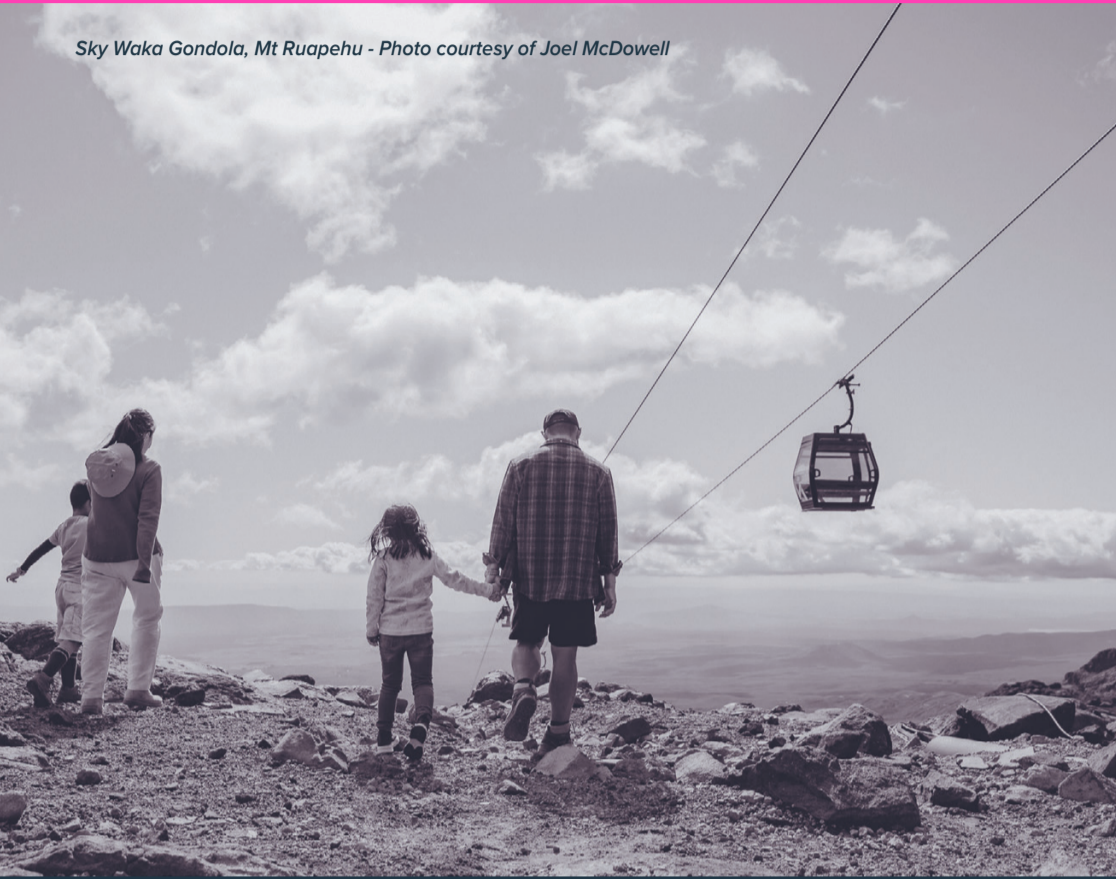


# WHANGANUI Summer Programme 2023

Discover & enjoy our natural  
heritage, culture & history  
4<sup>th</sup> ~ 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023

Sky Waka Gondola, Mt Ruapehu - Photo courtesy of Joel McDowell



Please book online at [www.iTICKET.co.nz](http://www.iTICKET.co.nz) or at the  
Whanganui i-SITE Visitor Centre, 31 Taupo Quay.

The Whanganui Summer Programme's bus trips, guided walks and  
talks are organised by the Whanganui Summer Programme Trust

## All you need to know

### YOU CAN CONTACT US

#### By e-mail

[whanganuisummerprog@gmail.com](mailto:whanganuisummerprog@gmail.com)  
Please provide your postal address and  
telephone number in all e-mail communications.

#### On the Internet

Access the programme pamphlet at  
[www.whanganuisummerprogram.weebly.com](http://www.whanganuisummerprogram.weebly.com)

### BOOKING & PAYING FOR TRIPS

Unless otherwise indicated, numbers on all trips are  
limited and bookings **MUST** be made through one of the  
methods indicated below:

#### Book Online

Our online booking Agent iTICKET can be accessed as  
follows: [www.iTICKET.co.nz](http://www.iTICKET.co.nz)  
Payment can be made by internet banking or credit card  
(a fee may apply). With the exception of credit card fees,  
PRICING IS ALL INCLUSIVE.

#### Book at i-SITE

Bookings Agent for iTICKET: Book in person  
or by telephone at Whanganui i-SITE  
Visitors Centre,  
31 Taupo Quay, Whanganui phone 06 349 0508.

Open 7 days a week 9am-5pm, Public Holidays 9am-3pm,  
closed Christmas Day. Payments can be made by cash,  
eftpos or credit card.

#### Please note:

- No bookings are confirmed until payment has  
been received.
- Child fares apply to all who are still at school in  
2023 unless otherwise stated.
- The trip price includes all transport, entry fees  
or koha for museums, marae, churches, historic  
places, gardens or contributions to host organisations  
for food when provided, unless stated in the trip  
description.
- Customers will receive eTickets only. If you do not have  
email please book at the i-site where a confirmation  
can be printed

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### WAITING LISTS

We will not be operating a waiting list system. iTICKET will  
advise you if the trip is full.

### TRIP CANCELLATIONS, AMENDMENTS AND REFUNDS

We reserve the right to cancel or amend the  
content of trips due to adverse weather or  
other factors beyond our control. That said,  
wet weather can usually be accommodated, so  
come prepared. **If we have to cancel a trip, we  
will do our best to contact you by telephone  
before the departure time.** In all such cases  
(including cancellations due to any COVID-19  
restrictions), a full refund will be provided.

**If you need to cancel your booking on a trip,  
let iTICKET know as early as possible.** There is  
a no cancellation/no refund policy with iTICKET  
so we suggest you consider that when booking.

In extenuating circumstances, a refund request  
can be lodged with iTICKET who will consult with  
the Trust for authorisation of a refund request.

**Any refunds will be processed as soon as they  
are approved.**

**No refunds are paid at the Whanganui i-Site  
Visitor Centre.**



Blue Duck Station  
Photo courtesy of Dan Steele

## Programme Partners

The Whanganui Summer Programme is  
coordinated by a Trust set up in 2008 to take  
on the role previously undertaken by the  
Department of Conservation. The trustees  
thank all the organisations involved with the  
2023 programme, including the museums,  
societies, business and property owners who  
have enabled us to arrange such a varied  
programme. Many of the partner organisations  
who arrange and lead events have been  
involved for a number of years.

**The Whanganui Regional Museum's Davis  
Theatre is the venue for the evening talks.**

We are most grateful to the Rivercity Press for  
distributing this programme in their newspaper.  
And our thanks to the Whanganui Chronicle for  
providing event updates during January.  
We hope you enjoy the 2023 Whanganui  
Summer Programme. We welcome feedback,  
so please do contact us by letter or e-mail with  
your suggestions for future events.

**Whanganui Summer Programme Trust**  
PO Box 402, Whanganui 4541.  
E-mail: [whanganuisummerprog@gmail.com](mailto:whanganuisummerprog@gmail.com)

### i SITE

**If you are unable to book online, please book  
at the Whanganui i-SITE Visitor Centre**

If you are coming from out of town you can  
arrange accommodation at the i-SITE, 31 Taupo  
Quay. You can also find out what else is going  
on in Whanganui.

The New Zealand Opera School will offer  
concerts between 8 - 22 January.  
And Whanganui Vintage Weekend will transport  
you to a bygone era between 20 - 23 January.

Check out [discoverwhanganui.nz](http://discoverwhanganui.nz)  
and Discover Whanganui on Facebook for all  
your information about Whanganui.



Kapiti Island, Paraparaumu Beach Departure - Photo courtesy of Capture Studios

### COMING ON OUR TRIPS

We want people to enjoy themselves on the  
Whanganui Summer Programme so plan our  
events accordingly. Our bus trips allow for rest  
stops en route, especially where long journeys  
are involved. On some trips you will need to be  
prepared to spend much of the day outdoors,  
away from the bus.

**Transport Information.** All our bus trips  
depart from the bus stop at 29 Taupo Quay, in  
front of the Tram Shed next to the Whanganui  
i-SITE Visitor Centre. Some events such as  
talks, guided walks and museum events have  
different departure or meeting points as noted  
in the trip descriptions. Note there is plenty  
of free all-day parking in Rutland Street and  
around Pākaitore Moutoa Gardens. The public  
toilets beside the Tram Shed are open 24/7.  
Please make sure you **arrive at least 15  
minutes before the departure time** for all  
events and report to the trip leader who will  
mark your name on the booking sheet or take  
your payment if no booking is necessary.

It may be possible to arrange for the bus to pick  
you up en route, e.g. just past the St John's Hill  
shops, beside the tennis courts at the junction  
of Wanganui Road and SH3 in Turakina (**note  
this is a change from previous years**), by the  
primary school on SH3 in Bulls, opposite the Z  
Service Station on SH3 in Sanson, at the Tranzit  
Depot on Calico Line in Marton, by the Museum  
on SH1 in Hunterville, at the railway station in  
Taihape, opposite the library on SH3 in Waverley  
or at the i-SITE in Hāwera depending on the trip  
destination. **Other points may be able to be  
arranged on request.** Please ask the i-SITE what  
arrangements can be made for your trip.

We use Tranzit Coachlines air-conditioned  
buses. Tranzit provide drivers for our bus trips.

We endeavour to return by the advertised time  
but delays are possible, so avoid making other  
commitments close to the return time. Please  
check you have all your belongings with you  
before you leave the bus. We do keep a lost  
property box at the i-SITE but only while the  
programme is in operation.

**What do I need to bring?** Remember that trips  
can be subject to rapidly changing weather  
conditions.

**For ALL trips you need to bring:**

- Food for the duration of the trip. For a full-day  
trip bring your lunch as well as morning and  
afternoon tea. If food is being provided as  
part of the event, this will be noted in the trip  
description. Some trips allow for a snack stop  
on the way back, so you may want to bring  
money for ice creams or drinks.
- Water and other drinks as required.
- Sun hat and sunscreen.
- Any medication you require including  
insect repellent.
- Face mask if required (or desired) on public  
transport at the time of your trip.

**For trips where you will be venturing away  
from the bus for much of the day make sure  
you have:**

- Solid footwear (not jandals). We recommend  
you always wear sturdy shoes.
- A warm, waterproof jacket.
- A small day pack to carry all your gear.
- A walking pole may be helpful.
- Binoculars if appropriate.

**Fitness requirements.** Most trips do not  
involve long walks but others may involve  
walking uphill, through grassland or over rough  
ground. The trip description notes any special  
requirements but do check with the i-SITE if you  
are unsure whether your level of fitness will suit  
your preferred trip. We do not expect everyone  
to walk at the same pace and you will have time  
for rest stops, especially on walks where there  
are points of interest on the way.

**Safety.** Our guides and leaders are experienced  
at taking people on Summer Programme trips  
including bush walks and tramping expeditions.  
There are first aid kits on each trip. The leaders  
carry a cell phone although coverage cannot  
be guaranteed. A personal locator beacon is  
carried on remote trips. Please advise us in  
advance if you have any medical conditions,  
e.g. allergies to stings. During the course of the  
day, if you experience any difficulties, let the  
leader know so we can act quickly to ensure  
your safety and comfort.

**Feedback.** We welcome your feedback. Please  
pass your thoughts on to your leader.



Please read 'All you need to know' overleaf for important information about how to book and what to bring.

You can book online at [www.ITICKET.co.nz](http://www.ITICKET.co.nz) or at the i-SITE for most events. For the museum talks book directly with the Whanganui Regional Museum.

### Sky Waka / Gondola Ruapehu

**Wednesday 4 January – New!**

Sturdy footwear and rain wear. Bring money/card for a meal or BYO drink and food.

Journey into the clouds on New Zealand's largest, enclosed gondola. The Sky Waka travels 1.8km to Knoll Ridge Restaurant. This trip is subject to the Sky Waka operating.

Bookings close 30 December 2022

**Depart 8am. Return approx 4.30pm.**

**Adult \$98 • Child \$78** This includes gondola fare.

### Eastern Whanganui Road Trip

**Thursday 5 January – New!**

Short beach and bush walks.

Sturdy footwear and rain wear. BYO lunch.

This loop trip takes us first to the seaside settlement of Koitiata (aka Turakina Beach) for lunch. Then we drive up the Turakina Valley and back to Whanganui via Fordell with stops at various points of historic and current interest including a stately house. Learn about the features and sights that exist close to Whanganui which we may never have known were there.

**Depart 11am. Return approx 4pm.**

**Adult \$25 • Child \$12**

### Kauarapaoa Trip

**Friday 6 January. Short Walks – It's Back!**

Sturdy footwear and rain wear. BBQ Lunch provided by the Friends of the Whanganui River at Noel Shepherd's House.

Although quite close to Whanganui, the Kauarapaoa Valley seems a world away. We loop via Kai Iwi and up past Bushy Park, along the top of the watershed and return down the valley, viewing some of our impressive back country en route. Sid Soulsby of Wairangi Station will share his stories of living in the valley.

**Depart 10am. Return approx 5.30pm.**

**Adult \$46 • \$23 Child**

### Heritage Trees of Downtown Whanganui

**Saturday 7 January. Guided walk – It's Back!**

BYO drink and snack.

Whanganui's heritage, is about more than buildings. Pakaitore/Moutua Gardens and Pukenamu/Queens Park contain many notable trees - some listed as protected. Join amateur botanist Margi Keys for an easy 90-minute stroll to name and marvel at what our forefathers planted long ago.

**Depart 2pm from outside the Whanganui Courthouse. Return approx 3.30pm. No booking necessary. Adult \$5 cash • Child \$2 cash**

### Opunake Loop Trail

**Sunday 8 January – New!**

Reasonable fitness required for 3-4-hour walk.

Sturdy footwear, rain wear, warm clothing and sunhat. BYO lunch, snacks and drinks.

In 2019, the Opunake Lions created this 10km trail as a community project to extend the existing lake and cliff-top walkways to circumnavigate the town. Much of the shared path for cyclists and pedestrians which was wrecked during two storms in February 2022 has been restored. Our walk includes two artist studios and the Pihama Lavender Gardens on the site of the old Pihama dairy factory.

**Depart 8am. Return approx 5pm.**

**Adult \$46 • Child \$23**

### Creative Creatures for Kids at the Museum

**Monday 9 January – New!**

Prancing Puppets

Make your own moveable animal puppets.

Suitable for children 5-10 years.

Must be accompanied by an adult.

**11am-12pm. Whanganui Regional Museum.**

**\$2 per child. Booking essential. Book directly with the Museum. Tel 06 349 1110. Wheelchair access.**

### Rotopounamu / Te Porere Redoubts

**Monday 9 January – It's Back!**

Three walks, mostly flat.

Sturdy footwear and rain wear, BYO lunch, morning and afternoon tea.

It's seven years since we last visited the beautiful Rotopounamu (greenstone lake) near Turangi. The two-hour 5km loop walk around the lake is noted for its bush and birdlife. Coming home we explore the earthworks at the historic Te Porere Redoubts, the site of the last battle of the NZ wars in 1869. Sample the new Makotuku Walkway at Raetihi.

**Depart 7.30am. Return approx 6.30pm.**

**Adult \$55 • Child \$24**

### Creative Creatures for Kids at the Museum

**Tuesday 10 January – New!**

Animal Backpack Charms

Create a funky backpack charm using paint, beads and animal shapes.

**Time 11am-12pm. Whanganui Regional Museum.**

Suitable for children 5-10 years. Must be accompanied by an adult. **\$2 per child. Bookings essential. Book directly with the Museum. Tel 06 349 1110. Wheelchair access.**

### Evening Talk: Bells

**Tuesday 10 January – New!**

Whanganui has an unusually high number of bells, used over time as instruments, signals and for worship. Whanganui District Council heritage adviser Scott Flutey will speak about some of these from a campanologist's perspective.

**Starts 7.30pm. Davis Theatre, Whanganui Regional Museum, Watt Street.**

**Adult \$5 cash • Children free.**

No booking necessary but numbers are limited. Wheelchair access.

### Hidden Treasures

**Wednesday 11 January – New!**

Dan Hurlley's Aramoho Toy Museum at 5 Lewis Ave is a sight to behold with thousands of items including toys, dolls, teddy bears, key rings and magnets. This is a little-known treasure chest enjoyed by adults as well as children.

**Open 10am to 4pm. Entry by gold coin donation or \$5 cash for family (2 Adults 2 Children).**

### Creative Creatures for Kids at the Museum

**Wednesday 11 January – New!**

Rock Pets. Paint your own rock pet to take home.

**Time 11am-12pm. Whanganui Regional Museum.**

Suitable for children 5-10 years. Must be accompanied by an adult. **\$2 per child. Bookings essential. Book directly with the Museum. Tel 06 349 1110. Wheelchair access.**

### Raurimu Spiral Train Ride

**Thursday 12 January – It's Back!**

BYO morning, afternoon tea and lunch.

This trip was withdrawn last year by KiwiRail due to the Covid-19 epidemic. After bussing to Taumarunui and the historic Cherry Grove, we then get on the Northern Explorer and ride through the famous Raurimu Spiral to Ohakune. This will be a journey to remember.

**Depart 8am. Return approx 4.30pm.**

**Adult \$120 • Child \$90. This includes train fare.**

### Creative Creatures for Kids at the Museum

**Thursday 12 January – New!**

Stuffed Owl Soft Toys.

Make a miniature owl toy using fabric, trim and buttons.

**Time 11am-12pm. Whanganui Regional Museum.**

Suitable for children 5-10 years. Must be accompanied by an adult. **\$2 per child. Bookings essential. Book directly with the Museum. Tel 06 349 1110. Wheelchair access.**

### Bushy Park Tarapurui Night Spotting

**Friday 13 January – Favourite**

Sturdy footwear and rain wear, warm clothing, torch, BYO cold drink.

Enjoy this wonderful sanctuary with mature forest, invertebrates and wetland. Barbecue provided.

**Depart 5.30pm. Return 10.30pm**

**Adult \$22 • Child \$11 • Family (2 Adults 2 Children) \$54**

### Creative Creatures for Kids at the Museum

**Friday 13 January – New!**

Animal Greeting Cards.

Print your own animal greeting cards using vintage graphics on an antique printing press.

**Time 11am-12pm. Whanganui Regional Museum.**

Suitable for children 5-10 years. Must be accompanied by an adult. **\$2 per child. Bookings essential. Book directly with the Museum. Tel 06 349 1110. Wheelchair access.**

### Blue Duck Station

**Saturday 14 January – New!**

Reasonable fitness required. Please bring your own morning and afternoon teas. Sturdy footwear, rain wear and warm clothing.

Enjoy a wonderful trip into the Blue Duck Station at Whakahora. Meet the Steele family who run a successful tourism venture at the Retaruke Station. The trip includes a picnic lunch at Mangapapa - one of the camp sites in the Whanganui National Park travelling down by jet boat. Listen to the history of the valley. When booking, please indicate any dietary requirements ie: gluten free or vegetarian.

**Depart 7am. Return approx 7pm.**

**Adult \$184 • \$92 Child**

### Kapiti Island

**Sunday 15 January – Favourite**

Climbing fitness essential for the summit. Sturdy footwear, rain wear, warm clothing, binoculars, walking pole.

BYO drink and food for morning tea and lunch.

Kapiti Island has an important role in our history and Forest and Bird restoration. A tranquil bird and marine sanctuary - one of NZ's most accessible nature reserves. There is time for the climb and return from the summit.

**Depart 6.30am. Return approx 6.30pm**

**Adult \$147 • Child \$102**

Bookings close Thursday 5 January

### Whangaehu Beach to Koitiata (Turakina Beach)

**Monday 16 January – New!**

Reasonable fitness required for 2-hour beach walk.

Sturdy footwear, rain wear and warm clothing.

BYO lunch, snacks and drinks.

Our leisurely stroll along the coast to the beach settlement of Koitiata. Includes discovering botanical treasures pingao and spinifex as well as bird life. To reach the village, we must wade through the mouth of Turakina River at low tide (11am). The lagoon beyond offers more sights for bird lovers.

**Depart 8am. Return approx 2pm.**

**Adult \$20 • Child \$10**

### Evening Talk: Exploring the Chathams

**Tuesday 17 January – New!**

Experienced Whanganui traveller Di Harries' visit to the Chatham Islands was a great success with weather cooperating and few tourists due to lockdown. Travelling independently in a hire car, Di and husband Royce Johnson, were able to explore the island thoroughly at their own pace. Three days on Pitt Island was a bonus. Di will share their experiences and show photographs of the landscape and bird life.

**Starts 7.30pm. Davis Theatre, Whanganui Regional Museum, Watt Street.**

**Adult \$5 cash, Child free. No booking necessary although numbers are limited. Wheelchair access.**

### Corliss Island

**Wednesday 18 January. Flat walk – New!**

High gumboots useful for short, muddy river crossing. BYO afternoon tea.

This small island in the Whanganui River below the Cobham Bridge has tracks we will explore after crossing at low tide. We will walk from one end of the island to the other and, if lucky, see bird life including spoonbills.

**Park beyond the Putiki roundabout on Wikitoria Road where the trip will begin.**

**Depart 2pm. Return approx 4pm. This trip is free and there is no need to register.**

### Bridge to Nowhere

**Thursday 19 January – Favourite**

Reasonable fitness required.

Sturdy footwear, rain wear and warm clothing for river journey. BYO lunch and snacks. Hot drinks and water provided at lunch time.

Bus to Pipiriki, followed by 32km jet boat ride and 3km bush walk. The Bridge to Nowhere is a poignant monument to 71 returned soldiers who farmed here after WW1. The Government later withdrew its support and demanded they leave. They were in effect 'dishonourably discharged' with little to show for their efforts. Their houses and farm buildings were burned down to prevent their return.

**Depart 8am. Return approx 5.30pm.**

**Adult \$180 • Child \$160**

### Council Chambers Tour

**Friday 20 January – New!**

Join a short tour of the Whanganui District Council chambers with its splendid collection of stained glass windows telling 'The Whanganui Story'. Begun in 2006, this project depicts important events and people in our district's history including Johnny Devlin, Kupe, Mother Aubert, Kowhai Park, the Durie Hill Tower and the awa. Our guide will talk about the windows, the history of the chamber and the past mayors, photographs of whom are also displayed.

**10-11am. Free but bookings essential at [anique.jayasinghe@whanganui.govt.nz](mailto:anique.jayasinghe@whanganui.govt.nz)**

### Evening Talk: Rio - A Love Affair

**Tuesday 24 January – New!**

Seasoned South American traveller and presenter Beverly Stuart branched out of Spanish-speaking countries to visit Rio de Janeiro in Brazil and attend the university for a few weeks in 2019 to polish her Portuguese. Expecting chaos, she fell in love with this dynamic city and will share photographs and experiences with us.

**Starts 7.30pm. Davis Theatre, Whanganui Regional Museum, Watt Street.**

**Adult \$5 cash • Child free. No booking necessary although numbers are limited. Wheelchair access.**

### Whanganui Collegiate School Museum and Historic Buildings

**Wednesday 25 January – Favourite**

Allow two hours.

First opened in Victoria Ave in 1854, WCS is NZ's third-oldest school and the city's oldest business. Its 169 years of history is displayed and documented in the school's museum. The fully-guided tour includes Big School and the chapel - both earthquake-strengthened and filled with fascinating history.

**Time 4.30pm. Adult \$5 cash • Child \$2 cash**

Follow the signs from the main entrance, Liverpool St. Register at [Museum@collegiate.school.nz](mailto:Museum@collegiate.school.nz) or by text to 0274 812 324

### Dawson Falls

**Thursday 26 January. Various walks – New!**

Sturdy footwear and rain wear. BYO morning and afternoon tea and lunch.

Dawson Falls in Te Papakura o Taranaki (formerly Egmont National Park) offers many self-guided walking opportunities on well-formed tracks. We head there after morning tea in Hawera. Coming home, we will visit the beautiful Hollard Gardens, operated by the Taranaki Regional Council, and an amazing horse ornament collection.

**Depart 8am. Return approx 5pm.**

**Adult \$47 • Child \$23**

### Up the Waitotara Valley

**Friday 27 January. Short walks – Favourite**

BYO lunch, snacks and drinks.

Driving to the end of the Waitotara Valley with many yarns about rural life continues to be a popular day out for those with an interest in local history. Stops on this fascinating journey include the Ngamatapouri Hall, Mangapapa Station woolshed on Makakaho Road, St Hilda in the Wood Church and the Larsen farm at the top of the valley. The trip ends with refreshments at the Waitotara pub and store.

**Depart 9am. Return approx 5.30pm.**

**Adult \$35 • Child \$17**

### Experience the Quaker Settlement

**Saturday 28 January. Short walks – It's Back!**

Back in the programme after being withdrawn in 2022, this 48-year-old intentional community continues to seek sustainable solutions for day-to-day living. A one-hour guided tour of the award-winning community buildings (including solar array), food forest, flax collection and merging native forest followed by a provided afternoon tea.

**Meet 76 Virginia Road at 1.30pm.**

**Adult \$10 cash • Child (up to 12) \$5 cash**

Numbers limited to 60.

### Hipango Park Excursion

**Sunday 29 January – Favourite**

A reasonable standard of mobility and fitness is required due to uneven ground, stairs and unpaved tracks.

BYO lunch, snacks and drinks.

The trip on the motor vessel Wairua to Hipango Park remains popular due to the charm of the river journey and ambience of this bush-surrounded park. Tables are available for lunch, otherwise bring rugs to sit on and a jacket for the river trip.

**Depart 10am MV Wairua pontoon opposite Pakaitore/Moutua Gardens. Return approx 4.30pm.**

**Adult \$65 • Child (5-15) \$25 • Under 5 free.**

**Family (2 Adults 2 Children) \$155.**

Passengers must report no later than 9.45am.

### Christie's Lake

**Monday 30 January – New!**

A short uphill walk.

Christie's Lake, Makirikiri Valley Road, Upokongaro.

Bring morning tea and lunch, sturdy shoes, rain wear, warm clothes, sun hat.

Explore a gem and surroundings on privately-owned, fenced and protected land. Learn about the flora and fauna.

**Depart 9am. Return approx. 2pm**

**Adult \$17 • Child \$10**

### Rangitikei Heritage Tour

**Monday 30 January – Favourite**

BYO food & drinks (Hot water available).

A tour of four delightful homesteads, led by local historian John Vickers.

**Ferndale:** Built in 1920 by Drummond Fernie, of the Fernie Brothers farming partnership. Designed by CT Natusch Napier.

**Drysdale:** Built in 1907 by Robert and Louisa Lilburn. A handsome building in the villa Style.

**Otairi:** Built-in 1896 for Tom and Jeannie Duncan.

**Otamaire:** A large and beautiful building built in 1936 for Eric and Ethel Duncan, with features from the bungalow style.

**Depart 9am. Return approx 5pm.**

**Adult \$70 • Child \$40**