



THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

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

November 2021



On the trail to the top of Mt. Karioi photo by Allan Wickens

WAIKATO HUT

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Tongariro National Park



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On Karioi by Allan Wickens

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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 833

November 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](mailto:waikatotrampingclub@gmail.com)

|                                                                                                      |             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Chairperson:</b> John McArthur <a href="mailto:mcArthur@outlook.co.nz">mcArthur@outlook.co.nz</a> | 021 2889641 |
| <b>Secretary:</b> Dorothy Cawdron <b>Treasurer:</b> Guy Domett                                       |             |
| <b>Club Captain:</b> Allan Wickens                                                                   | 027 9509546 |
| <b>Membership:</b> Lois Rowell                                                                       | 027 2881148 |
| <b>Web &amp; Facebook:</b> Rizal Razak                                                               | 021 2676566 |
| <b>Transport:</b> Ashley Hoskin                                                                      | 027 4909545 |
| <b>Social convenor:</b> Jacqui Dick                                                                  | 021 1375201 |
| <b>Sub-committee:</b> Selwyn June                                                                    | 027 4978151 |

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Ski Subcommittee

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

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

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

Club night, Wednesday, 1st December

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

Photo competition night – another attempt

Let's try again to look at the pictures. We will also have a look at the FMC winning photos and word has it that we have a winner in that competition too. Who is it? Come along and enjoy an evening of 'still movies' or should it be 'movie stills'?

Christmas Party

3rd or 4th December (weather will dictate the date)

This will be held at Ron and Jacqui Dick's place and is an outdoor event. Address is 179 McGregor Road, Ngahinapouri. We will have a marquee up, braziers, music and dressed up goats! It will be a pot luck dinner so there is no charge for the event or requirement to register. Just turn up anytime from 4.30pm. We will notify everyone of the selected date a few days prior, by email, once the weather forecast has been checked.

BYO plate of food to share, a fold-out chair, your won plates & utensils, drinks, warm clothes etc. Any questions email jacquimd@me.com or ph 021 1375 201.

Looking forward to a really great evening!

The Trumper of the Year will be announced at this evening. Plus other awards given out such as Mountain Madness Certificates and photography prizes.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2021/2022

2970	20/21 Nov	M	Tama Lakes/ Whakapapaiti track	Jocelyn Widmer
2971	24/28 Nov	E/M	Kaimai experience	John McArthur
	1 Dec		CLUB NIGHT	
	4 Dec	n/a	Christmas Party	Jacqui & Ron Dick
2972	5 Dec	vE	Hamilton Gullies	Dianne June
2973	12/13 Dec	E	Coromandel walkway	Judith Bogle
2974	18 or 19 Dec	F	Mountain Madness	John McArthur
2975	30 Dec- 7 Jan	M/F	Dusky track	Les Warren
2976	9 Jan	E	Aotea to Kawhia harbour	Allan Wickens
	10-18 Jan	E/M	Pureora working bee	Dianne & Selwyn June
	12 Jan	n/a	Picnic in the park	Social convenor
2977	14-26 Jan	E/M	Southern NI ramblings & cafes	Allan Wickens
2978	15/16 Jan	E/M	Whangamata walks	Debbie & Dave White
2979	23 Jan	M	Round Karioi by bike	Stephen Prendergast
2980	28-31 Jan	VF	S-K Traverse Tararuas	Mike Peck
2981	28-31 Jan	MF	Southern crossing Tararuas	Jacqui Dick
2982	31 Jan	M	Blue Bulls falls, Pirongia	John Wilson
2983	5-7 Feb	E/M	Taranaki	Jocelyn Widmer
2984	7 Feb	E	Mt. William	Dianne June
2985	12/13	M	Tongariro Forest to OPC	John Wilson
	12/13 Feb	E/M	W/Hut Work party	Stephen Prendergast
2986	13-18 Feb	M	Dart-Rees	Peter Ayson
2987	19/20 Feb	E/M	River crossing training	Allan Wickens
2988	20-28 Feb	F	5 passes/Lake Nerine	John Davies

2990	5/6 Mar	E/M	Leitches alternate tracks	Jocelyn Widmer/ Judith Bogle
2991	6-11 Mar	M/F	Richmond Range	Keith Robbins
2992	6-11 Mar	M/F	Nelson cycling	Margaret Robbins
2995	22-25 Mar	M	Arthurs Pass	Keith Robbins
2996	26/27 Mar	M	Cape Brett	Jacqui Dick
2997	29 Mar/1 Apr	M	Paparoa Range	Margaret Robbins

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

TIME and FITNESS GUIDELINES

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bookings and Cancellations: no later than the WEDNESDAY before the trip.

Any person withdrawing after this day without good reason will be charged the full cost of the trip.

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

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

Day Trips: leave Sunday mornings at 8am sharp.

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

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

Minimum equipment required:

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

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

Look deep into nature and then you will understand everything better- Albert Einstein

Trip Descriptions

REMEMBER: 2 clicks confirm your booking on the website

Trip 2970 **Tama Lakes & Whakapapaiti track** **20-21 Nov**

We will be based for the 2 nights. Saturday our destinations are the Tama Lakes, leaving from the Hut, passing the Sky Waka entrance up to Meads wall, then along the ridge descending down into the Whakapapanui valley, over the stream and up onto the next ridge. From here we will 'cross- country' our way to the lower Tama Lake where we could have lunch before venturing to the upper Tama Lake. Our return trip is along the Tama Lakes track - 'the Roman road' to Whakapapa Village where we will be picked up for return to our comfortable lodge. Your food cost will cover all the catering except your drinks and preferred nibbles. Sunday morning the plan is to walk the Whakapapaiti valley track from Scoria Flat area on the Bruce road, starting on the Round the mountain track. Then connect onto Whakapapaiti Valley track passing Whakapapaiti hut winding down the valley of beech forest. And continuing on our way to the lower Silica Rapids track, back to Whakapapa village. If time permits, we could have a coffee at the Pihanga cafe at the Chateau before heading home. Bring suitable wet weather gear for this springtime lower alpine tramping. An estimated one-way tramp of about 11kms, .

Leader: Jocelyn Widmer

Ph: 027 866 4795

Grade: M

Transport: Senior member \$45-75

Senior non-member: \$50-80

Hut fees: Senior member \$70

Senior non-member: \$120

Food: \$35 pp

Trip 2971 **Kaimai huts old & new** **28/29 Nov**

Saturday morning start with a drive over to Te Tuhi Track near Matamata. Nice walk through the farmland and into the bush for a bit of a climb to the plateau and then on to Mangamuka hut for lunch. We will look at the facilities of this old hut from a training viewpoint - how many it sleeps, cooking facilities and ablutions. Then we will see how boggy it is heading east to the main North / South track and up to the new Whare Okioki hut built by the Kaimai Ridgeway Trust. Here we will make camp with the more modern facilities and plenty of space. Those who wish to book a bunk may do so, but I will be tenting beside the campfire.

Sunday is an easy tramp back to the Te Tuhi track and down to the van.

This is a good opportunity to do your first overnight weekend, beg, borrow or steal equipment, learn what to take, what not to take. We may have a pre-trip training exercise prior to the weekend. Be prepared for mud and bring secateurs or loppers.

Leader: John McArthur

Ph: 021 2889641

Grade: E/M

Email: mcArthur@outlook.co.nz

Transport: Senior member \$45-75

Senior non-member: \$65-85

Trip 2972 **Hamilton Gullies** **5 Dec**

This will be a gentle day recovering after a very entertaining evening on the club's social calendar – the Christmas party!.

We will move around by private cars and this will give you the opportunity to join in or depart at your convenience. We'll start at 9am by parking at the end of Lewis street in Melville.

Our aim will be to visit 4 gullies in Hamilton City. The first one will be the Mangakotutuku gully where there are stairs, a walk beside the stream, lots of birdlife. We'll return to our vehicles by the same route.

Next stop will be the Mangaone gully behind Tamahere Eventide home. There has been a great network of excellent tracks (almost suitable for wheelchairs - a bit steep in parts for these but easy to walk). A couple of residents have recently set up a pest control operation along the tracks and are achieving good bait uptake. I hope to be able to arrange the opportunity to dine at the café for those who wish to do so. Otherwise, you can bring your lunch and enjoy it on seating in the gully.

And the next stop will be the A J Seeley gully in Whyte St., behind the Boys' high school. Dr Seeley worked on his land here for 50 years and it is now a flagship for gully restoration.

And then if you are still keen, we could visit the Mangaiti gully on Hukanui road. This has a lovely board walk through it and there are lots of birds to listen to – gentle on the ears after the night before.

I expect the day will end about 4pm but as you can read, there are plenty of opportunities to come and go at will.

Leaders: Dianne & Selwyn June **Ph:** 8433066 or 0274978151

Grade: couldn't be easier. **Transport:** Private cars – car pooling where possible.

Trip 2973 Coromandel Walkways & bike track 12/13 Dec

This is a family weekend where we can go swimming, fishing and walking. We will stay at the Stony Bay campsite. There is a coastal walk from Stony Bay to Fletcher Bay, the round trip will be 18km, approximately 7hrs. Start using the bike track which is over farmland and regenerating forest. You will get views of the ranges and the Hauraki Gulf. Come back via the coastal walkway and you will have views of the Pinnacles, Great Barrier Island (Aotea Island) to the north and Cuvier Island (Repanga Island) in the east. We can visit Poley Bay but it is hazardous to swim here due to rocks.

Options are to

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

Leader: Judith Bogle

Ph: 027 3810283

Grade: E

Transport: Senior member \$45-75

Senior non-member: \$50-80

Trip 2974**Mountain Madness****18 or 19 Dec**

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

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

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

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

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

Leader: John McArthur**Ph:** 021 2889641**Grade:** FF**Email:** mcarthur@outlook.co.nz**Transport:** Private arrangements – car pooling where possible.

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

Trip 2975**Dusky Track****30 Dec - 7 Jan**

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

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

Pureora Working Bee**7-18 Jan**

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

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

you but we will need to know beforehand so we can plan the work and play schedules. More details next month or please phone us.

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

Transport: Private vehicles

Trip 2976

Aotea harbour

9 Jan

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

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

Leader: Allan Wickens

Ph: 027 9509546

Grade: E

Email: *allanwickens@hotmail.com*

Transport: Senior member \$\$20-35

Senior non-member: \$30-45

Trip 2977

Southern NI ramblings & cafes

14-26 Jan, 2022

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

of fine and very warm weather so there will be ample opportunities for swimming during trip.

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

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

Cost: tba

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

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

Leader: Debbie & Dave White

Ph: 0274 534 550

Grade: E/M

Email: *sgohamilton@outlook.co.nz*

Transport: Senior member \$45-75

Senior non-member: \$65-85

Trip 2982 **Blue Bull falls** **31 Jan**

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

Leader: John Wilson

Ph: 021 168 2082

Grade: M/F

Transport: Senior member \$20-35

Senior non-member: \$30-45

Trip 2985 **Dart- Rees** **12-18 Feb**

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

Days 2-5 We will go from Daley's to the large Dart hut where we will stay for 3 nights so we can do side trips up to the Cascade saddle (highly recommended with magnificent views down into the glacier and also a side trip to Whitburn Valley). Day 5: Dart Hut to Shelter Rock hut which is about 10 k's approximately and takes about 4 to 6 hours.

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

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

Leader: Peter Ayson

Ph: 0274 797 077

Grade: M

Transport: Private arrangements.

Trip 2991

Richmond Range revisited

6-11 Mar

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

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

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

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

Leader: Keith Robbins

Ph: 021 120 7752

Grade: M/F

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

Trip 2992

Nelson cycling

6-11 Mar

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

This trip is the Great Taste trail with an extension to St Arnaud on the Golden Downs Trail. Due to accommodation issues the trip is limited to 6 participants.

The grade is easy/intermediate and we will carry our own gear and stay in accommodation such as AirBnB, motels or campground cabins. I will ride my electric bike and our trip is unsupported. Have a look at this website to get an idea of the Great Taste trail: <https://kiwijourneys.co.nz/tours/2017/5/1/the-loop-independent-cycling-tour>. For the Golden Downs Trail look at this website: <https://www.nzcycletrail.com/find-your-ride/heartland-rides/golden-downs-trail>

Day 1: Nelson City to Motupiko or Tapawera depending on availability of accommodation. Campground cabins. 69kms

Day 2: Motupiko or Tapawera to St Arnaud on back country roads. Motel accommodation. 66kms

Day 3: Return to Tapawera on back country roads. Campground cabins. 66 kms

Day 4: Tapawera to Motueka. Stay at Motueka Top 10 campground. 62 kms

Day 5: Motueka to Mapua. We start with a side trip to Kaiteriteri and then return to Motueka and carry on to Mapua. Campground cabins. 46 kms

Day 6: Mapua to Nelson via Rabbit Island. 35 kms

Costs: Electric bike hire is about \$85 to \$100 per day. Accommodation allow \$50 - \$70 per night.

Please call me if you wish to discuss further.

Leader: Margaret Robbins **Ph:** 021 023 20067

Grade: M/F

Email: *kandm.robbs@gmail.com*

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

Costs: Electric bike hire is about \$85 to \$100 per day.

Accommodation: allow \$50 - \$70 per night.

Trip 2995

Adventures in Arthurs Pass

22-25 Mar

Fancy getting out of the valleys and camping up on the tops beside an alpine lake and a river, plus a night in iconic Goat Pass Hut? Then join us on this 4-day Edwards Minga loop via Lake Mavis. Nothing too strenuous, above those sandflies, and amazing scenery makes this a great introduction to South Island remote camping. Bring a tent .And to round out the week, NZ's finest one day walk [ask any Cantabrian] -a day trip up Avalanche peak. We will stay at CTC house in Arthurs Pass before and after the tramp so extra gear can be left there.

As this tramp is on the Eastern side of the Divide the weather is generally kinder but if it is too wet we will walk the wonderful Cass Lagoon circuit further to the East. Further enquiries to the trip leader.

Leader: Keith Robbins

Ph: 021 120 7752

Grade: M

Transport: Private arrangements

Editorial

Having just returned from a wonderful months' holiday in the south island (yep, we escaped 3 days before the lockdown kicked in, whew!) we are reluctantly home again. A wee bit of rain didn't stop us from doing anything we had planned to do but the icy cold & wet day in the Haast Pass meant we limited our list of things to look at. A helicopter flight over the Franz Josef glacier was magnificent and I'll have to eat my words when it comes to aviation in National Parks – views were superb. A once in a lifetime thing. The flight from West Arm on Lake Manapouri to our boat for the Fiordland cruise took place on a beautiful fine day too – that Dusky track looks like a big challenge Les, but the hut on the waters' edge at the end is very comfortable. There will be lots of mud to contend with along the way.

A re-cycle along the Otago rail trail that had very few cyclists on it made for some peaceful travelling and views. We only dabbled at various things to see and could easily have spent a lot longer just walking. The quote:

“Nature never did betray the heart that loved her – William Wordsworth” and the one at the bottom of p3 are on the bannisters of a lookout on Lake Matheson. How true they are. Let's be super keen to get out there again and enjoy our space.

Presidential Blog

Last Sunday was a beautiful sunny day to be able to go walking on and around Kariori. It was good to see so many participating and great to see familiar faces. The small change in the Covid rules in level 3 has made this possible. There will be more of these impromptu events happening so keep a look out to see what is coming up.

It is a great opportunity to get some of those Kms under your belt before going down South. We do not know when we will be able to get out there and go exploring. But everyone keep the spirits up and keep walking. Judith

from the Ski Club...

Summer rates started over Labour Weekend

Can you help out? I'm after someone to organise and run the Working Parties for next year. There's a Working Party in the Tramping Club Calendar for 9/10 April - weekend before Easter. Probably want to think about whether that's suitable. Otherwise we have all of the usual jobs, and I'd like to repaint some of the exterior where the paint is flaking off.

We need a clean-up of the lockers and so open and empty all of the unlocked ones and require people with locked lockers to attend or permit us to open them and clean them out. New pump and water filter. Please be this year !

Roof leaks: I regard this as urgent and we have both Michael Donovan and Stepan Broz who have suitable gear and experience to work at height and are agreeable to helping out, dates dependant. We should also address the Ceiling tiles.

Windows: This I think we just get a builder. We'd use club funds to have the stairwell window rebuilt and re installed and at the same time assess the West Wall for more extensive work, and look to get a grant for 2023.

All of this is just maintenance however and I'd still like to work on a plan to upgrade the bathroom area, sort out the Ski Room / Drying Room / Locker room area. I'm sure there's more to do but having a person in charge will help manage that.

First off a big **THANK YOU** to everyone who made the season as enjoyable as possible. It's been a tough gig this year and it was a huge relief to have so many of you get down to the Lodge and onto the snow. Thanks also to Peter who looked

after the Lodge as Custodian. Getting the fire going, being a friendly face or just helping people around the Lodge



The gondola trek

Photo by Stephen Prendergast

Congratulations to Ashley for a huge number of days as result of a creative WFH approach. There's a lesson there if 2022 serves up a repeat.

Although the winter season has come to a close there's still reasonable snow up high for those who are interested in touring, alpine adventures and time in the outdoors. You get a great summer option at the Lodge, and Summer rates are very reasonable at \$25 per adult, \$15 children, per night.

The Early Bird Season Pass sale has started. This is the best price the passes will be, although there's no way to know how much skiing you will achieve. Being fully vaccinated will help to increase that chance.

If you had a pass this year, then you should also have a voucher on your RAL profile holding the price at 2021 rates. For any pass questions get in touch with the Mt Ruapehu team.

We're a little way from the new Alert Level system which relaxes the boundaries but when it comes I'll be down to the Lodge to make up for some lost weekends. I'll be mainly tramping around the lower mountain, but there will be my old beater skis and boots if the opportunity arises.

I hear that the walk up from the Gondola ride is invigorating.

Many of you may not know that on that fateful lockdown weekend the Gondola had it's own little lockdown, and a hundred or so hardy souls headed up the waterfall on foot for some early runs, on uncrowded t bars. I've attached a picture for those interested.

As we move through Xmas, our Working Parties circle back around into existence. We do have quite a few painting jobs this year, as well as some work on roof leaks, window fixes and general spruce up. I hope you will be able to assist us through February and March when we get these dates firmed up.

A further online discount from Torpedo7 is attached as well. If you are a ski club member, have a look and see if you can get a sweet deal on some close out or winter gear.

If you want to head to the Lodge it's best to get in touch with me here as shortly I'll be taking the booking system to off line, to make sure you know how to Open up the Lodge if you're looking for a few days of rest, or recreation.

From the team at Waikato Ski Club thanks for staying with us and hoping to see you again soon.

Mid-week Walks & Tramps

We are continuing with the current format, having a walk or tramp on the 2nd Tuesday and 4th Wednesday of the month. The activities have proven to be as varied as the group is and the communication via the Mid-week W & T s Group page on WhatsApp is working well.

If you would like to be part of this communication, please download WhatsApp on your phone & text your request to Sharon 021 458 525.

Trip Reports

Trip 2968

Mount Karioi

7 Nov

Due to the ongoing Covid 19 situation, the Waikato Tramping Club was forced to cancel several trips during October. Unable to get to our traditionally popular spots such as Ruapehu, the Coromandel and even the Kaimais, our members have been limited to short walks within close reach of Hamilton. By early November, some restrictions were eased, and we were able to do longer walks on Pirongia, for example. Thanks to the efforts of Jacqui, a large number of our members and a couple of prospects, went en-masse to Mount Karioi, but split into smaller groups and did three separate walks.

Echoing the first post lockdown trip in 2020, Karioi was the obvious choice. Jacqui led a group of 11 up to the summit on the northern side, while Russell led a group of 12 to the lookout, followed by a visit to Te Toto Gorge. Allan, along with 5 others, tramped to the summit on the easier southern side, starting across farmland on Karioi Road.

Most of the group drove in ones and twos in their own vehicles to Te Uke, where we gathered, introduced ourselves and then went our separate ways.

Mount Karioi from the south:

Thanks to the generosity of the farmer whose land this track first crosses, we were able to walk in brilliant sunshine on what is aptly called a “bluebird day”, up the easy and well-marked track, to where the bush started. Prior reading of descriptions about this track say *“Although easier and shorter than the northern approach, the views are not as good”*. Maybe, but not on this day.



Are we really off to climb Everest?

Photo by Allan Wickens

We could see as far as Mount Taranaki and the brilliant spring landscape down farmland and out to the coast meant there were ample photographic opportunities. It took us just under two hours to reach the last steep section and the helicopter pad. By walking a bit further, we were able to take in the majestic 360-degree panorama that included the winding part of the ridge from the lookout, to Raglan township and harbour, Maungatautari and Pirongia. By the time our group had reached the top,

Jacqui’s group still had about another hour to go to the summit.

Many fellow walkers we met, were on Karioi for the first time. All we spoke to were having a great day out which was understandable given the excellent conditions.



“Everest” achieved

Photo by Allan Wickens

After a lengthy stay on the top, we left after lunch and spent about the same time descending as on the climb up. As we approached the carpark, we were disappointed to see two fellow walkers heading out to the west, over private farmland for a better view of the sea. The principal consideration in doing this walk is to stay “on track, following the markers”. The two were suitably chastised and told that such an action jeopardises the freedom given to the public, to cross the farmland in order to do this climb.

Lynette and Allan drove around to the Te Toto Gorge and met up with Jacqui’s group, most of whom did the gorge walk as well.

The easy group consisted of Allan Wickens (leader and scribe), Ron D, Lynette M, Nette L, Rizal R and Marianne L.

.....and the others.....

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Mount Karioi from the north:

Our group headed out to Te Toto Gorge which is where the track to the summit begins. This is noted as the scenic route and we were definitely not disappointed. The track starts straight into a steep climb up through bush and grassy hillside and was a bit of a shock to our systems having largely only been able to do street walking over lockdown. Once we had got into our rhythm it was an interesting track up to the summit including ladders, chains, a little bit of mud and spectacular views. We arrived at the top in 2.5 hours and enjoyed our lunch sitting on the helipad looking out over a great expanse of harbours and countryside. A comment was made by someone that they will never do this track again as you couldn’t beat this day, it was perfect! We then headed back down to the carpark. Part of our group went on down to explore Te Toto Gorge (to finish the day and ourselves off).



Jeanette D checks out the luxurious Te Toto Gorge grass bed! Photo by Jacqui Dick

This is a very steep descent down into a gorge that has a very interesting plant life, landscape and rock formations plus the best and most luxurious vegetation there is to lie down on in the sun. It is about half a metre thick and conforms to your body, and would be very, very easy to go to sleep on! We forced ourselves not to nod off and scrambled back up the hill to the carpark, arriving there in various states of exhaustion!! A fantastic day was had by countryside. A comment was made by someone that they will never do this track again as you couldn't beat this day, it was perfect! We then headed back down to the carpark. Part of our group went on down to explore Te Toto Gorge (to finish the day and ourselves off). everyone. This group consisted of Jacqui Dick (leader and scribe), Stephen P, Ying Schick, Judith and Ross B, Mike P, Jeanette D, Amanda C, Jocelyn W, Beatrix M, Les W, David and Jo L.

From the committee table:

No new members or resignations this month.

Membership: We have 204 tramping members this month.

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

Trip Planning: A meeting was held by zoom and a programme has been set through to June 2022. This has been circulated to members and is being loaded into the website calendar in skeleton form until descriptions are prepared by the leaders.

Letter to the editor - The invisible Giardia

I have enjoyed tramping in many different parts of our beautiful country for a few decades now and have always appreciated our 'clean, green' natural environment. Staying at DoC huts and camping beside rivers or streams is one of the great things about living in NZ, especially as we don't have to worry about things like bears, snakes, wild animals that may eat us or poisonous spiders the size of the palm of your hand! We do however have an invisible parasite that, up until now, I thought was just something that very few people became infected with and really nothing to worry about - Giardia, a water parasite.

On a recent overnighter I, as usual, drank unfiltered water from the sparkling clear streams and rivers we that passed, enjoying the pure fresh taste. I also ignored the DoC warning at the huts we stayed in to boil your water. A couple of weeks incubation period later and I seriously regretted that decision! I had become infected with Giardia and the symptoms are not pleasant at all. I thought it would pass quickly so was shocked that it didn't. Several trips to the doctor, antibiotics, naturopath visits and 5 months later my digestion still isn't fully back to normal. The worst thing is I can't eat cheese!!

When we go tramping we look after our feet (wearing good boots and socks), our bodies by having well fitted backpacks and appropriate outdoor clothing and our stomachs by taking tasty high energy food to sustain us but I have now learnt we also need to look after our health by filtering and boiling water. It is such a small price to pay to ensure you don't ingest this nasty little parasite. Signed: Jacqui

Snippets from here 'n there

➤ South Island Kokako Charitable Trust. **Be on the lookout for the south island Kokako!** The Trust is collaborating with Otago and Victoria Universities on eDNA and bioacoustic projects. The Pirongia Restoration team have been assisting with collecting water samples on Pirongia and in Okahukura with the aim of detecting kokako DNA and then using the system to detect SI kokako DNA where soundings and sightings may have been noted. It is hoped that your enthusiasm for the environment while on your upcoming South Island travels will keep the kōkako in mind. Please stay alert wherever you are in South and Stewart Island forests. Encounter reports are received from many locations, some while in a car at the side of the road or driving. If you see or hear something unusual in your forest, please try to capture it on phone or camera. Sound engineers and IT experts can do marvellous things with recordings. Reports have been received about potential locations at "Flanagan's corner and near the Aurora shelter on the Heaphy track. Other potential spots are the Wairau river in Marlborough, the Old Ghost Road, Gillespie Stream in Mount Aspiring National Park, Lake Christabel Hut not far from the Nina Valley, the Waiatoto River in South Westland, and, some years ago at Yankee River on Stewart Island.

➤ Wellington Tramping and Mountaineering Club have tramping cookbooks for sale for \$30 plus \$5 p & p. The books are printed on glossy paper with colour photos. There are 96 recipes - mains, desserts, meals for dehydrating, breakfasts, snacks and Tararua biscuits. There are vegetarian, vegan and gluten free suggestions. Many of the recipes list the ingredients required for group meals from 2-12 people. If you are interested please get in touch with Tony at vicepresident@wtmc.org.nz.

from the DoC website.....

A long-term kākā monitoring programme in Pureora Forest Park is proving its worth as results show a 4-fold increase in kākā numbers following pest control in Waipapa Ecological Area, tipping the balance back towards a more even sex ratio. The Waipapa kākā population has increased from 600 birds between 2000 and 2007 to around 2,600 birds during 2020 - an average annual population increase of 6.4%. Female kākā sit on the nest for extended periods of time incubating eggs and tending to chicks and become easy prey for pests like stoats and possums. This results in the species' sex ratios skewed towards males. However, the new kākā population survey results show a significant improvement in the sex ratio of the birds. With pest management, Pureora has seen the previous 1:2.1 sex ratio (2.1 males for every one female) come back into balance and closer to 1:1. Kākā are episodic breeders which means their breeding is linked to the availability of food resources. They sync their breeding cycles with mast events where trees produce and drop a significant number of seeds/fruit, providing ample food supplies for the birds. "When there's lots of food around, they'll go for it, and even breed twice a year if they can" says Terry Greene, "We believe they live in the order of 40 years in the wild. They have variable numbers of chicks depending on the food crops available." But mast seasons can also spell disaster for native birds with an increase in ship rat numbers. "Kākā breed the year seed is produced, and the pest populations expand after that. Rodents get stuck in, and numbers climb in winter and by spring, they breed and take off. Stoat populations follow behind in October and suddenly seed drops off and stoats start eating more birds." DoC has controlled pests within the Waipapa area since 1993 using various methods. "We use a combination of 1080 dropped every three years and ground bait stations used annually," says Jon Sadler, Te Kuiti Office Senior Biodiversity Ranger. "We have more than 2000 bait stations on the ground, and the new kākā population results show the work is paying off." Annual monitoring of the birds is a coordinated effort in October for a week. (*Ed comment: your assistance with the pest control in the Okahukura valley has helped achieve this result!*).

Backpacking: An extended form of hiking in which people carry double the amount of gear they need for half the distance they planned to go in twice the time it should take." – Anonymous



The crest of Franz Josef Glacier

Photos by Dianne June

Dusky Track country



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