



THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

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

August 2022



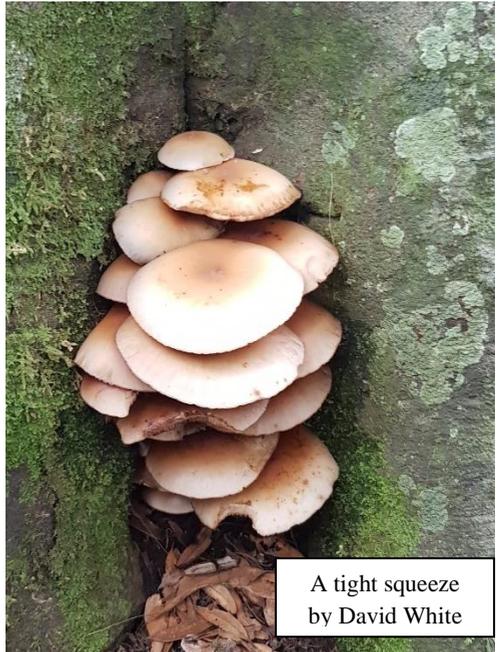
Marokopa Falls in flood Photo by Nette Lowe

WAIKATO HUT

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Tongariro National Park



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A tight squeeze
by David White

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WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB
P. O. Box 685, Hamilton 3240 • www.wtc.org.nz

Free to members

Member of: Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand Inc
Ruapehu Mountain Clubs Association

BULLETIN No 840

August 2022

General Committee

(Contact details listed below)

President: Judith Bogle	027 3810283
Secretary: Dorothy Cawdron	027 7424222
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Members: John McArthur (VP Tramp) Stephen Prendergast (VP Ski)	
Stephen Phillips Allan Wickens Lois Rowell Ashley Hoskin Mike Barker	
Mike Nightingale	07 8562394

Tramping Subcommittee

Tramping email: waikatotrampingclub@gmail.com

Chairperson: John McArthur mcArthur@outlook.co.nz	021 2889641
Club Captain: Les Warren	027 8644937
Membership: Lois Rowell loiserowell@gmail.com	027 2881148
Member: Selwyn June	027 4978151
Rupert Craggs	027 6811926
Web & Facebook: Rizal Razak	021 2676566
Transport: Ashley Hoskin ashley.hoskin@icloud.com	027 4909545
Social convenor: Jacqui Dick	021 1375201

Ski Subcommittee

Ski email: waikatoski@gmail.com	Waikato Hut phone: 07 8923821
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Finance officer: Michael Barker	021 2463500
Members: Steve Phillips	021 1031436
Ashley Hoskin	027 4909545

Bulletin: Lesley Kuggeleijn	027 4942414
Editor & Club Librarian: Dianne June djune@xtra.co.nz	07 8433066

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

Club night, Wednesday 7th September

Quiz night

Doors open at 7pm, evening starts at 7.30pm.

We will have a list of brain teasers and general knowledge questions to get you thinking and concentrating hard. This quiz will certainly be popular entertainment and heaps of fun, with some surprises no doubt. It will have a tramping theme to it.

Come and join in the fun and laughter. You will be allocated into a random team on the night. Snacks provided to keep your energy levels up!

Ron Dick will be the quiz master and is not accepting bribes in any form!
Gold coin donation please.

On the social scene: Our first opportunity for socialising over the past month began with a movie evening at the Haines' in late July. Our numbers may have been small at just 7 but the food was still pretty darned good. And the movie was as entertaining as ever with plenty of seating in just the front lounge. We must thank Andrea and Graham for being such generous hosts to our club and for Grahams' always surprising movie selection.

The second opportunity was our guest speaker at the club night. Our tramping captain John McArthur made climate change and carbon emissions into interesting, informative and fun topics to learn about. His comments came in for some ribald repartee (like ground so hot in Australia that the kangaroos will have to fly so they don't burn their feet- sorry John, I couldn't help letting my imagination go wild) and revealing his personal commitment to carbon emission reduction – no wonder he is looking slimmer these days if the bar graph of his carbon emissions associated with food are anything to go by. We may have laughed but we listened and got plenty to think about and ways of offsetting our own emissions gave us food for thought- no dietary effect though. Thank you John for a most informative and entertaining talk. May it be the start of getting back to our very social club nights at St. Stephens' church.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2021/2022

3017	14 Aug	M	Pylon peak	Rizal Razak
3018	20/21 Aug	E/M	Taupo cycling & walking	Dianne & Selwyn June
3019	28 Aug	E	Trip leader training	Judith Bogle
3020	3 / 4 Sept	M/F	Snowcraft II	Jacqui Dick/ Mike Peck
3021	11 Sept	E/M	Botany expedition	Selwyn June
3022	17/18 Sept		Waikaremoana	Judith Bogle
3023	24/25 Sept	F	East ridge Mt. Taranaki	CANCELLED

3024	2 Oct	M	Caving	Jacqui Dick & Andrew Fredrickson
3025	8/9 Oct	M	Kauaeranga - Rangihau	John Wilson
3026	15/16 Oct	E	Bushcraft	Club captain
3027	22-24 Oct	F	Northern Tararua Crossing	Jeanette Dodson
3028	30 Oct	M	Wairere falls & higher	John Wilson
3029	6 Nov		Photography – waterfall specials	Nicola Guy
3030	7-11 Nov		Kaimai traverse	Jeanette Dobson

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: 2 clicks to confirm your booking on the website

Trip 3017 **Pylon Peak – Waiorongomai loop** **14 Aug**

The walk starts at the Old Battery in the valley via the low-level track. After crossing the Waiorongomai Stream, ascend approximately 660m up the ridge of the Pylon Peak Track and past some mining relics. The final approach to the ridge top is steep and out onto the top of the Kaimai Range at Pylon Peak. After reaching the top, and having our lunch with a beautiful view of the Waikato Plains, we will then go via the Old North South Track and break out onto the Waipapa track, proceed to the head of the valley, and return to the carpark via the Waiorongomai valley.

Leader: Rizal Razak **Ph:** 021 2676566 **Grade:** M

Email: *rizraz@gmail.com*

Transport: Senior member \$21-35 Senior non-member: \$26-40

Trip 3018 **Taupo cycling and tramping** **20/21 Aug**

We will leave Hamilton at 7.30am on Saturday morning. Our accommodation is that night is at a backpackers close to the lower end of the main street and the lakefront. It has cooking facilities so you can choose to BYO or dine at the many eating houses close by.

Our plan for the weekend is very flexible. If you would like to cycle, please let us know. We have the sue of a cycle trailer and a vehicle to cater for those who wish to cycle We will start the day by setting out from the former Spa Hotel site, Trampers and cyclists will travel the same route but with the trampers going just as far as the Huka falls, The cyclists will continue all the way to the Aratiatia rapids and then back as far as the falls. Where the vehicles will be waiting, In the afternoon we'll head out to the Opepe bush for 2 walks though beautiful forest. The walks are on opposite sides of the road. If time permits, I'm keen to see if we can do a short walk up 'Litte Tauhara' Maunganamu– just 300m above Taupo. Then it will be time to check in to our accommodation, and, if you wish, ride your bike along the lakefront all the way to Waitahanui you can. It is a very scenic ride with views to the mountains of Tongariro National Park. On Sunday we'll walk/ride from Kinloch to Kawakawa Bay. The cyclists will continue up the MTB track to Whangamata road and the walkers will return to the vehicle and go around to meet the cyclists,

Leader: Dianne & Selwyn June **Ph:** 8433066 **Grade:** E/M

Transport: Senior member \$45-75 Senior non-member: \$50-80

Accommodation: \$35/person

Trip 3019**Trip leader training****28 Aug**

This leadership training session will look at "what are the different leadership styles", "what are different aspects we need to consider during a trip", "practical and human considerations". The training will be held at the Tamahere school and there are practical and theoretical sessions. These sessions will be advantageous if you are new at leading or want a refresher or some new ideas

If you are interested in being a trip leader, especially for down South, it would be recommended to go. This will help with the administration side of organising a trip, and give you some ideas of things you need to look out for or would help. We will be looking at some scenarios of things that could happen and go through some practical solutions. If there is anything you would particularly like to look at, please get in touch.

Leader: Judith Bogle**Ph:** 027 3810283**Grade:** E**Transport:** tbc**Trip 3020****Snowcraft II****3 / 4 Sept**

Depart 6pm Friday return Sunday (late afternoon/evening). This weekend the plan is to head up the mountain to practise snowcraft skills. Weather permitting, we will do some peak bagging as Ruapehu offers plenty of scope with a good variety of peaks to climb ranging in difficulty level. There is also the option of climbing Tongariro.

It is essential that you have basic snowcraft skills to attend this weekend. There will be a number of experienced people on this trip to assist you with training and gaining valuable experience using crampons and ice axes.

Accommodation will be at the tramping club ski hut/lodge and all meals and transport are included in the cost.

Note: Health & Safety requirements mean participants need to be Waikato Tramping Club members. Annual membership is \$50 pp and the application form is available on the website.

Leaders: Mike Peck**Ph:** 021 369 256**Grade:** M

Jacqui Dick

Ph: 021 1375201**Emails:** Mike mikeypeck@yahoo.comJacqui: jacquimd@me.com**Cost:** Senior members: approx \$200

Senior non-members: approx. \$250

Trip 3021**Botany expedition****11 Sept**

Don't know your ferns from the trees, where to look when the tree is too high to identify the foliage? This is your chance to pick our brains and refer to books we will bring along. Get to know how to differentiate a matai from a miro and a Prince of Wales feather from a hen and chicken. No question will be a dumb one and you'll certainly be feeling quite knowledgeable by the end of the day. Te Kauri Park near Kawhia has a good variety of plants to learn about while walking.

Leader: Dianne & Selwyn June **Ph:** 8433066**Grade:** E/M**Transport:** Senior member \$21-35

Senior non-member: \$26-40

Trip 3022 **Waikaremoana** **17/18 Sept**
This is a weekend trip, where we will stay at the cabins at Waikaremoana Camping ground. The idea is to do day walks, which could include going to the Ngamoko - Kaitawa Track (5 hours), this goes through to the trig and would need transport from the other end, Aniwanui Valley Track (6 Hours), Ruapani Circuit (6 hours) or even walking up to the Bluff if it is a nice day. There are other options as well, with many short walks to waterfalls and lakes. If people want to spend longer there to do more walks let me know. The idea would be to go on Friday night and come back Sunday. It is a 4-hour drive so I would like to leave as early as possible on the Friday.
Leader: Judith Bogle **Ph:** 027 3810283 **Grade:** E/M
Transport: Senior member \$45-75 Senior non-member: \$50-80
Accommodation: tbc

Trip 3024 **Caving** **2 Oct**
Two members from the Tomo Society will take us into Gardners Gut Cave and the Cleft of the Orcs (abseiling in). There is a possibility of side trips along the way added depending on the groups' capability. 4-6 hours underground. There won't be any actual swimming but some waist deep pools so we will be getting wet! Helmets and lights as well as abseiling gear will be provided.
This trip is limited to 10 participants due to ratio of non-cavers to cavers.
Leader: Jacqui Dick **Ph:** 021 1375201 **Grade:** M/F
Andrew Frederickson
Transport: Senior member \$21-35 Senior non-member: \$26-40

Trip 3025 **Kauaeranga Valley to Rangihau** **8/9 Oct**
It is a while since the club has done this trip. Starting on Saturday morning, we'll drive to the end of the Kauaeranga and tramp up Webb Creek and on to Pinnacles Hut, where we'll check out the nearby Dancing Camp Dam and take a side trip up The Pinnacles. Backtracking a little, we'll take the track down into the upper Kauaeranga River, where we'll camp. Those interested in kauri logging history can walk a short distance down the river to the remains of the Main Dam, a huge affair that had two gates. On Sunday we'll cross the river and climb out of the valley on the Rangihau Track and follow that all the way down to the Rangihau River, and out to Rangihau Road. About 5 hours tramping each day. We will need a driver to take the van around to Coroglen to meet us.
Leader: John Wilson **Ph:** 0211682082 **Grade:** M
Transport: Senior member \$45-75 Senior non-member: \$50-80

Trip 3027 **Tararua Northern Crossing** **22-24 Oct**
The Northern Crossing links the Waingawa and Ohau catchments. Depending on weather conditions it can take between three to five days to complete. I have allowed extra time; if conditions are good, we will have more time to explore but if the weather is bad, we have other alternatives.

We will depart Hamilton at midday on Friday, overnighing at Mawley Holiday Park in Masterton.

Day 1: Mitre Flats hut from end of Upper Waingawa Rd

Day 2: tramp up Mitre(Pukeamoamo) the highest peak in the Tararuas at 1571m and past Brockett and Girdlestone to Tarn Ridge Hut.

Day 3: Traverse Tarn Ridge, Waiohine Pinnacles, Lancaster, Arete and Pukematawhai to Waoipehu Hut.

Day 4: Waoipehu to road end and return to Hamilton.

We will be spending 2 days on the exposed tops and may need to do long days to avoid adverse conditions. From Mitre through to Pukematawhai, it is an unmarked route on exposed tops. We will not attempt this without good visibility.

This is a classic tramping trip passing a number of peaks, so fantastic views – weather dependent.

Leader: Jeanette Dodson

Ph 0274485033

Grade: F

Email jeanette.dodson456@gmail.com

Cost: Senior member \$355

Senior non-member: \$365

(Includes transport and accommodation).

Trip 3028

Wairere Falls and Little Wairere Falls

30 Oct

Well known Wairere Falls in the Kaimais, at 83 metres the highest in the North Island, make a great day trip destination. Recent track work and rainfall have made sections of the track very muddy, but the view from the lookout at the top is still well worth the effort of climbing the steep track. But, I offer more. By carrying on another kilometre to the North South Track, and a further kilometre northward, another waterfall is found. It is not nearly as high but is very picturesque and getting there is flat walking through beautiful bush. I anticipate lunching here before returning by the same route.

Leader: John Wilson

Ph: 021 168 2082

Grade: M

Transport: Senior member \$21-35

Senior non-member: \$26-40

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A heads up for the last trip of the year:

### **Tramper of the Year Trip – Bream Head 25-27 Nov**

**For those interested in a trip to an area the club does not often visit.**

Please contact the leader before October 1<sup>st</sup> as he needs to know rough numbers for booking accommodation and, also, what is your preferred accommodation.

The plan is to leave Hamilton early Friday morning and arrive at our accommodation in Whangarei around lunch-time. In the afternoon we will do a short walk.

Saturday – The main trip will do the Te Whara Track (5-6hrs) for those interested. There will also be several shorter easy tracks for others to do. Saturday night – group dinner.

Sunday – Either do a morning walk around Whangarei before heading home OR, I am looking at doing something on the way home. More details to come.

**Leader:** Les Warren

**Email:** warrenlb2017@outlook.com

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## *Editorial*

To those of you who received a paper copy of the July bulletin may I tender my humble apologies for 3 glitches in the editing. John Davies trip 3012 to the natural bridge and Puketutu Pa had the wrong month listed (of course you realised that 17 June had already passed by the time you received the bulletin didn't you?). The report for trip 2994 should have been titled 'Hauhungaroa' not 'Hauhangatahi', and trip 3008 should have been titled 'Pirongia walk' not 'Rotorua walk'. There was a second trip titled Rotorua and that actually did describe a trip to Rotorua.

All you budding and experienced trip leaders please note the transport officers; comments under the Committee heading. Procedures are going to change and you are the person who will be seeking out a driver for your trip. Don't get caught short when your trip comes around

Are you a recent or new club member? Have you thought about using the experience garnered over many years by your fellow members which could be of great benefit to you? If you're leading, going on a club trip, or a private one and not been to your destination before why not ask to see previous trip reports – every leader is asked to write a report afterwards on the management of their trip? It is kept on file for all to access. A bulletin report can be found for you from previous copies of bulletins. Even those working on Waikato Hut maintenance could glean information from those who have worked on the Hut over many years. 72 years of doing things together has amassed a vast pool of knowledge and.....

*Knowledge has no value unless you share it*

Dianne June

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## *Presidential Blog*

In the next couple of months we will be doing leadership and bushcraft training. We are also looking at adding first aid training to the bushcraft session. This is a great time to either upskill or find out what is new. An outline of what is going to be discussed on the 28th August at the leadership training is in the relevant section. The idea is that you can attend the parts that you are interested in. I hope you take advantage of this opportunity before you go on your big excursions during the summer period.

Most of you are will be aware of the incident that took place on Snowcraft 1. It was very unfortunate and unexpected but Cathy is fine and doing well. We already have procedures in place that we activate in these circumstances to review our practices and processes. These are now underway.

Even with the colder weather and downpours it is good to see that many of us are out there enjoying the outdoors. At present the snow on Ruapehu is still not up to standard for our skiers but hopefully that will change soon. Judith Bogle

Quote "not all classrooms have 4 walls".

~~~~~  
from the Ski Club...

Winter rates: For non-ski club members that will mean \$60 pp/night. Ski club members pay \$35. It doesn't take too many trips before you cover the additional membership costs.

Our custodians Michael & Dani have settled into Lodge life despite a poorer than hoped for snow fall through July. August is where our reliable snow rolls through and the forecast bears that out with snow over the next few weeks coming with the southerlies.

Later on in September week have the annual ski races and a 24 hr photo comp based at the Lodge and judged on Saturday night.

For combined members you will have received the code that lets you book weekends preferentially and at the member price of \$35 / night. Tramping members are welcome to stay at the winter rate of \$60 night.

You can find the online booking firm on the Waikato Ski Club Web site or via Google or other search engines. Stephen Prendergast

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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 3007

Round the Mountain

4-6 June

I always get nervous before a club trip. Spending 2 or 3 days in the close company of relative strangers is quite daunting, especially if you're not too experienced in the art of tramping. However, my fitness levels were good, my pack weight was at an all-time low, and my weekend was clear. I was prepared for an adventure on the edge of Mount Ruapehu.

Our driver for the weekend was affected by Covid, meaning that our host for the trip, "Silent" Les Warren, had to hurriedly change our travel schedule. As a group we are forever grateful to Les for the efforts that he went to, to make the trip a success.

Friday evening saw us driving down to National Park, and Saturday morning saw us waking up to stunning views of Mount Ruapehu framed through the bunkroom windows of our accommodation at Waikato hut.

I walked down to the kitchen and joined the other trampers for breakfast. There was Dave, who I was to learn had completed walks all over the world. He brought with him many years of experience to the group. There was also Ying, who in turn brought to the group a big smile and an even bigger bag of oranges, neither of which seemed to diminish over the 3 days. I had met Les on a previous hike and having him as our lead relaxed me a bit. He is a man of few words, but excellent company. "So, what will we be doing on the trip?" I asked Les, in an effort to stimulate conversation. "Walking" was his reply. Luckily. Judith and Cathy were on hand to fill me in on the rest of the trip plan. A shuttle was to drop us off at the entrance off Ohakune Mountain Road, from where we were to have an easy 3 hour walk to Mangaehuehu Hut, our destination for the night. The next night was to be spent at the Rangipo Hut, and on the 3rd day we were to walk across the Rangipo Desert to the Waihohonu Hut, from where we would take the access road out to the Desert Road.

Soon enough we were shuttled to the start point, and the walk started. Without the many kilos of unnecessary gear that I normally take I felt like I could fly around the track. David and Ying were flying even faster and soon they were out of sight, leaving Les, Cathy, Judith and I to amble along the boardwalks and stony paths, appreciating the views of the magnificent mountain high above us.

We arrived at our destination in good time and settled in to enjoy a lazy evening by the fire.

The next morning, we woke to a totally different landscape to the one we had said goodnight to. The cold overnight temperatures had changed what was previously a leafy green landscape to a frost covered wilderness complete with icy icicles pointing down to equally iced up puddles. This was definitely a day for the warm clothing.

Gradually the hut came to life, and, once we were suitably rugged up, we left our warm accommodation and carefully made our way out to the icy boardwalks. Soon we came to see the most amazing thing. The frost had formed under a layer of light gravel. Individual hairs of ice sprung up from this bed, each one lifting a small pebble with it. It was quite a sight.

Our walk continued, the scrub making way for a stand of beech trees which in turn disappeared leaving us totally exposed on the mountainside. We walked on and came to THE RAVINE, a steep area of loose rock that went all the way down on our side, and then rose up again on the other side. The day was warming up so we stopped for a quick drink then did battle with the scree. For an hour or so we skidded down the ravine, and then, once at the bottom, we stumbled back up, until we finally made it to the other side, where we stopped for lunch.

It was pleasant sitting there in the relative warmth, enjoying good food and good company, and looking back on the progress we'd made over difficult terrain. It just couldn't get any better than this....

Then Judith farted, so we packed up and walked on.

And this was when something else amazing happened, Les spoke....2 full sentences.

"Looks like it's coming in from the west" he said, "and it'll be here soon" he added ominously. I was puzzled. I didn't know what to say in return. I didn't know which direction was west, and I also didn't know what "IT" was. What I did know was that "IT" wasn't too far away. So, I just looked at him and nodded.

Les seemed to have talked himself out of words so we continued our walk in silence. All the while the sky was getting darker, the wind stronger, and the temperature noticeably colder. That's when I realised what "IT" was....Les had anticipated bad weather. The track veered left, ooops, to the west, and we found ourselves heading into a strong, cold wind. We weren't sure how far away the hut was so we decided to stop and put on some warmer clothing. We started off again, rounded a cluster of rocks,.....and promptly arrived at the hut.

The weather forecast for the following day was not good. We made the decision to make a late start, hopefully giving the weather a chance to improve before we set out. Personally, I was pleased with this. I work evening shifts and I'm not used to getting up early. I was looking forward to a nice long sleep and a lazy morning. 5.00am the next morning Cathie's alarm went off.

"Sorry, sorry" she yelled at the top of her voice, ensuring that those who hadn't heard the alarm were now wide awake too. So I spent the next 150 minutes laying in my sleeping bag, listening to the rain getting heavier and heavier. I got up and had breakfast. All the while it rained. I got changed and packed up my gear. It was still raining. I put on my raincoat and boots and stepped away from the shelter of the hut, straight into the rain. It was a miserable experience. In a matter of minutes I was wet, I was cold, I wasn't happy. We slowly trudged over the barren landscape, the wind tugged at our wet rain gear. Eventually we came to a bridge that crossed the lahar path. I found myself praying for an eruption, and a lava flow, to warm me up.

After a miserable 2 hours we arrived at the Tukino Road carpark, where the decision was made to cut the trip short and exit down the road.

For another 2 hours we walked in cold silence along the gravel road, dodging landmines and avoiding mortar shells from the nearby army base. (actually, I made that bit up). Finally, we got to the Desert Road, and readied ourselves for a long wait for our ride. We dropped our packs, and reached for snacks when, as if by magic, our shuttle arrived. This was just further evidence that, when "Silent" Les organizes a trip, it goes like clockwork.

We fell into the shuttle, and soon we were heading back to our accommodation and the pleasures of dry clothing, hot showers and tasty food.

Scribe: Graham C.

Trip 3012**Whirinaki****9/10 July**

The trip had been predicted to be a wet one but apart from the initial start there was not a lot of rain and we managed to get through the tramp between the deluges that happened on each side of the weekend. Initially we walked from Plateau road to the third turn off that runs along Taumutu river. Up to here it is a very nice track and there is a cave that we sat in for afternoon tea. This is at the second turn off. Inside the cave there is a stream and if you keep going to the end you can see where cavers would have gone into some smaller openings. Once we turned off into Taumutu Stream for the first third of the track there were many streams to cross and some rather deep ones but we managed even the short ones and we also got to see a whio. Who was upset with us disturbing his quiet space. It took 2 hours to get to the hut from the turn off. We were the only ones there. Had a bit of fun collecting and chopping wood and getting the fire going. I did have a bit of fun leading the others on that there was something really important that I needed to tell them about the next days tramp. Yes that was there was a stream crossing right at the beginning of the track. As Jim noted that it had said the track was going to be a wet one, well, it certainly didn't disappoint. The next day to note there is not much about the track that goes towards the Upper Te Hoe Hut. There were bridges to cross and some really nice bush. The track is really good. Saw another whio. In the middle of the route there are stream crossings but the water had gone down so there was very little difficulty crossing. One slip to navigate, with members going in different directions but we found the track to carry on. The last third of the track is a bit of slog uphill to the turn off. We had to walk through a waterfall which was kinda cool. Once turning right at the turn off towards Pukahunui Road which I'd like to point out is a main track that is supposed to get used regularly. It was overgrown with fern and many parts you cannot see there is a track. So got very wet from the vegetation. There are no many markers. We managed to get to the road 2 minutes after Tony from Jailhouse Shuttles got there to pick us up. Well timed. Our group was Jim, Jeanette, Cathy and Judith.

Trip 3013**Natural bridge****17 July**

A very small group of 4 headed out on another very thick fog morning in Hamilton to head down to the Waitomo area, picking up our Trip leader John Davies in Kihikihi where surprisingly there was no fog to be seen & made our way through the Waitomo village & up into hilly windy parts of the road where we had an amazing clear view of both Mt Ruapehu & Mt Ngauruhoe looking amazing both covered in snow.

We arrived at the Natural Bridge to find a very good frost on the ground, then decided to walk up the road & enter onto a forestry track & make our way to Puketutu Pa – the track was nicely gravelled the whole way. We could see to our left, after an hour, the Puketutu Pa hill. Unfortunately, after trying numerous times to enter the young pines to get to the Pa – we found there was too much gorse & chose to walk back to the car in the lovely nice sunshine.



It may seem insignificant but Puketutu Pa site is still worth aiming for Photo Nette Lowe

The carpark was busy with 3 campervans parked & families walking to the Natural Bridge, however it was disappointing that the track was closed just before the stairs but we could see the 17m high limestone arch which was very impressive. We made our way around the other side of the track & came out into some farmland where we sat & had our lunch in the sun, we then drove to Marokopa falls & with all the rain we have had recently the amount of water going over the edge was amazing. The viewing platform was closed off due a huge slip which has taken half the platform away. We also visited Piripiri caves & then drove to the very popular Ruakuri loopwalk whereby we saw that the carpark had been flooded recently with huge amounts of mud lying everywhere, the walk is a leisurely 1.6km 2 loop track where the first takes you around a stunning chasm and the second to a cave. The track was pretty damp underfoot & the roar of the water in the chasm & caves was full on & very noisy, it took about 30 mins to complete the loop & we then made our way to Otorohanga for the traditional ice cream. Thanks to John for leading this trip, there might have only been 5 of us but we all thoroughly enjoyed our day out, it's a beautiful part of the country & a very popular place to visit. Crew was John D, John & Jean Wilson, Lynette M & scribe Nette

From the committee table:

New members: Megan Brown & Mitchell Thomas, Brent Goodall, Cherry Yip.

Membership: We have 189 tramping members this month. You should have your FMC cards now. If not, please contact bulletin distribution officer Lesley.

From the transport officer: The club now hires its' vehicles from Hertz rentals. The Hertz company charges us from the time the key is picked up so collecting the key before we are actually going to use the vehicle is not practicable. It seems that if we collect the key from the neighbouring BP station on Sunday morning the contract is deemed to start on Sunday. i.e. we pay for the time we actually use the vehicle.

We can have early morning pickups from Hertz at the BP Station. Van can be picked up from the 24hr BP Station as long as the driver supplies their details beforehand to Hertz and signs at the BP Station.

ALL TRIP LEADERS

PLEASE provide Ashley with the following details (below) as soon as possible for your trip:

Do you require a Van? What will be your pickup & drop off dates/times?

Driver details required: Name, Date of birth, address. Driver licence No. & expiry date, and phone number.

NOTE: It is important that it is the Leaders responsibility to provide these details to Ashley, as soon as possible. Please do not, rely on Ashley to chase you whether you need a van or cancelling a van. Ashley will deal directly with Hertz to confirm the booking.

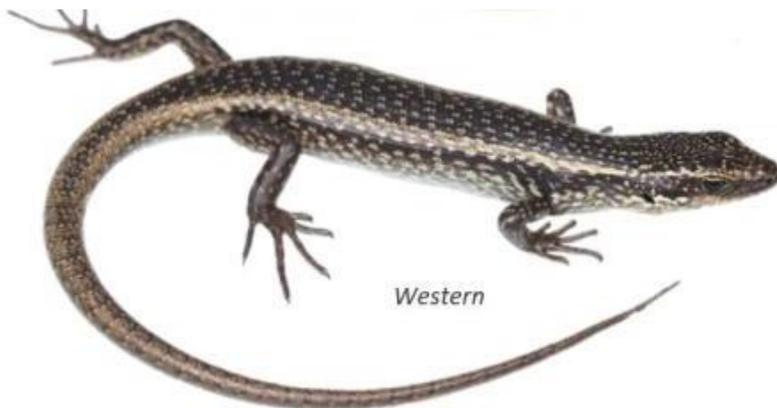
Please contact Ashley promptly if your trip is in the coming weeks to confirm whether you need a van and confirm pickup and drop-off dates / times.

Any questions, please contact either the club captain or the transport officer.

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### *Snippets from here and there...*

- There is a 1080drop planned by DoC Pureora within the period of August 1<sup>st</sup> to the end of November. An aerial drop of pre-feed will be carried out 2 weeks before the 1080-laced bait is dropped. The weather will play an integral role as to when any activity begins.
- The family that pioneered New Zealand's first carbon-positive farm is also kaitiaki to a critically endangered population of lizards. (*Excerpt from Forest & Bird newsletter*).



A decade ago, the last known wild population of western grand skinks was in big trouble in its high country home at Lake Hāwea Station, north-east of Wānaka. Once abundant, habitat loss and introduced predators had left the mokomoko hanging on by a thread in just one location – a small area of public conservation land surrounded by privately owned farms.

In 2010 DoC decided to take the remaining individuals offsite and manage them in a protected lizard enclosure. The few left behind were expected to dwindle to nothing, 9 years later, the Ross family bought Lake Hawea Station and introduced regenerative farming to the 6500ha property, with 10,000 merino sheep and 200 Angus cattle. They planted 6,000 native trees, fenced off the lake and waterways, and undertook a huge amount of pest control. It went on to become Australasia’s first certified carbon-positive farm.

Geoff Ross and Justine Troy, who are Forest & Bird members, heard about the skinks’ removal and couldn’t help wondering whether some had survived in their original habitat next to their land. In 2019, the family commissioned herpetologist Carey Knox, of Southern Scales, to carry out a search for the “lost” lizards.

Carey enlisted the help of the couples’ son Finn and a small group of university student volunteers to look for the skinks in very challenging hill country, full of rocky bluffs, tors, and precipitous drops. The first day they found nothing, The next day they moved location, and finally an individual was seen. In the end, total of 23 were counted over four days!

"I was hoping to find at least 20 animals to show there was something left to work with. I was really pleased to see they were still hanging on," says Carey.

Earlier this year, a follow-up grand skink survey was carried out by Carey and a Forest & Bird volunteer, again funded by the Ross Family. “They started seeing these large skinks straight away and counted 36 adults and juveniles over three days,” says Geoff Ross. “We were thrilled. The western skink population is breeding and has become viable.”



**The WTC Annual photo competition.**



Our Annual competition closes this year on October 5th. 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
- 2. Below bushline with no human element
- 4. or with a human element
- 5. Historic
- 6. Native flora and fauna
- 7. Long exposure

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.

Our photos will be judged by Nicola Guy and John Wilson and results presented at the November Club Night.

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

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! And this years' theme is yet to be defined but may be 'Wilderness areas' or 'Wild rivers'.

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 2021. 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 2021

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.

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

➤ No place for pets in Egmont National Park. Visitors to Mount Taranaki are being urged to obey the rules and leave their family pets at home after DoC staff observed k=jacket-wearing domestic cats being taken into Egmont National Park.

Senior Ranger Dave Rogers says one of DoC's staff did a double-take when she encountered pet cats wearing jackets and being carried in backpacks by their human owners on Mount Taranaki.

The cats were in the carpark at North Egmont and were being put into the backpacks by their owners when approached by the ranger. The owners, visitors from Auckland, said they weren't aware of the rules. The cat owners potentially face an infringement fine.

Cats and all other domestic animals (e.g dogs, rabbits, and even parrots) are not allowed in the National Park as they pose a threat to endangered birds such as kiwi and whio, and other native species including geckos and insects.

Many of our native birds are flightless and have few or no defenses against predation. A dog can sniff out and kill a kiwi with ease. Uncontrolled dogs and cats can severely impact our native wildlife.

Controlling pet access also protects and respects other people's right to use and enjoy public conservation land.

Under the National Parks Act owners found with pets in Egmont National Park may be issued an instant infringement fine of up to \$800. Serious or repeat offenders may face prosecution and a fine of up to \$100,000 or up to a year in prison. A pet may be seized and impounded if it's found in a National Park or controlled area without a permit. Anyone seeing a domestic animal in the park can contact their local DOC office or phone the DOC hotline on 0800 DOC HOT (0800 362 468).

➤ Climate change is challenging whio. The latest whio count shows climate change is affecting the iconic rapid-riding blue ducks' habitat but the hard work of humans is helping build their resilience. A count earlier this year found 694 whio pairs in monitored areas where trapping is done compared with 862 pairs in the same areas in 2021.

DoC Whio Recovery Group Leader Andy Glaser says some of the decline may be due to last year being a full census year (done every five years). Counts on non-census years are less exhaustive and not all rivers are covered.

“What we're really seeing, however, is the impact of climate change. We're getting more severe weather events. Those combined with an already fragile landscape and increased water runoff mean changes to water quality and habitat in the catchments where whio live. Torrential rainstorms earlier this year, in places such as Kahurangi National Park, meant really wet cold conditions for young ducklings. Duckling survival numbers have halved over the past two years. Storms can also split whio families and reduce their ability to feed at a crucial time in their growth. Flooding washes away invertebrates such as insects and worms, limiting their food supply. The combined effect can be catastrophic. It's definitely not all doom and gloom though. Our protected pair numbers are still high which means the whio population is robust and in a good position for the coming breeding season. On the one hand landscapes are changing due to

climate change, including the habitat for who which rely on high quality waterways. On the other hand, landscapes are being changed positively for who, and other species, by community efforts such as predator trapping and weed busting. It underlines the importance of national trapping efforts in maintaining the gains in who populations and holding the line to protect breeding pairs. Genesis Energy has partnered with DoC on the Whio Forever Recovery Programme for the past 10 years, providing resources and expertise to enhance the survival of who nationwide.

“Who need us more than ever, and we need them. Healthy who populations mean healthy river environments, so the more we can do to help this kind of biodiversity the better for all of us.”

Andy Glaser says the efforts of countless volunteers, community groups, iwi and schools in trapping for who, and wildlife organisations that run breed-for-release programmes, are key to its success.

“All these people are involved in their own awa, caring for these taonga species. They help build resilience in the population so population numbers can grow within the productive seasons. This shows what can be achieved when we all focus on a simple action such as trapping.”

➤ DoC has confirmed dates for Conservation Week 2022 as 5- 11 September. Conservation Week is an annual, national celebration that encourages people to get involved in nature and help to take care of it. Director-General of DoC, Penny Nelson, says that taking direct action not only benefits nature, but our personal wellbeing. “This Conservation Week will focus on how we can act for nature, and especially how we can get our young people excited about acting in nature’s best interest. Whether you are in the city or the country, there’s always something you can do to help, from beach clean-up to volunteering your time with a local community group.

More than 4,000 New Zealand species are threatened or at risk. The species at risk include not just the well-known Māui dolphin and kiwi, but also a variety of fungi, snails, insects, lizards and fish. Each of these species are part of what makes New Zealand unique, and thousands of New Zealanders are already involved in conservation activities.



Ngaruahoe sunrise

Photo by Dianne June

Obituary

Geoff Hustler

Geoff joined the club in 2011 and remained a member until his death earlier this month.

Although he came to our group later in life he was always interested in where we go and whether he could manage to go too. He was often accompanied by his friend Dr. Lesley Topping. Our sympathies go out to his 3 children and their families.



{ Three simple rules in life }

1. If you do not GO after what you want, you'll never have it.
2. If you do not ASK, the answer will always be NO.
3. If you do not step forward, you'll always be in the same place.



Robin on boots

Photo by John Davies



Tomtit

Photo by Jacqui Dick



Cabbage tree flowers
Photo by Amanda Collins



Pirongia delight
Photo by Joanna Greig



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