrow for the UK and Europe)

(Photos: YJ, YH)

29-30 May Rocks Hut – cancelled and replaced with:

29 May Hackett Hut

We left the car park with frost on the ground, and it was a very cool walk to the swing bridge which also had frost on it. After walking along by the river for a while, we headed uphill on the new “high” track, which warmed us up, to the old Chromite mine area.



We also spotted some very late flowering gentians. Two of us looked into a mine but decided the wetas might get us. We then sidled along the ridge before going downhill to meet the main track to Hackett Hut where we sat in warm sunshine eating our lunch.

We then had a brisk walk back to the cars.

Thanks to Sonya and Yvonne J for their company. Scribe Ann.

5 June NOT Waitui, but:

Takaka Wander

No, Waitui didn't happen - again. After a week of predicting a nice day for Sunday, the weather forecast changed slowly to 'an overcast day with rain developing late afternoon' to the reality over the hill of 'it's drizzling already'. After a quick consult at Upper Takaka, we opted to head for the coast, stopping for a sheltered coffee on the way. From the lively and lengthy conversations about places we had been and seen, this was a good choice.



It turned out that two newer members of the group had not been to The Grove and others had not been there for a long while, so that was our next destination. We made a colourful party in our winter jackets although more against the cold as it wasn't raining at the time. Talk was about how the placement of some rocks came about and the tenacity of plants to grow from the smallest of spaces.

But the weather was not on our side and as we finished the short walk the drizzle set in even here. We called it quits and headed for home. On the way we diverted up Waitui Road for a reconnaissance but were discouraged by a flock of sheep grazing the roadside.

Thank you to our drivers who did so much of the work - Ann and Maggie - and companions Yvonne H, Judy, Rob M, Sally and Marie. Heather. *(Photo: Judy)*

12 June Flora/Arthur Hut Circuit – Cancelled due horrendous weather



19-21 June Outer Abel Tasman Trip

Three of us - Ann, Marie and Yvonne H went on this trip. The first stage was a water taxi ride to Awaroa. 12 people were on the small Wilson's boat from Kaiteriteri - the skipper, 5 paying passengers and the others were either trapping, guiding or otherwise supporting Wilson's clients. The skipper gave us the full tourist talk and sightseeing tour, which was very professionally done and really informative, even though most of the group were pretty knowledgeable about the area.



The small boat enabled us to go into the various inlets on the way up while dropping people off – which also got us very close to our hut. It was an excellent way to see the inner Abel Tasman - as well as being much quicker than our usual method of transport.

We had Awaroa and Whariwharangi huts to ourselves. The huts had been occupied most nights over the last few weeks but only with 3 to 4 people in the main. Awaroa had a great fire and plenty of dry firewood and



we made exceptionally good use of both. Whariwharangi not so much. There we huddled around the fire, trying desperately to get inside the firebox whilst wearing most of our clothes. Agitating the fire seemed to keep it going better than the closing the firebox method and we achieved a reasonable heat source about the time we declared it bed time. I don't think any of us removed any of our clothes before getting into sleeping bags.

Both huts were really clean and had flush toilets! We didn't try the cold showers.

The weather was excellent. Cold overnight but warm while we were walking. Most importantly the tide went out on schedule and we crossed the Awaroa Inlet without incident with only the very last bit of the tide going out in the deepest channel. It is a leader's nightmare not to get the tide right and I was most relieved to see the crossing place empty of water.

We saw only one bird flying around at Separation Point so even though the "pretend" birds have been removed the area is still not appealing to real birds. There were a few seals lying about.

There weren't many people on the track but we chatted with them all until we got to "5 degrees of separation". It is a small world out there.

As well as penguin and other bird prints we found an area with multiple deer hoof prints and pondered for quite some time why there were so many. We dismissed all the ideas we came up but one of the people we met on the track told us that deer go down to clean the mud from their hooves in the sand. Who knows!!

Fungi were the plants of interest on this trip.

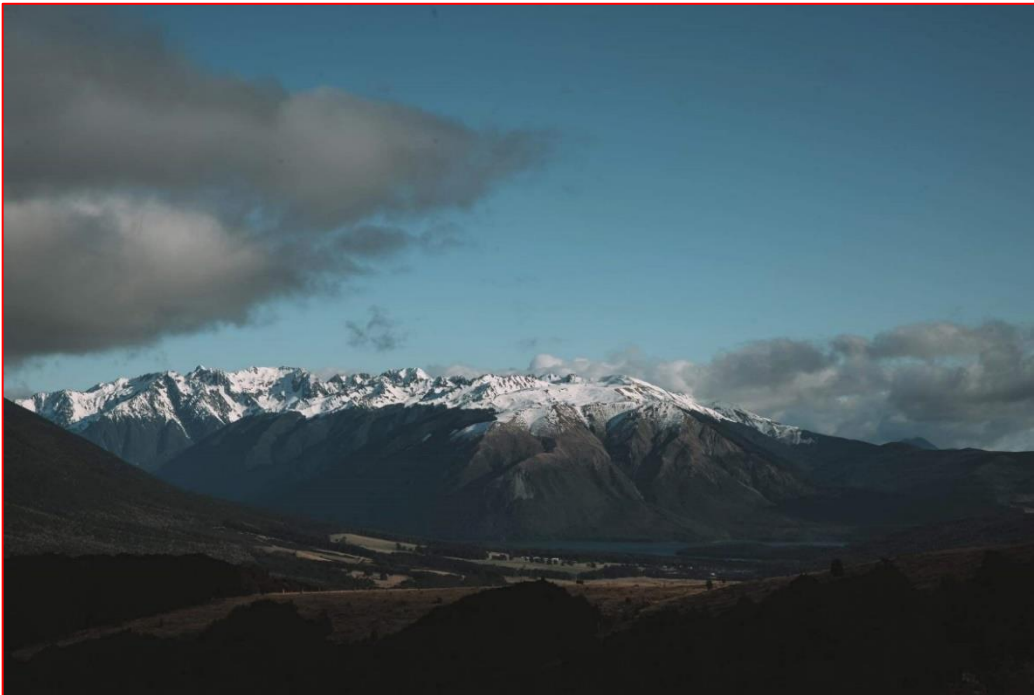
We decided it was a good idea to put boat trips and other parts of the Abel Tasman on a future trip list so look out for Awaroa to Anchorage.

Yvonne H (Photos: YH)



26 June Beeby's Knob

There were seven walkers who set out that frosty Sunday morning: Yvonne H, Ann, Kathy, Sonya, Soerign (daughter of Sonya), Marie and Maggie, all well rugged up for the anticipated cold day.



We departed the "car park" (i.e. Tophouse gravel roadside pull off) at 09:45 and slowly made our way up the 4WD track, beside the pine plantation. It was clear and cool and we got some great views down the Wairau Valley and across to Nelson Lakes National Park mountains.

We started getting into light, slushy snow from about the 2 km sign upward but the temperature was well above freezing so there was no ice. Walking through the beech forest was beautiful.

By 12:00 we reached Maitland track turn off to Red Hills hut, which is just at the top of the tree line. This was decision time as the visibility had closed in with very low cloud and a cool westerly wind. Consensus was to continue on towards the summit and hut and hope that the visibility might improve. But it didn't. So after about ½ hour of trudging through the snow, just past the turn off to summit of Beeby's Knob (unseen), we decided to turn back. There were several short, tantalising glimpses of the fantastic views of the surrounding valleys and snow-capped mountains. We even glimpsed the top of Beeby's Knob...briefly. Then the clouds came down again.

So it was back to Maitland track turn off for a hurried lunch, sheltering in the beech forest, followed by an easy wander down the hill. Of course, it cleared as we went lower and there were more good view photo opportunities. We were back at the cars by 15:00.



We met several other walkers and one biker. Everyone was most impressed with the biker – he had only one leg and had pushed well uphill on an ordinary mountain bike. His dog was also



interesting. He carried a very long stick in his mouth and we all stood well back to the side of the track as he trotted by us.

We all agreed that we'd had a very pleasant day out in the hills. It was great to have young Soerign with us, hearing about her life in Wellington at uni. She took lots of photos and some are included below. We all enjoyed the crisp, fresh, clean air and uplifting views and went home refreshed and invigorated. Well I did anyway!

We left BK summit and hut for another day with longer daylight and better visibility.

Maggie (leader)

(Photos: Sonya)

3 July Dew Lakes – Cancelled due weather and replaced with:

Grampians – Tawa Track

The planned trip to Dew Lakes could not go ahead because of ongoing forestry operations, and given that it was a cold July day and a lower track was more appealing, it was decided to try Tawa track in the Grampians.

We started up the track from beside Fairfield House in Van Diemen Street. A gentle climb took us to a point where the track winds around the hill giving good views of the town. We were lucky to be on the sunny side of the hill as it was very chilly anywhere in the shade. The vegetation is a mixture of native and exotic trees and we were rather dismayed to see how many invasive weeds were present



there. After passing through some areas of pine forest we stopped for morning tea break at a sunny spot with a good view of the Boulder Bank, Nelson's unique landform.

After the break we turned south climbing in and out of a gully before starting the long steady climb to the saddle where the Tawa Track joins the Grampians Walkway. After that little work out, some were keen to make the final push to the communications tower at the summit, while others were content to wander down to the view platform which provides a wonderful panoramic view of Nelson city, Tasman Bay and the mountains of Kahurangi National Park to the west.

As there was a chilly wind at the saddle, we sought out a sunny grassy patch in the sun to have lunch and afterwards followed the Grampians walkway down the hill, before dropping down the Ronaki Track back to Van Diemen Street. This was a very pleasant walk for a cold winter's day.

Helen L

(Photo: YJ)

8-9 July Sylvester Hut - Cancelled due weather

17 July Holyoakes Clearing

Well this trip wasn't cancelled and it turned out to be a perfect day. No rain and not too hot and not too cold. Bob, Judy, Margaret, Sonya and 2 x Yvones all had a most enjoyable day.

This walk is very much an up and down again, and it was indeed a reminder of just how long the up goes ON for. And just how "up" it is. But definitely much easier with a day pack than a tramping pack.

We had a reminder of preparedness, or lack of it, on our way down. The story is:



Five people had left their home town, about 3 hours away from Marahau, on Sunday morning intending to get to Castle Rocks Hut for the night and then via the Inland Track to Totaranui over the next two days. The advertised time to Castle Rocks Hut is 5hrs and 30min from Marahau and sunset on the day was 5.13pm. It was the Inland Track not the Coastal Track they were taking.

We met the first of the group, two men with large, heavy packs at about 2pm about an hour from Holyoakes. They told us about the rest of their group, a man who had a new hip fitted recently, and a couple who were "making slow work of the terrain". These two were climbing well, although not enjoying the weight of their packs.

A bit further down we passed the third party member using a stick with enthusiasm and a pretty unusual gait but on a mission and he didn't stop to chat. We couldn't have stopped him even if we wanted to.

At about 2.30pm we met the last two people in the party; they were at least an hour from Holyoakes and given the speed they were going, it would probably have taken them longer. After chatting for a short time it was clear they would not get to Castle Rock Hut in the daylight and we had a conversation about them



perhaps staying at Holyoakes, The group cooker was with the front two and the couple would be both cold and hungry if they took this option.

They had been considering their options knowing it was getting late to make Castle Rock Hut. We gave them what we hoped was convincing advice to turn back, and more appealing alternatives such as getting comfortable accomodation in Marahau and using the water taxi to meet their friends at Totaranui - or just having a nice time in Marahau. The car key was with the front two trampers so that form of travel was not available. We left them to their

considerations. We were incredibly relieved when they joined us at Tinline Bay as we finished our end of track cuppa.

Yvonne H

(Photos: Bob)

5 July Bushline Hut, Robert Ridge - Cancelled – yes, you got it – due inclement weather

31 July Takaka Hill Walkway

Did you know that (according to Alltrails website) there is no precise peak/location gazetted as Takaka Hill? There is a saddle associated with this non-existent location through which a similarly name state highway travels, and a walkway which bears its name. But let's not let technicalities get in the way - a walk is a walk regardless of where it is or isn't.

Eight of us gathered at Motueka Rec Centre and took stock of a fine, sunny, jolly chilly and breezy day. We decided the view would still be great with fresh snowfall overnight on the ranges around us and we were adequately dressed and provisioned for the cold. Mostly we had the trail to ourselves which made it easy to stop and investigate the surroundings. I have added some photos here of things we saw, with questions of a contemplative nature.



What is the benefit of the sloped pipe on the pest trap (1)

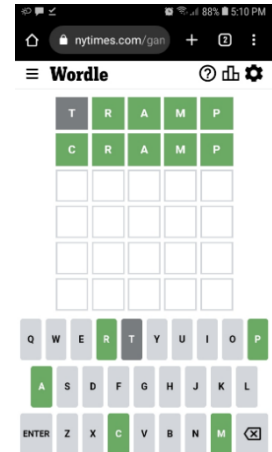
Given that there is solid, head-high gorse on both sides of the track where else would I contemplate going (zoom in on the signpost) (2)



Why are there numbered piles of roofing tiles out here? (3)

As a learner leader I was introduced to dealing with an unexpected medical situation today. My thanks goes to Yvonne H for calmly demonstrating good practice and support; all was well because of this.

When I got home, I indulged in the daily NY Times Wordle (thanks for that introduction Rob M) where I entered the word “TRAMP” as being relevant to my day. And what had coincidentally come after the tramp...see the screenshot!



Heather for Ann, Judy M, Eddie, Kirsty, Trish, Yvonne H and Sally

(Photos: Heather)

7-8 August Salisbury Lodge - became

Anchorage Hut

Many many exchanges of email led to this trip becoming Anchorage where it appeared the weather would be nice – and it was. It only rained in the middle of the night. Participants were Ann, Sally, YH and YJ.

On the way in, there were lots of runners on the track which we discovered was an “event” of some sort, but it appeared the people were competing against themselves, rather than one-another.



We had the hut to ourselves, so each of us had our own bunkroom. Our gentleman warden was good company, lit the fire for us, and entertained us with stories about kaka – whom he “minds” when in residence.

We wandered up and down the beach in the afternoon sun and looked at the stars in the night.

At the moment it is now quite difficult to get from one end of the beach to the other (apart from at low tide) as the waterway from the lagoon now follows the beach, passes in front of the warden’s hut almost to the main hut. Not sure what is going to happen, unless the beach and the stream revert to previous location pretty fast. (it turns out that this

movement of sand happens every few years, and that DoC will attend to it so that it flows directly out to sea.



We inspected Helen’s plantings (some of which we participated in ourselves) checked the mistletoe on the kanuka (also introduced to us by Helen) (*Korthalsella salicornioides*) on the side of the track uphill from the beach. It is very small and easily missed.

A very pleasant interlude in the middle of winter.

Yvonne J (photos: YJ)

14 August Third House

Lovely day, bit of a frost, no wind. There were seven of us – Maggie, Ann, Eddie, Helen, Judy, Helene and me, YJ.

We started off on a steep track from just prior to the Brook camp, which met up with Dun Mountain Trail at the junction with Bullock Spur. Morning tea happened there, at a very well positioned picnic table. After that I expected a lot of bikers, but that wasn’t the case, and during the day those that passed us were very considerate – as, of course, we were for them.



We lunched at Third House, sitting in the warm sun. After that a short sortie along the track to the intersection with Wooded Peak, turning round and returning via the Sanctuary fence, back to our starting point at the cars.



Yvonne (Photos: Judy)

19-21 August Murchison Biking – Cancelled due to (very bad) weather

28 August Motueka Spit Walk - Cancelled due bird breeding, and replaced with:

Mapua Hills and Beach (otherwise known as W, T n C (Walk n Talk n Complain about Road Walking))

We realised that Motueka Spit wasn't a good idea at this time of year due to sea and estuary bird breeding, and that because of all the recent rain and road closures, we would stay close to home.



There were eight of us – Judy, Helene, Eddie, Kathleen, prospective members Sonia and Dave - and me, Yvonne J.

We set off from Mapua wharf on a stunningly beautiful sunny day, headed up Higgs Road to Chaytor track (morning tea), along Stagecoach Road, Awa Awa Drive, Pomona Road and the steep bike trail down to Pinehill Road, along Ruby Bay (lunch on the beach) and back to Mapua wharf via the school walkway. About 14 km in all.

The views from along Stagecoach Road were stunning with the mountains looking clear and inviting.



We experienced the rural (sheep, vineyards, cattle, gorse etc) and the suburban (new subdivisions, posh houses, letter-boxes and lovely gardens) on our journey and the under-foot conditions were generally dry and easily walked.



Thus we achieved the “walk” bit without difficulty, enjoyed the “talk” bit (that’s never a problem), and there wasn’t too much complaint about the road-walking bit. A lovely day out.

Yvonne J *(Photos Judy and YJ)*

If your name isn't mentioned above, then it is time you came tramping....

Bits of history and bio-diversity:

About Dun Mountain Railway 1862-1907

For further reading refer: (<http://www.theprow.org.nz/index.php/enterprise/dun-mountain-railway/>)

Dun Mountain Railway was officially opened amidst great fanfare on Monday 3 February, 1862. From the port, across the city, the horse-drawn tramway then climbed from Brook Street to a height of 2870 feet where it terminated at the chromite mines situated east of Nelson.

Early Māori quarried [argillite](#) for adzes and tools from Nelson's Mineral Belt (a strip of serpentine-rich ground running from D'Urville Island to Lake Rotoiti). European interest in the mineral deposits dated back to 1852 when copper ore was found. Mining engineer, Thomas Hacket, eventually pronounced the copper lodes to be worthless, however he did recommend mining the chromite deposits on Wooded Peak - a summit nearly two miles northwest of Dun Mountain.

Initially constructed to carry this chrome ore from the mines to Nelson's Port, the railway also provided a well-used passenger service between the Port and Nelson city for nearly four decades.

Two Irish engineers with considerable railway experience, William T. Doyne and Abraham C. Fitzgibbon, were engaged to construct the railway which was to climb through heavily bushed mountainous country.

The Dun Mountain Railway cost £75,000 to build and was so popular that by the end of February 1862, the Company advised people they could not ride up and down the line any longer - the wagons were required to haul ore to the Port. Horse-drawn along the railway up to the mines in the morning, gravity assisted the loaded wagons down the hill in the afternoon, with brake-men controlling the speed. Horses pulled the wagons to the Port.

By January 10, 1866, Cock reported to the directors that the chrome deposits were completely exhausted and he had suspended mining operations.

The Company went into liquidation in 1872. But the last remnant of the railway - the horse drawn tram - continued to operate half hourly between Hardy Street and the Tasman Hotel at the Port until 1901. The line to the mines was finally lifted in 1907, but the route is still followed by the popular Dun Mountain Walkway.

Third House

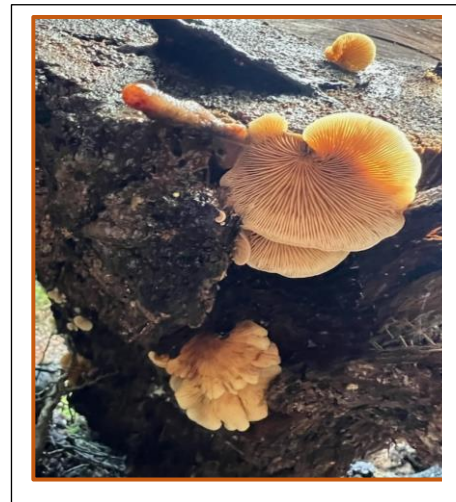
At strategic intervals along the railway The Dun Mountain Company had a number of "houses". Third House (660 metres altitude), at Wairoa Saddle as it was then known, was halfway between Brook Street and the mines and included a wooden two-storeyed stable. The houses, initially probably construction depots, were later used for maintenance purposes and shelter for the railway workers. Many men who built the railway were unemployed goldminers, no doubt accustomed to tent-camp life and hard work. In total, around 200 workmen were involved in the construction of the railway, which was completed in less than a year using picks, shovels and wheelbarrows.

Written by Joy Stephens, 2008, and published in Wild Tomato with the support of The [Nelson Provincial Museum](#) (updated 2022)

The Winter Funghi Collection



*Photographs
by:
Muriel
Yvonne H
Yvonne J*



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