



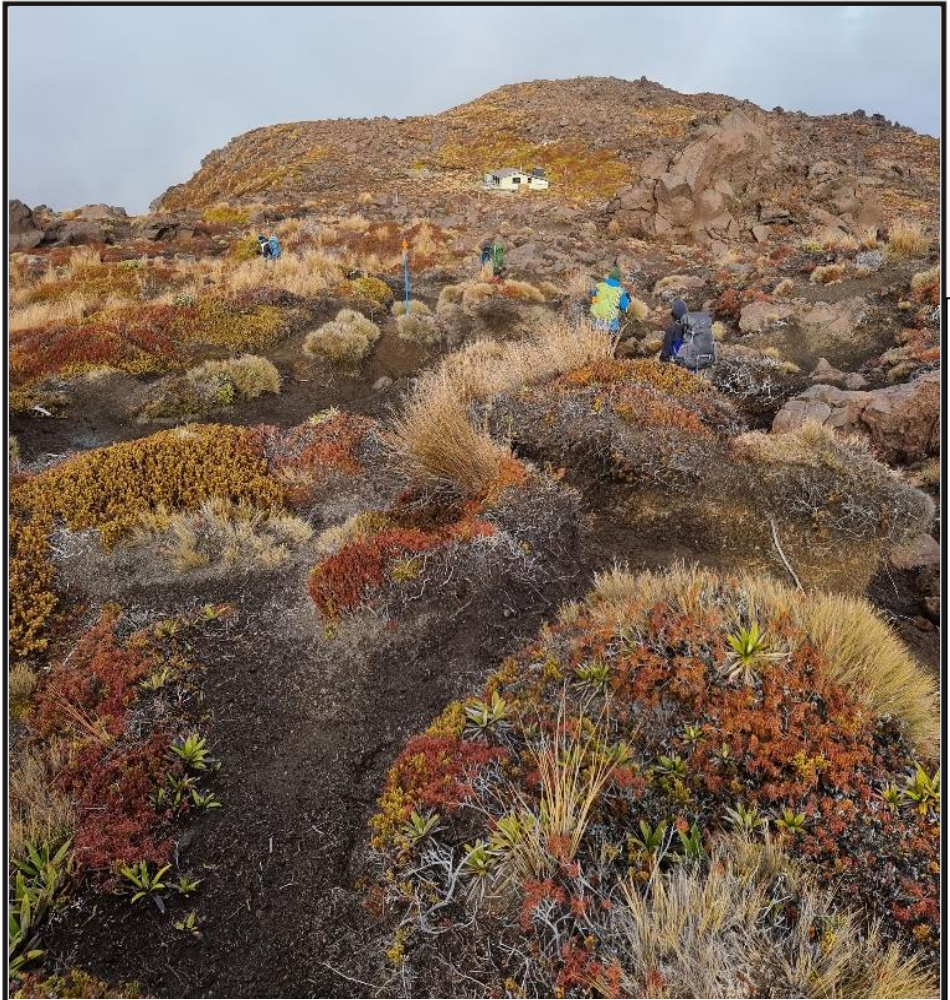
# THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

**WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)**

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

August 2023



Approach to Oturere hut    Photographer Les Warren

# WAIKATO HUT

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

BULLETIN No 852

August 2023

### General Committee

(Contact details listed below)

<b>President:</b>	Judith Bogle	027 3810283
<b>Secretary:</b>	Dorothy Cawdron	027 7424222
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Guy Domett	027 2483008
<b>Members:</b>	John McArthur (VP Tramp)      Stephen Prendergast (VP Ski)	
	Stephen Phillips    Allan Wickens    Jacqui Dick	
	Mike Barker      Selwyn June	

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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>      | Jocelyn Widmer                                                                   | 027 8664795 |
| <b>Member:</b>          | Selwyn June                                                                      | 027 4978151 |
|                         | Rupert Craggs                                                                    | 027 6811926 |
| <b>Transport:</b>       | Allan Wickens                                                                    | 027 9509546 |
| <b>Social convenor:</b> | Jacqui Dick                                                                      | 021 1375201 |

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### Ski Subcommittee

**Ski email:** [waikatoski@gmail.com](mailto:waikatoski@gmail.com)

<b>Chairperson:</b>	Stephen Prendergast	021 466247
<b>Ski VP:</b>	Stephen Phillips	021 1031436
<b>Bookings:</b>	Stephen Prendergast	021 466247
<b>Finance officer:</b>	Michael Barker	021 2463500
<b>Members:</b>	Ashley Hoskin	027 4909545

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|                                     |                                                                    |             |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Bulletin:</b>                    | Lesley Kuggeleijn                                                  | 027 4942414 |
| <b>Editor &amp; Club Librarian:</b> | Dianne June <a href="mailto:djune@xtra.co.nz">djune@xtra.co.nz</a> | 07 8433066  |

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

## Club Night, Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September

**The meeting will be at the Cathedral Hall in Victoria Street. Door opens at 7.00pm and the meeting starts at 7.30pm**

Four valiant Kiwi Trampers ride off to the wild west town of Alice Springs to pit their tramping prowess against the best Aussie Hikers in the inhospitable Aussie Outback. See deserts, sand, vultures, snakes and spiders as the Kiwis overcome the odds to ..... survive.

## ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2023

3076	12/13 Aug	M	Snowcraft II	Allan Wickens
3077	20 Aug	M	Karaka track	Selwyn June
3078	26/27 Aug	M/F	Mangatepopo to Oturere	John Wilson
3079	2 Sept	n/a	First Aid course	Cancelled
	6 Sept		CLUB NIGHT	
3080	9/10 Sept	M	Pureora baiting	Dianne & Selwyn June
3081	19-30 Sept	F	Tasmania	Les Warren
3082	17 Sept	M	Waiorongomai	John McArthur
3083	23-24 Sep	E & M	Hunua Circuit	Allan Wickens
3084	1 Oct	M	Kayaking Raglan	Jacqui Dick
	4 Oct		CLUB NIGHT	
3085	7 Oct		Trip leaders training	Judith Bogle
3086	8 Oct	E	River trails	Ron Dick
3087	14/15 Oct		??	
3088	20-24 Oct	E & M	Great Barrier Is.	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) a 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

### **Trip 3076**

### **Snowcraft II**

**12/13 Aug**

To be eligible for this course, participants must have completed Snowcraft Course Number One. With the newly gained skills from the basic course in mind, the next step is to further these skills, on the snowy heights of Tongariro National Park.

Those who have done our Snowcraft I Course can extend their winter training skills by doing advanced training on this trip. Full details will be shown on-line first.

Again, we will be based at our Club hut at Whakapapa. After travelling to the hut on Friday night, what evolves over the weekend is very weather dependent. A final plan on what areas we will explore will be left until that night or early on Saturday.

We will spend Saturday night at the hut and again have a sumptuous meal. If the weather is good on Sunday, the plan is to stay on the heights doing further training, before heading back early afternoon to clean up and be away by mid-afternoon.

Again, only members of the Waikato Tramping Club can participate in this Course. Please note: the numbers able to go on this Course are less than on the basic course, so we advise early registration please.

**Leaders:** Allan Wickens

**Ph:** 027 950 9546

**Grade:** M

Mike Peck

**Ph:** 021 369 256

**Transport:** Senior member \$45-55

Senior non-member: member rate + \$10

**Accommodation and food:** tba

**Trip 3077** **Karaka-Waiotahi Track** **20 Aug**

This trip begins in the township of Thames and follows the Waiotahi Stream before we start a climb up a ridge to gain height. At the junction with Karaka Track there are great views of the Pinnacles, Table Mountain and Mt Te Aroha - a good spot for lunch. We then head down the Karaka Track which leads back to Thames. About 4.5 hours walking time, in regenerating native forest and with a few stream crossings. These are old pack tracks so are well graded.

**Leader:** Selwyn June **Ph:** 027 497 8151 **Grade:** M

**Transport:** Senior member \$20-35 Senior non-member: member rate + \$10

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**Trip 3078** **Mangatepopo to Oturere** **26/27 Aug**

This winter tramp is for people who have satisfactorily completed a Snowcraft Course. We will follow the Northern Circuit up Mangatepopo Valley, climb up to South Crater and Red Crater, and drop down to the Emerald lakes. Depending on conditions we may make a side trip over to Blue Lake, before descending into Oturere Valley and going down to Oturere Hut, where we will spend the night. There is a nice waterfall near the hut that is worth viewing. On Sunday we will take a more direct route off-track to the base of Ngauruhoe to reach South Crater. If time and conditions allow, we may make an ascent of Pukekaikiore on our way out.

‘You will need full winter overnight tramping gear, ice axe, crampons and helmet.

**Leader:** John Wilson **Ph:** 021 168 2082 **Grade:** M

**Transport:** Senior member \$45-55 Senior non-member: member rate + \$10

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**Trip 3079** **First Aid course** **2 Sept**

Cancelled

**Leader:** Club Captain, Les Warren **Ph:** 027 864 4937

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**Trip 3080** **Pureora Baiting** **9/10 Sept**

This is a time to give back to a place we love tramping in – namely the forest. The Pirongia Restoration Society manages a pest control operation in the Okahukura Valley of the north Pureora Forest west of Pureora Village.

We will be based at the Pureora Lions Lodge for the weekend (think hot showers, warm rooms) so pack your ‘luxuries’. At 7.45pm Friday night there will be a safety briefing, and everyone will find out who their teammate will be, load up their supply of safety gear, and their allocation of rat bait (old pack is useful). This means that you will need to **leave Hamilton by about 5.30pm** as it takes 2 hours to get to the accommodation. On Saturday morning we will leave the Lodge at 7.30 and drive for a further 40 minutes to the base site for you to then make your way to your allocated bait lines. Time to empty your pack as you go, putting a bag of bait into each bait station along the line. Each team of 2 people will have 2 lines to complete before returning to the base for the trip back to the Lodge. There is an easy loop track beside the Lodge that takes about 1 hour to walk and is worth doing if you wish.

This is a very social weekend where your pack gets significantly lighter as the day progresses – a rare occasion indeed.

If there are enough volunteers, there is a good chance we can visit all 954 bait stations in a single day. If not, a small group will return on Sunday morning to complete the last lines. And if there are enough volunteers to do this who are not tramping club members, then you can head off for a tramp such as up Mt. Pureora or follow the MTB track from Whangamata Rd to Kawakawa Bay and Kinloch before returning home. There has been a bridge washout on this track near Kinloch and will involve a small river crossing so be prepared for wet feet.

We need a driver for this trip please.

**Leader:** Dianne & Selwyn June      **Ph:** 027 497 8151      **Grade:** M

**Transport:** Senior member \$40-50      Senior non-member: member rate + \$10

**Accommodation:** cost covered by Pirongia Restoration Society

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### **Trip 3081      Overland Track & Walls of Jerusalem, Tasmania      14-27 Sept**

**Departure & Finish:** Launceston, Tasmania (People can choose to travel earlier or stay longer)

**Grade:** Fit (need to carry all our gear/food for days on the track)

**Draft Itinerary** (will need more fine-tuning):

Day 1 Fly Auckland to Launceston via Melbourne. Night in Launceston.

Day 2 Shuttle to Cradle Mountain (near start of track) to stay the night before so we can get an early start the next day.

Day 3 to Day 8 Overland Track. Day 8 includes shuttle to Hobart.

Day 9 Hobart

Day 10 Shuttle to start of Walls of Jerusalem leg. May include a short walk.

Day 11 to Day 13 – Exploring the Walls of Jerusalem area.

Day 14 Shuttle to Launceston (end of trip).

Some important notes to help make your decision when registering:

- Huts cannot be pre-booked and no bunk is guaranteed;
- Mattresses are not provided;
- Must take a tent (as bunk may not be available or may choose to tent)
- Camping only on Walls of Jerusalem section (a more wilderness trip)

There is much more information to share with you which I will send out when you register / express interest. The itinerary will probably change a wee bit once we make key bookings, flights, the track, shuttle etc. This further information will include some estimated costs. Ideally, I will need confirmed numbers by 15 June 2023. When registering, if the dates are not quite suitable, I am happy to consider some slight changes. September has been chosen as it fits in with my work situation.

**Organiser:** Les Warren    **Email:** [warrenlb2017@outlook.com](mailto:warrenlb2017@outlook.com)    **Ph:** 027 864 4937

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### **Trip 3082      Waiorongomai      17 Sept**

There are many opportunities for walks in the Waiorongomai Valley just south of Te Aroha and to some extent I will leave it to the few days before the 17<sup>th</sup> to decide just what route we will take.

On the more demanding side, we could go up the new Pylon Peak Track to the top of the ridge near Pahiko peak (788m), along the ridgeline (beautiful scenes) to

Pukekohatu (799m) and then back down into the valley and choose our track back to the carpark.

If the weather is not favourable, we could do some lower walks in the bush, tunnels and bridges. Or then again, we could go up the Waiorongomai Valley walks and link through to the Waipapa Track and climb Te Aroha peak, coming down into the town. Anything is possible. Enjoy a great day out.

**Leader:** John McArthur                      **Ph:** 021 288 9641                      **Grade:** M

**Transport:** Senior member \$40-50                      Senior non-member: member rate + \$10

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**Trip 3083                      Hunua Range Circuit                      23-24 Sept**

(Note: This trip replaces the Pio Pio walks trip which cannot go ahead due to track conditions).

On Saturday morning, after departing London Street, we will drive to the western side of the Firth of Thames, to start a “circuit” of the Hunua Ranges, by road of course! Our first stop will be at Waharau Regional Park on East Coast Road. Here we can do some lower-level walks which are dependent on track and kauri die-back limitations. After spending a few hours here, we travel north to Tapapakanga Regional Park, which is a farm-park with short coastal walks. On Saturday night the plan is to stay at Orere Top 10 Holiday Park, at Orere Point. There are cabins and campsites available along with local walks. From there, on Sunday we travel to Waitawa Regional Park where there are 4 short loop tracks to choose from (we may do no more than 2 of the walks on offer). Late morning, we drive to Hunua Falls where we can do the Cossey Gorge Track and if we have enough time, combine it with the Massey Loop Track to make a total of 8 kms walking. It takes about one and a half hours to drive back to Hamilton, where we arrive no later than 6.00 pm. This is one of those trips that require early booking please as there is limited accommodation/camping apart from what has been chosen for Saturday night. Please note: this trip is limited to one vanload as a starter due to the need to book well ahead. If more want to come along, we’ll see what options are available at the time.

**Leader:** Allan Wickens                      **Ph:** 027 9509546                      **Grades:** E & M

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

**Transport:** Senior member \$40-50                      Senior Non-member \$50-60

**Accommodation:** Camping or cabins (cost tba)

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**Trip 3084                      Kayaking Raglan harbour                      1 Oct**

This is a trip with a difference as instead of tramping we will be exploring some of the Raglan Harbour by kayak. **We will leave Hamilton at 8.30am.** High tide is midday which is perfect. Kayaks will be hired from Raglan Kayak and Paddleboard (either single or double) and this includes a professional briefing on both the gear and the environment so that we can have a safe and wonderful day on the water. They use Top of the line Sit on top – Ocean Kayaks with comfortable seats providing good back support.



The weather will dictate how far and where we go. Either before or afterwards we will try out one of the nice cafes in Raglan.

There are some good options either crossing over to the Limestone formations or staying on the Raglan side of the harbour closer to the shore. The intention is to find a remote beach, build a campfire and cook sausages and toasted marshmallows and have a picnic lunch. We will have a boat as a support vehicle to carry our food/gear and tow anyone back that needs it. You need to be a confident swimmer

**Leader:** Jacqui Dick

**Ph:** 021 1375201

**Grade:** M

**Email:** *jacquimd@me.com*

**Transport:** car pooling, costs to be shared.

**Kayak hire:** \$45

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### **Trip 3085**

### **Trip Leaders Training**

**Saturday, 7 Oct**

Preparation is starting with more information to be published in the September bulletin and, possibly a membership email. For current club leaders and members keen and interested in becoming a Leader, this is a great opportunity to learn skills to lead trips. There will be a number of experienced leaders attending to share their knowledge. Those interested are welcome to contact the Club Captain.

**Leader:** Les Warren

**Ph:** 027 8644937

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

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### **Trip 3086**

### **Waikato river trails**

**8 Oct**

The Waikato River Trail is made up of 100km of off-road trails that follow the banks of the Waikato River from Lake Karapiro in the north to Atiamuri in the south, taking in five lakes, five hydro dams and a number of small towns and villages, showcasing some of the best of the Waikato heartland. The section we will be walking is from Waipapa Dam to the Mangarewa suspension bridge. This is a return trip as the section from the suspension bridge to Jones Landing has been permanently closed. The distance each way is 10km, through bush, past picturesque streams, and with quite a bit on well formed track. If you would like to see the suspension bridge which is 80 metres long and 42 metres above the water, then walking this section of the trail is the only way to do so. Bring a thermos as we will start with some of Jacqui's lovely home baking by the shores of Lake Waipapa.

**Leader:** Ron Dick

**Ph:** 021 2608149

**Grade:** E

**Email:** *ronjmd@icloud.com*

**Transport:** Senior member \$20-25

Senior non-member: Senior rate +\$10

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### **Trip 3088**

### **Great Barrier Island**

**20-24 Oct**

This is a part of New Zealand that Allan has yet to visit. The plan is to meet up on Great Barrier Island after participants have made their way there independently and the trip officially starts on **Friday 20 October**. Then, as a vehicle-based group we will do as many walks as possible around the island in the (land-based) time that is available. GBI is remote but not that remote. There are 2 ways to get there and back. The cheaper option is to go by ferry from Auckland to Tryphena (it takes 4.5 hours and costs about \$115 one way) and the more expensive is to fly (around \$400-500

return including a large backpack). As there are several expensive logistics involved the only organising the leader (Allan) will do, apart from co-ordinating the group, is land-based on GBI. **This will involve vehicle hire and accommodation.** We'll look at all options available and in the main, stay in budget rooms and camp. After exploring GBI the **“official” part of the trip finishes on Tuesday 24 Oct.** Those going may wish to spend longer on the island.

Tryphena, the main access port, is in the south. Short to longer walks can be done in the following areas – Port Fitzroy, Harataonga, Whangaparapara and Hirakimata (for the highest peak Hirakimata/Mt Hobson). Go on to DoC's website and there is a very detailed, downloadable brochure: *“Great Barrier Island/Aotea”*. The maps show all the relevant walks, logistics, wildlife etc.

**IMPORTANT: Please register early.** The number going is only limited by the available transport options on the island. Those going will be responsible for their own transport HN-AKL-GBI-AKL-HN along with cancellations, changes etc.

**NOTE ALSO:** The ferries can be cancelled due to rough seas. This situation must be considered when you do your own planning.

**Leader:** Allan Wickens                      **Ph:** 027 9509546                      **Grades:** E & M

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

**Transport/Costs :** As above – plus camp fees and lodging where applicable.

### ~~~~~ **Plans for South Island trips next summer....**

Here are the suggestions tabled at the meeting held in July:

Travers Sabine and Moss Pass (27/11/23 to 03/12/23) Judith Bogle

Dusky Track (28/12/23 to 05/01/2024) Paul Quinn

Kahurangi National Park Circuit (06 to 21/01/24) Allan Wickens. Description below.

Paparoa Track (starting 25/02/24) John and Jean Wilson

Wilkin River to Lake Diana, Lucidus Lake and Lake Castalia (Feb/Mar 24)

Lois and Helen

McArthur Crags / Kelly Range (March 24) John McArthur

Routeburn Track (March?) Madeleine & John Fiddes will try booking when bookings open. **Ph:** 021 2273560

Red Hills, Richmond Ranges (18/03 to 21/03/24) Les Warren

Bounds Circuit, Leatham Conservation Area (23/03 to 28/03/24) Les Warren

**Trip number tba**

**Everything Kahurangi**

**6-20 Jan 2024**

If you have ever wanted to visit and explore the vast reaches of Kahurangi National Park, this trip should satisfy a great deal of what avid trampers would like to do in this area. Kahurangi is the second largest of our National Parks covering an area of over 450,000 ha. It was created in 1996 after existing as a Forest Park prior to that year. The name Kahurangi means *“treasured possession”* and the wonderfully diverse natural and recreational values reflects this description perfectly.

This trip will be vehicle-based with comfortable camping facilities. We leave Hamilton on Saturday 6 January and drive to Wellington where we will stay the night at a campground or similar. We'll have time to do the Paekakariki Walkway or do a short walk in Wellington to relax after the long drive that day. On Sunday, we have a leisurely start and then catch the 1.00 pm sailing to Picton. From there, we will drive 2-3 hours to a trailhead at Kahurangi.

Over the following 11 days (8-18 January) the aim is to do as many day/half-day/short walks with the odd overnighter as we can fit in. If you *Google* "*Best Trails in Kahurangi National Park (All Trails website)*" they have 88 different walks to do. Some include sections of the Heaphy Track which are beyond the scope of this trip. However, the descriptions do include popular walks such as Mount Arthur, Mount Owen, Leslie-Karamea and so on. Walks range from easy to hard and cater for all levels. Once the group is formed, we will decide on a plan involving tramps throughout the Park. Most will be trailhead based and either circular with the van picking up a group at another point, or in and out. There is scope for an overnight tramp or two if people wish. Using our mobile base, we can cover the full range of the Park from the Takaka area around to Karamea. The last two days (19-20 January) will be spent travelling back to Hamilton.

This trip is timed to start on the weekend when most Kiwis finish their Xmas-New Year holiday. Recent experience with our vehicle-based trips in the top half of the South Island has shown that campsites empty considerably after this time. Looking ahead while we are travelling, we may look at other accommodation options if the weather is bad.

**IMPORTANT:** Please indicate early to the leader if you would like to do all or part of this trip. The ferry and van have been booked well ahead of time. At the time this blurb was written, the trip number is not known. However, you can indicate your intention to participate by sending an email to the leader. There is scope to join at various stages in the overall trip.

**Leader:** Allan Wickens

**Ph:** 027 9509546

**Grades:** Easy to fit

**Email:** [allanwickens@hotmail.com](mailto:allanwickens@hotmail.com)

**Cost:** TBA. The principal costs per person are for the van hire, ferry x 2, camp fees and food. Alternative accommodation is an extra, to be decided on during the trip. You will need to bring your own tent but as we are van-based, you can make your camping experience more comfortable. We will take the Club trailer if the van is full. Should there be a smaller group involved, a Kia Carnival type vehicle will be used.

If you are keen to join any of these trips check in early with the leader as bookings for transport, huts etc will need to be made soon. Phone numbers are listed at the front of this bulletin, except for Madeleine & Johns'. Trip descriptions for these trips will appear in the next bulletin.

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Not all classrooms have 4 walls

## **Mid-week Walks & Tramps**

We have a walk or tramp on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. The activities have proven to be as varied as the group is and the communication is via the Mid-week W & Ts Group page on WhatsApp. If you would like to be part of this communication, please download WhatsApp on your phone and text your request to Isla on 021 209 6539.

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### *Editorial*

Thanks to John for a sterling job of editorship last month. To have such a competent backstop is a real load off my mind. The same thing applies overall when the club is seeking trip leaders. Having members who can perhaps step in at short notice or assist when out on a tramp makes for a strong group. Think about joining the training course coming up. If you can't put your hand up to lead a trip at this time, you are still 'allowed' to come along and learn what to do. The knowledge is better to have been learnt than never having heard of what's involved at all. And, as the saying 'variety is the spice of life' goes, having a variety of leaders makes for interesting trips.

Recently Selwyn & I were in Pureora along with a few of you and some non-members. Having spoken with those non-members Selwyn now knows about a few more places to tramp where we have never been so watch this space.

Check out the list in the 'Snippets' section of tracks in the Kaimais that have been closed due to the potential to spread the kauri dieback disease in the area. We don't want to contribute to this invasion in our environment.

And I'm really looking forward to our baiting trip in Pureora next month – so many of you have booked in already. Good on you, and thank-you for this support. It will be a great activity.

Dianne June

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### *Presidential Blog*

The Kaimais just can't win lately from the National Party wanting to turn it into a Great Walk, to now Kauri die back finally appearing in the ranges. This is disappointing especially with all the work that the Kaimai Ridgeway has put into the tracks and huts up there. Plus the work the Kaimai restoration society is doing at setting up projects for pest control. I have to say it probably has been taken for granted that access would be available in thy hills but this is no longer the case. This is a great loss for all of us, especially families who use these ranges to teach their children the value of the outdoors and nature. In the newsletter that has recently been sent out to the club, I note that many of the areas where there are Kauri groves have been quarantined off and I ask that you all respect these restrictions.

As we are explorers, this is a good chance to see what else is out there that we can wander through and over. We may come into some surprises, as I have seen

recently by using the more unused tracks into Leitch's Clearing i.e is the Awakino river track and the Mangatoa track. Judith Bogle  
The climb speaks to our character, but the view, I think, to our souls. Lori Lansens

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

With the passing of La Niña the snowfall is starting to pack into a very nice base with Turoa above 2m at the end of July. Whakapapa is close behind and should be there by the time we get to press. All of the east side is open and it's possible to ski out from the Lodge, returning via Home run or via Yankee. There's great coverage at present for a trip up to Dome or to the crater lake. Remember to check on the volcanic alert level and avalanche risk which are subject to change. This is all readily available online.

Over the next few weeks there is reasonable capacity available mid-week. Parking is easier, queues are non-existent and the vibe is more enjoyable as everyone has time to chill a little.

During Snowcraft a discussion was had about holding some film nights at the Hut. This is being worked on with potential dates in mid-September and October. We'll likely do this as a Film & Feast event - including a group meal. Sounds like a lot of fun.

It's not too late to upgrade your current subscription to a Combined Tramp/Ski giving you earlier booking access to weekends, members rate of \$35 /night , and the additional info and support from the ski team, who have a trove of buddy passes that reduce the cost of lift passes by 50%.

We are beginning to see the Bruce Road being closed during the weekend as the car parks are full. Getting into the Hut on a Friday night avoids this problem, which will only get worse as people start to make up for lost time.

That's all from us. See you at Waikato Hut!

Stephen, Ski Team Leader

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## Trip Reports

### Trip 3068

### Crosbies clearing

17 June

After stopping for an obligatory coffee and treat at the Wharf cafe in Thames, we hopped back into the van and travelled a short way up the Thames coast road to the small settlement of Waiomu. A short way inland, we parked up the van, donned our wet weather gear, and headed up the Waiomu Kauri Grove Track. The track followed a formed gravel road for a while before heading into the regenerating bush. Our boots were sodden fairly soon after crossing over the causeway which was in full flow. About 25 minutes later, a short side track led across the stream to the old Monowai Goldmine, which we passed, and then steadily climbed up to the ridge with a stand of mature kauri. All over the tracks in this area were remnants of the kauri cones that had fallen and broken apart. Hopefully many of the seeds will germinate and become the next generation of magnificent forest giants.



As we trudged on up, we passed three pig hunters with a large wild pig over the shoulders of one. The pig dogs walking with them looked like they had been working hard. Hopefully they got some of the meat as a reward!

Gradually the track became, well, muddy, from all the past and present rain. We were now officially on the Waiomu Valley tramping track. We found a suitable area to have some lunch, when t3 Auckland women (we won't hold this against them), came clambering down the track with their dog. They had the hut to themselves on Friday night and were heading back out.

After negotiating trees, roots and mud, we eventually reached 690m at the intersection between three tracks. We headed up the undulating Crosbies main range track to the hut. This a fairly new 10 bed hut which had been booked by Allan. We were all wet, so the hut was decorated with wet socks, pants and boots to get them dry overnight. The fire and hot drinks were very welcome. The rain had stopped before it got dark, so we managed to get some lovely views of Coromandel Forest Park and Whitianga in the distance. Nice.

However, during the night there was heavy rain. Dreams of getting 'stuck' in the hut for another night due to wet weather, were shattered the next morning when we checked the forecast. We were going to miss the worst of the next swirl of rain cloud. I'd have to go back to work on Monday after all!

We headed back down the track. Susie and Etienne both tied for first in the 'slipping over competition' 5 slips each! Well done guys. No injuries of course. When we weren't looking at where our feet were supposed to go, we managed to get some views of the Thames coast as the skies cleared. Back down at the van, a quick change into dry clothes needed as the heavens opened once again. We had a final stop in Thames at the Wharf cafe for another coffee and a bit of something nice. Thanks for a great winter weekend getaway with good company!

Epic trampers: Allan W, Julia B, Julie, Suzie, Etienne de V, Les W, Sarah, Bea M, Cathy D (scribe).

## **Trip 3070**

## **Coast to coast in Auckland**

**2 July**

This being my 307.0 tramp with the WTC, I did not know what to expect.

1 Leader, four intrepid trampers and 1 driver met at London St to commence the short drive to the Te Rapa Service centre and pick up 2 northern members. With these additional members onboard 34 minutes later we continued our merry way to Prince's Wharf for the official start. Here was the first surprise of the trip despite the title of the trip this was no multisport event but a walk through the urban jungle, parks and extinct volcanoes of the Queen City

Section 1: Prince's Wharf to Volcanoes 1 & 2

Start with a compulsory toilet stop unfortunately as we were in an urban environment the vegetation present was of insufficient size and volume to duck behind but there was some friendly signage pointing the way indicating the next facility was 200m in the distance. This is where our troubles began - after 200 m the above-mentioned facility was nowhere to be seen. Fortunately, a helpful AT

Officer directed us to a small door not easily visible in the urban jungle. After an average weight loss of 1.6 kg the group reconverged with an addition of 2 more members. 1 official member and 1 unofficial member on the account they had 4 legs. This unofficial member is not recognised in any further official capacity- in fact they never actually completed the whole trip. Nonetheless they can be officially recognised as the Happiest “member” of the group on the account that they were the only “member” who could truly appreciate the various historic odours of the trip. What looked like a boring gutter, shrub or sign pole would cause this “member” to dart off the official route to examine the undetectable joyous smells to be found until we reached Volcano number 2 Pukekawa. Being Day 702 of rainfall it was no surprise at this point the heavens again opened up to officially make it Day 703. The Leader pointed out a point of refuge which we took shelter in for a snack and rest. At this point every member of the group could now appreciate what “member” had been enjoying. The aroma was distinctly pigeon with a hint of human and various other aromas that only “member” could tell but wasn’t saying. Other notable features of the refuge a low pitch alarm was coming from inside it and the building was a semi asleep gentleman’s home.

#### Section 2: Pukekawa to Volcano # 3

After the excitement of Section 1 it is difficult to recall the adventures of Section 2. Except the numerous hazards faced - primarily 1 to 25 tonne beasts which thankfully mainly kept to themselves, more rain and the local resident’s houses. At one point there was much discussion on the value of these dwellings opposite the Grammar school, subsequent research indicates around the \$4 million mark. From here we commenced the arduous climb up the highest point of the trip Maungawhau 196m or 0.7 of a Taupiri Mountain where excellent views of 31 other volcanoes were observed. Sadly, at this point member 8 and “member” departed to relive the joyous odours past.

#### Section 3: Volcano 3 to 6

Maungawhau descent required careful loop back where all remaining member navigation skills came to the fore. Past the former cone of Volcano 4 Te Pou Hawaiki, the lava fields of 5 Te Kopuke, followed by another downpour at the base of Volcano 6 Maungakiekie stopping at the Cornwall Park band rotunda for lunch. One member made the 50m journey to Park Café for Flat white and sophisticated Ham Toastie. Re-energised, the remaining 6 members and Leader made their way to the summit of Maungakiekie 0.6 of a Taupiri Mountain.

#### Section 4: Volcano 6 to 8 and Home

Backtracking, then commencing the journey SSW past the observatory and its recently stolen copper dome to Royal Oak the most famous historical suburb in NZ. The only suburb in NZ to be named after a pub the 1855 Royal Oak Hotel and location of the first Kentucky Fried Chicken in NZ. Thankfully, unlike other historic structures in NZ, both buildings are still standing though, as a sign of the times, the pub is now a Real Estate Office and the Kentucky Fried Chicken

building is the Royal Cuisine Chinese restaurant with a 4.1 Google Rating and TripAdvisor ranking 1,136 of 1,491 Restaurants in Auckland Central with customers reporting “Food was fast and fresh! Good portions and tasted good!”, “Some of the best fried rice, sweet and sour pork and chow mein you will taste in the game. Fast service too, you are not waiting long”, “The noodle dishes here have more meat and vegetables than noodles. Great for a Keto-cheat-meal. Love it!!”, though Gail wasn’t happy “I like coming here- the food and price is reasonable, after seeing that they still use plastic bags I don’t think I like to support this place anymore”, has this lady no sense of history? Fortunately, Kentucky have, by moving across the road into a more modern building and renamed as KFC ‘cos, although they are a successful business, they cannot spell. 3 members decided to celebrate being in NZs most historic suburb by buying ice creams and the other 3 huddled together on a seat made for 4, finished their remaining food and took in the surroundings. Can recommend if you ever visit Auckland to do the same. The Pub has been replaced by the Zookeeper Son -a Gastropub & Royal Oak Liquor which, judging by the excellent state of the building, is well respected and has not been subject to ramraids. Other notable establishments include the Mighty Hotdog, Estaurant Aways (not sure what this place is), alter ego, Royai City Dumbling (Note to editor the spelling is correct on this one), Desifusion, Kyber Spice Invader and a Baptist Church. Sadly, the most interesting establishment Happy Boy has succumbed to the recession and closed its doors. With the 6 members reunited, the final leg went past the edge of lava field of Volcano 7 Rarotonga to the waiting van at Volcano 8 Te Hopua a Rangi and home. 10 points to those who have asked what about Volcano # 1. Many thanks to leader J McArthur and driver Richard. Other members present Angie, Ian, Jocelyn, Julie, Fiona, Marion and Noddy.

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*From the committee table:*

**New members:** Isaac Newbery, Jane Muir, Jayden Harrison, Tane McFadden, William Geoghegan. Welcome to you all.

**Resignations:** David Boyd, Alton Melville.

**Membership:** The club has 188 tramping members.

**From the committee: FMC Cards.** The annual membership cards for FMC have arrived and were available at the July Club Night. Otherwise, please contact Lesley Kuggeleijn to arrange pickup, or get it at the next Club Night. The card has various discounts available, including a big one for DoC Annual Hut Passes.

*Snippets from here and there...*

➤ Pureora is a park assailed. The forest is at the geographic centre of the North Island and its’ accessibility has brought illegal loggers felling 400 year old trees, cannabis cultivators, poachers and fly-tippers. See article using this Waikato Times July 15<sup>th</sup> link - <https://www.waikatotimes.co.nz/a/nz-news/350034909/if-a-tree-falls-in-the-forest-?lid=jcyc70a7icl4>

## *Obituary to Robin Russell*

Robin Russell joined our club in 1977 after emigrating from England. His first trip was a working party to the Waikato Hut and after that he was hooked! Robin was a keen tramper and for the next few years did a lot with the club. He has attended numerous working parties with his record being 21 in a row which is very impressive! He also attended part of the continuing working party in 2002 for the re-cladding of the hut. This working party had the added bonus of participants being woken each morning with Noel Sandford and his chainsaw!

Robin said he wouldn't have entertained the thought of not doing one working party each year and found the 'work hard, play hard' attitude of members absolutely great. He made some long-lasting friendships and always really enjoyed the Saturday evening meal and socialising.

The handcrafted wooden 'Waikato Hut' sign attached to the deck railing at the Hut was made by Robin and has taken pride of place for decades. He also prepared a much-used plan of the plumbing system.

In later years Robin's health deteriorated but he often spoke longingly of how he would love to go up to the hut one more time so in February 2014 I offered to take him. He was very excited and at the grand age of 80 we set off. He dosed himself up with painkillers and, along with regular checks of his heart monitor, made the trip up the hill. It was a perfectly still and sunny afternoon for the walk up to the hut. We took about an hour and at every stop we admired the view and the peacefulness of the mountain. Arriving at the hut he said it felt just like his second home and absolutely loved the weekend there. He enjoyed helping out, doing endless piles of dishes and supplying the wood carriers with cold drinks. That evening we cracked open a lovely bottle of french champagne Robin had bought especially for the occasion and we toasted the hut and many wonderful memories it has brought us all.

Robin has lived in a couple of different rest homes over the last few years and has enjoyed regular visits from club members, always interested in our updates on what has been going on. He even helped me judge one of the clubs' photo competitions, which was great as he was a very experienced photographer. He will be missed by many people and always remembered as being an important part of our clubs; past few decades. He has had a rich and very well lived life. Our thoughts are with Glenda.

**Jacqui Dick**

*In all things of nature there is something of the marvellous - Aristotle*







**Scenes from Stewart Island.**

**Who was the photographer?**







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