

## HK Natural History Society Hike - 19th March 2017

### Ho Chung to Yau Tong

On a bright sunny day a bus-load headed out to have the best hike in the greatest conditions, that would never be beaten, and everyone found it fantastic. Excellent Fake News!

Now for the real news. On an overcast foggy day with thunderstorms predicted, half a



bus-load of stalwart, intrepid, umbrella-packing Members headed into the country park under the capable leadership of Rose Godfrey and friend Nigel Tuff. Organiser Mal had unfortunately had to go to the UK on urgent family business.

Great excitement ensued on the first bridge as a turtle/terrapin was seen swimming in the stream below. Excitement continued to mount as several birds were

seen or heard on the farm land we were passing through. Birdman Ted identified them as Blue Magpies, Bul Buls, and others whose names I have forgotten.



After passing out of the flat farmland and reaching the Wilson Trail, many dogs were heard. At the first coffee break three people walked passed with several dogs on leashes. Apparently there is a dog shelter close by with over 100 dogs that need daily exercise. Any dog walkers can volunteer - check google for details.

The next excitement was the spotting of a huge Escargot out enjoying a slide in the rain and the keen-eyed Frenchman's thoughts turned to dinner.



With the rain becoming heavier, Chung, Rose and Nigel decided to shorten the hike and finish on Clearwater Bay Rd. There were no complaints. One blessing of the rain was that with an umbrella up I was spared the wearing of the blessing from a large bird flying overhead.

Many thanks to Nigel, Rose, and Chung for managing the hike and logistics and to everyone for being flexible when changes were made. Having miserable weather made us appreciate the other hikes when the weather has been more kind.

*Report by Rob Irwin. Thanks for two photos from Elizabeth Eccleston, and Wikipedia for the Blue Magpie photo.*