

---

# HIKE PROGRAMME

## March 2007

---

**MEET:** Burgh Quay

**DEPART:** Sundays 10.00 am

**COST:** Private bus. €12

**11 March 2007**

**---Glenbride Circuit**

**Leader:** Donal Finn

**Route:** Glenbride Hamlet \* Silsean \* Moanbane \* Billy Byrne's Gap \* Mullaghclevaun West Top \* Glasnagollum Brook \* Ballinagee Bridge.

**Distance:** 17km **Ascent:** 650m

**18 March 2007**

St. Patrick's Weekend

---NO HIKE

**25 March 2007**

**---Glendalough Rambles**

**Leader:** Brendan McGee

**Route:** Disused lead mines (T099 982) \* Brockagh Spot Height 557 \* Tonelagee \* Wicklow Gap \* Upper Reservoir \* Camaderry \* Visitor Centre Glendalough.  
(Time permitting: Fair Mountain may be added after Wicklow Gap)

**Distance:** 15km **Ascent:** 850m

**1 April 2007**

**---Introductory Hillwalkers Hike**

**Leader:** Mark Campion

**Route:** Snugborough Bridge \* Sugarloaf \* Lobawn \* Cavanagh's Gap \* Spot Heights 653 and 599 \* Granaghmore \* Round Hill \* Granaghbeg.

**Distance:** 18km **Ascent:** 600m

**9 April 2007**

Easter (Trip to Wales)

---NO HIKE

---

## GENERAL HIKE NOTES

---

**PARTICIPATION** Mountaineering is an activity with a danger of personal injury or death. Participants should be aware of and accept these risks. People who take part in our club activities do so at their own risk and are responsible for their own actions and involvement.

**INTRODUCTORY HIKES** An Introductory Hike is organised once per month for aspirant members. Any participant on these hikes must be a member of An Óige.

**CO-ORDINATION** Tickets are given out on Sundays to ensure that participants reserve a bus place as they arrive.

**LEADER** The leader has the right to refuse anyone who is not adequately equipped (e.g., without appropriate boots, rainwear, food, torch, hat, gloves, etc). The leader may alter the route from that described in the program. The leader sets the pace of the hike and walkers are expected to obey the leader's instructions at all times.

**ENVIRONMENT** Try to reduce the erosion and widening of trails, e.g. do not walk on the edge of worn tracks; walk through the centre of the original track or go several meters into the scruff where the ground is untrampled, walking parallel to but not on the track.

**LITTER** Litter is unsightly and dangerous to animals. Even bio-degradable items like orange peels and banana skins take years to disappear. Bring all your litter home and try to include at least one extra item from each day out. Do not bury litter – animals will dig it up.

**WALKING STICKS AND RUCKSACKS** Remember that walking sticks and rucksacks cannot be brought onto the bus and must be stowed away in the boot during the journey.

**HIKE LEADERS** Any club member interested in leading a hike, please contact:  
Garry Byrne

---

## OUT ON THE TRAILS

### The Kepler Track

---

#### WALKING ON ONE OF NEW ZEALAND'S GREAT WALKS

The first couple of months of the year are a good time to visit New Zealand as it's summertime there. With three weeks to tour the South Island we wanted to see as much of the country as possible, but we also wanted to experience one of the country's Great Walks. The Milford Track is the most famous of these walks, but there are other walks which are equally awe-inspiring and scenic, and the Kepler Walk is one of these. Located in the Fiordland region, in the south of the island, this 60km horseshoe walk has it all – mountains, lakes, flora and fauna.

#### Day 1

Matt and I arrived in the township of Te Anau from Queenstown on Monday 5th February, and spent a busy evening preparing for our great walk the next day. We had three nights' dinners to

cook, and we also had to pack our rucksacks as efficiently as possible.

We decided to start the walk from Brod Bay (about 200m above sea level) by getting a fifteen minute water taxi ride at 9:30am across from Te Anau (saving ourselves about an hour's walk). Before setting off we applied plenty of insect repellent and sun cream, a smelly combination!! Already we had met some fellow Kepler hikers from Wellington and Italy. The first day's walk was all uphill to Luxmore Hut (1085m), and was made tough by the heat and the heavy backpacks. Fortunately though, three hours was spent walking through lush green beach forest (or "bush" as they call it there). Once we emerged from the forest we walked along an easy open slope to Luxmore Hut, reaching it at 2pm.

As we had arrived at the hut so early we decided to walk up to the peak of Mt Luxmore (1472m; see cover photo). This took about an hour and a quarter and the blue skies made for great viewing. There were mountain ranges all around us, including the Livingstone and Murchison ranges. We revelled in thought of the wet Irish winter at home as we basked in beautiful sunshine.

Luxmore hut's kitchen was well equipped with gas cookers and mountain views. There was much activity and din from 6pm as hikers got the gas hobs working and set to preparing their much anticipated dinners. Lights went out at 10 pm and at that stage almost every one had retired to their quarters. I was surprised at how well I slept in a room of about forty occupied bunks!

## Day 2

The next morning was a foggy one and the weather report forecasted that this was to clear to become a sunny and warm day. After breakfast we set on the second stage of the walk, back up the path towards Mt Luxmore. The day's walk was a high level one and we wandered contentedly along sunlit ridges and hilltops. A kea, New Zealand's green and cheeky mountain parrot, swooped and wove through the air; its song was giddy and enthusiastic. Again the views were spectacular, with plenty of snow covered peaks in the distance, and views of Lake Te Anau (the south island's largest lake - by water volume) and Lake Manapouri. For the first hour or two the peaks sat on a bed of mist, which was just breath taking.

After five hours of walking we started descending steeply down to Iris Burn hut (at 497m), and the track zig-zagged down through forest to the hut which we reached about 6pm. Iris Burn hut is situated in a well sheltered valley and is a haven for sandflies. These little insects are, as their name suggests, brown in colour and are a little larger than a mosquito and they could have teeth, going by their bite.

Here in Iris Burn there are also a small number of kiwis in the wild. These are endangered flightless birds whose main enemies are the stoat and the rat. Some of the more energetic hikers stayed up and braved the sandflies to chance hearing the noisy kiwi call.

## Day 3

Our third day, Thursday 8th, started off with rain, but by the time we left the Iris Burn it had stopped. The walk was a low level one through a fragrant and flourishing rainforest alive with cicadas (noisy flying insects), bell birds, tuis, fantails, rifleman and silvereyes. We made good progress and reached the third hut, Moturau (185m) around 3pm. It was situated in a beautiful location beside Lake Manapouri. This was a very peaceful setting and we spent the evening chatting with other hikers and we all agreed how lucky we had been with the weather.

On Friday morning we walked a steady hour and a half through rainforest to get the 10am bus from Rainbow Reach back to Te Anau. Overall we had walked approximately 60km. It was a fantastic hike and it was an excellent way to experience some of New Zealand's unique natural environment. We would definitely recommend a visit to this beautiful country.

## **Lillian Grandfield**

*Matt and Lillian maintained a blog during their three weeks' holiday in New Zealand.*

*If you would like to read an account of their adventures and see many more photographs from the trip, go to:*

<http://mattandlily-nz2007.blogspot.com/>

---

# **SOCIAL CORNER**

---

## **INDIAN FOOD NIGHT**

Following the success of the Indian Food Night on previous occasions, our Social Co-ordinator has proposed a repeat of the experience for March.

**Location:** Shan Restaurant,  
Crowe Street, City Centre

**Date:** Friday, 23rd March

**Time:** 8 pm

Ring Steve Buckney for details and to book a place.

**Other suggestions welcome!**

---

# **CLUB NEWS**

---

**RETIREMENT:** Congratulations to Brian Madden who is retiring from his job as an Engineer with Upright Ireland Ltd, having worked with them since 1967.

We wish Brian well in his retirement and hope that he will take the opportunity to explore further new routes in the hills and introduce them to the Hillwalkers.

**OS MAPS:** The 4th edition of OS Sheet 56 was reprinted late last year and is available in a laminated version at the old price of €19.99.

A number of amendments and additions have been made, including for example St. Kevin's Way and the long established track leading from Castlekelly to the upper road in Glenasmole.

**BOOKS OF INTEREST:** The website of the South Dublin Libraries contains a number of books of interest to historians and walkers about the history of the area. The books can be downloaded from the website and some can be purchased from the County Council. They contain much

historical detail of the area and are well illustrated with photographs past and present. Among the books are 'Glenasmole Roads', 'Rathfarnham Roads' and 'If These Trees Could Speak', a detailed history of Massey's Estate, recently visited by the Hillwalkers and written by Frank Tracy.

Go to [www.southdublinlibraries.ie](http://www.southdublinlibraries.ie) and select Services/Local Studies/Books of Local Interest.

---

## HILLWALKERS CLUB Trip Announcements

---

### Easter Bank Holiday Weekend

*Reminder of departure and meeting details*

**Where:** Stena Line Departure Terminal, Dun Laoghaire  
**Date:** Thursday, 5th April  
**Time:** 10.15 am  
**Sailing:** 11 am sharp on HSS Stena Line Ferry to Holyhead

*Don't forget to bring Sterling currency!*

\*\*\*\*\*

### June Bank Holiday Weekend

**Tom Kenny** and **Philip Roche** are organising the June Bank Holiday Weekend. Walks in Connemara; accommodation in Ben Lettery Youth Hostel; transport by bus.

Further details of cost, hard and moderate walks, departure times etc. to be published in the April edition of *The Hillwalker*. Booking will open shortly after Easter.

\*\*\*\*\*

### August Bank Holiday Weekend

#### Trip to Austria

From **Thursday 2nd August**  
to **Tuesday 7th of August 2007**

Stay one night in Salzburg and four nights in Bad Ischl

If interested, please ring or text Frank Rooney for details after 14th March

---

## BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL WORLD TOUR 2007

---

The Banff Mountain Film Festival is an international film competition featuring the worlds' best footage on mountain subjects such as high altitude mountain climbing, ice and rock climbing,

mountain biking and whitewater kayaking. The programme is sponsored by Lowe Alpine and MSR with support from The Mountaineering Council of Ireland, Outsider and Walking World Ireland and UCC and UCD climbing clubs.

**Date:** Wed 21 March & Thur 22 March 2007  
**Venue:** Theatre M, Newman Building (Arts Block, UCD Campus) at 7.30pm  
**Tickets:** €15 available from Great Outdoors Chatham Street, (01) 679 4293

Programme details can be downloaded from <http://www.irishmountainfilmfestival.com>.

---

## FRIENDS OF HILLWALKING

---

The Irish Ramblers Club invites friends of hillwalking in the Republic of Ireland to join with them in forming a hillwalkers' interest group, which will be a one stop shop for everything to do with hill walking. The purposes of the group would be to give a sense of identity and purpose to hillwalking/walking/rambling in its own right as a national sport in Ireland, to provide services to hill walkers nationally and to provide a forum for hillwalkers' views on issues. While this new group does not set out to be a representative body, it would be similar in some ways to the Ulster Federation of Rambling Clubs (see its website [www.ufrc-online.co.uk](http://www.ufrc-online.co.uk)).

### Hillwalkers' Interest Group Meeting

**Date:** Saturday, 28th April 2007  
**Venue:** Red Cow Inn (adjacent to M50)  
**Time:** 2.30 pm

This exploratory meeting should last around two hours and aims to cover the following points:

- A short background presentation
- A presentation from the Ulster Federation of Rambling Clubs
- An introduction to the current proposal
- Discussion of special interests in groups
- Reporting about special interests to the main group
- Summary

There will be light refreshments.

Contact: Hill Walkers Interest Group, 17 Balally Drive, Dundrum, Dublin 16

---

## CHARITY TREK TO INDIA

---

CARI, Ireland's only voluntary organisation providing therapy and support services to children who have experienced the trauma of sexual abuse and their non-abusing family members, is organising their second international charity hike.

"The CARI Indian Adventure" will take place from 29th October to 8th November 2007 to raise much needed funds for their services.

This hike will see a group of people from all walks of life take part in this adventure of a lifetime. India is one of the most richly rewarding regions of the world to visit, its scenery being amongst the most varied and exciting on earth.

This superb trek is located in the foothills of the Himalayas, one of Nature's most magnificent mountain ranges, and we pass through the Kingdom of Gaddi, meet a semi nomadic race that wanders the high pastures with their sheep, enjoy some of the magnificent views of the Dhaula Dhar mountain range, visit a Tibetan Children's Village and explore the Dalai Lama's home and monastery. We finish our amazing adventure with a visit to the jewel in India's crown - the Taj Mahal, as well as the Amber Fort and finally a unique elephant-back safari just outside Jaipur's Pink City.

**Further details:** Carole on (01) 8611250; website: [www.cari.ie](http://www.cari.ie)

---

## COMMITTEE 2006/2007

---

Chairman	Frank Rooney
Secretary	Garry Byrne
Treasurer	Jim Barry
Membership	Donal Finn
Sunday Hikes	Garry Byrne
Social Events	Steve Buckney
Weekends	Mark Campion
Officer-at-large	Eoin Moroney
Newsletter	Barbara Sudrow

**Special thanks to:**

Webmaster	Matt Geraghty
Distribution	Pearse Foley & Cyril McFeeney