



THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

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

May 2019



In the tussocks on the Travers-Sabine photo by Mike Greer



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Free to members

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

BULLETIN No 805

May 2019

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(Contact details listed below)

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

Wednesday 5th June

Highlights from Tour Aotearoa

Stephen has just returned from 7 weeks riding from Cape Reinga to Bluff. The Tour Aotearoa route follows the back roads, cycle trails and occasional tramping track in a route designed by the Kennett brothers to showcase the New Zealand Cycle trails. Customising the route included Port Waikato to Awakino on gravel & then The Forgotten Highway. Find out what happened in Takaka, how to thumb a giant lift when the bridge gets broken, and which Cape was most spectacular.

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

Time: Doors open at 7.00pm, meeting starts at 7.30pm

Cost: \$2

May club night: We had a delightful change of routine at this club night. Kim Toxward gave a short photo presentation of her trip with Lois, Ray and Maureen to Great Barrier island. It was great to hear some about good anecdotes, the things she learnt about the island, people they met (who's nicer – a professor or a PhD holder?), the fact that the island is not just one great big sand dune, and that the island is part of the Dark sky programme – there are no street lights on the island! The trip report next month should be very interesting. Well done Kim.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2019

2826	12 May	M	Waiorongomai - Te Aroha peak	John Wilson
2827	18/19 May	E/M	Leitches Clearing	Mike Peck
2828	26 May	E/M	Hiwiroa	John Davies
2829	1-3 June	M/F	Ruapehu(east)	Allan Wickens
2830	9 June	E/M	Karioi	Damon Crawford
2831	16 June	E/M	Waitomo area walks	Mike Peck
2832	22/23 Jun	E/M	Miranda Hot springs	Club captain
2833	29/30 Jun	M	Snowcraft	Allan Wickens
2834	7 Jul	E/M	Karaka- Waiotahi	Selwyn June
2835	13/14 Jul	M	Kaimai working party	John McArthur
2836	19/20 Jul	M	Snowcraft 2	Allan Wickens

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

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 2826 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 is getting cooler - don't forget warm clothes and parka.

Leader: John Wilson

Ph: 8536494

Grade: M

Transport : Senior member \$20-30

Senior Non-member \$25-35

Note transport costs will be higher if a 4WD is used.

Accommodation: Hut is \$20/person/night. There will also be a backpacker cost for Friday night.

Trip 2830 **Karioi** **9 Jun**

We will be starting this track at Te Toto Gorge and making our way along the Mt Karioi Track, 3 - 3.5 hours one way, to the summit. This is a steep but scenic track on the western side that winds its way along a ridge. There are some ladders and chains to negotiate the steep rocky sections. Once on top of the ridge there is a short side track leading to a lookout with good views across Raglan Harbour. Back on the main track it is another hour to the Karioi summit (756 m) along an undulating ridge through wind sculpted vegetation. We plan to return the same way.

Another alternative is the Wairake Track, 2-3 hours one way on the eastern side. It is a shorter track to the summit and crosses farmland.

Leader: Damon Crawford **Ph:** 027 213 765 **Grade:** E/M
Transport : Senior member \$25-30 Senior Non-member \$30-35

Trip 2831 **Waitomo area walks** **16 Jun**

This Waitomo day trip will start at Appletree Rd and we'll head to the Tawarau Falls on the loop track. From here we will head onto Double Falls and then return back to the road end to complete the Loop track. DOC state is as a 5 1/2 hour walk and it is graded as a E/M trip.

Leader: Mike Peck **Ph:** 021369256 **Grade:** E/M
Email: *Mikeypeck@yahoo.com*
Transport : Senior member \$25-30 Senior Non-member \$30-35

Trip 2832 **Miranda Hot springs/Hunuas** **22/23 Jun**

Book in early for this trip as the campsites are soon booked out! This will also give us access to the hot pools next door where one can "bask in the hot pool under the evening sky" Quote from John Wilson June 2011. We'll walk a loop track around the Wairoa and Mangatawhiri Reservoirs on one day. Note that many of the tracks in the Hunuas are closed because of the need to protect kauri stands from the spread of dieback disease. On the other day, it will be short walks in the Miranda Shorebird reserve and Waharau Regional Park.

Leader: Selwyn June **Ph:** 8433066 **Grade:** E/M
Transport : Senior member \$45-55 Senior Non-member \$50-60
Accommodation: Camping only available \$28.50/person.

Trip 2833 **Snowcraft** **29/30 Jun**

This is one of the most popular trips we run each year and for good reason. On a good day the trip to the crater of Ruapehu is a very rewarding experience, especially for those who find snow and ice to be an alien environment and more so in winter. Given reasonable weather, by the end of the week-end you will understand the principles behind the rather complex concept of "Snowcraft".

Trip 2836**Snowcraft 2****19/20 Jul**

This trip will follow on from Snowcraft 1. You must have done the course held at the end of June, or have had previous experience. Friday night will probably be at Waikato hut. This winter tramp typically is the opportunity for you to put into practice all those skills you have learnt. Again you may hire the equipment needed for the club or source your own supply. Our actual destination is not yet confirmed at present but it is guaranteed there will be snow and ice to 'play' on and in. Maybe there will be a chance to build a snow cave and camp out for the night too. Watch this space for more information.

Leader: Allan Wickens **Email:** allanwickens@hotmail.com **Grade:** M/F

Transport: Senior member \$50-65 Senior Non-member \$55-70

Accommodation: tba

Crampons and ice axe hire: TBA or it's BYO or hire them from other sources.

Waikato Ski Club

The first touches of snow appeared in April. Woohoo ! Happy Valley opens 1 June and the lower mountain 22 June. It's going to be a big year on the mountain with the new gondola almost ready to go ! That means comfortable cabins from the bottom all the way up to Knoll Ridge Cafe. Perfect for the non skiing friend or family member as well. There's been additional trail work to open up the waterfall area and improve some of the trickier elements of the run back down to the bottom. This is great news for beginners and younger family members.

All of the predictions are for an increase in visitor traffic this year, which means longer traffic queues, very early starts for day parking, and queuing for day passes. Seems like a nightmare. It is! By joining the Ski Club you'll get earlier starts on the slopes, better parking and a wider range of activities. Did you know Night Skiing runs from 4:30 pm during the weekend ? Would you rather be heading to the bus or ... ?

Mates Rates is back ! You can bring a non member at member rates. Your friends don't have to miss out on all the good stuff !

Now is a great time to join the Ski club and enjoy member rates and benefits. You can either upgrade your current Tramping membership to Combined or as a New Member join the Ski Club individually. Check the ski Website www.waikatoskiclub.co.nz . Look us up on facebook for updates and info.

This year we have more mid week space for club skiers and groups so if you want to avoid the weekend crowds why don't you grab a few mates and come up midweek ? We'll be looking to have dedicated Mid Week Club catch-ups during the season so keep an eye out for that.

We're bringing Mountain Discovery to ski. Ever wondered what happens once you master the blue runs - but not sure how to get onto the black ones ? We've got that covered this year. We'll be doing monthly Mountain Discovery trips -

with some of our experienced members guiding us around the less well known parts, as well as some of the off trail areas. We'll also be working on backcountry options, for those who have the desire. For you Alpine explorers the Lodge is the perfect base for a weekend traversing the mountain.

A big thanks to those who helped out on the working parties - firewood is all stacked and the Lodge is ship shape and ready to go.

Editorial

This has been a very interesting bulletin to collate – so many interesting stories. What a wealth of knowledge and experience we have amongst us. And lots of nosey-parkers we have too who want to read about all the mischief you get up to. None of this happens without the willing participation of those who put their hands up to be a leader. May I extend a huge thank-you to you all. And to those newcomers to this rôle I extend my admiration for your willingness to put yourself out there. It is not always an easy activity to organise and perhaps, on occasion, it detracts from the pleasure you were hoping to have by going there. But I'm sure the satisfaction of proving to yourself and the rest of us that you can achieve what you set out to do can be very rewarding. Go for it! Call on all the expertise other club members may have, ask to see any records such as previous trip descriptions, log reports, and bulletin stories for information. These will also give you the name of the leader, whose brain you can pick. I have much of this information in the club archives and am more than happy to search through them to find whatever I can.

And now that we are just a year away from our 70th anniversary celebrations who would like to be part of a small group to plan what we can do, help collate names and contact details of all members we have ever had? In the past we have, over the course of a weekend, had an informal afternoon tea, a static display, a formal catered evening meal and sometimes an easy day trip the next day but we don't have to stick with this. Any ideas for something different? Get back to me soon please with your offer of help or ideas.

Presidents' Blog

Another AGM, our 69th, has been concluded with a good turnout. It was peaceful enough; no one was deposed, but we are lucky to have some new 'talent' on our committees - a special welcome to Guy Domett who has taken on the massive job of Treasurer, and to Judith Bogle who is our new Secretary. In this role she will assist both the General and Tramping committees. The AGM was a chance to thank everyone who has contributed to the club over the past year, a long list that won't be repeated here.

Alan Grant has decided he has some spare time for national conservation and recreation affairs and has put his name forward for nomination to the Federated

Mountain Club's Executive. The club fully supported his nomination as we feel he has a lot to offer at that level. He will be in a good position, too, to stimulate communication between FMC and the tramping clubs in this region. We've had good representation on FMC in the past. John Wilson was on the FMC Exec for 12 years and served as President for three of these. And other Club members Leslie Topping and Sally Johannsson have also been on the Executive.

Trip reports

Trip 2806

Whirinaki Loop

9/10 Feb



At the Whirinaki shelter

photo by Judith Bogle

We entered the Whirinaki forest on Friday night, to get to the shelter just before night fall. The shelter is brand new and of substantial construction and there is a stream close by that you can listen to all night. Most of the tramping for the next two days had a substantial amount of walking through streams. On the first day John G and John Mc A spent some time trying figure out who had the most accurate tracking device. NZ topo won. At the Mangamate Hut there was a great view across the valley with the sun shining on the grassy area in front of the hut. There was a bbq table where fellow trampers were able to converse in the evening. While at Mangamate Hut the 2 Johns greatly expanded their reading material of the exotic classics, to the extent that John G had to do a reading so that our worldly knowledge was expanded. On the final day we came across a waterfall where we had morning tea, and a toilet stuck in the middle of the forest

at which the boys had a communal meeting. We continued to walk out to the carpark where there was a large stand of trees. Leader: Ashley H, John G, John McA, Les W and Judith B.



Mangamate Hut relief

photo taken by Judith Bogle

Trip 2813

Poulter River

2-7 Mar

Day 1: In brilliant sunshine we left Christchurch so that we could meet former club member Bev McGowan at the Andrews Shelter at about 10am.

Introductions sorted, 2 vehicles relocated to the endpoint of our tramp, and we were off. This trip began with a 100m climb up onto a ridge and continued along it, following the Andrews valley, through beautiful open beech forest and to the sound of myriads of bellbirds. These birds were seen and heard every day of our expedition. The track winds in and out of small gulleys, one of them providing for a delightful lunch spot and a place to feed the robins too. We eventually arrived at a suitable campsite on the Hallelujah flats with the shallow

river nearby. Selwyn had said that as we weren't going to be on the West Coast



Hallelujah flats campsite photo taken by Ray Hoare
sandflies shouldn't be a problem. Famous last words – for the next 5 days they ate us at every possible opportunity! Lesley's meagre supply of repellent was generously shared but we should have had lots more of the stuff. During the night a weka made its' noisy prowl near the campsite but we had safely stored our possessions.

Day 2: Another beautiful day saw us on our way by 8.30.



Crossing the Casey Saddle

photo taken by Selwyn June

We continued up the river and over the Casey saddle – boardwalk rising no more than 20cm(!) higher than the ground we had previously traversed. From here it was a gentle climb up onto the side of a ridge and sidling around it. Then it was a knee-pounding walk down into the Poulter valley catchment to the ‘Casey hut’ – this burnt down a few years ago and there are plans to rebuild it in the near future. Lunch with the sandflies again at the point where we would head southwards to our campsite on day 4.

Bev led us norwestwards along the river terrace towards the Trust Poulter Hut through beech forest, tussock, Spaniard grass (easily avoided), raoulia, hebes, fruiting bog pines, and matagouri (not quite so easily avoided). This is a beautiful stretch to walk. One can admire the wonderful high mountains around us while just walking along a narrow path.



Trust Poulter Hut

photo taken by Selwyn June

Upon our arrival at the Trust Poulter hut we met a young DoC ranger who was auditing the huts in the area. It was most entertaining watching him do a silent haka in an attempt to swat the sandflies. He moved on in his ATV to the Poulter hut and we agreed to meet up on day 4 on his way out. Lesley & Alan stayed in the hut and the rest of us camped but none of us could evade the sandflies except Ray when he found a lovely ‘private’ pool in the river for a swim with no little nippers.

Day 3: Dianne stayed at the hut while everyone else headed up to the Poulter hut and on to Lake Minchin. At the lake they found kiwi and possum footprints in the muddy edge of the lake, Grey and paradise ducks were seen and heard as well as a kea high above. Having reached the end of the lake, effort was put into finding a sheltered spot for lunch as a strong wind was funnelling up the lake.



Lesley at Lake Minchin

photo taken by Ray Hoare

A beautiful walk. Dianne woke up just as they arrived back at the Trust Poulter hut and realised she had a cold for her 'efforts'. Ray enjoyed another 'private' swim while the rest of us used a small tributary of the river for water and washing.

Day 4: Our Doc ranger didn't appear by 8.30 so we headed off back towards 'Casey Hut'. But he soon appeared and assisted in getting Dianne and some of the heavier gear to the next campsite at Pete's stream.



Selwyn & Alan in the beeches

photo taken by Ray Hoare

Everyone else had a walk through more beech forest or in the hot sun along the river terrace amongst the matagouri, with very little shade along the way but magnificent views of the eroding mountainsides on the other side of the river.



Symmetrical erosion

photo taken by Selwyn June



after arriving at the campsite

taken by Ray Hoare

They arrived at the campsite and collapsed in the lovely shady spot at 2.30 before beginning the usual process of setting up for the night in this lovely spot. Only thing was that the alluring water supply was a 20m walk down the bank to get it. Much sharing of effort here.

Day 5: Another cloudless day saw us on the trail again at 8.30. Over Pete's stream (dry feet) and up each of 2 banks onto shingle terraces – a good way to gain height quickly. Next was the gradual climb up 600m to the Binzer saddle. Ray's GPS device and information dissemination was much appreciated by Dianne – such as 85m to climb and just 600m to the top – such good news



Drink stop on the Binzer

photo taken by Ray Hoare

We had a short stop on the top for a snack and continued for another hour until stopping on the downhill part for a leisurely lunch. While munching away, sharp-eyed Bev realised she was looking at a mistletoe plant with beautiful berries in orange and yellow colours on the tree opposite her. Thereafter we kept looking for more plants along the way –much to Selwyn's frustration. We couldn't help being impressed with the numbers of plants. There were also stoat traps along the whole track we had followed in the preceding days but here we came across a hedgehog in one trap, rat in another, and a beautiful stoat with a forked tail in another. Now we were looking into the Waimakariri catchment again. A very steep section with loose gravel (Lesley called them marbles) had us almost pussyfooting our way down.

We arrived back at the vehicles at 2.30 – Dianne being very relieved to be there. Bev drove home to Rangiora and the rest of us headed to Arthurs' Pass.

Although only 24km from our track end the journey took us nearly an hour due to all the roadworks being done. But by the time we got to the village it was raining – such good timing. While looking for the Christchurch Tramping Club 'hut' (a mini version of Waikato Hut, we asked directions of a resident who

turned out to be the DoC staff member we met the next day in the Visitors' Centre. Eventually we found the right place and relaxed while gazing out the panorama window to the railway station below. Dinner was had at the only restaurant cafe open and those beers were just wonderful. An early night followed. We would recommend staying here again.

Day 6: Ray headed back to Christchurch. Selwyn's plan was to undertake some short walks in the general area but, due to much consumer resistance, the longest walk undertaken was 30m from the carpark to the Dobson memorial near the Arthurs' Pass viaduct. We enjoyed a lovely relaxing day in the sun before heading back to Christchurch to the same camping ground we had stayed in prior to our tramp. Lesley was heard to say that evening that she was hot to which Ray quickly retorted "Don't kid yourself".

A great trip and well worth doing again one day. Participants were: Selwyn & Dianne J, Alan W, Lesley K, Ray H and Bev McG.

Trip 2813

Travers-Sabine

10-17 Mar

All eyes were on the weather forecast as we gathered in Nelson on the 10th March. After weeks of beautiful, settled weather, a nasty weather system was brewing out in the north-west promising to bring a bit of rain our way. However, our first day of walking dawned fine and warm and we enjoyed the trip out to Lake Rotoiti where we took a boat to the top of the lake near Lake Head Hut. It was a pleasant day's walk up the lovely Travers Valley. We had planned to stop at John Tait Hut, but since the weather forecast for the Wednesday was looking dire we decided it would be better to push on to Upper Travers Hut, giving us the option to wait out the bad weather if needed. We walked 7.5 hours that day and I think everyone was ready to stop once we reached the well-appointed Upper Travers Hut with beautiful views back down the valley. The weather the next day looked more threatening, and most of us donned wet weather gear before heading out in light drizzle to climb up to the Travers Saddle. We had glimpses of the lovely mountains which surrounded us as the mist rolled in and out, but by the time we reached the saddle the mist was so thick we couldn't see a thing! So disappointing. It's only a short walk over the saddle before the steep descent to meet the east branch of the Sabine River begins. I was very glad I'd brought my walking poles as I'm convinced they made a huge difference in reducing the impact on my knees. By the time we reached the river the rain had set in so we decided to push on to the West Sabine Hut to have a late lunch. The weather forecast left in the hut by the DoC ranger confirmed our fears for Wednesday; periods of heavy rain! Ashley decided to go to Blue Lake but the rest of us opted for a quiet day in the hut especially since two girls had gone up to the lake the day before and not seen a thing. It turned out to be a very pleasant day, punctuated by the arrival of several groups of young Te Araroa walkers who stopped off at the hut for a break before pushing on to Blue Lake. It was interesting to hear about their journeys to date and to

watch how much food they consumed! Ashley returned in the afternoon having actually seen Blue Lake so he was pleased he'd made the effort.

By Thursday morning we all were able to pack dry clothes before a relatively easy (and dry) 5 hour walk down the Sabine Valley to Sabine Hut situated on the shores of Lake Rotoroa. Several of the group braved the sandflies &/or mosquitoes and took a refreshing dip in the lake so we were a much sweeter smelling bunch after that!

It was a steep climb of around 1200m the next day from directly behind the hut to the tops via Mount Cedric. The first part of the climb (in increasingly heavy drizzle) was through beech forest which at least was warm and wet, but once we reached the bush line exposure to the wind made it quite cold. Again, the cloud and mist obscured our views all day which was a shame. There was a lot of ridge walking and boulder hopping from this point on so we were glad the wind didn't get up to much. It was a welcome sight to see Angelus Hut appear out of the mist. The hut sits in an amazing location beside two tarns, surrounded by mountains and we were lucky enough that the cloud lifted in the early evening so we could appreciate the views for the first time that day. Because of the location and the fact that it is reasonably accessible, the hut is very popular and needs to be pre-booked. It was full to overflowing the night we were there and while it was nice to have some company it was also a little claustrophobic.



Hedging out along Robert Ridge

photo taken by Anne Macindoe

The final day saw us in our wet weather gear once again as we climbed steadily up to the ridge in misty drizzle. From there it was more boulder hopping before the track broadened out and we could better enjoy the gradual descent along

Robert Ridge, especially as the weather improved and we got to enjoy some nice views. We finally dropped down to the carpark via the Pinchgut Track and were there in good time to meet our shuttle back to the YHA in Nelson. Despite the lousy weather, a good time was had by all. Special thanks to John for coordinating the trip.

Participants: John McA, Max G, Ashley H, David T, Peter N and Anne Mac (scribe)



En route to Angelus Hut

Photo taken by Anne Macindoe

Trip 2819

Pinnacles

31 Mar



Eleven dedicated trampers set off with a guarantee of rain. We arrived to some light drizzle and headed off up, up and up.

"track" to the Pinnacles

photo by Sheryl Thomas

We had a very pleasant start to the tramp with little rain but the higher up we got the more rain we encountered – we were playing it safe and choosing to go on the slightly longer “alternative flood tracks” and encountered some trampers who had been unable to cross the river and had to come back up Billy Goat track in order to return to their car. One of our trampers had a few issues with her boots deciding that they had done enough kilometres and now was the time to give up being wearable – a couple of stops for running repairs were needed. As we neared the hut some of the steps looked more like waterfalls and some of the flat areas looked like creeks.

The hut was a welcome break from the weather and we all found a place to perch whilst we ate lunch. There was no trip to the lookout as it was completely clouded in – to be conquered on another day.



The Pinnacle you can't see

photo by Sheryl Thomas

With some more boot repairs we set off back down the track as the weather cleared!! We opted to return on the track that we had come up on as the river

would still be in full flow. Great day out testing our wet weather gear, getting some fresh air and exercise.

Trip leader – John M, Les, Margaret C, Therese, Jas, Anita, Peter L, Steve C, Jacob, Robyn & Sheryl

Trip 2820 A Tongariro Alpine Crossing only partly devious 6/7 Apr

Saturday saw us leaving Waikato Hut, well fed on porridge, sausages and toast. Soon we were being dropped off at the Mangatepopo road-end along with hundreds of other punters, who we followed for a km or so along the track until we diverged to the left to cross the gully and climb up onto the gradually rising ridge that led us up to the base of Tongariro. This was easy going in low, open alpine vegetation. We could see the track walkers well below us.



Away from the hoards on Tongariro

photo by Jocelyn Widmer

At the 1700 metre level, we got our breath and then headed north-east around the base of the mountain, crossing several gullies and climbing gradually onto a flat, un-named crater. We carried on the same bearing to reach the rim of North Crater, an interesting looking flat expanse with a small crater within it. It took some good navigation work by Les and Jacob to find a way down the cliff that formed this edge of the crater. Lunch was had on the northern rim of the crater with views down to Lake Rotoaira and the Te Maari craters. We could see the phalange of Crossing walkers below us. A cold wind shortened the lunch but we soon met up with the track by heading down slope through tussock. Then it was a long slog down the zig-zags to the Ketetahi road end. It's no wonder that a lot of injuries happen to tired trampers on this section of the Crossing (one of our party ended up with a sore knee). We reached the bus at 4.40 pm after 7 hours

on the transit. Dianne told us that 30 bus loads plus vans and other vehicles had already come and gone from the carpark.

We noticed the poor state of the Crossing track in places; there were missing sections of the cell matting surface and these lay on the track ready to trip people up. You would think that this premier track would warrant a continuous maintenance effort.



Along from Meads Wall

photo taken by Sharon Still

Sunday saw a fall off in enthusiasm. Some stayed in the Hut for rest and recreation; some went off on short walks and the remainder went on a real walk, across to Meads Wall (via a route along Happy Valley to avoid the gondola construction area). We headed north, past a narrow section of the ridge beside a steep drop into the valley and then gradually worked our way into the

Whakapapanui Valley. Across the stream there was a climb up onto a broad ridge with wind sculpted rocks and a variety of alpine plants. This took us on to the formed Ridge Track which comes out in Whakapapa Village next to the shelter. 4 hours of walking and a nice day.

The gang was: Lesley K, Alan W, Les W, Brandon H, Tristan & Jody with Antoinette and Romandow, Jocelyn W, Sharon S, Jacob H, Selwyn J (leader & scribe), Dianne J (driver & cook). Merlyn W joined us on Sat night at the end of a 3 day walk in the Park.

Trip 2821

Maungatautari Traverse

Apr 14

The day presented beautiful sunny autumn weather which made for splendid tramping conditions. We all headed off from the main entrance to the Sanctuary at Tari Road, following the enclosure fence for 10 minutes or so to the start of the motorbike track.



Made it to the top

Photos by Doug Pagel

..... and this is what she is smiling at.



The track was easy walking, giving us all a chance to spot some of the birds, predominantly robins, saddleback, tui, kereru and tomtits. Unfortunately, there were no sightings of the kaka or hihi although we did hear one or two and observed the feeder stations for the kaka. An interesting chat with one of the volunteer workers enlightened us some more and we headed on up to the intersection with the Te Tonga track, an old but rough track up to the Pukeatua peak. We decided to carry on up the motorbike track and the trip developed a little differently due to the varied speeds of the group. Carol and I ended up reaching the Maungatautari peak (797m) while the others further down had decided to stop and re-route back to the Te Tonga track with the aim of tramping up to the Pukeatua peak (753m). Kathy did pound further up to tell Carol and I this which was good of her. However, at the start of the Te Tonga track we did all meet back up with Sheryl, Alan, Anita and Mitchell making it to the top of Pukeatua. We rounded off the day with a look around the visitors centre at the mountain and a compulsory icecream stop at Kihikihi. Our group: Doug P (leader), Sheryl T (driver), Marianne L, David C, Carol G, Annette F, Mitchell B, Deidre J, Allan W, Anita S, Kathy T and Susan J (scribe). NB The Hicks Road access from the northern side is currently closed due to a dispute between the private owners and Waipa District Council.

Trip 2824**Cycling Velodrome to Karapiro****28 Apr**

A hardy keen bunch of 9 riders arrived at the Avantidrome at Cambridge to bike to Lake Karapiro and back. Once all we were kitted up in fluro tops & bike shorts we made our way on a very nice wide concreted path to Cambridge which included a couple of steep hills. Once we rode over the Leamington Bridge it started to rain but it didn't last too long. We enjoyed a leisurely cycle along the straightest part of the ride from Leamington to Lake Karapiro which gave us riders time to chat to each other. It took about an hour to ride the 15.2kms to the Lake where we stopped to have our 'traditional' coffee break & some riders also having very tasty scones at the popular Podium Café. By this time the rain had more or less stopped and we had a very relaxing ride back to the Avantidrome. Thanks to David Cumming for leading this popular ride which I will definitely do again once spring/summer arrive! Participants: Leader David C, Marianne, Sharon & David P, Fiona G, Dianne & Selwyn, Isla T, and scribe Nette.

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a blue square background.

**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: Nil

Resignations: Nil

Membership: We have 182 tramping members.

Snippets from here 'n there....

➤ **Banff Mountain film festival 2019.** Saturday 25th May 3pm and 7pm at the PWC lecture theatre, University of Waikato, Hillcrest road. The best mountain and adventure films from around the world are back. Spot prizes giveaways in the intervals. Tickets are available now online but you can

purchase your tickets from Macpac Chartwell or Te Rapa, Trek 'n Travel, and Extreme Edge Hamilton. Booking fees apply.

➤ In July 2018 the Mountain Safety Council released some **figures most of us already knew**. The Tongariro National Park has the highest number of rescues of any region studied. 25% of incidents were noted to be severe with 18% occurring at Red crater and 19% on the downhill leg to the Ketetahi carpark. In 2016/2017 141,000 visitors hiked the crossing.

➤ A central North Island hapū has signed a kawenata with the Department of Conservation and Ngā Whenua Rāhui to protect an area of significant biodiversity. This is the Owhaoko A Trust block, 7000 hectares of land located between the Kāiāmanawa and Kāweka Forests in the **upper Ngaruroro Valley**. Chair of the Trust, Arāpiu Seymour, says the trust plans to undertake with Ngā Whenua Rāhui - such as pest trapping, track management, and protection of rare plant species. *See the white space near the Kaweka forest*



➤ **Updates on the kauri dieback work as of March:**

- Mangakino Pack Track: Mitigation works on the Mangakino Pack Track are now complete, final engineer inspection to be scheduled.
- Lindemann Loop Track and Dickey Flat Track: Mitigation works are progressing, with box steps currently under construction along the Lindemann Loop Track and boardwalks on Dickey Flat. Works are expected to be complete by April 3.

- Wharawhara Tramway and Upper Waitawheta Tracks: Track set outs are now complete and the tracks will be temporarily closed for approximately a week while mitigation work is undertaken, from Wednesday 13th March onwards.
- Waiorongomai Track, Waipapa Track, Lindemann to Cashmore Track: Hakarimata Summit Track and Wharawhara Road through to Waitawheta Hut and back to Waitengaue Track. Track set outs are complete, with mitigation work to commence in the coming weeks.

➤ **Help Wanted in the Kaimais.** Te Whare Okioki Hut in the southern Kaimai is nearing completion. Within the next few weeks the roof will be on and it will offer basic shelter for everyone working on or around the hut. The Kaimai Ridgeway Trust (KRT) has asked the club to help clear tracks leading to the hut, particularly the section of track from the Kaimai Summit through to the Leyland O'Brien Tramway area. This hut will be great for our trips into the area. See trip 2835. Contact John McArthur if you'd like to help.

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

- ✓ 2019 is predicted to be **the biggest kākāpō breeding season on record** with 249 eggs having been laid so far. Of those eggs, 76 have hatched and 70 live chicks are carrying the hopes of a renewed generation of kākāpō. The previous record, in 2016, was 47 chicks hatched and 36 fledged. With problems such as infertility and disease, not every egg will hatch into a chick, and not every chick will make it to adulthood. With a population of just 147, this breeding season will be a huge boost to the kākāpō population, perhaps to 200 birds.
- ✓ DoC and Auckland City Council have met to develop a **partnership** and some of their successes are: 2,000 Auckland community groups now working on Pest Free Auckland and Predator Free 2050; 300 new kōkako in the Hunua Ranges following the 1080 operation there.
- ✓ Results from extensive seed sampling across the country in February and March point to the **biggest beech mast for more than 40 years** with exceptionally heavy seed loads in South Island forests. Rimu forests and tussock grasslands in the South Island are also seeding heavily. Forest seeding provides a bonanza of food for native species but also fuels rodent and stoat plagues that will pose a serious threat to native birds and other wildlife as predator populations build up next spring and summer. Its' predator control programme to respond to the threat posed by the mega mast. DoC is planning its largest-ever predator control programme for 2019/2020, at a cost of \$38 million, to suppress rats, stoats and possums over about one million hectares or 12 per cent of conservation land. DoC's seed sampling programme involved snipping branches by helicopter from over 8000 beech and rimu trees at nearly 200 sites across the North and South Islands and counting more than three million seed pods from

43,000 samples. More than 1000 tussock plants were also monitored at 63 sites. The estimate of seed-fall this autumn informs predator control planning. Priority sites for predator control include Kahurangi, Abel Tasman, Arthur's Pass, Westland, Mt Aspiring and Fiordland national parks, the Catlins and Whirinaki. The programme includes more than 66,000 ha of trapping with the remainder (more than 900,000 ha) aerial 1080 operations. While most sites have been confirmed and are at an advanced stage of planning, predator control operations will only proceed at most sites from May this year if rodents reach levels that pose a threat to wildlife.

✓ Three Abel Tasman National Park islands are now **predator free again** after a 2017 operation successfully eradicated mice on the islands. Monitoring since the DoC operation has confirmed there are now no longer mice on Adele/Motuareronui, Fisherman/Motuareroiti and Tonga islands which are used as predator-free sanctuaries for native species.

✓ A record number of hihi or **stitchbird have fledged** on pest-free Tiritiri Matangi Island in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park during the latest breeding season. This breeding season 252 new birds were added to the hihi population.

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

➤ The New Zealand high country is a jigsaw of public conservation land, crown land and freehold land. As to 2019, 1.2 million ha crown land are leased to 171 pastoral lease properties for the purpose of grazing. This is just under 5% of New Zealand's total land area. Statutory processes governing pastoral lease land are the Land Act 1948 and the Crown Pastoral Land Act 1998. Part 2 of the latter Act enabled the Commissioner of Crown Lands to review the status of land held under pastoral lease, by means of a process called *tenure review*. In February 2019 the New Zealand government announced the end of tenure review, which will involve changes to the Crown Pastoral Land Act 1998. Shortly afterwards, Land Information Minister Eugenie Sage launched a consultation on proposed changes to the Crown's management of pastoral land in the South Island high country. The consultation is centered around a discussion document, "Enduring stewardship of Crown pastoral land", and closed on 12 April 2019.

➤ This July, the **Tararua Tramping Club** marks 100 years of getting people into the hills with a commemorative tramp up Mt Kaukau, Wellington. All clubs are invited to schedule their own commemorative tramps, to celebrate the fantastic milestone of TTC as well as taking the time to delve into the heritage of your own club. *Check out the Tararua Tramping Club website for the many activities they have planned for their centenary.*

Email your contributions to the editor by **Friday, June 7th** please.



From the
Travers-Sabine
trip...

Upper: Every which way taken by Anne Macindoe.

Middle: Crossing over taken by Mike Greer

Lower: Goblin stream taken by Anne Macindoe



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