



# THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

**WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)**

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

December 2022



On the Dart-Rees: which way did you say? Photo by Peter Ayson

# WAIKATO HUT

Your lodge on Mt Ruapehu  
Tongariro National Park



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Karearea photo by Jacqui Dick

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Free to members

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

BULLETIN No 844

December 2022

### General Committee

(Contact details listed below)

**President:** Judith Bogle 027 3810283  
**Secretary:** Dorothy Cawdron 027 7424222  
**Treasurer:** Guy Domett 027 2483008  
**Members:** John McArthur (VP Tramp) Stephen Prendergast (VP Ski)  
Stephen Phillips Allan Wickens Lois Rowell Mike Barker  
Selwyn June 0274 978151

### Tramping Subcommittee

**Tramping email:** [waikatotrampingclub@gmail.com](mailto:waikatotrampingclub@gmail.com)

**Chairperson:** John McArthur [mcArthur@outlook.co.nz](mailto:mcArthur@outlook.co.nz) 021 2889641  
**Club Captain:** Les Warren 027 8644937  
**Membership:** Lois Rowell [loiserowell@gmail.com](mailto:loiserowell@gmail.com) 027 2881148  
**Member:** Selwyn June 027 4978151  
Rupert Craggs 027 6811926  
**Web & Facebook:** Rizal Razak 021 2676566  
**Transport:** Allan Wickens 027 9509546  
**Social convenor:** Jacqui Dick 021 1375201

### Ski Subcommittee

**Ski email:** [waikatoski@gmail.com](mailto: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  
Ashley Hoskin 027 4909545

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

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

## Club night, Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February

(Note there is no club night in January – just a Picnic in the Park in Hamilton Gardens on Jan 18<sup>th</sup>)

Kat Rowe is a club member who works in Antarctica.  
Come along to hear what interesting things she gets up to.

**Social Activity:** Join us in Hamilton Gardens for **Trip 3042** where we don't even leave town. It is a BYO everything sort of trip.

## ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2022/2023

3037A	10 Dec	MF	Okataina western circuit	Mike Peck
3037 B	10 Dec	E/M	Okataina giant ratas	John McArthur
	7 Dec		CLUB NIGHT	
3038	17 or 18 Dec	F	Mountain Madness	John McArthur
3039	28 Dec-4 Jan	F	Travers-Sabine	Judith Bogle
3040	8 Jan	vE	Cambridge walks	Rizal Razak
<u>3041</u>	13-15 Jan	E/M	Exploring Whirinaki	Les Warren
<u>3042</u>	18 Jan		Picnic in the Gardens	Dianne June
3043	22 Jan	MF	King St & Horsemans' track	John Wilson
3044	28-30 Jan	MF	Cascade to Te Iringa	Steve Dick
3045	4-6 Feb		Top of the Coromandel	Allan Wickens
3046	12 Feb	M	Mt. William	Allan Wickens
3047	16-21 Feb	F	Mt. Earnslaw	Rupert Craggs
3048	17/18 Feb	E/M	Ngatuhua Lodge	Nicola Guy
3049	19-25 Feb	various	Exploring the Lewis Pass	Les Warren
3050	25-26 Feb	M or M?F	Mt Tama	John Wilson
3051	26 Feb-3 Mar		Canterbury Glaciers	John McArthur

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 3038**

### **Mountain Madness**

**17 or 18 Dec**

This is a spontaneous sort of day out - if the weather packs in we will give it away (or wait in a pub for the weather to clear, right!). The plan is to see how many of the Waikato mountains we can climb in one day - the longest day of the year. Previous years we have done Pirongia, Maungatautari and Te Aroha, and found this sequence was manageable (provided you eat and drink enough to keep you going).

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

Be in! - the car(s) leave Hamilton early 6am. Last year we did Pirongia up and back before lunch. And we get back late - that's why they call it the Longest Day. This year will celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Captain's Challenge! 2012 four members attempted the triple peak epic, rained off Maungatautari - saturated! Will celebrate on the top of Te Aroha this year!!! Be there!

**Leader:** John McArthur

**Ph:** 021 2889641

**Grade:** FF

**Email:** mcarthur@outlook.co.nz

**Transport:** Private cars.

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**Trip 3039                      Travers Sabine pass and Moss pass                      28 Dec – 4 Jan**

We will start at the Coldwater Hut and finish at the D'Urville. Therefore, we will go up the west side of the Travers Sabine and visit a couple of side tracks and stay at these huts (Hopeless and Cupola Hut. Then go over the Travers Sabine pass. The plan is to have a shorter day the next day so we can visit Lake Constantine. Then we will go over the Moss pass and out the D'Urville track to be picked up by boat at the D'Urville Hut. We will need tents due to being that time of year with many people around.

**Leader:** Judith Bogle

**Email:** *judith.bogle@outlook.com*

**Grade:** F

**Transport:** Private arrangements

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**Trip 3040    Cambridge walks    8 Jan**

An easy easy walk to start the year, we will explore the not so hidden short tracks around Cambridge, waterfalls and observe the locals on their Sunday routines.

We could either start or end with the “new” Te Awa Waikato River cycling trail, near the Velodrome to Hooker Road section.

No tramping boots required, a pair of running or walking shoes will be sufficient.

**Leader:** Rizal Razak

**Ph:** 021 267 6566

**Grade:** very E

**Email:** *rizaraz@gmail.com*

**Transport:** Senior member \$20-35

Senior non-member: \$25-40

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**Trip 3041    Exploring Whirinaki    13-15 Jan**

This trip will be aimed at the easy/medium grades. e will do a few short walks over the weekend. Whirinaki is a wonderful area to visit and we should be guaranteed to see whio (blue duck). Aim of the weekend is to be stress free tramping and only need a day pack.

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> – Travel to Jailhouse Farm Stays at Minginui. I have booked an 8-bed fully self-contained Lodge. If more come, there may be another Lodge free but, we can also tent.

Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> – Visit the Arohaki Lagoon and Waiatiu Falls.

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> – Walk the Waterfall Loop Track and visit the Sanctuary Loop walk.

Then return to Hamilton.

**Leader:** Les Warren

**Ph:** 027 8644937

**Grade:** E-M

**Email:** *warrenlb2017@outlook.com*

**Transport:** Senior member \$20-35

Senior non-member: \$25-40

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**Trip 3042    Picnic in the gardens    18 Jan**

This is a very relaxed evening where we meet at the band rotunda in Hamilton Gardens – near the kids' playground and enjoy your choice of food for dinner. Get there between 5.30 & 6pm and enjoy a social time together over takeaways or salad

and sausage or whatever you would like to munch on. It is BYO everything from seating to food & drink.

No bookings required but, if you have any questions, please get hold of us.

**Leaders:** Dianne & Selwyn June

**Ph:** 8433066

**Grade:** NIL

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**Trip 3043                      King Street and Horseman's Tracks, Te Aroha                      22 Jan**

The lower slopes of Te Aroha Mountain above the southern part of the township used to be farmed by the Shanley family. Bush-clad once more, the old farm tracks have been re-opened by locals and we will walk a circuit involving some steep climbing and descending. We will then take to the summit track and climb to Whakapipi Lookout for great views. Carrying on a little further, we will turn off onto Horseman's track and descend into the Tutumangao Stream, which has a rather nice waterfall. We finish at the Domain.

**Leader:** John Wilson

**Ph:** 0211682082

**Grade:** M/F due to steep gradients

**Transport:** Senior member \$20-35

Senior non-member: \$25-40

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**Trip 3044                      Cascade to Te Iringa                      28-30 Jan**

The Northern Kaimanawas is a beautiful open bush area with ample bird-song. If you have not tented before this is a good opportunity to have a go and not be concerned about lugging a pack around with your tent and other gear. Just bring along a day pack for your food/water and a warm jacket. Road access is very easy right to the campsite but, take care along the narrower metal section of Road. Accommodation will be tenting at the Clements Mill Road Clearing Campsite. This Campsite has plenty of room but, hopefully on arrival, we will be able to find suitable sites to be together as a group.

By using this campsite as a Base for the weekend, you can have as much luxury you care to bring as you can park next to your tent.

Water: It may pay for us to bring as much water as possible in case we have no suitable stream close by. There is running water available close to the campsite but we may need to explore for a more suitable. Some of the walks have easy access to good stream water.

Saturday 28 – Stumble Inn Hut / Hinemaiaia Cave + Picnic / Swim by Stream + visit to a Waterfall. The walk to Stumble Inn Hut is along a flat well-trodden track but not marked. There are a couple of short climbs and one easy stream crossing (probably another stream crossing to the Cave). Can make this walk an easy day trip, particularly if the weather is good. Steve and myself have visited the Hut but, not the Cave. The Cave is quite close to the Hut so we will include a short 'recce section to the Cave using GPS coordinates'. Something a little different.

If the weather is ideal, there will be a couple of options for a swim (bring swim wear).

Sunday 29 – Black Dunny Hut & Just A Hut. These walks will be two separate walks, i.e. both out and back to the start. Each walk will be around 3hrs (return), hopefully, each. Steve and myself lost a lot of time doing the recce to the two Huts but, Steve has them now tracked on his GPS. Again; no marked tracks but there

are visible tracks to follow if we take it easy and not lose the track. Terrain is easy undulating. We will need to follow GPS coordinates carefully.

Monday 30 – Kerosene Can. A recce of this place has not been done so, as something different, we will do this walk as a full recce. Return walk is estimated around 2hrs but we will allow more time. Will do this walk in the morning and leave for home in the afternoon.

There may be further walks to fill in any spare hours but, they will be full recce walks. Could consider a short out and back walk along the Te Iringa marked track for those not walked this track before.

**Leaders:** Steve Dick                      **Ph:** 0274 880 793                      **Grade:** E-M  
Les Warren                                      **Ph:** 027 8644937

**Transport:** Senior member: \$77-128                      Senior non-member: \$87-138  
However, arrangements will be sorted closer to the weekend.

**Equipment:** More on this once registered but, you will need a tent (or share with someone), your own food and cooking gear.

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### **Trip 3045                                      Top of the Coromandel                                      4-6 Feb**

Over this long weekend we will enable those going to do several tramps in the northern section of Coromandel Peninsula. The feature walk will be the Coromandel Walkway (3-4 hours), from Stony Bay north to Fletcher Bay. We will also do the Muriwai Walk (2-3 hours) taking in Cape Colville, the short Fantail Bay track and several 1–2-hour walks near Coromandel township.

The van will leave London Street in Hamilton at 7.30am on Saturday morning and it's a 3–4-hour drive to the start of the Coromandel Walkway where the group will be dropped off. Our driver/leader (Allan) will then drive around to Fletcher Bay and meet up with the group. We'll be camping at Fletcher Bay Saturday night. To make for a more comfortable night there will be a large marquee with tables, gas cooker and utensils etc. Bring your own tent and camp near our base.

On Sunday, we'll drive a short distance along Fletcher Bay Road and the group will be dropped off at the start of the Muriwai Walk. This walk ends near Port Jackson. After driving down Port Jackson Road, we'll all do the short Fantail Bay Track before carrying on down to Coromandel, where we stay the night. Longer daylight hours mean we can do one or two short walks before dinner.

On Monday we can do further short walks in the morning before heading back about 1.00-2.00 pm so we can (hopefully) beat the end of holiday weekend traffic. Description of walks – please look at the DoC websites to get a better idea of what is involved. If you have any particular walk in mind near Coromandel please let Allan know. There is also an un-named walk shown on the NZ Topo map that starts at Port Jackson and heads towards Kaiiti Point before following the contours south to Port Jackson Road. We may look at doing that as an extension of the Muriwai Track.

**Leader/Driver:** Allan Wickens   **Ph:** 027 950 9546   **Grade:** Mostly easy with a  
**Email:** *allanwickens@hotmail.com*                      bit of moderate walking



**Accom:** Fletcher Bay campsite - \$10-15 pp

**Coromandel** Tidewater Motel (3 rooms booked) - \$60-70 pp

**Transport:** tba

NOTE: The Motel booking must be confirmed prior to 23 January to please let Allan know ASAP (to also have a seat in the van. Due to the logistics involved this trip will be limited to one van load only)

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**Trip 3046**

**Mt. William**

**12 Feb**

This popular walkway just south of Bombay offers extensive views of south Auckland and the northern Waikato in a 360° panorama and you can also see the Sky Tower and Rangitoto Island. After driving one hour to the trailhead at McMillan Road, east of Pokeno, we start our walk from the carpark. The first section crosses farmland to the Mount Williams Scenic Reserve. This small area of native bush has a wide variety of native vegetation and trees including kauri. Total time to the summit of Mount William (373 metres) is one and a half hours, over 2.5 kilometres. Instead of retracing our steps we will continue along a saddle over rolling farmland to Puketutu Trig (376 metres) and down for another 2 kilometres over 1.5 hours to Puketutu Road, where our van awaits. Parts of the track are described as “a bit slippery” so walkers are recommended to wear boots or strong shoes and have at least one walking pole. As the total time for this walk plus travel is around 5 hours, to make a day of it we will look at doing the short walks up either Mount Taupiri (288m) or do the Kauri Loop Walk (northern Hakarimatas) on the way back to Hamilton.

**Leader:** Allan Wickens

**Ph:** 027 9509546

**Grade:** E

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

**Transport:** Senior member \$20-35

Senior non-member: \$25-40

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**Trip 3047**

**Mt. Earnslaw**

**16-21 Feb**

Mount Earnslaw (Pikirakatahi) East Peak is the second highest summit in Mt Aspiring National Park (2830m). Participants must be confident with the use of crampons and ice axe.

Day 1: Start of Rees track to Earnslaw hut (3 bunks). From Rees valley track trailhead follow dirt road that passes through grazing land and small tributary creeks along the Rees (7 km) crossing the river several times. Once on the actual track from the dirt road and have crossed the Rees for the first time either:

Walk up onto the right side hills to avoid the bog (really wet) and sidle almost all the way to 25 mile creek where the ground again dries out.

Cross the bridge over 25 Mile Creek, and cross the Rees River (knee deep) in the vicinity of Twenty-Five Mile Hut close to Lennox Falls.

Zigzagging up through beach forest to Earnslaw hut or climb out of the beech forest on Kea basin track to the grassy slopes of Kea Basin just beyond tree line at 1000 m where there are two rock bivouacs (30 min further)

Day 2: To Esquilant Bivouac Hut (2150m) (6 bunks). The track is marked by cairns above Kea Basin as you climb through alpine grasslands towards ice fields

of the Birley Glacier. From the Birley glacier climb towards Wrights Col (Ice axe and crampons required).

Day 3: Climb Mt Earnslaw ascending the Birley Glacier and through Wright Col (2-3 hrs). Find the rock cairns marking route through the gully to the summit. Drop back down to Earnslaw Hut.

Day 4. Walk out to Rees track carpark

Day 5: Spare Wet weather day.

**Leader:** Rupert Craggs **Ph:** 027 681 1926

**Grade:** F

**Email** [rupert.craggs@niwa.co.nz](mailto:rupert.craggs@niwa.co.nz)

**Transport:** Private arrangements.

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### **Trip 3048**

### **Ngatuhua Lodge**

**17/18 Feb**

A relaxing weekend at Ngatuhua Lodge with plenty of activities for kids and some good tramps. Ngatuhua Lodge is a well setup educational camp located in the Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park on the other side of the Kaimais to the south-east of Tauranga. The lodge sleeps 50 and there is a camping area and a BBQ. It has its own hydro power scheme which is worth a look. There is a confidence course, kayaking in a canal, tubing and swimming in the river. And a night-time glow worm walk. Bush walks of varying lengths are planned to Te Rere I Oturu Falls, Whio Falls and Ngatuhua Falls.. There is also a short nature walk with interpretive panels.

**Leader:** Nicola Guy **Ph:** 027 421 3458

**Grade:** E-M

**Accommodation:** \$50/person

**Transport:** Senior member \$45-75

Senior non-member: \$50-80

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### **Trip 3049**

### **Exploring the Lewis Pass Area**

**19-25 Feb**

The idea is to base ourselves at Boyle Village and do day trips. If the weather is good, we could consider doing a couple of overnight trips, camping on the tops. There are a variety of tracks we can explore, varying between easy to fit (no fit-fit though). Most trips will be around the moderate to fit level but, there are ample options to do your own easier walks. Probably an ideal trip to the South Island to a wonderful area to visit new places / terrain and extend your interest in tramping without worries about carrying too much gear. Exploring the tops around the area is a wonderful experience.

**Tracks available:** – Lewis Tops, Lake Daniell, Mt Faust on the Libretto Range, Nina Valley, Hope Valley, Magdallen Valley, Klondyke Spur and Valley Loop, Mons Sex Millia, and others, including short easy walks.

**Transport:** Depending on the group, this is yet to be decided. A use of a van and drivers would be useful or may need to use hire cars / van.

**Anyone interested in this trip, please contact me before Christmas 2022.**

I will need to have an idea on numbers so as to make a booking at Boyle Village as soon as possible. There are Backpackers accommodation (which I prefer) or camping available. Once I know numbers, I will send out a more detailed programme.

**Leader:** Les Warren

**Ph:** 027 8644937

**Grade:** various

**Email:** warrenlb2017@outlook.com

**Transport:** Private arrangements

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**Trip 3050**

**Mount Tama**

**25-26 Feb**

Friday night will be spent at Waikato Hut.

Option A. For the more adventurous. Tramping past Meads' Wall, we will cross the Whakapapanui and Wairere valleys and then head across to an un-named waterfall, before visiting Saddle Cone. The route then follows down a watercourse to meet the Waihohonu Track. Crossing over the track we will ford the Waihohonu Stream to reach our prime camp site; think views to Ngauruhoe and Tama.

Option B. An easier option. We will drive down to Whakapapa Village and tramp via Taranaki Falls and the Lower Tama Lake to join Option A at the campsite.

Both options will climb Mt Tama (1623m) and minor peaks 1562, 1584, 1650 and 1651, although some of these can be skipped if you wish. From 1650 we will take the ridge down to the west of the Tama Lakes, which affords great views of lakes and mountains. We will finish by taking the track back to Whakapapa Village.

**Leader:** John Wilson, **Ph:** 0211682082 **Grade:** Option A, M/F; Option B, M

**Transport:** tba

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**Trip 3051**

**Canterbury Glaciers**

**26 Feb – 3 Mar**

Meet in Tekapo on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

27<sup>th</sup> Feb: shuttle, then walk up to Godley Hut. This is about an 18km river bed walk, slowly rising and with interesting views (that don't change much for 18km). This walk includes a stop at the smallest 6 berth hut you will ever see - the Red Stag.

28<sup>th</sup> Feb- 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar: 3 days of exploring the views around this area, including climbing the ridge behind the hut towards Mt D'Archaic, crossing the glacial river to the base of the Maud Glacier, tramping over to the Eade Memorial Hut (v small) and climbing Mt Panorama for views of the surrounding glaciers.

3<sup>rd</sup> March - walk out and pick up for Tekapo.

Much will depend on weather and river flows from the glacial lakes.

Possibility of staying longer, and / or getting 4WD delivery to near Godley hut so we can spend extra time up there will depend on who signs up and local contacts. Further details will follow. Numbers will be limited to max of 6 due to hut sizes.

**Leader:** John McArthur

**Ph:** 021 2889641

**Transport:** private arrangements. Shuttle costs tbc.

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*Editorial*

What a great team we make when we get together. And when it comes to things sociable, we are 'par excellence'. 42 of us arrived at our generous hosts' place on the night of Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec for a long-awaited Christmas Party. Jacqui and Ron Dick greeted us at their door and then guided us to the garden at the rear of the property. They had even ordered the perfect warm weather conditions with no

wind. Clever! After a small amount of priming, it was judged that you were ready for a few simple games. Talk about herding cats. Great ideas of organisation eventually turned to custard when the large number of later arrivals skewed the team sizes so the final result was that everyone became a winner and scored a chocolate from the dish. Then it was time for food. And what a banquet it was. You are all gourmet cooks with a wide range of tastes so, thank-you for titivating our tastebuds so well. And to Jacqui and Ron – get ready... most of us are keen to venture back to your address in time to be at the start of the games session next year! For once Selwyn & I were the reluctant last to leave at 1030pm.

I have been checking back over the trips throughout the year and noticed there were several which you haven't read about so this month there is plenty for you to read about. I wouldn't normally leave it so long to chase these reports up – I'll do better next year.

Now it's time to look forward to some wonderful trips over the next 3-4 months. Perhaps challenge yourself to attempting a fitter or more adventurous trip than you usually do. The club is certainly offering many places to visit where you wouldn't normally go.

Dianne June

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### *Presidential Blog*

Merry Christmas everyone. We had another lovely Christmas function at Ron and Jacqui's again this year.

With Our special guests Santa and his elf, (Rupert and Aveael). Also, the food was exceptional - we have a lot of good cooks out there.

I would like to thank everyone for their hard work on the Ski and Tramping Committees and the trip leaders who put so much time and energy in organising the trips.

Plus, thanks to the continued support and hard work of those in the background who continue to make the club great. There are many of you doing great things and I would not like to miss out anyone so Thank you Everyone. Have a safe and happy Christmas and hope that all your plans come to fruition.

Judith Bogle

“The Earth has music for those who listen.” – **William Shakespeare**

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### *from the Ski Club...*

We are well and truly into summer season, although most of us aren't experiencing the sort of good weather that summer promises. Clearly that is coming in the next few months.

There's still snow holding up high, but the crevasse risks are prominent with ice melt, so higher up travels should keep to well-known routes, and be undertaken with suitable snow travel gear and provisions.

Over the summer Waikato Hut is locked up and opens based on sufficient demand. The electrical and water systems are shut off leaving only the critical equipment running on a 24Hr supply. These need to be switched on in sequence to

avoid equipment damage. I mention this so you have realistic expectations about thinking that a trip to the lodge is a last-minute option - when you haven't been previously or it's been a while. Once you have been run through the open & close process it's a straightforward task to get it open and then close it down on departure. If you're thinking of a visit, I suggest you look up your Ski club friends, who generally know how it works and can deal with the other aspects of being on mountain over a few days.

I'm hoping to be in residence sometime in mid-January for an extended weekend, a trip to the summit of Mt Ruapehu and some other day walks. That's a great chance for others to come along and get up to speed on hut affairs.

From all of us on the Ski Committee and Club wishing you a merry Xmas.

Stephen Prendergast, Ski club

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### **Comments on our future on Mt. Ruapehu**

Most people will be aware that the Mt Ruapehu ski field operator Ruapehu Alpine Lifts (RAL) has been placed in voluntary administration and is no longer commercially viable.

When you cut through all of the excuses a combination of lockdowns, optimistic financial decisions and a woeful 2022 ski season proved fatal. What happens next is the multi- million (literally) dollar question.

There's a vigorous group of ski and snowboard enthusiasts coupled with the local communities and some longstanding life pass holders rallying to resurrect a community led and crowd funded phoenix to continue the public benefit endeavours that RAL was established to achieve.

Recent additional funding via a government loan will allow the maintenance and planning cycle to continue for a 2023 ski season. There are other hurdles that will need to be traversed before that becomes a reality. It takes many staff to run the ski field, at the senior level these are multi year appointments which have ceased as a result of the collapse of RAL. Younger and working holiday seasonal staff work on casual contracts with minimum hours. They are in demand in the more reliable southern ski fields and in some cases are still owed money by RAL.

Life pass holders have been asked to stump up more to retain their pass privileges. For many this is not affordable, for recent purchases which are those since 2017 it feels like a punch to the gut.

All this as the cost of living is skyrocketing and the prospect of unemployment increasing - as the Reserve bank slams the financial brakes on. It would be an awful time for an eruption.

The skifields sit inside the Tongariro National Park. A dual listed world heritage park. It has immense cultural and environmental status. RAL operated based on a recently renewed 30 year concession issued by DoC, with Iwi approval, and a development plan that forecast the removal of structures from the higher up the mountain. This is where there is the more reliable natural snow and also covers the

area gifted by Te Heuheu to New Zealand. Given the significance of the location the process to transfer the concession to anyone else is unlikely to be speedy or without challenges. An interim concession seems more achievable. An Iwi led operation most likely in the current circumstances. It's complicated with the last licence renewal process spanning 3 years.

The skifield is one of the key economic contributors of the regional economy with a value in the tens of million dollars annually. Losing that would be a huge blow and result in a spiral effect as it cascaded to other businesses and operations.

How does this play out ?

It's likely a medium-term game will be played by all parties. The ski field will operate on the basis of a going concern for 2023, de-risking any knock on the collapse of RAL might cause, and establishing an operating value for an eventual sale. Once through that period a commercial sale will be made to an interested party. I believe this can only be an Iwi led transaction. It would be virtually impossible for any other party to meet the high bar that will be required to transfer the concessions. Applying for new concessions would be beyond the risk level that a commercial party would consider practical or sensible.

In the meantime we need to lobby the government to continue the support to enable the environment that leads to a sustainable commercial sale. This may even take several years.

For full details on how you can become involved and stay up with the news on developments the website <http://savemountruapehu.org.nz> has plenty of info and discussions on all of these events, and what a crowd funded contribution will look like.

Stephen Prendergast

### **STOP PRESS: RAL bailout**

The Government has decided to provide a further \$6 million in bridging funding to help stave off liquidation of Ruapehu Alpine Lifts. The operator of Tūroa and Whakapapa ski fields needed \$9m to survive until the 2023 ski season begins, but had only received \$4.5m from the Crown and ANZ which was expected to run out at the end of December.

This follows a survey of Life Pass Holders, which indicated some financial support, but fell short of the funding required to support a new entity to operate the ski fields

RAL voluntary administrator John Fisk said he was “delighted” about the extra funding. The company could now proceed with a season pass campaign in February to raise further capital. It will also mean the Sky Waka gondola could be open for sightseeing during the Christmas period. Source: NZ Herald 8/12/22.

### **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

Here comes the catch-up of outstanding trip reports.....

### **Trip 2982**

### **Blue Bill Falls**

**31 Jan**

This trip reinforced for me that things change. Like names. I first went up the then named Blue Bull Stream on a search in the 1970s, where we had to call a chopper to lift out an injured searcher, Cedric Hagyard. I remember hoping that the bull was historical. A decade or so later the stream became the Tawhitiwhiti. Okay, great. But then someone realised that the Tawhitiwhiti was actually around the mountain a bit by Arthur Road, and Blue Bull was reinstated. I am not sure when it happened, but the name morphed into Blue Bill just a few years ago. Mind you DOC still calls it Blue Bull on their website, so it is a bit of a puzzle. I wonder if that tributary of the Kaniwhaniwha had a separate Maori name. But Blue Bill! Where did that weirdo come from?

Another change is that we did not get to the falls, running out of time well short of them. It wasn't a problem last time. Either the stream is more difficult to walk along, or we are slower. I won't make a call on where the change lies. On a reconnaissance I checked out getting to the falls from the Bell Track beyond Central Clearing. Seriously dense curtains of supplejack now make this impossible for all but extreme masochists. Last time it was easy walking out from the top of the falls. Change again!

Anyway, Theresa, Fiona, Tony, Jean and myself had a thoroughly enjoyable day wandering up the stream and back. It is very pretty and on a hot day, much more pleasant being in the bush than sweltering in the city. Thanks, Theresa, for coffee and ginger nuts back at the cars.

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### **Trip 2986**

### **Dart Rees**

**13-18 Feb**

Way back in February the group of five were trying to assemble in Queenstown. Unfortunately, for Cathy and Lynette, their flight was turned back to Auckland five minutes from touch down in Queenstown due to high wind. Day one of the tramp saw us rushing out to the airport to collect after an early start from Auckland then into the shuttle bus down to the start of the track. Once at the start point it was up to Daley Flat Hut, hugging the rock outcrops to start with then passing the massive rock slide (the reason I was doing this trip as this section was closed for a couple of years). The amount of earth/stones that moved in the slip is an incredible sight. Whilst talking to some other trappers along came Amanda so the group of five was now six. When we reach Daley hut, Rob Brown and his hut and track maintenance team were there replacing a wire bridge further along the track that accessed a mountaineering track. After having a chat to the bridge builders it was

time to turn in for the night. So, as we lay in bed, we had a ‘what was that ‘ moment. Nothing like a good size earthquake jolt to lull you to sleep.

Day Two, it was the tramp up to the impressive Dart hut. Out in the open we had hot sunny days, stopping at the huge rock house bivvy for lunch and then into the hot sunshine to the hut .With it being the last weekend of the university holidays the hut was quite full.

Day three was the day we were going up to Cascade saddle. A long slog up past the rapidly melting glacier that had seriously receded in the five or six years since I was last been there. Time for a cup of tea thanks to the one that was always making a Billy full and most of the group took off. I decided finally to get into gear and go up to join them .The views from the top of the saddle are to die for (and I thought I was), and, after the compulsory photo shoot and distance gazing, it was time to head back to hut. Long day.

Day four was a bit of a muck up by the leader as the day walk that I intended to do was no more and the bridge gone and track had been closed. Oh what to do? I know work on our suntans hang around the hut and have a Moi. This we did and completed this arduous task with flying colours, oh what a luxury. Amanda left to retrace her footprints and to continue on her own travels

Day Five was up and over the Rees saddle (I forgot just how steep this track starts out from the hut). Soon we came to a rocky outcrop with a couple of keas wanting to show off their tricks. The bird lovers were ecstatic with a lot of photos taken and finally we moved off up to summit the saddle. Here the tea maker again (having left earlier) was there with a brew on -fabulous. After lunch it was down the other side and then a splash along the river to the Shelter Rock Hut. In residence were two woman doing a ground study on rock wren numbers.

Day Six started cloudy and overcast – and then the walk out I was not looking forward to -the walk to the farm walk. The walk out has changed a bit since last time with an extremely long fence line built to keep the cattle out of the Rees River. Suddenly, out of the corner of my eye, I saw someone on a mountain bike that looked a lot like Colin. It was he, having swapped his pack for a mountain bike belonging to the boss of the two woman doing the research work who had come to join them. But the best was still to come as they had brought their Ute as far down the farm as possible and offered us lift out to the road. The poor Crumpy Vehicle had seven trampers seven packs squeezed into it (including the tray) and with exhaust and suspension bottoming out we crawled and bumped our way out of the farmland. So it wasn't long 'til we met the shuttle bus and then back into Queenstown for a hot shower, food that didn't come out of a foil pack and a cold one. The scenery on the trip has to some of the most stunning in the South Island Many thanks to those who came along for the good times and companionship and cups of tea.

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*We are not aging – we are ripening to perfection*



## Trip 3001

## Hauhungatahi Track

ANZAC weekend gave us three days to enjoy the Hauhungaroa track from out the back of Ongarue through to Taupo's western bay road at Waihaha, and a merry bunch of nine of us set out on Saturday morning to do so. We (finally) got to the end of Mangakau Road where Dianne executed an expert nine-point turn of the van and she and Selwyn headed off to the other side.



Just as we gasped in awe at one bunch, we would see another larger group. This piece of forest gave us the most amazing sight of a forest of blue mushrooms (Werewere Kokako - *Entoloma hochstetterii* - \$50 note). Happy at this vision, we danced up the 330m rise onto the ridge and then on along the

relatively flat ridge to the Hauhungaroa hut (8.5km). The forest here was low and thin, appearing to be regrowth, and gave us some (poor) views to the south. A number of us camped and got a little wet.

Sunday started off with much the same forest feeling before we descended through a couple of plateaus and the forest took on a healthier, un-touched, appearance, with much larger trees. After a last steep descent, we were into the Waihaha river valley and had about 5km of beautiful forest bathing before getting to Waihaha hut where Dianne and Selwyn met us (12.6km) (something smelled bad at the river crossing).

Monday was the walk out that many of you will be familiar with; the views from along the open, low scrub, track beside the river, the fascinating sculptured rock of the river bed. We went down to play on the rock flats of the river bed, carved sandstone.

Once we got to the road (9.6km) and got civilised again we took a quick trip to the Waihora lagoon. The lagoon was dry but the birdsong along the track to it was beautiful! And then, as always, the road trip back to civilisation. Thanks to Dianne for driving, and the rest of the team for great company on the track and in the huts - great fun.

Les W, John Mc (scribe) Cathy D, Graeme C, Anneriek D, Judith B, Dawn A, Dianne and Selwyn J.

**Trip 3015****Maungatautari Traverse****31 July**

With the Northern Enclosure entry point being closed to the public for a number of years, the opportunity for the Club to hold a trip starting from the Northern Enclosure arrived. The initial idea was to do a full traverse from the Northern Enclosure to the Southern Enclosure but, with no van driver coming forward, this option was dropped. A shame we could not do the full traverse but, maybe in the Summer would be better. The weather was not looking good for a week to 10 days out but, on the day, we were pleasantly lucky to escape with one short shower – so a lovely day was had by all.

At one stage the group size was 13 but, four people pulled out for various reasons. This left nine keen trampers keen to get out and enjoy a trip close to Hamilton.

We left the carpark at the marae on Hicks Road at 9am and headed up the purpose built wide track up to the Northern Enclosure Gate where some had a toilet stop at the only toilets available on the track (well stocked with loo paper). To gain access to the main tracks over the mountains, you walk another couple of minutes further on to a second gate. From here it is about 10 to 15 minutes to the tramping track proper. Time to this point from the carpark was 50min.

Shortly after starting on the tramping track, it started to rain, so decided to use this stop to put on our raincoats as a short snack stop. Soon we were on our way again and it was a long steady climb up to Maungatautari which we arrived at around 1130. We stopped here for lunch in fine weather. Unfortunately, not much of a view here. After lunch, everyone was happy to return to the carpark via the Wairere Traverse, a vehicle track. Track still quite undulating but easy walking. We arrived back at the carpark at 1pm, earlier than anticipated, so most were happy to stop in Cambridge for a coffee fix.

The group was: Les Warren (Leader & scribe), Barb C, Jeanette D, Julia L, Tracy B, Kathy T, Warren B, Fiona G and Jim S.

**Trip 3027****Northern Tararua Crossing****22-24 Oct**

We parked up at Poads Road, hugged Jeanette and set off without her.

Crossing our first stile we hiked across farmland briefly to the forest edge. The track was in good condition climbing up to Waiopahu Hut, which has great views out across to the West Coast, Levin and Lake Horowhenua. We met a trumper called Grant in the hut, he was staying the night and would then follow in our tracks. The hut was like a fridge box inside, but the deck facing Levin was bathed in sunshine. Les wasn't feeling great but pushed on with us along the undulating track up to Richards Knob (985m) down to Butchers Saddle (690m) and up again to Te Matawai hut at 900m. We had the hut to ourselves, it smelt a bit damp inside so we threw open windows and doors and Jim lit a fire. Bed at dark to be off by 8am.

Upon waking, Les decided to go back out the way we had come as he was still not feeling great. More goodbyes but we were relieved that he had decided to retrace our footsteps back to the car, rather than use unknown tracks. From Te Matawai

hut we tramped through mud and pushed uphill through tussocky grass sometimes shoulder high to the bushline at 1100m and then upwards to Pukematawai peak at 1432m. Off track and uphill to Arete at 1505m and down to Arete Hut for lunch. A very comfortable 2-bunk hut with a long-drop not too far away.

After lunch we were unsure how long it would take to get to Tarn Ridge hut, estimates anything between 5pm and 7pm; Amanda and Jim placed headtorches on top of packs just in case. Navigating to spot height 1389m and then Lancaster peak we came to the anticipated Waiohine Pinnacles. Poles were of little use as the only real way was up and over each outcrop, sometimes only a boot-width and a considerable drop on each side. The signpost indicated 1.5hours to Tarn Ridge, which psychologically did me the power of good. The wind was barely a breeze, we could see our breath it was so cold, yet we had worked up a sweat. Three more peaks of 1313, 1371 and 1393m, each time a drop in between and then finally Tarn Ridge hut. What a damp hut! A door has been replaced but the framing around it is barely holding together. A fire but no wood and so far above the bushline there's nothing to scavenge. The long-drop is uphill on a very muddy path, and the door was off its' hinges. The view is spectacular from the seat and ironically the "wee" structure does not have any damp. In the hut we found 5 mattresses that weren't covered in mould and settled in for the night, knowing the forecast for wind meant an early start to get over Mitre Peak. As dusk was falling a trumper came in from Mitre, with a dog and in tears. A trail-runner on her first overnight trip it had been an overwhelming experience coming down Mitre Peak after starting at The Pines car park that morning. A huge day, no wonder she was overwhelmed. Her much more experienced tramping partner came in a few minutes later. To our surprise the dog was sleeping indoors but they had no bedrolls with them. In fact, the first trumper didn't even have long trousers. She did have a fry pan and a steak. The temperature dropped, we slept in all our clothes, waking around 2.30am to wind howling around the hut.

The option to get stuck at Tarn Ridge was not a good one, as we didn't have 3 more days' food, no fire wood and it was going to get colder. Although Jim had decided we could break up the WC door and burn that in the stove!

We were all awake at 5.30am as the other couple and dog left in the direction we had come. We were packed up and out of the door by 7am. Difficult to decide what to wear as the wind was cold, we would start in the shadow of the hills but had several climbs with descents between before Mitre. We got up to Girdlestone 1546m and onto Brockett 1538m and then across a narrow ridge where we were buffeted by gusts of wind that kept us awake, glad we had set out very early and pushed us onward. Pukeamaomo/Mitre 1571m is another hand and foot climb without poles. There is no single path, just lots of switchbacks to make the climb more tolerable. Without a trig on the top, just a timber pole we were all amazed at the peaks we could see in a panorama: Tarawera, Putauaki, Ngauruhoe, Ruapehu, Taranaki, Mount Arthur, Nelson Lakes and finally Tapuae-o-Uenuku mountain.

We messaged Jeanette, team leader, to reassure her that we'd made it over to Mitre before the wind really picked up.

The long descent began, Peggy's Peak 1545m, Morning Tea in a wee spot of sunlight sheltered from the wind. We could see two trampers on another ridge South of us making good progress. We had come into the wilderness and yet seen several people! On the loose stone slopes down to the bushline at 1100m we passed another couple who were doing a day return to Mitre Peak from the hut. The track in the beech forest was much drier on the East side of the Tararua Range than the West where we started. Much treefall added some diversions, then down into rimu, tawa and punga forest. We had lunch on the track before arriving at Mitre Flats hut around 1pm. Our shortest day so far, we enjoyed a cup of coffee, tea, a dip in the river and chatted with the other trampers who arrived from all directions. The two we had seen on a ridge were a mother and son, out on the Three Kings loop for her birthday.

Jim laid a fire in the stove but we didn't use it as it stayed quite warm.

We left the hut just before 8am. Thinking it would be an amble out, we were up for a 4-hour undulating walk through rimu, matai and miro into tawa. Huge trees, some leaning at illogical angles. More treefall and diversions. We had Morning Tea on the track. Eventually reaching the edge of the Forest Park, another stile to mark the official end of our tramp, we still had over a kilometre to meet Les and Jeanette with the cars at The Pines carpark.

We drove to Masterton for brunch, coffee and to debrief with the Trip Leader. An excellent tramp, dampened by Jeanette not able to come with us, Les turning back and Amanda slowing the group on the first two days. The weather gods were with us, the views were spectacular and even the drive home was without traffic. Huge thanks to Jeanette, trip-leader. Dale H, Les W, David T, Jim S and Amanda C (scribe).

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### **Trip 3029                      Marokopa lost coast bonfire night                      5 / 6 November**

Or, how an 'adventure tramp' to and fro along the coast south of Marokopa turned into an 'adventure camp' at the beach. A recce by Rupert and Aveael convinced them that steep cliffs and high inland bush ridges might make a coastal approach to the beach selected for the bonfire slightly difficult. Following a conference with the farm owners a much more civilised alternative was decided upon.

So we set off Saturday morning for a southern approach: down SH 3, through the Awakino Gorge and north through Waikawau and onto Nukuharkari Station. Oh, I forgot to mention the coffee stop at the Fat Pigeon cafe in Piopio.

After driving several kilometres through the farm we had a 20 minute walk lugging our goodies across sand dunes to our very own beach and campsite. This was Ngararahae Beach, one of a succession of sheltered sandy bays along an otherwise rock platformed and cliffed coast. Tents were set up on spongy-grassed, rolling dunes and driftwood collected for the bonfire and seating. (*Ed comment: note the*

*bright green strip of grass down the hillside at the far end of the beach – bum slide country!).*



Our campsite

Photos by Selwyn June

Rupert appraised us of a number of walking options for the two days. A climb of a castle-like massif didn't appeal, so we set off to the north along the farmland above the cliffs, heading to a seal colony (*Ed comment: for a "short" walk*). Spectacular rock formations were admired and lone seals seen in some of the rocky inlets (but no seal colony). Some characters ventured close to the cliff edge, providing subjects for staged photos. We got as far as Tirua Point after some gully and nikau forest travel, and could see up the coast to Marokopa. A quicker return was made across the farm – 3 hours later.

Now for the main event. In the shelter of some bushes we huddled for nibbles and mains around a large bonfire of driftwood. For dessert, there was a most delectable competition between chocolate brownies and toasted marshmallows. We slept to the sound of the relentless surf and oystercatchers. Allan and Jacqui tried sleeping under the stars; they reported a pleasant night but awoke to find dew covering their sleeping bags.

Next day we headed south across farmland, making our way uphill on a steep slope covered with kikuyu grass (later this was where we made a rapid return on our backsides). A high point was reached with views over our bay and the next bay down the coast. Not surprisingly this was the site of a lookout pā with its terraces

still visible. We then headed down towards the coast, watching massive waves crashing onto the rocks and returning along the cliff tops to our starting point. A 1½ hours (“short”) walk had turned into 3 hours later, but we were happy. The sand dunes have spread inland over farm paddocks to cover some 30 hectares. Attempts are being made to stabilise them by planting the sand binding plants Spinifex and toetoe.

After packing up our camp and heading back across dunes and farmland, we stopped off at the Waikawau stock tunnel, which takes you from the road-end through a ridge onto the beach. Here we walked along the sand a short way, examining rock layering and folding in the cliffs and walking out onto rock platforms. The way home led to a stop for real fruit ice creams and coffee at Piopio. Many thanks to Rupert and Aveael for scouting out and organising such a unique and most enjoyable trip.

Participants: our wonderful leaders Rupert and Aveael, Judith, Jacqui, Barb, Allan W, Lynette, Selwyn (scribe) and Dianne, Meridy and Phillip

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Getting ready for the Guy Fawkes party

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### *From the committee table:*

**New members:** Brian Prescott, Mary Hsu. Welcome back to Richard & Marion Francis

**Resignations:** None

**Membership:** We have 195 tramping members this month.

Have you CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS, EMAIL ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER in the past year? If so, please make an effort to notify the membership convener of the changes. It is important that everyone's information is up to date and correct- from an H&S point of view and in order that you receive your bulletin and other club information.

**From the tramping chairman:** Our new Transport Officer is Allan Wickens – an 'oldie' but a goodie!

**From the transport officer who leads lots of trips:** Hi Team Leaders (or not). Popular huts booked for WTC use

If you have been frustrated lately at not being able to stay during the weekend at popular huts in the greater Waikato area, here's the chance to be able to.

We've booked 10 places in each of the following huts, spread over 3 months of 2023. They are:-

TRIP 3058 – PAHAUTEA HUT ON PIRONGIA Saturday 15 April. 10 of 15 bunks booked @\$5.00 p.p

TRIP 3063 - WAITAWHETA HUT IN THE NORTHERN KAIMAIS Saturday 13 May. 10 of 26 bunks booked @ \$20.00 p.p

TRIP 3068 - CROSBIES HUT IN THE COROMANDELS Saturday 17 June. 10 of 10 bunks (whole hut) booked at \$20.00 p.p

All bookings are adult prices only. Anyone wishing to take Juniors will have to pay the same price as adults (too messy to change bookings).

On each weekend there will be one medium and one fitter trip planned, with the two groups meeting at the huts Saturday nights. Further details will be on our website and in the Bulletin soon.

Here's your chance to do the "combo" and grab a bunk at each hut, or you may wish to go to just one or two of the huts.

NOTE: There is some camping available at these huts, but at this stage we do not intend to take up camping spots (may be subject to change if enough people are interested). Each trip will involve either one vanload (Waitawheta and Crosbies) or private cars (Pahautea).

In the first instance, can you please let the event/s organiser Allan Wickens know your intentions ([allanwickens@hotmail.com](mailto:allanwickens@hotmail.com)). You can make a firm booking on our website closer to the dates involved. Let Allan know if you prefer an easy-ish trip or a more challenging one.

If successful, we'll look at doing this more often and plan on going to other "bookable" huts as well.

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## *Photo competition results*

A comment from our judges was that many photos were untitled. This makes it harder for them to judge whether you achieved what you set out to do, and for the viewers to form a relationship with where you were.

Next time... give your picture a name please.

## Above bushline

### with no human element

1<sup>st</sup>: Lynnette Morris 'Untitled';  
2<sup>nd</sup> Kat Rowe 'Untitled';  
3<sup>rd</sup>: Annemarie Lamb 'Armstrong saddle'

### with a human element

1<sup>st</sup> Jacqui Dick 'Southern Crossing'  
2<sup>nd</sup> Mary Reed 'Almost there'  
3<sup>rd</sup>: Jacqui Dick 'Southern Crossing'

## Below bushline

### with no human element

1<sup>st</sup> Amanda Collins 'the other tree#insta#climate change';  
2<sup>nd</sup> Russell Lamb 'the chasm';  
3<sup>rd</sup> Mary Reed 'Tokerau beach'.

### with a human element

1<sup>st</sup> Mike Peck 'Untitled'  
2<sup>nd</sup> Russell Lamb 'The chasm'  
3<sup>rd</sup> Kat Rowe 'Untitled'

### Native flora and fauna

1<sup>st</sup> Jacqui Dick 'Karearea'  
2<sup>nd</sup> Stephen Phillips 'Picking feathers'  
3<sup>rd</sup> John McArthur 'what are you thinking'

### Long exposure

1<sup>st</sup> Stephen Phillips 'Puriri under the stars'  
2<sup>nd</sup> Stephen Phillips 'Pohutukawa under the stars'

### Historic

1<sup>st</sup> Annemarie Lamb : WTC Family trip Nat. Park  
2<sup>nd</sup> Russell Lamb 'Tararua Peaks 1986'  
3<sup>rd</sup> Russell Lamb 'Kaweka 1987'

### International

1<sup>st</sup> Kat Rowe 'Untitled'  
2<sup>nd</sup> Dianne June 'Ups and downs'  
3<sup>rd</sup> Dianne June 'Guiding light'

Club Character: Amanda Collins 'Terminal Face'

Best overall: Kat Rowe 'Untitled'

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

✓ At the November club night we had a brief talk from Etienne de Villiers who is doing a social anthropology degree at Otago University. His topic is **Walking and talking: Exploring social connection via the chronotypes of tramping, among the older adults in the Waikato.** (*Ed comment: by 'old' he means anyone over 55 years of age!!!*). Looking at those at the club night this would mean most of us are eligible candidates. An outline of his brief was circulated on September 30<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to be part of this survey. Please contact Etienne directly: [devet032@student.otago.ac.nz](mailto:devet032@student.otago.ac.nz). Results of his study will be made available to participants.

✓ *A message from Jeanette Broker (BirdsNZ):* 'In September you were kind enough to advertise to your members that Birds NZ (Ornithological Society of New Zealand) was holding a ruru census in Hamilton City. A number of your members participated in the survey and we are grateful for their support. The results have been collated and I wanted to share them with you as you may have other members who might be interested in the results. Feel free to share the results with any interested party you know of. Ruru were detected in 19 out of 20 locations (none at University during survey but calls heard by university staff at other times). Sites where ruru detected the most were Pukete Mountain park, Days Park, Casey



Ave Gully, Claudelands Bush, Parana Park (soldiers Memorial Park), Hammond Park, Sandford Park, and Edgecumbe Park. Sighted also was the skytrain (Elon Musks' satellites, and detected was one long-tailed bat.'

✓ **Mokai access in north-western Ruahine.** FMC have helped secure the reopening of the legal access route through Mokai Station. This should be open by Christmas. This opens up that part of the Ruahine Range for our trip programme. There is a neat 3 or 4 day circuit to Ruahine Corner (on the edge of cedar forest looking out over tussock to the Tongariro volcanoes), and back through beech forest past Lake Colenso. The club last visited there in 1989.

✓ **Looking after your PLB.** The latest FMC Backcountry highlights the number of false activations of personal locator beacons. In 2021, 515 out of 837 beacon activations were false. Keep your PLB dry in a waterproof bag - the beacons can start transmitting when wet. Best keep your PLB in the protective case provided - some beacons have been activated when sat on, dropped or squashed. If a device is badly damaged or unwanted it should be taken to a Police station or sent to the Rescue Coordination centre for proper disposal. Don't just throw them in the rubbish when the battery is expired.

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

➤ FMC is in discussions with the DoC and Tuhoe group about plans to remove **huts and shelters in Te Urewera** . If you are planning to visit the area, it may be useful to contact the nearest DoC office for up-to-date information. Iwi have advised that Tawhiwhi hut, Waikare Junction Hut will be used for temporary kaimahi accommodation, while Te Wairoa/Rogers Hut, Tataweka hut, and Te Totara Hut are under the historic classification. All the huts on the Great Walk will remain open for the time being. Maraunui base hut is used for staff accommodation and is open but up for consideration. All the others are closed and destined for removal. When dealing with the many issues at Te Urewera, we must always look to the future and how we can achieve best outcomes for our members in the future. This will call for patience with Tūhoe Te Uru Taumatua, and their patience with us.

➤ The **National Plan for kauri** introduces ten new rules/regulations, the most important ones for trampers being Rules 8 and 9:  
Plan rule 8: obligation to clean items before entering or exiting kauri forest  
Plan rule 9: obligation to use cleaning stations.

➤ The Backcountry Trust is now looking for clubs and interested volunteers to propose **projects** for the Trust's bulk funding application to the Community Conservation Partnership Fund. Projects to be funded fall into four main areas under the theme of integrated conservation management:

Biodiversity Support: projects that support volunteer efforts with biodiversity work.

Heritage Restoration: historic huts.

Community Support: projects that are driven by current groups we work with, such as Permolat, NZDA branches, Kaimai Ridgeway Trust, Mountain Biking groups, etc.

National Priority Projects: projects for national initiatives like Te Araroa, or local family opportunities valued by locals that encourage more people to enjoy the backcountry.

Your project proposal will need to have an estimated budget for the maintenance work and a letter of support from the manager of the hut or track. You need to get this expression of interest to the Backcountry Trust within the next three weeks.

For more information or assistance in preparing your proposal, For north island projects email: [megan.dimozantos@backcountrytrust.org.nz](mailto:megan.dimozantos@backcountrytrust.org.nz).

➤ Mapping company Geographx has recently launched a new website to showcase its catalogue of **New Zealand wilderness and backcountry maps**.

There are close to 50 maps currently featured but more are in the pipeline:

<https://geographx.co.nz>

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Just one more

Photo by Amanda Collins

Photo competition: above bushline, no human element



Sibling play

Photo by John McArthur

*Photo competition entries – Native Flora & Fauna*

White Heron on Pororari R. Dianne June



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