



# Mangawhai Walking Weekend

## Friday 27 March 2015

### Troubadour Trail - Music & Magic

A delightful afternoon amble suitable for all ages, walk the picturesque estuary loop track wandering along the cliff top and return along the shore, be entertained by professional performers in hidden locations along the trail, a magical start to the walking weekend, some steep steps. Departs Boat Ramp, Alamar Cres 2.30, 3.00, 3.30pm \$10.00

## Saturday 28 March 2015

### Brynderwyns Bush Tramp to Marunui Trig • Grade 4

An energetic bush walk over private, covenanted conservation land in the Brynderwyns. Kiwi successfully released here in April 2013. Starting from the valley floor we will climb, occasionally steeply, through mature and regenerating bush to reach the Marunui Trig at 397m. Here you can enjoy expansive coastal and rural views before descending to an early kauri logging area. We then ascend to the top of historic Pa Hill at 225m with views over the Tara and out to Mangawhai. The final descent takes us back to the start and afternoon tea. Good fitness and walking boots essential, small streams to cross. Carpool. Departs 9.30am, 5 hrs, \$20.00

**Doggy Walk • Grade 2** A walk with your best friend. Bring your well socialised dog and enjoy a leisurely farm walk through native bush and a stream via an historic church. This is a real doggy walk, no plastic bags required! Be prepared to share a great outing with your dog and expect your pooch to enjoy getting dirty! Experience total freedom as all areas are off the leash. Come and discover another part of Mangawhai. Carpool. Departs 9.45am, 3 hrs, \$20.00

### Estuary to Ocean • Grade 3

From the mud and mangroves, with their hidden beauty, to the middens of the sand-spit and the golden desert sands of the mighty dune which we climb for marvelous views from the summit. This ever changing refuge provides stories of birds, plants, history, ancient and modern. The walk is led by volunteers of the Fairy Tern Trust who have dedicated their time to the protection of this endangered endemic bird. Carpool. Departs 9.20am, 4-5 hrs, \$20.00

### Henry's Bush and Farm • Grade 3

For thirty years the Henry family have protected unique remnant stands of bush from grazing. These volcanic soils have nourished a huge variety of native plants, from broad leaf to kauri gum-land species, enjoy this stunning mix of New Zealand natives, some hundreds of years old. Sitting high in the foothills of the Brynderwyns the breath taking views spread across pristine vineyards and pale green olive groves before stretching out to Mangawhai and the sea. Included are major pre-European features. Carpool. Departs 9.10am, 4-4.5hrs, \$20.00

**Kayaking • Grade 2** We are delighted to offer a kayak paddle on the estuary as part of the weekend's programme. Beginners welcome. Professional instruction will be given. The tide will be the deciding factor when it comes to the route we take. Come prepared. Departs 8.30am, 4-5 hrs, \$35.00

**Mangawhai Cliff top Walk • Grade 4** Mangawhai's iconic walkway and part of the national walkway system; this track takes us along the cliff tops north of Mangawhai Heads. It is a classic DOC track and known as one of the best coastal walks in New Zealand. Vistas stretch from Bream Head to Pakiri and the Coromandel. Carpool. Departs 9.15am, 4-5hrs, \$20.00

**Panoramic Mangawhai • Grade 4** Mangawhai from above - take in the hilltops for the 'best views in Mangawhai' on this spectacular track along a paper road with a number of short steep climbs and steps. This walk explores hidden access ways and rises to vantage points with breathtaking views of the estuary, coastline and islands of the Upper Hauraki Gulf. Enjoy lunch at Picnic Bay. Carpool. Departs 9.15am, 4hrs, \$20.00

### Ramblers' Food Experience • Grade 3+

Exploring Mangawhai's food and wine producers - avocados, vineyards, farmland, olives, pomegranates plus a dash of history. A versatile mix of five new and established life-stylers will share their passion and knowledge and tell us how they utilise and live on their land and make it productive. Ramblers also get some good bushwalking experience up hill and down. We present a showcase of what Mangawhai has on offer. Bus transport. Departs 8.45am, 5-6hrs, \$30.00

**Romance on the Kaipara • Grade 3** Literature and history on the Kaipara - we meet two women thwarted in love as a little section of Kaipara history is revealed. Tucked onto the harbour edge, behind Kaiwaka, our visit will bring to life the landscape that influenced our first known woman novelist, Jane Mander as she wrote 'The Story of a New Zealand River' (recommended prior reading). Secondly we meet the historic Gittos family, descended from original missionaries, and visit their house little changed from 1866. There are a number of 'rustic' stiles and fences and steep hiking up to the clear grass ridges of the pa site, some agility is required. Excellent views from the top. A fund raising cup of tea is included. Carpool. Departs 9.20am, 6-7hrs, \$30.00

### Tamahunga Summit • Grade 5

Te Araroa Walkway - this is a reasonably steep climb from Omaha Valley Road through farmland and bush to Rodney Road, then a steep descent to Pakiri. Spectacular views all the way, as you discover this little known part of the National Walkway. A high level of fitness required but the reward is well worth while. Bus transport. Departs 8.45am, 5hrs, \$36.00

**Tanekaha Loop • NEW WALK • Grade 4-5** Our newest track for the keen hikers - Mangawhai's most challenging walk incorporating the Tanekaha Falls and Forest tracks linked by a section of the Brynderwyn Walkway. Beginning and ending at the Tanekaha tracks car park, it starts with an easy walk to the waterfalls followed by a steeper section to the kauri dam. The track levels out until a decent and steep climb out of the valley to the Brynderwyn Walkway. The Brynderwyn Walkway has a few climbs but is generally easy and the Tanekaha Forest Track is all downhill. Carpool. Departs 9.00am, 5hrs, \$20.00

**Tanekaha Falls Track • Grade 3-4** Among the pioneering families, knowledge of the Brynderwyn waterfalls was common but memory faded as the waterfalls gradually became lost in the fast regenerating bush. For the last twenty years rumours of this spectacular landmark have been rife. The steep rugged terrain and many lost hours meant the search had all but dissipated; that is, until the enthusiastic volunteers from the track cutting group arrived with a GPS, a slasher or two, along with strength and determination, and began a serious hunt for the mystery waterfalls. Now for our pleasure they have built a gentle track with a few ups and downs along the stream's edge. More information will spoil the story of this beautiful bush walk. Carpool. Departs 9.10am, 4hrs, \$20.00

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**Te Arai Unwrapped • Grade 3** Explore Te Arai, a relatively recent addition to the Auckland Regional Park network. Starting from the Te Arai Point car park we head south over the headland capturing 360 degree panoramic views. We explore parts of the land purchased in 2008, home to highly sensitive dune lake ecosystems, wetlands, coastal broadleaf forest and regenerating forest cover before emerging at Te Arai south beach for lunch. After a short walk along the beach we return via the headland track. Carpool. Departs 9.45am, 3-4 hours, \$20.00

**Thornleigh Farm Walk • Grade 3** The evolving farming landscape - for thirty years this farmer has been using sustainable farming techniques. While walking over part of the 170 acres that includes indigenous forest of kauri and kahikatea we will learn how every aspect of the land is cared for and reused. Historic events will be explained along with discussions on the changing

environment/land-use. Be stimulated and challenged as we consider how differently land could be used with a slight change in thinking. Of particular interest is the home orchard and we will lunch in the homestead gardens. Carpool. Departs 9.30am, 3-4hrs, \$20.00

#### **Tomarata Lakes to the Beach Grade 2-3**

Discover the serenity and isolation of Tomarata - this flat beautiful walk takes us from the Lake View Chalets from where there is a clear view of the sand-lakes, Slipper and Spectacle, through pine forest, around the Lake Tomarata and out to the southern section of Te Arai beach with its brilliant white sands, wild waves and isolation. Look out for the sea birds and the memorial seat as we return on the loop track. Bus transport. Departs 9.15am, 4hrs, \$30.00

#### **Waipu Coastal Trail • Grade 4**

Waipu at its best - built by the Lions Club and beginning at the Waipu Cove tidal stream, this track takes us along the coast almost into Langs Beach. A portion covers private 'riparian rights' along the esplanade reserve. To avoid disturbing the natural landscape, the track is rough and narrow so the walk is suitable for the reasonably fit. Be prepared to be blown away by the magnificent coastal views and spectacular sedimentary limestone rocks. Some road and beach walking included. Car pool. Departs 9.15am, 4-5hrs, \$20.00

#### **FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL • Saturday afternoon**

A highlight of the walking weekend for many, kick back and relax in the Olive Grove after your walk, enjoy the late afternoon sun, delicious food and wine available from local producers, fabulous music and dancing, tickets limited and last year's event sold out so order tickets early. 3-7pm, The Olive Grove, 35 Inslay Street, R18, no BYO. Book \$25 or \$30 gate sales on the day

## **Sunday 29 March 2014**

**Walkers Big Breakfast** This is a breakfast not to be missed! Our gourmet breakfast includes fruit platters, croissants, bacon, eggs, avocados and all the trimmings. Make sure you book for this celebration as numbers are restricted. 8.15am, \$12.50, can only be booked in conjunction with a walk.

**Bald Rock and Kauri Bush Walk • Grade 3** Take the two kilometre climb up Bald Rock to experience 360 degree panoramic views from coast to coast (Kaipara Coast to Mangawhai). This distinctive landmark of grey/white rock sits on one of the last areas still owned by the Coates family. Then meander through lush regenerating kauri forest known locally as "Pretty Bush". Both walks are rich in history and are led by local identities who are direct descendants of the first European settlers. Car pool. Departs 9.45am, 3-4hrs, \$20.00

**Brynderwyn Trig • Grade 4** A trek not for the faint-hearted but with rewards of panoramic beauty.

It would not be a Walking Weekend without one trip to the top of the iconic Brynderwyns; the dark, brooding backdrop to Mangawhai. The reward for the climb from Cullen Road to Brynderwyn Ridge is the light and beauty of the summit, with breathtaking views of this magical coastline; the rewards for the climb from Cullen Rd to the Brynderwyn Ridge. The track edges along stands of puriri and follows bridle paths as it passes through the 'kissing gates'. Look for the double-barrelled kauri, virgin bush, the old sawmill and the original homestead. Finally the route winds its way down to the magnificent Sanctuary development to Cove Road and back to your cars. Car pool to the corner of Cove Rd and Mangawhai Heads Rd, park cars, then bus to start at Cullen Rd, Waipu, walk return to cars. Departs 9.30am, 4-5 hrs, \$30.00

#### **Geology • Grade 2+**

A fascinating exploration along the beach. Come and examine some of the local chapters of the Earth's history revealed in the rocks of the Mangawhai surf beach foreshore and beyond. Volcanism, deep water deposits and more. Some boulder hopping along the beach. The leader of this walk is Dr Garry Carr, geologist, teacher and part time resident of Mangawhai Heads for the last twenty years. Carpool. \$20.00

**Historic Ramble • Grade 1** Relive the 1900s - we begin our ramble in historic Tara with a visit to the old Tara Road School, currently under restoration. We visit a bog garden created by springs that feed the river. Nearby is the old stone house and dairy with a Heritage New Zealand category rating and certified organic orchard with exotic fruit trees. A short drive takes us to Louis Wintle's former home where we hear stories of the pioneers and of the furniture now at Mansion House. Learn of the great value this special piece of volcanic land contributes to the area, past and present. Afternoon tea is a fundraiser for school restoration. Carpool. Departs 9.45am, 4hrs, \$30.00

**Kiwi Country • Grade 3-4** Marunui Conservation, King Road. This walk highlights some special features of regenerating and mature bush on private conservation land in the Brynderwyns. In 2013 several Northland Brown Kiwi were trans-located to this bush. The walk's primary focus will be on the bush and Marunui's conservation management. We will follow a network of paths through stands of tanekaha, kanuka, nikau, kahikatea and mature kauri. Part of the hike will take in areas where kiwi are present and we will give a demonstration of the listening devices used to detect their health, social groups, and other behaviour. Waterproof, heavy-soled boots or heavy track shoes essential for muddy tracks and stream crossings. The walk concludes at one of the cottages for refreshments. Carpool. Departs 9.30am, 3-4 hrs, \$20.00



# Mangawhai Walking Weekend

## Logues Bush • Grade 2

Local native bush - for those keen to learn more about New Zealand bush, a walk through Logues will be a treat in store. This reserve is a valuable example of the rich species diversity found in lowland forest, which is now uncommon in the North. Join the knowledgeable guides to explore and discover a local hidden icon.

Carpool. Departs 10.00, 3hrs, \$20.00

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## Matheson Bay to Goat Island • Grade 4

This very scenic, mainly coastal walk begins at picturesque Matheson Bay and climbs through beautiful kauri dominated bush to access a short road walk before rejoining the Leigh Coastal Walkway. The track continues around a very scenic route exiting at a tidal estuary. Then it is a road bash of two kilometres before hitting the last section of regenerating bush with magnificent views of Little Barrier and the Hen and Chicken Islands. This track has some demanding climbs and descents.

Bus transport. Departs 9.10am, 6hrs, \$35.00

## Pakiri Cliff Walk • Grade 4

Get out your camera and discover the natural wonders of Pakiri. The walk begins at the school, rises up to the heights, travels along the ridge, past the pa site and back down to the beach. If the tide is not favourable the walk will be undertaken the other way. Magnificent views and landscape colours can be seen on this special walk. A longish bus ride but the rewards are worth it. Magnificent photos come from this walk. Departs 9.30am, 4-5hrs, \$35.00

## Photography Walk • Grade 2

Your chance to walk a distinctive and charming Mangawhai Farm. Take this opportunity to practise the craft of photography on landscape, animals and flora. There will be talk and discussion on some of the key elements in taking a good photograph including exposure, composition, and depth of field, perspective and the importance of minimizing distracting elements. Assistance with camera skills as requested. Our leader is Paul Gordon, APSNZ. Carpool. Departs 10.15, 3-4hrs, \$30.00

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## 10 acres in 10 years • NEW WALK • Grade 3

Native plantings on small blocks - share the passion of small block owners who are committed to returning rough pasture to mostly native plantings. What are the challenges and how have they been solved? See the progress made over several years as they battle wind, drought, fertility, bunnies and more on three or four very different properties. Exchange ideas as we explore the land. This walk will be of great interest to people thinking of planting out part of their own properties or have an interest in growing native plants. Carpool. Departs 9.15am, 5hrs, \$20.00

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## Te Arai • Grade 3-4

Experience the feel, feel the experience - walk through yesteryear's regenerating kauri forest while experiencing an intensive dry stock farm. See first-hand the benefits gained from the re-establishment of flora and bird habitats. Ascend regenerating 150 year-old kauri logging tracks. Hug 700 year old kahikatea trees. The vista at lunch offers views from Whangarei Heads to Cape Colville. Watch for bird species both native and introduced: matukuku, kaka, kukupa, kookaburra, shell duck and rosella. Enjoy all of the above and more while sharing light-hearted banter with the worldly farmer tour-guide. Carpool. Departs 9.45am, 3-4hrs, \$20.00

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**PLEASE NOTE** This year the Walking Weekend base will be the Mangawhai Domain, at the western end of Moir Street, in the Mangawhai Village. Please note that this location is a change from previous years.