



Motueka Tramping Club

Newsletter

September 2021

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

Best Group Photo:



Photographer: Judy Title: Cave Dwellers Location: Oparara Cave

Upcoming "away" trips !!!

Don't forget to check the current walks programme for multi-day trips to some interesting places with plenty of variety, good company and a secured bed - **BOOK** your place now.

New members:

The club sends a warm welcome to new members
Mary, Kathy and Rob.

Trip Reports:



8-10 May Great Taste Trail

There is no report for this trip, the leaders presently being overseas on an extended family visit. BUT we know that the biking participants were Gerda, Rob, Barbara, Yvonne H, Laurie, Debbie. There would have been 3 man-powered bikes, and 3 battery powered.



I am sure they had a great time, though I think the weather may have been a bit inclement?

Ed.

15 May Takaka Hill Walkway

Thanks to Yvonne J's excellent eagle eye on the forecast, we changed to Saturday for this tramp and scored a beautiful sunny day instead of rain.



We had four hours going up, around and down, with appropriate stops for morning tea and lunch. The scenery certainly changes on this walkway, from open mineral belt providing at times rounded rocks for sitting upon, to sharp serrated ones for taking the skin off ones knees, and then sections of lovely beech forest, and some grassy meadows.

There was botanising, photos, tomo spotting, gorse grappling, pig root poking – all amongst the gorgeous scenery of our local hill. And a ritual glance at the “cow that was”, of course.

Our group was Yvonne J, Ann, Sonya, Eddie, Brian and me, Sarah Si.

(Photo: YJ)

23 May NOT Hackett and Browning but **Dun Mountain Walkway**

Hackett and Browning were out of bounds due to wilding pine operations in the area, and thus we headed out to the Maitai.

There were seven of us on this trip. We arrived at the car park just before the gate that gets locked near Maitai Dam, to be greeted by the usual freezing cold wind that blows up the valley. However, we were soon away into the shelter of the bush, and then the warm sun on the mineral rocks made for a very balmy walk.



The track was relatively quiet in the morning, but about 11am the bikers started coming toward us, having set off from Codgers on the other side. The bikers were very considerate as they passed us, and I think we afforded them the same by stepping off the track to give them room, and wishing one another pleasant and safe crossings.

Two of us made it to the saddle, the rest of us wending our way up, and up and then up a bit more. Soon into the open mineral belt we came across lots of gentians specific to the mineral belt of Nelson (*Gentianella stellata*). By 12.30 we had lunch, and with about half an hour to go to the saddle, chose not to do so and thus had time to enjoy the journey back down. The views across the mineral belt and hills were so beautiful in the late autumn light.

My thanks to travelling companions Eddie, Ken, Sarah Sme, Sarah Silv, Christine H and prospective member Rob, for a lovely day.

Yvonne J

(Photos YJ)

30 May Cable Bay Walkway – Cancelled due weather

5/6/7 June
Collingwood –
cancelled due
weather and
replaced with:

**4 June (Friday)
Cable Bay
Walkway**

Only four people
chose to do this
walk on a very
beautiful day, being
YH, YJ, Lynda and
Sarah Sm.



(Photo YJ)

13 June Richmond Hills – cancelled due weather

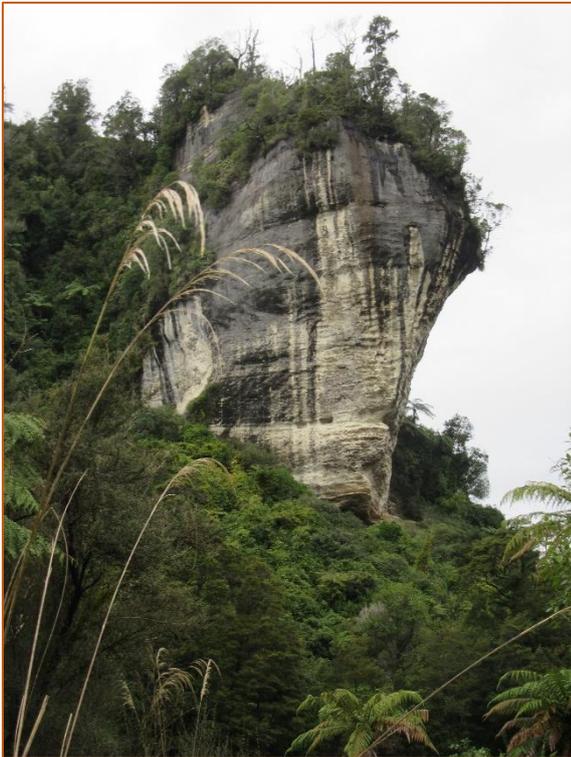
19-23 June West Coast

Saturday – Motueka to Denniston

It was a bit drizzly to start, but
after a compulsory stop at Murch
for coffee and scones, we arrived
on the west coast in fine weather
– which graced us for the rest of
our stay.

Charleston was our first
destination, stopping for picnic
lunch at Constant Bay (a quick
affair due to strong wind, chilly
and slightly damp) and then walking the harbour track. Many thanks to Helen for showing us a
very wide variety of coastal plants.





After lunch we moved onto Nile (Waitakere) River, part of Paparoa National Park. I had never been there before, always assuming it was a private walk/train/caving enterprise. Not so. We really enjoyed the massive rock formations, a very lovely river and a combination of bush and river flats. Helen found an invasive weed which she planned to notify. We actually thought it was quite pretty! We walked as far as the cave entrance track, then retraced our steps. It was getting a bit late to go further.



Our accommodation for the night was a house “off the power grid” in lower Denniston. Interestingly enough, all the adjoining houses were also off the

grid, though impressive overhead power lines ran across the properties – perhaps feeding Stockton mine. We were very cosy with a lovely fire, an oven that proved tricky, comfy beds (one on the floor) and a well equipped kitchen. The house appeared to be powered by a combination of windmill, solar panels and gas and some other intriguing device that I didn’t quite get my head around that involved water. Nice evening with a shared meal – far too much food as usual – so the remnants got carried forward. YJ

Sunday - Cape Foulwind

After a wild and windy night, sleepless for some due to the clanging of iron on the chimney stack, we emerged from our Denniston bach to a day of brilliant



sunshine.

Looking brightest to the south we set off to do Cape Foulwind walkway from Tauranga Bay. The views from the cliffs were stunning with the rollers breaking on the rocky

shore. We stopped to view seals* lazing on the rocks below, and then checked out the lighthouse at the Cape.

*If you care to look up Charleston (westcoast.recollect.co.nz), there is very interesting information including: *“In 1990s the seals from Cape Foulwind near Westport moved south to the Charleston coast and made camp at the mouth of the Bromielaw creek about 2 km south of Constant Bay”*



After a brief stop at the Waimangaroa coffee cart to fuel up and admire the carvings from their former home in Marahau, we made our way up to Denniston Incline. Always a fascinating place, it looked very benign bathed in sunshine although there was still a chilly wind. As we read the information panels we reflected on life on the Plateau in less enlightened times with its many daily challenges and occupational hazards.

the hill to our digs at Little Wanganui Hotel.

We finished the day with a drive over
Judy (Photos: Judy)

Monday - Oparara Arches

We left Little Wanganui on a bright and sunny morning which the locals insisted was very normal for this part of the country, despite the West Coast reputation of being wet. By the time we had negotiated the long and winding unsealed road to Oparara, we were ready for a quick morning tea after which we set out along the Moria Gate loop track. We delighted in the lush forest, mossy banks, the crystal clear water in the river and gazed at the calm reflections in the Mirror Pool. After a short time we came to Moria Gate, a spectacular low limestone arch across the Oparara River dripping with ferns and reflected in the dark brown glow of the tannin filled river.



We walked a short way up the Oparara River track, then returned to the loop track with the idea of finding a nice spot for lunch in the sun. This eluded us because of the dense forest and we decided to postpone lunch and instead clambered down under the arch through a very narrow slippery gap, where we admired stalactites hanging down from the very low overhead rock. Another short walk took us back to the carpark where we found a table and spent

most of lunchtime fending off a most persistent weka intent on stealing our food.

After lunch we headed up the Oparara Arch track where it was apparent a lot of recent work had been done upgrading the track, using river stones as edging and large flat rocks forming viewing platforms. At one point there was access to the river edge where from an overhanging branch hung a large patch of the orchids *Earina autumnalis* and *Winika cunninghamii*. As we approached the arches, some of the party caught a quick glimpse of a pair of whio in the river but unfortunately they moved off quickly before everyone else could see them. We were rewarded at the end of the track by a magnificent view of the main arch lit up with an orange glow by the bright sunlight streaming through from the other side. I felt privileged to see it like this, as on a dull day it would not have looked the same.



A wonderful day out blessed by lovely sunshine, beautiful scenery and great company. Helen

Tuesday Kohaihai to Katipo Creek (Heaphy Track)

It was yet another chilly but glorious winter day when we left the Last Resort on the last day of our walks on the West Coast.

First it was a stop at the local sandwich bar for a coffee, arriving just as the owners did. They were a little overwhelmed with 6 coffee orders before they'd opened the front doors.



It was a beautiful stroll along the track with frequent stops to ID many of the plants along the way. We were lucky to have Helen with us who was more than able to answer all the questions we asked.

We had morning tea in the sun on the beach at Scotts Beach. The track was spectacular with clear blue skies, the sound of the waves crashing on the beach, and the magnificent Nikau forest.

The return trip was slightly quicker as there was a lovely fire and a fun evening at the Last Resort to enjoy. We were almost considered locals on our second night. They now have a new beer glass size especially for Yvonne J- a veggie size 5oz!!

A great day was had by all. Thanks to tour organisers YH and YJ. Debbie

Wednesday Little Wanganui Inlet and home

It was another beautiful West Coast day and it seemed a shame to be leaving!

We stopped at Little Wanganui inlet . There was a high tide funnelling down the river with a stiff breeze so we didn't linger. It is definitely a place to go back and explore.



We continued to Westport for coffee and then carried on up the Lower Buller Gorge.

Our next stop was lunch and the criteria for that was that it had to be in the sun. As none of us had visited the Lyell cemetery (it is near the road, not down by the river) we decided that would be the place and we were rewarded with a lovely sunny area relatively free of sandflies! There were about 15 grave sites, not many of which had Headstones.

We had a short stop at Murchison before we headed home.

It was a memorable trip away which was extremely well organised . A big thank you to Yvonne H and J.

Moppie.

Mopping up:

A very pleasant five days away with great company, some interesting dinner experiences, shared knowledge and good conversation. The accommodation varied widely from an interesting Airbnb off the power grid in lower Denniston, the quirky Little Wanganui hotel, shared meals cooked and prepared in various unorthodox and unplanned manner, and Last Resort where we dined in house and where some leaned a bit more on the bar than others – not to mention some quite dodgy power cabling to enable us to have heater, electric blankets, bed lamps on at the same time without blowing up the fuse box. One member met up unexpectedly with her neighbour from home, the weather was great – confirming the well-held belief by west-coasters that winter is indeed the time to visit the west coast – or at least this time.

We are indebted to the lady (ex Motueka Valley) who runs the little café at Waimangaroa for always being open when we have passed by on many club trips now.

We, the ladies of this west coast expedition, had a very very good time. We were: Helen, Judy, Debbie, Moppie, Judy, Helen, plus YJ and YH as organisers.

Yvonne J

(Photos: Judy, YJ)

4 July Mid winter walk to Apple Tree Bay

There was a great turnout for the day with seven walkers Judy, Yvonne J, Ann, Brian, Rob and Heather, plus there were five keen walkers and swimmers Yvonne H, Phil, Kathy (new member), Sonya and Debbie.

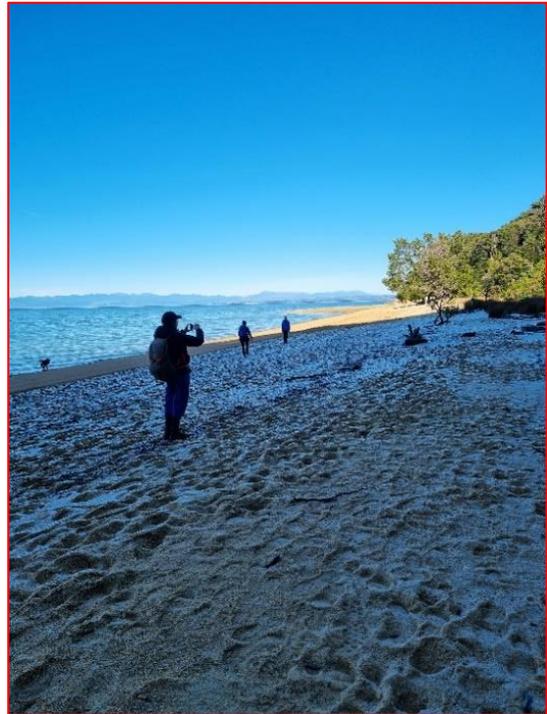
It was a very crisp, sunny day with a leisurely departure from the Recreation Centre at 9.15am heading to Marahau.

We strolled to Tinline and had morning tea in the sun, then onto Apple Tree Bay arriving at midday. There was a suggestion that we could have built a snowman out of the very solid frozen sand at the shady end of the beach!! Fortunately the other end of the beach was bathed in sunshine.

Of the swimmers Phil was an over achiever and went in twice, the rest of us braved the water for a quick dip. The water temperature was 13°C so no one, other than Phil and Kathy, lingered for long.

We all enjoyed lunch in the sun before returning to Marahau.
Debbie

(Photos YJ)



**Just filling in space!! Rata at
Appletree Bay. Photo taken in June
2017 for September 2017 Newsletter.**

11 July Mid winter Mt Arthur hut/Flora hut circuit



After last week's, in my opinion, extremely adventurous and insane midwinter swim in the sea, we had another midwinter event. To have a proper taste of winter I had to organize some snow - so I did. And it turned out perfectly well: no snow on the road up to Flora carpark, hardly any on the trail, but in the higher sections fairytale-like snowy scenery.



There were 12 of us: Rob and Kathy as new members, Linda, Sonya, Judy, Ann, Yvonne J, Sarah Sm, Barbara, Moppie, Gerda and myself. Mike joined us for lunch at Arthur hut.





About 9:30 we started to walk toward Flora hut. As the start of a tramp it is a very nice road to walk on, as annoying as it is walking it at the end of a multi-day trip. We had a little break for morning tea in the sun at the start of the trail up through the beech forest before Gerda took the lead guiding us towards Arthur hut. A beautiful steady hike up through the forest.

Higher up we met some snow and the combination of the melting snow, ice and sunshine was spectacular, especially for photographers. I think we all enjoyed the walk, some by just taking in the scenery, some by taking lots of pictures and others by catching breath after the climb up.



At the intersection at dog box corner, left to Arthur hut and right towards the top, most people decided to go right to have lunch on the ridge in the sun. Some of us went to the hut to join Mike who arrived about the same time, having come up the main track. It was lovely in the sun and crowded! Lots of kids sliding down in the snow and even a member of our group joined in the sliding down party. Probably having lunch on the ridge was more quiet than at the hut, but I think we all enjoyed it - maybe not the older fellow who was having a nice self-reflecting lunch until we shared the table ending all the divine tranquility.

For our way down we split into a bit faster and bit slower party to accommodate all of us. After a break at the picnic table at the 2/3 down point we all managed to return to the cars. It was a great day out showing us the best of winter in our region - gorgeous landscape, bright sunshine, and clean crisp snow. The perfect combination for a midwinter event!

Rob B *(Photos: YJ)*

17-18 July Nydia – Cancelled due weather

25 July Boulder Bank

12 walkers. 4 cars. 1 ferry boat. 1 lighthouse. 8 large bags of rubbish.

The day started overcast with showers and continued that way all day with increasing NE wind. But this did not deter the twelve stalwart trampers who assembled outside the Styx Café on Nelson's waterfront. (*we were a bit miffed that the café wasn't open for coffee whilst we waited – Ed*) The three drivers positioned three cars at the end of the walk (at the Scenic Reserve at the northern end of Boulder Bank), and returned to the ferry terminal to take "The Ferry" across the main shipping channel and were dropped off near "The Cut".



Rubbish collection commenced immediately and by the time we reached the Lighthouse we had two big bags full. A quick call to Bruce the ferryman allowed us to leave the rubbish inside the lighthouse. Great, we did not need to carry it any further!



The Boulder Bank Lighthouse is a fantastic place to visit and shelter from the elements. We had a relaxing morning tea sitting on the lower level wooden floor. Many people also climbed up the steps to the actual light and what a great view!

For the historically minded, this was the second permanent lighthouse to be built in NZ - in 1862. It was also one of the earliest to be automated - in 1916. It was decommissioned in 1982 and is now Cat 1 NZ Historic Places Trust.

Onwards to the north, mostly on the lagoon side, we continued with our rubbish pick up, quickly filling our bags again. By the time we had reached the baches all possible bags were full. So, another call to Bruce – could we leave this lot of rubbish at one of the baches as they were way too big and heavy to carry all the way up to the cars? Yes ok. Excellent! For the most part, the rubbish consisted of all different kinds of plastics.

From then on, it was a pleasant walk enjoying the scenery of the Boulder Bank, actually looking up and unhampered by awkward bags of trash. Seeing a baby seal on the sea side was a highlight. Discussions were had about oxalis plants – was it the native plant or the invasive pest? The shag tree is still there, just, with a possible sighting of chicks in one nest.

Happy to report that all arrived safely intact back at the cars....there was a small problem with a car key but of course we managed to get it sorted. We agreed it was a satisfying day on a unique feature of New Zealand landscape: the largest known boulder bank of its type in the world and the longest known boulder bank in New Zealand at 13.5 km.

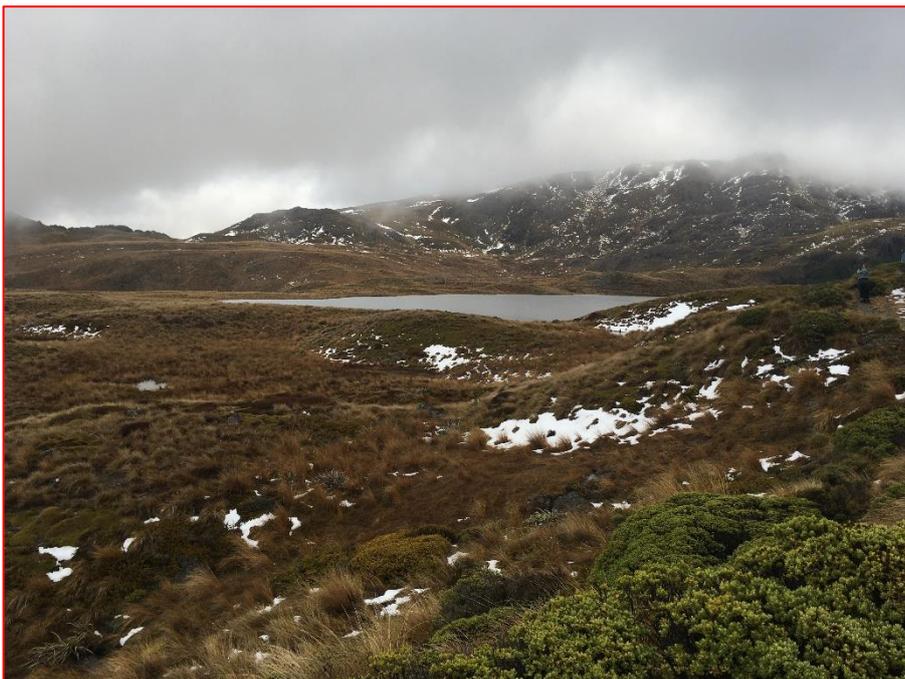


Ann, Sarah, Una, Yvonne H, Sonja, Yvonne J, Sonya L, Sandra, Lynda, Margaret and two potential members: Mary and Rosemary. (Photos: Mary, YJ)

30-31 July Sylvester Hut

Story Number 1

The weather did not quite live up to the forecast and we walked in a drizzly, misty morning to the hut. The mist in the mountains when we were driving over the hill, and on our walk up to

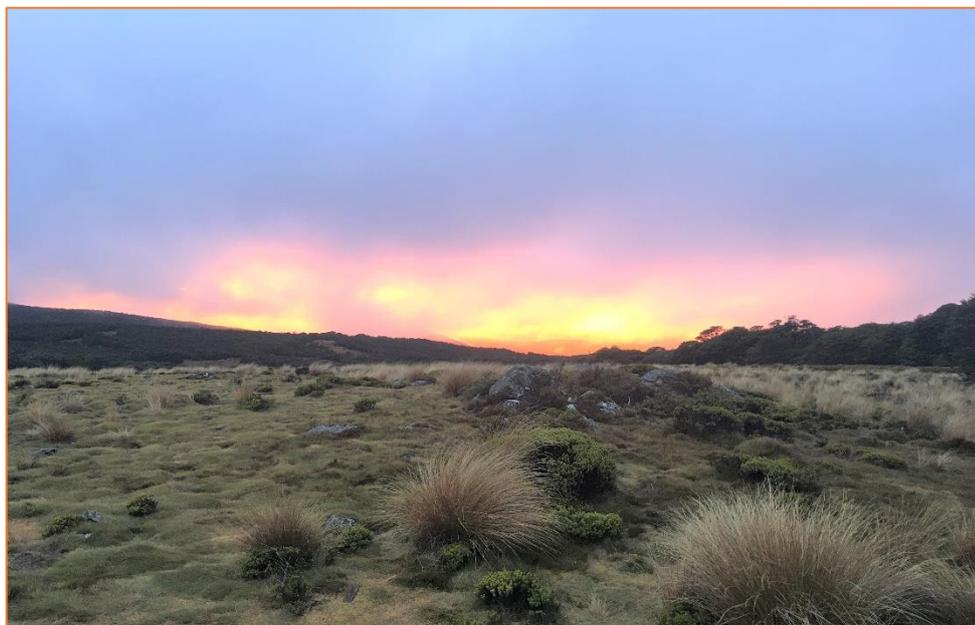


Sylvester was really pretty. But as we got near the hut the mist became quite dense and made the hut difficult to see - even though it is probably only about 20 meters from the track. The views across to the backs of our home mountains were non-existent.

It was great to have the fire lit in the hut for our arrival by our advance party of one. Thank you Birgit for lighting and continuing to stoke the

fire. The hut immediately became a drying room - it is really well set up for that - and we had a leisurely lunch with hot drinks.

The rain increased in the afternoon so we called outside adventures off for the day and put our energies into "hut entertainment". The major event was 6 Nimmit (Take 6). It is a card game, new to all of us except Sonja who supported us all with explaining the rules and guiding us where to place our cards by expert counting. It is a game that promises the opportunity for devious strategy and tactics and then turns into one of absolute chance and frustration. It was great fun with lots of shouting of glee and disappointment. We also took part in a group general knowledge



test and an exercise session. We were well entertained and entertaining until it became dark and we ate again. Just as well we are the only ones in the hut. It was still a long night but we all slept and/or rested well and quietly.

The weather was better in the morning, with a great sun rise, so we tidied

and cleaned the hut. We had knowledge of critical visitors arriving later in the day. We walked to Lake Sylvester and then around Little Lake Sylvester. The lakes were very full and there was a little bit of snow still around, but it was reasonable underfoot for a pleasant walk. Back to the hut for our gear and a bit to eat, the final clean and back to the cars, meeting group 2 on the way down.

Yvonne H for Birgit, Debbie, Margaret, Rob, Sonja and Sonya

(Photos: YH)

Story Number 2 – The Lucky Group (otherwise known as "left-overs") – those that exceeded the bunk limit. BUT not to be thwarted, we three organised ourselves for a stay at Sylvester on Saturday night. Totally blessed by sunny weather (not so for the Friday-nighters who spent their afternoon and evening hut bound) we enjoyed our journey up the hill in fine weather, and after lunch at the hut (with the sun streaming through the



windows) we visited Lake Sylvester and Little Sylvester, admired Marie's tarn, and had a very pleasant afternoon.

When we returned to the hut, we found we had 6 other guests from Germany, France and USA. We had a cosy fire and a pleasant evening and a beautiful clear dark sky with the constellation of Scorpio high in the sky. Matariki (Pleiades) was visible low in the sky, though a bit hard to see because of mist around the horizon.



Day 2 dawned fine so we packed up, cleaned up and headed up the ridge from the hut. Beautiful views down to Diamond Lake and the snow coated mountains of the Lockett range. Then it was back to the hut, pick up the packs, and head out.

A very enjoyable two days, in the company of Ann and Marie. Didn't we do well!! Yvonne J

7 August Dun Mountain Walkway replaced with

Maungatapu Track

For me the adventure started with the journey, picking up Ann, Sarah, Maggie and Mary from points along the way – just the one carload.

Although we had walked other tracks in the area, it turned out that Mary - our newest recruit - was the only one to have walked this track before. But it is a four-wheel drive track and my theory is that on a track



so obvious, you can't be lost, even if not sure of your exact location. With maps from printed and digital we were able to check on our progress as the day went on.

After a small stream crossing near the start, we traversed the slope behind the dam lake, then turned away from the lake and headed up the river. I was pleasantly surprised to find myself in native bush as a map I had seen earlier had implied forestry in the area. We climbed steadily up, nattered and chatted as best we could, and stopped for morning tea at a bridge about half-way up. Occasionally we popped off the main track to catch the view from the power pylon sites that punctuate the upper part of the track, but I think the best view was from the saddle looking over the layers of hills that make up the 'Top of the South'.



The day's weather illustrated New Zealand's changeable conditions - while it was a beautiful calm day at the carpark, the wind was overly brisk at the saddle and sent us scurrying for shelter in which to eat our lunch.

Up to this point we had the track to ourselves, but a lone hunter checked in with us at lunchtime to make sure our paths were in different directions, and on the way down we were passed by several motorcyclists - some more considerate and friendly than others.

We fossicked around a bit on the way back, finding a nice spot where the river flowed into the lake, but not an alternative 'low route' that we thought might be there. It was great to have gone out with the group, and welcome to Mary who completed her second walk with MTC. Heather

(Photos: Heather)

14-16 August Hanmer Springs

Saturday 14th

The forecast for the weekend was not too discouraging so we set off at about 9am to avoid any overnight frost and had a lovely drive down the Motueka Valley. Then onto the coffee stop at Murchison and a visit to the



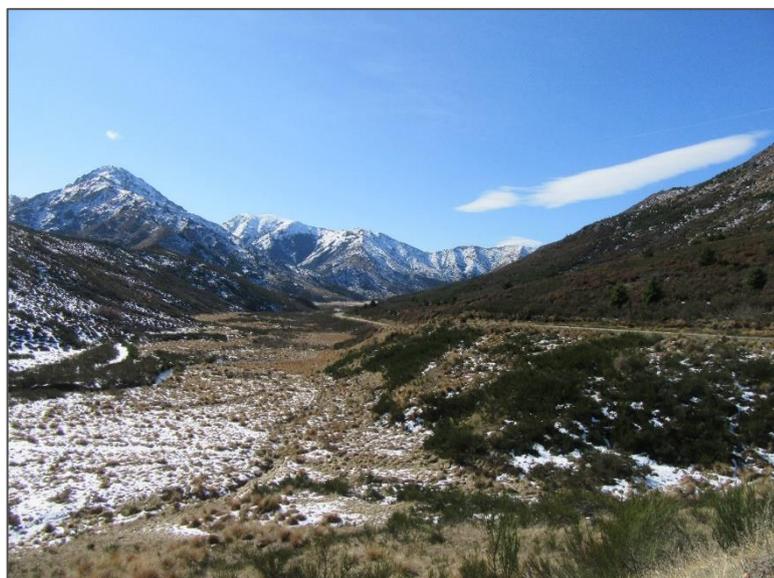
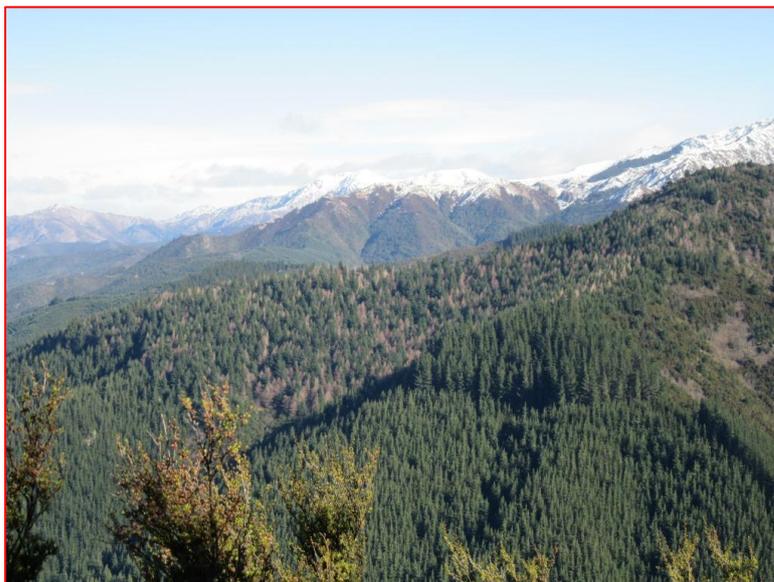
General Store opposite for sox (it is now a tradition) and other treasures to be sent to the grand-children.

At Hanmer we settled into the house, a very comfortable rental with an en-suite annexe, and had lunch. This was followed by a very pleasant walk through Hanmer town and to the top of Conical Hill with excellent views of the surrounding mountains.

We returned for a shared meal of delightful food and an excellent cake (number one) to celebrate an important birthday for Yvonne J.

Sunday 15th

Today was assigned to Mt Isobel and the day was overcast and cold, but there was no rain forecast so we set off to the Clarence Valley Road access. There was still a reasonable amount of snow on Isobel and the surrounding mountains and after about an hour the snow and associated ice on the track became very difficult underfoot. We decided not to “push our luck” especially as the downhill was going to be more difficult. We turned and descended safely. Note to self and trip planning team - do this one in summer next time!!

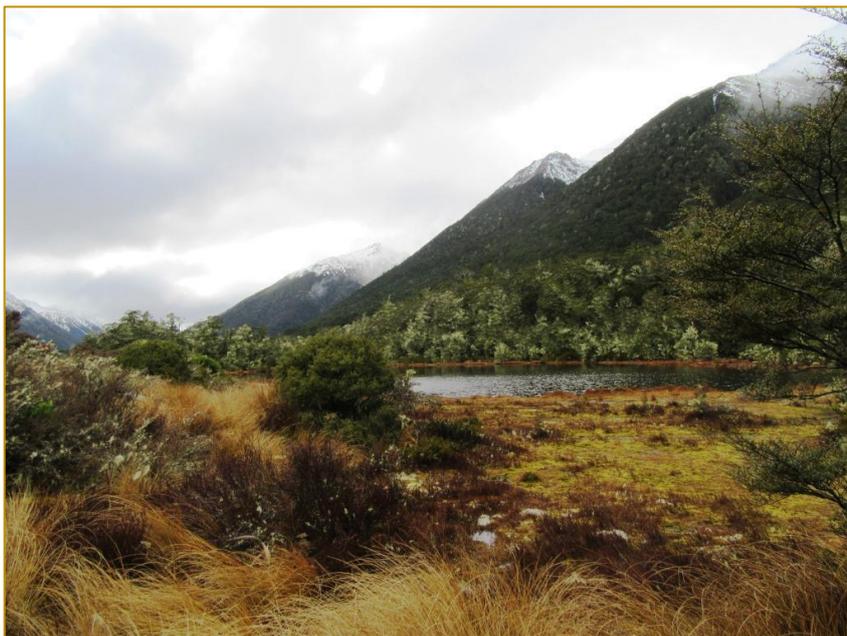


We drove off, intending to stop at the ridge entrance to Isobel a bit further up Jacks Pass and try the ridge approach, but as we got closer, and viewed the stunning sight of the mountains beyond, decided to become the 4WD division of MTC and drove off along the Molesworth Road and onto Archeron accommodation house and campsite. *(see later in this newsletter for information on Molesworth)*. We had a good wander around the area and through the restored Cobb

accommodation house. We saw only one other vehicle while we were there - a group of hunters with a large deer strapped to the front of the ute.

Back to Hanmer. Two members decided to represent us at the thermal pools but gave up on the advertised “relaxing rock pools, soothing sulphur pools, and an array of water jets and bubbles” and opted for all the spas, the two hydroslides, the Supa bowl and the Conical thrill, declaring the experience a huge success and they were definitely buzzing when they returned !

Monday 16th



At the house, white tornado type cleaning was undertaken - we didn't take the paid cleaning option - and were away before 9am.

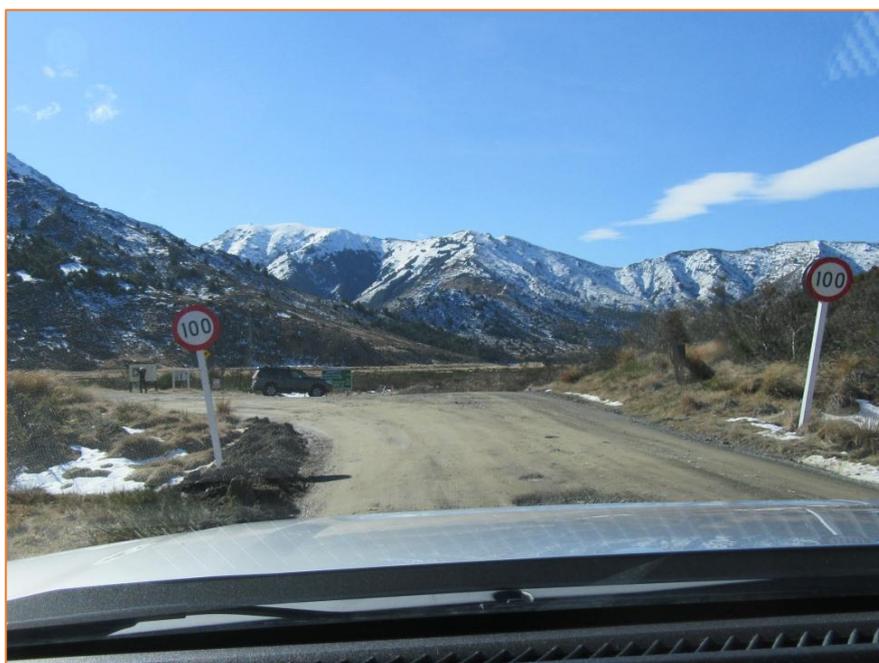
We stopped at the entrance to the St James walkway at the top of Lewis Pass and had a very enjoyable and leisurely walk in the alpine garden, doing lots of botanising and chatting. Although the day was overcast in the main, we enjoyed a bit of sun while we walked.

Onto Reid's Store (open again) for coffee and muffins or scones and then lunch at the site of the old Railway station at Kawatiri Junction.

I read in Wikipedia that this station was "one of 25 stations on the Nelson Section, and marked the furthest extent of Railways Department operations on the line. Kawatiri was one of the shortest-lived stations operated by the Railways Department: 5 years, 21 days between 1926 and 1931. The original intention was to extend the line to Inangahua Junction and Westport. Only the Westport-Inangahua section was built in the end.

Facilities at this station included a platform, loading bank, goods shed, siding, passenger shelter and equipment shed." We got to use the well maintained platform and passenger shelter while we watched the nearby cars and trucks drive by.

Yvonne H for Ann, Judy, Moppie, Sarah, Yvonne J
(Photos: Judy and YJ)



Picture above: Judy titled "I don't think so"

22 August Puppu Springs Hydro Circuit – Cancelled due Covid



27/28/29 August Tablelands trip – Cancelled due Covid



5 September – Kildevil or Pupupu Springs – Cancelled due Covid.



Bits of history and bio-diversity:

The Castle Rocks Weka – a story from Mike – and a useful reminder..

Once upon a time the club did a trip from Canaan Downs to Marahau, overnighing at Castle Rocks hut.

Arriving early at the hut, we did the ritual clamber up to the rocks; these are granite “tors” on a bush-covered ridge. Nothing like Dartmoor. The hut has two sleeping levels. I chose the lower. During the night was a a thumping noise from above. “Them up there” thought it was us downstairs, and both groups resumed sleeping!

In the morning came the realisation that the noise had been one my boots being dragged along the outside decking by a weka. A search party found the boot in the grassed area in front of the hut. Had it reached the bush edge the tale might have ended badly. Happily, I had been wearing my leather Meindl boots, each weighing just under 1kg.

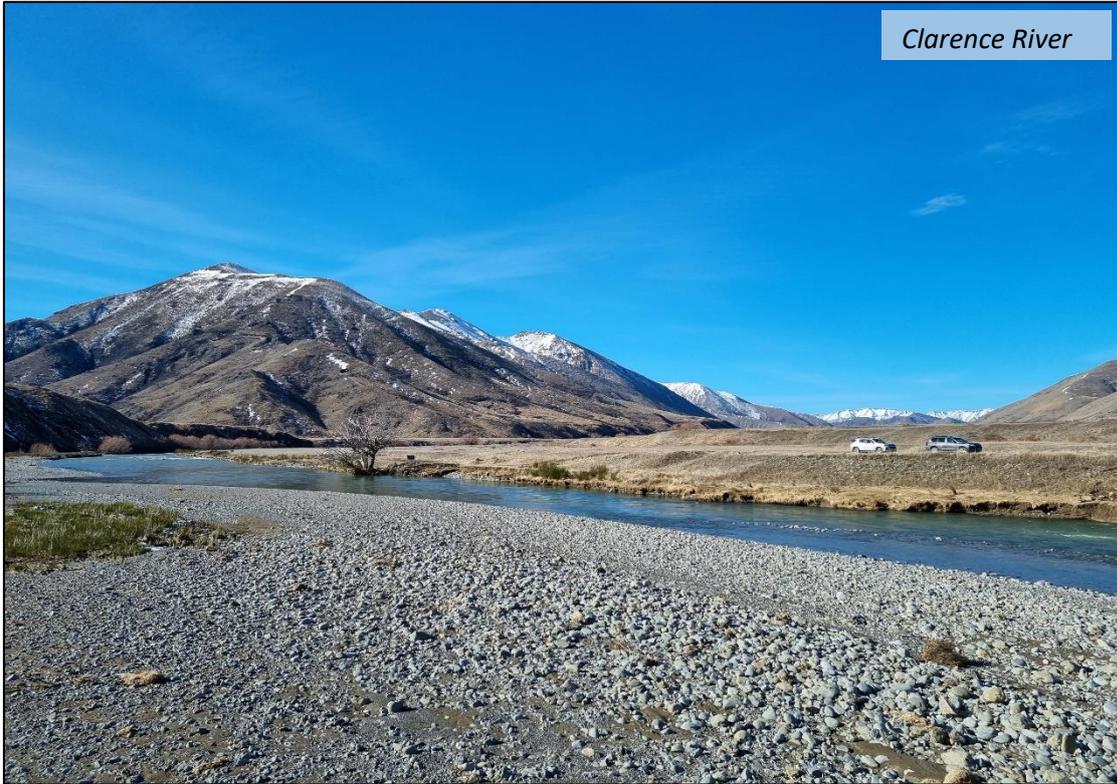
It really takes something to make a weka give up.

Some plant/lichen photos from Lewis Pass:



About Molesworth Station

(with thanks to Department of Conservation web-site for the above information, which can be read on information panels in the large red shelters along Molesworth road)



From an early era of tussock-burning, over-grazing of fragile pastures, and the release of stoats, ferrets, weasels and cats in a futile attempt to control rabbits, Molesworth today is a financially successful, 180,476 hectare high-country cattle station managed by the Department of Conservation also for public recreation and the protection of native species



and historic heritage.

Maori Trails

The Molesworth country was one link in the Māori trails developed throughout the high country of Te Waipounamu (the South Island). The trails, resting places, mahinga kai (food gathering resources), burial sites and stories relating to the trails are recorded in Ngai Tahu traditions and are of immense significance to Ngai Tahu today. William Travers, who owned the Lake Guyon Run at the headwaters of the Waiau River, described his men finding stone tools, paua shells, remains of eel baskets and other articles along the line of a route to the west coast

From a six week expedition to a six day journey In the 1850s, driven by the desire for more pastoral lands and a practical overland route to the new Canterbury settlement, the first European explorers probed the mountains for rivers and passes to the south of the Wairau River and beyond the head of the Awatere River. Captain W.M. Mitchell and runholder Edwin Dashwood, with a whaler named Harris, travelled to the head of the Waihopai River, over into the Acheron (which they named) and followed it to the Clarence River. They then picked up the Hossack River which lead them to the Hanmer Plain. The trip from north-east to south-west took them six weeks and was fraught with dense matagouri, loss of their compass, storms of sleet, hail and snow and numerous river crossings. Mitchell's memorandum noted that in the future their route could easily be accomplished in ten days. In December of the same year Frederick Weld, with Lovegrove, found Barefell Pass at the head of the Awatere River and followed the Guide River down to the Acheron, but mistakenly thought he was in a different place and that he could see the Waiau River in the distance. This proved costly when he ordered 700 sheep through his route to Canterbury and the flock had to be abandoned when his shepherds could find no way out of the Clarence, despite Mitchell's party having managed it through the Hossack River. In 1852 Edward Jollie and Edward Lee drove sheep through Frederick Weld's Barefell Pass route and successfully took them through to Hanmer via a new route (Jollies Pass). A viable stock route from Marlborough to Canterbury had been found. In 1855 Frederick Weld and Alphonso Clifford followed the Upper Wairau River and found the expansive grassland Tarndale Basin. Weld then joined McCabe and travelled up the Clarence to Lake Tennyson and over Island Pass. They then retraced their steps and walked out to Canterbury. Thanks to these men, by 1855 travellers and stock drovers could now travel via Tophouse and Tarndale, or via Tophouse and Island Pass, from Nelson to Christchurch in six days while stock drovers took three to four weeks with flocks of up to 4000 sheep. In 1857-1858 over 24,000 sheep were driven from Nelson to Canterbury.

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