

Waikato Botanical Society Trips 2017

**Anniversary Weekend Trip - Whareorino Revisited
(Combined with Rotorua Botanical Society)**

Saturday 28–30 January 2017

Leader: Thomas Emmitt (WBS) temmitt@doc.govt.nz or ph 07 878 1050 (wk)
07 280 7142 (hm) 0275405762 (mob)

Meet: Corner of Fraser Smith Road and Manganui Road, Awakino @ 11am

Grade: Med-Hard

Accommodation: Tenting and shearers quarters. More info to come closer to the time.

Bring: It may be camping so bring all of those camping things you would normally bring, (tent, sleeping bag, sleeping mat, something to sit on, cutlery, plates etc. etc), good boots, wet weather gear.

We will be visiting Awakino Scenic Reserve on the Saturday. Awakino Scenic Reserve is a hard beech forest with a coastal influence. On Sunday we will be taking a look around Steuart Russel Reserve, a Native Forest Restoration Trust Reserve which contains the most northern hard beech forest in New Zealand and as well as a few coastal oddities. On Monday we will have a look around some recently protected wetlands on a local farm.

Karangahake (Warren Coffey Property)

Saturday 11 February

Leader: Yanbin Deng 021 208 4700 / 07 856 2096 / yanbind8@gmail.com

Meet: at the bottle at Paeroa 9:00.

70 ha of the Coffey property has been designated a SNA by Waikato Regional Council with the tag "Regionally uncommon forest type contiguous with DOC PNA but requires ground truthing". We will have a go at ground truthing this.

Mt Tarawera

(Combined with Forest and Bird and Waikato Botanical Society)

Saturday 18th March

(Sunday 19th reserve day if Sat is wet)

Leader: Paul Cashmore 07 349 7432 (wk) or 027 650 7264 pcashmore@doc.govt.nz

Meet: DOC Rotorua Office, 99 Sala St, Rotorua, go in Scion (Forest Research) north entrance and turn left before the locked gates 8:30am or DOC Ashpit Road campground, Lake Rerewhakaaitu at 9:15am.

Grade: Medium-Hard and in particular confident walking on steep mobile scoria slopes and along high and sharp ridges.

Registration: Minimum age 14 years old. Maximum of 30 people on trip on a first come basis but must register first with Paul Cashmore by Monday 13 March at latest.

Cost: Free

Bring: Minimum 2 litres water, lunch and snacks, wet weather and warm gear, sun hat, sunblock, boots or sturdy shoes, gaiters and/or leggings an advantage for loose scoria, gloves for pulling out pines

We will be driven to the top of Mt Tarawera by 4WD bus and vehicle to the crater rim and hear a bit about the history and ecological values of the mountain. We will be led by Ruawahia trustees and DOC staff with assistance from Kaitiaki Tours. This year we will climb onto the top of Ruawahia dome with

time to take in the flora, fauna and 360 degree views of the Bay of Plenty. We will then spend the rest of the day helping to handpull wilding conifer seedlings to assist the Ruawahia Wilding Conifer Project which aims to control the spread of wilding conifers in order to protect the unique values on the mountain.

**Whakamarama wetlands revisited, Kaimai Mamaku Forest Park
(combined with Waikato Botanical Society)**

Saturday 8 April

Leader: Kerry Jones. 07 855 9700 / 027 747 0733 / km8j1s@gmail.com

Host: Anne Mackersey.

Meet: Whakamarama Hall at 9:30am (Opposite the school). To get the Whakamarama Hall head north from Tauranga on SH2, go through Te Puna and then over the Te Puna Stream Bridge. After the bridge turn left on to Barrett Road. Then left on to Old State Highway and then right on to Whakamarama Road. The Whakamarama Hall is about 4.5 km up Whakamarama Road (Opposite the school).

Grade: Medium

Following on from last years successful visit to explore wetlands at Whakamarama we have decided to return with our host to venture further up the track to explore another wetland.

Waingarō Reserve, a WDC reserve west of Ngaruawahia

21 May

Leader: Wayne Bennett (wayne@forestflora.co.nz)

Meet: Ngaruawahia BP (South End of Town) at 9:30.

Grade: Medium

Waitete Bay revisited

21, 22, 23 October (Labour Weekend)

Leader: Dell Hood (dhood@xtra.co.nz)

Further Details to come closer to the time.

Killarney (Tuahu Lakes), Te Aroha (combined with Rotorua Botanical Society)

Sunday 3 December

Leader: Paul Cashmore 07 349 7432 (wk) or 027 650 7264

pcashmore@doc.govt.nz

Meet: Corner Te Aroha Gordon Rd and Thompsons Rd 9:30am

Grade: Medium

Bring: Gumboots for wetland

These two rarely visited small lakelets tucked away in amongst the exotic plantations of Waihou Forest support the largest area of wetland vegetation in the Te Aroha ecological district. Although not extensive this vegetation is very diverse, ranging from mesotrophic raupo reedland to acid peat bog vegetation with abundant sphagnum. The rare native water milfoil *Myriophyllum robustum* occurs at this site. If we have time we may head into the stream in the foothills behind the lakelets to see the king fern population.