



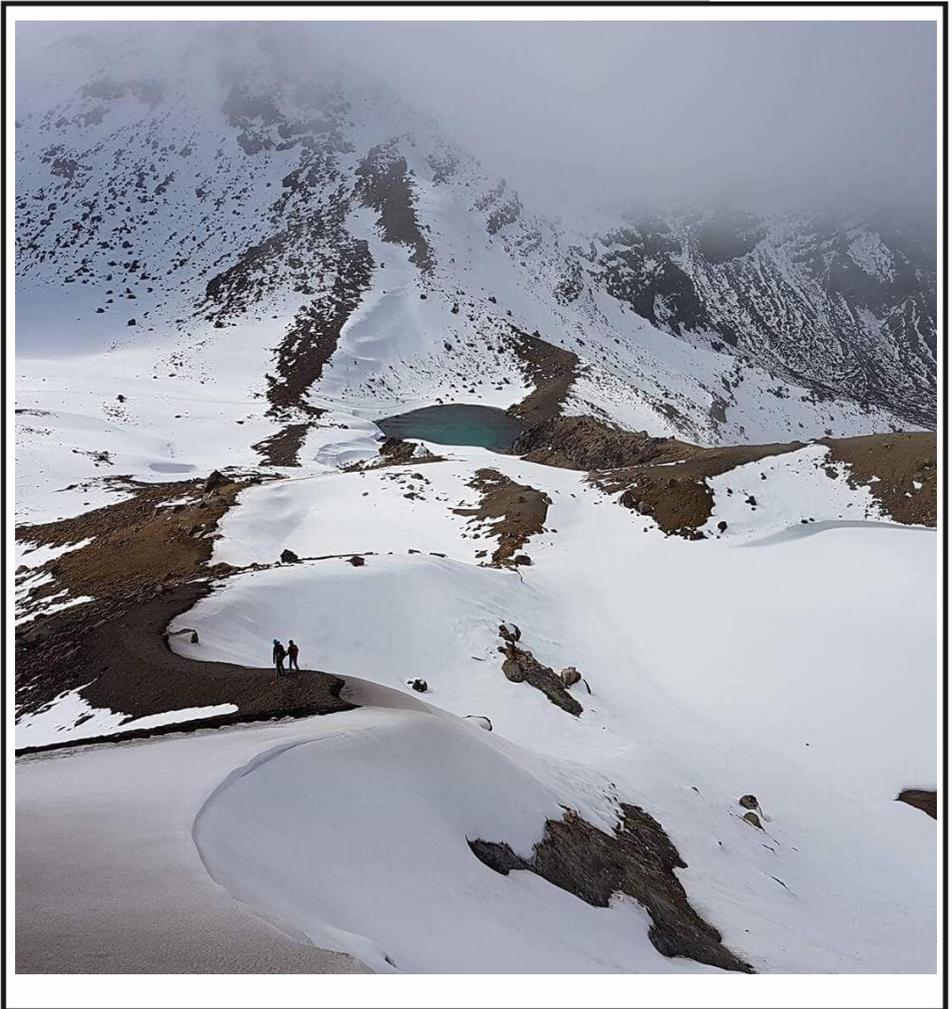
THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

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

July 2021



Winter tramp photo by Daiki Nakajima

WAIKATO HUT

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Tongariro National Park



www.wtc.org.nz



Compare with the cover picture.
Photo by Les Warren

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Official Bulletin of
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 829

July 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, 4th August

This club night is our annual Winter Activities Night. Come along to hear all about how the winter is shaping up on Ruapehu, the benefits of staying at our wonderful lodge on the mountain, how to go about booking, the annual ski races, plus see why we have such stunning photos of the mountain and why some people prefer staying there than at the Chateau!!

There will be delicious mulled wine and nibbles on offer too so come along and help celebrate winter.

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

Mid Winter Social. You are invited to a mid- winter social get together to be held at Sharon and David Payne's lovely home overlooking the Waikato River in Queenwood, Hamilton. It will be a potluck dinner so in true tramping club style should be better than a meal at most restaurants! Cutlery, crockery and glasses all provided so just bring yourself and something delicious to share for dinner (entrée, main or dessert) plus your own drinks.

Date/Time: Saturday 17th July from 6pm. Address: 1015 River Road, Hamilton (Please register online so that we can get an idea of numbers attending)

Any questions ring Jacqui 021 1375 201

Following on from Gerard's talk at Club Night.....if you would like to see just how much 'restoration of natural habitat' David has achieved on the river bank with judicious spraying, persistent clearing, weeding & planting just turn up about 5pm with some sturdy footwear & he will treat you to a 'bush walk'.



Movie night at the Haines': On Sept 10th come along for another potluck dinner session at Andrea & Graham Haines' place, 11 Alison St, Hamilton. Ph 8395932 starting at 6.30pm. Bring your meat, a dish to share, liquid refreshments, and \$20. Supper will be provided. A great film has been chosen which should amuse all.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2021

	17 July	Very E	Midwinter Xmas social	Jacqui Dick
2952	18 July	E	Waiuku forest/beach clean-up	John McArthur

	21 July		Summer trips -planning	John McArthur
2953	24/25 July	M/F	Snowcraft 2	Mike Peck/ Jacqui Dick
2954	1 Aug	M	Te Tapui	John Wilson
	4 Aug		CLUB NIGHT – winter activities	Jacqui Dick
2955	7/8 Aug	E/M	Leitches Clearing	Allan Wickens
2956	15 Aug	E/M	Komata reef	Selwyn June
2957	21/22 Aug	M/F	Winter Tramp	Callum McDougall
2958	29 Aug	E/M	Wharekirauponga	Dianne June
	3 Sept		CLUB NIGHT	Jacqui Dick
2959	4/5 Sept	M	via Te Iringa to Oamaru hut	Steve Dick
	10 Sept		Movie night	Graham Haines
2960	12 Sept	E	Waikato river walks IV	Ron Dick
2961	19 Sept		Tongariro Forest	John Wilson

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.

REMEMBER: 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.

Trip Descriptions

Trip 2952 Waiuku Forest and beach clean-up 18 July

The last time we went to the Waiuku forest to walk in the forest and do a little beachcombing I suggested people took along a shopping bag to pick up beach litter. We ended up rolling one 200 litre plastic drum along the beach (thanks Judith) and had many other carriers full of rubbish. That was August 2017 and a wintry day if I remember right. We deposited all the rubbish in the car park and rang the District Council to pick it up - quite a satisfying feeling, though we only scratched the surface. It was a lot of fun and the ice-cream at Pokeno was well deserved. Let's do it again! If that sounds like fun to you, book in.

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

Email: *mcArthur@outlook.co.nz*

Transport: Senior member \$20 to 35 Senior non-member: \$30-45.

Trip 2953 Snowcraft 2 24/25 Jul

Depart **6pm** Friday 23rd July, return Sunday late afternoon/evening

This weekend perfectly coincides with a full moon so our plans are going to be flexible, and dictated to by the weather. If it is a clear night on Saturday we will be doing a moonlight walk - either to the summit of Ruapehu or the Tongariro Circuit (over Tongariro and back out to Mangetepopo via the Tongariro Crossing track). This will be amazing as the combination of snow and full moon should make for a really unique experience plus great photo opportunities. If the weather is not suitable to do this, we will head up the mountain to practise skills like digging a snow cave, practising locating people using avalanche transceivers plus some peak bagging. It is essential that you have basic snowcraft skills to attend this weekend. Accommodation will be at the tramping club ski lodge and all meals and transport are included in the cost.

Leaders: Mike Peck **Ph:** 021 369 256 **Email:** *mikeypeck@yahoo.com*

Jacqui Dick **Ph:** 021 1375 201 **Email:** *jacquimd@me.com*

Total costs: Senior Member\$155 Senior non-member: \$215 **Grade:** M/F

Trip 2954**Te Tapui****1 Aug**

Te Tapui is the near neighbour of Maungakawa and gives its name to the scenic reserve encompassing both peaks. There are no tracks on Te Tapui. From the access on Piakonui Road we will bushcrash around to the site of an old pa on a pronounced peak before heading south to the indistinct summit. From here we will head west towards Maungakawa and either exit between the two peaks or if time allowed, crossing to Maungakawa and picking up the loop track. This trip provides an opportunity to practice off-track navigation.

Leader: John Wilson**Ph:** 021 1682082**Grade:** M**Transport:** Senior member \$20-35

Senior non-member: \$30-45.

Trip 2955**Leitches Clearing****7/8 Aug**

On Saturday morning we will go up Leitches track 17km return 2-3hrs each way. It's a former surveyed road and is well graded. The track passes through farmland and climbs before entering bush. The track descends to Leitch's clearing - walk across the clearing to reach the hut. There are no major streams to cross on this track. At the beginning it goes through Whareorino forest. There is supposed to be the Archey's frog which is rare which you may be able to spot on the way. It will be a walk in and walk out on the same track.

There are mattresses, a wood-burning stove for heating and a toilet are provided. You will need to carry a portable stove for cooking. There are only 16 bunks and its first in first served. You will need 1 standard ticket to stay. There are many areas suitable for camping in Leitch's clearing but if you want to camp and use hut facilities you still need to purchase a hut ticket.

Leader: Allan Wickens**Ph:** 0279509546**Grade:** E/M**Email:** *allanwickens@hotmail.com***Transport:** Senior member \$45-75

Senior non-member: \$65-85

Trip 2956**Komata reefs****15 Aug**

An exploration of an old gold mining area in the Coromandel hills to the north of Paeroa. Gold was discovered here in 1891. We walk up the Komata valley on an old track, clamber up tailings and get to see mine shafts, a tunnel, a well-preserved boiler and other mining gear. Return is along an old tramway formation, up a ridge through the bush and then down to the valley again. About 4 hrs walking plus time to explore.

Leader: Selwyn June**Ph:** 0274 978151**Grade:** E/M**Transport:** Senior member \$20 to 35

Senior non-member: \$30-45.

Trip 2957**Winter tramp****21/22 Aug**

This trip will follow a track that offers some of the best tops travel near Hamilton and hopefully spectacular views of the Kaimanawa ranges, Ruapehu & the Waipakihi valley. We'll spend Friday night at the Urchin Campsite. On Saturday we'll climb Urchin and continue along the ridge to join the Umukarikari track

which takes us to Waipakihi Hut. We return via the same Umukarikari track but will follow it to the Waihaha Valley campsite for a bit of variety.

Leader: Callum McDougall

Ph: 020 41135196

Grade: M/F

Email: *callummcdougal@gmail.com*

Transport: Senior member \$45-75

Senior non-member: \$65-85

Trip 2958

Wharekirauponga

29 Aug

This track is approximately 20 km long. Named after the Te Wharekirauponga Stream on the eastern side of the Kaimai range and shortened to the Te Whareki Pack Track. Broadly speaking we go from the Karangahake gorge area to Whangamata. Today the entrance to the Te Whareki Pack Track at the Golden Cross end is by walking from the carpark up and along the south side of the mine lake to its end and then dropping down to the right through two gateways, turning left on the old pack track, climbing slowly up through the pine trees into heavy bush and a sharp left turn onto the original track. Views of Mt. Pirongia can be seen as one starts to leave the pine trees behind. Approximately 2.5 hours from the Golden Cross carpark (Lookout to Whangamata) there are, on the left of the track on a ridge, some good views of Whangamata and down towards the Quarry Road carpark.

Leader: Dianne June

Ph: 8433066

Grade: E/M

Transport: Senior member \$20 to 35

Senior non-member: \$30-45.

Trip 2959

Te Iringa to Oamaru Hut

4/5 Sept

On Friday night we'll travel to Clements Mill road (off SH5) and camp not far from the track to the site of the former Te Iringa Hut. We'll be in the top end of the Kaimanawa ranges. Next morning we'll walk along this track, cross the Kaipo river, and continue down the river to Oamaru Hut. There are 12 bunks and plenty of room for tents there. Sunday we'll walk along a well-formed route out to Poronui station. This walk is along a hard surface so if you wish to bring some footwear that is softer on your feet than tramping boots it would be a good idea. The walk takes about 3 hours.

Leader: Steve Dick

Ph: 0274 880 793

Grade: M/F

Transport: Senior member \$45-75

Senior non-member: \$65-85

Trip 2960

Waikato River walks IV

12 Sept

The Waikato River Trail is made up of 100km of off-road trails that follow the banks of the Waikato River from Lake Karapiro in the north to Atiamuri in the south, taking in five lakes, five hydro dams and a number of small towns and villages, showcasing some of the best of the Waikato heartland. The section we will be walking is from Waipapa Dam to the Mangarewa suspension bridge. This is a return trip as the section from the suspension bridge to Jones Landing has been permanently closed. The distance each way is 10km, through bush, past picturesque streams, and with quite a bit on well-formed track. If you would like to see the suspension bridge which is 80 metres long and 42 metres above the water, then

walking this section of the trail is the only way to do so. Bring a thermos as we will start with some of Jacqui's lovely home baking by the shores of Lake Waipapa.

Leader: Ron Dick

Ph: 021 2608149

Grade: E

Email: ronjmd@icloud.com

Transport: Senior member \$20 to 35

Senior non-member: \$30-45

Editorial

No point in staying at home these days – it's too cold. Seems that most of you have worked this out and gone out into the chilly air to get warm. Great idea. The first snowcraft session must be one out of the books. Fancy getting to Crater lake on Saturday. Good on you for learning those new skills that got you there. You'll never forget them. Many years ago, I was on a snowcraft course not having done any practice for a good 15 or so years since I first learnt what to do. I fell and 'instinct' told me what to do. No falling over the cliff for this kid!

We have now wound up most of the reunion matters and made a small profit so thankyou to all who supported the event in whatever way suited you best. We have a few booklets still available if you want one – contact me.

The final part of the reunion was held at Waikato Hut and what a place to spend time even in not so perfect weather. Judith presents some useful thoughts in her blog below. Do think about what she has written and how we can make the place easier, simpler, cheaper to operate. Send your ideas to the ski team leader.

Dianne June

Presidential Blog

This month the question has arisen about the future of the WTC Ski Lodge relating to increased costs, including maintenance, type of insurance and even the idea of improvements.

There are two camps of thought, one that looks at the bare minimum of keeping it going until it is no longer viable and the second is how can we maintain this asset for the members of the club at present. I will present my thoughts but you will have your own ideas.

Thought one: Use it 'til it is no good to us anymore - symbolic of today's throw-away society. At a time when we are looking at recycling and even the Government is giving money to restore historic buildings. Should we be so quick to give up on our own historic building which contains the history of our club? Or is the effort too much and people don't have the energy and tenacity anymore to continue what past generations have given us? Does this make us ungrateful for what others have given us or is it how we view our future, not valuing what we have? I look at my childhood where most children had the opportunity to go to the beach and have a summer holiday which is now becoming harder for parents to give their children due to rising costs. This was part of our culture or upbringing which is now getting lost. Do we want this for our future club members?

Second thought, the Hut gives a point of connection, not only for skiers but for trampers' alike. There is always talk about staying at the Hut and being able to walk over the mountain. It provides an opportunity to do snowcraft and learn new skills. There is an endearment and ownership saying the lodge is ours. If we lose this point of connection/special place we are not only losing it for the members now but future trampers and skiers. In a time when New Zealanders look at their connection to the land, mountains, rivers and sea, is this appropriate? Also, there is great discussion about climate change and its' effect on future generations - what we are leaving behind? Maybe it would be good to leave a positive mark on this earth for our future outdoor adventurers. The question is do we have the spirit and energy to revisit the question? What do we want for the future of the Waikato Hut?
Judith Bogle

~~~~~  
*from the Ski Club...*

I write this despatch to you from the lounge of Waikato Hut which has the annual Snowcraft course in residence. 26 keen trampers and instructors have just returned from a glorious Saturday excursion. Look out for the trip report in this bulletin. The snow has yet to really arrive as a second warm June in a row resists the Antarctic lows which arrive in Australia, departing as warm moist weather. Using the colder overnight temperatures snow-making has been underway at Whakapapa to supplement any natural snowfall. July is traditionally the storm maker so I would expect to see more unsettled weather and snow as a result, over the coming weeks.

**Winter Rates are in effect from 2 July.**

For Ski Club members including combined members, rates are \$35 night for Senior members, and \$20 for child members.

As a tramping club member, you are still able to book and stay during winter. This costs \$60 per night for an adult and \$35 night for children.

Non- member bookings will be processed and confirmed each week once spaces have been released to Ski Club members.

We welcome our new Custodian Peter Hodgson. He's has been travelling, tramping and working in NZ recently and has a fairly international background. He'll be looking after the Lodge as well as working in hospitality for RAL over the season. Have a yarn when you next visit the Lodge.

We'll use the same booking system as last year. Access it from our main website. The calendar is a little easier to use and you can now see the available number of beds. The correct number to use is the adult category - which for pricing reasons is the master group. Please be aware of our cancellation policy which is pretty tolerant - but has a limit. After all we're a ski club not a booking club. Catch you at the Lodge during the season.

Stephen Prendergast, Ski team leader

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*Hedgehogs eh? Why can't they just share the hedge?*

## Mid-week Walks & Tramps

We are continuing with the current format, 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.

So far this year we have enjoyed both a 7km & 10km riverside walk; in the Hakarimatas we have walked the Kauri loop track & along to the lookout with some of the group walking the Summit Track along to Brownlee Cres. We have walked from Tills Lookout to the Arboretum & back and on another occasion, we had a Mystery Treasure Hunt which saw us putting 'jigsaw' clues together in a supermarket carpark & then after completing a most successful 'hunt' indulging in cake & homemade lemonade out at the Arboretum. We had an informative trip out to Te Toto Gorge and surrounds with the Raglan Ramblers group, a tramp from the Kaniwhaniwha carpark into the large Kahikatea, another in the Waiorongomai valley [to test our fitness ] and last month saw us go in search of mining relics at Waikino on our Tuesday outing. And on the Wednesday we donned our head torches and did an evening walk from the Horotiu bridge along the riverside to the Perry Bridge, after which we enjoyed a pub meal at the Cock 'n Bull.



The Paparoa trampers

Photo by Sharon Payne

Early in June, while foul weather raged all around the country a group of 8 of us enjoyed near perfect weather for four days on The Paparoa Track. We flew to Nelson, picked up rental cars and headed for Punakaiki Campground. We set out early the following morning in the camp shuttle heading for Blackball & the start of the track at Smoke Ho carpark. The first part of the tramp was on a rock track that had been built 140 years ago, while the other sections, apart from the final stretch into Punakaiki, were new construction. Huts along the way were excellent, we spent 2 nights up at Moonlight Tops hut and when we had completed our tramp,

enjoyed a hot shower back at the campsite and were having a coffee before starting the drive back via Murchison and the rain came down!

## Trip Reports

**Reunion celebrations at Waikato hut**

**15/16 May**

### **Meads Wall to Chateau**

As part of the 70year reunion at Waikato Hut, Sunday offered up a walk from Waikato Hut across to Mead's Wall and then down to the Chateau at Whakapapa village. Led by Selwyn, our group of 8 people traversed via the Skywaka across to Mead's Wall. What a captivating and commanding structure, often not seen this way, without the covering of snow. The wall was named after William Perret Mead 1889-1980 who was involved in the early development of the Tongariro National Park and Whanganui River areas. This area has also been sought after for filming and used as the backdrop for 'Mordor' in the Lord of the Rings. You can certainly appreciate the attraction.



The rockhoppers

photos by Isla Trapski

Once we reached Mead's Wall, we dropped down the other side into scoria covered valleys, continuing on over rolling ridges. There was only one deftly- manoeuvred stream crossing to be executed. Following the downhill contours, we soon found our way toward the Chateau and the Ridge track which is adjacent to the Taranaki Falls track and Tama Lakes.



A magical landscape

photo by Isla Trapski

It was a misty cool day with some gentle rain. This provided a moody scenic traverse over amazing alpine foliage. A 'field' of large mosses firmly and delightfully cushioned our feet as we walked, allowing for relief from the coarse scoria. We also encountered a fabulous landscape of rock formations with tussock grasses and colourful alpine plants, well adapted to their conditions.

Yes, this was very much 'Middle Earth'.

After a very much welcomed lunch, we descended down toward the Chateau.

The trip took us approximately 3 hours. Thanks to the company of Selwyn J, David C, Jocelyn W, Lois R, Sheryn D, and Isla T (scribe).

~~~~~

Trip 2946B Tongariro Northern Crossing circuit 5 -7 June

Trip B travelled down to Waikato Hut on Ruapehu with the more adventurous Trip A. We planned to walk anti-clockwise around the mountain, although I'll add here that Barbara and I had done little/no research and were more than happy to follow Les wherever he decided. Slightly delayed in leaving Hamilton as communication over crampons and ice axes was a bit muddled, we called in at Bivouac. Equipment collected we drove past the front of the store looking back to check all was safe - ironically.

Collecting 3 people en route we were able to drive to the top of the Bruce to unload. Mike and Allan were a little delayed as the step to the bus wouldn't retract and was setting off an alarm - more later.

Warm drinks and safety notices over, Trip B changed to a clockwise route to make the most of the good weather on Saturday to get over the Tongariro Crossing to the Red Crater and Emerald Lakes.

Waking Saturday, we discovered that Mike had been up since before 5am as there had been another store break-in. Allan realised he'd forgotten his walking boots, and David (Trip A) had forgotten his waterproof jacket!

The four women, Barbara, Jocelyn, Ying and I set off to the van with Les and Allan, who drove us to the Skotel Alpine Resort where you can hire walking boots - good to know! Allan and Alpana joined us to walk up to the Red Crater and return in time to collect Trip A from the other side of the mountain.

I had walked the Tongariro Crossing exactly four years ago, but this time it was as if I was seeing it for the first time. I can only think that after only four weeks in NZ I was so self-absorbed that I simply followed the person in front. The landscape is simply amazing. Rocky, sandy, flat, vertical, lava flows, desert, plants....there's everything! The ascent isn't for the faint-hearted, especially with a 3-day pack on your back. We puffed, rested and cracked-on. The wind as we climbed the last rise to the Red Crater was unforgiving. A couple of times I thought I'd be bowled over. I'm told it wasn't just me! There was enough snow to think we perhaps should have put on our crampons, and then we were over the top.

Sheltered from the wind and in awe of the view and colours we shared a high five! Passing a couple warming their bottoms while having a picnic lunch, we started



Getting ahead of the trip leader

Photo by Amanda Collins

the descent. Innovative measures were taken to take photos, it seems I haven't forgotten what I learned on my Paris commute! The Blue Lake looked chilly in the distance, the middle Emerald Lake was frozen over. Steam rose around us. We came down the scree slope and diverted off toward Oturere Hut.

Again, the landscape changes. The rocks look like chunks of mud, yet they're quite solid if you bump into one! Plants manage to grow somehow - this must be a brutal environment. It looked like a film set for Star Trek. Had we bumped in to Captain Kirk, Scotty and Spock I wouldn't have been surprised. The undulations continued, kept us puffing, and the hut seemed further away than we thought. Thankfully when it appeared we saw smoke (after a 5hr 45 day). We had wondered whether to walk on to Waihohonu Hut (more later), but as Oturere was only about half full, we stayed. There are bunks in the main area and then two rooms of 7 bunks. The central area is quite restricted, two tables fill most of the floor, the wood stove in the centre, a sink and small bench make up the only free corner. It was like working in a galley kitchen, lots of shuffling and excuse-mes!

Ying and Les made up their beds in the main area, Les closed his eyes briefly, while we wondered where Ying had disappeared to, finally realising that she was fully cocooned only to appear the next morning. The three ladies had dinner and then Jocelyn tried to teach Barb and I how to play three-hand 500. Les rehydrated his much-discussed home-dehy meal; he ate all of it, so it must have been good!

The hut filled up to full occupancy and there were a few in tents.

Barb endured 500 until 7.30pm when we finally gave in to fatigue and went to bed. Sleeping comfortably, despite the cold, until 7am! The new plan, now clockwise, had been to overnight at Waihohonu on Sunday, a new-ish hut, however, the card players hatched two possible plans for the day, either walk around past Waihohonu to Whakapapa and then spend Sunday night in more comfort at Waikato Hut before going home Monday. Or, walk out from Waihohonu Hut to the Desert Road. Much

depended on weather, how full the next hut was and whether we could get Allan on the phone to agree a collection. We probably should have mentioned the plans to Les!

The heavy drizzle didn't stop; promised a slow start as we left Oturere at about 9.30am. I had left my waterproof over-trousers in the van, so, despite gaiters, the water simply ran down my legs and soaked my socks and boots. The terrain is still fascinating, this circuit is well worthy of the Great Walk classification. Plant life starts low level, becomes shrubs of hebe, and then after a single stand of beech, suddenly a whole ridge of beech. Over the beech ridge, more puffing, and across a stream the hut comes into view - more smoke. It took us 2hrs 30 to Waihohonu Hut.

The hut was packed and we learnt on arrival that there were no beds left. We had passed a few trampers out for a brief walk who explained that not only had people slept on the floor, but they weren't leaving! We stripped off our outer layers, draped damp clothes and went in for lunch. A nice hut, great fire, much more space and tables. Fantastic double-glazed picture windows that might have views to mountains, I can't tell you as the cloud and drizzle had set in. We explained our plans to Les, who agreed that a night at Waihohonu was not looking good. We agreed that if I could reach Allan by phone we should "pop out" on the Desert Road at 3.30pm. So, cold soggy boots laced back on, I climbed a ridge, only to disturb Allan from the fire at Whakapapa Pub. Arrangements confirmed, we left the Hut at 2.10pm instructed to walk at medium pace, to keep warm but not arrive too early as there's no shelter at the carpark. We walked through beech forest with pumice sand underfoot, then through sunken pathways with hebe and heather high on both sides. Pest control boxes evident on this day, we didn't see any whio on the fast-flowing streams. Very little birdsong on either day. As we arrived at the carpark Allan was waiting. Stripped off and into dry clothes we drove to the edge of Taupō for hot drinks and pies; no ice-cream on this trip. The step would not retract into the van, thankfully no alarm this time. Through light traffic we had an uneventful return, dropping Barb and Les en route to Hamilton.

A trip that was totally flexible, in direction, destination and duration, we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and vowed to return - perhaps in the Summer?

Thank you to Les for leading another great trip, to Barbara, Jocelyn and Ying for the company. Amanda (scribe).

Trip 2947

Wentworth Valley

13 June

We had a short trip to the Wentworth Valley carpark compared to those travelling from Hamilton and Rotorua, and it was great to catch up in the carpark, before the group of 21 was prepared under John's direction to start the tramp. John had requested we bring headlamps in case they were needed towards the latter part of the day. After introductions, it was agreed that we start with the least walked part of the track and finish with the waterfall track (easier should we lose the light).

The track started on the left of the camp manager's house and we passed two lots



Photo by Allan Wickens

of hardy souls in their caravans. It was an old pack track that connected onto the 1872 telegraph line track which ran through to Hikutaia and Thames, and was used as a means of transporting goods from the Whangamata wharf, along with stock, over into the Thames Valley area and mail by return. The bush had been cut over for its kauri, so it was great to see a good number of mature kauri and young seedlings and to hear the tui.

The weather was fine and mild with the usual removal of layers as we warmed up. It was quite a climb to start with, on a track that intermittently displayed markers. There was a variety of fungi along the way – some as big as dinner plates.



Photo by Allan Wickens

We didn't get to explore the summit ridge to Gold Mount, due to time constraints, and look forward to doing that another time. Lunch was at the top, once we emerged on the Maratoto loop track used by 4WD vehicles. Not sure how often it has been used in recent times, especially with the humps and hollows that we had to negotiate. Heading clockwise after 2 km, we turned left on to the Whangamata track/Wentworth Falls walk. We noticed a good deal of damage to the forest floor by pigs, between Maratoto and the Wentworth crossing. We followed the Wentworth River and as we approached the top of the falls, the track changed from

dirt to gravel. It was at that point that the weather closed in with showers and unfortunately prevented a view of Whangamata between the valley hills. We were rewarded with a lovely view of the Wentworth waterfall (with its two falls). A few braved the steep track to view the falls from the bottom – note that there were no takers for swimming in the pool. Some of us ambled back, stopping to view weta in the ceiling of a cave, alongside the pathway. There are the remains of a battery after crossing the main Wentworth Stream.

We said goodbye to the group returning to our home in Whangamata, while Sharon and David returned to Rotorua, and those in the bus and car returned to Hamilton, with a promise of a stop at Waihi for an ice cream.

Participants were: Amanda C, Lesley K, Alan W, Aron K, Anatheia A, Piet V, Fiona G, Karen M, John McD-W, Les W, Allan W, Julie V, Debbie (scribe) & Dave W, Sharon S, Marianne L, Jacqui D, David H, Noeleen C, Jean and John W.

Trip 2949

Off the beaten track

27 June



A dynamic duo photo by Judith Bogle -her camera at least.

This was a loop track where Steve Dick had kindly done some bush slashing to make it easier for us to walk. This is his hunting ground therefore we had the privileged to see where he goes. At the base of the Wairere track we took a sharp left and headed up the hill. This was a rough track with roots and some loose dirt, making it difficult to get footing sometimes. We were mainly in bush all the way up the hill.

Unfortunately, there was no view once we got to the tops due to the mist. There was light rain on and off and we were so lucky to only have a down pour right at the end when we got to the cars. At the top as we walked along the ridge before the hut is a helicopter pad and then Puketutu hut which is well looked after. Had a stop there, food and a bit of a dry out. At the base of the Wairere track we took a sharp left and headed up the hill. This was a rough track with roots and some loose dirt, making it difficult to get footing sometimes. We were mainly in bush all the way up the hill. Unfortunately, there was no view once we got to the tops due to the

mist. There was light rain on and off and we were so lucky to only have a down pour right at the end when we got to the cars. At the top as we walked along the ridge before the hut is a helicopter pad and then Puketutu hut which is well looked after. Had a stop there, food and a bit of a dry out.

This part took about 4.5hrs Then past the hut we headed to the main North South track which was a bit more than a kilometre. Got to the top of Wairere and headed back down to the carpark. We needed to get headlamps out for the last half of the Wairere track. Team included, Amanda C, Les W, Anita S, Aron K. Steve D, Theresa O'L and Judith B.

Trip 2950

Snowcraft I

3 / 4 July

Being my first snowcraft I didn't know what to expect. However, my expectations were high from the stories told to me by my mum (Jacqui) and Mike (the organisers of the weekend). Needless to say, it exceeded my expectations, surpassing other highly rated tramps and outdoor activities. The weekend was split into two full on days:

Day 1: We headed off early Saturday morning with half the group lead by Alan and the other half (including myself) by Mike. The day began first with a beautiful cooked breakfast consisting of sausages and baked beans, with there also being the option of porridge - note to self, steer clear of the baked beans when planning to climb a mountain. This breakfast gave us all the energy needed for a very long but rewarding day in the snow. Once geared up, we left the Waikato ski lodge and started our ascent towards a patch of snow where we could start practicing self-arrests. Being a stunning day however, does have its downsides, as most of the snow from the previous weekends dump had melted away, and so it was quite a climb to reached the first suitable spot. On the way we donned our crampons as the terrain became icy and were instructed on how to put them on and use them - along with our ice axes. The skills taught including general walking, the French technique used on steeper slopes and also front pointing which would prove to be useful the following day.



Goal achieved!

Photo by Jacqui Dick

When stopped, we were then given instructions and demonstrations on self-arresting under four different situations (feet first on your stomach or back, and then for those that have a tendency to enjoy throwing themselves down a hill, face first on both stomach and back).

Myself and Aidan chose to conserve our energy and slide down the mountain on any and every suitable patch of snow we could find. We arrived back at 4pm to the smell of dinner cooking. I was responsible for making dessert (sticky date pudding), so after a mug of mulled wine, several pieces of fruit cake, a shower and a change of clothes (in no particular order), I whipped this up - it's up to you to believe whether or not if it was in fact as easy as I make it sound. We all then sat down for a beautiful dinner of spaghetti bolognese (and dessert of course), where we all unwound from the day. Very shortly after, many of us went to bed quickly in case we fell asleep in front of the fire, satisfied with the day.

Day 2: The second day gave people several options - another climb up the mountain, further snow craft skills practice or a chill day spent making the most of the hut and scenery. For those who did not go to the crater on day 1, many opted to brave the harsh conditions of sun and blue skies and give it a shot in a group led by Mike and Jacqui. With another early start, and yet another awesome breakfast (where I chose to have porridge), we set off on a different route via Downhill hut and the West Ridge café. For those looking for a business venture, the downhill hut can be yours for a grand total of \$1, with the nearest toilets being only a one hour stroll away (although, I am unsure of when this became a promo and so, I'll continue on with day two). Shortly after West Ridge café, we once again put on the now more familiar crampons at which point we also bid farewell to a drink bottle that longed to be free and slid hastily away down the icy slopes. A drink bottle down but our spirits as high as ever, we continued onwards to the top. Then came a point where the group divided, with some choosing to go to the crater lake and a smaller group of four (Mike, Chris, Aidan and myself) heading up towards the third highest peak of Ruapehu - Paretaitonga. While I can't speak for the crater lake group, from what we could see and hear, they had the best time with it being most people's first time up, and some peoples' first time in the snow EVER - smiles all round that's for sure. Meanwhile, we were heading up towards Pare, using all the crampon techniques taught the day before. The slope was only getting steeper but luckily our crampons stayed where they belonged and none of us dared test our ability to self-arrest under pressure on a steep icy slope. Reaching the ridge was a rewarding moment following what seemed like a short stroll along the road to the peak or Pare - if only that road were covered in ice and consisted of two sheer drops on the either side. It was all worth it at the top which held the most breath-taking view - which of course had to be captured by a conquering selfie - and a text from my mum below simply saying "OMG". After taking a moment, we just let gravity do the work and jumped (just kidding, we were careful). After descending, we met the other group, with only some sore toes and a tired right hand from front pointing and digging the ice axe in. The rest of the trip down was full of more sliding down

slopes for some and good chats for everyone, with all of us being highly satisfied with the day we'd all had. We reached the hut around 3pm arriving to left over sticky date pudding, cheese and crackers, of which I surely ate enough to counteract the benefits of climbing a mountain! Everyone headed off shortly after, making their way towards the vans, and for me- I was left with my mum saying that "it would be terrible to break an ankle on the last little bit of the whole weekend" for what I'm sure was the 50 millionth time (not exaggerating). All in all, the trip was a definite 11/10 for every part of it, with the trip up Paretaitonga being the best tramp of my life. Without being hasty, I'm thinking my next challenge might be Aoraki Mt. Cook in a few weeks and then Mt. Everest next month - but I'm waiting on Mike to confirm that one.

Scribe: Jordan Dick

From the committee table:

New members: Welcome to Carlin Hamill, Christopher Underwood. Karen Mumme & Chris Keith, Hannah & Dirk Niekerk, Alona Parfonova, Vanya Whitelaw, and Rebecca Eivers.

Resignations: Nil

Membership: We have 196 tramping members this month. FMC cards for 2021/2022 year arrived in June. Some couples received only 1 card with their June bulletin. Please contact Lesley to get your second card. Apologies for this oversight.

From the tramping committee: Trip Planning for next summer in the South Is.

Wednesday. 21st July in the St Stephen's Church Hall, 7.30 pm

This trip planning meeting is specifically for the South Island in Summer 2021/22 So, get your ideas together for the trip you want to lead down south

- the places you've never been but want to,
- places you've been and want to show off to others
- challenges you've heard about and want to tackle

The scope of the trips for this planning are;

- The Lower North Island (beyond Kaimanawa) and most particularly Te Waipounamu; The South Island.
- The time span is (roughly) December through to March / April at a stretch
- The duration can be any length you like but say 4 to 9 days...

The type of trip may be

- tramping
- cycling
- kayaking (long time since we had one of those)
- rubber tubing down a river.
- got a special idea???

Come along to the meeting and share, listen or commit (to leading).

For Sale: MacPac microlight tent, one-person. Good condition. \$90 ono. Ph or text 07 855 8335; 027 3510415 or email: fiona.greendaisy@gmail.com

Snippets from here' n there

• **EXPRESSION of INTEREST: Dusky Track Trip.** I am interested in looking at tackling the Dusky Track in the Summer of 2021 / 2022 and, at this stage, checking whether there are others interested. Yes; this trip is a long way out but, for me and probably others, I need time to get fitter and fine-tune my equipment and food. Food will be a big issue and, I am experimenting in dehydrating my food so as to reduce my weight and space. When to Go? At this point, I am looking at a time frame around Christmas 2021 and New Year 2022. With this track, there are limited access times to start from Lake Hauroko (the preferred start point), with Thursday and Monday being the scheduled ferry days across the Lake. With this in mind, I suggest a track start date of Thu 30 Dec 21 and a track finish of Sat 08 January (allowing 10 days on the track). This will mean flying down about the Tue 28 Dec 21 and return flight Sun 09 Jan 22 / Mon 10 Jan 22. If this date is not ideal, I am most happy to discuss a common time when to go. By going around this time, it will leave the opportunity for those interested in doing a Club South Island trip later in Feb / March. Late Feb / early March period will be out for me. At this early stage of planning, I will look at flying to Queenstown then a shuttle to Te Anau; stay one/two nights in Te Anau – I would prefer to have a day fine-tuning gear etc, as the shuttle to Lake Hauroko leaves Te Anau at 0730, then arrive late in Te Anau and on the road early the next day, which will be a long day travelling and walking to our first hut. Coming back – as it would be late-afternoon when we return to Te Anau, I would look at staying the night in Te Anau before catching a shuttle back to Queenstown and connect with a flight home. For those interested in tackling the Dusky Track, please contact me and let me know whether the dates above are suitable or suggest some dates that would suit you. I am happy to settle on a date that suits all of those interested. Irrespective of when we go, the weather will be a major factor in determining our final dates. Over the next several months I will put together a trip itinerary and send to those who express an interest in this trip. I feel the main thing for now is to see what a suitable date would be for this trip, which will then determine the preparation and planning for the trip. Les Warren, contact: warrenlb2017@outlook.com

• At our last club night some flyers were displayed by the EarthDiverse group. This group is offering a series of courses on the NZ environment, natural history, & biodiversity. One course, in particular is titled ‘ Native Forest restoration’ and is led by George Lusty on Tuesdays from 10am -12 pm. The course begins on August 3rd, and runs for 8 weeks. To register and find out more about the many diverse courses available (ranging from 11 languages, arabic literature, NZ architecture, to NZ history) check out the website: earthdiverse.org.nz.

A great accomplishment shouldn't be the end of the road, just the starting point for the next leap forward. Harvey Mackay (go Jordan)

from the DoC website.....

➤ **Rock wren hot spots.** Rock wrens/tuke live year-round in the harsh alpine environment. No bigger than a silvereye, they are weak flyers and nest on the ground, making them easy prey for rats and stoats. DoC began monitoring rock wrens at 22 sites from Fiordland to Kahurangi in 2019 to measure how populations respond to predator control. Two summer surveys have been completed. Lead researcher Tristan Rawlence says results are showing healthy rock wren/tuke populations largely where predators are managed. “For the first time we’re getting an overall picture of how rock wrens are doing and it’s looking good where predators are controlled, but dire where they’re not. We’re seeing good numbers of rock wrens at the 12 sites under predator control using aerial 1080 and traps, mostly in the southern South Island. They are also doing well at sites in Westland where there is podocarp and hardwood forest, rather than beech, and different predator dynamics at play. In the northern South Island, we found fewer birds and none at sites north of Lewis Pass in the Spencer Mountains and Victoria Range where they were previously”. The healthiest rock wren populations were found in the upper Hollyford valley, Harris Saddle on the Routeburn Track, Haast Range, and several sites in Westland located between the Taramakau and Paringa rivers. Smaller numbers of rock wrens/tuke were counted in Kahurangi National Park where it seems the 2019 mega beech mast and resulting stoat plague may have had an impact on the population there, despite widespread predator control.

➤ **Kāpiti Island welcomes kōkako.** On Monday, 5 July, 11 North Island kōkako were translocated from Pureora Forest to Kāpiti Island. Up to 35 kōkako will be introduced to the island over the next two years to ‘top-up’ the existing 100 pairs, adding diversity to a nationally important population of these rare birds. This mahi has been made possible through a new partnership between the DoC and Fonterra Brands New Zealand, with the support of local iwi Ngāti Toa, Te Ati Awa ki Whakarongotai and Ngāti Raukawa. The birds travelled down from Pureora Forest in Waikato with members of Ngāti Rereahu and were gifted in a ceremony held on the island. Managing Director of Fonterra Brands New Zealand Brett Henshaw says Fonterra is proud to have partnered with DoC to support the population of beautiful kōkako on Kāpiti Island. “We approached DoC wanting to support a significant conservation project in the Kāpiti region which recognises and appreciates the cultural and community significance of Kāpiti Island. Fonterra’s Kāpiti brand has a strong connection with the region so we are delighted to be playing a role reigniting this important translocation programme. Fonterra’s partnership will help to ensure the national kōkako population remain strong and viable into the future.” Kōkako were first established on Kāpiti Island nearly 30 years ago. However, the very small number released – only 33, with just 11 breeding successfully at the time – meant the population lacked diversity. Adding to the existing population on Kāpiti will boost the genetic diversity. Being a safe,

predator-free offshore location, the island can provide a national insurance population for North Island kōkako should anything happen on the mainland.

➤ **New campsite pass.** The pass gives people access to about 94% of all DoC campsites around New Zealand (195 of 208 paid campsites), including bookable and non-bookable campsites, although there are some restrictions on when and how long the pass can be used. People can choose between passes for a week, month or year. DoC now offers two passes – one for huts (the Backcountry Hut Pass) and

Camping pass: Under fives is free.

Age group	1 week	1 month	Annual
Adult (18+)	\$55	\$80	\$140
Child (5-17)	\$27.50	\$40	\$70

Backcountry hut pass: Under 11yrs is free

Age group	6 months	Annual
Adult (18+)	\$108	\$144
Youth (11-17)	\$54	\$72

➤ **Dactylanthus sets seed for a bumper season.** Members of the Pirongia Te Aroaro o Kahu Restoration Society have worked alongside DoC staff on the recovery of *Dactylanthus taylorii*/puna o te rēinga on Mt Pirongia since 2015.

The odds are stacked against this endemic plant due to the impact of introduced pests, particularly possums who eat the flowers, making intervention necessary for its continued survival in the Waikato. Waikato Biodiversity Ranger, Cara Hansen, has been working with the Society on *Dactylanthus* recovery and has hand-pollinated the flowers seeding this season. She says it's a species she finds utterly fascinating. "At around this time of year we start monitoring seed production and thinking about where these seeds will be sown if collected. Plants flower between early summer and autumn, and this season 30 of the monitored plants had female flowers which were hand-pollinated over the summer. Hand-pollination is an even more important task for volunteers this year due to the absence of rats following recent pest control efforts." The work to pollinate the plants by hand is challenging. Once specimens are found, cages or enclosures are placed over them to prevent destructive browsing by mammals such as possums and pigs. Plants are hand-pollinated to overcome two major challenges: they have a dioecious flowering biology which means there are separate female and male flowers. There is also an absence of its natural pollinator, pekapeka or short-tailed bats, due to local extinction. Pekapeka are attracted to the strong musky scent of the flower and are rewarded with an abundance of nectar in exchange for transferring pollen from one plant to another. Rats have been identified as a potential pollinator of the plants and the success of recent predator control on the maunga has reduced rat numbers. "The hand-pollination has been effective, and we are optimistic that by springtime we'll have a good harvest of seeds," says Cara. "Each plant can produce tens of thousands of seeds which might seem like a lot, but the seeds take between four

and seven years to germinate so it's a relatively long wait to see any results." The waiting, however, pays off. "Once a seed germinates it attaches to a host tree root - typically pate or seven-finger, five-finger, lemonwood and putaputaweta - and covers it like a bottle cap. The tree root responds by developing the flared woody rose shape, giving it one of its common names." Plants will show above ground if they are large or flowering. "It's very difficult to see whether plants are forming without disturbing the seeds or host roots, which means we could wait more than four years to see any visible results above ground," says Cara. *Dactylanthus* is the only fully parasitic flowering plant in New Zealand. It derives all its nutrients from its host so has no green leaves or roots of its own.

.....
...from FMC....

➤ *Taonga Lands and Waters: Conservation and recreation for the future.* FMC warmly invite you to **celebrate our 90th anniversary**, with a weekend of activities, presentations and debates in Queenstown Friday 29th October – Sunday 31st October. Our event is the weekend after Labour weekend, so it's the perfect opportunity to take some leave, go on an adventure down south, and then join us for our celebration! During Friday and Saturday evenings, join us for the celebrations. Experts in conservation law, natural science, recreation, Te Ao Māori, and wild rivers will present and debate. Politicians will give their views on what's needed in conservation legislation. Sustainable recreation and the potential of outdoor education will also be discussed.

➤ **Wilderness area mapping tool.** For the first time ever, you can clearly view the boundaries of all the gazetted (official) and proposed wilderness areas on an interactive topographical map. Layers showing all national parks and other public conservation land are available, as are links to more information about each of the wilderness areas.

➤ **Paparoa National Park Management Plan.** FMC welcomes the recent High Court judgment supporting FMC's and Forest & Bird's stance against the Department of Conservation's and the New Zealand Conservation Authority's positions on the derogation of the Paparoa National Park Management Plan from the West Coast Conservation Management Strategy, which sits above the park plan in the statutory hierarchy. The Paparoa National Park Management Plan was approved by DoC and the New Zealand Conservation Authority and published in 2017. It allows for recreational aircraft landings within the National Park. The West Coast CMS however states "Aircraft landings for recreational purposes are not permitted in Paparoa National Park". In 2019, FMC and Forest & Bird sought a judicial review of the Paparoa National Park Management Plan in the Wellington High Court, claiming that the management plan derogates from the West Coast CMS, and seeking strike-out of the management plan's provisions allowing recreational landings. FMC is delighted that the integrity of Aotearoa's

conservation statutory scheme has been upheld, and that Paparoa National Park will remain a rare place of natural quiet.

➤ **Stewardship land reclassification.** FMC welcomes Acting Conservation Minister Ayesha Verrall's recent announcement that the Government is accelerating the reclassification of stewardship land to ensure land with high conservation value is protected for future generations to enjoy. "The Government intends to progress legislation to streamline, speed up and simplify the process so land with conservation value is identified and managed appropriately, while land with low or no conservation value can be considered for other uses." It will also allow for more efficient public consultation. While this is just the start of the process to honour stewardship land with the status and protection it deserves, and there may be pitfalls in passing legislation for "efficiency", it is nonetheless an extremely pleasing start. FMC will be following the process closely and ensure we are involved in order to obtain the best outcome for the protection of our stewardship land's conservation and recreation values.

➤ **Whakapapa Village public parking** areas and restrictions. FMC recently submitted on the new car parking restrictions proposed for Whakapapa Village in Tongariro National Park. The outcome of the consultation is detailed in a map and makes the arrangements clear for summer and winter parking. FMC's main concerns surrounded the requirement for people to attend the visitor centre in person for a permit for overnight parking (and full day parking during the winter). We requested that a dedicated overnight and full day car park be put in place year-round. DoC have acknowledged that it would be ideal to have an online system, but have no immediate plans for putting this in place. Note, this is a separate matter from the ski field carpark and road access during the winter.

➤ DoC backtracks on decision to allow **cattle grazing along West Coast river.** In May 2018, FMC submitted against the renewal of a grazing license by John Cowan on public conservation land in the Haast River. The land is adjacent to Mt Aspiring National Park, and cattle regularly stray into the park. In 2020, the Department of Conservation granted a concession for three years, with strict conditions including fencing and monitoring at Cowan's cost. The concessionaire asked for the fencing conditions to be reconsidered, saying they were impractical, raised animal welfare issues, and were economically unviable. As a result, the Department of Conservation has withdrawn the concession.

"The fencing provisions were fundamental to the initial decision to approve the application", said DoC Director General Lou Sanson. "Without fencing, grazing was inconsistent with the Conservation Act and other statutory planning documents that DoC must abide by." FMC would like to thank DoC for making the right decision and for upholding the Conservation Act.

~~~~~  
*The earth has music for those who listen." William Shakespeare.*



Ascending Mt. Ruapehu  
A good year at the Hut

Photo by Owen Vaughan  
Photographer unknown





A tough day already... and the tramp wasn't over yet.

## Pictures from the 1950s.

A slice of tongue? or sardines? with Murray Gothorp



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