

Motueka Tramping Club



Newsletter September to December 2024

Email: secretary.motuekatc@gmail.com

Website: motuekatrampingclub.org



Boots for two - Oldest to newest



Committee



President:

Vice President:

Secretary: Lynne Flood

Treasurer: Heather Adams

Membership Officer: Kathy Chandler

Committee Member: Ann Giggs

Committee Member: Kathleen Famularo

Walks Committee: Ann Giggs, Maggie Pidgeon and Sonya Lloyd

New Members

A big welcome to:
Lauren Catalano
Maggie Williams



Trip Reports



Takaka Hill

08 September 2024

Leader and Writer: Dave

A very casual clockwise walk enjoyed by all on a blustery Takaka Hill day. New members Laura and Nadine, MTC members: Dave, Kathleen, Una and Yvonne.

Photo by Kathleen





Waitui Upper Takaka

6 October 2024

Leader and Writer; Maggie P

Trampers: Ann, Becky, Dave, Gill, Kathleen and Maggie

We were pleased to be able to get out that Sunday after not very favourable weather forecasts. It was overcast, cloudy and raining later in the day but still a beautiful walk. The almost pristine bush in the gorge area, the big kahikatea tree, the rock faces, scree, waterfall coming out of the rock face, the beech forest – this walk has everything. However, probably the most memorable part of this walk were the two little tame goats that welcomed us on the hut side of the stream. Moonear and Cosmos were so cute...

This time the stream was crossable, with the water level about calf high. We had a relaxing lunch at the hut then headed home. Thanks to the local farmers who cheerfully gave us access permission.

Total time was about 6 hours; distance about 13km.





Meet Moonear





Holyoake

13 October 2024

Leader and Writer: Sjors

Trampers: Birgit, Gill, Lauren and Sjors

On a day of doubtful weather, we did not set out to Conical Hill, but I will still report on that one a little. The daywalk to Conical Hill is the first half or maybe better one-third of an approach to Granity Pass Hut and then on to Mt Owen (wishlist mountain, that one!). See Alltrails.com for outlook range to Granity Pass.

Sonya and myself were interested in this route as an alternative approach to Mt Owen if the ford is impassable to the normal Court House Flats start.





Other local tramping clubs have done the Conical Hill walk as a daywalk and you can google them.

I found it a boring day walk, going up 730m in 2.5 hours in the forest and then having 30 mins on the ridge, and after that, back the same way, but the whole walk to Gravity Pass Hut should be great. The path is clearly marked to Conical and should be a route after that, very exposed, all ridge walking, so I would personally only recommend it on a clear day, and with a topo app to help you.

So, Sjors, Birgit, Gill and Lauren did instead..... the good old loop in the AT, to Holyoakes, Akersten and back again. Very nice. On the early uphill there are some nice views towards Marahau, and on the downhill, gorgeous views over Torrent and Anchorage, see picture. Just after our group photo we were hailed on for about 10 mins and then it was ok again. Looking inland we saw a lot of rain there, so we were happy on the coast.



Didn't spot the Green hooded orchid I saw there a week earlier, but DID see a Leopard Seal!

Probably a young one, as about 5 foot. When we reported the sighting on leopardsealsightings.co.nz, and mentioned it also had left a poo higher up on the beach, we got an almost instant reply, asking for the poo. Leopard seal poo is like gold to the researchers, as they cannot only see what they eat, but then also where they have been and how long for.

Sorry, too late, can just tell you it looked like a 2 month dead bird.

Another lovely day in the park, with a drink and a cake at the Park Cafe to top it all off.

Sjors





St James Walkway

20 - 25 October 2024

Leader and Writer: Lynda

Trampers: Annette, Gill and Lynda



Three of us headed off for the four night trip to do the St James walkway. The forecast was good for the first three days but a little less than ideal for the last two but we hoped that it would improve as we went along!

Day 1

We arranged the car shuttle and storage with Boyle lodge no problems. Lovely weather. Did the track time getting to Cannibal gorge hut. The track undulates a bit getting there, a pretty walk through beech forest with an attractive river to follow. Cannibal Gorge hut is a bit tired but comfortable and, as would be the case for the following nights, we had the place to ourselves.

Day 2

We took one and a half hours to get to Ada pass hut where we sat for morning tea and enjoyed the sun and looking at the snow on the peaks. Then over Ada pass- surely the easiest pass anyone could ever find to walk over. Soon after we came to our first flock of Canada geese- probably 30-50 of them. Today became very hot and seemed much longer than the 13km advertised. In fact it was nearly 17 and we all felt much better knowing that. Gill even had a swim in the river when we arrived. Brave lady!

Day 3

Our shortest day. Christopher hut to Anne hut. Clear and fine with some stunning views with lots of snow still on the peaks. We met a cyclist, only the second person we met on the whole trail! Didn't see any wild horses which was disappointing. Arrived early afternoon. Where we had come from looked sunny all afternoon but where we are going tomorrow looked VERY ominous weather wise. We got a forecast from Lynda's husband (thanks to the Inreach) which told us to get up and get going early tomorrow.

Day 4

Anne hut to Boyle Flats hut. Woke to wind but no rain. We got going early and managed-just! to get to the hut before the rain. Lots of Canada geese again and the world's second easiest saddle to go over. 19km in 7 hours.

Day 5

After a full afternoon and night of rain we woke to fine weather! Couldn't believe our luck. The track was very wet and squishy in places but we did manage to walk the 13.5km down the river without needing our raincoats. Not an exciting walk to finish our trip on and we were all very happy to reach our car and transport home before the real rain set in.



It was a most enjoyable four nights five days with the weather being extremely kind to us. The snow on the tops was just lovely. The number of Canada geese though is pretty horrifying. Seems to me cattle dung has been replaced by Canada geese poo which is just everywhere.





27 October 2024

Mt Evans

Leader: Lynne

Writer: Anon.

Trampers: John, Lauren, Lynne, Sarah, Tina and Xavier



Six of us turned up on a day which followed a day of rain. The weather behaved itself up to a point but we ended up later in the day tramping through Canaan in the rain.

Mt Evans is reached after following a bait line sort of track through bush. We didn't climb up the rock to the summit which may not be the summit because I heard or read somewhere that the real summit which is a bit further on. There would have been no view anyway.

An enjoyable day with good company including Lynne's grandson, Xavier, all the way from West Auckland.





Parachute Rock

17 November

Leader: Alan

Writer: Anon.

Trampers: Alan, Amy, John, Lynne, Peter (new), Sonia L, Xavier



Arrived in St Arnaud to a lovely day, already warming up from its earlier zero degrees temperature. After a quick bite to eat the tramp started, firstly fairly flat and then steeper winding up through the bush for quite some time before arriving at Parachute Rock. Then the final push to the top and wonderful views. Tucked away out of the wind we sat and looked at the tussock and tarns, which closely resembled the Mole Tops.

After lunch we walked along the ridge to the highest point. At one point a glider was above us. Time for a selfie! Some of us had never before been subjected to a selfie but I suppose new experiences are worth it?





19-20 November 2024

Trip to Wharawharangi Hut

Leader and Writer: Kathy

Trampers: Ann, Daphne and Kathy



The weather gods had been kind to us as Kathy (leader), Daphne and Ann set off on a sunny Tuesday in November over the Takaka Hill through to Wainui Bay, with stunning views throughout. Luckily, we weren't heading to Totoranui as this road was closed due to a massive slip!

There were quite a few cars in the carpark so we hoped the hut would not be too full. It was a nice gradual climb up the hill and we stopped for morning tea with a lovely view over the bay. Daphne was dismayed to find that she had left her delicious lunch behind in the car, but we had enough food to share. We soon reached the top of the hill with more stunning views and began the downhill walk through lovely bush with lots of bird song. We arrived at the hut nice and early for lunch- too early for the friendly Irish warden who was expecting an empty hut for a few hours to complete the cleaning! Ann got her own room downstairs so as not to negotiate the steep stairs and Kathy and Daphne bagged an upstairs room where there was plenty of room to spread out. Daphne was looking forward to trying out her new sleeping bag. After settling in, having lunch and watching the warden tape up a window which a kereru had flown right through the day before, much to the consternation of the bird (which survived) and the people sitting at the table (!), we headed off to Separation



Point. It was a lovely walk with beautiful bush, but the wind had got up and by the time we reached the point, it was really strong. There was a new track with steps which made it much safer to get down to the lighthouse, but we were surprised to see only 1 adult male seal on the rocks and 1 baby seal. I guess it was the wrong time of year. The decoy gannet colony had been removed as it was unsuccessful.

We then continued along a nice track to Mutton Cove, along the beach, with Kathy trying to go along the old cliff track instead of using the easy steps from the beach to the bridge leading through to the cove! We had afternoon tea at the picnic table, chatted to some tourists and headed back a different way, returning to the hut in an hour. We did about 16kms altogether that day.

We had other people at the hut when we returned, but still had our own rooms and there was plenty of room. There was a nice Irish lady from Melbourne and her daughter who was a doctor in Bendigo, another nice Aussie lady and her partner and another couple who kept to themselves. Our warden had gone, but left a note saying we all needed to vacate the hut by 8 next morning as a team of DoC workers were coming in next day to do tree cutting and maintenance.

After a peaceful night (the hut has the reputation of being haunted!) we arose early to meet our 8 o'clock deadline, only to find that, even after a trip to the beach for a walk/swim and back to the hut, no one had still appeared to do the work. Our packs were lighter and we made quick progress up the hill. Our fellow hut mates were all being picked up by a shuttle from the carpark after completing the Abel Tasman Track and asked for suggestions of side walks so we suggested they walk to Taupo Point.

Daphne was reunited with her sandwiches when we returned to the car, and Kathy with her hut shoes which were there too! We decided to walk to Wainui falls and none



of us had been on the track since the repairs after a weather event closed the track for some months. The road to Totoranui had reopened thanks to some speedy work by Fulton Hogan. We were all very impressed by the Falls Track, so beautiful with massive trees ferns with long skirts and a stunning Wainui river with beautiful swimming holes. There was an amazing part where the upper track had collapsed due to a slip and the track had been rerouted lower down over some rocks, exposing a gorgeous little side valley and waterfall with moss wallpaper along its sides.

There were quite a few other visitors so we waited our turn to sit at the rocks with the view of the falls to eat our lunch. The falls were full and impressive with lots of spray. A family looking after exchange students from Brazil and Germany appeared and entertained us. The Brazilian girl stripped down to her g string bikini (very cheeky!) and the German boy to his togs and they sidled along the rocks for a dip in the pool below the falls. The current was very strong and they didn't get very far. We were worried that the girl was going to get washed down the river but clung on and was given a hand up back to the rocks!

After a pleasant walk back we decided to go with Ann's recommendation for the Dangerous Kitchen in Takaka and indulged in pieces of delicious chocolate torte. A great way to end a trip before winding our way back over the Takaka Hill.

Thanks to Ann and Daphne for your great company.

Kathy





Pukeone / Mt Campbell

24 November 2024

Leader and Writer: Sonya

Trampers: Alan, Helen & Shaun, John, Lynda, Lynne, Sonya and Xavier



We set off at 9am into a misty morning. Mt Campbell has no warmup, it's straight into it. Steep climbs up a gravel road that winds its way up to the first gate. We decided to chance it and head up to the summit, having the option if it rained or got worse we would turn around and descend. At 1,330m and starting from about 450m at the skid site, it's a good workout with steep parts up a gravel road. Crappy pine forests make way to beautiful beech forest that we enjoyed walking through. Most times there are goats meandering around, none today just what they left. The clouds swirled around us giving us snatching views in their breaks. We stopped for morning tea and then continued up. Lunch was had around the west side of the communication tower at the top, but away from the noisy workings. We sat on shag pile carpet of moss and lichens, which made for comfy sitting and comfy snoozing. We got glimpses of the terrain down & beyond us towards hoary head and out west. After cuppas, chocolate and various other goodies we started the walk back down, which was leisurely and enjoyable after working hard to go up. Lots of good banter along the way, always enjoyable on a club day tramp. We got back to the cars 2.30ish. Another enjoyable walk.





Bark Bay

1-3 December 2024

Leader and Writer: Kathy

Trampers: Gill, Kathy and Sarah



Beautiful weather as Kathy, Sarah and Gill set off for Marahau to catch the water taxi to Torrent bay via detours to Split Apple Rock and Adele island to view the seals. We almost had a dry landing and ditched our big packs at the shelter, enjoyed morning tea and interacted with tourists before heading off with day packs up the Falls Track, which was mostly new to Sarah and Gill. We all enjoyed the bird life, beautiful bush, interesting track, and following the lovely Tregidga River up to the Cascade falls, stunning with its moss covered boulders and very pretty falls. We crossed the river a few times and gained height, having a delightful kaka experience on the way, possibly one of the newly released birds at Bark Bay. There was a bit of bog before an easy section through fairly open bush before we reached the Falls River, which had quite a different character to the previous river. After a climb and a scramble we reached the amazing rock pools and it wasn't long before we noticed a large eel! We were all keen on a swim after our lunch, but a little worried about sharing the pool with the eel, so while Kathy and Gill had a quick dip separately, the other two used diversion tactics for the eel with small pieces of bread.



Sarah decided to wait for a sea swim.

After a quick return down the track and saddling up to our big packs, it was only a couple of hours to reach Bark Bay Hut. We were quite tempted for a swim at Halfway Pool but decided to carry on to the mouth of the Falls River at Sandfly Bay. It was interesting to see the river again under the swing bridge and again at the sea. We decided that togs would not be necessary here as it was very quiet and had a beautiful dip, but on returning to the main track we looked down to see that the two boats moored in the bay were occupied!

Refreshed we continued past Medlands and arrived at the hut to find it very busy. We were the last to arrive. We managed to all squeeze in but it wasn't the most peaceful of nights. There were about equal numbers of kiwis and overseas visitors with mostly Australians and young Germans. There was

a lot of kaka activity and a lovely evening to sit and enjoy the last rays at the beach.

Next morning, following the advice of the friendly ranger, Lorena, we moved into the 6 person cabin at the side of the hut when it was vacated, a great move with bottom bunk beds and lots of room. We especially appreciated it that evening when a family arrived with a 2 and 4 year old!

After a very leisurely start, we continued along the track to Onetahuti, a good work out with plenty of ups and downs. The weather was stunning and it was absolutely gorgeous at Tonga Quarry where we enjoyed a long swim and spent time exploring the river and other end of the beach. The wind had got up by the time we reached



Onetahuti so we first visited the secret waterfall and pool for lunch, a very tranquil spot. Next, we explored the other end of the beach and were delighted by a pair of oystercatchers with two chicks. We crossed the bridge and then back along the beach where we saw an interesting white pufferfish, dead unfortunately. It was still a bit windy to make for a pleasant swim, so had another dip at Tonga Quarry on our way back where it was much calmer.

Back at the hut, it was full house again with lots of Aussies. Gill was talking to a Lithuanian couple having dinner at the picnic table where a weka managed to swipe one of their wraps!

Sarah and Kathy sat on the beach until dark and returning along the track, had a wonderful kaka experience, watching a kaka silhouetted against the night sky very close, drinking nectar from flax flowers.

It was a very peaceful night in our private room, unlike the main bunkrooms! We discovered a weka deterrent at breakfast... a two year old who had had his chocolate biscuits stolen the day before. He was charging at them in such a terrifying manner that they were cowering under the deck!! There were some interesting people at the hut and we had some good conversations.

After packing and cleaning we headed off to Medlands to have another swim, luckily clothed as the DoC ranger arrived while we were in the water! It got very busy with all the boats dropping people off. There was time for one more swim at Bark Bay for Sarah and Kathy and time for a coffee brew for Gill before catching the water taxi back to Marahau, after a drop off at Kaiteiteri.

We finished off with an icecream at Marahau and all agreed that it had been a great trip with great company, lots of lovely swims, almost perfect weather and only 2 hours walking with a full pack!

Thanks Sarah and Gill for your company.

Kathy





Mt Hope

8 December 2024

Leader: John

Trampers: John, Kathy and Lynne

Only three of us on this trip but it was a great day. There was a lot of climbing up through the bush before reaching the tops. The weather was good and the views superb.





Matakitaki

15-19 December 2024

Leader: Lynne

Trampers: Allan, Becks, Lynne, Sonya and Maggie.

Five of us, Lynne, Sonya, Allan, Becks and Maggie donned our raincoats or ponchos in Lime Green (The Frog) and Orange (The Jellybean) and headed up the Matakitaki Valley through bog, bottomless bog and watery bog to Downie Hut. The sandflies were largely absent due to the weather. We used Downie Hut for cooking and shelter and wiped the rodent shit from the mattresses and slept happily outside in our tents. The next day we took off in similar weather to Bob's Hut. The highlight was the crossing of the three-wire bridges, the first one of which was built for giants and the second one was somewhat loose and saggy. Both provided a challenge and we were well pleased with ourselves for getting across them. We saw a large whio on a rock in the river, which was fairly full and turbulent. Our arrival into Bob's was amidst thunder, lightning and sleet and later we saw fresh snow falling on the mountains above us. It was a pretty cold night so we lit the fire to dry our gear and smoked ourselves out. Allan collected water and, believe it or not, found a fish in his drink bottle which he ate, no actually it got released back into the river. The next day some of us relaxed all day and some went off down the valley. Our trip back to Downie Hut took 8 hours. We arrived at Downie to find two hunters already there and later we heard one gunshot and then next morning saw a small hind hanging in the tree. We left early the next morning to head to the road end and the track was dryer and progress was easier. It took us just over six hours to get back to the road end. We agreed that it was an adventure, more difficult than we had thought it would be and the highlight was crossing the three-wire bridges.





Neal Slavin took this picture of pugs and their owners in 2005 for an advertising campaign. "We'd built this sort of step affair for the dogs," he says. "And I decided that they should have a royal treatment with the red velvet curtains. But it wasn't really working. The owners were hidden behind the curtain with their dogs on leashes. But then it hit me like a ton of bricks. Why are we hiding them? I asked them to push the curtains aside. And there was the picture. After that, it took five minutes."

From the book "When Two Or More Are Gathered Together" by Neal Slavin