



Newsletter

April 2018

Email: Secretary: Muriel Moran: secretary.motuekatc@gmail.com

Website: www.motuekaonline.org.nz/clubs/recreation

President's Report to Annual General Meeting - 26 April 2018

Welcome everyone to the 2018 Annual General Meeting of our tramping club. I am hopeful at this stage that Dave does have an audience. My apology for not being able to attend the AGM but spending the school holidays with grand-children is just too much competition.

Our membership numbers continue to be pretty stable with minor changes in personnel. And our programme offerings of a day trip one weekend and a longer trip the next, has also continued. In the summer months we have also had some Wednesday walks.

In last year's Annual Report, Richard noted that there were less trips with the tag "fit" and "fitness essential" than in the past, and that observation is true also of this past year's programme. We are indeed even older now.

A trend over the last year which also reflects this reality is the popularity and success of our so-called "lodge" trips. In the last financial year we went to Linkwater, Hanmer, Collingwood, Reefton, Nydia Bay and Waiuta; so we are still out there - we have just adapted for a little more comfort! Our next Trip List also reflects this trend with offerings to Kaihoka Lakes, St Arnaud, Blenheim and Pohara. Do join us if you haven't so far.

We had two social events - a shared meal in September with Trevor James giving us an interesting insight into local river health in the area, and a somewhat windy but very tasty Christmas gathering at Kina.

Over winter we did have to cancel some trips due to adverse weather and sadly in late February and March we had to cancel several because of access problems related to the severe weather events the wider area experienced. Here's hoping for a calmer year ahead.

Thanks to everyone who joined in the club's activities and particular thanks to those of you who accepted trip leader responsibilities. The Walks Group tries hard to develop a varied and interesting programme and we are always keen to get your input. The Walks Group is currently Dave, Moppie, Rob and myself, and we love it so much we are all going to continue; but we would welcome other members to join us or talk to us about ideas for trips. It is a quarterly activity so not too demanding of time. Let any one of us know of your interest.

Thanks also to the committee members for the past year – Ann, Dave, Debbie, Moppie, Mike, Muriel and Rob. Ann and Moppie will both leave the committee this year. We all thank you both for your service to the club over many years. And Muriel and Mike who do the real work of the committee – thank you both for your continued and continuing contribution.

At the beginning of the year, the committee upgraded our safety policies and procedures. A year down the track it is worth giving a couple of reminders:

- Firstly, please ensure you carry a first aid kit, personal medication and an "In Case of Emergency" form with you. There are forms available for you to update your information, or fill them in for the first time.
- Secondly, leaders please ensure that you email the beacon "contact people" (Laurie Hope, Mike Tooker and John Beatson) as well as the committee members, about how many people are on your trip and where you are going. This is especially important if you are changing from the advertised trip. The email contacts for these people are on the bottom of all Trip Lists.

We thankfully haven't had to call out the helicopter so far this year, but the rescue job is made easier if we have followed our safety procedures.

Thanks to the “beacon contact” people and thanks also to Mary for making the pick up and dropping off of the PLB’s easy for us.

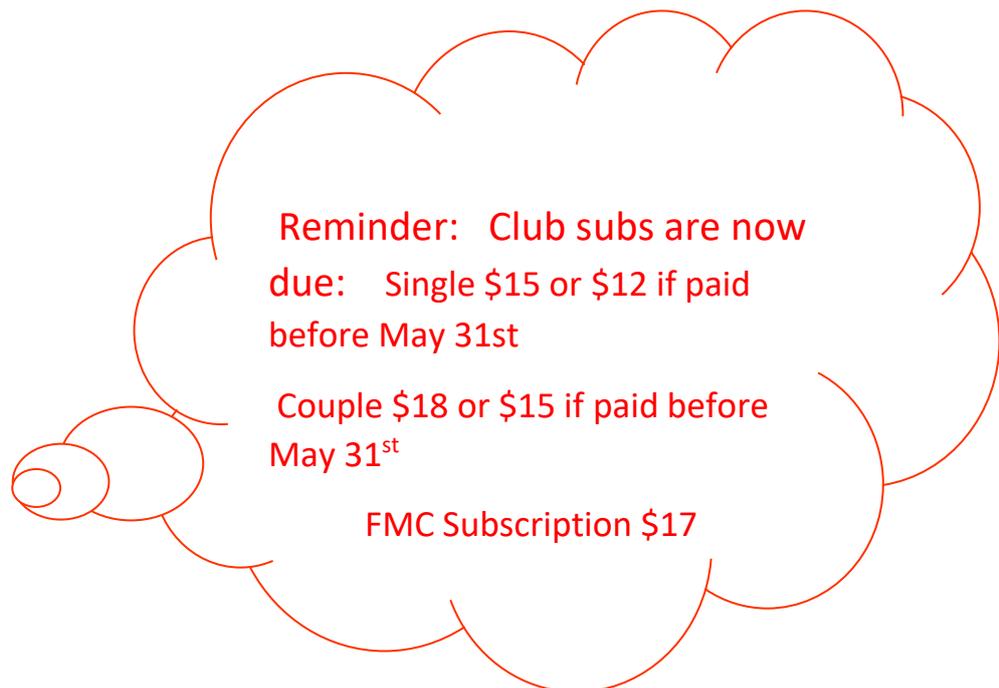
The big job of the club is putting the Newsletter together, and re-reading them again for this report, I am reminded of the excellent job Yvonne Jardine has done in recording the history of the club for many years. Thank you again Yvonne J for your continuing dedication, and thank you leaders for your contributions.

During this year, we said goodbye to two of our members; Jenny Miller earlier this year, and just a few weeks ago, Briar Wells. Our sympathy and support goes out to their families and we hope that Ian and John will continue to join us on future trips.

Yvonne Hope, President

Your new committee is:

| | | |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| President: | Yvonne Hope | Committee: |
| Vice-President: | Dave Wilson | Debbie Hickling |
| Secretary: | Muriel Moran | Rob Bruinsma |
| Treasurer: | Mike Tooker | Phil Ferris |



7 January Mt Arthur Flowers

Participants: Marie, Christine, Debbie, Serene, Phil, Dave, Gerda and Rob (leader)



It was a grey morning and we all met at Flora car park. The weather forecast seemed to be OK so we started walking through the forest to Arthur Hut. As always it was a lovely walk, sheltered in the forest, accompanied by the cheerful birds.

At the hut we had our morning tea, dressed up with the brownies made by Gerda because of her birthday. After that we started climbing the ridge toward Mt Arthur summit.

Soon we noticed a forceful wind that was increasing. Walking was getting harder. At some stage the hard and cold wind made us discuss whether we should go on or turn back. Some of us did not see the point of walking to the top in the cold wind and not being rewarded by any view, while others



were not ready yet to give up. Decision was made to split the group: the 3 men went further on, intending to make decisions later, and the 5 women turned around, back to Arthur Hut to go through the forest to Flora Hut and back to the

cars. I am not going on the slippery path of sexist remarks about the groups, but restrict myself to clean reporting. *(oh yeah! says Ed.)*

The first group made their way through the stormy wind, and shortly after the intersection with the trail to Gordons Pyramid, the wind settled and became, after a while, a moderate breeze.

While climbing the summit the clouds were lifting and the views became reasonably clear. No blue sky but nevertheless, without problems, we reached the top and experienced the forceful wind again. We decided to have lunch on our way back, just under the ridge. It became clear then, that Mt Arthur ridge was blocking the wind, because we were almost blown away at the last section toward Arthur Hut. After a little rest and the pleasant walk through the forest, we met the rest of the party very patiently waiting at Flora car park. They had a nice and sheltered walk down through the forest to Flora Hut, a pleasant lunch and stroll back to the cars.

After all, a nice day out for all of us.

Rob

(photos: Rob)

Wednesday 17 January Dew Lakes – Cancelled and replaced with

**Sunday 21 January
Moa Park – Porter
Rock**

Participants: Serene,
Barbara, Dave, Gerda,
Rob

In the time leading up to this midweek tramp, rumour was spread that the Dew Lake track was closed.

Information from the District Council revealed that the track was indeed closed due

to fire hazard. After a lot of rain the Council stated that there was no new information and the track was still closed. The weather forecast was also pretty bad so we cancelled the trip.

Decision was made to postpone the trip to Sunday. Thursday afternoon inquiry at DoC revealed that the fire hazard ban was lifted and that they were investigating possible rain damage to the track. Information should be on the website on Thursday evening. Friday it was clear that the track was



still closed, but the reason was changed now to damage due too much water. It is not only man that is unpredictable.



So the trip was again cancelled. However, an alternative trip was suggested and the decision was made to go to Moa Park and Porter Rock. A splendid idea and in the early morning of Sunday we headed off for the winding Takaka Hill road to Canaan. The weather was gorgeous and after the steep climb up to Wainui Saddle we reached Moa Park for morning tea. The return trip to Porter Rock was beautiful thanks to the flowering rata and the cheerful sound of birdlife. After lunch at the viewing point we headed back to Moa Park then back to the car.

Not the best part, but certainly a contender for the award, was the stop at the Woolshed and the real fruit ice cream we had. We resisted the temptation of a second one and took the road back to Motueka.

Rob

(Photos: Rob)

27-29 January Waiuta

We had thought to book out the Lodge for this trip but when there weren't enough members interested, we just booked for the number going. We still ended up having the Lodge to ourselves - just a lot more space to spread around.

The Lodge is a great asset in a very interesting part of the country. A conversation with the young DoC staff indicated that as students they had good memories of the times they had gone to the Lodge with their schools, and now go there for extended family gatherings. They said that local and the wider area schools



do make good use of the Lodge. It is in good repair and pretty well set up, so good to know it is getting good use and likely to remain well supported.



The active Friends of Waiuta are doing good work in recording and displaying information about the past, and some restoration of buildings and structures. The photographs by Joseph Davis from the 1920s and 30s definitely enhance the ability to bring this time to life. There is a lot of informative information available about the area and walks.

Photo left is Johnny Jones, who chose to be a “postie” at Waiuta, rather than go down the mine. Photo from Waiuta Trust website.

The 28th Maori Battalion Commemoration Day was held in Reefton on 27th as some of our group came through the town giving the town a festive vibe.

The ceremony marked the week that the battalion returned home to Wellington in 1946 from the WWI battlegrounds of Greece, Crete, North Africa and Italy.

Laurie, Yvonne H and Judith arrived on Friday night and as we hadn't been to Waiuta before did some local exploring until Barb, Dave and Janet arrived in the early afternoon on Saturday. The news they brought about the Commemoration Day helped us make sense of the group of horses apparently practicing walking in pairs down the main street of Reefton while we were having dinner there the night before.

Saturday

Walking and biking to explore the old town, swimming pool and Snowy Battery walks with a great cool off in the slow flowing and not bitterly cold river.

We lost power at about dinner time. Weather was perfect, not a drop of rain or a breath of wind anywhere about. Cell phones still worked and a conversation with the Westland Electricity provider using Dave's detailed information about where we were - with reference to south of Reefton, Waiuta, Gold mining Ghost town, Ikamatua didn't seem to help the probably Auckland based call centre helper, but it was good fun. Some bikers who were camping nearby let us



know that they had seen a tree down across the lines and that the lines people were onto it. That provided some reassurance. We had all brought pre-cooked food to share which worked as well cold as hot, we also had an emergency gas cooker, candles and had both wine and beer as water replacement. The electricity came back on just after dark and before we had to find toilet and shower alternatives.

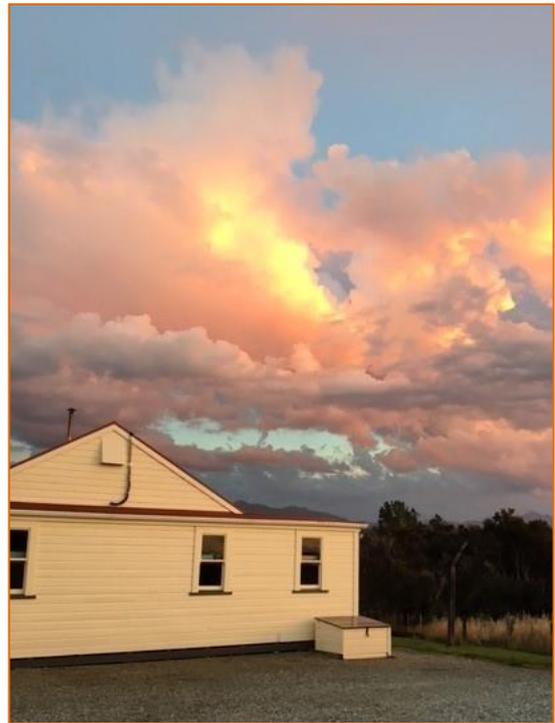
Sunday

Laurie biked to Big River, agreeing with the information that it was indeed a grade 4 ride with lots of opportunity to push the bike. Barb and Dave walked the full way while the others walked in part-way and returned in time for Judith to get back to ChCh at a reasonable hour.

In the evening Janet and Laurie were our self selected representatives to go to the pub at Ikamatua to check out the local brew and catch up on the news. Janet caught up with old acquaintances and brought back updates on people she knew to entertain us.

Monday

We explored the area around the Prohibition Mine where we were pleased to see the remediation of the arsenic contamination recently done with funding from DOC and the Ministry of the Environment.



On the way home Barb biked downhill enjoying the forest cover and great biking slope for the first part of the ride and meeting Dave who drove to the main road turn off and then back up and down again - getting the sun both ways.

We had a most enjoyable weekend in an interesting setting with a good range of walking and biking opportunities. Just so people can know that traditions continue - there was one drop of cutlery - Dave not involved this time and just knives not the full cutlery set. And not while people were sleeping. There has been some improvement in the storage of the cutlery and related human behaviour but clearly a bit of adaptation is still desirable.

Yvonne H

(Photos: Clear Skies/Laurie; Schoolhouse & Sunset/Janet)

4 February Lodestone

I had decided, after consultation, that we travel from Flora Hut up Lodestone and end up back at the car park. The weather forecast was not terrific and by the time we reached Flora Hut there was a fine drizzle falling and it was a little cool. After some hesitation we decided to continue with the walk. The rain continued, the cloud closed in and we kept walking up.

We stopped before the summit for lunch and were entertained by a pair of Weka, the male intent on trying to impress the female. Then before we all got too cold we set off again.

Fortunately the rain didn't get any heavier but the cloud did persist and when we reached the top there was no view!! But we did have a very chipper Kea to greet us who hopped along from rock to rock with us over the top of Mt Lodestone.

We then had a nice walk down seeing a flock of rifleman, tomtits and robins, a good day for birds.

We passed another 4 people walking up from the car park.

All in all, I enjoyed the walk, and hope everyone else did, but a view would have been fantastic.

Participants were Serene, Phil, Gerda, Rob, Dave, Barbara, Helen, myself and friend of mine Sue Holmes.

Debbie

6 February (Tuesday) Champion and United Mines –

Cancelled due forestry issue



10-11 February Sawcut Gorge –

Cancelled due weather

18 February Adele Island

Eight of us caught a personalized water taxi to Adele Island in ATNP on a beautiful summer's day. The track starts out steeply, passing a large plastic container which provides the island birds a continuous water supply. There were plenty of stoat/rat traps as well as tracking tunnels, and stunning views over towards the Astroblabe.

We walked clockwise around the island, en route coming across impressive displays of easter orchids. We dropped down to Stream Cove for morning tea. The tide was well in and there were some small surging waves. We climbed steeply up out of Stream Cove and found that the bush was much



more luxuriant on this western side of the island. We saw a small shag colony before we went up to the Trig. As it was shady there, we had lunch and were entertained by many South Island robins. We had also seen fantails but no saddlebacks.

By the time we got back to the water taxi pick up point, it was a very high tide. Peter held onto the water taxi and we had to step off the rocks onto the gunwhale of the boat, for a short trip across to

Appletree Beach.

It was amazing to see how much sand had been taken away by ex cyclone Fehi. There was a terrific amount of erosion and the sand had been swept up over the camp site.

(see photo below of “stranded” toilet water tap)



We met a great many European tourists on the walk back to Marahau. Thank you very much to everyone who came - Pete, Judy, Yvonne J, Yvonne H, Ann, Bill, Ian. It was a stunning day.

Moppie

(Photos: Yvonne J)

23/24 February Mt Owen – cancelled due insufficient numbers. Replaced with:

23-25 February Travers Valley and Cupola Basin

The trip scheduled, helicopter to Mt Owen, was cancelled due concern about not being able to get out on Wangapeka access road. We will try again in the spring programme. A rethink, and Fenella was the new option. BUT Takaka



and Cobb Roads were taken out. With Nelson Lakes just about the only remaining opportunity, we decided on a trip to John Tait Hut.

Wendy and the two Yvonnas formed the now reduced party, and a water taxi up Rotoiti to Lakehead, walk to John Tait for two nights, up to Cupola Hut for a day trip and walk out to Coldwater Hut for the water taxi pickup was the plan. AND it worked perfectly.

The boat trip up with a keen New Zealand born Australian fisherman and his guide reinforced to

us that tramping is a much less stressful and a more reliable option for exploring the wilderness. We were late getting away while the fishers packed

and repacked their gear and dressed themselves identically. Arriving at Coldwater Hut they found that a fishing party had left just 5 minutes earlier, meaning that retreat to wait another 24 hours for the fish to settle was their only option!! When we returned to Coldwater Hut on the way out, we overheard a conversation of two other fishers about how cunning trout were and how and impossible they were to catch. Not surprising if they are

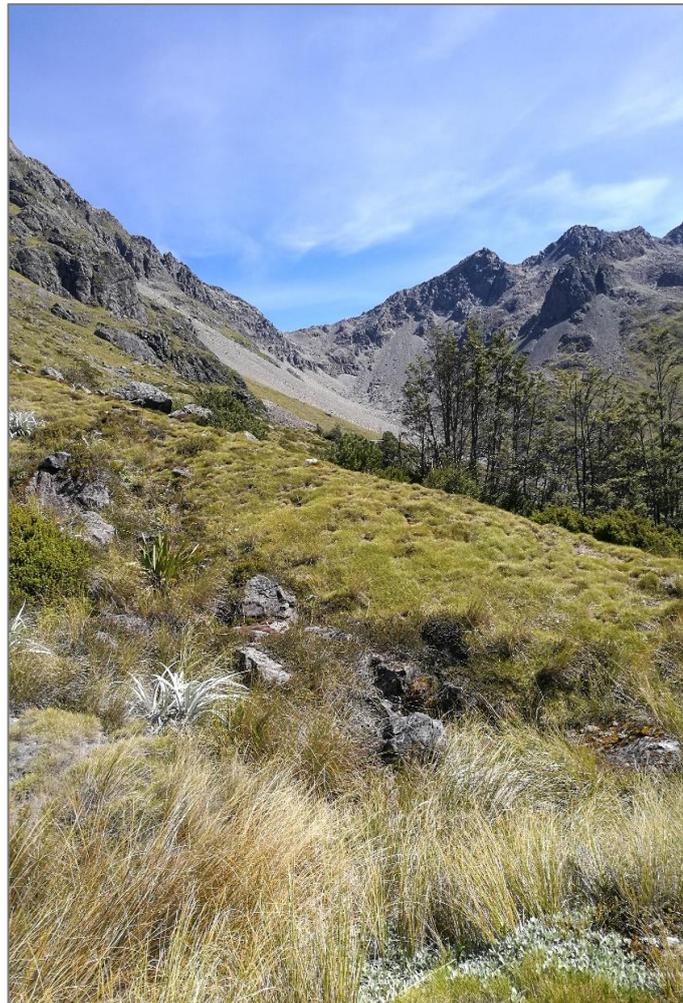


assaulted on such a regular basis, we thought.

The walk from Lakehead was well signed and in reasonable condition. John Tait Hut became pretty crowded over the evening with about a dozen plus us sleeping in the hut and about the same number retiring to their tents to sleep. Most of the trampers were young Europeans, a few of whom were doing the Te Araroa. The hut

hadn't been cleaned for some time so when most people had left the next morning we gave the surfaces and floor a good going over, noting that at this time last year there was a norovirus scare in the huts. We also spent some time inventing signs to encourage cleaning behaviour.

The trip to Cupola Hut was steep, but getting into alpine territory so quickly was a real treat. We explored the moraine area behind the hut but thought that more time up there would be great. Thus it is on the next trip list with an overnight at the delightful 8 bed Cupola Hut to enjoy the views across to Mt Hopeless. The stunning Travers Falls required a good deal of viewing and photographing time.



Returning to a pristine John

Tait Hut was definitely worth the cleaning. Fewer trampers passed by or stayed on Saturday night but we had more conversations with the few. The walk out to Coldwater Hut was washed out in places, but again well signed and reasonable underfoot.

At Coldwater Hut we again met two young men who had been canyoning in the area. They had caught the boat up with us and we had been particularly impressed with the large amount of gear they carried in - lakeside huts certainly have their place. They reported that they had explored a few waterfalls in the area, but had just done a run today- a round trip from Coldwater via Angelus and Robert Ridge and back along the side of Rotoiti!! Just in time to catch the boat. We last saw them drinking large quantities of fruit juice and pies.

4 March – Castle Rocks Hut - Cancelled

9-10-11 March - Sylvester Hut Cancelled due road closure



14 March Penstocks – cancelled due road closure

18 March Puppu Walkway

Five members met outside Liquorland for our trip to Puppu. We decided to all travel in Bills big handsome SUV in case there were any challenges going over "The Hill". We were first in line waiting at the bottom of the Takaka hill, Riwaka side. They had us wait for about 30 minutes before taking off behind the "Follow Me" car. By that time perhaps 50 vehicles were backed up behind us. Seeing all the storm damage was really eye opening - the damage mother nature can do!



At the walkway we put on boots and had a drink. The day was fine with some cloud and the track dry. The first part of the track up to the water race has been quite washed out in places so having a firm track was a big help. The water race itself was originally put in for gold mining in the early days but is now used to produce electricity which is fed into the grid.



Lunch was had by the dam with a visit from a cheeky weka. Afterwards we decided to return on the same track we had come up on and not do the round trip.

Back at the car a sign said "Best Walk In The World". That is debatable but it is a very pleasant easy walk. And we looked through the window to see electricity being made.

A coffee/tea stop in Takaka and another 30 minute wait on the hill, and we were back early in Motueka. Thanks to Bill, Ann, Mike and Jean for a very nice day out.

John B

(Photos: John B)

23-24-25 March Blue Lake - Cancelled due weather



1 April Gordon's Ridge and North Peak – cancelled – no starters

6-7-8 April Sylvester Hut or Lake Chalice – Cancelled due weather

19-22 April John Tait and Cupola – cancelled due weather but replaced by

22 April Browning and Hacket Huts

You know the way it goes before a multi day trip, or even a day trip; you closely watch the weather till your computer just opens up all by itself on Metservice Nelson Lakes National Park page (or in search of that “confirmation” you even resort to YrNo). As it happened, all registered participants made a joint decision not to go. Cupola Basin is such a beautiful place, it deserves a sunny, still day.

Instead, we hoisted our day packs and enjoyed a glorious day, first up to Hacket Hut for morning tea (having chosen that way to keep feet dry for as long as possible). We were pleased to see freshly flowering gentians along the way. We then followed the “high route” to Browning. Glad we went that way, as the bush is really lovely with lots of young Miro, Matai and Tanekaha.



Had lunch in the sun and retraced our journey, this time at river level to Hackett Junction, nearly all of us getting our feet wet on this section. After that a very pleasant walk down river to the carpark.

On the way, in and out, we met some Te Araroa-ians, quite a few bikers doing perilous stuff, and dog-walkers. A nice day out for them and for us.

Participants were Gerda, Rob (just a few days prior to departure to SFO and Holland), Wendy, Debbie and myself, Yvonne – leader and reporter.

(Photos: Yvonne J)

Obituary - Briar Wells

Briar, along with husband John, have been members of the club for a considerable number of years. Briar, though not often seen on our trips, is well known by many club members and for her activities in the Tasman and Ruby Bay districts. Briar was a cheerful, bright, and caring person, always a joy to be around.

A close friend of hers said: "She was someone who loved a challenge and learning new things. I always think of flowers around Briar because of her garden but also she often wore bright flowery clothing, her sparkling blue eyes and her big smile."

Bits of history and bio-diversity:

Editor seeks contributions to this new section.



Robin on
Adele
Island
(Jan)



Fungi – Travers Valley (left) and
near Browning Hut (right) for
Mike to identify

This sign and post at Nydia Bay must have been around for a bit.



Below is a photo from a private publication. It is the Dog Box bivvy that used to be at the intersection of the Flora Hut track to Arthur Hut.





Brough's Tabernacle, referenced in Dave and Marie's trip report to Wangapeka in November 2017 (see last Newsletter). The oil painting is by H Burn dated 1908, and has been photographed courtesy of Nelson Provincial Museum. The orange donut (don't know how it got in the photo) and the fingers holding a red rectangle (YJ's hand and phone) are ghosts of a more modern time. Visit the Nelson Museum for a better look at this painting of an amazing place of worship tucked in the wilds of the Wangapeka

That's your lot (as they say). Look forward to contributions to above. Most things acceptable – funny signs? Happy reading, stay warm, wish you dry boots during your winter tramping expeditions. Ed.

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