



THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

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

September 2021



Tramping by moonlight photo by Jacqui Dick

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 831

September 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, 6th October

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

Have you ever wondered how our lodge (or 'hut' as it is also referred to) on Mt Ruapehu came to be? Did you know that during the 1960's it used to be a very small single story hut with an outside long drop that had to be dug out regularly during the depths of winter? That the site of our hut was very carefully chosen to have the best views? John Wilson will briefly cover the interesting development of Waikato Hut over the years. He will then show something of his use of the hut, and will talk about some of the neat places to visit around the park using the hut as a base.

CLOSING NIGHT FOR YOUR PHOTO COMPETITION ENTRIES

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2021

	postponed		Movie night	Graham Haines
2960	12 Sept	E	Waikato river walks IV	Ron Dick
2961	19 Sept	M	Tongariro Forest	John Wilson
2962	25/26 Sept	E/M	WTC 500	Jacqui Dick & Mike Peck
2963	3 Oct	M	Hihikiwi	Merlyn Warren
	6 Oct		CLUB NIGHT	Jacqui Dick
2964	9/10 Oct	M	Kaiwhakauka track	Les Warren
2965	17 Oct	F	Okataina western track	Mike Peck
2966	23-25 Oct	M	Kuripapango	Merlyn Warren
2967	31 Oct	M	Volunteer mines	Rizal Razak
	3 Nov		Photo competition	Jacqui Dick
2968	6/7 Nov		Kawekas again!	Jacqui Dick
2969				
2970			Tama Lakes/ Whakapapaiti track	Jocelyn Widmer

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 2960

Waikato River walks IV

12 Sept

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

Leader: Ron Dick

Ph: 021 2608149

Grade: E

Email: ronjmd@icloud.com

Transport: Senior member \$20 -35

Senior non-member: \$30-45

Trip 2961 **Tongariro Forest** **18-19 Sept**

This tramp follows Te Araroa Trail through Tongariro Forest Conservation Area, starting from the Whakapapa River below Owhango and ending by Hillary Outdoor Education Centre on Access Road 3. The 42 Traverse Track is followed for much of the way, then we take another track to lead us to a crossing of the Mangatepopo Stream. This is a likely spot to see whio. The track climbs out of the Mangatepopo and takes us to Access Road 3. Total distance is about 30km. The forest throughout the area was logged for rimu, totara, matai, miro and kahikatea, but several decades of regeneration have healed much of the previous devastation and it is now pleasant to walk through.

We depart Friday night at 7pm and will camp Friday and Saturday nights.

Leader: John Wilson **Ph:** 021 168 2082 **Grade:** M

Transport: Senior member \$45-75 Senior non-member: \$65-85

Trip 2962 **The WTC 500** **25/26 Sept**

No doubt you have all heard of the Indy 500 but have you heard about the inaugural WTC 500..... ?

This is an event not to be missed and is an opportunity for the 500 players in our club to pit their skills against each other to find out who is the best (and who cheats/table talks the most!). The plan is to head down to Raurimu Saturday morning. We will do a walk to the Tupapakuraa falls and then check in to the Slalom Lodge for the night. This has a range of budget style accommodation, a bar, great restaurant and a lovely roaring fire. www.slalomlodge.co.nz. Late afternoon we will begin our inaugural 500 tournament. Rules are yet to be confirmed (feel free to give me any suggestions). If you haven't learnt how to play don't let that stop you as we can give you a crash course and you can learn as you go. Sunday will be a short walk along the Ohinetonga track before we head home early afternoon. This will be a fun and social weekend so get your name down early so you don't miss out! BYO food apart from dinner as we will eat in the restaurant Saturday night.

Grade: E/M

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

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

Transport: Senior member \$45-75 Senior non-member: \$65-85

Trip 2963 **Hihikiwi new & old** **3 Oct**

A car shuffle will start the day before we get onto the old Hihikiwi track, and tramp to meet the existing track then continue to Pahuatea Hut on top of Mt. Pirongia for lunch- approx 3.5hrs. There will be good views to the coast from a couple of lookouts and on the boardwalk for the last 800 metres to the hut. Travel back the same way, but continue on the "new" track to the road, approx 3 hrs. Lovely bush, the quickest route to the hut, and not much traffic on this track.

Leader: Merlyn Warren **Ph:** 0275249926 **Grade:** M

Email: mylwarren@gmail.com

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

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 2966 **Kuripapango** **23-25 Oct**

We are going to an area that we seldom visit!.

How about a slow climb up Kiripapango, (off Gentle Annie road), go down either Friday Night or early Sat morning, stay Friday night, motorcamp, 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. More details next month.

Leader: Merlyn Warren **Ph:** 027 524 9926 **Grade:** M

Transport: Senior member \$60-100 Senior non-member: \$70-110

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

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.

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

Programme for 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 ramblings & cafes	Allan Wickens
2980	28-31 Jan	xtra F	S-K Traverse/Tararua	Mike Peck
2981	28-31 Jan	M/F	Southern crossing Tararua	Jacqui Dick
2982	5-7 Feb	E/M	Taranaki	Jocelyn Widmer
2984	13*18 Feb	M	Dart Reese	Peter Ayson

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 2993

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

Oh bother – that virus is thwarting our leisure plans again. Should I copy and paste my comments from last's years editorial? Nah, let's try something new. As I write we have had 2 trips cancelled. Winter won't wait, so you will have to – until next year to do Scott's winter tramp, but my trip to Wharekirauponga may appear in the programme again in the not-too-distant future. Here's hoping there will be no more lockdowns in the near future. No need to remind you about all the safety measures needed to look after yourself – and me! Have a wee peep at the MoH guidelines on the website just so you know when you're welcome to participate. And while you're still in the lockdown phase, how about going through your photo collection and getting some ready for the photo competition? I'm looking forward to seeing those more of those pictures you have sent me throughout the year to go with your stories, all grouped together. The rules are later on in this bulletin. Closing date is October club night. Dianne

Presidential Blog

One day while walking along the river not far from my house, trying to keep active ready for the summer tramps that are quickly coming our way, I saw a fellow walker drop something. As I proceed to the lone article lying on the

ground, it appeared to be their keys. What do I do? Well, here is the dilemma. Do I run and chase the person and let them know or do I yell for them to stop?? As I am pondering the matter, well this person has gone into thin air like a ghost. OK super fit, kept their training up. What a predicament. *Who could this person be, where do they come from?* Judith

from the Ski Club...

Winter Rates are in effect from now on.

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.

As more settled weather and untroubled snow pack sit and wait, outside of Auckland we hold our breath for a drop down to Level 2. When we get there we'll be able to re-open the Lodge and take advantage of the remaining 6 or so weeks of snow sports and alpine adventures. There will be some changes to the lodge configuration and further information will be available on the Ski Website and our facebook page.

We had planned to do Ski races in mid-September and it's likely that these will take another year off in favour of letting all of us get the most out of our remaining season, in a way that best suits each of us. It's important to convey that whilst a lockdown has a material impact on the financial position, the ski section is well positioned to ride this out, after a number of years of good financial management. There will remain a ski club & combined members first approach to bookings, which will result in competition for any remaining weekend beds when these are released to non-members each Tuesday prior to a weekend. I would recommend thinking about weekday bookings to avoid what is likely to be busy weekend periods right across the mountain. Everything from parking to lift queues, as well as gear hire will be much easier. (*Ed comment: Check out the RAL website for booked parking spaces*).

As the Level 2 requirements are yet to be communicated there's obviously going to be a bit of play it by ear involved. Important things to remember are to stay at home if you are unwell, that includes what we would normally regard as minor seasonal unwellness. You risk being asked to leave the Lodge if you arrive and are clearly unwell. We have QR codes and hand sanitiser placed around the lodge. Please use them. Otherwise please be mindful that alert levels are very dynamic and can move in response to any detection of community cases. This may mean fairly dynamic changes which we will all need to deal with.

Experience from last year indicates that there is still enjoyable skiing, boarding and alpine tramping to be had, and spring is a great time to take advantage of that.

Stephen Prendergast, Ski Club 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

It's that time of year when I start to follow up on trip reports I haven't received from earlier in the year. And guess what? – my own report was the first omission!

Hope you enjoy the catchups in upcoming bulletins too.

Trip 2921

Pureora Baiting

13/14 Feb

We've done it again! Completed a successful season of baiting over the past spring and summer and Only a single minor injury to one volunteer.

With much last minute enrolling and pulling out, organising the group was a tad hectic but you all got to the Pureora Lions Lodge in good time (Selwyn and I had to go down earlier to open up & set everything out for you.

Representatives from the Uni team and the Waikato Tramping Club made up a large part of the team of 43 so thank you very much to you all. Friday night had it's usual safety briefing and matching up of teammates, maps, safety gear and sundry equipment needed for the day.



Photo by Clare St. Pierre

Saturday dawned overcast but quickly became fine so, after the obligatory photo and 'herding' everyone into the right vehicles, we were gone from the Lodge by 7.50 and at the base by 8.30. The DoC team were only able to get their hands on the keys for 1 LUV but it was their brand-new Honda 700 4-seater. Nice. It was a tight squeeze for this vehicle to cross the first culvert but we made it. By the time Teresa (DoC staff member & learner LUV driver) and I had moved those to the top of the Tomtit block the rest of you allocated to lines off the access track were already in the bush. Those who were allocated more than 1 line did a sterling job.

Due to a wee bit of confusion dishing out the maps on Friday night, 2 teams got the same one but they diplomatically resolved the matter and got on with it. It did leave me with Whio D to do on Sunday though – all my own fault. Selwyn drove 4 of you up to the carpark only to find when he went to put his boots on that one didn't fit – it was mine! Just as well I drive the LUV with track shoes on. Amanda and Sinead were confronted with a stag at one point but they said they were not in any danger. During the weekend several of you came across the beautiful blue *Entoloma hochstetteri* (called werewere- kokako by maori) mushroom and Amanda found the smelly *Asorea rubra* shaped like a red star with a stinky centre.



Several of you heard kokako which is great – it is census year for them in our block this year. There were 45 pairs counted in 2016. How many will there be this year I wonder? (*Ed comment: 92 pairs/7juveniles were counted in May 2021*). The day finished with the treats ably sliced and managed by our base operator Trish. She has really got the idea of getting you to dump the bait, wash your hands, hand over your map, and then suggest you help yourself to the treats. Hope you enjoyed the cakes supplied by Barb, Joanna, Isla, Jane, and Pamela. Thank you gals. I want the recipe for the ginger crunch please and Teresa could have eaten the whole zucchini (or was it carrot?) cake if we had let her. The Uni team of 8 had a bite to eat at the Lodge and headed home, as did 19 others. Thankyou to you all for your effort. Have you lost your light green striped plastic pouch, a knee-length black gaiter, a black & yellow sleeping bag or bedroll cover, or a purple and black waist pouch – I have them.

The evening was rather jovial but good fun. Most were in bed by 10pm. 13 of us set out on Sunday morning to finish the last 8 lines and complete the line that Nina and Clare were unable to finish because of Nina's injury. (*Selwyn went back there a few days later to complete 2 missed stations along the roadside*). After lunch it was time to put the 2 possums Jonathan had shot for us on Thursday night under a cage to monitor how long it will take them to decompose which then determines the withholding period for meat being taken from the forest – usually a couple of months. Back at base a minor drama with the key to unlock the security lock for the DoC trailer took a few heartbeats to resolve. We

left the base about 3.30pm which is much later than planned and unusual for our Sunday efforts. Perhaps the heat had something to do with our weariness too. Back at the Lodge Isla, Philo and Martin had done a great job cleaning up for us. All we needed to do was load up our gear, put the tables and chairs away and we were off.

Our baiting has been successful in that we have removed perhaps 230kg of bait over the weekend but the real indicator is that the rat index prior to baiting was 34% and, 6 weeks after our October visit, the number was down to 4%. Very well done! A heartfelt thankyou from myself & Selwyn, and the Pirongia Te Aroaro o Kahu Restoration Society for all your efforts throughout this past season and I'll look forward to seeing you back for some more bait work in spring 2022.

Club participants: Joanna G, Isla T, Debbie & Dave W. Matt S, Lois R, Amanda C, Pamela & Allan H, Selwyn & Dianne J (Scribe). And 32 others too.

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**Trip 2933                      Karamu Walkway – Ed Hillary Hope Reserve                      14 Mar**

A short drive took us to Four Brothers Reserve on the Raglan Road, to be greeted by a dozen or so chooks. We climbed up the track through the bush to farmland and along the top of the hills with wide views out over the Waikato. 700 metres along we picked up the Hope Loop Track and dropped steeply down into the Hillary Hope Reserve, partly in bush but mostly in the open. Near the valley floor we joined the Makirikiri Loop Track and climbed up through very pleasant bush almost to the top again, before dropping right down to Makirikiri Stream. This was very much an up and down trip. Five minutes down valley was a toilet and just beyond it a large picnic table, where we had a break.

We picked up the other track in the reserve, the David Thom Loop and climbed up to the airstrip, to enjoy lovely views out to Karioi and the windfarm. The airstrip gave us a very brief flat section but we, of course, headed down into the valley once more, where we re-joined the Hope Loop Track and climbed up the valley, mostly in the open to a lunch spot in the edge of the bush with noise from the Raglan Road filtering down from above. The track continued to climb until it popped out at the top of Four Brothers Reserve, leaving just a short walk down to the van. So, in summary; up, down, up, down, up, down, up, down, up, down, but a most pleasant short tramp of about four hours, with no pressure and plenty of time to chat. Real fruit icecreams at Whatawhata were a popular distraction on the way home.

Les, Glenn, Lesley, Alan, Jeanette, Julie, Christa, Merlyn, Fiona, Jean and John.

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Trip 2934 Bushcraft 20 Mar

Once again, our Club hosted a basic bushcraft course, with the aim of imparting the essential knowledge required for safe tramping. Held at the base of Mount Pirongia in a public area adjacent to Pirongia Lodge and in fine weather, it was attended by 15 trainees and four instructors. Topics covered were as wide-ranging as trip planning, equipment, and what food to take, to ecology and social

considerations. After the formal instruction was given, Selwyn led a brief navigation exercise in the nearby bush. Thanks to Judith Bogle, Selwyn June and Ashley Hoskin who assisted in making this an invaluable exercise. Allan Wickens our Club Captain, co-ordinated the Course.



Judith making sure she's got everything photo by Allan Wickens

Following the event, it is anticipated that any future bushcraft courses will probably be held over two days as there is a large amount of valuable information to impart, requiring more time than one day can cover.

More pics at the end of the bulletin and on the inside back cover

Trip 2954

Te Tapui

1 Aug

At the end of the trip I asked for someone to write it up, but got a stony silence, with people avoiding eye contact. Did this mean they hadn't enjoyed it? Or they liked the trip but not the leader? Surely, they can't all be illiterate! Well, I'll just have to write something myself.

What a truly great trip this was. No, that sounds like I'm skiting. This trip was so-so. Oh come on, it was better than that – people were chattering all day and they go silent if they are not enjoying themselves. This trip was enjoyed by all. I reckon that's true. Now, what happened?

Amanda did a shuttle to place John D's ute at the trip's exit point and then, with everyone back at the start, we walked up a paddock to the bush edge. Theresa sorted out some old beef bones while I talked a bit about what the map showed, took a compass bearing from it, and then ignored it as we tramped up through the bush. We joined a ridge coming up from the west, so I again showed the map and took another compass bearing. I ignored this too as we followed up the ridge. (Look, keep on the high ground and you must be on the ridge, so why keep looking at your compass?) The ridge was good to walk up but out to the side lay tangles of supplejack. Much of the time we could follow deer trails, but the trails would wander away every now and again, leaving us to bush-bash through for 30 metres or so. Further up I again brought out the map and we discussed maps and navigation. I predicted that we would head a bit to the left and then need to make a sharp right turn. Continuing, I pointed out the changing position of the sun, which confirmed that we were in fact following what the map showed, a jump to the left and a step to the right. Whoa, sounds like The Rocky Horror Show! Can't have any horror on my show! Supplejack thickets caused us to weave around a bit, but we came upon Te Tapui's rather indistinct summit nicely in time for lunch, no view, scanty patches of sunlight. I intended to head north from there to an old pa site on a small knob, so pointed out where the sun lay, and off we went down towards the saddle. Oh dear, supplejack is really thriving here, and we didn't get far before abandoning that idea. This saddle was easy to walk when I was last here 20 years ago. I wonder if fallow deer grazing pressure is taking out seedlings, allowing supplejack to take over.

Back we went to near the summit, and then retraced our steps back to the sharp right from the morning. Here we set off again more or less northwards down a ridge which would lead us to our exit point. Yeah right! Unfortunately, we got off a little to the side at one point and my bright idea of sidling back to the ridge top was met by impenetrable supplejack. Abandoning the niceties of navigation, I lead us off on the easiest route, sidling down until yet another wall of supplejack brought us to a halt. However, I knew there was good going below on the far side of a small stream, so down we went. This worked out well, with us sometimes in the bush and sometimes alongside a fence. Then we ran out of bush, but a snippet of road could be seen, so over the fence we went and walked down a farm track for the last 300 metres.

A couple of hundred metres down the road we came to John's ute and he shuttled Amanda back to fetch the van, and Theresa back to collect her bones. I enjoyed the trip and people said they did too. So, what is it about writing up a trip? Amanda (driver), Theresa O, John D, Alan G, Max P, Maureen F, Jim S, Lesley K, Alan W, Fiona G, Trish B, Marianne L, Jean W, John W (leader).

Trip 2953

Snowcraft II

23/25 July

Yay! Another weekend on the snow. In great anticipation of a moonlight crossing of Tongariro, 2 van loads of very keen tramper/climbers headed off to the

mountain. There were experienced club members and new faces too. Arriving at the Top of the Bruce, we prepared for the short walk to Waikato hut rugging up and booting up only to realise you can get very warm in a very short space of time with a pack on. Others found their arms stretched with carrying the extra groceries.

We enjoyed the spoils of the firewood working bee from summer with the hut nice and warm on arrival. Before we got to bed decisions had to be made as to which option we would take the next day. No need to share bunks with strangers on this trip, we had our choice of beds.

Next morning, in glorious conditions of sunshine and no wind one group headed for the crater and the other group headed off to practice crampon and ice axe techniques. Conditions were conducive to both groups having a successful climb. For the night time, the original plan was to do the Tongariro crossing but with very little snow cover on the climb up the steps and no moonlight on that side of the mountain until much later and cloud forecast to come in soon after midnight, that option was abandoned.

Our alternative, after an early dinner was to climb the pinnacles.

We headed out of the hut after dark. What joy to be on the snow at night in the moonlight! It just feels like another world. Crunching crampons in the icy snow, the occasional tick of an ice axe on a rock, voices muffled by the snowy landscape, cold air, glow of the snow, some headlamps on, some off.

One member had a crampon malfunction but it got sorted and on we went. We got to the café and the group split in two and half continued on to the Pinnacles with the others heading back to the hut. The tricky thing at night is to be able to keep your bearings and take note of where you need to go to get back! We all made it back to tell the tale, despite the sheer terror of that icy slope.

Sunday morning, more decisions to be made...another climb to the Pinnacles for those who want to go. The weather was spectacular again.

Two of our group did all climbs: to the crater and to the Pinnacles twice. That's impressive!

Memories of snowcraft. The crunch of snow and ice under the crampons; laughter and talking muffled by the snow, the peace of the mountain at night. Great fun; fantastic views of Mt Taranaki. No wonder snowcraft happens year after year.

Thanks Allan W, Mike P, John D and Jacqui D (leaders) for your enthusiasm for the snow, making it all worthwhile. Participants were: David T, Martin W, Katherine R, Paul Q, Peter L, Lily I, Irina B, Piet V, Rupert C, Les W, Amanda C, Jocelyn W, Jeanette D (scribe), Chris U, Tehnuka I, Nicola G, Adele W, and Mike L.

Trip 2956

Komata Reefs

15 Aug

Komata Reefs report, Trip 2956, 15 August 2021 After a two vehicle drive to transport 18 keen explorers, we arrived at the Komata Reefs Road in the Coromandel hills to the north of Paeroa. (To the uninitiated: This is a land reef,

NOT a marine one! No scuba gear required today ;)) We followed the rough road for 500m alongside the Komata River, continuing to the upper grassed wide track. This took us through an old small dilapidated building of which some parts had fallen over the edge of the river sides. We walked through the building to continue along the track until we came to a small ridge to the old tramway formation. This was fairly easy rough walking but with crumbling sections to



avoid. There were some fallen trees to negotiate. Nothing that our 18 explorers couldn't handle. After 800m we reached a stream junction and had a break here sitting on a flat area covered with Tradescantia. We then headed up the left hand gully starting at an old sign showing way to the boiler. Those who had a fascination for crystal rocks were able to collect some to take home. We had to help people up two steep sections in the bottom of the gully (dry by now) and then avoid a steep and slippery bank by

climbing up the ridge to the right and then sidling along the valley side, following tracks in places. This brought us into the gully again. After climbing up a steep with mine shaft entrances and some old rusting mine equipment and tram rails. Then up another bank of tailings to the boiler where we stopped, took photos and had lunch.



The boiler was rusty and seemed out of place in the bush. Beside it there was a sign explaining the history, various rusting items of equipment and a vertical mine shaft fenced off. After lunch we left at 12.30 pm taking a well- maintained benched track/tramway heading south along the slope.



All photos for this report were taken by Warren Blundell

After 300 m the track branched: we took the lower track and went through a short tunnel and continued on along the old tramway until we reached another track junction. Here we took the lower track which led down into the valley met up with the lower tramway and completed the walk out the way we had come. Poles highly recommended as the path was deceptive in places, slippery underneath, causing a few minor slips. Reminder to self: Always bring poles. A nice 4 hour walk with very interesting history. Coffee and ice cream was enjoyed in Paeroa before heading home. Little did we know that Lockdown level four was looming and future planned trips cancelled, in the meantime. walkers: Selwyn (trip leader), Dianne, Noelene, Maree , Debbie, Maureen, Jim, Vanya, Sharon, Nettie, Helen, Lynette, Marianne, Allan, Isla, Warren, David. Scribe: Cathy.

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**From the committee table:**

**New members & Resignations:** Nil

**Membership:** We have 203 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?

**From the treasurer:** The 70th reunion has made a profit of \$460 made up of \$200 in donations and \$260 from the reunion itself. This money is going to be shared between 2 helicopter rescue services club members have used this year.



## Photo competition

Our Annual competition closes this year on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Entries must be supplied by the closing date in digital form. Our categories are in alignment with those of FMC

1. Above bushline with no human element
2. Or with a human element
3. Below bushline with no human element
4. Or with a human element
5. Historic
6. Native flora and fauna
7. Long exposure - This category is intended for those taken in extremely low light situations such as caves or canyons, at night-time. A great opportunity for the technically minded photographer.

We also have the 2 WTC categories of:

8. Club Character – features a humorous subject which has a club context.
9. International. Caters for photos which are otherwise ineligible for the FMC photo competition.

FMC has an annual theme to the competition, which encourages photography that documents topical places which we are fighting for, current campaigns we're battling and values under immediate threat. The theme in no way restricts entries, it merely offers a little reward for entries consistent with the theme! Last years' theme was based on the mighty river-carved stewardship lands of the South Island's West Coast. This year any image taken within the boundaries of the proposed park is eligible.

Rules:

### A. Definition of a "human element"

The definition of a "human element" is flexible but the general intention is: Where the photo contains anything other than as a very minor feature: people, a hut, a track sign/marker, bridge, ice axe and anything else that has been introduced by humans into the environment then we would define that as having "a Human element". But if a photo has what could be called a Human Element but that element is very small, inconsequential and not a feature in the photo then you could count it as "No Human Element".

B. Entries for the FMC aligned categories must be taken after 1 Jan 2016.

Any photos taken prior to this date will automatically be entered into the historic category.

### C. Definition of "historic"

The intention for the historic category is for entrants to go back through club and individual archives to select "old photos" rather than "photos of old things". As an example, a recent photo of a hut built in the 1950's is not a 'historic' photo.

However, a photo of the same hut taken in the 1960's certainly is a 'historic' photo. Photos for the historic category must be taken before 1 Jan 2016. D. All photos apart from the International Category must be taken within New Zealand, which is defined as within our Exclusive Economic Zone. This includes the following islands: North, South, Stewart, Chatham, Kermadec, Sub-Antarctic.

Our photos will be judged by an independent photographer and results presented at the November Club Night.

Entries to be emailed or given on a USB stick by the October club night to Jacqui Dick, **email:** [jacquimd@me.com](mailto:jacquimd@me.com), **ph:** 021 1375201

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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.
- 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.
- "Mt Ruapehu skifield company needs cash". The not-for-profit company that runs the Ruapehu skifields wants to radically change its ownership structure, bringing corporate investors on board for the first time to keep the struggling operation viable. Ruapehu Alpine Lifts, which operates the Whakapapa and Turoa skifields wants to sell half its shares to raise \$30 million. That would require a change to the constitution, under which RAL pays no dividends or tax, and reinvests any profits back into the skifield. The move is likely to spark a fierce debate among mum and dad shareholders, some of whom fear it will mean

corporate interests, possibly from overseas, will get hold of the business and change it forever. RAL is in financial trouble following “unprecedented” events such as warm winters and border shutdowns due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It posted a \$22m loss last year, which included a \$20m write-down of the value of assets at Turoa and an operating loss of \$4m, offset by \$2m from the Covid-19 wage subsidy scheme.

Source: Stuff, 12/8/21

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/300378855/ruapehu-skifield-company-seeks-corporate-investors-to-stay-afloat>

➤ 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.

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*from the DoC website....*

➤ New Director-General of Conservation announced. Penny Nelson has been appointed as Director-General and Tumuaki of the Department of Conservation and takes up her new role on 1 November. Penny is currently Deputy Director-General Biosecurity New Zealand, at the Ministry for Primary Industries, a role she has held since 2019. She was previously Deputy Director-General, Policy and Trade at MPI and Deputy Secretary, Environmental Performance, Innovation and Climate at the Ministry for the Environment. Penny is currently leading New Zealand's Biosecurity Strategy, including New Zealand's response to kauri dieback and myrtle rust which are critical response partnerships with DoC and MPI. She also closely works with the MPI science team and is a champion for how science and policy work together. Before joining the Ministry for the Environment, Penny was Executive Director of the Sustainable Business Council. Penny is a proven leader with broad experience in the environment, biodiversity and science sectors.

*Ed comment: next month I'll include a story about Lou Sanson.*

➤ One hundred and fifty young kakī/black stilt have been released into Te Manahuna/Mackenzie Basin – a significant boost to the population of the critically endangered wading bird. The kakī were reared in captivity at the DoC Twizel facility and the Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust, from eggs collected from both wild and captive breeding pairs, as part of the Kakī Recovery Programme. Two releases went ahead before the current COVID-19 lockdown came into effect. DoC staff were given special permission to go ahead with a third release on Monday, while the country was at Alert Level 4, because of serious welfare risks to the kakī. DoC Kakī Team Leader Claudia Mischler says the kakī had reached a stage where they had become aggressive in the limited space of the brooding facility, which was causing stress that could have had serious health implications, and they needed to be released as soon as possible. This season, 54% of the wild breeding pairs laid eggs on private land. The success of the programme relies on support from landowners, who have really got behind efforts to protect these special birds and often let us know where they have been setting up nests. Many of the landowners in the Mackenzie Basin are partners in conservation project Te Manahuna Aoraki, which has extended trapping across 80% of the kakī range.

➤ The discovery of rare, long-tail bats/pekapeka near Franz Josef for the first time in decades is exciting proof that the Government’s Jobs for Nature and predator free programmes are getting results, Conservation Minister Kiri Allan says. The bats were found following a survey by a local tourism business funded through the Government’s Jobs for Nature programme. “Three Franz Josef Wilderness Tours workers collected sound recordings of the highly endangered bat from forested areas around Ōkārito Lagoon and in the Waitangitāhuna and Whataroa river valleys last summer,” Kiri Allan said. “These were recently confirmed by DoC bat experts. This is a really exciting find and is a tribute to Franz Josef Wilderness Tours, who, despite being hard hit by the downturn in tourism because of Covid, embraced new Jobs for Nature work opportunities. DoC’s predator control work will have helped to protect the bats and the Predator Free South Westland project now underway, will help secure their future.” Franz Josef Wilderness Tours owner Dale Burrows says Jobs for Nature has been a lifeline for his business and he and his staff have enjoyed feeling like they were giving back to nature. “It’s been a real buzz to discover the long-tailed bats right in our backyard and we’re looking forward to being involved in further work to find out more about the population and protect them. “DoC has long suspected that the lush lowland rainforests around Fox and Franz Josef glaciers might be home to pekapeka and have had a few anecdotal sightings over the years, so it’s fantastic to now have this confirmed. Further surveys are planned for next summer, when the bats are active, to learn how widely they’re spread.

➤ Genesis committed to long-term who conservation. On Friday 13 August in Tokaanu, Genesis and DoC were joined by whānau, hapū and iwi, Forest & Bird, community groups and volunteers to celebrate ten years of partnership, sign a

new agreement and thank all those involved. Breeding numbers of who have almost tripled over the last 10 years, with 565 more pairs since 2011. These excellent results reinforce the decision of DoC and Genesis to renew their Whoi Forever partnership. Genesis have committed to a further 5 years, Central and Local Government. DoC and Genesis are members of a huge army of committed people and organisations working for whoi. The size of recovery, the timeframe it has been achieved within and the geographic scale the mahi covers all make this a unique partnership effort. While the day was about celebrating, including a commemorative predator trap laid to mark the occasion, we know there is more mahi to do. We want to reduce the risk status of whoi and grow the population from less than 3,000 to more than 5,000 birds. The ongoing support of Genesis and others is so valued.

➤ Nelson's pristine clear alpine Lake Rotoiti, a favourite for boating and fishing, could be impacted by 'lake snow' this summer. Water sampling by DoC and Tasman District Council last summer has confirmed that the invasive microscopic algae *Lindavia intermedia* is present in both Lakes Rotoiti and Rotoroa in Nelson Lakes National Park. *Lindavia* can produce what is known as 'lake snow', a sticky, mucus-like substance that hangs under the water and can be a nuisance by sticking to fishing gear, boats, motors, and people. If it gets into the residential water supply, it can cause blockages, and clogs filters in household appliances connected to the system. The density of *Lindavia* in Lake Rotoiti was found to be increasing this autumn, leading Phil Novis from Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research to forecast that there is a significant risk of lake snow developing in the lake next summer. DoC Nelson Lakes Operations Manager John Wotherspoon says this is extremely disappointing and concerning news. "There is no known control or eradication method. It is unfortunately here to stay. "Fortunately, it is not toxic to humans or livestock and poses no risk from food sourced from the lakes. However, the impact of the algae on the lake's ecology and health is not understood and requires further research." This microscopic algal species is a relatively recent introduction to New Zealand, first found in 2002. It is now known from a number of large pristine lakes in Otago and Canterbury, as well as a couple of lakes in the North Island. It is not known from any other lakes in the northern South Island except Maitai Reservoir near Nelson. In some lakes, such as Lake Wanaka, lake snow is regularly formed and is a significant nuisance, whereas in others it is only occasional. There was no lake snow observed in Lakes Rotoiti or Rotoroa last summer, but it is not known what will happen in the long term.

John Wotherspoon says the priority now is to prevent the spread of *Lindavia* to the nearby small alpine lakes such as Rotomairewhenua/Blue Lake and Rotomaninitua/Lake Angelus. Testing is yet to be done on these lakes. "Of particular concern is Rotomairewhenua/Blue Lake which is world-renowned for the clarity of its water. It would be devastating if *Lindavia* got a foothold there."

Tasman District Council, DoC, Ministry for Primary Industries and Fish & Game New Zealand are all working to combat the spread of the microscopic algae which is easily carried on watercraft, trailers, clothing, boots, animals, tramping equipment and fishing gear. Phil Novis says it only takes one droplet of contaminated water or one small piece of the ‘slime’ to infect a new water body. “We can limit the spread of lake snow by being vigilant. Check, Clean and Dry any wet or damp items and be especially cautious before going to a different lake or waterway.”

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...from the FMC website...

➤ Sale of the Arnold Heine Book Collection. Over 1,500 books from the late Arnold Heine’s unique collection will be sold. Mountaineering and exploration titles from across the globe feature strongly, with many out-of-print books on New Zealand’s mountaineering history, tramping, hunting, geology, ecology, conservation and culture, as well as guidebooks.

There are two places where separate parts of the collection will be sold:

Sale at the Hutt Valley Tramping Club rooms

All proceeds from this sale are being generously donated to the FMC Mountain & Forest Trust by Arnold’s widow Jan.

The sale will be at the Hutt Valley Tramping Club rooms, Birch Street Reserve, Waterloo, Lower Hutt.

- Auction of 102 lots of collectable books, from 7.30pm, Friday 24 September 2021. (Absentee bidding is possible)
- General book sale of the remainder, from 9.30am, Saturday 25 September.
- You can view the HVTC sale information sheet, which includes full venue & timing information, absentee bidding information, conditions of sale, and a catalogue of the 102 auction lots.

This sale is hosted by Jan Heine, Les Molloy (Patron of FMC), Dave Bamford (NZAC) and Dennis Page (President of HVTC).

Sale online through Colin Monteath’s Barking Mad Bookshop

A selection of very rare and collectable Polar and Himalayan books are available for purchase online through the bookshop.

About Arnold

Arnold Heine was a mountain legend, with a 64-year involvement with FMC, as executive member, president and patron. He was a dear friend to many with significant achievements through the mountains of NZ and Antarctica. Arnold passed away in October 2019.

..... more food.....



An attentive team on the bushcraft course

photos by Allan Wickens



...and yet more food!



Photo by Allan Wickens

Snowcraft II scenes.

Photo by Rizal Razak



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