

# Newsletter May to August 2025



Website; [motuekatrampingclub.org](http://motuekatrampingclub.org)

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## Committee



Secretary and Committee: Lynne Flood

Treasurer and Committee: Heather Adams

Membership Officer and Committee: Kathy Chandler

Committee Member: Ann Giggs

Committee Member: Kathleen Famularo

Walks Committee: Ann Giggs, Maggie Pidgeon and Sonya Lloyd



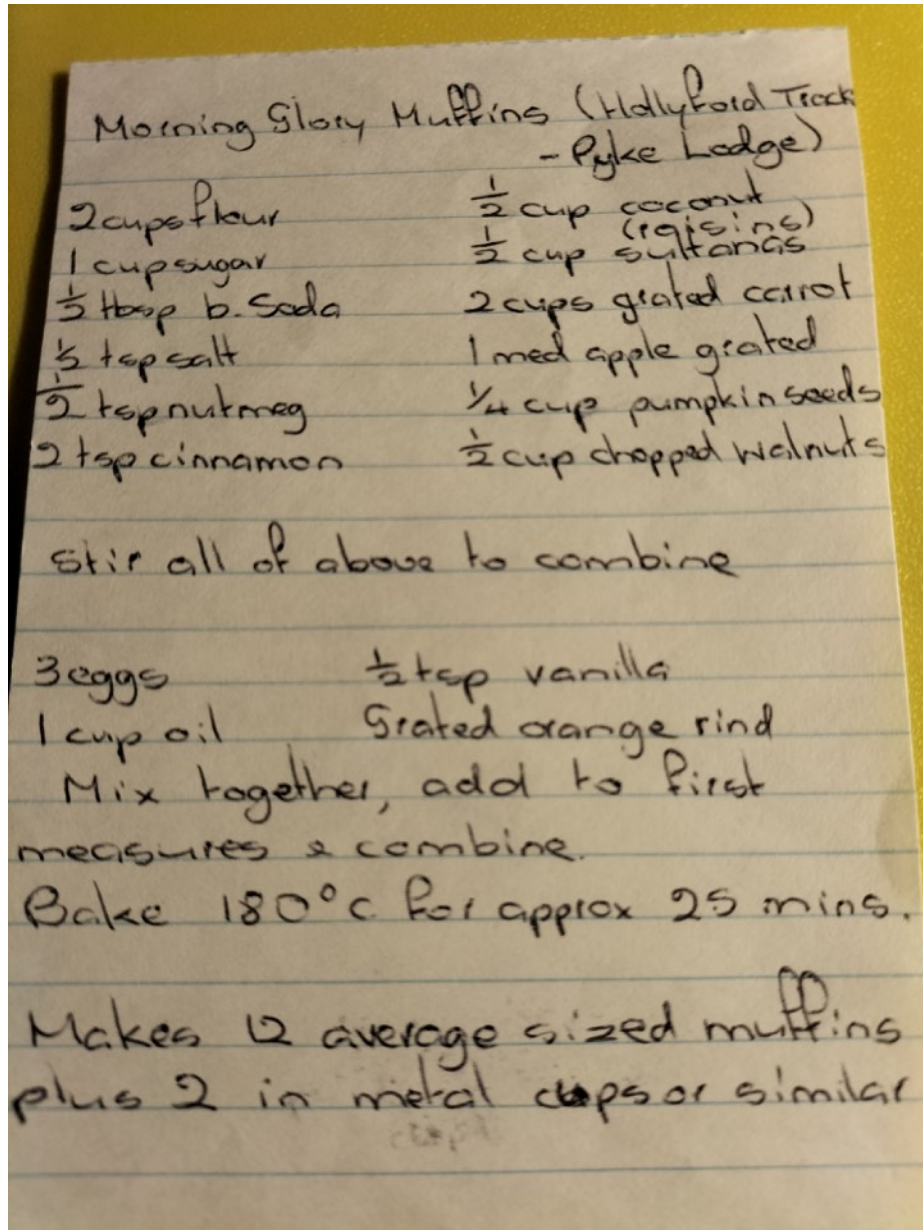
New Member

A big welcome to:

Graham Ingram-Monk



## Recipe Page

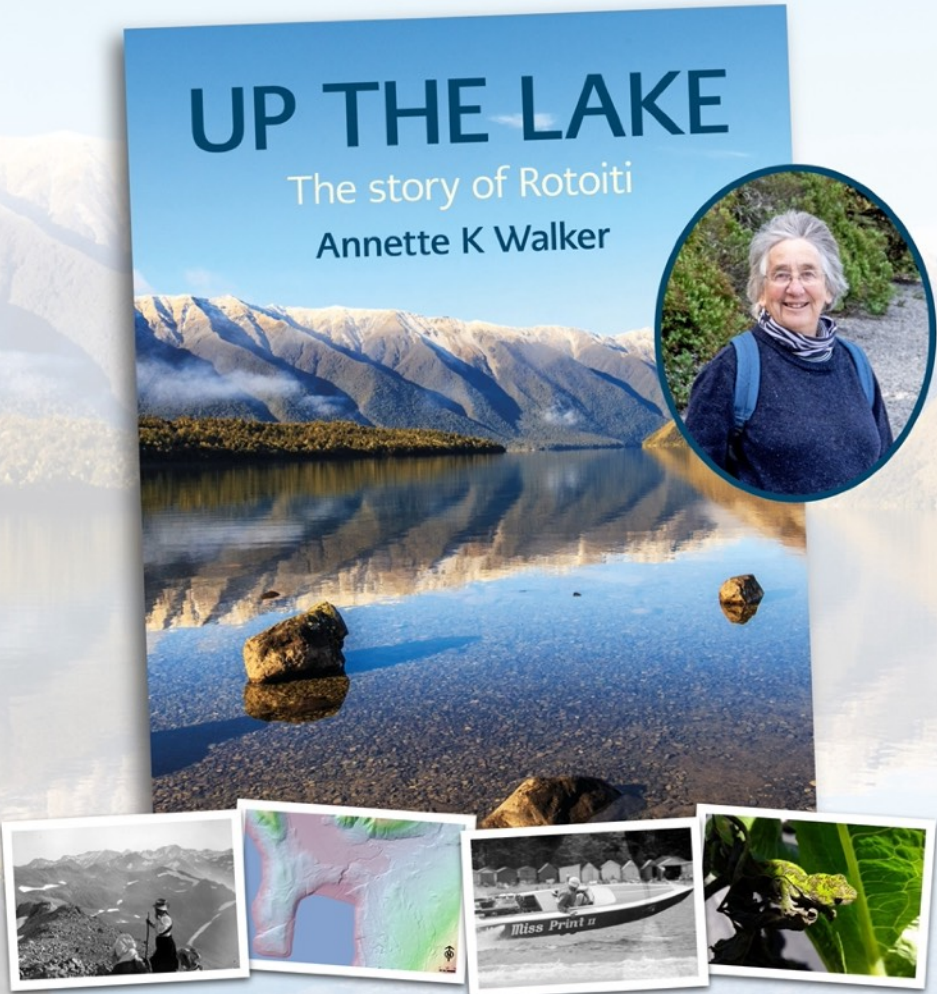


Here is a muffin recipe given to Daphne  
by the Pyke Lodge.

Her review:

"They sure are yummy."

# Lake Rotoiti Book



**UP THE LAKE**  
The story of Rotoiti  
Annette K Walker

A beautifully crafted and illustrated book on all you want to know about Rotoiti's natural and social history, interwoven with the Nelson author's life spent 'Up the Lake'.

**\$65.00**  
Contact Annette: 027 540 2850  
Email: [rotoitiupthelake@gmail.com](mailto:rotoitiupthelake@gmail.com)

***The book covers the natural and social history of Rotoiti in all its facets. Be it geography, a food basket for Māori, early European settlement, tramping, hunting and fishing, boating or conservation – it has it all!***

*It can be purchased directly from Annette via the email address above or from selected stockists including Rainbow Ski Field and the Alpine Lodge - Rotoiti, Page & Blackmore, Paper Plus Nelson and Richmond - Nelson/Tasman, Hodgsons – Murchison, Paper Plus – Blenheim and The Picton Book Shop – Picton,*



# Trip Reports



Kill Devil

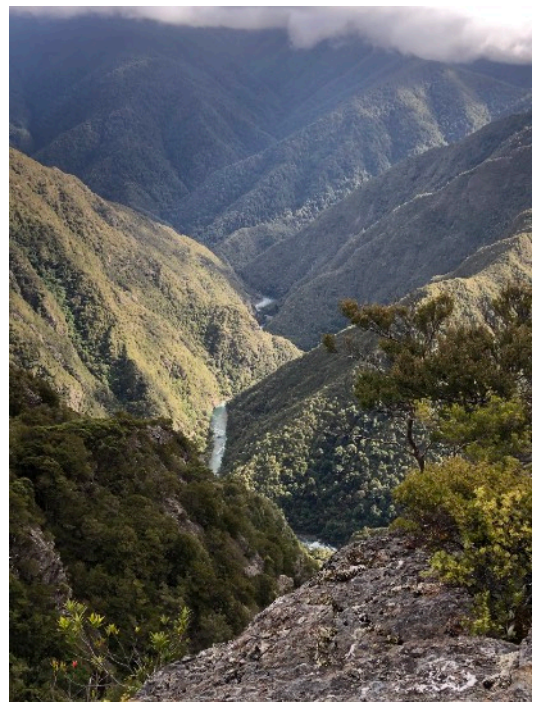
4 May 2025

Leader, writer and photographer: Gill

Trampers: Acaysha, Christine, Gill and Kathy

A fabulous blue sky day with a chilly start. We filled in the intentions book at the kiosk by the car park and set off. Quite soon we had to cross a fairly deep stream, then after that it was up the zigzags all the way. Reportedly 67 switchbacks, a good track but very slippery in places. Beautiful views across the Takaka Valley and Golden Bay. We walked about 3hrs to the Tin Hut then went a little further to the big rock for lunch with great views down to the Waingaro River Valley. Returned back to the car the same way. A lovely day!

Elevation gain - 855m, distance 16.7Km.





## Nydia Lodge

10 to 11 May 2025

Leader: Alan

Writer: Lynne

Trampers: Alan, Gill, Lynne, Sonya and Una



*Misty Morning, photo by Sonya*

We arrived at Duncan Bay at 10.00 and departed in sunshine, with lovely views of the bays and of the bush. There were large nikaus and beech trees and lovely southern rata in flower, with lots of bird song. We arrived at the saddle for lunch and enjoyed a brew in the sunshine. The trip down the other side was super slippery and there were a few dirty bottoms. We saw lots of fungi of all colours, met the pet eel and had lots of photo stops. We arrived at Nydia Lodge about 3.30 and enjoyed hot showers. There were only two other people in the Lodge. We enjoyed walks around the vicinity and down to the wharf. Next day, after a clean up, we departed at about 8.00 with the mist still around the inlet and eventually the sun filtering through. The trip back up the hill was notable for all the spider webs glistening in the sun. Lunch was at the saddle again and we arrived back at the cars at about 2.30. Una's comment was that she felt like she had been away a week. That summed it up.





## Red Hills Hut

18 May February 2025



Leader, writer and photographer of bush floor fungi: Heather

Trampers: Becky, Dave, Graham, Heather, John, Kathleen, Kathy, Lynne, Maggie and Sonia

The weather forecast was for rain, clearing as the day progressed. It also promised to be warm and calm. Everyone was happy to walk in the rain. One nice thing about the forest on a wet day is the fresh smell. Another, almost captivating, thing when it has been damp for a while is fungi - and a wide range were evident on this track. The first part of the track from Six Mile carpark winds through the bush, with a few options created by mountain bike alternative routes. We took the 'high road' on the way in and the lower road on the way back. Both options were good. After this we joined onto a four wheel drive track that took us gradually up the slopes to Red Hills Hut. At one stage we gained a view up the Wairau River bed, but mostly we kept our heads down and hoods up, and chatted away. Although a sensible amount of attention is needed, the track was easy walking. There is a substantial but well built river crossing right at the beginning, and 5 others up the hill. The water had overtaken the track in places, so there was no question of keeping boots dry. At 11.30am we reached the Hut, crowded into it and had an early lunch. The weather - which was still wet - discouraged exploration of the area; on a clearer day we may have gone up the slope behind the hut or pushed on for a view of the mineral belt. Going down was similar to going up, returning to the cars sooner than budgeted for, and happy with our day's outing. At St Arnaud, just a little way down the road, we noted that the sun was shining as forecast. Thanks to Heather A, John M and Dave H for driving, and Lynne F, Maggie P, Sonia C, Kathleen F, Graham I-M, Becky J and Kathy C for your enthusiasm.









## Westport Weekend

23 to 26 May 2025

Leader and Writer: Kathy

Trampers: Amy, Daphne, Gill, John, Kathy, Lynne  
and Trish

Photos: Amy, Gill, Kathy and Trish



### Day 1

Arriving at Westport.

The weather had been good all week and it was a great day for travelling.

Once we'd settled into the Kiwi Valley Holiday Park, Daphne and Gill went on the planned walk to Tip Head to the mouth of the Buller, while Lynne and John chose to stay at the motel and Amy and Trish went to the seal colony at Cape Foulwind. There were lots of different paths and the walk began at Westport wharf where Talley's factory is located and meandered along a boardwalk and then through some replanted bush along to a little beach on the way to the causeway at the mouth of the mighty Buller. It was a beautiful evening and busy at the beach.

That evening, we had a pleasant catch up and a delicious, shared meal in the motel unit.



## Day 2

The following day we had an early start for our walk on the Deniston Plateau up to Mt Williams. It was a stunning day! We looked at signage and some large coal seams before starting our walk and discussed the impact of the proposed restarting of mining on the Deniston Plateau which Forest & Bird had been trying to stop. They( F&B) were running a field trip that weekend to potentially view some rare fauna and flora on Mt Rochford.

We were pleasantly surprised by the relative dryness of the bog at the start and then progressed through some stunning forest with lots of bird song. It is a magical walk, quite steep, rooty and rocky in places, but very beautiful with the intense greens of all the mosses and lichens. It is also named Myra's Track after the wife of one of the men responsible for creating most of the tracks on the Plateau.

We reached the trig point at the summit for lunch and were rewarded with extensive views of the plateau, coast and mountain ranges. There is an alternative route down but being unsure of the exact route, we decided to return the same way and exited the track still in glorious sunshine with over 2 hours of light left. Some people enjoyed reading all the signage with the fascinating history and as Trish and Amy had never been to the historical area around the Deniston Incline before, they were keen to check it out. We split into 2 groups, Lynne, John and Gill returning to the motel and Kathy, Amy, Trish and Daphne spending a very pleasant and interesting 2 hours exploring all the amazing history.

That evening we all went out the Copper Pot Indian Restaurant in Westport and had a delicious meal.



*Mt William, photo by Kathy*



*Photo by Trish. Amy looking out to the coastal plains of the Karamea Bight and the mouth of the Waimangaroa River.*



*Fan House, Denniston, for ventilation of the underground coal mine. (Photo by Gill)*





### Day 3

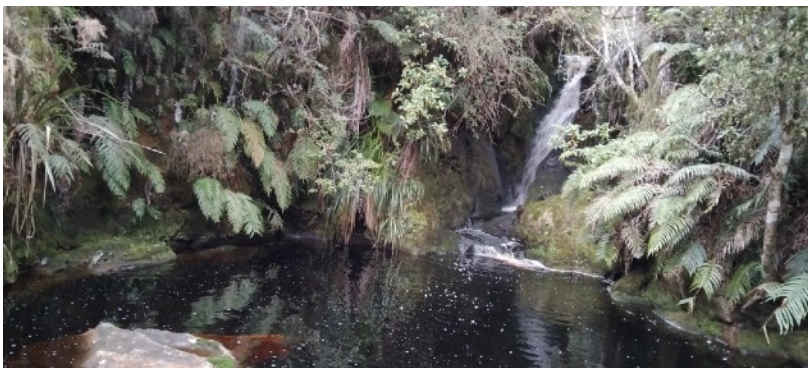
Our plan was to walk the Bromielaw Track in Charleston, a track maintained by the locals which crosses a wide range of different habitats.

Amy and Trish had to leave early to return home for personal reasons, so there were just 5 of us experiencing this walk. It involved some logistics of leaving one car at either end of the walk, and again, we left early to try to outwit the weather system coming in later in the day.



The first part of the walk was through stunted vegetation across an iron pan, and we were delighted to both see and hear the elusive fernbirds. There were some interesting views before entering the forest which included some very tall trees and a wide variety of plants. Our morning tea spot was sheltered and scenic. There were several river crossings, including a very exciting one holding onto a rope for balance, but it was impossible to keep dry feet on 1 crossing!

The scenery and habitat gradually changed to coastal scenery and forest, and although rain was threatening for the last part, we managed to finish the last spectacular part, along the cliffs and into Constant Bay in the dry.



We ate our lunch at the train station shelter up the Nile Valley and again, perfect timing, as virtually as soon, as we had finished, the Heavens opened! It is a spectacular valley with huge, towering cliffs and a beautiful river with swimming holes.

John and Lynne walked part of the Argyll Track that afternoon when the weather cleared while the rest of us went back to the motel. I visited my daughter and family and we then all had another lovely dinner out, this time at the Deniston Dog, where we were amazed at the young age of our waitress (perhaps it's just us getting older!!).





## Day 4

The weather forecast had been dire, and it didn't disappoint! John and Lynne left early to get back for a dental appointment but had to return because the Lower Buller Gorge was closed due to 4 landslides. Kathy, Gill and Daphne had planned to leave later as Kathy was spending the morning with her daughter and anyway, the advice from authorities was not to leave until at least midday when the rain was due to ease. The rain was phenomenal and many streets in Westport were flooding. By the time we left at around midday, there was lots of surface water, but the rain had eased. We had to go via Greymouth and Reefton which added 2 hours to the trip, and it was quite an ordeal



*350 Aotearoa and Climate Liberation Aotearoa  
Easter 2025.*





## Cruisy Tramp to Salisbury Hut

8 - 10 June 2025

Leader and Writer: Maggie

Trampers: Alan, Graham, Kathy, Maggie and Sonya

Photos: Sonya



### *Sunday 8th*

Five of us headed up to Flora carpark which was pretty busy that morning. We welcomed new member Graham.

The day's highlight was seeing some kea very close up. The birds seemed totally unphased by our proximity. They are obviously bored as most of the cardboard Friends of Flora signs on the traps have all been chewed off by the kea. We also heard and saw whio in the stream.

Once we got up onto the Tableland, we encountered some ice and snow on the track but it was sunny with no wind. Salisbury hut was cold until the fire got roaring (thanks Sonya!).

### *Monday 9th*

It was a beautiful sunrise over Gordon's Pyramid on a cold morning (the water pipes froze overnight). We decided to make it a very easy tramp and have another night at Salisbury. So that meant two little jaunts near the hut. In the morning, we did the Potholes/Sphinx loop walk. We saw some beautiful views, amazing icicles over the stream and more kea circling overhead and calling. We managed to avoid tomos hidden in the snow – not too much off track exploring.

In the afternoon, we started out towards Balloon hut through Butchertown (where there was nothing much to see?) then turned off down the Leslie Karamea track. We then headed off piste to the south-west across to a rocky high point from which we got the most amazingly unexpectedly fantastic view down the Leslie and over towards the Cobb. It was another clear, sunny day with very little wind capped off with a beautiful almost full moon rise over Gordon's Pyramid. And the bird of the day was a rifleman seen on the track up to the hut.

### *Tuesday 10th*

Packed up and walked out, having a look at the Dry Rock Shelter on the way. Got back to car well before the rain started. Great timing!







## Rameka Track

16 June 2025

Leader and Writer: Lynne

Photos: Becky

Trampers: Becky, John, Lynne and Sjors

Four of us, Rebecca, Sjors, Lynne and John headed up Takaka hill for Canaan. The water trough at the toilets was frozen and we scrunched through the frosty grass. We enjoyed the bush on the Rameka and Rebecca found a live kauri snail on the track, which we moved to safety. We had lunch in the sun at the grassy clearing. Then hiked it back up the hill. We were back at the cars about 2.00.





Trig K

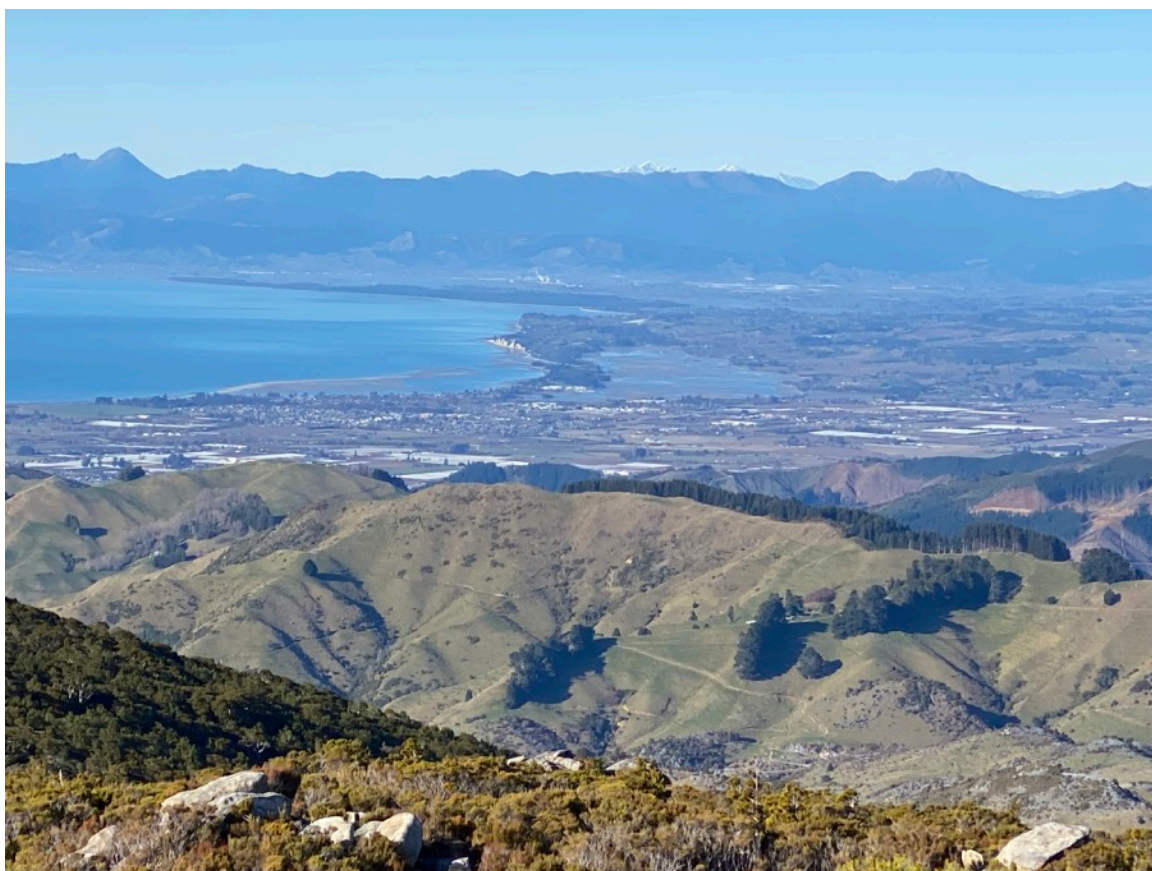
22 June 2025

Leader and Writer: Lynne

Trampers: Graham, Heather, John, Lynne, Sjors and Una



We arrived at Canaan and parked by the area known as the Beehives. The frost on the grass looked great. First a road bash which was quick and easy as we talked our way up the hill. We found the track at marker 34. The bush through there is beautiful with lots of kiekie. It was quite wet underfoot from the rain. We got up to the summit by 11.30 and had lunch in the sun, enjoying the panorama. The track towards Mt Evans was a bit overgrown but we found our way and stopped on the grassland for a break, before heading straight down a gully in a beeline for the cars. This track took us past magnificent fluted rocks, tomos, a barbed wire fence to squeeze through and the view of the plateau lands. We opted to have a coffee at Ngarua Caves Cafe on the way home. It was a lovely day.



*Photo by Graham looking east from Trig K.  
Tapuae-o-Uenuku (known as Tappy) can just be seen beyond the Richmond Range.*





*This is a icy seed head with Una's sleeve as a backdrop.*

*Photo by Heather*



*Photo by Graham looking east over Canaan Downs towards Takaka*





## Mt Arthur

29 June 2025

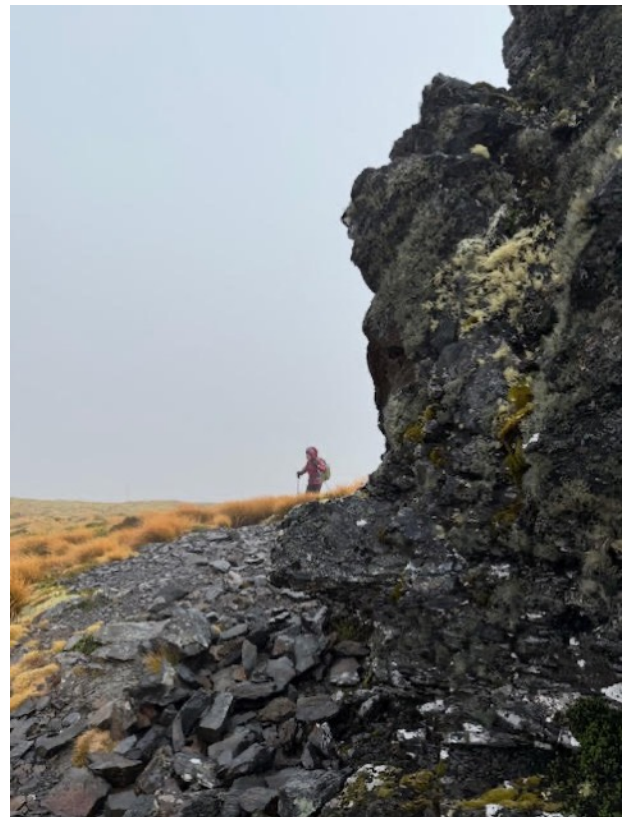
Leader and Writer: Lynne

Photos: Becky

Trampers: Becky, John, Lynne, Maggie, Sanne, Sjors, Sonia, Una and Xavier



A fairly fine day so we headed to Mt Arthur. This was after the storm so getting through the Motueka valley required some negotiating. The road to Flora carpark was no problem. The weather was changeable and the forecast was for showers. After a stop for morning tea we headed above Mt Arthur Hut and this was when the weather worsened and we were soon putting on all our spare clothes and bracing ourselves against the wind and rain. A decision was made to turn back and after rounding up the leaders who were waiting at the Gordons Pyramid sign, we all headed back down for lunch in the shelter of the hut. We didn't get as far as we had intended but the cobwebs were blown out and we felt refreshed.









## Mt Arthur Loop

6 July 2025

Leader and Writer: Sonia C

Photo: Becky

Trampers: Becky, Heather, John, Lynne, Maggie and Sonia



Sunday 6th of July six of us were keen to test the road conditions again after more rain and made our way to Flora carpark. The roads were just as good as the previous week so thank you Maggie and John for driving and getting everyone there and back safely. We arrived at the carpark just after nine and had a leisurely walk to Flora hut for morning tea. After which we made our way up to Arthur hut, the cloud was low and we had some drizzle but nothing too wetting. Stopping at the hut for lunch, the sun teased us briefly so Becky was quick to jump at the opportunity to get a group photo. Then it was back down to the carpark. Despite the fact that any views were brief to say the least, it was still a very enjoyable tramp and always good to be out there enjoying nature.

Thank you all for joining me.

Sonia.





## Coppermine Saddle

10 August 2025

Leader and Writer: Becky

Photos: Becky

Trampers: Becky, Heather, Helen, Maggie, Sean, Sjors and Una



There were a few changes leading up to this walk as originally it was a day trip to Dun Mountain. This is a very big day walk for a winter day trip, so I ended up deciding to change the trip to a day trip to Coppermine Saddle. A shorter distance but still a total distance of 18km return, 760m ascent.

Our group of 7 arrived at a cold, frosty Maitai Dam carpark all layered up ready for an early 8:45am start, giving us enough time to reach the saddle. We headed off along the Coppermine Bike Trail through beautiful mixed beech & podocarp forest, passing the turn off to the Maitai Caves. From this point on the bike trail is only one way – downhill only for bikers all the way from the saddle - so we only had to watch for bikes coming downhill towards us from this point.

We continued upwards on a nice benched bike track for about 1.5hrs, until we found a safe sunny area at the side of the bike track to enjoy our morning tea. Not long after we came out of the podocarp forest & onto the Nelson mineral belt. We had a beautiful sunny day, so we were rewarded with stunning views over Tasman Bay.

The impressive Dun mountain loomed ahead of us, with its unique red-brown rocks. We followed the trail along the west side of Dun mountain to meet the turn off to Rocks Hut & Dun saddle. We continued on for another 1/4hr towards Coppermine saddle through 'boulder valley'. This section of the Dun Mountain trail is known for its distinctive red-brown rocks & dramatic landscape. It is a part of the Nelson mineral belt, characterised by unique, low-fertility, and toxic soils due to high levels of iron, magnesium, cobalt, and nickel.

We reached Coppermine saddle by 12:15pm and enjoyed lunch with a view in the sun, but tucked away on the south side of the saddle out of the cool breeze. We played a game of name the mountains; but did struggle with this different angled view, even with paper maps & peak apps to help, we weren't entirely confident we had the names right. We all did agree that we could see Mt Owen in the distance.

We returned down the same way taking 3hrs, which included a leisurely stop at a rocky outcrop half way down the mineral belt with a view of the Maitai dam and caretaker house. Everyone agreed that this was a great walk with stunning scenery.







## Castle Rock Hut

17-18 August 2025

Leader and Writer: Lynne

Photos: Becky, John, Maike

Trampers: Becky, Debbie, Gill, John, Lynne and Maike



Our Trip to Castle Rocks Hut went well. We had Gill and Debbie opt to do the day walk and myself, John, Becky and Maike did the overnight. We had the whole place to ourselves and never saw anyone else. The track was very rough with the tree roots and mud and provided a suitable challenge. The small dracophyllum lining the track were beautiful and lots of purple fungi. We stopped at Moa Shelter for lunch in the sun and the daywalkers went as far as the next lookout, then returned. We visited Porters Rock and checked out the views. From there it was about 1.5 hours to the hut and we were certainly glad to arrive there. We had a comfortable night with the fire burning well and next morning awoke to a heavy frost on the grass outside the hut. We did a quick tour up to the Castle rocks and then headed back the way we came to Canaan. We returned to the cars via the grassy valley. We took in the old fireplace and imagined what life was like there. It was a great trip. It felt like we had been a million miles away.











## Gordons Knob

24 August 2025

Leader, Photographer and Writer: Sonya

Trampers: Alan, Sjors and Sonya



For stunning views all the way out to Roberts ridge and beyond then the high point past Gordon's knob is a must. We had a calm, warm day to walk up to the high point of 1685m. The well-formed track has varied and interesting terrain. It's always good to leave those pesky pine trees behind and get up into the alpine realms. There is a cairn that you need to look out for on your right as you get nearer to the tops. Going straight up leads you on to Hunter's hut down over the other side of the Gordon Range. Once turning right you are traversing across country over saddles, through forests, balancing on dragon backs and parallel to a creek below. We had coffee just below the slog up grassy terrain to the tops. Where we sat was a perfect place to camp. We passed a few disgruntled hunters carrying only their guns as there wasn't a goat or deer in sight. The last little push up and over the top reveals spectacular views in a 360 panoramic view including Red Hills, Beebys and the Gordon Range. Far below in the distance amongst the scrub sat the bright orange beacon of Porters hut a nondescript place to stay. The colours of the red hills and red turpentine bushes dominated the view, beautiful. We had a short lunch break at the high point as some clouds came in and we decided we should descend, the temp dropped dramatically, hats and beanies and extra layers were needed. A taxing climb back down, knees groaning at the stilted climb down rock crags and shaley hillsides. We got back to the car about 4.30

Time duration for the day – 9.30 to 4.30

Distance – 18k

Grade – fit

Do it again – hell yeah





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