



# 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 2018



Karangahake Gorge Photo by Sheryl Thomas

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## Trip reports

**Trip 2764**

**Port Waikato**

**22 Apr**

It dawned a perfect day for a tramp. Ten happy trampers set off for the wilds of the west coast – boys were seriously outnumbered by the girls so felt the need to be in charge of driving and leading. Quick trip in a northerly direction then swung out to the coast from Pokeno. The initial part of the tramp was a little challenging due to the amount of gorse and the uphill nature of the terrain.



Toadstool

photo by Sheryl Thomas

One of the team was feeling unwell so our driver guided her back to the van and then endeavoured to catch up to the rest of the bunch. Thankfully there was some cell phone coverage that gave him some idea of which bulldozed track we had taken once we hit the fence line. We continued along bulldozed tracks with Manuka/tea tree all around and it would have been easy to end up going in the wrong direction as the bulldozed tracks dissected so often. Once we could see the ocean we stopped and ate some lunch and did some running repairs to a pair of boots which most definitely needed to go into permanent retirement.

The weather was ideal with the sun shining and not too much of a sea breeze as we followed the coast north and made our way around in a large loop. Some more boot repairs for the final leg, a drop back down through the gorse and we were back at the van. Ice cream at Pokeno – someone tried to come home a different way and “rob” us of our treat, overruled driver a “U” turn is required. The ice creams were well worth the trouble of changing direction. Fabulous day in the sun, fresh air and gentle walking. Tramp leader Doug, driver John M, Fiona, Daphne, Tina, Amanda, Carla, Jocelyn, Mathilde & Sheryl.



The wide open spaces at Port Waikato

Photo by Sheryl Thomas

## **Trip 2772**

## **Karangahake Mountain**

**24 June**

It was a cloudy misty day as we all met in the bottom carpark, and then headed up the mountain. I noted that there were lots of birds at the bottom which tended to disappear as we climbed higher up the mountain.

The climb to the top took several turns, including a reasonably steep shortcut, before reaching the top trig station. Sadly the view from the top was covered in mist. We waited for a while in the hope that the mist would clear to take advantage of the mountain views. However, this was not to happen so we headed back down the slippery track, occasionally falling over on the clay surface, and taking advantage of the squelchy mud to stomp in.

On the way down we passed several waterfalls, and old mine shafts which were flooded so we could not enter, but intend to return over the summer to explore further.

As we descended the track, our trip leader Allan Wickens pointed out various mountain walking tips the most notable was what to do when you become separated from your party or lost. In summary the best advice was to stay put, and wear clothing that stands out against the surrounding vegetation.

When we reached the bottom it started to rain, and it was decided to do the windows walk.

This was amazing as we walked up the track cut into the side of the valley, we crossed the bridge, and headed further up the valley looking into the old mine shafts along the way which were barred with steel gates.

We returned back down the valley to the bottom of the steps to climb up to the windows cave. The cave seemed to go for ever along the old railway line with different branches going deeper into the hill. Along the way we saw small waterfalls and glow worms. We finished the trip in the café with a yummy muffin.

Scribe: Lily Lye

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### **Trip 2776**

### **Wharawhara to Waitawheta Hut**

**21/22 July**

Start 10am team 1 from the end of Wharawhara Road: Damon, Robert, Laurette, Helen, Ray, Selwyn, & Ashley headed off on the Wharawhara track.

We had many river crossings, the only major one being at the start. After hours of slogging up the hill, we reached the top. We had a lovely lunch spot at the top of the climb, with many young Kauri trees coming up through the canopy.

There were many photo opportunities many lovely waterfalls and beautiful blue water. We even saw yellow mushrooms.

We took a detour to the Kauri dam, down a dodgy track and were pleased to see a crystal clear stream and two logs across the stream tied together with steel cable. The dam had filled with gravel, but you could still see where the logs were squared off.

John, Jean, and Kathy headed around to Franklin Road. They stopped for a coffee break in Katikati and enjoyed a chocolate muffin, while the rest were slogging. But we were grateful that they dropped us off, and pleased to meet up later at the hut. Both teams had planned to meet at the hut so we were all surprised when we all arrived at the hut together at 3:15pm. The fine drizzle started just as we arrived. Those tenting quickly set the tents up and we were all inside by 3:45pm having cheese crackers, hummus and hot soup. Some of us enjoyed a red wine, well earned after a long slog.

Day two, or was that drizzle two? The clouds were low, they came in overnight and woke me at 1:15am with a light pitter patter on the tent fly, which increased in intensity through the night. Selwyn commented that he heard the wind whining in the night, and had been woken by a drip every 10 minutes on his face. Funny what we can sleep through.

When time came to pack down my sleeping roll I discovered I was sleeping in a puddle, I was grateful for my blowup air mattress that had saved me from a soaking. Note to self, look for flat and free draining camp sites in future.

Our walkout was a brisk one taking around three hours. I had the fun of practicing three river crossings, none of the others opted for the wet route in the river which had not risen much from the rain. We then enjoyed a visit to the cafe in the gorge. Nice hot drinks and snacks with an entertaining group of friends. Look forward to another outing with everyone. Ashley (scribe and leader)



Damon, Helen, Laurette, Selwyn, Ray, Robert, and excited trip leader & photographer, Ashley

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**Photos from the recent Snowcraft courses.**



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