



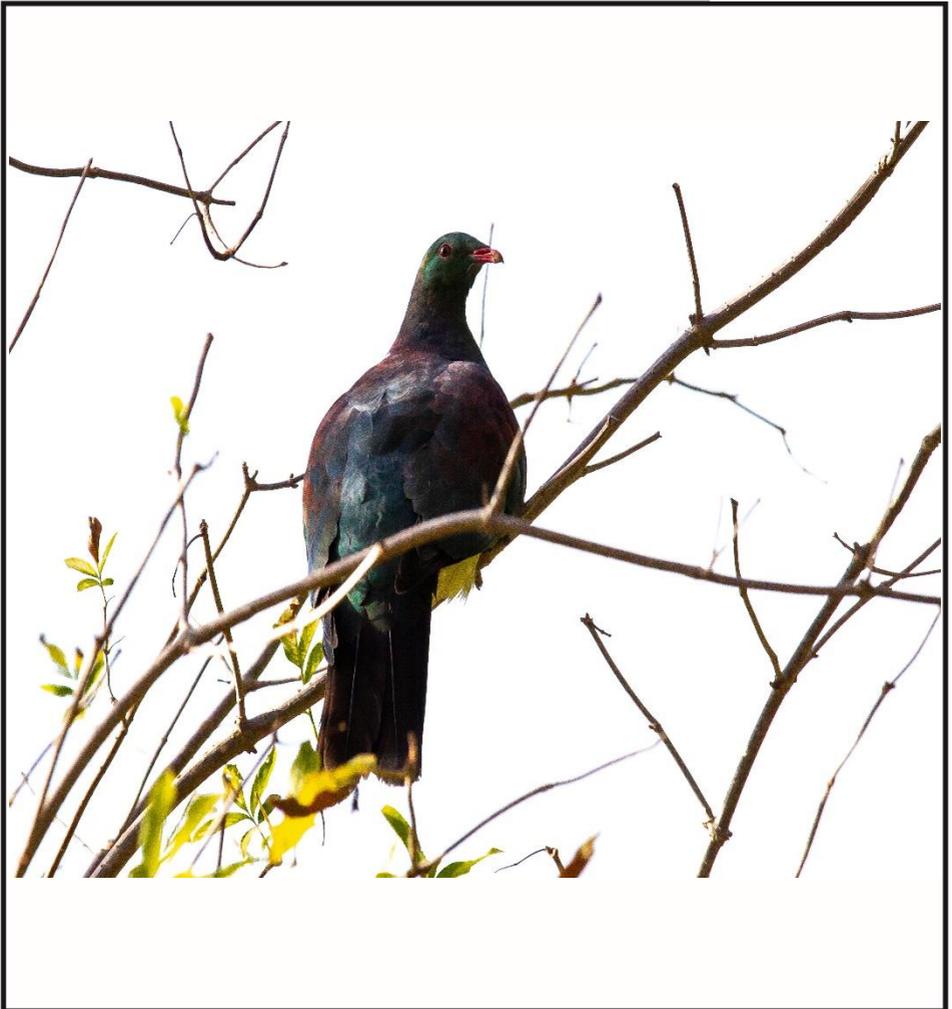
# THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

**WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)**

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

July 2020



Covid Kereru photo by Jacqui Dick



# WAIKATO HUT

Your lodge on Mt Ruapehu  
Tongariro National Park



[www.wtc.org.nz](http://www.wtc.org.nz)

PLEASE SUPPORT ALL OUR CLUB SPONSORS

## FOR ALL YOUR OUTDOOR NEEDS

Travel Packs • Sleeping Bags • Tramping Clothes • Tents  
Boots - Tramping & Trekking • Tramping Accessories • Drink Systems

### Stockists of:

- Earth Sea Sky
- Aarn Packs
- Camelbak
- Deuter
- One Planet
- Smartwool Socks
- Leki Poles

### BOOTS:

- Merrell
- Meindl
- Vasque
- Keen

221a Victoria Street, Hamilton

Phone 07-839 5681

Fax 07-839 5846

[shop@trekntravel.co.nz](mailto:shop@trekntravel.co.nz)





Official Bulletin of  
WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB  
P. O. Box 685, Hamilton 3240 • [www.wtc.org.nz](http://www.wtc.org.nz)

Free to members

Member of: Federated Mountain Clubs of New  
Zealand Inc

Ruapehu Mountain Clubs Association

BULLETIN No 817

July 2020

### General Committee

(Contact details listed below)

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

### Tramping Subcommittee

**Tramping email:** waikatotrampingclub@gmail.com  
**Chairperson:** John McArthur    mcarthur@outlook.co.nz    0212889641  
**Treasurer:** Guy Domett    treasurer@wtc.org.nz    0272483008  
**Secretary:** Judith Bogle    judith.bogle@outlook.com    0273810283  
**Club Captain:** Allan Wickens    allanwickens@hotmail.com    0279509546  
**Membership:** Lois Rowell    loiserowell@gmail.com    0272881148  
**Web & Facebook:** Dianne Ngapo    joe.ngapo@outlook.co.nz    0211192611  
**Transport:** Ashley Hoskin    ashley.hoskin@icloud.com    0274909545  
**Social convenor:** Stephen Prendergast    stephen@sps.co.nz    021466247  
**Sub-committee:** Dave White    info@sgohamilton.co.nz    0274534550  
Selwyn June    selwynjune@xtra.co.nz    8433066

### Ski Subcommittee

**Ski email:** waikatoski@gmail.com    **Waikato Hut phone:** 07 8923821  
**Chairperson:** Stephen Prendergast    stephen@sps.co.nz    021466247  
**Bookings:**    www.waikatoskiclub.co.nz.    021466247  
**Finance officer:** Michael Barker    michael.barker@alto.co.nz    021246 3500  
**Members:** Steve Phillips    innovative.p@hotmail.com    0211031436  
Russell King    0274866953  
Stacey Thompson    stacey.thompson@opus.co.nz  
Mary Reed    drmarydoll@hotmail.com    0211185107

**Bulletin:** Lesley Kuggeleijn    lesley.kugg@gmail.com    027 4942414  
**Editor & Club Librarian:** Dianne June    djune@xtra.co.nz    8433066

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

## **Club night, Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> August.**

The guest speaker and topic are yet to be confirmed as we need a new social convenor.

### **Editorial**

We continue to be a part of living history – isn't that amazing? How many of you cooked up a Backcountry meal and kidded yourself you were eating it on a mountain top – as tramping captain John suggested?

Your committees were very busy keeping the club running almost as normal (whatever that will become) and we even enjoyed a few Zoom get togethers too. What was happening at the front of your display (wine glasses) and behind you (kids running around) proved to be just as entertaining as the speaker we were listening to! We must have learnt something about operating digitally very quickly. Thanks to those who helped us get on board with it. Now it is time to get back into full swing of a regular tramping programme and social activities. We have caught up on all the trip reports up to the time of lockdown – time well-used. Well done.

Truth be told, I have been pleased to have a couple of months break from getting the bulletin compiled so I am hoping you enjoy this edition. I have only one request to make of all contributors – please get your material to me no later than the Friday after club night. It is really time-consuming chasing it up over the weekend and right up to the time when I need to get it to the printer. With our postal services not being as good as in the past, time is of the essence for getting your information to everyone in a timely manner.

Abandoned your landline?!! Please keep the membership convenor up to date and she can keep us up to date too.

Now to get back to what we do best – going tramping. Your editorial will appear in its' usual place next month.

~~~~~

### **Presidents' Blog**

Thank you to those who attended to our constitutional obligations last week - I mean, thanks for coming to the long-delayed AGM. As well as the usual scrutiny of accounts, nominations and membership fees, we had thorough reports from John and Stephen of last year's activities, and an update on Whakapapa transport and Waikato Hut arrangements for the ski season. It's good to see the Hut being used as a base for winter tramps. A great place for a winter holiday too, now you can't escape overseas!

The AGM was a time to acknowledge all those who help out with the running of the club and, in particular, with the contributions of John Davies and Mary Reed. At the moment the call is out for someone to arrange speakers for our club

nights and organise other social activities; otherwise known as the Social Convenor. Might that be you?

Tramping trips are filling up well in advance, so we are getting back 'into the routine' of regular tramps. The mid-week walking group is popular too.

I enjoyed Ray Hoare's club night talk about his time as a physics student in the Dry Valleys of Antarctica, with tales of warm and very saline lake water deep down under the ice, and of the naming of Lake Chad after a brand of toilet paper (or was it a lake in Africa) and Lake Hoare after the man himself. Ray's colour slides had aged well. They showed activities not much different from today's scientists, as described by Rebecca Priestly in her book "Fifteen Million Years in Antarctica".

~~~~~  
**Social:** Come and join us for a social get together at the Haines', 11 Alison St, on Friday 17th July at 6.30pm. Bring along \$20 to cover half time dessert and coffee, a dish to share, your favourite tippie and your meat to BBQ. As a special 'treat' Graham will show a movie in the comfort of his lounges. Always a great night out with friends. If you are new to the club this is a great way to get to know your tramping colleagues.

### ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2020

2889	11/12 July	F	Ruapehu circuit	David Totman
	17 July		Movie night	Graham Haines
2890	12 July	E	Karamu Walkway	Jacqui Dick
2891	19 July	E/M	Waitawheta Hut	Judith Bogle
2892	25/26 July	M	Snowcraft II	Allan Wickens
2893	2 Aug	E	Waikato River trails	Ron Dick
2894	8/9 Aug	M	Whirinaki- Moerangi track	John McArthur
2985	16 Aug	E	Mangakawa loop	Lois Rowell
2896	22/23 Aug	F	Winter tramp	Mike Peck
2897	30 Aug	M	Ed Hillary Hope reserve	John Wilson
2898	5/6 Sept	E/M	Mts. Tauhara & Pihanga	Allan Wickens
2899	12/13 Sept	E/M	Pureora Baiting	Dianne June
2900	19/20 Sept	E/M	Leitches Clearing	Judith Bogle
2901	27 Sept	E/M	Otawa trig	Les Warren

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 the 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 2889**

#### **Ruapehu Circuit**

**11/12 July**

This trip begins on Friday night with a drive down to Whakapapa to spend the night at Waikato Hut. With limited daylight hours, an early start is needed on Saturday morning and starts with recommended use of the new Sky Gondola to aid us a good way up the mountain before we start cramponing the rest of way up and over the Ruapehu summit on foot to descend down the Whangaehu glacier to the Alpine Club Hut and continuing downslope to the Tukino Ski Lodge to spend Saturday night there.

Another early start on Sunday morning is needed as we have to walk around a third of the mountain back to Whakapapa! The day entails walking down the Tukino 4x4 road to where it crosses the Round the Mountain track. At this point we head eastwards on the Round the Mountain track across the Mangatoetoenui Stream bridge before cutting off the track to sidle north east off-track around the mountain and picking up the Round the Mountain track

again about 2kms east of Lower Tama Lake. From here it is a 2 and half hour walk back to Whakapapa Village and our transport back to Hamilton. This is an adventurous alpine winter trip and both days will be fairly demanding if quite different. We will need to carry overnight packs to accommodate sleeping bags, alpine rated clothing, crampons, ice axe, helmets and food for two+ days. This trip will not be cheap! We have to cover transport, 2 nights of accommodation and use of the Sky Gondola. The trip is also highly dependent on the weather. A call to proceed will need to be made early in the week before.

**Leader:** David Totman                      **Ph:** 8569000                      **Grade:** F

**Transport:** Senior member \$45-60                      Senior Non-member \$50-65

---

**Trip 2890                      Karamu Walkway                      12 July**

This is a pleasant day walk along the hills to the west of Hamilton with great views and impressive limestone formations. Part of the Te Araroa walkway, the track begins on the Raglan-Hamilton Road near the Raglan Deviation. We start off through the Four Brothers Scenic Reserve and then pass the new Hilary Hope Reserve. After climbing a short distance through bush it's onto farm land and along the main ridge south to Old Mountain Road. We then climb again and cross gently rolling pasture studded with limestone outcrops before dropping down to a bush remnant at the southern end of the track. The track descends steeply in places and then follows a farm road along grassy flats until we come to the swing-bridge over the Kaniwhaniwha Stream. Here we will be picked up by the bus on Limeworks Loop Road. About 10.5 km, 4 hours walking.

**Leader:** Jacqui Dick                      **Ph:** 021 260 8149                      **Grade:** E/M

**Transport:** Senior member \$20-25                      Senior Non-member \$25-30

---

**Trip 2891                      Waitawheta Hut                      19 July**

We will follow the Waitawheta Tramway, stopping at the various information signs to find out when, why and how the tramway was built. The tramway track is relatively flat. The main track requires one river crossing but there is a bypass track that requires just a few small side stream crossings. The main track then leaves the river and through a campsite before reaching the toilet bowl waterfall, the Waitawheta Hut, and the site of the old logging mill. Return via the same track, or spend the night to explore more of the park. This should take approximately 7 hours.

**Leader:** Judith Bogle                      **Ph:** 858 5687                      **Grade:** E/M

**Transport:** Senior member \$20-30                      Senior Non-member \$25-35

---

**Trip 2892                      Snowcraft II                      25/26 July**

This weekend training course is designed to improve on the skills learnt on our basic Snow craft course. On Friday night, we travel to National Park and stay at the backpacker YHA for two nights.

On Saturday, we will attempt to traverse from Whakapapa ski field, to the crater of Ruapehu and down to Turoa Skifield. En-route we may have time to climb Paretaitonga Peak (2751 metres). After the traverse, we spend a second night

at National Park. On Sunday, the aim is to do a climb of Mount Tongariro (1967 metres) from Mangatepopo Hut via the prominent ridge running parallel above the Mangatepopo Valley. We then down-climb into South Crater or do the Tongariro Summit Route to Red Crater, before returning to the Tongariro Crossing trailhead at Mangatepopo.

**Leader:** Allan Wickens

**Ph:** 0279509546

**Grade:** M/F

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

**Transport:** Senior member \$45-60

Senior Non-member \$50-65

**Accommodation at backpackers:** \$50-60/person for two nights (depends on YHA membership)

**Food:** Self-catering (pub next door)

---

### **Trip 2893**

### **Waikato River trails**

**2 Aug**

**Departing: 8.30am** Note the slightly later start.

The Waikato River is New Zealand's longest and the 100km of off-road trails that follow the river's banks between Atiamuri and Pokaiwhenua Bridge are known as the Waikato River Trails. The journey takes 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 Little Waipa Reserve. We will start the day with a caffeine fix at the Rhubarb Café in Arapuni Village, then drive to Jones Landing where we will start the walk. During the walk we will see some fantastic river gorges and lake views, walk across the spectacular Arapuni suspension bridge spanning an impressive 152 metres high above the river, climbing up and around the impressive rock face that towers over Lake Arapuni with fantastic views south down the lake, and walking through a unique wetland.

**Leader:** Ron Dick

**Ph:** 021 2608149

**Grade:** E

**Email:** *ronjmd@icloud.com*

**Transport:** Senior member \$20-30

Senior Non-member \$25-35

---

### **Trip 2894**

### **Moerangi Track**

**8/9 August**

WE NEED TO TRY AND LEAVE HAMILTON AROUND 4PM. Those registering for this trip, can you please indicate whether this is a problem. From a very recent field visit to check out Okahu Valley Road and track to Skips Hut, I found a small problem – about 1km from the Okahu Valley Road carpark, the road has been washed out due to some severe weather several months earlier. This will mean we have an extra 15-20min walk to the carpark from the washout. The stream is easy to cross as long as it remains low. Will also need to bear in mind, that daylight saving will be over, so will be getting darker quicker. The new plan for the weekend is.

Friday: It is at least a 3hr drive to Okahu Valley Road 'washout' point, then a 15-20min walk to the carpark. Here we can camp and use toilets.

Saturday: We will walk from the carpark to Moerangi Hut via Skips Hut (1.5hr) and Rogers Hut (3.5hrs from carpark). It is another 3hrs from Rogers Hut to

Moerangi Hut. The track is undulating with a gradual climb to Moerangi Hut. This will make it a 7-8hr day. The track is well graded and is also a mountain bike track. Moerangi Hut sleeps 9 people.

Sunday: We walk out to the River Road carpark, which is 5-6hrs. From the Hut, there is a stiff gradual climb to cross over Moerangi Saddle, then it is downhill to the River Road carpark. Then, we have the 3hr drive back to Hamilton.

Further details will be sent to those registering closer to the time of departure.

**Leader:** John McArthur

**Ph:** 0212889641

**Grade:** M/F

**Transport:** Senior member \$45-65

Senior Non-member \$50-70

---

### **Trip 2895**

### **Mangakawa**

**16 Aug**

It takes about 45 minutes from Hamilton via Scotsman's Valley and Kiwitahi. The track is located on Paratu Road Walton. There are no toilets at the carpark. From the car park, the loop track leads a short distance into the bush before splitting in two directions. The track to the right is shorter but does involve a steady climb to the summit. The last ten to fifteen minutes is quite steep. Tramping time in this direction takes between one hour and one hour fifteen. The track to the left is gentler but takes around two hours to the summit or one and a half hours down from the summit. There is a look out platform at the top with 360° views. However, the trees are starting to block these lovely views. Lunch will be at the summit where there are a couple of seats just below the viewing platform. The entire track is through bush. There are not a lot of roots to negotiate but may be a bit soft due to rain. Unlikely to get boots wet.

**Leader:** Lois Rowell

**Ph:** 0272881148

**Grade:** E

**Transport:** Senior member \$20-30

Senior Non-member \$25-35

---

### **Trip 2896**

### **Winter Tramp**

**22/23 Aug**

We will drive down Friday night and stay at the YHA in National Park. (Cost tba) On Saturday morning we will get dropped off at Mangatepopo and head up onto the Tongariro crossing. A climb of Ngauruhoe is an option as we are only walking as far as Oturere Hut. Walk out on the Sunday to Whakapapa village possibly via Waihothonu, the Ohinepango springs, and Tama lakes.

**Leader:** Mike Peck

**Ph:** 021 369256

**Grade:** M/F

**Transport:** Senior member \$60-90

Senior Non-member \$65-95

---

### **Trip 2897**

### **Ed Hillary Hope reserve**

**30 Aug**

This Native Forest Restoration Trust reserve lies on the western side of the Kapamahunga Range. There is a mix of native forest and farmland regenerating back to forest with some planting help. At this stage the plan is to start from the Old Mountain Road and tramp up through the reserve and over to the Raglan Road. Crossing the road, we will climb up, re-cross the road at the summit and drop back down to our starting point. At different times we should get views of the Wind farm, Karioi and Raglan Harbour to the west and Pirongia to the south.

**Leader:** John Wilson

**Ph:** 8436464

**Grade:** M

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

Senior Non-member \$30-40



us manage and track our bookings from the moment you make them. Payment is made at the time of booking and you can review all of your upcoming bookings as your visit gets closer. It's a complete self-service environment - and most people will find it no harder than a normal online reservation from any of the established online travel agents. If you haven't received the member's booking details then drop me an email and I'll sort that out with you.

With **the impact of COVID** we've put off appointing a custodian for the start of the season. It's always great to have someone ready to greet you on arrival and that won't change. Some of our senior members will be Hut leaders through July and until we feel it's worth having a custodian in house. During the week sometimes there may not be a host at the Lodge and we'll work on a remote check in phone/web etc for those occasions.

RAL just dropped a press release announcing the move to booked **parking** for on mountain carparks, if you are planning on arriving during the day. Night time arrivals will be limited to carparks 3, 4 and the loop road area. Possibly the roadsides as well. Each Wednesday bookings will open for the week ahead. Although this season there is no charge for parking it's clear this is seen as part of their ongoing revenue stream especially from Season and Life Pass holders. Parking is an ongoing issue and it's clear more emphasis will be on Shuttles in future years. More details will become available from RAL and be on their website.

In future changes shuttles will no longer operate from Whakapapa village. There is a Park & Ride facility in National Park which you are advised to use when on mountain parking has been exhausted. Full details available from DoC . Your best way to ensure you can park on mountain is by arriving Friday night. You will need to check road conditions and be prepared to stay in National Park if bad weather is like

**Covid-19 Requirements.** We're lucky to be able to gather and ski when other countries are knee-deep in clusters and growing case numbers. Please be cautious and do your bit to keep our country at Alert level 1.

- DO NOT come to the Lodge unless you are 100% OK.
- If you become unwell tell the Lodge leader who will help you, including getting off the mountain.
- Keep washing your hands thoroughly - best tip ever!
- Use the sanitiser provided.

All of these steps help keep everyone else safe and free from general illness and Covid. Please be cautious - we can get back to sensible when it's safe to do so.

**IMPORTANT:** The air control vent at the base of the log burner must be closed prior to the last person going to bed or when the building is vacated for the day. During strong winds, ash can be blown through the vent onto the hearth area onto the carpet.

Stephen Prendergast

---

*If money doesn't grow on trees, how come banks have branches?*

## Mid-week Walks & Tramps

We are trialling a new format for Midweek Walks & Tramps aiming at having at least 2 activities a month one on the 2nd Tuesday and the other on the 4th Wednesday or thereabouts. These will be as varied as the group is and we will communicate ideas & the up-coming activity via a Mid-week W & T's group page on WhatsApp.

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

~~~~~

### Trip Reports

#### **Trip 2871      5 Passes (originally Olivine Ice Plateau      22-27 February**

Shortly after the bulk of the group arrived in Queenstown the advance parties were picked up and we made our way out to the Lake Sylvan campsite and the start of the track. This first evening of walking was along a very well-maintained track and after a couple of hours we were at the Rock Burn Shelter. Some road closures meant that our walk was slightly longer than it could have been and damage to infrastructure made some parts more challenging, but we were all pleased with the progress and looking forward to the days to come. The next morning, we climbed back up the track we descended the previous evening to a bridge over a chasm above Rock Burn. We then found our way back to the Dart and followed its true right to Beans Burn. We were sidling high at points which allowed us to see a jet boat that we'd been hearing for most of the morning. Most of us were somewhat put out to discover that the jet boat wasn't carrying any passengers after we'd gone through a lot of grief trying to organise a lift up the river! When we arrive at Beans Burn there were some employees of Dart River Adventures inflating a number of 'funyaks' for the morning's tour. One of them ferried us across the burn and we stopped for morning tea and got going just as the group of 38 arrived to begin their float down the Dart.

The track up Beans Burn takes us steadily up through bush to a bridge over a gorge and then back down to the burn. We have lunch in a clearing where the track ceases to be marked on the map. In reality however, the track beyond here was well-worn and we had 3 different colour markers to follow almost the entire way to the rock biv which was our destination. A long day of sidling above the burn over gullies, slips and avalanche paths eventually returns us to the water where we rock hop and wade our way to the tussock where we can see the enormous split rock biv in the distance. Upon arrival we find that there's not quite as much room inside the bivs' various chambers as we were expecting, so John and Mary elect to tent outside while Steve, Mike & myself sleep inside. A clear, new moonlit night meant that the sky was a fine reward after an 11-hour day.

We weren't far from the foot of Fohn's Saddle and we were soon heading directly up the slope to it, as per Moir's Guide. For the most part this was a scramble up a grassy hill with kea circling high overhead. Upon taking a break when we had climbed most of the way, a message from John D (who had injured his way out of being co-trip leader and into being support crew) was received on the Garmin telling of "severe" gales forecast for 3 days' time. This was somewhat concerning, as no matter which way we cut it, we were going to be fairly exposed at that point in our trip to the Olivine. We started thinking about whether or not we should go for 'Plan B' instead, which was to go instead for The Five Passes. When we arrived at Fohn Saddle the clouds had come down and the wind had come up and we continued with our storm gear on, descending the other side to the outlet of the larger Fohn Lake. Steve and John made their way up the stream to the lake (John even having a dip) while the rest of us stayed below. Some more discussion about what we should do, and with no firm decision reached we follow the true right of the outlet stream towards the Olivine Ledge, and on a ridge overlooking it decide to take the Five Passes route rather than be caught in bad weather on the journey out from the Olivine Ice Plateau. We found a number of dry spots for tents on a stony patch of the ledge and camped for the night, where the end of rationing was celebrated with some enormous meals and several games of cards.

We were joined by a trio of kea for breakfast next morning which delayed our start somewhat. We turned west towards Fiery Col, often looking over our shoulders to where the Olivine Ice Plateau lay just beyond our sight. The gorge to the east of Fiery Creek slowed us as we looked for a safe crossing. Steve, Mike and John went low and climbed up a steep face on the other side while Mary & I went high and found a lightly-worn track marked with cairns. We then picked our way up to Fiery Col, escorted by the occasional rock wren. We had lunch on the pass looking down into the next valley where quirks of geology meant that orange mountains on our right collided with grey mountains, Fiery Col seeming to be where they connected. We descended down scree and then over boulders as we slowly made our way down to Cow Saddle, often stopping to check the map as well as climbing to higher vantage points to choose our route. When we reached the flat, we had a short rest and a dip in the headwaters of the Olivine River. We slogged across Cow Saddle and down into Hidden Falls Creek where we mostly followed the true right to the next series of flats where we were about to make camp when Steve suggested we carry on for another kilometre or so where we could see another grassy patch. Upon arrival we found the ground uneven and unsuitable for camping, but Steve redeemed himself when he found a fantastic spot across the stream amongst the beech trees. After spending most of the evening huffing and puffing, John even managed to get a fire going for a few minutes!

We left our camp early so that we would have the best chance at getting to the lake at Park Pass Glacier. We crossed to the true left of Hidden Falls Creek and

onto a dry channel which soon led us to a marked track. The track was a punishing climb, ascending about 600 metres in little over a kilometre. Despite being very steep, the climb was not technically challenging thanks to numerous well-placed roots and other natural hand-holds. From the bushline it was a short distance to Park Pass itself. Upon reaching the pass, only Steve and John were up for the climb to the glacier lake. Those of us who stayed at the Pass were somewhat apprehensive looking at the route up to the glacier, but as we watched the pair fly up the mossy rockface, our fears were allayed and I even began to wish that I'd joined them. Upon their return they confirmed that the path was not too much trouble and that the views were worth every bit of exertion. We carried on down into the headwaters of the Rock Burn and crossed to the true left where we picked up a trap line that took us directly to Theatre Flat. Our only trouble came when, after waiting for Steve to catch up after stopping to take a photo, we realised that the whistling sound we could hear was not a bird but was a distress call! We quickly found him and were relieved to see that he wasn't hurt but had just lost the track. A good reminder that even if you know that you are close to the track, the best course of action is to stay put! We spent a while on Theatre Flat finding a suitable campsite, but eventually found an excellent spot underneath an enormous rock which sheltered us from the wind and the rain that arrived overnight.

Upon waking we found that we were not the only ones sleeping under this rock – mice had chewed their way into Mary's food, Steve had a mouse in his tent and I found a hole in my pack. Just as we finished packing up the rain had started again and wouldn't leave for the rest of the day. We had a very windy run across the swing bridge over Rock Burn. From this point damage from the flooding earlier in the month was severe. At one point the burn seemed to have been diverted into what was once the track and we were forced to briefly take a more circuitous route through bush. A slow, wet slog up to Sugarloaf Pass over washed-out track with many trees and slips along the way. On the top of Sugarloaf Pass was our first opportunity for cellphone coverage in many days. All five of us were on different providers which was lucky as only I had reception. We crowded around and were able to arrange a pick-up from the Routeburn shelter. From here the track descended steeply into bush and eventually we reached the Routeburn track. After days of mostly unmarked routes, to be ending the trip on this Great Walk-standard highway was something of an aberration. We raced along the final 500 metres to the shelter, anxiously hoping that the bridge over the Routeburn was still standing. To our relief it was still there, the brown, impassable torrent of the Routeburn many metres beneath. At the shelter we were surprised to find that our transport had arrived over an hour earlier than we'd arranged, and we were able to return to civilisation with its hot showers and clean clothes sooner than we'd anticipated. Despite not reaching our intended goal of the Olivine Ice Plateau, the trip was thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding for all of us. Plans are being hatched to

make another attempt at the Plateau, with the many lessons of this expedition being taken on board. Primarily, a trip of this scale (approximately 10 days) needs to be thoroughly and meticulously planned to make sure that only what is absolutely necessary is being carried. The biggest difficulties we faced were largely related to the weight of our packs (none of us started the journey with fewer than 20kgs on our backs). For next time, we've discussed changes like sharing equipment such as tents and also leaving the ice gear (crampons, ice axes & helmets) at home.

Our thanks to John D for his part in planning this trip & support along the way; and to Diane and Eoin of Buckley Track Transport for shuttling us there & back and looking after some gear.

Party members: John A, Steve C, Callum M (scribe), Mike P (leader) & Mary R

### **Trip 2872**

### **Richmond Range**

**23-28 Feb**

Well not this time and not because of Covid 19. Just a couple of weeks prior to departure I was notified that we couldn't get access into the Range due to extreme fire risk. So where to now? Well with the promise of a week of fine weather what an opportunity to head into the stunning but often damp Nelson Lakes.

So, a new plan was hatched - boat up Lake Rotoroa then tramp up D'Urville or Sabine valley to Blue lake, then return via Lake Angelus and Robert Ridge, doable in the 6 days we had available.

So, on day one, after a short burst up the lake in the water taxi, the group split into 2 groups, with Jocelyn, David, John, and Keith hopping off at D'Urville hut and Margaret, Helen, and Ian, carrying on to Sabine Hut to start their journey up the Sabine. The D'Urville is a beautiful track, remote, classic beech and river flat clearings and, after 4 hours, Morgan Hut burst into view- our home for the night. This sort of tramping I could certainly endure.

Day two involved a relaxing hike up to George Lyon Hut for lunch then a swim and sunbathing before nibbles, tea and bed. [oh yes, some of us washed the hut floor] I was enjoying this tramp.

But what a difference a day makes. Day three involved getting over Moss Pass then down to Blue Lake Hut to re-join the rest of the group. It was up and up and up, nothing technical but fantastic vistas requiring plenty of camera stops. After 5 hours we heard voices, looked up and there just above us were Margaret, Helen and Ian who had come up from the other side to greet us at the top and to carry our packs back down to the hut. Yeah right. Still, it was great seeing them. [David easily won the race to the top] STUNNING views then down a narrow chute and views into Sabine valley and Blue lake and more downhill 'til finally I stumbled into Blue Lake hut. Rest of day was spent telling tales, dipping in the outlet of the lake and exploring the area.

Day four was a long day, pedal to the floor as we walked down to Sabine Hut about 20km. (Another 4k for David who shot up to lake Constance for a look,

Margaret and her group had popped up there on Day two after arriving at Blue Lake around lunchtime] and with a big day tomorrow with a 1000m climb up to Cedric Pass en route to Lake Angelus - the fun factor had gone. But beautiful scenery and beautiful weather sure made it easier to endure.

Day five, no water en route so we all carted extra up that hill, lunch on the tops then down to the lodge that is Angelus. And wow, what a place and what a setting, magical.

Day six, our last day, the weather was changing, cloud closing in as we packed up. The wind and cloudy drizzle added to the drama as we crossed high bluffs but abated as we descended to Robert Ridge carpark to meet the shuttle back to Nelson for most of the group, Keith and Margaret and Ian had vehicles at St Arnaud. Thanks to the crew: Margaret R, David T, Joselyn W, Ian Mc, Helen M and John Mc with his amazing phone GPS app., scribe Keith R.

~~~~~

### **Trip 2876**

### **The Jaunt to Lochnagar**

**7-14 March**

Monday: Meeting up in Wanaka (Jo-our leader, John, Fiona, Dale and Doug) on Saturday afternoon for an eight-day trip into Mt Aspiring National Park, we faced a forecast of bad weather for several days. Therefore, we booked 2 nights in an old classic alpine hut, the Cascade Hut which is a 15-minute walk beyond the poled route to the Shotover Saddle in the Matukituki Valley, and a 2 hour walk from the Raspberry Flat road end carpark. This excellent position allowed us a bird's eye view of the Saddle, so we could assess the visibility of the pass.

Scribe Jo

As the rain that fell during Sat night and continued on Sunday morning, we had an unwanted rest day and headed up to the Mt Aspiring Hut (also a NZ Alpine Hut) for lunch, a game of cards and to talk to the ranger about the weather - that wasn't about to change anytime soon.

Next morning the view from Cascade Hut was improving, so we took a chance and began our ascent to the Shotover Saddle following red marker poles, about 1175m above. On the way up we saw a pair of NZ falcons flying about the hillside. They were spectacular to watch. A strong icy wind was blowing near the summit which almost blew me over. Once over the top we found a relatively sheltered spot for lunch.

Directions towards the Tummel Burn Hut were only a vague guide on a sloping landscape which involved sidling rough terrain as no track existed. We decided that reaching the hut was out of the question in the remaining daylight hours, so we scouted for a camping site in the headwaters of Tyndall creek, finding an area that had short lush grass in contrast to the snow tussock, bogs or rocks - however it was sloping. Dale had the great idea of putting a pack underneath the end of our mattress so you could push yourself back up the tent. Rain pelted down until about midnight when it abruptly ended.

Scribe Doug



The team, on the Rees Saddle

Photo by Jo Walker



The most important part of the day

Photo by Jo Walker

Tuesday: The following morning in calm and misty conditions we spent the next 5 hours traversing low scrubby undergrowth, scattered with large rocks at about the 1300m elevation, around the back of the “beast” as I like to call it. Finally reaching the ridgeline, we descended to find the lonely waratah described in Moirs’, followed by a steep descent down the gravelly gully, bush bashing for an hour below bluffs and then descending a rugged ridgeline when John and Fiona glimpsed a small clearing, and lo and behold there was a permolat marked trail. Upon reaching the grassy flats 20 mins later, I had to resist the urge to kiss the ground, the relief was so great to finally be on flat clear ground.

We spent the night at the quaint Tummel Burn Hut; once the smelly decomposing hare had been removed from underneath the floor joists. A couple of members demonstrated their agility (or lack of) after the long day, by tripping over the number 8 guy wires holding down the hut, some more than once! We discussed options of back tracking to tape the trail down to the hut, however as we had no tape and time was limited, we decided a return trip was required for this task (note to self, do a John D and take a mountain bike tumble a week prior to that trip.....).

Wednesday: First glance out of my tent in the morning revealed more rain. No, surely not. Fortunately, by the time we were bush bashing (again...) along severely overgrown cattle tracks above the Shotover River, the sun was shining. After morning tea, we were out on the river flats with a few hours of easy enjoyable walking, then up the grass at Lake Creek before linking up to cross the fast-flowing river as no-one was keen to try the bucket pulley (aside from me). Ascending the rough walking track lined with metal stakes and botanical signs we reached the Goatel (bivvy well used by goats). A quick stop for a photo shoot then onwards towards the lake, which did one of those “it will be over the next rise” jobs and never was. Finally, after admiring the top of the mountain sitting on the valley floor which formed the lake many moons ago, we caught our first glimpse of the majestic Lochnagar, with a gorgeous rustic hut, pristine clear water and an open-air toilet with views to die for. A chilly swim was taken, followed by a blissful dinner on the tiny beach breathing in the views.

Scribe Jo

Thursday: We woke to an impressive sight with moonlight over Lochnagar and a coolish morning. We headed up the ridge which had stunned some of us into silence the day before., Trying to find animal trails proved a bit difficult at times and after a few stops we made it to the top at 1890m. While having lunch we contemplated our next move, as this was the most difficult part to cross the steep snow-grass sidle at the head of Pine Creek. The beach at Lochnagar way below, was looking more favourable to some of us at this point. After a long debateable decision we all decided to go 500m and return if we felt uncomfortable; it was nerve wracking for all of us holding on to the snow grass moving like snails, 3 point contact at all times, look straight ahead and not down, over an hour later it was a big sigh of relief when we reached a small

level patch of flat area. Phew! That we had done it phew! All safe. So onwards and upwards through the Icelandic landscape at the head of Pine creek following the basin over the pass, we found the two spurs to get down to Snowy Creek after careful navigating as cairns were few and far between. Down the schist, very steep slope and we arrived at the campsite for the night. Was a long day at 10hrs and very challenging. Scribe Dale

Friday: We had an unexpected 4am wakeup call from Doug, gallantly racing around the flat in his underwear and tramping boots, hurling rocks at the kea who had been running stealth sabotage missions on our gear all night (the downside of a full moon) – due to his efforts we had minimal damage to the tents. Thanks Doug. (*Ed comment: what a sight to behold! Any pictures?*)

Whilst packing we could hear the cracking noises in the Tyndall glacier above the head of Snowy Creek with the resident kea still giving cheek. After heading down stream zigzagging our way back and forth across Snowy Creek we reached the gorge, this was our cue to head up and out of this pristine valley via Rees Saddle. After 5 days without seeing another soul outside our group, we popped out on the back of the Saddle to find small groups of trampers on the Rees/Dart Track, sitting on top of the saddle in the sunshine soaking up the amazing vistas. We felt like celebrities as they grilled us ‘where did you just come from?’, ‘what was it like in there?’ etc. The walk to Dart Hut traversed down through a gorgeous lush alpine garden with stunning views of the Whitbourne Glacier.



Well-earned rest before Chinamans Bluff,

Photo by Jo Walker

We decided the forecast high winds for the next day weren't suitable for an exit via Cascade Saddle so the tough decision was made to walk out to Chinamans' Bluff road end at the beginning of Dart /Rees Track instead.

A highlight of the walk out was the Rock Bivvy that we camped in on our 7th and last night. An amazing enormous rock with a large flat/dry area well under the overhang turned out to be a great choice. This added yet more depth to the diverse camp spots we'd enjoyed throughout the week, and a perfect spot for our last night.

A highlight of the walk out was the Rock Bivvy that we camped in on our 7<sup>th</sup> Saturday: Walking out on Day 8, we were amazed to see the extent of the rock slides and damage that had plagued the track and closed it so many times over the last few years. Much of the original track has been diverted up and over large areas that have slipped into the river, which has made this area more technical and slower than before.

As we arrived at the Chinamans Bluff carpark, two young Canadian climbers arrived at the same time and came to sit with us. One had a bad fall that day and had managed to walk back to the carpark with a suspected broken wrist. They were pretty shaken up and still in shock, not in a hurry to leave us and make their way to hospital. John Aarts sympathised with the two young guys as he and another group from WTC had been at that very same bluff two weeks before as they embarked on their Olivine tramp. Small world. Scribe Fiona

It was an excellent but challenging trip with great team dynamics, travelling through some stunning and pristine environments. We were fortunate to be rewarded with the jewel of Lochnagar and to return safely home in time for Covid 19 lockdown.

~~~~~

**Trip 2878                                      Golden Bay Walks                                      16 - 21 Mar**

Participants: Keith (leader) & Margaret(scribe) Robbins, Sharon Sholl, Kathy Tao, Marion & Richard Francis.

Timing is everything and so it proved for this trip. With Covid-19 ramping up Allan and Pamela Hughes withdrew from the trip the night before departure as they had only been back from the USA for 4 days. We thank them for their concern for our safety. Sharon suggested this trip and Keith volunteered to help with the organisation. Golden Bay is an interesting area with lots of day walks and who wouldn't want a hot shower and home cooked meal after a day out in the hills. We hired a van, a bit of a rough one (not like the picture on the website) but in view of some of the roads we went on, it was appropriate.

Sunday 16 Mar: After collecting the crew and stocking up with supplies, we headed out of Nelson and first stop Höglund Art Glass Gallery. Wonderful pieces and luckily the glassblower was working so we watched him turn a blob of molten glass into a beautiful vase. Next stop Rabbit Island/ Moturoa for lunch and a walk on the beach. Then on to Mapua for a coffee, gallery visit and to

soak up the atmosphere of the wharf and estuary. Just before the Takaka Hill we turned off to visit the Riwaka Resurgence, a short walkway through native bush to where the river emerges from the base of the hills. There are traffic lights on the Takaka Hill road due to all the damage from the storm last summer but we didn't have to wait long. We stopped at the lookout at the top for views back across Tasman Bay to Nelson. Next, we turned off to go to Harwood's Hole. After rattling along on the winding, gravel road we arrived at the DoC campsite to realise we didn't have time for the 45 min walk each way to the hole. Back on the main road, we continued down the other side of Takaka hill to Ligar Bay and our very lovely AirBnB with views over the water.

Monday 17 Mar: Another beautiful day. Drove east along the coast and walked up to the Wainui Falls through bush and then headed for Rawhiti Cave. A lovely 1.5hr walk each way up a valley to the top of ridge. Amazing formations in the cave and the highlight of the day. Also visited the Labyrinth, an area of strangely shaped limestone rocks and the Grove, a small reserve with huge trees growing atop rocky outcrops and with roots hanging down like curtains over the rocks to ground level. The days walking done we returned to beautiful Ligar Bay for a swim, drinkies on the deck and another yummy dinner.

Tuesday 18 Mar: We got away early and the first stop was Pupu Springs. Te Waikoropupū Springs are the largest cold-water springs in the Southern Hemisphere and contain some of the clearest water ever measured. Lovely walk, noticeable lack of tourists. We then headed for the Pupu Hydro Walkway which retraces an old gold-mining water race, once reused for power generation. It's a delightful walk up the hill and along the water race to the weir. Sharp eyes spotted koura (native crayfish) in the water race. After lunch we returned the same way and headed for Collingwood. We stopped off for a walk along the beach and then carried on to Collingwood in time to patronise the local café. We stayed at Somerset House backpackers overlooking the village.

Wednesday 19 Mar: We left early to arrive at Wharariki Beach at low tide and headed straight for the pools where the seal pups hang out. What a delight to see them at such close range and so obviously enjoying themselves. Not to be missed. We walked along the beach admiring the iconic islands with arches standing just offshore and also investigated the caves, disturbing an adult fur seal in one of them!! Richard kindly moved the van around while the rest of us walked a part of the coastal track to Farewell Spit. We passed a newly built predator proof fence and thought it must be to protect penguins but found out late it is to protect fluttering shearwater nests. After lunch at the lookout we drove onto Farewell Spit and walked across the spit to the ocean beach and back again just to get a feel for the place. We returned to Collingwood and treated ourselves to dinner at the local pub.

Thursday 20 Mar: Another early start to catch the tide in at the Whanganui Inlet. It was beautiful with the bush down to the water's edge. We climbed Knuckle Hill which is about half way along the inlet. It's a lovely 1.5 hour walk through

bush and then tussock to the summit at 506m. It was cold and windy but wow, the views were fantastic. It looked very dark and bleak to the south and to the north you could see the curve of Farewell Spit and to the west the whole of Whanganui Inlet in all its magnificence. Once back at the van we continued on the very narrow, gravel road to the wharf and then returned to Collingwood. With time to spare we visited a couple of local galleries to view the artwork and pottery all with a local flavour.

Friday 21 Mar: Another early start, destination Cobb Valley dam. What a road, so narrow and winding endlessly uphill. We thought we'd never get to the top and when we did, we were above the bush line. We stopped at the lookout to admire the amazing views and then zigzagged down to the dam for our walk. A 2hour easy climb through beech forest (lots of bellbird song) and then out onto the tussocky tops to reach Sylvester Hut for lunch. It's a very nice hut with great views over the Tablelands to Mt Arthur. A resident weka kept Richard and Keith company while they lazed in the sun. The girls carried on the extra half hour to see the lakes. The larger lake was interesting with high cliffs at the far end and even though above the bush line there was beech forest under the cliffs so the rocks and lake moderate the climate enough for the beech to grow. Headed back down to the van and the long drive out again. One scary moment when a vehicle came around a corner too fast and Keith had to brake heavily. What a relief to be back on tarseal again and so we said farewell to Golden Bay and started the long drive over the Takaka Hills to Riwaka and our accommodation for the night. After such a long day it was bliss to enjoy a hot shower and a farewell dinner at a restaurant in Motueka.

Saturday 22 Mar: After a slow start and enjoying the breakfast supplied by our hosts, we headed for Marahau. We had a walk along the spit there and watched the water taxis coming and going and then continued on to Split Apple rock which is worth seeing. It's a rock shaped like an apple that has split along a cleft like an apple cut in half. We had lunch at a little truck café in Kaiteriteri. They were closing that day two weeks earlier than usual as Covid-19 was already keeping people away. Once again, our timing was impeccable as it started to drizzle as we left Kaiteriteri for Nelson and the end of our week of day walks in Golden Bay. Needless to say, we all had a great time and especially thank Keith and Richard for driving the van.

With the success of this trip, we hope to do a similar day walks trip next summer possibly in the Lake Wanaka/Hawea area of Central Otago.

~~~~~

*And at last.... Our tramping programme can recommence.  
Trips that were planned for lockdown dates have been  
removed and the numbering continues here.*

**Trip 2881**

**Covid warmup tramp**  
Mt Karioi Summit Track, Raglan

**17<sup>th</sup> May**



Social distancing on the Karioi helipad

Photo by??

Five Club members met out at the Te Toto Gorge carpark at 8.30am Sunday morning. We had a crystal-clear sky and a warm sunny day with NO WIND, which made for perfect walking conditions. We practically had the mountain to ourselves on the way up to the summit, enjoying the steady climb up the hill with ladders and chains to add some fun along the way. We took great pleasure in sitting on the helipad just below the summit, dangling our legs over the edge while we ate an early lunch.

The warm sun on our backs and lack of wind to take in the 360° stunning views at our leisure was a luxury not everyone has the opportunity to experience on this exposed rock. On the way back down to the carpark we had spectacular views out to sea, watching the multitude of small boats enjoying their day out on the water. The track was much busier on the way down with groups and families wandering up to enjoy the outlook. Allan Wickens, Les, Fiona, Anita, Steve.

~~~~~

**Trip 2884**

**Te Whare Okioki**

**13/14 June**

Four of us met at London street to drive together to the carpark at Wairere Falls. Judith and Dawn met at the Te Tuhi track end in separate cars, left one there and then drove over and met the rest of us at the Wairere carpark – making us a group of 6. The forecasted rain thankfully stayed away that morning and we

had a good steady walk to the top of the falls where we all enjoyed the views. It was then a fairly flat walk along the North South Track to Te Whare Okioki hut. We enjoyed a few stops along the way, getting to the hut in good time. Not much birdlife along the way, but we did enjoy the company of a few North Island Robins at different spots.

The hut was fully booked that night, so on arrival we all picked our campsites. Some of us may have been a bit indecisive and may have changed tent spots 3 times .... Julie? Finally set up, we got a fire started in the outside fire pit which is where we stayed before we turned in for the night. We were well entertained by the occupants of the hut and their four-legged friend and those of us with ear plugs were thankful for them as the hut group enjoyed themselves well into the night.

We woke up to a beautiful, but crisp morning. There was a moderate dawn chorus from a number of tui, better than previous visits. We headed out from the hut, looping towards Mangamuka Hut. We were expecting mud and a very overgrown track, but the track wasn't as boggy as we thought it'd be and the trail markers were fairly easy to follow. We had morning tea in the sun at the clearing at Mangamuka Hut, and after a false start of losing the track for a minute we were on our way out to meet the Te Tuhi Track. There were quite a few stream crossings but we all kept our feet dry. We had a quick lunch stop before reaching the Te Tuhi track, and then it was all downhill from there. Some of us expressed our happiness at not having to walk up that track, which was the original plan. The track ends at farmland and it's a short walk across the fields to the carpark. John, Judith and Dawn drove back to the Wairere Falls carpark to the cars, and John came back to pick up the rest of the group. It was a great weekend enjoyed by all, thanks John. Group: John McA, Les, Jacob, Judith, Julie and Dawn.



## **Trip 2885**

## **Pukekohe 5 summits**

**21 June**

Congratulations to the Pukekohe Tramping Club who marked their 50th anniversary in 2019 by creating the Five Summits Trail. This gift to the community circumnavigates central Pukekohe in a 21-kilometre loop and includes five local hills. 'Who has been to Pukekohe before?' asked Selwyn in the van on the way there. It appeared that nobody had explored the town in detail, most of us having just passed through on our way to destinations beyond. Our team of ten included Selwyn, Dianne, Rizal, Jeannette, Allen, Fiona, Lorna, Adrienne, Kathy and Chris. Dianne was feeling kind that day and drove us from the official starting point at the railway station, up our first hill (Pukekohe Hill - 222 m) from which there were magnificent 360° views of Pukekohe town and well beyond. We also got driven to our second hill, Belmont Rise, before being ejected from the van. We were getting far too comfy by then. However, the rationale for driving to the second hill as a starting point was to avoid about 10 kilometres of street walking.

We learnt a little of the local history presented on story boards as we meandered through a range of pathways, reserves, native bush, some suburban roads and along streams. Of particular interest was Ernie's Reserve up to our third hill (Cape Hill) through native bush planted to commemorate Pukekohe's early settlers. Our fourth hill, The Rock, provided great views across the town and from there we could see our final hill, Roosville Park.

Several of our group commented that the best had been saved for last. Roosville Park was indeed a highlight. We wandered under a canopy of mature native trees while being treated to lovely birdsong. A great way to finish a very pleasant and interesting trip.

From there we headed back to the railway station and the van having completed about 12 km of the trail.

*Ed comment: On the way home we stopped for coffee at the Bombay autobahn station and then for a walk in the scientific Reserve on the new expressway at Taupiri. I wonder what sort of science is carried out there? A single notice board gives no clue.*

Message from Pukekohe TC: After our recent walk along the 5 Summits Trail around the town, we sent a thank you to the Pukekohe Tramping Club who developed the Trail. Their president, David Lawrie replied: " I heard that a group were seen walking the trail, so it must have been you. I am pleased that you enjoyed the trail, come up again sometime. If you give us a bit of notice we may be able to organise a guide to give you a bit of local knowledge. Thanks for encouraging words".

~~~~~

## Midweek Walks & Tramps

We are trialling a new format for Midweek Walks & Tramps aiming on having at least 2 activities a month one on the 2nd Tuesday and the other on 4th Wednesday or thereabouts. These will be as varied as the group is and we will communicate ideas & the up-coming activity via a Mid-week W & T s Group page on WhatsApp. If you would like to be part of this communication please download WhatsApp on your phone and text your request to Sharon 021 458 525.



**Waikato Tramping Club  
and  
Waikato Ski Club**

Have a look at the club facebook site for more pictures and comments.  
Have a look for our 70<sup>th</sup> reunion information here too!

### From the committee table:

**New members:** Welcome back to Rupert Craggs.

**Resignations:** Parva Zaireire, Damon Crawford, Libby Chandler, Geoff Hustler. One other couple has been struck for non-payment of subscription fees.

**Membership:** We have 176 tramping members.

**From the transport convenor:** We are looking for some more drivers for our trips. If you are willing to help get trip participants to where the trip is to happen, and not necessarily be able to do it yourself, please get in touch with Ashley, our transport convenor. Contact details on the front page.

### *Snippets from here 'n there*

➤ To WTC Committee and club members: Hi all. Just a short note to advise that I stepped down from the FMC National Executive in early March. While overseas in Jan/Feb I had a flareup of my 'long in remission' health problem and cannot commit to the demands of the FMC rôle until I stabilize and regain good health. It was an interesting year, so thank you for the opportunity to serve. I look forward to getting back into WTC adventures and social occasions as my health rebounds. Regards, Alan Grant, club member and FMC rep 2019/20.

➤ New Zealand now has 117 islands which have been declared predator free, thanks to committed work by conservation staff, scientists, and support from philanthropic organisations and volunteers. Quote from Conservation minister Eugenie Sage.

➤ Filched from the Auckland Tramping Club magazine: Here's how to get your base (PACK) weight down to where it should be – comfortably under 9kg.

**Pack, shelter, sleeping** (your big 3) – **3 kg max**. Ultralightweight trampers will be closer to 2 kg; up to 3.5kg is still reasonably good.

**Pack liner** – **100g**

**Rain gear** – over-trousers and rain jacket, **600 - 700g**

**Clothes** (additional to what you'll be tramping in) – fleece(s), camp/hut clothes, spare underwear & socks, beanie, gloves. **1.5 - 2kg**

**Footwear** – most people take some sort of hut or spare shoes. Crocks are popular but are bulky and a monstrous 300 - 400g. Runners are even heavier, jandals and reef shoes a bit lighter. But do you really need anything at all? A good way to save weight is to take nothing.

**Cooking, fuel, eating** – **800g** (very generous). True lightweights ditch plates, use their pot lid as a cup, and have a titanium spoon or spork, Chux cloth to clean up, and small lighter.

**Toiletries, hygiene, first aid, meds** – **500g**. Ditch your towel, it's way too heavy, and use Chux cloths instead.

**Water containers** – **150g**

**Compass and maps – 100g** if you print your own topos.

**Electronics** – a smartphone plus PLB will be 300 grams, add a GPS and power pack and you'll be close to **700g**.

**Sundries** – torch and batteries, knife or multitool, repair kit, maybe one or two other things, but make sure they're light. **250g**.

➤ 70<sup>th</sup> Reunion. This function has been postponed until a similar time next year. Does this make it a 71<sup>st</sup> celebration or remain as a 70<sup>th</sup>? For those who were going to make it part of their own 70<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration, you'll have to hold off for a bit and kid yourself you are 70 again next year. The money paid to book the venue has been held by the venue and so has our booking so that money has not been lost. Other money was used for postage to contact past members and this has been effective so \$\$ were not lost there either. Meantime, please take every opportunity to remind past members or advertise our function.

➤ **Ray's advice for trampers.** Remember the pair who were missing for 18 days in the bush in Kahurangi National Park? Ray Hoare had this letter published in the Waikato Times on 30 May.

To the Editor,

Take a beacon next time

Much has been made of the right things the recently rescued trampers did, and they deserve some credit for that. However, the search might not have been needed, or have been very much shorter, if they had carried two very simple and light pieces of equipment.

Every modern phone has GPS in it, that works by sensing satellite signals, and does not need connection to the phone system. Many apps are available for nothing or low cost, that can use the GPS signal to locate the phone on free and detailed maps. Getting lost is unlikely when using such an app correctly.

Personal locator beacons should be carried by any group when there is a possibility of going off track or when going anywhere in the NZ bush overnight. They are cheap to hire and can be purchased for less than \$400. In the event of an accident help can be summoned from anywhere and will arrive within hours guided by a radio homing signal.

I do not intend to blame the trampers in this case but to use the publicity around the rescue to strongly suggest to others that there are additional things you should take into the bush, besides your tent and sleeping bag. We live in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and even an 80-year-old trumper like me knows that some new inventions are worth having.

~~~~~  
.....*from the DoC website*.....

➤ The eight palm trees at Mansion House Bay on Kawau Island., originally planted in 1950s, are either dead or dying with drill holes at their bases. Although not part of the original gardens from the 1800s, the palms have seen generations of day trippers, boaties and visitors come and go over the past 60

years. The culprit has drilled substantial holes into the base of each tree and poured something like concentrated weed-killer into the holes. It's obvious DoC cannot save the trees., DoC staff were first aware of the issue in early March when some of the palms were showing signs of distress but couldn't look any closer until late May and level 2 lockdown was in place. The Phoenix Palm trees were protected under the Auckland Unitary Plan. If you have any information relating to this vandalism, please contact DoC on their hotline.

➤ A critically endangered species of skink whose natural habitat has been destroyed by beach erosion is breeding well at Auckland Zoo. The cobble skink was discovered in 2007 on a narrow strip of diminishing coastline in Granity, north of Westport on the South Island's West Coast. In 2016, with frequent storms threatening their habitat, DoC salvaged all remaining individuals (34) to establish a captive population as insurance against extinction. The skinks were sent to Auckland Zoo, which also holds Chesterfield skinks, another critically threatened coastal lizard species. There have been few baby cobble skinks until this year, when 22 were born, bringing the population to 49.

➤ Sign up to book conservation huts and campsites. DoC is encouraging Kiwis to create an account online today in preparation for conservation hut and campsite bookings for a new booking system which opened on 25 June 2020. DoC's 950 huts and 200 campgrounds are situated across the country in some of Aotearoa's most scenic spots. Conservation campgrounds are a mainstay of classic Kiwi summer holidays and the huts provide shelter and accommodation to thousands of trampers each year.

DoC manages a huge network of accommodation in conservation areas across New Zealand, most of which is operated on a first-come first-served basis. However, some accommodation can be booked in advance online. This helps DoC manage popular facilities and encourages greater use of these facilities by a wide range of people, including families.

Alongside accommodation on the Great Walks, all DoC's lodges, cabins and cottages, about a quarter of DoC campsites, and a small fraction of DoC huts are bookable.

~~~~~  
*... from the FMC website...*

➤ Griffin Creek back under imminent threat. Griffin Creek is nationally significant canyoning location, located in the Taramakau Valley, near Greymouth. FMC and NZ Canyoning Association were informed late afternoon, 18th of May and given 5 working days to respond to a new variation application. Although specifics weren't given a brief outline was given and can be summarised as follows:

- re-routing the penstock pipeline through the surrounding native forest (rather than nearby private land),
  - taking 8x the approved land (12m2 to 100m2),
  - getting approval to cut down trees 2.5x the diameter (20- 50cm).
- FMC opposes Huka Falls zipline. In March 2020, DoC publicly notified an application by Sky Play Adventures Limited to build a five-stage zipline at Huka Falls, Taupo. This is the second application for a zipline over iconic waterfalls in the upper North Island in the last six months, after a concession application for a zipline at Okere Falls was notified in September 2019. And just like the proposed zipline at Okere Falls, the development at Huka Falls involves multiple wires (five stages) criss-crossing the river, with a high visual impact over the area's main visitor attraction. Given the impact the zipline would have on the walkways on either side of the Waikato River, FMC opposes the development and submitted against.

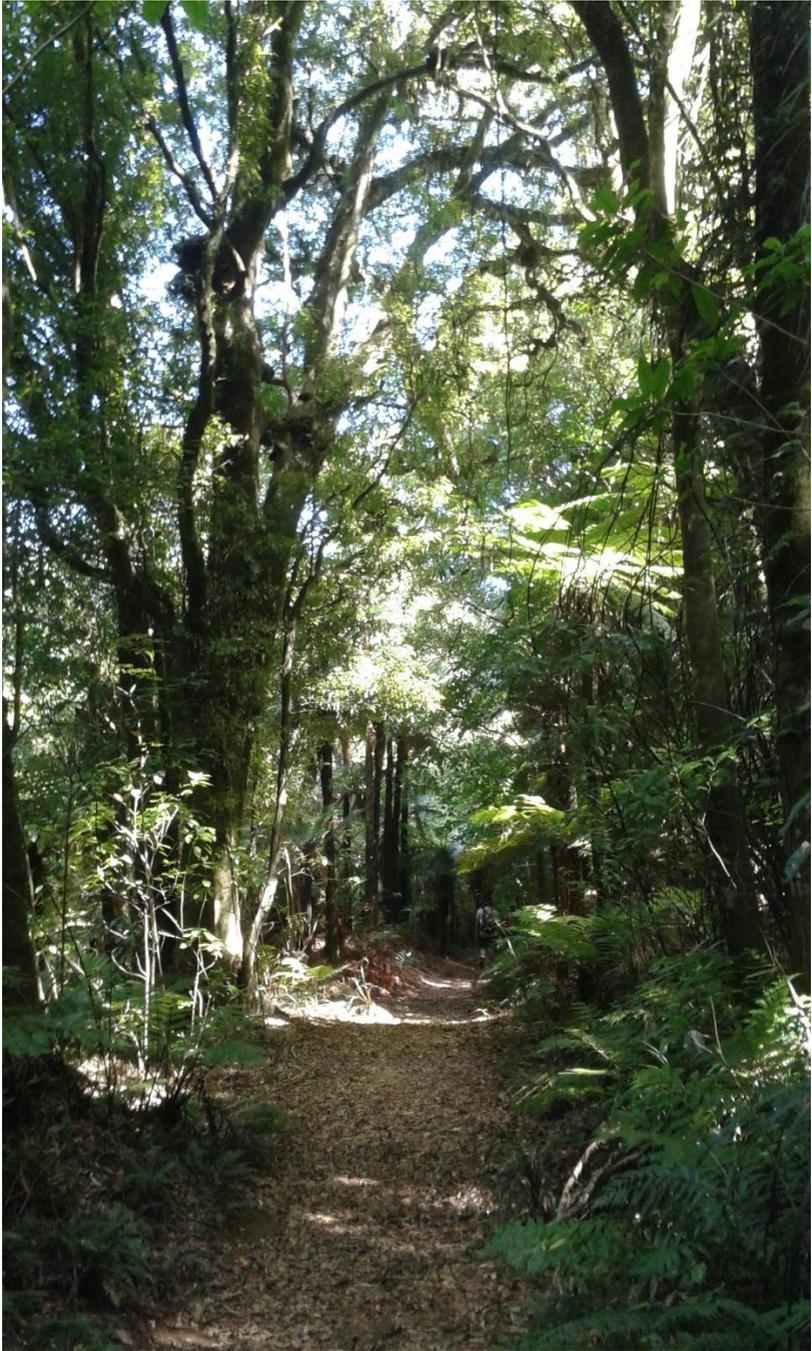
~~~~~

Here are a couple of pictures the editor was sent while we were in lockdown.



Above Snowy creek, looking for a way down

Photo by Jo Walker



On the Dubbo track

photo by Marianne Libeau



Covid Kaka in Jacqui & Ron Dicks garden



Hakarimata kiekie

photo by Stephen Prendergast

**bivouac/outdoor**  
COMMITTED TO ADVENTURE

we ARE tramping

Anatom  
toothbrush

EARTH  
SEA  
SKY

EXPED

GARMIN

icebreaker

MSR

OSPREY

OR OUTDOOR  
RESEARCH

SEA TO SUMMIT

ASOTO

Image: Mark Wabor

311 Barton Street, Hamilton

07 839 4206 [hamilton@bivouac.co.nz](mailto:hamilton@bivouac.co.nz)

15% off RRP for Waikato Tramping Club

(Discount is off RRP, not to be used in conjunction with any other special or offer. Excludes electronics, hut tickets and gift cards)



Official Bulletin of  
**WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)**  
PO Box 685, Hamilton 3240

NEW ZEALAND REGISTERED MAGAZINE