



# THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

**WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)**

PO Box 685, Hamilton 3240 • [www.wtc.org.nz](http://www.wtc.org.nz)

April 2021



Autumn delights - step y step photo by Dave White

# WAIKATO HUT

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Tongariro National Park



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Autumn glory Dianne June

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**WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB**  
**P. O. Box 685, Hamilton 3240 • [www.wtc.org.nz](http://www.wtc.org.nz)**  
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**Inc**  
**Ruapehu Mountain Clubs Association**

**BULLETIN No 825**

**March 2021**

**General Committee**

(Contact details listed below)

**President:** Judith Bogle 027 3810283  
**Secretary:** Dorothy Cawdron 027 7424222  
**Treasurer:** Guy Domett treasurer@wtc.org.nz 027 2483008  
**Immediate past president:** Selwyn June  
**Members:** John McArthur (VP Tramp) Stephen Prendergast (VP Ski)  
Stephen Phillips Allan Wickens Lois Rowell  
Mike Nightingale 8562394

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**Tramping Subcommittee**

**Tramping email:** waikatotrampingclub@gmail.com

**Chairperson:** John McArthur mcarthur@outlook.co.nz 021 2889641  
**Secretary:** Dorothy Cawdron **Treasurer:** Guy Domett  
**Club Captain:** Allan Wickens 027 9509546  
**Membership:** Lois Rowell 027 2881148  
**Web & Facebook:** Rizal Razak 021 2676566  
**Transport:** Ashley Hoskin 027 4909545  
**Social convenor:** Jacqui Dick 021 1375201  
**Sub-committee:** Selwyn June 027 4978151

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**Ski Subcommittee**

**Ski email:** waikatoski@gmail.com **Waikato Hut phone:** 07 8923821  
**Chairperson:** Stephen Prendergast 021 466247  
**Bookings:** Stephen Prendergast 021 466247  
**Finance officer:** Michael Barker 021 2463500  
**Members:** Steve Phillips 021 1031436  
Mary Reed 021 1185107

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**Bulletin:** Lesley Kuggeleijn 027 4942414  
**Editor & Club Librarian:** Dianne June djune@xtra.co.nz 07 8433066

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**Waikato Tramping Club account: 03 1555 0091625 02 (include the trip no.)**

### **Club night, Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> May**

The evening will begin with a photo presentation from the Hump Ridge trip in March.

**Van Watson will be our guest speaker** for this club night. Originally from Hamilton, Van started caving at high school which led to various expeditions to the mountains of north-west Nelson then on to Papua New Guinea. His talk and images are from PNG in the early 1970's and about adventure in general. Van has worked in forestry, mineral exploration, venison recovery, possum trapping and more recently operations manager for Black Water Rafting. Van has recently, along with Paul Caffyn, published a book about wandering around looking for 'the Deepest Hole in the World'

**Come along to hear this very interesting talk about caving adventures plus we will run through our usual preview of the next two months of tramping trips on offer.**

**Social Night on May 21st:** Come along to a Movie night and enjoy a BBQ with your tramping colleagues. Graham and Andrea Haines will host the occasion at their home 9 Alison St., 6.30pm onwards. BYO meat to cook, refreshments, and a dish to share. We'll have the main course, watch half the movie, have dessert and coffee then watch the rest of the movie. Enquiries to the hosts 8395932. Cost \$20

### **ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2021**

**The sub-committee meeting of February decided to increase the differential transport cost between members and non-members to \$10.**

2939	17/18 Apr	M	Whirinaki	Les Warren
2940	24-26 Apr	E/M	Egmont Nat. Park	Allan Wickens
2941	2 May	E	Cycling Hamilton	David Cumming
2942	8/9 May	E	70 <sup>th</sup> Reunion-Hamilton	Selwyn June
2943	15/16 May	E/M	70 <sup>th</sup> Reunion-Waikato Hut	Selwyn June
	21 May		Film night	Graham & Andrea Haines
2944	22/23 May	E/M	Crosbie Hut	Mike Peck
2945	30 May	E	Te Akau Beach	John McArthur
2946A	5-7 June	F	Ruapehu Traverse	Mike Peck
2946B	5-7 June	M/F	Northern circuit	Les Warren
2947	13 June	M	Wentworth Valley	John Wilson
2950	3 / 4 July	M	Snowcraft I	Mike Peck/ Jacqui Dick

Don't let a lack of equipment deter you from coming on a trip. Talk to the trip leader - who may be able to assist with lending or sharing gear.

### **TIME and FITNESS GUIDELINES**

**E** = **Easy**. Up to 4 hours per day, pace slower than E/M.

**E/M** = **Easy/Medium**. Up to 5-6 hours/day, pace slower than M.

**M** = **Medium**. Up to 6-7 hours/day, at standard walking pace.

**M/F** = **Medium/Fit**. Up to 7-8 hours/day, pace faster than M.

**F** = **Fit**. Over 8 hours/day, pace faster than M/F.

Note that factors such as party size, fitness, weather, terrain and leadership will influence actual times, so the above are estimates only.

**Bookings and Cancellations: no later than the WEDNESDAY before the trip.** Any person withdrawing after this day without good reason will be charged the full cost of the trip.

**DONT FORGET: You can book online from our website too. Please give your landline when making a booking.**

**Departure Point:** Trips depart from the river end of London Street. Cars can be parked, facing the road, in the car park on the right at the end of the cul de sac. If in doubt contact your trip leader.

**Weekend Trips:** leave on Friday nights at 7pm sharp unless otherwise stated.

**Day Trips:** leave Sunday mornings at 8am sharp.

If someone is concerned because a trip is late back, contact:

1) Club Captain; 2) President; 3) committee member.

### **Minimum equipment required:**

**Day Trips:** A thermal layer (polypropylene, polyester etc or wool), an insulating layer of fleece (polartec etc) or wool and a water/wind-proof parka outer shell. Shorts or longjohns/over-trousers in cool or wet weather. Torch and sunscreen. Boots or strong shoes. Lunch, snacks and water bottle. First aid kit.

**Weekend Trips:** The above plus pack with plastic liner bag, sleeping bag, tent, sleeping mat, cooker, billy, plate or bowl, spoon, food, spare dry clothes for evening, towel, toilet gear, light camp shoes. A water purifier can be useful. Plus, in extreme weather or country: additional warm top, over-trousers or woollen/fleece trousers, warm outdoor mittens or gloves, over-mitts, warm hat or balaclava, sunglasses. Ice axe and crampons for snow.

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## **Trip Descriptions**

**Trip 2939**

**Moerangi Hut/Whirinaki**

**17/18 April**

This trip will follow the Moerangi Track, which is a dual use track with mountain bikers, in the lovely Whirinaki Forest. The track is well-graded. I have walked a number of the tracks in this wonderful forest.

The plan is to drive to Minginui Friday night so we can have an early start Saturday morning. Walk from Okahu Road end to Moerangi Hut (9 bunks, but space to camp) via Skips Hut and Rogers Hut; 7hrs to Moerangi Hut. There is a very good chance to see whio (blue ducks) along the section to Rogers Hut and plenty of kiwi calls at nightfall around Moerangi Hut.

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> – A easier day (in time) to the River Road Carpark (4-5hrs). The first couple of hours involve a big climb up to the Moerangi Saddle at 955m (Moerangi Hut is at 500m) then it is mainly downhill / flat the rest of the way.

A good overnight trip for those looking at extending their challenge from day trips. However, you will need to be reasonably fit to carry overnight sleeping gear, food and cooking equipment, as well as suitable tramping gear.

By using the local shuttle services, the van driver can join in on the trip. If the van driver is not interested in joining us, then we will use the van for drop-off and pick-up. I have made preliminary enquiries for the shuttle service and accommodation and all is available for us at this stage.

**Leader:** Les Warren

**Ph:** 027 864 4937

**Grade:** M

**Email:** warrenlb2017@outlook.com

**Transport:** Shuttle from Minginui to start and finish points. Cost tba

If a van is used: Senior member \$50-75

Senior non-member: \$60-85

**Accommodation:** At Whirinaki Forest accommodation Friday 17th. Cost tba.

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## **Trip 2940**

## **Egmont National Park**

## **24-26 April**

Over this long weekend, we will look at doing a variety of tramping trips at Egmont National Park (Mount Taranaki). Initially we travel down to North Egmont where the plan is to stay Friday night at *The Camphouse*. This is an historic building clad in original corrugated iron from the time of the New Zealand/Maori Wars. From there, on Saturday, our group/s can do parts of the Round the Mountain walk, to the eastern and southern sides (Stratford Plateau and Dawson Falls) or north to Holly Hut and the Pouakais. Depending on the weather and the group/s wishes, pick-ups can be done at the end of each day and some re-positioning can be done as well. Sunday may be a repeat of Saturday, with further options for doing other tracks. This is a time to knock off a few of the tracks you've always wanted to do, without the worry of limited hut space as we can stay at *The Camphouse* each night, or you can book into/stay at huts at the end of each day yourself as well as camp.

This means the driver/s will be doing a fair bit of work over the weekend. Ideally, we will have enough participants to make it economical to have two vans. This means more flexibility in what we do. Otherwise, feel free to base yourselves at *The Camphouse* and do lots of short walking from there – as well as having a relaxing (easy level) weekend.

Please note: Bookings are essential well in advance for *The Camphouse*. The whole complex sleeps 34 people in 5 rooms (4 rooms have 8 bunks) and one room sleeps 2. It is largely self-contained with cooking gear, showers, and a

communal lounge with heating. The cost is \$25 per night (child 5-17 \$10.) We are aiming to get two vans with around 20-22 people going on this trip. NOTE: There is no intention to climb Mount Egmont/Taranaki over this weekend. As it is autumn, there may well be fresh snow on the heights. This is the most problematical time to climb as the mountain will also be quite icy with frozen scoria.

**Leader:** Allan Wickens

**Ph:** 027 950 9546

**Grades:** E-M

**Email:** *allanwickens@hotmail.com*

**Accommodation:** The cost at the Camphouse is \$25 per night (child 5-17yr \$10)

**Transport:** Senior member \$60-90

Senior non-member: \$70-100

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### **Trip 2941**

### **Te Awa river ride**

**2 May**

This is a cycle trip alongside the Waikato River from Hamilton to Ngaruawahia and return. A feature of the trip is the Perry Bridge. The trip is on off-road shared path and the cycling time is about 2.5 hours (return). There will be a coffee stop at Breaking Bread Café, Ngaruawahia. We will meet at 9:30am at the car park on Delamare Road, St Andrews. There is a limit to the number of participants on this trip, so please book early.

**Leader:** David Cumming

**Ph:** 8397850

**Grade:** E

**Email:** *david.cumming@xtra.co.nz*

**Transport:** On yer bike.

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### **Trips 2942 & 2943**

### **70<sup>th</sup> Reunion**

**8/9<sup>th</sup> May & 15/16<sup>th</sup> May**

As part of the 70th reunion we will be organising a tramp from the Pirongia Lodge on Sunday morning, leaving at 9am. If you are not staying at the Lodge please arrange to be at the Lodge by this time or let us know whether you would like to carpool in private transport. We will walk from the Lodge along the Mangakaraa loop, link, and Tirohanga tracks to Ruapane. Those wishing to move faster could head for the summit and/or Pahautea Hut. Afternoon tea back at the Lodge may encourage you to get back in time for some tasty treats.

The following weekend at Waikato Hut we are planning to have the Hut open on Friday afternoon. On Saturday we can walk or Gondola ride up to Knoll ridge and then walk the newish walk from the café to the Pinnacles ridge across the top of Te Heu Heu valley. Of course, if you just want to soak up the atmosphere in the Hut (i.e. relax on the deck with a nice book or good company) that is acceptable too. Keen walkers might like to aim for the Crater lake, others could do any of the other shorter or longer walks in the vicinity. If there are enough people interested, we could look at taking a bus or van. Please book in via the website and note your preference for transport.

**Leaders:** Dianne & Selwyn June

**Ph:** 027 4978151

**Grades:** E-M

**Email:** *selwynjune@xtra.co.nz*

**Accommodation:** \$30/night.

**Full catering:** \$40/person

**Transport:** Senior member \$60-90

Senior non-member: \$70-100

**Trip 2944****Crosbie Hut****22/23 May**

We will be heading to Thames on Saturday morning. The track begins from Karaka Road end and follows Karaka Stream, passing historic mining tunnels driven into the hillside. The track summits a ridge, revealing views deep into the Coromandel forest to the south. We will then reach a rocky outcrop known as the red-rocks, dyed bright red by lichen and providing the best viewpoint of the trip. At the junction with Waiotahi track, we will turn right heading towards Crosbie Hut. We'll take the same route down the next day.

As this is an on-line booking hut, you may need to book your bunk (10 bunks) or campsite (5 sites) on-line at <https://bookings.doc.govt.nz/Web/Default.aspx>, please do check with the trip leader.

**Leader:** Rizal Razak**Ph:** 021 267 6566**Grade:** E/M**Email:** [rizrak@gmail.com](mailto:rizrak@gmail.com)**Transport:** Senior member \$50-75

Senior non-member: \$60-85

**Trip 2945****Te Akau Beach****30 May**

This is a visit to the coastline north of Raglan (Whaingaroa) Harbour. We will walk cross farmland to the coast, then head south to view the intriguing pancake rock formations protruding out into the sea, where I have seen huge numbers of crabs on the rocks.

If it's a clear day we should be able to admire Mt Taranaki from a distance. Heading north, we explore along the beach (Carters Beach) where there are unusual erosion shapes. We then return back over the farm. An easy walk that would suit young and old.



Pancake rocks at Carters Beach



Carters beach rocks

photos by Dianne June

**Leader:** John McArthur**Ph:** 021 2889641**Grade:** E**Email:** [mcarthur@outlook.co.nz](mailto:mcarthur@outlook.co.nz)**Transport:** Senior member \$25-30

Senior non-member: \$35-40



**Trip 2946A** **Ruapehu Traverse** **5-7 June**

We'll drive down to the Waikato Hut on the Friday night. Early start on Saturday, we'll head up towards Dome and around the Crater lake and down the Mangaturuturu glacier. At around the 2300m contour, there's a side around to the Turoa ski field and we'll head down to the Winter Garden. From here we're onto the ridge that leads to Blyth Hut for our nights accommodation. Sunday is a walk from Blyth Hut on the Round the mountain track to Tukino Village. An early start on Monday and we head up the Tukino Skifield and the Mangatoetoenui Glacier to the Plateau and back down to the Waikato Hut. This is an ambitious trip that will require good weather and snow conditions and is rated Fit. Snowcraft experience essential.

**Leader:** John McArthur **Ph:** 021 2889641 **Grade:** F

**Email:** *mcArthur@outlook.co.nz*

**Transport:** Senior member \$60-90 Senior non-member: \$70-100

**Accommodation:** Waikato Hut \$30 senior member. Blyth Hut, Tukino, TBA

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**Trip 2946B** **Tongariro northern circuit** **5-7 June**

Travel Friday night to Waikato Hut. Weekend plan is to get the two longer days done first and have an easier day for our last day out.

Sat 5<sup>th</sup> – Whakapapa Village to Waihohonu Hut (28 bunks) – 5-6hrs

Sun 6<sup>th</sup> – Waihohonu Hut to Mangatepopo Hut (20 bunks) via Oturere Hut – 8hrs

Mon 7<sup>th</sup> – Mangatepopo Hut to Whakapapa Village – 4hrs

May have time for some side trips such as check out the Tama Lakes, Blue Lake and Ohinepango Springs (near Waihohonu Hut).

More details to come closer to the trip but, there is a lot of good DoC information on the Internet to study. May need to be prepared for snow conditions and definitely colder weather.

**Leader:** Les Warren **Ph:** 027 864 4937 **Grade:** M/F

**Email:** *warrenlb2017@outlook.com*

**Transport:** Senior member \$60-90 Senior non-member: \$70-100

**Accommodation:** Waikato Hut: \$30 senior member. DoC huts : TBA

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**Trip 2947** **Wentworth Valley** **13 June**

The Wentworth Valley lies inland from Whangamata and a track leads right up its length. We'll follow this track and after about 3 kms will view the impressive Wentworth Falls, comprising two drops of about 20 metres. Climbing a little more steeply after the falls we soon get to the top of the range and will head north on the ridge along the Maratoto Loop Track, but continue on beyond it to a local high point called Gold Mount. We will then backtrack a little to pick up another track which leads back down into the Wentworth, passing an old mine shaft on the way.

**Leader:** John Wilson **Ph:** 021 1682082 **Grade:** M

**Transport:** Senior member \$25-30 Senior non-member: \$35-40

## Trip 2950

## Snowcraft I

3 / 4 July

This is one of the most popular trips we run each year and for good reason. It is aimed at introducing you to the alpine environment in which you will learn valuable skills to safely enjoy it.

The basics of Snowcraft will be taught on Saturday including how to use crampons and ice axes, self-arrest, how to walk on icy slopes, navigation tips, basic avalanche awareness plus what to wear etc.

On Sunday the aim is to offer a couple of options of day walks in which to practice what you have learnt. Options may include the summit of Ruapehu or up to the Pinnacles lookout. This is very much weather dependent.

Given reasonable weather, by the end of the weekend you will understand the principles behind the rather complex concept of "Snowcraft". Like anything else in life, it takes a lot of practice and a genuine understanding of what is real and perceived danger when entering into the snow and ice heights such as Ruapehu. Our leaders have been doing this sort of thing for years and yet they never fail to be fascinated by the world of snow and ice.

The departure time will be early evening on Friday 2nd July. We will be based at our very comfortable and warm Lodge on Mt Ruapehu for the weekend. All meals are provided. Costs include transport, accommodation plus food.

A full list of gear will be provided. Crampons and ice axes can be hired from the club.

Note: Health & Safety requirements mean participants need to be Waikato Tramping club members. Annual membership is \$50 per person. **Grade: M**

**Leaders:** Mike Peck **Ph:** 021 369 256 **Email:** [mikeypeck@yahoo.com](mailto:mikeypeck@yahoo.com)

Jacqui Dick **Ph:** 021 1375 201 **Email:** [jacquimd@me.com](mailto:jacquimd@me.com)

**Transport:** Senior member \$60-90 Senior non-member: \$70-100

**Hut fees and food costs:** TBC

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## *Editorial*

Party time is coming folks! A big part of why the club has existed for so long is the social aspect of our like-minded interest. Of course, the other important part is that by belonging to a club, we avail ourselves of opportunities to go to places that are not easily accessible as individuals or independent trampers. The convenience of having a driver move a vehicle from the start to finishing points cannot be surpassed. And now we can celebrate all this at the upcoming reunion. I have seen many changes within the club over the 40 & a bit years I've been in the club and I am sure looking forward to catching up with many past members who have helped make my membership a worthwhile one. If you are new to the club don't hold back from attending. You will hear more stories than you can throw a book at and even learn something new, not the least of which is how the club has got to where it is now.

Welcome to the new office holders. I look forward to working with you.

## *Presidential Blog*

I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself. I have been with the club for more than 10 years and for the last couple I have been the secretary.

I have been involved with trip leading, leadership course, and traversed many tracks in New Zealand. Everyone will know me by my laugh. I love tramping and exploring. Selwyn has been a great President due to his calm and thoughtful demeanour. He has set a standard for the requirements needed to be President and I hope to be able to live up that standard. Thank you Selwyn for all that you have done in the past and the guidance you have given.

The club in the past has provided a great range of opportunities for trampers from the extreme who like to do long hours and high mountains, and to those who like to enjoy the social aspects and natural environment. This leads me to encourage those who have ideas for other opportunities to come to me so that we can develop the ideas and make them happen. My door is always open.

I enjoy the camaraderie and support we give each other in the club and I wish this to continue for many decades to come. Like that which has happened in the last 70 years the club has existed. Happy tramping everyone.

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### *from the Ski Club...*

I write this monthly update targeting the tramping members in the hope that it will prod more people to take advantage of the Hut - year round. I mention this in the face of falling summer occupancy - which is a key tramping window of opportunity. This is an ongoing challenge and has at time led to club wide discussions on the retention of the Hut. I mentioned at the AGM that the prospect of increased impact from climate change would be to reduce the usable skiing terrain and attractiveness over the medium term. I'm considering the 20 - 40 yr timeframe. Hopefully it's no shorter.

Much of the lower mountain now depends on manufactured snow for its' operation before August and after September. This window will only further narrow in the coming years. However, this has a smaller impact on Alpine Tramping which doesn't rely on ski lifts or gondolas. Or fancy restaurants. Not that this isn't enjoyable from time to time. As we approach winter there are also plenty of opportunities to take advantage of mid-week availability - which also presents less congested ski field scenarios, better parking options and a generally more enjoyable experience.

With that in mind I would urge you to take advantage of the upcoming snowcraft courses which have of late started to feature as many non-club members as club members. It would be good to turn this around.

Stephen Prendergast, Ski Team Leader

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## **Mid-week Walks & Tramps**

We are going to continue with the current format for these having a walk or tramp on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. The activities have proven to

be as varied as the group is and the communication via the Mid-week W & T s Group page on WhatsApp is working well. If you would like to be part of this communication please download WhatsApp on your phone & text your request to Sharon 021 458 525.

A group of us enjoyed the Matemateonga Track in the Whanganui National Park area in mid-December. This is a lovely 4-day tramp along a ridge line that offers spectacular views and has a series of good huts but the distance between start & finish make it a difficult tramp to organise. We achieved our goal by having 2 groups, one going from each end and doing a car swap with a reorganise at Taumarunui on the way back to Hamilton. On speaking with the team from Whanganui River Adventures we found they will organise a shuttle service for trampers from their Campground at Pipiriki, a service that may well work for some trampers who would have liked to join us but couldn't on the dates we chose.

At the end of May into early June a group of us are tramping the Paparoa Track. There is 1 spot available in our transport from Nelson so contact Sharon if you are interested and we can see if there is any availability remaining at the Huts.

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## Trip Reports

**Trip 2894**

**Northern Hapuakohe  
Off track in Supplejack**

**9<sup>th</sup> Aug**

The weather had delivered a useful settled day as our two parties converged at our designated meet point at Kaihere School. The 50 minutes travel makes this a relative doorstep destination. At the school, the north-bound party of Peter and Stephen (scribe) were joined by John, Merlyn, Dale, Judith and Amanda. Straight up Ohinewai Road, we located parking roadside below the track-road junction. The track was holding up to recent rainfall pretty well, and the vegetation hadn't encroached significantly. The first few kilometres wound us through tawa, pigeon wood, pukatea, some puriri and rimu. By the 4th kilometre a useful climb took us to the bush - farm boundary. Similar topology straddling a fence and grassed on one side.

We'd had a few minor detours up to that point - it was a classic lightly maintained track - maintained in general by passing traffic rather than more structured approaches. Between the roots and the dry but muddy underfoot the weaving around obscured track lines was inevitable. We reached the first lookout in about 3 hours - but I did not find the views more memorable than the surrounding forest. It was shortly after that the South bound team came through the treeline. An exchange of keys and notes on the route ahead was had. We speculated that their start had been a little more prompt than ours. We were clearly somewhat behind schedule, with their report of 4 hours of travelling to our 3 and a bit. Shortly afterwards our climb upwards abated. It was actually the predominant direction to that point. We crested the brow and started on the steep

descent the southward party had reported. Following the fence-line we took the steep descent with appropriate caution. And then the track became ... elusive. Our leader turned away from the fence, comforted the unsure and plunged us into a melange of supplejack. We continued down. It was Kafkaesque. Difficult to escape and a predetermined outcome that rivalled a Hitchcock thriller. We were off track in supplejack. The next 20 minutes we manoeuvred through the spindly tendons, crossed the creek and ascended back to the track proper. Climbing from the creek back onto the undulating path eventually took us to the final descent which returned to groomed forest, a well-formed road and the vehicles we'd be using to return us to the Kaihere school where our own transport had been delivered. As I hadn't been anywhere for a while it was a great day trip that was very accessible and is a treat with an opposing party to provide the key swap. Thanks to John for the organisation.

## Trip 2929

## Ivory Lake

1-7 Mar

We gathered at the Top Ten holiday park in the West Coast town of Ross to prepare for our 7-day tramp to Ivory Lake Hut. While we enjoyed a sunny afternoon the weather forecast wasn't great for the following week but we secretly hoped it was wrong in our favour. Our shuttle arrived early the following morning and we were at the track start at 8.00am. There is a 2 hour walk between the Waitaha river and farmland before entering the bush and the start of the track proper. We had to climb a ladder and a chain section to get up a bluff and begin the sidle that got us well above a gorged section of the river. The track was well marked but fairly rough, what you'd expect from a track in the heart of Westland with low usage



The swing bridge

Photo by Mike Peck

with DoC markers for about 45min and then the permlat markers begin at the start of a long sidle above the Waitaha Gorge. The track was ok, a bit overgrown in places with a smattering of tree fall but any wrong turns were corrected quickly and finally a steep descent to the river.

Another 2 hours of tramping and we descended back to the river and across a swing bridge with its impressive view of the Morgan Gorge to Kiwi Flat. We arrived at Kiwi Flat Hut 30 min later for our lunch break. The track from here is well marked

Light rain started as we boulder hopped up the river, progress was slow at times



Rupert outside Kiwi flat Hut

Photo by Mike Peck

and we needed the rope to haul up packs in one section. We crossed the Moonbeam Torrent and arrived at Moonbeam Hut at 7.00pm. John A got the fire going quickly and we discussed our plans as the rain continued. It soon became fairly obvious we couldn't go on, as the following day, being the crux of the trip, was estimated at 12-14 hours of tramping with at least 8 hours of traversing up the river. The rain was steadier through the night and our concern grew at being able to return and getting across the Torrent which is about 20min back from the Hut. In the morning it was decided that rather than go for an inspection, we'd pack up knowing we might have to return. The Moonbeam Torrent, a major stream feeding into the Waitaha river wasn't as high as we expected but we did have to go upstream to find a safe crossing point. The rest of the river travel was ok, the rain was persistent but light. We arrived for lunch at the point where the track starts ascending away from the river and were able to enjoy 20 minutes of no rain and watch a pair of Whio. The rain started again and we hastily packed up and climbed back up well above the river and arrived at Kiwi Flat Hut about 3pm. John A once again got the fire going before getting out of his wet gear, great effort John, and we had a pleasant evening in a great forest service 6 bunk hut with the fire and a long game of 500 into the night. The following morning, we got the raingear back on and headed out to meet our shuttle driver. Just as we thought we'd negotiated the tricky points on the way out we came to an unnamed side creek that required a bush bash upstream to find a safe crossing point. It took us two hours to get across and we had to use the inReach to notify our later than expected arrival to meet the shuttle. Back in Ross we celebrated our Moonbeam Hut return tramp with an all you can eat meal at the Historic Empire hotel. Our team was Mike P, John A, Callum, Steve C and Rupert.

**Trip 2936**

**The chasm & Waiorongomai**

**28 Mar**

Having never tramped in the Waiorongomai area before I was looking forward to our adventure. After 3 pickups along the way we arrived at the carpark at 9.00am

where Noleen and Sharon met us and after the usual introductions, we headed off up the Low-Level loop track. It was generally easy walking & most of us were happy chatting to each other. We made a quick decision which track to take and ended up facing the Butler's Incline. Having never seen this before it was certainly a challenge on my fitness level! At 400 metres up into the bush and a 25° angle it was a heart pumping start to the day. After a well-deserved break at the top to all get our breath we then followed the Piako County Tramway at a steady pace which turned into a short but dark tunnel & an hour or so later we arrived at Premier creek. John, our leader, then guided us with some bush bashing for about 25 mins only to discover it was getting quite difficult so we turned around & came back out onto the track. After a quick lunch most of the group



How far to the bottom?

Photographer: Chris Deverson

except 3 that stayed back while others bush-bashed their way up about 180 metres or more to the 'chasm' a gaping deep trench in the ground.

While bush-bashing their way back down the hill there were some close calls with large rocks rolling down which had come loose. We then made our way down the May Queen incline and continued to tramp out at a nice steady pace, reaching the car park just after 4pm. We stopped to have the usual 'ice cream' tradition at a nice dairy in Te Aroha. Everyone had a nice pleasant day out & I am looking forward to doing more tracks in this area. Thanks again to John McA for driving the van and leading our trip, it's always a pleasure. Tramp crew were: John M, Marianne, Sharon, Noleen, Callum, Aaron, Chris, Peter, Theresa, Judith and scribe Nette6

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## Trip 2935

## Kaimai South-North

21-25 Mar

### Day 1 Fungi and Fire

Four of us, John, Jean, Jane and Tameem, departed Hamilton at 8am, kindly transported by Merlyn. We met up with our leader Rizal in Cambridge, where Tameem joined him in his car for the drive to the top of the Kaimai Range on SH 29. Our epic 5-day tramp covering the full length of the North-South Kaimai track began here. We farewelled Rizal's wife and daughter and set off with Merlyn accompanying us. Heading along the track we encountered a number of people out for a Sunday walk, including one who later messaged J&J's son in London to confirm that it was his parents he'd just seen on a Kaimai trek! At the junction with the north branch of the Henderson Tramline track we rested while Merlyn had an early lunch before retracing her steps to the car.

We continued along the North-South track where a feature of our route was the abundance of fungi: this was the start of our fascination with them and numerous photographs were taken. Our day's walk was very enjoyable in great weather and we arrived at 12-bunk Te Whare Okioki (The Resting Place) in time to refresh ourselves before preparing our evening meal. It was quite cold in the hut so Jane – firefighter extraordinaire entertained herself establishing and maintaining a very welcome fire. We enjoyed the luxury of solar powered lighting then retired to our bunks well pleased with our first day. (Scribe: Jean W)



A stream crossing

Photo by John Wilson

### Day 2

After a warm night in Te Whare Okioki hut, we were up around 6:30am. Everyone soon was busy making breakfast and hot drinks. We packed up, swept



the floor, took a photo in front of the hut, and took off North at 8am. It quickly warmed up and we took off a layer of clothes 15 minutes later. Lunch was taken at a very beautiful waterfall after the Wairere falls track and North-south track junction – a must stop spot! (Trip leader’s note: there is a signage by the KRT informing of the “diversion”) We arrived at Poupou stream campsite before 4pm and had another early dinner and early bedtime. (Scribe: Tameem S)

### Day 3

Compared to the Day 2 tramp, the third day became more difficult and longer. The original plan of third day was from Poupou Stream to Te Rereatukahia hut. As the track is up and down and slippery, the group walked separately in 2 parts. Four of us walked in front and Rizal was back at a certain distance. By about 1:30pm the first of 4 people had arrived at Motutapere hut waiting for Rizal. Half an hour later, when Rizal arrived with painful face, two knees were deemed dirty, with scratched skin as he had slipped and fallen. As circumstances changed, the group decided on staying at Motutapere hut for the night hoping Rizal’s injury was not too bad. (Scribe: Jane S)

### Day 4

A night’s rest hadn’t changed Rizal’s situation and he wasn’t going to be walking anywhere. I phoned 111 and spoke to the police, resulting in a big yellow rescue helicopter from Tauranga coming in to land at the helipad just above the hut. Rizal hobbled and was assisted up and into the chopper.



A quicker exit than planned

Photo by John Wilson

The crew wondered about taking him to the park near his home in Cambridge, but

higher powers vetoed that as unjustified expenditure and so Rizal was raised up into the sky for the 10 minute flight to Tauranga.

Now being behind schedule, we decided to finish our trip at Waiorongomai and to take an easy day to Te Rereatukahia Hut. As we clambered up and down the crags and ladders in the next section of the range we commented how impossible that would have been for Rizal. The views were great! Soon we dropped down to Tuahu Saddle and a much easier track. We stopped for lunch in one of the grassy areas up from the saddle and then continued on to the hut. It was good to have a break, and to dry out tents and do some washing during the afternoon.

(Scribe: John W)

### Day 5

A bit of texting with John McArthur had reinforced that we had a long day ahead so we got away by 7:45. More nice views all round were had from Baldy and then there was a scramble bit over and down from Tangitu, but the going was pretty good, apart from the trail being hard to find on some of the grassy tops. Wahine Rock looked as impressive as ever. Then we came to uncleared track and our progress slowed. The Cashmores Clearing sign (with Cashmores reference removed, because the track is now closed) was welcome as Auckland TC had worked on the track north and we were again able to make good progress.

We stopped for lunch along the way and by 2pm were on Pylon. The last stretch down to Waiorongomai Loop Road was hard on our tired legs but after two hours we arrived and greeted John McA and Peter A, waiting to take us back to Hamilton (thanks guys). We had been 8 hours on the go.

It was most unfortunate that leader Rizal was injured, but the trip itself was most enjoyable, with the unpampered nature of much of the track reminding Jean and myself of what tramping used to be like when we started out. It also gave Tameem some good practice at following a sometimes obscure track, with Jane happily and ably acting as our Tail End Charlie.

Thanks Rizal for organising the trip and we hope you have a speedy recovery from your injuries and thanks to everyone for your good companionship. There is just a little unfinished business!!

(Scribe : John W)

### **Trip 2937**

### **Mt Hikurangi**

**2-5 Apr**

Travelled down to Whakatane on the Thursday night and then onto the start of the track on the Friday morning. Be aware there is a cloned word used for this trip report "nasty". You will see this crop up in the report on the odd occasion.

There was a Waka at the start of the track which had been brought up for repair. We had a look and proceeded up the track which was a 900m climb on a farm 4WD track, up to a sideways track that took about 10 mins to the carvings. A few of us went to see the carvings, I felt there was an American Indian feel to some of them. After this the track to the hut was rougher and fairly steep. Once we got to the hut the views across the valley and out to sea were great. In fact, there was a great sunset. The hut I am told has had a lot of work done to it as per John's quote "really".

The lower bunks were dubious and I am sure there are frequent over stayers (rats) there when no one is around. The toilet, well that was plain out "nasty". My advice: keep the door open with the toilet lid and ponder the great view. But that night the card antics start and there was quick draw "nasty" card playing. In other words, there were some hands received by players that gave no one else a chance to get into the game.

Overnight there was rain and the weather was pretty windy, so we waited until the wind dropped and left about 10.45am. Once we had done the initial steep climb, we went around the side of the mountain to the flattish area and sat out of the wind to wait for the clouds to pass. We were there a while. After this we carried onto the shute, where it was steep and rocky and we had to watch not to dislodge rocks. After we reached the saddle there was a narrow track to the right to the trig which was not easy navigating and the track was not wide. We made it to the top 1752m high. Waited for the clouds to move and gained a spectacular view of the valley and out to sea. We were also lucky with the wind because the next day it was so windy there was no way we would have climbed up there.

The next day we walked back to the van and then went sightseeing. On the way down, Robyn decided to take the easy option and score a ride from a couple of locals on a 4WD motorbike. OK she had pulled a muscle and was having a bit of trouble walking. In Ruatoria we had a local pie, then travelled to East Cape to climb the steps to the lighthouse. On the way back we passed a place called Tikitiki, the name stuck so everything became Tikitiki, river, mountain, town. Unfortunately, there was a lack of shops and cafes in the area, so we landed up buying dinner from the dairy at Te Araroa. There are nice park benches to sit on and look out to sea from the water front. The women's toilet was adorned with a flower wreath hanging from the ceiling, don't know how long that had been there.

Then we went to our accommodation Te Araroa Campground. Not the cleanest of places with a "nasty" toilet, that had a system where the deposits are munched up before being extracted, also the pump was leaking and water was on the floor. OK I used the toilet block instead. But the showers were good. You weren't supposed to use them before 6pm because the showers were heated by a wood burner but a discovery that one was a gas fuelled shower and available before 6pm was quickly utilized. Four of us walked to the beach from the campground and Sheryn and Ashley harvested mussels from the rocks to be cooked up for dinner. After dinner we had a game of cheat that went on and on, but there was much hilarity. The unit we stayed in was very well patronised. A mouse to greet us on the stove to wish us happy cooking. Scratching in the walls by Mr Ratta to make sure we didn't feel lonely. At night a "nasty" little visitor, Mr Ferret that got into the rubbish causing a ruckus, which B moved to the toilet and shut the door on. The place now is Ferret lodge.

On the way home we went to the Macadamia Café. This was its last day open so we were lucky. Lovely little place to have coffee under the trees and buy your Macadamia supplies. After this we stopped at the Opotiki café to get the blueberry

pie supply. Sadly, only three left, sorry I got them all. We bought lunch and had it at the beach, where Sheryn cooked up her harvest from the morning on the beach. This was a great weekend, we all had so much fun and relaxation. A big thanks to John McA (trip leader), Ashley, Les, Robyn, Ray, Beatrix, Sheryn and Ying for making it such a great weekend. Cheers Judith.

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**From the committee table:**

**New members:** Welcome to Aron Kwok

**Resignations:** Elaine & Ian Williams, Annette Freegard, Sue McArthur, Peter Nicholls. Karen Rayner, and Kim Toxward.

**Membership:** We have 188 tramping members this month.

You will have been receiving your membership renewal notices. Should you decide to include a donation, the club is a registered charity so donations are tax deductible. A club receipt will be issued for any donation and will include our Registered Charity number.

**From the tramping captain:** trip planning: April 17<sup>th</sup> at St. Stephen's Church – where we have our club meetings. If you have any ideas on possible destinations, or would like to lead a trip somewhere, please come along at 7.30pm.

**From the committee:** A code of ethics has been developed and is now open for discussion. The final version will be voted on at a normal club night in the near future so please read this carefully and forward your comments to the secretary promptly so we can move this forward as a club policy.

**CODE OF ETHICS – Waikato Tramping Club**

**Aims and Values**

*The aim of the club is to provide a safe and supportive atmosphere for all members within the club. Also, while enjoying the natural environment we wish to spend time in, members are expected to behave in a manner to protect and respect that habitat. This code of conduct sets out some expectations we have for members.*

**Social expectations**

- *Take reasonable care to keep yourself and others in the group healthy and safe. Such as:*
  1. Do not perform any act or omission, which could endanger a tramping party or any member.
  2. Be properly equipped for the trip.
  3. Be physically prepared for a trip
  4. Tell the trip leader of any relevant medical conditions or fitness limitations beforehand.
  5. Comply with safety directions and any safety policies of the club
- *Respect for others: treat everyone with courtesy and respect; such as*

1. Do not act in a manner where another individual within or outside the club will feel harassed or bullied. This can include verbal abuse, harassment, isolating or hostile behaviour.
  2. Members are to conduct themselves at all times in such a manner as not to cause embarrassment or disgrace to the Club or its members.
  3. All members are to behave in a manner that is conducive to an atmosphere of mutual support.
  4. Be a cooperative team member.
  5. Alcohol is permitted on club trips but must be consumed in moderation and to such a level as to not cause discomfort and ill ease to any trip members.
- *Respect the decisions and directions of the trip leader, who has the final responsibility for the safety of the group.*
    1. The decision of the Trip Leader shall be final.
    2. Trip leader to state where the PLB is stored for quick and easy access.
    3. Regarding concerns about the behaviour of others that cannot be immediately resolved, approach the trip leader or members of the committee.

### Environmental

1. All huts, buildings, and their contents to be left in a clean and tidy condition. (in general, boots are not permitted inside a hut).
2. A plentiful supply of firewood is to be left for the next occupier.
3. No food that will encourage vermin is to be left in or around huts.
4. Any emergency rations used, are to be replaced by the user
5. All gates to be left as found, that is open or shut
6. All care must be taken not to unnecessarily disturb stock.
7. Firearms and dogs are not allowed on club trips
8. Members to ensure footwear is thoroughly clean at the start of a trip to ensure no seeds or disease (e.g. Kauri dieback) is carried from one property to another. Use cleaning stations when provided.
9. Leaders or organisers of trips will obtain permission from property owners or occupiers before tramping, using or giving any publicity about trips on such property, other than in an emergency.
10. Respect all tapu and rahui placed by the local tangata whenua.
11. Members are to see that all campfires are completely extinguished and exercise caution against starting grass or scrub fires and observe all fire restrictions.

Please refer to *DoC's Leave No Trace and Camping Care Code* for further information,

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/know-before-you-go/care-codes/leave-no-trace/> and <https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/know-before-you-go/care-codes/camping-care-code>

### Waikato Hut

A code for the Hut is being developed and will be publicised at a later date.

## *Snippets from here 'n there*

- ✓ **Recycling gas cannisters.** Take them to: GasPro, 134 Grey St., Ham East.
- ✓ **Recycling Lithium batteries.** Take them to: Grimmer Motors, 998 Heaphy Terrace, Claudelands, Hamilton East, opposite Vege King.
- ✓ The Mustelid (stoats etc) team from the Pirongia Restoration Society are seeking expressions of interest to help **carry some stoat traps DOWN Mt. Pirongia.** The aim is to have several traps helicoptered up to the top of a ridge somewhere near Ruapane and have fit and able people carry them down to specific sites on ridges. Some off-track walking may be necessary so compass skills could be useful. Planning is just getting underway but if you are keen to keep your fitness up and can carry 1 (or even 2!) traps down a ridge that may or may not be marked in some places, please get in touch with Richard Still from May onwards. Contact details available from the editor.
- ✓ At the present time Hamilton East Rotary club is helping the Refugee boys at Hamilton High school to obtain **much needed bicycles.** If you have any 'much loved bicycles' that are still in reasonable condition and would be suitable for one of these young boys please send me an email with your details to [minean@xtra.co.nz](mailto:minean@xtra.co.nz) and Michael Nightingale will arrange collection.

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*from the DoC website.....*

- ✓ DoC and NIWA are partnering to provide the latest technologies in weather forecasting services. Access to timely and accurate weather forecasting information is crucial for making informed decisions on safely undertaking activities on public conservation land and waters. The new DoC-NIWA weather forecast website hosts a number of benefits including tailored forecasts for National Parks and key DoC sites,
- ✓ Wainuiomata – **A future for kākāpō.** In late 2020 Lou Sanson and others looked at the potential to convert Wellington's water supply land in Wainuiomata into New Zealand's largest sanctuary to save kākāpō. The 3,500ha area (twice as big as Kāpiti Island and Whenua Hou) is one of the best lowland podocarp-rātā forest seen in New Zealand – at least equal with Whirinaki. In a fluke of history, Wellington City stopped logging in 1880 to protect the entire river for future water supply. The Greater Wellington Regional Council maintains its quality through aerial 1080 operations, predator control and deer operations. The entire catchment is incredibly healthy. The whole area is surrounded by forests where so many Wellington people are involved in community-based predator free work.
- ✓ Sadly, Bill Hammond, one of New Zealand's most famous artists, passed away in recent weeks, aged 75. DoC's Wild Creations artists programme inspired his unique paintings of New Zealand birds. DoC put together the first artists

programme in 1990 and took Bill and fourteen other artists to Auckland Island (Art in the Subantarctic). He spent much of his time in the incredible rātā forests on Enderby Island and in this forest teeming with birds he cracked his iconic style of ‘the bird people’, now loved by so many. His underlying message was that we are a country of birds and before people, birds were our highest form of life. DoC’s Wild Creations programme has gone on to inspire more than 100 New Zealand artists, however Bill’s ‘bird people’ works are proud inspirations. More of Bill’s bird people art can be seen at the Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetū. (*Editors’ note: 2 of the new chicks hatched at Kaniwhaniwha this year have been named ‘Bill’ and ‘Hammond’ after a suggestion was made to Bill’s family, and with iwi support*).

✓ The 20-bunk **Pahautea Hut** is one of the most popular in the DoC Waikato district, and has been added to the online booking system – so visitors now need to reserve their spots. In favourable weather, visitors to Pirongia’s ridges and summit can see the Kawhia and Raglan harbours and Mt Karioi, and beyond to the Tasman Sea – as well as expansive views across the Waikato basin. It was opened in 2015. It has mattresses, toilets and a water supply, but no heating or cooking facilities. Folks intending to stay overnight on the mountain need to come prepared with a portable cooker. If you intend to camp, you need to use the online booking system to ensure you’ve reserved a spot at the campsite. The campsite is free, but spaces are limited. The new online booking system available on the DoC website has been working well and is quite simple to use. Hut bookings are for any bunk bed (not a specific bunk bed). Annual and six-month Backcountry Hut Passes can be used at this hut, not the single night back-country hut tickets. Bookings are currently open for stays to 30 June 2021. Visitors to the Pahautea Hut are also asked to sign the visitor’s book.

✓ Upgrades made to **Kahunui Hut**, a half-century-old historic gem on the East Coast, will help preserve some of the area's heritage. Located in the deepest part of the Waioeka Conservation Area on the banks of a stream, the remote 56-year-old hut has long been a popular spot for trampers and hunters. The hut is available for public use and reaching it involves a multi-day tramp with several river crossings. The maintenance and repair work focused on retaining Kahunui’s historic features and allowing the hut to remain in perpetuity, rather than having to replace it. These upgrades will ensure Kahunui will be available to show future generations the beauty and simplicity of a bygone era. The hut was built in 1965 by the New Zealand Forest Service for the purpose of deer control. Built to the standard floorplan of the time, it has a number of features that are unique today. It still has a built-in lockable food locker and a lobby area for storing firewood, raincoats and boots. Kahunui’s most special feature is an unusual three-tier bunk, with the middle tier hinged so it can angle out of the way and allow for seating or more space on the bottom bunk if the hut isn’t fully occupied. The top bunk is close to the ceiling and

quite possibly would have been reserved for trainees. It has retained its original ‘safety orange’ colour and the number on the roof – 1878 – that was used to identify the hut from the air. Finally, it also still has its open fireplace, also known as ‘poor man’s television’. The forest and streams around Kahunui feature spectacular towering podocarp forests, with whio, morepork and kākā all making themselves known to visitors. The track to the hut is a side track off the main Koranga Tawa loop, a 2–3 day hike for advanced trampers. Kahunui Hut, and others like it, is an example of a range of places that DOC manages to tell stories of our unique cultural heritage.

✓ When fire tore through the Pukaki Scientific Reserve in the Mackenzie district, it was feared the critically **endangered** *Izatha psychra* moth was gone forever. The 32-hectare reserve is the only known site for the cryptic grey-white moth, which depends on increasingly rare old growth shrubland to survive. Most of the shrubland in the reserve was destroyed by the fire in late August. So DoC and Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research staff were thrilled to rediscover *Izatha psychra* in a half-hectare pocket of undamaged shrubland during a survey in late January. Two males were caught and several others were thought to have been flying in the area. The search team were relieved to find the moths as there had been concerns the fire had wiped them out forever. If the fire had burned across this last half-hectare then it could have been a death-knell for the species. But this tiny fragment is now more vulnerable to risks like weed invasion, browsing animals, fire and drought. It leaves the moth in a precarious position. The moth has value as a species, but also as an indicator of health for a unique Canterbury drylands ecosystem that may be home to other rare plants and animals. These ancient ecosystems go back to the last ice age and are older than human history in New Zealand. The moths were found in a small gully that still had undamaged leaf litter, deadwood and lichens in it. This is important because the moth’s caterpillars are thought to live in one of those elements – though a caterpillar has never been found. While the fire-damaged shrubs in the reserve have started to resprout, it will take years for the lichen to regrow and leaf litter to build up, and for insects and other animals to reinhabit these ecosystems. Work is underway to protect and restore the Pukaki Scientific Reserve, but its recovery will take a long time. A fence that was destroyed in the fire is being rebuilt to keep out pests like rabbits, wallabies and pigs, which have already started moving into the reserve and could slow the recovery of surviving native vegetation and regeneration of shrubs in the burnt area. Once the fence is finished, every effort will be made to remove these pests and tackle invasive weed species like cotoneaster and wilding pine. The fire also shows the importance of people taking care with fires when they are in the outdoors, because an out-of-control blaze can quickly threaten our special plants and animals. *Izatha psychra* was first recorded near Porters Pass, in the Selwyn district, in 1884. It has not been seen there since the 19th century. Very little is



known about the life cycle of the species – less than a dozen *Izatha psychra* have ever been found. They have all been adult males about 20 mm long. The moth's adult phase lasts only a few weeks in January and February. They only come out at night. Their colouring means they would be extremely difficult to see when at rest on the shrubs they live in. The Pukaki Scientific Reserve was established in 1996. The area had been recognised as significant for its montane shrubland from as early as 1976. The reserve contains one of the only stands of montane scrub of its type on lateral moraines left in the district, with an abundance of aquatic and terrestrial insects. The uncommon Rauparaha's copper butterfly (*Lycaena Rauparaha*) has also been found there. The fire started outside the reserve on 29 August 2020, burning through more than 3000 hectares.

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### **Fuel For 'The Journey'**

So you are contemplating an overnight or even a multi-day tramp and have the exciting but somewhat daunting challenge of .....what food to take! The mid-week walkers shared their favourite breakfast choices while sitting in the shade enjoying a picnic after walking at Pukemokemoke at the end of 2020.

Firstly, if you haven't a cooker/primus, talk to the trip leader - you may well be able to share with someone and you can contribute by carrying the gas or billy/pot.

Almost all like a hot drink to start the day but there were a couple happy with a cold drink made with flavoured powder.

Porridge is still popular, even in summer some trampers swear by its' energy giving powers. Advice here was check your quantities before you leave home. Know how much you need, pack daily amounts in sandwich bags or take the required number of rapid-cooking oats sachets.

Muesli was also a popular choice. Again, measure the daily amount. A tip was to add milk powder to the muesli and you can mix it with either warm or cold water. Then there were the bread lovers. Their tip for multi day trips is preparation: dry the bread slightly in the oven before you leave home, it stops it moulding on the journey. There were endless suggestions for toppings from the marmite/vegemite camp to high energy nut butters and jams to cheese and salamis.

Some swore by crackers and cheese, or crackers and salami, others by a few sweet biscuits. Cold cooked sausages were favoured by one tramper and hard-boiled eggs by another.

So you see there are heaps of options, ease of preparation and ease of carrying items were major considerations. You often don't have a lot of room in a hut to fluff around in and if tenting you tend to have even less space, and it's always wise to consider how you will manage your kai if tenting and the weather isn't perfect.

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*A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.*



# 'Back to the Bush'

## 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

### 8 - 9 May 2021

A weekend of activities for our delayed reunion. Meet up with your old tramping and skiing friends and present members. Have a look at old photos and relive past trips.

Events planned:

- Afternoon and evening dinner function on Saturday at Pirongia Forest Park Lodge. Accommodation available at the Lodge.
- 'Breakfast with the Birds' and Pirongia tramps on Sunday morning

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## 15 - 16 May 2021 at Waikato Hut

Join us for a weekend at Waikato Hut on Mt Ruapehu. Enjoy a relaxed stay at our upgraded 'lodge' and a celebration dinner with traditional Hut fare. Gondola rides and mountain walks are also on offer.

Get in touch to register your interest in attending, and please pass this on to any past members you know.

Contact us: [waikatotrampingclub@gmail.com](mailto:waikatotrampingclub@gmail.com)

Phone: Dianne & Selwyn June 07 843 3066



Above: Big country

Tapuaeouenuku by David Totman

Below: Men are but ants in nature





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07 839 4206 [hamilton@bivouac.co.nz](mailto:hamilton@bivouac.co.nz)

15% off RRP for Waikato Tramping Club

(Discount is off RRP, not to be used in conjunction with any other special or offer. Excludes electronics, hut tickets and gift cards)



Official Bulletin of  
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