



# THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

**WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)**

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

August 2019



Chakarimata track Photo by Jacob Hamill

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

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Zealand Inc  
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BULLETIN No 808

August 2019

### General Committee

(Contact details listed below)

**President:** Selwyn June   **Secretary:** Judith Bogle   **Treasurer:** Guy Domett  
**Members:** John McArthur (VP Tramp)   Stephen Prendergast (VP Ski)  
Stephen Phillips   Allan Wickens   Russell King   Stacey Thompson  
Peter Lye   Doug Pagel  
Mike Nightingale   minean@xtra.co.nz   8562394

### Tramping Subcommittee

**Tramping email:** waikatotrampingclub@gmail.com  
**Chairperson:** John McArthur   mcarthur@outlook.co.nz   021 2889641  
**Treasurer:** Guy Domett   guydomett@gmail.com   0272483008  
**Secretary:** Judith Bogle   judith.bogle@outlook.com   0273810283  
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Selwyn June   selwynjune@xtra.co.nz   8433066

### Ski Subcommittee

**Ski email:** waikatoski@gmail.com   **Waikato Hut phone:** 07 8923821  
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Stacey Thompson   stacey.thompson@opus.co.nz

**Bulletin:** Lesley Kuggeleijn   lesley.kugg@gmail.com   027 4942414  
**Editor & Club Librarian:** Dianne June   djune@xtra.co.nz   8433066  
**Waikato Tramping Club account:** 03 1555 0091625 02 (& include the trip number)

## Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September

We spend lots of time looking at flora and fauna, but what about the ground beneath our feet? What do we know about the soil sustaining it, and us? Megan Balks will be our guest speaker next Club night. She's a soil specialist and will take us through a soil journey.

**October club night:** Photo Competition will be held open for a further month to enable the search for a suitable and informed judge to continue.

**Entries will close Sunday 15 September**, with awards announced at October Club night. Categories as per our last bulletin.

**Venue:** St Stephens Church Hall (corner of Ohaupo Road and Mahoe Street).

**Time:** Doors open at 7.00pm, meeting starts at 7.30pm

**Cost:** \$2

### ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2019

2840	17/18 Aug	M	Tongariro under a full moon	John McArthur
	21 August		South Is trip planning	Keith Robbins
2841	25 August	E/M	Wairere falls to Te Tuhi track	Merlyn Warren
2842	31 Aug/1 Sept	M	Winter tramp	Mike Peck
2843	8 Sept	E/M	Kahikatea & caves	Jacob Hamill
2844	14/15 Sept	E/M	Pureora baiting	Dianne & Selwyn June
2845	21/22 Sept	E/M	Rotorua walks	Allan Wickens
2846	29 Sept	E/M	Cycling in Hamilton	David Cumming
2847	5/6 Oct	E/M	New Plymouth walks	Jacqui Dick
2848	13 Oct	E/M	Photography in Waiorongomai	Jacqui Dick & Isla Trapski
2849	19/20 Oct	M	Tawarau Falls from Speedy Rd	Club Captain
2850	26-28 Oct	M/F	Ruatahuna to Ruatoki	Steve Cranefield
2851	3 Nov	M	Mt. Titiraupenga	Les Warren
2852	Midweek Nov	E	Gibbs Farm & Mt. Auckland	Ray Hoare
2853	9/10 Nov	M/F	Turoa to Whakapapa by moonlight	Allan Wickens
2854	16/17 Nov	M	Mt Tarawera-pine pulling	Selwyn June

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. DONT FORGET: You can book online from our website too**

Any person withdrawing after this day without good reason will be charged the full cost of the trip. *Please give your landline when making a booking.*

**Departure Point:** Trips depart from the river end of London Street. Cars can be parked, facing the road, in the business car park on the right at the end of the cul de sac. If in doubt contact your trip leader.

**Weekend Trips:** leave on Friday nights at 7pm sharp unless otherwise stated.

**Day Trips:** leave Sunday mornings at 8am sharp.

If someone is concerned because a trip is late back, contact:

1) Club Captain; 2) President; 3) 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.

*Please send contributions to the editor by Friday, September 6th*

### **Trip Descriptions**

**Trip 2840**

**Tongariro under a full moon**

**17/18 Aug**

Saturday is 24 to 36 hours after full moon, with the moon rising at 7.15 pm and setting at 8.42 am on Sunday. Due to the logistics of asking our driver to drop us off in the evening and pick us up early the next morning (and as our driver wishes to accompany us) we will do the following plan.

We will drive down on Saturday afternoon, arriving at the Mangatepopo road end for a start at 7 or 8pm. Then walk up and over the Tongariro Alpine

Crossing to the Emerald Lakes junction and head down to Oturere Hut where we can catch an hour or two of rest before reversing the walk and walk back to the van.

We will likely start under headlights until the moon rises over the South crater - so be sure you have good headlight and spare batteries. We will be in snow and Snowcraft 1 experience is required. Crampons, ice axe and helmet are required and can be hired from the club.

On the plus side, with a relatively short spell in the hut we may not need a sleeping bag, though may want to cook a feed.

I will be getting further info from others and may change details, but one element we would want to be clear is that we will maximize photographic opportunities. (If the moon is too bright, we will repeat under a new moon in summer). This is obviously a very weather dependent trip and a contingency plan will be developed if weather looks doubtful as we get closer to the date.

**Leader:** John McArthur                      **Ph:** 8564394                      **Grade:** M  
**Transport:** Senior member \$50-65                      Senior Non-member \$55-60

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**Trip 2841                      Wairere falls to Te Tuhi track                      25 Aug**

Start at the Falls track carpark, approx. 1.5hr. to top of Wairere Falls. This is the only climbing for the day. At the falls we continue east to meet the North-South track. From here we will have the track to ourselves as we travel south along a lovely bush track to meet the Te Tuhi Track. We will then head west descending to farmland and out to Te Tuhi Rd for our lift home. Approx. 5.5hrs.

**Leader:** Merlyn Warren                      **Ph:** 027 524 9926                      **Grade:** E/M  
**Transport:** Senior member \$30-35                      Senior Non-member \$35-40

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**Trip 2842                      Winter tramp                      31 Aug/1 Sept**

We'll drive down Saturday morning and park at Clements road end campsite, off the Taupo - Napier Rd. Taking the Hinemaiaia Track into Cascade Hut. 4-5 hours walk. On Sunday either, back the way we came or take the track over Kaipo Saddle to the Te Iringa Track junction, then on to Te Iringa Campsite. Ideally, we'll have two vehicles for this tramp. It's probably a 6-8hour walking day.

**Leader:** Mike Peck                      **Ph:** 021 369256                      **Grade:** M  
**Email:** *Mikepeck@yahoo.com*  
**Transport:** Senior member \$50-65                      Senior Non-member \$55-60

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**Trip 2843                      Pirongia Kahikatea and caves                      8 Sept**

A day out on Mt Pirongia walking to see the tallest recorded native tree in New Zealand, standing at 66.5m. We will also detour to see the two Kaniwhaniwha Caves. The main cave can be walked through, with a short hands and knees crawl at the end and the second cave is tight and narrow. Torches are required. This track follows the Nikau Walk and part of the Bell Track. 6hrs walking.

**Leader:** Jacob Hamill                      **Ph:** 027 351 3158                      **Grade:** E/M  
**Transport:** Senior member \$25-30                      Senior Non-member \$30-35

**Trip 2844** **Pureora baiting** **14/15 Sept**

Enjoy good company, an opportunity to be moving quietly through the bush with just one other person for company, listening to the birds, admiring the plants, stopping for photos with no thought to holding others up or having to catch them up, while feeling your pack get lighter as the day goes by? At the end of your walk you even get some treats. Well, this is the trip for you. You will be supporting the Pirongia Restoration Society with their pest control operation in the Okahukura Valley of Pureora Forest. We stay at the Lions Lodge in the forest and commute a further 40 minutes to our starting point. Friday night begins with H&S briefing and picking up the supplied safety gear, maps, and bait. Bring your weekend pack. A liner to put the bait in will be supplied. BYO sleeping bag, pillow, toilet gear, all food and refreshments, The Lodge has full kitchen and bathroom facilities (including hot showers), huge cool store, and bunkroom sleeping. There will be no charge for accommodation. If possible, we would like to leave Hamilton by 6pm as it is a 2hour trip to the Lodge and there will be much to take care of before bedtime.

**Leader:** Dianne & Selwyn June **Ph:** 8433066 **Grade:** E/M  
**Transport:** Senior member \$45-55 Senior Non-member \$50-60

**Trip 2845** **Rotorua Walks** **21/22 Sept**

Having had successful trips to the Coromandel region during our "Explore Coromandel" week-ends, we now concentrate on seeing what the Rotorua area has to offer. Notable peaks to ascend are Mounts Ngongotaha (757 metres) and Rainbow Mountain (743 metres). Along with the many shorter walks available we are also looking at doing a more challenging walk - the Mangarewa Track. This is a circuit of 9 kms taking about 5-6 hours and described as being for "experienced trampers only". Those up to the task may do this trip while others concentrate on other less arduous walks in the meantime. We will depart London Street at a slightly earlier time than normal as the day-light hours will be less at this time of year. On Saturday night we will stay in budget accommodation in Rotorua.

**Leader:** Allan Wickens **Email:** [allanwickens@hotmail.com](mailto:allanwickens@hotmail.com) **Grade:** E/M  
**Transport:** Senior member \$45-55 Senior Non-member \$50-60  
**Accommodation:** please sign on early so we can book suitable accommodation.

**Trip 2846** **Cycling in Hamilton** **29 Sept**

This is a cycle trip with an opportunity to explore some of Hamilton's cycle paths on the western side of the city. We will meet at 9:30am at the end of Wairere Drive, where it meets Naylor St and Cambridge Rd. We will take the underpass at Cobham Drive, cycle along the Waikato River to Alma St, onto the Western Rail Trail, Kahikatea Drive, Ohaupo Rd, Dixon Rd, Peacockes Rd and return to our starting point at Wairere Dr. There will also be a coffee stop at a café. Most of this trip is on off-road shared paths, the length is 20km and the

cycling time is about 2.5 hrs. There is a limit to the number of participants on this trip, so please book early.

**Leader:** David Cumming

**Ph:** 8397850

**Grade:** E

**Email:** *David.cumming@xtra.co.nz*

**Transport:** Private arrangements

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**Trip 2847**

**New Plymouth walks**

**5/6 Oct**

**Note departure time for this trip is 6.30pm.**

On Saturday we will warm up by doing the Lake Mangamahoe circuit which is a scenic lake with awesome views of Mt Taranaki as a backdrop. Then we will head on up the mountain to do a 3hour loop walk to Maketawa Hut which also has fantastic views of the mountain and passes through a series of interesting vegetation zones including montane forest found only in the Egmont National Park.

That afternoon we will do the Te Henui River Walkway. This is a national walkway and is one of the most beautiful in New Plymouth even though it originates from a sewage pipe route! It starts at the coast and winds its way up through native and exotic flora and passing several swimming holes and historic pa sites. You never know it might be even warm enough to swim!

Sunday starts with a short steep climb/scramble up Paritutu Rock which is right on the waterfront. There are amazing views at the top. The famous Coastal Walkway is next. This is New Plymouth's award-winning track that runs along the entire length of the city. There are many points of interest along the way, such as beaches, sculptures and parks and the Waipa Lagoon. We also cross the iconic Te Rewa Rewa Bridge which beautifully frames Mt Taranaki.

There is a very nice outdoor french cafe that we pass on the way that is perfect for a coffee break!

We might stop at the Three (two now) Sisters and Elephant Rock, Tongaporutu on the way home if it is low tide.

**Food:** BYO breakfasts and lunches with an optional pub meal Saturday night

**Leader:** Jacqui Dick

**Ph:** 0211375201

**Grade:** E/M

**Email:** *jacquimd@me.com*

**Transport:** Senior member \$50-65

Senior Non-member \$55-70

**Accommodation:** \$23 tent site or \$40 shared cabin per night (Belk Road Campground)

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**Trip 2848**

**Photography in Waiorongomai**

**13 Oct**

Let's go meandering through the Waiorongomai valley with our camera, intent on capturing images through the lens. No matter your camera, or photography experience. We can look at macro (close up) imaging; time exposures of water in motion; playing and experimenting with light when it comes to looking into dark tunnels; composition; angles and perspective (I have the May Queen incline in mind) - not necessary to climb it though! and just the delight of the flora and fauna on the track. Isla and Jacqui will be there to help or hinder!



(Ed comment: did you know that if the human eye were a digital camera it would have 576 megapixels?).

**Leaders:** Jacqui Dick & Isla Trapski

**Bookings to:** Jacqui **Ph:** 8252045

**Grade:** E/M

**Email:** jacquimd@me.com

**Transport:** Senior member \$25-30

Senior Non-member \$30-35

### **Trip 2849**

### **Tawarau Falls from Speedy Rd**

**19/20 Oct**

Speedy road goes off the Te Anga road just before we get to Te Anga so expect a wee drive before we start walking. We can **leave on Saturday morning** as there are only about 5kms to walk each day depending on how fast we go. We begin by following a farm road to its' end, and then side around grassy hills to the bush edge. This is mostly level walking. Once in the bush we continue walking in parallel with the Tawarau river. Along the way we can choose our campsite and perhaps make camp early and relax either before or after we visit the magnificent waterfall.

From here on we continue to head south following the Mangaonae stream out to Were road, or return the way we came.

This is a good trip to test your mettle for carrying a weekend pack with a tent. The terrain is not difficult so you will only be testing your ability to pack the right gear or perhaps trying out new boots or other gear. A good one for newcomers.

We last went in this direction through the Tawarau Forest in July '97 and the trip report makes interesting reading but the use of the words 'magnificent', 'beautiful', and 'lovely bush' are scattered throughout.

**Leaders:** Club Captain **Ph:** [allanwickens@hotmail.com](mailto:allanwickens@hotmail.com)

**Grade:** E/M

**Transport:** Senior member \$50-65

Senior Non-member \$55-70

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### **South Island trips in 2020**

Does the thought of tramping in the mountains of the South Island this coming summer and autumn excite you? Then come along to our trip planning meeting with your maps and ideas, we need your input.

The aim is to select a variety of trips from hut-based on fully formed tracks to alpine off trail tent-based epics for the hardcore, and arrange the timing so you can do more than one if you wish.

After collating ideas, a draft programme will be produced for the September bulletin, and the website.

The venue is at our usual place, St Stephens hall, on Wed 21 August, starting at 7.30pm. Refreshments will be provided to keep energy levels up.

Any queries please give Keith a call on 0211207752

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**Slow down and live in the moment. Take the time to reflect on what you have done and where you are headed. - Jill Ashton-Leigh**

## **Editorial**

Things are starting to get going with respect to the 70<sup>th</sup> reunion but who is able and willing to help with a bit of 'donkey work' (no asses need apply, but then we don't have anyone who fits this category in the club do we?!) to get the ball rolling? Making contact with past members takes quite a bit of time and effort and if we can share the task across several people it will not be an onerous one. I am busy compiling the list of past members and am currently at 1700 and still counting. Do you have contact with trampers who may be past members but no longer belong to the club? Please let me know their names and contact details so we can forward any information. Feel free to contact me to check whether they are on our list or to confirm their contact details. But we also need people with artistic talents, those keen to help out with publicity, and much more. Please put your hand up if you can. You won't be asked to do more than you can cope with and some jobs will be finished before the event takes place.

Obviously, I have a particular interest in pest control in Pureora and it has been wonderful to experience the enthusiasm expressed by you all about this activity. I am very pleased to know that this club will incorporate a trip to the area to assist with pest control on an annual basis. Such is your enthusiasm that I have written a small note about the follow-up baiting session in Pureora that happens in October – read about it in the snippets section.

And as we all like looking at pictures, don't forget to look through your 'albums' and choose some entries for the photo competition – get them to Stephen via email or USB before 15<sup>th</sup> September.

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## **Presidents' Blog**

We recently sent a congratulatory letter to the Tararua Tramping Club on the occasion of their centenary. We are only 30 years behind. The Tararua Tramping Club led the way in developing tramping as an organised activity in New Zealand, serving as a model for clubs such as ours when it began in the early 1950's. Our founding President, Frank Thompson, started his tramping career with them and at one time held the record time for the Southern Crossing. He modelled our constitution on Tararua's which he had worked on.

Peter Wilson, in the latest Backcountry bulletin, writes about tramping and the role of tramping clubs. "What makes clubs?" he asks. To paraphrase him: They represent culture and a way of life. Clubs pass on skills and stories; they build and train leaders; they save native species; they maintain huts and tracks; they pay subs to support FMC speaking on their behalf. Clubs are really just a group of friends in the hills, spending time together on the road and on the track, cooking together in a hut in the evenings, meeting up before and after trips and gathering at club nights. That sounds like us.

Selwyn June

## Waikato Ski Club

### **Winter rates**

Members nightly rates: Adults \$35, Child (0-17yrs) \$20

Non-members nightly rates: Adult \$60, Child (0-17yrs) \$35.

### **Mates Rates is back!**

You know what to do! Contact the Booking Officer to book Mates Rates.

If it's your first time to the Hut please make sure we are aware of this as on most nights we can get someone down to the carpark to make sure you get up safely - it's not difficult but we don't want you wandering around lost at night.

It's best to check on the Ski Club website - [www.waikatoskiclub.co.nz](http://www.waikatoskiclub.co.nz) - for directions and then have a look on Google for exact location. I've added the Hut label to the map and it's waiting for Google to approve it. We're just above Te Horonuku adjacent to Tennents Valley.

### **Mid-Week Skiing is on.**

Why ski weekends when you can ski mid-week? Not every winter holiday needs a tropical beach (or a pool with a floating bar). By holidaying at home you're also doing your bit to control climate change. You can do as many days as you like and the weekend if that's your thing. You can get all of that friendly social vibe when you leave the slopes and head back to the Lodge

### **Whakapapa Parking Changes**

The perennial parking scrap is back on the table with RAL determining that only Carpark 1 will be left available for overnight (read club) parking. Loop road and roadside parking is still available but there are going to be fewer overnight spaces this season. The Bruce Road will be closed once all of the day parks are filled and there will be no drop offs permitted once this occurs. Shuttles will be available but will cost \$20 pp return. It's an ongoing challenge that we'll be working on with other clubs.

### **..... From the Ski Committee .....**

With the wind whistling past the Hut/Lodge I'm contemplating the variable weather this season has delivered. Friday was a wonderfully mild winter day at Turoa as the tail end of the last 2 weeks of stormy southerlies moved away. The snow base looks incredible and, after a round of avalanche clearing and lift de-icing, we should be set. At Whakapapa we had our first opportunity to ski the Waterfall runs. The enclosed gondola ride is a marked improvement on the old Express and the icy blast as you crested 1st waterfall. It was great to get more Upper Mountain open and looking forward to the West and Knoll T running.

There are still weather conditions which stop the gondola from running, but we're told this is just part of the extended commissioning which will eventually have it running in higher wind conditions. For non-skiers this is a welcome addition to the sightseeing experience.

Our next organised event is Mid-Week skiing in early September. It's a chance to avoid the busier weekend days, and still enjoy the company of other club members and friends. Details on the ski club Facebook page, which we update regularly. Ski racing follows on the 14th September with the annual pizza dinner and prize giving. Everyone is a welcome to participate and the emphasis is on fun for this event.

You can now check for available bed space yourself on our booking site at [members.WaikatoSkiClub.co.nz](http://members.WaikatoSkiClub.co.nz), click on the Booking Availability menu item and the calendar will appear. Non-members will still need to contact the booking officer to book.

Welcome to our members Phil, Shane, Richard, Beatrix, Steve and Dennis. We hope you enjoy your skiing with us and look forward to seeing you at the Lodge. If you know of anyone wanting to join please get them in touch with us.

We're adding some marker poles to the route up to the Lodge for new members, family and friends. First time up can be challenging if the weather is unsettled so we hope to have these in place in the next week.

Wishing you good Skiing, boarding and Alpine adventures.

Stephen Prendergast, Ski Team Leader

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## Trip reports

**Trip 2834** **Waiotahi to Karaka track** **7 July**  
We started on the Waiotahi Track that track climbs steadily with great views of the Firth of Thames and the Hunua Ranges. After another half hour of climbing, the track summits a ridge, revealing views of the Pinnacles, Table Top and the Coromandel forest to the south. The rocks on the cutting have been dyed bright red by lichen and provided the best viewpoint of the trip. At the junction Sheryl retraced our steps to bring the van around and the rest carried on. The return via the Karaka track was boggier and followed the Karaka Stream through native bush to the road end. A very enjoyable day finished off with an ice cream at the wharf cafe in Thames. Thanks to Sheryl for driving and doubling back. Trampers were: Kathy T, Les W, Pamela H, Alan H, Dennis P, Fiona G, Alan W, Steve C (scribe), Beatrix M, Marianne L, Selwyn J (leader), Sheryl T.

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**Trip 2837** **Hakarimatas – the whole lot** **28 July**  
5 trampers (Jacob, Steve, Anita, Peter and John) assembled at London street and headed out towards Ngaruawahia and the Hakarimatas. We dropped one car off at the Parker Road end and all squeezed into one car and made our way to the start point at the Hakarimatas Rail Trail. Meeting one tramper (Merlyn) there, all 6 of us started up the track up to the summit.

Although we did not go up the famous steps, there were still plenty of steps to share with us. We stopped at the summit for a break and to meet up with Lesley who continued on the tramp with us while Merlyn returned back to the starting point. The rest of us continued along, stopping for lunch at the clearing made by the gas pipeline. The track took 6.5 hrs to complete and offered some spectacular views especially towards the end over Huntly and Taupiri Mountain. The track was overgrown and muddy in places and the weather held out for most of the way, with just a little shower at the end as we were coming down from the lookouts towards the car.



Happy trampers on the Hakarimatas

Photo by Jacob Hamill



Northern vista

Photo by Jacob Hamill

### Trip 2838

### Waitawheta Hut

4<sup>th</sup> Aug

Twelve keen trampers met at the usual pick up spot in Hamilton, with the 13<sup>th</sup> self-driving from Rotorua and meeting us in the Karangahake Gorge. All

looking forward to a bush walk, we came well prepared with wet weather gear, advised by our leader. The forecast was for rain. It was a pleasant van ride there, especially through the gorge. On arrival at the carpark it wasn't raining. Yay!!! Started putting on wet weather gear, the heavens opened, down came the rain. This made us move quicker and, once sorted, we set off.

Walking first through attractive farmland for 15 minutes then into the bush following a wide stream where the water flow was swift. Parts of the track followed close to the stream and the track narrowed. I was surprised and relieved that it had not flooded given all the rain we had had recently. The track headed away from the stream taking us deeper in to the bush. Despite the off and on showers, it was very pleasant being there. We had two young people in our group, one a teenage girl. She moved away from the cover of an umbrella, was happily chatting with another trumper, and didn't seem to mind the small hole in the back of her light poncho. She appeared to love the adventure. The other was a boy eight years of age, who was not too keen on all this walking at this stage. Mum and other trampers encouraged him along the way. He did get a bit cold because he wasn't keen to wear all the warm gear mum had for him in the backpack.



Waitawheta Hut

Photo by Dave White

Another trumper offered him a long woollen shirt. After our only river-crossing would he put this on, it was good and covered the top part of his legs. He was fine after that – he proved himself a real champion on the return trip – he moved very quickly. Some of us had a job keeping up with him.

We were very grateful for the five solid suspension bridges crossed and had the option of a sixth but this added 800 metres to the trip, so opted for a river crossing. The youngest crossed linked with two experienced trampers. The rest of the group (most) linked together in threes and crossed.

The water flow was fast moving, the depth well over our knees in places, which meant lots of negotiating the rocky uneven surface below.

We did well. No-one fell in. Once out of the water we had a two to three kilometre walk to the hut. We continued walking through varied terrain.

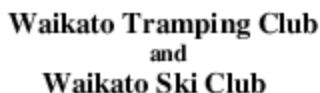
Near the hut we stopped briefly at the milling heritage area. Everybody was ready for a well-earned rest and lunch. We had rain showers off and on. We took three and half hours walking in to the hut and two and half out back to the van, retracing our steps back. It was a pleasant rainy day out, great exercise and company.

Thanks to Dave for organising this and Sheryl for driving.

Participants were: Dave W (Leader), Debbie W, Helen M, Jeanette B, Sharon S, Russell and Anne-Marie L, Fiona G, Liberty F, Angela and Mateo S, Kathy T, Helen M (scribe), and Sheryl T (Driver).



facebook



Waikato Tramping Club  
and  
Waikato Ski Club

Have a look at the club facebook site for more pictures and comments.

### **FITNESS WALK / FUN / FLAGSTAFF**

These have been cancelled for the interim due to lack of participants, and travel plans of some of the stalwarts. Watch this space for news if the walk is re-commenced.

### **From the committee table:**

**New members:** Welcome to Liz Halsey and Beatrix Morgenthaler

**Resignations:** None

**Membership:** We have 182 tramping members.

**From the club captain:** Good news for all members and especially trip leaders! Mike at Bivouac has set up a box from which you can now pick up a tent fly, first aid kit and PLB that every trip leader should carry (if you haven't got your own). You will have to sign for whatever you take, and get it back in time for the next person to be able to use it. There are 2 sets of this gear so prompt return

is expected. You do not have to be going on an organised club trip to use the equipment but the same conditions apply. Check the outside back cover of your bulletin for the Bivouac outlet address.

.....

### Snippets from here 'n there....

➤ **70<sup>th</sup> reunion.** A small team has met and discussed the plans for our reunion over the weekend of May 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> next year. Our plans include a function at Waikato Hut either the following weekend or the one after. In general, it was decided that the format of previous years works well in that it allows plenty of time for chatting (the most important bit) as well as some more formal parts. Next step is securing a venue and beginning to contact past members as well as advertising. Can any of you spare some time to help search out contact details for members? This may involve a group of us spending some time at the library on a few occasions and reading the electoral rolls. And is there anyone who is very good with graphic stuff? We will need to begin advertising soon in various other club magazines, making posters, and developing registration forms etc.

➤ **Photo competition.** Our Annual competition closes this year on Sept 15th. **Entries must be supplied by the closing date in digital form.** We aligned to the FMC rules last year. This year there are some extra options on trial:

- Above bushline (with no human element)
- Above bushline (with a human element)
- Below bushline (with no human element)
- Below bushline (with a human element)
- Historic
- Native flora and fauna
- Long exposure – *Trial category for 2019*. Photography of scenes that the naked eye cannot normally comprehend. The category is intended for highly technical images of shots taken at night, (including star trails), or in extremely low light situations such as caves or canyons.
- We also have the 2 WTC categories of: **Club Character** and **International**.

FMC is introducing an annual theme to the competition, which encourages photography that documents topical places which we are fighting for, current campaigns we're battling and values under immediate threat. The theme in no way restricts entries, it merely offers a little reward for entries consistent with the theme! And this year's theme is *Forgotten Lands*.

➤ The Moths and Butterflies of NZ Trust is about to embark on Stage 2 of the Forest Ringlet Project, to restore numbers of this endemic butterfly in the wild (which not many people know even exists... and not only is it very beautiful, it's the only one of its species). The Trust would also like to source



*Gahnia pauciflora*, *G. procera* or *G. setifolia* plants and have been so far unable to find them available commercially. If anyone knows of where they can buy a quantity of these plants, they'd be very grateful to hear from you/them [jacqui@nzbutterflies.org.nz](mailto:jacqui@nzbutterflies.org.nz). Read more about Stage 1 of the project here: <https://www.monarch.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Dodonidia-helmsii-S-R-Wheatley.pdf> . If you can help spread the word, they'd be very grateful.

➤ Kaimai Ridgeway Project's first new hut is almost complete and some work has been done by the club in clearing tracks leading to the new hut. Further work will be done when weather and our tramping program permit.



Okioki hut on the Kaimai Ridgeway track – nearly finished

Photographer unknown

➤ The Pirongia Restoration Society begin their 2019 spring pest control operation in Pureora (Okahukura valley) in September and it is heart-warming to see how many have already keenly signed up for our club trip no. 2844. The Society will be doing another follow-up trip (with smaller bags of bait) a month later on the weekend of October 12/13<sup>th</sup>. This is not an official club trip but if there are enough keen people, we can organise an informal one. Names to Dianne and Selwyn please, Ph 8433066.

➤ Did you patronize the cobbler at the Glenview shopping centre for your shoe and boot repairs? The business has moved to the owners' private address of 124 Galloway Street.

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

➤ **A rat was detected on Motuihe island** by a video camera set up by the Motuihe Trust to monitor kiwi pukupuku/little spotted kiwi. Volunteers were alarmed to see video of the rat on Sunday night (July 21), as it posed a serious threat to native wildlife on Motuihe. DoC launched an operation to catch the rat the next day. The traps, tunnels and 'rat motels' were baited with high quality peanut butter, fresh eggs, rabbit meat and 'rat bedding' from pet shops. These are all proven to attract rats. Two traps, impregnated with 'rat scent' were placed in the area the rat had been seen. On July 24<sup>th</sup> a ranger found the dead rat inside one of these traps. Motuihe has been free of rats, mice and other introduced pests since 2005.

➤ The popular **Four Sisters Walk** in Waipoua Forest has **temporarily closed** due to the discovery of kauri dieback in the near vicinity. It's vital everyone leads by example by sticking to the track and using the available cleaning stations correctly when visiting our kauri forests. Ten tracks in the Bay of Islands have been permanently closed to prevent the spread of kauri dieback – see DoC press release for more details.

➤ **Birdlife flourishing on the Old Ghost Road.** There are now so many birds along the Old Ghost Road cycle trail that some mountain bikers and trampers are rating their interactions as the best part of their whole experience. Populations along the 85km trail include tomtits, kākā, kea, whio/blue duck, kererū, rifleman, weka and even the great spotted kiwi. The number and variety of species are partly due to a predator control program started when the trail began construction back in 2012. 'We had a strong sense from the beginning that we had an important role to play looking after the local flora and fauna,' says Phil Rossiter, chairman of the Mokihinui–Lyell Backcountry Trust that manages the trail. 'The sheer numbers of stoats, rats and possums we caught provided an indication of just how many pests were out there.' The more pests they caught, the more the Trust ramped up their efforts, and by 2016 they had expanded their network of traps to around 850. Until recently, no formal counts had been made of bird populations along the trail, but simple observations have provided clues to the massive impact these pest control efforts are having.

Stern Creek, in the mid-reaches of the Old Ghost Road, is a good example. As a known habitat for the endangered whio/blue duck, this area was targeted with trap lines. Trust staff and volunteers have been closely monitoring a family of whio here since 2011.

➤ A significant increase in predator trapping is giving 130 **young kakī/black stilt** released in the Mackenzie Basin this week their best-ever chance of survival. On August 8<sup>th</sup>, 45 juvenile kakī were released at Mt Gerald Station, in the Godley and Cass river systems. Another 19 birds joined them the next day, and a further 66 were released into the Tasman Valley earlier in the week. A

DoC ranger said that previously fewer than 30% of the young birds released in the Godley and lower Cass valleys were surviving to become adults whereas in areas with significant trapping like the Tasman valley, the survival rate is 50%. Te Manahuna Aoraki has more than doubled DoC's existing trapping network area, from 26,000ha in the Tasman valley, to more than 60,000ha across the kakī range.

The birds have been hatched and reared for release by DoC and The Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust. The juvenile kakī are released into the wild at nine months old, and reach adulthood just over 12 months later.

➤ **Conservation week is 14-22 September.** Luckily, we have the Pureora bait station filling weekend at the start of this. There may be something going on in Pureora village again at the end of our day. DoC Maniapoto (Te Kuiti) and Waikato have lots of events in the planning.

In Te Kuiti area:

- Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Whio/Kiwi aversion training at Ngaherenga Campground 11-2, first dog free and koha after that
- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> Mangaokewa Clean-up, weeding and night timestream spotlighting with Te Kuiti Scouts/Maniapoto Trust Board
- ?? Arohena Campground plant releasing day with Arohena School/Raukawa Iwi
- Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> Rat Trap building day with Mitre 10 Te Kuiti 11-1 free sausage sizzle

In the Waikato:

- 15th Sept Te Pahu landcare weeding at Kaniwhaniwha
- Planting event at Lake Whangape (date tbc)

Nationally, go to:

<https://www.eventfinda.co.nz/tour/2019/conservation-week-2019>

➤ **Fox river clean up.** Otago University sent buses with 74 students and travel company Real Journeys contributed 23 staff for the final two days of the volunteer clean-up – meaning there will have been a total of more than 200 volunteers, working alongside DoC and New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) staff. Over the weekend of August 10/11<sup>th</sup>. To date, there have been more than 850 people working 2912 volunteer days, along with 1090 NZDF days, 681 DoC staff days and 123 Task Force Green days. They have removed the equivalent of more than 13,000 bags of rubbish from the Fox and Cook Rivers and coastline of South Westland.

➤ DoC says an increase in **fur seals/kekeno being seen around Hawke's Bay** shores this season is an excellent sign for seal populations around New Zealand, but beachgoers should give them space. A ranger said that while kekeno can often be spotted resting on Hawke's Bay beaches, more are being seen this season than in previous years. It is a promising sign for kekeno, and

for Hawke's Bay. It indicates kekeno numbers are growing throughout the country. Most of the kekeno on the Hawke's Bay coast are migrating from more southern populations, like Cape Palliser and the top of the South Island. The latest visitors include a group who've been spending the colder months at one spot along the Napier coastline – more specifically at the river mouth near Clive.

..... from our FMC rep.....

Hi all,

I'm now 6 weeks into my Federated Mountain Clubs 'adventure' and am steadily coming up to speed on FMC's people and activities. I have now met face to face 15 of the 16 members of the Executive and all 3 part-time staff. There's a wealth of knowledge, passion for the cause and lots of voluntary time being spent throughout this team.

In this monthly "WTC Exclusive" column I will list some of the current issues being worked on by FMC to show you the breadth of our activities, and then I will expand and update on some of them in future columns. This is a list below is just some of what has come to FMC in the last week!

- DoC's new Biodiversity strategy
- Walking Access, the need for pathways to connect North Waikato towns
- Coronet Peak's Concession application, wanting 30 years
- Reports of several mountains' names reported missing off a recent topo map reprint
- Updates from the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment
- A partial review of Conservation and National park policy to give better effect to Treaty principles
- Cairns and snow poles in the Tararua range
- DoC's lack of consultation on huts being added to the booking system
- Island Hills station tenure review result
- NZ Recreation's Outdoor activity fund now open for applications
- FMC's plan for a Recreation Transition campaign to help members with positive fun ways to lessen their carbon footprint
- Kauri Dieback, liaising between affected parties and the bureaucrats busy closing tracks, and the scientists trying to understand what is happening and how to combat it.
- Leadership training planning, with FMC offering to organize training for member Clubs
- MSC (Mountain Safety Council). FMC has given 12 months' notice of resigning our membership (more on this in a future column)
- Tourism volumes and options to restrict future growth, manage it better, or encourage more

- Pheew....

In next month's column I will be able to update you more on Kauri Dieback as I will be attending some meetings on this issue in late August. FMC is trying hard to safeguard trampers access to walking opportunities through the upper North Island, while doing all that is necessary to reduce the risk of spread and effect of this disease.

If you have any queries on any of this or would like more info, please contact me on 0274 501 530 or at [alan.grant@fmc.org.nz](mailto:alan.grant@fmc.org.nz) Have a good month out there.

Alan

.....and from the website.....

➤ Hump Ridge Track to be newest Great Walk. Minister of Conservation Eugenie Sage has announced the newest addition to the Great Walk network. DoC will now work with the Tuatapere Hump Ridge Trust to bring the walk up to Great Walk standard and change it from its' current 2night walk to a 3night experience. Approximately \$5m of funding is dedicated to the upgrade. The new Great Walk will be set to open in late 2022 after track upgrades are complete. FMC will keep a watchful eye to ensure the use of Port Craig Schoolhouse to the South Coast Track and beyond are not compromised, and commercial development associated with the tracks' new Great Walk status is kept in check.

~~~~~  
***Weekends are a bit like rainbows – they look good from a distance but disappear when you get up close to them – John Shirley***  
~~~~~

### Excerpts from “why can't kiwis fly” by Gerard Hutching

#### **Why is pounamu found only in several locations in the South Island?**

Greenstone is created by an accident of geology. Hundreds of millions of years ago, 10km and deeper under the earth's crust, 2 types of rock fused at high temperatures and massive pressures to create the mineral nephrite (the most common type of pounamu) and bowenite (found only in Fiordland). Nephrite is as strong as steel, and bowenite is softer and rarer. The chemical conditions required to create pounamu occur scarcely throughout the South Island: Nelson, Westland, South Westland, Makarora, Wakatipu, Milford Sound, and the Livingstone mountains. By analysing pounamu for its' strontium signature, it is possible to determine the source of the material – distinguishing it clearly from Chinese and Canadian jade passed off as coming from NZ.

#### **NZ is unusual in the number of giant species of animals that live here**

##### **Why are there so many?**

NZ is a classic case study for the evolutionary phenomenon of gigantism. Animals tend to grow larger on islands than on continents because often there

are no mammals which eat birds or insects. Since they no longer have to escape or hide from predators, they can grow larger. There are still a few living size-record-beaters among the birds although most of the giant birds have become extinct. We boast the largest parrot – Kakapo, and rail – Takahe. Extinct are Haasts' eagle which had a wingspan of 3 m, Eyles' harrier, moa, NZ goose, and the adzebills.

Giant weta benefitted from the lack of predators and became the world's heaviest insect.

### **How much westerly migration has there been from Oz?**

Aided by the prevailing westerly wind, it has been possible for a few birds to arrive in NZ. Several million years ago the takahe flew in, thousands of years ago the black stilt arrived, and just 150 years ago the silvereye (waxeye) arrived. In the 1930s the spur-winged plover began breeding in Southland and steadily moved north

An Australian bittern got caught in a strong wind in 1987 was found walking past a Westport store. A Willie wagtail was recently seen on a Chatham island beach.

Since 1800 the following have established themselves and begun breeding in NZ: Soft-plumaged petrel, white-faced heron, royal spoonbill, australasian coot, black-fronted dotterel, and welcome swallow. In 2012 13 pelicans arrived on the Wairoa river at Dargaville. Will they stay and breed?

In the last 1200 years Australasian bittern, NZ shoveller, Australasian harrier, pukeko, and pied stilt have arrived and established themselves here. In summer some butterflies have also established but the painted lady does not survive our winter temperatures. Some red rock lobster start life on southern Australian shores and grow up in NZ waters

Eastbound travellers are gannets and recently a shark was tagged as leaving Stewart island and arriving at Great Barrier reef.

### **Why is a kiwi egg so big?**

The egg contains the largest proportion of yolk of any egg. Just before hatching the chick eats the yolk, ensuring it has a full tummy for the first few days of life and doesn't have to forage for food. New-born chicks are left to fend for themselves.



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