



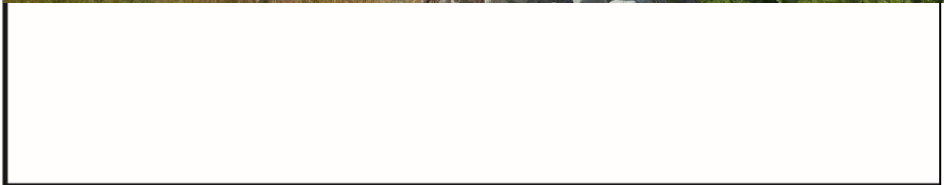
THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

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

July 2023



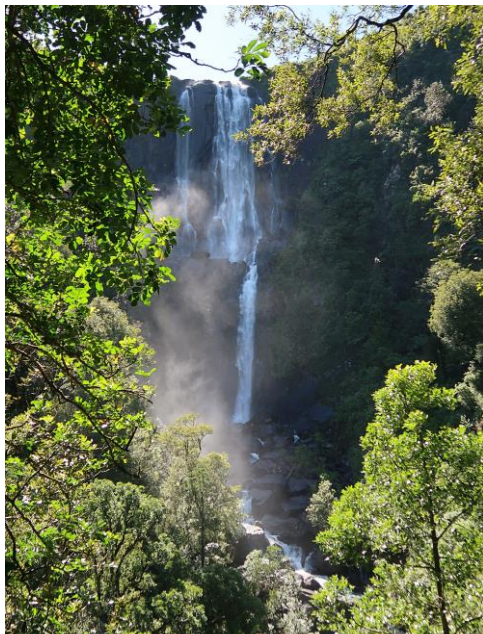
Bath time at Red stag hut photographer unknown

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Tongariro National Park



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Free to members

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

BULLETIN No 851

July 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 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

Chairperson:	Stephen Prendergast	021 466247
Ski VP:	Stephen Phillips	021 1031436
Bookings:	Stephen Prendergast	021 466247
Finance officer:	Michael Barker	021 2463500
Members:	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 2nd August

Tonight Nicola Guy (club member, judge of our annual photography competition and very talented photographer) will give a presentation on some simple tips to help us take better photos. These ideas will be useful for all of us regardless of whether we are using a camera or a phone. This presentation comes a couple of months before the photo competition so come along for some great ideas and suggestions and to be inspired!

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

Last Social activity: A Midwinter Christmas get together was a cosy affair at Dianne & Selwyn's place. 16 people fitted in together quite well and enjoyed a selection of Thai and Indian takeaways, along with fruit salad & blueberry cheesecake followed by coffee and various types of tea, and some fruitcake. Just the right amount of food was on offer, and there was almost the right amount of space for chairs for everyone. It didn't take long before the heat from the fire had some taking layers off- very cosy.

South Island trip planning meeting: This will take place at the Cathedral Hall on Wednesday 19th July, **starting at 7pm**. Bring along your suggestions or listen to what is on offer.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2023

3072	14-16 July	E/M	Exploring TNP	Les Warren
	19 July		SI trip planning	Les Warren
3073	22/23 July	M	Snowcraft I	Mike Peck
3074	30 July	M	Mt. Karioi	Lily Lye
	2 Aug		CLUB NIGHT	
3075	5/6 Aug	M	Leitchs clearing	Judith Bogle
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	Club captain
	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

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 3072 Exploring Tongariro National Park 14-16 July
On Friday we'll travel to Whakapapa to our accommodation at Waikato Hut in the morning. Settle in and have lunch at the Lodge, then a short walk (or two) in the afternoon close to our accommodation. The aim is to celebrate Matariki Day with a special dinner with opportunities to play cards or chess before and after dinner. Saturday 15th – will look at a trip to the Tupapakurua Falls near National Park

be a member of the Waikato Tramping Club. Application details are on the club website. Spaces for this course are limited and a deposit will be required to confirm your booking.

Leaders: Allan Wickens (Course Co-Ordinator) **Ph:** 027 950 9546 **Grade:** M
Mike Peck (Principal Instructor) **Ph:** 021 369 256

Email allanwickens@hotmail.com

Cost: Approximately \$200 – includes transport, food, and hut fees

Trip 3074 **Mt. Karioi** **30 July**

We'll leave Hamilton around 7am driving an hour to the Mt Karioi carpark on the western side of Mt. Karioi and aim to start walking by 8.30am, arrive at summit around 12pm, have some lunch, a bit of a look around, back to carpark by 4.30pm. If anyone feels like it, we could go for a short walk through Te Toto Gorge (40 min return) and have a look at the lookout, or head to the beach for a walk and some fish and chips, depending on weather and what everyone would like to do.

Karioi will be an **easy** trip. 3 hours to lookout, 3.30 to summit.

Karioi isn't a harsh walk, more just a casual day tramp to stretch the legs, however it does have amazing views if people were wanting to take pictures. Should be a nice relaxed tramp!

Once over the stile at the beginning of the track it's all uphill but there are many vantage points to stop and have a breather whilst admiring the view. After passing the grove of kanuka the track climbs up a grassy slope before reaching the ridge where chains and ladders have been installed to help navigate the way.

An hour (756m) down from the summit is a lookout, 10 mins down a side track with good views across the Raglan Harbour.

Leader: Lily Lye **Ph:** c/- 021 226 5072 **Grade:** E

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

Trip 3075 **Leitchs Clearing via Mangatoa Saddle** **5/6 Aug**

Mangatoa Saddle Track into Leitchs Clearing is 16km return therefore an easy overnighter. The elevation is approximately 500m and should give us a view out to Te Mauku Point.

This track crosses the Herangi Range and is an alternative track in to Leitchs Hut. At the end, yes there is a river to cross. This is in the Whareorino Conservation Area, which is in the Western King Country. We will have a late leave on Saturday morning, only takes 2hrs to get to the start of the track. Leitchs Hut has a wetback so if we fire up the fire we can have hot water and there is plenty of area to camp and the possibility to have a camp fire.

Leader: Judith Bogle **Ph:** 027 381 0283 **Grade:** M

Transport: Senior member \$40-45 Senior non-member: member rate + \$10

The older I get, the earlier it gets late.

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
Mike Peck

Ph: 027 950 9546
021 369 256

Grade: M

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 4 97 8151

Grade: M

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

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

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

The Club has scheduled an Outdoor First Aid Course on this day. This Course is aimed for Club Leaders, old, new and budding and keen trampers that usually do not lead trips, to improve their skill knowledge. The Course is not open to all club members. It is deemed important that the Club is seen to be providing relevant training for our Trip Leaders to ensure they have enough skills to deal with all aspects of leading trips.

Trip Leaders, budding and new Leaders and keen trampers will be contacted individually, shortly, once details have been finalised from the Tramping Committee meeting on 10 July 23.

Leader: Club Captain, Les Warren

Ph: 027 864 4937

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). On Saturday morning we will leave the Lodge and drive for a further 45 minutes to the base site for the day’s activity and you will 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.

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

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 **Ph:** 027 864 4937

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 17th 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

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 (email: allanwickens@hotmail.com)

Grades: E & M

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

Camping or cabins (cost TBA)

Trip 3088 Great Barrier Island 20-24 Oct (incl Labour Weekend)

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 two 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 (email: allanwickens@hotmail.com)

Grades: E and M

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

Mid-week Walks & Tramps

We have 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 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.

Editorial

Lois's Lindemann Loop day trip bought back many memories for me. My first visit was in 1967, when we found a freshly cut track heading straight up the ridge from beyond the road end. Following it, we eventually came to the main Wairoa kauri dam standing below where the shelter is now located. The dam has long gone. A goat culling team had erected a fly camp there and it was no doubt they who had cut the new track. I also remembered visiting the Wairoa Falls, downstream from the shelter, on two occasions. There is an idea for a future tramp. The dam ponding area, clearly obvious in 1967, has become grown over. Going back to places over time can be very rewarding.

John Wilson

Presidential Blog

Good news on the forefront, looks like Ruapehu ski field will be open due to another injection of money. I know that the skiers will be happy, but it is also a relief for the businesses and families in the area. This also gives an opportunity that when a sale does go through and there are discussions regarding concessions in respect of the sale that the decisions made are fair and reasonable.

On a brighter note the little red glacier hut situated at the top of the chairlift on Whakapapa celebrates its 100th year. Erected by the Ruapehu Ski Club, and even though it was considered an eyesore amongst the other huts, its removal was greatly resisted. Apparently there is a pair of 110year old skis in there.

All the best for snowcraft and the new ski season and hopefully there will be plenty of snow for everyone.

Judith Bogle

Despite the high cost of living, it remains popular.

...from the Ski Club...

The Ski season is underway, much to our relief. There's good snow already and a feeling of optimism about how the next few months will pan out. Over the next fortnight there will be a gradual opening up of the chairlifts and runs and with forecast snow we expect to see the Upper and Lower Mountain open in July. This will result in an increase in demand, so early booking is advised.

We're on Winter Rates now which is where Ski Club members have preferential booking and rates. Tramping Club members can upgrade to a Combined subscription, which provides a 20% discount on the cost of tramping and Ski Club membership. The additional subscription is critical in keeping the Lodge financially viable and in the scheme of things a very affordable add on which pays for itself over a couple of weekends. Get in touch if you are thinking about upgrading your membership to Combined. For weekend bookings

Ski & Combined member bookings are normally confirmed straight away and non-member bookings are confirmed on the Monday prior to the booking.

Our booking system is operational and you can find a link on the ski club webpage, www.waikatoskiclub.co.nz, or from our Facebook page. You will receive a booking notification when you complete the booking and a subsequent confirmation when your booking has been confirmed.

Getting to the Lodge involves a 15-20 minute trip from the carpark. There are 47 club huts at Whakapapa. We know that the first visit to Waikato Hut often benefits from some assistance with navigation as you work your way through the different clusters of buildings. On most Friday nights we will have a guide available to assist with your travel from the carpark. It's important to indicate when you book that you would like some assistance so we can organise it.

This year senior members will be providing the role of Custodian during the weekends. They will be able to help with Lodge operation, general questions about the facility, Mt Ruapehu ticket info and the occasional tour around some of the less visited part of Whakapapa. We'll advertise our other events and activities on the Ski Club website and Facebook.

We no longer have a landline active. This will be replaced by a mobile phone which will be assigned to the designated Lodge Custodian. The mobile number will be available on the Ski Club website shortly. This also means that we are not currently providing internet via wifi. There is good 4G coverage from the main providers Spark & One NZ (VF) with better service than was available on our wifi.

Looking forward to seeing you at Waikato Hut this winter.

Stephen Prendergast, Ski Team Leader



Trip Reports

Trip 3059

River Crossing Training

23 Apr

Every couple of years or so, the Waikato Tramping Club runs a River Training Course. Other courses run at regular intervals are Snowcraft (One and Two), Bushcraft and Outdoor First Aid. We also have a Leadership Training Course to ensure that those who lead our trips are “on the same page” so to speak. The last River Training Course was held over 3 days in the Kahunui Stream / Koranga River at the Gisborne end of the Waioeka Gorge in 2019. We had hoped to hold the course there again, but Cyclone Gabrielle had other plans for us. This area was devastated along with many of the mountain areas our Club frequents from the Kaimanawas, through the Kawekas and into the Ruahines. Other trips have been changed from the same areas due to the cyclone. Ultimately, it was decided that a one-day course, closer to home, would be run. The obvious choice was our often-used spot in the upper Waipa River. However, due to a system coming through the day before, all rivers in the region including the Waipa were high. It seemed the course was doomed yet again. Ironically, in the past few years, it has been a combination of too-low river levels and Covid 19 that have affected things.

So, what to do. Unfortunately, the Waikato region is not endowed with many suitable places to hold such a course. The Karangahake Gorge area was at first considered. After checking river levels early Sunday morning, that river was deemed to be still too high. How about the Kauaeranga River (near Thames) someone suggested? Taking a gamble on going to a river that is normally too low for our purposes, our van load of 8 headed to the Coromandel, stopping at Thames first for a coffee break (and Allan to buy socks as he'd forgotten to put some in his pack).

We arrived at a suitable spot just before the DOC Visitor Centre. Allan decided the stretch of river had the characteristic rapids, deep pools and stretches of calm water that made for a suitable place to instruct. For about an hour, everyone practised using the “mutual support” method of crossing a river. Taking turns going in pairs, triples and quads, everyone soon got the hang of things. Then followed a short walk upstream, “rock-hopping” on the way. Some of the group grabbed the chance to negotiate going down the “true left bank” (looking downstream that is) and they soon found out it was much more time consuming and difficult than the way we had come. As a conclusion to the course almost all the group practised “pack-floating”, which is a method of using one's pack as a buoyancy aid after being “swept away” by a strong current. Luckily the water was surprisingly warm, and all enjoyed the experience.

During lunch outside the Visitor Centre, Allan went over all the relevant points that are in the NZ Mountain Safety Council on-line instruction covering river training. Satisfied every aspect had been covered, the Course concluded about 4.30 pm and we all travelled back to Hamilton, stopping for the mandatory ice-cream in Thames. All agreed the Course was worthwhile and they felt more confident about their ability

to travel in our rivers. One or two decided that it was good to do the Course, but it was not their preferred way of getting around in our mountains.

Those involved were Allan Wickens (Instructor and scribe), Etienne deV, Angie A, Wendy O, David S, Monique S, Annalia S, and Madeleine F.

Trip 3061 **Maungatautari (was Hakarimatas)** **30 April**

This trip was changed to a Maungatautari North ascent. The original plan was to do the Hakarimata ridge approaching from the west. However, crossing the farms to do this wasn't available to us so we defaulted to climbing Maungatautari from the northern side. For some, the arrangements of parking at the marae and walking the new approach track was new.

The weather wasn't great, so the team diminished to six and we were on the track at 9am. We went up the quad track to the summit in about 2hours 15min in dull weather with occasional light showers. Not much of a view, but some tieke / saddleback song and good company. Back down the quad track to the cars by about 1pm and off home. The team was Judith and Ross, Les, Etienne, Jim and John.

Trip 3066 **Waitotara Trains Track** **3-5 June**

Three-day trek. Day 1 was from the start of the Matemateaonga Track and took an hour to the turn off. This is the link track towards the letter boxes and onto Puniwhakaū Track. There is a non-signed split junction - one track goes to the letter boxes and the other to Puteore Hut. Take the left to the hut. We ended up getting to the hut in the dark. It was a beautiful night with a full moon and stars, the temperature was mild. But I have to say when we were checking how far we were from the hut it was 900m at 4 different times (Jim's estimation). In the end I went with Mike at 300m and then there was the hut around the corner. The link track is hard going due to the track needing some upgrade. Day 2 was from Puteore Hut to Tahupo Hut. The track had been cleared by the Backcountry Trust but since March there had been another storm so there were tree falls. Stayed in the hut instead of carrying on due to rain and wind coming in. Best decision. Tahupo Hut has a fantastic view and the next morning with the sun coming over the mountain it was gorgeous. Day 3. The first part on to Trains Hut was along the ridge; here parts of the track were narrow and you needed to go around on a narrow ledge. This would have been very dangerous in bad weather. But the views were phenomenal. The mountains went straight down the sides and up to the tops again. Once you get to the base of the ridge and over the swing-bridge it is basically flat with some muddy areas. We again came out in the dark. This was a very long day. Jim S, Ying S, Les W, Mike W and leader Judith B.

You're old enough to remember when emojis were called "hieroglyphics."

Trip 3069

Lindemann's Loop Track

25 June

If I ever get lost in the wilds, I want to get lost with John – Wilson that is! He knows so much, is wise and smart, and the real deal. John can drive a brand-new Kia Carnival hire car with all the bells and whistles – once he gets it started, decipher NZ Topo on his mobile phone and interpret paper maps. What a whizz!

Sunday's small outing with John, Jean, Lois, Joy and me was great. The weather held off all day until the tiniest spits of rain spattered as we took off our boots at the end. Driving across the Hauraki Plains we exclaimed at the water levels right up to the



road edges. We felt real sympathy for the farmers as calving is only weeks away.

Our hike of Lindemann's Loop went in on the eastern side of the Kaimais, starting 200m up. The loop track climbed steeply initially with lots of good steps, but a couple of us were a bit puffy and short of energy, however we revived well with a snack and drink. The native bush was beautiful, although very soggy and muddy in places. At the top of the loop [520m] we stopped in a grassy clearing for lunch, near the Wairoa Shelter. John produced two square B&W photos dating back to 1967 showing an early shelter built at the same spot for teams doing goat clearances. John also pointed out the channelling of tiny streams into bigger tributaries to provide big water for the kauri

dams. Further on he showed us old kauri crowns lying in the forest and encouraged us to search out the stump and think about the big lengths of timber that had been milled and hauled from the forest in the early 1900s.

In the afternoon there was much sidling around ridges, dropping down to cross streams, climbing up the other side and trekking on. I really enjoyed spotting the tiny, seedling lancewoods with their sturdy, hardy foliage on the side of the tracks. Together we marvelled at a dark tessellated rock wall, well-covered with moss and lichen from the wet winter. Jean pointed out the distant valley where WTC used to have a hut that was incinerated years back.

Observation is a powerful tool. We mused about the gravel on the track and John pointed out that the gravelled patches are specific. They are near stands of kauri and designed to reduce the dirt picked up and carried on our boots, and consequently help limit the spread of kauri dieback. So much good learning to enhance a happy day.

My phone app says: 22,851 steps and 86 floors climbed. My gear says I got sweaty! Thank you all.

Marion Francis

Photo by John Wilson

Why do the French eat snails? They don't like fast food.

From the committee table:

New members: None

Resignations: None

Membership: The club has 185 tramping members. Your FMC cards should be available now.

From the committee: Future bulletin deliveries.

The email explaining the reasons for applying a fee for receiving a printed copy of the monthly Bulletin and asking you to choose how you wish to receive the Bulletin from July onwards went out on the 9th May. We have had about 90 replies with your choices and the majority of you have chosen to receive the Bulletin by email.

The full status at this time is	Email	122
	Pickup at Club Night	2
	Post to home	9
	Blank - unanswered	27

Those who have not yet responded will be asked again, thank you to those who have replied. The smaller print runs will save the money we envisaged and stem the deficit in the Tramping side finances.

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...

Citizen Science – September Club Night Talk by Monica Peters

Monica's presentation was most interesting and informative. She explained that ordinary citizens can significantly add to our scientific knowledge doing things like recording observations of flora and fauna, conducting beach litter surveys, or tracing the nuclei of electron microscope images of biological cells. People's contributions can add up to a huge volume of data that could never be funded from science budgets. Take beach litter surveys. By knowing what is there and in what volume, better focussed solutions can be devised. Or endangered species. How can adequate conservation strategies be formulated if species distribution is not fully understood? Citizen observations can add greatly to the data and help inform this.

Monica has sent us several Internet links to find out more about citizen science and perhaps you may find a project that you would like to become involved in.

Citizen Science Assn of Aotearoa NZ <https://citsci.nz/>

Science Learning Hub https://www.sciencelearn.org.nz/citizen_science

Go Eco <https://goeco.org.nz/portfolio/predator-free-waikato/>
(Hamilton & Cambridge predator free hub)

iNaturalist database <https://www.inaturalist.org/>

Karioi Volcanology

A few years ago Oliver McLeod spoke at a Club Night about the complex volcanology of Pirongia. Following on from that work he wandered all over Karioi observing and sampling rocks to enable a similar sort of picture to be developed. Karioi not only stands as a commanding backdrop to Raglan, but its volcanic activity from 2.6 to 2.3 million years ago shaped much of the landscape we see today.

The famous Manu Point surf break owes its existence to an ancient lava flow. Papanui Point is another old flow. Karioi is unusually complex as many small cones were fed from intraplate mantle sources, similar to the Auckland cones, while some lava on the mountain itself came from a shallower subduction zone (like Ruapehu). Oliver is preparing a map of Karioi, as he did for Pirongia, but this one will also show Maori sites and names which fill out how human activities overlay and interact with the geological record. A more detailed article can be found at <https://bit.ly/3NwCXL0>.

...from the FMC website....

➤ *Safety in the Mountains.* FMC has announced that the 12th edition of this book is now available. The book is full of safety reminders for trampers, mountaineers and hunters. This edition is updated to reflect tramping today and includes the latest in communications, an introduction to snow and alpine techniques and an updated medical section informed by experts in wilderness medicine. The illustrations have also been carefully updated. Thank you to editor Robin McNeill and your team. *Safety in the Mountains* is FMC's flagship publication and was first published in 1937. It is designed to be carried in a pack, being no heavier than a block of Whittakers chocolate. The 12th edition is available from the FMC online shop or clubs can email administrator@fmc.org.nz to place an order. The cost inclusive of postage is \$10 or \$65 for packs of 10.

Great Walks Bookings

Great Walks bookings open on the following dates:

- Tuesday 11 July – Tongariro Northern Circuit
- Wednesday 12 July – Rakiura Track
- Thursday 13 July – Paparoa Track
- Tuesday 18 July – Abel Tasman Coast Track
- Wednesday 19 July – Whanganui Journey
- Thursday, 20 July – Kepler Track
- Tuesday 25 July – Routeburn Track
- Wednesday 26 July – Heaphy Track

I walked 10k this morning. Great name for a dog.



Table Mountain from Crosbies Clearing

Photo by Allan Wickens



Lindemann's Loop Track – Wairoa Shelter

Photo by John Wilson

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