



# Motueka Tramping Club

## Newsletter

September 2020

Email: [secretary.motuekatc@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.motuekatc@gmail.com)

Web site: [www.motuekatrampingclub.org](http://www.motuekatrampingclub.org)

### Reminder:

Our Christmas Function is scheduled for

Sunday 20 December - Pot luck lunch at Rabbit

Island (Neudorf winery not being available). More later.....



*The best quote ever, I think, for a tramping club with an ageing membership, comes from Jim Gilkinson in a recent FMC magazine "Remembering" column called "Jim and the Routeburn", written by Mike Scott. Mike said that one of Jim's regular wise suggestions to his guided customers was "start of slow, and get slower". Don't you love that!!*

*Refer Page 18, FMC issue 220 June 2020.*

Newsletter Editor's  
Choice: Best group photo  
for this Newsletter



# Trip Reports



## 17 May Takaka Hill Walkway

After eight weeks of lockdown, it was fantastic to get out in the open air again and see friends. 11 cars proceeded up Takaka hill on a lovely clear day. The traffic lights were still in operation, but the time had been extended to 14 minutes wait, should you get the timing wrong!

We assembled at the start of the walkway and, physically distanced, made our way up the short steep hill before we had morning tea. We split into two groups, with the majority going clockwise round the circuit, ably led by Rob.



A group of three went clockwise, and we saw some interesting toadstools and late gentians. We took time enjoying the scenery, with amazing views over Tasman and Golden Bays, Takaka Valley and Kahurangi National Park, meeting the other group near the viewpoint.



we had lunch out of the wind with a very interesting weka who became quite a pest. The smaller group went directly back to the cars

The larger group visited the preserved cow in the shed, near the carpark. There is not a lot left of the shed, let alone the preserved beast. There was a lot of conversation about activities managed during lockdown levels 4 and 3 – some straying further afield on bikes, and some closer to home on

foot. It seemed to be a very active time for most members, and we all agreed that we were lucky to live where we do, and at an age where most didn't have to worry about jobs. Some, in fact, really enjoyed the peace and quiet of level 4. (YJ)

Many thanks to Rob, Gerda, Birgit, Yvonne J, Ann, Mike, Phil, Muriel, Christine H, Heather and new member Graham, for an excellent day out. Moppie (photos Rob, YJ)

## 24 May Chrome Mine – Cancelled due weather



## 31 May Pupu Springs Walkway

13 Participants: Ann, Barbara, Muriel, Yvonne H, Yvonne J, Marie, Graeme, Birgit, Moppie, Wendy, Annabel, Gerda, Rob

This was the second trip after Covid19 lockdown; a short one to help us to increase our level of fitness gradually. Obviously, many of us were keen to go out.



Assuming the one Covid19 case left in New Zealand was not in our group (a chance even far less than 1:5.000.000 because we knew it was a patient somewhere in the North Island), we decided to relax the carpooling rules and took 4 cars. Shortly after 10am we started walking the loop counterclockwise to be able to enjoy the views from the road on our way back.

I always love this walk because it is so pretty and quiet. The forest, the canals, the views, the weather, the company, it was all great. Nice catching up with nature and friends. I know we are a tramping club, and this was not a tramp. You could hardly call it a walk; more a Sunday



afternoon stroll. I suspect some of us did put some glue under the shoes to make it feel a longer walk. Nevertheless, we had morning tea halfway, and a decision was made to add the Pupu Springs walk and have lunch in the sun at the parking lot of Pupu Springs.

At the Springs were even more families walking, but all in a relaxing and good atmosphere. Since it was too early to head home, we stopped in Takaka for a coffee and a look at the long row of beautiful bikes parked at the sidewalk.


Coming home the sun was already getting lower and temperature was dropping. So, time for shower, lighting the fire and a glass of wine. Isn't life nice?

Rob

*(Photos: Bridge: Graeme; Springs: YJ - my computer chooses names for photos when I download them from my phone. It has called the photo on the left "trees with some mountains in the background". In fact, it is aquatic plants in Pupu Springs!!)*

### 3 June (Wednesday) Richmond Hills

Trip Leader – Ken Lefever    Trip Report – Ken Lefever

No other MTC members contacted me to join this trip - one main problem was probably being mid-week. For local tracks here in Richmond, my decision at the time of proposing this trip for NZ Covid19 Level 2 was based around social distancing as tracks get quite busy on the weekends. And this particular trip was scheduled for early June as there may be temporary closures affecting some lower local Dellside Reserve tracks when the 3rd phase of current Kingsland Forest logging commences (1st phase up high has already started.) 

Anyway no followers, but I, as leader, had already decided the trip would officially go. It is a pleasant walk and I needed the exercise! As it turned out, I was joined by a tramping neighbour (Paul, not MTC).

We arrived separately on Hill Street, Richmond by 9am, where the track starts for Jimmy Lee Creek and a nearby bird hide. The morning was pleasant cool late Autumn weather which, after the trip, degenerated into a bitter chilly early Winter afternoon. Social distancing was not an issue though there a few other walkers out this morning as well on the local Dellside Reserve tracks.

We used a network of local Dellside Reserve tracks to traverse across Richmond Hills, from Jimmy Lee Creek to Easby Park and return: From Hill Street, Jimmy Lee Creek – Alternate Loop Track - Cyprus Road – Valhalla Junction - Allan's Gully – Lodestone – Keith's Walkway – Easby Park; then immediately turned around and started our return using Tower Road up to the track back to Lodestone – Allan's Gully – etc - back to the Jimmy Lee Creek end of Cyprus Road then followed the track down the actual Jimmy Lee Creek creek-bed and out back to Hill Street.

We enjoyed a steady pace this time (no significant stops, no running) for total walking time of 2hours 30 minutes, total 7.5km and estimated upward tracks totalling approx. 350m. This was faster than my 3hr recce time 3 weeks previous (not unexpected), but 1.5km shorter (not expected) than the same recce trip. My distance recorder is based on pace and probably a brisker pace meant fewer steps.

An offer of hot soup and sandwich lunch back at the Leader's home meant we decided not to do the optional extra loop (50 minutes plus 1 stop, 2.8km) today from the steps at the Jimmy Lee Creek end of Cyprus Road up to Grassy Saddle and back to Jimmy Lee Creek.

So shorter than expected, but most pleasant, morning walk. And the hot soup in a bowl and sandwich was good too.

Two items of interest.

- Paul maintains several traps located along part of the route, so he checked a few of his traps as we travelled past them, one occupied by a dead rat. He also observes that possums seem to be moving lower down the slopes, possibly being threatened by the noise and new logging activity.



- And at Easby Park, and, later, back up at Valhalla Junction we watched a shiny new yellow remote-controlled tracked grass mowing vehicle for steep slopes ... the operator stands in a fixed spot or follows along behind, using his thumbs & remote control to guide the mower machine. The machine has nowhere for the operator to sit, rest and ride ... probably a safety feature. *(photo above)*



## 7 June Cable Bay Walkway

It was a crisp morning when four of us arrived to start the walk from the Cable Bay end. In our party were Judy, Ian, Graeme and Helen, and walking from Glenduan to meet us were



Muriel, Yvonne H, Birgit, and Annabelle. We were lucky to be on the more sheltered side with the early morning sunshine warming us as we climbed the first steep hill. This is a bit of a slog but rewarded at the top with a stunning view of Pepin Island and Cable Bay. After a short chat with a young couple at the top we continued on across the rolling grassy hills, commenting on how well maintained the pine blocks were and had a short break just before entering the bush.

Shortly after this we met the other party coming through from Glenduan with tales of freezing wind at their backs so we were glad that we were going to be in the shelter of the bush for a while. We continued along the winding bush track and emerged from the trees just before midday. From the top of the hill is a magnificent view of the Boulder Bank and, after taking some photos, we started to descend seeking a place out of the very blustery wind to have some



lunch. We dropped down into a gully which only moderately sheltered us from the wind but at least the sun was quite warm by now.

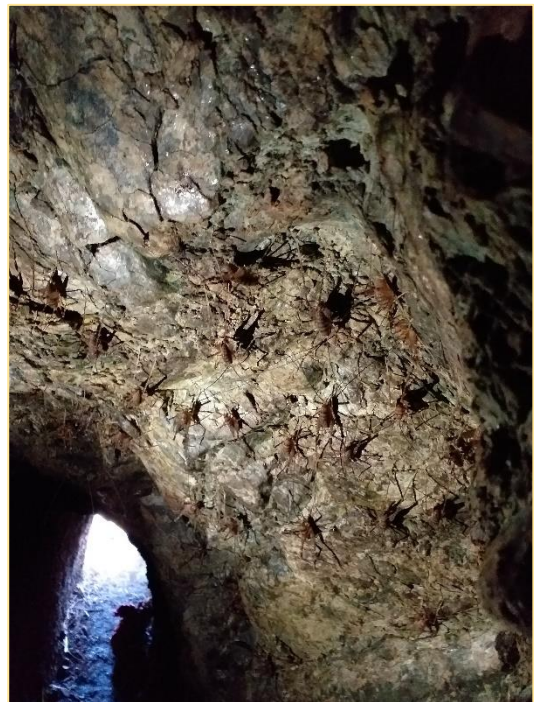
The last section of the walkway is quite steep so, taking it easy, we made it to the beach just after 1pm and only had a short wait sitting on a very convenient log before the other party arrived with the cars.

Helen

*(Photos: Muriel and Helen)*

## 14 June - Chromite Mine

With a very cold and frosty start, eleven trampers, well rugged up, set off from Hackett carpark at a good pace to warm up. It was cold walking along the flat in shade and the bridge was very frosty - but soon we found the turnoff to climb steeply up the ridge through bush which warmed us up with most of us having to take layers off. After stopping for morning tea in a lovely sunny spot and having a tomtit join us, we arrived at the top to then sidle around to the mine shafts. Helen showed us varieties of plants that only grow on the mineral belt. We also spotted lots of gentians still flowering (turns out these gentians flower late from March to August – see Biodiversity section). Some people explored the mine shafts and Barbara was delighted to find lots of cave wetas. From there it was downhill to the main track again and up to Hackett Hut to enjoy our lunch in warm sunshine.



We then returned along the main track to the cars as nobody was interested in getting cold wet feet to check out the Whispering Falls. A nice walk on a lovely day with a great group being Barbara, Wendy, Yvonne H, Helen, Jean W, Christine, Phil, newcomer Richard, Annabell, Una and myself, Ann.

*(Photo: Jean)*



## 21 June Dun Mountain Walkway

This walk took place on the shortest day of the year. With this in mind, we made an early start (well, early for mid winter) and arrived up the Maitai by 9am. There was a very cold strong wind gusting down the road direct from the Antarctic, so we piled on the woollies and set off. Five minutes up the track, we were sheltered from said arctic conditions, and enjoyed our journey up hill. Lovely bush on the lower sections – a lot of tanekaha – and on the higher slopes dracophyllum, lancewoods and (like last week on the Chromite Mine track) a heap of gentians in flower. (gentiana stellata – happy in their mineral belt location).



We stopped for morning tea in a sheltered spot on the track, with our legs and feet tucked in due to passing bikers. Continuing up through the lovely mineral belt, bright with gorgeous winter colours of browns and golds, we enjoyed clear skies, the odd puffy cloud, and beautiful rolling hills surrounding Maitai dam.

By lunch time, the flood of bikers coming down from Coppermine Saddle (having started at the Brook end) meant we had to vacate the track and perched ourselves uphill on some convenient rocks. We were still probably  $\frac{3}{4}$  hour from the saddle, but with winter time constraints upon us, we chose to head back down the track. The number of bikers increased as the afternoon went on, and we were constantly getting off the track. But the bikers were extremely considerate, thanking us for standing aside – and one or two even patiently waiting behind us when we didn't even realise they were there.

Back at the cars, the southerly buster was still happening and we had to guard our possessions from being blown away.

The waterway that comes down from Maitai Caves is called Schlanders Creek, by the way.

A very pleasant mid winter day and tramp in the company of Yvonne H, Wendy, Annette, Graeme, Ann and Debbie. Yvonne J (leader) (photo: yj)

This information on the Nelson mineral belt from "The Prow"

*"The high mineral content of the soil gives the Dun Mountain its sparse and stunted cover of vegetation and characteristic reddish brown rock-strewn landscape; with early Māori possibly also having burnt off the vegetation on these slopes. The combined effect creates the open appearance noted by the first settlers, who called this ridge Bare Spur."*

*It takes specialised plant species to survive on the heavy metal concentrations of the Mineral Belt, but it is home to over 28 plant species that are threatened, rare or with a restricted range. These include ultramafic tussock, a small gentian, scree plants, a forget-me-not, a serpentine Olearia and a hebe that is restricted to this area. Some of the vegetation is nationally rare and contains a large number of threatened plants.”*

**28 June Nelson Bike Ride** - Cancelled

**5 July Flora/Arthur Hut** – Cancelled due weather

### **12 July Canaan to Moa Park -**

No report available, but nice pictures from Judy. I recall it was a cold, frosty start. Bit of a grunt going up the hill, long sections of slippery tree roots, chilly creek crossings and frozen puddles still there early afternoon. Obviously sunny at lunch time, which was near Moa Park shelter. We came back to the car park via the farm paddocks. I recall we had a very nice day. *(Ed – from memory)*

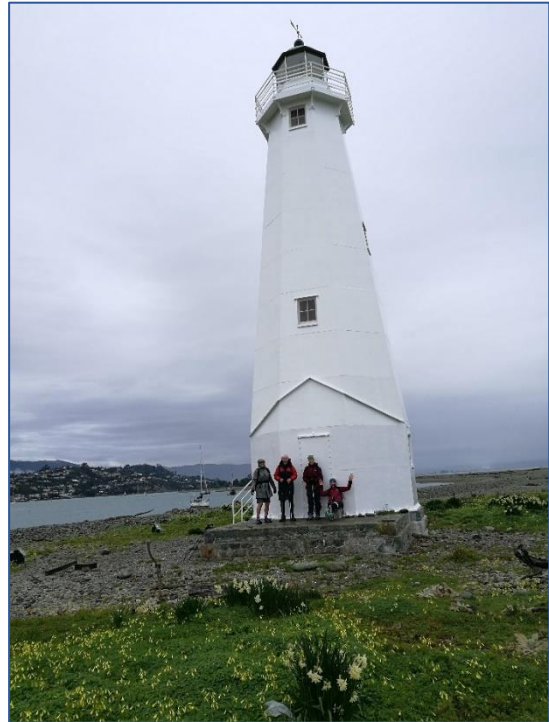


### **19 July Boulder Bank Te Pokohiwi**

There were just 5 of us, Jean W, Eddie, Muriel, Judy and me, Yvonne J. Metservice said the rain would finish by 10am, and so we drove in two cars to Boulder Bank Road, dropped off one, and returned to the ferry landing by the yacht club – by which time there was a fair imitation of “Scotch Mist” happening. The ferry dropped us off at The Cut, and we set off for our journey along the infamous boulder bank. A sign warned us that if we felt an earthquake long and strong, we should get gone – but where to, we wondered.



First stop was at the lighthouse, and having gained a key from Nelson Harbour Board, we were able to go up into the lighthouse and have a good look around, including climbing the stairs to the top – despite the warning that the building wasn't up to modern safety standards and we did so at our own risk. Seemed ok and we all enjoyed the experience of being lighthouse keepers. We had morning tea inside the building, and by that time, the drizzle had stopped and the rest of the day was fine.



We wandered along the lagoon side mainly, and soon began picking up bits of plastic and other smaller objects deemed dangerous to local wildlife. Had quite a collection at the end of the walk – though leaving behind the larger items as we had no way of carrying them. We did see a lone seal swimming by – and Jean was able to wave to her daughter on a moored boat in the lagoon.



Lunch happened at a picnic table outside one of the bach buildings, some of which we peeked inside to see how comfortable the boulder bank residents were in their makeshift dwellings. Some very cosy looking, some damp and dreary. No-one appeared to be “at home”.

The only tree (long dead) on the boulder bank contained a few inhabited pied shag

nests on its branches. We thought it a bit early, but my bird book (Field Guide to Birds to NZ) states that they breed July to October and January to March.

We arrived back at the awaiting car with ankles, knees and hips still in good working condition, but were pleased to walk Boulder Bank in just one direction – instead of previous club trips which did return trips, causing those participating to state they were “never going to do it again”. Our group today was happy with the shorter version of this club trip. The seal and the shag nests were an extra bonus.



(photos: Lighthouse  
Judy, BB view Eddie,  
Shags: Jean)

Yvonne J.

The following comes from DoC website

#### *Nature and conservation*

*The internationally renowned Nelson Te Pokohiwi/Boulder Bank is a natural spit of boulders, formed of the debris of land slips from the Mackay Bluffs, swept southwards by sea currents over 10,000 years. The bank is 13 km long, the last 8 km forming a spit which separates Tasman Bay/Te Tai-o-Aorere from Nelson Haven. Its width varies from 55 m at high tide to 240 m at low tide.*

#### *History and culture*

*Māori camped on the bank and fished there. They used boulders from the bank - some up to 50 kg - to hammer the rough forms of stone tools from quarries in the nearby hills.*

*The shelter offered by Te Pokohiwi/Boulder Bank was a major factor in choosing the site of Nelson. In 1848 a beacon was erected near the end of the bank and, in 1862, the cast iron lighthouse building that remains today. In 1906 a cut was made in the bank to allow easier passage to Nelson Harbour for shipping. 'The Cut' now separates Haulashore Island from the bank.*

### **26 July Tapawera to Spooner's Tunnel; (Belgrove side)**

Seven of us in four cars met at Tapawera at 09:30 on a sunny but cool morning: Ann, Bill, Helen, Heather, Yvonne J, Debbie and Margaret (leader).



The first four kilometres were biking slightly uphill, with a cool breeze and on the road. Not the most auspicious start but things rapidly improved as we and the weather warmed up and we got on to the newly formed bike trail. Notable features were the beautiful highland cattle, the large new hop buildings and tank, the lengths of bike trail looking all ready to go but blocked off by gates. It was then an easy ride to Kohatu. In some areas we could see remnants of old concrete railway bridges and dry stone walling. Coffee in the sun at Kohatu's Flat Rock cafe was most welcome.



The section from Kohatu to the tunnel is mostly uphill with one or two slightly steep little pinches. No problem for the three ebikes! Our way through the tunnel was well lit with many bright torches and bike lights.

The lunch stop on the gravel pile on the Belgrove side of the tunnel was sunny but surrounded by gorse. We speculated on donating a picnic table!

The homeward trip was a breeze – mostly downhill so we all zoomed along happily feeling like we were really great bikers and that we really deserved the obligatory ice creams at Tapawera Four Square. We enjoyed beautiful views of the snow capped mountains glistening in the sun and a fantastic sunny winter's day.

It was a ride of four quarters: about 8 km from Tapawera to Kohatu; 7.5 km mostly up hill from Kohatu to Spooner's Tunnel and the other half in reverse. Total distance was about 35 km depending on whose bike computer you believed.

After the ride Yvonne and Margaret explored the Tapawera end of the bike trail and, as expected, it starts behind the domain and passes close to the back of the school. All going well, the full 8 km from Tapawera to Kohatu should be open for the summer.

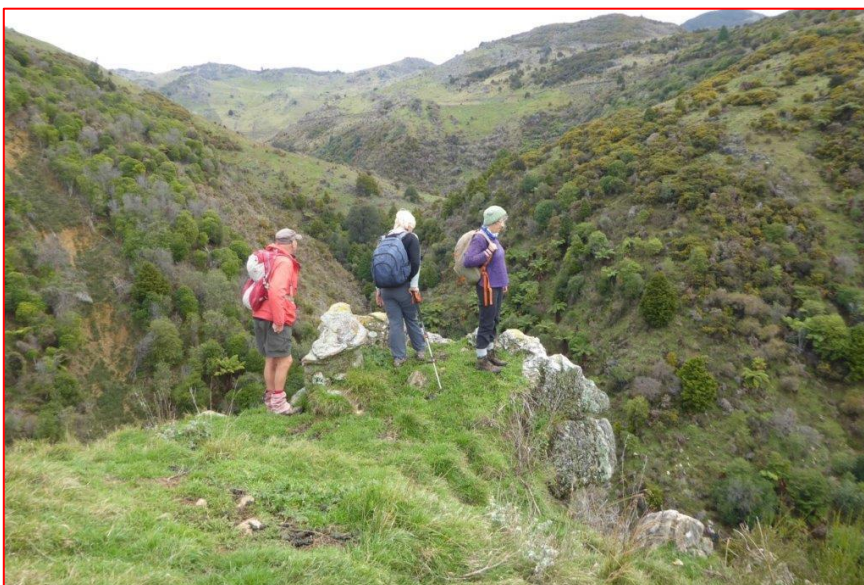
Margaret



## 2 August Harpers Pinnacle Walk

All but two signed-up members trusted either the Met Service, or the leader, and showed up for the short car drive part way up Takaka Hill.

As promised the first item on the list was a short, but very steep "warm-up" to the highest point of the track.



Also as promised, great views over Otuwhero (Sandy Bay) and the Holyoake Valley, then a gentle descent in clearing weather for a morning-tea stop at the end of a spur. A slight re-adjustment of the route as the drop-off from the spur was greasy after recent rain, then down to



the main track at the West end of the farm.

No one asked "where is the pinnacle" until we had actually climbed it, then somewhat doubtfully "is this the pinnacle"? Not quite – next through the barbed wire (to prevent livestock falling into the Holyoake Stream gorge). Success, photos and lunch followed!

This trip had an extra attraction - finish early and gather at the Sprig and Fern, having booked the upstairs room, for the first club "catch-up" of the Covid year. We cruised back to the cars via a lower track. The farmer, Dave Hobson, had kindly opened up the adjacent woolshed, and toilet, for those who needed to spruce up. Arrived back in Motueka on time to be greeted by our non-walkers.

My thanks to the team (the largest I've led in the club) for their co-operation. Mike.





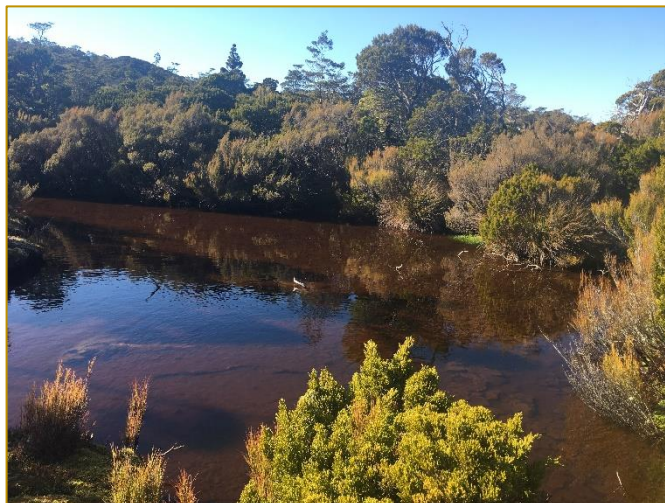
Members: Ann, Barbara, Bob, Christine Grove, Graeme, Heather, Helen, Janet, Ken, Margaret, Muriel, Phil, Rob, Gerda, Una, Yvonne J, Yvonne H, Judith (guest).

*(Photos: Muriel, Bob)*

## 9 August Dew Lakes

On a crisp morning eleven of us set off and quickly warmed up climbing upwards on what has become quite a steep track (for the scribe anyway).

We stopped at Rush Pool for a quick look and then at the Argilite mine for morning tea in lovely sunshine. Continuing on, we were perplexed to find a red asparagus growing and a number of photos and discussion followed. Thanks to Roger at



DOC via Helen - it is apparently tutu and unusual to be growing there and its colour is probably due to the minerals in that area.

Arriving at Dew Lakes there was a wander around to check out all the lakes which looked lovely being still with lovely reflections. Lunch was had out of the wind and then a rather brisk descent back to the cars. Thanks to Rob, Gerda, Barbara, Christine, Phil, Serene, Richard, Arif, Sarah S (new member) and Yvonne H for joining me for a very nice walk.

Ann

*(Photos: red asparagus YH; Dew Lake YH – though the photo was taken May 26 2019 trip – doesn't change much except when it has ice on it – and ice wasn't mentioned in the report!!)*



## 16 August Watering Cove

After a few cancellations (all for reasonably legit reasons) six of us set off towards Watering Cove. The morning was cold and cloudy but the afternoon was warm and sunny. We met a few New Zealanders and some people from overseas on the track. We all agreed it was very, very pleasant having the track almost to ourselves and we got confirmation from the overseas people we talked to that they were very happy to be in NZ.

We had morning tea at Appletree Bay with no sign of other people - and very few seagulls, and they were way down the other end of the beach. Three members went down to Observation Beach because they



had never been down the new track - or indeed never been down there at all. It is a stunning beach and inviting of a longer stay. Only 500 metres and 10 mins each way although pretty steep. The other three members went on to Watering Cove but on seeing that it was 25 minutes down to the Cove decided to come back and join the others.

We all had lunch overlooking Adele and Fisherman's Islands and a sparkling sea, just off the

main track on the way down to Observation Beach. A very pleasant day and a pretty good workout especially having to keep up with speedy Sarah Silverstone on the way back.

Yvonne H for Ann, Birgit, Judy, Sarah Sil, Sarah Sme. *(Photo YH)*

23 August Lodestone - Cancelled due weather

30 August Killdevil

"It's a beautiful day" - so a jaunt up Killdevil to the lookouts and Tin Hut Shelter was a good thing to do. For those who like track statistics, my ViewRanger App recorded a total distance of 14.9 km (to Tin Hut Shelter - I know one or two walked a bit further to lunch at a lookout), max elevation 897m (a climb of 758m), duration 5hrs 42 mins (for me - a little less for some others).



Because of the weather, the views over both hills and sea were stunning. We met a mountain biker who confirmed that a lot of money and effort had been invested in improving the condition of the track. Yvonne J who had been this way "a few years ago" felt the shrubbery had grown a bit in a traditional clear "lunching spot". The day was characterised by lots of chatter and happy faces; it was a good day out.





Participants were Phil, Serene, Muriel, Christine H, Yvonne H, Barbara, Wendy, Judy, Yvonne J, Ann, Sarah Sme, Richard and me, Heather – leader.

*(Photos: Heather, Yvonne H)*

## Other Stuff

### **A Bit of Nostalgia: 21-22 August 2004 – a Trip to Kiwi Saddle**



The beauty of this trip is the views, which in this case didn't quite come off. Jenny, Steve, Chris and I headed off into weather that wasn't looking the best, and it only got worse. From Rolling Junction, the first section along the Wangapeka River is easy and pleasant. At the first bridge, instead of going to Kings Creek, you turn right and cross Kiwi Stream (on this occasion an easy task; it can be very difficult) and climb the usually excellent Kiwi track sidling around the slopes of Mt Patriach to Kiwi Saddle Hut.

Normally a steady climb gaining a considerable amount of height, but not overly difficult, this time we encountered numerous tree falls, from the little to the enormous, requiring detours. The hut, while a basic Forest Service six bunker, is superbly sited. Behind the hut glimpses of Patriarch and Arthur Range can be seen through the trees, especially if you leave the toilet door

open! To the west, right there in its full glory, is Luna Tops, or it should be if the cloud lets you see it. While rain had held off, we caught only snatches of a view through constantly shifting cloud. Only Jenny took the opportunity to go for a walk and catch some more view, while the rest of us stayed chatting.

Overnight it began snowing, making the area around the hut quite picturesque, but as it got heavier the decision was made to leave smartly. Dropping in altitude the snow turned to light rain, then in turn to heavy rain, and eventually back at the Wangapeka, a full blown thunder and lightning show. Jenny and I made for Kings Creek hut for lunch, while Steve and Chris headed straight out. By the time we got back to Rolling Junction it had eased a little; closer to home it looked like it had been fine! A shame about the weather, but there's the breaks. Ross. (MTC *(trampers were made of sterner stuff then)*)

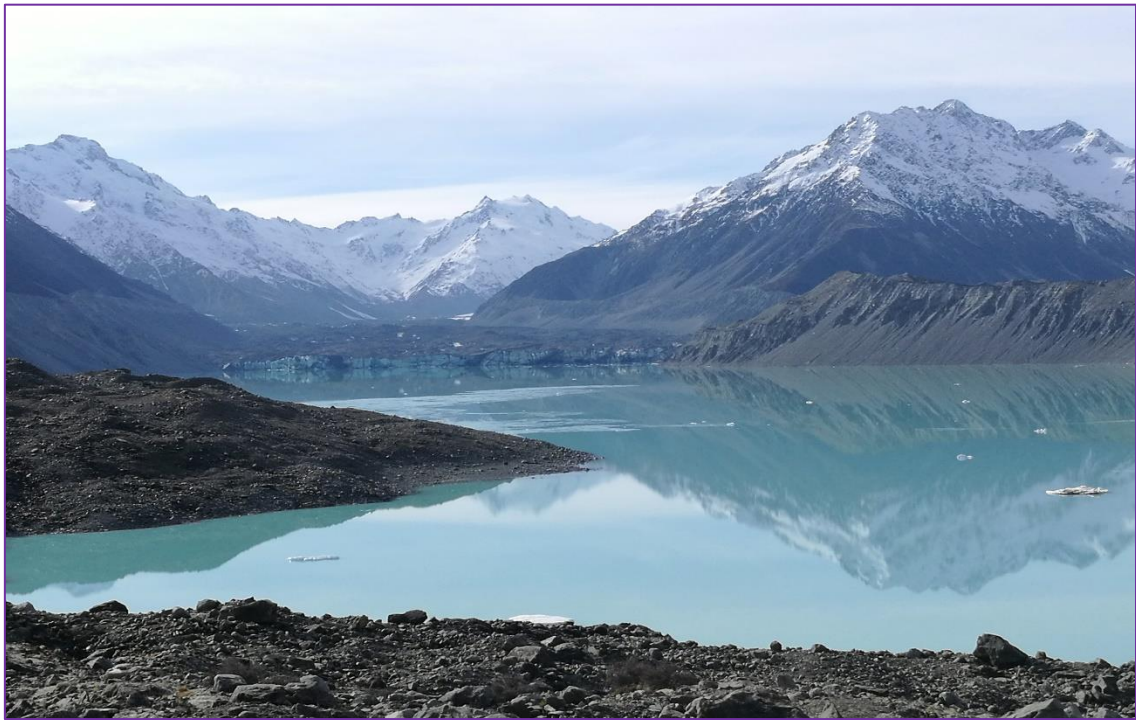
## Bits of history and bio-diversity:

Editor still seeks contributions to this section and has threatened to put her own holiday snaps herein – and here they are:



Bannockburn Cairnmuir track to Clyde Aug 20





Hooker Glacier – August 20



Gentianella Stellata – Chromite Mine

Photo: Jean W

Takaka Hill Walkway – a beautiful natural garden of moss, ferns and Horopito.  
(Photo: Moppie)



The small blue sign says “Long and Strong – get gone”

But where, we wonder, would you “get gone” to on the boulder bank. The pied shags had taken up occupation on the only tree.

**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**