



THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

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

October 2022



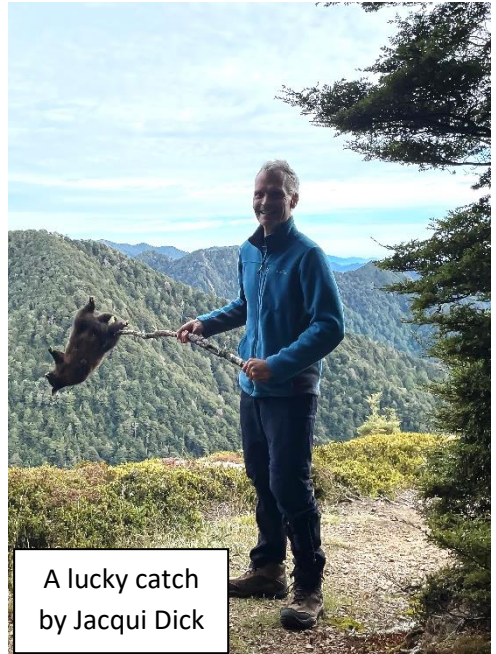
Tanekaha cones at Te Kauri Park photo by Amanda Collins

WAIKATO HUT

Your lodge on Mt Ruapehu
Tongariro National Park



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A lucky catch
by Jacqui Dick

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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 842

October 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	Ashley Hoskin	Mike Barker
Mike Nightingale				07 8562394

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**Tramping Subcommittee**

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

|                                        |                                                                        |             |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Chairperson:</b> John McArthur      | <a href="mailto:mcArthur@outlook.co.nz">mcArthur@outlook.co.nz</a>     | 021 2889641 |
| <b>Club Captain:</b> Les Warren        |                                                                        | 027 8644937 |
| <b>Membership:</b> Lois Rowell         | <a href="mailto:loiserowell@gmail.com">loiserowell@gmail.com</a>       | 027 2881148 |
| <b>Member:</b> Selwyn June             |                                                                        | 027 4978151 |
|                                        | Rupert Craggs                                                          | 027 6811926 |
| <b>Web &amp; Facebook:</b> Rizal Razak |                                                                        | 021 2676566 |
| <b>Transport:</b> Ashley Hoskin        | <a href="mailto:ashley.hoskin@icloud.com">ashley.hoskin@icloud.com</a> | 027 4909545 |
| <b>Social convenor:</b> Jacqui Dick    |                                                                        | 021 1375201 |

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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
	Ashley Hoskin	027 4909545

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

Photo competition night

Come along and see how well your photo entries in the club's competition compare with those of your tramping colleagues. Learn how you can improve your technique too. Club member and last years' winner Nicola Guy, and John Wilson are our judges.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2021/2022

3026	15 Oct	M	Caving	Jacqui Dick & Andrew Fredrickson
3027	20-24 Oct	F	Northern Tararua Crossing	Jeanette Dodson
3028	30 Oct	M	Wairere falls & higher	John Wilson
	2 Nov		CLUB NIGHT	
3029	5/6 Nov	M/F	Marokopa beach bonfire	Rupert Craggs
3030	7-11 Nov	M/F	Kaimai traverse	Jeanette Dodson
3031	13 Nov	E	Photography – waterfall specials	Nicola Guy
	18 Nov		Film evening	Graham Haines
3032	20 Nov	E/M	Volunteer mine	Rizal Razak
3033	25-27 Nov	E/M/F	Bream Head	Les Warren
3034	3 Dec		Christmas dinner	
3035	4 Dec	E	Kakepuku/Yarndleys' bush & L. Ngaroto	
3036	12-23 Dec	F	Rakiura northern circuit	Judith Bogle
3037A	10 Dec	MF	Okataina western circuit	Mike Peck
3037 B	10 Dec	E/M	Okataina giant ratas	
	7 Dec		CLUB NIGHT	
3038	17 or 18 Dec	F	Mountain Madness	John McArthur
	28 Dec-4 Jan	F	Travers-Sabine	Judith Bogle
	28 Dec – 5 Jan	MF	West Matukituki	Allan Wickens

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 3026

Caving

Saturday, 15 Oct

Two members from the Tomo Society will take us into Gardners Gut Cave and the Cleft of the Orcs (abseiling in). There is a possibility of side trips along the way being added, depending on the groups' capability. 4-6 hours underground. There won't be any actual swimming but some waist deep pools so we will be getting wet! Helmets and lights as well as abseiling gear will be provided.

This trip is limited to 10 participants due to ratio of non-cavers to cavers.

Leader: Jacqui Dick

Ph: 021 1375201

Grade: M/F

Andrew Frederickson

Transport: Senior member \$21-35

Senior non-member: \$26-40

Trip 3027

Tararua Northern Crossing

20-24 Oct

The Northern Crossing links the Ōhau and Waingawa catchments. Depending on weather conditions it can take between three to five days to complete. Due to storm damage, some tracks and huts are not available and we will need to camp.

Thursday 20th October late afternoon depart Hamilton, overnight in Palmerston North.

Day 1 Friday 21st. Drive to Levin. We will take the Waiopahu track to Te Matawai Hut - 9 to 10 hours.

Day 2 Saturday 22nd. The track continues to Pukematawhai, then via an unmarked route to Arete, Lancaster, the Waiohine Pinnacles and the traverse of Tarn Ridge.

We will camp near the storm damaged Tarn Ridge hut.

Day 3 Sunday 23rd. On to Girdlestone, Brockett and Mitre (Pukeamoamo) the highest peak in the Tararuas at 1571m. Down to Mitre Flats hut for our last night.

Day 4 Monday 24th. Approx 4 hours to Waingawa road-end and return to Hamilton.

We will be spending 2 days on the exposed tops and may need to do long days to avoid adverse conditions. We need to carry tents.

This is a classic tramping trip passing a number of peaks, so fantastic views – weather dependent. If the weather doesn't play ball for us, we have other alternatives on the western side of the Tararuas.

Leader: Jeanette Dodson

Ph: 0274485033

Grade: F

Email: jeanette.dodson456@gmail.com

Costs: TBC

Trip 3028

Wairere Falls and Little Wairere Falls

30 Oct

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

Leader: John Wilson

Ph: 021 168 2082

Grade: M

Transport: Senior member \$21-35

Senior non-member: \$26-40

Trip 3029

Marokopa Beach bonfire

5/6 Nov

This weekend adventure tramp will follow the coastline south from Kiritehere beach to Nukuteheri bay where we will camp for the night, build and light a

massive bonfire, share food and a few drinks. We will celebrate both Guy Fawkes Night and the Māori legend of how Maui tricked the Fire Goddess, Mahuika and brought fire to the world. The walk has no marked track and will be 8-10 km each way. The tide is low in the early afternoon this weekend so we will walk the shoreline as much as possible. However, there will be parts that we will have to scramble over rocks and bushwhack up and down hill slopes to get around headland cliffs. (So assume up to 4 hours of “interesting” walking each way). We will leave Saturday morning at 8 am (~2 hr drive to Kiritehere beach) and return Sunday pm, time depending on when we get back to Kiritehere beach. And, if we decide to, stop at a few of the Natural Wonders (fossil hunting, waterfalls, bridge, caves) that are spread along the road between Marokopa and Waitomo.

Leader: Rupert Craggs

Ph: 027 6811926

Grade: M/F

Email: rupert.craggs@niwa.co.nz

Transport: Senior member \$45-75

Senior non-member: \$50-80

Trip 3030

Kaimai Traverse

7-11 Nov

To complete the track in 5 days we will miss the track through Daly’s clearing and enter at the southern end of Franklin Road. We will need to carry tents for the southern section of the track. You will need to ensure you have hut tickets for 2 nights as both Te Whare Okioki and Te Rereatukahia need to be booked. Monday to Waitawheta hut; Tuesday to Rereatukahia hut; Wednesday to Thompsons track area and camp; Thursday to Te Whare Okioki and camp Friday to Kaimai summit and home

Leader: Jeanette Dodson

Ph 0274485033

Grade: M/ F

Email jeanette.dodson456@gmail.com

Transport: Private vehicles cost sharing.

Trip 3031

Photography

13 Nov

This trip is for those who want to learn how to photograph waterfalls. You will need to have a camera with “Manual Mode”, a tripod, and a lens that is 24mm or less. We will have a training night on Thursday 10th Nov to make sure everyone is comfortable with camera settings and getting their camera set up on a tripod. We will leave at 8am from London Street and head to Tawarau Falls in Waitomo. We will be taking private cars for this trip and have approx. 30min walking along the road to the start of the track. This is an easy walk with a steep drop down to the waterfall (a chain is in place to aid the descent). The area is picturesque with limestone features and follows the Tawarau River. The track usually takes me about 3 hours return, but expect to be in the bush for about 5 hours by the time we take photos and have lunch. There are three stream crossings which can rise rapidly, so be prepared for a change to our plans if we’ve had heavy rain. Due to the nature of this trip, being more of a ‘teaching’ tramp, it will be limited to 4 photographers.

Leader: Nicola Guy

Ph: 027 421 3458

Grade: E

Transport: Private cars. Cost tba

Trip 3032**Volunteer Mine****20 Nov**

Another old gold mining area in the Coromandel hills to the north of Paeroa. We were supposed to do the track last November, but due to Covid restriction, the trip was cancelled.

The start of the walk will depend on how muddy the road is on the day of the trip. After crossing the foot bridge, rather than taking the Maratoto to Golden Cross Track, we will turn left, pass a clearing. We will then cross a stream, start climbing a ridge to the top of the hill, which we will then descent to the mines site and waterfall. We will also pass a Kauri Grove with a few Giant Kauris on the way down to the mines.

With fine views of Marototo Rock, Waipahake and Wires Track areas, the tramp is graded as Medium with a total trip time of approximately six (6) hours.

Leader: Rizal Razak**Ph:** 021 2676566**Grade:** M**Email:** rizraz@gmail.com**Transport:** Senior member \$21-35

Senior non-member: \$26-40

Trip 3033**Bream Head****25-27 Nov**

This trip is being organised by the 'Tramper of the Year' 2021.

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

Please contact the leader ASAP as he needs to know rough numbers for booking accommodation and, also, what is your preferred accommodation. The plan is to leave Hamilton early Friday morning and arrive at our accommodation in Whangarei around lunch-time. In the afternoon we will do a short walk.

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

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

Leader: Les Warren**Email:** warrenlb2017@outlook.com**Transport & Accommodation** costs tba**Trip 3036****Rakiura northern Circuit****12-23 Dec**

This will be the full northern circuit of Stewart Island for 12 days. The plan is to get food dropped off halfway to reduce the load. We will need to take tents. This will be wet so make sure you use old boots. Also, everyone will need to make their own way to the meeting point in Invercargill.

Leader: Judith Bogle**Ph:** 027 3810283**Grade:** F**Email:** judith.bogle@outlook.com**Transport & Accommodation:** Private arrangements**Trip 3037A****Okataina Western walkway****10 Dec**

A one day tramp of the Okataine Western walkway near Rotorua. Total length is 22.5km and has an estimated walking time of 7 hours. We will depart Hamilton at 7.30am and drive to Te Ruato bay at Lake Rotoiti and tramp south to Millar Rd

near Lake Okareka. We have confirmed a driver for the trip. A stop in Rotorua afterwards for dinner.

Leader: Mike Peck

Ph:

Grade: F

Transport: Senior member \$21-35

Senior non-member: \$26-40

Trip 3037B

Okataina giant ratas

10 Dec

This trip will be run at the same time as The Okataina western walkway and starts in nearby. There are some large rata off the main eastern Okataina walkway and we will visit at least 2. A little past these we will see the Phantom - a giant tree with a squat trunk. From here it is back to the starting point. This would be a great trip for a new leader. More details next month.

Leader: Club captain

Ph: 027 8644937

Grade: E/M

Transport: Senior member \$21-35

Senior non-member: \$26-40

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 10th 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.

Summary of South Island Schedule

Rakiura northern circuit	12-23 December	Judith Bogle
West Branch of Matukituki R	27-31 December	Allan Wickens
Travers-Sabine & Moss passes	28 December- 4 January	Judith Bogle
East Branch of Matukituki R	2-3 January	Allan Wickens
Earnslaw Burn	4-6 January	Allan Wickens
Mount Earnslaw (Pikirakatahi) East Peak	16-21 February	Rupert Craggs
Exploring the Lewis Pass area	19-25 February (approx)	Les Warren
Canterbury Glaciers	27 February-3 March	John McArthur

Descriptions

Rakiura: See trip description for **Trip 3036**

West Branch of Matukituki River out of Wanaka (5 days). The aim is to get to the head of the valley (17 kms/ 6 hours). If the weather is good (and it has to be), there are side trips from Aspiring Hut to Liverpool Hut (12 kms return / 6-8 hours) and French Ridge Hut (14 kms return / 8-10 hours). Meet at Wanaka on 27 December, start this tramp the same day. It is 9k's / 3 hours from Raspberry Flat (carpark) to Aspiring Hut. Depending on timing we may travel further that day (Pearl Hut a further 5 k's / 2 hours).

Travers Sabine pass and Moss pass: 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

East Branch of the Matukituki River (2 days). Starting at Cameron Flat, walk for 8 hours / 24 kms to Aspiring Flat and the classic Rock of Ages Bivvy at the head of the Kitchener River. There is a very impressive view of the Kitchener Cirque, a massive wall below Mount Avalanche, Popes Nose and Fastness Peak. Camp that night and return the same way. Travel to Queenstown for the next tramp later that day.

Earnslaw Burn (3- days). After travelling from Wanaka to Queenstown we then travel up to the head of Lake Wakatipu and start tramp number 3. This exceptionally beautiful valley is not in a National Park so there will be guided commercial groups accessing the valley by helicopter. The plan is to walk in and out, taking approximately 5 hours to cover the 8 kms each way. To make the most of the valley and have time to explore, we will camp for two nights.

I am inviting expressions of interest at this stage. You may wish to do any combination of 1-3 of the tramps on offer. All 3 tramps are graded Moderate to Fit and all involve camping, so tents are required. If so, please let me know.

Transport : To be determined when the group/s are known. Please note : The cut off day for joining these 3 trips is 1st November (flights, vehicles to organise).

Leader: Allan Wickens

Email: allanwickens@hotmail.com

Cost: tba

Mount Earnslaw (Pikirakatahi) East Peak. 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.

Exploring the Lewis Pass Area:

Planned Dates: Sunday 19 February to Saturday 25 February 2023 (tbc).

Trip: 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

Email: warrenlb2017@outlook.com

Canterbury Glaciers: Meeting in Tekapo 26th February

27th February 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.

28th, 1st and 2nd; three 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.

3rd 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

Editorial

It's time! With what appears to be the worst of the Covid pandemic hopefully behind us it is time to get back together on a social scale and enjoy the outdoors together just like we used to. The last club night got us being social indoors while we listened to Ellen Webb talking about urban pest control. Our questions kept her busy and thinking carefully for her answers. She was more in favour of trapping but if you are interested in less hands-on pest control you might like to consider doing baiting (see the item at the end of the bulletin). Thank you to Jacqui and Anita for the yummy baking too. Delish! We could quite easily get to like it couldn't we?

But more important is to get out there and walk those calories off in the coming months. The trip planning meeting saw several good suggestions put forward – some old faithful ones and some new ones- enough to fill most weekends for the next 6 months. The south island options look very interesting. There are some trips which don't have leaders yet as you will have noticed in the activities calendar above. If you'd like to lead or have a go at leading contact the club captain or tramping chairman or perhaps a club member who can give you some good tips about the trip or plans you may have.

Presidential Blog

It has now come to the end of the Ski season, unfortunately not a lot of snow. Back into the summer tramping, make sure you check out the down south trips that are in the bulletin. The trips for the first half of the year have been sent out but many do not have trip leaders. If you are interested in becoming a trip leader and would like some support let the committee know. Also, if you are already a leader, please check the list that Les sent out of trips and let him know which one you would like to do or if you have another suggestion. It has been a bit wet lately and the tracks are boggy, but don't let that stop you. It may be harder tramping but there is always some entertainment, falling in, getting stuck and the use of mud for some beauty therapy. And in the recent trip to Waikaremoana not telling a member where you're

going the next day because they went to bed too early. Surprise - a track of mud. "Bring a compass. It's awkward when you have to eat your friends." Judith Bogle

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

Winter rates: For non-ski club members that will mean \$60 pp/night. Ski club members pay \$35. It doesn't take too many trips before you cover the additional membership costs. We'll be moving to summer rates of \$25 / \$15 adults/kids at Labour Weekend.

We made it to Spring ! Considering the challenges that's great news. Over Labour Weekend we are planning to offer a programme of spring skiing and walks around Ruapehu and Tongariro - for those who aren't going to head over the Tararua's. 2022 is sputtering to a stormy conclusion. La Nina was a very harsh event and severely restricted snow conditions at Mt Ruapehu. To their credit RAL persevered and at times it was a miracle that they had runs open after some of the rain events that just kept coming.

I am pleased that we also persevered and were continuously open from late June through to the last weekend in September. We're currently targeting opening during weather windows, for what is left of the season.

Much of this is due to the willingness of our custodians Michael and Dani who made the best of the somewhat solitary occupancy which also meant we were able to shuffle bookings when the weather didn't play ball. Thanks team !

1998 was the last time there was such poor snow. Subsequent years produced a much more balanced distribution. Hopefully we see a similar outcome as we consider next year.

This year we are facing an operating deficit. It's consumable but comes out of reserves which we have been accumulating for more significant works and maintenance. Fortunately, most of our school groups weren't put off by the conditions and this has provided a base income.

Who knows what summer will bring but the indications are it's still warmer than normal. With the longer daylight hours this will also mean some good opportunities to relax at the Hut after a weekend (or longer) of adventures at Tongariro. If you have some ideas of activities you would like to undertake or even lead then get in touch (*waikatoski@gmail.com*) to discuss.

Stephen Prendergast

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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 3021

Botany at Te Kauri Park

11 Sept

Do you know what hangehange, mingimingi, messy matai, ironed miro, twisted totara or a kamahi seedling looks like?

If you had come on “The Botany Expedition” you would!!

Sat was a nasty, cold very wet day and I thought our Sunday trip would be called off. But luckily the morning arrived overcast but dry.

About 12 of us met at Te Kauri Park carpark and after introductions and a wee talk by Selwyn about what we would be doing mooching around in the bush we set off- over the road and down the Manuka track, following a really lovely stream at the bottom to a neat campsite (note to self: a good wallowing hole in the summer).



Learning the ‘ropes’, errrr leaves.

Photo by Nikki Cahalane

Selwyn & Dianne challenged us all to learn four new tree, shrub or ground covers, to be able to identify them and to also recall their maori name by the end of the day. Selwyn & Dianne challenged us all to learn four new tree, shrub or ground covers, to be able to identify them and to also recall their maori name by the end of the day. It was with much excitement that within the hour Amanda had found a Toropapa in flower- such a bonus! (The plant, according to “Mr Google”, is known for the pleasant scent of its flowers and its name translates as “perfumed grove” .) After lots of stops for discussions, comparisons, photos and note taking we paused for a late morning tea at the campsite by the river. The sun was well and truly up by now and we were all desperately trying to recall our trees with their names as Dianne had threatened a test at the end of the day. From there we followed the Devlins’ loop track, which was somewhat overgrown, climbing up towards the road again and passing huge boulders covered in moss – just atahua.



Spider orchid almost ready to open its' flower

photo by Nikki Cahalane

We arrived back where we had started from – much more aware of how many varieties of trees there were in that small patch of bush and all of us had learnt at least the four minimum required!

As it was only about 2:30 we walked behind Te Kauri Lodge and explored another patch of bush. This had huge kohekohe trees looming up into the canopy, again just beautiful with the sun shining through their large lime green leaves.

We ended the day swigging coffees and munching icecreams at the Oparau Roadhouse. I went home thinking how lucky we all are to have Dianne & Selwyn in our club. They are both so knowledgeable and so willing to share that with us all. It was a great day.

Participants were: Selwyn & Dianne J (leaders), Barb C (scribe), Nikki C, Piet V, Amanda C, Helen O, John McA, Les W, Madeleine F, Christina H, Jeanette B, Rupert C, Averola, Annette W, David T, & David C.

Trip 3024

Bushcraft Course

1 Oct

We were all very grateful to find a most suitable venue at the DoC Kauaeranga Valley Visitor Centre. They have a meeting room with excellent facilities – projector and large screen, whiteboard, kitchen with plenty of cups and saucers, hot water, toilets and ample chairs and tables to use. Just a lovely quiet setting.

I had good positive feed-back that the structure of the course was ideal. The programme probably was a bit too comprehensive with some topics left out as we ran out of time. However, many topics were inter-linked with others, so not too much was missed. I basically followed the sections of the NZ Mountain Safety Council Bushcraft Manual.

We had five speakers / tutors – Judith, John Mc A, Selwyn, David Totman and myself. We all worked well together and offered our various views and experiences

of the topics presented, which was good to share different views and experiences to the participants. On the day we had 12 participants – 7 from the University Club and 5 from WTC. Would have been nice to have more WTC members come and learn more on bushcraft skills or refresh their knowledge base. We had a lot of interaction between the speakers and participants including some exercises thrown in. I, personally, enjoyed David Totman's presentation on weather, where he inter-linked discussion of the various weather conditions we would encounter, to the different tramping terrain.

With river safety, we decided to have this topic before lunch so we could follow a short practical session after the theory part and allow everyone to get some fresh-air. We had a clear weather window to walk down to the edge of Kauaeranga River and discuss scenarios on where to cross the River safely. As the River was quite high and fast flowing and not knowing how deep it was in places, we opted to practice the crossing technique in groups of four, on the edge of the River.

As the organizer of this Course, I was pleased that everything went well, we had a good number of participants, good speakers willing to share their knowledge and experiences and, the weather was not too bad in the end.

Thank you all, for making this a successful Bushcraft Course.

Scribe/Organizer: Les Warren

Trip 3022

L. Waikaremoana weekend walks

17/18 Sept

After a dismal long range weather forecast, the weather gods blessed us with a three-day window of blue skies and sunshine for our long weekend at Lake Waikaremoana. Given the distance to be travelled, it was an early start on Friday morning and the crew set off in the bus with senior club representation from the Club President, the Club Captain and our elder statesman, Jim. The rest of the rabble were content to follow their directions and decisions with no debate as the first directive was that there were going to be two coffee stops; the first in Rotorua when collecting Sharon and the second in Murupara to meet the locals and test the cafe.

After Murupara, the road slowed considerably with lots of bendy bits, single lanes, gravel, potholes, and even one flooded section where nobody responded to our drivers request for someone to walk it before taking the van through. Fortunately, a little hatchback had overtaken us when we stopped to take photos and it appeared to have gotten through the flood water (either that or it was completely submerged and we couldn't see it), so we figured the van would make it through also, which it did, and we eventually arrived at the campground. The lady in the office was most helpful in warning us which tracks were closed, but it may have been easier for her to recite those that were open. With winter storms and bad weather, they hadn't checked the state of the tracks so rather than let trampers walk in unaware, they closed them. But she affirmed that the Ngamoko Track to the trig was open. Knowing we needed to allow 5 to 7 hours for this walk, it was saved for Saturday, so we spent Friday afternoon doing several short walks close to the campground.

The most notable of these were the walks to Aniwaniwa Falls – a beautiful waterfall seen from no more than 55 angles on the various tracks surrounding it. After a pleasant afternoon oohing and aahing at the falls, it was back to camp for what Madeleine aptly named nibbles, tipples and giggles. After filling ourselves on cheeses, crackers, olives, chippies and more, our Trip Leader displayed what she had brought for our dinner, and all agreed we would barbecue only a quarter of what she brought. Even so, there was still a pile of leftovers. So, with a full belly, an early night was had by all.

Saturday morning was an early start with lunch made from last night's leftovers (which didn't use up the never-ending supply of sausages) before setting off a half hour earlier than planned for the climb to Ngamoko Trig. An air of despondency fell over us when we were greeted with a Track Closed sign. Figuring this was not the track we wanted anyway, we headed down the 4WD track and found the surge pond for the Waikaremoana power scheme and a dead end. Back to the start of the track and, third time lucky, found an un-signposted trail into the bush so we were off. The track was good and there were great views over the lakes. The orange triangle markers were a bit sparse in places but there were white forestry markers to fill the gaps. One of them was particularly memorable as it was fashioned to look like a first aid cross. "Hey look! A First Aid Tree!" cried Pete, which was instantaneously followed by a thud as he skidded out and landed on his behind. Fortunately, no first aid required for Pete. The forest was spectacular with vivid green mosses, lichen, verdant ferns and grasses, and lots of mature rimu and beeches. Interestingly, there was no evidence of pest control, nor bait lines nor predator boxes. We arrived at the trig right on lunchtime only to have to endure listening to continuous laments from two males about how they carried their thermos of hot water all the way to the top, but both forgot to pack a latte sachet or a tea bag. Meanwhile, the ladies were content to sip on their water bottles – not as high maintenance as the men on this trip. With a full belly, we explored the trig area a little and discovered a cheeky DoC officer had placed an orange triangle dead centre on the underside of the trig. After catching some rays on the solar panel (it was a cool day!) it was time to leave. There was a bit of scrambling to get down the hill, which was slippery at times, and once again, Pete gave a worm a very bad headache. As with the trip up, the markers going downhill were a little sparse. Our fearless leader, a.k.a. Madam President, stopped unexpectedly, declaring she was looking for the next marker. We could have left her dangling but put her out of her misery and highlighted that she was standing directly under it. There were lots more scenic views on the way down, intriguing purple mushrooms and a rata estimated to be between 800 and 1000 years old. We were almost at the end of the track, getting a little tired and ready for a shower and a cuppa when we were unexpectedly serenaded by our happy little newbie, Wendy, who was quietly singing away to herself, unaware her voice was carrying. After seven hours of reasonably good track, if a little overgrown at times, we walked out to find another Track Closed sign. Oops!

Back to camp for quick showers (except for Ying who thought she was in a day spa) and another night of nibbles, tipples and giggles. Camp mother Cathy, who apparently let the boys down by failing to pack tea bags and latte sachets in their lunch boxes, did redeem herself by cooking hot chips for all. More sausages and hash browns went onto the BBQ to have with salads for dinner, but it still didn't make much of a dent in the food supply. Ten people all catering for ten people means there is a LOT of food!

A briefing was held that night for the Sunday tramp which involved the group splitting in two – one group would do the Aniwanuiwa Valley Track (boggy but an adventure) and the other group would do the Lake Waikareiti Track – a well-formed track and shorter. The track to Lake Waikareiti was stunning with a gorgeous lunch spot beside the lake, where we met a couple of trampers from Hamilton of all places and had a very civilised lunch in the sun overlooking the lake. Meanwhile, the adventurers were bush bashing through manuka dealing with mud, blood, and crud. Poor Ying didn't know what she had signed up for, having missed the briefing. However, they all came out smiling and welcomed the picnic spread that awaited them at the stunning Papakorito Falls.

Adding to the Aniwanuiwa Valley Track, yes it was an adventure and boggy and scrubby and basically no markers-- well I can't actually remember seeing any. Yip Ying got the surprise of her life on the track she went on. You definitely need to go to team talks. The first half was a track with a lot of bog. Stream crossings where all the bridges were broken, but we managed to get to a clearing where we could see where we were heading to the ward hut. Description was accurate - there was left over barbed wire and a lot of beer bottles of there (unfortunately empty). You could see we were walking down a valley but we kept close to the podocarp forest on the left. To be noted when we came back - mainly under that forest. Way easier and faster trail. After a lot of manuka bashing we got to the end point where we found where the ward hut was burnt down. I really was beginning to wonder if we would find it, also not being mapped on the GPS just going by trip descriptions. A beautiful day, in this clearing there is a chair for the king, actually a necessary stop for the weary. The podocarp forest was beautiful to look at while having lunch. After this, made a faster time back to be greeted by food and friendly smiles. After a quick late lunch followed by a change into travel clothes, we left this beautiful spot for the long drive back to Hamilton, pondering the weekend and reflecting on lessons learned.

Top Ten Lessons Learned:

Murupara Cafe make great pies.

Remember to flick the switch on when recharging your phone (Jim).

Work out how much food you think you'll need, then halve it.

Bring more milk (Les).

If in doubt, pike out (Aniwanuiwa Valley Track vs Lake Waikareiti Track).

If the trip leader says it's going to boggy, that's an understatement.

“It’s going to be an adventure” translates to “no track markings and actually, no track”.

Don’t sleep through team briefings and then be surprised on the day.

This group laugh a lot (Ying).

And finally, always check the elasticity of your knickers before packing.

Attendees Jim S, Les W, Lynette M (main scribe) Peter A, Madeleine F, Sharon S, Ying S, Cathy D, Wendy O, Judith B (leader).

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*From the committee table:*

**New members:** Jane Hurst and Isobel Edwards. Welcome to the club.

**Resignations:** None

**Membership:** We have 191 tramping members this month.

**From the tramping chairman:** Wanted – Transport Officer

In order to have a great tramping club, active every week with great adventures enjoyed by all, we need members prepared to help organise this. Now that we are coming out of the confused Covid Time we need to get our tramping programme back operating as efficiently as prior to Covid. This includes having our transport capability ensuring we can take a full team to the road end, and bring them back safely. Ashley has done a wonderful job for five years but is moving on to other interests and we now need a new Transport Officer to organise the transport requirements for all trips.

If you wish to discuss the role, please chat to John on 021 2889641 (email [mcarthur@outlook.co.nz](mailto:mcarthur@outlook.co.nz))

Similarly, if you wish to offer yourself as a recognised WTC Driver (free trips to tramps), call John.

If you wish to help by becoming a Trip Leader, chat to Les 027 8644937.

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

➤ Forest & Bird wants the government to introduce a national Cat Management Act with the mandated registration and desexing of pet cats to protect our wildlife. New Zealand is awash with cats. There are thought to be about 1,134,000 companion cats and 196,000 strays in the country. There is no data on feral cat abundance in Aotearoa, but it is widely accepted they number in the millions. In Kaikaoura dotterels built 46 nest but only 2 chicks survived to adulthood; Trappers from Te Manahuna Aoraki project, who are trying to protect the last few hundred nationally critical kakī black stilts in the Mackenzie Basin, have eliminated more than 770 feral cats over the last two and a half years. Forest & Bird are campaigning for a Cat Management Act would give certainty to cat owners and regulators alike, while improving the welfare of all cats and local wildlife. Contact he organisation to have your say or make a donation

➤ Following on from the pest control talk at the last club night you may be interested in supporting the Pirongia restoration Societys' pest control activities by purchasing one or more of the bait stations they have for sale. They cost \$5 each and you can purchase the necessary bait at several outlets. You can use the same bait for rats and possums in the 2 compartments or put a possum-specific one in the upper compartment.



These stations were the model used by OSPRI – the governmental agency tasked with eradicating possums in herds. They are suitable for use in backyards as the bait is not able to be accessed by cats and dogs, just rats and possums.

Contact Dianne & Selwyn June if you are keen.
Ph 07 8433066, or 0274978151 or djune@xtra.co.nz.

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

➤ Birds used to track **light pollution at sea**. New research has expanded our understanding of which migratory bird species are most threatened by light pollution at sea. October 8th is World Migratory Bird Day, an international awareness day as birds embark on their seasonal migration. These epic journeys happen twice a year, one for each migratory season.

Tītī/sooty shearwaters, toanui/flesh-footed shearwaters and many other seabirds return to our shores in spring from their winter grounds in the distant seas of Japan, Alaska, California, and South America. On these journeys they face many threats, including fisheries bycatch, plastic pollution and changing prey distributions due to warming ocean temperatures.

One threat that is not yet well-understood is light pollution at sea. Vessels such as fishing boats, container ships and cruise ships may all have bright outside lighting that attracts and disorients birds, leading to vessel strikes (collisions with ships) and subsequent drownings.

“The vastness of the open ocean means that it’s very difficult to understand this threat at sea,” says Johannes Fischer, DoC Technical Advisor. “Most of our knowledge comes from terrestrial studies.”

To understand the impact of light pollution at sea better, researchers at DoC recently attached light-sensitive tracking tags to 179 seabirds across seven different species. These tags record light exposure events and exactly where they occur.

Graeme Taylor, Principal Science Advisor at DoC, has been putting light-sensitive tags on seabirds since 2005, but this new research has vastly expanded the understanding of which species are most threatened by light pollution at sea. “We were seeing these light ‘events’ during the dead of night,” says Graeme. “At first, we thought they might be lighthouses, but this new research shows these events happening out over the deep ocean where there isn’t any land. “We’ve concluded the light must be coming from ships.”

The good news is that some of our most endangered seabirds, such as the Chatham Island tāiko, kuaka/Whenua Hou diving petrel and ranguru/Chatham petrel, seem to encounter relatively little light pollution out at sea.

However, more than a third of tītī Wainui/fairy prions, toanui/flesh-footed shearwaters and tītī/sooty shearwaters encountered light pollution throughout the Pacific, particularly between Japan and Hawaii, Alaska and southeast of Aotearoa. “We can work with vessel owners to reduce this risk,” says Johannes Fischer. “Minimizing light use around seabird colonies, shielding lights and changing bulbs are some of many actions that can reduce vessel strikes.”

Minimizing light pollution doesn’t just benefit birds. It has impacts on nearly all ecosystem levels from other large migratory species like the fish and squid that seabirds snack on, to the plankton that migrate to the sea surface at night.

➤ The first Haast **tokoeka chick** of the 2022-23 season has hatched with Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio naming it Inanga. Haast tokoeka are one of our rarest kiwi with a population of about 550 birds. The chick was born in early September in the Haast Kiwi Sanctuary. DoC actively manages the areas where Haast tokoeka live. This includes running trap lines across 12,000 ha of land to kill stoats which are the main cause of death for chicks. During monitoring trips earlier this year 34 additional birds were caught, fitted with transmitters and released in the Sanctuary, Olivine Range and Junction Hill. Inanga’s father was among them. He was found in the Waitototo River area which lies within the Sanctuary. A senior ranger says 3 of the birds caught in the sanctuary were juveniles with their weights indicating that one was from last season and two from the season before - good sign predator control is working. Over 20 years of work has gone into getting the tokoeka population to where it is today.

Since 2018, the emphasis has been on managing Haast tokoeka at place through trapping and periodic use of aerial predator control on a landscape scale.

Last year the tokoeka population threat level was downgraded to Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable from Nationally Critical due to a combination of successful conservation management and discovery of a new population at Junction Hill.

Some egg and chick removal for captive rearing and transfer to predator free islands (ONE) continues in unmanaged sites to ensure that maximum genetic diversity of Haast tokoeka is retained. The key factor driving the population of Haast tokoeka is the very high rate of adult survival with a remarkable average life expectancy of 61 years. Tokoeka are also naturally slow breeders.

➤ DoC is currently carrying out predator incursion responses after **stoat footprints** were found on previously predator-free Te Kākahu-O-Tamatea/Chalky Island, and rats were caught in traps on Mauīkatau/Resolution Island. Chalky Island is in southwest Fiordland. It has been free of stoats since 1999 and is a haven for several threatened and endangered species including saddleback/tīeke, little spotted kiwi, Te Kākahu skink and kākāpō. Stoat footprints were seen during a field trip on 30 August and subsequently found in several locations across the island. On Resolution Island, also in southwest Fiordland, two rats were found in traps in late July during a standard stoat trap check. While the island has mice and very few stoats and deer, it is free of possums, and up till now was one of New Zealand's largest islands without rats. Resolution and its surrounding small islands are home to a number of threatened species including mōhua, tīeke, Fiordland skinks, geckos and giant land snails.

➤ Dozens of huts to be removed from Te Urewera as Tūhoe plan 'bespoke' replacements. A plan by Tūhoe to remove dozens of back country huts over summer has upset some users of the former National Park who believe it will mean back-country heritage will be lost DoC, which owns the huts, has no objections. Te Uru Taumatua (TUT), the iwi's operations arm says that 48 back-country huts which were either near or past their end-of-life were being decommissioned. Most were rarely used and not in areas often visited, TUT said. The options were to continue the costly maintenance of substandard facilities, abandonment, which was not realistic for health and safety reasons, or replacement. The huts will be removed over summer at an estimated cost of at least \$1m and replaced by "fit-for-purpose" structures. It is unclear how many new structures will be built and what they will look like. The estimated total replacement cost of the 50 or so huts in Te Urewera would be about \$10m. The new facilities would be completed within the next two years. In the meantime, a "limited number" of pre-fab temporary accommodation would be installed in each of Te Urewera's four valleys. On the Lake Waikaremoana Great Walk, one hut – Whanganui – was likely to be removed this summer as it was near the end of its life and required significant maintenance. It was only an hour and a half from an entrance to the walk, so was rarely used overnight. Conservationist Pete Shaw, a former DoC manager in charge of the mainland island project in Te Urewera, called the decision to remove the huts "cultural vandalism". He said the only reason they were in poor condition was because TUT hadn't been letting DoC crews into the area to maintain them. Shaw said it was wrong to say the huts were little-used. "During the roar you're lucky to find any of those huts available – they're full up with hunters." He said the huts under threat included ones considered historic sites by DOC, including three that were built from Totara slabs in the 1950s to house Government deer cullers. The Urewera huts were featured in Barry Crump's books *A Good Keen Man* and *Wild Pork and Watercress*, he said, and were culturally important to many people.

source: *Stuff*, 7 Oct 2022

Just a hint of a lenticular cloud

photo by Jacqui Dick



Who's going to be the cook?

Photo by Allan Wickens



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