



THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

PO Box 685, Hamilton 3240 • www.wtc.org.nz

December 2021



Our 'Ray' of sunshine - winning photo of club character category - by Allan Wickens

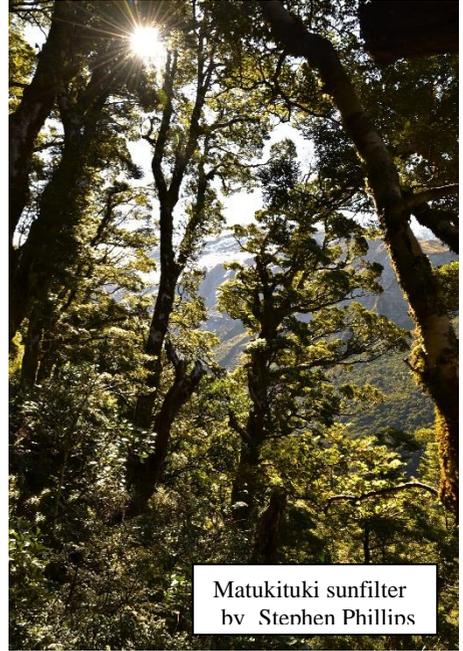
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WAIKATO HUT

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Tongariro National Park



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Matukituki sunfilter
by Stephen Phillips

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WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB

P. O. Box 685, Hamilton 3240 • www.wtc.org.nz
Free to members

Member of: Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand
Inc

Ruapehu Mountain Clubs Association

BULLETIN No 834

December 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 Ashley Hoskin Mike Barker	
Mike Nightingale	8562394

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**Tramping Subcommittee**

**Tramping email:** [waikatotrampingclub@gmail.com](mailto:waikatotrampingclub@gmail.com)

|                                                                                                      |             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Chairperson:</b> John McArthur <a href="mailto:mcArthur@outlook.co.nz">mcArthur@outlook.co.nz</a> | 021 2889641 |
| <b>Secretary:</b> Dorothy Cawdron <b>Treasurer:</b> Guy Domett                                       |             |
| <b>Club Captain:</b> Allan Wickens                                                                   | 027 9509546 |
| <b>Membership:</b> Lois Rowell                                                                       | 027 2881148 |
| <b>Web &amp; Facebook:</b> Rizal Razak                                                               | 021 2676566 |
| <b>Transport:</b> Ashley Hoskin                                                                      | 027 4909545 |
| <b>Social convenor:</b> Jacqui Dick                                                                  | 021 1375201 |
| <b>Sub-committee:</b> 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](mailto: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, 2nd February

There is no meeting in January but don't forget we'll have an informal get together at the band rotunda in Hamilton gardens on January 12th. Meet up at 6pm and BYO everything, including seating.

The topic for the February evening is yet to be determined

Club nights take place at St. Stephen's church on the corner of Mahoe St and Ohaupo Rd. The meeting starts at 7.30pm

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2021/2022

2974	18 or 19 Dec	F	Mountain Madness	John McArthur
2975	30 Dec- 7 Jan	M/F	Dusky track	Les Warren
2976	9 Jan	E	Aotea to Kawhia harbour	Allan Wickens
	10-18 Jan	E/M	Pureora working bee	Dianne & Selwyn June
	12 Jan	n/a	Picnic in the park	Social convenor
2977	14-26 Jan	E/M	Southern NI ramblings & cafes	Allan Wickens
2978	15/16 Jan	E/M	Whangamata walks	Debbie & Dave White
2979	23 Jan	M	Round Karioi by bike	Stephen Prendergast
2980	28-31 Jan	VF	S-K Traverse Tararuas	Mike Peck
2981a	28-31 Jan	MF	Southern crossing Tararuas	Jacqui Dick
2981b	28-31 Jan	E/M	Tararua easier option	Peter Ayson
2982	31 Jan	M	Blue Bull falls, Pirongia	John Wilson
2983	4-7 Feb	E/M	Egmont Nat. Park	Jocelyn Widmer
2984	7 Feb	E	Mt. William	Dianne June
2985	12/13 Feb	M	Tongariro Forest to OPC	John Wilson
2986	13-18 Feb	M	Dart-Rees	Peter Ayson
2987	19/20 Feb	E/M	River crossing training	Allan Wickens
2988	20-28 Feb	F	5 passes/Lake Nerine	John Davies
2990	5/6 Mar	E/M	Leitches alternate tracks	Jocelyn Widmer/ Judith Bogle
2991	6-11 Mar	M/F	Richmond Range	Keith Robbins
2992	6-11 Mar	M/F	Nelson cycling	Margaret Robbins
2995	22-25 Mar	M	Arthurs Pass	Keith Robbins

2996	26/27 Mar	M	Cape Brett	Jacqui Dick
2997	29 Mar/1 Apr	M	Paparoa Range	Margaret Robbins

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.

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.

Trip Descriptions

REMEMBER: 2 clicks confirm your booking on the website

Trip 2973 **Coromandel Walkways & bike track** **12/13 Dec**

This is a family weekend where we can go swimming, fishing and walking. We will stay at the Stony Bay campsite. There is a coastal walk from Stony Bay to Fletcher Bay, the round trip will be 18km, approximately 7hrs. Start using the bike

track which is over farmland and regenerating forest. You will get views of the ranges and the Hauraki Gulf. Come back via the coastal walkway and you will have views of the Pinnacles, Great Barrier Island (Aotea Island) to the north and Cuvier Island (Repanga Island) in the east. We can visit Poley Bay but it is hazardous to swim here due to rocks.

Options are to

- 1) Drive over Friday, it will take 4hrs to get there. Walk the track on the Saturday, and on Sunday walk around the nearby coastal beaches (go exploring) or sun bathe. This way we could have a BBQ on the Saturday night.
- 2) Drive over Saturday and walk to Fletchers Bay, stay and walk back on the Sunday.
- 3) If anyone is wanting to do trail biking you are most welcome.
- 4) Just have a relaxing weekend at Stony Bay.

Leader: Judith Bogle **Ph:** 027 3810283 **Grade:** E
Transport: Senior member \$45-75 Senior non-member: \$50-80

Trip 2974 Mountain Madness 18 or 19 Dec

This is a spontaneous sort of day out - if the weather packs in we will give it away (or wait in a pub for the weather to clear, right!).

The plan is to see how many of the Waikato mountains we can climb in one day - the longest day of the year.

Previous years we have done Pirongia, Maungatautari and Te Aroha, and found this sequence was manageable (provided you eat and drink enough to keep you going). However, for the last two years Maungatautari from the North has not been available to us so we have approached Maungatautari from the south.

There have been calls for a change to which mountains to do.... I'll look at alternatives so watch this space. Whatever - it will be a full day!!!

Be in! - the car(s) leave Hamilton early 6am. Last year we did Pirongia up and back before lunch. And we get back late - that's why they call it the Longest Day.

Leader: John McArthur **Ph:** 021 2889641 **Grade:** FF
Email: mcarthur@outlook.co.nz

Transport: Private arrangements – car pooling where possible.

Please be aware of the serious amount of work leaders of the South island trips put into developing a trip, arranging accommodation, shuttles etc so be clear in your intentions when you sign up.

Trip 2975 Dusky Track 30 Dec - 7 Jan

This trip is now **full**. If you are still interested, please let the leader know and you will be put on a waiting list.

Leader: Les Warren **Ph:** 027 864 4937 **Grade:** M/F
Email: warrenlb2017@outlook.com

Transport: Private arrangements.

You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough." Mae West.

Pureora Working Bee

7-18 Jan

This is not a club trip and is intended to be an easy-going working bee with fun a mandatory extra.

We are organising a working bee on the grid where we do the pest control in the Okahukura valley of Pureora forest. The main aim will be to visit all bait stations in the upper part of the valley to check their labelling and that they are very securely attached to their tree. We also plan to do a walk up- and down-stream in the Okahukura stream to identify any who breeding sites and habitats. This will require well insulated footwear (thick socks/gumboots. Waders) as the water is darned cold even in summer). Also planned are a search of 2 peaks to the west of the valley to find any dactylanthus (wood rose) populations that have been seen there in the past so some off-track navigation opportunities here; an MTB ride around the whole valley for those keen enough to do it; some weed pulling in the Waipapa forest to assist DoC's efforts to remove a pest plant; and just generally socialising. We will have the use of 1 or 2 DoC LUVs to move people up to the upper parts of the valley also. We will camp at the base site we use when baiting so bring your tent and everything you would need for camping. When you are available and for how long is up to you but we will need to know by January 6th so we can plan the work and play schedules. For more details please phone us.

Leaders; Dianne & Selwyn June **Ph** 0274978151 or 07 8433066 **Grade:** E-E/M

Transport: Private vehicles

Trip 2976

Aotea harbour

9 Jan

This small harbour tucked in from the Tasman Ocean and between the Kawhia and Raglan harbours, is an oasis of beauty. It includes the endangered New Zealand dotterels, and the godwit, an amazing traveller which makes a non-stop journey of 11,000 kilometres to spend the summer on the sand banks and mudflats of the harbour. The region is steeped in rich Maori history. The great navigator Turi, arrived on the Aotea waka approx. 800 years ago.

Low tide will be taken into consideration closer to the day. Our tramp will take us southwards along the beach towards Kawhia. At about the halfway point we will go inland to have a peek at Lake Parangi (very cold for swimming), and return to the beach. The number of people on this trip will determine whether we continue to the hot spots of Kawhia (those ones in the water!) and our van, or return north to Aotea and our cars. This will be a great walk for children, and you could possibly even leave your tramping boots behind in favour of some softer footwear. Bring your swimwear, LOTS of water and sunscreen, lunch, and a sunhat because it will be a fine day to be at the beach. Would you believe the club first went here in 1962?

Leader: Allan Wickens

Ph: 027 9509546

Grade: E

Email: *allanwickens@hotmail.com*

Transport: Senior member \$20-35

Senior non-member: \$30-45

Trip 2977**Southern NI ramblings & cafes****14-26 Jan, 2022**

This trip was originally intended as the “southern part of the South Island” but has been changed to the southern part of the North Island instead. In much the same vein as our excellent trip to the top half of the South Island in January this year, the aim is to visit as many DOC conservation areas as possible in the area. This includes the Tararuas (from all angles), Aorangi Range in the Wairarapa, Remutaka Range and the hills of greater Wellington (many different walks in and around the capital). There are also a number of excellent day walks in this area such as the Paekakariki Escarpment, Castlepoint Beach (Deliverance Cove Track), and Matiu (Somes Island). Along with the wonderful café scene of Greytown-Martinborough, there are also vineyards to visit and enjoy. Most of the time we will be “glamping” with the occasional overnight stay in a hut. As there will be less pressure on accommodation, we can also look at last minute stays in the odd motel or similar. You can come along for as long as you like or sign on for a few days only. At the end of this trip Allan will be joining up with Jacqui’s Southern Crossing of the Tararuas while anyone who is fit enough may wish to join Mike’s traverse of the full length of the Tararuas (his “S-K trip”). Both of these trips are scheduled to start on 28 January, for 4 days each. January often has lengthy spells of fine and very warm weather so there will be ample opportunities for swimming during trip.

Leader: Allan Wickens **Ph:** 027 9509546 **Email:** allanwickens@hotmail.com

Grade: E/M with the occasional fitter day walk.

Cost: tba

Trip 2978**Whangamata walks****15/16 Jan**

A weekend in (hopefully) sunny Whangamata. Option of travelling Friday night so that we have the full day on Saturday to make the most of it. Dave and Deb have a home that has a lawn that could take anything from 10-14 small tents if we breath in. Full cooking and toilet facilities. Exact plans yet to be laid but all walks will be easy (but potentially long) with the option of a meaty climb if needed. “Hit the Beaches”. Walk Opoutere – a long beach of 5 k’s each way, then do Onemana on the way back – a short beach but with a scenic hill climb at the southern end. Then if the sand hasn’t chewed you up and spat you out, finish with Whiritoa. Oh, and an evening stroll at twilight on Whangamata. Could be a big day. Sunday could be a trip to Broken Hills for some leg work, or an easier beautiful amble alongside the Wharekirauponga Stream off Parakiwai Quarry Road up to the Waterfall. Each leg has the option of a swim and ice cream or coffee. A very social weekend. We also have 5 kayaks which can be used to paddle out to the hole in the rock -aka Donut Island. Or perhaps BYO.

Leader: Debbie & Dave White

Ph: 0274 534 550

Grade: E/M

Email: sgohamilton@outlook.co.nz

Transport: Senior member \$45-75

Senior non-member: \$65-85

Trip 2979**Cycle tour of Karioi****23 Jan**

This is a delightful circuit for riders who have some mountain bike or gravel riding experience. It's a ride of 45 km and 880m of ascending and the same descending. Starting in Raglan we'll head across the Wainui bridge and go either clockwise or anti clockwise, wind direction dependant. Heading clockwise the rolling farmland surrounds are balanced from the loop apex by the endless ocean horizon and the sweeping views north to the Nth Waikato beaches and Port Waikato.

To enjoy this ride you should be capable of 50km road or bike trail journey's, be able to carry sufficient snacks / lunch and fluids appx 2 - 3 l, as well as a suitable spare tube and basic outdoor clothing and sunscreen. Your bike should be in a good condition, have gravel specific or 2" mountain bike tyres.

This is proposed as an unsupported ride so any "mechanicals" or human frailties will need to dealt with en route. Get in touch if you have any questions or want to know more.

Leader: Stephen Prendergast**Ph:**021 466 247**Grade:** M**Transport:** Private arrangements – bring your bike to the starting point**Trip 2980****S-K Traverse (Tararua range)****28-31 Jan**

Revered and feared by experienced trampers , a S-K traverse is the pinnacle of tramping in the Tararua Range. The tradition is to complete the traverse in 48 hours which we will attempt to do. Leaving Putara Rd end on the Friday night it will be aa 90min walk to Herepai Hut. Saturday is the big day, Herepai Hut to Maungahuka Hut along the Main Range is the crux of the traverse and will take up to 14-16 hours. Sunday is slightly easier , up the ladder and past the Tararua Peaks to Kime Hut then continuing on with a traditional Southern Crossing to Alpha Hut and down the Marchant ridge to Kaitoke to complete a 12 hour day.

Leader: Mike Peck**Ph:** 021 369256**Grade:** very F**Transport:** Private arrangements.**Trip 2981a****Southern crossing of Tararuas****28-31 Jan**

Note this trip is currently full, with a waiting list

The Southern Crossing is a classic 3 day tramp of the Tararua Range. 44km long. Days 2 and 3 will be 8 hours walking. The plan is as follows:

Friday 28th – Depart Hamilton 7am and drive down to Otaki where we start our walk. Late afternoon we will walk from Otaki Forks up to Field Hut, which is one of the first purpose built tramping huts in NZ (3 hours).

Saturday 29th – Field Hut - Kime Hut – Alpha Hut: This is a big day on the tops where we hopefully will get magnificent views. We climb above the bushline just above Field Hut, up to Bridge Peak and onto Kime Hut for an early lunch. From Kime we climb up to Mt Hector with its memorial cross and follow the Dress Circle to Alpha Hut.

Sunday 30th – Alpha Hut – Tutuwai Hut - Kaitoke: We descend from via the Bull Mound Track to the Tauherenikau Valley for lunch at Tutuwai Hut and walk out

long the very picturesque Tauherenikau Valley for pick up at Kaitoke. Sunday night will be a Pub meal/camp at Kaitoke.

Monday 31st – Travel home

Leader: Jacqui Dick

Ph: 021 1375201

Grade: M/F

Email: jacquimd@me.com

Transport: Private arrangements or van. Costs tba

Trip 2981b

Alternative Tararua option

28-31 Jan

This could be an option for those who are on Jacqui's waiting list. If you don't want to take the Friday off, consider moving the plans around to cater for this.

Friday: Drive down to Holdsworth and walk in to Atiwhakatu Hut (easy flat walk of approx 1 hour).

Saturday: Walk from Atiwhakatu Hut up to Jumbo Hut then across the tops, past Mt Holdsworth to Powell Hut (full day).

Sunday: Walk back down to Holdsworth (easy as down all the way!) 3-4 hours.

Camp the night at Holdsworth and swim in the river

Monday: Drive home

Leader: Peter Ayson

Ph: 0274 797077

Grade: E/M

Transport: Private arrangements or van. Costs tba

Trip 2982

Blue Bull falls

31 Jan

The highest waterfall in Pirongia Forest Park is in the headwaters of the Blue Bull Stream. Visiting the falls entails following the track from the Kaniwhaniwha carpark to the tallest recorded kahikatea tree (66m as last measured). This track is mostly straightforward, with just a few tricky or muddy patches. From the big tree we will walk up the stream for about two kilometres until we meet the falls. We'll then clamber up the steep eastern side and use a compass to navigate around through the bush to pick up the Bell Track, which we will follow back out to the carpark. Come along if you are after a bit of off-track adventure and would like to see these rarely visited falls.

Leader: John Wilson

Ph: 021 168 2082

Grade: M/F

Transport: Senior member \$20-35

Senior non-member: \$30-45

Trip 2983

Egmont National Park

4 - 7 Feb

Over this long weekend we will be based at The Camphouse, our 'basecamp' for the 3 nights at North Egmont. We will travel in the van from London street on the Friday night. There are a variety of day walks on offer from North Egmont - Pouakai Crossing, Pouakai Circuit, and Mt Taranaki summit via the north ridge. On the eastern and southern sides there is the Stratford Plateau and Dawson Falls and also shorter walks available from The Camphouse. There is a cafe 3 minute walk to North Egmont visitor's centre.

The Camphouse is an historic building clad in original corrugated iron from the time of NZ/Maori Wars. It has a fully equipped kitchen including cooking facilities, hot showers, communal dining and lounge with heating. (Similar facilities to WTC lodge Mt Ruapehu, except 5 minutes walk from van parking). I

have made a confirmed booking via DoC website which has been prepaid by WTC for 10 bunks (1 x bunkroom for 8 & 1 x bunkroom for 2 people) Cost is \$27.00/night/per person. On the Monday is my birthday so there will be a compulsory stop via the Iona dairy New Plymouth for chocolate dipped ice creams or drinks which I will buy for everyone on the trip.

Should the weather be unsuitable for the longer day walks then we can go for short walks in the wind and rain and drink tea/coffee/BYO while playing the card game 500 at The Camphouse. To confirm your booking WTC requires a deposit of \$81.00 for The Camphouse accommodation.

Please note cancellation fees (same as DoC terms and conditions) as follows:

Up to 15 days before arrival date 10% cancellation fee

Less than 15 days before arrival date 100% cancellation fee

These fees do not apply in the event of a Covid 19 cancellation.

Leader: Jocelyn Widmer

Ph: 027 866 4795

Grade: E/M

Transport: Senior member \$60-100

Senior non-member: \$65-105

Accommodation: \$27/person/night. Deposit of \$81 required.

Trip 2984

Mt. William

7 Feb

Mt William is that peak on your right hand side as you drive up the Bombay hills to Auckland. We will be accessing the track from the southern side of Mt William off McMillan road (SH2). The track follows a farm fence line with markers to the Mt William Scenic Reserve. The reserve hosts a wide variety of native trees and shrubs, including kauri, hard beech and king ferns. From the Mt William summit (373 m) there are expansive views to the West Coast and Firth of Thames. A 3km/80minute walk off this track will get us to a kauri grove and back. There is a very recent treefall which may re-direct our route but as this will not be a long day, we can make that decision onsite.

Leader: Dianne June

Ph: 8433066

Grade: E/M

Transport: Senior member \$20-35

Senior non-member: \$30-45

Trip 2985

Tongariro Forest to OPC

12/13 Feb

This tramp follows Te Araroa Trail through Tongariro Forest Conservation Area, starting from the Whakapapa River below Owhango and ending by Hillary Outdoor Education Centre on Access Road 3. The 42 Traverse Track is followed for much of the way, then we take another track to lead us to a crossing of the Mangatepopo Stream. This is a likely spot to see whio. The track climbs out of the Mangatepopo and takes us to Access Road 3. Total distance is about 30km. The forest throughout the area was logged for rimu, totara, matai, miro and kahikatea, but several decades of regeneration have healed much of the previous devastation and it is now pleasant to walk through.

We depart Friday night at 7pm and will camp Friday and Saturday nights.

Leader: John Wilson

Ph: 021 168 2082

Grade: M

Transport: Senior member \$45-75

Senior non-member: \$65-85

Trip 2986**Dart- Rees****12-18 Feb**

The plan is to meet up by Saturday, 12th February and depart to the start of the track on Sunday the 13th from Glenorchy .We will get a shuttle bus to take us to Chinaman's car park where we will tramp to Daleys hut which is approximately 18 km, 5.5-7.5 hours tramping according to DoC brochure. If there is enough interest, I will investigate the cost of a jet boat for the first day.

Days 2-5 We will go from Daley's to the large Dart hut where we will stay for 3 nights so we can do side trips up to the Cascade saddle (highly recommended with magnificent views down into the glacier and also a side trip to Whitburn Valley).

Day 5: Dart Hut to Shelter Rock hut which is about 10 k's approximately and takes about 4 to 6 hours.

Day 6: Shelter Rock to Muddy Creek car park where we will end up it tramping through the farmland Before we meet up with our shuttle bus to take us back to Glenorchy township.

This is a classic South Island trip with amazing alpine views and rivers. As huts are not bookable bring your tent. Any queries contact me or go to the DoC website for more information.

Leader: Peter Ayson

Ph: 0274 797 077

Grade: M

Transport: Private arrangements.

Trip 2991**Richmond Range revisited****6-11 Mar**

Many Te Araroa walkers consider this section of the trail as the finest, so let's go do it while the huts will be relatively empty. This is a hut-based 6-day tramp along the tops of the Richmond range to the southeast of Nelson, with stunning views and a bit of scree/rock work, so Medium Fit. We will take a shuttle from Nelson leaving around 9am on 6th Mar to Hackett road end, then up the 900m climb up to Starveall Hut above the bush-line for our first night, about 6 hours.

Day 2,3,4 and 5 are also about 6hr each, along the open tops as we follow the range southwards.

Day 6 [12th] we drop down to follow the Wairoa River out to road end where the shuttle will pick us up and return us to Nelson, a bit slower going over sometimes difficult terrain, about 4 hours.

If fire danger closes the track we will do a tent based traverse of the Travers Range, Nelson Lakes, skirting under Mts Angelus, Cupola and Travers. Please phone the leader if you need more information.

Leader: Keith Robbins

Ph: 021 120 7752

Grade: M/F

Transport: Private arrangements. Discuss shuttle plans with the leader.

Trip 2992**Nelson cycling****6-11 Mar**

The close off date for this trip was Sunday 7th November.

This trip is the Great Taste trail with an extension to St Arnaud on the Golden Downs Trail. Due to accommodation issues the trip is limited to 6 participants. The grade is easy/intermediate and we will carry our own gear and stay in accommodation such as AirBnB, motels or campground cabins. I will ride my

There were some fabulous entries in this years' photo competition and we say thank-you to all who entered and especially to our club judges Isla Trapski and Russell Lamb. Having an extra month to make their decisions certainly didn't allow their opinions any easier to make. Each entrant has been emailed the judges opinions of their efforts and this should certainly inspire them to be even cleverer next time they enter. How on earth will I ever reach the standards that have been set I wonder?

Over the next few months I'll put some of the pictures inside the bulletins as space allows.

There are many opportunities for short and easy outings around our home patch and I hope you find something you've not seen of been to before. Selwyn & I took some of on tours of local gullies last Sunday for which I've written up a report below but I noticed that everyone picked out a feature that particularly pleased them. You don't need to go far to put a smile on your dial. Dianne

Presidential Blog

Merry Christmas everyone and a Happy New year.

This year has been a time of change where we have needed to roll with the punches just like being caught in a heavy rainfall and a drop in temperature. Then needing to change the outer layers. We have had many tramping trips cancelled this year and the Ski Hut has taken a drop in patronage due to lockdown. There is a change in the wind again with the new covid traffic light system where we have topped one mountain to find another mountain in the distance. We all want to get out there and hike to get rid of the cobwebs and feel that euphoria again. There will be many getting out in the wilderness who will be feeling stressed and uncertain about the future, so please should show understanding, patience and kindness to all those you meet, with a sense of Christmas spirit. All the best for holidays and Christmas “ Every mountain top is within reach if you just keep climbing.” Judith Bogle

from the Ski Club...

Summer rates started over Labour Weekend

The Ski Club wish you all a very Merry Xmas. Keep an eye on our website and facebook page for summer updates and Working Party Dates in early February and March.

Mid-week Walks & Tramps

We are continuing with the current format, having a walk or tramp on the 2nd Tuesday and 4th 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. But we'll take a break over January and resume our get-togethers again in February. If you would like to be part of this communication, please download WhatsApp on your phone & text your request to Sharon 021 458 525.

Trip Reports

Trip 2958

Humpridge Track

6- 8 Mar

Earlier this year a group of 8 tramping club members headed down to the bottom of the South Island to do the Humpridge Track. We caught a shuttle to Tuatapere where we spent the first night at a campground and met up with the group.

Day 1 - 22km: After a delicious breakfast we were transported to the start of the track, which is the Rarakau Car Park. Our packs were loaded up and we were all clean and fresh ready for a few days tramping. The first part of day one takes you along the magnificent sweeping Bluecliffs Beach. It was a lovely start to our walk and a good way to warm up. Then we started a steady climb up towards Stag Point. The climb starts off gradually, walking along boardwalks through stunning native forest and then after lunch the gradient steepens significantly! The last couple of hours are a good steady climb up to Okaka Lodge. When we reached the lodge we were blown away with how nice it was, hot showers, comfortable beds, flush toilets and a small shop that sold treats like wine and chocolate! We dropped our gear and headed up to the tarns on top of the ridge. We were so lucky that evening as it was absolutely perfect up there. The water on the tarns was like glass. Many photos were taken and we all enjoyed the serenity and stillness of a perfect evening.



Humpridge tarns

photo by Jacqui Dick

Russell got very carried away and stayed up there much longer than the rest of us taking sunset photos, we may see some at the next photo competition!. That night we enjoyed dinner by the fire and listened to the rain on the roof as we went to sleep.

Day 2 - 20km: The next day we awoke to a wet, misty day in true Fiordland style. We headed out and soon realised it was going to be a day of minimal stops as it was quite cold and very windy as well as wet for most of the day. It was a lovely walk along the Hump Ridge tops then descending down to cross spectacular historic viaducts and following an old railway line that led us to the Port Craig Lodge.



Highlights of this day were the mud, the friendly robins and spectacular viaducts. It was a treat to reach the Lodge at the end of a long day and

The Percy Burn viaduct

by Jacqui Dick

to be able to have a hot shower then warm up by the fire in the Lodge.

Day 3 - 20km: This was the day we completed the loop and walked out to the start point. It was a lovely sunny day and we had a pleasant and relaxing walk out, with no real hills to climb and beautiful beaches to admire. The sandflies are very vigorous down here so if you are planning a trip take repellent!

Trip highlights were the amazing scenery, the stillness and reflections on the tarns, fascinating history of the area, lush southland bush, luxurious accommodation and the ability to buy wine in the middle of nowhere! Plus a great group of people to spend 3 days with! Thanks to Liz, Jan, Russell, Rachel, Noeleen, Tim and Ann for joining me on a very memorable trip.

Jacqui Dick

Trip 2970

Tama Lakes & Whakapapaiti track

20-21 Nov

As this was level 2 lockdown our group of 6 travelled by private vehicles on Friday to WTC Hut on Mt. Ruapehu where we stayed for the two nights. On Saturday our walk was to Tama Lakes.



The Tama lakes troupe

photo supplied by Jocelyn Widmer

Passing the Sky Waka entrance, we then walked along the ridge of Meads wall, down into Whakapapanui valley, over the stream and up onto the next ridge. With some offline phone mapping we cross-countryed our way until we joined the track from Waihohonu hut just shy of the turnoff from the Tama Lakes track. After lunch at the lower Tama Lake the ladies ventured up to the upper Tama Lake while the men had a siesta! It was beautiful weather with not too much wind when ascending to the upper Tama.

We all then took the Tama Lakes track - 'the Roman road' back to Whakapapa village. Sunday our walk was the Whakapapaiti valley track. From Scoria Flat area on the Bruce road, we joined Round the mountain track which connected us onto the Whakapapaiti track.



Buttercups beside the Whakapapanui stream photo by Jocelyn Widmer

A small stop at the Whakapapaiti hut (nobody in residence) then winding down into the valley of beech forest. Lunch just before joining lower Silica Rapids track, back to Whakapapa village.

Thanks to Ray and Dianne for their 'taxi' services back to the Hut once our trips reached the village. This was an adventurous weekend had by all who were: Selwyn J, Rae H, Lynette M, Les W, Ying X, Thank you to Selwyn for his guidance on my first trip lead. Scribe and leader Jocelyn Widmer

Trip 2972

Hamilton Gullies

5 Dec

As promised this was a day to enjoy and relax after the very successful Christmas party and the home of Jacqui & Ron Dick on Friday night. The first meeting place was the end of Lewis street in Melville. One participant notified us that she had become a covid contact was (wisely) pulling out of the day, one couple didn't arrive and that left us with just 4 people to explore the Mangakotukutuku gully- the largest in Hamilton. This walk goes down some stairs covered over with cooling native vegetation to the stream. From there it was across Peacocke's road and through the tall trees towards Cobham Drive. At the peak we headed across Bader

street and went in behind the houses and Richmond Park School before returning to the stream and back to our vehicles.

Next stop was the Tamahere Eventide retirement home on SH1. We had arrived early so signed in at reception and headed to the onsite café for morning tea. Then we headed into the wonderful gully at the rear of the village. Selwyn brought 2 late arrivals to join us before we wandered some of the tracks, and checking the rat tunnels for footprints. We found some fresh weta prints and hedgehog ones that weren't there 3 days earlier. To the delight of 2 walkers we got to watch 3 eels in the shallow pond of flowing water. Then it was time to eat our lunch (not the eels) and complete our walks before gently progressing uphill to our vehicles. One walker left us here.

Next stop was Seeley's gully. By now the temperature must have been about 24°C so the cool shade of this short walk was most welcome. One walker (cyclist) joined us here. 2 arrived a bit late as they had got the munchies while watching the rest of us eating at Tamahere. But Selwyn guided them around the circuit while I led the other 2. What a marathon effort Dr Seeley did. It truly is a oasis in the city – you can't hear the traffic at all.

Our final stop was the Mangaiti gully off Hukanui road. Our cyclist rode home and came towards us from the top end of the gully. Another 3 walkers and Sully the pooch joined us, along with a club member who was driving past and recognised us so hurriedly dropped off his passengers at their destination and came back to run along the boardwalk the boardwalk, correctly choosing which one we were following. It was interesting to be back in the gully where we helped with planting some 26 years ago. There is much weed control to be undertaken here but we enjoyed an easy scramble along a future link to Coleraine street and backtracking to our vehicles while our cyclist rode home.

All up, a lovely sunny relaxing womble. I think everyone found at least one particular aspect of their walk interesting. Thankyou for your company.

Participants were: Isla T, Fiona G, Helen O, Tony & Brenda S (new members since last Thursday!), Selwyn and I (leaders and scribe respectively).

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### **From the committee table:**

**New members:** Brenda & Tony Soutar

**Resignations:** Michael Strong & Bridget Steenkamer were struck off.

**Membership:** We have 204 tramping members this month. We are going to be saying goodbye to Merlyn Warren at the end of January. She is going to own a backpackers in Invercargill so remember this when you are looking for accommodation in that area. We wish you every success with this new venture Merlyn but are pleased you'll remain as an associate member

**From the tramping Captain:** The way the tramping schedule is going, it looks like trip 3000 will be in April 2022. How shall we celebrate it? Champagne breakfast on top of a hill? Any thoughts?

**From the club captain:** Re parking in London Street. Thanks to the generosity of 3 firms who use the London Street Carpark, we are able to continue parking there whenever we do weekend and Sunday trips. Please note, that the firms concerned have paid for the use of the carparks (10) and will only allow us to park in them, under the following circumstances:

Police parking: The 4 car parking spots in line from the disabled spot. These carparks are marked as police use only. Anyone parking in these spots will be towed (again without question).

For Sunday trips: Cars can be parked in non-police spots all-day Sunday. If we have more than 10 cars, any overflow can use the FREE parking on the streets.

For weekend trips: Cars can park in the non-police carparks from 5.30 pm Friday until Sunday evening. NB: they are very likely to be vacated by 5.00 pm each Friday, however staff at any of the 3 businesses may have an after works function, which means slightly less parking overall.

Disabled carpark: Under no circumstances park in this spot. It is one of 5 now used by the Police who have a 24 hour / 7-day operation involved from their new premises. Anyone parking in this spot will be towed (no questions asked).

Please co-operate with these conditions. It would be difficult to find a better location to park. Should any members disregard these simple conditions, we may be forced to look elsewhere. With thanks, Allan Wickens, Club Captain

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Snippets from here and there...

- For sale: Kathmandu tramping boots.



SAAA

UK size 40.
Price: \$40

Any enquires to Hellen
Barrett at 021 128 8029
or email:
xxx.helen@gmail.com

- Items left behind at Jacqui & Ron's place after the Christmas party: spoon, Plastic Slice, Green camp chair, Bolle Sunglasses. If any of these are yours, please contact the hosts.

➤ Project Tongariro are advertising their summer programme for Tongariro National Park and surroundings. Starting on Jan 1st with the traditional kite-flying session on the golf course in front of the Chateau, you can undertake helihike trips to Kaipo stream and Waipakihi river, walk to Mt. Tihia, do a rat-trap building day, have a bat experience in Owango, walk to the Tauranga-Taupo waterall in the foothills of the Kaimanawa ranges, visit a wetland near Motuopa, and have 3 chances for avian aversion training for your pooch. These events take place through the whole of January and you can look the details up on <https://www.tongariro.org.nz/mahi-aroha>.

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*...from the DoC website...*

➤ From 15 December 2021, eligible people aged 12 years three months and over must be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 to use DOC accommodation. When booking, visitors will be required to confirm they and all others in their group are fully vaccinated. People should ensure they are able to provide vaccine verification (such as a digital or printed copy of My Vaccine Pass) when using any of the applicable facilities.

➤ Initial counts of hoiho/yellow-eyed penguin nest numbers released by DOC and the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust today show a drop from 181 breeding pairs last year to 166 this season. DoC is investigating the injury and death of a kororā/little blue penguin in Putiki Bay, Waiheke on the 11 November, which appears to have died from a dog bite.

➤ 100 special skinks now have a safe new home with the establishment of DoC's predator free Kapitia Scientific Reserve near Hokitika

The Kapitia skinks, found only in a 1 km coastal strip near Hokitika, were badly impacted by Cyclone Fehi in 2018 with 50 skinks taken in by Auckland Zoo at the time. The skinks have a salmon-coloured prehensile tail which they use to grip objects and help them climb. Altogether there are fewer than 300 Kapitia skinks remaining in the wild.



As well as threat\_threats to their habitat from storm damage, they're\_vulnerable to predators such as mice, which attack them if they are too cold to move and eat them alive.



Photo competition results



Above bushline with no human element: Above bushline with human element

- |                             |                    |                                  |                     |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Jacqui Dick | Humpridge tarns    | 1 <sup>st</sup> John Wilson      | a long haul         |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> John Wilson | Temple basin       | 2 <sup>nd</sup> John Wilson      | idyllic tramping    |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> John Wilson | Evening at Angelus | 3 <sup>rd</sup> = Katherine Rowe | Pinnacles @ Ruapehu |
|                             |                    | 3 <sup>rd</sup> = David Totman   | Tapuaeuenuku        |

Below bushline with human element

- 1<sup>st</sup> Nicola Guy walking the Kepler  
 2<sup>nd</sup> John McArthur anticipation  
 3<sup>rd</sup>= Annemarie Lamb light & shade  
 3<sup>rd</sup>= Annemarie Lamb West coast wandering  
 3<sup>rd</sup> = Allan Wickens bushline at last

Below bushline with no human element

- 1<sup>st</sup> Nicola Guy Kaimai falls  
 2<sup>nd</sup>= Amanda Collins window on Milford  
 2<sup>nd</sup>= Katherine Rowe Mt Ruapehu&clouds  
 3<sup>rd</sup>= Annemarie Lamb Pororari river

Flora & fauna

- 1<sup>st</sup> Nicola Guy old man's beard  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Jacqui Dick fantail  
 2<sup>nd</sup>= Jacqui Dick kereru  
 3<sup>rd</sup> John Wilson Mt. cook buttercup

Historic

- 1<sup>st</sup> John Wilson Sawcut gorge  
 2<sup>nd</sup> John Wilson Arson at Knoll ridge  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Allan Wickens staying dry

International

- 1<sup>st</sup> Katherine Rowe Mt Amos, Tasmania  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Allan Wickens blue mountain sunset  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Allan Wickens Grose valley

Long exposure

- 1<sup>st</sup> Jacqui Dick Pinnacles by full moon  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Stephen Phillips Ngaruahoe cloud  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Stephen Phillips Hahei moon rising

Club character

- 1<sup>st</sup> Allan Wickens What more can one say

Best overall

- 1<sup>st</sup> John Wilson A long haul



That's snow rainbow

photo by Stephen Phillips



**Best Picture overall:                      A Long Haul                      taken by John Wilson**

**Below bushline with human element                      Walking the Kepler                      taken by Nicola Guy**





Temporarily lost

photo by Jacqui Dick



Hi by John McArthur



Official Bulletin of  
**WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)**  
PO Box 685, Hamilton 3240

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