



# Newsletter

January 2018

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May 2018 turn out to be as you wish for yourself, your friends and family. Happy tramping, biking, camping, boating, swimming, kayaking, trap-lining, tree planting, and what-ever outdoor activity takes your fancy.

Stay healthy

## Trip Reports

### 3 September Red Hills – and Walking on toward Porters



This day trip to the southern end of the Richmond Ranges attracted five club members including Dave A on his first outing with the club, accompanied by his wife Heather. A 7.30am departure from Motueka ensured we were at the Red Hills carpark just off SH6 at 9.30am and ready to head off.

The first section of track traverses a pleasant stand of red and silver beech forest for twenty minutes or so before joining the 4WD road which leads up to Red Hills hut. Often the birdlife can be quite rewarding but wasn't so evident on that morning. It's a gradual but steady climb up the hill with occasional views out over Wairau Valley and Raglan ranges beyond, improving with altitude. As the objective for the day was to continue on beyond Red Hills hut on the track that leads to Porters, we agreed by consensus that three of us would continue on and meet up with Heather and Dave at the hut later in the day.

It took us less than two hours to reach the hut at bushline where we enjoyed morning tea, sitting on the deck in the sunshine enjoying the view north to a snowclad Gordons Knob. The hut was clean and tidy with not many entries in the visitor book over the winter months. By far the majority of entries during the year are Te Araroa walkers concentrated between November and March.

We then continued on through open tussock grassland towards Porters, sidling above the Maitland stream, and noted how high the water table was after the wet winter. Being on the periphery of the mineral belt with its characteristic stunted vegetation enables good vistas to the north and east. Before long we encountered the unusual silica deposits on the edge of the track and began losing altitude as we commenced the descent towards the T.L. branch of the Motueka river (incorrectly named as the right branch on the Topo 50 map BR25).

By this time we were ready for lunch and chose a prominent point on the track to enjoy our lunch break with a view north towards Porters Ridge. Conscious of the ETA of 2pm we had given Heather and Dave to meet back at the hut, we retraced our steps and duly met them relaxing in the sun. They too had continued on beyond the hut and probably weren't that far behind where we had lunch.

After a spell and a snack we headed off down the 4WD track stopping to inspect the old Cobb cottage on the farm at the foot of the hill, before continuing on through the beech forest to our vehicle. An uneventful return journey and a pleasant early spring day out in the hills. Thanks to the company of Yvonne H, Birgit, Heather and Dave A.

Dave W.

**9-10 September Balloon Hut - Cancelled**

## **15 September – Social Evening**

There was a tasty shared meal and informative speaker. About 17 members attended. The Committee was very active in setting up and clean up.

After joining us for our shared meal, Trevor James, a water scientist from the TDC spoke on the state of rivers in our area. He had many slides of particular interest and also screened a film on the rivers in the Tasman District. I felt I had a better informed eye to take with me on tramps with regard to the needs of our



local fresh water animals and our waterways. His talk was well received and he answered many questions.

Muriel

**17 September Mt Malita** – cancelled due inclement weather



**28-30 September Hunters Hut** – Day Walks

This mid week trip into Hunters hut in Mt Richmond Forest Park attracted just one other starter, but had to be postponed for two days due to unsettled weather. The plan was to spend two nights at Hunters hut and do a day walk up to Red Hill at 1791m.

Starting from Inwoods lookout at 1040m in Golden Downs forest, it is a steady climb up to Gordons Ridge at 1500m, but the views are rewarding. It was a cool and cloudy start and we made good time up to the ridgeline, then faced an 800m descent down to the T.R. branch of Motueka river. The descent down the treeline and into the mountain beech forest is initially gradual but steepens considerably over the lower section. With all the wet weather over the preceding months, ground conditions were very greasy and required a cautious approach. This slowed our progress considerably.

On my previous trip in there in December 2016 my companion and I encountered nesting Karearea (NZ falcons) about half way down through the forest who dive bombed us and I suffered a gash in my scalp about 100mm long from its talons. There was no sign of them on this occasion thankfully.

Once at the river we had another 45 minutes upstream on the T.R. bank before fording and climbing the last 100m to the hut. Although the river was clear it was much higher than normal as were all the side streams. Hunters hut is in a stunning location on a small spur which gets all day sun, and replaced Bushline hut which was destroyed in a flash flood in February 1995 - claiming the lives of two DOC staff employed in goat hunting operations; one of whom, Bob Waldie, I worked with in the Forest Service back in 1971 on Stewart Island. The replacement hut is dedicated to them with an information panel in the hut about the tragedy.

By this time it was early afternoon and we enjoyed a well earned brew and lunch. After giving the hut a clean up, I went for a walk up river towards Mt Ellis, whilst Marie elected to rest up and relax. We had the hut to ourselves and enjoyed a warm and pleasant night after collecting and cutting up dead manuka firewood.

The next day dawned overcast with low cloud on the tops which precluded our planned day walk up to Red Hill. Instead we opted to walk south to Porters hut for the day which is approx three hours away through the ultramafic belt. The tramp involves traversing in and out of several steep side gullies. We arrived at Porters hut just before midday for lunch and were pleased to see a new water tank installed since my last visit twelve months previously. We were, however, dismayed to see a pile of ashes where a recently brand new woodshed

once stood. We had lunch just as light rain set in and gave the hut a clean up before commencing the return journey.

I have real concern about the significant growth and spread of wilding pines including Douglas fir through this country, and undertook to follow it up with DOC on my return, along with the burnt woodshed and leaking tap on the new water tank. We had noted an entry in the hut book that a team of DOC staff had undertaken a recent aerial supported wilding pine control operation earlier in the month but saw no evidence of that.

The return trip to Hunters through intermittent light showers was uneventful and was clearing as forecasted by the time we arrived at the hut. We had another pleasant and warm night but were apprehensive about the 800m vertical climb back up to Gordons ridge in the morning.

We got away bright and early in cloudy but cool conditions and were soon grinding our way up the hill at a slow but steady pace. We elected to have just one rest stop and were pleased to get to bushline at 1350m in less than three hours, where the back of the climb was broken. From there it was less than an hour to the top, so we descended to the first patch of mountain beech forest which provided shelter from a cool breeze for an early lunch. The descent down the ridge through several steep gnarly sections required a cautious approach on stiff and tired legs but we made it safely to the carpark.

We returned to Wakefield to pick up Marie's vehicle and enjoyed a well earned coffee at Chateau Rhubarb. A most rewarding trip on which we never saw a soul. It was the first time Marie had been into Hunters and down the track to Porters. I've always enjoyed that area of Mt Richmond Forest Park.

Dave W.

**1 October Bike Ride – Belgrove to Spooners – Cancelled due weather**

**6-8 October Kiwi Saddle – Cancelled due weather**

**15 October NOT Maitland Track/Beeby's Knob, but ATNP**

Somehow we ended up in the Abel Tasman National Park. Gerda, Rob, Mike, Bill and I had a leisurely walk in lovely sunshine to Akersten Bay for lunch with a stop at Apple Tree Bay on the way for morning tea. The sun had brought lots of people out for an afternoon stroll and there were quite a few tourists coming out from doing the Great Walk. A nice day in sun with good company.



Ann



## 21-23 October Reefton Bike and Walk

12 people, down from 18, went to Reefton. Some afraid of the weather! But Reefton is greatly maligned by the weather forecasters - it must be a bit of a micro climate. We had about 10 minutes of heavy rain not long after we got back to the accommodation on the first day. And on the second day we put on rain coats and almost instantly removed them a couple of times. The last day was looking pretty bleak so we left town.



### The Biking bit

Pleasant road riding to and from Blacks Point and around the settlements of Blacks Point and Reefton, but the tracks were a bit challenging especially for the road bikes and road people.

First day was up Murray's Creek track to the swing bridge for some, and part way there for others. A bit of pushing up was required, and then down to the stamper and explore around Black's Point and back to Reefton.



Second day we dubbed "enhanced tramping" - we mostly pushed the bikes up and down. There were a lot of real biking bits, and we had a good explore of the area. Only mountain bikes came this time (thankfully).

We rode to Blacks Point and up Murray track to Waipahu Saddle, again walking the bikes for some bits, and then onto an enjoyable trail to Inglewood Junction,

calling in on Cement Town.

We left the “enhancements” on the track and walked down to the site of the Inglewood Mine and then further to find the Inglewood Stamper. But after at least 10 minutes, we found no sight of it. The track was steep, over grown and washed away, so we decided the stamper might be gone or we were in the wrong place.

Back to the track, past the Ajax Mine and the horse whins then the last 2 kms down down down the Machine Track. We passed on the Konini Pack Track but it apparently “glides around the hill-side to join the Broadway Trail to Reefton” - next time that will be the one we take.

Yvonne H

*(Bike photos: Laurie)*

## The walking Bit

The forecast for the weekend was dismal, so hopes were not high BUT Friday afternoon was looking pretty good. We divided into two parties. This story is about the walkers.

### Friday afternoon....

Yvonne H, Yvonne J, Muriel, Mike, and Jess all hopped into Yvonne J’s car and we set off to the lookout above Reefton to start our walk. The first hour involved driving about forestry roads looking for the lookout, consulting a Reefton mud map (not oriented north), a compass, Viewranger app, some other GPS system, turning round and going in another direction. Ultimately we got to the lookout where the communications towers are, BUT that still wasn’t the start of our walk. Another bit of driving around forestry roads took us to the top of the Lookout track, which we ambled down.



Not a lot of beauty about the walk but a nice grove of (pesty, I understand) exotic trees near the river. At that point, Jess and Mike diverted to the swing bridge and back to town; the rest of us walked back up the hill. The thought of taking a second car, getting lost once again in the forestry trying to find our parked car seemed too much trouble. We needed the hill climbing exercise anyway after much car travel.



Friday evening.....

We were joined by Ross Hall, now resident in Reefton, who accompanied us to dinner at the ? hotel. The hotel was a bit overwhelmed by our presence, but as they had been forewarned, managed to feed us all in a timely manner.

Saturday.....

I can't begin to tell you how much effort went into sorting out who was going where, with or without bike, and how to get there and back. However, the walker numbers were somewhat swelled by some of yesterday's bikers who found that pushing a bike wasn't all that much fun, so we had in our group Yvonne J, Heather, Ann, Bill, Mike, Ian, Ross.



We left a car at Black's Point and took two cars up to Lankey Creek track where we followed the creek up to Bolitho Brothers battery mine, climbed up and



down lots of steps, in the most amazing rugged terrain. Bits of mine workings were evident. We then joined the Tram Track, past Keep it Dark battery, to Energetic Mine perched on a narrow ledge with a large mine hole and lots of bits of mining equipment scattered about. After a side trip up Murray Creek, dropped down the other side on very steep steps to Blacks Point. This was a great walk through beautiful lush forest. If you haven't been there, I highly recommend it.

A bit of car shuffling took place. A couple of people disappeared. Most of us, however, went into the Museum where a very knowledgeable local gentleman showed us how the stamper worked, along with the sludgy water flowing over the copper trays complete with mercury. We had a demonstration of how the pelton wheel used for water flushing was

also used to light up the very ancient lights that illuminated the shed. Our guide showed us his own find, which was a fist sized rock liberally speckled with gold.

No trip is complete without a coffee stop, so back into town where we bumped into the walkers who escaped earlier. By the time coffee was over, we were a bit short on time to do a bit of another track, so Ross guided us around Reefton, sharing stories and ending up at the old cemetery where grave stones had been salvaged and lined up in a neat row. We met gentleman twins who volunteer their services to most things that happen in Reefton, it seems, and they told us some interesting stories about those interred under the lawn, and those not yet at that stage of life.

**Saturday night.....** We had a very prolonged happy hour, with so many nibbles that dinner wasn't really required, though we forced ourselves to eat some.

**Sunday walk.....** Once again, a huge amount of planning went into who was going where. We made lunches, packed up – and it started to rain. Thus we all opted to go straight home, though a few of us managed to bump into one another in a Murchison café.

A very nice weekend. The participants were;

Yvonne H (leader who remained remarkably calm during the turmoil of sorting out who was going where and when and by what means) Laurie H, Mike, Jess, Heather, Muriel, Yvonne J, Judith, Ian, Ann, Bill, Judy, and Ross at times.

Yvonne J

*(walk photos: Yvonne J)*

## **29 October Pukeone Mt Campbell**

After concern that we did not have people who knew the way, and convincing Bob that he had to come, we ended up with 3 who 'fessed up that they knew a way and a few more who remembered some bits. Thus a fair amount of discussion took place about the route.

We drove in via Brooklyn Valley and John Wratt kindly met us and unlocked gates, so we drove a reasonable way into his farm to park.



We walked up through farmland and bush via Wratt's Hut, passing several other houses and huts and through a stunning bit of old native forest to the old communication installation with the much photographed very large rocks where we joined the road. The bit on the



road to the top was longer than any of us had remembered. We returned “pretty much” the same way.



It was a very misty day so no views, but also not much rain - a little bit came in so we finished lunch a bit faster than we might have.

It was interesting to reflect that the mountain has been in the business of communication for a very long time - in earlier times when local Maori lit fires to communicate, to today's variety of radio communications. The sand apparently taken to the summit for the fires, (Pukeone means Sand Hill) has certainly been overtaken by aerials and wires.

Yvonne H for Arif, Barb, Bob, Dave, Gerda, Ian, Marie, Rob, Yvonne J.

*(Photos: Hut – Bob; Bob on rock – Yvonne J)*

### 3-5 November Fenella (NOT) but Holyoake Clearing

After much research at various of our most favourite weather forecast sites, a decision was made by the four registered participants not to venture up to Fenella. However, coastal areas around Nelson looked ok, so we finally settled on a Saturday walk to Holyoake shelter. Lovely journey enjoyed by Yvonne J, Wendy and Marie. In flower were bush lawyer and and Olearia Rani or Heketara, plus the last of the clematis.



*(Photo: Yvonne J)*

### 12 November Round Hill

It was interesting/unfortunate that the trip to Round Hill coincided with the 85 ton fertiliser drop at Henderson's Farm! The plane carried 1.2 tons and the turn around time between

trips was less than two minutes. We were directed down the hill on a different route past the cottage down to the valley floor, where we had morning tea.

Mike and Yvonne H went off on an exploratory ramble whilst Marie, Christine and I made our way towards Round Hill. The closer we got to the Saddle, the louder the plane! Anyway, as we approached, the plane dropped its last load and thankfully all was quiet from then on. We followed the valley up to the old musterer's hut at the edge of the bush, and had our lunch on the veranda.

After lunch, we had an easy river crossing at the old ford. Since last time here there was a lot more undergrowth but luckily we found an old road from the ford that we could follow for a while. It took about 20 minutes to reach the saddle. By this time a keen wind had got up, so in lieu of exploring the open country to the left of the saddle we dropped steeply down to the river again. On the river bank there was the remains of a hut, built fairly soon after the farm was bought. A young man apparently had lived there for a spell trapping possums. A very lonely existence. We then made our way across the farm and steeply uphill back to the cars.

An excellent day in good company. Moppie

## 16-19 November Wangapeka Track

Although three other club members expressed interest in this four day tramping trip over Kahurangi National Park from east to west, only two of us headed off from Rolling River junction on a stunning summer morning, headed for Stone Hut. Although the trip was originally programmed from Friday through to Monday, we brought it forward by one day to fit in with



scheduled return track transport. It was many years since I had last tramped the Wangapeka and the track has been downgraded to a route beyond Stone Hut.

Gold was discovered in the Wangapeka in 1859 leading to the building of the route between 1869 and 1899 by unemployed gold miners and diggers. Much of the old benched formation remains through to upper Karamea River but the Murchison earthquake in 1929 took its toll in the west in the Little Wanganui catchment.

River and stream levels were low and the track surface dry as we made our way up the lower Wangapeka valley. After an hour and a half, whilst traversing the large landslip which

formed a small lake in the Wangapeka River in October 2012, we encountered signs of recent track clearing and came across a cache of DOC equipment. Before long we met up with a team of local DOC staff who had been based at Kings Hut, doing some painting at the hut that morning, before continuing with track maintenance. We arrived at a very spic and



span Kings Hut where we had lunch before heading on to Stone Hut, after a brief stop to admire the historic restored Cecil King slab hut built in 1935.

The track had been scrub cut all the way to Stone Hut,

which made for pleasant travel, apart from the final rough section which was a recent deviation along the foot of the hill, after the river had changed course and washed out the original track formation across an easy terrace. There was no-one at Stone Hut when we arrived, so we took the opportunity to give it a clean out and removed all the firewood stacked around the fireplace. Later that evening we were joined by a young couple on a traverse through Kahurangi National Park from north to south. They were headed for Rolling River to pick up a food drop, before continuing over Mt Owen.

We departed early on day 2 before they stirred as we anticipated a longish day through to Taipo hut. It only took a little over an hour or so to climb to Wangapeka Saddle at 1009m where we had a break before commencing a gradual descent to cross the headwaters of Karamea River. With low river levels we had no problem fording the river several times, arriving at the six bunk Helicopter Flat hut just on midday for lunch.

From there, it is a steady sidle and descent following the true left bank of the Karamea River to the Taipo swingbridge, passing the site of Brough's Tabernacle built by the early track gangs in 1898. An assorted range of rusting hand tools remain, and the site provides an impressive lookout point over the confluence of the Taipo and Karamea Rivers.





Saxon falls could be heard below us.

Less than an hour's travel on a moderately steep descent brought us to Taipo bridge before the route continues up the true left bank to the 16 bunk Taipo Hut, set in a pleasant clearing in beech forest above the river. Again we had the hut to ourselves and enjoyed a well earned brew and relax in the sun. We had a pleasant night in the hut but noted several maintenance jobs to record for the DOC visitor asset team in Motueka.

Day three dawned fine and clear and we were away early for the steep climb up to Little Wanganui Saddle at 1087 metres. It took less than a 1 ½ hours to reach the saddle, passing Stag Flat bivy on the way. We were rewarded with magnificent views from the top in all directions on a stunning day. We enjoyed the vista before heading west past Saddle Lakes and dropping steeply down into Little Wanganui headwaters.

We were pleasantly surprised at the standard of the route given that it is no longer maintained to tramping track standard, and only encountered a couple of major windfalls



each day after leaving Stone hut. There is, however, a cautionary DOC sign warning of the significant damage from Cyclone Ita in 2013 resulting in massive windfall damage from the very severe easterly winds, along much of the west coast.

We soon crossed to the true right bank on another suspension bridge, which we followed all the way down to Belltown/Manunui hut. At one stage the route sidles high above the river to avoid an impressive gorge. We were pleased to finally arrive at the 10 bunk Belltown/Manunui hut mid afternoon, again having it to ourselves.

Next morning also dawned fine and clear and we were in no hurry to get away given that it is only three hours travel on mostly flat to undulating terrain to Little Wanganui road-end. We met up with and chatted to two retired couples from Karamea out for a Sunday day

walk, combined with some volunteer track maintenance. We arrived out sooner than anticipated and had a couple of hours to wait for the track transport shuttle from the Heaphy Track, which ended up running 45 minutes late. It was a full bus load on the return journey after also picking up two trampers from Old Ghost Road at Seddonville. After stops at Westport and Nelson, we finally arrived back at Seaton Valley at 8.30pm.

A most enjoyable tramp in superp weather. Thanks to Marie for accompanying me.

Dave

*(Photos: Cecil King Hut, Stone Hut, Taipo Hut, Belltown/Manunui Hut – by courtesy DOC on-line brochure. Figures therein are NOT Dave and Marie)*

## 26 November Cable Bay Walkway

The day was fine and warm with no wind. Six of us met in Motueka and a further two club members were collected along the way in Richmond and Nelson.

We parked by the beach at the Glen and had a short warm up walk to the turn off on the left, close to



the end of the sealed road before heading directly up the steepish hill. It was pleasant being in the shade of the full size trees. The last time I went that way there were none! Dave and Marie strode out in front to our morning tea stop by the seat at the track junction from the road / track that we would take on our return to the cars.



Great views of the Boulder bank were enjoyed.

Onwards then, along the airstrip, through the bush, up and down in the open to our leisurely lunch stop at the furthest high point overlooking Cable Bay and Peppin Island.

A very pleasant relaxed day , and good company of Ann, Bill, Barbara, Dave , Pam, Marie and Judy

Mary

*(Photos: Estuary – Judy; Lunch – Mary)*

### 1-2-3 December Nydia Bay

This was one of the rare trips where I didn't need to anxiously check the weather forecast. The big high stayed in place, and the sunny days just kept happening.



Anyway, we had two groups, one going in from Kaiuma Bay and the other from Duncan Bay. Duncan Bay is by far the prettiest way and is longer; Kaiuma a bit shorter but with TWO hills.



As my group, Kaiuma end, got closer to the lodge, we started talking about cups of tea (as you do), so staggering into the lodge grounds we were dismayed to find a DOC man busily painting the kitchen floor (a pristine white – very odd for a school camp – maybe white paint is cheap?). We were advised to keep out of the kitchen for two whole hours, and as none of us had taken cookers, we just had to drink water (a poor substitute). But I tell you, on the dot of two hours, we were in there with kettles boiling.



Life is very peaceful at Nydia Bay. No-one else was in residence, and none were expected, so we had the lodge to ourselves with the lovely Kahu as our warden. Some took to the water, some lay under trees, most of us did the “1km circuit” many, many times. There were some orchids in flower, we named the trees, we loitered by the little beaches. Very restful.

Next day we set off back to Nydia Bay and headed up the track that leads to the Opouri timber mill tramway. People dropped off as the track got steeper, and steeper and returned to the lodge to do yet another round or two of the “1km circuit”.

Those who got to the top, namely Dave, Yvonne H, Marie and Barbara, did find evidence of the tramway and and to prove same, took a photo of a horseshoe (see below).

The story goes that : *‘In 1876 William Brownlee began milling in Nydia Bay, mainly taking rimu, but also kahikatea, matai and miro. Within four years, three million metres of timber had been taken from 1000 acres of the valley floor. Brownlee moved to Kaiumu Bay in 1880.*

*When John Craig and his partners, the Reese brothers, gained milling rights to the upper Opouri Valley in 1907 they were faced with the problem of getting the timber out of the forest and down the Opouri, Rai and Pelorus valleys to Havelock. Their ingenious solution was a steep incline from Nydia Bay, right over a saddle and into the Opouri where they built their mill. Steam powered haulers dragged the logs to the mill, and the timber over the saddle and down*



to Nydia Bay where a 300 metre long wharf was built.” (from DoC publication)



More swims happened, a pleasant evening ensued at the lodge, and we went to sleep listening to a Morepork (or two?)

Most of us managed to commune with the “new” eel (the locals have already named him, but because we have forgotten, his MTC name is “Eddie”. Eddie’s predecessor, a much larger eel, had been murdered by a person unknown, just prior to our last visit to Nydia.

Next day we packed up, and headed off in two groups, each to complete the cross-over. It was a very hot day – in fact the whole three days were extremely warm – and thus most settled for (the much talked about) icecream and cold drinks at Rai café.

As usual with a cross-over trip, many items were left behind in the wrong car and the sort out at Rai (and back home) was somewhat comic.

Yvonne J

(Photos: Horseshoe (Dave) Others: Yvonne J)

**10 December Canaan/Wainui Circuit - Cancelled**

### **15-17 December Balloon Hut**

On Friday morning the four of us went to Cobb Valley. It was a beautiful morning and a very pleasant walk to Balloon Hut, although the wind was getting stronger. Coming down from Peel Lake we had to deal with a chilly, strong westerly.





There was only one other person from Motueka Valley in the hut and at 8pm 2 good-looking French guys arrived and in their slipstream 2 young German girls. One of them was close to

hypothermia, wearing just a T-shirt and very small and very thin shorts. She only brought a rain jacket and a sleeping bag and some bread. We provided her with hot drinks and a lecture about walking in the ranges. She warmed up, probably more by the company of the good looking French guys, and had a good evening.

The second day we decided to explore the track to Salisbury Hut, and the Pothole Track, a scenic trail. The weather remained beautiful, although in the late afternoon we had a shower. Since we had only one car, we had cancelled the crossover, but I offered to walk out alone and pick the others up at Flora car





park next day.

So next morning after breakfast I had a nice walk out enjoying the view back towards Balloon Hut and Balloon Hill in the sun surrounded by clouds in the valley. Took the car, fuelled up in Riwaka, had a coffee at Ginger Dynamite and arrived at Flora car park 20 minutes before Serene, Gerda and Phil arrived.

We had a very relaxing trip in Kahurangi, exploring Tableland. Participants Phil and Serene, Gerda, and leader and scribe, Rob.

(Photos: Rob/Gerda)

## 20 December – Christmas Picnic at Kina

A cheery time was had at Kina, though winds, a bit of chill, a lot of sun – making it around a bit to get the right level of comfort to enjoy a lovely shared picnic tea, the odd festive drink, a lot of chatter.



accompanied by strong necessary to move

Twelve club members took opportunity to get together one last time for 2017. One person at least was very miffed not to be able to attend.

*So that's the end of another reporting season. Reading through, lots of good stuff happened, a few expeditions were cancelled for various (good) reasons, but a lot of members met a lot of challenges, enjoyed one another's company, told yarns, shared ideas and plotted interesting things that "we could do". We look forward to meeting up again in 2018. If you haven't been out with the club for a while, give it a go. The walks committee keeps coming up with great things to do, a whole heap of which most of us are capable of achieving.*

*Have a great summer...*

*From your editor - Merry New Year.*

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