



# THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

**WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)**

PO Box 685, Hamilton 3240 • [www.wtc.org.nz](http://www.wtc.org.nz)

April 2022



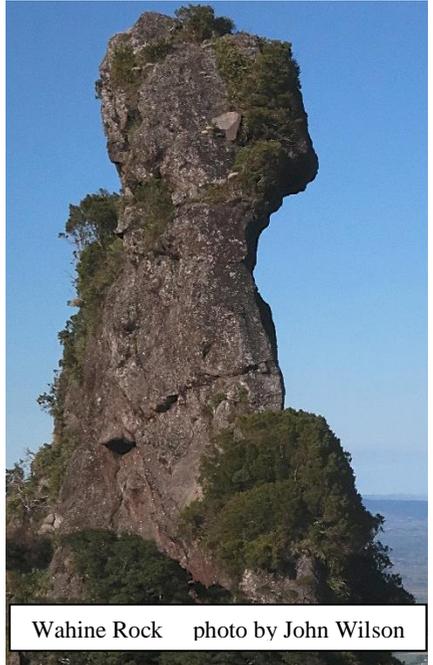
Land coral      photographer unknown

# WAIKATO HUT

Your lodge on Mt Ruapehu  
Tongariro National Park



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Wahine Rock photo by John Wilson

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WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB

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Member of: Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand  
Inc

Ruapehu Mountain Clubs Association

BULLETIN No 836

April 2022

**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 Ashley Hoskin Mike Barker  
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 4<sup>th</sup> May  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

This is the night where you put your hat in the ring to contribute to the running of the club, inform others of matters you are concerned about, good suggestions for the operation of club business in the future, and vote for those you wish to support to fulfil the various positions in the club.

There is a nomination form on the back page of this bulletin.

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

**Social activity:** The movie night is all set to go again. Join us at the Haines' on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April, 11 Alison St, Hamilton from 6.30pm onwards. BYO meat to BBQ & refreshments, as well as a dish to share. Coffee and dessert will be supplied. Contact: Queries to Andrea & Graham 8395932. Cost: \$15

**ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2021/2022**

3000	15-18 Apr	M/F	Barlows-Colenso Spur-Sparrowhawk	Allan Wickens
	20 Apr		TRIP PLANNING	Allan Wickens
3001	23-25 Apr	M/F	Pureora traverse	Les Warren / John McArthur
	29 Apr		FILM EVENING	The Haines
3002	1 May		Trip cancelled	
	4 May		CLUB NIGHT	
3003	7/8 May	E/M	Tarawera/Hot H <sub>2</sub> O beach	Jacqui Dick / Mike Peck
3004	14/15 May	E/M	Karangahake/Dickeys flat	Allan Wickens
3005	21/22 May	M/F	Cascade Hut -Te Iringa	John McArthur / Steve Dick
3006	29 May	M	Eliza mines	Judith Bogle
	1 June		CLUB NIGHT	
3007	4-6 June	M/F	Round the mountain	Les Warren
3008	11/12 June	M	Wharauoa/Mahaukura tracks on Pirongia	Allan Wickens
3009	18/19 June	E/M	Mokau walks	Theresa O'Leary
3010	26 June	E/M	Rotorua walks	Selwyn June

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.

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## **Trip Descriptions**

**REMEMBER: 2 clicks confirm your booking on the website**

**Trip 3000 Barlows-Colenso Spur- Sparrowhawk (Ruahines) 15-18 Apr**

Starting off at Makaroro Road on the eastern side of the Ruahines, the aim is to cover the area that includes Barlow's Hut, Colenso Spur, the range south from Te Atua Mahuru Peak to Sparrowhawk Bivvy and down the Sparrowhawk track. As we will have 4 days available, the area will be enlarged (more details coming). Colenso Spur was named after William Colenso, a missionary who frequently used the old Māori route over the Range. We will travel to the Napier-Taupo Road where we stay Thursday night. On Friday, the plan is to travel the extra distance in the morning before starting the tramp. If we can get a full vanload, we may look at having two different trips. Allan will run the M/F and if someone suitably experienced (and need I say fitter) prefers to do something that is more challenging, we will combine that tramp into the plan.

**Leader:** Allan Wickens

**Ph:** 027 9509546

**Grade:** M/F

**Transport:** Senior member \$70-128

Senior non-member: \$82-133

**Trip 3001****Pureora Traverse****23-25 Apr**

A 3 day trip – 26k’s advanced DoC Tramping track. We will leave 8am Saturday morning. The first stage of this walk is 6.5km to Hauhungaroa Hut. The track climbs steeply through predominantly tawa forest. Once the crest of the range is reached, the going gets easier. The six bunk Hauhungaroa Hut is sited at 950m, offering good views over the King Country to the north-west.

From Hauhungaroa Hut, the track continues north along the ridgeline before descending a long but obvious spur to meet the Waihaha River just south of Te Awaiti Stream. Then we will enter the valley of the giants – the enormous trees of the Waihaha Ecological Area. A tight canopy of rimu, matai, miro, totara, and occasional kahikatea, reaching 40-50m in height tower above. Within a couple of hours the 10-bunk Waihaha Hut is reached, complete with wood-stove and covered veranda.

Then on ANZAC Monday we will walk 9.5km on a benched, all-weather track to the Western Bay Road. It’s the diversity of plant communities that are the outstanding feature of this trip. (*Ed comment: don’t forget to watch out for whio!*) Given the small hut space we may need to carry some tents.

**Leaders:** John McArthur**Ph:** 021 2889641**Grade:** M/F

Les Warren

027 864 4937

**Transport:** Senior member \$70-128

Senior non-member: \$82-133

**trip 3003****Lake Tarawera/Hot water beach****7/8 May**

Depart Hamilton 7.30am on the Saturday and drive to the carpark at the start of the Tarawera trail. We'll walk the 15km to the Hot Water Beach campsite where we'll camp for the night. DoC give the walking time as 5-6 hours. Returning on Sunday morning via water taxi or for the very keen, walk back to the carpark. You'll need your normal camping gear with a few extra items of warm clothing as we get into late Autumn. Bring your togs/bathers for a soak in the hot springs at Te Rata Bay. Ron will be bringing his boat so you may be able to bring along a few ‘extras’.

**Leaders:** Jacqui Dick**Ph:** 021 1375201**Grade:** E/M

Mike Peck

**Ph:** 021 369 256**Email:** [jacquimd@me.com](mailto:jacquimd@me.com)**Transport:** Senior member \$42-75

Senior non-member: \$52-80

**Water taxi:** \$15/person, paid prior to the trip.**Trip 3004****Karangahake/Dickey’s flat****14/15 May**

Over this weekend, there will be two separate day trips involved, with Saturday night camping at Dickey’s Flat. To make for a comfortable night, there will be car-based camping gear, marquee etc, set up for a pleasant dinner.

One tramp will be on and around Mount Karangahake and involves a climb to the 544m summit, with accompanying 360-degree panorama taking in parts of the Waikato-Coromandel-BOP. Lower-level tramping may involve the Dubbo 96 track and the mountain circuit.

The other tramp will be the 8 km/4-hour Daly's Clearing Loop track. A highlight of this track are the extensive groves of nikau nestled under tall tawa, kohekohe and pukatea forest.

The weather on Saturday will determine which tramp is done on that day.

These can be day trips if you prefer, without the camping.

**Leader:** Allan Wickens

**Ph:** 021 1375201

**Grade:** E/M

**Email:** *allanwickens@hotmail.com*

**Transport:** Senior member \$42-75

Senior non-member: \$52-80

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### **Trip 3005**

### **Cascade Hut -Te Iringa loop**

**21/22 May**

From Clements Mill Access Road we will head over a saddle through beech forest to Cascade Hut (4 to 5 hours). On Sunday we cross Kaipo Saddle and then follow the Kaipo River towards Oamaru Hut before branching left and walking through beech forest with soft ground underfoot. It is a 330m descent from the site of the former Te Iringa hut to the carpark. If the going is too slow, we will camp by the river. Robins will certainly be heard and, if we're lucky, who will be seen. A good standard of fitness is required for this option.

**Leaders:** John McArthur

**Ph:** 021 2889641

**Grade:** M/F

: Steve Dick

**Ph:** 0274 880793

**Transport:** Senior member \$42-75

Senior non-member: \$52-80

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### **Trip 3006**

### **Eliza Mine**

**29 May**

This will be a loop walk, where we start at Thompson Track carpark. The Track descends down an old bulldozed path to meet the Old Eliza Mine Pack Track just after the Waitekohe Stream then climbs to join an old pack track. There is a small clearing, which was the site of the miner's camp and ore testing plant. We will walk to the split in the track where on the left is the track to the main mine entrance and on the right the track climbs to the top of Mt Eliza (40 minutes from mine). We will check the mine out and then climb to Mt Eliza. Afterwards will continue on the North South track on Southerly direction to continue on Thompson's track to come round to the carpark. You will be able to see some good views at the top of the Thompson track and then get first-hand experience of a well-used 4wd track. Approximate distance is 10km and will take 7-8hours.

**Leader:** Judith Bogle

**Ph:** 027 3810283

**Grade:** M

**Transport:** Senior member \$21-35

Senior non-member: \$26-40

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### **Trip 3007**

### **Part of Round the Mountain**

**4-6 June**

We leave Hamilton at 7am on Saturday and travel to Ohakune Mountain Road carpark to start our trip. I am allowing 4hrs driving time which includes a short stop somewhere. Aim to start on the track with today's destination Mangaehuehu Hut (18 beds). This part will take around 3hrs but, if there is any interest, we can take a side-trip up to Blyth Hut (a 1hr return trip). Today's walk is a gradual climb to the Hut, initially thru beech forest, then thru open alpine tussock. There are several easy unbridged streams to cross. Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June – Today we walk from Mangaehuehu Hut to Rangipo Hut (20 beds). Time: 5hrs 30. Today's walk is

mainly undulating but, have the Wahianoa Gorge to go thru. The first hour and a bit is thru patches of beech forest with most of today's walk thru open alpine tussock. Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June – Rangipo Hut to the Desert Road via Waihohonu Hut. Time: 6hrs 30. Today's leg of the RTM track is the most unique in the Park. It is the only true desert landscape in the North Island and features vast plains of wind sculptured sands and volcanic rock.

As this trip is at the start of winter, we can expect winter conditions including light snow on the ground. You may need to be prepared for winter conditions including bring crampons. More detailed information will be sent out to those who register, closer to the time and, any Plan B.

**THIS TRIP NEEDS A WILLING AND KIND DRIVER WHO CAN DROP US OFF ON SATURDAY AND PICK US UP ON THE MONDAY.**

**Leader:** Les Warren **Ph:** 027 864 4937 **Grade:** M  
**Transport:** Senior member \$70-128 Senior non-member: \$82-133  
**Hut Fees** will apply. Use your annual pass or organise some hut tickets

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**Trip 3008 Pirongia Tracks 18/19 June**

On this weekend, the plan is to do a tramp from the eastern side (Wharauora-Mahaukura tracks) to the summit of Mount Pirongia (959m) and then down the Tahunui Track on Sunday. Saturday night will be spent at Pahautea Hut. We will be booking a total of 10 places in the very popular hut. If more people want to go, there are campsites near the hut. It's unlikely there will be spare beds closer to the date of this tramp so you must book early if you want to stay in the hut. The first 10 bookings will be done via the leader to ensure the trip will go ahead. Any other bookings must be done independently.

This is a good opportunity to stay the night on Pirongia and cover a fair bit of the mountain in one weekend, without it being a long one-day tramp.

**Leader :** Allan Wickens **Ph:** 027 9509546 **Grade :** M

**Email:** *allanwickens@hotmail.com*

**Transport:** Senior member \$42-75 Senior non-member: \$52-80

**Hut fee:** \$15 hut fee.

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**Trip 3009 Mokau Winter Weekend 17-19 June**

We will base ourselves at Seaview Motor Camp. On the beachfront between Mokau and Awakino. Kitchen cabins, Tourist Flats, motorhome and tent sites available. Make your own booking, or contact me for a shared space – (I have booked 2x2 bedroom flats - first in first served). Arrive Friday night or Saturday morning. Highlight 14k coast walk – White Cliffs Walkway, including the 3 Sisters and Stock Tunnel – we will make a definite plan closer to the trip – high tide is 12md and low 6am for Sat – perhaps only go halfway? or go in over Mt Messenger – TBC depending on group members. Lots to do - great walking, river boat trips, fabulous museum, waterfalls, beach combing, a beer at the Awakino Hotel, surfing, safe kayaking, fishing (including trout fishing in Awakino river),

surfcasting, kite fishing and kontiki. Whitebait (in season). Boat ramp available at Mokau.

**Leader:** Theresa O’Leary      **Ph:** 027 416 2633

**Grade:** E/M

**Email:** *theresa@tolbecs.co.nz*

**Costs:** shared car costs/accommodation

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### **Trip 3010**

### **Rotorua walks**

**26 June**

First walk of the day is in the Mokaihaha Ecological Area situated on the Mamaku Plateau. A 1.5 hour walk through tall podocarp tawa forest and past the small and ephemeral Lake Rotohokahoka. This is a pest control area where there is a remnant population of Kokako.

Then on to Whakarewarewa Forest on the outskirts of Rotorua city where we'll take the Tokorangi Pa Track (11.5 km, 3.5 hrs). Walking through stands of exotic trees including redwoods, Douglas fir and larch we reach the fortification trenches of an old pa at 500 metres above sea level with views of Mt Ngongotaha, Rotorua Lake and countryside. This is a loop track, parts of which we share with bikes.

**Leader:** Selwyn June

**Ph:** 027 4978151

**Grade:** E/M

**Transport:** Senior member \$21-35

Senior non-member: \$26-40

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## *Editorial*

It’s behind me at last – and it had better stay that way! Having been well vaccinated, I was able to withstand a Covid infection really well. Nothing to write home about – for me and also for Selwyn. I sure hope that if you get any symptoms that they are relatively minor and not too inconvenient. Sure, we can get repeat infections so maintaining good hygiene and all those other measures won’t be flying out the window just yet, but at least we know what to watch out for.

Please be careful when you are getting together and respectful of each others’ concerns. What better advice can we follow than to be in the outdoors? Most likely the safest place we can be and, because it is so easy to increase our ‘travelling distance’, we can enjoy our environment at the same time. OK, we have to be closer together in order to get to our favoured destination but isn’t that a small inconvenience for the luxury of big spaces?

I’ve been impressed with the trip reports coming through in spite of our disrupted trip programme. Good on you for keeping the club spirit, and reason for being, alive and well.

Dianne

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## *Presidential Blog*

Hope everyone has had a great summer season of tramping. There have been some good adventures reported but unfortunately two trips were cancelled due to weather booms and another two due to covid. Even the Waikato Hut has not missed out on bad weather where there has been some damage to the flashings. There is a temporary fix there at the moment but Stephen will be getting up there and fixing that one. Also, Stephen has already organised a Hut Warden which is great. Plus,

the ski committee has been organising and sorting out what needs to be done at the Hut, so I hope everyone gets behind them and gives them a hand at the working bee this month.

There have been changes to the covid requirements from the Government announcements. The respective committees will revise our policies and when sorted put them up on the website. Parliament is revising and debating the Incorporated Societies Act 1908. As you can see it is over 100 years old. Once the Act has been revised, we will look at the changes and see if they are relevant to the club.

Coming up is the AGM which we are having at the May club night. John has put out for nominations for positions on the General and Tramping committee. All are welcome to put their name forward. If you have any ideas for the AGM to support or improve the club your comments are most welcome.

My Quote for April; “ To walk in nature is to witness a thousand miracles”.

Happy Tramping. Judith Bogle

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*from the Ski Club...*

Thanks to those who answered the call to help with the firewood working party which saw us refill the stocks ready for winter. One of the discoveries upon arrival was that we'd had a huge leak, which was from the high winds damaging one of the chimney flashings. Special thanks to Dorothy and David and the others who cleaned that up. It got a temporary repair and a new piece of flashing is getting made up for installation. There's a bit of external painting to attend to and there will be a further request for working party volunteers when that flashing is ready to be installed.

Latest news from Mt Ruapehu (the ski field) is that they have advanced pre winter preparations and are in good shape for the upcoming Ski Season. There is one last ski pass sale underway at present – so if you've decided to spend some time on the mountain it would be worth considering the benefits of a season pass.

This year there will be no requirement to book car parking. This will return to the time honoured first in, best dressed approach. That doesn't mean easy parking though. Saturday mornings have always been bedlam. Obvious option is to make your arrival on a Friday, and avoid the morning gamble.

During winter you'll need to book 2 nights during the weekend. We've extended that to include Sunday night as an option, so you can also ski or board or climb on Monday. There's been some perfect Monday's over the last few years.

Snowcraft this year is a little later in the season. With later snowfall the last couple of years have been more challenging conditions with the earlier dates. There are also options for small group bookings by arrangement for Tramping Club members who are undertaking an alpine activity. This is a development the Ski Club is happy to support, as we see more interest in mountain adventures. Please contact me to discuss if you are interested.

With Mt Ruapehu (the mountain) rumbling away there is a little more risk of an eruption at present, so if you are in the area make yourself aware of the conditions and the safe areas and options should this occur.

For combined members you will have already had your membership invoice.

Thanks for your continued support. Your membership provides useful pre-season support in a time of rising prices and a few years of challenging conditions. We're looking forward to announcing some great ways to bring families and friends to the Lodge – and some good deals for weekday activities.

Encourage your friends and family to join our club, which still provides very friendly and affordable on mountain accommodation and camaraderie.

Stephen, Ski Team Leader

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### **Mid-week Walks & Tramps**

We are continuing with the current format, having a walk or tramp on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 Isla on 021 209 6539.

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### *Trip Reports*

#### **Trip 2988**

#### **Five Passes and Lake Nerine**

**20 – 28 Feb**

A demanding 9 day trip in the high country on the southern end of Mt Aspiring National Park edging into Fiordland. It took place at the end of February 2022 in the time of Covid. The trip was led by John Davies and Jo Walker. Much of the trip followed a route rather than a track and country crossed ranged from forest to upland tussock, scree and rock. For good measure there was a bit of bush bashing at the end of day one and beginning of day 2. A team of 8 did most of the trip. We were John D, Jo W, John McA, Jeanette D, Amanda C, Anna K, Rupert Cs and David T (scribe). John Mac and Amanda exited on day 6 to walk out a day early on day 7 and not do the Lake Nerine side trip. What follows are a series of anecdotal comments from the team regarding the trip in place of the usual trip description. These were written-up directly after the trip on two menus during a celebratory dinner at the Atlas Beer I on the Queenstown waterfront. One word or phrase to sum up the trip:

Jo – Inspiring; Rupert – Remarkable; Jeanette – Challenging; Anna – Mind blowing; John D – ‘Go to war with this group’ (encouraging when your leader says that about you!); John Mac – Extreme; Amanda C – Getting to the start was perhaps the most difficult aspect in the uncertain time of Covid; David T – Tough. Surviving the storm on Day 3 at Föhn Lakes Jeanette – we had a clairvoyant leader in that all our tents survived the rain and strong winds. At times things were a little uncertain with Anna hugging her PLB in her tent. Oddly perhaps, Amanda invited

Anna to join her in her tent although it got so wet inside that Amanda ended up joining Rupert in his still dry tent on his water surrounded island for the night. John D would have stayed dry if he hadn't checked-up on everyone else on the morning of day 3. David dropped his tent mid-morning on day 3 after a strong wind gust flicked up one of the tent pegs. After standing 3 hours in the lee of a rock with John D and making tea, decided to put his tent back-up as the wind had not increased in strength as anticipated.

Amanda – Waking at 5.30am on Tuesday morning, the rain just starting and big droplets of condensation dropping on to my sleeping bag, I rushed to pack the last of my kit away into my backpack, dressed into wet weather gear and prepared for the day. I spent the best part of 14 hours in an increasingly wet tent.

Other trip anecdotes: Rupert found someone else's tent poles at the day 1 campsite in the upper Beans Burn. Jeanette's legs got slashed and cut during the ascent out of the Beans Burn through the tussock and shrubbery up to Fohn saddle. Anna struggled on day 2 climb to Föhn saddle and was glad of the rain day rest on Day 3 Her knees shouted at her. John Mac had explained about managing snow grass on the ascent. The traverse through the deep tussock and wetlands along the so-called Olivine Ledge proved it was far from level or dry. Jeanette started the trip with a pack that weighed 14kg and finished with it at 21.4kg! – she is a serious rock collector. Jo got stung by a bumble bee that had got stuck in her tent and ended up under her knee. John Mac lost his underpants then found them and David lost his gloves and found them later when inside his hat which had become uncomfortable. Smelly socks don't keep out sandflies. Rupert observed that the trip was a good opportunity to learn something new and noted that John D had a nurturing and inclusive approach to everyone on the trip. John D – Everyone needs to come on a trip prepared to be able to continue if the leader is incapacitated. Never underestimate fitness required for off-track hiking. It's not about distance but rather about the hours it takes. Rupert noted that he slept more nights without the fly on his tent than with it. He also saw 7 moons rise due to a refraction of light through the open window of his tent. Amazed how many people swam in all the lakes on the route. Fiery Col was aptly named with the amazing contrasting grey schist up one side and fiery orange red ultramafic sandstone on the other. Anna – 4<sup>th</sup> night in Hidden Creek was beautiful with crescent moon and Venus on view in the early morning. She had a kea try landing on her tent and putting a small hole in it. The climb to Park Pass was steep but straightforward with a good well used route up through the beech with good handholds all the way. The afternoon side trip from the pass up to the Park Glacier was a highlight as was the dip in the turquoise tarn. The next day's side trip to Lake Nerine proved the route to be not nearly as daunting as it appears from Park pass with a well cairned route all the way up an ascending side across a steep cross slope of short herbaceous tussock. Once on top we discovered a series of three tarns at steadily higher steps before cresting a neck and looking down on Lake Nerine nestled in a bowl some 120m lower down. A pass to the south beyond the lake showed the route out to North Col. Amanda – I

felt quite a wimp taking the “easy route out” on day 6 and 7, the views from the fifth Pass were fantastic and then the look of awe on passing trampers’ faces bolstered my ego; I may have taken the easy route out, but I’d still completed the 5-Passes, including a day in storm force winds camped in a mountain pass. Enjoyed glorious campfires on the last two nights of the hike and on the last night of day 8 Rupert provided each of the team with pieces of both his homemade Christmas cake and brownie. Both ridiculously scrumptious and welcome, Trust Rupert to ably carry such treats for the whole trip in his large 21kg pack.

## **Trip 2994**

## **Hauhungatahi Wilderness**

**19/20 Mar**

In this difficult COVID times, we managed to have another successful club trip to the Hauhungatahi Wilderness Area. From seven people who originally registered, we ended up with three people.

We left Hamilton late afternoon and headed to National Park for the night, with dinner at a Thai restaurant in Taumarunui. Saturday started with clear skies for our drive the short distance to the Mangahua Campsite car park to start our adventure. We left the Car park at 0845 and, after a easy walk up Mangahua Track for 1hr 15, the adventure was about to begin. With the unknown availability of water on the tops, we topped up with enough water before ascending to the open tops. Our plan was to find a suitable campsite, hopefully with water on the tops.



Campsite

photo by Les Warren

We were fortunate to have Ray with us, as back a few years, Ray did this trip and, knew of a track up a spur just before the main track crosses the Mangahua Stream. This spur track takes you up onto the open tops. One needs to know where to look for the start of the track up the spur which is marked with mainly yellow and white tape, now mainly faded and meant taking care in finding ones’ way. The first 30 to 40mins climb is thru a lot of overgrown fern so, need to take care in finding that

tape. The last 100 to 200m became easier going in open beech forest which was very pleasant.

Once out onto the open tussock, we headed towards Hauhungatahi and kept an eye out for some suitable water to camp next to. Walking across the tops was slow, with a good workout for ones' ankles and legs. After a short while we came to a branch of the Waimarino Stream, which was sadly very dry. Our thought and hope of finding some suitable water appeared not good. We plodded on slowly, still heading towards Hauhungatahi and stopped by some bushes to see if we could find suitable spots to camp. It was now about 1230. Decided it was time for a lunch break. Ray did some scouting around managed to find some tarns with water and good camping spots. So; a quick gathering of gear and a short 10-15min we were at our camping spot for the night. Our plan was to set-up camp and walk up to Hahuangatahi without our packs. It was a great relief that we found suitable water, which we boiled for use in drinks and meals and, save what we lugged up onto the tops as drinking water.



The trip up to Hauhungatahi was no easier and there was a short time when it was a mental thing to keep going. After about 30min, Ray decided his body had had enough and decided to head back to the camp site, with Lynette and myself continuing on. The last few hundred meters was easier to walk on with less tussock to deal with. It was with great relief to finally make

Goal achieved photo by Lynette Morriss

it to the top of Hauhungatahi (1521). With such a fine day, we had great views at the top. We also climbed another high point, which appeared to be higher than Hauhungatahi – from this high point, we could see more tarns below, which was where John Wilson's 2012 trip camped. After a short time admiring the views around us, it was time for the slow descent back to our camp site. The round trip took us about 3hrs 30. I was quite tired after all the tramping thru tussock, and,

after my usual soup and dinner, I was in bed around 7.30pm. It was quite windy during the night but our tents held up well.

Sunday – We woke to an overcast day but there was no hurry to get away too early. After breakfast and packing up, we left around 0830. We initially followed the dried Waimarino Stream as far as we could, then it was back to the slow-going tussock heading to the beech forest and track back down the spur. We did well to hit the forest edge and track; it was helpful to meet a couple of hunters coming out of the same spot. They were on a day look around for deer.

The descent down the spur to the main track seemed not as long as it took us to ascend but, one still had to be careful in finding the ribbons. It was some great relief to finally make it back onto a good track, where we stopped by the river for a short break before heading back down the track to the car park and the end of a lovely weekend. After the obligatory coffee / food stop in Taumarunui we, finally arrived safely home.

Group was - Les W (Leader), Ray H and Lynette M.

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*From the committee table:*

**New members:** Nil

**Resignations:** Peter & Kathryn Eggleton, Bill & Lynda Iazard, Dawn Anselmi & Colin Crabbe, Ying (Jane) Schick, Debbie Marsh.

**Note that subscriptions are now overdue.**

**From the tramping Captain:** There will be a trip, planning meeting at our usual club night venue- St. Stephens church on the cnr of Mahoe and Ohaupo rds., Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April, starting at 7.30pm. Bring along your suggestions, contribute to the discussion, and perhaps put your hand up to lead a trip or 2. Newcomers welcome.

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*Snippets from here and there...*

➤ Excerpt from the latest kokako survey report for Mt. Pirongia: 36 of the 44 (82%) translocated kōkako have been re-sighted over the five survey periods since release in 2017. 11 translocated kōkako were re-sighted during the 2021-22 survey period, all of which had also been seen in the previous two surveys. 10 of these 11 kōkako were paired and territorial, while 1 was non-territorial. This survey marks the first year in which the number of Pirongia bred kōkako holding territories outnumber translocated kōkako, with 14 territorial Pirongia bred kōkako recorded. 10 kōkako pairs were recorded within the main management area. This is an increase from eight pairs observed during the 2020 survey. An 11th pair was recorded in the Kaniwhaniwha catchment and this pair was also protected this year with the installation of a 53 hectare management area.



Juvenile kokako (note the pink wattles) photo by Gerry Kessels

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*...from the DoC website...*

➤ DoC lifts **vaccination requirements** for accommodation. DoC is suspending its requirement for people to be fully vaccinated to use its accommodation, in line with updated public health guidance. From 4 April, anyone staying or using DoC huts, campsites and sole occupancy facilities will no longer have to show a My Vaccine Pass. An assessment determined the COVID-19 risk profile has changed sufficiently to remove the vaccine requirements. This is a result of updated public health advice, the country’s high vaccination rates, the recent Omicron peak, and increasingly widespread transmission with cases declining,” says Deputy Director-General, Bruce Parkes. The announcement reflects the updated COVID-19 Protection Framework and the Government’s change in focus to make life simpler and closer to normal while retaining the public health measures that have proven effective to date. People using DoC facilities should be following Ministry of Health guidelines, sanitising or washing hands regularly, where practical wearing a mask and physically distancing around others, staying at home if unwell, isolating or a household contact. People considering staying in a DoC hut or campsite can undertake their own risk assessment for themselves and their group by assessing what traffic light is the region at – Red, Orange or Green; whether there will be more vulnerable or unvaccinated people in the group. For example, children under 12; what are the sleeping arrangements such as hut/campsite capacity, shared hut, sleeping platforms or individual bunks; and whether it is possible to camp outside or near a hut, so carry tents to use if needed; is it be possible to sanitise hands, wear masks or keep 1 m distance from

those not in your group E.g., in huts or when using shared facilities like toilet blocks and campsite shelters, and finally ,is it likely to be a busy period such as a Saturday night, or holiday weekend.?

➤ DoC hut and campsite **bookings have opened**. DoC has released the opening dates for next season's bookings for its huts, campsites and lodges. Bookings for the 2022-23 season opened in the first half of April and are staggered to give people making multiple bookings a better chance of securing their preferred dates. The season runs from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023. Momorangi Bay Campground in the Marlborough Sounds opened on 12 April, and Totaranui Campsite in Abel Tasman National Park opened on 14 April. Great Walks bookings will open in early May with dates to be released shortly. As part of DoC's regular price reviews, there will be some minor changes to campsite fees for the coming year. Visitor charges are a way of giving back to nature and mitigating visitor impacts, as well as ensuring the people who use these facilities contribute to the costs of providing them. DoC has also decided to delay implementing any further use of differential pricing for international visitors beyond the Great Walks. We will revisit how to best to extend DoC's use of differential pricing once sufficient numbers of international visitors return.

➤ The stellar rise of **mohua/yellowhead** and other native birds in South Westland's Landsborough valley is a welcome surprise to DoC scientists. Principal Scientist Colin O'Donnell, who leads the research project, says sustained predator control since the mid-1990s is behind the swelling of the native bird community. "Mohua were once one of the most common forest birds in the South Island so their recovery in this valley gives us a hint of what forests may have sounded like before the arrival of exotic predators. The Landsborough success shows us what's possible and what we can achieve by adapting this predator control recipe in other forests where mohua are in trouble. However, until we achieve a predator free Aotearoa, we need to sustain this recovery with trapping and the regular use of 1080 to keep rats, stoats and possums at low levels". Apart from mohua, native birds on the increase include tuī, bellbird/korimako, brown creeper/pīpīpi, rifleman/tītītipounamu, grey warbler/riroriro, fantail/pīwakawaka and yellow-crowned parakeet/kākāriki. Counts for kākā, kea, tomtit/ngirungiru, wood pigeon/kererū, New Zealand falcon/kārearea and shining cuckoo/pīpīwharaua have remained stable or are increasing at a very slow rate. Two species, silvereye/tautou and long-tailed cuckoo/koekoeā, have declined. Greater competition for nectar from tuī and bellbird may have caused silvereye numbers to decrease. The long-tailed cuckoo migrates to the Pacific Islands each winter and may be being affected by conditions there.

Each year in late spring a team of three expert bird counters heads to the remote Landsborough valley and spends several days doing 5-minute bird counts at 175 stations evenly spaced in the beech forest. It's DoC's longest running bird monitoring project to measure the effects of predator control. In the Landsborough,

predators are kept low by traps along the valley floor and aerial 1080 when forest seeding causes rat numbers to increase (this has happened seven times since 1998). It's a priority area for DoC's predator control programme.

➤ **Hump Ridge Track** Great Walk upgrade begins. The first spade hit the ground in Southland recently, to transform the spectacular and challenging Hump Ridge Track to Great Walk status. A Whakatau Te Whenua to settle the land, the track, and clear the way for construction to begin, was held by mana whenua mana moana of the rohe. Ōraka Aparima Rūnaka Haku Muriel Johnstone says the Whakatau Te Whenua acknowledged the many tūpuna (ancestors) who traversed these lands and waterways over the centuries, lived on the whenua, and gathered treasured mahika kai from the mountains to the sea - ki uta ki tai.

“In gathering here, we are reminded of one very ancient aranui (track) in this rohe (tribal area), which travelled up and over the vast, long ridge known as Okaka, and onwards to the many lakes and mountains throughout Fiordland,” says Muriel Johnstone.

As the youngest and oldest in attendance, Ollie Church (Ōraka Aparima) and Harold Thomas (Rowallan Alton Inc) shared the honour of turning the whenua on Rowallan Alton land, where the Hump Ridge Track begins.

DoC Southern South Island Director Aaron Fleming says the aim of this project is to take an existing walk, already steeped in cultural and historical significance and make it accessible to more people.

“This involves easing gradients, installing boardwalks, and future proofing sections of the track against climate change and natural hazards. We have engaged engineers and technical experts to make sure the track remains sound, and factored in emergency alternative routes, including new swing bridges.”

To make the Hump Ridge Track a ‘Great Walk’, Ōraka Aparima Rūnaka and DoC have worked in partnership to create an experience that shares the stories and rich history of the rūnaka and their tūpuna. Ōraka Aparima Rūnaka Kaiwhakahaere Ann Wakefield says the Hump Ridge Great Walk will celebrate the special connection mana whenua have with the area.

“We are welcoming visitors into our rohe which is a place of immense significance to us, where trampers will have an opportunity to walk along the trails of our tūpuna and enjoy the spectacular whenua,” she says. Aaron Fleming says Hump Ridge's Great Walk status will bring recreation, conservation, and economic benefits to the region. “Turning the Hump Ridge Track into a Great Walk means elevating it to the status of walks such as the Routeburn, Milford Track and Tongariro Northern Circuit.” “Seeing the first spade go into the ground after all the planning is an exciting moment for everyone who has invested time and energy into this project. For those who remember, this is the realisation of a vision that harks back to the late 90's when Tuatapere's logging industry was declining, and the late Southland District Council Mayor Frana Cardno lobbied then Prime Minister Helen Clark for national funding to develop the track. “The Hump Ridge

will be a stunning addition to the Great Walks network.” Completion of the Great Walk is set for the 2023/24 season. The Hump Ridge Track will continue to be open for bookings during construction, with public accessibility given priority.

➤ GPS project reveals travels of **North Island kākā**. Analysis of new data from birds fitted with transmitters has revealed North Island kākā flying long distances and even taking an avian ‘OE’. Kākā are a native parrot usually found in ancient forests. They have central North Island strongholds in the Pureora Forest and on offshore islands. Known for their boisterous antics and raucous socialising in the early morning and late evening, kākā face threats from habitat loss and introduced predators, little has been known about the birds’ seasonal movements. In a joint project involving DoC and Manaaki Whenua – Landcare Research, GPS and VHF transmitters were fitted to 25 birds near Hamilton and Morrinsville, with flight movements tracked through 2020 and 2021.



For many years we’ve known about kākā visiting some towns and rural parts of the Waikato over winter – places that don’t look like typical kākā habitat, and a long way from known breeding areas,” says Neil Fitzgerald, Manaaki Whenua Researcher. “We wanted to find out where these birds were coming from and to try to start

to understand why. By identifying important sites and threats we hope to help make their conservation as effective as possible.” Kākā have been tracked with different gadgets in the past but those devices had limitations, with relatively poor accuracy or being easily lost if a bird moves far from where researchers know to look. The VHF tags used in this work allowed researchers to track the birds for detailed observation of feeding and other behaviour. “These new GPS tags allow us to see where they go, anywhere in New Zealand, and with accuracy that often allows us to identify which tree they were in,” he says. “Through winter and early spring, the monitored North Island birds typically stayed within a few kilometres of where they were tagged – as expected. From late spring, 10 moved at least 100 km away, and another six between 35 km and 55 km away. “One of the things that has surprised me most is, so far, we haven’t tracked any birds to Waipapa Ecological Area, which has a very healthy, relatively close population thanks to years of good control of pest mammals,” says Neil Fitzgerald. “It illustrates how the movements of highly mobile birds like these are much more complicated than just distance.”

The new data from the GPS tracking suggests it's possible roving kākā embark on a sort of avian OE, "zooming around having a look at the place".

In the first year several tagged birds went to Hauraki Gulf islands including Kawau, Aotea and Hauturu, while in the second year, birds have stayed more around the Waikato. Of particular interest was one bird fitted with a GPS which completed 1000 km round trip encompassing various points around Waikato, Coromandel and islands in the Hauraki Gulf – a travel distance and behaviour never encountered before in study of kākā. Kākā are "hugely mobile in the landscape" – as shown by the new research and GPS monitoring – and that has implications for ongoing protection of the species. "How do we ensure they're protected as they travel around, and their populations expand? The new information from the GPS study has given us some great new insights into the species, and a lot to think about, too." The new research and data suggest some of the birds' habitats have increasingly higher densities of kākā – particularly in some known mainland environments. The solar-powered GPS tags sent regular, accurate location data, revealing movements over large distances and potentially long time periods. The tags sit on the birds like a little backpack, with a harness that goes carefully under the wings. When the kākā are released, they tend to test their new accessories for a short time then go back to usual kākā business.

➤ Huts and bridges in Te Urewera in a state of disrepair. The Te Urewera Board has now re-opened parts of the former National Park, including Lake Waikaremoana and its Great Walk, after many months of closure.

➤ The stellar rise of **mohua/yellowhead** and other native birds in South Westland's Landsborough valley is a welcome surprise to DoC scientists. Recent counts of this Ngāi Tahu taonga species have reached 517 in the study area, up from a low of 14 birds since monitoring began 24 years ago. Mohua in the Landsborough valley may now number more than 2000 birds. The bright yellow songbird was once predicted to disappear from the valley, as it has from most South Island forests, due to its sensitivity to introduced predators. Results from the long-term monitoring show seven other native bird species continue to trend upwards, while six remain steady – overall a more than doubling of native birdlife. In contrast, introduced birds have declined, pushed out by their flourishing indigenous forest mates.



View from Waikato Hut at the end of a working party day.

.... *from the FMC website*....

➤ Loose Line clothing. Based in Nelson, Loose Line is where NZ art meets dirt. We illustrate our fabrics by hand-drawing a mix of NZ fauna and other kiwi inspired things. The gear is made tough and original using the best quick-dry fabric we can source, you can wear them biking, running, hiking and wherever the outdoors takes you. FMC card holders get 10% off all purchases online using the code FMC10. [www.looseline.co.nz](http://www.looseline.co.nz)

➤ Nominations for the 2022 FMC Executive. It's that time of the year again when we ask all our member clubs to think about nominating someone for the Executive. It is a stimulating body to work with, bringing together people from right around NZ and dealing with a wide range of outdoor recreation related issues. Likewise, if you are passionate about outdoor recreation and you support the work we do, if you have time and skills you'd like to contribute – especially in policy, planning, law, or administration – FMC would love to have you on board. This year is going to be a big one as the maximum third consecutive one-year term for our President comes to an end, and a new President will be elected. To learn a bit more about what the FMC executive do, and what being on the executive means, take a look at our FMC Executive prospective member FAQ. If this sounds like your thing, get a member club to nominate you! Nominations can be on the form on the website, or a club may simply email its nominations directly to [eo@fmc.org.nz](mailto:eo@fmc.org.nz), provided each nominee also sends an email consenting to the nomination. All nominations must be received by e-mail no later than 5pm on 6 April 2022. For any other questions, please contact [eo@fmc.org.nz](mailto:eo@fmc.org.nz)

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Roy's Peak

by Jacqui Dick



# The Waikato Tramping Club (Inc.)

PO Box 685, Hamilton, 3240

[www.wtc.org.nz](http://www.wtc.org.nz)

## Nomination Form for General Committee AGM 2022

I hereby nominate ..... for the position of:

- President
- Vice President Tramping sub-committee
- Vice President Ski sub-committee
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Tramping Club Captain
- Tramping sub-committee representative (2)
- Ski Club Captain
- Ski sub-committee representative (2)

Nominating person: .....

Signed by Nominator: .....

Seconded by (another member): .....

I, (the person nominated for the role ticked above) hereby accept nomination  
for the position of .....

Signed: ..... by Nominee (person being nominated)

*Nominations to be sent to club secretary no later than 13<sup>th</sup> April 2022*

**Secretary:** Dorothy Cawdron: [Dorothy.Cawdron@kaingaora.govt.nz](mailto:Dorothy.Cawdron@kaingaora.govt.nz)  
or post to P. O. Box 685, Hamilton 3240



*Haastia sinclairii*

Photographer not known

**Autumn is here – watch out for the beautiful fungi!**

*Trametes versicolor?* Photographer not known



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