



THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

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



The attempt to go up the Waingawa R in Tararua by Allan Wickens

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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 803

March 2019

General Committee

(Contact details listed below)

President: Selwyn June **Secretary:** Lois Rowell **Treasurer:** John Grace
Members: John McArthur (VP tramp) Mary Reed (VP Ski) Stephen Phillips
Allan Wickens Russell King Stacey Thompson Doug Pagel Mike
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Tramping Subcommittee

Tramping email: waikatotrampingclub@gmail.com

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| Secretary: | Lois Rowell | loiserowell@gmail.com | 8565369 |
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Waikato Tramping Club account: 03 1555 0091625 02 (& include the trip number)

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April

**Note the new start time of 7.30pm for our meeting**

After a shortened presentation of the upcoming trips we get on to club business. This is the night where you have the opportunity to hear how the committee has managed the club affairs and what plans there may be for the future. It is also time for you to have your say in the form of a vote, expression of an opinion, or partake in the discussions. Of course, if you wish to nominate someone to the committee, check with your nominee first and then let the Secretary know – at least 21 days before the AGM.

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

Time: Doors open at 7.00pm.

No cover charge

**Social activity:** come along to a film evening at the Haines' at 11 Alison St on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March. Start time is 6.30pm. Bring along your refreshments, a salad to share, and your meat to BBQ. Dessert and tea/coffee will be served at 'half-time'. The film this time will be an informative one from Peter Jackson's portfolio. Contact the hosts on 8395932 for further information.

No need to book

Cost: \$20

### ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2019

|      |                       |     |                                 |                     |
|------|-----------------------|-----|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 2816 | 17-22 Mar             | F   | Canterbury high country         | John McArthur       |
| 2817 | 17 Mar                | E   | Mokaihaha(Mamaku)               | Doug Pagel          |
| 2818 | 23/24 Mar             | M   | Pirongia(Bell/Mahaukura tracks) | Allan Wickens       |
|      | 29 Mar                |     | Film evening                    | Graham Haines       |
| 2819 | 31 Mar                | M   | Pinnacles/Coromandel            | John McArthur       |
|      | 3 <sup>rd</sup> April |     | AGM                             | Stephen Prendergast |
| 2820 | 6/7 Apr               | Var | Ruapehu                         | Selwyn June         |
| 2821 | 14 Apr                | E/M | Maungatautari traverse          | Doug Pagel          |
| 2822 | 19-22 Apr             |     | Taranaki circuit                | Damon Crawford      |
| 2823 | 28 Apr                | E   | Cycle –Velodrome to Karapiro    | David Cumming       |
|      | 1 <sup>st</sup> May   |     | CLUB NIGHT                      | Stephen Prendergast |
| 2824 | 4/5 May               |     | Explore Rotorua walks           | Allan Wickens       |



|      |           |      |                              |                |
|------|-----------|------|------------------------------|----------------|
| 2825 | 12 May    | M    | Waiorongomai - Te Aroha peak | John Wilson    |
| 2826 | 18/19 May | Var. | Leitches Clearing            | Mike Peck      |
| 2827 | 26 May    | E/M  | Hiwiroa                      | John Davies    |
| 2828 | 1-3 June  | M/F  | Ruapehu(east)                | Allan Wickens  |
| 2829 | 9 June    |      | Karioi                       | Damon Crawford |
| 2830 | 16 June   |      | Waitomo area walks           | Club captain   |

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

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

### TIME and FITNESS GUIDELINES

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Bookings and Cancellations:** no later than the WEDNESDAY before the trip. DONT FORGET: You can book online from our website too

Bookings and cancellations for all trips must be made by the Monday night prior. Any person withdrawing after this day without good reason will be charged the full cost of the trip. *Please give your landline when making a booking.*

**Departure Point:** Trips depart from the river end of London Street. Cars can be parked, facing the road, in the McCaw Lewis Chapman car park. If in doubt contact your trip leader.

**Weekend Trips:** leave on Friday nights at 7pm sharp unless otherwise stated.

**Day Trips:** leave Sunday mornings at 8am sharp.

If someone is concerned because a trip is late back, contact:

- 1) Club Captain; 2) President; 3) committee member.

### Minimum equipment required:

**Day Trips:** A thermal layer (polypropylene, polyester etc or wool), an insulating layer of fleece (polartec etc) or wool and a water/wind-proof parka outer shell. Shorts or longjohns/over-trousers in cool or wet weather. Torch and sunscreen. Boots or strong shoes. Lunch, snacks and water bottle. First aid kit.

**Weekend Trips:** The above plus pack with plastic liner bag, sleeping bag, tent, sleeping mat, cooker, billy, plate or bowl, spoon, food, spare dry clothes for evening, towel, toilet gear, light camp shoes. A water purifier can be useful. Plus in extreme weather or country: additional warm top, over-trousers or woollen/ fleece trousers, warm outdoor mittens or gloves, over-mitts, warm hat or balaclava, sunglasses. Ice axe and crampons for snow.

## Trip Descriptions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Accommodation** - tba

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### **Trip 2817                      Mokaihaha (Mamaku)                      17 Mar**

Head to Paradise Springs Rd to walk to the summit of Mt Ngongotaha early in the day before it becomes too warm. On the way we will detour to check out the 40m rata tree on the loop track. From there we will head off to Mamaku and head in a SE direction to find the start to the Mokaihaha track which takes us to Lake Rotohokakoha. This is a most unusual lake in that it is completely surrounded by native forest and possibly not well seen from above because of the proximity of the surrounding forest. An interesting trip and in the shade during this hot summer. It is also an area where kokako are to be heard. The day is an easy one and plenty of time for chatting. Come along and explore two different places the club doesn't often visit.

**Leader:** Doug Pagel                      **Ph:** 8582445 or 027 3463844                      **Grade:** E

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

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### **Trip 2818                      Pirongia (Bell/Mahaukura tracks)                      23/24 Mar**

This trip covers two lesser used tracks on Mount Pirongia. Both are quite different in nature. The Bell track is the longest way to get to Pahautea Hut and takes about 7 hours. Starting at Kaniwhaniwha via Blue Bell Stream, the first and longest part traverses some long relatively flat sections before the final climb up to The Cone at 953 metres. The hut is

not far past this point. We stay Saturday night at the hut. As it may be full we will have to carry tents and a fly sheet as back-ups. On Sunday, there is about a 4-5 hour descent to Grey Road, via the summit of Pirongia (959 metres) We will travel down the Mahaukura Ridge which has several bumps to negotiate.

**Leader:** Allan Wickens

**Ph:** 027 950 9546

**Grade:** M

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

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

Senior Non-member \$40-50

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### **Trip 2819**

### **Pinnacles/Coromandel**

**31 Mar**

This day trip will start with the drive to the Kauaeranga valley behind Thames. The track is one of the most popular in the Coromandel so it is fully bridged and you won't get your feet wet. The track winds up the Kauaeranga river and Webb Creek before getting up onto the hillside and climbing to the Pinnacles Hut site. This is a rise of about 400m but slow / lengthy. We will inspect the hut, for those of you who haven't been there, and then carry on up the last ridge of about 170m rise, to the spectacular outcrop of rocks which we perch on to view the magnificent scenery of the Bay of Plenty, the mountain range and off west to the Thames valley.

The way home is down hill, obviously, and therefore we will be so fast and energetic that we may go back via the Billygoat walk, where I have been lost before. If we get out, we can stop somewhere for an ice-cream.

It's a good length of a day with about 600m climb so it is a medium fitness.

**Leader:** John McArthur

**Ph:** 021 2889641

**Grade:** M

**Email:** [mcArthur@outlook.co.nz](mailto:mcArthur@outlook.co.nz)

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

Senior Non-member \$30-35

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### **Trip 2820**

### **Ruapehu**

**6/7 Mar**

We do not have a specific walking plan for this trip as yet, so I'll say that this weekend is in OUR hut on the mountain, where we will be walkin', talkin', eatin', drinkin', laughin' and generally chillin'. If you have a particular interest, such as seriously climbin' the big hill at the back, let me know.

One group will do a Tongariro Crossing, off-track up to base of Mt Tongariro then skirting around to Central Crater to join the hordes. Another group is planning an ascent of Ruapehu. Lots of other, easier options.

**Leader:** Selwyn June **Ph:** 8433066

**Grade:** anything from Sloth to Ludicrously Fit

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

Senior Non-member \$50-65

**Hut Fees:** Senior member \$20/night

Senior Non-member \$30/night

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*A library is a hospital for the mind*

**Trip 2821****Maungatautari traverse****14 Apr**

My plan is to walk from the Southern end up the motorcycle track to the summit and then walk back down the original track. At Christmas time there were a few young kakas in the southern enclosure which were on the feeding station only 6 metres away and not bothered by humans. While we won't be actually going into the enclosure we may be fortunate enough to see some along our walk that day.

**Leader:** Doug Pagel**Ph:** 8582445 or 027 3463844**Grade:** E/M**Transport** Senior member \$20-25

Senior Non-member \$25-30

**Trip 2822****Taranaki circuit****19-21 Apr**

Three day, two night tramp with spectacular views of Mt Taranaki and the surrounding countryside. The track passes through forest, alpine tussock fields, and the Ahukawakawa Swamp.

Friday: Drive to North Egmont Visitor Centre and walk to Holly hut via Kokowai and Holly hut track, 3-4 hours (7.5km). Due to a large slip part of Holly hut track is closed requiring a detour via Kokowai track.

Saturday: Holly hut to Pouakai Hut via Ahukawakawa and Pouakai track, 2-3hrs (4.5km). Side trips to Bells falls and Pouakai summit.

Sunday: Pouakai Hut to North Egmont Visitor Centre via Pouakai and Kaiuau track, 5-7hrs (13km).

Monday: The Whitecliffs Walkway could be a possibility before we drive home.

**Leader:** Damon Crawford**Ph:** 027 213 765**Grade:** M/F**Transport:** Senior member \$85-105

Senior Non-member \$90-110

**Trip 2823****Cycling- Velodrome to Karapiro****28 Apr**

This is a cycle trip on Te Awa, the Great New Zealand River Ride. We will meet at the velodrome (Avantidrome) at Hanlin Road, Cambridge, at 9:15am and cycle the section to Cambridge, through Leamington and then on to Lake Karapiro (15.2km). This trip is suitable for families. The roads within Cambridge are generally cycle friendly and most of this trip is on off road concrete path with a few gentle hills to deal with. The trip features views of farmland, the Waikato River and the section through to the Karapiro Rowing Course which follows the lake edge. On the return trip we will stop at a café for a coffee break.

**Leader:** David Cumming**Ph:** 8397850**Grade:** E**Email:** david.cumming@xtra.co.nz**Transport** Private arrangements.**Trip 2824****Explore Rotorua Walks****3 / 4 May**

Having had successful trips to the Coromandel region during our "Explore Coromandel" week-ends, we now concentrate on seeing what the Rotorua area has to offer. Notable peaks to ascend are Mounts Ngogotaha (757 metres) and Rainbow Mountain (743 metres). Along with the many shorter walks available we are also looking at doing a more challenging walk - the Mangarewa Track. This is a circuit of 9 kms taking about 5-6 hours and described as being for "experienced trampers only". Those up to the task may do this



trip while others concentrate on other less arduous walks in the meantime. We will depart London Street at a slightly earlier time than normal as the daylight hours will be less at this time of year. On Saturday night we will stay in budget accommodation in Rotorua.

**Leader:** Allan Wickens

**Ph:** 027 950 9546

**Grade:** M

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

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

Senior Non-member \$40-50

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### **Trip 2825**

### **Waiorongomai- Te Aroha Peak**

**12 May**

This is a medium trip, but we do start with a climb of Mt Te Aroha from the Domain. Widespread views can be had from the summit on a clear day, from Mayor Island and the east coast to the Waikato and Firth of Thames. On a really clear day Ruapehu is visible. We then drop down to the east and pick up the track leading down through Waiorongomai Valley, with historic mining relics adding interest. The weather will be getting cooler so don't forget warm clothes and parka.

**Leader:** John Wilson

**Ph:** 8536494

**Grade:** M

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

Senior Non-member \$25-35

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## **Waikato Ski Club**

### **Summer stays**

You can stay at the Lodge during summer, a great base for doing tramping in the Ruapehu area, day walks to Tama Lakes or the Waterfalls or Silica rapid. Or do the Tongariro crossing, or up to crater lake. You could also use it before and after longer tramps such as around the mountain, or the northern circuit, or for other trips round the central plateau, or just a place to relax and catch up with family. How about taking the kids for a few days in the holidays? Our members' rates for summer (valid for tramping and skiing members) are \$15 for a child and \$25 for adult, with good non members rates for \$30 for adult or \$21 for a child. Or book the lodge for a weekend for a family, social or work group - \$600 for the whole lodge. You do need to book beforehand, and open and close the lodge – i.e. putting on electricity water –but this is straight forward and there is an easily followed list to do this. Contact *waikatoski@gmail.com* to make bookings. Note during this time you can't do online bookings they have to go through the booking officer.

### **Doing your part?**

The ski section is keen to more interested persons involved in the running of the lodge and ski section, we welcome members to come on the ski section committee to help with the marketing, maintenance, and running of the lodge and ski section. Many hands make light work and it is sociable too. Please email *waikatoski@gmail.com* if you are interested.

### **Working Parties**

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

Weekend of 9-10<sup>th</sup> of March or April working party if needed – TBC.

Accommodation at lodge is free for the weekend for those on the working party, and we provide food for the weekend. Bring your own snacks and drinks. Transport – car sharing. Contact Stephen for more details 021 1031436 or email *waikatoski@gmail.com*

We had a busy working party a few weeks ago, carrying up the firewood, doing some painting, and cleaning and generally getting the place looking more spick and span. Don't forget all ages can do it as you can see from the picture below, all the kids carrying the firewood to keep us warm in winter, and a new sofa was carried up, and the old fridge down. We also saw the work for the new gondola taking shape - there are some concrete pads in, earthworks going on and hopefully the poles soon. It will be exciting to see and travel in the new 10 person gondola up the mountain. Looking forward to winter, which, despite all the great weather, will be coming. In fact, there was snow on the top of the mountain recently.



Nearly finished – a sterling job by our younger members

Photo by Mary Reed



Out with the old....

Photo by Mary Reed

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Editorial

The Editor is away having a well deserved “trip” in the South Island.

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# Presidents' Blog

## Formalities and fun:

First the formalities. The AGM occupies most of our April club night, along with descriptions of the next trips and perhaps a few recent trip photos.. As well as reports which review the club's activities over the past year, election of officers for General Committee, financials and budgets, this is a chance for ideas and discussion on how the club should be run in the future. See you there. An AGM booklet will be sent out closer to the date.

For the fun: expeditions are going out to more distant destinations from the Tararuas south. There are some great trips including real 'tiger country' in south Westland to the more gentle parts of Arthurs Pass, Nelson Lakes and Kahurangi. Truly tramping holidays.

Selwyn June

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Trip reports

Trip 2796

Otanewainuku trip on 8/9 December.

Reported last month



Time to get moving

Photo by David Totman



We made it to the lookout

Photo by David Totman

Trip 2797

Mountain Madness

22 Dec

This year's Mountain Madness trip was altered due to the fact that we could not enter the Northern gate of Maungatautari due to a dispute of some kind. So most of us decided to do just two mountains and have an early finish. We split into three groups, the winning team being John Davies and Martin Watson who did Pirongia, Kakepuku and Te Aroha, a small team of two, Jo Walker and Peter Nicholls who did Pirongia and Kakepuku, and another team of Les Warren, Stephen Prendergast and John McArthur who did Pirongia and Te Aroha.

The day was ideal with some cloud and a threat of moisture so the temperature was mild. Same old mud on Pirongia, still no sign of DOC or anyone else doing maintenance on the Tirohanga track. A good day out.

Ed comment: pictures appeared in last months' bulletin.

Trip 2798

Tararua Ranges

5-9 Jan

This trip to the Tararua Forest Park was led by Allan, who started his tramping there in the 60's. Like a lot of Tararua trips, it started out quite ambitious, given we had 6 days in the area.

Four of us left Hamilton on Saturday and drove to Ohakune where we stayed the night. To fill in time we drove up the Turoa Ski-field road in the lovely early evening light and took in the view that included Mount Taranaki.

The following day we drove down to Masterton and met up with John Mac. Cars were left at Allan's sister's place and we used a local taxi firm to shuttle us to The Pines at Kaituna. From there we walked along farm-land on the Barra Track, above a very clear Waingawa River.

This track was named after the late Bert Barra whose job was to co-ordinate 15 government deer cullers, starting in 1935. He had a personal high tally of 93 deer in one day, all in the Mitre Peak area. Bert spent his last days living in a small shack at the end of the farm-land. On entering the bush, the original plan was to walk up the river to Mitre Flats Hut. The weather at this point was perfect for such an endeavour and the nearby "tops" were clear. However, after walking about 200 metres up the river, some in the group were obviously struggling in the un-familiar setting. The decision was then made to use the track to Mitre Flats. It took us about 3 hours doing the high sidle with numerous side streams adding to the length of the track. Surprisingly there was plenty of water due to the wet December. On reaching Mitre Flats we decided to stay the night with the probability of strong nor'-westers the next day.



the attempt to get to Table Ridge.

Photo by John McArthur

Cow Creek Hut Part 1. Sunday dawned mainly clear, but the fast moving cloud coming from the direction of Mitre Peak indicated what we had expected did in fact happen. With no chance of getting onto the tops, we headed upstream for about 4 hours using a combination of the track and the river, reaching Cow Creek Hut early afternoon. Over the rest of the day our group lazed around except for John, who went for a look at Cow Saddle. Later in the day a group arrived to find us taking up most of the bunks. As they didn't have any tents, we graciously lent them our Club fly so they could camp near-by. As it turned out, they had a much better sleep than we did, lying on deep moss with the sound of the river in the back-ground.

Cow Creek Hut Part 2. On Monday, Allan decided we should try to get to Tarn Ridge Hut by way of Table Ridge. This involved a 900 metre climb up a steep track towards Peak 1390 metres. Parts of the track were quite steep, however the lovely bush and

numerous ferns kept our minds off the strenuous walk. On reaching the bush-line, we had a snack before donning "storm gear" and heading up into the mist (with occasional clear spots). The odd marker and pole helped us get through most of the leatherwood zone. At this point, one member starting failing and looked decidedly uncomfortable. There being a further 3 hours to Tarn Ridge Hut with strengthening wind, we decided to head back down to where we started the day. Callum and Allan decided on the moss and fly, while John camped nearby. The others opted for the bunks in the hut again. Cow Creek Hut Part 3. A small amount of rain brought the river up slightly overnight. Our options were a bit limited on where to go next. While we were up near Peak 1390, we managed to get internet reception and the weather forecast was promising for Tuesday. To fill in the day, we headed up to Cow Saddle where Jacob decided he would stay and look after our packs. The rest of us then climbed up onto the ridge leading to Waingawa Peak with a view to getting up close to Bannister Peak.



The table at Blue Range Hut

Photo taken by Allan Wickens on John's camera

John and Judith went almost to the main ridge while Allan and Callum climbed up onto Waingawa (1423 metres) for an outstanding view of the northern Tararuas in perfect weather with no wind. On getting back to Cow Saddle, we then had to go back down to Cow Creek Hut in order to take the main track to Blue Range. Allan was annoyed at having to do this as in the "old days" there was a direct route along Blue range to Cow Saddle - now overgrown with "impenetrable" scrub. The climb up onto Blue Range and along to the side below bush-covered Te Mara Peak took a further 4 hours. On arriving at the hut we found we had been beaten to the 4 bunks by the same group we had met at Cow Creek. Allan was further perturbed to find out they had managed to negotiate the

direct route along the ridge as there was only a short section of difficult bush. This time we used tents and the fly, after having dinner on the large table-seat with a view. Wednesday was our last day and involved a short walk out to Kiriwhakapapa. This lovely walk, almost all down-hill, was enhanced by the presence of brightly flowering rata and accompanying bird-life. Allan had remarked on several occasions over the previous days about the lack of bird-song in his earlier Tararua days. Obviously the trapping and other methods had caused a remarkable turn-around in bird numbers.

On reaching the trail-head, we had a welcome swim in the small stream before our shuttle picked us up. Once back in Masterton we bid farewell to John and then headed to Mount Holdsworth where we camped the night in the Holdsworth Lodge camp-ground. While there we did the short walk to Donnelly's Flats and bathed in the clear cool water of the Atiwhakitu Stream.

Not quite the planned trip but rewarding none the less. Those who went were : Allan Wickens (leader and scribe), John Mac, Judith B, Callum Mc, Jacob H.

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### **Trip 2800**

### **Inland Kaikouras**

**11-15 Jan**

On Friday 11 January , Louise Wynn of the Methven and Districts Tramping Club , Allan Wickens and I headed up the Hodder River in the Inland Kaikoura Range. Access to the start of the walk is from the Awatere Valley. After a cup of tea with Alan and Bev Pitts ....(Club Captain's comment... "Back in 1995, while attempting to climb Mount Tapuaeunuku with a group from the MAD Tramping Club, we had to be rescued by Air Force Iroquois helicopter due to a huge dump of snow that trapped us at the Hodder huts. Alan Pitt, whose farm you cross to get to the Hodder River, came looking for our group in his small plane. After seeing a large "Help" sign in the snow at the huts, he alerted SAR) .... we set off with the hot sun beating down on us, via the farm access track and eventually down the side of the hill to get to the river. From here we crossed the river many times in the first gorge. Although it was cold, with the day being nice and warm, we found it was refreshing. Walking was along the side of the river on rocks which sloped gently. For lunch we stopped at a large area that was now river bed but would be covered in full flood at times. For interest there were numerous groups of wild goats. Carrying on you could see areas where the earthquake had caused rocks to fall. These were sharp and loose and they eventually came to be my demise when I fell and sliced my knee. At this stage we had walked for 4 hours but were still 3 hours from the hut. We had just entered the second, more difficult gorge section. Due to my injury we had to walk out again making it a 9-hour day's tramp in the heat. Back at the Pitt's residence, we enjoyed their hospitality and help in contacting Blenheim hospital where I had to have some stitches put in.

We then had a day rest and on Sunday the 3 of us walked up Mt Richmond. Driving on the gravel access road, there was some low key 4WD travel over a couple of small streams to get to the walking track trail-head. On the way we picked up a couple of fellow trampers.



The team at Richmond Saddle Hut

Photo by Louise Wynn

From the last car park there was a continuous climb to the hut where we met another party that had stayed overnight and then climbed to the peak the next day. Once at the hut I stayed behind and Allan and Louise continued. There was plenty of scree to slip on. The two of them managed to get a great view of the surrounding area while up there, between the clouds passing through (the other two parties were less fortunate and had no view).



Allan atop Mt Richmond

Photo by Louise Wynn

### **Trip 2805**

### **Hauraki Trail ride**

**6 Feb**

Unfortunately this trip was cancelled as there was only one definite starter. However, Marianne and David went for option B which was a pleasant ride out to Ngaruawahia.

### **Trip 2809**

### **Exploring Coromandel Pt 2**

**23/24 Feb**

This trip was planned with the aim of "mopping up" the various short walks in the Coromandel that we were unable to do in "Exploring Coromandel Part One". On that occasion back in June last year, we initially concentrated on walks that covered the eastern and northern side of the Coromandel Peninsula. Although we wanted to do more over that long week-end, heavy rains and flooding prevented such an aim being fulfilled. Hence the trip this report covers.

Again, it looked like bad weather would be a problem, as Cyclone Oma threatened to hit the top half of the North Island. Thankfully it was a fizzer and died in the Coral Sea. However, there was also other bad weather looming from the south. Unfortunately this put several people off going. By the time Friday rolled around we were down to just 4 on the trip.

On Saturday, Susan and Allan drove to Thames and met up with our Rotorua "sub-branchers" David and Sharon. After coffee at the wharf, we drove to our first trail-head at Waiomu. The track description said the track actually started at the lovely cafe - indeed a sign at the cafe said just that. However it actually started at the end of Waiomu Valley Road, 10 minutes walk away. The walk to the Waiomu Kauri Grove took us just over 2



hours return and we were accompanied for the first half by Auckland trampers heading to Crosbies Clearing Hut. Stopping for lunch at Waiomu Beach we then drove partly up the Tapu-Coroglen Road to look at the 1200 year old "Square Kauri" and then drove



north to the 309 Road and did the very short walks to Waiiau Falls (pretty) and Kauri Grove Lookout (big kauri and the "Siamese" one ). We had hoped to get up close and personal to Castle Rock but it is currently in-accessible due to a Rahui placed on the peak by local iwi who own the land concerned (Note: this rahui followed two deaths last year and indications are it will last indefinitely). Late in the day we reached Coromandel township where we stayed at the Shelly Beach Top 10. Before dinner we did the return local walk from the camp-ground, at low tide around two bays to the popular and full camp-site at Long Bay.

Hole in the rock (with explorer) Photo by Allan Wickens

On Saturday, we were greeted by a northerly squall that brought driving rain which made prospects for the day a bit gloomy. However, we couldn't have been more wrong. After leaving the camp-ground we drove on the Whitianga Road in glorious weather, to Whangapoua where we intended doing the New Chums Beach walk first. However, with high tide due in about 2 hours, we opted for the Opera Point walk first. This walk starts at a carpark at the eastern end of the main beach and is initially a benched track. However, it soon dawned on us that this was another tide-dependent walk (note; not a great deal of

research done here). No problem though as the water was only knee-height over a short distance. This brought us into Whangapoua Harbour, with a great view across to Castle Rock. Allan, David and Sharon carried on in the water, around rocks to the "hole in the rock".

By now it was quite warm so we had a lovely swim in the clear water. From here, we climbed up onto the head-land via a faint "track", for even more glorious views. Rather than return via the coast-line, we carried on west through old pine and native bush, by a little-used track that returned us to the car-park.



Sharon atop the rock

Photo by Allan Wickens

Having used up most of the time required, we again headed for New Chums Beach, leaving the car-park and crossing the tidal stream that was by now a lot lower. One annoying thing was the smell from a large amount of algae that had gathered on the sand. This walk of about 1.5 kilometres is very popular with back-packers in particular and we were not alone. After scrambling over rocks, there was about 200 metres of rock-hopping before the well-formed track through Nikau and Pohutukawa forest. New Chums Beach was voted one of the "Top 20" beaches in the world. But not on this day. A large amount of red algae filled the waves and no-one was swimming. Instead we decided to head back. On the way David, Allan and Sharon climbed the prominent and steep head-land for a really great panorama.

Finally, after more rock-hopping, Allan had another swim at the main beach. We all said good-bye and head home mid-afternoon.



All-in-all a smorgasboard of different walks that are not truly "tramping" with the possible exception of the Waiomu Kauri walk. But walks everyone should do at some time regardless. Those who went were Susan J (a new member), Sharon S, David H and Allan Wickens (scribe).



**Waikato Tramping Club  
and  
Waikato Ski Club**

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

### **FITNESS WALK / FUN / FLAGSTAFF**

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

### **From the committee table:**

**New Members:** Angie An.

**Resignations:** Chris Lusk  
Sally Johannesson

**Membership:** We have 181 tramping members. 33 Subs still due for payment. A reminder has been sent - this may be your last bulletin if you haven't paid.

**From the editor:** A **FREE GIFT** for you. Kauri Dieback Boot Bag.

Oops sorry – again I forgot to bring the last of the boot bags to the Feb club night. If you would like one please contact me and we can make arrangements to meet. One comment raised so far is that they all look alike in the back of the bus but some smart cookies have used a felt pen to write their name on them and others have tied a coloured ribbon to the drawstring. What other imaginative ideas can you come up with?

**Misplaced: Personal Locator Beacon (PLB).** One of the club's PLBs has gone missing after a trip and we need this back as soon as possible. It is small enough to slip under the pack liner, or may be in your cupboard or tramping drawer, or an old day pack. Please search your tramping gear and get this back to the Club Captain or his assistant.

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

➤ **Wanted for free:** Do you have any old weekend backpacks that you would be willing to donate to the Pirongia Restoration Society for volunteers to use as part of the pest control programme? Please contact Dianne or Selwyn

➤ **WANTED:** When you are in the bush lots of you are fascinated by the many *Ganoderma* fungi – those bracket fungi you see on dead trees. Well, it seems there is a rare unnamed one on Mt. Pirongia or in the Awaroa valley and only 3 specimens exist in the archives. It is most likely to be found on Pukatea trees.



Example of a *Ganoderma*

The species to look out for is reddish-brown, perhaps a bit shiny on the upper surface, and cream to light brown on the underside.

If you think you have come across it, please photograph it, take note of the location (use your GPS on your phone), and notify Peter Buchanan at Landcare Research for followup.

➤ **Myrtle Rust.** Myrtle rust (*Austropuccinia psidii*) has been found across most of the North Island and upper areas of the South Island. This is consistent with modelling that identified these areas had conditions that were most suited to the myrtle rust fungus. Taranaki, Auckland, and Bay of Plenty are the most seriously affected areas. The Waikato area has been moderately affected. As well as the native pohutukawa, rata, swamp maire, manuka, kanuka and ramarama, the introduced lilly pilly, eucalyptus and bottlebrush have been affected. The disorder is spread via spores so vigilance is required – even in your home garden. Check the [Biosecurity.govt.nz](http://Biosecurity.govt.nz) website for more details.

➤ **Kokako on Pirongia.** It has been a bumper breeding season for kokako on Mt Pirongia this spring/summer. A couple of nests have been predated (that's life in the wild for you) but the trade-off is that some pairs have had a second clutch. One family of Mum and Dad, 2 fledglings and 2 chicks (they have a pink wattle when they're really young) were seen up the Wharaurua track recently. Exciting stuff. When we have a better idea of how many chicks have fledged we'll let you know. The pest control is proving to be really helpful to the success of the whole venture. Thank you to those who have helped with the bait work and/or the nest monitoring.

➤ **Pouakai tarns damage.** New Plymouth i-SITE Visitor Centre has posted on its Facebook page to say the area around the tarns was really fragile and urged people to stay on the boardwalk. This comes after DoC installed a boardwalk to avoid trampling of the wetland vegetation but many picture-snapping trampers were now walking beyond the boardwalk, pitching tents, or swimming in the ankle deep tarns until the right conditions emerged to take the photograph. The Pouakai walking circuit is getting so much use that a new car park has been built at the Mangorei Rd entrance, and a shuttle bus service introduced to take visitors up to the North Egmont visitor centre from Egmont Village.

➤ **Stepping up to longer trips.** Would you like to progress to weekend and longer tramps but feel you need advice on what is required to feel safe and comfortable? This advice could be about footwear, clothing, packs and other gear, or the kind of food or how to pack a light pack, or even the level of fitness preparation required. The club has

appointed 'new tramper mentors' to give you advice. We have Judith Bogle (ph 07 824 0825), John McArthur (ph 856 4394) and Ashley Hoskin (ph 07 870 4570). Feel free to give them a call. The designated trip leaders can also help you.

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

- It is time for the review of the 10year plan developed in 2008 of the Walking Access Act by the Walking Access Commission. You can check out the FMC website for the document and further information.
- There are some new categories for the FMC photo competition. Have a look as they might suit some of you brilliant photographers amongst us.
- A new tool to enable the public to help fight one of New Zealand's most invasive species has been created by Land Information New Zealand (LINZ). Wilding Watch can be used to find new infestations of wilding conifers as well as upload photos. In the wrong place the pine trees can take over landscapes threatening productive farmland, native ecosystems, tourism opportunities and our national economy. Website:  
*Wildpines.linz.govt.nz/apps/wildingwatch*

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

➤ DoC has paused its' review of two national park management plans while it works through the implications of the Supreme Court's decision relating to Ngāi Tai. Public feedback has been sought on the draft Aoraki/Mount Cook and Westland Tai Poutini national park management plans which outline how land, water, species, aircraft and visitors could be managed over the next 10 years. Both national parks are in the Ngāi Tahu takiwā and are of immense significance to the iwi. DoC's Director Planning, Permissions and Land says that following discussion with Ngāi Tahu recently, DoC decided to pause the current process so the implications of the landmark Ngāi Tai decision can be worked through. The Auckland iwi (Ngāi Tai) had argued that DoC did not properly give effect to section 4 of the Conservation Act, which relates to principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, when granting concessions for commercial activities on Motutapu and Rangitoto. Last December, the Supreme Court found that decisions to grant concessions to third parties would need to include asking whether the concession opportunities should be preserved for the economic benefit of Ngāi Tai and whether there was any basis for the preferential grant of concessions to Ngāi Tai.

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

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Email your contributions to the editor by **Wednesday, April 6th.**

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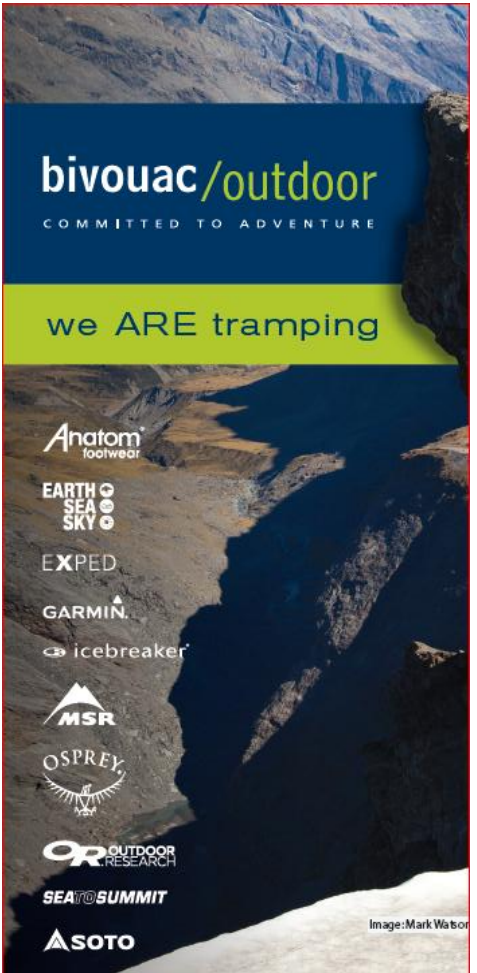
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