



THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

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

November 2023



Untitled photo taken by Kat Rowe

WAIKATO HUT

Your lodge on Mt Ruapehu
Tongariro National Park



www.wtc.org.nz



Signs of spring by Annemarie Lamb

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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 855

November 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 1st November

Les will give a photo presentation on the recent trip to Tasmania. There were two parts to the trip - the Overland Track and the Walls of Jerusalem.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2023 - 2024

3091	12 Nov	E/M	Kakariki to Puroa rds	John McArthur
3092	18/19 Nov	E/M	Film festival at Waikato Hut	Jacqui Dick/ Stephen Prendergast
3093	26 Nov	M	Karaka-Waiotahi track	Selwyn June
3094	26 Nov-3 Dec	MF	Travers-Sabine	Judith Bogle
3095	Sat 2nd Dec	E	Last tramp of the year – Tiritiri Matangi	Mike Peck
	6 Dec		CLUB NIGHT	
	9 Dec		Xmas party at the Bogles'	Judith Bogle/ Jacqui Dick
3096	16 or 17 Dec	M/F	Mountain madness	John McArthur
3097	28 Dec- 6 Jan	F	Dusky Track	Paul Quinn
3098	6-20 Jan	E to F	Everything Kahurangi	Allan Wickens
3099	19-21 Jan	E	Kawhia Camp	Theresa O'Leary
3106	24 Feb-8 Mar	E-F	Wilkin River and lakes	Lois Rowell
3109	25 Feb - ?	M	Paparoa track	John Wilson
3110	10-17 Mar	F	McArthur crags & onward	John McArthur
3112	18-21 Mar	M	Red Hills, Richmond range	Les Warren
3113	23-28 Mar	F	Leathem Conservation area	Les Warren

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.

New departure points:

Note about parking venues:

Weekend trips: We now park and depart from gate 1 of the Waikato University campus. Park at the farthest point from the entrance – near the bus stop.

Day trips: London St. Park on the roadside at the river end.

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 3091

Kakariki Rd to Puroa Rd

12 Nov

This trip is southwest of Ngaruawahia. A recce meant we would have to change our plans. Then, a recce determined that the pan would need to be changed yet again.

Leader: John McArthur

Ph: 021 2889641

Grade: M

Email: mcarthur@outlook.co.nz

Transport: Senior member \$20-25

Senior non-member: Senior rate +\$10

*Connection does much but encouragement does much more-
Johann Wolfgang Goethe*

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.



Don French



Homegrown alpine climbing 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.

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

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 Whakapapa Ski lodge- adjacent to 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: The cost will be for a 3-day hire and the fare will reflect that greater cost. It will be shared across all users of the van.

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

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:** MF

Email: *judith.bogle@outlook.com*

Transport: Private arrangements

Trip 3095 **Last tramp of the year** **Saturday, 2nd Dec**

A one-day return trip to the bird sanctuary island of Tiritiri Matangi in the Hauraki Gulf. The ferry departs downtown Auckland at 8.30am and returns from Tiritiri at 4.00pm. We will carpool to Auckland and park at a carpark building close to the departure wharf.

There is a 3 hour track that covers most of the island, visit

<https://www.tiritirimatangi.org.nz/> for more details and to book the ferry.

We're only limited for numbers by the ferry bookings, book your ferry first and then register via the club website.

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*

Transport: Private vehicles

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.

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

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.

Life is partly what we make it and partly what is made by the friends we choose – Tennessee Williams

Trip 3100**Kawhia camp****19-21 Jan 2025**

A long weekend at the beach your style?

4 tent sites have been booked at the Beachside Scape Holiday Park in Kawhia for WTC – 2 powered (12 x 9m) and 2 non (9 x 6m). Book initially with Theresa and she will keep in touch with the camping ground if we need more sites etc \$25 per person powered and \$20 pp non-powered. They are big enough for 2 medium tents and one vehicle.

There are communal kitchen and bathroom facilities, Ovens, Microwave, toasters, jugs, fridge/freezer, TV room, Spa \$20 per hour, pool table, children's trampoline, Theresa has one large tent which sleeps 8?, one x2man and 1xsingle tent available – book places with her.

Cabins and motel units available – book yourself, let Theresa know you'll be joining in. Kayaks and Paddle boards for hire from the campground – make your own bookings

High tides (kayak trips best starting 2-3 hours before so we kayak on incoming tide).\

Friday 19th 5:28 PM Sunset: 8:43PM

Saturday 20th 6:15 AM 6:42 PM

Sunday 21st 7:36 AM

Leader: Theresa O'Leary **Ph:** 07 871 0727/ 027 416 2633 **Grade:** E

Email: theresa.oleary.eme@gmail.com

Beachside Holiday camp: beachside@kawhia.nz

Website: www.kawhiabeachsidescape.co.nz

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

Fly into Queenstown 27th 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 3rd or 4th 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 or hmitchie@hotmail.co.nz **Grades:** E to F

Cost: tba

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

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

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

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.

Routeburn Track

March 2024

More details to come soon. Need to wait for the bookings for this track to open.

Leaders; Madeleine & John Fiddes

Ph: 021 2273560

Grade: tba

Mid-week Walks & Tramps

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

Kayakers unite

Who is interested in kayak trips?

Perhaps a bit similar to the 'Tramping on Bikes' trips.

Some for a single day trip, some with overnight camping. Some where you might hire a kayak when we get there, many where we will each need to have one and bring it.

How this came about – thanks to Jacqui Dick, 14 of us had a great Raglan windy kayak recently. We didn't go across the harbour – too windy, so we talked about wanting to go back again soon on a sunny day. Instead, we stayed close to the shore and explored the sheltered back bays, so had lots of time to chat. 2 of the party were in their own kayaks, a number of the rest of us shared that we have

inflatable kayaks (for non-windy fine day, shoreline trips). That got me thinking about more fun on the water, and how we might do that together. I asked at a club night who present might be interested – 4-6 hands raised – very positive! Hence this email out to all members. I am putting my hand up to be the initiator of a WhatsApp group where we could all suggest impromptu trips – ie ‘Looks fine this weekend, anyone keen to meet at Raglan’. I would also be ok with getting a few WTC trips underway if we have members who will benefit. I own 3 tents, small, medium and large (would fit 8+ tramping mattresses) that could become a base camp at a lake for instance.

If you are interested and would like to join in, please email me your permission theresa.oleary.eme@gmail.com. To add you and your mobile phone number into a WhatsApp ‘WTC on water’ group and that will get us off to a beginning. And do send suggestions for trips, and how you personally might help get this group off to a great start. Theresa O’Leary

Editorial

Many thanks to the hardworking band of 10 tramping club members who found their way to Pureora for the top up fill in October. My promise of good news that the loads would be waaaay lighter was a wee bit false – the rats didn’t eat as much bait as expected and so much of what was carried in was also carried back out – 64% of the stations were still full! And the team who completed the last 8 lines on Sunday morning was made up of mostly trampers. For the first time since we began baiting in this valley 8 years ago it rained (!) and neither Selwyn nor I did a bait line each – we were too sick to cope with anything too physical. Everyone we asked stepped up to help us get all the task done and for that we are extremely grateful. True tramping spirit to the fore yet again.

Friends are angels who lift our feet when our own wings have trouble remembering how to fly.

Congratulations to the winners of the categories of the photo competition. Even I managed a couple of top placings. I didn’t splash out on chocolates before the judging began I can assure you.

Time to choose which of the many south island trips you re going to join in with. Go safely, go well, take lots of pictures and leave many footprints! Dianne June

Presidential Blog

Have to say this has been a busy month for me. The leadership training was full with over 20 participants and there was much interaction and discussion, making it a good session. Thanks to Les it was another good training. Plus we had a good tramp with another club the next day.

Recently, went off to Gribbon road track and managed to get approximately 3km cleared each end and the markers done along the track. Also sorted the

measurements for Leitches hut and notes on what needs repairing, which the BCT will use for the upgrades. All that is needed now is some chainsawing and blackberry dealt with. It would be a good time to consider starting to clear the Waikawau track. This is the longest track to Leitches clearing and is apparently quite overgrown but it would be great we got the final track done.

Down South trips are starting soon with the Travers-Sabine and Moss pass trip at the end of the month. I hope you all have had a good peruse of the trips coming up at the end of the year and beginning of next.

Also on the 9th December is the Christmas party out at my place. Jacqui will be organising this for me. If you have ideas for the party let Jacqui know.

Cheers Judith

This months' saying: "Mountains aren't just funny. They're hill-areas"

Trip Reports

Trip 3081

Overland track, Tasmania

18-26 Sept

Between 18 September and 01 October a small group enjoyed a new adventure on the Overland Track (8-days) and the Walls of Jerusalem (4-days). The group started out from Launceston as six but, one left after night one on the track due to a foot injury that was not fully healed.

The main logistic for such a trip was the big distance between start and finish points. I chose to use Tasmania Outdoors Shuttle company who have been shuttling people to many tracks in the region for many years. The owner / driver Paul, was very good to work with and was always very helpful with advice.

Three of the group arrived on the Saturday prior to departure (Monday) to buy food and other minor items. I opted to try some new meals that we don't get in NZ – Tuna Mornay (Campers Pantry) was by far my most favourite meal, Vegetarian Pasta and Penne Bolognese (Campers Pantry) were just a few. There was a good variety of snacks to try. We also enjoyed checking out the local eateries around town which was great.

Monday 18 September: Today was our departure day to the start of the Overland Track. Our Shuttle company guy suggested we travel south to north as, September is still their winter period and if the roads had ice, we would need to do a big detour. Hence starting from the south as we would have time for any detours. As it turned out we had no such problems. We were picked up at 12 noon and arrived at Lake St Clair Lodge at the southern end of Lake St Clair for the night, about 3hrs 30min later. We stayed in a couple of dorms and enjoyed our short stay here.

At the Lake St Clair Visitor Centre, we learnt that there was some heavy rain due in the next few days, so we were conscious of being stuck at a hut or changing our daily plans. I had built in a couple of these days for weather delays / rest stop.

Tuesday 19 September: Departure Day on the track (finally). However, after breakfast, we learnt from the ferry captain that our 9am ferry departure was

cancelled due to gale force winds during the early morning and the Lake was still too rough. The Ferry Captain was going to re-assess the situation at 12 noon for a possible 1230 crossing. So, we decided to check out a short track while we were waiting.

12 noon arrived and the news was all good to go. So we rushed to gather our packs and meet at the jetty. Finally, we were on our way at 1230 – 3hrs 30min lost from our original plan which would mean we would arrive at Pine Valley in the afternoon and not at lunchtime. Never mind, one needs to deal with these unexpected changes. The ferry crossing was quite rough but we arrived at the northern jetty and to a 10min walk to Narcissus Hut.

Here we fine-tuned our gear and left the Hut at 1317 and would arrive at Pine Valley Hut at 1630. On this trip, I decided on doing a side-trip to Pine Valley with the idea of exploring the Acropolis and the Labyrinth (both being a 4hr return trip from the Hut). With the morning ferry departure lost we had already lost half a day, it would mean we had only one option of a side-trip.

As the afternoon progressed, the weather became overcast and as we arrived at the Pine Valley Hut, the rain started. Narcissus Hut was a 18-bed Hut and was full tonight.

Wednesday 20 September: It was raining heavily during the night and when we woke in the morning it was also snowing. Over breakfast we discussed our options for the day in lieu of the overnight weather. We felt the weather was not suitable for a morning excursion to either the Acropolis or Labyrinth, so we decided to move onto our next hut, Windy Ridge Hut (24 beds).

Huts on the Overland Track were in good condition, used gas heating (some huts were better than others), no mattresses (need to take own sleeping mat), water (mainly tank) and toilets. There were no cooking facilities so need to take own cookers and fuel.

After packing up we left Pine Valley Hut at 0920. With the heavy rain overnight, the track back out to the main Overland Track was very water-logged – one section it was up to me knees! But, little if any snow on the track. It was great to reach back on the Overland Track. After a short break at the track-junction we headed north to Windy Ridge and arrived at the Hut at 1430, a 5hr day.

After a getting some food into us and a nice soup, it was an afternoon drying out and chatting with others. There was a couple that crossed Lake St Clair with us we chatted with and, they had an unpleasant night the previous night. They were much slower than our group and they ended up camping on the side of the track in the dark only, a few hundred meters from the Hut. The phone map they were using was not giving them good directions.

Thursday 21 September: Overnight there was heavy snow and, the ground outside was fairly, heavily covered. It was still occasionally snowing lightly at breakfast time so, we opted to wait for a while before heading to our next Hut. We departed

at 1050 with our destination Kia Ora / Bert Nichols Hut (20 beds). Today would be a longish day but, very enjoyable in walking thru snow covered tracks. We would cross over Du Cane Gap (1070m) and descend to some side-trips to several waterfalls. We had wonderful views of the Du Cane Ranges. When we reached the junction to the Hartnett Falls, upon some earlier talks with others we met on the track, we decided to carry on to the next falls as they were closer to the main track. These falls were the D'Alton and Fergusson Falls. After our excursion to the Falls, it was time to keep moving. Soon we arrived at the Old Du Cane Hut which can be used as emergency shelter only. On our approach we saw our first wildlife on the track – a wallaby. We finally arrived at Kia Ora Hut at 1700 a, fairly long day of 6hrs 10min. Up and over the Du Cane Gap was enjoyable but, it was a struggle from the Falls as the track was quite heavy tree-rooted. Kia Ora Hut was one of the best Huts for heating so, it was nice to spend a night in a good warm Hut. It was good travelling south to north as we met plenty of people doing the track the normal way, north to south, as we picked up more current information on the track ahead and any weather coming thru.

Friday 22 September: Today we are half-way through our trip. Overnight there was more heavy snow. A group we talked to at the Hut yesterday, had trouble following the track from deep snow. We were looking forward to today's walk to Pelion Hut. We departed Kia Ora Hut at 0810 for Pelion Hut for two nights. It was not long before we were walking thru deep snow and reaching more open terrain to reach Pelion Gap. So many opportunities for wonderful photos and take in the scenery. We duly arrived at Pelion Gap where there are side trips to Mt Ossa and Mt Pelion East. We quickly decided against Mt Ossa due to the amount of snow and rolling clouds over the mountain. We opted to see how close we could get to the saddle between Mt Ossa and Mt Doris. We were very fortunate that someone else was in front of us and had left some footsteps to follow in the deep snow. It was slow going in heading to Mt Doris and we decided to stop short and return to our packs. Upon our return to our packs, Judith found that her pack was raided while we were away – not by humans. She lost all her wraps that she was looking forward to for her lunch. One needs to protect / cover one's pack when left on the side of the track to keep the very clever Currawongs at bay. So, subsequent days became a standing tease with Judith when we heard Currawongs around us.

After a lunch break (for the rest of us) we descended to the Pelion Hut (36 beds) and arrived at 1430. Today was a wonderful true “winter trip” thru the snow. Everyone really enjoyed today. The Hut, although modern, had one of the poorest heating. A relaxing afternoon around the Hut saw some Pade Melons, a wallaby and a variety of birdlife.

Saturday 23 September: I ended up moving to the dining area during the night as could not get to sleep from too much snoring. Today was decided to be a rest day with some taking this as a welcome break and let bodies recover.

In the morning we all saw an easy day trip to visit the Old Pelion Hut, was ideal. There was an option of doing a day trip to Mt Oakleigh but, as there was still some snow on the higher sections and some weary bodies, we gave this a miss. It was an easy couple of hours visiting the Old Pelion Hut and, a disused copper mine close by that some other walkers suggested to us.

After lunch, most of us opted to relax in the afternoon sun reading or pottering around. Two of the group opted for another short walk to Lake Ayr.

Sunday 24 September: After a rest day, it was time to keep moving along. Today's destination was Windermere Hut. All refreshed, we departed Pelion Hut at 0800. Today, the weather was not too flash and was very windy crossing the tops to Windermere Hut. Saw plenty of Lakes around us. We arrived at Windermere Hut (16 beds) at 1425, another 6hrs 30min day. The Hut was not long re-built and was very flash. Windermere Hut was another comfortable Hut.

Monday 25 September: Today was our penultimate day of this trip. It rained overnight but, the morning was overcast and fine. We departed Windermere Hut at 9am and arrived at Waterfall Hut at 1145, quicker than we anticipated. It was good to have a short day before our final day on the track. The day was quite overcast and cool and therefore did not bother doing a short side trip to Lake Will. Tomorrow, being our last day was looking at another 5 to 6hr day. Waterfall Hut had by far the best and biggest heating system of all the Huts. Quite strange that some Huts had better heaters than others. At Waterfall Hut we saw our first wombat.

Tuesday 26 September: Our final day on the Overland Track arrived and probably everyone looking forward to the end. It has been a long seven days so far. We arose early and departed at 0730 for Ronny Creek carpark. It was a lovely fine day with some climbing today and, a short steep descent (with helpful chains) off Marion Point, a spectacular lookout point. We had a lot of excellent views along the track and had a short snack break at Kitchen Hut, an emergency shelter, at the track up Cradle Mountain. We opted not to climb Cradle Mountain mainly as we did not have time as had an agreed pickup time of 1430. If we had no set pickup time, we would have opted for the climb.

As it was school holiday time, the track was very busy with day trippers to Marion Point or Cradle Mountain. Many were very impressed with our adventure and obviously would not contemplate doing such trips. We arrived at Ronny Creek carpark a bit earlier than expected at 1315 and caught a free shuttle bus to the Visitors Centre to be picked up.

After a 4 to 5hr return trip to Launceston – it was a few hours longer as we had to pick up a couple of people at the Walls of Jerusalem, we finally arrived back at our Backpackers. As it was quite late getting back to Town, only Jim and I felt like going out for dinner.

So ended our Overland Track trip. Everyone finished in good spirits and no injuries.

The Overland Track team was – Les W, Jim St, Judith B, Ying S, Sally T and Merlyn W (Merlyn only spent the first night (Pine Valley Hut) with us and returned due to a foot injury not healed fully.

Part II of this trip will follow next month

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

We started at the parking lot at the end of Waiorongomai Road. John had 3 options for us. We all voted for the “green” one, which meant that one of the 2 cars had to be parked at the other end of the hike, the Te Aroha Mineral Spa on Boundary Road.

We passed by a waterfall on the way up and briefly considered extending the Japanese concept of “forest bathing” to actually taking a dip. We settled for a picture with the waterfall as backdrop and kept moving.

The old trolley track to the top can be used as a walking track. It is a straight and steady lung buster. However, it’s not anywhere as scenic as the walking path, so we gave it the pass. We broke for our first meal at the top of the tracks, having covered roughly 1/3rd of the trip.

The next stop, at about the 2/3rd mark was the Broadcast Tower. Nice views of the ranges, although it was a cloudy day. At that point, we had the choice of taking the pylon road down or the more rugged path. As you might have guessed, we took the more rugged path. I enjoyed it thoroughly but my thighs protested vigorously for the next two days. Unless you are as sure-footed as a mountain goat or, like John, have spent a youth rock-hopping in the South Island, you are going to be coming down on your bottom in stretches.

While we were waiting for the other car at the end of the hike, we decided we might as well put back all the calories we had burned off and walked to the ice cream store at Stanley and Kenrick to indulge ourselves.

All in all, a wonderful trip and many thanks to the drivers who made it possible and to John, for leading.

Participants were: John (leader), Amanda, David, Shazza, Jeanette, Falcone, Theresa, Angelica and Ramesh (scribe).

Trip 3085 **Trip leaders training day** **14 Oct**

On the Saturday 14th October, the Club organized a training day for Trip Leaders held at the DOC Visitor Centre in Kauaeranga Valley near Thames.

We had a very good turnout of 24 participants from the WTC, Local clubs and Regional Clubs. We had five presenters that kindly volunteered their time to share their knowledge and experiences.

This course included more participates involvement than previous courses with everyone seemed happy with this approach. I am sure everyone learnt more to help them with future trips they will lead. Les Warren (scribe).

Trip 3086

Waikato River Trails

8 Oct

The pleasant prospect of a walk alongside the Waikato River in good company lead to my booking for this trip. The tramp was a 11km section of the Waikato River Trails from Waipapa Dam to the Mangarewa Suspension Bridge and return, a total of 22km. Parking the van at the Waipapa Reserve layby enabled the group of 13 trampers to walk over the Waipapa Dam to the start of the track. The powerhouse is a fine example of 1960s architecture and the sound of rotating turbines leaves an impression. The wide track was conducive to conversation and took us through regenerating native bush with beautiful views of the Waikato River. It took us three hours to reach the Mangarewa Suspension Bridge, 80 metres long and sitting an impressive 42 metres above the Mangarewa Stream. Built in 2011, the bridge is the longest and highest on the Waikato River trails. this was a convenient place for a lunch stop; a picnic table in the sun. Ron delved into the bottom of his pack and retrieved a cake tin with Jacqui's lovely home baking. A buttery slice made with oats and coconut was enjoyed by everyone. The thunder rolled in for the return walk but fortunately the rain held off until the trip home in the van. Overall, this was an enjoyable day out; a special thanks to Ron (leader and driver). The participants were David S, Jeanette, Kathy, Fiona, Lynette, Beatrix, Marion, Jim, John, Prativa, Steve and David C (scribe).



Along the trail

photo taken by Prativa Shrestha



Trip 3087

Wild Waiuku Beach

15 Oct

Once upon a time we went on an outing with our fearless leader, John McArthur. We had a super clean, swish Kia Carnival, that was not so clean after our outing, and we paid the price for the superfine, sooty, west coast sand we carted home. Keith and Marg, John, Rizal, Mike and I headed north. After much driving across the swamp we got to our destination to find that the forestry company had padlocked the beach off. Foot access only. Our incredible persuasive powers did not win over the DRNZ (Distance Riding) security man, so we did extra peds to get to the beach. After lunch we set off on the northern side of the Waikato River, combing the rubbish, in the rough and tumble of wind. Jandals, shoes, plastic bottles, slabs of styrene foam, car tyres, whole wheels, lengths of rope, electrical flexes, pigtail standards, tiny plastic soy fish from the sushi shops, crap, crap, crap and more crap. Deeply depressing.

To our delight we found half a buoy. John posed as a mighty Neptune warrior with the buoy and its pointy bits as bunny ears. We lugged our full bags of rubbish back and persuaded the DRNZ folks to grant us access to our rubbish pile so we didn't have to lug it the ped distance back to the Carnival. We loaded the van full to the brim and wedged Rizal into the back amongst the rubbish.

Our day was punctuated by crazy things. The mighty whirring of a Westpac Rescue Helicopter hovering overhead. It took the chopper several goes to winch, from amongst the trees, a rider who had been thrown from a horse. Skilful pilot work.

Then driving back to Pokeno we spotted a car perched on its nose up against a huge hedge with its wheels spinning in the breeze. The occupants were in various dazed states on the road and fire and rescue services were there in abundance. We needed ice cream urgently. I had Limonata Cheesecake, it was sublime. All in all a wild, crazy day. Thank you, John, our rubbish meister.
Marion F (Scribe)



.... And from another viewpoint....

It was an exciting trip - helicopter rescue, car crashed and parked halfway up a tree. horses galore and horse floats the size of small houses and did I mention the great ice-creams at Pokeno?

To start with we had to twist John's arm to hire a car for all 6 of us to fit into instead of taking 2 private cars. Then we twisted his arm even further and decreed that a ten o'clock start time was just the ticket and he could come and join us at the Nightingale's to watch the All Blacks play Ireland!! Great game and the minute it finished we headed off to pick up Marion and Rizal.

We turned off the motorway at Bombay and headed through Pukekohe, over AkaAka swamp and onto the narrow road through the forest to the carpark. From here you get great views across the delta of the Waikato River. Because of the major horse event taking place we couldn't drive right down to the carpark at the beach. Just as well we are trampers so we set off walking and it was all very

interesting seeing the horses and riders and learning about the event. It was a rather windy day and on reaching the river we sought shelter to have lunch before starting our beach walk and clean-up.

At first there wasn't much rubbish but the further we got along towards the river mouth the worse it got. On a windy, overcast day it is a bleak place, grey and to Keith and I very similar to the Aotea Harbour harbour entrance. A real West Coast beach!! This is where the helicopter comes into the picture and hovers and hovers and we actually thought it was going to land on the beach. However, it just kept on hovering and then flew off. We found out later that a horse had shied when a dog ran in front of it and the rider had fallen and been injured. We headed back to the start with eight bags full and hoped we could talk the event organisers into letting us bring our vehicle down to collect them. There were signs saying if you picked up beach rubbish you must take it home with you. Luckily by this time the event was over and we were able to get the car down.

We headed back to Pukekohe and this is where the car up the tree comes into the picture. Straight road, downhill slope, car up tree, ambulance tending to the injured. After all this, I think we need an ice-cream stop at Pokeno. What a good idea!! Thanks John (leader and driver) for an interesting day and for Michael N, Keith R, Marion F and Rizal R for providing such good company!! Scribe: Margaret R.

From the committee table:

New members: We welcome back Amanda Singh

Resignations: None

Membership: The club has 190 tramping members.

Obituary for Max Greer.

On Friday, 20th October, I received a phone call from a friend in Hamilton. Unfortunately, he was the bearer of bad news. Our good friend, Max Greer had died suddenly. I said, "No way, that can't be right". Sadly, it was true. A great friend gone just like that. I knew Max for about 14 years; we shared lots of laughs, some deep chats, tramped, cycled, walked and holidayed together.

Max was involved with the Waikato Tramping club for a few years, perhaps, from 2014 to 2019. One memorable trip was one organised by Alan Grant, with Michael Moynihan and Michael Nightingale on the approx. 80km walk on the Te Aroha trail from Lake Ohau to Lake Hawea in March, 2015. The upper photo is of Max on that tramp. He participated in other tramps in the Tararuas, Mountain Madness, several snowcraft courses and a trip to Tiri Tiri Matangi. A true friend who was taken too soon.

Doug Pagel



Pirongia

Start time; 07.02
Finish time; 11.11
Distance; 9.05 km
Elevation;
Min: 349m
Max: 952m
Total Climb; 880m



...from the DoC website...

➤ One of the world's greatest cross-globe migrations is well underway with the arrival of **bar-tailed godwits/kuaka** to Southland coastlines. Every spring, around 75,000 of these half kilogram, brown-grey, long-beaked shore birds fly approximately 12,000km from Alaska and the Arctic to New Zealand, with around 4000 of them landing on Southern coastal areas.

DoC Biodiversity Supervisor Sean Jacques says this annual migration is one of the most impressive in the animal kingdom. “Bar-tailed godwits — along with other migratory waders — travel phenomenal distances from the northern hemisphere all the way to Southland every year. “Cross-Pacific flights usually conjure images of albatross and other large seabirds rather than a godwit, or the sparrow-sized red-necked stint which travel to Southland from north-eastern Siberia,” Sean says. The Tiwai sandspit at Awarua Bay is of particular importance as an officially designated Wildlife Refuge, which is one of the highest levels of protection for an ecosystem in New Zealand. It’s also an important site for the critically endangered Southern New Zealand Dotterel, population just 126 at last count.

➤ Breeding of critically endangered **kākāriki karaka** at Nelson’s Brook Waimārama Sanctuary has exceeded expectations, recent survey work suggests. The bellbird-sized taonga species, also known as the orange-fronted parakeet, was first released into the sanctuary in November 2021. 125 captive-raised birds have been released there to date.

A recent survey — which played kākāriki calls to attract the birds — recorded about 170 kākāriki, although some of these may have been repeat encounters with the same individual. Almost all the birds seen are the offspring of those originally released into the sanctuary, identifiable because they don’t have any coloured bands around their legs. It was known the kākāriki had been breeding well in the sanctuary, but this survey went beyond what was anticipated or hoped for. Conditions have been great for breeding with lots of food available. Kākāriki karaka can breed for up to 18 months straight when conditions are right, and it looks like the birds here have been making the most of it.

Current population models indicate there are between 136 and 214 kākāriki karaka in the sanctuary in total. Establishing new successful sites is crucial for this species, which has been just hanging on in some places.

Meanwhile, planning work for the next proposed new kākāriki karaka release site, at Pukenui/Anchor Island in the Dusky Sound, Fiordland, recently received a big boost when RealNZ’s annual Conservation Ball raised \$175,000 for the project. Work assessing the island for suitability continues with hopes the first kākāriki karaka will be released there in spring 2024.

➤ Work began recently on the Manganui Bridge, after Ngāti Ruanui representatives joined DoC and MBIE staff to bless the site on the first day of bridge construction. The \$13.4 million Taranaki Crossing project is being funded through the Provincial Growth Fund administered by MBIE’s Kānoa - Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit. The project is funding upgrades to tracks and facilities on Taranaki Maunga to provide an improved visitor experience. The Taranaki Crossing is a partnership between Ngā Iwi o Taranaki, DOC and MBIE that has been in place from project feasibility through to delivery. The design of the impressive Manganui Bridge structure was revealed last year, and when completed it will be 109m long, 1.2m wide and sit 50m above the

Manganui Gorge. The new bridge will connect the plateau carpark with the only ski field on the maunga, via a 30-minute walk. The bridge will be built to withstand 210km winds, and to last 100 years. It will be constructed using 850m of steel support cables, 2800m of handrail infill cables, approximately 10.5 cubic metres of concrete, with 430 clips holding down the custom-coloured deck material. It will also have 24 in-ground rock anchors, and 9-degree inward leaning masts – some of its most striking features. The bridge is expected to be completed in April 2024.

➤ The Heaphy Track Great Walk fully reopened as a through walk on October 19th.

➤ Phased opening for Kaimai tracks. Following extensive testing, DoC has



Te Rereatukahia hut

not found any further kauri dieback on the central Kaimai tracks that were closed in the vicinity of the original find. Most closed tracks and all huts were expected to be open again by Labour weekend.

Two tracks - the Wharawhara Tramway track and the Te Rereatukahia Hut track from near the hut of that name to the Wharawhara Tramway track remain closed for a few more months pending further tests being done. Te Rereatukahia Hut will be accessible from the Tuahu and North South Tracks, coming from the south, and from the north it will be accessible via the Old North South Track from Waiorongomai / Pylon Peak.

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*...from the FMC website...*

➤ Waikato Tramping Club is the recipient of funding to run a first aid course.

➤ Cyclone Gabrielle recovery news: Kaweka Road access to the Kaweka Forest Park is now open. Kaweka road access to the Forest Park is open to \$WD



vehicles as the road is still settling, At this stage, the road is unsuitable for 2WD vehicles. Lotkow road is currently still closed due to land slippage.

➤ Lake Waikaremoana great walk repairs. Tūhoe are aiming to have the great walk opening on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

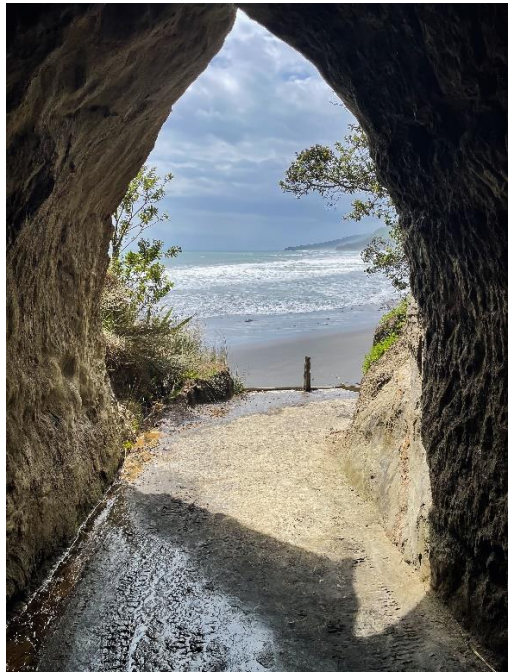
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Photo competition entries

Over the next few bulletins there will be a selection of photos that were entered in our competition. Some will even become cover pictures!



A shortcut taken by Allan Wickens



Waikawau tunnel taken by Jacqui Dick

The Overall champion picture...



The chasm approaches taken by Russell Lamb



Where's Amanda?

Photo taken by Allan Wickens

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