



Official Bulletin of
WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB

P. O. Box 685, Hamilton 3240 • www.wtc.org.nz

Free to members

**Member of: Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand
Inc**

Ruapehu Mountain Clubs Association

BULLETIN No 823

January 2021

General Committee

(Contact details listed below)

President: Selwyn June **Secretary:** Judith Bogle **Treasurer:** Guy Domett
Members: John McArthur (VP Tramp) Stephen Prendergast (VP Ski)
Stephen Phillips Allan Wickens Russell King Stacey Thompson
Mike Nightingale 8562394

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**Tramping Subcommittee**

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

**Chairperson:** John McArthur    [mcarthur@outlook.co.nz](mailto:mcarthur@outlook.co.nz)    021 2889641  
**Treasurer:** Guy Domett    [treasurer@wtc.org.nz](mailto:treasurer@wtc.org.nz)    027 2483008  
**Secretary:** Judith Bogle    027 3810283  
**Club Captain:** Allan Wickens    027 9509546  
**Membership:** Lois Rowell    027 2881148  
**Web & Facebook:** Dianne Ngapo    021 1192611  
**Transport:** Ashley Hoskin    027 4909545  
**Social convenor:** Jacqui Dick    021 1375201  
**Sub-committee:** Dave White    027 4534550

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Ski Subcommittee

Ski email: waikatoski@gmail.com **Waikato Hut phone:** 07 8923821
Chairperson: Stephen Prendergast 021 466247
Bookings: Stephen Prendergast 021 466247
Finance officer: Michael Barker 021 2463500
Members: Steve Phillips 021 1031436
Russell King 027 4866953
Stacey Thompson
Mary Reed 021 1185107

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**Bulletin:** Lesley Kuggeleijn    027 4942414  
**Editor & Club Librarian:** Dianne June    [djune@xtra.co.nz](mailto:djune@xtra.co.nz)    07 8433066

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Waikato Tramping Club account: 03 1555 0091625 02 (include the trip no.)

Club night, Wednesday, 3rd February

With so many of you supporting the work being done by the Pirongia Restoration Society on both Mt. Pirongia, and in Pureora, come and hear about the people behind the action. Dave Bryden and his partner Amanda Rogers travel to all sorts of places looking for birds and monitoring them. Come and hear their very interesting story and learn about what goes into translocations, monitoring, trials and tribulations of the background work.

Dave is a tree climber extraordinaire and Amanda is an amazing photographer which means there will be some fantastic pictures to illustrate their presentation

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2020/2021

2916	16/17 Jan	M/F	Lower Matakuaia Hut	Mike Peck
2917	17-23 Jan	M/F	Albert Burn -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 – Waipakihi & around	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 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 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 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 Thunderbolt/Waipakihi 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 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

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

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. NB: Tents will be required.

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.

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

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: rizraz@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
Ph: 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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## 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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Snippets

Got some leftovers after your tramp? Make a note of these useful recycling tips:

- ✓ **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.
- ✓ We are saddened to advise that we have lost one of our stalwart life members. Gordon Yates passed away recently. Our condolences are extended to his family. We will publish an obituary about him in next months' bulletin.