

Tararua Tramper

Vol. 98 No.1 February 2026

Newsletter of Tararua Tramping Club (Inc)

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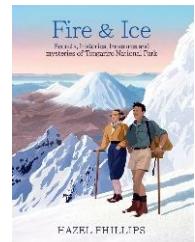
Tuesday night programme

3/2 **New Zealand's ungulates reaching plague proportions** *Hera Cook*
Deer and other ungulate populations (mammals with hooves) have stripped much of New Zealand's forest understory and are moving into farms, forestry plantations and suburban gardens. Why is this pest problem still not under control? What are the choices for hunters and farmers – and other New Zealanders?

10/2 **Histories and mysteries of Tongariro National Park** *Hazel Phillips*
Hazel's book *Fire & Ice: Secrets, histories, treasures and mysteries of Tongariro National Park* has stories of ghosts, fires, avalanches, plane wrecks, sly grogging, secret spots and more. Hazel shares a few of her favourites. See p.3.

17/2 **Writing about the backcountry** *Kathy Ombler*
For many years Kathy has been a freelance writer on conservation, tramping and outdoor recreation, most recently for *New Zealand Wilderness*, FMC's *Backcountry* and *Forest & Bird* magazines. She is a trustee of Ōtari-Wilton's Bush.

24/2 **Adventures with Victoria and Emilie Bruce**
Join mother–daughter duo Victoria and Emilie for an evening of stories from Victoria's first book *Adventures with Emilie*, their new book *Emilie Walks Te Araroa* — the tale of Emilie's journey walking the length of Aotearoa at just seven years old — and the long journeys in remote backcountry that followed. See p.4.



Club night: Every Tuesday night at 4 Moncrieff Street, Mt Victoria, Wellington.

Programme: supper 7.10 - 7.30 p.m.; general business 7.30 - 7.45 p.m.; speaker 7.45 – 8.30 p.m.; trip arrangements/social 8.30 - 9.00 p.m. **Online:** <https://ttc.org.nz/onlinemeetings>.

Masthead photo Colin Cook: Tararua peaks Tuiti and Tunui seen from the south-east, on Tarahanga Spur.

President's kōrero

Changes at the helm of *Tararua Tramper*

The *Tramper* has had an integral role in our club community for almost 80 years. Deep thanks go to Peter Reimann, who has given us interesting and informative *Trampers* for the last six years. But this February *Tramper* is Peter's last gift to us as its editor.

Fortunately sub-editor David McCrone has decided to step up.

There will be some changes. The new *Tramper* editor won't have to make last minute changes to the next month's trip calendar, given that members are using what's on our website and being kept up to date in the regular emails to the Wednesday and weekend trip groups.

And I'm making more use of our all member ttc.announcements email to share notices.

The heart of the *Tramper* lies in its keeping members in touch with what is happening in our club, through shared stories, portraits, humour, observations and information.

So: enjoy this final *Tramper* from Peter, and please support David as he takes up the editorial reins in March.

Changes at the helm of *Tararua Annual*

Thanks to David for his editing of our *Tararua Annual* since 2022. If you haven't already enjoyed the 2025 one, you're missing out!

Online here: [Tararua Annual v72 2025.pdf](https://www.ttc.org.nz/assets/2025/01/Tararua%20Annual%20v72%202025.pdf)

And now we need a new *Annual* editor.

Do you relish the *Annual* and want to see it continue? Are you interested in editing members' contributions to bring out the best in them, so that we have lively and varied trip accounts and photos of what we get up to, to bring the year together? If this is you, please contact me!

In the meantime, if you'd like to share your trip in the next *Annual*, you can write about it while it's fresh. Email it to ttc.annual@ttc.org.nz. David can edit text in Word until we have a new editor.

Cathy Wylie



News/information

New members

Welcome to: *Gillian Ansell, Keren Dravitzki, Chris O'Neill, Cherie Phillips, Emma Phillips (youth), Frank Sinclair, Alison Smith.*

Adventure and enduring friendships await!



Geoffrey Winthrop Young – climber and writer

For more about G W Y, who wrote the wistful poem under the trip lists on p.15 of the December *Tramper*, and the photo of the Matterhorn beside the poem, see [AJ 1961 100-117 Lunn Winthrop Young.pdf](#). Some abridged extracts:

Born 1876, died 1958.

Educated at Marlborough and Trinity College, Cambridge, where he was awarded the Chancellor's Medal for English verse. In 1900 he became an assistant master at Eton and after five years accepted a post as inspector of Secondary Schools.

He was 38 when the First World War began. Mentioned in British Despatches and awarded the Belgian Order of Leopold for exceptional courage and resource, and the Italian silver medal for Valour. In 1917 he was severely wounded, and his leg was amputated above the knee.

Young described his war experiences in a memorable book, *The Grace of Forgetting*.

Why was Lawrence Drake Bridge called 'Bill'?

A number of club members have asked this question.

Use of the name 'Bill' began when Lawrence joined Rovers. There was already a Laurie in the troop so the leader said, 'OK, we'll call you Bill'. The name stuck.



Aiguille du Grépon

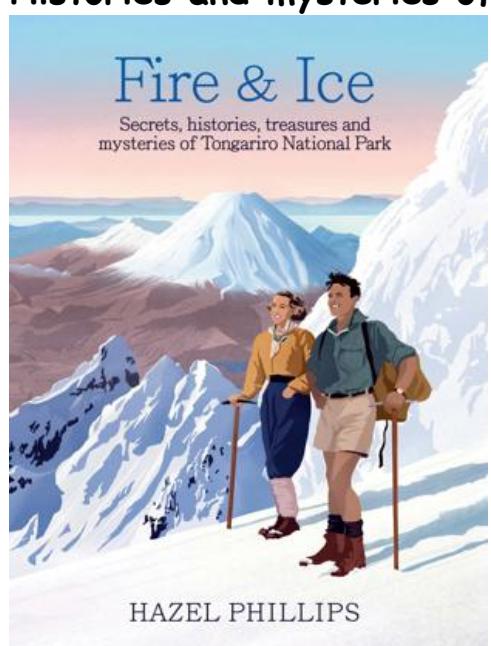
Young's first climbing season was in 1897, his last in 1935. No mountaineer of that period had a longer list of new ascents [in the European Alps].

After his leg amputation he returned to the Alps and climbed the Wellenkuppe, the Weisshorn to within 500 ft. of the summit, Matterhorn, Petits Charmoz, Requin, Grépon and Zinal Rothorn. He achieved Monte Rosa in an 18-hour day.

This information came from Bill's son Ian Bridge, whom I got to know when skiing out of the Levin Waiopehu Tramping Club's lodge on Whakapapa ski field during the 1970-1980s.

Alan Wright

Histories and mysteries of Tongariro National Park



What lies off-track in Tongariro National Park? At club night on 10 February Hazel Phillips will share some of her favourite stories from her book *Fire & Ice: Secrets, histories, treasures and mysteries of Tongariro National Park**, talk about her recent Ruapehu summit plateau ice cave forays, and give a peek at her next book, about early women climbers of Aoraki Mount Cook.

Copies of *Fire & Ice* (retail price \$49.99) and *Solo: Backcountry adventuring in Aotearoa New Zealand* (\$39.99) will be available for sale on the night

*See also letter and articles on p.3 of the June 2025 *Tramper* about the smashed Hugh Girdlestone memorial plaque on Girdlestone Peak.



Adventures with Victoria and Emilie Bruce

At club night on 24 February, Victoria and Emilie will talk about and share stories from their new book *Emilie Walks Te Araroa* and Victoria's first book *Adventures with Emilie*. The Tararua Range holds a special place in their hearts: ten wild, wet and windswept days were spent here during their Te Araroa adventure. Victoria says, 'And if weather and timing permits, perhaps we can join you on a club trip into your beautiful ranges. We will definitely be up for exploring the region'.

Their journeys since include hundreds more kilometres through remote corners of New Zealand, more than 450 backcountry huts visited, and increasingly bold missions — from a 24-day wilderness traverse in Southwest Tasmania to rugged backcountry routes around the South Island and a winter ascent of Mt Philistine.

Look forward to an evening of adventure, humour and heart from two trampers who continue to explore the backcountry with curiosity, resilience and joy.

Their books will be available for sale and signings on the night through cash sales or bank transfer.



Club meet 7 - 15 March

Taranaki Maunga - Konini Lodge

If you are wondering what to do in March, come and join us at the spacious Konini Lodge and enjoy exploring Taranaki Maunga.

Registrations closed 9 January but we will have spare beds. If you are still considering

coming or want to stay for only a few days talk to Carol Kelly as we can be flexible. From Konini Lodge we step right out onto the maunga for days of discovery and fun. Come and join us!

Lodge work parties 27 Feb-1 March and 20-22 March

The blockwork of our Ruapehu home needs repainting, and there are lots of other little jobs to be done. Please join us to spruce up the lodge and bring up bulk supplies. No hut fees for the weekend, food provided and fuel

reimbursed for shared transport. Families are welcome.

Contact: ttc.tararua.lodge@ttc.org.nz or phone 021 948 634

Kerry Popplewell - tributes

Longtime TTC member Kerry Popplewell died on 18 November. Her well-attended funeral was in the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Hill Street, Thorndon.

Kerry' profile is in the February 2024 'Tramper'.

David Holland and Barbara Camfield from Ottawa Canada: We remember Kerry and Bruce with great love and affection. We met them in 2003 on our second tramp with TTC. They were immediately welcoming (a Kiwi trait we found), and Kerry lost no time in letting David know that one wore shorts, not North American hiking trousers, while tramping in New Zealand. Wise advice from a seasoned tramer as always.

We shared many tramps with Kerry and Bruce, in TTC groups and just the four of us. Bruce started each day at 6:00 a.m. on the dot, lighting the billy for Kerry's two cups of tea that she needed before emerging from her sleeping bag. They were stalwart trampers. David remembers Bruce leading him by the hand across a particularly precipitous slip on the Whirinaki tramp.

It was with great sadness that we heard from Liz about Kerry's passing. But it is with great joy that we remember many times together. Kerry and Bruce were a wonderful couple.

Marg Pearce: Whenever I hear mention of Baked Beans Bend, I will always think of Kerry. When I joined the club, she was one of the first leaders I went out with and that was the trip she led. She was probably quite old even then, so I was most impressed when I read the club's

Printing of Tararua Annual 2025

In 2024 the General Committee decided that from 2025 'the Annual' would be published online only, on the club's website. It later agreed conditionally to a proposal to allow printing of hard copies of the 2025 edition for club members who purchased them in advance.

The GC's conditions for printing to go ahead were that a minimum of 60 payments must be made to the club by 9 September. The sums payable, \$15 for one printed copy and an



100-year anniversary publication and saw a much-younger photo of Kerry and other women in a risque line-up while on a South Island tramp.

Chris Horne: Kerry Popplewell and husband Bruce were enthusiastic singers of tramping songs in the Victoria University College Tramping Club's hut in the late 1950s-early 1960s. The hut, now gone, was in the Tauwhareñkau Valley. They would drive to Kaitoke car park in their rickety Bradford van.

additional \$5 for postage, if required, were calculated to ensure that the costs of printing and postage would be covered.

The GC's requirements were met. Sixty-four members purchased printed copies, with 23 paying for postage. Printed copies were distributed free of charge to the other purchasers by 'pickup and delivery'. The General Committee purchased 10 copies for the club's library and archives and other recipients.

Our club – Mike Voets

I'm Mike, 32, originally from the Netherlands. I moved to Norway at 18 to study, stayed six years, did a university exchange in Japan, then spent a couple of years travelling before settling in Wellington six years ago.

Why did you go tramping?

For years I'd been perfectly happy stomping around the Norwegian outdoors, where the mountains are vast, unforgiving, and perfectly happy to remind you who's in charge. Then I moved to New Zealand, and somehow didn't do much tramping for five years. Five! Eventually the mountains got tired of waiting. They started calling. Loudly. So I started researching tracks and discovered a whole parallel universe: potential trips everywhere, close to home, some with paths and some very much without. I went with friends. I went solo. The more I went, the more I realised I'd been missing something big (and occasionally steep).

When did you join TTC, and why?

On those solo missions I kept finding lines on the map that looked... optimistic. Or tracks that didn't exist at all. This sparked an interest in off-track tramping, which led me down the rabbit hole of reading trip reports. TTC kept popping up, usually in stories involving dense bush, long days, and people who seemed suspiciously cheerful about both. I joined to learn more off-track skills, meet like-minded people, and absorb the collective wisdom of people who actually know what they're doing. Very valuable, as it turns out.

First trip nerves?

My first TTC trip was up Gollans Stream from Butterfly Creek. I signed up at the very last minute, the night before, and then had to persuade the trip leader that I wasn't going to be a liability. Sarah White and Paul McCredie were leading, and they gave me a fantastic introduction to the club—supportive, friendly. Full credit to them. I remember being genuinely happy on that first day, even after a wasp sting, which seemed like a reasonable price of admission and a sign I'd made the right choice.

How has your tramping changed since then?

Fitness-wise, hugely. I can now walk up a mountain without questioning my life choices



every five minutes. This has enabled me to do longer days, higher places, and more ambitious trips. In the past few months I started leading trips myself, mostly in the Remutaka Range, which feels a bit like a second home—if your home can be gnarly, muddy, unexpectedly steep, and occasionally trying to injure you.

What makes a good trip?

Happy faces. Good banter. Strong memories. And no loss of limbs. That last one is key.

Best and worst moments?

Best dinner in the hills goes to Sarah White's pasta at Waterfall Hut in the Ruahine Range, after a long day in from North Block Road End. Custard followed. Possibly cake—don't remember. But there was definitely a birthday celebration for Jake McLaren involving double gin and tonics. Excellent night, and I slept very well after.

Worst trip was probably Big Rata, where we had to use a PLB after an accident. Scary at the time, but full of important lessons—chief among them: always carry a PLB. My favourite gadget, by the way, and thankfully still unused by me personally.

Most uncomfortable moment?

Descending from Cattle Ridge Hut in strong wind and rain, with the track actively impersonating a waterfall. New rivers appeared at the bottom. Then came mud pools all the way from Roaring Stag Hut to the car park. Personal morale was ... low.

Food preferences?

Breakfast is always oats. Always. I eat it when tramping and not tramping; apparently my body refuses to function without it. My worst pack extravagance is a fresh 400g block of Whittaker's Dark Almond chocolate 'to share,'

which I usually carry home untouched. You can use this information strategically.

Where to next?

I'm heading to Japan for six (or more) months at the end of January, hopefully to do plenty of

tramping there. But honestly? I'm already looking forward to coming back and exploring the Tararua Range more. The mountains may call—I'll answer the call when I get back.



February in the hills – Michele Dickson, Chris Horne

Gastrodia cunninghamii

Black orchid, hūperei, perei, maukuuku, uhi, perei, potato orchid

Origin of the botanical names

Gastrodia comes from the Greek words for 'belly' and for 'tooth'. This derivation may refer to the pot-bellied shape of the flowers; *cunninghamii* refers to the English botanist, Allan Cunningham (1791-1839), who was stationed in Australia and who visited and collected plants in New Zealand.

Distribution and habitat

Black orchid is endemic to Aotearoa. It grows on the North Island / Te Ika a Māui, South Island / Te Waipounamu, Stewart Island / Rakiura and on Chatham Islands / Rekohu. Look for it in montane areas, particularly in beech forest and in pine forest plantations. Also look for it in lower altitudes in dark hollows within forest, especially in naturally cold sites. It is uncommon north of Waikato.

Growth habit

Hūperei grows up to 1.0 – 1.4 m tall when flowering. It is brown to brown-black and is saprophytic, meaning that it lacks chlorophyll and lives on dead organic matter. The stem is 4 – 10 mm in diameter. The pale brown to brownish-black swollen underground rhizome has many branches.

Reproduction

Black orchid flowers from October to March. It fruits from December to May. The plant may have up to 100 flowers. These have white petal-like parts at the end of a much longer, swollen, dark brown or greenish, curved, knobbly tube. The labellum has a black tip just visible at the mouth. The flowers are mostly unscented



Photo: Jeremy Rolfe

although some people detect an aroma like that of stewed apricots.

Uses

We do not know of any uses made of black orchid, except by photographers - it is a spectacular plant because it is black.

Where can you find black orchid?

In the southern North Island you may find it in the Tararua, Remutaka and Aorangi ranges.

Recent trips

Gollans Stream

M - Wednesday 19 November

We set off from Kowhai Street to Butterfly Creek on an overcast grey morning, anticipating rain. Mary left us at the picnic area and ten of us continued, negotiating the wet bush and all the twists and turns of Gollans Stream. Moving upstream we came across lots of smelly bait stations in need of cleaning, and battled with supplejack, dense kiekie stands, windfall and countless river crossings. Reaching the S-bend and the short cut across it took longer than anticipated by the leader. We had lunch there at the fire pits; still no rain, all of us wet



L-R: Leonore, Joan, Lynne, Tim (behind with part of hat showing), Penny, Helen, John, Diane, Ann, Carolyn. Photo: Leonore Hoke



but not cold! No need for a fire. Unfortunately, one of the party slipped and twisted her foot just before the S-bend, still managing to walk. The decision was made by all of us to walk out along an easier and quicker route, rather than continue further upstream into the headwaters of Gollans Stream and up to Mt Lowry. We took a spur just north of the S-bend leading us up to the Days Bay loop track and came down the gentler Korimako Track to Days Bay. Two opted for the quicker and steeper Kereru Track.

All in all we were on the move for 6 ½ hours covering nearly 14km. Not a bad day for Gollans Stream Part 1. Part 2 up to Mt Lowry and back along the tops yet to come. The whole trip as planned originally would have taken us 8-9 hours. (L H) [Trace provided by Joan. Our route is shown by the pink trace]

Leonore Hoke (leader), Joan Basher, Helen Beaglehole, John Dement, Penny Hoy-Mack, Carolyn Jenkins, Mary Kane, Ann McIlroy, Diane Munster, Tim Stone, Lynne White.

TTC Seniors lunch

Wednesday 3 December

Ten hardy souls braved the elements to meet at Chouchou, Circa, for the final lunch for 2025.

We discussed Christmas plans, grandchildren, shopping and the state of the world! (A W)

Alan Wright (leader), Margaret Foden, Carole Haigh, Chris Horne, Chris Lock, David McCrone, Peter Nixon, Barbara Ogilvie, Denise Udy and daughter Charlotte.

Apiti Ridge ride

29-30 November

A group of nine cyclists met up on Saturday morning at the start of the Apiti Ridge Ride in Palmerston North. We breakfasted at the lovely Café Cuba and discussed logistics. As we had a mix of push bikes and e-bikes we decided not to stay together in one big group but to meet up along the way.

It was quite a navigational challenge to leave Palmerston North, with the city drawing us back in at every turn. Unfortunately one of our party had to turn back having punctured twice within the first hour or so.

We met up at the Gingerbird Café in Colyton and had some much-needed refreshments. Our luck held with the weather for the whole weekend and riding under the blazing sun meant extra liquids were required. We rode through rolling grasslands and interesting little townships. The backroads were pretty quiet and some rolling hillocks presented a welcome variety of landscape.

The e-bikers took off and the pushbikers followed along behind. We got to the climb of Pollock Road – up up up to 600m. The views were stunning. We came across Mike, Zita and Susi on the Ridge having lunch. Mike and Zita were heading to Apiti for lunch at the famed local pub. The rest of us carried on to Makoura Lodge.

Makoura Lodge was a delight and we supped welcome beers and a three-course meal. The staff were fantastic. Some of us were staying in a suite in the lodge and the rest in a beautifully appointed house on the property. It was wonderful to have a shower and a great meal to end day 1 together.

On day 2 we all set off at different times, with the e-bikers making a leisurely start to the day. A change of route was required because a local bridge was out of use, making me a bit nervous having mapped the route on my *Wahoo* on the basis that the bridge was in place. As it turned out there was no need to worry. We made excellent time reaching Ashurst for a well-deserved pastry and beverage stop at the Backyard Café. The



route from the Lodge to Ashhurst was absolutely stunning and we were glad to get to ride on quite a bit of tarmac after the gravel of the previous day.

We then braved SH3 to get back to Palmerston North. This part of the course was tricky and required some navigational skills. Wending our way back into Palmerston North on another brilliant sunny day was the bees knees!

My reflections as trip leader: for this kind of trip everyone needs to have a well-maintained bike, be able to do basic repairs at the roadside, be confident riding their bikes and be able to navigate from maps and devices, especially when the group is stretched out. Good communication was enabled by *Whatsapp*, but in remote areas it may not be available. (F P)

Fleur Patterson (leader), Nigel Heeney, Colin Hoare, Kathryn Kelly, Susanne Lang, Jeanette Martin, Mike Wespel-Rose, Zita Wespel-Rose, Christine Whiteford.

[Photos by Fleur Patterson]



Central Hawke's Bay cycling trip

10 – 12 December

Thirteen cyclists drove to Waipukurau for three days' cycling, stopping on the way at Woodville for lunch. Following our plan we then explored the new Manawatū to Tararua pathway.

This new shared pathway was the highlight of the trip, giving insight into modern infrastructure and facilities with magnificent views. The cycleway is 23 km return, climbs and descends 300 metres each way, and follows a similar route to the highway, although veering away and passing through many landscaped planted areas and viewpoints. Work commenced in January 2021 and the highway and pathway opened in June 2025 costing \$824 million.

We stopped at the various viewing spots, of which some were equipped with tables and seats along with information panels. The windmill-filled views included the Manawatū Gorge area, the Saddle Road (still in use), Wharite Peak, the Wairarapa, Manawatū plains.

There are five windfarms in the area, the first one built being the Te Apiti Wind Farm for Meridian Energy. Situated north of the Manawatū Gorge, it became fully operational in 2004 with 55 turbines generating 90.75 megawatts, enough power for approximately 30,000 average homes.

After the ride we loaded our bikes onto our vehicles and headed to Waipukurau for an evening meal in the local Leopard Hotel.

Next morning we headed out via Tukituki River trails and quiet country roads to Ongaonga for lunch, stopping on the way at Lindsay Bush Reserve for a break. The adjacent bush walks are through a small remnant of the lowland podocarp forest that used to cover the vast area of Hawke's Bay. Many of the trees are an impressive size, some estimated to be between 250 and 500 years' old.



Sculpture showing three extinct birds, the Huia, Moa and Haast's Eagle (Hōkioi)



Views back towards Woodville



One of three tunnels under the Highway

Further on we explored the entrance of Lindsay's water race tunnel.

On arriving at Ongaonga we had lunch at the Ongaonga Historic Village. The local facilities were open except for the museum, but the general store had sold out of ice-creams!

The outdoor museum displays still attracted attention. Looking through the window of the ex-Forest Service 'Broom Hut', removed from the Ruahine Range some time ago, there appeared to be someone asleep on a bunk, but closer examination indicated it was a manikin.

The return to Waipukurau was via a different route, allowing more opportunities for those who are usually city folk time to take in the rural areas and livestock.

Next day we checked out of our accommodation and rode to Waipawa via cycleways and then onto Ōtāne for morning tea. Returning via a different route, on the separated two-way cycleway beside State Highway 2, our eyes were opened to the sheer volume of traffic and associated noise. It was pleasant to have lunch sitting in a small park close to Waipukurau Shopping Centre in relative quiet before returning home.

Apart from a light wind now and then the weather was typically perfect for the Central Hawkes Bay region, providing some excellent cycling conditions. (F U)

Robyn and Frank Usmar (leaders), Denise Barnett, Christine Ben-Tovim, Michele Dickson, Paul Haines, Helen Lukes, Geoff Norton, Jenny Olsen, Michael Priest, Cathy Priest, Jennifer Roberts and Christine Whiteford.

[Photos: Robyn and Frank Usmar]



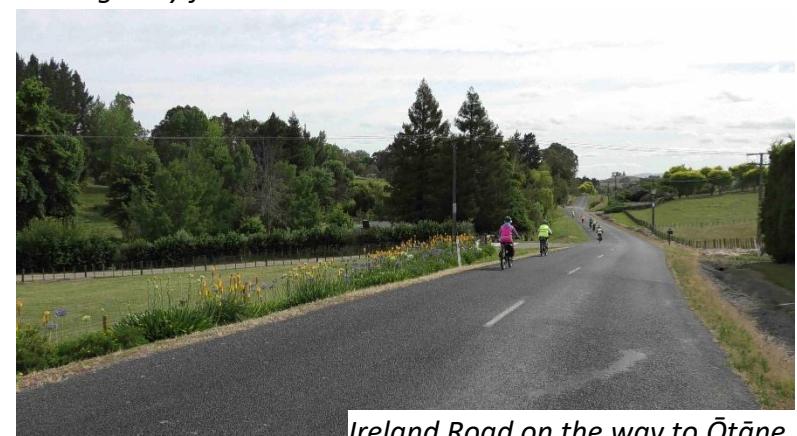
Landscaping progress at the top of the highway



Observing and learning about windfarms



Parahaki Bridge over the Manawatū River at the start of the new highway from the Ashhurst end



Ireland Road on the way to Ōtāne

Christmas lunch at Waerenga

Sunday 14 December 2025

Blooming rata lent a festive touch to the Ōrongoongo River valley for the TTC weekenders' Christmas get-together at Waerenga Hut. The sun shone, and spirits were high.

We designed this one so that weekend trampers of all fitness levels could get together over some delicious kai.

Meeting at the Catchpool car park at 11 a.m., we ambled over to the hut companionably. Alan was donating to Waerenga Hut a massive cast iron camp oven, which his mother had used to cook the Christmas goose. A few of us took turns hefting this along the track.

Mark had arrived early to set up. The tablecloth was laid, the hut decorated with tinsel and a celebratory balloon garland.

I set about frying pikelets and the feast was disgorged from packs. Bacon and egg pie, asparagus rolls, banh mi, broccoli and apple salad, smoked salmon blini, frittata with plum sauce, a wheel of creamy blue, chocolate and ginger slice, fresh fruit – what a spread! All washed down with multiple cups of tea. It seemed far too much food for a group of twelve, but we managed.

After all that a lie down was necessary before a refreshing dip in the river, and back to pre-Christmas chaos in the burbs. (S W) [See photo on back page]

Sarah White (leader), Elizabeth Bridge, Muriel Christianson, Mark Edwards, Franz Hubmann, Alan Knowles, Susi Lang, Jeanette Martin, Jane-Pyar Mautner, Paul Maxim, Jenny Olsen, Cathy Rodgers.



Waerenga Hut in 2010 after its move up the slope away from Browns Stream

From *The Lagoon and other stories* by Janet Frame*:

At low tide the water is sucked back into the harbour and there is no lagoon, only a stretch of dirty grey sand shaded with dark pools of sea-water where you may find a baby octopus if you are lucky, or a spotted orange old house of a crab or the drowned wreckage of a child's toy boat. There is a bridge over the lagoon where you may look down into the little pools and see your image tangled up with sea-water and rushes and bits of cloud. And sometimes at night there is an under-water moon, dim and secret.

*First published in 1951, this was Janet Frame's first published book, and it won her the Hubert Church Award for best prose - an event she believed saved her life. This came to her doctor's notice, who immediately moved her into another ward and took her name off the list for an impending leucotomy (lobotomy) operation.

Upcoming trips

Abbreviations for trip grades - see [Trip Grades](#). R: ramble, BBB: bus-boots-bus, E: easy, EM: easy/medium, M: medium, SF: slow/fit, MF: medium/fit, F: fit.

All scheduled trips are listed under *Our Trips* on the TTC website. Leaders may directly update trips on the website but **the list below is not updated after publication of the Tramper. Check with leader and website for any changes.**

The club has PLBs available free for members' use. For more see [Personal Locator Beacon](#).

February

Multi-day

Tba M	<u>Mataketake Range and Stafford Loop</u>	Janette Roberts	027 269 1222
27 – 1	Lodge work party - <u>Tararua Lodge</u>	<u>Lodge Committee</u>	021 948 634
Mar All			

Saturday/Sunday/weekend

Sat 14 MF	Turere waterfall	Marie Henderson	020 473 8360
Sat 21 M	Solomons Ridge, Wainuiomata water works area	David McNabb	027 436 0841
Sat 28 MF	Whakatikei Stream	Marie Henderson	020 473 8360

Wednesday

4 Lunch	Zealandia Café. (Meet 12:00 noon at Zealandia cafe. Go up cable car and take free shuttle to Zealandia. Short walks possible after lunch).	Barbara Ogilvie barbarapogilvie@gmail.com	027 445 7943 04 479 3035
4 E	Eastern Walkway from Strathmore. (Meet 10:04 a.m. at penultimate stop of No.4 Strathmore bus, which passes Lambton Quay north at 9:16 a.m. Ask to advise where to alight).	Jean Morgan jeanmorgan@xtra.co.nz	04 384 5165 027 452 3025
4 EM	Simla Cres - Skyline - Totara Park & return	Penny Salmond	021 211 2577
4 M	Waiohine Gorge hills	Rob Handyside	021 620 064
4 MF	Whakatikei River	Robin Chesterfield	022 651 4928
11 E	Up Waddington Winder, down Te Whiti Riser. (Meet 10:00 a.m. at Epuni station. Take 9:30 a.m. Hutt Valley train from Wellington).	Anne and Hadley Bond james.h.bond@hotmail.com	04 233 2241 021 102 7125
11EM	Karori Circuit	Brian Hasell	027 490 7960
11 M	Ōtaki Forks - Table Top	Marg Pearce	04 234 8191
11 MF	North Ōhau	Jenny Mason	021 230 9211
18 R	Waiwhetū Stream. (Meet 10:14 a.m. at Naenae station when 9:50 a.m. train arrives from Wellington. Bring Gold Cards for further bus travel).	Kath Kerr kathmkerr@xtra.co.nz	04 475 8064 027 475 8064

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18 E	Nga Taonga Nature Walk to Clay Ridge in Catchpool area. (Meet 10:00 a.m. at Woburn station carpark for car loading. Suitable train leaves Wellington 9:30 a.m.).	Diana Barnes dgbarnes@xtra.co.nz	04 479 2947 027 462 3698
18 EM	Ōwhiro Bay Quarry - Red Rocks Track - Barking Emu - Brooklyn	Paul Bruce	021 027 19370
18 M	Tunnel Gully - Climie	Diana Munster	027 205 1737
18 MF	Rae Ridge - Dennan	Franz Hubmann	027 857 1612
25 E	Zealandia. (Meet 10:00 a.m. at upstairs Zealandia reception. Take any timely No.2 Karori bus from Lambton Quay, alight at first stop after Karori tunnel and walk south. Or take free shuttles from Takina or Cable car top).	Liz Martin elizabethannmartin@gmail.com	04 938 6311 021 135 6851
25 EM	Houghton Bay - Island Bay Loop	Janice Tijsen	029 774 7758
25 M	Sayer Hut	Jim Gibbons	027 495 3616
25 MF	TBA	Anthony Hill	021 0255 1924

Early March

Multi-day

2 – 8 SF	Dusky Track, Fiordland	Howard Symmes wanderinggnome54@gmail.com	
7 – 15 All	Club meet – Taranaki Maunga <u>2026 Taranaki</u>	Peggy Munn	027 533 1564

Saturday/Sunday/weekend

Sat 7 Youth	Titahi Bay rock climbing	Craig Morrison	021 132 1507
Sat 7 -	'Love our huts' Field Hut spit	Paul McCredie	021 477 617
Sun 8 All	and polish		

Wednesday

4 Lunch	Karori Park Cafe. (Meet 12:00 noon at Karori Park Cafe. Take any No.2 Karori bus to penultimate stop, alight and cross the road).	Carole Haigh	04 476 7998
4 E	Whitereia Park. (Meet 10:00 a.m. at boat club car park, corner Titahi Bay Road and Onepoto Road).	Anne and Hadley Bond james.h.bond@hotmail.com	04 233 2241 021 102 7125
4 EM	Silversky - Skyline - Bells Track	Muriel Christianson	027 497 6625
4 M	Twin Bridges - Mt Frith - Boar Bush Gully	Joan Basher	027 346 7700
4 MF	Mangatarere - Sayer Hut - Tōtara Creek	David McNabb	027 436 0841



Mark, Muriel, Susi, Jane-Pyar, Franz, Sarah, Paul, Jenny and Cathy at the Waerenga Christmas lunch. See p.13.
Photo: Alan Knowles

Club contacts

Tararua Tramping Club 4 Moncrieff Street, Mt Victoria, 6011

President

Cathy Wylie

Chief Guide

Paul McCredie

Secretary

Karen Vaughan

Treasurer

Carol Kelly

Bookings and hire

Alistair Beckett or Alan Knowles

Hall/clubrooms

Vivienne Radcliffe or Vince Jennings

Tararua Lodge

Eva Durrant

Waerenga Hut

Joe Buysse

Club gear

Paul Maxim

Club van

Susi Lang

Library

Jane-Pyar Mautner

Membership

Muriel Christianson

Social Committee

Club night speakers

Club night trip reports

Tararua Tramper

*Peter Reimann**

For further information go to [Club Contacts](#)

ttc.tararua@ttc.org.nz

ttc.president@ttc.org.nz

ttc.chief.guide@ttc.org.nz

ttc.secretary@ttc.org.nz

ttc.treasurer@ttc.org.nz

ttc.clubrooms@ttc.org.nz

ttc.tararua.lodge@ttc.org.nz

ttc.waerenga@ttc.org.nz

ttc.gear@ttc.org.nz

ttc.transport@ttc.org.nz

ttc.librarian@ttc.org.nz

ttc.membership@ttc.org.nz

ttc.social.committee@ttc.org.nz

ttc.clubnight@ttc.org.nz

ttc.weekly.activities@ttc.org.nz

ttc.tramper@ttc.org.nz

Tararua Tramper: Information for contributors. Format for submissions: see [Contributor Guidelines](#).

Deadline for March 2026 issue: Monday 16 February 2026.

* Editor until end January 2026, then *David McCrone*.