



THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

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

February 2023



John Wilson celebrating 60 years of tramping with WTC Photo by Selwyn June

WAIKATO HUT

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Tongariro National Park



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Skyline walk end by Dianne June

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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 846

February 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

Tramping Subcommittee

Tramping email: waikatotrampingclub@gmail.com

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

Ski Subcommittee

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Bookings: Stephen Prendergast 021 466247
Finance officer: Michael Barker 021 2463500
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Ashley Hoskin 027 4909545

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

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

Club night, Wednesday 1st March

Former Club Captain, Allan Wickens, speaks about his recent adventures. He spent a few weeks travelling and doing some interesting walks. He will regale us with stories and photos, including how he was there when UK prime minister (Liz) was sworn in and left the day she resigned! He was also in Edinburgh when the Queen passed away.

Social: if you weren't at the February club night you missed a treat. Jacqui's mum made a delicious fruit cake that John Wilson got to cut. He was also presented with 2 lovely books from the club. And why? Because he has been tramping with the club for 60(!) years. Not long after he joined, he met Jean and that has meant he has never done a solo trip. Such dedication from both of them. Congratulations, and well done. Your record is one to be extremely proud of. NB Cover boy this month.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2022/2023

3046	12 Feb	M	Mt. William	Allan Wickens
3047	16-21 Feb	F	Mt. Earnslaw	Rupert Craggs
3048	17/18 Feb	E/M	Ngatuhua Lodge	Nicola Guy
3049	19-25 Feb	various	Exploring the Lewis Pass	Les Warren
3050	25-26 Feb	M or M/F	Mt Tama	John Wilson
	25/26 Feb	E-F	Waikato Hut workparty	Stephen Prendergast
3051	26 Feb-3 Mar	M/F	Canterbury Glaciers	John McArthur
3052	5 Mar	E	Kakepuku	Rizal Razak
3053	Sat 11 Mar	M	Redwoods biking	Jacqui Dick
3054	19 Mar	M	Old Wires & Maratoto loop	Les Warren
3055A	24-26 Mar	F	Kawekas	Mike Peck
3055B	24-26 Mar	M-M/F	Kawekas	Les Warren
3056	2 Apr	M	Northern Hapuakohe	John McArthur
3057	6-10 Apr	F	Colenso	Les Warren
3058	15/16 Apr	M & M/F	Pahautea Hut	Allan Wickens
3059	21-25 Apr	M	Koranga Forks & river crossing training	Les Warren
3060	25 Apr	E/M	Mangaokewa	Selwyn June

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

Trip 3046

Mt. William

12 Feb

This popular walkway just south of Bombay offers extensive views of south Auckland and the northern Waikato in a 360° panorama and you can also see the Sky Tower and Rangitoto Island. After driving one hour to the trailhead at McMillan Road, east of Pokeno, we start our walk from the carpark. The first section crosses farmland to the Mount Williams Scenic Reserve. This small area of native bush has a wide variety of native vegetation and trees including kauri. Total time to the summit of Mount William (373 metres) is one and a half hours, over 2.5

kilometres. Instead of retracing our steps we will continue along a saddle over rolling farmland to Puketutu Trig (376 metres) and down for another 2 kilometres over 1.5 hours to Puketutu Road, where our van awaits. Parts of the track are described as “a bit slippery” so walkers are recommended to wear boots or strong shoes and have at least one walking pole. As the total time for this walk plus travel is around 5 hours, to make a day of it we will look at doing the short walks up either Mount Taupiri (288m) or do the Kauri Loop Walk (northern Hakarimatas) on the way back to Hamilton.

Leader: Allan Wickens

Ph: 027 9509546

Grade: E

Email: *allanwickens@hotmail.com*

Transport: Senior member \$20-35

Senior non-member: member rate + \$10

Trip 3047

Mt. Earnslaw

16-21 Feb

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

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

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

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

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

Day 2: To Esquilant Bivouac Hut (2150m) (6 bunks). The track is marked by cairns above Kea Basin as you climb through alpine grasslands towards ice fields of the Birley Glacier. From the Birley glacier climb towards Wrights Col (Ice axe and crampons required).

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

Day 4. Walk out to Rees track carpark

Day 5: Spare Wet weather day.

Leader: Rupert Craggs

Ph: 027 681 1926

Grade: F

Email *rupert.craggs@niwa.co.nz*

Transport: Private arrangements.

Trip 3048

Ngatuhua Lodge

17/18 Feb

A relaxing weekend at Ngatuhua Lodge with plenty of activities for kids and some good tramps. Ngatuhua Lodge is a well setup educational camp located in the Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park on the other side of the Kaimais to the south- east of

Tauranga. The lodge sleeps 50 and there is a camping area and a BBQ. It has its own hydro power scheme which is worth a look. There is a confidence course, kayaking in a canal, tubing and swimming in the river. And a night-time glow worm walk. Bush walks of varying lengths are planned to Te Rere I Oturu Falls, Whio Falls and Ngatuhua Falls.. There is also a short nature walk with interpretive panels.

Leader: Nicola Guy

Ph: 027 421 3458

Grade: E-M

Accommodation: \$50/person

Transport: Senior member \$45-75

Senior non-member: member rate + \$10

Trip 3049

Exploring the Lewis Pass Area

19-25 Feb

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

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

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

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

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

Leader: Les Warren

Ph: 027 8644937

Grade: various

Email: warrenlb2017@outlook.com

Transport: Private arrangements

Trip 3050

Mount Tama

25-26 Feb

Friday night will be spent at Waikato Hut.

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

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

Both options will climb Mt Tama (1623m) and minor peaks 1562, 1584, 1650 and 1651, although some of these can be skipped if you wish. From 1650 we will take

the ridge down to the west of the Tama Lakes, which affords great views of lakes and mountains. We will finish by taking the track back to Whakapapa Village.

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

Transport: tba

Trip 3051

Canterbury Glaciers

26 Feb – 3 Mar

Meet in Tekapo on the 26th.

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

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

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

Grade: M/F

Transport: private arrangements. Shuttle costs tbc.

Trip 3053

Redwoods Mountain Biking Trip

Saturday, 12th Mar

This exciting new development gives just about anybody a chance to sample the best of the Whakarewarewa Forest, on trails circumnavigating the entire park.

The 35 kilometre route takes in views of three lakes near Rotorua, many different types of forest, and can be completed in a day.

The trails that form the Loop are all Grade 1 or 2, meaning that careful riders will not be faced with any challenges they are not ready for.

The Loop is designed so that the start - finish is at the Waipa entrance to the forest, and is to be ridden in a clockwise direction for safety reasons.

Waipa has all the amenities you might need, rental bikes, a retail store, cafe, toilets and showers, and a large carpark. The Loop trail passes a cafe so we will have lunch there. <https://www.riderotorua.com/forest-loop-trail>

To hire a bike, see the website below. I would recommend a hardtail bike and hire it for one day. Or you can bring your own bike and meet us there. Car-pooling may be an option once I know numbers.

<https://app.bikerentalmanager.com/book.html?shop=mountainbikerotorua>

Leader: Jacqui Dick

Ph: 021 1375201

Grade: M

Email: jacquimd@me.com

Transport: Private vehicles

Trip 3054

Old Wires & Maratoto loop

19 Mar

We will leave Hamilton about 8am and travel to the end of Wires Road. When I

recently checked out the track, the last 2km of Wires Road was quite rutted and this section of the Road is not maintained by the Council. If we take a van, it is most likely that we will park near the ford at the start of Wires Road. This will be a much safer and easy plan. We will walk 1.6km up to the end of Wires Road (a gentle climb) and follow the Maratoto Track to the junction with the Old Wires Track (it is more pleasant to walk back down the Old Wires Track). When we get to the junction, we will reassess our time and, may continue up the Maratoto Track to the Tairua Stream crossing where this track loops around back to where we came from. If we do this loop, we will still return to the van via Old Wires Track. When I did the loop walk (excluding the loop mention above) starting half-way up Wires Road, this took me a casual 2hrs 45. So, by doing the upper Maratoto loop, we will get a decent 5-6hr day trip.

Leader: Les Warren

Ph: 027 8644937

Grade: M

Email: *warrenlb2017@outlook.com*

Transport: Senior member \$20-35

Senior non-member: member rate + \$10

Trip 3055A

Kawekas

24-26 Mar

Depart Thursday evening and drive to Napier. I'll book a night at backpackers/motor camp. Drive Friday morning to Kuripapango on the Napier-Taihape road and start the tramp at the Lakes carpark. Day 1 is a medium fit trip across the Kawekas Tops to a new hut near the peak of Whetu. The hut is a two bunker so we'll camp, there is a water tank there. Day 2 is easy and down past Makino Hut or via the Makino river to camp at the Mangatainoka hot springs. Day 3 is another easy 3 hour walk out along the Te Puia track to the carpark.

Leader: Mike Peck

Ph: 021 369 256

Grade: M/F

Transport: Senior member \$70-80

Senior non-member: Member rate + \$10

Accommodation: tba

Trip 3055B

Kawekas

24-26 Mar

We will travel to Napier on Thursday night and stay night in Napier. Friday morning both groups travel to the Lakes Carpark. We will then either do a return trip to Kuripapango (1250m) and maybe do a little exploring OR do a loop to "The Tits" (1418m). If find we have some more time we could climb to Kaiarahi (1507m). If we still have a spare 1 or 2hrs, we can do a short walk to the Lakes. We will camp at the Kuripapango Campsite Friday night. Saturday – Will return to the Lakes Carpark and do a loop walk to Mackintosh Hut but, track ends at Mackintosh Carpark which means we have a short road walk back to the van. We will then drive around to the Makahu Road end and camp at the Mangatutu Hot Springs Campsite. Sunday – for those keen, we can walk back up the Te Puia Track to meet Group A coming out. When registering for the Kaweka Trips, please state which group you are registering for. As usual, more details will be sent out closer to the trip. Registration limit for this option is 12 (one van load).

Leader: Les Warren

Ph: 027 8644937

Grade: M-M/F

Transport: Senior member \$70-80

Senior non-member: Member rate + \$10

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**Colenso Hut and Lake****7-10 Apr**

Thursday 6th: Stay either at Gretna Hotel or Backpackers in Taihape

Friday 7th: Drive to Mokai Road End Walk – Ascend thru Mokai Station to the Mokai-Patea Range tops, follow the tops south for a short way before descending to 6-bed Otukota Hut. The last 30/45min is very steep. Excellent views along the tops if the weather is kind. We must follow the designated / agreed poled route thru Mokai Station.

Saturday 8th: Walk to Colenso Hut (8 beds) via Puketaramea (1338m) and Unknown Campsite. Depending on the track condition, this will be a long day.

Sunday 9th: Walk Colenso Hut to Iron Bark Hut (6 beds). A short day after yesterday's long day.

Monday 10th: Walk out to the Mokai Road End carpark. Unfortunately, we cannot use a 'short-cut' from Ironbark Hut straight up and over the Tops as there is no agreement with Mokai Station. From Iron Bark Hut, we can either follow a stream to Otukota Hut to shorten the time if river low enough. However, there are some deep pools to deal with, which I am not comfortable with (will assess the situation at the time). The other option is to walk the track (3-4hrs between Huts) then another 4-5hrs back the way we came, over the Tops and thru Mokai Station to the carpark (max. 7-9hrs).

Trip Grade: This trip will be a fit trip but aimed at a "slower fit trip". One needs to be fit as there will be a lot of steep ascending and descending and some stream crossing (hopefully low level). NOTE: A few days could well be longer days than we normally do. Times are based on what I can find from DoC websites or track times on Notice Board at Mokai Carpark – we may take a bit less time

Leader: Les Warren**Ph:** 027 8644937**Grade:** F (slow)**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 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:**

Email: *allanwickens@hotmail.com*

Transport: Senior members \$10-15 Senior Non-members: members rate + \$10
(note : 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 Koranga Forks & river crossing training 21-25 Apr

Note: We will use this trip as a long-weekend which will mean those who register will / may need to take Monday 24th off work.

We will return to the venue of our 2020 trip – Koranga River. The 2020 trip was over 3-days but ANZAC Weekend will give us extra day up our sleeve. We are encouraging club members who have not done river crossing training before. There will also be several trainers coming on this trip.

Provisional Programme:

Fri 21 – Drive to Whakatane (3hrs) as will make the next day's driving time less.

Sat 22 – Drive to Koranga Car Park (2hrs). Then a 4hr+ walk to Tawa Hut. This walk is hard and steep at the end and is known locally as "the burn". At Tawa Hut, we will need to camp as only 4-6 beds in the Hut.

Sun 23 – River Crossing training day. We will follow the Kahunui Stream down to the Koranga Forks Hut. If the river levels are good, this is an ideal river for our training. Again, will need to camp at Koranga Forks Hut – a lovely area to camp by the River under the trees. Today we will practice various techniques for crossing rivers and, the day would end with pack-rafting technique.

Monday 24 – Optional – If Sunday was a 'long' day, we could use Monday as an easy day and do some pack floating training. Walk out to the Carpark (2-3hrs). Could stay extra day at Koranga Forks Hut and do some more training if weather OK.

Tuesday 25 – Walk out and head home (if stayed extra day at Koranga Forks Hut).

Trip Grade: Will be a fit trip as need to carry a tent, food, cooking gear etc for 3 / 4

days.

Leader: Les Warren

Ph: 027 8644937

Grade: F

Transport: tba

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

I've finally done it! What you ask? – walked the Skyline track from Knoll ridge café – and on an almost picture-perfect day. There was some mist over to the east so we didn't see the water in Hawkes Bay but we saw everything else. I was amazed at just how easy the walk was. It looks a long way but I managed to get to the top in just 65 minutes and that included stops to watch a collie playing with some DoC workers in the snow en route. After a wee clamber around the pinnacle at the top we ambled our way back down and were back at the café in 40 minutes. The sign said 2.5 hours return- think that needs some amending.

And what have you done? Inundated me with many of those outstanding trip reports from last year. I'll be squeezing in as many of those as I can in this edition but also trying to keep you up to date with the latest ones. This year I hope to chase the nominated authors up a bit sooner after their trips so I'm not inundated again. Seems we've had a rather soggy start to the year and I'm sure everyone is saying nice things to the weather gods for perfect conditions during the south island trips in particular. Selwyn & I spent part of Anniversary weekend at Waikato Hut – a great place to be when you don't want to get wet but want to go somewhere. We'd recommend it. Think about participating in the workparty coming up soon as an opportunity to improve your fitness.

Dianne June

Presidential Blog

December and January have been wet ones for the winterless north but down south the weather was fantastic, so I hope this continues for all of you heading down there for February and March. The weather on Stewart Island and the Travers- the hut.

Coming up is the AGM again and there are the committee positions that need to be voted on and changes to fees. There are also concerns regarding the position of the Waikato Hut in regards to the changes that are happening with RAL and facilities that will be available on Ruapehu. Discussion regarding the future and what that looks like will most likely be a topic of discussion. Also, the trip planning for tramping will be happening in April and September, so please think about what

you would like and send through your ideas to Les, your Club Captain. If you choose to be a leader it means you can choose where to go. If there is anyone new who would like to lead a trip let us know. There is plenty of support to help you with this role. We are also in the process of setting up an outline to help with trip planning and to be able to access or recognise where there might be risk. This month's quote: "Returning home is the most difficult part of long-distance hiking. You have grown outside the puzzle and your piece no longer fits."

Judith Bogle

from the Ski Club...

Happy New Year ! If you got some skiing or boarding in then hopefully you enjoyed whichever part of the world you visited.

Our first Workparty is approaching on 25/26 February and it would be great to see a good turnout from both the tramping and ski members.

It coincides with the club trip to Mt Tama so we'll have some company on Friday night. There's likely to be an early morning start from Hamilton option on Saturday for those who wish to arrive that morning. Our main activity will be to restock the firewood which is best done with a sturdy pack and some good footwear, and suitable sun protection. It's good fitness work for the upcoming trips or any mountaineering you might be considering. It's also a good chance to learn how to open and close the Lodge, which will make going there independently much more achievable. We provide food and accommodation for the weekend so you just need to bring yourself, a reliable and sturdy pack to carry firewood in and something to drink on Saturday evening. We're planning a social Saturday.

There's always a chance that we'll get to ride the gondola up to Knoll Ridge cafe and access the walks from there on Sunday.

The 2023 Ski Season dates are similar to 2022, running from early July through to mid-October and beyond, if snow permits. That's good news given no prospect late last year. More info should be out later this month which provides the direction for future seasons. We're working on aligning subscriptions to trees dates and will update in line with RAL info.

Keep an eye on our Website and Facebook streams to stay updated.

Stephen Prendergast

Trip Reports

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

Trip 3032

Volunteer Mine

20 Nov

Grandson Leo intended to write an account of this trip, but a number of things got in the way, including a holiday job. Leo enjoyed the trip and found it very different to his previous WTC trip where he was carried on his mother, Anna's, back. Paul McLennan led that trip - and remembered it as being the only club trip he'd led where he'd had to halt the group for a nappy change! This time Leo was

accompanied by two grandparents, one brother and seven other keen trampers on a trip lead by Rizal. The following account is based on notes that Gran took as Leo told brother Toby (unable to participate due to an injury) about the trip on his return home.

We walked on a 4WD road for the first bit, arriving at a muddy area with evidence of old buildings and a stream to cross, where most of us got wet feet. Tape marked the overgrown track, with Rizal checking his GPS and the route he had taken 18 months previously. We went uphill and it was great to look out to Maratoto Rock. It was easy going until we lost the track and ended up in thick supplejack. This trip provided challenges, especially for those who hadn't done anything like this before. When we eventually found the track, it was easy again, apart from climbing over logs.

Lunch was at some huge kauri trees – twin trees and another. There was orange lichen, bark with interesting patterns and we saw snow white fungi on a tree trunk. The rain which was expected hadn't eventuated and we set off to locate the old gold mine. This included going down steeply, around a land slide, and past a waterfall. There were relics, including a mine cart, lever and an old bottle, so we knew we were in the right locality. We didn't actually find the mine entrance but it was time to head back out, beginning by struggling back up the hill to our lunch spot. It seemed a lot more slippery on the track on our return, especially the section we missed on the way up.

Most people were relieved that we avoided the supplejack battle this time, although others had particularly enjoyed it. We made fast progress downhill with rain finally arriving when we were about three quarters of the way out.

Thanks Rizal for leading the trip, with its diverse range of ages, cultures and experience. It was good to see you fulfil your leadership role and not bail out by helicopter, as on a previous trip!

Participants: Rizal (leader), Allan (driver), Fariba, Samantha, Helen, Prativa, Sharon, John, Jean (scribe), Leo and Seb.

Rotoroa Island with the midweekers

22-24 Nov

This is a composite trip report from 4 different sources – better than reading 4 stories about the same adventure huh?

Way back in the early 2000s when Kerry Hickey & David Payne organised their Most Magnificent Adventures they used a quote from 'The Matrix' to describe an 'Adventure' as 'setting out on a journey when you don't know the outcome'. Well, the trip to Rotoroa Island in the Hauraki Gulf certainly felt like an 'Adventure'.

Would the water taxis even be running with the ghastly weather forecasts???

Would the accommodation be basically basic???? Would it rain, hail & blow the entirety of our stay???? Would there be anything to do while we were there???? No need to worry Val had everything in hand.

That is, she had a lot of juggling to do and the withdrawals made her job easier – there was room for everyone on the 2 boats at Half Moon Bay. A quick coffee and

we were off on the choppy sea for 45 minutes. 50 knot winds had been forecast for the day. Eeek! No wonder Val wasn't keen for Colin to take their own boat across. In 2005 the Salvation Army closed the alcohol rehabilitation facility and in 2008 philanthropists Neal and Annette Plowman negotiated a 99-year lease from the Salvation Army, establishing the Rotoroa Island Trust. They created a programme of restoration and redevelopment, designed to return island access to the people of New Zealand.

The restoration project has included many pine trees being removed and 22x times that number of natives being planted. Rotoroa Island was pronounced predator free in 2014. This is one of the most successful eradications in New Zealand, removing over 300,000 mice through aerial bait drops. An excellent museum has been built and a sculpture by Chris Boot erected at the southern tip (this artist also designed the cloak at the entrance to Hamilton Gardens). There are 3 homes and a shared accommodation block available for visitors and we made use of 2 homes. Our luggage was transported to our accommodation, a quick lunch was eaten and we all headed off to walk the beautiful southern loop towards that sculpture.

Grey sky but not cold and we were sheltered There are 3 homes and a shared accommodation block available for visitors and we made use of 2 homes. Our luggage was transported to our accommodation, a quick lunch was eaten and we all headed off to walk the beautiful southern loop towards that sculpture.

by the low trees from most of the wind. The rain arrived just as we got back to our homes. Time for pre-dinner drinks etc and then an after-dinner talk on the history of the island from Val.

Grey sky but not cold and we were sheltered There are 3 homes and a shared accommodation block available for visitors and we made use of 2 homes. Our luggage was transported to our accommodation, a quick lunch was eaten and we all headed off to walk the beautiful southern loop towards that sculpture.

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On Wednesday evening Val decorated the dinner table rather nicely and following dinner it was pantomime time - with all the subtleties of a sledgehammer and mandatory audience participation was put in much to everyone's entertainment. Well done, Val, who wrote it and to the participating characters. As the island is predator-free it functions as a sanctuary, particularly for kiwi so a night-time walk was called for. Only 1 person heard a kiwi and none were sighted, but it was a pleasant walk.

Weka, (keep the doors closed please), tui, tieke and seabirds (dotterels and oystercatchers amongst them) abound.

Matrix classic....'The real test of any choice is would I make the same choice again?' and like them I (Sharon) answer with a resounding..... Yes!



View to Ponui Is .over Ruthes' passage

Photo by Fiona Green

Thank you Val for all your careful thoughtful planning, and to team Jones for the driving, leading, guiding, encouraging & creativity that made this trip so successful.

Scribes are Dianne June, Sharon & David Payne, Margaret Robbins, and Val Jones.



Dinner in the bunkhouse

photo by Ray Hoare



Pantomime hi-jinks

photographer unknown



Dotterels on Ladys' bay beach

photo by Val Jones

Trip 3036

Rakiura northern Circuit

12-23 Dec

So much for a wet boggy trip. We were highly disappointed – sunshine for most of the trip.

Day 1: We decided to take a taxi to the start the track, who wants to walk on 5km of road, that would not be an inviting start.

We met the local constable at the beginning of the track. I think he was checking who was doing what tracks. We started on the Rakiura track which is a very nice track. We got to the campsite at Port William which had a lovely bay to swim from

but we decided to carry on to Bungaree Hut. This did not disappoint with its' sea views. There were large empty paua shells everywhere. The first lot of swims occurred here. Over the next 12 days we were pleasantly surprised by the number of beaches we visited.

Day 2: We head to Christmas Village Hut where we stayed for 2 nights. We ended up on Murray beach and at the south end of the beach we had lunch at a Hunters hut. A couple of us went off for a swim, this is a lovely sandy beach with beautiful blue water. Christmas Village hut is on a boulder beach. But is still a great place to swim. Even had the great pleasure while sitting on the toilet with the door open, early in the morning, where I watch a deer walk past the front door.

Day 3: We climbed Mt Anglem/Hananui 980m on a munted track. Not for the faint hearted. The effort was well worth it, we spend a couple of hours lying in the sun on the top.

Day 4: Moved onto Yankee River Hut, where we mainly walked through bush and streams. The main event was Lucky beach, very pretty being aptly named. There were no sandflies. I'm guessing this is the reason it is was called lucky.

Yankee River hut is next to an estuary. You can walk out to the beach and this is the only place there with cell phone reception. But the toilet was full of blowflies; best to go in the morning as they seem to be asleep then.

Day 5: Next was Long Harry Hut, first port of call was over a single wire swing bridge. This was supposed to be our wet day, nah not really. I estimated that the rain would come in at 2pm, was 4 minutes out and haven't been able to live that one down since. Was a decent climb out of Yankee River hut but the vegetation is gorgeous here. At morning tea amongst the manuka we were visited by our first 2 kiwis. We were able to observe them for about 10 minutes. After this we walked down to Smokey beach (had fun trying to climb up a sand bank to get to the main dunes itself) and the sand dunes are gold in colour and gorgeous. We saw tracks of kiwi, deer, cats and spotted penguins in the dunes. We found another Hunters Hut at the south end of the beach. Long Harry Hut is up on a hill but has a great view of the ocean and the surrounding hills. the deer also came out after the rain and we could observe them from the hut. They knew they were safe.

Day 6: Headed off to East Ruggedy Hut also known as the Ritz. (Sign saying the Ritz). This was probably the most rugged track with plenty of roots and mud but we also had to cross a boulder beach which took some time and have to say is quite hard on the ankles. To celebrate when we reached the end, we spent some time lying on the rocks enjoying the sun. There is a stream here to get water from as well. Back up the hill and off to East Ruggedy. Before you get to the hut there is a lookout where you can view up and down the coast, absolutely beautiful. Well worth it. Next headed down to the estuary. There is quick sand near the markers on the track. Then once you get to the beach you have to head inland to the hut, this feels like a long haul since it is mainly on sand. We stayed here for 2 nights got to meet Eli and Quinn who got engaged at the beginning of the track and by the end

they had arranged a marriage licence and got married in Oban. These 2 were our companions for the rest of the track.

Day 7: Day off, were going to do things but read and slept instead. I think well earned, great tramping holiday. Also had heard of horror stories about the track from East Ruggedy to Hell fire Hut.

Day 8: Off to Hell Fire, need to be aware of the tides from now on. There is a highwater track (yep it's high alright). It takes an hour to get to the beach - best to try and go 2 hours either side of high tide. Saw a seal playing in the waves at West Ruggedy bay. Then there is a climb and half way up is a sign saying 2.5 hours to Waituna Beach. Lovely beach, again more time lying in the sun and saw lots of shark skulls on the beach. The horror stories are unfounded about the track, it is just a longer day, but the track itself is better. Hellfire hut has great views, you can see 3 lakes inland amongst the hills from the hut. The balcony is set so you can sit and enjoy the view.

Day 9: Off to Mason Bay, again a longer day but the track is good. Firstly, you drop down to little Hellfire beach. There is a brand-new hunters hut there, you can even smell the vanish. And there is a sign saying "No Trampers Allowed". Then over another hill to Mason beach, make sure you go 2 hours either side of high tide. We were close to low tide so the sand was hard and the birds were feeding and playing at the waters' edge Found a lounge chair along the beach so just had to have a sit and a rest. It's 4km to Duck Creek where you turn off to go to Mason's hut. Don't go up the bank, you can walk along the stream. Anyway, we went Kiwi hunting that night. We heard them but it was only Sophia who saw them, and a baby one at that.

Day 10: Off to Freshwater hut, flat, and board walks and swamp. Basically boring. Freshwater hut is cold so we had the fire going, but were presented with a beautiful sunset. First decent one since starting the track.

Day 11: Off to North Arm Hut (Camp Site). This track is more rugged than the last couple of days but had great views and bush. Sophia again saw 2 kiwis walk right in front of her on the track. Lunch time, there were two individuals who had a snooze on the track, yep coming to the end of it. At North Arm the warden lit a fire on the beach and sang songs with his guitar. The possums had a great time around the campsite getting into everything. Hey guys there are warning signs. LOL.

Day 12: Out we go on the Ruakia track, this is like a highway compared to what we have done. But there was still moaning at the end about the 2km walk on the road to the South Sea where a well- deserved cider/beer and blue Cod lunch was waiting. This was a great tramping holiday. Participants Judith B, Jim S, Janette D, Sophia B.

Trip 3037A

Western Lake Okataina walkway

10 Dec

Yo, what's good my peeps? It's ya boy Mike P here, bringing you a trip report for the Western Okataina walkway in Rotorua. Let me tell you, it was a straight up drizzly day. But that didn't stop us from getting our tramp on. We had a solid crew

with me, Ying, Karen, Chris, Les, Brian, Kat, David, and Brent. We hit the trail at 10:30 am and it took us 3.5 hours to finish up.

Unfortunately, the weather was not on our side and we didn't get to see any views because of the drizzle. But that didn't matter, because we were still out here getting our steps in and enjoying each other's company.

I gotta give a shout out to Ron Dick for being our van driver and getting us to and from the trail safely. We appreciate you, Ron.

Overall, it was a solid tramp despite the weather. Can't wait to hit up the next one. Peace out.

Trip 3037B Lake Okataina (not Giant Rata) short walks 10 Dec

You could almost say this was a Swiss (or Holy) Cheese day. Great planning had nothing to do with how this trip transpired! However, at the end of the day we all had smiles and much gratitude for the venture into this delightful area of Rotorua.

The journey began late for a number of obscure, best-not-mentioned, reasons 😊. Trip leader had also discovered prior to the day, that the walk to view the giant rata was no longer negotiable due to a large slip blocking the track. This area of the lakes however, has a number of short walks which suited us all well.

Turning off at Ruato Bay, from the main road around Lake Rotoiti, our first walk began in gentle rain, off the Lake Okataina Road. This track took us a little way into the bush parallel with the road and ending at the lake edge of Tauranganui Bay, Lake Okataina. What a beautiful forest, lush with recent plentiful rainfall, it took us over gently undulating terrain for approximately 1.5 hours. However, there is a sad reality to this area in that it is still plagued with deer and wallabies. There is a DoC construction of a predator proof fence section (sample exclusion area) where you can easily see the difference of the protected lush undergrowth as opposed to the reality of most of the bush where these predators roam. To offset this, there were numerous delightful fungi growing. The range of species was interesting, growing happily on decaying trees. Some of us fungi fanatics, had to be gently reminded this was not a photographic purpose trip 😊 but certainly a lovely diversion to be considered for a future trip. (Trip Leader's note; while the original Giant Rata wasn't available, this forest has some *enormous* trees, and at least one was a Rata).

After a welcome lunch at a nearby shelter and a swim, for the driver, we drove back up the Lake Okataina Road toward the Okataina Outdoor Education Centre. Here we found access to the Te Auheke Track which took us to two delightful waterfalls. Auheke translates to 'stunning' and yes, especially for the second waterfall this was true. The singular creek fell in to a veil of two, then three separate cascades, creating very mystical and magical scenery. The track looped back to the Outdoor Centre, a short walk of approximately 40 mins.

Our next walk, with the rain gently continuing, was just up the road a little where we entered into the bush again for our final walk into Ngahopua track (the

twin lakes). This again was a short loop that took us on a short climb to the top ridges of two small crater lakes. There was a lovely vista down into the craters, the first very steep and certainly not to be ventured without considerable planning. The second lake was larger, both tracks allowing for good viewing platforms.

Combining these 3 short walks into one day left us leaving for home a little later than planned. This was a day well spent with great company and a lovely insight into this beautiful area of Rotorua. Trip venturers were John McArthur, trip leader; Allan Wickens, Driver; Marion and Richard Francis, Mary Hsu, Kathy Tao Gary Sun, Linda Conway, Beatrix Morgenthaler and Isla Trapski (scribe).

Trip 3038

Mountain Madness-the longest day

22 Dec

It was early evening when we four, Anita, Ying, David and Emily, stood on the Te Aroha summit viewing platform admiring the glorious 360° views displayed all around in the warm late afternoon light. The broad flat patchwork of Waikato farmland to the west, the rugged crumpled mountains of the Coromandel to the north, the arc of the Bay of Plenty coastline to the east and the sinuous Kaimai escarpment to the south. The view and momentary pause brought smiles of satisfaction to us all.

The day had begun many hours earlier at about 7am with three of us, Anita, Ying and David, starting from the Corcoran Road carpark for the Pirongia summit. The summit was reached after 2 hours up a wet and increasingly muddy and poorly maintained track. The morning was still and muggy and the summit capped with patches of low cloud. There hadn't been much birdsong and we passed only one person on the way up.

With a long day ahead, we didn't linger and began our way back down meeting increasing numbers of people headed up the mountain.

Back at the car, time for a quick snack and drink before driving to the marae carpark on Hicks Road to walk up to the Maungatautari summit. By now it was almost midday and a typical warm midsummers day. Once inside the gated sanctuary we revelled in the dappled light of the forest filled with almost continuous birdsong, a rare treat in NZ. Although the track was overgrown, it was well marked and we made steady progress to reach the summit in light short rain showers. Apart from passing one runner at the start and solitary walker at the end we had the mountain to ourselves.

Back at the car by 4pm, we made our way to Te Aroha with a slight detour to Tamahere to pick up my daughter Emily who was a welcome addition of fresh energy for the last mountain. We began the Te Aroha ascent walk in the still heat and quietness of late afternoon and made steady progress to reach the summit a couple of hours later without seeing anyone on the track.

Our trip down was enjoyable knowing we had succeeded. After another quick pause at the western lookout to overlook the town below in the fading pink and silver evening light, we completed the last stretch in warm darkness with

headtorches on. Back at the car we did some quick stretching and had a drink before heading for home.

Trip 3041

Exploring Whirinaki

14/15 Jan

Eight members enjoyed a fine weekend exploring the Whirinaki Forest including several waterfalls to keep Nicola happy. We stayed Saturday night the Jailhouse Shuttle and Accommodation place. Accommodation was nice and comfortable and the hosts wonderful to deal with.

After a quick lunch, we headed to the carpark to the Arohaki Lagoon, which we visited. There was plenty of water in the Lagoon due to all the recent rain – the ephemeral lagoon is a rain-fed lagoon. Next, we visited the Waiatiu Falls which were quite spectacular with all the recent rain.

Upon our return to our accommodation, out came the usual nibbles and wine.

Sunday, we drove down to the main carpark and walked the Whirinaki Waterfall Loop track. At the bridge that crosses the Whirinaki River at the Te Whaiti Nui A Toi Canyon, we saw our first pair of whio. We spotted another pair further along the track. The waterfall on this track was quite hard to view and get a good photo of. We found a high point to get our best view and have lunch. The track on the east side of the River was more pleasant to walk.

On our way out we stopped and checked out the Mangamate Campsite. Was a large area for camping with a shelter that had an open fire-place. Another waterfall for Nicola and another pair of whio. We probably saw about four or five pairs of whio during the weekend. Really great to see they are thriving here. Everyone had a lovely weekend with some easy daypack walks in a wonderful forest which is close to Hamilton. The group was: Les W (Leader and scribe), Allan W, Nicola G, Peter L, Helen M, Max G, Jim S and Beatrix M.

Trip 3042

Picnic in the Park

18 Jan

A select group of about 8 of us met at the band rotunda in Hamilton Gardens to start our social activities off for the year. Fine weather was the order of that day and the appearance of an extra guest in the form of a cute rabbit put smiles on all our faces. Food and drink kept us entertained for 2 hours before heading home for an evening cuppa.

Trip participants: Jeanette B, Jim S, Nicola G & Peter L, Dianne & Selwyn J, Isla T

Trip 3043

King Street and Horseman's Tracks

22 Jan

Two decided ere cut-off date, to withdraw and that left eight

Only seven after muscle sprain, travelled by van to Te Aroha Domain

Hard to spot was the start of the track, and our leader had to double back

Up to little wooden bridge, hopped off the side and up a ridge

A one plank bridge, drop to the right, felt quite airy, bit of a fright

A turn to the right, down when we're ready, ropes and trees to keep us steady

Leader turned to uphill trail, everyone hot, pace like a snail

Then came horrid realisation, Allan's phone gone on vacation

Back went Allan to seek and search, the rest of us sat, left in the lurch
 Some time later phone was found, and back to Domain Allan was bound
 The top of a spur and a revelation, turn to the right and lose elevation
 Sidled across to a serious drop, track to the left but Leader said not
 To the right was right and down we plunged, slipping along through well-trimmed
 grunge
 No sign of the trail when we got down, Leader saying it'll soon be found
 Lunch was in a grassy spot, pine trees tall, shading from aloft
 Domain Loop Track regained and where, Allan was called to reappear
 To Whakapipi and a welcome seat but feeling hot led one to retreat
 A stoical six travelled on, and Horseman's Track they came upon
 Down again skinny and steep, but not so bad that we had to creep
 And so we headed back again, to where we started, Te Aroha Domain
 On the trip were: Julia, Amanda, Allan (driver), Fiona, Trish, Jean and John (leader
 and scribe)

From the committee table:

New members: Cate Thorley, Terry Hudson. Welcome back to Ying (Jane) Schick.

Resignations: Susan Jenkins, Rebecca Eivers, Anatheia Albert & Piet Verburg.

Membership: We have 194 tramping members this month. Your annual membership notice will be coming to you soon. It would be helpful to all involved if you arranged prompt payment for this.

From the tramping Captain:

First of all, a Happy New Year and very best wishes to you all for 2023!!
 The Tramping Committee met last week 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

Obituary
Ian Garthwaite

Ian died quite unexpectedly before Christmas. He and Linda were members from 1997-2002 and became valued companions on many a tramp. Ian, a fun-loving Yorkshireman, was especially active and credited the learnings he gained in the Club to giving him the confidence to do a solo Leslie-Karamea tramp. This followed one of the convenient scientific conferences that just happened to be near a tramping opportunity. He was quite skilled at picking such conferences.

He packed a lot into those five years. He soon joined the committee, taking on the environmental portfolio, and he led trips and later became Club Captain. His witty comments always added a bit of fun to any situation. One memorable trip was the 'Daveless Dave trip' in Kahurangi; 10-11 hours, 10-11 hours, 9 hours, 11 hours, 6 hours, 9-10 hours, 'not many' and 'various.' Another was when foul weather caused us to just keep tramping so that we finished our three-day Urewera tramp in two days; 5.30 hours, 9.45 hours at cracking pace. He did snowcraft, climbed to the Crater and climbed Taranaki. On one Winter Tramp we got caught on a steep sidle on icy snow without our crampons on. We were making slow progress, so I stomped past everyone to lead and cut steps. "Skite", said Ian as I passed.

Ian participated in all aspects of the Club, skiing, kayaking, easy trips, hard trips and attained some success in the photographic competition.

Ian's final trip was Snowcraft in August 2002 and he and Linda then shifted to Sydney. They continued 'bushwalking', usually with David Gordon (ex WTC), with the Larapinta Trail being a stand-out trip. His outdoor interests also turned to sailing.

In his farewell message in the bulletin he finished with the words "Many people will walk into your life, but only true friends will leave footprints in your heart". He maintained that New Zealand remained his spiritual home. We have conveyed to Linda the condolences of their friends in the Club.

John and Jean Wilson

And from Peter Phipps....

I knew Ian when he lived in, as he put it, kiwi land. I joined the Waikato Tramping Club just prior to Ian serving as Club Captain and later I joined the same running group. same running group.

Ian was a person who did not suffer fools. Whenever I experienced this, it was done with a dash of sarcasm but also with a good dose of humour and quite often a twinkle in his eye and sometimes his distinctive giggle. I frequently enjoyed Ian and Linda's wit and humour. Among the tramping trips together, I remember specifically an easter trip to the Whirinakis when

the leader, Jude, became ill during the bus journey to the start. I was asked to be leader, which was my first time. There were near twenty people on the 4-day trip. During the trip Ian continually provided support, checking if I had any questions and offering suggestions when needed. I therefore think of him as a teacher. I also remember becoming misplaced in the Ureweras looking for Duck Biv while doing a reccy for a trip. We both still had learning to do. Oh, and I will never forget his addiction to coffee, with a little espresso maker that joined him on all the trips that I remember. It wouldn't surprise me if he is drinking coffee now 😊.

Snippets from here and there...

✓ Have you made contact yet with Etienne de Villiers who is doing a social anthropology degree at Otago University? His topic is **Walking and talking: Exploring social connection via the chronotypes of tramping, among the older adults in the Waikato.** (*Ed comment: by 'old' he means anyone over 55 years of age!!!*). This would mean most of us are eligible candidates. Please contact Etienne directly: devet032@student.otago.ac.nz. Results of his study will be made available to participants.

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

✓ Coromandel has been significantly affected by the recent heavy rain across the upper North Island. As part of supporting the multi-agency response, DoC will not allow campers to stay at the dozens of huts and campsites across the Peninsula. The closures are temporary and means the sites are unavailable until MetService weather warnings for the district are lifted.

✓ 13 juvenile whio/blue duck are now riding river rapids in Arthur's Pass National Park, after being helicoptered to their new home in late 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.

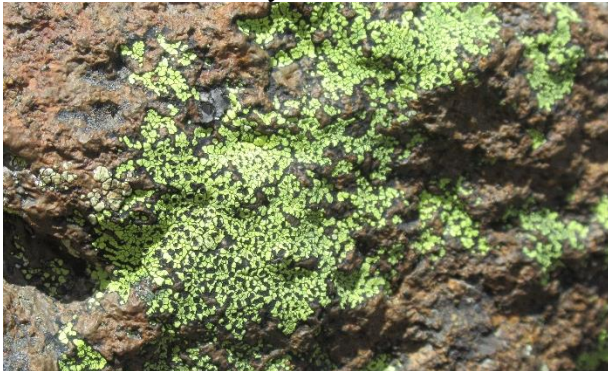
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Ruapehu summer delights



Photos by Dianne June





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