



THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

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

March 2023



We can go up and down photo by Nicola Guy

WAIKATO HUT

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Tongariro National Park



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Gentians & old Celmisia
flower by Dianne

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WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB

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Free to members

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

BULLETIN No 847

March 2023

General Committee

(Contact details listed below)

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

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**Tramping Subcommittee**

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

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

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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 5th April

Club member Leo Juby is one of our youngest active members. He walked the South Island section of the Te Araroa trail solo as a teenager and what he learnt from it. Come and hear about what he learnt at St. Stephens' Church, Mahoe St/Ohaupo Rd corner, starting at 7.30pm

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2022/2023

	10/11 Mar	F	Ruapehu trail festival	Mike Peck
3054	19 Mar	M	Waikato River trails	Les Warren
3055	24-26 Mar	E/M	Waikato Hut W/P	Mike Peck
3056	2 Apr	M	Northern Hapuakohe	John McArthur
3057	6-10 Apr	M	Turangi-based day trips	Les Warren
3058	15/16 Apr	M & M/F	Pahautea Hut	Allan Wickens
3059	21-25 Apr	M	Taranaki Camphouse	Les Warren
3060	25 Apr	E & M/F	Mangaokewa	Selwyn June
3061	29/30 Apr	E/M	Hakarimata	John McArthur
3062	6/7 May	E/M	Te Huia Express to Rangitoto	Ron Dick
3063	13/14 May	E & M/F	Waitawheta Hut	Allan Wickens & John McArthur

Don't let a lack of equipment deter you from coming on a trip. Talk to the trip leader - who may be able to assist with lending or sharing gear.

TIME and FITNESS GUIDELINES

E = Easy. Up to 4 hours per day, pace slower than E/M.

E/M = Easy/Medium. Up to 5-6 hours/day, pace slower than M.

M = Medium. Up to 6-7 hours/day, at standard walking pace.

M/F = Medium/Fit. Up to 7-8 hours/day, pace faster than M.

F = Fit. Over 8 hours/day, pace faster than M/F.

Note that factors such as party size, fitness, weather, terrain and leadership will influence actual times, so the above are estimates only.

Bookings and Cancellations: no later than the WEDNESDAY before the trip.
Any person withdrawing after this day without good reason will be charged the full cost of the trip.

Departure Point: Trips depart from the river end of London Street. Cars can be parked, facing the road, in the car park on the right at the end of the cul de sac. If in doubt contact your trip leader.

Weekend Trips: leave on Friday nights at 7pm sharp unless otherwise stated.

Day Trips: leave Sunday mornings at 8am sharp.

If someone is concerned because a trip is late back, contact:

1) Club Captain; 2) President; 3) committee member.

Minimum equipment required:

Day Trips: A thermal layer (polypropylene, polyester etc or wool), an insulating layer of fleece (polartec etc) or wool and a water/wind-proof parka outer shell.

Shorts or longjohns/over-trousers in cool or wet weather. Torch and sunscreen.

Boots or strong shoes. Lunch, snacks and water bottle. First aid kit.

Weekend Trips: The above, plus pack with plastic liner bag, sleeping bag, tent, sleeping mat, cooker, billy, plate or bowl, spoon, food, spare dry clothes for evening, towel, toilet gear, light camp shoes. A water purifier can be useful. Plus, in extreme weather or country: additional warm top, over-trousers or woollen/fleece trousers, warm outdoor mittens or gloves, over-mitts, warm hat or balaclava, sunglasses. Ice axe and crampons for snow.

Trip Descriptions

Remember: Click ‘SUBMIT’ to confirm your booking on the website

Marshalling for the Ruapehu Trail Festival

Sat, Mar 11th

Get in very quick for this!

The organisers of the Ruapehu Trail festival are seeking fit volunteers to help out as marshals with running the race around Mt. Ruapehu.

There will be a briefing on Friday 10th at 1500hrs at Whakapapa Village after which you can head off to your designated location. The link to enrol as a marshal is <https://forms.gle/USHcH3YpQMCqRU3d9>.

Key points to note are as follows;

- Free accommodation is available for Friday and Saturday night (as required)
- \$200 per person paid to individuals or one payment to your organisation. This includes contribution to fuel and other expenses
- DOC hut fees (where necessary) are covered for Friday night.
- Marshals are required to attend a briefing at 1500hrs or 1800hrs on Friday 10th March at Whakapapa Village.
 - This is to allow time for some marshals to head into huts for the night (again, where necessary)
- There is a compulsory gear list, but I would expect that it will be similar to your overnight tramping club trip protocol
- Radios (using DOC frequencies) are issued to each marshal location
- Basic first aid kits are also issued
- Race day lunch is provided

At this point we are looking for experienced and (walking) fit people to fill marshal locations on Legs 1 and 2 of the course. For safety reasons, in most cases marshals are in pairs.

Leg 1 Required to walk in/out from the Bruce Road/ Whakapapaiti Track opposite the Fire Station (walking towards Ohakune Mt Road)

OR Required to walk in/out from the Ohakune Mt Rd/RTM Junction (walking towards Bruce Road).

Might walk into the course on Friday late afternoon/evening and stay at either the Whakapapaiti Hut or Mangaturuturu Hut (and then walk additional distance early Saturday)

OR walk in from respective entry points early Saturday (depending on exact position)

Might be on the tracks as early as 0200hrs Saturday, and could be off track as late as 1100hrs Saturday

Accommodation provided Friday and Saturday night in Whakapapa (if not at a Hut)

Leg 2 Required to walk in/out from the Ohakune Mt Road/Waitonga Falls Carpark (walking towards Tukino)

OR Required to walk in/out from the Tukino Access Road/RTM Track (walking towards Ohakune)

OR Required to walk in/out from the Pulp Mill SH49 (with AVT Access via Karioi Forest supplied)

Might walk into the course on Friday late afternoon/evening and stay at either the Mangaehuehu Hut or Rangipo Hut (and then walk additional distance early Saturday)

OR walk in from respective entry points early Saturday (depending on exact position)

Might be on the tracks as early as 0500hrs Saturday, and could be off track as late as 1730hrs Saturday

Accommodation provided Friday and Saturday night in Whakapapa (if not at a Hut)

ALERT: Due to Cyclone Gabrielle damage a few of the trips advertised last month are no longer able to go ahead -check your diary.

Trip Descriptions

Trip 3054

Waikato River trail & Maungatautari

19 Mar

We will aim to walk from the Little Waipa reserve to Arapuni along part of the Waikato River trail, ending at that favoured and popular venue – the Rhubarb café. If there is time and inclination, we could also visit the southern enclosure of the sanctuary mountain – Maungatautari- which has an entry fee of \$25/person.

Leader: Les Warren

Ph: 027 8644937

Grade: E

Email: *warrenlb2017@outlook.com*

Transport: Senior member \$20-35

Senior non-member: member rate + \$10

Trip 3055**Waikato hut workparty****24-26 Mar**

This is the next amended venue.

The aim is to work on external matters such as painting so bring some old clothes. You will be well-fed and have the company of good friends. Let Mike know if you have any special skills that could be of use but remember – many hands make light work.

And, if all the jobs have progressed as far as possible, or are even completed on Saturday, there may be an option for a walk on Sunday too.

Leader: Mike Peck**Ph:** 021 369 256**Grade:** E/M**Transport:** Private vehicles or perhaps a club van? Check with Mike.**Accommodation:** free**Trip 3056****Northern Hapuakohe****2nd Apr**

The WTC last did this tramp in August 2020 and on that occasion, it took 8 hours 9 minutes for the 15.9km. The leader got us lost but I'm sure he'll do better this time. The track is by no means flat and GPS records show a total climb and descent of approximately 1000m up and down along the track. Because the daylight hours are not limited, I will call this a Medium Fitness tramp as we will need to keep a good pace through the day. The state of the track was considered somewhat overgrown but more recently reported as OK.

The majority of the tramp is in good bush with most of the views to the west across to Huntly and Waikato lakes. Some brief views to the East and the Hauraki Plains.

Leader: John McArthur**Ph:** 021 2889641**Grade:** M**Transport:** Senior member \$20-35 Senior non-member: member rate + \$10**Trip 3057****Turangi day trips****7-10 Apr**

The next trip in this diary to be amended.

We will base ourselves in Turangi and undertake day trips from the base. There are many options in the surrounding countryside and mountains and we will not be too far away from some nice hot pools – one of the possible accommodation options even has the pools onsite! There is a lovely day walk along the Tongariro river up one side and down the other past the trout hatchery. The beech trees will be looking particularly lovely at this time, we may spot whio on the river, and there are lots of bellbirds near the hatchery too. The grades will depend on what we choose to do

Leader: Les Warren**Ph:** 027 8644937**Grade:** E-M**Email:** warrenlb2017@outlook.com**Transport:** tba**Trip 3058****Pahautea Hut on Mount Pirongia****15-16 Apr**

This weekend trip involves an overnight stay at the popular Pahautea Hut on Mount Pirongia. Details have yet to be determined on how the two groups will get to the hut, where we have 10 bunks booked for our use. This is the first in a trilogy of pre-booked huts that have proven to be very popular and require booking well in advance (the other two are Waitawheta, Trip 3063, in May and Crosbies, Trip 3068, in June). All three trips involve an easy-medium (or M only), and fitter

option. Of the three on offer, Pirongia is the hardest walk for some people and by making it an overnight trip, it becomes less strenuous.

There are several tracks leading to the hut, and we are aiming at having both groups go up via one and down the other. As this trip is some time away, please contact the leader (below) and your name will be put down for one of the two fitness level options. This also secures a bunk for the night. Formal registration can also be done when it appears on our on-line website.

Leader/s: Allan Wickens **Ph:** 027 950 9546 **Grade:** M and M/F
(and one other for the fitter option) **Ph:** tba

Email: *allanwickens@hotmail.com*

Transport: Senior members \$10-15 Senior non-members: members rate + \$10
(NB: as this area is close to Hamilton, we will probably be using private vehicles that will involve transport logistics from one trailhead to another.)

Accommodation: The Hut costs \$5.00 (adult price)

Trip 3059

Taranaki Camphouse

21-25 Apr

The last of the amended trips for this bulletin

This trip will be based at Camphouse, North Egmont. I have booked 12x bunk beds for three nights (Fri, Sat and Sunday nights). I am only using two bunkrooms that each have 8 bunk beds. One room will have other people in them. We will leave at 7am Friday 7th (tbc) and return Monday 10th in the afternoon.

The Camphouse has pots, pans, cooking utensils, cutlery, crockery, fridge and freezer all provided. Mattresses are provided but bring your own sleeping bag and pillow. Trip leader will bring tea-towels and dishwashing liquid.

Walking Options

Day walks:

There are a good number of walks between 1hr and 4hrs one can do. There is one, full day walk – Kokowai Circuit (6hrs). From Dawson Falls / East Egmont, there are a number of 1 to 4hr walks plus, a couple of full day walks.

Logistically, we can spend one day at Camphouse and the other day at Dawson Falls/East Egmont.

Overnight walks:

Overnight return trip to Holly Hut. 3-4hrs each way. 32 Bunks **but need to book**.
Or Pouakai Circuit (2 days) – Camphouse to Pouakai Hut. Can go in either direction. 5-7hr days. 16 Beds **but need to book**.

NOTE: Anyone doing an overnight trip will need a suitable Leader. As the trip Leader I am not planning on doing an overnight trip. Once I know numbers of those doing a certain overnight trip, I will contact you and you will need to book the huts you are staying at, yourselves. You will not be charged for bunknights at the Camphouse if you don't stay there, provided sufficient notice is given to the trip leader.

When making your booking please confirm which trip you would like to do. Any further details will be sent out closer to the time.

Leader: Les Warren

Ph: 027 8644937

Grade: F

Transport: tba

Accommodation at the Camphouse: \$27/person/night

Trip 3060

Mangaokewa track

25 Apr

Part of the Te Araroa Trail, this track follows the Mangaokewa River, south of Te Kuiti. We start in an attractive bush-sided valley in the Mangaokewa Reserve and carry on south in farmland (the reverse direction to that which we have done in the past) and bush close to the river. The track is mainly flat or undulating, but there are a few steep slopes to carefully sidle around or walk up. 15 km, 6 hours walking. An easier option would be for those wanting to do shorter legs to walk in with everyone else for a while and back to the vehicle with the driver then do the same thing at the other end to meet those who have walked the whole distance.

Leader: Selwyn June

Ph: 0274 978151 or 07 8433066

Grade: E or M/F

Transport: Senior member \$20-35

Senior non-member: member rate + \$10

Trip 3061

Hakarimata walk

29/30 Apr

Track starts on a farm on Elgood Road, climbs through pines to a ridge and then along past where an airstrip was marked but now planted. Continue along ridge until you get to another ridge and saddle going east towards the Hakarimata ridge line. Go past the apparent easy entry to the ridge and approach it from the north side, bit of a mish if I remember right. The route is quite easy and follows a saddle which at times becomes more of a sharp ridge. Eventually this leads up to the main Hakarimata ridge.

At this point we could turn right and make for the lookout at the peak or turn left and head to the northern exit. That will be decided closer to the day.

Leader: John McArthur

Ph: 021 2889641

Grade: M

Transport: Senior member \$20-35

Senior non-member: member rate + \$10

Trip 3062

Te Huia train to Rangitoto

6/7 May

More information for this trip will come next month so watch this space.

Leader: Ron Dick

Ph: 021 260 8149

Grade: E/M

Transport: Senior member \$20-35

Senior non-member: member rate + \$10

Train fare: tba

Trip 3063

Waitawheta Hut in Kaimai Ranges

13/14 May

Staying overnight at this popular and often fully booked out hut, is a feature of this weekend trip. WTC have booked 10 places out of 26 bunks (all adult price). One group will be taking the easy option of the Waitawheta Tramway route, following an old tramway (1898-1928) through the spectacular Waitawheta Gorge. This almost fully flat track takes 3-4 hours one way. Once at the hut, we will explore the surrounding area during the afternoon. The fitter option will get to the hut by starting at Waiorongomai, south-east of Mount Te Aroha. Details of how this group leader will do the walk will be revealed later. Suffice to say this will be a medium to fit walk, taking most of the day to get to the hut.

The plan is to depart our normal departure site at London Street at 8.00 am on Saturday, returning late afternoon on Sunday.

Leaders: Allan Wickens – allanwickens@hotmail.com (**easier** option)

John McArthur - mcarthur@outlook.co.nz (**fitter** option).

Transport Senior member \$35-40 N on-member Senior rate + \$10

Accommodation: Hut fee \$20.00 (senior price only).

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.

Editorial

How many of you noticed that we entered another modern age last month? Not only we did we move to colour photos last year (what is your opinion about this? It makes the bulletin more expensive to produce so let the committee know how you feel about it please.) but Mike's trip report about his Okataina walk was written by ChatGP. He showed me various versions of the report but I considered it would be more fun to read the report in ChatGP format. But please, don't let that stop you 'hand-writing' your reports. They will always include those interesting anecdotes that no computer can add!

We have just come back from Les' Lewis Pass excursions and I must say it is an impressive area to even just be in. My grateful thanks go to the tramping companions who opted to 'potter' along at my pace or speak up when they wanted to go faster. You all made for a most enjoyable tramping trip for me. I hope I didn't spoil yours.

AGM time is coming up and there are some important issues to be discussed. Please make sure you are up with the play and can have constructive input into the discussions. (you can even opt to change who edits this bulletin if you so desire). I am willing to continue but if you want a change of editor, feel free to suggest it.
Dianne June

Presidential Blog

There have been some great trips happening down South and I have seen some awesome photos with people having a lot of fun. Next club night there is going to be an interesting talk from Leo our youngest club member who through his school holidays did the Te Araroa track solo. This is a great achievement. Also on the 3rd May is going to be the AGM, so I hope to see as many people there to support the club. I will get the booklet out in due course. I'd like to acknowledge the great effort by everyone on the last working bee. 10 Cubic metres of wood heft up the

hill. Great effort, and thanks to Mary and her helpers for feeding the crew. The next working bee is on the 25-26 March 2023, so I would encourage as many people as possible to help out. There is a bit of maintenance work to be done.

Judith Bogle

Quote this month “The joy of life comes from our encounters with new experiences, and hence there is no greater joy than to have an endlessly changing horizon, for each day to have a new and different sun.”

...from the Ski Club...

On 1 March RAL provided further information about the preparations for the 2023 ski season.

- Season Pass sales will start in the next 4 weeks
- The money paid will be kept in trust until the start of the season
- Prices would be similar to previous seasons; no clarity on whether there would be an early bird period or price
- There is a focus on top to bottom skiing but there will be fewer services available
- Pass benefits will be similar ie discounts & buddy passes
- Life Pass holders will receive further info about Life Passes

Clearly 2023 is about keeping the field operating as the rescue deal continues to be thrashed out. There is a watershed meeting in May which is the target date to announce further progress on a recovery plan.

At this point the plan for the 2023 ski season is:

- Turoa: 15 July to 15 October
- Whakapapa: 1 July to 15 October

Ski Subscriptions

We have held off sending out subscriptions for those members who belong to both our tramping club and ski club, as these are normally sent in February. These will be sent much closer to the ski season start - which reflects the time of benefit for your ski club membership.

Working Party weekend - 25/26 February

On 25/26 February an enthusiastic bunch of 20 completed the first working party. Another 10 m3 of wood was packed into the wood shed and the Lodge was thoroughly cleaned particularly the bunkrooms which were stripped and washed down. The kitchen also got an overhaul, courtesy of Judith. It's as clean as I have seen it for a few years. It was a full day of wood hauling for the 16 or so who started on that task at 7 am on Saturday, and we were well fed by the kitchen crew led by Mary, culminating in a tasty Saturday meal with dessert of apple and blackberry bake. Thanks to those of you and the tramping club members who assisted with that weekend.

Working Party weekend - 25/26 March

A further weekend to paint and work on outside areas is being planned for the 25th & 26th of March - subject to weather being suitable. Please get in touch if you would like to join in.

Stephen Prendergast

Upcoming season news from RAL:

Preparations are being made for the sale of 2023 season passes which will only be available during the campaign period and their numbers will be capped. They will include discounts off food and beverage, retail, lessons, and buddy passes. The purchase money will be held in third party trust account until the opening date can be confirmed. If the operation does not open, all money will be refunded (with terms and conditions of course). Life pass holders will be advised of progress as the voluntary liquidation process develops.

Trip Reports

Trip 3031

Photography revealed

13 Nov

It always amazes me how I could have a camera for nearly 10 years and know so little about what it can do. I guess it is relevant that you need to know what TO do. I felt also that it's so lucky, when you feel dumb and you need to ask questions about YOUR own camera that you have had for 10 years, the person who could help you happened to be the sister of a very dear friend for many years. You can then safely assume that you won't be laughed at, not out loud or not in front of the others anyway.

So that was my learning situation prior to the actual photographic trip. We met up a couple nights prior and Nicola, our trip leader and trainer plus the technical advisor on the day out, gave us a great idiot-proof rundown on how to use the camera, tripod and find the suitable settings.

So, on the day, we were all set to meet up halfway on our way to the Appletree Road and Tawarau Falls. Bits and pieces stuck in my limited brain capacity are:

- ✓ We had a lovely small group of 6, Nicola, Peter, David, Jacqui, and Kathy (scribe and photographer for this story).
- ✓ To reach the track, it took a lot of concentration, bravery and good handling of the vehicle to keep your car axle intact
- ✓ It was drizzily, the track was slippery and the forest was surprisingly more beautiful than expected
- ✓ The three stream crossings were fun and the track would be a great place to practise river / stream crossings
- ✓ The chains were a godsend at the final descent to the falls
- ✓ We appreciated that "time flies when you are having fun" as we moved to different locations and angles to shoot the waterfall

A big thank you to Nicola Guy for her professionalism and patience with us. I personally felt the trip was more helpful than the 6 weeks night class I attended a



couple of years ago. I look forward to more trips with Nicola in the future. Unashamedly, this is my best shot for the day.

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### **Trip 3048**

### **Ngatuhua Lodge**

**18/19 Feb**

This was an amazing weekend that involved 9 of us travelling to the Kaimai Mamaku Forest Park to, literally, disconnect from the modern world and spend time in nature. We started our trip on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> meeting at the intersection of McLaren falls and Omanawa road at about 6:30 pm. From there we drove a few minutes to the intersection with Mangaonui Road (private road).

After crossing a security gate we drove on a gravel road for about 25 minutes to the Ngatuhua lodge. Over the next day and a half we completed three walks and spent time getting to know a bit about each other. On Saturday, we started our walk to Te Rere i Oturu falls (“The place where Turu, took flight”) at 8:30 in the morning. We walked for about 6.5 hours (approx. 12 km).

The walk involved walking on gravel road (mostly flat), crossing a river, walking over a fallen tree that was blocking the road, walking through grassy paths and dense bush. Highlights of this walk were the Whio falls (about 2 m high) and the Te Rere i Oturu falls (about 40 metres high and 25 metres wide), both on the Opuaki River. On Sunday we did two walks. Our first walk, which started at 8:30 in the morning, was the Ngatuhua Short Loop Walk (about 5 km). This walk took

about 2.5 hours, with half of the time walking on uneven and bumpy terrain covered with trees and plants, and the second half walking mostly on smooth terrain. The second walk of the day was a shorter one (about 2 km, 1.5 hours) and comprise walking down to the Ngatuhua river to contemplate the Ngatuhua falls, this was a majestic landscape and we got as close as possible to the waterfall.



Ngatuhua Falls

photo by Nicola Guy

David S (scribe), Jim S, Sharon S, Prativa S, Julie V, Jocelyn W.

We left the lodge at 2pm on Sunday, after cleaning the facility. We may have been tired physically but mentally we were re-energised. Definitely this weekend has been good for our mental health. Thank you Nicola for leading this trip and everyone involved for making this a memorable experience. Those on the trip were Nicola G, Peter L, Steve O'B,

### **Trip 3039**

### **Travers- Sabine circuit**

**28 Dec-5 Jan**

This trip did not go as expected, went from a trip around a circuit to a tramping holiday. The first day we got dropped off at Coldwater Hut by water taxi and we headed for Hopeless hut.

Most of the time before the turn-off to the hut, we walked along the Sabine river. Once we turned off to the Hut, we climbed most of the way but crossed a couple of boulder streams on the way.

Hopeless Hut was commissioned by Sir Edmund Hillary. There is a plaque inside

on the ceiling. It is a 6-bunk hut but they have added a room on the side to sleep.

You have to walk through the wood storage area first to get to it.

Most of the people coming to the Hut were coming from Angelus Hut, which apparently is a bit of a haul. We landed up staying at Hopeless for 3 nights, due to (as found out later) a pulled muscle. Walking was rather painful. It was a nice spot at Hopeless hut looking out the window and seeing a giant slip coming towards us. There was a beautiful stream that ran between the Hut and the base of the slip.

Could not have chosen a better spot to have been laid up at.

The decision was to head to John Tait Hut and, after that, to Lake head to catch the Ferry out. It was a slow journey but thanks to the support of Jim and Sophia they made the situation very pleasant and memorable. We enjoyed the sunshine and the time to look around. There were plenty of beach trees and robins around. At John Tait the couple we met from Auckland were there, Cat and Kendall who had had a strenuous time coming from Angelus Hut to Hopeless. There had been stories of the other Huts all being packed out and it had even been hard to find camping space but John Tait was all good. People kept on missing this one, so New Years' Eve was quiet and restful. And we spent time with our new-found friends. When we got to John Tait, Jim and Sophia went off to Sabine falls where Sophia had a swim. Don't think she was in there too long, bit cold. The next day Jim and Sophia went up to Cupola Hut and said it was great, you could see over to Mount Hopeless. Also Jim had a sleep there and Sophia enjoyed the sun and had a play on the guitar left there. Apparently, the track was very similar to that of going up to Hopeless Hut.

Next day we headed out to Lakehead Hut. The walk along the Sabine river is always a pretty and lovely walk. We crossed over the bridge to head to Lakehead. From here the track is basically flat and you end up walking through what is a field. You can see the Hut for ages before you get there. We met a young lady and her parents at the hut who told us about a TA walker who caught possums for food while doing the Te Araroa trail; his name was Beal, she had managed to meet him. We were intrigued by the story, but we had to leave a comment about having Ratatouille in the book as competition. All in all, it may not have turned out as hoped but we really did have a great tramping holiday, with the sunshine, the people we met, the stories and information we gathered; and most importantly the great companions I had with me, Sophia B and Jim S. Signed off Judith B

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Trip 3050

Mount Tama

25-26 Feb

Although I've been in the club for more than 20 years, having a young family (one of whom isn't keen on tramping) has kept me from doing many trips lately and this was my first club trip in several years. Hearing about this trip at the club night however it sounded great and a chance to visit some off-track parts of the Tongariro National Park that I hadn't been to (including climbing Mt Tama). The weather forecast was not promising (and turned out to be mostly accurate) for

Friday night and Saturday morning, with strong winds and rain. After stopping at the shelter in Whakapapa to get dressed up, we quickly set off from the Top of the Bruce carpark into the cold rain and wind gusting up to gale force. Perhaps a bit too quickly as I failed to check my pack cover was properly fastened and at some point, it must have blown away into the night. Thankfully the hut working party had the hut nice and warm for us. And thankfully again, in the morning the wind had died down a bit, though still quite blustery, and visibility was fine. We set off (only 1/2 an hour late at 8:30) back down to the carpark, then across to duck behind Meade's Wall and begin our struggling descent, not helped by the wind.

After a couple of hours of up and down across and down gullies, Jane decided she'd had enough (probably not helped by a slip and injured finger), so the decision was made that she follow a spur down to the Chateau with Mike the driver and then return to the hut. The rest of us continued in somewhat improving conditions to reach a plateau where black-backed gulls apparently nest in spring. Only a few feathers were in evidence, but the ground of the desert landscape was dotted sparsely with clusters of tiny flowers as well as lots of white gentians.

We stopped for lunch at 12pm in sunshine and with perfect timing it didn't start raining again until just as we set off again. After some questions about how far we had to go to reach the planned campsite behind Mt Tama and considering the prevailing wind (from the East), John decided we should instead aim to camp by Lower Tama Lake, shorter and more sheltered. I was not sorry about this as although I've done plenty of running, I wasn't used to carrying a pack. Having descended the stream that feeds Lower Tama Lake in a strangely frustrating combination of persistent rain and sunshine (made you hot, but not want to take off your coat) we crossed the Waihohonu track and reached the lake. Half of the former lakebed is now silted up, so we still had a few minutes' walk across a flat plain to reach a lovely, sheltered campsite right by the lake with plenty of tent sites among some low scrub. At around 3:30pm we had plenty of time to relax in the sunshine, do some wandering around the lake shore, reading and relaxing before dinner. Around 7:30 or so, once everyone had finished and packed up dinner, it once again started to rain. Good timing once more, so we turned in.

Sunday morning dawned fine but with a little low cloud scudding across above us. We packed up and headed up a spur next to our camp leading at a very steady gradient in the direction of Mt Tama. Nice views were had of Lower Tama lake and then Upper Tama came into view on our left. The cloud gradually lifted through the day (top of Ngauruhoe just appearing briefly in the afternoon). After several photo stops, we stopped by a dry lakebed just above Upper Tama, where John gave us the option of dropping down to the shelter of the lakebed to wait or heading up Mt Tama without packs. Most chose the latter, and it was a quick scramble with the freedom of unburdened shoulders to get to the summit, which was clear and sunny, though with a cool breeze. Back down at our packs, John gave us a choice of continuing up around to descend to Whakapapa via a long ridge

or take a shorter route back via the Upper Tama Lake lookout track and then the main Waihohonu track. It seemed like the former would get us out quite late (maybe after 5pm), so we decided on the quicker track. Probably for the best because my pack became quite uncomfortable by the end, though the long gravel track may have been worse on my feet. A few spots of rain pestered us on the way down from Upper Tama, but otherwise it stayed fine and once on the main track we had to strip off layers due to overheating. Arriving a little after 4pm, the van was a welcome sight by the Skotel as was Jane's kindly donated hot salty chips. Participants: John (leader), Mike (driver), Jean, Beatrix, Julia, Isaac, Jane, and Peter (scribe).

From the committee table:

New members: Nil

Resignations: Sadly, we accept the resignation of Keith Robbins.

Membership: We have 193 tramping members this month. Your annual membership notice have been due since Feb 20th. It would be helpful to all involved if you arranged prompt payment for this.

From the tramping Captain:

The Tramping Committee met recently and got the management of the club off to a flying start, firstly by reminding ourselves of a few tasks that were not yet complete. So yes, one or two tidy up jobs to do for 2023.

We decided to give you all a bit of an outline of some of the features of the year that you should be aware of and may wish to comment on.

1. The First is the makeup of the Tramping Committee. We went round the table to see what the current committee want to do. We want to make it clear that we encourage and welcome any member to join the committee and wish to see some new faces, hear some new views and ideas.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Task</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>and</u>
Chair (AGM)	Hold it together, bossy	John McArthur	Yeah nah, stay on
Captain (AGM)	Make sure the trips and training events happen	Les Warren	Staying on
Secretary (AGM)	meeting minutes and document management	Dorothy Cawdron	Happy to continue or step aside
Treasurer (AGM)	Makes sure we don't overspend, understand the \$	Guy Domett	Happy to continue or step aside

Social	Club nights, Christmas Party and other social events	Jacqui Dick	Staying on
Transport	Make sure transport available for all trips	Allan Wickens	Staying on
Membership	Manage members register, new members, invoice subs	Lois Rowell	Stepping aside
FaceBook	Dropbox Photobank, FB posts	Rizal Razak	Staying On, happy to have buddy
Committee member	Participate in decisions and guidance	Rupert Craggs Selwyn June	Staying on Staying on

The four (AGM) positions are voted at the AGM, all other positions are really up for grabs if you want to do one of them.

2. Snowcraft will go ahead but as a very much more professional event. It will be less of a social occasion, more of a capability development exercise with a number of controls and specific outcomes required of participants. Details are being developed.

3. Bulletin in paper copy. The Tramping Section of WTC is making a loss this year and we have identified a number of actions to take.

It has been identified that for a member to receive the Bulletin in paper format for a year (11 copies) it costs the club \$51.50. As the subscription is \$50 and from that we must pay the FMC levee of \$15, it is obvious that members receiving the email copy are subsidising the members receiving the paper copy by a significant amount. The committee has recommended maintaining the normal membership subscription of \$50p.a. per (adult) member and charging a surcharge of \$30p.a. (from 2024) for those members who wish to receive the paper copy.

This move will be prepared as a resolution to be addressed by all members at the AGM.

4. As in past years, the Club Captain will run Trip Planning meetings in April and September (or thereabouts) for the following half calendar year. You are encouraged to put your ideas into these meetings to make the programme of trips to your interests. There is no limitation to the type of trip - kayak, mountain bike, river rafting.....

We in the committee are looking forward to a great year and we hope you are too - get into it!!

Tramping Committee

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*Nature is not a place to visit – it is home Gary Snyder*

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

✓ Recently I received some correspondence from the National Library asking for copies of a couple of previous bulletins. Did you know that as we publish these into the public arena, the National Library keeps a copy of them? Always a good backstop in case you can't get a copy from your editor/club archivist.

✓ We know that at least one of our members had (maybe still has) links to Hutt Valley TC so if you're interested, check out their plans to celebrate their centenary. 14 May 2023: a tramp following the route of the first tramp in 1923, followed in November (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>) with a weekend of celebration. To register interest, email [100th@hvtc.org.nz](mailto:100th@hvtc.org.nz) and for more information, see the club's website

✓ ARE YOU OLD ENOUGH FOR THIS? Recently we had a short talk at club night from Etienne de Villiers He is a Social Anthropology PhD student from the University of Otago, who is conducting research focussed on tramping groups in the Waikato and the significance of those groups and tramping in general to older members. He is looking to recruit more participants for this piece of research. Below will be more details regarding his work. A little bit about him first: I'm South African though I have lived in New Zealand for much of my life, I am also a life-long trumper, It's an activity that's been a part of my life for most of it and was an important part of family life for me. Much of my interest in tramping comes from that background.

What I am looking to find out in my research is what tramping means to my participants and how it slots into the larger stories of their lives, I am particularly interested in learning from trampers themselves. Specifically, about the impact ageing has had on your tramping experiences and the impact that tramping has had on your experiences of ageing. Other areas of interest to my research are: The communal aspect of tramping, which is why I want to work with tramping groups such as yours. I also want to develop a better understanding of the social aspects of walking and the relationships people develop with the landscapes they walk in. Participating in my study is completely voluntary and participants can withdraw at any time, Participation in the study is comprised of one or two audially-recorded one-on-one interviews depending on your preference. These interviews are very fluid and function more as a conversation. I will mostly be asking about stories relating to your tramping experiences and general club involvement as well as your experiences of ageing. I would also love the opportunity to participate in tramps with you if you are open to it, If I attend tramps you can expect me to take notes in a journal relating to mine and my participants' experiences, take photos and record parts of the trail using a Go Pro, If anyone on the tramp is uncomfortable with my presence or any of my data gathering methods feel free to let me know as I do not wish to intrude or disrupt anyone's experience. I am also keen to participate in other club activities such as club night, a recce, or a club lunch if you are open to it just to further observe social structures of your tramping group. Feel free to ask my any questions regarding

my study you may have and I look forward to hopefully working with some of you moving forward. You can contact me via phone 022 3511845, or by email: [devet032@student.otago.ac.nz](mailto:devet032@student.otago.ac.nz) .

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

✓ Manaia man Pete Andreoli did a double take when he saw a **weka** wandering around a back yard in the little South Taranaki township. Although the large brown flightless birds, known for their feisty and curious personalities are common in many alpine areas in the South Island, they've not been sighted in Taranaki for decades – and this bird's arrival sees DoC calling on the public for sightings of other weka in the district. When Pete's son sent him a video showing the weka, Pete wondered 'what the hell's a weka doing in Manaia?'. Realising it was a bird out of place, he managed to trap the wayward weka using a trout net on a long pole. "It took a bit of catching as it had some good side steps." He popped the bird into his vegetable shade house for safekeeping. A quick call to the DoC hotline resulted in some minor confusion. The ranger answering the call was from the South Island, where weka are relatively common – and Pete was told to release the bird in the forest. Pete got hold of the local DoC office staff to determine the best course of action for the weka. The bird is now being cared for off display at Brooklands Zoo where DNA tests will hopefully give DoC a further piece in the puzzle of where the bird originated from. Once the DNA tests come in a decision will be made on where the weka will be rehomed. The bird's sex is not known. Because of its scavenging habit, the weka occupies a problematic conservation niche. They can have predatory impacts on other fauna, especially burrow-nesting seabirds, ground nesting birds, reptiles, and large invertebrates. If weka were to get on Taranaki Maunga they pose a real risk to the native wildlife while the ecosystems and populations are still in such a recovery phase. Photos seen by DoC show the weka may have had a mate – and with another weka possibly on the loose in Manaia, DoC is asking for reports of the bird. Although it's unknown how the birds got to Manaia, it's possible the weka were released illegally. "Weka are flightless and their closest known natural habitat in the North Island is near Opotiki.

✓ DoC is urging everyone to be patient and careful when considering using DoC facilities. It will take time to assess damage, get engineering reports, and repair the damage. As these matters are attended to, notifications will be given so please check before you go as to whether you can actually do so. There is an amazing picture of the track to Cathedral Cove pictured with their news item on the website!

✓ **Who** take flight in Canterbury. 13 juvenile who/blue duck are now riding river rapids in Arthur's Pass National Park, after being helicoptered to their new home in January. 8 of the threatened-nationally vulnerable ducks were set free on

the Edwards River and the rest on the Poulter River, both of which are on the Canterbury side of the park. Whio are river specialists and one of the few waterfowl worldwide that live year-round on fast-flowing rivers. The ducks travelled to the park by helicopter from Christchurch where they were raised by the Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust. DoC Biodiversity Ranger Antje Wahlberg said the eggs or newly-hatched chicks came to the Trust's Peacock Springs breeding facility from three captive pairs held at Orana Wildlife Park and Willowbank Wildlife Reserve in Christchurch, as well as from Kiwi Park Queenstown. "These pairs have been very successful in producing ducklings for later release into the wild. They have given us over 100 juveniles over the past five years. This success means we've been able to extend the whio recovery sites in Arthur's Pass and release juveniles there as well as into the Central Southern Alps security site focused around the Styx-Arahura-Taipo valleys near Hokitika. Stoats are the greatest danger for whio as they nest in areas where stoats commonly feed. Female whio are frequently killed while on the nest. DoC partners with Genesis in the Whio Forever Recovery Programme. Genesis' investment through the programme has included funding for over 5,000 traps protecting nearly 1700 km of river networks. The number of whio pairs nationwide has increased from 298 to over 860 since the partnership began.

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

- ✓ The annual FMC photo competition is coming up in the next 6 months with club entries closing on Sept 15<sup>th</sup>. Having had an opportunity to hone your photography skills recently, why not use the time to practise, take some great shots of your activities and get them ready to enter into our own competition, which takes place beforehand.
- ✓ *Oragene* are offering a special 10% discount code to FMC members so you can have access to your own trigger sprays to take with you on tramping and hiking trails. Keep Kauri Dieback at bay by using these products to spray your shoes before and after your hike. Products are biodegradable and recyclable so are friendly for the environment, and for you. The product SteriGENE included in the pack is the product that is in the cleaning stations currently (some are still labelled as TriGENE which is our old brand name for SteriGENE). The discount applies across the whole site, including basic home cleaning things such as glass cleaners, degreasers for BBQs/bikes etc and spray and wipe cleaners, as well as the kauri hiking bundle. Use code: **KAURIIKINGFMC**.
- ✓ There are more than 60 discounts available with your FMC card. Check them all out at on the website.



Some walk up to ride....

And others just carry on walking up



En route to the Lewis pass tops

photos by Dianne June

*What a funny world we live in when we won't turn our phones off,  
yet we get excited to see we've hiked far enough to lose service."*



Lewis Pass trampers  
Photos by Dianne June





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