



THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

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

May 2021



The reunion working crew photo by Dianne

WAIKATO HUT

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Tongariro National Park



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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 827

May 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, 2nd June

Tonight, we will be having a real variety of short presentations on recent club trips. Over the summer months the club ran quite a few extended trips to various parts of the South Island so we will get to hear all about these trips and see their wonderful photos. Also included in the programme will be a report on the recent Bush Banquet to the Kaimanawa Ranges, which was some of the finest dining the club has ever done!

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

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

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2021

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

	21 May		Film night	Graham & Andrea Haines
2944	22/23 May	E/M	Waihaha Hut	Mike Peck
2944B	22/23 May	M	Kaimai working party	John McArthur
2945	30 May	E	Te Akau Beach	John McArthur
2946A	5-7 June	F	Ruapehu Traverse	Mike Peck
2946B	5-7 June	M/F	Northern circuit	Les Warren
2947	13 June	M	Wentworth Valley	John Wilson
2948	19/20 June	E/M	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
2951	11 July	E/M	Waitomo to Te Kuiti	Les Warren

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 2944

Waihaha Hut

22/23 May

Due to injury of the trip leader for A trip to Crosbie Hut, this trip has been changed to Waihaha with a new leader.

We'll depart 8.00am Saturday morning from London St and drive via Mangakino to the Taupo Great lake trail carpark. It is a 9.5km walk into Waihaha Hut for our nights' accommodation. The hut requires a standard hut (\$5.00) ticket and is first come, first served. Bring a tent just in case. We'll walk out the same way in the

morning and then drive to Waikite Valley thermal pools for a soak in the hot pools. (\$20.00 entrance) . We'll be back in Hamilton by 6.00pm.

Leader: Mike Peck

Ph: 021 369 256

Grade: E

Email: mikeypeck@yahoo.com

Transport: Senior member \$50-75

Senior non-member: \$60-85

Trip 2944B

Kaimai working party

22/23 May

Here is an opportunity to again help the Kaimai Ridgeway Trust improve the huts and tracks of the marvelous Kaimai range. Some of you have been on these work parties in the past and will remember the comfort of the Te Rereatukahia hut and the "fun" of a day's work on the tracks. This event is now in the WTC website calendar if you wish to book in.

Leader: John McArthur

Ph: 021 2889641

Grade: E

Email: mcarthur@outlook.co.nz

Transport: Usually private cars.

Trip 2945

Te Akau Beach

30 May

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

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



Pancake rocks at Carters Beach



Carters beach rocks

photos by Dianne June

Leader: John McArthur

Ph: 021 2889641

Grade: E

Email: mcarthur@outlook.co.nz

Transport: Senior member \$25-30

Senior non-member: \$35-40

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

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

Leader: Mike Peck **Ph:** 021 369 256 **Grade:** F

Email: *mikeypeck@yahoo.com*

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mon 7th – Mangatepopo Hut to Whakapapa Village – 4hrs

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

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

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

Email: *warrenlb2017@outlook.com*

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

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

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**

This trip needs some more details ironed out such as the exact route and a leader. If you would like to assist with this one, or be assisted if you are a newcomer to leading, please make contact with the club captain.

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 trip was last done in 2011 and was described this:

This is another of those popular day walks we do. It is not a difficult walk and is part of the Te Araroa walkway.

Leader: Les Warren

Ph: 027 864 4937

Grade: M/F

Email: warrenlb2017@outlook.com

Transport: Senior member \$25-30

Senior non-member: \$35-40

Editorial

Firstly – mea culpa – last months’ bulletin was not correctly numbered and dated on the frontispiece. My apologies for this oversight.

Secondly – what can I say about the first part of our reunion other than it was a blast? So many people pitching in to make it work, and all the right people in attendance to make it hum. Selwyn and I are thrilled to bits that you enjoyed the function. The perfect weather for outdoor photography has meant the pictures that Isla took are just right (from her fussy point of view). She has certainly captured our best sides. The booklet being produced will be a great record of the time. Now to focus on the second part of the event (the delay due to Covid has given us the opportunity to use more time for the reunion and celebrate at Waikato Hut next weekend too). We hope you enjoy the activities planned for there too.

Presidential Blog

We are in the midst of the Waikato Tramping Clubs 70th reunion, with the excitement of the current members being able to mingle with the members of long past. This is a great opportunity to hear about how tramping was in the past and be grateful for the new advances in gear or lament the times past when traversing the mountains seemed more adventurous. Over the years much knowledge and experience has been gained by the members of the club. You can see this by the courses we offer such as snowcraft and river training and probably many of the stories we will hear over the weekend. Also, the projects that the club have been involved over time, such as Pureora baiting and the track maintenance on the Kaimais range show our involvement and awareness of the environment. I’d like to say thank-you to Selwyn and Dianne for putting the 70th reunion event together and to all the other members who have supported them and put in hours in. Even after the rocky start of Covid-19 interfering with the initial start time, everyone has shown great tenacity in making the reunion happen.

from the Ski Club...

Thanks to those people who attended or offered to attend our working parties over the last few months. As well as having a good store of firewood we have also repainted the downstairs foyer and men's bathroom. Upstairs you'll notice

that we've temporarily removed the stairwell window as a first step into dealing with the wear and tear on all the joinery.

Mt Ruapehu admin have been working hard on the lift facilities and expect to have all of the lifts running this year. That will be a great improvement on last year's result. Once again, you'll need to keep an eye out for parking updates. Frankly if you are trying to drive up the mountain on a Saturday or Sunday you need your head read. It's the worst possible approach when you could get up with minimal fuss on Friday night and be ahead of the queues who think Saturday is a good bet. Our weekend stays in Winter are any 2 of Friday / Saturday / Sunday nights. It makes sense to arrive Friday and when weather dictates stay on for Monday.

Senior member's rates this year are unchanged and very affordable at \$35 / night and for children it's \$20 / night. With limited overseas travel available a winter break at the Lodge might be just the tonic. We extend a warm welcome to those WTC members who are spending the weekend at the Lodge as part of the 70th anniversary celebrations. We hope you have a great time and enjoy your stay. For all the new members who have yet to get a weekend at the Hut I extend an invitation either with your own group of friends or on one of the upcoming Snowcraft or winter adventures. As one of the best located Lodges on the mountain, and with one of the most affordable annual subscriptions I encourage you to come spend winter 2021 with the ski club and make it a year to remember.

Stephen Prendergast, Ski Committee 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 2922

Heaphy Track

15-20 Feb

Jess wrote this up on by her flight back to the USA.

Participants where a John & Hine & Jake & Jess & Peter A.

A leisurely morning kicked off the Heaphy track tramp in February, repacking and walking down to the bus stop. Got a shuttle to Takaka then swapped into a shuttle where the driver had one speed and it was fast!



The team

Photo by Jess Ayson

After a quick lunch we set off up the hill to Perry saddle hut along a track that got very long towards the end. After a quick tent assemble and some well-deserved dinner we were blessed with a beautiful sunset and a rainbow which was a great end to the 17.5km

walk. The next day we headed up Perry's summit to see the amazing views of the mountains and on towards the valley where we were headed.

Walked through very interesting bush and scenery to Gouland downs We had heard about the enchanted forest and caves behind the historic downs hut were worth a look so as the clouds set in we went for an explore. The caves were very interesting as we were able to climb up into them and see cave wetas. The enchanted forest really was that, everything covered in moss and little tracks everywhere.

Back to the hut for some good old dehy and an early night as the rain started.

As we were packing up on day three the morning cloud cleared and we got to see the marshlands surrounding us. With the sun shining we set off through the plains and over the multiple bridges and through various types of undulating forests.

When we made it to James McKay hut, we had a bit of a challenge setting up our tents on the wooden platforms knowing we were in for a hard sleep. A quick wash in the cool stream then to congregate around Johns' tent to have a picnic dinner. At the end of another 17km day we retired to bed after listening to the warden tell us of the exciting things in store for us on day four.

We awoke a little tired the next morning and slowly packed up and headed out towards the coast. We stopped at Lewis hut for lunch and got accosted by weka and sandflies so a quick stop to patch some feet and eat some food and then on to the swing bridges and massive trees. Explored another cave just before the Heaphy hut and saw glow worms and big spiders. After a long day of 21km we arrived at the Heaphy hut which had amazing views up the river and out to the west coast. Set up tent at campsite and went for a swim in the mouth of the river.

We had an early dinner then enjoyed a walk along the beach and got some phone service to check what Covid state we were exiting to tomorrow. (Someone had their pack pockets picked by thieving wekas in the night). We had heard there were snails worth seeing up behind the hut so, as the sun set, we went to have a look but unfortunately only found shells, but we did hear kiwis during the night.



We had an early start to make sure we made it to Karamea in time to catch the shuttle but the views were stunning- so glad we had time to enjoy it. Big rough hills, filling the Wild West coast and the massive nikau palms made it feel like you were walking through a Jurassic park movie set. Stopped on the beach for lunch in the sunshine before heading up over the last hill and down to meet the shuttle which took us to the always long-awaited shower, beer, real food and a comfy bed at The Last Resort. 100% would recommend and definitely understand why it is one of the great walks. Great little crew with laughs as always. Jesse

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**Trip 2926      1000acre plateau & Kirwan Waitahi loop      24 Feb-3 Mar**

On 24 February 6 of us set off for the Lake Matiri Car Park just north of Murchison. From information on the DoC website plus reading about previous trips to the 1000 acres we expected a 3 hour walk to Lake Matiri Hut. However due to a small hydro scheme being built on the lake a 4WD road had been constructed. The walk to the hut overlooking the lake only took an hour 20 minutes.

The following day was a planned 6 hour walk to Larrikin Hut. The half way point at Poor Pete's hut took us a little longer to reach than expected as the climb was very steep and the rain had set in. Jocelyn, Beatrix and Jane walked on to Larrikin Creek Hut while the remaining 3, David, Helen and Lois, spent the night at Poor

Pete's Hut and carried on the following morning over the tussock. The track from Larrikin Creek Hut up to the 100 acres and the Needles was not signposted, however there were bits of ribbon tied to some of the trees which indicated there was a track. We explored the 100 acres in the afternoon of the third day and the morning of the fourth day. Four members of the group climbed up to the ridge between the Needles and the Haystack. The views were magnificent. In the afternoon we retraced our footsteps and crossed the tussock to Poor Pete's Hut where we tented. It was a perfect night for tenting no wind whatsoever or rain. The following day we returned to the carpark and off to Murchison to replenish supplies, wash and enjoy a decent meal.



Photo by Lois Rowell

Trip 2 took us to Reefton to walk the Kirwan Waitahu Loop track. The track was a pleasant gradient but we started walking at midday, which, in hindsight was a couple of hours too late in the day. We arrived at 5.30pm rather tired. However, the 12-bunk hut was well located with lovely views - on a fine day that is. Once the fire was going it was very warm and cosy. Much to our delight there was a board walk all the way to the toilet. Well done DoC.

Day 2 started off as a leisurely walk as we inspected the many mining relics on the track. However, the terrain became steep with wet leaves making the ground very slippery so we had to take our time. At one point there was a large ugly slip where the track had completely disintegrated. Once at the bottom, the track follows the river. There were many tree falls requiring detours and some bush bashing. We arrived at Montgomerie Hut in about four hours. This hut was a 6-bunk hut with a wood burner. Water had to be fetched from the nearby river. We did not loiter outside as the sand flies were unbelievably vicious. Keeping the hut door closed was a priority.

The final leg of the loop was reasonably flat following the 4WD track. In places it was knee deep with water so we detoured around these spots. The 4WD track morphed into a tramping track and at one point the track took us over a dry river bed. Then back into bush and a steep climb before descending through forestry tracks back to the carpark.



Photo by Lois Rowell

Then it was off to Punakaiki via Greymouth. Coffee and cake kept us going until dinner at Punakaiki. Our last day was a walk along the Pororari River track loop which is where the final leg of the Paparoa Great Walk finishes. Trip participants – David, Beatrix, Helen, Jocelyn, Ying and Lois(scribe)



**Trip 2939**                      **Moerangi Track, Whirinaki forest**                      **16-18 Apr**  
(Scribe Jacqui) On Friday night 8 of us headed over to Minginui to the Jailhouse Farmstay, which, although sounding unappealing, was not that at all. We had a comfortable night in a unit there and awoke to a cloudy but fine day. A shuttle service dropped us off at the end of Okahu Road and the start of our days' walk to Moerangi Hut. We started the day by heading first to Skips Hut for morning tea, then on to the beautifully restored Rogers Hut (it is about 80 years old and even has a lovely little stained glass window by the top bunk, plus solar lighting). The track was well graded, being also used by mountain bikers, followed streams, and through lovely bush. We saw and heard quite a few whio on the way, which was a real treat. Lots of evidence of pest control being done and bait stations all along the track which was great to see.  
We arrived at Moerangi Hut after having walked about 7 hours. It is another well maintained hut and has a nice fire in it, which kept us very cosy. I decided to camp outside to test out my new deluxe sleeping bag, which 100% proved itself as it was frost that night! That evening some of us played 500 with 'Misere' being called way too many times for my liking!

(**Scribe Amanda**): Apparently the card playing went on well after I had gone to bed, which just proves that I really can sleep through anything.

The hut was cooler in the morning, gymnastics to descend from the middle bunks warmed up some stiff muscles. Much coffee bean grinding and packing, we left shortly after 8am. The track continued to be good, well benched and easy on the feet. Despite the track being shared we had only been passed by two cyclists on Saturday, others passed us when we were visiting each of Skips and Rogers huts - perfect timing. Sunday was cyclist-free.

The track climbed up to a viewpoint. We passed through a glade that must have given shelter to birds as we could hear bellbird, tui, fantail, robin, warbler, kaka and rifleman. Les allowed us to pause and enjoy the birdsong.

We crossed over the river, an impressive gorge, and soon arrived at the carpark where we were collected by the shuttlebus and returned to the accommodation. Driving back, we stopped for coffee, then ice-cream, in Tirau. Thanks to Les for organising a really enjoyable weekend

Participants: Les W(leader), Peter A, Mike P, Jacob Hl, Amanda C, Cathy D, Julie V and Jacqui D.

## **Trip 2940**

## **Egmont National Park**

**24-26 April**

This trip over ANZAC long weekend was based, in the main, at ‘*The Camphouse*’, adjacent to the North Egmont Visitor Centre. This old historic building was originally built as a military barracks during the Taranaki Wars in the 1860s. It was originally made as a pre-fabricated building in Melbourne several years earlier. By 1891 it was dismantled and eventually taken by sled to North Egmont, where it was called *Tahurangi House*. Subsequently re-named *Old House* in 1913, it was further renovated and became *The Camphouse* in 1977. The thick corrugated iron cladding is believed to be the oldest in NZ. There are still a number of holes (since covered up) where muskets were poked through by the original defenders.

Nowadays trampers, climbers, and other visitors are able to stay at this DoC institution for a modest nightly fee. With showers, a well-appointed kitchen, and comfortable bunks it makes for a pleasant place to stay. We used it as a base for mostly day trips. The only dissenter was Peter who opted to stay Saturday and Sunday night on the Pouakai circuit.

By Wednesday before the trip, the weather reports were looking grim and there were rumblings by some who were looking at not going. However, a consensus decision was made and all 12 decided to chance their luck. As things turned out, this was yet another trip where determination overcame perceived obstacles and everything turned out great.

On Friday night I drove in the van to North Egmont and met up with Sharon who had arrived earlier that evening from Rotorua. Several others were also present so the place was relatively full. On Saturday morning most of us bade

farewell to Peter. Several decided to walk to Holly Hut and back so accompanied



Photo by Allan Wickens

him for part of his trip. The remainder did a walk up to Tahurangi Lodge and return via the Maketawa Hut track. With a light dusting of snow evident on the

heights above, it made for a cool day with clear views at first. Later that day the weather socked in and became more unpleasant.

During late Saturday afternoon Allan and the DoC ranger, who was working, became worried about an Auckland group that had set out in darkness to climb to the summit. Their friend, who had stayed behind, was also worried. However, as darkness came, they arrived back, successful but with relief all round. This time of year is not the best to climb Mt. Taranaki due to the presence of verglas (thin ice) on scoria. The DoC ranger, who had climbed to the summit over 240 times, said she would not have done the climb without ice axe and crampons.

During the night the Camphouse became full with all 32 bunks occupied. That night, a further dusting of snow occurred, down to the level of Humphries Castle and Tahurangi Lodge. This made it a *fait accompli* for anyone wanting to climb to the summit as winter conditions now prevailed. (Tragically, 2 climbers died in similar conditions 2 weeks later when they fell on the Fantham's Peak side). Sunday dawned mostly cold and clear and we were treated to a magnificent double rainbow (*see inside of the back cover*) that framed the hut. On that day, some of the group were dropped off at the end of Mangorei road trailhead in order to walk back to North Egmont. Allan then drove the remainder around to the south side of the mountain at Dawson Falls, where they walked back to North Egmont. Ray opted out of doing the full walk and, after visiting the East Egmont trailhead, he went back to the accommodation with Allan (stopping for an excellent lunch at the *Volcano view café*). All in all, this was another excellent day, with grand views of the maunga -except for those walking from Mangorei road, as cloud largely covered the northern side.

After yet another pleasant evening inside the hut, with heavy rain falling outside. Mondays' weather was not the best and obviously yet more snow had fallen up high. The group then travelled to Mangorei road again where Peter was picked up. At New Plymouth 3 climbed Paratutu and others walked along the New Plymouth walkway for several kilometres.

Finally, on the way home we stopped at PioPio for coffee and blueberries before arriving back in Hamilton at a reasonable hour.

This was an excellent trip, enjoyed by all including Allan who drove instead of walked due to a foot injury.

Those who went were: Allan W (co-leader, driver, and scribe), Jocelyn W (driver), Peter A, Sharon S (Rotorua), Ray H, Noeleen C, Lynette M, Susan J, Cathy D, Les W, Mary H (a guest from Nelson) and David T.

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From the committee table:

New members: Welcome to Julie Vickers and Elena Kay.

Resignations: Andrew McMaster and Annemarie Robb

Membership: We have 187 tramping members this month.

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 tramper 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 tramper 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 tramper 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.

CODE OF ETHICS – Waikato Tramping Club

Aims and Values

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

Social expectations

- *Take reasonable care to keep yourself and others in the group healthy and safe. Such as:*
 1. Do not perform any act or omission, which could endanger a tramping party or any member.
 2. Be properly equipped for the trip.
 3. Be physically prepared for a trip
 4. Tell the trip leader of any relevant medical conditions or fitness limitations beforehand.
 5. Comply with safety directions and any safety policies of the club
- *Respect for others: treat everyone with courtesy and respect; such as*
 1. Do not act in a manner where another individual within or outside the club will feel harassed or bullied. This can include verbal abuse, harassment, isolating or hostile behaviour.
 2. Members are to conduct themselves at all times in such a manner as not to cause embarrassment or disgrace to the Club or its members.
 3. All members are to behave in a manner that is conducive to an atmosphere of mutual support.
 4. Be a cooperative team member.
 5. Alcohol is permitted on club trips but must be consumed in moderation and to such a level as to not cause discomfort and ill ease to any trip members.
- *Respect the decisions and directions of the trip leader, who has the final responsibility for the safety of the group.*
 1. The decision of the Trip Leader shall be final.
 2. Trip leader to state where the PLB is stored for quick and easy access.

3. Regarding concerns about the behaviour of others that cannot be immediately resolved, approach the trip leader or members of the committee.

Environmental

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

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

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

Waikato Hut

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

Report from the reunion team

What a party! the 'doors' opened at 1pm and at 2.30 our current president, Judith Bogle, welcomed all to the day's events. This was followed by a very entertaining keynote speech from John Wilson about his 58 years of tramping with the club and followed with a couple of anecdotes from Nigel Lancaster (incidents never heard about before). A wonderful afternoon tea, when it was time to cut the beautifully presented celebratory cake made by Diana Kelly. Everyone gathered their afternoon tea, hot savoury and scone, and enjoyed time chatting to long lost friends and others they never knew in the past. In between times we were able to admire the incredible collection of photos and gear Russell Lamb had collated and, with a helpful team, had attached to the walls of the Pirongia Forest Park Lodge. Huge thanks should go to the helpful crew of John & Jean, Nicola Guy,

Debbie & Dave White, Pamela & Allan Hughes, and Jacqui & Ron Dick who all helped getting the place set up for the weekend on Saturday morning. Isla Trapski was kept busy for a while making sure that she was able to photograph our best sides in various group combinations and then it was time to open a few bottles of our favourite tipples. 80 of us sat down to dinner at 6.30 and what a meal it was. Simple, but oh so tasty. The caterer for the Lodge did a super job and there is plenty left over. Thanks were expressed for the generous support Bivouac and Trek 'n Travel have given to the club over many years. During the course of all the activities various spot prizes were won by many. Thank you to Alan Wilson for the generous donation of 2 lovely book prizes. Another keynote speech was delivered after dinner by John Davies about memorable trips he has been on and he also gave due recognition to the service, knowledge, and skill John Wilson has given to the club. Much applause showed we all agree with his opinion. Rod Keucke spoke about a trip he and his wife Barbara led to Patagonia into the beautiful Torres del Paine National Park when Peter Burgess met his future wife Cristina. Derek Alston supplied snippets of his 'career' growing up within the club and the confidence that was instilled in him over the years. Ron Dick read a trip report from David Rae (who died a few years ago) written as an hourly report getting to the summit of Mt. Taranaki. Anton Meier related a couple of anecdotes that had us laughing and then it was time for Dave White to get some of us going in circles, raising our hats, passing them in all directions and generally making spectacles of ourselves. It was quite late before the last ones retired for the night.

Next morning a good team had the breakfast going well. There was light rain falling so it was decided to empty the marquee while there was still man- and - woman power around to help with the lifting and then the marquee itself was loaded on to the trailer. Many thanks to Waveney Parker and Allan Wickens for allowing us the use of all their Tamahere school equipment -we could not have managed as well as we did without it. Once the dismantling was completed, 9 people set off for a walk around the Mangakaraa loop or up towards the Ruapane trig while others stayed to chat or head home. All were back in time for a bowl of hot pumpkin soup made using the leftover veges from the night before. Then began the cleaning and tidying up by all those left. The Lodge warden was most impressed with our efforts. Now it is time to progress the planning for the next part of the party – a weekend at Waikato Hut next weekend.

Watch out for the reunion booklet being printed while you read this monthly. If you haven't already ordered one, think about purchasing a copy for your library. Allan Hughes has been the editor, I (Dianne) have collated the stories, and Isla Trapski has put everything into order – photos from this past weekend included. This will make a great record for our archives too. See photos at the end of this bulletin. Many thanks to all who have helped over the past 2 ¼ years with the planning for this delayed event. A lot of effort but gosh it was worth it. Roll on the next one.



Hats off, up, down, left, right,... oh heck!

Photo by Isla Trapski

Comments received by Dianne & Selwyn June from participants:

✓ Dear Committee, It is with heartfelt thanks to you all for organising, and holding the 71st reunion with such positiveness. We thoroughly enjoyed our afternoon and evening with you and congratulate you all. The venue, the programme, the catering, the friendliness were all so much appreciated. Well done. ❤️

Val and Colin Jones (members since 1971)

✓ Thank you both very much for your hospitality and welcome and organization for the reunion yesterday. I was completely blown away and enjoyed meeting so many people even if I was vague about many people I should probably have known. I hope today is as successful in spite of the damp weather. Thinking back further I was active in the Club until early 1967 when we left Hamilton but was a member for many years after that. Best wishes for enticing new younger members to the club, especially tramping not just skiing.

Evelyn Cooper (member 1961-1967)

✓ Sincere thanks to you two and the Reunion Committee for a very well organised Waikato Tramping Club Reunion!! It was a lot of fun and great chance to catch up with everyone with delicious meals, great speakers and entertainment. I think the "Hats" finale brought the roof down!!,
Lorraine Isaac. (member 2011-2013)

Snippets from here 'n there

✓ **Recycling gas cannisters.** Take them to: GasPro, 134 Grey St., Ham East.

✓ **Recycling Lithium batteries.** Take them to: Grimmer Motors, 998 Heaphy Terrace, Claudelands, Hamilton East, opposite Vege King.

✓ At the present time Hamilton East Rotary club is helping the Refugee boys at Hamilton High school to obtain **much needed bicycles**. If you have any 'much loved bicycles' that are still in reasonable condition and would be suitable for one of these young boys please send me an email with your details to minean@xtra.co.nz and Michael Nightingale will arrange collection.

✓ **My Friend Chook.** After the breakup of my marriage in the 1980's I went to live in Waihi and very soon joined the Katikati Tramping Club. Very active in the club at that time was Chook (Charles) Sutton. Chook had grown up on a farm in the Maratoto valley and, starting in 1979, was actively exploring and opening up old packtracks, mines, battery sites and the like, assisted by his brother, brother-in-law, and later, members of the club.

I feel privileged to have tramped with Chook, who loved to stop the party in its tracks to regale all with stories about the sites we were visiting. A 2004 "Wilderness" article about Chook states that there were approximately 100 "Chook's tramps" from Tapu to Katikati. It describes how Chook considered his most significant discovery was the Volunteer Mine on the upper true left branches of the Waipahake Stream, for me memorable for the large double-trunked kauri nearby. Chook is now in care and does not tramp, but his legacy of exploration and research has been preserved. Some years ago his tracks were documented and recharted with a GPS and these details can be found on "Chook's Tramps" (Ohinemuri). There is a wealth of detail about routes such as that to the Rat's Tooth, Volunteer Mine and Jubilee Mine. As well, there are still extant copies of Chook's roughly drawn "mud maps" on which he noted points of interest. Being able to go to sites Chook opened up enriches the local tramping experience and keeps his legacy alive.

Fiona Green

from the DoC website....

✓ DoC and NIWA are partnering to provide the latest technologies in weather forecasting services. Access to timely and accurate weather forecasting

information is crucial for making informed decisions on safely undertaking activities on public conservation land and waters. The new DoC-NIWA weather forecast website hosts a number of benefits including tailored forecasts for National Parks and key DoC sites.

✓ Lou Sanson recently referred in his blog about the celebration held at the Pureora Lodge on March 26th to achieving the glorious total of 2000 pairs of NI kokako – 5 years ahead of the time expected. (*Ed comment – a wonderful function it was too*). Since then, the Pirongia Society contractors and their team and DoC staff have completed their census of kokako pairs in the Okahukura valley and have counted 92 pairs and 7 singles – double the number counted in 2016! You were contributors to this total, so be proud of your efforts

✓ Wasp control in the Marlborough & Pelorus Sounds has seen DoC purchasing 2 tonnes of bait to protect birds and people alike.

✓ Seen only twice since 1968, Cupola gecko now has a population of 4. The Cupola gecko, which has only been seen twice in 53 years was recently re-discovered by herpetologist Ben Barr. This discovery has been hard won. It's a massive achievement to have finally found a population of these geckos and a real tribute to the perseverance of all the teams who have searched for this species. There's still a long, long road to recovery for the species, but everyone is pretty excited there is now an opportunity to get to know this awesome wee gecko.

...from FMC...

➤ This is a report for 'Stuff' news 8/5/21 by reporter Andrea Vance: Skifield company accused of 'privatising' Tongariro National Park: A row has broken out over preferential parking spots for skiers on Mt Ruapehu, with a skifield operator accused of "privatising" Tongariro National Park. In recent years, winter visitors to the Whakapapa and Tūroa ski fields have endured traffic congestion and long queues after a fresh dump of snow. But a new system to offer guaranteed parking for 'platinum' season pass holders and life members has infuriated the Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand (FMC), advocates for outdoor enthusiasts. FMC believes the deal, advertised by skifield operator Ruapehu Alpine Lifts (RAL), is at odds with legislation which governs the national parks and disadvantages other mountain users, like trampers. FMC president Jan Finlayson said: "Mt Ruapehu is in Tongariro National Park. It is public land and the National Parks Act is strongly public-spirited. Concessions are allowed but commercial, tourist activity has to come second to conservation and recreation. The mountain is a drawcard for recreationists: ski-touring, mountaineering and tramping. Congestion has expanded enormously and public transport hasn't kept up with the need." She said RAL advertised the sale of early bird passes which included preferential parking last spring. "Prior to the sales

going online, FMC objected saying the sale went beyond what was allowed by the legislation. It was an effective privatisation of a public good, and it would run roughshod over the public spirit of the legislation. Asking people to book parking and use shuttles are solutions that treat everyone equally. The company is selling space in the national park for its own private profit. That's the nub of it.” DoC’s Tongariro operations manager Connie Norgate said she was comfortable with RAL’s system and said the department took into consideration the policies and objectives of the National Parks Act and the Tongariro National Park Plan when making a decision about managing congestion on the mountain in winter months. She said: “DoC gave approval for Ruapehu Alpine Lifts Ltd to continue to implement bookable parking for 2021 as a way to manage visitor numbers and impacts at peak times.”

From the Reunion....



A close inspection and a meeting of old friends photos by Isla Trapski





Relatively newer members of the club i.e. not quite 50 years photo by Isla Trapski

Anzac weekend at the Camphouse, North Egmont

photo by Mary Hsu





A bubble over The Camphouse and cloud over Mt Taranaki
Photos by Allan Wickens



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Official Bulletin of
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