



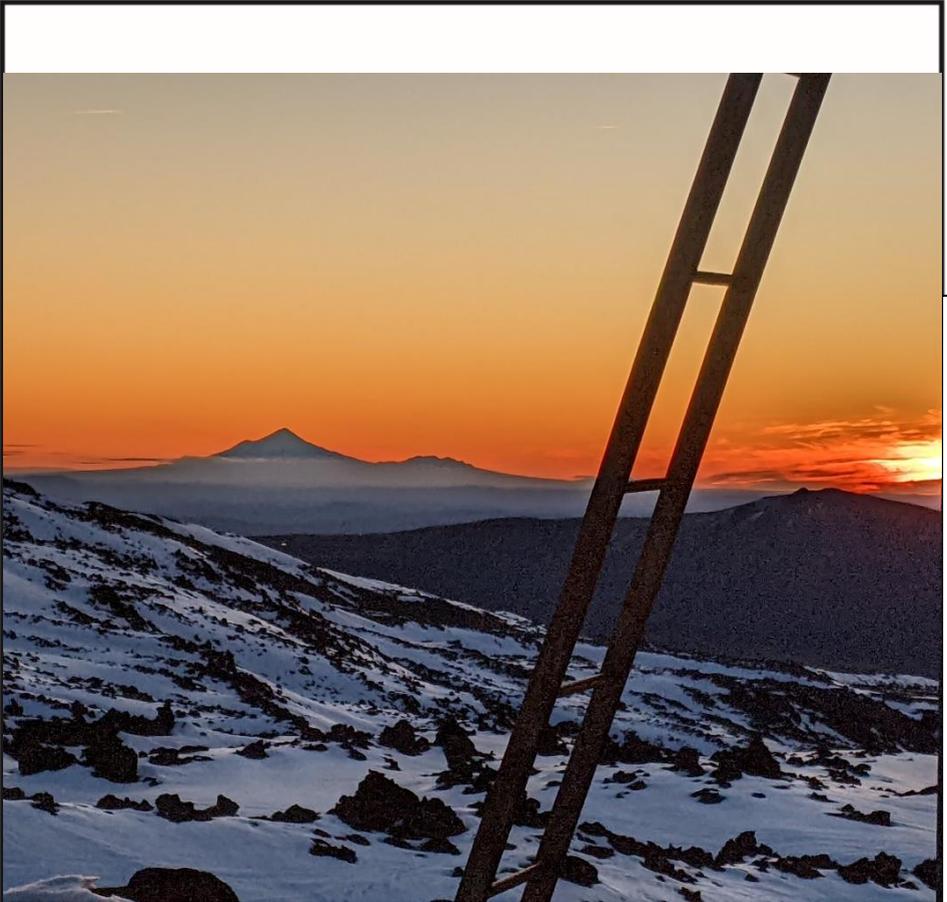
# THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

**WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)**

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

October 2023



A stunning Waikato Hut setting Amanda Collins

# WAIKATO HUT

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*Corybas acuminosa*  
Hannah Rogers

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Free to members

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

BULLETIN No 854

October 2023

### General Committee

(Contact details listed below)

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

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### Tramping Subcommittee

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

|                         |                                                                                  |             |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Chairperson:</b>     | John McArthur <a href="mailto:mcarthur@outlook.co.nz">mcarthur@outlook.co.nz</a> | 021 2889641 |
| <b>Club Captain:</b>    | Les Warren                                                                       | 027 8644937 |
| <b>Membership:</b>      | Jocelyn Widmer                                                                   | 027 8664795 |
| <b>Member:</b>          | Selwyn June                                                                      | 027 4978151 |
|                         | Rupert Craggs                                                                    | 027 6811926 |
| <b>Transport:</b>       | Allan Wickens                                                                    | 027 9509546 |
| <b>Social convenor:</b> | Jacqui Dick                                                                      | 021 1375201 |

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### Ski Subcommittee

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

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

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

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

## Club Night, Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November

This is the night when your photographic efforts and keen eye will be judged against your peers. There are always some great photos to see and cheerful rivalry between the participants. Come and cheer them along. Winning entries will be submitted to the 2024 FMC competition.

**Trip Planning meeting:** The Club Trip Planning Meeting for our club trips between January and June 2024 is booked for the Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 23 at the St Peter's Cathedral Hall. Doors open 7pm with meeting starting at 7.30pm. This is a good opportunity to come along to offer to lead a trip or offer ideas for Leaders to consider.

**Social Activity:** Friday, Oct 27<sup>th</sup> will see us watching the last of the films for the year at the Haines, 11 Alison St, Hamilton. The evening starts at 6.30pm with potluck dinner – you bring a dish to share, and any meat you like cooked on the BBQ. Then we watch the first half of a very interesting film, and at half-time we have dessert, coffee and cake. This is a super social evening, no booking required. Andrea & Graham Haines are our hosts: Ph 0274 822 830. Cost: \$20pp.

### ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2023 - 2024

	<b>11 Oct</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>Trip planning</b>	<b>Les Warren</b>
<b>3085</b>	<b>14 Oct</b>	<b>E/M</b>	<b>Trip leader training</b>	<b>Judith Bogle</b>
<b>3087</b>	<b>15 Oct</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>Waiuku beach cleanup</b>	<b>John McArthur</b>
<b>3088</b>	<b>20-24 Oct</b>	<b>E &amp; M</b>	<b>Great Barrier Is.</b>	<b>Allan Wickens</b>
	<b>27 Oct</b>		<b>FILM EVENING</b>	<b>Graham &amp; Andrea Haines</b>
<b>3089</b>	<b>28/29 Oct</b>	<b>E/M</b>	<b>Track clearing Awakino</b>	<b>Judith Bogle</b>
	<b>1 Nov</b>		<b>CLUB NIGHT</b>	
<b>3090</b>	<b>4/5 Nov</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Moerangi circuit</b>	<b>Judith Bogle</b>
<b>3091</b>	<b>12 Nov</b>	<b>E/M</b>	<b>Kakariki to Puroa rds</b>	<b>John McArthur</b>
<b>3092</b>	<b>18/19 Nov</b>	<b>E/M</b>	<b>Film festival at Waikato Hut</b>	<b>Jacqui Dick/ Stephen Prendergast</b>
<b>3093</b>	<b>26 Nov</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Karaka-Waiotahi track</b>	<b>Selwyn June</b>
<b>3094</b>	<b>26 Nov- 3 Dec</b>		<b>Travers-Sabine</b>	<b>Judith Bogle</b>
	<b>6 Dec</b>		<b>CLUB NIGHT</b>	
<b>3095</b>	<b>8 Dec</b>		<b>Last tramp of the year – Tiritiri Matangi</b>	<b>Mike Peck</b>

	<b>8 Dec</b>		<b>Xmas party at the Bogles'</b>	<b>Judith Bogle/ Jacqui Dick</b>
<b>3096</b>	<b>16 or 17 Dec</b>	<b>M/F</b>	<b>Mountain madness</b>	<b>John McArthur</b>
<b>3097</b>	<b>28 Dec-6 Jan</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Dusky Track</b>	<b>Paul Quinn</b>
<b>3098</b>	<b>6-20 Jan</b>	<b>E to F</b>	<b>Everything Kahurangi</b>	<b>Allan Wickens</b>
<b>3110</b>	<b>10-17 Mar</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>McArthur crags &amp; onward</b>	<b>John McArthur</b>
<b>3106</b>	<b>24 Feb-8 Mar</b>	<b>E-F</b>	<b>Wilkin River and lakes</b>	<b>Lois Rowell</b>
<b>3109</b>	<b>25 Feb - ?</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>Paparoa track</b>	<b>John Wilson</b>

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**

<b>E = Easy.</b>	Up to 4 hours per day, pace slower than E/M.
<b>E/M = Easy/Medium.</b>	Up to 5-6 hours/day, pace slower than M.
<b>M = Medium.</b>	Up to 6-7 hours/day, at standard walking pace.
<b>M/F = Medium/Fit.</b>	Up to 7-8 hours/day, pace faster than M.
<b>F = Fit.</b>	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 Gate 1 at Waikato University. Park closer to other vehicles as this area is security monitored.

**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.



wintery day if I remember right. We deposited all the rubbish in the car park and rang the District Council to pick it up - quite a satisfying feeling, though we only scratched the surface. It was a lot of fun and the ice-cream at Pokeno was well deserved. Let's do it again!

**Leader:** John McArthur

**Ph:** 021 2889641

**Grade:** E

**Email:** mcarthur@outlook.co.nz

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

Senior non-member: Senior rate +\$10

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### **Trip 3088**

### **Great Barrier Island**

**20-24 Oct**

This is a part of New Zealand that Allan has yet to visit. The plan is to meet up on Great Barrier Island after participants have made their way there independently and the trip officially starts on **Friday 20 October**. Then, as a vehicle-based group we will do as many walks as possible around the island in the (land-based) time that is available. GBI is remote but not that remote. There are 2 ways to get there and back. The cheaper option is to go by ferry from Auckland to Tryphena (it takes 4.5 hours and costs about \$115 one way) and the more expensive is to fly (around \$400-500 return including a large backpack). As there are several expensive logistics involved the only organising the leader (Allan) will do, apart from co-ordinating the group, is land-based on GBI. **This will involve vehicle hire and accommodation.** We'll look at all options available and in the main, stay in budget rooms and camp. After exploring GBI the **“official” part of the trip finishes on Tuesday 24 Oct.** Those going may wish to spend longer on the island.

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

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

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

**Leader:** Allan Wickens

**Ph:** 027 9509546

**Grades:** E & M

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

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

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### **Trip 3089**

### **Track clearing Awakino**

**28/29 Oct**

Track starts at the end of Gribbons Road. Track is reasonably flat, where the first part is on farmland and then follows the Awakino stream until a turn off that rises up towards Leitches clearing. The track needs clearing and there are areas of blackberry that need removing as well as areas that pigs have made a mess of. Plus, markers need to be sorted, and sections of the track need fixing. There is a camp site we can use halfway along on the farmers land to set up, or we can go through

to Leitches and work from there. I will connect with the farmer Chris who I have spoken to previously about sorting the track and he is happy to support us.

**Leader:** Judith Bogle                      **Ph:** 027 3810283                      **Grade:** E/M

**Email:** *judith.bogle@outlook.com*

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

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**Trip 3090                      Moerangi circuit- Whirinaki                      4/5 Nov**

This trip in the Whirinakis is a 2-day trip, generally easy walking.

Day 1; we will go from Okahu Road to Moerangi Hut and day 2 to River Road. There are plenty of kiwi around the Moerangi hut so listen for their shrill calls at night fall. Possible who/blue duck sightings at Rogers historic Hut with the lead light glass window. The saddle tops out at 955 metres and has spectacular views of the Rangitaiki Plains far below. As the track travels down from the saddle it enters into lowland podocarp forest. Walk among the giant trees until you end at the River Road car park.

**Leader:** Cathy Dickson/Judith Bogle                      **Ph:** 021 353 561                      **Grade:** E/M

**Email:** *dicksoncatherine@xtra.co.nz*

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

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**Trip 3091                      Kakariki Rd to Puroa Rd                      12 Nov**

This trip is southwest of Ngaruawahia. A recce means we will have to change our plans. More details next month

**Leader:** John McArthur                      **Ph:** 021 2889641                      **Grade:** M

**Email:** *mcarthur@outlook.co.nz*

**Transport:** Senior member \$20-25                      Senior non-member: Senior rate +\$10

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**Trip 3092                      WTC Inaugural Mountain Film Festival                      18/19 Nov**

This weekend we are going to hold our first ever Mountain Film Festival and it's a weekend not to be missed. It will be held at our Ski Lodge on Mount Ruapehu. The event programme is as follows: -

Friday 17 November. A selection of short films will be shown starting at 8.00 pm. Details of these films will be given closer to the event. The cost of admission for this part of the festival is \$10. In order to attend the evening's films, you will need to travel to our Lodge and arrive by about 7.30 pm. Primarily private transport will be used but we will look at arranging a van if there is sufficient interest. (When registering can you please let us know if you would like to travel by van). If the numbers warrant, those who wish to arrive later on Friday night, can do so by a second van, which will leave at our normal time from Hamilton of about 5.30-6.00 pm (To be confirmed). Again, please let the organisers know when you register.

Saturday 18 November. After breakfast there are options to do walking/climbing on Mount Ruapehu and its vicinity. For those who are capable and have done Snowcraft and above, there will be a climb to the crater and alpine activities. Throughout the weekend, we have the esteemed company of Don French of "100 Prominent Peaks of NZ" fame. Don will be present from Friday night and has

agreed to accompany this group on the mountain, weather permitting. Mike Peck will be our leader for this activity. For those who would prefer a less strenuous walk, we have several leaders available. More details closer to the event. The movie programme will start at 7.30 Saturday night after dinner and mulled wine. This part of the programme will involve a talk by Don, who will show his own short movie. A feature length movie “K2, Siren of the Himalaya” will be presented by Allan Wickens.



He was on this expedition (as a trekker) in 2009. The film was shown at film festivals in North America in 2014 and received widespread acclaim at mainstream theatres. Mike Peck will present a short film that has been recently made about the arduous “S-K (Schormann’s to Kaitoke) which traverses the full length of the Tararua Range. The cost of Saturday’s film showing is \$20 per person. If you want to see the Friday night’s showings, the combined cost for both evenings is \$25. Note: Bring some cash for popcorn and ice creams.

Sunday 19 November. This day will be used for walking/climbing if Saturday’s planned events are postponed due to bad weather. The weekend’s event will wrap up late in the afternoon. Otherwise, feel free to relax and take in the ambience of our Hut and surroundings.



Homegrown alpine climbing Allan Wickens

Meals: Friday BYO nibbles only (early arrivals can use the kitchen).  
Saturday: BYO breakfast and lunch food. Dinner = finger food at \$20 pp.  
Sunday: BYO breakfast and lunch Transport costs will depend on how you

get to and from Whakapapa. For the van it will be in the vicinity of \$50-70 for members and \$10.00 more for non-members

**IMPORTANT:** This event will have limited numbers due to the size of the area available for viewing the films. Further accommodation will be made available at a Ski lodge adjacent to ours (details to come) and you can always camp just below the hut where it is very flat. The Organisers recommend you register early as indications already show we will be over-subscribed. When registering, please indicate what level of mountain walking you would like on Saturday-Sunday.

**Leaders:** Jacqui Dick & Allan Wickens **Ph:** (J) 021 2608 149 or (A) 027 950 9546

**Climbing leader:** Mike Peck

**Email:** *allan.wickens@hotmail.com*

**Grades:** sloth to fit

**Accommodation:** \$70 for WTC members and \$50 for ski club members.

**Food:** \$20 for the dinner and petrol costs (\$40) to whomever you carpool with.

**Movie tickets:** Fri \$10, Sat \$20, both nights discounted to \$25/person.

**Transport:** For those who want to go in the early van Friday the cost will be for a 3-day hire and the fare will reflect that greater cost.

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### **Trip 3093**

### **Karaka-Waiotahi track**

**26 Nov**

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 Top 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:** 0274 978151

**Grade:** M

**Transport:** Senior member \$20-35

Senior non-member: member rate + \$10

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### **Trip 3094**

### **Travers Sabine and Moss Pass**

**26 Nov – 3 Dec**

This is in the Nelson Lakes area. We will start at Coldwater Hut and finish at the D'Urville. The plan is if the weather is good, we will camp on the Travers Sabine pass and watch the sunrise and sunset. The plan is to include a visit to Lake Constantine from the Blue hut and Mt Misery (1000m climb, this will be a day trip) from the D'Urville Hut. We will go over the Moss pass and out the D'Urville track to be picked up by boat. Also, we will need tents to be able to camp on the submit.

**Leader:** Judith Bogle

**Ph:** 027 3810283

**Grade:** tba

**Email:** *judith.bogle@outlook.com*

**Transport:** Private arrangements

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### **Trip 3095**

### **Last tramp of the year**

**8 Dec**

Come visit Tiritiri Matangi with our Trampler of the Year. As this trip involves a ferry to the island, please book in early as passenger numbers on the boat are limited.

**Leader:** Mike Peck

**Ph:** 021 369 256

**Grade:** E

**Email:** *mikeypeck@yahoo.com*

**Transport:** Senior member \$20-35

Senior non-member: member rate + \$10

**Boat fee:** tba

**Trip 3096****Mountain Madness****16 or 17 Dec**

This is a spontaneous sort of day out - if the weather packs in we will give it away. The plan is to see how many of the Waikato mountains we can climb in one day - the longest day of the year.

Previous years we have done Pirongia, Maungatautari and Te Aroha, and found this sequence was manageable (provided you eat and drink enough to keep you going). We are back to climbing Maungatautari from the north and you can do the loop (Quad bike track and old tramping track) if you wish.

Whatever - it will be a full day!!!

Be in! - the car(s) leave Hamilton 6am. We normally do Pirongia up and back before lunch. And we get back late - that's why they call it the Longest Day.

**Leader:** John McArthur

**Ph:** 021 2889641

**Grade:** VF

**Email:** [mcArthur@outlook.co.nz](mailto:mcArthur@outlook.co.nz)

**Transport:** Private vehicles

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**Trip 3097****Dusky Track****28 Dec-05 Jan**

THIS TRIP IS FULL. 9 days in the mud, rain, sand flies and hills of Fiordland, what's not to like? Some rate it as the hardest and most rewarding track in NZ.

**Leader:** Paul Quinn

**Ph:** 021 833 521

**Grade:** F

**Transport:** You'll have to get yourself to Te Anau, Trips and Tramps shuttle and boat to the start and end of the track. Cost TBA.

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**Trip 3098****Everything Kahurangi****6 Jan-21 Jan**

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

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

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

scope for an overnight tramp or two if people wish. Using our mobile base, we can cover the full range of the Park from the Takaka area around to Karamea. The last two days (19-20 January) will be spent travelling back to Hamilton.

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

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

**Leader:** Allan Wickens **Ph:** 027 9509546 **Grades:** E to F

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

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

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**Trip 3106 Wilkin River-Lakes Diana, Lucidus & Castalia 24 Feb-8 Mar**

Fly into Queenstown 27<sup>th</sup> and travel to Makarora for flight to Jumboland the following day. From Top Forks Hut we will explore Lakes Dianna, Lucidus and Castalia. The weather will dictate how many nights we stay at Top Forks. From there we walk back out to Kerin Forks Hut cross the river (preferably by boat) and walk to Siberia Hut. From there it is a day trip up to Lake Crucible. We expect to take the jet boat back to Makarora on the afternoon of 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> March. All participants will need to bring a tent and sleeping mat. Possible day trips are planned for the remaining days or others can return to Queenstown.

**Leaders:** Lois Rowell & Helen Mitchell **Ph:** 027 288 1148 or 021 523494

**Emails:** [loiserowell@gmail.com](mailto:loiserowell@gmail.com) or [hmitchie@hotmail.co.nz](mailto:hmitchie@hotmail.co.nz) **Grades:** E to F

**Cost:** tba

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**Trip 3107 Paparoa Track starting 25 Feb**

If you haven't already booked your accommodation then you are too late. For more details contact the trip leader.

**Leaders:** Jean & John Wilson **Ph:** 021 266 8600

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**Trip 3110 McArthur Crags & onward 10-17 Mar**

We will get to Hokitika to start us off and shuttle to the bridge across the Arahura river bright and early. From there, a 6-7 hour tramp up to the Lower Olderog Biv (2

sleeping benches, no mattresses). This is close to the bush-line, and we break up to open tops to gain the McArthur Crags, top of the McArthur Range at 1432m. Here we have options:

- a) the short traverse across Mt Kerr and down to either the West Coast Wilderness trail (cycle trail) or out north along the Wainihinihi river to the main road.
- b) (preferred) so as not to waste the altitude, we would traverse the ridge to Top Olderog Biv (again just 2 berth) and on to Mt Olsen (1603m), the Tara Tama range, turn right over Dunn Saddle, Mt Edelweiss, Newton Saddle and down to Dunns Creek Hut. Then we can walk out the Taipo River to the main road, or
- c) we could go up and over the Kelly Range staying at Carroll Hut (looks nice on the map). This gets us down into the Otira valley and the main road.

More planning and timing to be done, but small team and camping required.

**Leader:** John McArthur

**Ph:** 021 2889641

**Grade:** F

**Email:** *mcArthur@outlook.co.nz*

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### **Trip 3112**

### **Red Hills, Richmond Ranges**

**18 -21 Mar**

Departure and End: St Arnaud. I am treating this 4 or 5-day trip as a warm-up for my Bounds Circuit Trip that will follow.

Day 1: Start walking from Six Creek Carpark to Red Hills Hut (2hrs).

Day 2: Walk to Hunters Hut via Porters Creek Hut (7hrs).

Day 3: Walk about 1km north on poled track then follow a stream up to the ridgeline near Pt 1374 OR, we can follow the poled track all the way to Pt 1374 via Mt Ellis. Then, continue along the ridgeline to Red Hill and descend to a tarn and camp for the night. If the availability of water is difficult, we may need to drop down to the upper valley of the Motueka River Right Branch to camp.

Day 4: From either camp site from last night, we make our way down the ridgeline to an area called The Plateau, and head for Red Hills Hut and possible onto the Carpark. If the going is slow, we can use the option of staying at Red Hills Hut for the night and walking out the next morning (only 2hrs).

The attraction of the Red Hills is the “ultramafic” geology. This means there is an abundance of minerals, including iron, magnesium, copper and chrome, which give the rocks brilliant colours, particularly reds and oranges. Due to the toxic nature of the soils for tree growth, much of the area is covered in scrub and tussock.

**Leader:** Les Warren

**Ph:** 027 8644937

**Grade:** M

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

**Accommodation:** Mixture of camping and huts

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### **Trip 3113**

### **Bounds Circuit, Leatham Conservation Area**

**23- 28 Mar**

Departure and End: St Arnaud. To get to our start point, we travel towards Blenheim for a few km's to Leatham Road then follow Leatham Road to the end.

Day 1: We follow Leatham River south to Boundary Stream. Then follow Boundary Stream for about 4km, cross the stream and ascend spur following a fence line to ridgeline. From here, we follow a ridgeline and poled route to Hidden Hut (8 to 9hrs).

Day 2: Follow a poled route past Turkey's Nest to Gosling Hut (8 to 10hrs).

Day 3: Follow Gosling Stream down to the Waihopai River then follow a farm track south to Blue Mountain Hut (8hrs and a less stressful day for our bodies).

Day 4: Head up the Waihopai River to the Waterfall Stream then, follow Waterfall Stream all the way up to a tarn where we camp for the night (8hrs).

Day 5: Ascend north of the tarn to ridgeline then follow it to the upper section of Boundary Stream. Continue down Boundary Stream to Pt 807 where we will camp for our last night.

Day 6: Continue down Boundary Stream and the Leatham River to our carpark.

Most of this area is exposed to the elements with little bush. Will need to be prepared for hot weather tramping. Please note that times are only an estimate based on some blog reports I found.

**Leader:** Les Warren

**Ph:** 027 8644937

**Grade:** F

**Email:** warrenlb2017@outlook.com

**Accommodation:** Mixture of camping and huts. Huts are not big. A plus to tramping in this area is that not many people visit this area.

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### **Routeburn Track**

**March 2024**

More details next month. Need to wait for the bookings for this track to open.

**Leaders;** Madeleine & John Fiddes

**Ph:** 021 2273560

**Grade:** tba

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

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

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### **Kayakers unite**

After the success of the recent kayaking trip to Raglan, it was noted that there are a few people who would like to do more kayaking, particularly over the summer, on an informal basis. If you are interested in being part of a group who would like to go paddling, please contact Theresa O'Leary, Ph: 027 4162633, Email: [theresa.oleary.eme@gmail.com](mailto:theresa.oleary.eme@gmail.com). Theresa thinks organising outings could be done using a WhatsApp arrangement like the midweek walkers do.

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### ***Editorial***

Many thanks to the small band of 13 tramping club members who found their way to Pureora and the Okahukura valley recently to help with putting out bait. Those packs weren't very light, and I am so impressed with Dave W's effort of carrying all the bait for a 32-station line – after an ankle fusion not so long ago. And Peter A's determination not to give in to the demands of a hip needing replacement. I

tip my hat to you both. The good news is that the next round of filling takes place on Oct 14/15<sup>th</sup> and the loads will be waaaay lighter. Also, we won't need to visit all the lines, so we have a better chance of finishing earlier (Saturday perhaps?).

Would be great to think more of you could come along for this next fill.

Meantime, it looks like we are finally getting more warm and fewer wet days – enough to plan some outdoor trips again. By the time you read this the trip planning meeting will be over, but you should always submit your ideas of where to go even if you can't make it to the meeting. The planning meeting is followed by a leaders training session. This knowledge can be applied even when you are the only person on your trip, and you are not with the club. Please take advantage of the opportunity to extend your skills and knowledge.

Top marks to all those who have put their hands up to lead trips across the length of the South Island.

And you will have submitted your entries for the photographic competition at the last club night so come along to the November meeting to see just how good your pictures are – mine won't be a challenge for you.

And finally, please take note of the **departure points for our trips** as we are no longer able to park off-road where we have done for several years. This information is listed after the equipment guidelines below the trip summary.

Anyone notice the spelling glitches in the FMC snippets last month? – oops, will have to get back into the habit of using spellcheck, Sorry folks. Dianne

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## *Presidential Blog*

While I have been away in Tasmania for 2 weeks having a great time tramping there have been some changes in the booking systems for Tongariro and for the Alpine club huts (I know that we have not used these much in the past but maybe of interest). I encourage you to use the Tongariro Alpine Crossing booking system, it is a way of gathering data on what is happening on the Mountain. There is no cost to book. Visitors who turn up to the Tongariro Alpine Crossing without a booking will not be penalised and DoC will not be implementing a cap in 2023/2024.

This will affect all recreationists who are planning trips which require parking at either Mangatepopo or Ketetahi carpark. For those not doing the crossing, and requiring parking, the booking system is the best way for you to get a parking permit for the area.

This booking system starts from the 14th of October. DoC is encouraging all visitors to book including:

- \* Tongariro Alpine Crossing full and part track users
- \* Te Araroa walkers
- \* Soda Springs track users
- \* Tongariro Northern Circuit runners
- \* Mangatepopo Hut day visitors

- \* climbers
- \* tramping clubs
- \* school groups.

FMC is supportive of DoC's efforts to reduce the environmental and cultural impact of large numbers of visitors on the Tongariro Alpine Crossing and have been engaging closely with DoC on the setup of this system. Please send any feedback to FMC [eo@fmc.org.nz](mailto:eo@fmc.org.nz) to collate and send to the DoC project team.

Further information is available at <https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/central-north-island/places/tongariro-national-park/things-to-do/tracks/tongariro-alpine-crossing/booking/tongariro-alpine-crossing-booking-system/>

Also, NZAC are making some changes to our hut fees and booking systems. It's outlined in this news article, released recently: <https://alpineclub.org.nz/club-news/nzac-lodges-and-huts-fees-booking-system-rollout>.

Quote for this Month "When life gives you Mountains, put on your boots and hike".  
Happy Tramping Everyone, Judith Bogle

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

There's still good snow up top but the warmer weather and rain has removed the snow from the lower slopes. Jacqui is organising a Mountain Film festival for mid-November, which may well be a good opportunity to get in some lower mountain walks. Thanks to Stephen Phillips for organising the replacement of one of our hot water cylinders which failed recently. We welcomed back to the Lodge this year Tara Hills and family and Dominic Minor and family. Both have long association with the Tramping Club and Waikato Hut, as it was known in their earlier years pre-Ski Club times. The season is scheduled to close on 23rd October and is likely to do this in the current financial circumstances before re-opening for summer sightseeing operating the Gondola and the Knoll Ridge cafe.

P.S. Keep an eye on the newspapers for information about various financial bailouts for the skifield operators.

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## Trip Reports

### **Trip 3080**

### **Pureora Baiting**

**Sept 9/10**

The planning for this trip began with 60 people on the list but finished with 42 by Saturday morning, of which 13 of us were club members. The usual Friday night briefing took place, and a few groans were heard when everyone put the bait load into their packs afterwards (but there were only 600 and 700gm bags in each sack folks), and others went for a night-time walk around the Waipapa loop before bedtime. However, my biggest worry was the condition of the road to the valley from the Lodge but everyone made it in admirable style. Some help ferrying the uni students in a 4WD DoC vehicle proved most helpful. Everyone departed the

base by about 9am and headed off in the various directions to get back into the rhythm of filling bait stations – we haven't done this work since September 2020! But that didn't stop a few other volunteers racing through their lines and taking on a few more as they headed back to base. What energiser bunnies they were. However, I have to tip my hat to 2 club members in particular. Peter A is not as mobile as he would like to be, but he still participated, and I never heard any moaning from him. Nor from Dave W. he is recovering from ankle surgery and just getting back into action. After filling several stations along the access and 4WD roads, he loaded up all the bait for the line behind the base, headed up the hill, missed the sign that showed where the track split into a loop and where he should have left half the load, so carried all the bait until wife Debbie caught him up about halfway around the loop – 12 bait stations completed by then. Most people were back at the base by the prescribed 4pm and it was back to the Lodge for some R 'n R.

Sunday morning saw a team of 15 head back to the valley to fill the last 12 bait lines while Peter and helper Tim did a sterling job of cleaning the Lodge. When we arrived back at 5pm all we had to do was load our gear and head home, absolutely exhausted in most cases. We arrived home to see Jacqui D, who had been unable to participate, had left a hot dinner on our doorstep for us. Such a wonderful treat! It took Selwyn and I until late Monday afternoon before we felt somewhat recovered. This is a beautiful forest and the pest control everyone helps with has resulted in 680 pairs of kokako of the north Pureora Forest making up 25% of the whole NI kokako population – a fabulous result for all your effort. Roll on the next round on October 14-15<sup>th</sup> when the packs will be soooo much lighter.

Thankyou on behalf of the Pirongia Restoration Society for being so loyal and supportive.

Trip Participants; Selwyn J, Jim S, Sheryl T, Amanda C, Angie A, Debbie & Dave W, Annemarie & Russell L, Peter A, Annette W, Joanna G, scribe Dianne J.

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### **Trip 3083**

### **Hunua circuit**

### **23-24 Sept**

The weather forecast did not stop us.... Saturday morning! We departed from London Street and the University of Waikato after we parked our cars as close to the security fence as possible! We drove with wipers swishing back and forth to the western side of the Firth of Thames. Starting a “circuit” of the Hunua Ranges, by road of course! We all packed some reading material and a game or two – should we spend the time in the caravan park. Our first stop was to be at Waharau Regional Park on East Coast Road. We did some lower-level walks which were dependent on track and kauri die-back limitations. The eager and fitter ones took off - not to be seen for 3-4hrs! According to them it was lovely, and the track was in a good condition with beautiful views. The others meandered around shorter tracks and noticed gorgeous clematis in full flower in-between some gross gorse covered in bright yellow flowers. In the background we saw threatening skies but

not a drop of rain! After spending a few hours there, we travelled north to Tapapakanga



Kauri dieback prevention measures

photo by Allan Wickens

Regional Park, which is a farm-park with short coastal walks. We visited the Ashby Homestead – a family lived here with 13 kids! So Isolated – you won't be able to 'pop down to the shop for minor groceries'! We walked on the beach over streams along the coastal side – magnificent views! Back to the van and off to Orere Top 10 Holiday Park at Orere point where we were appointed our cabins. Before the sun disappeared, we went for a walk on the beach. Wow!



A beautiful beach

photo by Allan Wickens

What a desolate beach – cold, windy and rough. Must look different during summertime!

Sunday, we travelled to Waitawa Regional Park where there were different short tracks. Another splendid beach walk with great views – No rain! A quick stop in Clevedon for a coffee and pie to sustain us! We drove to Hunua Falls. The Hunua Falls were in flood – what a gorgeous majestic sight of rumbling tumbling water spraying anyone in close vicinity. Some eager walkers did the Cossey Gorge Loop track and others walked to the dam and back. Some of us needed to be picked up by the van, however, the road was closed. Eventually, a very tired looking tramping mate told us to keep walking to meet an equally tired Allen on the other side. The only people that were not exhausted and enjoyed the scenery while waiting were myself, John and Richard. But then the fun started – the van was bogged in the mud! Some clever thinking and ideas from everyone got us out safely! It was a great weekend and once again far better than the weather has been predicted initially. We have seen awesome views, shared lots of laughter and fun. Great Weekend!

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### *From the committee table:*

**New members:** We welcome Etienne de Villiers to our ranks this month.

**Resignations:** None

**Membership:** The club has 189 tramping members.

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

➤ Are you a philanthropic type? One of our members has alerted this editor to the plight of a person who has featured often and widely in the NZ outdoor scene for both tramping and photography. Shaun Barnett has a terminal brain tumour at age 54. Anyone who has read a Wilderness magazine will have seen his articles as he has written in almost every edition, and he was the editor for Wilderness as well as FMC's Backcountry/FMC Bulletin. Plus, he has written multiple books on tramping in New Zealand. He is a well-regarded landscape, flora and fauna photographer too. Shaun used to work for DoC in Waikato and other areas. A give-a-little page has been set up to help him financially as he writes his memoir called Wild Notes. This will help him with life extending drugs and his care, as his wife has stopped work to look after him. There's an article about this here: <https://www.thepost.co.nz/a/style/350070626/wild-notes-last-great-challenge-shaun-barnett> if people want to read about the Give a Little page link is <https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/help-shaun-barnett-and-his-family>

➤ Reprinted here is an article which was printed in the Waikato Times in September 2015. Do you feel overwhelmed by technology? Then try getting back to nature by taking a "**forest bath**". Before they were to find a "sit spot" in the forest, resisting the urge to check their phones and just pay attention to the nature around them, before they played games

under soaring western red cedars like "blindfolded ninja" to sharpen their senses, a group of stressed-out workers who spend most of their days inside, tethered to their devices, faced the toughest challenge of the day - turning those devices off.

The group of about a dozen had signed up for the first-ever "Unplug and Recharge in Nature" day organised by the Wilderness Awareness School just outside the hi-tech corridor that is home to Microsoft, Amazon and a host of other hi-tech companies.

They'd come to the woods, many said, because after spending so much of their *time* in the addictive and information-loaded virtual world, they felt a need to reconnect with the real one.

One worker said he is barraged by 10,000 emails a day. Another said he routinely spends as much as 18 hours straight online. They've seen technology both make their lives easier and more difficult, they said, enabling them to connect and drive a wedge between them and those they love. The group is part of a small but growing movement seeking to counter the noise, distraction and pull of the virtual world by learning to sit still and pay attention in the natural one. It's called "forest bathing". The practice originated in Japan in the early 1980s, where it's called Shinrin-yoku. And it has been gaining ground in the United States, where recent studies have found that people spend as much as 5-7 hours a day in front of screens and check their smartphones several *times* an hour - some almost incessantly.

And as research is beginning to show that "bathing" in the natural world is associated with lower stress levels, a boost to natural killer cells in the immune system, better mood, self-esteem, physical fitness, memory, attention and creativity, among other benefits, some psychologists are beginning to offer "eco therapy".

Doctors, among them Robert Zarr, a pediatrician at Unity Health Care in the District, and "physician champion" of DC Parks Rx, are even prescribing *time* outside rather than pills. "It's kind of funny that we have to have a 'fad' to get us to do what humans have always done - go outside, " said Warren Moon, executive director of the Wilderness Awareness School.

"We're targeting the modern hi-tech worker, or someone who's always plugged in and wants to counterbalance that fast-paced, stressed-out lifestyle, " said Moon.

After joking halfheartedly about how cool it would be to post on social media about their experiences. "We could use 'hashtag forest bathing!'" said one. The group headed outside to loosen their limbs and learn how to use a wider range of vision, called "owl eyes, " to observe the natural world.

Walking along the forest path, Michele Martaus, 36, who relies on e-mail and online scheduling for her vocal coaching business, said she came to the day in the woods to get more distance from technology.

"With the web, it's all about what you know, so you always feel 'less than' ". she said. "Out here, you recognise how small you are, but also how you're an integral part of it all. With technology, you always have to have the answer. Here, it's OK not to know. To wonder."

As they foraged for lunch, not in the forest, but in the school kitchen, many reflected that they didn't want to rid technology from their lives. They just didn't want technology to so dominate them anymore.

"This is the career I've chosen, " said Nick Tomczek, 36, a 'super plugged-in' IT consultant. "I just need to balance the inability to step away from it."

Don DeVange, 34, a web developer who runs a marketing firm, doesn't want he and his wife to keep catching each other on their phones when they're with their 11-month-old daughter. "We don't want her to think what's on the screen is more important to us than she is."

As the group brushed the leaves and pine needles from their clothes, put shoes back on and readied to leave, Moon's assistant, Kyle Koch, a former software engineer-turned-outreach coordinator for the wilderness school gave them a farewell warning: "Know that you're going back to the plastic world, " he said. "I encourage you to hold onto this feeling as long as you can, before you hit the power button."

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

➤ The Department of Conservation (DoC) will be introducing a **booking system for the Tongariro Alpine Crossing**, which went live on 1 October on the DoC website, and you can make bookings for Oct 14<sup>th</sup> onwards. DoC is encouraging everyone who accesses any part of the Tongariro Alpine Crossing to make a booking. This enables DoC to gather information on what visitors are doing when they come to Tongariro to help shape future improvements. While strongly encouraged, booking is not compulsory. The booking form will help people doing outdoor recreation other than the Crossing to understand their access options, including permits to park for longer than four hours. All parking is available on a first come first served basis.

Whilst completing the short booking form you will be asked if you are intending to park for longer than 4 hours. Please enter your license plate when prompted and print the email receipt to leave on your dash, or present to the ranger onsite at Mangatepopo car park. Enjoy your Tongariro experience and be safe!

➤ **Hump Ridge track upgrade extended** until October 2024. DoC says the project to upgrade Tuatapere's Hump Ridge track has been slowed by supply chain delays, weather conditions and arduous terrain.

"We're over the halfway line to bring it up to Great Walk standard," says Southern South Island Director of Operations Aaron Fleming, "but there's still a lot to do. All project partners have agreed more time is needed for construction, so the end date has been pushed out to October 2024.

"The track is already open and in use, managed by the Tuatapere Hump Ridge Charitable Trust. Bookings are still open during construction, with public access given priority. Bookings for the Hump Ridge Track can be made on the Trust's site: [humpridgetrack.co.nz/pages/how-to-book](http://humpridgetrack.co.nz/pages/how-to-book) (external site).

➤ **More kea seen at Nelson Lakes.** DoC Nelson Lakes Senior Biodiversity Ranger Melissa Griffin says kea had practically disappeared from Nelson Lakes but more kea sightings last summer suggest efforts to re-build the population are working.

“Trampers reported seeing groups of kea with juvenile and sub-adult birds,” says Melissa Griffin.

“It’s been particularly exciting young kea known to have been bred in the Nelson Lakes area were among those seen. This shows the birds are doing well on their own.” Six kea chicks successfully fledged from two monitored nests in the 2022 breeding season – three from each kea nest. The nesting adult females also each had three chicks fledge from their nests in the 2021 breeding season.

Nesting in the current breeding season is starting with so far one of the females sitting on eggs in her monitored nest cavity.

The exact number of kea in the Nelson Lakes area isn’t known but Melissa Griffin estimates there now could be around 25, based on reported sightings.

DoC staff are encouraging visitors to Nelson Lakes to look out for kea and report sightings to assist in learning more about the local population.

➤ **Kōkako on the rise at Rotoehu.** The first survey in four years has revealed huge growth for the local population of the ancient wattle bird thanks to ongoing efforts to control introduced predators using bait stations and aerially applied 1080 bait pellets. Rotoehu Forest is now home to New Zealand's second largest mainland kōkako population with 289 breeding pairs recently counted – an 89% increase on the 157 pairs in 2019.

The survey was done across 19 days in April by a team of seven experienced contractors with some support from volunteers to cover 2,450 hectares of public conservation land.

Pest control is helping kōkako and other native species in the area to breed. This includes kārearea, rifleman/titipounamu, kereru, bellbird/korimako, whitehead/pōpokatea, North Island robin/toutouwai, tūī, morepork/ruru and bats/pekapeka.

“We want to eventually cover 2000 hectares. To enable this, we need to secure funding from commercial and/or private sponsorship and we are calling out for help to protect future generations of kōkako,” Jane says.

There are more than 2000 kōkako breeding pairs in total throughout New Zealand with the population trend continuing to rise in areas with sustained predator control.

The largest mainland population is Pureora Forest (more than 600 pairs) followed by Rotoehu Forest (289 pairs) and the Hunua Ranges (over 250 pairs). Te Hauturu-o-Toi/Little Barrier Island also hosts a large population of more than 400 pairs.

For Sale:

Alpine Ski Touring : Screw lock carabiners 2200 Stubai, Kamet 2000 kg  
Crampons  
Ice screw Aleber Germany  
Prussic Slings  
Waist loop  
Short ice axe  
Climbing rope  
Climbing skins

Trekkers Back Country. Adapter to convert downhill ski to touring ski

Alpine Downhill Straight skis: Rossignol ROC 550 200cm  
Dynastar Sport 55 170 cm  
Atomic Mid Supreme - HV 190cm

K2 – 3 Straight Skis 207 cm, Marker M4 touring bindings, Climbing skins,  
Hasheisen.

Blizzard straight skis 160cm Super PX, Gertsch touring binding,

Ski Boots : Strolz Leather hand made in Lech Austria size 7  
Reiker Leather Size 8  
Koflak Leather Size 8  
Rosemount Fibre glass ski boots Size 8

Ice skates: Ladies Canadian Sterling white leather 10 ¾

Ski Bindings: Look Nevada Aluminium Toe pieces  
Marker Rotomat TR heel pieces

**Contact:** Doug Downs  
31A Sandwich Road Hamilton  
07 849 4444  
027 749 4444

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**For sale:**

Michael Nightingale has donated some items to the club for sale:  
There is a packet of hikers wool, a black acrylic beanie, 2x Radix meals (wild salmon with ginger & herbs), a small Doite gas cooker, a pair of blue Earth Sea Sky brand large-sized over-trousers that zip open the full length of the legs. i.e. can be removed without taking your boots off!

Price: You make a donation to the club, Bank account number on the front page of this bulletin,

**Contact:** Dianne & Selwyn 8433066 to arrange viewing or pickup.



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