



THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

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

June 2021



Mood Views photo by Theresa O' Leary

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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 828

June 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, 7th July

Tonight, we will be hearing Gerard Kelly speak about the Hamilton City Councils' reformation work with clearing exotic weeds, replanting native trees, the NZ short and long tail bat habitats, pest control and how this is all helping bring back the birds by improving their natural habitats.

Come along for an interesting talk and find out how we can help with the wonderful work being done within our city

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

WTC 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. **Address:** 1015 River Road, 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

(Please register online so that we can get an idea of numbers attending). Any questions ring Jacqui 021 1375 201



ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2021

| | | | | |
|------|------------|--------|--|---------------------------|
| 2947 | 13 June | M | Wentworth Valley | John Wilson |
| 2948 | 19/20 June | M or E | Waitawheta hut -easy or hard way in | Club captain |
| 2949 | 27 June | M/F | Wairere – off the beaten path | Judith Bogle |
| 2950 | 3 / 4 July | M | Snowcraft I | Mike Peck/ Jacqui Dick |

| | | | | |
|-------------|-------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | 7 July | | CLUB NIGHT | |
| 2951 | 11 July | E/M | Waitomo to Te Kuiti | Selwyn June |
| | 17 July | Very E | Midwinter Xmas social | Jacqui Dick |
| 2952 | 18 July | E | Waiuku forest/beach clean-up | 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 | |
| 2955 | 7/8 Aug | E/M | Leitches Clearing | Allan Wickens |
| 2956 | 15 Aug | E/M | Komata reef to Waitekauri | Selwyn June |
| 2957 | 21/22 Aug | M/F | Winter Tramp | Callum McDougall |
| 2958 | 29 Aug | EM | Wharekirauponga walk | Dianne June |
| | 1 Sept | | CLUB NIGHT | |
| 2959 | 4/5 Sept | M | Boyd Hut | Steve Dick |
| 2960 | 12 Sept | E/M | 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 2947

Wentworth Valley

13 June

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

Leader: John Wilson

Ph: 021 1682082

Grade: M

Transport: Senior member \$25-30

Senior non-member: \$35-40

Trip 2948

Waitawheta hut – easy or hard way in

19/20 June

You must book your campsite yourself so do it before you book on this trip.

Get in early as the number of sites is limited.

Option A (the fitter one): We'll be dropped off in Te Aroha on Saturday morning and head straight up the mountain. An early lunch at the summit if the weather is kind, otherwise dog kennel flat just on the other side offers some shelter. We follow the Waipapa track east to the Waitawheta valley, emerging from the bush right behind the hut. As the hut has already been fully booked, we will be camping, so please bring a tent and sleeping mat. This first day is about 10km and will probably take around 5 or 6 hours - 2 of them being the Te Aroha climb. The next day will be a pleasant stroll following the old tramline along the Waitawheta river to Franklin Road and the van. We're expecting to be back in Hamilton mid-afternoon on Sunday.

Option B (the easy one): Travel with the driver around to Franklin road end and walk the almost level track to Waitawheta hut to meet up with the other party and choose your campsite. Remember to specify your preferred option when booking.

Leader: Callum McDougal **Ph:** 020 41135196 **Grade:** M or E

Email: *callummcdougal@gmail.com* **Campsite:** \$5

Transport: Senior member \$50-75 Senior non-member: \$60-85

Trip 2949 Wairere- off the beaten track 27 June

Leave Hamilton at 7.45am drive to Wairere falls carpark. Ascend north side of Wairere falls (not as steep as Wairere falls track) and head north along unmarked track for approx. 1 km to connect with old north south track. Follow old north south track to Puketutu hut for lunch. (flat to gentle rolling all the way to the hut) After lunch head south down another unmarked track for around 950m to link up with new north south track and head to Wairere falls and descend to carpark. Roughly 16 kms and 8hrs tramping.

Leader: Judith Bogle **Ph:** 027 381 0283 **Grade:** M/F

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

Trip 2950 Snowcraft I 3 / 4 July

This is one of the most popular trips we run each year and for good reason. It is aimed at introducing you to the alpine environment in which you will learn valuable skills to safely enjoy it. The basics of Snowcraft will be taught on Saturday including how to use crampons and ice axes, self-arrest, how to walk on icy slopes, navigation tips, basic avalanche awareness plus what to wear etc. On Sunday the aim is to offer a couple of options of day walks in which to practice what you have learnt. Options may include the summit of Ruapehu or up to the Pinnacles lookout. This is very much weather dependent.

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

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

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

Note: Health & Safety requirements mean participants need to be Waikato

Tramping club members. Annual membership is \$50 per person. **Grade:** M

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

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

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

Hut fees and food costs: TBC

Trip 2951**Waitomo to Te Kuiti****11 July**

This day trip is along a section of the Te Araroa Trail. We start on Fullerton Road near Waitomo Village. The track is almost entirely on private farmland, although we pass through patches of bush including the Pehitawa covenant (one of the best remaining stands of kahikatea forest in the Waikato) and walk several short road sections. There are views over the karst landscape. The track ends on the ridge above Te Kuiti where we make our way down through Brook Park to the main road near Bosco's cafe. 12 km, 5 - 6 hours walking.

Leader: Selwyn June**Ph:** 0274 978151**Grade:** M**Email:** *selwynjune@xtra.co.nz***Transport:** Senior member \$25-30

Senior non-member: \$35-40

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 \$25-30

Senior non-member: \$35-40

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 (going up and 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.

Grade: M/F**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 \$180-200

Senior non-member: \$230-250

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 \$25-30

Senior non-member: \$35-40

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 \$50-75

Senior non-member: \$60-85

Trip 2956**Komata reef to Waitekauri****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 \$25-30

Senior non-member: \$35-40

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 leave Hamilton on Friday night and spend the 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 \$50-75

Senior non-member: \$60-85

Hut fees and food costs: TBC

Editorial

Sad to feel the party is over but what fun it was. Lots of work went into the planning – by lots of people and although many expressions of thanks were given to Selwyn and I, we can only say it was a superb team effort. Many stepped up to help even when no request was made and that does make any job easy.

Now it's time to settle back into our equally successful routine of the trip programme. I am very envious of the opportunities you are taking advantage of to get out there and see some wonderful places, while enjoying the company of your colleagues. Here's hoping I can acquit myself well when it is time for me to lead a trip again (in August). Fingers crossed that I'll have some help then if I need it.

Presidential Blog

It's good to see that both Ski and Tramping are gearing up for the up and coming cold and snowy season. I'd like say a big thank-you to the Ski Committee for the work they do making sure the Hut on Ruapehu is up to scratch ready for not only the Skiers but for the Trampers who are on the way to do snowcraft and other exploration. Mike Peck and Jacqui Dick will be the leaders for snowcraft and this is a great opportunity to upskill and be able to expand the diversity to where you can go and the season you are exploring in. On 3 December 1910 Freda Du Faur was the first woman to climb the summit of Mount Cook in New Zealand, and of more recent Lydia Pounamu Bradey in 1988 was the first women to Summit Mount Everest without supplemental oxygen. It is good to see that Jacqui is carrying some of that spark up Mount Ruapehu.

During Winter sometimes it's hard to venture outside but I encourage you all to do so. Feel the uplifting stimulation of the brisk cool morning or the sting of a frost. With the Ruapehu traverse and the Tongariro Northern Circuit I'm sure this is going to give you ample opportunity to do so. It may be a good time to revisit what gear you have and see if things need to be replaced or even upgraded. Or think about what other extras you need. Such as paper or fire starters for the hut to make sure you can get that fire going and keep warm. Extra chocolate or your favourite soup to help with extra energy you need to combat the cold. What about a pack of cards or fully charged kindle if you get stuck in that hut due to bad weather or for those long winter nights? I wish you all to keep tramping and keep safe. Enjoy what winter has to offer.

Judith Bogle

from the Ski Club...

As the winter kicks into life there's several simple things you can do to make your stay at the Lodge more enjoyable.

Firstly - pay your Ski club or combined subscription. This means you'll get access to member rates and the member priority beds. This year we will only confirm non-member bookings on the week of your stay.

Make sure you have appropriate clothing, bedding, footwear. This will help you arrive, travel and settle in with the minimum of fuss.

Be prepared to deal with changeable weather - especially as you exit your vehicle and start your trip up to the Lodge. Check the NZTA website for road conditions.

In some situations, delaying your travel may be advisable. You should also be familiar with the parking arrangements which will change again this year and introduce a Club and Lodge booking portal.

e sensible about your meal plan. You're unlikely to feel like a 6-course gourmet dinner at the end of a day's activity. And you won't get priority kitchen access even if you do. Carrying food down the mountain is a step closer to food wastage. Behave communally and with a desire to meet new people and provide advice or support where appropriate, and in an appropriate fashion. We want the Lodge to be a venue of happy memories.

Keep an eye on facebook and the website for weekly updates and news. That's the easiest way to stay in touch. Stephen Prendergast, Ski Team Leader

Mid-week Walks & Tramps

We are going to continue with the current format for these 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. If you would like to be part of this communication, please download WhatsApp on your phone & text your request to Sharon 021 458 525.

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

Trip Reports

Trip 2925

West Coast Wilderness cycle

22-26 Feb

Day 1 – Greymouth to Kumara

Seven keen cyclists met in Greymouth for the start of the West Coast Wilderness bike trail. After getting our bikes and panniers etc organised, John & Jean, rode north, back into town to the official start of the trail. The rest of us started from the camping ground and headed south. The trail followed the coast for a while & then the five of us diverted 4km inland to Shanty Town which was well worth the visit. After looking around at all the interesting displays we had a ride on an old steam train up

into the bush. Back on the trail again, we ended the day at the Greenstone Retreat at Kumara. John & Jean had bypassed Shanty town (having been there before) and were waiting for us. We cycled 36km and climbed only 75m. All had a great meal at the pub that night.

Lesley K

Day 2 – Kumara to Cowboy Paradise

The shop in Kumara made sandwiches but did not open until 10am, posing a problem for those of us wanting to buy lunch. However, our host, Kate, came to the rescue to sell us assorted cans, crackers and fresh eggs. Leaving Kumara we came to a bushy single track through piles of old goldfield boulders, now mostly covered in scrub. A short diversion took us to Londonderry Rock, an enormous boulder estimated at 2-3000 tonnes. There was light rain all morning which penetrated our parkas in proportion to their age. Margaret's clothes remained completely dry under her brand-new parka, and the rest of us were wet to varying degrees up to 100%



At the trappers Rest

Photo by John Wilson

Our route took us past canals, reservoirs and water races taking water to the Dillmans power scheme, and about lunchtime we came to Trappers Rest and its shelter, fireplace, picnic table, water and loos. Alan put an axe to good use and Keith produced hot water from a thermette. As we ate lunch the heaviest rain of the day fell.

A DoC ranger joined us and talked about his work with blue duck conservation. He told us where to spot a pair not far away by an old gold era weir. The trail climbed to a low saddle and after passing a couple more weirs we came to the replica wild west town of Cowboy Paradise. Despite many unflattering online reports, our host treated us well, provided comfortable accommodation and a hearty dinner and breakfast. We had been warned not to arrive before 2pm, so didn't, and made no comments about his anti-1080 signs, Trump posters,

confederate flag and raised pole dancing stage in the centre of the big saloon. He had several shooting ranges set up with targets, but no gunfire disturbed the quiet. With the help of heaters, we dried all our wet clothes. Jean W

Day 3 – Cowboy Paradise to Hokitika

From the end of the ‘western’ town, the trail zigzagged for 4km downhill to the Arahura River. This section had obviously been built for fun! The Arahura Valley revealed spectacular views of the mountains and lead to a toughish 1km climb out of the valley, through native forest, to descend to Lake Kaniere. A side-trip, consisting of a 15-minute walk to the beach at Canoe Cove, revealed a beautiful, still lake.



The Kaniere water race

Photo by David Cumming

One of the most interesting sections was cycling alongside the historic Lake Kaniere Water Race, built in 1874 to supply water for sluicing on the Kaniere goldfields and now used for power generation.

The final few kilometres were along the Hokitika and Kaniere Tram Line, right beside the Hokitika River. The imposing structure of the Westland Milk Products factory came into view. After a coffee stop at the Clocktower Café we cycled to our accommodation at Kiwi Holiday Park. In the evening we walked along the wild West Coast beach to Sunset Point, enjoying the beach art made out of driftwood. The infamous reputation of the Hokitika River mouth and its bar, with many vessels running aground during the gold rush days, made for interesting reading. As the sun set, we enjoyed a delicious meal, alfresco-style, at Stumpers Bar and Café. David C

Day 4 – Hokitika to Ross

We cycled south over the Hokitika bridge and through farmland. Crossing the main road, we headed into an area of waterways and bush. Very attractive with a beautiful flowing weed in the stream that we'd never seen before. At a rest stop we spied a kotuku like a silent sentinel on its high tree branch. This was the only day we saw Aorangi Mt Cook and Tasman, white jewels in the distance.

Photo by John Wilson



Cyclists: Margaret & Keith Robbins, Jean & John Wilson, David Cumming and Lesley K & Alan Wilson.

Photo by John Wilson

Continuing on through the bush we stopped to walk a side track down to the shores of Lake Mahinapua. Stillness and reflections of the beautiful bush edge greeted us and delighted the photographers. Alan spotted a red and white rata growing together. Back on our bikes we carried on to the Treetop Walkway and the smell of coffee and the outside seating in the sunshine beckoned. Alan, Lesley and I left the others to their café fix and we walked up the hill to the treetop walkway. Wow, it really was wonderful being so high up above the bush. Great views back to Lake Mahinapua and well worth a stop. Last day, shuttle to catch, better get going, so off we headed on the final leg. Some interesting history boards to read along the railway line. Otherwise head down, let's get there. Ross is an old goldmining town with an interesting museum (we didn't have time) and a very quaint old hotel. Some of us managed a quick lunch there and were told

they usually catered for about 800 people a week pre-Covid!! Waiting for the shuttle an obligatory group photo and congratulations all round on an enjoyable trip.

Margaret R

Trip 2944

Waihaha Hut

22/23 May

Not having far to drive seven of us set off at 9ish from Hamilton. Via Volare at Te Awamutu for a caffeine fix. We met Dawn at the Taupō Great Lake trail carpark for 11.30am. Nerves about leaving stuff in the van were echoed by others, the evident sheep and cattle skins didn't reassure me....I packed all that I was loathe to lose in my backpack.

Across the road to the beginning of the track; 9km +/-3hours to the hut. We kept to the left bank of the Waihaha river, although an easy track, there is a good rise to get the heart pumping. Crossing a swing bridge marked for one tramper at a time, it was said to be engineered for 60 elephants to cross. We behaved and crossed separately.



Who's the best wood chopper now?

Photo by Mike Peck

The beech forest track leads along the banks, then through flats of turpentine shrub, back to the river banks with some fascinating water-worn "pools" in the raised river bed. The forest became more totara, rimu and matai as we approached the hut in a clearing. Very comfortable walking.

When we arrived, there were a couple of hunters, two more arrived with a dog but left soon after. Wood was found and cut, to stack on the wood pile and warm cold bodies - twice.

We chose bunks and tent spots before settling in for a late lunch, or was it early aperitifs on the covered deck, and the first rounds of cards. At dusk four cyclists arrived, the fire made the hut snugly and the outside picnic table made it inside. At least two more rounds of cards and it was late enough to respectfully go to bed.

Morning was chilly, dry and not frozen. We retraced our steps, admiring the river again. The return, as the way in, took 2.5 hours. We checked for elephants at the swing bridge, none were found.

The vehicles were untouched, we waved goodbye to Dawn who returned separately to Rotorua, the bus set off for Waikite Hot Pools. What a great way to soak muscles and any soak off woes. Back in Hamilton for 4pm. hardly anyone fell asleep in the van.

Thanks for a great weekend to Mike P (Leader & Driver), Allan W, Les W, Jacob H, Dorothy C, Dawn, Lynette M and Amanda C (scribe).



Waihaha Hut 'visitors'

Photo by Amanda Collins

From the committee table:

New members: Welcome to Katherine Rowe, and welcome back to Irina Boggs

Resignations: Edric Verbeek-Martin & Kate Jackson

Membership: We have **187** tramping members this month. FMC cards for 2021/2022 year are scheduled to arrive in June. Still chasing a couple of members for annual subs.

Past members: We acknowledge the recent passing of 3 past members. Brice Pepperell was a club member from 1955-1985. Doris Downs belonged to the club, along with husband Doug, from 1964-1967. Lindsay Going was a member from 1951-1983 and he died, aged 90, in Wanaka. His death notice mentioned the significant rôle our tramping club played in his life. Your editor remembers going on a club trip when Lindsay stopped frequently to indulge his passion for

photography (which was often presented at subsequent club nights). Dianne waited for him to finish what he wanted to do while the rest of the party continued on their way. Eventually Dianne got the message – don't wait or you'll be left behind too!

From the Treasurer: Donations. The club is a registered charity so donations are tax deductible. A club receipt will be issued for any donation and will include our Registered Charity No.

From the tramping committee: Introduction of Cancellation fees

There have been several trips run this year where late cancellations of some trampers, within the current permitted Wednesday night time frame, have meant that the cost of the trip has risen for all the others. There are several reasons given for the cancellation, but the ultimate result is the same, and for long trips this can make a substantial difference to each person's cost.

We have also been stressing the need for trampers to accurately assess their ability to complete the advertised tramp, and where necessary, get in touch with the leader to be sure they are up to it. This is a two-way issue and the Leader must accurately describe the demands of the trip in the description in Bulletin and website so that trampers can gauge their fitness.

Add to this scenario the fact that our trips are filling fast and we encourage you to book early or miss out. The committee is aware of this dilemma for you in making the decision to book, and has decided to make a few changes to ensure "the bus is full".

First: The committee has resolved to apply a cancellation fee to those who have registered for a weekend trip and who then cancel prior to the cut-off time of Wednesday night before the trip. This cancellation fee is to be set at \$20 and will apply from the 1st July 2021.

Notes

- This only applies to trips of two or more days, i.e., the high transport cost trips
- The fee will apply to trips run after 1st July 2021
- This applies to any trumper who registers and then cancels prior to the cut-off on the Wednesday night before the trip.
- Trampers who cancel after the cut-off Wednesday night will still be invoiced for the full transport cost

Second: The website event page of the trip will no longer be marked with "FULL" when the 12-seat bus is full and the leader will keep a stand-by list so that any cancelled seats can be filled. The leader will inform any stand-by trumper of their status and they should also be copied in trip planning emails etc in-case a cancellation happens.

There are several situations where the cancellation fee will not be applied:

- If there is a trumper on standby who can take your place in the van you will not be invoiced the cancellation fee.

- If the Leader declines your registration, such as if you register for Snowcraft and have done this course before, the Leader may put you off in favour of someone who hasn't done the course.
- The traditionally acceptable reasons of illness, broken bones or bereavement will still be considered when applying the cancellation fee.

A reminder: All registrations are done through the website's event page for the trip.

Registration for trips is now exclusively through the website event page as word of mouth / phone calls are unreliable. {Don't forget to click the second page's [Process Registration] button: }

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

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*Report from the reunion team*

The reunion committee are pleased you enjoyed our get together to celebrate the tramping Club's 70<sup>th</sup> year of existence. We have heard and received only good messages and seen smiles on everyone's faces.

We would have liked to hold the event in Hamilton at Zenders café as it catered for all our requirements but circumstances beyond our control meant we needed to look elsewhere and the Pirongia forest Park Lodge came to the party with both the catering and accommodation options.

Details such as guest speakers, publicity material, catering needs, contingency plans for wet weather, power supply, were ironed out in the preceding few weeks so that on the 8<sup>th</sup> May it was time for the function to go ahead.

The team arrived early as did the beautiful calm, warm, slightly overcast weather. The lady club members did what they do well – chopping fruit for a fruit salad, and the lads did what they do well – the heavy work putting up the marquee and setting up the displays along the verandah wall. The photographic display on the function room wall played throughout the day. By lunchtime everything was in place for the party to start at 1.30pm.

Dave White began his MC duties at 2.30 by introducing the speakers for the afternoon- Judith Bogle as President, followed by John Wilson talking about his 58 years of tramping with the club. The reunion cake made by Diana Kelly, was cut about 3pm and all those present tucked into afternoon tea and cake before lining up to have their photos taken in various categories by Isla Trapski.

Happy hour with nibbles and drinks at 5pm set the scene for the evening function when MC for the evening Dianne June invited 80 people to sit down to a buffet dinner. Speakers John Davies and Rod Keucke kept us entertained after the meal, as did a few reminiscences from a few others. Dave White had us all in fits of

laughter when he had a group of 11 playing a game of 'hats' while the rest watched on. And then it was off to bed.

Next morning the keen early risers had the traditional porridge and cooked breakfast ready as people arose for the day. It was raining so the items under the marquee were removed and loaded into vehicles and trailers, and then the marquee itself, before the trampers headed out for a walk up to Ruapane. Some stayed behind to chat and keep the teapot hot before setting out the leftovers for lunch. By 4pm the venue had been cleaned and tidied in true cooperative fashion. The following weekend it was almost like a normal club trip to Waikato Hut. The view out the windows looked like a blank page of your bulletin so it took until Saturday afternoon before Selwyn found some candidates to join him on a walk from Silica Rapids to Whakapapa and Garey Carruthers brought them all back up to Iwikau. As we sat down to dinner, Nigel Lancaster made a toast to all the past members who have helped to make the club what it is. Plans to illustrate Graham Haines' talk about how the Hut came to be where it is were foiled when we didn't have the right cable for the projector. Nevertheless, it was interesting. Sunday saw a bit of cabin fever evident so most were keen to get out in the murk with John Wilson taking a party to Stanton memorial (some of them returning to the Hut about 1.5hours later), and Selwyn taking a group over to Meads Wall and down the Ridge track. Dianne brought this party back to Iwikau where everyone enjoyed another pumpkin soup, come conviviality, and cleaning, before heading homewards.

All up it was a great time and it will remain in our memory for a long time but the memory jogger will be the booklet that is now available. Sadly, post printing, some good sleuths have uncovered some errors in labelling that should be corrected. For those of you who already have your copy and would like to know where the changes need to be made, please contact Dianne. Before another print run is done these errors will be corrected. If you haven't already ordered and paid for a copy, but would like one, please contact Dianne [djune@xtra.co.nz](mailto:djune@xtra.co.nz). Payment is to be made to the club account number 03 1555 0091625 02 Record your name in the Particulars, and 'booklet' in Reference. Cost is \$20 p&p.

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Why is it called 'Rush Hour' when traffic moves at its slowest then?

How do you get off a non-stop Flight?

How come Noses run and Feet smell?

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*from the DoC website....*

➤ **Breeding season predictions for Kākāpō.** The rimu counts are in. The DoC Kākāpō Recovery team is predicting a breeding season for this iconic, flightless taonga this summer. DoC kākāpō operations manager Deidre Vercoe says the critically endangered parrot only breeds when rimu trees put out

masses of fruit (what's known as a mast year), which typically takes place every 2–4 years. The team have surveyed rimu trees on Whenua Hou, Anchor and Te Kākahu-o-Tamatea islands, where kākāpō live. All indications point to a reasonable breeding season.” Kākāpō breeding is complex. They only breed if more than 8% of rimu tips bear fruit. The higher the percentage, the more females in the population are likely to breed. So far, the results for Whenua Hou show 31% fruit tips, Anchor at about 22% and Te Kākahu 14%. Based on the numbers, there's potential for around half the eligible female population to breed. “Fruiting tips can be lost over winter, so we will recount in the spring to give us a clearer number of nests we're likely to expect,” Deidre Vercoe says. Kākāpō last bred in early 2019 when a record 73 chicks were added to the population. The current total population is 204.

➤ Newly released drone photography shows the **impact of possums** on a section of ancient forest in northern Coromandel, and also the value of predator control and restoring forest habitat. The images were obtained as part of work undertaken by staff from DoC Coromandel district, when they carried out seed collection tasks in summer as part of efforts to stop the spread of the tree disease myrtle rust and safeguard genetic seed stock for the species. Myrtle rust has the potential to weaken and eventually kill some native New Zealand tree species such as pōhutukawa, manuka and rātā. The drone images show sections of forest canopy in the Papakai block of the Coromandel Forest Park, which straddles the spine of the Coromandel ranges. Nick Kelly, DoC's Coromandel Operations Manager, says the drone images show the stark contrast between an area where there has been more than 25 years of predator control effort, and an adjacent section of land where predator control has only been undertaken twice in the last decade. “The tops of the rātā trees in the two images are where the difference is really evident,” he says. “In the area where we've had long-term predator control, you can see the distinctive red-brown colour of the rātā trees flowering — they're good healthy trees, with plenty of leaf coverage and no signs of the damage possums cause. “But in the other image, several dead rātā are clearly visible — over time, they've been stripped of leaves by possums and that's led to the trees dying. “Those dead specimens really stick out, and they're a trigger for what we term a ‘top-down collapse’ of the forest eco-system.”

As larger trees die off due to the impact of possums, it compromises wider bio diversity and forest health, with birdlife, insects and other native wildlife affected. The Coromandel forest being protected is home to important native species such as Archey's frogs, Coromandel striped gecko and Coromandel brown kiwi. It's also believed the area has woodrose/puaotereinga (*Dactylanthus taylorii*), an extremely rare and threatened parasitic fungus-like plant which is pollinated by long-tailed-bats/pekapeka but destroyed by rats and possums.

➤ Government speeds up **stewardship land reclassification**. The Government is accelerating the reclassification of stewardship land to ensure

land with high conservation value is protected for future generations to enjoy, Acting Conservation Minister Dr Ayesha Verrall has announced. “It’s vital that land with high conservation value is classified correctly to ensure it is protected for its natural and cultural heritage and safeguarded for the future.

Reclassification fits with the Government’s manifesto commitment to protect, preserve and restore our natural heritage and biodiversity and is one of the Department of Conservation’s (DOC) core roles and responsibilities. However, the current process of reclassifying stewardship land is complex, costly and time-consuming. 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. Further Cabinet decisions regarding the proposed legislation will be made later this year. In the meantime, two independent expert national panels are being established, with their initial focus being on the Northern South Island and Western South Island. There will be opportunities for the public, stakeholders and iwi/Māori to provide feedback on the recommendations through a public consultation process, prior to final decisions being made on the proposed reclassification. *Check out the website for more information*

➤ **Beech mast** on the cards after warm summer. Climate modelling shows this year’s hot March has increased the chance of beech forest seeding next summer in parts of New Zealand, which could be bad news for native wildlife. DoC uses data from NIWA’s virtual climate station network to predict beech seeding or masts, which are triggered by a significant temperature increase between two consecutive summers. When forests seed, it provides food for native species but can also fuel an upsurge in rodents and stoats, predators which have devastating impacts on native species if not controlled. DoC Principal Scientist Dr Graeme Elliott says the modelling shows a beech mast is very likely in southern Fiordland next year and may also occur in parts of North Otago, South Westland and North Canterbury, as well as in the central North Island. “After a couple of years with little beech seeding anywhere, it’s looking like there will be a beech mast in a handful of places around the country in 2022,” he says. “Although this past January and February weren’t especially warm, March was unusually hot in some places, which increased the overall summer temperature.” The temperature difference is not as big outside of southern Fiordland, so there is less certainty full seeding will result in those areas.

➤ **Kaweka kiwi** death raises concerns about dogs. The male North Island brown kiwi, named Mahika, was part of the Kaweka kiwi breeding programme. His body was discovered by a volunteer from the Environment, Conservation and Outdoor Education Trust (ECOED), who was following transmitter signals on a regular monitoring trip. Mahika’s body was covered under a shallow layer

of earth with an injury and the surrounding ground was covered in dog and human prints, suggesting he may have been attacked by a dog and the body deliberately hidden. It is the second dog-related death of a monitored kiwi in the Kaweka in the past 12 months. The kiwi population is still recovering in the Kaweka thanks to many years of hard work by dedicated ECOED volunteers. Mahika was a young adult male who has just started to breed, so this is a blow to the population.

*...from FMC...*

➤ High Court judgment on the Paparoa National Park Management Plan. FMC welcomes the recent High Court judgment supporting FMC's and Forest & Bird's stance against DoC's and the New Zealand Conservation Authority's positions on the derogation of the Paparoa National Park (NP) Management Plan from the West Coast Conservation Management Strategy, which sits above the park plan in the statutory hierarchy. The 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 in clause 3.6.4.2 (Aircraft) that "Aircraft landings for recreational purposes are not permitted in Paparoa NP". In 2019, FMC and Forest & Bird sought a judicial review of the Paparoa NP Management Plan in the Wellington High Court, claiming that the management plan derogates from the CMS, and seeking strike-out of the management plan's provisions allowing recreational landings. The West Coast Te Tai o Poutini Conservation Management Strategy 2010 – 2020 applies to the West Coast of the South Island, including Paparoa National Park. DoC agreed with the claim about derogation from the CMS, but disagreed with the request to strike out the relevant provisions from the Paparoa NP Management Plan 2017. The New Zealand Conservation Authority disagreed with the claim about the plan's derogation from the CMS. The High Court in Wellington issued its judgment [2021] NZHC 1194 on 27 May 2021. The High Court found that the Paparoa NP Management Plan 2017 derogates from the West Coast CMS and ordered all provisions allowing for recreational landings within the National Park to be struck out.



Punakaiki and Paparoa range in background

Photo © by Neil Silverwood



Exercise class at Waikato Hut



Toastmaster Nigel Lancaster

Social time at the Hut



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