



THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

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

December 2020



Ngamuwahine rest stop Photo by Rizal Razak

Powelliphanta snail
photo by Judith



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Club night, Wednesday, 3rd February

This is going to be a surprise for you and the social convenor so watch this space. More details in January.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2020/2021

2912	12/13 Dec	E/M	Ngatuhua Lodge	Selwyn June
2913	20 Dec	VF	Mountain madness	John McArthur
2914	21 Dec-5 Jan	M/F	Inland Kaikoura Range	Allan Wickens
			2021	
2915	6-17 Jan	E/M	Ramblings in northern South Island	Allan Wickens
	10 Jan	Too easy	Picnic in Hamilton Gardens	Dianne & Selwyn June
2916	16/17 Jan	M/F	Lower Matakuaia Hut	Mike Peck
2917	17-23 Jan	M/F	Albert Burn to Wanaka	CANCELLED
2918	24 January	E/M	Pinnacles & Billygoat Track	Allan Wickens
2919A	29 Jan/1 Feb	M	Waipakihi R & Junction tops	Jacqui Dick
2919B	29 Jan/1 Feb	F	Kaimanawas &	Mike Peck
2920	6-8 Feb	M	Ruahines/Kawhatau	Allan Wickens
2921	14 Feb	E/M	Otawa Trig	Steve Cranefield
	14/15 Feb	E/M	Pureora baiting	Dianne & Selwyn June
2922	15-20 Feb	M	Heaphy Track FULL	Peter Ayson
2923	20-21 Feb	E/M	Tongariro crossing	Allan Wickens
2924	22-25 Feb	E/M	West coast wilderness cycle trail FULL	Margaret & Keith Robbins
2925	24 Feb-3 Mar	M	1000 Acre Plateau	Lois Rowell
2926	24-27 Feb		Jumboland / Wilkin R L Castella	Steve Cranefield
2927	28 Feb	E/M	Waikato River trails	Ron Dick
2928	1-7 Mar	VF	Ivory lake – Westland	Mike Peck
2929	5 – 8 Mar	M/F	Hump Ridge track FULL	Jacqui Dick

2930	7-15 Mar	F	Snowy Cr, Cascade & Arawhata Saddles	John Davies
2931	6/7 Mar	M	Kaiwhakauka Track	Les Warren
2933	21 Mar	E/M	Bushcraft	Club Captain
2934	21-25 Mar	M/F	Kaimais - Sth to Nth	Rizal Razal
2935	28 Mar	M	Waiorongomai	John McArthur
2936	2-5 Apr	M	Mt Hikurangi	Allan Wickens

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

TIME and FITNESS GUIDELINES

E = Easy. Up to 4 hours per day, pace slower than E/M.

E/M = Easy/Medium. Up to 5-6 hours/day, pace slower than M.

M = Medium. Up to 6-7 hours/day, at standard walking pace.

M/F = Medium/Fit. Up to 7-8 hours/day, pace faster than M.

F = Fit. Over 8 hours/day, pace faster than M/F.

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

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

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

Trip Descriptions

Trip 2912 Last tramp of the year- Ngatuhua Lodge 12/13 Dec

A relaxing weekend at Ngatuhua Lodge with plenty of activities for kids and some good tramps. Ngatuhua Lodge is a well setup educational camp located in the Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park on the other side of the Kaimais to the south-east of Tauranga. The lodge sleeps 50 and there is a camping area and a BBQ. It has its own hydro power scheme which is worth a look. There is a confidence course, kayaking in a canal, tubing and swimming in the river. And a night-time glow worm walk.

Bush walks of varying lengths are planned to Te Rere I Oturu Falls, Ngatuhua Falls and the Opuaki Ecological area where we might see kokako and kaka. There is also a short nature walk with interpretive panels

Leader: Selwyn June **Ph:** 07 8433066 **Grade:** E/M

Accommodation: \$44/person

Transport: Senior members \$50-75 Senior non-members: \$55-80

Trip 2913 Mountain madness 20 Dec

This is a spontaneous sort of day out – if the weather packs in we will give it away (or wait in a pub for the weather to clear, right!).

The plan is to see how many of the Waikato mountains we can climb in one day – the longest day of the year.

Previous years we have done Pirongia, Maungatautari and Te Aroha, and found this sequence was manageable (provided you eat and drink enough to keep you going). However, last year, and again this year, Maungatautari from the North is not available to us so we will look at approaching Maungatautari from the South and either do the true peak, or just Pukeatua. Whatever – it will be a full day!!! Be in! – the car(s) leave Hamilton early 6am. Last year we did Pirongia up and back before lunch. And we get back late – that's why they call it the Longest Day.

Leader: John McArthur **Ph:** 021 2889641 **Grade:** Very Fit

Transport: Private cars

Trip 2914 Inland Kaikouras 21 Dec-5 Jan

A climb of Mount Tapuae-u-nuku (2885 m) is considered a highlight of many an experienced trumper's portfolio and for good reason. It is the highest peak north of the Mount Cook area and was one of the first peaks Sir Edmund Hillary climbed when he was a young man based at Woodbourne Air Force base. He did it the hard way by traversing the very long ridge from Shin Hut to the summit and back. On his return, he was tired, dirty and unshaven but happy as he had "climbed a decent mountain at last" (in his words). Today, the standard route is easier, via the Hodder River and staying at the Hodder Huts as a base (there are two of them). As it is likely there will be remnant snow on the mountain, we need to take crampons and ice axe. Preferably you will have done a basic

snowcraft course. However, Allan can teach you at the time. There is no guarantee of a place in the huts, so we need to take tents. Two days are set aside for the return journey up and down the Hodder and 3 days for climbs in the area/wet weather. If the Hodder is running above normal the trip will be modified accordingly and in the event of bad weather, an alternative area will be looked at (Richmond Range/Nelson Lakes for example). This trip is going ahead as we already have a group of 3. Please enrol early as there are some variables involved.

Leader: Allan Wickens **Ph:** 027 9509546 **Grade:** M/F

Email: *allanwickens@hotmail.com*

Transport: Private cars or van (To be determined). **Costs:** tba

Trip 2915 Ramblings in northern South Island 6-17 Jan

This is a great opportunity to check out as many South Island DOC parks as possible, in a 11-12 day period. The basic plan is to start at Blenheim, on the 6th of January. Travelling in a counter-clockwise direction through Marlborough-Nelson-West Coast-Arthur's Pass-Lewis Pass (Hanmer) and back to Blenheim by the 16th. Almost all tramps will be either half a day or one day in duration and there may be some walks as short as an hour or two. They will also be graded easy to moderate, to cater for less experienced or (dare I say it?) older members like myself. Interspersed with scenic travel, cafe stops and mostly camping (van-based). As it is likely most accommodation will be booked out at this time of year, the aim is to be as independent as possible. If there is sufficient numbers keen on going, I'll look at getting a rental van. Otherwise, we will use private vehicles (you need to book the ferries early). Please enrol early or let Allan know ASAP if interested.

Leader: Allan Wickens **Ph:** 027 9509546 **Grade:** E/M

Email: *allanwickens@hotmail.com*

Transport: Private arrangements

Accommodation: Van-based camping or backpacker level.

Picnic in Hamilton Gardens 10 Jan

The trip number got removed so we don't have to wander anywhere if we can smell the roses from the Band rotunda. Let's meet at the band rotunda near the childrens' playground (note: for children!) about 5.30pm. BYO almost everything -. such as a chair, food and refreshments. Of course, it won't be raining, but if it is, we'll cancel the event.

Leaders: Dianne & Selwyn June **Ph:** 8433066

Ungraded as no category is easy enough **Transport:** BYO that too.

Cost: Just whatever fine food you wish to devour.

Trip 2916 Lower Matakauia hut 16/17 Jan

We'll drive down Friday night to the Waipunga Conservation area between Taupo and Napier. We access the track off State Highway 5 and follow a forestry road to

the start of the Opureke track where we'll camp for the night. It's estimated 6-7 hours walking to reach Lower Matakuhia Hut on the Saturday although the status of the track is unknown at the moment and whether it's been maintained in recent times. An exploration of the track is to be undertaken shortly. Our Plan B if this track proves elusive, we will do a trip up Clements Mill Rd to tramp on the Hinemaiaia track and camp near the site of the old Tauranga-Taupo hut or a trip on the Oamaru Boyd track to camp alongside the river.

Leader: Mike Peck

Ph: 021369256

Grade: M/F

Transport: Senior member \$50-75

Senior non-member \$55-80

Trip 2917

Albert Burn to Wanaka

17-23 Jan

This trip has been cancelled due to the low number of bookings.

Trip 2918

Pinnacles & Billygoat Track

24 Jan

This trip is often done as an “overnighter” but is also popular as a “one-dayer”. Either way, it is an enjoyable part of the country to tramp in and is very popular with all ages. From Hamilton, we drive to Thames and up the Kauaeranga Valley to the end of the road. With just our day packs, it should take about 2.5 hours to reach the hut and a further half hour to the dramatic and rocky twin peaks of the Pinnacles (759 metres). Most tracks in this area are remnants of the hey-day of kauri milling in the 1920’s. Pinnacles Hut (80 bunks) is the largest mountain hut in the country. After lunch, we will head down to our van via the slightly longer Billygoat Walk and a crossing of the Kauaeranga River, where the bridge has recently been swept away in a flood. The grading of this trip will be “top-end of easy and into moderate” due to the slightly more rugged return section of the walk. We have plenty of time to do the walk and there will be lots of stops. You may enjoy a welcome swim at the end so bring a towel and togs.

Leader: Allan Wickens

Ph: 027 9509546

Grade: E/M

Email: *allanwickens@hotmail.com*

Transport: Senior member: \$20-25

Senior non-member: \$ 25-30

Trip 2919 A

Waipakihi Hut & Junction Tops:

29 Jan/1 Feb

The plan for this long weekend is to walk into Waipakihi Hut following the Umukarikari Range. This track climbs up through beech forest onto the alpine ridge with fantastic views. It takes 4-5 hours to reach the hut.

The hut sleeps 12 but as it’s a long weekend the plan is to camp by the river as it will probably be full. And to have a swim or two if it’s hot!

On Sunday we will do a day trip up to Junction Tops (1605m) for even more impressive views out over the mountains. On Monday we will walk out the way we came in

This is a perfect weekend for a few days in a stunning part of the North Island

Leader: Jacqui Dick

Ph: 021 2608149

Grade: M

Transport: Senior member: \$ 60-90

Senior non-member: \$ 65-95

Trip 2919 B**Kaimanawas****29 Jan – 1 Feb**

We'll drive down Friday night and camp at one of the Kaimanawa Rd/Waihaha Valley/Urchin Campsites. On Saturday morning we'll make a decision to either walk the Urchin track right through to the Umukarikari track and onto Waipakihi Hut and then down the river to camp the night or up the Umukarikari track, back along the urchin track and down and along the river to meet up with 2919A trip group.. On the Sunday we'll walk up the Waipakihi Middle range route and around to Thunderbolt and then back down to the Waipakihi river and camp opposite the Thunderbolt track. Monday is a short straight forward walk out to the Urchin carpark. Saturday night dinner will be a shared gourmet meal, more details later about what to bring. The trip is rated F for Sat/Sun.

Leader: Mike Peck**Ph:** 021369256**Grade:** F**Transport:** Senior member: \$ 60-90

Senior non-member: \$ 65-95

Trip 2920**Ruahines/Kawhatau Hut****6-8 Feb**

This trip takes us to the western side, northern section of the Ruahine Forest Conservation Area. Using the former Forest Service Kawhatau Base on Saturday and Sunday nights, we will be able to do day trips up onto the tops of Colenso Trig (1408m) and the Hikurangi Range. Given good weather, a separate group may wish to stay out on the "tops" for Saturday night, returning to Kawhatau and linking up with the rest of the group for Sunday night.

Kawhatau Base has been booked for the two nights and we have exclusive use of the place, which has 8 bunks, a basic kitchen, toilet and bath. There is plenty of room apart from the bunks and some people may wish to camp on the grassy flats at the hut. To get to this place, there is a 9 kilometre walk up the Kawhatau River. This route is not recommended during times of high river flow, so we will need an alternative tramp in the area should the weather gods be against us. It also means we forfeit the cost of Kawhatau Base, but at \$60 a night between 10-12 people that will be of little consequence no doubt.

We will leave Hamilton Friday night and travel as far as Taihape for the night. The next day, there is about an hours' drive to Rangitane Road and the start of the walk. Saturday and Sunday will be spent tramping. On Monday, we do the return trip back to Hamilton.

Leader: Allan Wickens.**Ph:** 027 9509546**Grade:** M**Email** *allanwickens@hotmail.com***Accommodation:** backpacker at Taihape plus two nights Kawhatau Base @ minimal cost) Tba**Transport:** Senior member: \$ 60-90

Senior non-member: \$ 65-95

Trip 2921**Otawa Trig****14 Feb**

We will leave Hamilton at 8am and drive to Te Puke Quarry road to start the tramp at 10am The track follows the gently undulating ridgeline to Ottawa Trig with views of the coast and Mt Maunganui and Papamoa passing through lowland

forest dominated by tawa and rewarewa. Lunch at the trig and then a descent down through the bush to Demeter road for our pick-up. Total distance 13km, expected time 5-6 hours the track will be mostly undulating and downhill in this direction. We should be back in Hamilton around 6pm. Hats and sunblock essential as there will be periods in the open farmland on this trip.

Leader: Steve Cranefield

Ph: 0274 368 216

Grade: E/M

Transport: Senior member \$20-25

Senior non-member \$25-30

Trip 2922

Heaphy Track

15-20 Feb

This trip is now FULL

A small group is doing the Heaphy and you are welcome to join in. We will be camping rather than using the huts, and the camp sites are closing fast for the following dates. We will meet up in Nelson on the 14th February, staying in the YHA in town. Then....

Day 1, 15th February; Brown Hut (road end) to Perry Saddle camp

Day 2, 16th; Perry Saddle camp to Gouland Downs camp

Day 3, 17th; Gouland Downs to James Mackay camp

Day 4, 18th; James Mackay to Heaphy camp

Day 5, 19th; Heaphy camp to the Kohaihai river mouth and road end. Shuttle to Karamea.

Day 6, 20th; day trip into the Oparara valley for walks (Not the Honeycomb Hill tour)

Day 7, shuttle to Westport and bus back to Nelson (hopefully, if Intercity starts running again).

Leader: Peter Ayson

Ph: 0274 797 077

Grade: M

Transport: Private arrangements

Pureora baiting

13/14 Feb

This is not an official club trip but with so many of you having participated in the past and enjoyed a leisurely walk in a beautiful forest, here is a description to entice you to join in again, and keep your fitness programme going. If Selwyn has correctly budgeted the bait requirements needed to kill all the rats in the Okahukura valley, you won't have much bait to put in your packs - yes this time we are removing whatever the rats (and occasional possum) have not eaten over the past 5 months. So, expect your day pack to get fuller but not too much so as you enjoy the sights and sounds of the Pureora Forest. Kokako numbers in this patch of forest are increasing markedly so you'll have a good chance of hearing or seeing them. We will stay at the Pureora Lions Lodge, arriving on Friday night. A safety briefing happens in the evening, and we head further into the forest on Saturday morning. Should we be fortunate enough to have so many volunteers on site that we get to visit every bait station on Saturday, we will be able to do a tramp on Sunday and my favourite is the Whangamata bike track to Kinloch. This is a scenic, mainly downhill, easy walk to the shores of Kawakawa bay (with time for a swim if you wish) before continuing on to Kinloch and our

For full description see: <https://www.westcoasttravel.co.nz/west-coast-wilderness-trail-greymouth-to-ross/>

Costs: Bike hire: \$55/day for 4 days (E-bikes available at extra cost)

Bag transfer (if required): \$90/bag for whole trip (all bags must be under 15kg)

Shuttle: Ross to Greymouth \$70 per person (includes bike and passenger)

Accommodation: backpackers/camping ground cabins offering a variety of options. Allow \$35 night for 5 nights.

Leader: Margaret & Keith Robbins

Ph: 02102320067 or 0211207752

Email: *kandm.robbins@gmail.com*

Grade: M

Transport: Private arrangements

Trip 2925

1000acre Plateau

24 Feb – 3 Mar

The 1000-acre plateau is a great tussock tableland in the southern Kahurangi National Park north of Murchison. This 4/5-day trip offers spectacular views and interesting limestone formations. The track starts at the end of Matiri Valley Road with 3 hours walk to Lake Matiri Hut. Tents will be needed as all huts are small with only 4 bunks. The following day is a steep 800 metre climb to get to Poor Pete Hut on the plateau for lunch. Then another 3 hours of more gentle terrain to reach Larrikin Creek Hut where we will be based for two nights. The next day will be spent exploring the area – The Needle, The Haystack and the upper 100 Acres Plateau. We will retrace our steps back down to Lake Matiri Hut for the last night and out to the road end on day five.

There may be an add on trip to the West Coast to do a number of short walks. For example, the Ballroom Overhang at Fox River which is a 4-hour return walk just north of Punklike, Cave Creek and other walks in the Paparoa area. This will be decided closer to February

Leader: Lois Rowell

Ph: 027 2881148

Grade: M

Transport: Private arrangements

Trip 2926

Jumboland/ Wilkin/Lake Castella

24-27 Feb

This will be a more relaxed / exploratory trip of the Wilkin Valley.

Day 1 starts with an early jetboat from Makarora to Kerrin forks hut then tramp up to Jumboland and if time and river crossings allow up into the Wonderland valley to camp the night.

Day 2 we will explore the valley then retrace steps to the Wilkin and head to Top Forks hut for the night.

Day 3 we will take day packs to visit the 3 lakes Diana, Lucidus, and Castalia then return to Top Forks.

Day 4 will be the return for a late afternoon Jetboat back to Makarora.

NB: Tents will be required.

Leader: Steve Cranefield

Ph: 027 4368216

Grade: M

Email: *steve.cranefield1@gmail.com*

Transport: Private arrangements

Trip 2927 **Waikato River trails** **28 Feb**

The Waikato River is New Zealand's longest and the 100km of off-road trails that follow the river banks is known as the Waikato River Trails which go from Lake Karapiro in the north to Atiamuri in the south, taking in five lakes, five hydro dams and a number of small towns and villages, showcasing some of the best of the Waikato heartland. The section we will be walking is from Jones' Landing to the Mangarewa suspension bridge. Part of this section has been re-routed and once I have done the recce I will be able to bring you more information. But like the other two sections of the River Trails that I have led, the trip will be full of interest.

Leader: Ron Dick **Ph:** 021 2608149 **Grade:** E

Email: ronjmd@icloud.com

Transport: Senior member \$20-25 Senior non-member \$25-30

Trip 2928 **Ivory Lake, Westland** **1-7 Mar**

Ivory Lake Hut is a remote hut in Westland. It's a three day walk up the Waitaha river to reach Ivory Lake and its' iconic hut. We'll stay two nights at the hut allowing a day walk to a surrounding peak. Day 5 will be an alpine crossing to Top Tuke Hut and then a further two days walk out down the Tuke river. There will be some long days tramping in a challenging environment, a good level of fitness and experience in river trekking essential. We have 4 trampers confirmed for this trip with a maximum of six.

Leader: Mike Peck **Ph:** 021369256 **Grade:** Very fit

Transport: Private arrangements

Trip 2929 **Hump Ridge track** **5-8 Mar**

This trip is full but if you want to put your name on a waiting list....

Leader: Jacqui Dick **Ph:** 021 1375201 **Grade:** M/F

Transport: Private arrangements.

Trip 2930 **Time on the Tops/Aspiring National Park** **7-15 Mar**

A journey with a difference, from Rees Valley to the Matukituki Valley and beyond; whilst allowing time to explore the tops above Snowy Creek, Cascade Saddle and Arawhata Saddle areas.

Visiting the remote wilderness of Mt Aspiring National Park with its dreamland of mountains, glaciers, birdlife, river valleys and alpine lakes.

If you enjoy stunning vistas of mountains and glaciers, some off-track travel and tenting at high altitudes this is the trip for you.

Leaders: Jo Walker **Ph** 027 3097750 **Grade:** F

John Davies **Ph** 027 4772209

Transport: Arrange own to Queenstown for start, we finish in Wanaka

Did you know that putting dry teabags in smelly shoes can help remove the unpleasant odour?

Did you know that rain contains vitamin B12?

Trip 2931**Kaiwhakauka Track****6/7 Mar**

It is approx. 4hrs drive from Hamilton to Whakahoro, on the banks of the Whanganui River. There is a very good and spacious campsite and a 10-bed hut (old classroom). The initial plan is to travel to Whakahoro on Friday late-afternoon and take two days to walk the track. Unfortunately, the track is one-way, so will need to be picked up from the Ruatiti Road end, which is NW inland from Raetihi. I have yet to fully check out the track to firm up on details. I have checked the track between Whakahoro and Mosley's Shelter but, plan on checking the track between Ruatiti and Mosley's Shelter. The section between Whakahoro and Mosley's Shelter, unfortunately includes a boring metal road section for the first hour. The bush section is well-graded. Once I have completed my track visits, I will update this trip details for the bulletin and website.

Leader: Les Warren**Ph:** 027 864 4937**Grade:** M**Email:** *warrenlb2017@outlook.com.***Transport:** Senior member \$50-75

Senior non-member \$55-80

Trip 2935**The Chasm and Waiorongomai****28 Mar**

Way up there in them thar hills, there's a chasm! It's called the chasm because it is a chasm: - "a deep fissure in the earth's surface". It is part of a fault line running from Buck Rock along the northern side of the Waiorongomai Valley which is situated a few kilometres south of Te Aroha.

To get from the Waiorongomai carpark we will follow the upper track, possibly side tracking to the top of Buck rock, until the end of the old mining tramline and then on to the Mangakino pack track for a short while to just past Premier creek. From there we will bush bash upwards, keeping close to the creek to where we should stumble onto (NOT INTO) the chasm. It is a gaping deep trench in the ground, quite amazing really and very interesting.

The return trip will most likely be back down via the May Queen incline and eventually to the bottom of the valley for an easy and pleasant stroll out to the carpark via the lower Waiorongomai track following closely beside the Waiorongomai Stream. Be prepared for a bit of bush bashing ...

Leader: John McArthur**Ph:** 021 2889641**Grade:** M**Email:** *mcarthur@outlook.co.nz***Transport:** Senior member \$20-25

Senior non-member: \$25-30

Trip 2934**Kaimai Full Length (South – North)****21-25 Mar**

The trip is a five-day tramp over the Kaimai Range and will start from the entrance off SH29, on the southern side of the range, and ends at the Karangahake Gorge.

Total distance would be approximately 82 km.

Leader: Rizal Razak**Ph:** 021 2676566**Grade:** M/F**Email:** *rizrak@gmail.com***Transport:** This may involve private cars

Trip 2936**Mt. Hikurangi****2-5 April**

courtesy of Google) "Mount Hikurangi (or Te Ara ki Hikurangi in Maori), is a 1,752m (5748 feet) peak in the eastern corner of New Zealand's North Island, about 80 kilometres (50 miles) north of Gisborne and 50 kilometres (31 miles) southwest of East Cape Lighthouse. On a spur of the Raukumara Range in the Waiapu Valley, it is the North Island's highest non-volcanic peak".

Our Club undertakes a pilgrimage to this historic *maunga* approximately every two years and almost always on a long weekend due to the time needed to travel there and back. Again, from Google, "in Maori mythology, it was the first part of the North Island to emerge when Maui pulled it as a giant fish from the ocean."

So, there are several reasons to add a climb to the summit of this high peak. But surprisingly, although Hikurangi stands aloft from other peaks, it has the nearby satellite summits of Whanokao (1,428 m), Wharekia (1,106m) and Taitai (678m) to keep it company. They all combine to make a wonderful panorama.

We leave Hamilton on Thursday night and travel to either Whakatane or Opotiki where we stay the night. The next day it takes most of the morning to drive to the trail head at Pakihiroa Station, in the Tapuaeroa Valley. After signing in with the farmer, we walk 4-5 hours up farmland on a 4WD track to the hut (10 bunks but can take up to 12 persons). We have booked Hikurangi Hut for two nights (\$30 per person). The next day we head for the summit, which is a 4/6-hour return trip. On Sunday (extra summit day if bad weather Saturday) we will travel to Te Araroa and stay the night after first visiting the East Cape and its lighthouse. Monday will involve a leisurely drive back to Hamilton.

Leader: Allan Wickens

Ph: 027 950 9546

Grade : M

Email: allanwickens@hotmail.com

Cost: Senior member / Senior non-member tba (two nights backpacker level / 2 nights hut)

Please Note: This trip will be limited to 10-12 persons only and preference will be given to those who have yet to attempt Mt Hikurangi. We will all travel in a van as the cost for the 4-day hire requires a full loading.

Trip 2938**Cape Brett****16-18 April**

(Depart 8am Friday 16 April, return Sunday 18th late evening)

We will leave early Friday morning and travel up to Northland, stopping on the way to do a short walk at a Regional Park. Friday night will be camping on the Marae grounds at Rawhiti. Dinner will be in Russell that night at Hones Garden Pizza Restaurant. The next day we start the Cape Brett walk.

This track traverses rugged terrain for 16 km through native and regenerating bush. Expect dramatic coastal views; steep cliffs and drop-offs to the side of the track are a feature. From the forested ridges, we will take in spectacular coastal scenery. Towards the Cape, walking alongside the dramatic cliff-face, you can often see dolphins and seals will come close to shore.

We may possibly take a side-track (1 hr return) down to Deep Water Cove, where we could enjoy a refreshing swim if it's a nice day. From Deep Water Cove onwards, the track gets more challenging and becomes quite exposed with steep drop-offs to the sea below. There are outstanding views of the outer Bay of Islands, north to the Cavalli Islands and south to Whangaruru and beyond to the Poor Knights Islands. The lighthouse at the end of the Cape Brett Peninsula is one of the many highlights of this spectacular walk. First built in 1910, more than 100 people looked after this station over its lifetime – including keepers, weathermen, butchers, gardeners, postmasters, painters and carpenters. It was decommissioned in 1978, although a replacement light still functions to this day.

That night we have booked out the 23 bunk Cape Brett Hut so we will have it all to ourselves! Sunday we head back to the way we came in. There is a possibility of the option of using a water taxi for part of the return trip but this is yet to be decided depending on logistics. Bookings require a \$55 deposit which covers the track permit and hut fee. Total costs will be approx \$150 - \$190 (depending on if we use the water taxi) Pop into Bivouac Outdoors to talk to Mike if you have any questions at all.

Leaders: Jacqui Dick
Mike Peck

Ph: 021 1375201
021369256

Grade: M/F

Email: jacquimd@me.com

Transport: Senior member \$60-90

Senior non-member: \$65-95

Track/hut fee: \$55. Water taxi and marae camping cost tba

Approx total cost for weekend: \$200.each.

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*Editorial*

You don't need to tell you about the past year so let's look forward to another successful tramping year in 2021. I am planning to include fewer (read 'no') mistakes in the monthly editions. My apologies for those errors. I truly try to avoid them or not even make them but those dashed gremlins still find a way to upset me.

This has been a great year for receiving your trip reports and I'll bet the rest of you have enjoyed reading them too. Ours is a very social club with a particular purpose in life – to experience the wide range of places and opportunities in the outdoors. And what a bonus we have at the moment to be able to visit so many places without the hoardes of international tourists Mind you, there seem to be a lot of locals on the move now too. Go for it folks, make the most of our home and come back safely with some good ideas for the rest of us and the club. Set yourself a new goal – perhaps 1 tramp a month, stretching yourself a bit but not so much that you are a burden on the rest of the trip participants (be honest with yourself), or just going somewhere you've never been before to camp or walk or just relax. I'm really looking forward to being able to visit some of the places I've

always wanted to go to but were not able to because of my fitness level and crook knee. Roll on 2021! If anyone knows how to get rid of the marking below the heading for the Presidents blog (it appears as a zigzag on my screen) please contact me!

~~~~~

Presidents' Blog

What a year. The Covid 'pause' saw us all retreat to home with time for contemplation, getting to know the neighbours and perhaps a few short walks in the bush. All club activities were curtailed and our 70th reunion was postponed until next May. Since the lockdown the club has got back into full gear with well supported trips and club meetings. Our Christmas party was a most enjoyable occasion in a sheltered garden out under the stars on a mild evening - many thanks to Jacqui and Ron for their preparation and for hosting us.

At the end of year party, I was pleased to make the award of Trampler of the Year 2020 to Judith Bogle (in absentia as she was on her way to the Milford Track). Judith is a keen tramper known to disappear to the South Island for weeks on end in the summer, a trip leader who is very helpful to new members, and the secretary to two club committees where she keeps everyone on track and provides useful input from her wide experience of life. Thank you, Judith for all your contributions to the life of the club.

I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a relaxing holiday. Don't forget that Waikato Hut makes a great venue for a break over summer in a handy location to do the many walks in Tongariro National Park.

Selwyn June, President

~~~~~

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

Waikato Hut members' rates for the summer will be adults \$25 children \$15. We ended the Ski season on the same rollercoaster ride that this year has been. Mt Ruapehu operations were extended with some late snow, but unseasonal warm weather and rain put paid to the last few weeks. A lucky few got the benefit of the last-minute opening of the Far West T bar.

This year some of our senior members stepped in to serve as Custodians timed with their plans and the level of bookings. Thanks to Ashley, Mary & Stephen, Nicola, David, Naomi and anyone whom I've forgotten. On the whole it was lots of newer members who became the frequent users and it was very pleasing to be able to help those who were keen and willing.

Although the snow is retreating there are still sections up high as you approach the crater. Dennis headed in that direction recently and sent back a report of crunchy underfoot patches. Suitable preparation and experience should be the prerequisite for the softening snow pack, which will expose crevasses and slab

slips fairly easily. For those with snowcraft and practical experience the longer days are perfect for a hike up top.

With a few of us venturing overseas there's little remaining Xmas accommodation at most spots. However, a Xmas at The Lodge might be just the experience. There are lots of wonderful summer activities available around Tongariro National Park, and the easiest on mountain parking you will experience. Drop us an email at [waikatoski@gmail.com](mailto:waikatoski@gmail.com) to enquire or book for Summer.

Our working party dates next year are Feb 13/14 and Mar 6/7, with a further option Mar 20/21. There's more maintenance planned and it would be helpful to have a good turnout for all of these dates. There's always a good evening meal to be had, and the club provides the catering for the weekend.

Have you thought about making the most of Lodge and being a Custodian during our winter season? We'd love to have a club member in this rôle, and we're going to chip in on expenses too as a way of saying thanks. Send your enquiries or expressions of interest to us ... [waikatoski@gmail.com](mailto:waikatoski@gmail.com)

Finally, we say thanks to Russell and Stacey who were founding members of the original Hut Management Committee in 2006. They are stepping back from the frontline. We wish them both well and look forward to seeing them down at the Lodge enjoying the fruits of their labour.

Merry Xmas from The Ski Club Committee. Stephen , Team Leader.

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## **Mid-week Walks & Tramps**

We are going to continue with the current format for these having a walk or tramp on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. The activities have proven to be as varied as the group is and the communication via the Mid-week W & T s Group page on WhatsApp is working well.

If you would like to be part of this communication please download WhatsApp on your phone & text your request to Sharon 021 458 525.

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## **Trip Reports**

**Trip 2908** **Te Puia Loop Walk, Kawekas** **13 -15 Nov**

Twelve club members set out Thursday evening at 5.30pm for a 3-day tramp in the Kawekas. After dinner in Taupo. we drove on to our accommodation stopover at the Mohaka River Farm (1 hour out of Taupo. just off the Napier Taupo Road), where most of us stayed in cabins and a few pitched their tents. It is a very pleasant place to stopover and recommended if you're looking for a secluded and slightly rustic atmosphere.

We arose to a beautiful morning and on the road heading to Makahu Rd and the start of the track to Middle Hill Hut. After unusually bad flooding in Napier the Makahu Ford on the road up to the start of our walk was closed as the water

level was high. When we arrived there, we assessed it and decided it would be safe to cross by foot (linking arms) leaving the van parked by the side of the road. We then walked the 5km up the gravel road to the start of the track. The track up to Middle Hill hut is a steady climb through open manuka/kanuka country. It was hot work, with a gentle breeze and, to our relief, it flattened out to scrubland terraces for the last 30mins as we approached the hut. Tent sites were found and we shared the 6-bunk hut with some hunters, one of whom gave us some freshly caught venison which Steve prepared for us and it was carried for a tasting the following night. Quite a few tent sites by the hut. The hut was lovely, in good condition and had a fireplace with plenty of wood to burn. Our second day was the strenuous one, the track to Makino Hut was a series of steep descents and ascents on a fairly rugged track in places so we were on the track by 7.30am to beat the heat. Just after 12pm we completed our last climb and had lunch on a nice ridge. After our break we tramped on undulating terrain until the track turn-off that led down to the Mohaka River and Te Puia Lodge. It was a fairly long and steep descent in places on tired legs and we reached the river at 3pm.

From there it was a pleasant 45-minute walk up to the Mangatainoka hot springs to check out the three newly installed hot tubs which are very impressive. We camped under trees next to the springs and spent the evening sitting in the tubs, plunging in the river to cool off, sampling finely cooked venison bites and playing cards around a campfire.



Very laid back

Photo by Jacqui Dick

We left early the next morning (7.30am) for the walk out to the road end via the Te Puia Lodge track (3 hours) and the drive back to Hamilton. Back by 5.30pm. Overall it was an absolutely awesome three days with a lot of variety. The Mangatainoka Hot Springs camp site is a must when doing this circuit, as it is

right by the river with the most divine hot tubs, plenty of camp spots, a beach and places to have campfires. Not to be missed!

Jacqui Dick was the trip leader and John McArthur the driver. The others on the trip were Paul Q, Helen M, Jocelyn W , Steve D, Les W, Steve C, Maree, Liz H, Judith B and Mike P.

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Trip 2909

Ngamuwahine

22 Nov

A delightful 6hr return trip up high on the Kaimai range. Our tramp started from the Ngamuwahine road off the eastern side of the Kaimai range. . After a trouble-free stream crossing and relatively steep climb we plateaued out on top of the range. Access via the Ngamuwahine loop took us to a connecting track on to the Leyland O'Brien Tramway. We then connected with the North South track on top of the range.

A beautiful and easy walk, the track covered an area with historical tram rails for the logging of native trees that took place in previous times. There was the odd pleasant clearing where camps must have been established. There were many beech trees, smaller kauri, rata among this lovely forest, with rewarewa flowers frequently scattering the forest floor.

In recent history, in the 1980's, under the Kaimai-Mamaku State Forest Park management plan, the NZ government had proposed to establish the whole block into pine forest. After much publicised protest, this idea was abandoned. What a treasure trove of native flora and fauna has been preserved.

Our initial aim was to walk to the Hurunui hut, 1.5km ahead of our lunch stop, however after discussion, the decision was made to return via the same route to avoid a late conclusion to a lovely day.

Those on the trip expertly led by Rizal were: Jocelyn W (driver), Laurie V, John & Jean W, Cherry Y, Jasmine, Dave & Debbie W, Ray H, Isla T, Noeleen C, Sue H, Julie B, Jennifer Y, Debbie M, Lynette M.

From the committee table:

New members: Welcome to Debbie Marsh, Maree Drury, Lynette Morris

Resignations: Nil

Membership: We have 191 tramping members this month. Observation – we now have more female than male members. Go girls!

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### *Snippets from here 'n there*

✓ Do you have a PLB story to share? do you own/hire one and why/why not? Why do/don't you own/hire a beacon? The Mountain Safety Council team are looking for positive stories about PLB usage in an emergency situation, and what were the events leading up to it. It's important to us to share real stories about people packing a PLB and having to use them. By sharing these stories, we aim to

highlight good preparation and highlighting the importance of a PLB. Send your story to Rebekah: [rebekah.wilson@mountainsafety.org.nz](mailto:rebekah.wilson@mountainsafety.org.nz).

✓ A story from the Hutt Valley TC: A club member (the group leader) suffered burns to her face and arm when gas from a leaking cannister/burner ignited. The PLB was activated She was evacuated by helicopter to hospital. Gas and liquid fuel fires are best extinguished by starving them of air – use blankets, clothing (preferably not synthetic), a billy an ash bucket (but not if it contains coal dust). Burns are best treated with copious amounts of water to remove heat from the injury. Patients may suffer shock in addition to the injury. Do not hesitate to activate the PLB in these circumstances. *(Ed comment: this type of injury has happened to a member of our club while on a tramp in Egmont National Park. Please be careful with your cookers).*

✓ Boots for sale: 1 pair of near new Meindl tramping boots. Women's size 7.5 UK, 41.5 EU, 9.0 US. Model Himalaya Lady MFS. German made, leather. Top quality. Worn only 1 season. Retail \$NZ749.00, Asking price \$NZ250. Go to [Meindl.co.nz](http://Meindl.co.nz) for more information. Contact: Ian Manson, [ikvlmanson@gmail.com](mailto:ikvlmanson@gmail.com)

✓ **Recycling gas cannisters.** Take them to: GasPro, 134 Grey St., Ham East.

✓ **Recycling lithium batteries.** Take them to: Grimmer Motors, 998 Heaphy Terrace, Claudelands, Hamilton East, opposite Vege King.

✓ **Let's finish the year with the evidence of a lovely social evening at Jacqui & Ron's**





Socializing above, Chris L the cook below

Photos by the hostess





Te Puia Springs tubs – beautifully revamped Photo by Mike Peck

Mohaka River track to Te Puia Hut. Photo by Judith Bogle



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