



THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

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

November 2020



Dawn at Hump Ridge - Nicola Guy Best overall in 2020 Photo Competition



Waikato river trails – photo
by Sheryl Thomas

WAIKATO HUT

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Tongariro National Park

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Club night, Wednesday, 2nd December

ЦЭНХЭР НҮД БОР МОРЬ – blue eyes on a brown horse

Mongolia is the land of nomads and eternal blue sky. Having lived in the country herself as a researcher for seven months in 2016, Anne Wecking can confirm: The sky is eternal and only ends at the horizon where blue transforms into wide-open steppe; and there are nomads, too.

In her talk, however, Anne will stay away from choosing tourist routes and drop you straight into what life in Mongolia naturally feels like. For example, from how to live in a ger (Mongolian yurt) for two months at a time and learn the language to allow communication with indigenous locals to how to conduct soil science in mountain taiga forests and gallop on Mongolian horses saddleless.

Join Anne on reminiscing her endeavours and get to know deep cultural insights beyond the ordinary along the way. The curious mind might like to explore where Anne's basecamp was located (48.668675° Latitude, 106.873916° Longitude) in advance before getting to know the whole story about "blue eyes on a brown horse" at the next Club night.

Social activity: Join us for a film evening at the Haines', 11 Alison St. Hamilton, Ph 8395932, on November 19th, starting at 6.30pm with a BBQ and shared potluck dinner. Bring a dish to share, your own meat to cook, and your plonk. Dessert, supper, and cake will be served at half-time. **Cost: \$20 each**

Another social activity: WTC Christmas Party



When: Friday 4 Dec or Saturday 5 Dec (depending on the weather). From 5pm

Where: Ron and Jacqui Dick's place at 179 McGregor Road, Ngahinapouri (15 minutes drive from Glenview).

This year we have decided to have an outdoor picnic- style event in Ron and Jacqui's garden in Ngahinapouri. Marquees will be up and there will be a couple of braziers going to keep us warm. We will have a BBQ plus homemade pizzas.

What to bring: Something for a shared potluck dinner, your own drinks, plates and cutlery, a camp chair

What will be provided: Sausages on the BBQ and homemade pizzas. There will be a koha for this.

Transport: Make your own way there, carpooling is a good idea. There won't be any club van transport this year.

Accommodation: You are very welcome to stay the night if you would like to but would need to BYO tent to put up on the lawn. If you do, bring something for breakfast the next morning. Then you get to help tidy up as a treat!!

Any questions ring Jacqui, **ph** 021 1375201 or **email** jacquimd@me.com.

You don't need to book for this, just turn up. A decision on the date will be made during the week as we will choose the night with the best-looking weather (The goats will be dressed in theme so feel free to do the same!)

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2020/2021

2908	13-15 Nov	M	Te Puia loop/Kawekas	Jacqui Dick
	20 Nov		Film night	Graham & Andrea Haines
2909	22 Nov	E/M	Ngamuwahine	Rizal Razak
2910	28/29 Nov	M	Mt. Tama FULL	John Wilson
	2 Dec		CLUB NIGHT	
	5 or 6 Dec		Potluck Xmas Party	Jacqui Dick
2911	7 Dec	E	Post party wander	Kathy Tao
2912	12/13 Dec	E/M	Ngatuhoa Lodge	Selwyn June
2913	20 Dec	VF	Mountain madness	John McArthur
2914	21 Dec-5 Jan	M/F	Inland Kaikoura Range	Allan Wickens
			2021	
2915	6-17 Jan	E/M	Ramblings in northern South Island	Allan Wickens
	10 Jan	Too easy	Picnic in Hamilton Gardens	Dianne & Selwyn June
2916	16/17 Jan	M/F	Lower Matakuaia Hut	Mike Peck
2917	17-23 Jan	M/F	Albert Burn to Wanaka	Les Warren
2918	24 January	E/M	Pinnacles & Billygoat Track	Allan Wickens
2919A	29 Jan/1 Feb	M	Waipakihi R & Junction tops	Jacqui Dick
2919B	29 Jan/1 Feb	F	Kaimanawas & Makorako	Mike Peck
2920	6-8 Feb	M	Ruahines/Kawhatau	Allan Wickens

2921	14 Feb	E/M	Otawa Trig	Steve Cranefield
	14/15 Feb	E/M	Pureora baiting	Dianne & Selwyn June
2922	15-20 Feb	M	Heaphy Track FULL	Peter Ayson
2923	20-21 Feb	E/M	Tongariro crossing	Allan Wickens
2924	22-25 Feb	E/M	West coast wilderness cycle trail FULL	Margaret & Keith Robbins
2925	24 Feb-3 Mar	M	1000 Acre Plateau	Lois Rowell
2926	24-27 Feb		Jumboland / Wilkin R L Castella	Steve Cranefield
2927	28 Feb	E/M	Waikato River trails	Ron Dick
2928	1-7 Mar	VF	Ivory lake – Westland	Mike Peck
2929	5 – 8 Mar	M/F	Hump Ridge track (FULL)	Jacqui Dick
2930	7-15 Mar	F	Snowy Cr, Cascade & Arawhata Saddles	John Davies
2931	6/7 Mar	M	Kaiwhakauka Track	Les Warren
2932	14 Mar		Nikau Caves	David Totman
2933	21 Mar	E/M	Bushcraft	Club Captain
2934	21-25 Mar	M/F	Kaimais - Sth to Nth	Rizal Razal
2935	28 Mar	M	Waiorongomai	John McArthur
2936	2-5 Apr	M	Mt Hikurangi	Allan Wickens

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

TIME and FITNESS GUIDELINES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Day Trips: leave Sunday mornings at 8am sharp.

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

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

Minimum equipment required:

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

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

Trip Descriptions

Trip 2908

Te Puia Loop track/Kawekas

13-15 Nov

Note this trip includes the whole of Friday 13th. Depart Thursday 6pm.

Camp/cabin at the Mohaka River Farm on way down there as the final stretch of road is best done in daylight.

This 3-day loop walk aims to give you a taste of tramping in the Kawekas, without being too difficult. We will start at the end of Makahu Road and walk to Middle Hut on the first day. Day two is the hardest part of the weekend and takes us on to Makino Hut over five gorges and is described in the Wilderness Magazine as a 'gruelling effort in steep goat country with many steep up and down sections. We pass through red beech as well as manuka and kanuka scrub. On Sunday we complete the loop by walking down to the Mohaka River then following it out to the road end, a very scenic part of the walk. If we are lucky, we may see the whio duck. Total distance is 24km and total ascent 2181m. Both huts are small (6 bunks) and have open fires. We will need to carry tents with us in case the huts are full.

At the end of the trip (and maybe at the start if we have the inclination!) we will have a soak in the lovely Mangatutu Hot Springs.

Leader: Jacqui Dick

Ph: 021 260 8149

Grade: M

Accommodation: Mohaka River Farm: camp \$15 shared cabin (sleeps 7): \$30

Transport: Senior member \$ 60-90

Senior Non-member \$ 65-95

Trip 2909

Ngamuwahine

22 Nov

This track climbs up through bush and crosses a river behind the lodge at the end of Ngamuwahine Road, before levelling out on a ridge towards Leyland O'Brien Tramline Track. We will then turn left at the junction, heading to the North-South

track along the Kamia range, where we will then proceed to Hurunui Hut. We will return via the same way except maybe via Bob's Loop Track to complete the Ngamuwahine loop, weather permitting.

Leader: Rizal Razak

Ph: 021 267 6566

Grade: E/ M

Email: rizraz@gmail.com

Transport: Senior member \$20-25

Senior Non-member \$ 25-30

Trip 2910

Mt. Tama

28/29 Nov

This trip is FULL

The objective of the trip is a traverse of Mt Tama and its' neighbour, Point 1650, but getting to them involves some cross-country adventure. After spending Friday night at Waikato Hut, we pass Meads Wall, cross Whakapapanui and Wairere valleys, take in a waterfall, climb diminutive Saddle Cone, then follow a watercourse to Waihohonu Stream and an idyllic camp site over the other side. This sets us up nicely on Sunday for climbing Tama and 1650, from which we'll descend past the Tama Lakes and take the track to Whakapapa Village.

Leader: John Wilson

Ph: 021 1682082

Grade: M

Transport: Senior members \$ 50-75

Senior non-members: \$ 55-80

Trip 2911

Post party wander on the Hakarimatas

7 Dec

After our Christmas do at Jacqui and Ron's, we ought to think about walking the dinner off somehow before we get into more serious Christmas festivity. Here is the plan: We will leave London Street at 8am and return roughly return before 2pm in the afternoon.

We walk the Hakarimata Walkway Southern section from Waingaro Road (Clark Road end) towards the summit tower and get back down via the summit track to Brownlee Ave. then it's a walk back to the starting point along Waingaro Road. The loop is just over 5 km and should take about two and half hours to complete. The track is considered "undulating" with a good bit of uphill at the start which will get the heart going and we will see plenty of native trees. Breaking Bread cafe in Ngaruawahia for a coffee and light lunch is the treat for the day.

Bring water and wear proper tramping boots and sun protection.

Leader: Kathy Tao

Ph: 027 3837695

Grade: E/M

Transport: Senior members \$20-25

Senior non-members: \$25-30

Trip 2912

Last tramp of the year- Ngatuhua Lodge

12/13 Dec

A relaxing weekend at Ngatuhua Lodge with plenty of activities for kids and some good tramps. Ngatuhua Lodge is a well setup educational camp located in the Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park on the other side of the Kaimais to the south-east of Tauranga. The lodge sleeps 50 and there is a camping area and a BBQ. It has its own hydro power scheme which is worth a look. There is a confidence course, kayaking in a canal, tubing and swimming in the river. And a night-time glow worm walk. Bush walks of varying lengths are planned to Te Rere I Oturu Falls, Ngatuhua Falls and the Opuiaki Ecological area where we might see kokako and kaka. There is also a short nature walk with interpretive panels

Leader: Selwyn June

Ph: 07 8433066

Grade: E/M

Accommodation: \$44/person

Transport: Senior members \$50-75

Senior non-members: \$55-80

Trip 2913

Mountain madness

20 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: Very Fit

Transport: Private cars

Trip 2914

Inland Kaikouras

21 Dec-5 Jan

A climb of Mount Tapuae-u-nuku (2885 m) is considered a highlight of many an experienced trumper's portfolio and for good reason. It is the highest peak north of the Mount Cook area and was one of the first peaks Sir Edmund Hillary climbed when he was a young man based at Woodbourne Air Force base. He did it the hard way by traversing the very long ridge from Shin Hut to the summit and back. On his return, he was tired, dirty and unshaven but happy as he had "climbed a decent mountain at last" (in his words). Today, the standard route is easier, via the Hodder River and staying at the Hodder Huts as a base (there are two of them). As it is likely there will be remnant snow on the mountain, we need to take crampons and ice axe. Preferably you will have done a basic snowcraft course. However, Allan can teach you at the time. There is no guarantee of a place in the huts, so we need to take tents. Two days are set aside for the return journey up and down the Hodder and 3 days for climbs in the area/wet weather. If the Hodder is running above normal the trip will be modified accordingly and in the event of bad weather, an alternative area will be looked at (Richmond Range/Nelson Lakes for example). This trip is going ahead as we already have a group of 3. Please enrol early as there are some variables involved.

Leader: Allan Wickens

Ph: 027 9509546

Grade: M/F

Email: allanwickens@hotmail.com

Trip 2917**Albert Burn to Wanaka****17-23 Jan**

The current plan for this trip is as follows:

Sat 16, Meet in Wanaka. Sun 17, Morning Shuttle Wanaka to Makarora to catch the Wilkin River Jets boat to the confluence of the Wilkin and Makarora Rivers. We then walk south to Craigie Burn Hut (4-5hrs). Mon 18, Walk from Craigie Burn Hut up Albert Burn to Albert Burn Hut (5-7hrs). Tue 19, Walk from Albert Burn Hut to Top Forks (3-4hrs). Wed 20, Walk Top Forks to Upper Flats (6-7hrs). Thu 21, walk Upper Flats to Junction Flat on the East Matukituki via Albert Burn Saddle (6-7hrs). Fri 22, walk Junction Flat to Wanaka – Mt Aspiring Road (3-4hrs).

Depending on the group and weather, I am looking at a few options such as climbing Dragonfly Peak and / or visiting Aspiring Flats. This will mean averaging a couple of days in how long we walk.

part from two small huts, we will be mainly camping, so, bringing a tent is a must, as there is no guarantee that the huts will be empty.

PLEASE REGISTER EARLY, preferably by mid-December the latest, as may need to book your transport and accommodation early. If there is less than three people registering, the trip will be cancelled. I am committing myself to a two-week holiday between 9 Jan to 24 Jan, so will find tramps to do in the area. There is plenty of options available.

Leader: Les Warren

Ph; 027 864 4937

Grade: M/F

Email: *warrenlb2017@outlook.com*.

Transport: Private arrangements

-6

Trip 2918**Pinnacles & Billygoat Track****24 Jan**

This trip is often done as an “overnighter” but is also popular as a “one-dayer”. Either way, it is an enjoyable part of the country to tramp in and is very popular with all ages. From Hamilton, we drive to Thames and up the Kauaeranga Valley to the end of the road. With just our day packs, it should take about 2.5 hours to reach the hut and a further half hour to the dramatic and rocky twin peaks of the Pinnacles (759 metres). Most tracks in this area are remnants of the hey-day of kauri milling in the 1920’s. Pinnacles Hut (80 bunks) is the largest mountain hut in the country. After lunch, we will head down to our van via the slightly longer Billygoat Walk and a crossing of the Kauaeranga River, where the bridge has recently been swept away in a flood. The grading of this trip will be “top-end of easy and into moderate” due to the slightly more rugged return section of the walk. We have plenty of time to do the walk and there will be lots of stops. You may enjoy a welcome swim at the end so bring a towel and togs.

Leader: Allan Wickens

Ph: 027 9509546

Grade: E/M

Email: *allanwickens@hotmail.com*

Transport: Senior member: \$20-25

Senior non-member: \$ 25-30

Trip 2919 A **Waipakihi Hut & Junction Tops:** **29 Jan/1 Feb**

The plan for this long weekend is to walk into Waipakihi Hut following the Umukarikari Range. This track climbs up through beech forest onto the alpine ridge with fantastic views. It takes 4-5 hours to reach the hut.

The hut sleeps 12 but as it's a long weekend the plan is to camp by the river as it will probably be full. And to have a swim or two if it's hot!

On Sunday we will do a day trip up to Junction Tops (1605m) for even more impressive views out over the mountains. On Monday we will walk out the way we came in

This is a perfect weekend for a few days in a stunning part of the North Island

Leader: Jacqui Dick

Ph: 021 2608149

Grade: M

Transport: Senior member: \$ 60-90

Senior non-member: \$ 65-95

Trip 2919 B **Kaimanawas to Makorako** **29 Jan – 1 Feb**

We'll drive down Friday night and camp at one of the Kaimanawa Rd/Waihaha Valley/Urchin Campsites. Saturday morning we'll begin tramping on the Umukarikari track through to Waipakihi Hut. After a break there we'll climb to Junction Tops and then take a spur down to the Rangitikei river to camp for the night. Day 2 starts with a climb to Te More, then following a route above the bushline to the foot of Makorako, the highest peak in the Kaimanawas. We'll drop packs for the summit then return the same way back to Waipakihi Hut. Day 3 is the walk out over the Umukarikari range track. We are looking at an option to walk out via Boyd Hut which will require a van relocation. Access permission to be granted by Helisika for complete confirmation of this Trip. Day one and two will be a minimum 10 hours walking time.

Leader: Mike Peck

Ph: 021369256

Grade: F

Transport: Senior member: \$ 60-90

Senior non-member: \$ 65-95

Trip 2920 **Ruahines/Kawhatau Hut** **6-8 Feb**

This trip takes us to the western side, northern section of the Ruahine Forest Conservation Area. Using the former Forest Service Kawhatau Base on Saturday and Sunday nights, we will be able to do day trips up onto the tops of Colenso Trig (1408m) and the Hikurangi Range. Given good weather, a separate group may wish to stay out on the "tops" for Saturday night, returning to Kawhatau and linking up with the rest of the group for Sunday night.

Kawhatau Base has been booked for the two nights and we have exclusive use of the place, which has 8 bunks, a basic kitchen, toilet, and bath. There is plenty of room apart from the bunks and some people may wish to camp on the grassy flats at the hut. To get to this place, there is a 9 kilometre walk up the Kawhatau River. This route is not recommended during times of high river flow, so we will need an alternative tramp in the area should the weather gods be against us. It also means we forfeit the cost of Kawhatau Base, but at \$60 a night between 10-12 people that will be of little consequence no doubt.

We will leave Hamilton Friday night and travel as far as Taihape for the night. The next day, there is about an hour drive to Rangitane Road and the start of the walk. Saturday and Sunday will be spent tramping. On Monday, we do the return trip back to Hamilton.

Leader: Allan Wickens.

Ph: 027 9509546

Grade: M

Email *allanwickens@hotmail.com*

Accommodation: backpacker at Taihape plus two nights Kawhatau Base @ minimal cost) Tba

Transport: Senior member: \$ 60-90

Senior non-member: \$ 65-95

Trip 2921

Otawa Trig

14 Feb

We will leave Hamilton at 8am and drive to Te Puke Quarry road to start the tramp at 10am The track follows the gently undulating ridgeline to Ottawa Trig with views of the coast and Mt Maunganui and Papamoa passing through lowland forest dominated by tawa and rewarewa. Lunch at the trig and then a descent down through the bush to Demeter road for our pick-up. Total distance 13km, expected time 5-6 hours the track will be mostly undulating and downhill in this direction. We should be back in Hamilton around 6pm. Hats and sunblock essential as there will be periods in the open farmland on this trip.

Leader: Steve Cranefield

Ph: 0274 368 216

Grade: E/M

Transport: Senior member \$20-25

Senior non-member \$25-30

Trip 2922

Heaphy Track

15-20 Feb

This trip is now FULL

A small group is doing the Heaphy and you are welcome to join in. We will be camping rather than using the huts, and the camp sites are closing fast for the following dates. We will meet up in Nelson on the 14th February, staying in the YHA in town. Then....

Day 1, 15th February; Brown Hut (road end) to Perry Saddle camp

Day 2, 16th; Perry Saddle camp to Gouland Downs camp

Day 3, 17th; Gouland Downs to James Mackay camp

Day 4, 18th; James Mackay to Heaphy camp

Day 5, 19th; Heaphy camp to the Kohaihai river mouth and road end. Shuttle to Karamea.

Day 6, 20th; day trip into the Oparara valley for walks (Not the Honeycomb Hill tour)

Day 7, shuttle to Westport and bus back to Nelson (hopefully, if Intercity starts running again).

Leader: Peter Ayson

Ph: 0274 797 077

Grade: M

Transport: Private arrangements

Pureora baiting

13/14 Feb

This is not an official club trip but with so many of you having participated in the past and enjoyed a leisurely walk in a beautiful forest, here is a description to entice you to join in again, and keep your fitness programme going. If Selwyn has

Trip 2924 **West Coast wilderness cycle trail** **21-25 Feb**

This trip is now FULL

The West Coast Wilderness Trail is a journey through some of New Zealand's most diverse and beautiful scenery. But it is not just the scenery that is remarkable, the trail takes you through a land rich with history and heroic stories of the achievements and the hardships endured by those who first settled here and those that followed in their footsteps. The majority of the trail is a grade 2 (easy) bike ride catering for all levels of cycling abilities and starts in Greymouth.

Sun 21 Feb Meet in Greymouth for departure next day

Mon 22 Feb Pick up hire bikes and cycle to Kumara

Tue 23 Feb Cycle from Kumara to Cowboy Paradise

Wed 24 Feb Cycle from Cowboy Paradise to Hokitika

Thu 25 Feb Cycle from Hokitika to Ross and shuttle back to Greymouth.

For full description see: <https://www.westcoasttravel.co.nz/west-coast-wilderness-trail-greymouth-to-ross/>

Costs:

Bike hire: \$55/day for 4 days (E-bikes available at extra cost)

Bag transfer (if required): \$90/bag for whole trip (all bags must be under 15kg)

Shuttle: Ross to Greymouth \$70 per person (includes bike and passenger)

Accommodation: backpackers/camping ground cabins offering a variety of options. Allow \$35 night for 5 nights.

Leader: Margaret & Keith Robbins

Ph: 02102320067 or 0211207752

Email: kandm.robbs@gmail.com

Grade: M

Transport: Private arrangements

Trip 2925 **1000acre Plateau** **24 Feb – 3 Mar**

The 1000 acre plateau is a great tussock tableland in the southern Kahurangi National Park north of Murchison. This 4-5 day trip offers spectacular views and interesting limestone formations. The track starts at the end of Matiri Valley Road with 3 hours walk to Lake Matiri Hut. Tents will be needed as all huts are small with only 4 bunks. The following day is a steep 800 metre climb to get to Poor Pete Hut on the plateau for lunch. Then another 3 hours of more gentle terrain to reach Larrikin Creek Hut where we will be based for two nights. The next day will be spent exploring the area – The Needle, The Haystack and the upper 100 Acres Plateau. We will retrace our steps back down to Lake Matiri Hut for the last night and out to the road end on day five.

There may be an add on trip to the West Coast to do a number of short walks. For example, the Ballroom Overhang at Fox River which is a 4-hour return walk just north of Punklike, Cave Creek and other walks in the Paparoa area. This will be decided closer to February

Leader: Lois Rowell

Ph: 027 2881148

Grade: M

Transport: Private arrangements

Trip 2926 **Jumboland/ Wilkin/Lake Castelia** **24-27 Feb**

This will be a more relaxed / exploratory trip of the Wilkin Valley.

Day 1 starts with an early jetboat from Makarora to Kerrin forks hut then tramp up to Jumboland and if time and river crossings allow up into the Wonderland valley to camp the night.

Day 2 we will explore the valley then retrace steps to the Wilkin and head to Top Forks hut for the night.

Day 3 we will take day packs to visit the 3 lakes Diana, Lucidus, and Castalia then return to Top Forks.

Day 4 will be the return for a late afternoon Jetboat back to Makarora.

NB: Tents will be required.

Leader: Steve Cranefield **Ph:** 027 4368216 **Grade:** M

Email: *steve.cranefield1@gmail.com*

Transport: Private arrangements

Trip 2927 **Waikato River trails** **28 Feb**

The Waikato River is New Zealand's longest and the 100km of off-road trails that follow the river banks is known as the Waikato River Trails which go from Lake Karapiro in the north to Atiamuri in the south, taking in five lakes, five hydro dams and a number of small towns and villages, showcasing some of the best of the Waikato heartland. The section we will be walking is from Jones' Landing to the Mangarewa suspension bridge. Part of this section has been re-routed and once I have done the recce I will be able to bring you more information. But like the other two sections of the River Trails that I have led, the trip will be full of interest.

Leader: Ron Dick **Ph:** 021 2608149 **Grade:** E

Email: *ronjmd@icloud.com*

Transport: Senior member \$20-25 Senior non-member \$25-30

Trip 2928 **Ivory Lake, Westland** **1-7 Mar**

Ivory Lake Hut is a remote hut in Westland. It's a three day walk up the Waitaha river to reach Ivory Lake and its' iconic hut. We'll stay two nights at the hut allowing a day walk to a surrounding peak. Day 5 will be an alpine crossing to Top Tuke Hut and then a further two days walk out down the Tuke river. There will be some long days tramping in a challenging environment, a good level of fitness and experience in river trekking essential. We have 4 trampers confirmed for this trip with a maximum of six.

Leader: Mike Peck **Ph:** 021369256 **Grade:** Very fit

Transport: Private arrangements

Trip 2930 **Time on the Tops/Aspiring National Park** **7-15 Mar**

A journey with a difference, from Rees Valley to the Matukituki Valley and beyond; whilst allowing time to explore the tops above Snowy Creek, Cascade Saddle and Arawhata Saddle areas.

Visiting the remote wilderness of Mt Aspiring National Park with its dreamland of mountains, glaciers, birdlife, river valleys and alpine lakes.

If you enjoy stunning vistas of mountains and glaciers, some off-track travel and tenting at high altitudes this is the trip for you.

Leaders: Jo Walker **Ph** 027 3097750

Grade: F

John Davies **Ph** 027 4772209

Transport: Arrange own to Queenstown for start, we finish in Wanaka

Trip 2935 The Chasm and Waiorongomai 28 Mar

Way up there in them thar hills, there's a chasm! It's called the chasm because it is a chasm: - "a deep fissure in the earth's surface". It is part of a fault line running from Buck Rock along the northern side of the Waiorongomai Valley which is situated a few kilometres south of Te Aroha.

To get from the Waiorongomai carpark we will follow the upper track, possibly side tracking to the top of Buck rock, until the end of the old mining tramline and then on to the Mangakino pack track for a short while to just past Premier creek. From there we will bush bash upwards, keeping close to the creek to where we should stumble onto (NOT INTO) the chasm. It is a gaping deep trench in the ground, quite amazing really and very interesting.

The return trip will most likely be back down via the May Queen incline and eventually to the bottom of the valley for an easy and pleasant stroll out to the carpark via the lower Waiorongomai track following closely beside the Waiorongomai Stream. Be prepared for a bit of bush bashing ...

Leader: John McArthur

Ph: 021 2889641

Grade: M

Email: mcArthur@outlook.co.nz

Transport: Senior member \$20-25

Senior non-member: \$25-30

Trip 2934 Kaimai Full Length (South – North) 21-25 Mar

The trip is a five-day tramp over the Kaimai Range and will start from the entrance off SH29, on the southern side of the range, and ends at the Karangahake Gorge. Total distance would be approximately 82 km.

Leader: Rizal Razak

Ph: 021 2676566

Grade: M/F

Email: rizr@z@gmail.com

Transport: This may involve private cars

Editorial

Selwyn's trip to the Mangatawhiri stopbank and Whangamarino redoubt afforded me a lovely opportunity to be out with the club again – there were so many people keen to come that we needed a bus. This was a good refresher for me as we haven't needed a vehicle of this size for some time and it was good for you that I haven't forgotten how to drive one! (on that note and with these trip numbers in mind, the transport officer may be keen to hear from anyone who already has a P licence, or would be keen to get one through the club to help out when needed).

But having so many people being keen to come was a problem for organising transport. In the past our closing day was Monday, then Wednesday and then it seemed to slip everyone's mind and people were wanting to book on the trip the night before. This makes for a lot of dithering for the leader, the driver, and the transport officer so here's a plea from these people and the club captain – please book in early as it may mean in future that we cannot accommodate you. Covid 19 has had a negative beneficial effect – more people want to go tramping and see their own country but we need to be well-organised to cater for this increase in bookings. As the organisers are a great bunch of people, they do their best to do this but your cooperation would be appreciated.

And looking ahead 6 months – we are going to have another go at celebrating our 70th reunion in May next year. Yeah, I know, we'll be 71 by then but what's a year? The intentions/format are the same but we need to start that electoral roll search again. - at least we'll have a really up to date roll to search through this time. Quite a lot of searching can be reduced because of this but if anyone can help out (again) please get in touch with me.

////////////////////////////////////
Presidents' Blog

The club is 70 years old this year and we haven't celebrated yet, thanks to a certain lockdown - but wait, we'll do it next year. So, the plan is to have a reunion in May 2021, with an afternoon gathering followed by a dinner, a day tramp to the site of the club's first outing and a dinner, and walking weekend at Waikato Hut. A lot of the planning and ground work for the reunion has been done, but we would like more members on the organising committee to bring in other ideas and to help out in the lead up. Please contact me if you'd like to help.

The photographic competition was more popular than ever this year. In a very professional presentation, we were shown many beautiful and well composed pictures at the November club night, together with the judges' helpful comments. We were even treated to a selection of the judges' own photos, and got our own back with various helpful suggestions like "should have been cropped". The photos reflect the many places members visit around the country and overseas, and demonstrate that cell phones take some excellent close up images. Thanks to Isla, Russell and Jacqui for their judging and for their careful comments on each photo. Hopefully we'll see a selection from the competition on our Bulletin covers in the future.

Selwyn, President

~~~~~  
*... from the Skj Club.....*

Waikato Hut members' rates for the summer will be adults \$25 children \$15. More news next month after the booking officer has had a wee break.

## Mid-week Walks & Tramps

We are going to continue with the current format for these having a walk or tramp on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. The activities have proven to be as varied as the group is and the communication via the Mid-week W & T s Group page on WhatsApp is working well.

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

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## Trip Reports

### Trip 2902                      Karaponga Reserve and Footprints of Toi                      2/4 Oct

Sometimes the trip description as presented in our programme is underwhelming, compared to the actual trip itself. And this was such a trip. People said it was “10 out of 10” and “110%”, which obviously meant they had an extremely rewarding time. Thanks to an invitation from Owen Vaughan of the Whakatane based Nga-Tapuwaie O Taneatua Tramping Club, our group of 14 was able to walk through a lovely area of private native bush, where the Manawahe Eco and Kokako Trusts have been carrying out extensive pest control and monitoring. Their aim, under the auspices of the Queen Elizabeth 2 Trust, is to introduce and foster the growth of kokako.



The Coast  
Photo by Allan  
Wickens

But first, we went to Whakatane, where Owen “guided” us on the fabulous “Footprints of Toi” walk – the extended version starting at the “Bird Walk”. After just under 3 hours of walking through the inland bush section, we reached Ohope, where we had lunch at the parkland adjacent to the shops.

From there, we did the lovely coastal section, around to the downtown area of Whakatane. Owen was able to get us into the local Yacht Club, where we enjoyed welcome refreshments after a warm walk. That night, we stayed at the Awakeri Holiday camp and enjoyed soaking in the hot pools.

The next day, accompanied by Owen, we drove through private farmland to a high point where there is a prominent translator tower..

From there, we did the lovely coastal section, around to the downtown area of Whakatane. Owen was able to get us into the local Yacht Club, where we enjoyed welcome refreshments after a warm walk. That night, we stayed at the Awakeri Holiday camp and enjoyed soaking in the hot pools.

The next day, accompanied by Owen, we drove through private farmland to a high point where there is a prominent translator tower. This gave us an unexpectedly good, early morning vista that included Whale Island, around to Mount Edgecumbe / Putauaki. After walking for some time through the bush, we met up with John Sherriff, a member of the Kokako Trusts, who explained more about what the Trusts were doing in the area. He showed us the different types of traps used to catch predators, such as stoats and hedgehogs. John explained that unfortunately, the initial flush of success in “raising” upwards of 50 kokako, has been tempered by the loss of most of those birds due to in-breeding. However, they are persevering and are hopeful that the numbers will again flourish.

John also took us to a beautiful waterfall in the dense bush, an unexpected delight that all enjoyed.

Some of this country is quite steep and we were all tested at times, hanging onto the vegetation. Finally, we emerged out into an open area, where there is a “glamping” commercial enterprise that some felt tempted enough to enquire as to the cost. However, they are persevering and are hopeful that the numbers will again flourish.

John also took us to a beautiful waterfall in the dense bush, an unexpected delight that all enjoyed. Some of this country is quite steep and we were all tested at times, hanging onto the vegetation. Finally, we emerged out into an open area, where there is a “glamping” commercial enterprise that some felt tempted enough to enquire as to the cost. At some point, the sole of Ron’s boot came away and Jacqui had to do running repairs with tape. Rotorua and the obligatory stop at the Wild Bean Café. Later, those in the group each made donations to the Manawahe Eco and Kokako Trusts in appreciation of the efforts of that group of dedicated volunteers. After bidding farewell to Owen and John, we made our way back to Hamilton via Rotorua and the obligatory stop at the Wild Bean Café. Later, those in the group each made donations to the Manawahe Eco and Kokako Trusts in appreciation of the efforts of that group of dedicated volunteers.

Those on this trip were: Jacqui D (driver), Ron D, Sharon S, Owen V, Les W, Cathy D, Ian F, Kerri P, Judith B, Lesley K, Alan W, Lisa D, Kathy T and Allan Wickens (leader and scribe)



The patch-up job

Photo by Allan Wickens

## Trip 2903

## Pylon Peak to Waiorongomai

1 Oct

As there is a lot of “First” on this trip, my first trip as trip leader, Jocelyn’s first drive, Ron’s new boot first tramp, the club’s first Mercedes bus/van rental to name a few..... might as well I add another first, as in my first trip report. Eight of us met up at the club usual rendezvous point at London Street before heading towards Waiorongomai Valley, where Noeleen and Sharon joined us. After the usual introduction, we were off at 9:26am to enjoy a Sunday “Forest Bathing”.

The track branches off the Low Level Track, down to the stream, which we were able to rock hop that day. Heading up the ridge, we had to make a few diversions due to fallen trees along the track, saw one or two old mining tunnel entrances, and the remains of the pylon bases which were used for the power line linking Horahora hydroelectric power station with the Waihi and Karangahake gold mines in the early 1900s.

As the weather was beautiful and sunny (not as forecasted) at the top, we decided to have lunch at the junction of Pylon Peak Track and the Old Kaimai North-South Track, while enjoying the view of the Waikato plains and Mt Te Aroha. We then proceed north via the Old Kaimai North-South and Waipapa Track. At a few breaks in the trees we were able to see views of the Bay of Plenty up to Mayor Island. This was followed by descending the Waiorongomai Valley via the Butler’s Incline and the High Level Track. The last person reached the parking at approximately 4:39pm, which makes it a good 7-hour walk. We treated ourselves with the usual ice creams in Te Aroha before heading back to Hamilton.

Jocelyn W (driver), Ron D, John McA, Allan W, Noeleen C, Kathy T, Sharon S, Laurie V, Marianne L and Rizal R (Trip Leader and Scribe)

## Trip 2905

## Koranga River

24-26 Oct

Our long weekend trip took us to the Whakatane Hotel with a quick stop at Tirau to pick up Alan from Taranaki. Two more trampers to meet at the Hotel were, Flo and Isobel from Auckland. Upon arriving at the Hotel, laden with our packs, we were loudly cheered by all the locals drinking outside. What a welcome! We heard later that one of the crowd thought that we had walked from Hamilton. Thank goodness we hadn't!

Saturday: After varying reports of good sleep/bad sleep we set off in the van descending into farmland and bush, metal road, many turns and then stumbled on a ute perched precariously at the edge of a cliff with a significant drop down below into the gorge. The underneath of the ute well and truly stuck. No driver, and two farm dogs in the dog boxes at the back. What happened? Driving on, we came upon a sheepish man on a quad bike, who was the owner of the ute. A tractor was on its way to get the ute moved. We continued to drive... carefully. Needless to say, the ute was gone on our way back. So all was well, we think. We donned our packs at the very full Moanui Rd carpark and set off to the aptly named, 'the burn', and things did start burning for some of us. Up we went, cows and cow poo. A break for lunch, and over the top. I was last but that's ok. Into the beautiful bush we went, eventually arriving at Tawa Hut to set up our tents. Tawa Hut only has 6 bunks, not enough for the 13 of us. But camping is much more fun anyway.



River Crossing practice

Photo by Allan Wickens

Sunday: River crossing training day.

The weather was good, no rain forecast, and the Kahanui river was flowing but not too high. We spent the day in and out of the river, reading the watercourse, the best place to cross, linking together to support each other through the more forceful parts. We took turns later in the day to lead and discuss with Allen the best possible place to cross. Some areas were trickier to negotiate, requiring us hold on to, or clamber over large fallen trees in the river. On the banks of the river, taking time to look up at the pristine bush were kowhai trees in bloom. Tuins could be heard. It felt fair away from Hamilton. After a shorter time than predicted we arrived at Koranga Forks hut. One campsite already taken so we set up our tents under the punga and trees. Pack float training to follow, and those that did it, floated very well, caught by Flo and Allen to avoid disappearing downstream. Sleeping in our tents at night the rurus were calling. I thought I heard a kiwi, but after some investigation on NZ bird online I realised I'd heard a long tail cuckoo! Never mind. The Koranga Forks long drop was interesting. You required limited movement once inside as it had a tendency to feel like you were experiencing a small earthquake! One campsite already taken so we set up our tents under the punga and trees.



Koranga Forks Hut

Photo by Allan Wickens

Monday: The early morning dawn chorus was amazing; bellbirds, tui etc, echoing in the early morning quiet. Back on the track, it was nice to see many good

nature A24 rat and stoat traps on the sides of the tracks. Hopefully these are helping the bird population grow. The walk out back to the carpark was undulating with some steady climbs through the bush, until we reached farmland, sheep, cows and the van at the carpark. Hunters were there, ready for the hikers to leave, so they could go in to hunt. There had been discussions of a bakery in Opotiki so a coffee and food break were had. We had said goodbye to Flo and Isobel on the road as they were heading back to Auckland. Again, we stopped at Tirau, to say goodbye to New Plymouth Alan, and go to the ice cream shop. Thank you, Allan, for organising this trip and to everyone for a great weekend. Trampers: Allan W (leader), Alan, Les W, John Mc, John A, Peter, Paul, Flo, Isobel, Beatrix, Amanda C, Judith B, and Cathy D

### **Trip 2906**

### **Mangatawhiri to Meremere**

**1 Nov**

This is one of those trips where you have been there (almost) so many times but never quite knew what was “out there”. I have driven to Auckland many times and when looking East while passing Mercer never really thought about the history and the countryside that makes up this historic area.



Archimedes screw

Photo by Dave White

We left Hamilton with a bus load numbering twenty-three (including our non-tramping driver Dianne). A lot of new faces and so many experienced sets of “legs” it was like a “who’s who?”.

Turning right at the bottom of the Bombays, we headed for Mangatawhiri and were literally dropped off on the side of the busy road, a couple of k’s short of the township. This is part of the Te Araroa Trail and the southern stage of exiting the Hunua Ranges.

Crossing under the main road, we immediately got up on the stopbank and following the leader, headed South West along the Mangatawhiri River. Pretty much 4-5 k's in a straightish line brought us to the edge of a swap managed by Fish and Game. Skirting the edge of that, we came across an Archimedes Screw used in earlier days to drain the farmland. Basically, it is a steel "screw" about 2m in diameter positioned in a formed concrete half pipe on a slope, that has very little clearance and when turning, moves water up the screw, into a catchment about 4-5 metres higher. It has been superseded by a more modern pump now but the mechanics of it are amazing

Soon after that, we came to SH1, crossing over and walking due south to Mercer for our lunch break next to the Waikato River. Recrossing the main road, we climbed out of Mercer and shadowed SH1 often seeing traffic as we climbed and descended a few times from swampland to hilltop heading for the end of our tramp at the Whangamarino Redoubt near Oram Road. I won't go in to the history here but this is a very crucial part of the Waikato War and the movement of troops South up the Waikato River and in to the Waikato Region.

A lot of the walk was in farmland, with periods of light bush cover and transitions from swamp to pastureland. Good variety and good company. What more could you hope for?

We thank Selwyn for leading us, and Dianne for getting us safely there and back. And to all those new faces... welcome. We hope to see you again.

Cameo Appearances by: Selwyn J (Leader), Nette L, Barb C, John and Jean W (Mr and Mrs Legs), Isla T, Cherry Y, Jasmin Y, Jeanette B, Jane S, Fiona G, Ali C, Jude T, Ron G, Annie W, Dennis P, Les W, Scott M, Fiona R, Marianne L and Dave and Deb W (scribe).

## **Trip 2907**

## **Waikato River trails**

**8 November 2020**

After 30 mm of rain overnight and a very damp looking morning, we had 12 keen souls turn up for this tramp. Ron reassured us all the way to Whakamaru that the weather would clear and we would not get wet. There were times when his voice wasn't quite so reassuring and the speed the windscreen wipers were going contradicted his words. We arrived at Whakamaru and eleven brave souls exited the van into the nearest Café! Would they ever come out?

But, as Ron predicted, the rain cleared and we had a fabulous walk along the shores of Lake Maraetai on the well-formed cycle trail. Most of the time we were able to see the lake and hear numerous different birds. We passed by a motor bike trail track where two keen young petrol heads were having some fun in the muddy conditions. This was an easy walk mostly away from traffic noise and we only encountered two mountain bikers. We had a lovely view of the lake from an elevated site with a picnic table provided. Sun block was seen to sneak out of bags and sun hats were also required – rain coats remained folded away. The swing bridge was a very significant structure to accommodate bikes and had a fabulous view down the inlet to the main lake.



We could also see the road bridge and some sheer rock faces. Great tramp, great company, and surprisingly great weather. Present: Ron (trip leader), Jeanette B, Ian, David C, Nette L, John W, Jean W, Marianne L, Debbie, Lynette, Ray and Sheryl T.

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From the committee table:

New members: Welcome to Michael Strong and Bridget Steenkamer

Resignations: Max Greer has moved over the ditch.

Membership: We have 188 tramping members this month.

It is with sadness that we have been informed of the passing of Elaine Warr in Taupo recently. She was a very well-liked past member and extremely helpful club member when she was the manager of the Visitors Centre at Ruapehu. Our sympathies are extended to her partner Doug Papps and their families.

Snippets from here 'n there

➤ **Photo Competition results.** Wow, what a super selection of photos appeared this year. There were over 140 entries – which is quite likely the most we've ever had. This meant a lot of work for the judges and did they ever handle it well!! Many thanks to Russell Lamb for the many hours of effort he put into judging and compiling of the presentation – at the expense of a holiday in Taranaki. Watch out for some of the photos to appear on the covers (inside and out) of future bulletins/
And **the winners** are:

Above the bush line - No Human element

- 1st - Mike Peck - Ice Formation
- 2nd - Nicola Guy Tasman Glacier
- 3rd - Nicola Guy - Ice Encrusted Rocks

Above the bush line - Human element

- 1st - Nicola Guy - Dawn at Humpridge
- 2nd - Alan Wickens - Sublime at Temple Basin, Mt Rolleston
- 3rd - David Totman - Cameron Hut

Below Bushline no human element

- 1st - Nicola Guy - Misty Mountain, Pirongia
- 2nd - Colin Crabbe - Herons Blues
- 3rd = Amanda Collins - Rainbows End
- 3rd = Annemarie Lamb - Tarn with Hairy Guardians

Below Bushline - human element

- 1st - John Wilson - Te Waewae Bay
- 2nd - Anne Wecking - Slopes of Mt Pirongia East
- 3rd - Stephen Phillips - Northland Sky

Flora & Fauna

- 1st - John Wilson - Beached Kelp
- 2nd - Kathy Tao – Someones' brain
- 3rd = Annemarie Lamb - Subalpine Stars
- 3rd = Allan Wickens - Ranunculus, Arthurs Pass

Long Exposure

- 1st - Stephen Phillips - Around the mountain
- 2nd – Charlotte Entwisle-Phillips - Fire
- 3rd - Anne Wecking - Rock Shelters Waterfall

International

- 1st - John McArthur - Andes Sunrise
- 2nd - Allan Wickens - Gondogoro Glacier
- 3rd - Allan Wickens - High on Cerro Aconcagua

Historic

1st - Allan Wickens - Cow Saddle, Tararua Ranges

Club Character

1st - Allan Wickens - 4U2P (For you to pee

BEST OVERALL PHOTO - Nicola Guy - Dawn at Humpridge

➤ **Alison's Scroggin Biscuits**

Word of warning: DO NO MAKE these too far in advance of your tramping expedition or you'll have none to eat when out in the field!

200g butter, softened ¼ cup peanut butter ½ cup sugar

1 cup (packed) brown sugar 2 large eggs 1 tsp vanilla or almond essence

1½ cups standard (plain) flour or 1/4c less if using instant rolled oats

1 tsp baking soda 2 cups rolled oats 1 cup chocolate chips

1 cup sultanas ½ cup chopped walnuts

Heat oven to 180°C (170°C fan bake), with oven rack just below the middle. Line a baking tray with baking paper or a Teflon liner.

Mix or beat the softened butter and the next five ingredients together in a large bowl, then sieve or sift in 1 cup of the flour and the baking soda. Mix in the remaining flour and everything else, using a wooden spoon or your hand.

Shape with two spoons or put flattened rounds of mixture onto prepared tray, leaving some space for spreading, baking one tray while you shape more biscuits. Bake for about 12 minutes or until lightly browned. While biscuits are warm, lift them onto a cooling rack. When cold, store in an airtight container.

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

➤ Please be aware that the **DoC office in Hamilton is now closed** to the public. Hut tickets can be purchased from the following local outlets:

Trek n' Travel, Bivouac Outdoors, all Kathmandu stores, Hamilton i-SITE, Cambridge i-SITE, Te Awamutu i-SITE, Te Aroha i-SITE.

Hut passes can be purchased from Trek n' Travel as well as from the Te Aroha i-SITE (including discounted ones). Other places may get set up to sell hut passes in the future. We will be notified when this happens. Please note that Google My Business is currently still showing opening hours for the DoC office. These will be removed in due course.

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

➤ FMC has become aware of the sale of Whakapapa and Tūroa season passes with preferential parking rights. Let's be clear: the parking areas for these ski

fields are part of the Tongariro National Park, and the public's right of access is protected in the skifield concession. FMC recognizes our collective responsibility to care for the mountain, and is open to a rationing system as long as it is equitable and not simply decided by who can afford to pay. The current approach seems likely to be illegal. Formal letters have been sent to both Ruapehu Alpine Lifts Ltd and the Department of Conservation asking whether the proposal is consistent with the concession and how equity between users is to be maintained.

~~~~~  
Here are some of the fabulous entries to our 2020 photo competition.



Beached Kelp photo by John Wilson



Around the mountain photo by Stephen Phillips



Te Waewae Bay photo by John Wilson

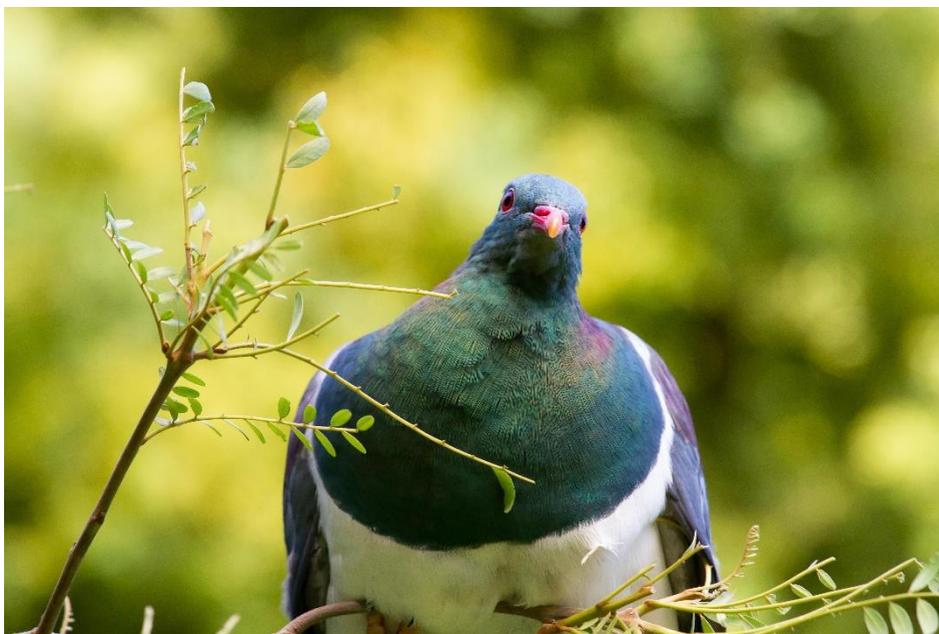


Andes Sunrise photo by John McArthur



Asorea rubra - a chance find on farmland photo by Isla Trapski

A garden visitor photo by Jacqui Dick



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