



**Thumbs Up Adventure Club Inc.**  
www.tuac.co.nz

*"The Thumbs Up Adventure Club is a social and active group of people who enjoy living life to the fullest"*

President:	David Verrall	630 2588	Committee:	
Treasurer:	Libby Lyver	021 137 1488	Alison Philcox	021 257 6741
Secretaries: )	Helene Harper	838 6742	Raywyn Brinsden	021 455 863
)	June Bell	817 3093	Gerry Smith	520 5795
New Membership:	Leonie Caskey-Hatton	480 2800	Suzanne Caron	021 175 6994
Newsletter	Alan Grigg	027 493 6850	Hillary Scott	021 258 4186
Website:			Mike Maran	846 5350

**Our account details: ASB Bank 12-3014-0118011-00 - For internet banking - state your name, cost and event you are paying for. Please deposit cheques directly into the Club's bank account and email Libby ([libby.lyver@gmail.com](mailto:libby.lyver@gmail.com)) the same information.**

**CHECK WITH EVENT ORGANISER THAT PLACES ARE AVAILABLE BEFORE MAKING ANY PAYMENT**

**Non members may attend some club events. Members have priority and a surcharge will be applied. Contact the event organiser directly**

If you have confirmed you wish to go to an event where the ticket is pre-paid by the organiser, please pay by the due date.  
The ticket is still your responsibility to pay. You can sell it or give it away  
If you cannot attend on the day, please advise the organiser immediately as they may have other people wishing to attend

## January – February 2015

### TONGARIRO NORTHERN CIRCUIT

Tongariro National Park

28th December – 31st December 2014

The Tongariro Northern Circuit Great Walk - 43 kms, 4 days and 3 nights in huts/campsites. See [www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz) – Tongariro National Park

**Details:** 28th December stay in Waiho Hut, 29th stay Oturere Hut, 30th stay Waiho Hut

Places to stay before and after the tramp will be discussed once the huts are booked

**Cost:** At present price for huts or camp-sites

**Contact:** Alan - 027 493 6850 or [alangrigg11@gmail.com](mailto:alangrigg11@gmail.com)



HUTS FULLY BOOKED  
CAMP SITES ONLY

### MOIRS HILL BUSH WALK TO PUHOI (PIRIKI WALKWAY)

Saturday 10th January 2015 at 10am

Meet at Puhoi Hotel carpark at 10am

Carpool to Moirs Hill Rd 7km North of Puhoi. Turn left into Moirs Hill Rd and travel another 6.5kms to a sign on the left saying Piriki Walkway It is about 10kms walk back down hill through bush to Puhoi Hotel

**Bring:** Walking shoes or boots, drink, raincoat and snack (track may be a little damp in places).

**Cost:** Money for food and drink at Puhoi Hotel.

**Contact:** David Verrall - 630 2588, 027 203 5508 or [gundesenverrall@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gundesenverrall@xtra.co.nz)



### NIGHT ZOO SAFARI AND BBQ

Auckland Zoo, Motions Road, Westmere

Friday 16th January 2015

If you go into the zoo at night .... you may get a big surprise! The big cats are out, lemurs are sleeping (in the most peculiar place) and the alligator may snap! Your Safari Night evening includes a BBQ dinner followed by a torch-lit adventure.

Discover lions on the prowl, hippos looking for a late-night snack, nocturnal bats waking up, an elephant snacking on bamboo, or rhinos out in the cool of the evening.

These safaris are only held a few times during the year and spaces are strictly limited, so get in quick.

BBQ at 6pm. You can arrive anytime from 4.30pm onwards. For those rushing from work, a 6pm arrival is fine. Just let me know what time you will be arriving and I can let gate security know.

**Bring:** Covered walking shoes e.g. sneakers, comfortable clothing, warm jacket & hat, torch with red cellophane covering the light, drink bottle

**Cost:** \$50 including BBQ, Zoo entry, guided tour and supper

**Pay by:** 6th January 2015

**Confirm by:** 15th December 2014

**Contact:** Libby Lyver - 021 137 1488 or [libby.lyver@gmail.com](mailto:libby.lyver@gmail.com)

### RANGITOTO ISLAND BACH TOUR

Saturday 17th January 2015

This guided walk takes 2½ hours, and covers approximately 2kms. It features the volcanic background of Rangitoto, a look at the different types of lava on the island, the botany (in particular, the iconic Pohutukawa), Maori history, DoC's successful pest eradication programme and introduction of several bird species, the early work of inmates from Auckland Prison, the military history, and some of the "industries" that have been trialed on the island. The walk also includes a visit to several of the historic baches. You will be able to step inside two of them and learn something about their fascinating history as well as hearing stories about the unique lifestyle on the island. The group will also meet one or two of the "locals"!

**Further info:** Catch the 9.15am ferry from Downtown. The 9.15 ferry goes via Devonport at 9.25am. Returning either on the 12.45pm ferry or if you want to do the summit walk or caves visit as well, return on the 4pm ferry.

On the day, if the ferry cannot land at the wharf we cannot do the tour. I will let everyone know early on the day after confirming with Fullers.

**Bring:** Water/drinks, all food, good sturdy shoes/boots, sunhat, sunscreen, swimsuit, towel (optional). Morning tea provided.

**Cost:** \$29.00 return for the ferry and \$7.50 for the bach tour.

Please pay the bach tour portion into the TUAC club account. Buy your ferry ticket either online [www.fullers.co.nz](http://www.fullers.co.nz) or on the day.

**Confirm by:** 12th January 2015

**Contact:** Libby Lyver - 021 137 1488 or [libby.lyver@gmail.com](mailto:libby.lyver@gmail.com)



## BAT WATCHING

Cascade Kauri Car Park, off Falls Rd, off Te Henga Road

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January at 8pm

Come at 8pm (or earlier if you want to have a picnic dinner on the grass) and learn about these fascinating little creatures as they take flight for their nightly foraging in the Te Henga Swamp.

We start at the picture frame where we will be divided into groups and taken into the forest to see where they live then we go back to the grass area and wait until it is dark enough for them to come out.

Allow plenty of time to get there. I guarantee you will be thrilled with these little creatures. They are NOT vampires.

I will be by the TUAC banner

**Bring:** Wear warm clothing and something to sit on the ground  
Food and drink if you are eating beforehand  
Can bring a chair for the picnic or sit on the ground.

**Cost:** \$5 per person

**Pay by:** ASAP as I can only book for 15 people

**Contact:** Alison Philcox - 021 257 6741 or [a.philcox@clear.net.nz](mailto:a.philcox@clear.net.nz)



## KUAOTUNU CAMPING WEEKEND, COROMANDEL

33 Bluff Rd, Matarangi (off SH 25)

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2015

Places for 12 people (or 16 if needed)

Each campsite is on the edge of a stream and has a maximum of 4 people

The campsite has fully equipped kitchens, eating areas, BBQ, showers etc.

There is a café/pizza place and store 5 minutes up the road.

**Activities:** Kayaking, cycling, walking, swimming, skin diving, fishing (bring own equipment)

**Optional:** Walk on Saturday morning to Matarangi, or 19km bike ride

[www.kcg2008.com](http://www.kcg2008.com)

**Bring:** Camping: tents, bedding etc.

Food for breakfasts, lunches

We will have a shared BBQ on Saturday night

More details nearer the time.

**Cost:** \$20 per person per night.

Buses and campervans welcome

**Expressions of interest:** ASAP

**Contact:** Hillary Scott - 0212 584 186 or [hillary.scott.54@gmail.com](mailto:hillary.scott.54@gmail.com)



## BURGER, BOWLS & BEVERAGES

Onehunga Bowling Club, 146 Selwyn Street, Onehunga

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2015

Come along for a fun evening with music, burgers, bowls and beverages.

Come when you can from 4pm onwards. You can play for 30 minutes or up to 1½ hours until around 8pm.

Club supplies bowls and tuition. Beverages at club prices

**Bring:** Wear comfortable shoes

**Cost:** \$20 for Burger, bowling, music and tuition

**Pay by:** 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2015

**Confirm by:** 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2015

**Contact:** Ann Melrose - 021 157 6005 or [annmelrose@gmail.com](mailto:annmelrose@gmail.com)



## HEADLAND SCULPTURE - MATIATIA, WAIHEKE

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2015

Join us on a spectacular 2km coastal walkway on the Matiatia headland. This year there are 31 sculptures from a diverse group of artists, many of whom are new to the exhibition alongside several returning to Waiheke. These finalists were selected from over 120 submissions. We will be catching the shuttle to the beginning of the walk at the end of Nick Johnstone Drive. They leave every 15 - 20 minutes from the wharf. Expect the walk to take between 1.5 - 2.5 hours. We can have lunch in Oneroa afterwards or head straight back on the ferry.

We will be catching the 9am ferry from Downtown Auckland which calls into Devonport at 9.10am. When booking, please let me know where you will be catching the ferry from.

Further info: <http://sculptureonthegulf.co.nz>

**Bring:** Water, snacks, sun hat, camera, light coat depending on the weather

**Cost:** Ferry \$36 return, Gold Card users free

Shuttle bus to start of walk \$5.00

**Pay by:** Pay on the day

**Contact:** Alison Philcox - 021 257 6741 or [a.philcox@clear.net.nz](mailto:a.philcox@clear.net.nz)



## TAIHAPE (GUMBOOT CAPITAL OF THE WORLD)

### PLAN YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February - Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2015

Just imagine flying down the Rangitikei River canyon at 160kph 175m above the river in a flying fox for 1.1kms or experience the canyon without the adrenalin in a hydrofoil water powered chair lift or there is always the giant swing with 50m free fall or an 80m bungee jump or all of them!!!

Saturday we can horse ride, do one of the many walks, visit the Taihape Museum or scenic river rafting. Of course all these things need to be booked in advance so if you are slightly interested or definitely interested, please let me know what you are interested in doing and the type of accommodation you would prefer ASAP.

Discounts can also apply for over 65s so let me know if you are in this category. I promise I won't tell anyone!

Accommodation will be at the River Valley Lodge. There is a choice of tenting, bunk house or variety of bedrooms. There is space for several campervans. Car pooling can be arranged. Taihape is 5 hours from Auckland.

Further info: [www.gravitycanyon.co.nz](http://www.gravitycanyon.co.nz), <http://www.rivervalley.co.nz>  
<http://taihapemuseum.wordpress.com>, <http://taihapemuseum.wordpress.com>,  
<http://rangitikei.com/activities-attractions>

**Bring:** To be advised

**Cost:** Accommodation plus activities and food

**Pay by:** Deposit to secure your accommodation to be advised  
Full payment 5<sup>th</sup> January 2015

**Contact:** Alison Philcox - 021 257 6741 or email [a.philcox@clear.net.nz](mailto:a.philcox@clear.net.nz)

## TAKAPUNA TO DEVONPORT CYCLE RIDE

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February at 10am

Meet and park in Eldon St which is off Esmonde Rd. From here we will ride the cycle trail and do a return loop via the North Shore beaches.

The trail is well signposted and mostly flat. The cycle lanes are designated on shared footpaths through the quiet back streets, through the boardwalk bridges over the mangroves and through some of the local parks. From Devonport we will detour on the cycle lanes to the end of Stanley Point for a rest stop and stunning harbour views at Cyril Bassett Lookout. Return to Devonport and continue cycling to the end of King Edward Parade. Another rest stop to look at some of NZ's naval history at the Naval Museum, (free entry) and then brunch at the Navy cafe on site. From here we will return via Narrow Neck across Lake Rd to re-connect with the cycleway and return to Eldon Street about 1pm. The route also includes some of the best examples of Victorian Villas, bungalows and modern millionaire houses.

Mike is also negotiating with the Harbourside Church on Esmonde Road to see if we can park in their large carpark. If ok will contact participants prior to the ride.

**Bring:** Your bicycle, water, snacks

**Cost:** The cost of brunch

**Contact:** Mike Maran - 846 5350, 0274 784 779 or [mikemaran10@gmail.com](mailto:mikemaran10@gmail.com)



## LUNCH AT SKY TOWER - ORBIT 360 RESTAURANT

Cnr of Federal and Victoria Streets, Auckland

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2015 at 12pm

Take the time to relax and savour 360 degree views of Auckland city while enjoying a delicious stand out dining experience

[www.skycityauckland.co.nz/restaurants/orbit/](http://www.skycityauckland.co.nz/restaurants/orbit/)

Complimentary admission to the Sky Tower's Main Observation Level is available for Orbit diners 45 minutes prior to your reservation and/or upon completion of dining.

**Bring:** Yourself and a friend

**Cost:** Express lunch menu \$49.00.

**Confirm by:** 1<sup>st</sup> February

**Pay:** On the day

**Contact:** Raywyn - [raywynbrinsden@gmail.com](mailto:raywynbrinsden@gmail.com)



## MIDGE MARSDEN SUPPORTED BY RICK BRYANT & THE JIVE BOMBERS

Blockhouse Bay Reserve, 69-79 Endeavour St, Blockhouse Bay

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2015 from 6pm-9pm

Come along to hear the music and move your feet! Arrive early and bring some food and drink.

Auckland City Council's most requested Music in Parks performer, Midge remains New Zealand's pre-eminent rhythm and blues artist. His combination of excellent musicians and unstoppable energy combine to guarantee a great show every time.

Coffee and desert afterwards at Suzanne's house in Blockhouse Bay

**Bring:** Food, drink, chair or blanket

**Cost:** Free

**Contact:** Suzanne Caron - 828 8506, 021 175 6994 or [suzannecrn@yahoo.com](mailto:suzannecrn@yahoo.com)



## WINDSURFING AND STAND UP PADDLING

Sylvan Park, at the bottom of Sylvan Park Ave, Milford  
Saturday 14th February 2015

Meet at 10:30am for an 11am start.

Great value for 2 hours of windsurfing, SUP or both. Instruction is given if required. Wetsuits and equipment supplied. Lake Pupuke is a safe environment as there are no big waves or tides to worry about. Have lunch locally afterwards.

When booking, please indicate what you want to do, your level of ability and if you want to join us for lunch.

Further info: [www.madloop.co.nz](http://www.madloop.co.nz)

**Bring:** Bathing suit and a towel. Water and snacks if you want.

**Cost:** \$50.00. Lunch at your cost.

**Pay by:** 16th January 2015 or sooner

**Contact:** Alison Philcox 021 257 6741 or email [a.philcox@clear.net.nz](mailto:a.philcox@clear.net.nz)



## ART DECO EXTRAVAGANZA – NAPIER

19th to 22nd February 2015

Expressions of interest are sought for this famous Art Deco event. Napier, New Zealand's Art Deco capital, celebrates its annual festival with the whole of the city becoming a stage set, with over 200 events including outdoor concerts, dinner dance extravaganzas, vintage car parades, fashion shows, steam train rides, great Gatsby picnics and more. Dressing up in 1930's style is not compulsory, but will be great fun if you want to do so. The programme of events will be published in October 2014. Accommodation is already reserved (shared motel units) and there is the option of extending your stay for the week, exploring further afield, or by biking around the wineries.

**Cost:** To be advised when programme is published

**Pay by:** End December 2014

**Contact:** Libby Lyver - 021 137 1488 or [libby.lyver@gmail.com](mailto:libby.lyver@gmail.com)



## HERITAGE TRAIL

Shakespeare Regional Park, Whangaparaoa Peninsula  
Saturday 28th February at 10am

A fascinating walk that begins at the Waterfall Gully car park and takes in historic sites, a WW2 gun emplacement, native forest, farmland, a wetland, spectacular views over Auckland and the islands of the Hauraki Gulf. The track is a moderate 4km of undulating terrain and is approx 2 hours return. After our walk we will have lunch at one of the cafes at Gulf Harbour Marina.

**Further info:** Drive to the end of Whangaparaoa Road and park in the Waterfall Gully car park. The entrance to the Heritage trail is well signposted.

Those who prefer to carpool meet and park at 9.30am at Kings Plant Barn Silverdale. Please let Mike know in advance.

**Bring:** Comfortable walking shoes, water, snacks and sunscreen.

**Cost:** The cost of lunch

**Contact:** Mike – 846 5350, 0274 784 779 or [mikemaran10@gmail.com](mailto:mikemaran10@gmail.com)



## TAPAPAKANGA REGIONAL PARK CAMPING W/END

Auckland Regional Park, Firth of Thames

Friday 6th March – Sunday 8th March 2015

Beachfront Campsite at Tapapakanga with views of the Firth of Thames

Facilities include toilets, tables, water and outdoor shower.

Walking and mountain bike tracks, fishing, canoeing, safe sandy swimming tidal beach. See web site <http://www.arc.govt.nz>

Tapapakanga Regional Park is 60 minute drive from Auckland CBD. Drive south on SH1. Take the Manurewa off ramp, head for Clevedon. From Clevedon follow the signs to Kawakawa Bay and turn right at the shop. Go 12.5km (past Orere Point) and turn off into Deery Road to the Tapapakanga Park.

**Bring:** All camping gear, tent, gas stove or BBQ, swimming togs, walking shoes, bikes and helmets, kayak if you want to.

Own food and drink as nearest shop is Orere Point Campground.

Shared meal on Saturday night

**Cost:** \$13 per night per person. Campsite takes 40 people

**Pay by:** ASAP Only 14 sites available - first in first served.

**Contact:** David Verrall - 630 2588, 027 203 5508 or

[gundesenverrall@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gundesenverrall@xtra.co.nz)



## ROGER HALL'S PLAY A SHORTCUT TO HAPPINESS

Lopdell House Theatre, Titirangi

Saturday 14th March 2015

Dinner at Handi Tandori next to Gull Station Titirangi at 6pm followed by the show at 8pm

Join in for this great comedy. It should be a good night out.

**Cost:** \$20

**Pay by:** 15th February to secure your seat

Please let me know if you wish to join in for dinner.

**Contact:** June Bell - 817 3093, 021 258 3013 or

[fiveofsix48@hotmail.com](mailto:fiveofsix48@hotmail.com). Please head TUAC



## MANGAWHAI WALKING WEEKEND

Friday to Sunday 27th - 29th March 2015

Go to [www.mangawhaiwalkingweekend.co.nz](http://www.mangawhaiwalkingweekend.co.nz) for information on the walks.

3 new walks are being offered. There will be information about the programme including Friday's Troubadour trail, the Art Trail, and the wine and food festival. Bookings usually become available in early January

Free camping available at Mangawhai

**Cost:** By choice of activities

**Contact:** June Bell - 817 3093, 021 258 0313 or

[fiveofsix48@hotmail.com](mailto:fiveofsix48@hotmail.com) Please head TUAC



## EASTER AT WHITE ISLAND & WHAKATANE EAST COAST

Friday 3rd to Sunday 6th April 2015

Expressions of interest for Easter in Whakatane with optional tours to White Island, Whale Island, mountain biking or walking the Motu Trail, local walks in Whakatane and more.

Further info will be supplied when to hand

**Cost:** 3 night's accommodation around \$60 per night twin share.

Exact costs will be worked out when numbers known.

Optional day tour to White Island \$199 or

Whale Island 1/2 day tour \$99.

Group rates once numbers known should reduce this cost

**Pay by:** To be advised

**Contact:** Libby Lyver - 021 137 1488 or [libby.lyver@gmail.com](mailto:libby.lyver@gmail.com)

## JOKE

Time is like a river. You cannot touch the water twice, because the flow that has passed will never pass again. Enjoy every moment of life.

As a bagpiper, I play many gigs. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man. He had no family or friends, so the service was to be at a pauper's cemetery in the Nova Scotia back country. As I was not familiar with the backwoods, I got lost and, being a typical man, I didn't stop for directions.

I finally arrived an hour late and saw the funeral guy had evidently gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight. There were only the diggers and crew left and they were eating lunch. I felt bad and apologized to the men for being late.

I went to the side of the grave and looked down and the vault lid was already in place. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play.

The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around. I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. I played like I've never played before for this homeless man.

And as I played "Amazing Grace," the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, we all wept together. When I finished, I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car. Though my head was hung low, my heart was full.

As I opened the door to my car, I heard one of the workers say, "I never seen anything like that before, and I've been putting in septic tanks for 20 years."

Apparently, I'm still lost....it's a man thing.



**A Very Merry Christmas to Everyone and a Happy New Year**

## MEMBERS – INTRODUCE A NEW MEMBER

If you introduce a new member and they join the Club you will get a credit of \$10 on your next TUAC membership renewal account

"I acknowledge and accept that neither the Thumbs Up Adventure Club ("the club"), nor any other party associated with any activity arranged by or through the club shall have any responsibility for any liability, financial or otherwise, which might arise whether or not by negligence, from any direct or indirect loss, injury or death which might be sustained by me or any other party directly or indirectly associated with me, from my intended or actual participation in any event or its related activities."