



Motueka Tramping Club

Newsletter

April 2020

Email: secretary.motuekatc@gmail.com

Web site: www.motuekatrampingclub.org

The Annual General Meeting of the club was conducted via email on 15 April 2020. You will have received the president's report, accounts, and minutes of the 2019 AGM. The new committee is:

President: Rob Bruinsma

Vice President & Secretary: Debbie Smith

Treasurer: Mike Tooker

Committee: Heather Adams, Ann Giggs

Newsletter Editor: Yvonne Jardine

Trip Reports



5 January Mt Arthur

After weeks of clear sunny weather, this particular Sunday came with gale force south-westerlies and the threat of rain. A repeat of same time last year, 6 January 2019 to be precise, when our Newsletter read: "Well, we didn't get far enough above Arthur Hut to see the flowers – in fact we only just made it to the first cairn above the hut, and at great risk of being blown away. I was a bit behind the others, and when I poked my head above the ridge, the rest were hunkered down behind rocks and giving me every indication we weren't going anywhere. That was great, as I had no intention of going further anyway."



This time, we all made it to the bottom of the first “big incline” and some made it, through wind and swirling mist, to the top of the big incline. We all turned back and made our way down past the dog box to Flora Hut, where we had lunch, and back to the carpark. History repeats itself – and judging from the photos, most of the participants.

A nice day out just the same, with Ann, Gerda, Rob, Serene, Philfree, Bob, Yvonne H and me, trip leader again, Yvonne J. (both photos YJ – right 2019, left 2020)

10-11-12 January Lake Tennyson/Hanmer Springs

Friday – Travel and Dog Stream

The plan was to camp Friday night at Lake Tennyson, then stay in motor camp cabins on Saturday night. However, the forecast for gale force winds at 1000m for Canterbury High Country was enough to change plans, and we motor-camped two nights at Alpine Adventure Holiday Park. Two previous camping trips to Lake Tennyson were sufficient to respect the conditions.

On arrival at Hanmer (a little delayed due to coffee stop in Murch) we made straight for the Dog Stream waterfall track, off Jollies Pass Road, where we stretched our calf muscles and enjoyed this very pretty walk up to the 51 metre Dog Stream waterfall. There are some new steps since last I was there, making the journey less scrambling



Three of us settled in our non-powered ex MoW cabin, with one (the writer) sleeping in her vehicle. Though windy, we enjoyed a pleasant evening there, drinks and nibbles in the sun outside our hacienda (no room to swing a cat inside), various and interesting meals cooked in the camp kitchen.

Saturday Lake Tennyson walk

Day 2 saw us driving the 32km into Lake Tennyson on the Rainbow Road. It was great to see alpine flowers, finally seeing gentians about halfway in. The forecast for the day was for increasing winds and possibly rain in the afternoon.



We arrived at the lake about 9.45am to see a tent in process of being taken down, being chased as the wind blew it away!!

Not to be daunted by the already windy day, we set off in a clockwise direction around the lake which meant following the dry route on the western side of the lake. In the first 5 minutes we were able to practise our river crossing technique, as we negotiated the outlet for the Clarence River. The water was rather chilly and up to mid calf in the middle, but a successful crossing was made by all.



As we walked we became sheltered from the wind, and were soon discovering the summer flowers that were around the edge of the lake. The highlight was a small cluster of a light green clematis about two thirds of the way into our walk; it was clinging to some manuka and not easily seen.



We walked on until we were about half-way around and started to go downhill heading to the boggy end of the lake. It was decided not to continue with the ominous skies and bog coming up, so turned and headed back, stopping for lunch not long after.

We again practised our river crossing much to the amusement of a group of young trail bike riders watching us.

On the drive out we stopped at the start of the Malling Pass track, and then called in at Rainbow Homestead and checked out the remains of the old homestead, 3 chimneys and lots of dog kennels made out of 40 gallon drums - some even had a little porch. We chatted to a couple there who are running a horse trekking business.

Then it was back to our luxurious accommodation, with power tonight, for wine, beer and nibbles. It was an excellent day out. Debbie

Sunday – Mt Isobel and home

A feeble attempt was made to climb some way up Mt Isobel. The wind was still in gale-force mode, though it was warm, as we set off from the top of Jack's Pass. We decided that by starting further up, we would get to enjoy more of the alpine flora, before turning back to get home at a reasonable time. We reached a spot where the track was very visible, heading up a ridge, and as time was short, we chose to have morning tea sheltered under and behind a big rock with stunning views over Hanmer and the farming valley below. The clouds were closing in, so we skidded our way back to the cars, down to Hanmer for coffee, and headed home.



We ran into lovely rain through Lewis Pass (which did wonders for the inches of dust on the writer's car) to arrive in Murchison - after which it was dry all the way home. Alas our home gardens didn't get the watering we had hoped for.

A very nice weekend, enough walks to justify ourselves as members of MTC, and very good company of Ann, Debbie and Chrissie. Yvonne J – organiser

(Photos: Ann and YJ)

19 January Pearce Resurgence

Party: Debbie, Serene, Phil, Graeme (potential member) and Rob, leader. Five people, all in one car, left the Rec Centre at 8 am.

At the end of the road we parked our car and crossed the river. The promising part was that the temperature of the water was not too cold. There had been a lot of



maintenance work done on the path so the walk was rather easy going. Today no-one had to be lifted out by helicopter after a foot missing the trail because of the overgrowth. The river crossings were rather easy and slightly colder towards the resurgence, as expected.



It took us about 2.5 hours to get to the source of the river and a surprise was waiting for us there.

I don't refer to the stink of the dead goat at the side of the valley, but there was a pair of whoio in the water by the resurgence. The couple was relaxed eating and swimming around giving us plenty of opportunity to observe them.

Like last time we did give it a try to find the resurgence cave and were again not successful. Next time we have to bring someone who actually knows where it is.

While eating our lunch another trumper, from Motueka, came along. He also decided to have lunch up wind out of the smell of the goat, but not until after he had a swim in the river. None of us followed him.

Our way back was sunny and very pleasant, meeting several more trampers. We had an enjoyable day out in the valley with beautiful scenery and wildlife (not meaning the dead goat) .

Rob (Photos: Rob)

25-26-27 January - Collingwood Based Bike n Hike

The very warm conditions predicted by MetService did indeed happen, and we had three days of 27-30 degrees, sunny with some very interesting mist/cloud in and around the Collingwood tops. Participants in this trip were



Ann, Muriel, Judy, Moppie, Bill, Eddie and me, organiser Yvonne J.

Saturday – Mt Burnett

We left home early to allow us time for coffee at Wholemeal café (of course) and drop off our bikes and food in the shade of trees by the house at Collingwood motor camp. Eddie and Joyce were already in residence in their motorhome.

Today we walked the twin peaks of Mt Burnett – the plan being to get up there before it got too hot. The first section by the quarry and crusher were very still and hot, but as we climbed up we got cooler conditions from the cloud that hung around the mountains, and a nice cooling sea breeze.

The large variety of bush on the upper slopes was very interesting, including heaps of *Brachyglottis hectorii* in full flower.



We had lunch in the shade just before the first summit where we enjoyed stunning views out to sea. Further up at the transmitters, we got the best view ever of Whanganui inlet and the

entrance to the harbour. Very spectacular.

We dropped back down the main track and turned off to ascend the second summit. The top had views very similar to the highest point. From there we back tracked down the road, with the temperature rising with every metre of descent. Most of the walk is on gravel roads which service the quarry, and then the transmitter towers. We were very pleased to get back to base to cool off, enjoying cold drinks, icecream and other cool libatious liquids.



(Photos: Ann, YJ)

Sunday – Bike Ride

Seven souls ventured forth from Collingwood at 8:15am on this hot sunny day, six of them reminiscing about the previous days exploration of Mount Burnett where mysterious forces had removed vital GPS tracking data.

Pakawau proved very attractive but alas the coffee shop was not open until 11am, so onward with light tail winds to the final destination, Puonga, for morning tea on the beach. As we had made excellent time it was decided to return to Pakawau for lunch (and vital coffee top up) which we did, but this was into a stiff breeze at times slowing progress, but lunch on the beach was achieved at 12:40 after coffee and swimming fix for some



of our group. The problem then was most of us were lying down and not far from nodding off, so there was a call to action as the next major event was ice cream in Collingwood. Well, that got everyone fired up and off we went again for a wander along the Waikato spot, because we could, then back to campground.



A trip of 48km mostly flat in quite hot and sunny weather. Thanks for the company of Muriel, Moppie, Yvonne J, Judy, Eddie and of course Ann. Cheers Bill *(Photos: Muriel)*

Monday - Johnston's United Battery

We set off for Aorere Goldfields area driving past the "Devils Boots" and arriving at the car park at around 9.15 am. It was another hot day with some wind and strange cloud formations along the hills on the western side

of the valley. After much discussion it was agreed to follow the four-wheel drive track to reach the entrance to the stamper track. (our leader was right as usual!)

After 2 hours, including a stop for morning tea, we reached the turnoff to the battery, which is located in Wakefield Gully. There followed a scramble down the steep side of the gully, initially following a dry stream bed before traversing onto an old overgrown track; then another steep descent to the site. The stamper has been reassembled by DOC and is impressive with its 20 heads. Apparently, it was the only successful quartz lode operation in the area and recovered 20,000 ounces of gold. After a short break, we clambered back up the track and shortly thereafter stopped for lunch.

It was decided to go back via the Druggans Dam track to visit the Stafford's and Ballroom Caves. The Ballroom Cave is the most impressive while the Stafford's Cave looks as if it could collapse at any moment! We reached our vehicles at around 5.15pm

Thanks to our leader Yvonne for organizing the trip. The group for today was Judy, Ann, Muriel, Yvonne J, Moppie and scribe for today, Eddie. (Photos: Judy, Ann)



More about Mt Burnett (from m.dat.org)

Quarried since 1947, and used mainly for fertilizer. It has been used in the past for glass and steel manufacture, and as blocks lining the Wellington Harbour. It is New Zealand's only dolomite mine, operated by Solly's Transport, a local Collingwood area trucking firm. Between 25 000 to 40 000 tonnes is produced per annum.

Dolomite is a hardened limestone, with high magnesium content. Near surface at Mount Burnett it is weathered to a dull yellow-brown, but fresh material is creamy white. It is sometimes intersected with calcite veins, and as calcite filling cavities, with well developed nail-head spar crystals. Chlorite and hematite is common along major joint and shear planes, and as small irregular pods.

White marble is also present, with sandy or pelitic bands spasmodically through it. There is also banded dolomite-marble, with the dolomite as thin discontinuous bands enclosed in marble.

2 February Starveall Hut – cancelled due no takers

7-10 February Blue Lake Rotomairewhenua

The participants in this trip were Margaret, Arif, Yvonne H, Rob, Gerda, Muriel, Ann
Total distance: 44km.

Elevations: Sabine hut 450m; West Sabine hut 680m; Blue Lake hut 1180m.

Walking times: Sabine to West Sabine 6h20m: West Sabine to Blue Lake 4h.

Return times were about 1/2hr less.

Day 1 Motueka – Lake Rotoroa

water taxi - West Sabine hut.

We left Motueka at 08:00 in two cars and arrived at Lake Rotorua by 09:30. There was no time for coffee as water taxi skipper Kerry was ready early so we took off for the 20 minute, 15km cross lake voyage. The sandflies were pretty mild at that stage.



After a very quick pass by Sabine hut, we started walking at 10:20 on

a beautiful, warm sunny day. The Gorge Bridge was a scenic stop about 40 minutes later. Then it was up n down for most of the day, with the overall trend upwards (230m elevation rise from the lake level).



It was interesting to see three dead rats on the track, apparently dead due to lack of food after the big mast year last year. There were several avalanche areas, all very well sign posted by DoC. After negotiating tree roots, rocky ledges and a steep climb up a temporary new track, the swing bridge just upstream of the West Sabine hut was a welcome sight. We more or less made our ETA of 16:30 ish, 16:40 deemed to be within the 'ish' limit. Walking distance for the day was 15 or 15.5km depending on which sign you believe. The hut was full, with some TA walkers and some Travers-Sabine trampers, so Muriel and Margaret chose to use their tents where Muriel 'enjoyed' the attentions of the hut weka all night. Margaret

Day 2 West Sabine Hut to Blue Lake Hut with afternoon trip to Lake Constance.

The sign post at West Sabine Hut showed a distance of 7kms and a time of 4 hours, which has to be indicative of a very steep and slow track. And indeed it was. DoC had been in to do some work a week or so ago and although there were lots of loose avalanche pathways and tree falls the track was well marked with lots of orange triangles with exclamation marks on them.

We did pretty much the “advertised” time up to Blue Lake Hut and we were very glad to be early after last night’s over full hut experience. Only Muriel slept out in the freezing temperatures - with a visit from a mouse in the early part of the night. Too high for last night’s weka or his kind.

The afternoon walk to Lake Constance was really worthwhile and the alpine lichen, mosses and flowers made a stunning show. Lots of snowberries at all stages of development and a variety of hebe, celmisia, gentian and heaps of slightly different small white flowers that I needed more expertise than I had to identify. Perfect weather during the day, a little rain in late afternoon, as predicted, and very cold overnight.



Although the huts were very full, the hut etiquette was excellent. Young people took top bunks or even used their tents to free up space for us - if you look like someone’s grandmother it really works to get a bottom bunk! It was great to see most people using red light torches and each night on the dot of 9pm everyone was in bed and totally quiet.

We also got a good reminder to check boots before a long trip. On the way in we passed a woman coming out wearing light Croc sandals (her hut

shoes)

tied to her feet with Chux cloths bows. It seems Chux cloth is the new duct tape or cable ties! And two of our members are up for having to buy new boots after this trip. An excellent and satisfying day. Yvonne H



Day 3 Blue Lake back to West Sabine with an afternoon side trip to the Chasm Bridge.

We woke up at the Blue Lake hut to a frosty morning and most of us had another walk to Blue Lake which was very still and picturesque. We left around 8.30 and took about 4 hours to get back to the West Sabine hut. Most of us relaxed and chatted to other trampers arriving at the hut and filling it to capacity.

Margaret and Arif enjoyed a climb to the Bridge across the West Sabine on the track towards the Travers saddle taking about 3 hours there and back. There was a spectacular drop in the Gorge of about 25 meters where the water forced itself in between the mountains. Arif.

Day 4 West Sabine – Lake Rotoroa water taxi – Motueka.

Our day started early at 7.30 to make it in time for the water taxi. While it took us more than 6 hours on the first day, we all seemed much fitter and faster today.

Whether it was due to lighter packs or just being more used to walking I don't know but we all enjoyed the walk, each other's company, the beautiful weather and the fabulous landscape. Muriel started to extract weeds on the way, Ann spotted birds and Margaret taught us a nice marching poem.



All in all we came to our lunch spot at the gorge just after noon and could have a nice rest before walking the last half hour to the sandfly covered lakeshore.

The boat trip was great and arriving back at the cars we decided not only to go for a coffee at the closest backpackers but also stopped at Tapawera to finish our trip with an ice-cream. Gerda

16 February Flora Crossover Cancelled

22-23 February Mt Campbell Camping - replaced with:

23 February Flora Cobb Crossover



The fire risk proved to be the final “nail” on the camping trip to Mt Campbell and although we had the right permissions, the “camping” bit wasn’t sounding too comfortable.

So... given that we had a cancellation of the Flora - Asbestos Cross-over the week before, with a good number of people interested, and several of them also

on for a walk to Mt Campbell, a combination of both groups seemed like a good idea.

Ten people and two of the bigger vehicles split into a Flora group and a Cobb group and left The Rec Centre at 8am.

The Flora to Cobb team was Rob, Helen, Barbara, Yvonne J and Yvonne H who left Flora carpark at 9am, met the others for lunch at about 1pm, with nice river view, and arrived at Cobb at 4.30pm, after a very long rest stop at Asbestos Hut. Back to the Rec Centre at 6 pm-ish.

The Cobb- Flora team was Christine H, Ann, Gerda, Mieke (Rob’s sister) and Debbie. They had electronic help with their data:

Going from Cobb to Flora carpark took 6.42 hours.

We started at 9.20 am and finished at 4.10 pm.

We climbed 987m and walked 19.4 km.

We were back at Rec Centre 5 pm-ish

Transport logistics went well but given the emails after the walk about left behind jandals, gaiters and bags we might need to build in a bit of gear logistics into our next cross-over!!

A really pleasant day, good bird sounds especially on the Cobb side, and not too hard and not too easy walk. A reminder that it is a good trip to have on our list.

Yvonne H

(Photo: YH)

Thursday 27 February Recce for Robin's Nest

Wendy and I did a recce for Robin's Nest as Bob wasn't going to be available as our guide for the Sunday walk, and Wendy wasn't available on Sunday. Wendy had been there some years ago - maybe six - but she does have a good memory of the walk, and felt pretty confident of finding "The Nest". BUT we never found it even though we went up to the wave formed rocks from the Flora Stream twice in slightly different directions.

First time up we found the marker - a cross formed with white metal bits from old venetian blind slats (or something similar). It is between traps 86 and 87 on the walk up the Flora soon after you cross the stream by the Gridiron Shelter.

We dropped down to the Flora Stream, familiarised ourselves with the position we were to return to, and went straight up the bank directly across the stream.

We soon found another white marker and followed the markers, with increasing difficulty, tending to the right as we climbed on an over-grown but sort of formed track. After some effort we got to the rock formation eroded to the wave form. Wendy felt we were a long way to the right. We were somewhat misled by following the markers, so we walked under the rock formation to the left. We found a large opening in the rock that Wendy thought she knew was the one we should not go into - so we didn't. We continued to walk under the wave shape having to go down into the very over-grown bush where there had been rock falls or tree falls that we couldn't get through. We finally got stopped by a very large tree fall - it looked to us that it had fallen from the top of the rock formation and landed with the root system on top again the rock. This made it impossible or at least far too difficult for us to get through.



Thus we decided to go back down and try again. We bush-bashed our way down, sometimes finding the marked route and happily found the Stream at the point we had entered. The next time up we forced our way to the left bush-bashing up to meet the rock formation further to the left. The bush here was very dense with Tataramoa (bush lawyer), stinging nettles (probably *urtica diode* and *utica urens*), tree ferns, various sizes of beech and lots of rotten and fallen trees, and heaps of wasp nests. There was also the major attractive plants including many groupings of Prince of Wales

ferns. We again walked under the wave formation until it was clear we were not going to find Robin's

Nest and the going was getting even more difficult. We then bush bashed back down - which was much more difficult and painful than getting up but again came out directly at the Stream crossing. The wide pathway home was really appreciated.

Compensation for the stings - a wasp stung me 3 times, bruises and scratches, was the bird life. We saw three kaka in a tree very close to us, we almost stood on two whio as we scrambled through a small creek high up near the rock formation. And we saw lots of weka, robins, tomtits, fantails and bellbirds and on the other side of the Flora Stream we saw a kakariki.

We didn't find Robin's Nest but we probably increased our tramping fitness, certainly hadn't done that much bush bashing for years, and perhaps ever, and it was great to explore an area adjacent to the smooth pathways we often travel in the Flora.

Yvonne H and Wendy

(Photos: YH)

1 March Robins Nest - route not found, so replaced with

Holyoakes Clearing

Ann and I set out at a leisurely 9.30 am. There were lots of cars in the carpark so we expected the track would be very busy; but as happens when you are on the track going the same way as others, you feel as if you are the only ones doing the walk. It wasn't until we stopped to talk to Moppie and Peter who were walking to Marahau, that it was clear there were a lot of people behind us (they passed us as we talked) and Moppie said there were many before us.

On the section to and from Holyoakes we saw only two young French people who were setting out to do the Inland route to Totaranui and then the Coastal Track back.

The track was well worn and very dry but the bush was reasonably lush and the glimpses of the sea exceptional. It was a very warm ascent with reasonable sound of the small birds and of



course the hut weka. On the way back we joined another person who was watching a weka feed two very young and fluffy chicks by digging the soil and allowing the chicks to find their food. We figured it must have been a second clutch given how far we are into the summer. A pleasant and not at all overgrown trip. And it also added to the tramping fitness.

Yvonne H

(No photos for this trip so here is a photo of Ross (and other MTC members crammed inside the shelter) doing a club "cleaning" trip 9 December 2013)

6-7 March No trip organised

15 March Barron Flat Reconnaissance

I have called this report the “Barron Flat Reconnaissance” because there were no registrations for the trip; therefore I cancelled it as a club trip and proceeded to walk it myself because – after a pleasant foray 18 months ago - I wanted to know what the whole track was like. *(me too Heather – was a good walk and I was sorry to miss out this time by being away – Ed)*

I left Motueka under gloomy skies at 8am and was at the start of the track ready to walk at 9am. It was a beautiful day in Takaka, with the unusual effect of cloud/mist spilling over the Arthur Range as per photo. The track up to Barron Flat is a wide 4-WD road starting steeply through open hillside, then through a little bit of bush, out onto the scrubby flat. I looped

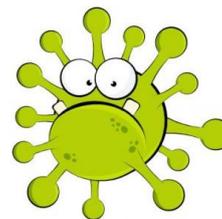


around by walking up the maintenance road for the power lines from the Cobb powerhouse. I made one premature turn, ending up at a pylon, and had to backtrack to the roadway because the line marked on the map is not exactly where the track goes. But with ViewRanger going on my cellphone I was able to see where I was. There are several gates across the track to prevent unauthorised vehicle access, but foot and cycle access is allowed on the road directly to the Kahurangi Park, and there are no electricity company signs elsewhere to indicate access is not permitted on the service part of the road. The track is to the south of the Kill Devil track, and is similar in that it is a rocky track with nice views across/down the valley and across the hilltops when the higher point is reached. Some of the Cobb powerhouse pipework can be seen in the distance. There were lots of vocal bellbird to entertain me much of the way. But with the good comes the bad – I saw two stoats and many wasps as well. The skinny black goat that came to look at us on the last trip was still there – with ‘dad’ and two kids.

The total distance walked was 20km, and I was back at the car after 6hr 15min, which included 15min morning tea, 30 min lunch break and a few ‘admire the birdie’ and photo stops.

Heather

22-24 March Wylies Farm – cancelled due Covid 19



29 March Bike Ride Nelson area – cancelled due Covid 19

Ian did a very efficient job organising this bike ride, together with maps and instructions. Unfortunately “the virus” intervened. As the plan was so good, we will re-schedule for when we are all allowed “out”.

Obviously, due to members’ inability to cluster and travel, the following trips have been cancelled. BUT they will appear on our new programme – titled “After Covid 19”. The programme will be a bit fragile for a while. I don’t know about the rest of you, but I am longing to put my boots back on.

4 April Adele Island Moppie

12 April Dun Mountain Walkway Yvonne J

18 19 April St Arnaud weekend – Moppie

23-26 April Great Taste Trail Phil

Meantime, enjoy being at home in your bubble. Good time to do all those jobs that regularly get put off in order to go out and tramp and bike. Keep fit, stay healthy and happy. See you all in the dawn of post-Covid 19. Your editor.

Presidents Report - Motueka Tramping Club, 2019/2020



It has been quite a year! First of all, I would like to thank you all for the confidence in allowing me to lead the flock. Even though I was the only candidate, there was no opposition for my candidacy. I started my term going to Europe for half a year, as announced in the AGM, leaving MTC in the competent hands of the Committee.

It was in Europe that I was informed that one of our most appreciated members Dave Wilson suddenly passed away. What a great loss for all of us. Dave was of great importance to our club, as vice-President, as member of the tramp-committee, as leader, as fellow trumper and as friend. Dave was a fine man, with a lot of experience in the outdoors, a vast knowledge of nature and environment and a big circle of friends in all kinds of areas. He was kind, friendly, always interested and listening, and advising/guiding us. Dave, we miss you. But also, Dave, we are very thankful that we have been within your circle of friends. Let us take a minute to reflect and honour Dave...

In last years AGM I announced that one of the things I wanted to achieve is MTC to be present on the World Wide Web again. We have had presence in a website that has been stopped and I believe that any club who want to survive in this world of individualisation needs internet-presence. The first aim was to have a website built containing a members portal (with login to protect privacy). But the costs were rather high and we as Committee decided to go for a website without a secured members area, just to

achieve the presence. It was easier to develop and I could do it myself. We are very proud MTC to be on the web again with www.motuekatrampingclub.org as our address. All documents used for the website are cleared from telephone numbers and email addresses of members and the only contact possibility is our email address secretary.motuekatc@gmail.com and the contact form. Filling in a contact form will generate an email to my email address. We will keep sending the Trip List including telephone numbers and email addresses by email.

Proof that people are able to find us is the request of a television reporter for help finding the “mummified cow” on Takaka Hill to make a programme about it. The request is now stranded in the Corona Crisis, but if anyone knows where that cow is, please let me know. It exists, but I don’t know where.

Some figures about MTC.

We currently have 55 members, which is rather stable. There is interest of 2-3 people to join the club, which is good.

We are an active club, planning a trip every week. Most of them are going ahead, but several had to be cancelled because of the weather, lack of interest or COVID-19.

There have been 20 single day trips (2 of them were biking trips) with an average of 6+ participants (one had only one participant, the leader; how is that!! What a leadership!). 8 Trips have been cancelled and 3 were COVID-19 prohibited.

We had 10 multi day trips with an average of 6 participants, 3 were cancelled, 3 changed in daytrips and 3 COVID-19 prohibited.

Our Christmas gathering at Neudorff Winery, like last years, was a great success with 23 people attending and a very good atmosphere.

COVID-19 - The last part of this financial year is overshadowed by a worldwide crisis. COVID-19 is scourging the world taking many, many lives. Our government had to take drastic measurements and starting March 26 the country is in complete lockdown. We are all are ‘forced’ to stay at home. Our 70+ members have been advised to do so before that date, and we had to cancel all our trips and meetings starting March 22. We hope that we can go out again in May or June, but that is still uncertain. However, I believe, our government is showing strong leadership and there are clear signs that the measurements they took are paying of. We will overcome! Nevertheless I am very worried about the outcome in areas like Africa, South-America, India, etc. Our economy will take a hard hit, and I hope mankind is taking the lesson. The way we are living and treating our earth and fellow citizens of this planet putting ego and economy first (as happened in a lot of countries during the crisis) is not the right way, not the road to prosperity and happiness for all of us. We should not take for granted what we have gained and disrespect the world we are living in. It would be great if everyone realises that the burdens and side effects of our prosperity and way of living has to be taken by us all and mostly by the strongest shoulders. The richest and most fortunate people have contributed by far the most to nowadays problems and it is unfair that they let the weak and the poor suffer most of side effects such as global warming and pandemics like this. They are often barely surviving and not in the position to change anything. Fortunately, especially in times of crisis, New Zealanders have proven to be kind and caring and helpful for each other. And I am proud to be a part of this society. Lets hope that we are able to conquer individualisation and “Ourselves First”.

Fellow trampers, stay strong, stay healthy and, for now, stay at home. We will meet again.

Rob Bruinsma

Bits of history and bio-diversity:

Editor still seeks contributions to this section and has threatened to put her own holiday snaps herein.

Spinifex sericeus near Pakawau (photo: Muriel)



Viola cunninghamii, Lake Tennyson (photo Ann)



Bulbinella and gentians- Cobb Valley December 19



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