



THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

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

October 2021



Snowcraft servers photo by Allan Wickens

WAIKATO HUT

Your lodge on Mt Ruapehu
Tongariro National Park



www.wtc.org.nz

Boiler at Komata reef

photo by Isla Trapski



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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 832

October 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, 3rd November

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

This is the night when your efforts at taking great pictures are viewed along with your compatriots' ones. Russell and Isla will be our judges again (didn't they do a great job last year with their presentation?). 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'?

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2021/2022

2964	9/10 Oct	M	Kaiwhakauka track	Les Warren
2965	17 Oct	F	Okataina western track	Mike Peck
2966A	23-25 Oct	M	Kuripapango	Merlyn Warren
1966B	24 Oct	M	Karioi	Jacqui dick
2967	31 Oct	M	Volunteer mines	Rizal Razak
	3 Nov		Photo competition	Jacqui Dick
2968	6/7 Nov	M	Kawekas again!	Jacqui Dick
2969	14 Nov	E/M	Kakepuku old & new	Merlyn Warren
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	
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
	12 Jan	n/a	Picnic in the park	Social convenor
2977	14-26 Jan	E/M	Southern NI ramblings & cafes	Allan Wickens

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

TIME and FITNESS GUIDELINES

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bookings and Cancellations: no later than the WEDNESDAY before the trip. Any person withdrawing after this day without good reason will be charged the full cost of the trip.

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

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

Day Trips: leave Sunday mornings at 8am sharp.

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

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

Minimum equipment required:

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

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

Trip Descriptions

REMEMBER: You can book online from our website. And don't forget that there are 2 'buttons' you need to click on to confirm your booking!!!

Trip 2964

Kaiwhakauka track

9/10 Oct

It is approx. 4hrs drive from Hamilton to Whakahoro, on the banks of the Whanganui River. There is a very good and spacious campsite and a 10-bed hut (old classroom). The initial plan is to travel to Whakahoro on Friday late-afternoon and take two days to walk the track. Unfortunately, the track is one-way, so will need to be picked up from the Ruatiti Road end, which is NW inland from Raetihi. I have yet to fully check out the track to firm up on details. I have checked the track between Whakahoro and Mosley's Shelter but, plan on checking the track between Ruatiti and Mosley's Shelter. The section between

Whakahoro and Mosley's Shelter, unfortunately includes a boring metal road section for the first hour. The bush section is well-graded.

Leader: Les Warren

Ph: 0278644937

Grade: M

Email: *warrenlb2017@outlook.com*

Transport: Senior member \$45-75

Senior non-member: \$65-85

Trip 2965

Okataina western track

17 Oct

A one-day tramp of the Okataina Western track near Rotorua. Total length is 22.5km and has an estimated walking time of 7 hours.

We will depart Hamilton at 7.30am and drive to Te Ruato bay at Lake Rotoiti and tramp south to Millar Rd near Lake Okareka. We will need a driver for the drop off/pick up. Driver could walk in for an hour and likewise at the other end. A stop in Rotorua afterwards for dinner. Daylight saving will give us plenty of time to complete this trip.

Leader: Mike Peck

Ph: 021 369 256

Grade: F

Email: *mikeypeck@yahoo.com*

Transport: Senior member \$20-35

Senior non-member: \$30-45

Trip 2966A

Kuripapango

23-25 Oct

We are going to an area that we seldom visit!

How about a slow climb up Kuripapango, (off Gentle Annie road), go down either Friday Night or early Sat morning, stay Friday night, motor camp, or motel? Approx 5 hrs driving from Hamilton to Lakes Carpark. I don't think there is a campsite here. Start from Lakes carpark to Kiwi saddle hut, camp around here, on to Macintosh hut, camp around here. A few options here to different exits. Can make it into a loop so the driver can come. The pace may be medium, though at an easy-med pace as most of us haven't been out much. Initially climb to get to the tops. exposed, may be weather dependent.

Leader: Merlyn Warren

Ph: 027 524 9926

Grade: M

Transport: Senior member \$60-100

Senior non-member: \$70-110

Trip 2966B

Karioi

24 Oct

What better way to spend one day of the long weekend climbing one of our local mountains? Karioi is an ancient volcano and the views from the summit are spectacular. On a fine day you can see as far south as Mt Taranaki, the Herangi Range and Pureora. There is also a good view of all the local harbour as well as Pirongia, Maungatautari and Te Aroha mountains.

The plan is to leave Hamilton at 8am (either private cars or a van if we are at level 1) and drive out to Te Toto Gorge near Raglan.

Option A - Climb to the summit. There are great vantage points on the way up plus chains and ladders to add interest and a large rocky bluff. The vegetation has been sculptured by the strong prevailing westerly winds and we walk through Kohekohe to Tawa Forest and Kamahi so it is an interesting walk. We will return the same way. Time 6 - 7 hours

Option B is to climb part way up Karioi to the lookout then come back down and spend some time exploring the spectacular Te Toto Gorge (it is a bit of a scramble down but well worth it). At the base of the gorge, you will see stunning views of the wild west coast and get an insight into traditional maori gardens where you can see remnants of garden plots, stonewalls and karaka groves which have been dated back to the 1700's. This is an easier option and will take the same amount of time as Option A

After a lovely day on the mountain, we will have an early dinner at Rock-it (one of the best cafes in Raglan!). Then head home with the nice feeling of knowing it is a public holiday the next day! <https://www.rockitraglan.co.nz>

Leader: Jacqui Dick **Ph:** 021 1375201 **Grade:** M

Email: jacquimd@me.com **Accommodation:** \$40pp

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

Meal cost: depends on what you eat.

Trip 2967 **Volunteer mine** **31 Oct**

Another old gold mining area in the Coromandel hills to the north of Paeroa. Volunteer Mines rights over an area of fifty acres was taken back in 1910 and was the only mine in the Maratoto Valley area which returned a profit to its owners. With fine views of Maratoto Rock, Waipahake and Wires Track areas, the tramp is graded as Medium with a total trip time of approximately 6 hours.

Leader: Rizal Razak **Ph:** 021 267 6566 **Grade:** M

Email: [rizraz@gmail.com](mailto:rizr@z@gmail.com)

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

Trip 2968 **Kawekas again!!** **6/7 Nov**

Note 1: that this trip requires taking Friday off work.

Note 2: this trip is already **FULL!** Waiting list applies.

We leave Thursday 6pm, stopping for the night at the Mohaka River Farm, which is about an hour south of Taupo. Friday, we head into the Kawekas to the Makahu Road end where we begin our 3-day tramp.

We will walk up to Makino Hut for the Friday night, then the next day the plan is to follow a track down to the Makino River, go off track and follow the river out to Te Puia Lodge. From here we walk up to the Mangatainoka Hot Springs. The newly renovated hot tubs here are absolutely delightful and located close to the river which is perfect for hot/cold plunges! Lovely camp spots are dotted around under the trees here so it's a perfect spot for the night.

Steve Grylls will delight us with one of his delicious venison and lamb curries on one of the nights so we will bring food to complement this.

The last day we walk out to the van along the scenic Te Puia Track and then drive back to Hamilton.

Leader: Jacqui Dick **Ph:** 021 1375201 **Grade:** M

Email: jacquimd@me.com **Accommodation:** \$40pp

Transport: Senior member \$ 55-95 Senior non-member: \$65-105

Trip 2969 **Kakepuku old & new** **14 Nov**

This is a good workout, as uphill right from the start. approx 1.5hrs. Good views while tramping a very wide and clean track to the summit lookout where we will have a view of the surrounding district, Pirongia, and if really clear down to Central Plateau. On the way down we get into the bush for approx 2hrs to meet the beginning of the regular track. This track is slippery in places but still in good shape.

Approx 45 mins to Kakepuku car park. Bring food, water, an extra warm layer, and raincoat. This will be the shortest tramp for a long time. Will have time to go home and do housework.

Leader: Merlyn Warren

Ph: 0275249926

Grade: E/M

Email: *mylwarren@gmail.com*

Transport: Senior member \$20-35

Senior non-member: \$30-45

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

We leave from the London st. carpark Friday evening for Tongariro National Park & WTC Hut where 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, 3-4 hours.

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.

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.

Programme for 2022 Summer & autumn trips

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

2975	30 Dec-7 Jan 2022	M/F	Dusky Track	Les Warren
2977	14-26 Jan	E/M	Southern NI ramblings & cafes	Allan Wickens
2980	28-31 Jan	xtra F	S-K Traverse/Tararua	Mike Peck

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**

This trip is the Great Taste trail with an extension to St Arnaud on the Golden Downs Trail. 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

horizon. If you are someone like me who really likes summer, then we can be happy with the thought that we may get some nice warm (read 'hot') days during the summer. Maybe not so good when we are tramping, but really great when it is time to relax. I'll spare a thought for anyone affected by drought conditions on the land though. Will winter bring us lots of snow or more rain? Will we eventually plan our intensive tramping programme to happen in late rather than early autumn? Who knows? But we are all club members who get the benefit of learning from each other and comparing notes so we will 'be prepared'. Now where have I heard that phrase before? Seems life is a never-ending circle, huh?

Presidential Blog

There has been much talk recently about the ice melt in Greenland which is faster than any time in the past 12,000 years as per the scientists. How does this relate to us? Last year DoC put a document out on adapting to climate change and an action plan. Several areas had impacts described and some of these places are ones we regularly frequent. These included Tongariro National Park, Te Manahuna Aoraki, Mackenzie Basin and coastal areas like the Heaphy Track. Some of the impacts described included increased European heather in the Tongariro National Park; Te Manahuna Aoraki, and Mackenzie Basin with increased glacial retreat, and changes in climate patterns, where there is increased storm intensity and westerly rainfall spill overs. Also, sea level rise affecting the coastline, like the Heaphy track and Abel Tasman.

How will this affect us as a club? We have to consider the climate impact on where we tramp when going down south next season, look at issues like heat exhaustion, especially since summer is on its way. Are the usual water supplies still there or have they dried up? For the coming winter seasons, is there less snow from hotter temperatures. Are the ski seasons shorter and what is the reduction? What kind of forethought do we need and should we start thinking about what strategies we need to start putting in place? I know there are a lot of questions here but we need to start thinking about them to help us identify what strategies we need to adapt to the changes coming up.

from the Ski Club...

Winter Rates are in effect until Friday, October 23. Summer rates start over Labour Weekend

which means Tramping Club members are able to access the cheaper \$25 a night adult rate from that date through to the next winter season.

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

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

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

Spring skiing is the foundation of Ruapehu and we're seeing some great days when the sun comes out. Although Winter has under delivered Spring will get you there. If you missed out on the earlier snowcraft course, or wanted to practise things that you learnt it's a great time to do that as the snow is much better than the early season coverage.

Get some friends together and head down for a weekend. There's still plenty of late season alpine adventure and a great chance to get in alpine walks in better weather conditions. With warmer and longer days there's a weekend of fun on your way.

We've enjoyed taking the Gondola up to the higher slopes, particularly in breezy conditions. It's been a much more comfortable ride. The Gondola will be a good ride in summer as well. The Knoll Ridge café will be open and there's great views if you haven't been up for a while.

Next Season's early bird pass sale starts on 22 October. This will be the cheapest price for passes for 2022. Head over to the Mt Ruapehu website for details and purchases.

Looking ahead we'll be organising a couple of Working Parties in the early new year. We have firewood to replace, maintenance and some improvements to our window joinery area to complete. It's a fun weekend which often provides at least one free day for other adventures.

Now a request for some help from the Ski Club Committee. Our summer activity could do with a champion. With the Gondola running through summer, good mountain walks and cycling tracks nearby, our summer options are equally as good as winter. We should be able to do more business than we generally do - but it requires more hands to the pump. Let's not forget what a fantastic location we have year-round.

Stephen Prendergast, Ski Team Leader

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 2924

Tongariro Crossing

20 -21 Feb

On Friday night, our group departed from London Street as usual (plus Tamahere) and drove to Whakapapa where we met up with several others who had arrived beforehand. The following day, in great weather, we drove around to the Mangatepopo trailhead to start the "Crossing". Most of the group opted to do

the walk via the prominent ridge behind Mangatepopo Hut, to the summit of Mount Tongariro and then on to Red Crater where they met the others. After skirting below the true summit of Tongariro, the group enjoyed a short meal break before carrying on down, then up to Red Crater where they merged with the “masses”. Allan left at this point and returned to the trailhead and van so he could pick up the group at the Ketetahi end.

Throughout the day, there were several helicopter rescues, starting with one person who had problems climbing up the staircase. Two more people, from separate parties, were evacuated from South Crater due to their injuries. Finally, in mid-afternoon, the helicopter was back for a rescue from around Red Crater. All those who did the full crossing, arrived on time at the Ketetahi trailhead, albeit a bit tired and hot from the weather.

On Saturday night, we all enjoyed a barbeque at the hut, courtesy of the portable BBQ that Allan packed up from the carpark. The wonderful (Frankton Butchery) sausages and patties were the main course, followed up with strawberries, fruit salad and cream. Needless to say, it was an excellent night at the hut for all.

Sunday was a more leisurely day after the previous day’s exertion. Some of the more energetic in the group opted to walk up to the *Sky Waka* terminus and café via the NZAC hut, while others decided on the gondola ride instead. All walked up to the by now popular point on the ridge east of the Pinnacles (can somebody please suggest a better name than “*the Instagram spot*”), where we had great views on another fine day. Another small group felt doing the Crossing wasn’t enough for a weekend and went to Ruapehu’s crater and Dome Peak.

This was a very rewarding weekend, enjoyed by one and all, who were:- Jacqui D, Ron D, Judith B, Dora L, Dean R, Carlin H, Julie V, Helen M, Noelene C, Jocelyn W, Tameem S, Madeleine and John F, Robyn C, Patricia C, Sharon S (Rotorua), Jackie vdB, Nicol and Vicky B, Debbie M and David McK. Thanks to our drivers Jacqui and Ron. Written by leader and scribe Allan Wickens.

Trip 2955

Leitch’s Clearing

7-8 Aug

A small group did this weekend trip to Leitch’s Clearing Hut, situated in Whareorino Conservation Area, west of Pio Pio in South Waikato. The hut is a popular destination as it involves an easy walk of 3-4 hours each way. After a short coffee stop at Te Kuiti, we started walking mid-morning from the trailhead at Leitch’s Road. Much of the first part of the tramp, involves walking in bush adjacent to farmland, with the occasional view. Overall, the track is in good condition, often benched, and the light rain at times posed no problems. The group were impressed with the large amount of “pig-rooting” on the flats prior to reaching the hut. It looked as though a bulldozer had gone through and ripped the ground up in all directions.

The hut itself is a charmer, with hot water courtesy of a “wetback” attached to the wood-burning stove. . Built partly in European style (the chap who last did the hut up was Swiss after all), it is a very comfortable and has 16-bunks. The stove

made the place very cosy for the night. No-one decided on camping, and why would you when you have such a cosy hut to stay in (heavy rain was forecast at night as well).

The following day, in gloomy weather that gradually deteriorated when the group walked out, it took just a bit less to complete this tramp. A nasty sou-wester brought gradually heavier rain and cold temperatures. After changing into dry clothes, we took the back roads to Waitomo Caves, where we enjoyed a big lunch before heading home.

This tramp is often described as “walking across a lot of farmland” (you don’t) and is often done as a walk-in, walk-out day trip. However, with such a nice hut to stay at, why not spend the night there, as we did?

Those on the trip were:- Theresa O’L, Cathy D, Isla T and Allan Wickens (the leader / scribe, whose first trip it was to this place.)

From the committee table:

New member: Trish Bond

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. 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.

From the TECT helicopter team: Dear Guy Dommett,

Thank you so much for your donation to the TECT Rescue Helicopter. With your support, your rescue helicopter can continue undertaking life-saving missions in your community. We would like to share Tracey’s words of gratitude to our supporters, who she credits for being part of her rescue. “Lying on wet cold grass, face down, unable to get up and in extreme pain, the sound of that helicopter landing is one I will never forget... I have no idea how I would have been rescued otherwise. I can’t thank the service and donors enough.”. We look forward to continuing our life saving service with your support. Saving lives, together.

Vanessa Richmond, Group Manager

Obituary:

On August 9th Bruce Neal Anderson, aged 68, passed away after a sudden illness. Bruce was a club member from about 1982-1987. His partner Glenys Croker joined shortly thereafter. Bruce was a keen skier but also came along on some of our tramps. He was a jack of all trades and very useful on the Hut working parties. He had 2 children – Deane and Janelle.

Ed comment: I remember he always had a smile on his face.

Snippets from here 'n there

➤ The Pukeokahu Hall Committee is offering a tramp in an area you will seldom if ever visit. Selwyn and I joined this group last year and enjoyed their social environment as well as the lovely walk on Timohanga station – on the eastern side of the Ruahines. The trip this year is planned for an area further south and closer to Pukeokahu. Don't know where this place is? It's on the Napier - Taihape road, more to the southern end than the Hawkes bay end. The trip is planned for Saturday November 13th so you need to be on site by the Friday night. \$100 will cover your guided walk, Saturday evening meal, and accommodation. If you are interested in finding out more about this venture, please contact Kylie Gilbert, ph 06 3881774, pukeokahuevents@gmail.com. Updated information if you are interested in participating in the **Pukeokahu hike** The link to the information sheet is:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kgp9Aruw_6aFIJ_Y5U1cCI3uUUtY_4SvY_MZvNJIncMo/edit?usp=sharing. And the link for the entry form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScfX0iP7Ms3SMSEfIXCbU9YTeYEGDZPwDDKQXfmE_hpWeYJbg/viewform?usp=sf_link

➤ A new app to help trampers make better decisions. The family of a man who died in the Tararua Range two years ago said the use of a new Mountain Safety Council *Plan My Walk* app might have led to better decisions. MSC found that the most common cause of tramping-related search and rescues was trampers underestimating the time it took to reach their destination. They developed the app to provide better clarity on expected journey times; to set up a public interface for reporting track issues; to encourage trampers to factor in longer journey times during their planning of a trip; and to provide accurate information on conditions for trampers to set realistic expectations. The *Plan My Walk* app gives accurate information on tracks, weather forecasts and track alerts, including feedback on tracks for future trampers. Source: Stuff, 18 Aug 2021.

➤ 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. 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.

➤ Watch out next month for information about a summer camp in Pureora 10-18th January. Who searching, dactylanthus searching, MTBing, bait station checking, and FUN. Camping onsite in the Okahukura valley.

from the DoC website.....

When Lou Sanson's distinguished public service career ended on 14/9/21 he wanted to be in Hokitika, with his 90-year-old artist mother, Alison, where it all began.



In his eight years of running the Department of Conservation and 11 years before that running Antarctica New Zealand, Sanson has built a reputation for positive leadership. He is so positive that he sees the silver lining in Covid.

"Covid has been good to us because we've just seen so many Kiwis just realise how special this place is," he told the Weekend Herald. It has been a career that perfectly blended his mother's love of nature, the West Coast and Southern Alps and his engineer father's fascination with the Antarctic.

During his 8 years at DoC, he has worked with many ministers, including Nick Smith, Maggie Barry, Eugenie Sage and Kiritapu Allan in Conservation, and Murray McCully and Winston Peters in his Antarctic role. He had extraordinary people skills, said Eugenie Sage, and in his time there he had broken down what she called "fortress DoC," strengthened relationship with iwi and hapū, the commercial sector, tourism and NGOs and had helped to mainstream conservation and appreciation of nature. "He was an inspirational leader of the

department because of his enthusiasm for conservation and because of his deep and extensive knowledge of the department's operations," she said.

Now aged 64, Sanson started as a 14-year-old, helping park rangers to cut tracks up the Copland Track. By the age of 17, he had walked every valley from Hokitika to Haast.

He was turned down when he applied to become a park ranger and for a job in the Wildlife Service. He joined the Forest Service, getting accepted into forestry school and specialising in mountain land management at the Forest Research Institute, and getting degrees at Canterbury and Lincoln. He headed to Invercargill for one of those jobs that was meant to be six months but which turned out to be 22 years.

He was still down south in 1987 when the Department of Conservation was formed. He was put in charge of the Subantarctic Islands and the Catlins, and then Fiordland and Stewart Island. From 1996 to 2002 he was made Southland Conservator, like a district commander for DoC. It was an eventful 22 years. He helped to set up the Rakiura National Park on Stewart Island, make the Subantarctic a World Heritage Area, get Campbell Island predator-free and started work on eight marine protected areas in Fiordland.

That set him up for his next move to head Antarctica New Zealand in Christchurch and then to the Department of Conservation in Wellington to head an organisation of 2000 people, managing eight million hectares – 30% of the land area of New Zealand - 4.5 million hectares of public conservation waters and about 600 archaeological or historic sites.

Sanson will move to Central Otago, do some voluntary work for Predator Free 5050 (*sic*), trapping possums, stoats and rats, and for the Backcountry Trust, painting huts, and hopes to also work as a consultant and in governance positions on boards. And along with the benefits of getting rid of predators, New Zealand would be a very select destination. "With Predator Free New Zealand, we will be the Galapagos of the world in a hothouse world and one of the great nature destinations on the planet. There are only a few places like us that have got what we've got, like Iceland, like Patagonia, like Costa Rica. We've just got that magic and we've set aside 30% of our country for nature and we're trying to do that in our marine environments. Then we've got this incredible resource of tracks and huts – 900 huts – and the Backcountry Trust, people out there every weekend restoring them with Dulux. We've just got this massive asset that is very, very special to the world."

Asked about his legacies, Sanson says he has "shifted the dial" to work on restoration of fresh water, not just on land; advocating for the eradication of wilding pine; and the use of 1080. He said DoC was getting better and better at using lower doses but it was sometimes tough dealing with opponents. "If you go to the 1080 sites, my name is "Loose-Nuts Lou" because I challenged them for loosening our [vehicle] wheel nuts."

But what really shifted the world was the prosecution and jailing of Taranaki man Gregory Buchanan in 2019 after threats to take down helicopters involved in 1080 drops. "It's no longer acceptable in New Zealand to sit on a computer and send abuse or death threats to people working for the Department of Conservation." Sanson says his proudest achievement as head of DoC was his focus on health and safety. He had been with the organisation at the time of the Cave Creek tragedy in 1995, in which a shoddily built viewing platform claimed the lives of 13 Tai Poutini Polytech students and DoC officer Stephen O'Dea in Paparoa National Park. But the safety culture in the organisation had genuinely changed after Cave Creek. He believed that he was leaving DoC in better shape than when he took over.

Few would dispute that one of Sanson's legacies will be his work in strengthening partnerships, both with Māori and with the private sector, commercial and philanthropic.

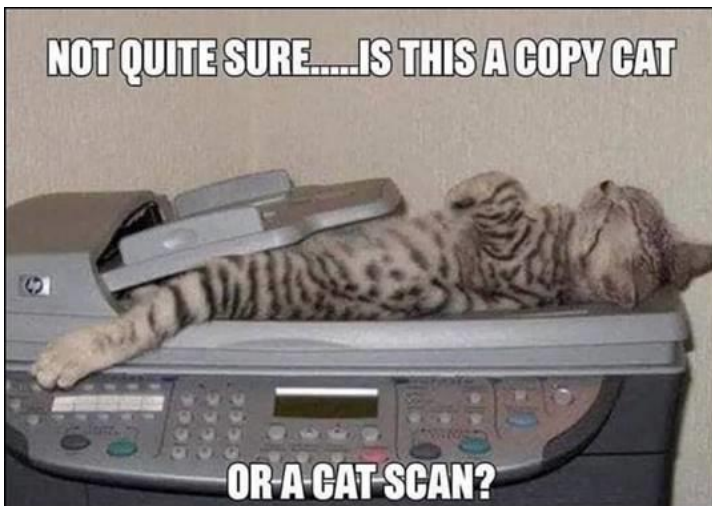
➤ Report from the Walking Access Commission: The Link Pathway Trust has received over 70 donations reaching almost \$10,000 since the storm that damaged Te Ara Tuhono/The Link Pathway back in July. After the storm, the Link Pathway Trust assessed the damage and developed a strategy to get less damaged sections open as soon as possible. Pre lockdown, volunteers have been working hard to clear mud and debris between Anakiwa and Picton to make this 24km section usable again. Mahakipawa Hill was the most severely hit after the storm. Clearing and repairing of the washed-out stream culverts and crossings here has also begun. The parts of the pathway that are damaged and close to the road require further cooperation and help from Marlborough Roads. Rick Edmonds, a local artist in the Marlborough region planned the largely volunteer-built 42km Link Pathway that runs from Picton and Anakiwa to Havelock. This pathway helped to get school children off busy roads in Linkwater as well as being a popular track for tourists and locals. The donations have been hugely appreciated and are still welcome.

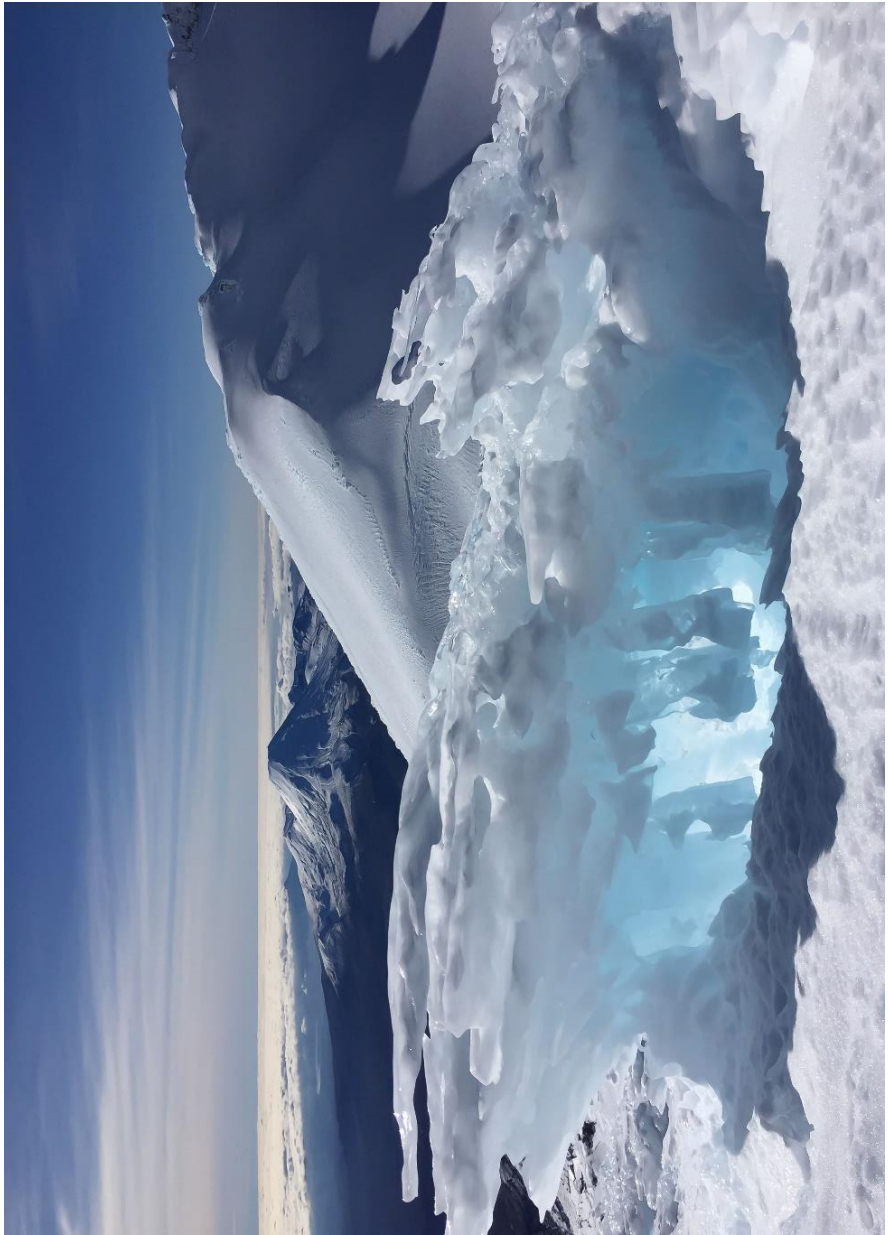
➤ Pocket Maps, available now via the Apple App Store and Android Play Store allows you to view accessible areas and public conservation land at the press of your fingertips. Maps can be viewed online with a Wi-Fi connection or downloaded to be viewed offline. Ara Hikoī Aotearoa the New Zealand Walking Access Commission have received ongoing feedback that map users struggle to understand public access boundaries when outdoors. Now with the help of this map, people can check their location and their access. Pocket Maps lets you search your exact location by region and through the map layers, understand what type of access land you are currently on or looking to hunt, fish or mountain bike through. The maps are split into regions and available to be downloaded to use offline. The public access areas layer contains NZ road parcels; Reserve land; Walkway easement; Esplanade strips ;Esplanade reserves; Easements.

...from the FMC website...

- It is shaping up to be a fantastic weekend at Queenstown Memorial Centre, 1 Memorial Drive, Queenstown. 29 - 31 October 2021, with 20 high-caliber speakers We have just released the speakers program on our website, so check that out, FMC is pleased to welcome Hon Kiritapu Allan, Hon David Parker, Hon Jacqui Dean, Hon Eugenie Sage, Hon Simon Court and Hon Angie Warren-Clark to speak at our 90th anniversary celebration There will also be organised tramping trips in the local area, with a chance to meet and mingle with FMC executive members and other like-minded folks from FMC clubs. Don't miss out on a spot; registrations are limited. Secure your seat online now: www.fmc.org.nz/90th.
- Proposals to amend Fiordland geographic names. The NZ Geographic Board has publicly notified a proposal to amend the following geographic names:
Alter Mackinnon Pass to Omanui/McKinnon Pass;
Alter Lake Mackinnon to Lake McKinnon;
Correct the positions of four names, the spelling of two of them, and assign a further name, in the Darran Mountains.
All three proposals are open for public submissions, the first two until 30 November 2021, the third one until 30 September 2021.
- Discount on tramping food for FMC members: We are pleased to welcome Venture Outdoors to the FMC Member benefits scheme. Venture Outdoors offer a good selection of freeze-dried foods from several companies, muesli bars and cooking gear. FMC members can get a 15% discount on any of the products on their website, by using the code FMCMEMBER15.

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Winner of the FMC photo competition - above the bush-line category  
Photographer: Mike Peck

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