



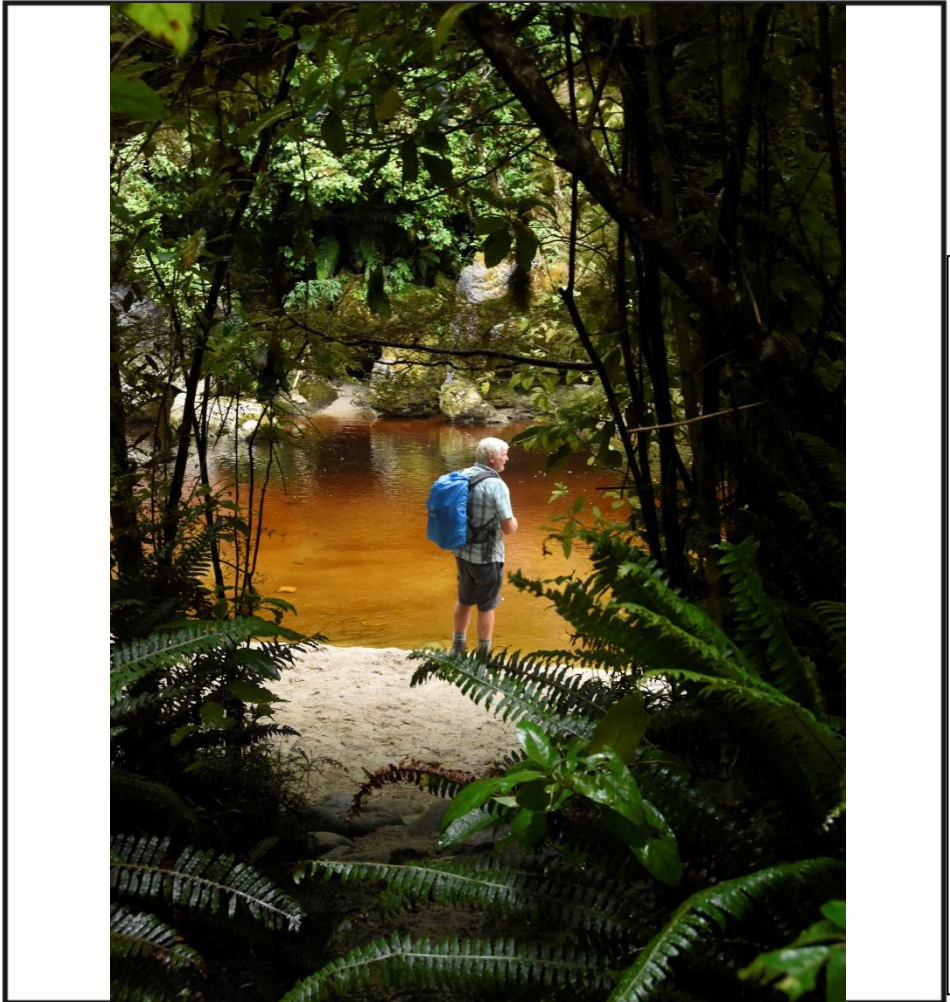
THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

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

March 2024



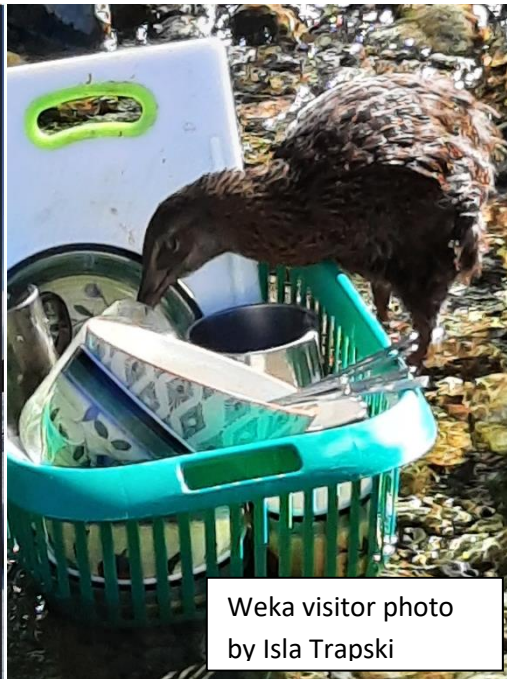
Allan admiring the copper creekbed photo by Isla Trapski

WAIKATO HUT

Your lodge on Mt Ruapehu
Tongariro National Park



www.wtc.org.nz



Weka visitor photo
by Isla Trapski

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Free to members

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

BULLETIN No 859

March 2024

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:	Ashley Hoskin	027 4909545
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 3rd April.

We meet on the first Wednesday of each month at St. Peters' Cathedral Hall.

The doors open at 7pm, meeting starts at 7.30pm.

The guest speaker is yet to be confirmed so watch for an email closer to the day.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2024

3111	17 Mar	E	Homunga bay -Waihi	Selwyn June
3112	18 - 21 Mar	M	Red Hills, Richmond range	Les Warren
3113	22 - 31 Mar	E/M	Exploring L. Tennyson & area	Les Warren
3114	23 - 24 Mar	E/M	Waikato Hut - Ruapehu	John Wilson
3115	29 Mar – 1 Apr	M	Ruahine Range, Peaks Hut & Tarns	Judith Bogle
3116	4 - 11 Apr		Northland/Te Araroa	tba
3117	6/7 Apr			Free
3118	13-/14 Apr	M	Blackberry flat	Cathy Dickson
3119	21 Apr			Free
3120	25 - 28 Apr	M/F	Exploring Tongariro Nat. Park	Les Warren
3122 A & B	10-12 May	E or E/M	Leitches clearing & track clearing	Theresa O'Leary & Judith Bogle
3123	18 May	n/a	Outdoor 1 st aid	Les Warren
3124	19 May	E/M	Fungi search – Otanewainuku	Theresa O'Leary
3125	26 May	E/M	Kakepuku	Lynette Morris
3126	1-3 June	?M/F	Bridge to Nowhere	Sarah McLean

As the Club Website Administrator is away in the South Island during March, the Club website won't be updated with April / May trips until he returns. If anyone wishes to register for a March, April, or May trip that is published in the Club Bulletin, please contact the Leader directly to register.

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 **TUESDAY** before the trip. Any person withdrawing after this day without good reason will be charged the full cost of the trip.

Departure Point: **Weekend** trips depart from the Gate 1 at Waikato University. Park closer to other vehicles as this area is security monitored. Leave on Friday nights at 7pm sharp unless otherwise stated. **Day** trips depart from London St at the river end- park on the roadside. 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 long-johns/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 3111 Homunga Bay to Waihi beach 17 Mar

From the end of Ngatitangata Road we will walk down to a beach at Homunga Bay, then along the top of coastal cliffs to Orokawa Bay where we'll have lunch under the shade of spreading pohutukawa. There are great views out to Mayor Island and White Island along the way. The last part of the walk is over the hill to Waihi Beach, with time for a swim and ice cream before heading back to Hamilton. A fairly easy 5 km walk on a good track with a few steep sections.

Leader: Selwyn June **Ph:** 0274 978151 **Grade:** E

Email: selwynjune@xtra.co.nz

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

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 Exploring L. Tennyson 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 possibly on to 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

Transport: Private arrangements

Trip 3113 Exploring L. Tennyson & surrounds 22- 31 Mar

Fri 22 March: Drive from St Arnaud (I am already here for my Red Hills Trip) to Lake Tennyson via Lewis Pass and Hanmer Springs.

Sat 23 / Sun 24: Overnight trip to Princess Bath (a small alpine lake). Need to camp.

Mon 25: An easy day either relaxing or short walks.

Tue 26 / Wed 27: Overnight trip to Lake Guyon. There is a Hut here or can tent.

Thu 28: Easy day or short walks.

Fri 29 / Sat 30: Overnight trip to Severn Hut.

Sun 31 March: End of trip. I need to travel to Picton to catch the early evening ferry to Wellington.

BASE: Will look at using Lake Tennyson as a Base, which is camping only. There are toilets there. Hanmer Springs is close by and can use as buying food and visiting the hot pools when time permits and, as a back-up for accommodation if the weather is not suitable for staying at Lake Tennyson.

WEATHER: Obviously, like all trips, the weather will depend on what we end up doing. There are plenty of short walks around Hanmer Springs to do as a back-up. Those wishing to join trip at Lake Tennyson, can arrive and meet me at Hanmer Springs. Further details will be sent to those registering for this trip.

Leader: Les Warren **Ph:** 027 8644937

Grade: M/F

Email: warrenlb2017@outlook.com

Transport: Private arrangements

Trip 3114 Waikato Hut Day Walks 23/24 Mar

I want to take you to some places we typically tramp past without investigating. I have in mind climbing Pukekaikiore, 1692m, and Pukeonake, 1225m, in the

Mangatepopo area. Both these peaks afford stunning views, especially of Ngauruhoe. The other tramp is directly from Waikato Hut, visiting Pehi Wall which the bold and confident can traverse. We may visit a 43m, waterfall in the headwaters of the Whakapapaiti, but I'm not sure whether what I have in mind is feasible. Most of the walking for all of these will be off-track. There is a short, exposed scramble on the way up Pukekaikiore, Pukeonake is straight forward and difficult bits on Pehi Wall trip can be avoided.

BYO breakfast, lunch, snacks and refreshments. If there are enough people, a communal evening meal will be organised

Leader: John Wilson

Ph: 021 168 2082

Grade: M

Accommodation: Senior member:

Senior non-member:

Transport: Senior member \$45-55

Senior non-member: member rate + \$10

Trip 3115

Ruahines

29 Mar-1 Apr

First day we will travel to Hastings and stay the night-we may do a bit of a day trip on the way. Early next morning we will start at Sentry hut or depending on the size of the group stay there the night before. The first day is a 760m climb to Park Peaks hut through a beech forest. There is an outcrop halfway up with great views. Rocky knoll.

Once at the turn off we will take a detour to the right to the trig on Pohatuhaha. The views are amazing on the top here. You can see right across the Ruahines. It is steep climb so expect to be slow climb. Then will head to the left to Park Peaks hut. This is a 6-bunk hut with plenty of camping area. If we get here early or everyone wants to continue, we will head to the next hut along a ridge. Upper Makaroro Hut, 4 bunks and water is from the stream. The next day we will take a day trip to Totara Spur and look for the tarns. This will be another climb of 400m and a day of exploration. On the Monday we will then head back home with a steep decline. This trip does not cover great distances, but the terrain is steep and rough.

Leader: Judith Bogle

Ph: 027 3810283

Grade: M

Email: judith.bogle@outlook.com

Accommodation: tba

Transport: Private vehicles

Trip 3120

Exploring Tongariro National Park

25-28 Apr

Making this weekend as a long weekend we will be a bit more adventurous by heading off-track a few times and include some exploring of the **Te Tatau Pounamu Wilderness Area** which is not visited very often. I have some trip notes from a 2022 trip and a 2023 trip (by Auckland Tramping Club).

The main plan is the following:

Wed 24th (late-afternoon) travel to National Park or Club Lodge for the night.

Thur 25th – From Whakapapa Village, walk the track to the Tama Lakes (a good warm up before the off-track stage). Follow the Tama Lakes track towards Upper Tama Lake, then turn right and follow ridgeline below Pt 1450, to Pt 1562. Option from here is to ascend Mt Tama (1623m) before descending to the Waihohonu Stream and to Waihohonu Springs to camp for the night.

Another option: From the end of the Tama Lakes track, continue ascending the spur to Pt 1650 then descend to valley and Waihohonu Stream to our campsite.

Fri 26th – Today we head east to ridgeline in front of us and ascend to the Waihohonu – Oturere Track and follow track to Oturere Hut. From the Hut we enter the **Te Tatau Pounamu Wilderness Area** for more off-track travel and aim for the Upper valley of the Mangahouhounui Stream for tonight's campsite. We will descend to the Oturere Stream from the Hut, cross the Stream and follow the ridgeline to a saddle just west of Pt 1673. We then follow stream to a waterfall and sidle west a bit before heading north to find a suitable area to camp.

Sat 27th – First, we ascend north before swinging to our left to ascend Te Maari (1739m) and Rotopaunga (1856m) and on to Blue Lake.

Options: From Blue Lake we can either descend to Ketetahi Car Park, OR, follow the Crossing Track to Mangatepopo Carpark (these options require a Driver to pick us up) OR, if we wish to extend this trip to four days, we could either camp / stay at Mangatepopo Hut (but, will need to book) or find a suitable camp site near water and walk back out to Whakapapa Village, thus making this trip a circuit.

When registering, please indicate whether you wish to do a 3 or 4- day trip. This will help with the planning. NOTE: This trip is also a tent-based trip and not using Huts except, maybe Mangatepopo if we head this way.

Leader: Les Warren

Phone: 027 8644937.

Grade: M/F

Email: warrenlb2017@outlook.com

Transport: TBC but probably a van.

Trip 3122

Leitch's Clearing

10-12 May

Where is Leitch's Clearing?: <https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/waikato/places/whareorino-conservation-area/things-to-do/leitchs-track/>

Option A:

I am going to take a group that wants to do track clearing with me on the Friday and stay at Leitch's hut for 2 nights. On Saturday we are going to head to Waikawau track and do track clearing, then come out Sunday.

I will be in contact with participants prior to organise what equipment we will need.

Leader: Judith Bogle

Ph: 027 381 0283

Email: judith.bogle@outlook.com

Accommodation: standard hut tickets.

Transport: tba

Option B:

This trip is designed to encourage and assist any WTC members wanting to stay their first night in the bush, even if they don't already have the necessary equipment. We will meet beforehand to learn/discuss what is required for a safe, comfortable overnight trip to a DOC hut or campsite.

Prep night: Wed 24 April – St. Peters' cathedral Hall. The 'Prep' learning will give you a list of what you will require, and enough prep time, for you to either obtain the items yourself or (via the leader) ask other WTC members if they have the right

items/size for you to use/borrow ... and check they are right for you beforehand at the following the club night.

The trip: Meet 8am Saturday, travel there, west of Pio Pio, for the 8 km/3 hour walk in – it's an easy tramping track along an old former road. Enjoy a relaxed afternoon/night in the hut, then a 'no hurry' packing up before our walk out the next morning.

If you are interested and/or have questions, please get in touch.

Leader: Theresa O'Leary

Ph: 0274162633

Grade: E

Email: *theresa.oleary.eme@gmail.com*

Accommodation: BYO Standard Hut ticket - \$10 adult \$5 for 5-17yrs

Transport: tbc – private vehicles or a van

Trip 3123

Outdoor 1st aid

Saturday, 18 May

Venue: Tamahere Model Country School

Facilitator: Peak Outdoor Safety & Emergency Management

The Course will cover:

- Accident Site Management
- Patient Assessment
- Fractures & Dislocations
- Spine Injuries
- Head Injuries
- Bleeding, wounds and shock including crush injuries and amputations.
- Resuscitation including CPR and defibrillation.
- Medical conditions – heart, stroke and diabetes etc
- Burns, Poisoning
- Environmental emergencies – hypo/hyperthermia

Course participants will be challenged to problem-solve different emergencies and a lot of hands-on sessions. Classroom presentations will follow with extensive outdoor scenarios.

All participants will get a Certificate which will be valid for two years.

Course Fee: \$200 per person.

Registration: All participants are asked to register thru the Waikato Tramping Club Website or the club captain. Email registrations will not be accepted.

Further Course details will be sent to participants closer to the time and when / how to pay the Course fee.

Trip 3124

Fungi search in Otanewainuku forest

19 May

This trip is for fungi fans – and people who want to spend a quiet time in native bush. A good trip to bring along younger children. We will leave 8am Sunday, travel over the Kaimais with private carpooling or van/bus depending on the numbers. Arriving there by 9.30. Pack layers of warmth, a lunch and snacks. Be prepared to have lots of time, to sit and just enjoy being in the bush, stopping for

photos often and listening to native birdsong. We can break into smaller groups for separate walks and mix and mingle as we meet over the day.

We won't leave again until 3pm, getting us back to Hamilton at 4.30ish.

This will be a fine winter weather trip only – any storms, high winds or heavy rain – it will be cancelled.

Ōtanewainuku is covered in virgin unlogged forest and is home to a variety of native birds and animals. Large emergent rimu trees are common. Tawa, kamahi and rewarewa form a high canopy and bird species such as robin and bell bird are readily seen and heard. Since 2002 a volunteer trust, Ōtanewainuku Kiwi Trust, has helped conserve the precious wildlife of Ōtanewainuku. Kiwi, whiteheads and forest gecko are all found here. Recent releases of kiwi and kōkako have proved successful.

Rimu Loop Walk: 45 minutes return, 1.8km Last time I visited in fungi season this track alone took us 4 hours! Starts from the opposite side of the road near the carpark. This gently graded walk with some impressively large rimu trees is suitable for walking children. It's not suitable for strollers or wheelchairs.

Summit Track: 90 minutes return, 2.3km. The loop track to the summit starts behind the shelter and is reasonably steep in parts, but the view from the top is worth the climb. A tower constructed on the summit (640 m) offers panoramic views from East Cape to Mount Tarawera and Rotorua, and across the Mamaku Plateau to Mount Ruapehu.

Whataroa Falls: 1 hour each way. For the slightly more agile, a well-marked route branches off the Rimu Loop Track after 15 minutes and undulates through the forest to the Whataroa Falls. The waterfall is a popular swimming hole and picnic spot. Explore this lovely stream with cascades and pools before returning the same way.

So, there are 5 hours of possible tracks to walk and 5½ that we will be there – something suitable for everyone! Starting point details next month.

Leader: Theresa O'Leary

Ph: 027 416 2633

Grade: M

Email: theresa.oleary.eme@gmail.com

Transport: Senior member \$20-25

Senior non-member: Senior rate +\$10

or private vehicles.

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.

I am putting my hand up to be the initiator of a WhatsApp group where we could all suggest impromptu trips – i.e. ‘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

So much to tell you about this month!

The most important point being that the booking date for each trip has been brought forward to Tuesday. Please make your decision about participating early so the leader has time to get all sorts of matters arranged in time for the trip departure. This month I have been inundated with numerous fabulous pictures from the Kahurangi trip. I’ve tried to include many of them in the report and I would encourage all the photographers to put their pics up on the Dropbox site so everyone can see them. But as you have read earlier in this bulletin (below the activities list) the website administrator is tramping so hold off getting in touch with him until April. I am very envious of the party atmosphere that seems to have existed within that Kahurangi group-so much ice-cream, refreshments, chocolate, fun, etc, etc.

Do look up the links listed under the ski club heading. They make very informative and interesting reading.

Dianne

Presidential Blog

This year is going to see many changes with the new government. There is support for hunting and fishing and money-making ventures such as fast track mining like Bendigo Station in Otago which has just happened. This also goes with a reduction in funding for services which will have an impact on the backcountry. Many of the fast-track bills going through at present will have an impact on us and due to the nature of these, many changes will happen without our notice. DoC will be looking at reviewing our huts and tracks. For us what will this mean, since many of the back country huts do not pay for themselves, is that they will be under the firing line as to whether they should be maintained or not. Also, if not maintained will they be left or removed? The impact of this is that many an emergency shelter in some remote areas will not be available in bad weather. You should be able to determine the implementations this may have. If you come across anything that is

going to affect the access or use of huts, please let me know so I can inform the relevant parties that may be able to help. Judith

Always keep a sharp lookout. "Keep your finger out"! - Adolph Malan

Ski club

Note that the new Hut Booking officer is Ashley Hoskin at present. Please make your hut bookings via the *waikatoski@gmail.com* website but cc to Ashley also. The club committees are quite concerned about the ramifications of there being no skifield operator at Whakapapa in particular, but also Turoa so please support the committee members in any way you can. Easier still would be to book in for some days at the Hut at any time of the year.

If you know of any schools who may be interested in using our marvellous asset, put them in touch with the ski club in the first instance. Publicizing what we have to offer can only be to our benefit.

There will be serious discussions necessary if no operator is *in situ* this winter and it may cost our club an awful lot of money for removal of the Hut, depending on what DoC eventually decides. Are you aware we pay DoC for a site licence (licence to occupy), and Horizons for rates, and The Lines company for power? Not to mention insurance. All these bills will need to be sorted.

For your information, please have a look at the n2 links below. The first one gives the background to the whole sorry saga, and the second one is a report on the current state of play – at least as of mid-February. They are most interesting.

1. https://6268dc83-5c59-4180-a310-f9ce335146c9.usrfiles.com/ugd/43433f_2d4241cb39494e37893db9cbdc1ba068.pdf
2. [43433f_3863b809a9464ed9a9bafdc04043ca73.docx \(live.com\)](#)

Trip Reports

Trip 3098 **Everything Kahurangi** **7-21Jan**

What a trip! Everything Kahurangi was just as the title suggested. An amazing cacophony and kaleidoscope of sounds, sights, experiences with great company. Almost no stone unturned in this delightful trip that encompassed pretty well everything that Kahurangi National Park has to offer.

Our trip began with the journey via van, with club trailer in tow, down to Wellington, after an overnight stay at Paraparaumu, crossing the Cook Strait via ferry. The other overnight stays were at Motueka, Parapara in the Golden Bay region, Cobb valley, Nelson, Tapawera, Granity, and Karamea, returning to Picton. We covered many walks, small towns, swimming holes, cafes, supermarkets. Lots of ice creams. Occasional cider, beer, wine, chips, chocolate and Ying's liquorice to make the days go by. Our days were full and busy.

There was a true sense of the charm of Kahurangi, from the vineyards of Marlborough, the many hop growing areas to the ruggedly beautiful West Coast where life has a different beat. The small towns were full of delight always with a welcoming smile. There were fresh flowers in the toilets of one small town, the all-prevailing 'hippie' cafe in Collingwood (time has stood still here). The campfires on the beach in Golden Bay



Bonfire on the beach

photo by Isla Trapski

and the delightful morning chorus at Parapara Camping ground. In the Cobb Valley the industrious swarm of bumble bees setting out on a mission along with a swimming hole with an amazing, sculptured wall (was it really sculptured by nature?). The ambush by more than a dozen nectarine sized rifleman/titipounamu birds on the Flora Hut walk. The constant cheeky weka (*Ed comment: see inside front cover*), the caverns and copper-coloured waters of the Oparara Basin. There was a 'Mad Max' burger bar at Tapawera (Allan thought possibly a Chevrolet blended with a Dodge!). There was the wonder of the Buller gorge, the history and rugged determination of Granity and the West Coast, the eels (and sandflies) at Nelson Lakes. It was all there in the Kahurangi. We were blessed with fine weather and good company.

Locations and tracks covered:

Paraparaumu: Paekakariki escarpment track; Wellington: visit to Zealandia

Notes from Marion: *On our first evening a few of us hauled ourselves up onto the Paekākāriki Escarpment and sidled along in the late afternoon sun. Whew! We relished the spectacular outlook over the Tasman Sea at dusk.*

Motueka: Takaka hill look out.

Notes from Marion: *A welcome relief after the windy van and trailer hill climb. Easy open track for vehicles servicing stuff on the tops. Great view wide all around. The gorgeous Powelliphanta, giant snail, Sheryn found on Takaka*

Hill. The snail had a rich polished bronze-gold shell, reminiscent of Kauri timber. I had never seen one in the wild before and that was a real bonus. On our last day, walking out from Katipo Hut on the Heaphy Track I saw two more Powelliphanta snails, nested on a soil bank beside the track.



Powelliphanta

photo by Allan Wickens

Parapara Camping ground (3 nights).

Places/tracks visited: Collingwood, Cape Farewell Spit tour, Pillar point, Fossil Hill, Wharariki Ecosanctuary, Greenhithe loop track, Salisbury Waterhole.

On the way to Cobb Valley we visited Waikoropupu Springs, The Labyrinth walk at Takaka

Notes from Marion: *Some days a few of us had interludes, climbing and mermaid swimming in a dam, and enjoying the Salisbury waterhole on the road in to the Heaphy Track while others went off on the Farewell Spit Tour.*

Cobb Valley camping x3 nights

Day walks to Sylvester lakes, Lake Peel, swimming locally in Cobb River. During the Cobb Valley stay; from Allan: *Bea and I went to the top of Iron Hill on a magnificent day with views down into the Cobb and beyond.*



Daisy dancers on Takaka hill

photo by Allan Wickens



Swimming hole in the Cobb valley

photo by Isla Trapski

Notes from Marion: *Cobb Valley - Lake Sylvester, Iron Ridge, Mount and Lake Peel: After a good night's sleep, the climb up out of the Cobb to Lake Peel was great. A steady pull up through beautiful beech forest to beyond the bush line. After a snack we waved goodbye to Jo, Jeanette and David, our multi-dayers. Someone with no gaiters got a significant stabbing from the spinifex and spent the next few days carving the spikey buggers out of her legs with a kitchen*



Iron hill summit achieved

photo by Allan Wickens

knife! Deep in the middle of each night in the Cobb Valley, I journeyed from the tent to the long drop and return. I wondered at the magnificence of the night sky - its deep darkness and the myriad of stars. Such a joy and so different to the city's night sky.

Multi-day walkers, (4 days) David T, Ying, Jo and Jeanette; Lockett range, Ruby lake, Iron Lake, Casey Hut, Fenella Hut - Cob Valley

Notes from David: *"The first 4-day hike was comprised of a combination of an off-track traverse of the Lockett range and camping next to Ruby Lake and Iron Lake. The second part was a very long walk out, down, and around the Cobb Reservoir to camp in the Cobb valley just beyond Chaffey Hut and then a day walk up and down the Cobb valley to Fenella Hut and back down to the main Cobb campsite to join the main group for a very welcome cooked meal."*

The next multi-day walk (3 days) David T, Jo and Jeanette; Cobb Valley to Pothole Creek, Gordon's Pyramid, Mt Arthur, Mt Arthur Hut.

Notes from David: *The second hike of 3 days entailed a climb out of the Cobb Valley to Lake Peel and traverse over the Tablelands past Balloon Hut and Salisbury Lodge to camp by the Pothole Creek. The second day took us over Gordons Pyramid and up and down Mt Arthur to spend a last night in Mt Arthur*

hut (the only night in a hut) on the way out to rejoin the main group. Both trips were blessed with good weather in the gorgeous Kahurangi mountain country.

Nelson x1 night to refresh and deliver to airport those wishing to return home.
Continue to Tapawera Camping ground x2 nights. Day walks to Mt Arthur via Mt Arthur Hut, Flora hut walk, swimming locally.

Notes from Marion: *Tapawera, hmm! Is it possible to have a negative starred campground. The Campground will go down in history for its eye-popping community. So many plums and so many tummy aches. So many big dogs and mammoth dog poops that ended up in the van tread with Allan having a grumble about the stink! From Tapawera, a group did a day trip up Mt Arthur which, at 1795 m, is one of the highest peaks in Kahurangi. The last part of the climb was a rough, rocky scramble. Great to see families with little ones as young as four heading up to overnight in the hut.*



Mt Arthur

photo by Allan Wickens

Travel to Granity (x1 night) via Murchison, Skyline walk, Buller Gorge x1 swim, Westport, on to Granity. A place steeped with mining history, the Granity stay was charmingly rustic and right on the beach where the swimmers made the most of the 'west coast ocean'.

Karamea x2 nights. A quick visit to Lake Hanlon, a walk in the Oparara basin, visiting Oparara Arch, Moria Gate Arch and Mirror Tarn. Next day to a walk along Heaphy Track to Mid Point. All short walks each one a delight.

Notes from Marion: *Our last couple of days were spent in Karamea walking into the breathtaking beauty of the Ōparara Caves and a good day hike from the southern end of the Heaphy Track in to Katipō Hut and out again. Glorious beaches and little penguins waddling on the shore. "*

Return journey to Picton via Nelson Lakes, at St Arnaud through Wairau valley to Blenheim then Picton. The next day started with catching the Cook Straight Ferry, driving directly home on 21st January.

Our thanks and appreciation go to Allan Wickens, trip leader and Marion Francis, who rode 'financial shotgun'! Also, to Bea who took turns with driving. Great teamwork!

Those who came along for this great trip were: Allan Wickens, Marion Francis, Ying Schick, Sandra Neil, Bea Morgenthaler, Jo Walker, Sheryn Dean, David Totman, David MacDonald, Jeanette Dodson and myself Isla Trapski, (scribe).
Final note from Marion and Dr Seuss: "You're off to Great Places. Today is your day. Your mountain is waiting, so get on your way! "

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### **Trip 3101**

### **Colenso Hut**

**25- 28 Jan**

My first WTC outing was just prior to Christmas on the Waiotahi track (Thames) day tramp with around 8 others. I enjoyed the tramp and getting to meet and chat with everyone along the way. Whilst at the Bivouac store, Mike Peck mentioned the 4-day tramp in the Ruahine Ranges and that he was leading the fit/faster group. Knowing me well through Hamilton City Hawks running club he was confident I would cope. That sounded great, but I had never done an overnight tramp before, let alone wear tramping boots and carrying a loaded pack.

Over December and January, I obsessed over what tramping gear I needed. Got the essentials... boots, pack, water filter, a lighter weight sleeping bag. I got to wear the boots a few times over New Year's on a few coastal tracks and for 3 hours along the Te Puru track, starting from the Tapu Coroglen Road end.

We travelled down in a comfortable people mover, spent Thursday night in Taihape at the Rusty Nail Backpackers, with 7 of us in the one bunk room. Due to the incoming bad weather, both teams agreed that night that we would exit the Ruahine Forest on Sunday morning and be back to the cars by midday. Surprisingly it was a very quiet bunk room and I managed to get a good night's sleep despite not knowing what I was getting myself into over the next few days. We drove 40 mins to the end of Mokai Road and started immediately with a steep climb. Open farmland continued for 1.5 hours with a steep ascent of around 700 m to the top at around 1,245 m, providing spectacular views looking back to Mt Ruapehu. We then travelled along the ridgeline for 30 minutes until we reached the start of the Ruahine Forest. Around here Adele found the remains of a

Powelliphanta snail. Adele was often leading us strongly from the front, team leader Mike was close behind but still keeping a watchful eye on us all, Kat happily in the middle and keeping me sane. Dale was mostly at the rear, but always with a smile and ready to just carry on whenever she caught up with us after a steep climb.



All photos taken by Mike Harris

There was a big descent down, then a stream crossing to the Otukota Hut where we stopped for lunch. Crossed the river again, then a steep climb up to the ridgeline 'til we descended to another bridge, crossing to the Iron Bark Hut. During a short break we discussed whether we were all up to a further 4 hours to the Colenso Hut. I took the opportunity to wring out my wet socks and leather boot inner soles.

We started with another long steep ascent. Heading further into the unknown, I had some doubts whether my back and legs were up to it. I started getting some thigh tightness and communicated my need to monitor this along with going a little slower. After a further two hours it got close to 6pm and we had been going for 10 hours. The last 2 hours were challenging, due to us all fatiguing and having to negotiate a difficult climb over the alternative route due to a slip, along with navigating several boggy sections. We finally reached Colenso Hut just before 8pm and it made it all worth it seeing Mike Peck's smile that we had got there. Not because it was such a big day, more that we had got to this historical hut in the depths of the Ruahine ranges (suspecting high on his tramping bucket list).



It was a day of many firsts for me... 12-hour tramp, wearing a heavy tramping pack and boots, using a jetboil and eating a rehydrated meal, and topping it off with staying the night in a back country hut.

The next day we did a slight detour to check out the Colenso Lake (didn't see the rare Whio blue duck) and then made our way back to the bridge crossing near to the Iron Bark Hut for lunch.



Colenso Lake

I found the return trip easier due to recognising a lot of the track and not heading into the unknown. Overall, a tidy forest, with an abundance of tall beech trees, healthy ferns and tracks carpeted with leaves. Heard a cuckoo or two shrilling very loudly. We got back to Otukota Hut around 4pm joining up with the other team. WTC filled the hut along with half dozen tents. Being a first timer, I was treated like VIP and assisted by many with a tent setup for the night. I'm no stranger to tenting but was a first in a one-person rig. Kat looked on with fascination of the special treatment I was getting.

Another peaceful night with no wind or rain. Everyone was up ready to head out early to avoid the forecasted weather bomb. The ascent away from Otukota Hut was a solid effort. We arrived at the forest edge and ridge line and were surprised to be able to see the Ruapehu mountain and black clouds still out at the east coast. Abundant insect life in the tussock grass and flowers was especially noticeable after barely seeing anything in the forest.





Otukota hut

Mike P and I parked up here taking in the view and enjoyed hot beef soup, whilst we waited for the few tailenders to do the final descent and walk out with them. We made it back to the cars just before 1pm as light rain started. The forecasted weather had arrived, and the rain started falling heavily and continued throughout the long drive home. A great trip and I am looking forward to the next one!

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Hi
Myself and two of my friends have just completed the Oamaru, Boyd and Cascade Loop. We had the good fortune to meet a group of your members at Cascade Hut last night. I remember the name of Steve D, the cook, but not the other names. They were very hospitable, giving us bunks while they slept in tents and even shared some real food. We had been on freeze-dried for 3 nights. I just wanted to congratulate them and say they gave a very good impression of your Club.

Keith Parsons.

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Food for thought.....

- A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.
- Laughter is the best medicine but if you laugh for no reason, you need medicine.
- Of all the paths you take in life, make sure a few of them are dirt. – John Muir



The final descent.

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Harrison Ford: Wood burns faster when you have to cut and chop it yourself.

Trip 3104

Blue bull falls

18 Feb



All photos by Theresa O'Leary



We found them!
Beautiful two-drop falls, I especially loved the glistening strings of water falling through the thick moss to the right of the top tier – just magic! A special thank you to Jim for his bush bashing leadership.

Monique:
After expecting a little bit of an adventure this trip surpassed expectations. It was definitely feeling pretty long when getting to the 9.5hr mark but I thoroughly enjoyed the mix of easy track walking, a bit more difficult scrambling over rocks in the river, and then bush bashing beside the river to actually get to see the waterfall! I liked the mix of terrain, and the trip was overall a nice challenge.

The one downside was probably the number of times I fully fell over (and ripping my tights!) which is always to be expected with my clumsier self. I gained a good insight into my fitness levels relative to a lengthier trip, more of an idea of how to navigate up and down a river in summer/good weather and also how useful a hiking pole is in aiding a bit of river travel. Also, how gaiters might be a good idea to invest in for when not following a track to save my legs a few scratches and scrapes.

Sarah M: water quality warning

An awesome trip! There were two rotting goats two thirds of the way up the river before the falls, floating in the water. Terrible smell and no one downstream would have known they were there. A reminder to always treat water. Reported to Waipa District Council and DoC.



Thanks to all, it was certainly a very satisfying trip.

Participants: Jim, Monique, Sarah, David, Gary and me, Theresa

From the committee table:

New members: We welcome Ian Thomas to our ranks.

Resignations: Jane Hurst, Elizabeth-Ann Nightingale

Membership: The club has 183 tramping members.

From the club captain:

TRIP LEADERS needed for April, May and June

The following dates have no club trip or leader scheduled. Can leaders please consider leading a Club trip on these free dates:

14 April, 21 April, 19 May, (Note: Saturday 18th is Outdoor First Aid Course), 09 June, 23 June, 28 - 30 June, Matariki Weekend.

TRIP PLANNING: It is time to plan the programme for July to December

This is prior notice that the Club Trip Planning meeting will be scheduled for mid-April 24. Please start thinking about trips for the July to December 24 period.

I would like to see that trips put forward have a Leader rather than having to keep chasing for Leaders and trips myself. I will not be in a position to jump in and fill gaps between July and September due to my work situation. Les Warren

Snippets

✓ After a most enjoyable time at Judith & Ross' place for our annual Christmas function, someone took home the **wrong deck chair**. Your editor has a slightly faded navy blue one with a netting slot in one armrest for a glass. If this is yours, please arrange a swap so we can give Lois back her one – which has her name on it.

✓ Time for the fitness programme to be stepped up a bit? The Pirongia Restoration Society will shortly be looking for volunteers to help **carry 100 stoat traps** to various points on Mt Pirongia within their pest-controlled area. If you would like to assist with this work, please contact the team leader Richard Still, richard@stillaitken.co.nz and put your name forward.

...from the DoC website...

➤ **Wairere Falls Track closures:** DoC is removing and upgrading stair and bridge structures along the Wairere Falls Track. For the month of March, the Track will be closed to the public including weekends for safety reasons. From April it will be closed from Mondays to Fridays until approximately June 2024.

➤ Century-long saga: six bids to **change National Park village's name**. A local iwi collective Te Korowai o Wainuiārua has asked the Geographic Board to rename National Park Village and the nearby railway station as Waimarino. The New Zealand Geographic Board has considered the names five times since 1926 but rejected changes to the name of the village. In November it opened a three-month public consultation on the latest proposal. A Geographic Board report on the proposal said early maps and survey plans name Waimarino for the plains, the stream and the land block but not a village. The report said National Park (village) has the current status of 'unofficial recorded' in the New Zealand Gazetteer, being a name not made official by the Board but recorded from documents the Board considered authoritative. The Railway Department decided in 1925-1926 to change the name of Waimarino Railway Station to National Park. This change was partly a branding exercise due to the proximity to Tongariro National Park, though also for practical purposes due to misdirected mail and freight. The

informal use of National Park for the village itself followed suit. In 1958 Federated Mountain Clubs submitted a proposal to change the name of the village back to Waimarino. The Geographic Board declined the proposal, saying the name 'National Park' was now well established. In August last year, Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board co-chair Mike Britton supported the iwi bid for change. "The history is an interesting one where the community that grew up around the National Park Station came to be identified with the name of the station. And whereas identifying a station with New Zealand's first national park was appropriate when the rail link was made, this is no longer the case." Megan Dimozantos, president of Federated Mountain Clubs, also signalled the society's support. She said reinstating the name Waimarino would "be a long overdue step towards recognising the local iwi's ancestral connections to the place". KiwiRail installed dual name signage at the station in August to reflect its historic name.

Source: Radio NZ 6 February 2024



Photo: Moana Ellis

...from the FMC website....

➤ The popular **Jimmy Armers Track on Kaikōura Peninsula** has had its access across private land legalized – thanks to Symes family and Herenga ā Nuku - the Outdoor Access Commission. Most of the existing track was on an unformed legal road, but there were significant deviations the Symes' property. They wanted to ensure the community and tourists would continue to have access along the track into the future if their land were to change hands.

➤ *Epic* giveaway. We have some copies of the new Ray Salisbury's book *Epic* to give away! In return, we would love to hear some of your stories about epic facts and fables in the outdoors. What was a fact and what turned out to be a fable? Hut still on the map, but not there after 9h tramp? A piece of glacier floating in the lake or a tail of taniwha? What was that strange noise outside the hut in the dark? A kākāpō or ...? Send us your stories - the best ones will be published on *Wilderlife* and you'll receive a copy of *Epic* – a book about some of the most epic adventures of Kiwi explorers. Entries should be 800-1200 words, with 4-5 captioned photographs. FMC is the judge of the competition, and our decision is final. Runners-up will still have their stories featured on our *Wilderlife* blog. By entering you give permission for FMC to publish your entry on our website. Please send your stories to communications@fmc.org.nz



Cobb Valley campsite

photo by Allan Wickens



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