



# THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

**WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)**

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

November 2019



Paratutu descent Photo by Allan Wickens

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## Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December

We'll have a visit from Hamilton Land Search and Rescue.

In 2018 723 people were rescued and 953 were assisted throughout NZ by the regional SAR teams. The group works throughout the Waikato especially in the Kaimais and Pirongia. Working closely with the police they are on 24 hr standby for missing persons callouts and emergency situations.

Come along and find out what keeps them busy and how not to be calling upon them as we head outdoors.

**Venue:** St. Stephens Church, Mahoe St, Hamilton

**Cost:** \$2

**Report from November club night:** This was a meeting with a difference – we were invited to Trek 'n Travel in Victoria St at 7pm. After a brief introduction and upcoming trip reports, Wendy from the 'PlateMe' company introduced us to the range of main meals her company is now producing. These products are available online, in New World supermarkets, and at Trek 'n Travel. The current range includes a chicken or beef or lamb option and there are 3 more to come onto the market soon. The carbohydrate in each pack is currently brown rice mixed with black chia seeds and future versions may have other options. The meat pack contains no preservative and the whole meal is gluten free, low cal, low sugar and low.... something else. They also have the coeliac certification. All well worth trying out. The lamb sample was rather nice. Then Alex from the 'Wonder Horse' establishment from across the road introduced us to a gin-based drink that was delivered to everyone present in a mini thermos flask, compliments of Colin. *Look for the recipe in the 'Snippets' section.* Stephen quizzed Colin on the latest products he had in the store before we all moved along the street a couple of doors for coffee or tea at KoKo's coffee shop. Colin picked up the tab for this too so we had a most enjoyable evening. Many thanks to Stephen for organising for us to go off site for the evening and especially to Colin for his generous hospitality. He will be getting back to those present when each of our selected PlateMe meals arrives in his shop and you will be able to pick it up free of charge. This was an evening that shouldn't have been missed!



## Christmas Party



**Friday 29 November.** Smith & McKenzie Steakhouse, Chartwell. We have the upstairs room for this event which will commence at 6 pm. Good beers on tap, central venue and good food all together. This provides a better and more budget friendly option and location than a Saturday function. We're working on a \$45 pp basis, with a cash bar.

## ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2019/2020

*Note; There is no club night in January.*

2854	17 Nov	M	Pinnacles	Dave White
2855	23/24 Nov	M	Mt Tarawera- pine pulling	Selwyn June
	29 Nov		Christmas Party	Stephen Prendergast
2586	1 Dec	M	Pirongia loop	Allan Wickens
	4 Dec		CLUB NIGHT	Stephen Prendergast
2857	7/8 Dec		Last tramp of the Year	Jacqui Dick
2858	14/15 Dec	M	Mt Damper & Falls	John McArthur
2859	21 Dec	FF	Mountain Madness	John McArthur
2860			CANCELLED	
2861	2-10 Jan	F	Lewis Pass to L. Rotoroa	Merlyn Warren
2862	11-20 Jan	M/F	3 Passes & Arahura river	Allan Wickens
2863	12 Jan	E/M	Te Whare Okioki	Mike Peck
2864	19 Jan	E/M	Waihi beach coastal walk	Club captain
2865a	25-27 Jan	M	Urewera, Waiau river	Alan Wilson
2865b	25-27 Jan	F	Junction Tops	Mike Peck
2866	2 Feb	M	Mt. Te Aroha	Allan Wickens
	5 Feb		CLUB NIGHT	Stephen Prendergast
2867	6-9 Feb	M/F	Ruahines	Allan Wickens
2868	16 Feb	E/M	River crossing training	Allan Wickens
2869	15/16 Feb	E/M	Ruapehu Workparty	Stephen Phillips

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

### TIME and FITNESS GUIDELINES

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Bookings and Cancellations: no later than the WEDNESDAY before the trip.** Any person withdrawing after this day without good reason will be charged the full cost of the trip.

**DONT FORGET: You can book online from our website too. Please give your landline when making a booking.**

**Departure Point:** Trips depart from the river end of London Street. Cars can be parked, facing the road, in the Rabo Bank car park on the right at the end of the cul de sac. If in doubt contact your trip leader.

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

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

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

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

### **Minimum equipment required:**

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

**Weekend Trips:** The above plus pack with plastic liner bag, sleeping bag, tent, sleeping mat, cooker, billy, plate or bowl, spoon, food, spare dry clothes for evening, towel, toilet gear, light camp shoes. A water purifier can be useful.

Plus, in extreme weather or country: additional warm top, over-trousers or woollen/ fleece trousers, warm outdoor mittens or gloves, over-mitts, warm hat or balaclava, sunglasses. Ice axe and crampons for snow.

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*Please send contributions to the editor by Monday, December 2nd*

## **Trip Descriptions**

### **Trip 2854**

### **Pinnacles**

**17 Nov**

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 downhill, 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:** Dave White

**Ph:** 8491940

**Grade:** M

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

Senior Non-member \$35-40

**Trip 2855**

**Pine pulling on Mt. Tarawera**

**24 Nov**

**Departure for this trip will be on Saturday at 1.30pm.**

We will camp the night beside Lake Rerewhakaaitu at the Ash Pit Road campsite the night before our action day. BYO water! This means we'll be ready for an 8 a.m. start the next morning. This is a DoC campsite with plenty of space for tents. It has toilets and a shelter. Swimming in the lake is also possible. We may also do a short walk around Lake Okaro before arriving at our campsite. Here's an opportunity to get up onto and around Mt Tarawera (1248 m asl) with its spectacular eruption crater, while helping rid the mountain of wilding pines. We will be met by Ken Raureti of Ngati Rangitihī. We will be bussed up onto the lower slopes where Ken will introduce us to the legends and history of the maunga (including the Tarawera eruption of 1886), and explain the restoration work being done by the Trust. As well as looking around the mountain getting up close its special plants, we will spend some time pulling up small contorta pine and Douglas fir seedlings. The larger trees have already been felled; this is mopping up the next generation before they can begin to seed. Afterwards we may have a chance to explore more of the crater and possibly get to the highest point at 1248 m. Bring clothing suitable for an exposed mountain (even if it's hot in Hamilton); food and drink, camping equipment including a tent. Garden gloves (for pulling up seedlings)

**Leader:** Selwyn June

**Ph:** 843 3066

**Grade:** M

**Camp fees** are \$8 per person. Please bring cash for this.

**Transport:** Senior member \$45-55

**Senior Non-member** \$50-60

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**Trip 2856**

**Pirongia Loop**

**1<sup>st</sup> Dec**

This tramp starts from the car-park at O'Shea Road. After a short walk across private farmland the bush is reached. This is followed by a steep climb up a tawa-covered spur to Wharauoa Lookout at 850m. From here there is a grand view over much of the Waikato. A further distance uphill is the Mahaukura Lookout at 902m. If transport arrangements work well, we will then descend via the Mahaukura Track to Grey Road. Otherwise we will retrace our steps back to O'Shea Road.

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

**Grade:** M/F

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

Senior Non-member \$30-35

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**Trip 2857**

**Last tramp of the year - Raglan Harbour**

**7/8 Dec**

Sustainable Land Management Support Work

This is a trip with a difference. Tradition dictates that the Trampler of the Year organises the last tramp so I have had some time to think about it!

This weekend has an environmental theme to it. We depart Saturday morning and head out to Okete where we have organised to camp on a privately-owned farm, at Pearts Finger which is a beautiful patch of native bush on the upper reaches of the Raglan Harbour.

During the weekend we will help with release work (native plants not animals!!) and possibly also planting sea grasses to help stabilise the estuary. Other activities will include a campfire on the beach on Saturday night (BYO wine and marshmallows) and a walk exploring a part of the harbour we cannot normally access. If you have flounder spearing gear bring it along.

**Leader:** Jacqui Dick

**Ph:** 021 1375201

**Grade:** E

**Email:** *jacquimd@me.com*

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

Senior Non-member \$50-65

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### **Trip 2858**

### **Mt Damper & Falls**

**14/15 Dec**

On Friday night we will drive down, turning just left of Mt Messenger, heading inland and camping just off the road. On Saturday morning we will visit the Mount Damper falls (at 78m they are one of the highest in the North Island) then head off the tramp proper. The track climbs a small spur through regenerating kamahi, reaching the main ridge 30mins later. The track then enters tawa forest interspersed with mature rimu and rata. You reach Mt Damper (528m) after 2.5 - 3hrs. We follow the ridge for a good part of the afternoon and at one point the track comes to the edge of a high bluff with a view of one of the last remaining unlogged mixed podocarp forests in Taranaki. South from the ridge are views of the beech forest in the Tatu track region. Toward the end of the day we descend to the Waitaanga River Valley and the Tangarakau river. The Te Rerepahupahu falls will be close by the campsite located by our bus driver but it tends to be too wet and noisy to camp beside them. However, we will go for visit before enjoying any delicacies that people may have chosen to bring. Sunday morning, we head north continuing through the virgin podocarp forest with a couple of small climbs before descending to the Waitaanga stream to some grassy flays and then the road end. Hopefully there should be time for some swimming. Who could ask for more?

**Leader:** John McArthur

**Ph:** 021 2889641

**Grade:** M

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

Senior Non-member \$50-65

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### **Trip 2859**

### **Mountain madness**

**21 Dec**

This is a spontaneous sort of day out - if the weather packs in we will give it away (or wait in a pub for the weather to clear, right!).

The plan is to see how many of the Waikato mountains we can climb in one day - the longest day of the year.

Previous years we have done Pirongia, Maungatautari and Te Aroha, and found this sequence was manageable (provided you eat and drink enough to keep you going). However, last year, and again this year, Maungatautari from the North is not available to us so we will look at approaching Maungatautari from the South and either do the true peak, or just Pukeatua. Whatever - it will be a full day!!!

Be in! - **the car(s) leave Hamilton early 6am.** Last year we did Pirongia up and back before lunch. And we get back late - that's why they call it the Longest Day.

**Leader:** John McArthur

**Ph:** 021 2889641

**Grade:** Super Fit

**Transport:** Private cars

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**Trip 2861**

**Lewis Pass to D'Urville Hut**

**2-10 Jan**

I will need confirmed bookings for this trip by the end of November as I will be leaving for the South Island mid-December. Shuttle from Murchison to beginning and pickup back to Murchison. Prepare for 8 days.

Day 1: Lewis pass to Ada Hut 5hrs. Day 2: Ada Hut - Bob's Hut 10-14hrs

(A lot of people break this section into two days & camp out)

Day 3: During this time, we will be going over 3 Tarns pass, a good spot to camp.

Day 4: Bob's Hut - East Matakitaki Hut 3-4hrs. Can carry on a bit longer this day and camp closer to David's saddle

Day 5: East Matakitaki Hut - D'Urville Bivvy 6-10hrs. This day we go over David's Saddle, camp around the Bivvy

Day 6: Bivvy Camp site to Ella Hut, Morgan Hut and if going good D'Urville Hut or camp in a good spot by the river.

Day 7: D'Urville Hut, ring the ferry and have a boat ride out to meet shuttle back to Murchison.

**Leader:** Merlyn Warren

**Ph:** 027 524 9926

**Grade:** F

**Transport:** Private arrangements and shuttle (tba)

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**Trip 2862**

**3 Pass Trip and Arahura River**

**11-20 Jan**

Starting at Bealey, the first part of this trip involves travelling up the Waimakariri River. En-route to Carrington Hut, there are opportunities to avoid the "Waimak slog" by hugging bush areas on the true right. The plan is to take extra time by doing side-trips if time and the weather allow (with an easy peak bag or two). From Carrington it's up the White River for a bit then Taipo-iti Stream on to the first pass - Harman followed by Whitehorn Pass. If fine we may camp here and explore the area. Then it's on for the 3rd and tougher Browning Pass where one can marvel at the intended plan in the 1800's to use Browning as a "possible" main route over the Alps to the gold-fields and Hokitika. From here it's on to the upper Arahura and we follow this river for the next two days to Milltown Road and on to Hokitika. This trip would normally take 5 days but we will take an extra three to allow for weather and river conditions as well as the side trips mentioned. Please note: Meet at Christchurch independently and then on to Bealey where we will stay at the pub back-packers (day 1). After the trip travel elsewhere from Hokitika/Greymouth (day 10).

**Leader:** Allan Wickens **Email:** allanwickens@hotmail.com

**Grade:** E/M

**Transport:** Private arrangements. Shuttle cost tba. **Accommodation:** tba

**Trip 2863****Te Whare Okioki****12 Jan**

A return daytrip to the new Te Whare Okioki hut in the Kaimais. We'll walk in on the Te Tuhu track and walk on a loop to Te Whare Okioki via Mangamuka Hut.



Te Whare Okioki Hut

Photo by Rizal Razak

**Leader:** Mike Peck**Ph:** 021 369 256**Grade:** E/M**Transport:** Senior member \$25-35

Senior Non-member \$30-40

**Trip 2864****Waihi Beach coastal Walk****19 Jan**

We start at the northern end in Homunga bay and walk through beautiful Pohutukawa forest, approaching Orokawa bay from the northern end near the William Wright Falls. It is an easy walk for every age and ability with some great views up and down the coastline, and there is a lovely sandy beach at our destination which it is not safe for swimming. The scenic reserve has numerous nikau palms, pohutukawa and puriri trees. Ice cream and a swim will be your reward back at Waihi beach.

**Leader:** Club captain**Email:** [allanwickens@hotmail.com](mailto:allanwickens@hotmail.com)**Grade:** E**Transport:** Senior member \$25-30

Senior Non-member \$30-35

**Trip 2865a****Urewera Whites' Clearing & Waiau River****25-27 Jan**

On Friday evening we will travel to and camp (tent) at a DoC campsite near the Mimiha Stream which is approximately 7 kilometres before the township of Ruatāhuna. This is a long drive so it will likely be a late night. A tent is a must. Saturday morning, we cross the road and climb by way of an old logging track slowly up and through White's Clearing, eventually dropping down into the bush and the Parahaki Stream. We are now into the heart of the real Te Kuru o Te Urewera. Lunch should be somewhere near here! The rest of the afternoon will be spent following down the Parahaki Stream – lots, lots and then more stream crossings (all easy) and then at the confluence with the Wairoa Stream we will walk, maybe wade, down the Waiau Stream to central Waiau Hut (8 bunks). The Waiau Stream is much larger than the Parahaki but is wider rather



Waiau Hut

than deeper. If the hut is full there is plenty of room for camping. If the stream is too full there is an undulating dry weather alternative track to the hut on the true right. On Sunday we may go further downstream to visit the Te Waitotukapiti hut

or perhaps climb to the top of the fabled Blue Slips before returning to base at Central Waiau. On Monday we will retrace our Saturday's route – if there is time, we may call in to check out the historic Totara Hutt (15 minutes up a side stream). This is the classic Te Urewera trip – great bush, beautiful stream.

**Leader:** Alan Wilson

**Ph:** 07 828 8727

**Grade:** M/F

**Transport:** Senior member \$65-80

Senior Non-member \$70-85

**Trip 2865b**

**Junction Top**

**25-27 Jan**

This is an alternative trip to Alan Wilson's and is aimed at providing an option for those wanting a fitter trip. The plan is to Tramp from Kiko Road end on Ngapuketarua track, then turn to the right and head to Pt 1510 Ngapuketarua. Camp somewhere around here depending on weather and water supply. Carry on along the tops, crossing Pts 1465, 1270, 1286, through Ignimbrite Saddle and onto Pt 1374 Junction Top then drop down to Waipakihi Hut for Sunday Night. Monday head out on Umukarikari track to road end for pickup. Permit required from Helisika to cross private land.

**Leader:** Mike Peck

**Ph:** 021 369 256

**Grade:** F

**Transport:** Senior member \$70-85

Senior Non-member \$75-90

**Trip 2866**

**Tui mine to Mt. Te Aroha**

**2 Feb**

Longer option: from Tui Mine Road to the summit then down the Te Aroha Track to the Domain. Easy option: keeping to a lower level on the mountain from Tui Mine Road along the Tui Link and Tui Domain tracks, ending up at the Domain. Bring togs for a hot swim to end the day.



**Trip 2871      Olivine Ice Plateau, Mt Aspiring N P      23 Feb-4 Mar**

Meet up in Glenorchy on Sunday 23 Feb. We plan to arrange for a jet boat to drop us at the start of the Beans Burn track and head up this valley for our first night stay at a marked Rock Biv. From there it is up onto the Olivine Ledge via Fohn Saddle and down to the confluence of the Olivine and Forgotten rivers. Day 3 is up the Forgotten to another marked Rock biv below the Plateau. Day 4-5 spent camping and exploring the Olivine Ice Plateau. Day 6-9 is to head out either directly the way we came in or detour on the last 2 days via the Five passes track. 9 nights/10 days in total with a minimum of 8-hour walking days in and out of the Olivine. Ice axe and crampons necessary on the Plateau although there is uncertainty about the amount of Ice retreat occurring. It is an ambitious trip for the Club but its reputation as one for holy grails of NZ tramping offers a unique and challenging experience. We are still researching the trip but get in contact with Mike or John if you're interested.

**Leader:** Mike Peck      **Ph:** 021 369 256      **Grade:** VF  
: John Davies      **Ph:** 07 823 7388

**Email:** *mikeypeck@yahoo.com* or *cjdavies@xtra.co.nz*

**Transport:** Private arrangements and boat (tba)

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**Trip 2872      Richmond Range      23 -28 Feb**

The Richmond Range alpine route is very often rated by Te Araroa walkers as the highlight of their trip. And this 6day tramp will take you into the best part, the middle section with lots of tops travel and huge views. Good huts and moderate days of about 6 hours are bonuses.

Around midday on 23<sup>rd</sup> {Sunday} we will take a van from Nelson to Hackett carpark then it is a long uphill slog of about 900m to Starveall hut for the night, sorry! Next, ridgeline travel to Old Man, Mt Rintol, Tarn and Mid Wairoa huts over the next 4 days, then a final walk out to Wairoa Gorge Rd where the van will return us to Nelson around lunchtime on the 28<sup>th</sup> [Friday]. The climb to Starveall and some exposed scree sections near Mt Rintol probably makes this a med/fit trip. Allow about \$80 for the van hire, and another \$80 for 2 nights at backpackers in Nelson, the rest of the time will be in DoC huts or tenting if you wish.

**Leader:** Keith Robbins      **Ph:** 021 120 7752      **Grade:** M/F

**Email:** *kandm.robbs@gmail.com*

**Transport & accommodation:** as above:

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**Trip 2874      Leathem Molesworth circuit      1-6 Mar**

**Important note:** Can I please receive your registration BEFORE Christmas, so I can determine whether we need to hire a suitable van. I will be driving down in my own car, plus there maybe another vehicle available; so, depending on numbers, this will determine our transport options.

I have no experience of this area and only going by information searched. The planned meeting place is Blenheim – either Sat 29 Feb, but no later than 10am

on Sunday 01 March. Venue TBA. It is only a 3hr drive from Blenheim to Molesworth and our start point.

Basic Outline: The circuit has to be walked from south to north from Saxton Hut to Top Gordon Hut section. There are several start points, but the easiest option for us is a 2hr maximum walk into the Saxton Hut from where we park our vehicle(s). This will be the same case for our last day. There are not many marked tracks with much of the trip following streams and crossing over ridges. Much of the trip will be exposed to the elements. Trip is hut-based with all huts with 6 bunks; so, a sleeping mat as a minimum is highly recommended, but ideally bring a tent. We will be walking between 7 and 9hrs each day. This will be determined by the group size, fitness and the terrain, plus stops for snacks and lunch.

**Leader:** Les Warren

**Ph:** 027 8644937

**Grade:** F

**Email:** [warrenlb2017@outlook.com](mailto:warrenlb2017@outlook.com)

**Transport:** tba

**Accommodation:** depending on your own choice.

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### **Trip 2876 Lochnagar – Cascade Saddle Hut**

**7-14 Mar**

Come and explore the Lochnagar/ Cascade Saddle alpine area for 7 and half days in the Mount Aspiring National Park and the Richardson Mountains. Visit the Cascade Saddle, the Dart, Whitbourn and Tyrell Glaciers, the Dart River, as well as the pristine Lochnagar (lake of goats), Shotover Saddle and the beautiful West Matukituki valley.

We will travel on a mix of marked and unmarked routes, go over 5 saddles/ passes, swim in an alpine lake, camp out on high altitude saddles (weather permitting), drop our pack and climb peaks, test our fitness and navigational skills and create memories to retell around the camp fire. Oh, and as JD is involved, the possibility of a helicopter ride always exists.

**Leaders:** Jo Walker & John Davies

**Ph:** 027 309 7750 or 07 8237388

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

**Grade:** M/F

**Transport & Accommodation:** private arrangements.

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### **Trip 2878**

### **Golden Bay walks**

**15-21 Mar**

At the top western corner of the South Island is Golden Bay, home to Farewell Spit, Wharariki beach, Pupu Springs and lots more. Plus, beautiful weather and golden beaches of course so bring your togs and come and join us as we explore the delights. We will be staying in backpackers at Takaka and Collingwood and use a hired van to travel to 2 or 3 places each day for shortish walks and picnic/café lunches.

Have a look at the DoC website which has a pamphlet ‘Walks in Golden Bay’.

Our itinerary will include most of these as well as travel into the Whanganui Inlet and a probable overnight stay at Fenella Hut in the Cobb River valley.

About \$400 per person should cover van hire and accommodation.

We plan leaving Nelson around 10am Sunday 15th and returning there the following Saturday mid-afternoon.



accommodation for the group. Advise the trip leader of your intentions as soon as you can please.

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**Presidents' Blog**

As part of my presidential duties I attend the meetings of the ski and tramping subcommittees. These committees essentially run the club. They deal with many practical issues; they have to think strategically about the challenges ahead and then communicate their decisions and ideas to members.

The ski committee not only have skiing activities to plan and membership to encourage, they also have the onerous responsibility for the upkeep and running of a substantial building within a National Park, Waikato Hut. With the hut there is ongoing discussion about maintenance, and topics like water quality, the custodian, bookings, the ski field's sewage scheme, electricity charges, the drying room, work parties, firewood supplies, insurance and so on. The committee also has a website and Facebook page to run, and financials to look after. All in all, a full agenda, and that's just the talking. One of the hard-working committee members, John Davies, is stepping down from the committee to be replaced by Mike Barker in the finance role. Going back a few years, John, as Treasurer, helped get Waikato Hut's finances in order and the sewage scheme paid for. Then, as President, he saw us through the challenges of keeping the Hut viable and led the re-structuring of the club into the two sections, with a dedicated committee dealing with the Hut and skiing activities. Thank you John for this dedicated effort that has benefited so many people and left a substantial asset for the future. Selwyn June, President

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**..... From the Ski Club Committee .....**

We're generally agreed it was a tough season for snowsports with 28 closed days at Whakapapa. Our annual ski races were called off this year as a result of poor conditions. After a slow start we got a very good dump of snow and there is late Spring skiing through to end of November on fine weekends. Your 2020 Season pass is all you need here.

A big thanks to our custodians Tom & Marina who have headed off to Argentina - Tom's first summer in 12 years. Although we've farewelled the custodians The Lodge is still able to be used and there's plenty of lower mountain walking and exploring worth doing. A walk up to the crater in the settled weather is a good day out for those after some adventure. Get in touch via our email ([waikatoski@gmail.com](mailto:waikatoski@gmail.com)) to enquire or book.

With the new Gondola providing transport, the Mt Ruapehu summer programme offers sightseeing and dining at the Knoll Ridge Cafe.

A walk up to the crater in the settled weather is a good day out for those after some adventure. Get in touch via our email ([waikatoski@gmail.com](mailto:waikatoski@gmail.com)) to enquire or book.

## **We're on summer rates through to 1 June.**

In the new year we'll have our two Lodge working parties. Firewood restock is planned for Feb 15/16, and our second weekend is 7/8 March, we have a list of maintenance to complete.

We need your help to get the Lodge into good shape after a tough winter and food and accommodation are provided by Ski club for these weekends.

As we close out the ski year, we farewell John Davies from our committee. John was the inaugural finance officer and has been a stalwart committee member. Mike Barker will be stepping into those shoes and we're looking forward to Mike's suggestions and contribution. This will also be Mary's last season as Booking Officer after leading ski in both that role and as Ski chairperson up to this year. Mary has been huge part of the Ski club over the last 5 years. Thanks to both John and Mary for their guidance. If you would like to help out on Ski committee please get in touch on our email. Keep an eye out for the Tongariro National Park summer programme running through January. There's always lots of interesting activities that lead you on adventures around the Park.

One thing to note is the parking changes which are ongoing at both Whakapapa Village and those now established for the Tongariro Crossing. Hopefully these will improve the transport scenario in both locations, especially at peak times. There's no big construction work at Whakapapa this year so summer access is going to be easier. Hope to see you at some time during the summer - and please get in touch with any questions or suggestions.

Stephen Prendergast, Ski Team Leader

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## **Trip reports**

### **Trip 2847**

### **New Plymouth walks**

**5/6 Oct**

A large group of 19 met at the carpark on Friday night rearing to get down to the 'Naki for some walking. Our 2 vans left at 6.30pm picking up two passengers at Te Awamutu and Kihikihi & headed south stopping at the very busy BP in Te Kuiti where the chicken & chips were the pick of the snacks/dinner!! We made good time down to the Belt Road Holiday Park in New Plymouth arriving around 10.30pm, after quickly unpacking we all went straight to our sleeping bags for the night. We woke to a cloudy morning but no rain on the horizon & an amazing view of the sea. Leader Jacqui (with the help of Mr Metservice) decided for the group to walk the 12km Coastal Walkway that stretches from the Port to Bell Block Beach. We all headed off around 8.30am & had a good easy walk along the sea-edge promenade with a little sunlight peeking through the clouds. Some stopped for a coffee break and snack & we all made good time to the world famous 83m long Te Rewa Rewa bridge which is reminiscent of a breaking wave or a whale skeleton. We had a lunch at the end of the Walkway while sitting in lovely sunshine.

We then made our way to do the Lake Mangamahoe Circuit walk, a 2 hr, 6km loop track. The walk took us through production forest, up to impressive lookouts and among mature ornamental tree plantings that are mixed with pockets of regenerated native bush. Once out of the bush we made our way along the gravel road to the vans where we all headed back to the Holiday Park for nice hot showers & drinks & time to relax.

We went out for dinner at Joe's Garage where everyone all had lovely meals & some also tried tasty desserts – with Alex's cheesecake looking like the winner!! Saturday was a very relaxing and enjoyable day

Scribe Nette

### **And from another viewpoint....Diary of a 52 year-old tramper**

> Friday.

> Dear Diary, oh boy what a week! So many frustrations at work, I feel so negative and I'm sure it's seeping out despite my best efforts. I'd take a day off on Monday, except for the new-starter, that won't look good if his boss is off sick on his first day!

> I've decided to sit in the back of the bus, headphones secure and best keep myself to myself until I feel human again! I can read some of my book too.

> Quite a long drive but all under control. The cabins and campsite look great, comfortable and right on the edge of the coast, we can hear and smell the sea!

> **Saturday.**

> Dear Diary, I slept well. Four of us in bunk beds, with "Mum and Dad" in the front room with the kitchenette. The shower was divine, endless hot water, I could feel the stress running off me.

> Weather not fabulous, we can't see Taranaki so we'll do the Coast Walk today, starting straight out from the campsite. What a lovely stretch of the legs, sea on my left so I can't get confused. Fabulous footbridge resembles a dinosaur ribcage, not able to frame the mountain today, just fluffy clouds. The flora and fauna are pretty, photos of both. No cow-stroking for me, those are potentially mean beasts! The bull looked asleep but I'm sure he had one eye open.

> A gentle lunchtime break at the end of the coastal walk and we're off to a lake made for Trust Power's hydro plant. > What a great public area. Tracks for tramping, horse-riding and cycling, all separate so no fear of being surprised by two wheels or four hooves. Some redwoods look spectacular, so tall and straight. At a high viewpoint we can see the lake below us.

> Back in time for a quick walk to the Bach coffee shop at the port. I asked for the big hot chocolate and I think it's half a litre, but it was great and I didn't waste a drop! > Dinner at Joe's Garage and then home to the campsite.

> **Sunday:**

> Dear Diary, if I stand on top of the slide, I can see the snow covered peak of Taranaki, the skies are so clear, it's stunning!

> All packed-up in time to go. Half of the group walk the rest of the coast walk, south to Paratutu, the rest of us in a bus to climb it. Surprisingly it's not as far up

as it seems from the ground but the last third is on chains and vertigo overcomes one brave trampler who heads back. As the last of the victors is starting to descend a head appears and Dianne surprises us and herself; she's made it to the top, woohoo and yeehah!! Photos for proof and smiles all round.

Driving to the Taranaki Visitors Centre the clear skies continue. Another coffee stop at the only DoC-run café in the country before we set off. Half the group going up the Telegraph track first, the others take the bush track first and we meet at the Maketawa Hut for lunch. We even found Ron's Doppelganger on the way! Snowballs are thrown more in jest than in battle, Allan wears one under his hat out of choice - weird Kiwi culture!

> The two groups swap around and it's our turn to head down through beautiful bush including mountain cedar, twisted and bent skywards.

> Finally, back at the bus, each and everyone content with the day.

> I don't need headphones on the way back, I feel quite restored. Good company, distance, friends, fabulous views and variety. Next week feels more manageable now!

> Thank you to the Trip Leader, Jacqui, for the weather and the hours of obvious organisation. Thank you to Dianne and Allan for driving.

Participants: Ron and Jacqui D, Allan W, Dianne & Selwyn J, Alan W, Leslie K, Kathy T, Barb C, Jocelyn W, David C, Sharon S, Peter A, Fiona G, Helen M, Nette L, Jan F, Susan J, Alex W and Amanda C (scribe).



3 white caps – can you pick them?

Photo by Allan Wickens



Waiting for the climbers

photo by Allan Wickens

~~~~~  
**2849**

### **Waiorongomai Photographic Trip**

**13 Oct**

This trip was scheduled to be led by our photographic competition winner Jacqui, but due to illness, the tripod was handed on to Isla, who led with distinction.

We left Hamilton at 8.00 a.m. with ten on board the van, heading for Te Aroha, then south to the Waiorongomai Valley where we met with four more eager “snappers”. The weather was perfect for photography in the bush. The sun was out, allowing for those shots at the canopy with sun filtering through, but also getting enough light down to the forest floor for those close ups of anything that caught the eye.

I have always been one to walk the bush, grabbing the camera in a rush to grab a shot while passing, worrying about holding up the group by pausing, and rushing to catch up. Not today. Today was about mindfulness. It was about being aware, and looking at the detail. It was about definition, shadows, light, framing, and immersion. Among a thousand other things.

You would certainly not call us professional photographers at this point. Yes, we had tripods and cameras, but some of us were using mobile phones, we had pot lids, torches and cardboard wrapped in tin foil to shine light where light don't go. And we had enthusiasm. Isla, along with Russell and Stephen, juggled the hundreds of questions like, what is an “F” stop, and what does changing my ISO do? What does this button do? Ohhh so patient you all were. We had a ball.

There was no real plan as we knew timing would be irrelevant. We weren't trying to travel three kilometres in an hour, we were lucky to travel half a kilometre in the first hour. Lunch would be taken when we got there, we would try to get to Butlers Incline to do this, and try to find a stream to practice water shots, or maybe do something else. What I would call "A day for the soul". We had six people clustered around a spider's web, catching the light. "How do we get the effect of morning dew on it?" "How do we direct sun light on it at this angle?" "I'm having trouble getting the camera to focus just on the web". All questions asked were answered and most issues resolved.

The going was slow at times as we waited for the group to come together again after something of interest was seen, and it is amazing what you see when you look. But patience ruled, and when you stopped to let others catch up, you found something to practice taking photos of. I know we all took so much away from the day out. I LOVE my "Live Focus" button on my phone. Never used it before. The "Pro" option where I can play with ISO's and focus and balances...I need a little more practice. Lots of yellow greens rather than green greens, lots of out of focus – sometimes by only a shade, but enough to be not a keeper. But then you get one right. The joys of digital photography where you can shoot away and bin most of them, but get the gems.

We made our way back to the van somewhere between 3.00 and 4.00. I can't remember, I don't care. It was one of those relaxing days where I banked memories of what the bush really means to me. They say sometimes that you can't see the forest for the trees...today, I was looking for the trees. I saw the detail. I couldn't wait to get home and download my stash to see what I had captured. (*Ed comment: look at the end of this bulletin*).

Many thanks again to Isla for leading, and Russell and Stephen for their guidance, and also Jacqui for the work put in prepping for the trip. Also to Mike for driving the van.

Participants: Isla, Mike, Dave, Debbie, Amanda, Sharon, Anne, Russell, Anne Marie, Paula, Marianne Stephen, Charlotte and Joshua. And Jacqui, if in spirit only.

## **Trip 2851**

## **Titiraupenga**

**3 Nov**

Dear Diary, it has been a few weeks since my last entry, I was struck down with a chesty cough and headaches that prevented all exercise for three weeks. To be honest I probably shouldn't have done the Waiorongomai Photography trip last month, I really hope I didn't share my germs with anyone! I met with Les and Judith in Hamilton and we drove down to meet Tristan, Romandow and Wendy at the beginning of the track - I recognised the place we had found Jacqui's boot on another trip. As the track descended steeply from the carpark, we grew concerned at the climb we'd have to make back to the cars at the end. The track is in great bush all the way, initially rimu changing to fuchsia all heavy with their deep pink flowers. Greeted by kaka onto the track we heard varied bird



The centre of the North Island

Photo by Amanda Collins

song and the noisy kereru wings for most of the day. The track has some brutal inclines which had us puffing and gasping. The stream crossings numbered at least six in each direction. We passed the hip high

monument to the centre of the North Island and continued to lunch at the base of Titiraupenga. Most of the group clambered up the rocky peak, rewarded with a splendid view of Lake Taupo, Ruapehu and Ngauruhoe, both snow-capped.

We turned back on what we knew was going to be a brutal 3 hours of descents and inclines. We weren't disappointed!

Having been poorly these past three weeks the track took less time than I had thought but was much harder than I had anticipated. Would I do it again? Tough question! The Pureora bush is lovely but that was quite hard work.

Thank you to Les for leading the trip, Judith, Tristan, Romandow and Wendy for the company. Amanda (scribe).

### **Trip 2850**

### **Ruatahuna to Ruatoki**

**26-28 Oct**

It's fair to say that we were a bit concerned about how the trip was going to work out before we set out as a trip report by another club from earlier this year suggested that the track was well overgrown and the chances of getting lost were high. They lost the trail on numerous occasions and one member of their party broke a leg and had to be airlifted out! So, with a bit of uncertainty we set out. Fortunately, the weather was perfect and the river was clear and low as we knew there were a few river and stream crossings ahead of us. After a night at the Murupara motor camp we got to the track start early the next morning. En route we were surprised to see that Ruatahuna now has new motel units so it turns so it turns out that we could have stayed there the night before, which would have been much closer to the track start. The first day started off through farmland and after an hour we were in the bush following the river down via Tawhiwhi hut and Ngahirama huts before crossing via a swing bridge to the true left bank then head to the Hanamaihi hut for the night. We finally got to the hut at about 5:30 after a good 10 hours on the go with half an hour for lunch. There was a 3-wire bridge on the way which was a first for a few in the team. A few opted to camp and the rest stayed in the hut then we were of early back across the river and up over a saddle for a couple of hours before re-joining the river again. There were some steep sections and potential for a long plunge into the river but we had an experienced team and everyone helped each other through. At lunchtime we reached Waikare Junction Hut where we had lunch and enjoyed the view out across the river before getting lost for the one and only time! Fortunately, John saved the day with excellent track finding skills and after another full 10-hour trip including a couple of crossings of the main river we finally reached Ohura hut. It was a bit run down but did for the night. A campfire and a superb clear night made the big day well worth it. As we knew



nothing about the rugby score from the previous night we figured the country was in celebration or mourning (in which case we might as well stay in the bush).



Whakatane River

Photos by Steve Cranefield

We were up and away by 7.30 and going was easier down to the road end where Allan was waiting for us. Overall a great trip and a big thanks to Allan for driving and staying in Whakatane to lament the rugby with everyone else while we were oblivious to what was happening. Trampers; Alan T, Barbara C, Beatrix M, Dale H, John G, Les W, Mark R, Merlyn W, Paul Q, Steve C, Driver Allan W



facebook

**Waikato Tramping Club  
and  
Waikato Ski Club**

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

**From the committee table:**

**New members:** None

**Resignations:** None

**Membership:** We have 181 tramping members.

-Have you given up your landline over the past few years or perhaps changed your email address? If so, please notify the membership officer.

- For those of you who know **David Ray**, it is with sadness that we advise of his passing on the 11<sup>th</sup> November. His funeral is likely to be at Te Awa Resthome (near the Avantidrome) on Friday. Watch the newspaper for details.

**From the club captain:** Good news for all members and especially trip leaders! Mike at Bivouac has set up a box from which you can now pick up a tent fly, first aid kit and PLB that every trip leader should carry (if you haven't got your own). You will have to sign for whatever you take, and get it back in time for the next person to be able to use it. There are 2 sets of this gear so prompt return is expected. You do not have to be going on an organised club trip to use the equipment but the same conditions apply. Check the outside back cover of your bulletin for the Bivouac outlet address.

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

➤ **70<sup>th</sup> reunion.** The venues have been booked and the date set ..... May 16/17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at Zenders Café so it's time to put the date in your diary. On the Sunday there will be an option to have morning tea at the Hardy Centre in Hamilton Gardens and walk around the Gardens at your leisure, or participate in a tramp somewhere – where exactly is yet to be decided. Allan is busy interviewing people and shoulder-tapping others for articles for the reunion booklet. If you can remember a significant incident or tramp and put it on paper, please send it to Allan, email [54days@gmail.com](mailto:54days@gmail.com), phone 027 757 7109, or provide me with the names of others and their contact details if you think they might have some interesting facts.. Happy hunting for our club's past, present, and future!

Allan Hughes

We are just about ready to begin searching the electoral rolls to confirm past members' addresses and phone numbers. If you are available to help with this searching on any day of the week please get back to Dianne (contact details on the front page). The electoral rolls are available only at the Central Hamilton library during their usual business hours and there is space for us to work as a group as opposed to going to the electoral office. It will also be a good time for a social get together so come along and enjoy some good companionship while we work.

➤ **Cucumber & Elderflower Gimlet:** 45mls Hendricks gin; 15-20 ml elderflower cordial (from the supermarket); 30 mls fresh lime juice; 3 thick slices cucumber; 60ml cold water if preparing to store overnight for hiking. Put 2 slices of cucumber in a cocktail shaker and 'muddle' until they are thoroughly crushed. Add all other ingredients except the water. Fill the shaker with ice and shake vigorously for 10-15 seconds. Strain mixture into a glass and garnish with the last cucumber slice. If you are mixing the drink to take tramping, replace the ice with the water and place mixture in freezer overnight, Strain in the morning and put into a thermos to keep it cold. Shake well before pouring and drinking.

➤ **The Goat Run** takes place on Saturday December 7<sup>th</sup>. Project Tongariro are seeking 10 volunteers to help with marshalling (need to be experienced), even registrations on Friday evening and Saturday morning, and BBQ chefs at the Turoa ski base – the finish line. There is bunkroom accommodation available for the weekend, lunch and post-event dinner provided. **The Tussock Traverse** takes place on January 25 with the same requirements. Again, check the Project Tongariro website for more information.

➤ The Pirongia Restoration Society completed another round of **baiting in Pureora forest** over the weekend of October 12/13<sup>th</sup>. This was not an official club trip but we had a great time in perfect weather conditions. There was just 20kg of bait left at the end of the Pirongia & Pureora bait station filling so as good as nothing has been wasted. A big thank you to all those club members who have helped with this conservation effort. Here's hoping you can help remove the leftover bait on the weekend of February 9/10<sup>th</sup>. If things go well, your pack won't be filled too much with the leftovers as we will have got the balance of bait required with the rat numbers just right.

➤ **Get Outdoors Week (16-24 Nov)** is about safely and easily exploring New Zealand's great outdoors. Getting outdoors could be going for a bush walk to check traps or going to the beach for a beach clean-up then going for a swim in the sea. For more information and events happening go to the *Get Outdoors Week website*.

➤ **Hauraki Rail Trail's new extension.** Work on a 10 km extension connecting Miranda to Kaiua will start shortly and should be open for cyclist in

March 2020. This section has views over the Firth of Thames to the Coromandel Ranges and will showcase the shorebirds that travel between North Korea and New Zealand each year. The **Hamilton section of Te Awa cycle way** is underway. Construction of the final section of the Te Awa cycleway began in Hamilton recently. This is the last part of a 70 km fully concreted path from Ngāruawāhia to Cambridge that walkers and cyclists can use. This middle section will go from the Hamilton Gardens, across the Hillcrest gully system, through Tamahere and connect with the already completed Cambridge path. It will be predominantly off-road and will follow the banks of the Waikato River in places. It will include bridges over stream gullies and boardwalks. Figures show that on a weekly average 939 people use the already constructed Ngāruawāhia section, while 2292 use the section by Cambridge's Avantidome. The funding comes from NZTA, Waikato District Council, Waipa District Council and Hamilton City Council.

- Mountain Safety Council wishes to advise you of their highly successful Tramping Video Series. During October 2018 MSC released the Tramping Video Series. The 12 videos have been a huge hit with viewers and their popularity continues to grow. We also know they're making a real difference to the planning, preparation and decision-making of those walkers who watch them before their trip. (*Ed comment: presentations have been taking place throughout the country recently but none were in our vicinity so I've abridged their message just to tell you about the videos You can access the videos on Youtube*).
- Watch out for Project Tongariro's Summer programme in the National Park. There is nothing on the website yet but hopefully there will be something to tell you about in the next bulletin. One activity for sure will be the kite flying day on Jan 1st (contingency day Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>). Weather permitting of course.

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

- **DoC launches new warnings on Tongariro Alpine Crossing**  
"STOP: Hiking the Tongariro Alpine Crossing is NOT RECOMMENDED TODAY". That's the sign that will greet anyone trying to tramp the Tongariro Crossing in bad weather this summer. DoC will display the warnings on the roads leading to the crossing, at the start and end of the track, and before the Devil's Staircase. There will also be rangers telling trampers in person to turn back.

**How the advisories will work** The bad weather advisories will be triggered when wind chill reaches minus 10 degrees or colder on a fine day; 0 degrees or less when there's any rain or snow; if a severe weather warning has been issued for the national park; when wind speeds reach above 65 kilometres an hour or

above 50 kilometres an hour when more than 10 millimetres of rain is predicted during a six-hour period.

Each year, about 140,000 people walk the challenging 19.4 km day hike.

- Threatened species recovery rocks. Our threatened species management has been taken to another level through intensive management, predator control and innovative techniques.

This year we are having some outstanding breakthroughs. In the past few months we have confirmed 400 takahē, 200 kākāpō, 4,000 kōkako in the wild and 300 rowi eggs taken from the wild and hatched at the West Coast Wildlife Centre. We also look certain to have our 2,000<sup>th</sup> kiwi hatched at Rainbow Springs Nature Park, owned by Ngāi Tahu Tourism.

- Backcountry Trust achieving hut goal. Over the past year the Backcountry Trust, under the leadership of Craig Benbow (Board Chair) and Rob Brown (Trust Manager), has exceeded the initial goal of 200 huts and 850 km of track maintained. Over the year a total of 1700 volunteers delivered 44,000 hours of labour (the equivalent of 22 permanent staff). During this period DoC contributed \$411,000 for 48 separate hut and track projects. The Trust's average cost to restore a DOC hut is around \$6,000. A figure we could not hope to do for such great value.

Their Facebook "Name the Hut" page now has 6,800 members, showing the genuine interest of New Zealanders in our 980 backcountry huts.

We are truly appreciative of the six years of work by the Backcountry Trust, our first real DoC-funded community partnership initiative. This way of working together is how we grow conservation and DoC will continue to support the trust and the community groups it works with. Incredible results!

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

- Geoff Spearpoint's long-awaited book on trans-alpine tramping is due to arrive at the end of the month! Geoff is very well known in the outdoor community for several reasons; his long history of adventurous trips in the Southern Alps, his advocacy for back country hut restoration and vice-chairmanship of the Backcountry Trust. He is also an accomplished co-author and editor, with his name on several major outdoor books; "Moir's Guide North", NZAC's guidebook to "The Canterbury Westland Alps" and with Rob Brown and Shaun Barnett on "Shelter from the Storm" and "A bunk for the night".

This much anticipated title can be ordered from publisher Potton & Burton and will be reviewed in the March issue of *Backcountry* magazine.

**Man cannot discover new oceans unless he has the courage to  
lose sight of the shore. Ken Allen**



Scenes from the Photography trip to Waiorongomai



Top: Isla Trapski  
Lower left: Russell Lamb  
Lower right: Dave White



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