



# Pathway to waterfall re-opened

By SARAH WATERS

After two years, Te Aroha Tramping Club members have completed a track which will lead people to three spectacular waterfalls.

A 100-year-old track, which starts near the bottom of Mt Te Aroha and leads to Tutumangao Waterfall, has been remade by club members.

Project manager Colin Hallett said for the past two years the group of 30 members had been working away with the Department of Conservation to get the track in good working order.

"The council said they didn't want any more tracks opened, but we explained that this wasn't a new track – it's been here since 1901," Mr Hallett said. "What we wanted to do was put steps in and make it more accessible," he said.

**IN VIEW:** Colin Hallett admires the Tutumangao Waterfall from the lookout he and his fellow Te Aroha Tramping Club members built.

Over several working bees the group pitched in to build steps, shift bags of dirt to fill them, clear new pathways and replant trees. New railing on top of a rockface opposite the waterfall has also been built to provide a safe platform for people to view the surrounding scenery.

Mr Hallett said the new track would make it easier and safer for people to view the striking waterfall as well as two others in close proximity. "We're the only place in New Zealand which has three waterfalls within a half-hour walking distance from the town. We hope the new track will bring a lot more visitors to Te Aroha."

After all the work the group put in to get the track in good working order, which included supplying their own materials as well as labour, Mr Hallett said he was really pleased that it was finally completed. "It's always been my dream to get it opened. We fought long and hard and now we've finally got it."

\*Access to the waterfalls can be gained from Te Aroha Domain or off Miro St by the youth hostel.

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