



THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

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

February 2022



The Water race tunnels track at Broken Hills Photo by Dave White

WAIKATO HUT

Your lodge on Mt Ruapehu
Tongariro National Park



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Hump Ridge tooth by Amanda Collins

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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 834

December 2021

General Committee

(Contact details listed below)

President: Judith Bogle 027 3810283
Secretary: Dorothy Cawdron 027 7424222
Treasurer: Guy Domett treasurer@wtc.org.nz 027 2483008
Immediate past president: Selwyn June
Members: John McArthur (VP Tramp) Stephen Prendergast (VP Ski)
Stephen Phillips Allan Wickens Lois Rowell Ashley Hoskin Mike Barker
Mike Nightingale 8562394

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**Tramping Subcommittee**

**Tramping email:** waikatotrampingclub@gmail.com

**Chairperson:** John McArthur mcarthur@outlook.co.nz 021 2889641  
**Secretary:** Dorothy Cawdron **Treasurer:** Guy Domett  
**Club Captain:** Allan Wickens 027 9509546  
**Membership:** Lois Rowell 027 2881148  
**Web & Facebook:** Rizal Razak 021 2676566  
**Transport:** Ashley Hoskin 027 4909545  
**Social convenor:** Jacqui Dick 021 1375201  
**Sub-committee:** Selwyn June 027 4978151

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Ski Subcommittee

Ski email: waikatoski@gmail.com **Waikato Hut phone:** 07 8923821
Chairperson: Stephen Prendergast 021 466247
Bookings: Stephen Prendergast 021 466247
Finance officer: Michael Barker 021 2463500
Members: Steve Phillips 021 1031436
Mary Reed 021 1185107

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

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

Club night, Wednesday 2nd March

John Wilson will be our speaker tonight. John has been a member of the club for many decades and has a wealth of knowledge about the history of the club. What he doesn't know about tramping isn't worth knowing!

He will be speaking about the development of our Waikato Hut on Mt Ruapehu, show something of his use of the hut then range out to tell us about some of the neat places to visit around the park using the hut as a base

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2021/2022

2987	20 Feb	E/M	River crossing training	Allan Wickens
2988	20-28 Feb	F	5 passes/Lake Nerine	John Davies
2989	3-6 Mar	M	Kawekas	Jacqui Dick/ Mike Peck
2990	5/6 Mar	E/M	Leitches alternate tracks	Judith Bogle/ Theresa O'Leary
2991	6-11 Mar	M/F	Richmond Range	Keith Robbins
2992	6-11 Mar	M/F	Nelson cycling	Margaret Robbins
2993	13 Mar		Kaitarakihi	Judith Bogle
2994	19/20 Mar	M	Haungahautahi wilderness	Les Warren
2995	22-25 Mar	M	Arthurs Pass	Keith Robbins
2996	26/27 Mar	M/F	Kaimai work party	Allan Wickens
2997	29 Mar/1 Apr	M	Paparoa Range	Margaret Robbins
2998	3 Apr	M	Tuahu/Killarney lakes loop	Les Warren
2999	9/10 Apr	E	Ruapehu working party	Stephen Prendergast
3000	15-18 Apr	M/F	Barlows-Colenso Spur-Sparrowhawk	Allan Wickens
3001	23-25 Apr	M/F	Pureora traverse	Theresa O'Leary

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 confirm your booking on the website

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

Trip 2987

River Crossing training

20 Feb

As part of the training programme our Club offers, we will be holding a one-day river training course adjacent to Rangitoto Station. The upper Waipa River will be our venue and has been used by us on a number of occasions, dependent on the river level at the time. After driving to Otorohanga, we then travel a further half hour to Rangitoto Station, the home Of Duncan and Rhonda Oliver. After crossing their land for about 20 minutes, we walk down a 4WD track to the river. This return walk is a pleasant day out in itself. Once we arrive at our training area, we will practice various methods involved in river crossing, such as mutual support. We will also identify where to cross (and where not too). The course culminates in a "pack-floating session" where we learn how to survive, should we be in the unfortunate position of losing our footing while crossing a river. This is the fun part, where we get totally wet. In this regard, those participating must indicate to the leader, what their swimming ability is. You may wish to skip this part of the

training. It will probably be hot, so a good, wide sunhat and sunscreen is essential. Bring your lunch, walking pole/s, change of clothes and a towel. Boots are essential for this day out. If the river level is too low for practical training purposes, the Course will be re-scheduled to a later date.

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

Email: *allanwickens@hotmail.com*

Transport: Senior member \$20-35 Senior non-member: \$25-30

Trip 2988 **Five Passes via Lake Nerine** **20-28 Feb**

This trip is full

A spectacular 9 day tenting hike, off-trail in the Mt Aspiring National Park crossing 5 passes and visiting the ruggedly beautiful Lake Nerine.

Travel along river valleys, steep snow grass slopes, alpine tarns and passes, and scree covered rocky slopes with time to explore the Fohn Lakes, Park Pass Glacier and Lake Nerine.

Leaders: John Davies **Ph:** 027 4772209 **Grade:** F

: Jo Walker **Ph:** 027 3097750

Transport: Private arrangements

Trip 2989 **Kaweka Traverse** **3-6 Mar**

Thursday: Depart London Street at 6pm. Dinner in Taupo and then on to stay the night at Mohaka River Farm <https://www.mohakariverfarm.co.nz/accommodation>

Friday: The van driver will take us up to the end of Makahu Saddle Road where we begin our tramp. We first climb up to Kaweka J (1724m), then turn north and walk along the Kaweka Range ridge tops to Whetu (1650m). From here we head west to Venison Tops Hut (Tira Lodge) which is situated on the tops with panoramic views.

Saturday: A nice early start (Mike suggested 5am but it will be later than that as it still dark then!!). We will walk across to Mangaturutu Hut for breakfast (2 hours) before a long descent down to the Makino River. The plan is to then walk down the banks of the Makino River (off track) to Te Puia Lodge, then up to the delightful Mangatainoka Hot Springs where we will camp for the night, soak in the hot pools, do river plunges and have some games of 500.

Sunday: A leisurely 3 hour walk out to the road end then head home, arriving back in Hamilton late afternoon.

Note this trip includes a Friday. It will also be weather dependent so if it is horrible weather, we will postpone it to another weekend in March. 8 hour days with plenty of climbing & descents.

Leader: Jacqui Dick **Ph:** 021 2608149 **Grade:** F

: Mike Peck **Ph:** 021 369 256

Transport: Senior member \$80-130 Senior non-member: \$85-135

Trip 2990 **Leitches alternate tracks** **5/6 Mar**

Suitable for first-time overnight trampers - meet on Tuesday evening 22nd February 7pm at TOLBECS, 74 Naylor St. An opportunity for anyone unsure of

what to bring for an overnight trip – we can talk about what gear (wet, sun, warm, sleep, water etc) you will need and show you alternative choices. We will have time before the tramp to help you find any items you need to borrow.

The hut sleeps 16, has mattresses and a toilet. You will need one standard hut ticket or a back country hut pass.

Saturday we will leave at 8am, make our way south past Pio Pio, to Whareorino forest, walk in from Mahoenui, following the Awakino River north into Leitches Hut. We will have the opportunity to share learning on tramping food – and bring something suitable to share for pre-dinner snacking too! Sunday we will walk out leisurely and share a coffee/icecream on the way home.

Leaders: Theresa O'Leary

Ph: 027 4162633

Grade: E/M

: Judith Bogle

Ph: 027 3810283

Transport: Senior member \$45-75

Senior non-member: \$50-80

Trip 2991

Richmond Range revisited

6-11 Mar

Many Te Araroa walkers consider this section of the trail as the finest, so let's go do it while the huts will be relatively empty. This is a hut-based 6-day tramp along the tops of the Richmond range to the southeast of Nelson, with stunning views and a bit of scree/rock work, so Medium Fit. We will take a shuttle from Nelson leaving around 9am on 6th Mar to Hackett road end, then up the 900m climb up to Starveall Hut above the bush-line for our first night, about 6 hours.

Day 2,3,4 and 5 are also about 6hr each, along the open tops as we follow the range southwards.

Day 6 [12th] we drop down to follow the Wairoa River out to road end where the shuttle will pick us up and return us to Nelson, a bit slower going over sometimes difficult terrain, about 4 hours.

If fire danger closes the track we will do a tent based traverse of the Travers Range, Nelson Lakes, skirting under Mts Angelus, Cupola and Travers. Please phone the leader if you need more information.

Leader: Keith Robbins

Ph: 021 120 7752

Grade: M/F

Transport: Private arrangements. Discuss shuttle plans with the leader.

Trip 2992

Nelson cycling

6-11 Mar

Bookings for this trip have closed.

This trip is the Great Taste trail with an extension to St Arnaud on the Golden Downs Trail. Due to accommodation issues the trip is limited to 6 participants.

The grade is easy/intermediate and we will carry our own gear and stay in accommodation such as AirBnB, motels or campground cabins. I will ride my electric bike and our trip is unsupported. Have a look at this website to get an idea of the Great Taste trail: <https://kiwijourneys.co.nz/tours/2017/5/1/the-loop-independent-cycling-tour>. For the Golden Downs Trail look at this website: <https://www.nzcycletrail.com/find-your-ride/heartland-rides/golden-downs-trail>

Day 1: Nelson City to Motupiko or Tapawera depending on availability of accommodation. Campground cabins. 69kms

Day 2: Motupiko or Tapawera to St Arnaud on back country roads. Motel accommodation. 66kms

Day 3: Return to Tapawera on back country roads. Campground cabins. 66 kms

Day 4: Tapawera to Motueka. Stay at Motueka Top 10 campground. 62 kms

Day 5: Motueka to Mapua. We start with a side trip to Kaiteriteri and then return to Motueka and carry on to Mapua. Campground cabins. 46 kms

Day 6: Mapua to Nelson via Rabbit Island. 35 kms

Costs: Electric bike hire is about \$85 to \$100 per day. Accommodation allow \$50 - \$70 per night.

Please call me if you wish to discuss further.

Leader: Margaret Robbins **Ph:** 021 023 20067

Grade: M/F

Email: *kandm.robbs@gmail.com*

Transport: Private arrangements. Discuss shuttle plans with the leader.

Costs: Electric bike hire is about \$85 to \$100 per day.

Accommodation: allow \$50 - \$70 per night.

Trip 2993

Kaitarakihi

13 Mar

The track to this summit of 835m goes off the Kopu-Hikuai road (SH25A). It is for the fitter category tramper. The final ascent is usually achieved by ascending a ladder and this has been removed as part of the kauri dieback protection measures. Watch this space for more details – we may have to go somewhere else.

Leader: Judith Bogle

Ph: 027 3810283

Grade: M/F

Transport: Senior member \$320-35

Senior non-member: \$25-30

Trip 2994

Hauhungatahi wilderness

19/20 Mar

Friday 18th – Travel to Backpackers at National Park. Saturday 19th – Travel to the Mangahuia Campsite the, walk up the Mangahuia Track to a Wilderness sign.

From here it is all wilderness travel with no markers or tracks. From the signpost we head west to a large slip from where we ascend to a ridge that ascends to Hauhungatahi (1521m). On our way to Hauhungatahi we will explore for some camping spots (as a back-up). The aim is to climb to Hauhungatahi and hopefully the weather will allow for spectacular views, then drop down to Pt 1407 and down to the bushline and tarns to camp.

Sunday 20th – The aim is to find our way descending thru the bush then, either with time permitting, either head straight towards the Mangahuia Track or head slightly east towards the Round the Mountain Track. From the RTM track we will head south to the Whakapapaiti Valley track then onto the Mangahuia Track and car park. While we are in the wilderness area, there will be a few if's & but's with the terrain so, our plans may change on the go.

I will try and have more details closer to the time.

Leader: Les Warren

Ph: 027 864 4937

Grade: M

Transport: Senior member \$45-75

Senior non-member: \$50-80

car park. More details, such as times and track condition to be sent out closer to the trip.

Leader: Les Warren

Ph: 027 864 4937

Grade: M

Transport: Senior member \$20-35

Senior non-member: \$25-30

Trip 2999

Ruapehu Working party

9/10 Apr

We were planning on 2 working parties, 1st in Feb & second in early March. That's not viable given the current modelling of the community spread of Omicron. We might try and do some targeted maintenance with very small numbers for our most essential items. I'll be speaking to people personally about how they might help. We are in need of a firewood restock, and I am hoping that we get to run this in late March or early April, if the situation has stabilized or been less impactful than forecast.

Leader: Stephen Prendergast

Ph: 021 466247

Grade: E

Transport: Senior member \$40-75

Senior non-member: \$50-80

Trip 3000

Barlows-Colenso Spur- Sparrowhawk (Ruahines)

15-18 Apr

Starting off at Makaroro Road on the eastern side of the Ruahines, the aim is to cover the area that includes Barlow's Hut, Colenso Spur, the range south from Te Atua Mahuru Peak to Sparrowhawk Bivvy and down the Sparrowhawk track. As we will have 4 days available, the area will be enlarged (more details coming). Colenso Spur was named after William Colenso, a missionary who frequently used the old Māori route over the Range.

We will travel to the Napier-Taupo Road where we stay Thursday night. On Friday, the plan is to travel the extra distance in the morning before starting the tramp. On Monday, we will be handy to a road end to enable an early return to Hamilton. If we can get a full vanload, we may look at having two different trips. Allan will run the M/F and if someone suitably experienced (and need I say fitter) prefers to do something that is more challenging, we will combine that tramp into the plan.

Leader: Allan Wickens

Ph: 027 9509546

Grade: M/F

Transport: Senior member \$60-100

Senior non-member: \$65-105

Trip 3001

Pureora Traverse

23-25 Apr

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

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

hours the 10-bunk Waihaha Hut is reached, complete with wood-stove and covered veranda.

Then on ANZAC Monday we will walk 9.5km on a benched, all-weather track to the Western Bay Road. It's the diversity of plant communities that are the outstanding feature of this trip. Given the small hut space we may need to carry some tents.

Leader: Theresa O'Leary

Ph: 027 4162633

Grade: M/F

Email: theresa@tolbecs.co.nz

Transport: Senior member \$50-100

Senior non-member: \$65-105

Editorial

Are we ever cooking with gas this summer! Natural gas it is too. I'm melting, the plants are dying and the best place to be is in a stream or at least in the shade of the forest. From the great variety of trips reports this month you can see that nothing stops our members from enjoying our environment, be it working out there or playing, or splashing or just checking out the coffee shops around the lower north island. Good on you for adapting to the Covid changes and making them fit your lifestyle not the other way around.

Did you like getting the colour version of the bulletin last month? I have had a real problem with them this month – there are so many fabulous pictures coming through I have needed to be judicious in which ones I include with the reports. If your pics haven't made the bulletin it is not because they are not up to any standard, it is because we have space limitations. An there are some really good pics, I can tell you.

Should we think about making a calendar this year of our great shots and perhaps when we have the photo competition later in the year we choose which ones from throughout the whole year go into a selection pool?

Keep 'em coming.

Dianne

Presidential Blog

This year has taken off with a great start with Les's trip on the Dusky Sound and the Pureora working bee. Even though we are now on the red traffic light system for Covid-19 and omicron is here and will escalate, I'm sure we will get through this and carry on with our adventures. I'd like to thank all the leaders for their hard work in organising trips down south especially with the extra considerations that are needed with Covid. Also, a thank-you for the trip organisers and leaders who provide the backbone through the year to keep us all going. Plus, a thank-you to the ski-section of the club for organising working bees and keeping the hut up to scratch.

I would like to make a mention that David Cuming's mother has recently passed away. David our thoughts are with you and that your happy memories with your mother will provide you comfort.

Judith

from the Ski Club...

"Summer , eh ! Feels pretty warm and like a good NZ summer." Check out the trip description for the workparties in the trip programme.

2022 Subscription: The adult subscription was set at last years' AGM as up to \$125. Last year the committee set the 2022 adult subscription at \$115, for a Senior ski member. Child and junior membership is unchanged.

A number of us are members of both the Tramping and Ski sections. This is referred to as Combined membership. The Ski portion of our subscription will increase appropriately to reflect the increased ski subscription along with the current tramping subscription. With the 20% combined discount applied, my maths says \$132.50 for Combined members. This is the first increase over the last 8 years - and is an important contribution to the viability of the hut - which still provides one of the most accessible on mountain accommodation at a fraction of the cost of many other lodges.

We also have the best views from our deck and upstairs area. That's priceless.

Ski Field update: I want to also update you on the moves by Mt Ruapehu (RAL) to find new capital to improve facilities. In November there was a lot of concern about the proposal to transfer assets to a new entity. There was very general information being provided and a delay in producing financial statements to show a financial position. The directors have pledged to run a series of meetings (now postponed) one of which will be in Hamilton to discuss their strategy and goals. As a life pass or season pass holder or just finding your snow sport mojo, we are all stakeholders in this discussion. I'd encourage your attendance at this event, and I'll advertise a date once it has been announced.

Winter Olympics: The kiwi squad are displaying some excellent form as the Beijing Games approach. I'm looking forward to seeing them snare some of the silverware and wish them well. Keep an eye on the sports news or your favourite sports streaming media for all the action.

The other thing I'm looking forward to is a winter more akin to 2018 than the following years. If the northern hemisphere snow dumps are indicative of our winter that would be amazing! Bit early for snow dances but don't forget how when the time comes.

Stay safe over the coming weeks, and look forward to seeing you again as we move through the challenges ahead.

Stephen Prendergast/Ski Club Committee

Mid-week Walks & Tramps

We are continuing with the current format, having a walk or tramp on the 2nd Tuesday and 4th Wednesday of the month. The activities have proven to be as varied as the group is and the communication via the Mid-week W & T s Group page on WhatsApp is working well.

If you would like to be part of this communication, please download WhatsApp on your phone & text your request to Isla on 021 209 6539.

Trip Reports

Trip 2971

Kaimai experience

27/28 Nov

Great weather, and 2 masked cars of us were off. We enjoyed the bush trek into Te Whare Okioki Hut. Steep at the beginning, then up onto the North South track. We set up our tent camp, got our dinner set out on the outside table then spent the evening amused and totally entertained by the activities and antics of the 3 young families who were sharing the hut space.

The parents helped the kids 'hands off' with fire experiments – gently coaching, suggesting etc while the 7 or so young ones tried different ideas on going about stacking the fire, lighting it, cooking popping corn in tinfoil patties (they had looked things up on U-Tube. We were witnesses to the learning - are matches or fire starters better, green or dry firewood, how long to cook a marshmallow BEFORE a too thin stick alights, will tinfoil burn, and is popping corn better with or without oil, what temperature is required by what burning wood to actually pop popcorn? Fabulous to share.

One of the young teens found something extremely interesting – a very pale snail, but in a normal coloured shell. I took photos and asked Diane for help in what to do next – the family gave permission to go on a mission to reveal its identity – turns out it wasn't an albino as we thought (its shell would have been white) – it was a pale garden snail! We left it safely moving about in the grass on the north side of the stairs up to the hut veranda.

Rizal, Tameen, Peter A, David T and Mike B – were my cooking companions – we held our own cooking experiment – an MSR Windburner IS the Rolls Royce of camp cookers, (the only willing scribe gets the final say)! Great company, good sharing conversations, a tent site in the bush, and John McA caught up on his baby-sitting deficit – thank you all, a successful trip all round, cheers Theresa O'L.

Trip 2972

Hamilton Gullies

5 Dec

This 'Sunday' walk was comprised of 4 Hamilton's gullies. Some of the gullies were well established and others still 'works in progress' but none the less delightful and intriguing to have such delightful 'escapes' right in the centre of Hamilton's busy boundaries. Selwyn June took us all on this delightful ramble of discovery and appreciation for the work already done and still underway.

Our first gully expedition was the Sandford Park/Mangakotukutuku stream gully. This was accessed through Lewis Street in Melville, Hamilton. Descending down steep steps you are suddenly immersed into an enchanting 'jungle world' of native birdsong, plants and trees. This is an extensive gully and stream which runs through to Peacocke Road finally dropping down to the Waikato River. However, this gully is still work in progress with much work to be done around the invasive weeds, no longer wanted, coming from the bordering domestic gardens. There is certainly bird life and a thriving habitat for species of bats, lizards, puriri moth,

glow worms, giant bush dragonfly and weta. Bat nesting boxes have been constructed in many of the trees in the gully.

Our second gully was a well-established one with access via the Eventide Home and village at Tamahere on the outskirts of Hamilton. An extensive gully restored and planted in 1995 is part of the Mangaone and Mangaharakeke gully systems. Much of the gully restoration work has been and is currently undertaken by the residents of the village. The gully has a steep descent into a native forest wonderworld of well-prepared tracks, ponds, shelters and bridges. There was ample aquatic bird life, native birds and even well-fed pet eels. Such a delightful walk with many opportunities to just sit and enjoy the ambience. Our walk took approximately one hour with time for lunch.

Seeley Gully was third on the list. This was accessed from Whyte Street in Hamilton East. The 2.5 acre gully runs through to and connects with Armagh Street in Hamilton. The A J Seeley Gully Reserve was gifted to the people of Hamilton by Dr Alwyn Seeley who began planting in the 1960s. Coming from the city's busy streets, you can be suddenly and delightfully immersed into this delightful enclave. Filled with a collection of mature Kahikatea, rimu, kanuka, mahoe, nikau palms and ponga which clearly thrive in this lovely and well cared for eco-environment which is amazingly just a kilometre or two from the CBD. Our final gully took us through to the Mangaiti Gully Chartwell/ Huntington area.



Practising our close-up photography skills.

A 10 hectare block the gully runs between Gordonton Road and Keswick Crescent in Huntington. This relatively new gully is currently being established with numerous boardwalks and some gravel tracks, winding alongside the Mangaiti Stream (little stream).

There is much evidence of the planned planting of 70,000 native plants, a Government and Hamilton City Council initiative. The aim is to create a healthy eco environment for plants, water quality, bird and aquatic life. A delightful and interesting walk, well recommended to observe the development of this worthwhile city escape.



Mangaiti gully

All photos by Isla Trapski

By 4pm we were all 'gullied out' from a lovely and interesting insight into the city's best 'secret' locations of Hamilton. Those accompanying Selwyn were Dianne, Fiona G, Guy D and wife and pooch, Josh H, Amanda C, Brenda & Tony S, Lois R.....and myself, Isla T(photographer). Many thanks to the knowledgeable guidance of Dianne and Selwyn.

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**Trip 2975      Dusky Track, Fiordland National Park      0 Dec 21 – 07 Jan 22**

In Summary – the trip was a great success. Great weather; great scenery; great team; no injuries. No doubt this is a tough track but, we all managed well. Everyone arrived at Te Anau, our starting point, the day prior to our departure. Some of us had a session going thru our gear and deciding what can be left behind and what gear to share. After some discussion, we decided that we would each take a gas cannister as we all had different methods of cooking.

Day 1. The start day finally arrived after many months preparing and dealing with the COVID stages. At 0700 we were picked up by Trips & Tramps shuttle that took us to Clifden to meet the Hauroko Tours person. We transferred to another vehicle and travelled to the jetty at Lake Hauroko, collecting the Namu (boat to cross the Lake) on the way.

The crossing of Lake Hauroko took about 50 minutes. On arrival at Hauroko Burn Hut, we made final touches and had a drink before we started walking. It was raining lightly so we donned our rain wear before heading off around 1125. It was a gentle climb up to Halfway Hut which took us 8hrs 15. Our daily routine included regular snack breaks and a good 20-30min lunch break. We were introduced to our first two 3-wire walkwires today, which everyone coped with very well with.



Throughout our trip we all found the walkwires OK to cross – just need to take your time and not rush yourself. The track was mainly slow going as needed to concentrate with the tree-roots and muddy sections, which was the theme for the whole trip.

Day 2: Today's destination was Lake Roe Hut which involved more climbing with a stiff bit after the 2<sup>nd</sup> walkwire. Today, as the streams were crossable, we did not use the walkwires. Lake Roe Hut is in a

All photos supplied by Les Warren

lovely location. We left the hut at 0830 and arrived at Lake Roe Hut at 1520, a 6hrs 50 day. In the afternoon, we were able to check the weather forecast via the InReach we had. Tomorrow (Sat) showed that there was a 20% chance of rain and, the next day had no forecast for rain. As we were keen to have good fine weather to walk across Pleasant Range, we decided to have a rest day at Lake Roe Hut and take advantage of better weather the following day.

Day 3: Rest Day. Had a little sleep in and lazed around in the morning while waiting for the fog / mist on the tops to disappear. After lunch, Paul (a young guy doing the track on his own), Kez and myself went exploring around Lake Roe. Wonderful views on our walk around Lake Roe.

Day 4: Today was going to be a big day with the long steep descent off Pleasant Range to Loch Maree Hut. We left Lake Roe Hut at 0805 and arrived at Loch

Maree Hut at 1830 – a 10hr 25 mins. Our departure was delayed by about 15min as two kea decided to visit us. One had a badly lame leg with Cathy asking that we get a message to DoC about the kea's predicament. We managed to send John McArthur a message thru our InReach to contact DoC.



Crossing Pleasant Range was undulating with several short steeper sections and many tarns of varying size. It was about 1200 when we reached the last sizable tarn for a lunch break and rest before the long steep descent. Some of the ladies also decided to have a quick swim.

Around 1350, we started the descent which was about 1km over 600m. The descent was not as difficult as the many blogs and Youtube videos I viewed prior to the trip would have you believe, but it still took us around 4hrs 30min. There were plenty of tree roots to use to help us. In the end, rope was not required, even though we had some in-case needed.

Arriving at Loch Maree Hut was a welcome sight after a long day. At the Hut were two young ladies who had left Hauroko Burn Hut about an hour before us on the 30<sup>th</sup>, so was expecting to possibly see them at some stage. They informed us of a large slip on the track to Supper Cove and gave some advice on tackling this. Loch Maree was created when a landslide dammed the Seaforth River during an earthquake in 1826, eventually drowning the beech trees.

Day 5: Today we headed to Supper Cove Hut. Left the Hut at 0935, a little later than normal to try and arrive at the estuary around low-tide time. We left any unwanted gear / food in a locker at the Hut. After about 30min past the first walkwire, we came to this slip. Slip was not mentioned in blogs / videos viewed prior to our trip, so was created at some stage during 2021. The advice was to climb up thru the slip to an orange marker high up.



The first view to Dusky Sound.

Three of our group headed up to the marker but, Kez and I explored around the left bottom area of the slip and found the track. We followed the track which soon swung a hard right and climbed up before reaching the slip which had eroded the track. It did not look that easy going up the slip, so we decided to go bush-bashing (was not difficult) up the ridge parallel with the slip until we reached the track again. At this point we placed some branches across the track and stones, to alert us to where to go on our way back tomorrow. The track to Supper Cove Hut was quite muddy in a lot of sections, particularly where you loop inland and cross several walkwires, just before reaching the estuary. We reached the estuary around 1700 and happy to find that the estuary was at low-tide.

The aim was to head for the white boulders and an orange buoy, then climb back onto the track to the Hut. I decided to head to land about three-quarters way across



as I was not comfortable with the depth of the water close to the white boulders. It was quite a rough bush-bash to hit the track, which was a bit higher up than I thought. The track from here to most of the way to the Hut was also pretty rough and slow going (hence why most people try and cross the estuary). Arrived at Supper Cove Hut at 1800, another 8hr 25min day.

I was too tired to bother clambering down to the waters' edge and rested in the Hut. Kez went down and tried her luck with hooking blue cod and managed to get a medium sized one and, also find some mussels. So, for dinner we had some extra nutrition of blue cod and mussels.

Day 6: We had an early start today to catch the low tide across the estuary. We had learnt that if the low tide was low enough, we could follow the estuary a bit past the second inlet of the Henry Burn and miss the walkwires and muddy section. We left the Hut at 0700 and arrived back at Loch Maree Hut at 1515, a 8hr 15min day. We did manage to walk all the way along the estuary to just past the second inlet to Henry Burn.

Day 7: Today was mostly following close to the Seaforth River. We left the Hut at 0845 and arrived at Kintail Hut at 1710, another 8hr 25min day.

It was generally flat for most of the day till we reached our only walkwire. There were a few careful moments skirting around some close sections beside the river. After a good 30min past the walkwire we came to a steep section which involved some stiff scrambling before dropping down to Gair Loch, not far from the Hut.

*I had a dream during the night that when we reached Wilmot Pass Road, that a bus would come along and when we waved to the Driver, he would stop and offer us a lift down to the Visitor Centre at West Arm.....read the outcome on our last day.*

**Day 8:**



The penultimate day of our adventure. Was going to be a tough day as ascending and descending Centre Pass. Left Kintail Hut at 0810 and arrived at Upper Spey Hut at 1645, an 8hr 30min day.

Our first walkwire was only 5min from the hut. Immediately after crossing the walkwire, we were searching for a way around / thru a swampy area. Then there was an undulating section to the next walkwire. Soon after the second walkwire, we had a long steep climb up a spur which soon eased to a more gentle climb towards Centre Pass.

This steep section I read about on some blogs and Youtube videos of a very large tree that had fallen down on the track and people had to crawl up thru the tree. This was a problem in a Dec 2020 video but, was OK to clamber over the top in March 2021. When we arrived at this point, we found that the track was clambering up and above the large tree stump, which was managed OK. We stopped in a clearing around 1200 for lunch near the bush-line. We left our lunch spot around 1225 and reached the top of Centre Pass around 1330 (5hrs 20min from Kintail Hut). The descent from Centre Pass was a good track down to the bush.

Walking thru some bush into a clearing, we lost the markers and had some searching around as to where to go. We found what looked like tracks where others had gone and followed them thru over-grown terrain 'til we found an orange marker. It appears that we probably followed the stream on the right side, when the map shows that the poled route was on the left side. Anyway, we were back on the

track. There was a 15-20min steep section near the end of the day. Finally, one more day left.

Day 9: Using our times from our previous days and the need to ensure we reached West Arm before 4pm, for the last ferry at 4.15pm, we decided we needed to leave early today. We left at 0730. We were pleasantly surprised to find the track was mainly good flat walking and made better time than we thought. About 15min from the Road, we lost our way and an orange marker and ended up doing a little bush-bashing till we found a marker again. This deviation ended up being a blessing for us. We finally popped out of the bush onto Wilmot Pass Road at 1220; our shortest day on the track of 4hrs 50.

No sooner had we taken our obligatory photos when a bus came down the road and the driver stopped and asked whether we would like a lift down to the Visitor Centre. Obviously, we did not hesitate in saying yes. This helpful driver saved us at least a boring 45min road walk which none of us was looking forward to.

*So, my dream a few nights ago came true BUT, what if we were a bit slower, we would have missed this kind person.*

At West Arm, we learnt that a ferry was arriving shortly. After the passengers disembarked, we enquired when the ferry was going back to Manapouri, which it was shortly about to do. We asked whether we can take this ferry instead the 4.15pm one, and we could. So, we had about 10min to pack our packs and embark the ferry which left at 1400. Phew! again more good luck for us. It was nice to get back to Te Anau earlier than planned. First priority was a nice warm shower. So, an end to a wonderful adventure.

**Post-Notes:** The track / routes were overall well marked but, one had to keep an eye out for the markers especially in overgrown and muddy areas. We did encounter quite a bit of wind-fall on the track. We did miss some markers on a few occasions and had to re-trace our steps. The track terrain was typical wilderness terrain – tree roots, rocks, mud.

Mosquitos were not a major problem but, still a nuisance when you stop walking in the bush, including around the Huts. My longs, sleeved shirt, mossie head net and insect repellent worked well.

Dusky Team was: Les W (Leader and scribe), Theresa O'L, Cathy D, Barb C and Kez N.

~~~~~  
Trip 2978 Whangamata walks – aka the Whangamata hobble 15/16 Jan

A small group of six gathered at Dave and Debbie's home in Whangamata late Friday afternoon after the others self-drove from Hamilton. We had the two J'n M's and the D n D's (Jim and Maureen, John and Maddy and Dave and Debbie). The evening started in the correct fashion with drinks and a raucous game of cards, and discussion of the plan for the weekend. We had total flexibility to do what the J's n M's wanted, as none of the four had done any of the local trails.

The weather was looking great so decided on doing the “Broken Hills” tracks first – about 8km’s of trail, then heading back to Whanga to have a late lunch



All photos by Dave White

followed by a short trip to the “Luck at Last Mine” trail – another 8kms. Sunday would be the Parakiwai Quarry Road trip alongside the “Wharekirauponga Stream” – a longer 12.4kms, and then a dash up the Wentworth Valley to “Wentworth Falls” – another 7.8kms. About 36kms in all. “Broken Hills” - Debbie was the elected leader for this stage and Dave sat this one out. “The sharp steady climb and all the downhill work would not have suited his ankle that is needing some surgery.

. Number one “Hobbler”!

Between Whangamata and the Kopu-Hikuai turnoff, there had been a downpour before we drove through and it was a cloudy morning for this tramp. At the Puketui camp site we checked out the cliffs that form an amazing backdrop. The track starts at the northern end of the Puketui Walk leading up to a lookout at 322 m with views north to Tairua and the sea, and the surrounding valleys and peaks. It was a coolish temperature starting off and we often felt spits of rain but nothing eventuated, apart from the surrounding valleys and peaks being overcast. The downward descent brought us to a track junction - left to Collins Drive or continue on to the Paton Stream Dam (another 3 hr), Hihi Trig (4.5 hr) or down into the Kauaeranga Valley (8–10 hr).

The Collins Drive is a 500 m underground mine which was driven through the hill in a fruitless attempt to find quartz reef with payable ore. Before entering we donned jackets and our headlamps for the 15 minute boardwalk. Turning off our torches we located numerous spots with glow-worms hidden in amongst the timber boarding and rocky ceiling. Jim explored one of the side tunnels, which was a bit

wetter underfoot. A number of other tunnels were closed off with timber boarding with windows allowing views of the tunnels beyond. A small landing 5 minutes from Collins Drive marks the start of an aerial cableway that carried ore hoppers to the Golden Hills stamper battery.

We chose the Water Race Tunnels Track back to the carpark. This follows the old water race that took water from the Third Branch Stream across the Tairua River via three tunnels to drive the Broken Hills Battery. The original race was 3300 m long.

We had planned on doing the Broken Hills Battery walk (40 – 60 minute walk from the Bridge Carpark) to the Broken Hills mine which operated successfully from 1896 to 1914. A water-powered stamper battery began crushing ore in 1899. However, it was already lunch time and it was decided to leave it for



another time. After travelling back to Whangamata and having lunch, we headed a short distance North again to “Luck at Last Mine”. John sat this one out. The earlier hill work had aggravated his leg a little. Hobbler number two...Dave and John, but Dave was back in the game for this easier track...(keeping up with me?) Accessed via a logging road, the track follows a stream, that later joins the Wharekawa River, the entire way until it reaches a flat area where, in earlier days, a large building housed all the pumps and steel drums etc. used in the extraction of gold. There is a small network of trails heading further up in to hills that give access to the original mine, and various sites for the Foreman’s/Manager’s Hut and the like. The remains of the large water pipe 6/800mm round are visible at various stages where either water or the crushed ore was transported downhill from the mine site to the dryer and cyanide pits that are still well intact below. Once finished inspecting the old machinery, we took one of the small uphill loops before heading back to the stream and our trek out. A very

attractive setting for this mining site that gives great insight and stirs the imagination as to what these settlements were like in their heyday. A very easy trip in and the hill work, if you get higher than we went on this trip, is still easy going with easily identifiable paths, however the turn offs for the smaller and larger loops are not signposted. . Pay attention and take a photograph of the map on the trail to make the most of this pretty walk.

Sunday brought a beautiful sunny day but most of this was going to be under a good amount of cover. Debbie had to work so we were five again. Parakiwai Quarry Road is on the Southern side of Whangamata 10-15 minutes out. Access is on a gravel road – follow it to it's end. Lots of parking. Again, the trail follows a picturesque stream (Wharekirauponga) past an old quarry all the way to the mine site. There is a large rusting relic of the quarry days near the quarry (not gold mining related or of that era). Very easy, although a little uneven at times, the track steadily rises. At the mine site, keep the stream on your left and start a bit of a climb that takes you up to the top of a waterfall where a swing bridge crosses right on top of the falls. The other side of the bridge is signposted to not go further, due to helicopter operations and potential mining activity but at this point, you are nearly at the top of a loop that brings you back down below the falls. I have not done the rest of this loop but it looks easy and when back at the stream, wet feet will bring you back to just below the mine site and back on to the same trail out. Somewhere off the top of this track is a route that will bring you out at Golden Cross, in the Karangahake Gorge (maybe another day...). Overall, a long walk, but not difficult, and you have the sound of the bubbling stream the entire way. Reasonable bird life and we were pretty sure we saw a small group of Rifleman playing in the trees above us.

A short drive North, back towards Whangamata, brought us to Wentworth Valley. At the very end is a lovely campsite. Most people I know have done this walk but it was refreshing to have all newbies. The climb is gentle for the most part, again following the stream on our right until we veer away and gain some elevation. We passed a good swimming hole on the way that we would later have a better introduction to. Picturesque valley walking and at the top, a stunning 2-tiered waterfall with still a reasonable amount of water flowing. Three of us headed up to see the waterfall from its' head (only 2/3 minutes further on) and two headed down. From the top of the falls you can proceed higher and get onto the Maratoto Track and/or The Old Wires Track. It was on the downhill path when John, Jim and myself were in a row that I chuckled about the "Three Hobblers". Jim also has a slight hobble so with the three of us lined up, we probably made quite a sight. No such problems with our female counterparts... A paddle in the cold water of the swimming hole restored our tired knees and ankles and we even stuck our head in the short mine shaft on the way down to chat to the local Cave Wetas.

I think an enjoyable weekend was had by all and it was a good reminder that relatively short walks can also have their place in our larger group activities.

Trampers Jim S, Maureen F, John & Maddy F. Leaders/scribes Debbie & Dave W

Summer camp in Pureora

9-16 Jan

A very strong contingent from the tramping club turned up in Pureora to participate in a summer camp. The aim of the week was to fill in a few potholes and cut back the foliage as we worked our way in to the base camp site (yep – it was camping this time). Maureen, Jim, Debbie & Dave, Dianne & Selwyn were the WTC folks, Jeff, Lee, and Josh were the others.

Camp was quickly set up on Sunday afternoon after the portaloos were carefully positioned at one of the camping areas, and a loaned marquee from Tamahere School finally erected (small canopies do not fit large frameworks!).

On Monday each team of 2 was allocated 2 bait lines in the top of the Okahukura valley to visit. The top nails on all the stations were to be replaced and a plastic sleeve placed on the new nail before re-nailing the station to the tree. Bottom nails were replaced as necessary. Maureen & Jim did a sterling job by completing their 2 lines and they were the ones furthest away from the transport. Dianne & Jeff had to wait for DoC ranger Teresa to arrive with the 4-seater LUV on Monday am so they didn't complete their 2 lines. Teresa did some brush-cutting of the track down to the Bailey bridge so it would be safer/more pleasant when it came time to use the access track later in the week. Debbie & Dave 'planted' blue roadside markers at the entrances to the stations which are accessed off the 4WD road (the original waratah markers had been stolen) then going for a short walk downstream looking



Whio squirt photo by Dianne June rocks at each end of their territory.

This proved invaluable on Thursday. Walking in the stream for 4.5 hours was just magic – an experience I'll be keen to repeat one day. Lots of photos, marvelling at the beauty of the bush and side-streams, sunlight, rock formations in the beautifully clear water. A magic day.

And we came out right at the culvert where our LUV had been parked ready for the return trip to base.

Wednesday: more nailing for us all but this time in the Tomtit block which necessitated some LUV trips up the access track. Thursday we were down to a pool

for whio before heading home at midday. Tuesday saw Maureen, Jim, Lee, James, Amanda Rogers & Dave Bryden (the kokako gurus) continue with the nailing and thereby completing all the lines in the Whio block, while Selwyn, Dianne, Isla, Josh, Jeff, Jan, & Teresa walked upstream from the Bailey bridge to look for whio. Teresa had some experience doing this in Taranaki with another DoC ranger so she gave us the clues to look for – and we found them- the 'squirt' on the



The end of the line photo by Isla Trapski

of 5 volunteers so Lee walked the line behind the base camp while the other 4 walked downstream. Yeeha! Just 100m from the start Josh spotted a duck swimming lazily in a pool. 10 minutes of observations convinced us that it was a whio. We opted to climb through the bushes on the stream bank so as not to disturb it, and carry on downriver. We're not sure if the duck understood our intentions – did it swim downriver and perch itself on a rock a few metres further down? or was it another duck? We opted not to scramble again nor disturb the duck so backtracked a short distance and Steve bush-bashed a route up the stream bank to a bait-line and we walked back to the starting point along an easy path. Absolutely buzzing by now!

Friday saw 5 of us finishing off the Tomtit B line and the upper roadside stations in the Tomtit block. This means only 1 whio line and 2 Tomtit lines left to complete in the upper half of the valley. Great work team!

Amanda C joined Selwyn and Dianne on an unsuccessful search for dactylanthus plants on a peak to the west of the valley on Saturday. Maybe we'll have more luck next time on the other peak should the undergrowth not be so dry? That night we heard the sonic booms from the Tonga eruption. Amazing.

A big thankyou is extended to the tramping club members for their commitment to the work of the Society. And their reward? - the daily frequent calls and sightings of kokako around the camp and in the bush, stunning dawn choruses, fine weather, great company, and a great sense of achievement

From the committee table:

New members: Nil

Resignations: Anne Wecking, David Hintz, Elena Kay, Steve McLean, John Metcalfe, Rosie Paltridge, Dean Robertson & Dora Luo, Laurette Strude.

Membership: We have 196 tramping members this month.

From the tramping Captain: The way the tramping schedule is going, it looks like trip 3000 will be in April 2022. How shall we celebrate it? Champagne breakfast on top of a hill? Any thoughts?

From the club captain: Re parking in London Street. Thanks to the generosity of 3 firms who use the London Street Carpark, we are able to continue parking there whenever we do weekend and Sunday trips. Please note, that the firms concerned have paid for the use of the carparks (10) and will only allow us to park in them, under the following circumstances:

Police parking: The 4 car parking spots in line from the disabled spot. These carparks are marked as police use only. Anyone parking in these spots will be towed (again without question).

For Sunday trips: Cars can be parked in non-police spots all-day Sunday. If we have more than 10 cars, any overflow can use the FREE parking on the streets.

For weekend trips: Cars can park in the non-police carparks from 5.30 pm Friday until Sunday evening. NB: they are very likely to be vacated by 5.00 pm each Friday, however staff at any of the 3 businesses may have an after works function, which means slightly less parking overall.

Disabled carpark: Under no circumstances park in this spot. It is one of 5 now used by the Police who have a 24 hour / 7-day operation involved from their new premises. Anyone parking in this spot will be towed (no questions asked).

Please co-operate with these conditions. It would be difficult to find a better location to park. Should any members disregard these simple conditions, we may be forced to look elsewhere. With thanks, Allan Wickens, Club Captain

~~~~~ Snippets from here and there...

➤ Items left behind at Jacqui & Ron's place after the Christmas party: Green camp chair, Bolle Sunglasses. If any of these are yours, please contact the hosts. Also left at the Feb club night : a water bottle.

➤ Maungatautari access reopened. Access from Hicks Road into the northern enclosure of Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari was reopened on New Year's Day after being closed to the public since 2018. Waipā District Council has worked with local iwi trusts and landowners to develop a new fenced track from Hicks Road to Maungatautari reserve. Parking for the Hicks Road access is now provided adjacent to Maungatautari Marae and track users will need to make a short walk to the end of Hicks road to the start of the track. Parking at the end of Hicks Road is

prohibited. Council is also ready to install new public toilets adjacent to the Marae to service track users. The facility will be built in the first half of 2022.

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

➤ Taupō's black-billed gulls are a rare but stubborn treasure. The critically endangered birds are mainly found in braided rivers in the South Island but their North Island cousins sometimes choose challenging places to nest, such as on buildings and. DoC senior ranger biodiversity Sarah Tunnicliffe says this nesting season was particularly challenging, for birds and boat owners alike, when the gulls decided to nest on boats in Motuoapa Marina, located at the southern end of Lake Taupō. They are New Zealand's only endemic gull and the most threatened gull species in the world. For the past five years, a colony of 350 or so have nested at Tokaanu Marina, at the southern end of Lake Taupō. In 2016 they were discovered nesting in a gravel pile at Motuoapa Marina, while the marina was under construction, after efforts were made to move them on from nests they established at Tokaanu Power Station in 2014. The birds are not like seagulls – they are freshwater nesters.

~~~~~  
And now for some more of the photo competition entries...



Sunlight on Moonlight Tops



Light and Shade



Mountain buttercup



Fungi



Gold miners Photo by John McArthur



Evening at Angelus photo by John Wilson

bivouac/outdoor
COMMITTED TO ADVENTURE

we ARE tramping

Anatom
toothbrush

EARTH
SEA
SKY

EXPED

GARMIN

icebreaker

MSR

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OR OUTDOOR
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SEA TO SUMMIT

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