

Karangahake Gorge or the 16km 26000 step trip

Trish

The Karangahake gorge is always a club favourite. It has changed markedly over the years; trampers no longer clamber on and around the pipes on the track- now it's a well formed track with hand rails, historic interpretive signs and no clamber up the old mine shaft with torches on. Less exciting but safer!

On a perfect day the club turned out in force and it was nice to see Gael and Jill joining us for the day.

After a few circuits of the car park, where we must have looked like migrating birds deciding which way to fly, we took off up Scotsman's Gully and up and up towards the summit of Karangahake. A superb place for lunch – some had lunch with a view of the summit- others decided to go for broke and eat at the top. The stalwarts had the world at their feet, the serrated skyline around and sea, bush and settlements below. Well worth the effort. Then downhill and along the river back to the bus. Helen, of course, had a swim- and I created the opportunity for that by leaving my Leki pole at the other side of the long tunnel and having to race back for it. (good planning?)

A really good day out – thanks, Carol for organising this. And, yes, we did apparently walk 16 km and 26000 steps – thanks for that information from Jill's pedometer!

Some members aspired to Centrefold status it seems- such a clutch of them that it was impossible to choose one! Take your pick!



First Contender Tim, sporting a head cut. We speculated on the reason for this.....

- a) Had Mary been "sorting him out"?
- b) Was he trying to outdo Roger in the head banging stakes?
- c) Had he wandered along with out looking – maybe preceded by short/safe trampers?
- d) All of the above



Second Contender Marianne (again!) demonstrating total relaxation – and that the bus really is a Daimler in the comfort stakes.

Third Contender Dora the Explorer – “I have to get to the summit as training for Easter”



There is a TV show, *Dora the Explorer* now, but we all know who the real one is!

