



THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

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

September 2023



Success on Paretaitonga Photo by Lachlan McKenzie

WAIKATO HUT

Your lodge on Mt Ruapehu
Tongariro National Park



www.wtc.org.nz



Stepping carefully
photo by Mike Peck

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WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB
P. O. Box 685, Hamilton 3240 • www.wtc.org.nz

Free to members

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

BULLETIN No 853

September 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 4th October

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

Watch for an email later in the month.

Trip Planning meeting: The Club Trip Planning Meeting for our club trips between January and June 2024 is booked for the Wednesday 11th 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.

Note that we now park and depart from gate 1 of the Waikato University campus.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2023

3082	17 Sept	M	Waiorongomai	John McArthur
3083	23/24 Sep	E & M	Hunua Circuit	Allan Wickens
3084	1 Oct	M	Kayaking Raglan	Jacqui Dick
	4 Oct		CLUB NIGHT	
3086	8 Oct	E	River trails	Ron Dick
	11 Oct	n/a	Trip planning	Les Warren
3085	14 Oct	E/M	Trip leader training	Judith Bogle
3087	15 Oct	E	Waiuku beach cleanup	John McArthur
3088	20-24 Oct	E & M	Great Barrier Is.	Allan Wickens
3089	28/29 Oct	E/M	Track clearing Awakino	Judith Bogle
	28-29 Oct	E/M	Film festival at Waikato Hut	Jacqui Dick/Stephen Prendergast
	1 Nov		CLUB NIGHT	
3090	4/5 Nov	M	Moerangi circuit	Judith Bogle
3091	12 Nov	E/M	Kakariki to Puroards	Stephen Prendergast
3092	18-/19 Nov		Opunake walks	Peter Lye
3093	25/26 Nov		Whakapapa to Waihohonu	Jocelny Widmer
3094	26 Nov-3 Dec		Travers-Sabine	Judith Bogle
3095	8 Dec		Last tramp of the year – Tiritiri Matangi	Mike Peck

3096	8 Dec	n/a	Xmas party at the Bogles'	Judith Bogle/Jacqui Dick
3097	16 or 17 Dec	M/F	Mountain madness	John McArthur

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

TIME and FITNESS GUIDELINES

E = Easy.	Up to 4 hours per day, pace slower than E/M.
E/M = Easy/Medium.	Up to 5-6 hours/day, pace slower than M.
M = Medium.	Up to 6-7 hours/day, at standard walking pace.
M/F = Medium/Fit.	Up to 7-8 hours/day, pace faster than M.
F = Fit.	Over 8 hours/day, pace faster than M/F.

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

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

Departure Point: Trips depart from the 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.

Trip Descriptions

Remember: Click 'SUBMIT' to confirm your booking on the website

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

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

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

Email: *allanwickens@hotmail.com*

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

Accommodation: Camping or cabins (cost tba)

Trip 3084 Kayaking Raglan harbour 1 Oct

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

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

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

Leader: Jacqui Dick

Ph: 021 1375201

Grade: M

Email: jacquimd@me.com

Transport: car pooling, costs to be shared. **Kayak hire:** \$45

Trip 3085

Trip Leaders Training

Saturday, 14 Oct

At DoC visitor Centre Kauaeranga Valley. The course will encompass: Leadership qualities, trip planning, group management, risk management, emergencies and technology. Saturday 9-4pm. If enough are interested we are going to do practical leadership exercises and go for walk on the Sunday

Participants will be handed out more detailed papers on the course topics on arrival. NOTE: This is a full day of training and there will not be any time to go into Thames during the Course.

Please respond by email of names of persons attending and, whether staying Friday and Saturday nights at the cottages (and names). If you wish to camp nearby or stay in Thames let us know also. Those who wish to stay for the weekend will help with planning any practical training on the Sunday.

Refreshments: We will provide basic refreshments for morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea. This will include tea, coffee, milk, sugar, biscuits, cake. Participants need to provide their own food for lunch. There is a well-equipped kitchen available.

PLEASE NOTE: Myself and Judith (main organizers) will be overseas 16th Sept – 3rd October so we may not be able to respond to any emails until we return.

Leader: Les Warren & Judith Bogle **Ph:** 027 8644937 or 027 3810283

Email: warrenlb2017@outlook.com or judith.bogle@outlook.com

Course fee: \$25/person

Accommodation: \$88/2 people/2 nights minimum. Please book yourself into a cottage if you plan to stay overnight, You will need to bring what you would normally bring for a tramping trip e.g. cooker & pots, food, sleeping bag & pillow etc. Tenting is also possible. Check out the Doc website for all bookings.

Transport: WTC will look at booking a van from Hamilton. If interested in using the van, please let me know when registering. There will be a small hire cost per person.

Trip 3086

Waikato river trails

8 Oct

The Waikato River Trail is made up of 100km of off-road trails that follow the banks of the Waikato River from Lake Karapiro in the north to Atiamuri in the south, taking in five lakes, five hydro dams and a number of small towns and villages, showcasing

some of the best of the Waikato heartland. The section we will be walking is from Waipapa Dam to the Mangarewa suspension bridge. This is a return trip as the section from the suspension bridge to Jones Landing has been permanently closed. The distance each way is 10km, through bush, past picturesque streams, and with quite a bit on well formed track. If you would like to see the suspension bridge which is 80 metres long and 42 metres above the water, then walking this section of the trail is the only way to do so. Bring a thermos as we will start with some of Jacqui's lovely home baking by the shores of Lake Waipapa.

Leader: Ron Dick

Ph: 021 2608149

Grade: E

Email: ronjmd@icloud.com

Transport: Senior member \$20-25

Senior non-member: Senior rate +\$10

Trip 3087

Waiuku beach cleanup

15 Oct

The last time we went to the Waiuku forest to walk in the forest and do a little beachcombing I suggested people took along a shopping bag to pick up beach litter. We ended up rolling one 200 litre plastic drum along the beach (thanks Judith) and had many other carriers full of rubbish. That was July 2021 and a wintry 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

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.

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 farm land 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, plus sections of the track need fixing. There is a camp site we can use half way 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

Waikato Tramping Club's Inaugural Mountain Film Festival **28/29 Oct**

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 Mt Ruapehu.

We will travel down Friday (private cars so will arrange car-pooling with different time departure options) and spend Friday and Saturday night at the Hut. On Saturday we will do some short walks on the mountain, with options available. Or you can just stay at the Hut, relax and read.

Saturday evening there will be mulled wine and a delicious shared dinner (food for this provided as part of the cost) and then we will have our film evening. A variety of short films will be shown, with mountains and adventure as the theme. We intend to carry up the clubs' projector and set up the lounge like a movie theatre!

Sunday is a day to relax, walk, socialise or whatever you please. Then we will head home Sunday afternoon.

BYO breakfasts, lunches and snacks. Saturday dinner is provided.

Leaders: Jacqui Dick & Stephen Prendergast **Ph;** 021 1375201 or 021 466247

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.

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 whio/blue ducks 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

South Island trip programme for next summer....

If you are keen to join any of these trips check in early with the leader as bookings for transport, huts etc will need to be made soon.

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

Dusky Track

28 Dec-05 Jan

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.

This trip will follow the standard south to north route, from Lake Hauroko to Lake Manapouri, with a side visit to Dusky Sound. It's an 8-day tramp, but we'll allow an additional day in case of bad weather, so be prepared for 9 days. Each day will be around 8 hours minimum. It's likely to rain, with knee deep mud and 3-wire bridges to cross. The track isn't always well marked, so there will be some navigation required. No camping, so huts all the way.

For a full description of the trip, go to <https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/fiordland/places/fiordland-national-park/things-to-do/tracks/dusky-track/>

There is a good brochure on the DoC website which describes each day and what to expect. There are also a number of reviews on YouTube. DoC recommend only experienced, well equipped and fit trampers walk the track.

We'll start and end in Te Anau. Start and end dates are determined by Trips & Tramps, who run the shuttle and boat to the start of the track. They have trips running Thursday 28 December and Sunday 31 December. We'll go for either one of these dates depending on the preferences of the group and other logistics of getting down there etc. Numbers will be limited and we'll have to make bookings soon, so register your interest today!

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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### **Kahurangi National Park Circuit**

**6 Jan-21 Jan 2024**

If you have ever wanted to visit and explore the vast reaches of Kahurangi National Park, this trip should satisfy a great deal of what avid trampers would like to do in this area. Kahurangi is the second largest of our National Parks covering an area of over 450,000 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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### **Paparoa Track**

**starting 25/02/24**

More details next month

**Leaders:** Jean & John Wilson

**Ph:** 021 266 8600

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### **Wilkin River to Lake Diana, Lucidus Lake & Lake 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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### **McArthur Craggs / Kelly Range**

**March 2024**

More details next month

**Leader:** John McArthur

**Ph:** 021 2889641

**Grade:** tba

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

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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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### **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 walk 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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**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

**Email:** warrenlb2017@outlook.com

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

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**Trip number tba**

**Everything Kahurangi**

**6-20 Jan 2024**

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

This trip will be vehicle-based with comfortable camping facilities. We leave Hamilton on Saturday 6 January and drive to Wellington where we will stay the night at a campground or similar. We’ll have time to do the Paekakariki Walkway or do a short walk in Wellington to relax after the long drive that day. On Sunday,

we have a leisurely start and then catch the 1.00 pm sailing to Picton. From there, we will drive 2-3 hours to a trailhead at Kahurangi.

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

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

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

**Leader:** Allan Wickens

**Ph:** 027 9509546

**Grades:** 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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### **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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*Not all classrooms have 4 walls*

## *Editorial*

I think I am so exhausted after a hectic but successful weekend in Pureora Forest with 50 other people that I can hardly put any cohesive thoughts together, But, we achieved what we asset out to do, and enjoyed some tramping at a slightly different pace in the beautiful North Pureora Forest Park. Many beautiful exhibits of nature were photographed – after all, why go tramping unless it is to see what nature has to show us – and some great company was enjoyed too – again why not be social while having fun? To this end there are some super trips coming up with some training, some mahi in Awakino, and some super trips in the south island over summer and autumn. You are spoilt for choice but don't forget, that while you enjoy going with others, think about helping out by becoming a leader yourself. It is a very rewarding rôle to play

Dianne

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## *Presidential Blog*

I thought that it would be a good idea to update you all on the progress for the Tongariro Alpine Crossing and Ruapehu Ski Field that FMC has been doing. This does affect a number of you who spend time down there.

Progress has been made with the stakeholders reference group. Where there will no longer be one-way traffic over the crossing even though the majority of people will go this way. There is an on-line booking form where, if you are not doing the crossing or are a TAC, you can state “No”, this would send applicants through a short series of questions which would eventually issue them with a parking permit. This is to produce a workable solution that doesn't unnecessarily restrict public access.

As for the Ruapehu Ski Field, the FMC President has been feeding back to DoC on the drafting of the new concession(s) for whoever takes over the ski fields.

Feedback includes information provided by the main clubs on the mountain and experience related to the boundaries and interpretation of the current ski field concessions; when FMC dealt with the past parking situation on the mountain.

Megan has been assured that the concessions will be *new* concessions (not just the current concessions rolled over to the new company) and that the concessions will be publicly notified.

“There is always an adventure waiting in the woods.”

Happy Tramping Everyone, Judith Bogle

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

We have been blessed with a more normal snow season and that's meant we've seen all of the lifts open for the first time in 3 years. We've enjoyed the access back to the Lodge via Home Run as you exit the West and drop back down the mountain. Certainly a better option than via Tennants or a climb up carrying your skis.



There's still plenty of spring skiing to be had, and both Whakapapa and Turoa offer great spring options in their current state. With the current drier forecast it looks like getting through to the scheduled closing date of October 15 is going to be relatively straightforward.

Our weekend availability is pretty good. We're currently enjoying ski in and out and the weather has been fantastic.

Look out for more information about the upcoming mountain film festival at the Lodge in late October

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## Trip Reports

**Karangahake to Waikino. Return**

**26 July**

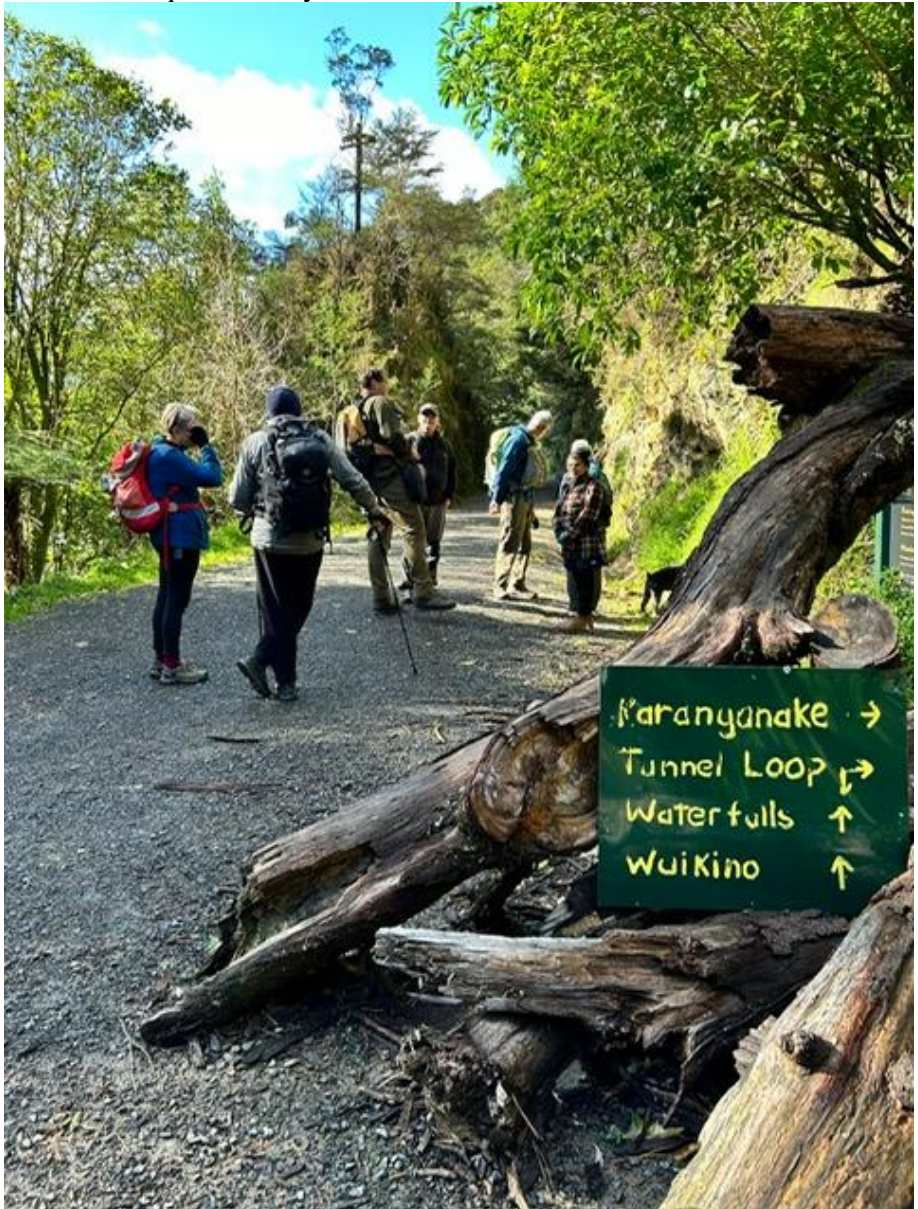


Karangahake tunnel

photo by Val Jones

It was a brisk and windy morning but the sun was in our favour. 11 of us set out to Karangahake for a quick morning tea before our hike. The wind was vicious. We

soon headed into the train tunnel where there was limited protection but as we reached the other end we were soon in shelter. It was pleasant hiking. We followed the Ohinemuri River on a wide hard gravel level track, passing old train tracks, obscure tunnels, and hidden goldmine tunnels. It's a shared track with cyclists but it was quiet this day.



A beautiful day in the sunshine

photo by Val Jones

Tunnels, bridges waterfalls, provided lovely moments of interest and before long we had reached the swing bridge to cross over to the Waikino Hotel, our lunch spot for the day. With the fire roaring, great food, and the company entertaining we were reluctant to go back into the cold.

We retraced our steps and were soon back at our cars. A coffee stop at Paeroa (the Hotel doesn't do hot drinks) and we headed home. Another fantastic day out with great friends. Thank you Jean and John (organisers), Sharon and David, Marion, Jeanette, Peter, Maureen, Etienne, and Val and Colin.

We are a social group. Come and join us. Contact: Isla Trapski. 021 209 6539.

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Trip 3072 Exploring Tongariro National Park 14 – 16 July

At Matariki Weekend, six people ventured to the Tongariro National Park. The plan was to visit some tracks that has not been visited before (that I am aware of, anyway). With the weekend being the last weekend of the school holidays and the ski fields opened, it was impossible to find suitable accommodation so, fortunately we ended up staying at the Club Lodge.

The group left Hamilton on Friday morning, destination National Park Village. Our first walk was along the Tupapakuraa Falls track to the Falls. The carpark for the track is on Fishers Road, west of National Park Village. A website with details of the track said it was a 4-5hr return walk but, it was an easy 3hr return walk. The track was well-graded and it was very pleasant walking along this track.

It was getting to late-afternoon with the weather becoming quite miserable when we arrived at a very packed carpark for our short walk up to the Club Hut. It was very windy and unpleasant for our walk up.

After a good night's sleep and breakfast, we headed out for another days' exploring. We drove towards Turangi to visit the Te Porere Redoubt. Was a good history lesson at this Redoubt.

Our next track to visit was the Taurewa Track. Was a bit of long and slow way to get to the track. The unsealed road was quite rough in places and we had to stop and park at a clearing about 15/20min walk to the track. The track was well-graded and the bush was very pleasant to walk thru.

We then headed back to the Club Hut late-afternoon. The weather a bit better than the previous day but the ski fields were still very busy.

Sunday arrived and, after a casual breakfast and clean-up, we headed back home.

On the way we stopped at Owhango and visited the Ohinetonga Lagoon (finally made it, Dianne). The carpark is also the start or finish of the 42 Traverse. The northern loop is closed by a slip but we enjoyed the very pleasant track to the Lagoon. We even spotted a couple of who.

So, Les (Leader), Jim, Beatrix, Sharon, Ying and Amanda had a wonderful weekend.

Editors' comment: Ssounds like another Daisy picker weekend John?

Trip 3074**Karioi****30 July**

On Sunday 30th of July we met up on London Street to begin our carpooled journey to the base of Mount Karioi where the rest of the trampers were waiting for us.

After a brief chat and introducing ourselves, we then headed over the road to Mt Karioi. We started our tramp around 9:30. Because of the rain the night before the track was very muddy causing some very hard walking conditions in some places. We split into two different groups: a faster group that was going to the summit and a second group that was going to the lookout. We reached the lookout at about 10:40, where we stopped to have morning tea.

Heading to the summit, the track wasn't very difficult. It was quite up and down along the ridgeline of the mountain, with chains and a couple of leaders to assist the walk. Arriving at the summit at 12:30, there was an amazing view waiting for us. The sky was very crisp, with insane views in every direction. You could clearly see Aotea Harbour with a glimpse of Kawhia Harbour beyond that. But most stunning was the fluorescent blue water of Ruapuke beach below us. We stopped for lunch on a helicopter pad located at the summit, before heading back down Mt Karioi.

The weather was perfect for the tramp! Not too windy or too cold. Although in the shaded areas it was a bit chilly. However, the strong sun made up for it. I personally, really enjoyed the challenging climbs, the good views, and the company of all the other trampers! I would definitely recommend the tramp, and would for sure go back to the breathtaking views.

Thanks for joining us hope you had a great day, Trish Bond, John Wilson, Joy Hughes, Helen Irvine, Cathy Dickson, Julia Lile, Gary McNeill, Jim Scott, Ramesh Submaronian, Anna and Toby Blackler, Elly Pieper, Lily and Peter Lye (leaders), Jade Lye (scribe).

Trip 3075**Leitch's Clearing via Mangatoa Saddle****5/6 Aug**

Sadly, our original Leader could not make this trip so our experienced Leader John McArthur happily took over the rôle. The other three members were lucky to have a good drive in his EV car. It was a long trip to Mangatoa Saddle from where the track starts.

The track was well-graded and we took our time gradually climbing to the highest point at 574m before descending to the Hut. There were a few places where we had to negotiate tree falls, which is a common problem wherever we go now. We took around 5hrs 30 to arrive at Leitch's Hut. I was the only one who opted to camp.

The Hut was reasonably full.

Next day we returned the same way to find our precious car still all in one piece. On arrival at the carpark we found we had enough time and energy left in the car, to make a quick visit to Waikawau Beach via a pedestrian tunnel. So, the group – John Mc, Les W (scribe), Sarah, and Mike had an enjoyable weekend.

Trip 3076

Snowcraft II

12/13 Aug

'Welcome to snowcraft' was Allan's reply to me when I said we'd need to change vehicles to be able to use the club snowchains. Never having fitted them before, I spent the Friday afternoon watching youtube tutorials on the subject and we left Friday evening confident we'd get up to the club hut. The chains weren't needed Friday night but we fitted them Saturday morning to get down the mountain for the drive to the start of the Tongariro crossing.



Putting their knowledge into practice

Photo by Mike Peck.

The avalanche conditions on Mt Ruapehu for the weekend were "considerable" hence plan B which was an off track Tongariro loop. 7 of us left the main carpark and headed along the track past Mangatepopo hut. We left the main track with light snow falling and headed up to the ridge that leads to Mt Tongariro. We made good progress in the soft snow and headed up the final climb and into the clag. Once we got to the summit the wind picked up and the visibility reduced. We had the briefest of breaks and headed along the Mt Tongariro summit route in challenging conditions. We worked well together as a group and made our way down to the South Crater where we got a break from the weather. Without too many stops we headed straight back to the van arriving a bit wet and cold but satisfied and looking forward to getting back to the club hut and its cosy fire. The highlight of Saturday evening was using Leo's laptop, Mike's sky account, and Kat's data plan to watch the Women's World Cup game between Australia and France. Sunday weather conditions meant we left the mountain mid-morning for the drive back to Hamilton. Before leaving we discussed how we could have used our gear better for the conditions which is part of what our snowcraft courses are about. Snowcraft 2 participants were David T, Kat R, Jayden Hn, Tane McF, Jason K, Leo J, Mike P (scribe).

Trip 3078

Mangatepopo to Oturere

26/27 Aug

Amanda took a carload early, which proved useful for those of us in the van, for as we neared National Park, she phoned to say no room at the inn – Mangatepopo Hut was full and overflowing. We diverted to the comfort of Waikato Hut. I was then worried that Oturere Hut would be similarly full for Saturday night so decided on Plan B, day trips. Amanda, David and Emma set off for Red Crater on Saturday morning with us behind, as it took a while to get around to Mangatepopo carpark. Helen, who was already staying at Waikato Hut joined us.

We called in to Mangatepopo Hut to see how Les was, as he'd been feeling a bit off-colour. Feeling a bit better, he decided to come with us up the valley and visit Soda Springs. Climbing up to South Crater spread us out a bit and at the top Ian decide to head back, collecting Erin on the way. Crossing South Crater we chatted with Amanda, David and Emma, who were having lunch on their way back. We headed on up towards Red Crater with our feet sinking into the snow a little, which was quite tiring. I stopped by the big castle-like rock on the ridge and had lunch. Helen appeared from below and joined me, and then Jocelyn returned from higher up, having found an icy section not to her liking. A cold breeze got up, so we descended and crossed South Crater, where the rest of the group, having lunched on Red Crater, caught us up. It was then just a plod back to the van.

Dehy dinner at Waikato Hut didn't seem quite right, but we weren't complaining. Sunday morning gave us a dose of Ruapehu crud, so we decided to pack up and head home.

On the trip were, Amanda C, David T, Les W, Jocelyn W, John McA, Paul Q, Ian F, Lily L, Erin W, Emma G, Adele W, Helen M and John W (leader and scribe).

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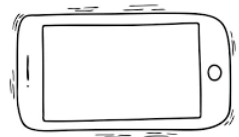
### *From the committee table:*

**New members:** We welcome Ramesh Subramonian to our ranks this month.

**Resignations:** Nil.

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

### WTC Annual Photo Competition



Our annual competition closes this year on October 4th. Entries must be supplied before or on the closing date in digital form.

The following categories are in alignment with those of FMC:

1. Above bushline with no human element
2. Above bushline with a human element

3. Below bushline with no human element
4. Below bushline with a human element
5. Historic
6. Native flora and fauna
7. Long exposure

We also have 2 WTC categories which are ineligible for the FMC photo competition:

8. Club Character - features a humorous subject which has a club context
9. International

Our photos will be judged by Nicola Guy and Isla Trapski and results presented at the November Club Night. Entries to be emailed or given on a USB stick to Jacqui Dick, email: *jacquimd@me.com*. Please don't email them to Nicola or Isla; this helps to keep the judging unbiased.

#### Rules:

- A. Definition of a "human element". The definition of a "human element" is flexible but the general intention is: Where the photo contains anything other than as a very minor feature: people, a hut, a track sign/marker, bridge, ice axe and anything else that has been introduced by humans into the environment then we would define that as having "a Human element". But if a photo has what could be called a Human Element but that element is very small, inconsequential and not a feature in the photo then you could count it as "No Human Element".
- B. Entries for the FMC aligned categories must be taken after 1 Jan 2022. Any photos taken prior to this date will automatically be entered into the historic category.
- C. Definition of "historic": The intention for the historic category is for entrants to go back through club and individual archives to select "old photos" rather than "photos of old things". As an example, a recent photo of a hut built in the 1950's is not a 'historic' photo. However, a photo of the same hut taken in the 1960's certainly is a 'historic' photo. Photos for the historic category must be taken before 1 Jan 2022.
- D. All photos apart from the International Category must be taken within New Zealand, which is defined as within our Exclusive Economic Zone. This includes the following islands: North, South, Stewart, Chatham, Kermadec, Sub-Antarctic.
- E. Two entries per category allowed.

#### Notes:

Please update your file name to reflect the title or to indicate there is no title, plus the category name e.g. "In the Wild – Above bushline with human element" or "No Title – Long Exposure". Try to keep file size between 1MB and 5MB.

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

### An Explanatory Guide For Trampers

A helpful guide for those new to tramping, also for more seasoned trampers, to understanding acceptable and justifiable reasons for pausing during a tramping trip.

#### Environment:

- Appreciating and absorbing the ambience – could involve slow, deep breathing
- Checking out the views
- Listening to, sighting and identifying birds
- Looking at and identifying trees, smaller plants, fungi etc
- Inspecting and discussing the geology of the area
- Taking photos of the above, also of fellow trampers (with permission of course)
- Checking the route – location, track finding, looking at maps and/or GPS
- Assessing/discussing/predicting the weather
- Checking the time
- Identifying suitable lunch spot or campsite
- Hugging a tree

#### Gear:

- Taking off or putting on hat (sun or warm), gloves, parka, warm jacket, clothing layers
- Rearranging clothing, knee support, socks, gaiters
- Adjusting pack or walking poles
- Admiring/assessing gear of fellow trampers

#### Fellow Trampers:

- Chatting, reminiscing – it can be difficult to converse while walking. Stopping can add emphasis
- Explaining – the route, map, surroundings
- Imparting information, asking/answering questions regarding history, geology, flora, fauna, predator control
- Waiting for others to catch up or regroup

#### Personal:

- Nose blowing, eye wiping, cleaning glasses, changing hearing aid batteries
- Foreign object in eye, in clothing, boots or socks
- Checking for injury or suspected injury (real or imagined)
- Adjusting hairstyle
- Attending to hot spots, blisters, chafing
- Applying sunscreen
- Checking phone for those all-important messages

- Toileting - discretely, but let someone know that you are disappearing  
Fuel:
- Having frequent snacks
- Partaking of drinks and electrolyte replacement fluids  
Tiredness:
- Never!

Compiled by a Seasoned Tramper



At last we have had another wedding of tramping club members. Peter Lye proposed to Nicola Guy recently and they tied the knot near Lake Tekapo in August. We wish them every happiness and a great future together. And of course Jacqui & your editor could not let the event pass unnoticed. At the September club night we presented Nicola with a wedding cake (Peter being absent due to illness).and promptly helped her to eat some of it,

Cutting the cake (above) and the wedding day (below)



## Remembering Robin Russell....

### Jean & John:

It was great when Robin attended Waikato Hut working parties as he contributed in many ways. I was always amused by his interest in, and appreciation of, the food provided over the course of the weekend. He would graze whenever there was food available, have second helpings at mealtimes – and, most importantly, pack up a “doggy bag” of food to take back on the bus to keep him going during the trip back to Hamilton!

And on the bus Robin’s dedicated seat was the single one opposite the driver. He would carefully time each section of the trip, Ruapehu – Taumarunui – Te Kuiti – Hamilton, and tell the driver his or her time and how it compared with other drivers.

### Dianne & Selwyn:

Robin was always keen to maintain his record of 21 working parties in a row at Waikato Hut, One particular fine but windy evening we were assisting him to get to the hut. Instead of a standard raincoat Robin was wearing a very lightweight yellow plastic poncho. For those of you who have watched or done base jumping you’ll know that something resembling a poncho is the sail of choice. Robin, being the enviably slim light-weight person he was, was very much in danger of being blown off the path below Te Horonuku Hut for a base jump where the wind whips over the ridgeline. Selwyn did a great job of keeping him ‘grounded’.

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

➤ **Phytophthora agathidicida in the Kaimai Mamaku Conservation Park:** What’s happened at Kaimai Mamaku Conservation Park? We’ve had a provisional positive test for phytophthora agathidicida (PA), the fungus-type pathogen which can cause kauri dieback disease. The pathogen has been detected in a soil sample near a kauri hygiene station and on the track leading away from the station at Wharawhara, west of Katikati. DoC and iwi are concerned about the possible spread of the pathogen through the park. Iwi have placed a rāhui which DoC is supporting with a closure of the park. A review the closures will take place on 29 September.. The rāhui and closure will allow DoC time to undertake further investigation at this site and assess if additional track mitigation is needed to reduce the risk of spreading PA to other parts of the park. By restricting access, are limiting any potential further spread of the pathogen that causes the disease, which is carried on as little as a pinhead of soil.

There is currently no cure for Kauri Dieback Disease. DoC Tauranga has closed kauri tracks in the past where mitigation costs were too high, or the track couldn’t be re-routed to effectively protect significant kauri stands. Track closures were largely supported by the community.



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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