



# THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

**WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)**

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

December 2018



Photo by Dave White

Wairere Stream

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**WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB**

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Free to members

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

**BULLETIN No 800**

**December 2018**

**General Committee**

(Contact details listed below)

<b>President:</b> Selwyn June	<b>Secretary:</b> Lois Rowell	<b>Treasurer:</b> John Grace
<b>Members:</b> John McArthur (VP tramp)	Mary Reed (VP Ski)	Stephen Phillips
Allan Wickens	Russell King	Stacey Thompson
Mike Nightingale	minean@xtra.co.nz	Doug Pagel
		8562394

**Tramping Subcommittee**

**Tramping email:** [waikatotrampingclub@gmail.com](mailto:waikatotrampingclub@gmail.com)

<b>Chairperson:</b> John McArthur	<a href="mailto:mcArthur@outlook.co.nz">mcArthur@outlook.co.nz</a>	8564394
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<b>Secretary:</b> Lois Rowell	<a href="mailto:loiserowell@gmail.com">loiserowell@gmail.com</a>	8565369

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<b>Assistant captain:</b> Doug Pagel	<a href="mailto:burtm35@yahoo.co.nz">burtm35@yahoo.co.nz</a>	8582445
<b>Membership:</b> Margaret Robbins	<a href="mailto:kandm.robbins@gmail.com">kandm.robbins@gmail.com</a>	8536921
<b>Web &amp; Facebook:</b> Dianne Ngapo	<a href="mailto:joe.ngapo@outlook.co.nz">joe.ngapo@outlook.co.nz</a>	0211192611
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**Ski Subcommittee**

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Waikato Tramping Club account: 03 1555 0091625 02 (& include the trip number)

## CLUB NIGHT: Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February

We start our new club night format in February, with a 7.30 pm start, a range of interesting speakers and guests, the 'Trip of the Month' pictorial. Where you see highlights from one of last month's trip. We'll also be increasing the signage and making the venue more easily identifiable for newcomers with banners and lighting improvements. Keep an eye on the website and Facebook for details of upcoming speakers and events.

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

**Time:** Doors open at 7.00pm, programme starts at 7.30pm.

**Cost:** \$2

**Social:** Although there will have been a few trips taking place throughout January we will start the social aspect of our year with a picnic in the park. Bring your evening meal & drinkies to the Band rotunda in Hamilton Gardens and anything you may like to share. A table will be provided but perhaps bring your own chair too. Start time will be 6.30 and will take place here rain or shine.

Contact Dianne on 8433066 if you have any queries.

### ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2018 - 2019

2797	22 Dec	F	Captain's Challenge	John McArthur
			2019	
2798	5-10 Jan	F	Tararua Ranges	Allan Wickens
2799	6 Jan	E	Waiorongomai circuit and hot pools	Club captain
2800	11-15 Jan	F	Inland Kaikouras	Allan Wickens
2801	12/13 Jan	E/M	Track Maintenance in Pureora	Dianne June
2802	20 Jan	E	Aotea to Kawhia beach	Jacqui Dick
	23 Jan	Social	Picnic in the Park	Dianne June
2803	26-28 Jan	F	Kaimanawa – Southern access	Mike Peck & Paul Quinn
2803 B	26-28 Jan	M	Kaimanawa – Waipakihi circuit	Selwyn June
	2 / 3 Feb		Waikato Hut - workparty	Stephen Phillips
2804	3 Feb	E	Te Kauri Park	Club captain
2805	6 Feb	E/M	Thames to Kaiarau cycle trip	David Cumming
2806	9-10 Feb	M	Whirinaki Loop	Ashley Hoskin
2807	16-22 Feb	F	Tararua Main range	Mike Peck & Paul Quinn
2808	17 Feb	E/M	River Crossing training	Club captain
2809	23/24 Feb	E-M	Exploring Coromandel Part 2	Allan Wickens

2810	24 Feb-2 Mar	F	Marks Flat the hard way	John Davies
2811	24 Feb-1 Mar	E	Cobb River	Colin Jones
2812	3 Mar		Pukerimu stream	Club captain
2813	3 – 9 Mar	E & M	Poulter R./ Arthurs Pass	Selwyn June
	9/10 Mar	E/M	Waikato Hut –workparty	Stephen Phillips
2814	9/10 Mar	EM	Caving trip	Club captain
2815	10-15 Mar		Travers Sabine	John McArthur
2816	17-22 Mar		Canterbury high country	John McArthur

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.

**Transport:** Juniors will be charged 50% of the senior non-members' rate.

#### 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

Bookings and cancellations for all trips must be made by the Monday night prior. 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 McCaw Lewis Chapman car park. 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

#### **Christmas Party**

**15 Dec**

We will be travelling to the Horsham Downs Golf Club for our annual festive dinner at 5.45pm. Please make your bookings via website [www.wtc.org.nz](http://www.wtc.org.nz).

**Leader:** Stephen Prendergast Ph: 021466247

**Cost:** Dinner \$45 **Transport:** \$10 – advise Stephen if you want a ride

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#### **Trip 2797**

#### **Captain's Challenge**

**22 Dec**

Up to the top of Pirongia and back by lunchtime, then the top of Maungatautari Mountain and back down via the ATV track, finish off by going to the top of Mount Te Aroha. We are usually back at the vehicles by about 8pm so don't forget your torch in spite of daylight saving. Then a long soak in the hot pools to help our bodies recover.

**Leader:** John McArthur

**Phone:** 8564394

**Grade:** Mad

**Transport:** Private vehicles

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#### **Trip 2798**

#### **Tararua Ranges**

**5-10 January, 2019**

It's been a while since the Club has had an extended trip in the Tararua Ranges. This is the mountain range that Allan first started tramping in and he is keen to spend as much time as possible re-visiting some old favourites. The focus will be on doing a "double crossing" of the northern section by combining a Bannister and Northern crossing. The tramp will start at Kiriwhakapapa north of Masterton, to Cow Saddle and via Waingawa Peak to Mount Bannister, a peak that is one of the most sought after but often thwarted by bad weather. From here we pick up the Northern Crossing via Arete and the Waiohine Pinnacles. Given a good weather forecast we may include doing a full Waiohine and float down river to Walls Whare near Greytown - a true Tararua classic, stopping at Mid-Waiohine and Totara Flats huts.

**Leader:** Allan Wickens

**Ph:** 027 950 9546

**Grade:** F

**Email:** [allanwickens@hotmail.com](mailto:allanwickens@hotmail.com)

**Transport costs:** see leader (private vehicle/s & some accommodation costs involved). Please book early.

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#### **Trip 2799**

#### **Waiorongomai**

**6 Jan**

This is a favourite area with numerous walks of all grades. With a wealth of mining history and relics thrown in, the mostly easy tracks provide for walks that can be linked together as a loop. There's also a track that leads up to the Waipapa track for better views.

**Leader:** Club Captain

**Ph:** 027 950 9546

**Grade:** E-M

**Email:** [allanwickens@hotmail.com](mailto:allanwickens@hotmail.com)

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

Senior Non-member: \$ 30-35

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#### **Trip 2800**

#### **Inland Kaikouras / Mount Tapuae-o-Uenuku**

**11-15 Jan**

This trip will be an extension of the Tararua trip or a stand- alone option. After gathering at Blenheim we travel up the Awatere River to the Hodder River junction where we leave our vehicle/s. There is then a 6- 7 hour walk up the Hodder via a gorge section (reputedly with over 100 crossings by some accounts). We reach the two Hodder huts and use them as a base for 3 days in which we aim to summit Mount Tapuae-o-Uenuku - at 2885 metres the highest mountain north of Mount Cook National Park. Another possibility is a climb of Mount Alarm (2877 metres). Both are considered "tramping peaks" without the need for technical climbing skills. As there may be remnant snow or ice we will carry crampons and ice-axes.

**Leader:** Allan Wickens      **Ph:** 027 950 9546      **Grade:** F

**Email:** *allanwickens@hotmail.com*

**Transport/ costs:** see leader (private vehicle/s, ferry cost, some accommodation involved). Please book early.

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**Trip 2801**                      **Track maintenance in Pureora**                      **12/13 Jan**

The Pirongia Restoration Society looks after the Okahukura valley in Pureora Forest doing pest control to kill rats. Our aim for this weekend will be to travel in pairs along the marked bait lines in the valley using a map drawn specifically for the individual bait lines. Along the way you will be ensuring that there is enough tape to mark the route by standing at one piece of tape and ensuring you can see the next piece. With your secateurs you will snip away any stubs that stick up or pose a potential hazard for anyone moving along the bait line. The hazard may be bush lawyer or fallen branches etc. If you have a small pruning saw please bring that too. We will endeavour to obtain equipment from DoC if possible too. You can pace yourself as you move along the lines, take lots of pictures, and hear lots of interesting birds – falcon, kokako, kaka, tui, kereru, fantails, chaffinches, kakariki. There is a lovely loop walk out from the Lodge that takes about 30 minutes to walk around and we may even be able to show you dactylanthus plants nearby if they are in flower still.

Accommodation for the weekend will be at the Pureora Lions Lodge – think hot showers, commercial kitchen, bunkrooms – all making for an effortless weekend. Bring your food, refreshments, lunchbox & drink-bottle in a daypack, sleeping bag & toilet gear. Good footwear and raincoat are recommended, as well as sunscreen. Don't forget those secateurs and saw or loppers.

On Sunday we can go for a day walk in the vicinity- up to the top of Mt Pureora perhaps, or even continue with the track maintenance if you wish.

**Leaders:** Dianne & Selwyn June      **Ph** 8433066      **Grade:** E/M

**Accommodation:** Lodge \$20/person/night

**Transport:** Senior member: \$ 45-55                      Senior Non-member: \$ 50-60

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**Trip 2802**                      **Aotea to Kawhia**                      **20 Jan**

After travelling to Aotea, this pleasant coastal walk heads south along the west coast to Kawhia Harbour via Te Ariaotewiwini inlet. There are a few kilometres of soft sand as well as a forestry coast road en-route. Timing of this walk is tidal impacted.

**Leader :** Jacqui Dick                      **Ph:** 8252045                      **Grade:** E

**Transport:** Senior member \$25-30                      Senior non-member \$30-35

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**Trip 2803****Kaimanawa Southern Access/Waipakihi****26-28 Jan**Option A (Kaimanawa Southern access):

A tramp in some of our best North Island scenery, this is designed as a fit tramp.

Ideal for those wanting to get fit for 2019 Lower North Island & South Island tramps, and test their gear. There are no huts so we plan three nights in our tents

We will find a campsite Friday night, and start our tramp on Saturday morning from SH 1 on the Kaimanawa Forest Park Walkway heading east. We will cross the Needles and head towards Patutu. Camping is planned for Saturday and Sunday nights – perhaps on the tops or down by a water supply?

Monday we will cross Motutere, drop down Thunderbolt, cross Waipakihi River, up over Urchin and back to the road end for our ride home.

**Leader:** John Davies**Ph:** 0274772209**Grade:** F**Email:** *cjdavies@xtra.co.nz***Transport:** Senior member \$65-85

Senior Non-member \$75-90

Option B (Waipakihi): This tramp will run in conjunction with Trip 2803. Camp at a DoC campsite off Kaimanawa Rd Friday night.

Saturday. Start at road end, along Umukarikari Track to Waipakihi Hut. Climb up through bush to open tops including Umukarikari (1591m), where there are great views in all directions over the volcanoes, Lake Taupo and the Kaimanawa peaks. Then we walk north-east along ridges, dropping down to the Hut in the head of the Waipakihi valley. 14 km taking an estimated 5 - 6 hours

Sunday and Monday. Two days walking downstream along the river flats, with a number of river crossings. Camping under beech trees part way along the valley. Ending up at Waipakihi Road end. 23 km over two days. A beautiful montane valley that reminds you of the South Island.

**Leader:** Selwyn June**Ph:** 8433066**Grade:** M**Transport:** Senior member \$65-85

Senior Non-member \$75-90

**Waikato Hut workparty****2 / 3 Feb**

This is a good opportunity to get your fitness up to scratch for your south island trips - and to do something good for the Hut. It is time to carry up about 4m<sup>3</sup> of firewood from the carpark to the hut. A good team of people can usually knock the pile off in a day and have been known to do so in half a day too - much to the consternation of the cook.

There are other items needing attention around the Hut to keep us all busy.

**Leader:** Stephen Phillips**Ph:** 027 950 9546**Grade:** as hard as you make it!**Transport:** Senior member \$40-55

Senior Non-member \$55-60

**Accommodation:** No hut fees but is food provided. BYO snacks & drinks.**Trip 2804****Te Kauri park****3 Feb**

This is the place to go for a lovely day trip. The Hamilton Junior Naturalists group operate a Lodge at this site but we won't need it for our day trip. We can follow a number of tracks in the surrounding bush but some may be closed due to kauri dieback precautions – we'll know more closer to the day. One track is near a stream so put your swimsuit in your pack too. A great trip for botanising.

**Leader:** Club captain**Ph:** 027 950 9546**Grade:** E/M

**Email:** *allanwickens@hotmail.com* (preferred contact)

**Transport:** Senior member \$20-25

Senior Non-member \$25-30

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**Trip 2805**

**Hauraki rail trail ride**

**6 Feb**

This is a cycle trip on the Hauraki Rail Trail from Pipiroa to Waitakaruru to Bird Hide; a return trip of approx. 52km. We will meet at Pipiroa's Bugger Café at 10:00am. The ride is mostly along the top of stop banks, taking in lush farmlands and wetlands with magnificent views of the Coromandel Ranges.

**Leader:** David Cumming

**Ph:** 07 839 7850

**Grade:** E/M

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

**Transport:** private arrangement

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**Trip 2806**

**Whirinaki Loop**

**9/10 Feb**

Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tāne Conservation Park is a 56,000-ha old-growth forest, described by acclaimed British botanist David Bellamy as one of the great forests of the world. Stepping into Whirinaki forest is like stepping back in time giant trees, ancient and moss-laden, tower overhead soaring up to 65m into the sky. If the weather is fine we could walk in to Vern's camp by headlight and that would allow us to do the Mangamate loop track. This takes about 2 hours. This would be followed by a big day on Saturday. If the weather is not so good we can do a return walk along the Whirinaki track. There are many short walks in the area as well so there are options for all fitness levels if you wish.

**Leader:** Ashley Hoskin

**Ph:** 07 8704570

**Grade:** M/F & E/M

**Email:** *ashley.hoskin@icloud.com*

**Transport :** Senior member \$40-55

Senior Non-member \$45-60

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**Trip 2807**

**Tararua Main range**

**16-22 Feb**

Details to come in the next bulletin. If you are interested please contact the trip leaders.

**Leaders:** Mike Peck

**Ph:** 021 369 256

**Grade:** F

Paul Quinn

Ph: 021 833 521

**Transport:** TBA

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**Trip 2808**

**River crossing training**

**17 Feb**

The annual river crossing course is a popular event within the Club training roster and for good reason. After leaving Hamilton we travel to Rangitoto Station at the foot of the Pureora Range. There is an hour's walk across farmland and down a 4WD track to the upper reaches of the Waipa River. Here we practice our river crossing techniques. This includes how and where to cross a river, the pitfalls and dangers of river crossings and techniques used. We end the day practicing "pack floating", a handy way of recovering from a mishap while crossing a river. Finally we walk back out to the van and head back to Hamilton.

**Leader:** Allan Wickens

**Email:** *allanwickens@hotmail.com*

**Grade:** E/M

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

Senior Non-member \$30-35

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**Trip 2809**

**Exploring Coromandel**

**23/24 Feb**

This week-end we will endeavour to complete the trips we had initially planned to do back over Queen's Birthday weekend. On that occasion we were dogged with bad weather but still managed to do about 70% of the planned short walks. This time, over

the 2-day week-end, we will head up to the western Coromandel and do walks based at Coromandel. Prominent walks include Castle Rock, Opera Point, Waiiau Waterfalls, Waioumu Kauri Grove, Waitaia Track and New Chums Beach.

**Leader:** Allan Wickens

**Grade:** E-M (short walks only -max 3 hours)

**Email:** [allanwickens@hotmail.com](mailto:allanwickens@hotmail.com)

**Transport :** Senior member \$40 45

Senior Non-member \$45-50 Plus

one night's accommodation at Coromandel (back-packer plus)

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### **Trip 2810**

### **Marks Flat – the hard way**

**24 Feb-2 Mar**

This is a Fit trip in a Wilderness Area- not for the faint hearted! 8 days / 7 nights with own tents

Meeting place is Hokitika Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb, ready to start early Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> Feb at the Paringa River Bridge on the State Highway approx. 3 hrs south of Hokitika

We expect to take 4 days getting to Marks Flat via the Paringa River, McCullaugh River and Saddle Creek. We'll have two nights at Marks Flat giving us a day to explore Mt Hooker before returning over Otoko Pass and head down the Otoko River back to our start point. Then we will drive back to Hokitika and stay night of Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

**Leader:** John Davies

**Ph:** 027 4772209

**Grade:** F

**Email:** [cjdavies@xtra.co.nz](mailto:cjdavies@xtra.co.nz)

**Transport:** private arrangements

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### **Trip 2811**

### **Cobb River**

**24 Feb-3 Mar**

I have designed this tramp for every level of fitness and experience. Walking times will be 4-5 hrs/day but with options if your fitness and/or weather permits. We will be staying in huts but as some are only 12 bunks a sleeping mat is essential, preferably also a tent. The Cobb Valley road is still not repaired so we will therefore undertake either a loop, starting at Graham Valley Rd or, if the road is open, up the Cobb Valley. The minibus cost return is \$130/person/return and we need 5 people minimum. I am required to pay for the bus up front so require this amount to be paid into the WTC account with your booking the account number is on the bottom of the front page of the bulletin and the code word is COBB. If the trip doesn't go ahead you will be refunded. We will be on the tops for 3 days so good gear is essential.

If we can start at Cobb Valley then we begin at day 2. Otherwise starting point is Graham Valley road, day 1.

Day 1: Trilobite Hut.

Day 2: Fenella Hut

Day 3: Back to Trilobite Hut

Day 4: either Balloon Hut or Salisbury Lodge.

Day 5: Options are: 1) a day trip to Gordon Pyramid; 2) Dry Rock Shelter; 3) continue to Mt Arthur Hut; 4) do a day trip to Mt Arthur (12 hour return).

Day 6: Return to our bus.

It is essential that everyone is on Nelson on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> in time to start the next day at 9am. We will return to Nelson on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

I am awaiting confirmation of YHA accommodation options and will arrange for gas if required. Contact the leader for more information

**Leader:** Colin Jones

**Ph:** 021 972500

**Grade:** as above

**Email:** [colin@cicl.co.nz](mailto:colin@cicl.co.nz)

**Transport:** private arrangements + \$130 for return transfer.

**Accommodation:** TBA

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**Trip 2812**

**Pukerimu stream**

**3 Mar**

This is a delightful area to the east of Tokoroa. The last time we visited here would have been when Selwyn slipped a ring on Dianne's finger there! There is limited access as it is within the forestry area so here's hoping we can obtain access. The easy walk is through native bush. A good walk for children too.

Watch out for more details in the next bulletin.

**Leader:** Club captain

**Ph:** 027 950 9546

**Grade:** E

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

Senior Non-member \$30-35

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**Trip 2813**

**Poulter Valley/Arthurs Pass NP**

**3-9 Mar**

Easy walking up a wide, beech forest-clad Canterbury valley on the eastern edge of the National Park. The route will be from Andrews Shelter over Casey Saddle to the Poulter River and thence up river to Poulter Hut. A day will be spent on side trips to Lake Minchin and Minchin Pass. Return down the Poulter and across Binsler Saddle. Up to 6 hours walking per day. Tenting is required, otherwise it would be long days. A further day will be spent on day trip at Arthurs Pass, e.g. to Temple Basin.

Sunday: leave Christchurch at 9 am; 2 hours travel to Andrews Shelter. Walk to Hallelujah Flats (7.3 km, 2½ hrs) or to site of old Casey Hut (14.8 km, 5½ hrs).

Camping. Steady climb from 600m to 900m asl over Casey Saddle and then down to 600m again at the Poulter River.

Monday: Casey Hut site to Poulter Hut along the Poulter valley. 8.5 km about 3 hrs. Poulter Hut sleeps 10.

Tuesday: day walks from Poulter Hut, such as Lake Minchin (1 hr) and/or Minchin Pass (3 hrs).

Wednesday: Poulter Hut, down river to Aeroplane Flat 14.1 km 5 hrs.

Thursday: Aeroplane Flat to Pete Stream then over Binsler Saddle (1200 m) to Andrews Shelter. 16.5 km, 6 hrs. Camp at Shelter or go to Arthurs Pass village accommodation.

Friday: day walks at Arthurs Pass e.g. Temple Basin and return to Christchurch by 5 pm.

**Leader:** Selwyn June

**Ph:** 07 843 3066 or 0274 978151

**Grade:** E/M

**Transport:** Transport cost for hired minibus may be up to \$100 pp (unless private cars are available or we use a bus dropoff). We may get a friend in Christchurch to drive the minibus to the Park and then pick us up.

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**Trip 2815**

**Travers-Sabine**

**10-16 Mar**

This is a well known tramp of the Nelson Lakes with a few options for extending the scope, depending on the fitness and speed of the party. The plan is to gather in Nelson on the 10<sup>th</sup> and shuttle up to St Arnaud for the start on 11<sup>th</sup>. And then:

Day 1: (11<sup>th</sup>) starts with the shuttle trip to St Arnaud, then a beautiful walk up the shores of Lake Rotoiti, about 8km to Lakehead Hut.

Day 2: Is a longer day uphill to Upper Travers Hut – about 16km. There is an option to branch off up to the Cupola Hut set at the bush edge in a rugged mountain valley, for an extra 6km return and 500m climb.

Day 3: is up-and-over the Travers Saddle (1787m), a climb of about 500m altitude (2km walk) into dramatic high tops. Then down and down we go into the East Branch of the Sabine river to West Sabine Hut (~6km total). That doesn't sound like much of a day so we could then trot off up the Sabine to Blue Lake Hut, approximately 7 km to a fabulous spot and the pristine Blue Lake (no swimming!!).

Day 4: will either be a long 20 km downhill from Blue Lake Hut, or 13 km from West Sabine hut, along the beautiful Sabine River to the Sabine Hut.

Day 5: starts with a grunty uphill climb of 1100m on the Mt Cedric Track to the top of Mt Cedric and on to the Angelus Hut, or not the Angelus hut. This is not only one of the popular places for Kiwi Trampers, but also on the Te Araroa trail – so it will be busy and we will find somewhere nice to camp. Only about 7km but worth camping in the tops.

Day 6: and we are on our way out, along the Robert Ridge about 11km to the carpark and shuttle back to Nelson accommodation, restaurant and bar.

Plan to go home on day 7.

As noted, this is very popular country and we won't be alone – bring tents.

There are alternatives and distractions so the final plan may be a little different.

**Leader:** John McArthur                      **Ph:** 021 2889641                      **Grade:** M/F

**Email:** *mcArthur@outlook.co.nz*

**Transport:** personal arrangements

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**Trip 2816                      Rangitata, Macaulay, & Godley rivers                      17-22 Mar**

This is Canterbury high country .The plan so far is to gather in Christchurch or Geraldine on the 17<sup>th</sup> March.Monday 18<sup>th</sup> we shuttle up the Rangitata River beyond Mesopotamia, then walk up to Growler Hut.

Tuesday: up The Growler and over Balaclava Saddle sidling around to get down into Toms Stream. From there down Toms Stream into the Macaulay River valley and across to the palatial Macaulay Hut. (Hot bath under the stars?).

Wednesday: up the Tindill Stream into the Tindill Basin and over into the Godley River North Branch. Down this river and through the little gorgy end piece will get us into the Godley river, and depending on our progress we will camp here or see if we can get to the Red Stag Hut – a very small 6 berth.

Thursday: on up the Godley to the historic Godley Hut – well worth the effort.

Friday: a day of exploring the glacier country at the head of the Godley.

Saturday: walk out to the junction of the Godley and Macaulay for pick-up at the road end. Unfortunately a long slog down this typical braided Canterbury river. Saturday night in Tekapo, travelling home on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>.

Still some details of shuttle and hut accommodation to work out.

**Leader:** John McArthur                      **Ph:** 021 2889641                      **Grade:** F

**Email:** *mcArthur@outlook.co.nz*

**Transport:** personal arrangements to get to meeting point.

Shuttle at start approx. \$60. Shuttle at end approx. \$120 (tbc)

**Accommodation** - tba

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Focus on the journey, not the destination. Joy is found not in finishing an activity but in doing it. Greg Anderson

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### Summary of Summer adventures 2019

Our recent trip planning meeting for Summer and South Island adventures gave us a handful of very exciting prospects to work on for the summer of 2019. The islands will be covered quite well, and the fitness levels required range from Easy/Medium with a variety of tramping opportunities in the Cobb Valley to medium fitness trips to Arthurs Pass and Nelson Lakes. We couldn't do without a couple of Fit trips and a revisit to Mark's Flat by John Davies & Co, and a trip into the Canterbury High Country should satisfy that energy level.

5-10	January	Tararua Ranges	Allan Wickens
11-15	January	Inland Kaikoura	Allan Wickens
28-30	January	Kaimanawa/sthn access	John Davies
28-30	January	Kaimanawas/ Waipakihi loop	Club captain
16-22	February	Tararua main range	Mike Peck/Paul Quinn
24 Feb -1 Mar		Cobb river	Colin Jones
24 Feb – 2 Mar		Marks Flat the hard way	John Davies
3-9 March		Poulter R/Arthurs Pass	Selwyn June
10-15 March		Travers Sabine	John McArthur
17-22 March		Rangitata/Macauley/Godley Rivers	John McArthur

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### Waikato Ski Club

You can stay at the Lodge during summer, a great base for doing tramping in the Ruapehu area, day walks to Tama Lakes or the Waterfalls or Silica rapid. Or do the Tongariro crossing, or up to Crater Lake. You could also use it before and after longer tramps such as around the mountain, or the northern circuit. Or for other trips round the central plateau or just a place to relax and catch up with family, how about taking the kids for a few days in the holidays?

Our members' rates for summer (valid for tramping and skiing members) are \$15 for a child and \$25 for adult, with good non-members rates for \$30 for adult or \$21 for a child. Or book the Hut for a weekend for a family, social or work group - \$600 for the whole lot. You do need to book before hand and open and close the Hut – i.e. putting on electricity & water –but this is straight forward and there is an easily followed list as a guide. Contact [waikatoski@gmail.com](mailto:waikatoski@gmail.com) to make bookings. Note during this time you can't do online bookings -they have to go through the booking officer.

#### Working Party Dates:

To keep the building in good condition and to keep us all toasty in winter we have working parties during the summer. Put the following dates in your diary and come help with firewood lift or maintaining the hut

2-3 February – Firewood carrying and other maintenance

9-10<sup>th</sup> of March – Other maintenance.

April working party if needed – TBC.

Accommodation at the Hut is free for the weekend for those on the working party, and we provide food for the weekend. Bring your own snacks and drinks. Transport – car sharing unless a club trip is organised.

Contact Stephen for more details 0211031436 or email *waikatoski@gmail.com*.

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### **Editorial**

You belong to a very busy and active club – a reflection of your enthusiasm and keenness to explore our environment. And in keeping with that wide variety of options on offer, people are needed to assist with the planning. We have a couple of very keen members who have stepped up this year and wow, are they making a difference! Well done Amanda, Debbie, and Dave. Many hands make light work. In the past (when I still had brown hair) the club had a large membership and I am of the opinion this was because many members stepped up to the plate and shared the load.

Is it time now for the committee to look at having more active subcommittees to share the load, (shorten the time that the main committee members have to spend at their meetings), and provide for a depth of knowledge when it comes time to hand over a rôle to someone else? Sub committees meet less frequently than the main committees too thereby lightening the load for all. Something to think about – perhaps putting your hand up when it comes around to AGM time?

And on another avenue – do you realise that you have contributed a blow to my poor physical fitness programme? A large number of you now choose to receive the bulletin by email so I (and Lesley) don't have so far to pedal to deliver the hard copies to you all. I s'pose that I'm just one person and as a group you are saving our fellow club members money in reduced postage.

My sincere apologies about the late delivery of the November edition. It wasn't until a couple of people contacted me about not receiving it that I did some further investigation and realised none of you had received it! Many of you are Yahoo users – was that significant at that time? I suggest that if it comes to the middle of the month and you haven't received the bulletin, please contact me. I'm happy to send it again. Thank you for your support this past year and I look forward to helping you ore next year.

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### **Presidents' Blog**

Time to wish everyone seasonal greetings, Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. It's that rush and bother time of year, getting things tidied up before the end of year wind-down, but also a time to renew friendships and family ties, and perhaps to reflect on what you have achieved. I trust you have enjoyed the year's activities with the club, and the people you have met and got to know in the outdoors. The club seems to function like a well oiled machine; thanks to the organising that goes on behind the scenes. Happy tramping and summer holidays!

Selwyn June

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## Trip reports

**Trip 2792**

**Kopu Hikuai to Motutapere**

**11 Nov**

The trip was changed to Walking up Patons stream track to Patons Dam, then through to Hiwi trig and to the intersection of Hiwi track and Billy Goat Incline, where we then walked out on Billy Goat track down to Kauaeranga Valley. We started at the Broken Hill Camping ground and on a steep climb. The first part is the hardest but if there was no cloud there are great views across the valley. When you reach the edge of the forest, there is an incline but not as steep. There are quite a few nikaus. We reached the dam where there are still large beams left from the original dam. The largest I have seen. Plus you can see where the spillway was because there is a definite 'V' between the hills and a sudden drop. Behind the dam there are a couple of waterfalls which is a really pretty area.

Afterwards we carried onto the intersection that would take us to the Hiwi trig. Once there we had a feed in an area which was flat and open. Would have been a fantastic view if there had been no cloud, but got a photo of us at the trig. We carried on along the Hiwi ridge. The track was very muddy, but cleared like the conservation lady had told me. There were many kauri along the way and if the cloud hadn't been there great views would have been had. We got the misty, spooky tree affect, where you think the taniwha is going to jump out. This took longer to get through due to the mud but we got there if not a bit wearily. There was a comment about the leader not giving too many details - probably a good thing.

In the last half hour before the Billy Goat track the sun came out. The descent was quite steep but we were able to get views of the Kauaeranga Valley. Once we got to the Billy goat track, no mud and a very easy track, there were stoned steps. On the way down we saw two rail tracks and a beautiful waterfall coming out of the mountains. At the end was a large river to cross but nice crossing in the sun. A great place to have a BBQ. Leader Judith B. driver Stephen P, other participants Pui Y, Ian K, Les W, Dale H, Jocelyn W, Merlyn W, Kathy T and Alan T.

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**Trip 2795**

**Mt Karangahake**

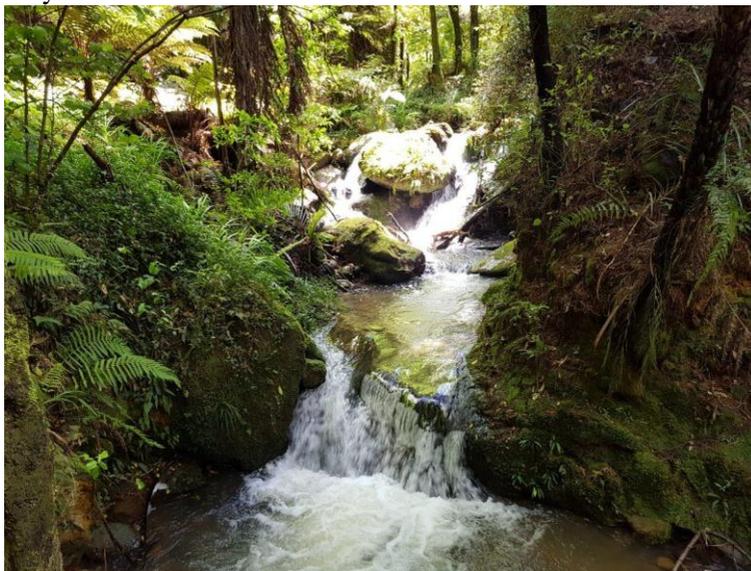
**2 Dec**

Sunday dawned with patches of sun at last. Nine keen trampers climbed on board (including driver and leader.) We met Sharon, who had driven from Rotorua, at the Karangahake Gorge carpark. The river was certainly up and creating rapids in numerous places.

We admired the new cable swing bridge, soon to be opened, from the lower existing bridge. Two hours later, after a challenging climb on wet slippery ground we reached the top of Mount Karangahake, at a height of 544 metres, with rewarding 360° views of Paeroa, the gorge and Waihi.

We took the path down the southern side of the mountain and circled round, taking great care walking down slippery clay covered slopes, to rejoin the path taken earlier that morning. The descent offered lovely sunlit views of waterfalls and eddies. Lunch was had overlooking the raging waters of the gorge and the swing bridge crossed earlier. The group decided the windows was a must and we walked along the Waitawheta River with the noisy torrent below, orange-coloured algae cliffs on both sides, and water

droplets falling on us from rock overhangs. Exploring the tunnels and windows was aided with headlamps, and spotting glowworms in total darkness was a bonus. Lots of pooled water as well as drips from the tunnel ceilings made it a very wet environment. From a viewpoint we watched traffic building on the northern end of the gorge created by a slip that had closed the lane heading south, which we think had only happened earlier in the day.



Lovely waterfalls & happy trampers      Photos by Dave White



After an ice cream stop in Paeroa, we arrived back in Hamilton to wet roads. A lovely fine day made for an enjoyable 12 km tramp thanks to leader Doug, driver John Wilson and assistant Jean.

Trampers: Doug, John and Jean, Dave and Debbie, Kathy, Marianne, Kelsey and Andy, and Sharon.



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**Waikato Tramping Club  
and  
Waikato Ski Club**

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

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**FITNESS WALK / FUN / FLAGSTAFF**

Every Tuesday morning we meet at Flagstaff Shopping Centre ready for a 7.30 start. We head north into the new subdivisions using the extensive pathways along the gully systems. Pace is fast but not so fast that you can't discuss the week's events. One hour later we're back near the start and toilets. If you need to get away, now's your chance. Usually we walk for another hour and return to the carpark by 9.30am. No need to book, just turn up, but if it's your first time please phone Margaret on 8536921 or Colin on 849 4420 the night before so we know you are coming.

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**From the committee table:**

**New Members:** Nil

**Resignations:** Nil

**Membership:** We still have 190 tramping members.

From the transport Coordinator: After 5 years in the role Alan Grant is stepping down at the 2019 AGM next April. So the Club is looking for someone to take over this role. If someone volunteers now Alan can spend the next 6 months working alongside them training them into the role

The Transport Coordinator (TC) role involves planning van, bus and driver options for upcoming club trips, and providing trip costings. After getting an updated trip list from the Club Captain, the TC books vans with CCR, emails out to the club's 15-20 approved drivers seeking drivers for trips and booking both in.

In the week preceding each trip the TC liaises with the Trip leader to confirm that a van is needed. If numbers are less the Leader arranges to use private cars. The TC provides a per person transport cost for each option based on numbers

So it is 2 hours planning every 6-8 weeks, and half an hour per week ahead of each trip. All is done by email these days. Skills needed, to be organized and able to plan in advance. Please call Alan to discuss the role and answer any queries. 0274 501 530

**Thank you to John Wilson**

As most of us know John's contribution to the Waikato Tramping Club is and has been immense for over 50 years. From filling various officer roles in the club, including Club President and Club Captain, to leading trips, assisting with skills training, running quizzes with wife Jean, the list goes on and on. John is also one of the three members

who hold Large Passenger Service licences (PSLs) and is able to drive a large bus if we need one for some well supported club trips. The other two are Ron Dick and Dianne June.

As part of using these drivers the Club is required to hold a Large PSL and have a club official be 'the person responsible'. John has willingly held this rôle for many years. In the interests of passing on and sharing responsibility in the Club and to give John a break, we recently had Ron Dick sit the required exams and take over that role. Thanks Ron, and a BIG THANK YOU to John for your rôle in helping the Club be able to access buses for large trips. We all appreciate your work for the Club in this area.

**From the Treasurer:** We need a new treasurer! This would suit someone who has some moderate accounting skills and would like to contribute to the running of the club. We are using the Xero system which is very user friendly and paperless. The web based system means this role can be undertaken at work, home or even on holiday! For those unfamiliar with Xero it is an opportunity to gain some new skills. You will not be thrown in at the deep end, I will remain on as a user and make sure the transition goes smoothly.

I have enjoyed the rôle, my primary reason for passing this on is that I am desk bound for a 10 hour day and really need to get out from behind the PC in my non work time. If anyone has an interest (and maybe is a bit hesitant), feel free to contact me. I will be happy to give you a run down on the role and we can see if it might be for you.

**From the editor:** A FREE GIFT for you. Kauri Dieback Boot Bag. Had I remembered, you would have been given this at the December club night. But as I forgot to take them along, they'll be at the Christmas Party. If any are left over I'll be happy to get one to you. Handy washable nylon bags to put your dirty boots in at the end of a trip, with helpful messages to make sure you don't spread kauri dieback. These bags are an experiment by the kauri dieback program. They would like some feedback as to whether you think these bags are a good idea. Send your feedback to [kim.parker@waikatoregion.govt.nz](mailto:kim.parker@waikatoregion.govt.nz).

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*Snippets from here 'n there....*

➤ Before you visit Mt Pirongia from now on, check out the Thundermaps website and download the **kokako app** to your mobile phone. When you hear or see a kokako you can use the app to record your GPS location and a message is sent to the app provider to advise the Pirongia Restoration Society of the location. If you can spot the bands, make a note of them – left leg first, band closest to the body, then the lower band (i.e. top to bottom) and then the same for the right leg.

➤ **New video series raises awareness of dangers of the Tongariro Alpine Crossing.** Selfie-seekers desperate to add the Tongariro Alpine Crossing to their albums can now see how treacherous the track can be before taking it on.

A video series, which give an overview of how to prepare for the popular but potentially risky track, has been released just two weeks after a death on the crossing. Questions were asked about how tourists could be better warned of the potential dangers of the track.

Each video covers off what the track looks like, where the mountain passes are and where the track travels on a 3D map. It also has advice on the best time of year to do the track, the equipment necessary and handy tips on avoiding known hazards. The videos can be viewed on the New Zealand Mountain Safety Council Facebook page.

Source: Stuff 18 Oct 2018

➤ Native Forest Restoration Trust are looking for **financial support** to continue the purchase of reserves thereby protecting ecological habitats. Lump sums or monthly instalments are possible. Check out the website or email them [admin@nznfrt.org.nz](mailto:admin@nznfrt.org.nz) for more information.

✓ Blowing our trumpet. This is from the DoC newsletter but as some of you have had a hand in helping the Pirongia Society achieve some fantastic goals in the conservation arena, you should be proud of helping us become Biosecurity champions.



Biosecurity New Zealand (MPI) recently held the Biosecurity Awards in Auckland. The awards recognise the people and organisations that are exemplars in their contribution to biosecurity. One of the awards presented on the night was the DoC

L-R Clare St Pierre, Selwyn June and Dianne June accepted the award presented to them by Mike Slater

Community Award. DoC Sponsored the award to recognise the outstanding work of the communities that help protect our unique ecosystem. The winner was the Pirongia Te Aroaro o Kahu restoration Society for restoring kokako to Mt. Pirongia (*Ed note: and undertaking 2 1000ha areas of pest control*)

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

✓ Jamie Stewart is coordinating FMCs input into formational stages of the new Bay of Plenty CMS. The geographic scope includes the Kaimai/Mamaku range, the Rotorua Lakes area and parts of the Raukumara, Urutawa and Waioeka, great tramping country. Jamie is interested in hearing from anyone with specific recreational issues in this area. There will be an opportunity for public submissions in the New Year and FMC will be giving clubs and supporters some guidance on what we believe the significant issues to be. Please contact [jamie.stewart@fmc.org.nz](mailto:jamie.stewart@fmc.org.nz)

✓ An important notice to all those wishing to climb Tapuae-O-Uenuku, or any of the surrounding peaks in the Inland Kaikoura Range: Marlborough Tramping Club has recently introduced an electronic Hodder Huts Access Application.

✓ Read about a clip strap for your camera in the ‘Wilderlife’ magazine. This strap enables you to clip your camera to your pack strap and not have it dangling around your neck. The picture looks like it will be the way to go

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

✓ The Department of Conservation has extended the deadline for submissions on Aoraki / Mount Cook and Westland / Tai Poutini National Park Management Plans to February 4th, 2019. FMC recommends you make a submission.

✓ Seven critically endangered shore plover chicks have hatched on pest-free Motutapu island in the Hauraki Gulf. The total population of shore plover / tuturuatu is just 245 birds, including 17 that are resident on Motutapu. Shore plover were released on pest-free Motutapu in 2012. This was a year after Motutapu and neighbouring Rangitoto - the two islands are joined by a short bridge - were declared pest-free. Shore plover were once widespread around the coast of the North and South Islands but have been driven to the brink of extinction by rats and other introduced predators. By 1990 there were only 130 shore plover. All these birds were on one island, Rangatira Island in the Chatham Islands, which is free of introduced predators.

✓ The Department of Conservation recently classified our majestic kauri as threatened for the first time. It joins 401 other species on the list, which includes iconic species such as pōhutukawa, manuka and rātā.

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**For sale:** Size 16 Kathmandu long pants (ones you can zip off to make shorts). Make an offer. The funds go into the Club kitty as they are being donated by a colleague of Nette’s. Contact Nette Lowe: 8396545 or email: [annette\\_lowe@hotmail.com](mailto:annette_lowe@hotmail.com)

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**Next Month:** Email your contributions to the editor by **Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> Feb., 2019**



Paradise ducks at Oamaru Lodge

Photo by Dianne June



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Image: Mark Watson

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