



THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

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

November 2018



John Wilson - bushcraft survival Photo by Allan Wickens

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P. O. Box 685, Hamilton 3240 • www.wtc.org.nz

Free to members

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

BULLETIN No 799

November 2018

General Committee

(Contact details listed below)

President: Selwyn June **Secretary:** Lois Rowell **Treasurer:** John Grace
Members: John McArthur (VP tramp) Mary Reed (VP Ski) Stephen Phillips
Allan Wickens Russell King Stacey Thompson Doug Pagel
Mike Nightingale minean@xtra.co.nz 8562394

Tramping Subcommittee

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

CLUB NIGHT: Wednesday 5th December

Quiz night is coming. John and Jean will be your quizmasters for the evening. Put your thinking caps on and brush up on all things geographic, topographic and heliographic. That's not a word, by the way. Mt Difficulty, Avalanche Peak, Girdlestone, these places won't feature. But others will. A night of fun and frivolity - and some tasty spot prizes.

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

Time: Doors open at 7.00pm, programme starts at 7.30pm.

Cost: \$2

Social: A date has been set for the clubs' annual Christmas party. See further details under the trip descriptions.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2018 - 2019

2793	18 Nov	M	Pirongia	John McArthur
2794	24-25 Nov	M	Devious Tongariro Crossing	Allan Wickens & John Wilson
2795	2 Dec	M	Mount Karangahake	Doug Pagel
2796	8/9 Dec		Mt Edgecumbe/Putauaki & Otanewainuku Forest	Allan Wickens
	15 Dec		Christmas party	Stephen Prendergast
2797	22 Dec	F	Captain's Challenge	John McArthur
2798	5-10 Jan	F	Tararua Ranges	Allan Wickens
2799	6 Jan	E	Waiorongomai circuit & hot pools	Club captain
2800	11-15 Jan	F	Inland Kaikoura	Allan Wickens
2801	12/13 Jan	E/M	Track Maintenance in Pureora	Dianne June
2802	20 Jan	E	Aotea to Kawhia beach	
2803	26-28 Jan	F	Kaimanawa – Southern access	Mike Peck & Paul Quinn
2803B	26-28 Jan	M	Kaimanawa – Waipakihi circuit	Club captain
	2 / 3 Feb		Waikato Hut - workparty	Stephen Phillips
2804	3 Feb	E	Te Kauri Park	Club captain
2805	6 Feb	E/M	Thames to Kaiarau cycle trip	David Cumming
2806	9-10 Feb	M	Whirinaki Loop	Ashley Hoskin
2807	16-22 Feb	F	Tararua Main range	Mike Peck &

				Paul Quinn
2808	17 Feb	E/M	River Crossing training	Club captain
2809	23/24 Feb		Exploring Coromandel Part 2	Allan Wickens
2810	24 Feb-2 Mar	F	Marks Flat the hard way	John Davies
2811	24 Feb-1 Mar	E	Cobb River	Colin Jones
2812	3 – 9 Mar	E & M	Poulter R./ Arthurs Pass	Selwyn June
	9/10 Mar	E/M	Waikato Hut -workparty	Stephen Phillips
2813	10-15 Mar		Travers Sabine	John McArthur
2814	17-22 Mar		Canterbury high country	John McArthur

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

Transport: Note that juniors participating on a trip will be charged 50% of the senior non-members' rate.

TIME and FITNESS GUIDELINES

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bookings and Cancellations: no later than the WEDNESDAY before the trip.

DONT FORGET: You can book online from our website too

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

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

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

Day Trips: leave Sunday mornings at 8am sharp.

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

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

Minimum equipment required:

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

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

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

Trip Descriptions

Trip 2793

Pirongia

18 Nov

Well, what to do on Pirongia? So many opportunities for a day's tramping. How about we go up the Tahuanui Track from Kaniwhaniwha to the top, have lunch there or at the hut, then down the Tirohanga track and come out at Corcoran Road? I haven't been up the Tahuanui track for many years but memory tells me it is long and has a gentle gradient. The ridge allows for some views out to the north east, and the bush was very nice.

The Tahuanui track is part of Te Araroa Trail so we will probably have company along the way, and will see how the track has stood up to that level of foot traffic. We will go on to the Pirongia peak and then (if time permits) the hut for those of you who have not seen it. Then back to the van at Corcoran Road along the most popular track on the mountain. Be prepared for mud, and there are some parts of the track where monkey skills are helpful. All good fun and the weather will be great! If there is another track that you would prefer to walk - let me know, I'm open to suggestions. (*Ed comment: Don't forget to upload the kokako app from the Thundermaps' website (kokako) to your mobile phone to record when and where you find kokako.*)

Leader: John McArthur

Phone: 8564394

Grade: M

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

Trip 2794

Devious Tongariro Crossing

24/25 Nov

Option A: Here is a different Tongariro Crossing, taking two days and camping in the moonscape of Oturere. We will start at Mangatepopo and head up Tongariro's west ridge to then follow a visible fault line around to North Crater. Crossing Central Crater we'll drop into Oturere to find our remote camp. On Sunday we will pass Oturere Hut and climb up to a saddle to access the upper Mangahouhounui, heart of the wilderness zone. Skirting high around the large basin of the Mangahouhounui we will cross another saddle and drop down to have a closer look at Te Maari Craters, still smoking after their 2012 eruptions. From the craters we will follow eruption debris down and connect with the Tongariro Alpine Crossing Track to finish shortly after at Ketetahi carpark.

You will need warm and waterproof clothing, warm sleeping bag, tent, food, cooker etc.

Grade: M/F

Option B: For those not joining John on his overnight crossing, Allan will lead the following.... On Saturday a day trip will start at Mangatepopo car-park. We will follow a route similar to the other group but instead of by-passing Mount Tongariro will climb up to the summit and go along the ridge to where it meets the main crossing near Red Crater. Depending on the group, we may offer an alternative of completing the crossing or returning back to the Mangatepopo Road end. We stay Saturday night at our lodge. On Sunday, for those who are up to it (and the weather is kind) we will climb up to Ruapehu's crater lake or do short walks in the Whakapapa area.

Grade: E/M

Leaders: A: John Wilson Ph: 8536464 jnjwilnz@gmail.com (preferred contact)

B: Allan Wickens Email: allanwickens@hotmail.com

Transport: Senior member: \$ 45-55

Senior Non-member: \$ 50-60

Trip 2795

Mount Karangahake

2 Dec

A short trip up the hill of about 2 hours with a fabulous view to Waihi, Hauraki Plains and down to the mountains from the trig – weather permitting. We will come down a slightly different way and can then take in the Windows Walk. Bring a head lamp for the windows walk and also for one of the small caves on the way down (cave weta present).

Leader: Doug Pagel

Ph: 8582445

Grade: E/M

Transport: Senior member: \$ 25-30

Senior Non-member: \$ 30-35

Trip 2796 Mount Edgecumbe/ Putauaki & Otanewainuku Peak 8-9 Dec

The Club recently had a trip to Mount Edgecumbe / Putauaki (821 metres) but we were prevented from doing the planned walk due to a permit mix-up. Here's another chance at achieving this notable summit. On Saturday morning we travel to Kawerau where we do this climb before visiting the spectacular Tarawera River and falls. Late in the afternoon we travel via Awakeri Hot-pools where we can have a refreshing bathe (optional) before carrying on the Te Puke / Tauranga where we will stay at a back-packers or similar. On Sunday we drive south to Otanewainuku Forest where we do several small tramps depending on time. The main walk will be to the summit of Otanewainuku (640 metres) where there is an excellent panorama taking in Mount Ruapehu (on a clear day) to East Cape and Mount Tarawera. There are also short walks to a waterfall and on the Rimu loop. Please book early as we need to know numbers going, what vehicles we have (for the Permit from the local iwi) and also for the accommodation. The cut-off point will be Monday 3 December.

Leader: Allan Wickens

Email: allanwickens@hotmail.com

Grade: M

Transport: Senior member \$40-50 Senior non-member \$45-55

Accommodation: 1 night at backpackers TBA

Christmas Party

15 Dec

We will be travelling to the Horsham Downs Golf Club for our annual festive dinner. If there are enough people wanting to share transport a club van will be organised. Please make your bookings via website www.wtc.org.nz.

Leader: Stephen Prendergast

Ph: 021466247

Cost: Dinner \$45

Transport: TBA

Trip 2797**Captain's Challenge****22 Dec**

Up to the top of Pirongia and back by lunchtime, then the top of Maungatautari Mountain and back down via the ATV track, finish off by going to the top of Mount Te Aroha. We are usually back at the vehicles by about 8pm so don't forget your torch in spite of daylight saving. Then a long soak in the hot pools to help our bodies recover.

Leader: John McArthur**Phone:** 8564394**Grade:** Mad**Transport:** Private vehicles**Trip 2798****Tararua Ranges****5-10 January, 2019**

It's been a while since the Club has had an extended trip in the Tararuas. This is the mountain range that Allan first started tramping in and he is keen to spend as much time as possible re-visiting some old favourites. The focus will be on doing a "double crossing" of the northern section by combining a Bannister and Northern crossing. The tramp will start at Kiriwhakapapa north of Masterton, to Cow Saddle and via Waingawa Peak to Mount Bannister, a peak that is one of the most sought after but often thwarted by bad weather. From here we pick up the Northern Crossing via Arete and the Waiohine Pinnacles. Given a good weather forecast we may include doing a full Waiohine and float down river to Walls Whare near Greytown - a true Tararua classic, stopping at Mid-Waiohine and Totara Flats huts.

Leader: Allan Wickens**Ph:** 027 950 9546**Grade:** F**Email:** allanwickens@hotmail.com

Transport costs: see leader (private vehicle/s & some accommodation costs involved). Please book early.

Trip 2799**Waiorongomai****6 Jan**

This is a favourite area with numerous walks of all grades. With a wealth of mining history and relics thrown in, the mostly easy tracks provide for walks that can be linked together as a loop. There's also a track that leads up to the Waipapa track for better views.

Leader: Club Captain**Ph:** 027 950 9546**Grade:** E-M**Email:** allanwickens@hotmail.com**Transport:** Senior member: \$ 25-30

Senior Non-member: \$ 30-35

Trip 2800**Inland Kaikouras / Mount Tapuae-o-Uenuku****11-15 Jan**

This trip will be an extension of the Tararua trip or a stand-alone option. After gathering at Blenheim we travel up the Awatere River to the Hodder River junction where we leave our vehicle/s. There is then a 6- 7 hour walk up the Hodder via a gorge section (reputedly with over 100 crossings by some accounts). We reach the two Hodder huts and use them as a base for 3 days in which we aim to summit Mount Tapuae-o-Uenuku - at 2885 metres the highest mountain north of Mount Cook National Park. Another possibility is a climb of Mount Alarm (2877 metres). Both are considered "tramping peaks" without the need for technical climbing skills. As there may be remnant snow or ice we will carry crampons and ice-axes.

Leader: Allan Wickens**Ph:** 027 950 9546**Grade:** F**Email:** allanwickens@hotmail.com

Transport/ costs: see leader (private vehicle/s, ferry cost, some accommodation involved). Please book early.

Trip 2801

Track maintenance in Pureora

12/13 Jan

The Pirongia Restoration Society looks after the Okahukura valley in Pureora Forest doing pest control to kill rats. Our aim for this weekend will be to travel in pairs along the marked bait lines in the valley using a map drawn specifically for the individual bait lines. Along the way you will be ensuring that there is enough tape to mark the route by standing at one piece of tape and ensuring you can see the next piece. With your secateurs you will snip away any stubs that stick up or pose a potential hazard for anyone moving along the bait line. The hazard may be bush lawyer or fallen branches etc. If you have a small pruning saw please bring that too. We will endeavour to obtain equipment from DoC if possible too. You can pace yourself as you move along the lines, take lots of pictures, and hear lots of interesting birds – falcon, kokako, kaka, tui, kereru, fantails, chaffinches, kakariki. There is a lovely loop walk out from the Lodge that takes about 30 minutes to walk around and we may even be able to show you dactylanthus plants nearby if they are in flower still. Accommodation for the weekend will be at the Pureora Lions Lodge – think hot showers, commercial kitchen, bunkrooms – all making for an effortless weekend. Bring your food, refreshments, lunchbox & drink-bottle in a daypack, sleeping bag & toilet gear. Good footwear and raincoat are recommended, as well as sunscreen. Don't forget those secateurs and saw or loppers.

On Sunday we can go for a day walk in the vicinity- up to the top of Mt Pureora perhaps, or even continue with the track maintenance if you wish.

Leaders: Dianne & Selwyn June

Ph 8433066

Grade: E

Cost: Lodge \$20/person/night

Transport: Senior member: \$ 45-55

Senior Non-member: \$ 50-60

Focus on the journey, not the destination. Joy is found not in finishing an activity but in doing it.
Greg Anderson

Trip 2802

Aotea to Kawhia

20 Jan

After travelling to Aotea, this pleasant coastal walk heads south along the west coast to Kawhia Harbour via Te Ariaotewiwini inlet. There are a few kilometres of soft sand as well as a forestry coast road en-route. Timing of this walk is tidal impacted.

Leader : Club Captain.

Ph: 027 950 9546

Grade: E

Email: allanwickens@hotmail.com

Transport: Senior member \$25-30

Senior non-member \$30-35

Trip 2803

Kaimanawa Southern Access/Waipakihi

26-28 Jan

(Anniversary week-end)

Option A (Kaimanawas Southern access):

A tramp in some of our best North Island scenery, this is designed as a fit tramp.

Ideal for those wanting to get fit for 2019 Lower North island & South Island tramps, and test their gear. There are no huts so we plan three nights in our tents

We will find a campsite Friday night, and start our tramp on Saturday morning from SH 1 on the Kaimanawa Forest Park Walkway heading east. We will cross the Needles and head towards Patutu. Camping is planned for Saturday and Sunday nights – perhaps on the tops or down by a water supply?

Monday we will cross Motutere, drop down Thunderbolt, cross Waipakihi River, up over Urchin and back to the road end for our ride home.

Leader: John Davies

Ph: 0274772209

Grade: F

Email: cjdavies@xtra.co.nz

Transport: Senior member \$50-70 Senior Non-member \$55-75

Option B (Waipakihi): This tramp will run in conjunction with Trip 2803. Departing from the Desert Road south of Turangi, the group will tramp to Urchin summit and over Umukarikari to Waipakihi Hut at the head of the Waipakihi River. After staying at the hut or camping beside it, they will head down-river to a point where it meets the Urchin track and continue a few kilometres more to our Sunday night camp-site. On Monday the group will continue down-river, swimming in some of the larger pools en route. An option will be to float on inner tubes if the weather is warm enough.

Leader: Club Captain

Ph: 027 950 9546

Grade: M

Email: allanwickens@hotmail.com (preferred contact)

Transport: Senior member \$50-70 Senior Non-member \$55-75

Accommodation: Stay at back-packers Turangi Friday night

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Summary of South Island Summer adventures 2019

Our recent trip planning meeting for South Island adventures gave us a handful of very exciting prospects to work on for the summer of 2019. The island will be covered quite well, and the fitness levels required range from Easy/Medium with a variety of tramping opportunities in the Cobb Valley to medium fitness trips to Arthurs Pass and Nelson Lakes. We couldn't do without a couple of Fit trips and a revisit to Mark's Flat by John Davies & Co, and a trip into the Canterbury High Country should satisfy that energy level.

5-10	January	Tararua Ranges	Allan Wickens
11-15	January	Inland Kaikoura	Allan Wickens
28-30	January	Kaimanawa/sthn access	John Davies
28-30	January	Kaimanawas/ Waipakihi loop	Club captain
16-22	February	Tararua main range	Mike Peck/Paul Quinn
24 Feb -1 Mar		Cobb river	Colin Jones
24 Feb – 2 Mar		Marks Flat the hard way	John Davies
3-9 March		Poulter R/Arthurs Pass	Selwyn June
10-15 March		Travers Sabine	John McArthur
17-22 March		Canterbury high Country	John McArthur

Waikato Ski Club

Well that's a wrap. The 2018 Ski season is over, a season of great snow levels, good weather, skiing, boarding and fun. It's sad it's over, but there are the summer and next winter to look forward to.

You can stay at the Lodge during summer, a great base for doing tramping in the Ruapehu area, day walks to Tama Lakes or the Waterfalls or Silica rapid. Or do the Tongariro crossing, or up to Crater Lake. You could also use it before and after longer tramps such as around the mountain, or the northern circuit. Or for other trips round the

central plateau or just a place to relax and catch up with family, how about taking the kids for a few days in the holidays?

Our members' rates for summer (valid for tramping and skiing members) are \$15 for a child and \$25 for adult, with good non-members rates for \$30 for adult or \$21 for a child. Or book the lodge for a weekend for a family, social or work group - \$600 for the whole lodge. You do need to book before hand and open and close the lodge – i.e. putting on electricity & water –but this is straight forward and there is an easily followed list as a guide. Contact waikatoski@gmail.com to make bookings. Note during this time you can't do online bookings -they have to go through the booking officer.

Working Party Dates:

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

2-3 February – Firewood carrying and other maintenance

9-10th of March – Other maintenance.

April working party if needed – TBC.

Accommodation at lodge is free for the weekend for those on the working party, and we provide food for the weekend. Bring your own snacks and drinks. **Transport** – car sharing.

Contact Stephen for more details 0211031436 or email waikatoski@gmail.com.

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## **Editorial**

Another successful year almost over. It has been most gratifying to see how many people are stepping up and getting involved in all our mischief. Good on you folks – I hope you are enjoying yourselves. On a personal note it is good to see the club becoming more active in the conservation arena. It may be me who goes on about the work the Pirongia Restoration Society rather often but I like to think that you are interested in the environment you move around in and that you are willing to put something back too. I thank you very much for your support and hope it continues for many more years.

This month Sheryl has compiled most of the bulletin and I have finished off the last bits. She is proving to be a good student and I look forward to handing the task over to her on more occasions as required.

Many of you will be heading to places south of here and it looks like quite a few of you are keen to join Selwyn & I on the trip in the Poulter river area. Most of you know what my fitness (or lack of) is like so it should be a great week. Book early so we can organise any shared transport if needed.

Meantime, let's enjoy the Christmas party Stephen has arranged for us. This is the occasion when Allan gets to hand over the wonderful Trampler of the Year trophy to his chosen recipient. Who will it be? He has certainly worked hard this past year and has been a most worthy recipient hasn't he?

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## **Presidents' Blog**

Things have been busy in the club. You should have seen our 'outdoor classroom' set up on the edge of Pirongia Forest Park, complete with gazebos, live demonstrations and hot drinks, with raucous tui and other birds providing extra entertainment. Allan Wickens did a great job setting up the whole day. All sorts of topics on keeping safe and being well equipped in the bush were covered, from choice of boots and tents, to following compass bearings, to how to wrap yourself in a pack line if desperate, choosing a camp site, toileting etiquette and so on. Good use was made of the expertise within the club. I'm sure the many participants got a lot out of it. This bushcraft course completes the annual cycle of training offered by the club, from river crossing to snowcraft to outdoor first aid. All events have been well attended.



This bushcraft course completes the annual cycle of training offered by the club, from river crossing to snowcraft to outdoor first aid. All events have been well attended. A good snow and mountain weather season has seen a solid season of bookings for Waikato Lodge. There

Goods for consideration?  
Photo by Allan Wickens

is still the summer for private use and planned tramping trips, including the Tongariro Alpine

Crossing. Thoughts are now turning to the maintenance programme over the warmer months.

Some every important rôles in our club committees will need to be filled by the time of the AGM early next year. These are: treasurer, membership and transport. The treasurer oversees all club accounts, the other roles are for largely for tramping activities. The club has a tradition of rotating positions as much as possible, rather than having someone stuck in a role for too long. John Grace, Margaret Robbins and Alan Grant have done a lot of hard work for the benefit of us all. Now it could well be your turn?

Selwyn June

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## Trip reports

### Trip No 2782

### Not the Te Ureweras trip

1-2 Sept

This was at trip of attrition. Firstly, the trip leader had a fall from a tree and couldn't lead the trip. Secondly, the weather was too rough for the original plan which was to go to Waiiau hut in the Te Ureweras and then Plan B which was to go to the Kaimanawa's and head over Umukarikari Range was also scuttled. So Plan C was to go from Waiorongomai to Te Rereatakahia Hut, checking out the track maintenance which various tramping clubs had been involved in along the way. With the weather window to be clear on the Saturday and wet on Sunday we set off early on Saturday morning in a flash Mercedes Mini Bus

(due to a late return of our normal Transit) with the trip numbers now down to nine. The replacement trip leader lead the way and very quickly demonstrated now not to cross a shallow creek by performing a very ungraceful knee plant. The rest of the team had a successful crossing.

The old North South track proceeded past signs of old gold mines and then we saw parts of the old power pylons that were in use in the 1930s. This track is in a very deteriorated condition and is no longer marked on the topo map. It also receives no maintenance from DoC. We passed where the track used to diverted to the Kauri grove, that once was so impressive many years ago, and has now had all the signage removed, due in part to Kauri dieback.

The track got muddier and muddier and process was slow .With the day light hours passing by and due to me getting a terrible case of leg cramps it was clear that we were not going to make it to the hut before the light faded.

So, with headlamps on we climbed up and over Tangitu and then Baldy with the lights of Athenree and Katikati twinkling in the back ground, we finally made it to the Te Rereatakahia hut that already was full and overflowing.

Luckily some of our group had tents and mattresses. We all managed to find somewhere to sleep with those tenting probably getting the quieter night than those in the hut. (A certain well known snorer excused.)

The rain arrived early morn but not as hard as predicted - that was reserved till we were all packed up and ready to go.

The trip out was uneventful until we tried to move the van from the side of the road.

Luckily we found some old carpet to help get us get it out of the mud.

This trip would probably suit being tramped in the drier months but going was still a better option than cancelling the trip completely.

Big thanks to

those who helped and put up with me as I came down with cramp and to John Mac for taking over the leadership and also to Ashley for driving and carrying up a spare tent. Those on the trip Dave and Debbie W, John A, Damon C, Selwyn J, Ken McC, John McA, Peter A (scribe), and driver Ashley H.

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### **Trip 2783**

### **Piraunui Track**

**Sept 9<sup>th</sup>**

As promised in last months' bulletin, here is the list of tnames of the trip participants in its' entirety: Judith B, Pui Y, Jocelyn, Merlyn W, Jocelyn W, Margaret C, Helen M, Isla T, Sharon S, Ray H, Cameron H, Sheryl T

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### **Trip 2784**

### **Tongariro Forest**

**One Weekend Only, Sept 15-16**

\*\*\*\* Reviewed by Seasoned Tramper

Cast: John W, driver, leader ; Jean W, his accomplice; John Mc, driver, bearer of GPS; Merlyn, new to WTC but not to tramping; Rizal, motelier at Ten Man Hut?; Dale, Aucklander, experienced tramper, so must be good sort; Damon, bearer of everything but kitchen sink.

Scene: Conservation Area accessed from Owhango. Disused logging roads, logging roads used by 4WDs, 42 Traverse track used by cyclists and 4WDs. Also an area of intrigue, a previous WTC trip here fraught with confusion.



### Act 1: Scene 1: The Tramp, Saturday

About 4 hours, included time spent looking for tracks that may or may not exist. Intrepid group battled through thickets of cutty grass and bush lawyer, negotiating the maze of tracks. A waterfall, good views from high points, dry underfoot a lot of the time with some muddy sections. 2 people with 2 quad bikes, one of which was seriously stuck in the mud. No help wanted! Great weather after having left Hamilton in fog. Many photos taken along the way.

### Scene 2: The Camp

7 of us, 7 young men (old school mates), 1 hut called Ten Man Hut but holding only 8. Room for our tents and for the tent kindly lent by one of the young men for the use of Merlyn and Dale before they had drawn straws for the spare bunk. Also on site, 1 dog, 4 quad bikes, 1 Polaris. Hot showers in progress - them, not us. Drone demo, thanks to Damon.

### Scene 3: The Evening

Mild weather so everyone cooked and ate outside. Sounds and smells of cooking steak for dinner - them, not us. Interesting snippets of conversation overheard while we tackled our dehy meals. Studying the night sky, identifying planets, stars and planes. Discussion of compass points and flight paths. Joined after dark by 2 more people, 2 more dogs and 1 more quad bike. No doubt now an even cosier hut.

### Act 2: Scene 1: The Camp, Sunday

Awoken by dawn chorus and hunters departing. A comfortable, if slightly chilly night had by all. Weather still fine but cloudy. Steak for breakfast - them, not us. Packed up and away before 8.30am.

### Scene 2: The Tramp

This time about 5 hours, some back-tracking required on confusing tracks. Talk of a second night out, this time back in the hut. Again, some mud holes to negotiate. Predator traps, healthy bush, big rimu trees, mountain cabbage trees, fuchsia and clematis flowers. Beautiful bird-song, tui, tomtits, fantails, kereru, kiwi footprints in the mud and ruru at night. Another waterfall. We expect to see some of the many photos taken in next year's photo competition. A pleasant tramp with good company and not too many physical demands.

### Scene 3: The End

Successfully completing the circuit had an interesting effect on the group. There were hallucinatory visions: a bunch of daffodils and a blue elephant at the track end. More importantly, our cars were still there. Thanks to all cast members for a very satisfying production filled with both enjoyment and surprises.

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Thought for the day: The reason volunteers are not paid is not because they are worthless, rather they are priceless.

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At 10am we arrived at the Te Wairoa carpark at the start of the Lake Tarawera track all keen to set off for an enjoyable two days of tramping. The weather forecast predicted fine weather with a possible shower on Sunday. The group comprised some younger folk, also seasoned and new members plus a visitor from overseas. Dianne our bus driver along with Selwyn driving John's car were very obligingly staying in the area and picking us up at Lake Okataina the following afternoon. The track was well formed and easy going. This is a popular track so we met several families, runners and people out strolling. After half an hour it was time for the clothing stop to shed our outer layer of jackets. Soon views of the lake were to be had and cameras were flashing. I was surprised to see that bush completely surrounded the entire lake. Just past Te Hinau Bay we had a group photo with the lake in the background. This was achieved by Damon setting his camera on delayed timing. We arrived at the bridge which crossed the Wairua Stream to find it was cordoned off. However a number of branches had been laid across the water so with the aid of a walking pole or two we crossed with dry feet. This was an ideal place to fill up water bottles. From here we took the short side walk down to the hot pools. The pool looked inviting but we



had a steep hill climb up ahead and for me this took priority. However, Damon was game to take off his boots to paddle.

The profile map showed a rather long steep climb up to the Rotomahana lookout. The previous climb to Oneroa look out had left me breathless so I was not looking forward to this one. However, it turned out not to be as arduous as expected. We had a

well-deserved rest at Rotomahana lookout and enjoyed the beautiful views of the lake which could be had looking north and to the south. From here it was all downhill to the camping ground.

After setting up our tents it was off to check out the hot water down by the beach. Lots of splashing was going on when I arrived. I soon found that no matter where you sat on one side the water was almost too hot and on the other side it was too cold. So mixing the water was necessary. Despite this it was a very pleasant way to finish the day.

After a bright and early rise the next day we were all packed up and ready for the water taxi to take us to the other side of the lake. The camp proprietor was very friendly and chatty. What I thought was possum poo on the ground turned out to be wallaby poo. He said that there is now a large population of wallaby in the area and there was a real problem as they destroy the native bush. The water taxi dropped us off at the landing where we had a quick

snack ready for Sunday's tramp. John recounted stories of when he first tramped in this area back in 1964. The track along this side of the lake was pleasantly soft from the leaf fall. However it was undulating and required climbing over fallen trees and debris so the 6 km to our lunch spot at Humphreys Bay took longer than expected.

It was an easy up and over to Lake Okataina and along the edge of the lake. It was an ideal tramping day as it was overcast, making the 9km a pleasant walk to the Lake Okataina carpark. We were met by Selwyn with about 2 hours walking left to complete the trip. Dianne of course was patiently waiting at the carpark. After changing out of smelly gear it was off to Rotorua for food and of course a coffee. Thanks to John Wilson for suggesting and organising this great weekend and to Dianne and Selwyn June for giving up their weekend to make this possible.

Participants: John W, Jean, Lesley, Fiona, Dale, Kelly, Jo, John A, Merlyn, Damon, Bedartha, Les, Lois (scribe)

## Trip 2788

## Waiorongomai Investigative Walk

14 Oct

(not quite what the book said!)

A trio of trampers left Hamilton in the bright sunlight and ventured across to the foot of the Kaimai ranges. Our trusty trip leader decided we needed to alter the original plan to give us a bit more of a "day out". We travelled up the low level track through some lovely bush to the base of Butlers Incline which is a fairly steep tram track from the goldmining days. From here we continued along the



sidling via New Era Branch track across a small creek with a very large drop off over a waterfall and then we descended

Jeanette & Allan supporting the structure Photo by Sheryl Thomas

Into a creek below where we clambered over some large boulders trying to reach the bottom of

the waterfall we had seen earlier (we will be back in the summer to conquer this task). We continued along the track/creek for a while longer passing other waterfalls along the way, until we found a lovely spot to stop and have morning tea. We then retraced our steps to Butlers incline and back along the low level track until we reached the High Level Pack track where we started to head upwards again along a very well formed track. We veered off to the left and up through some beautiful trees along Buck Rock track and on to Cadman track past more waterfalls and arrived at the top of the Butlers Incline where we stopped for lunch in a lovely sunny spot by the very old pulley system from years gone by. We then swung on to the eastern end of High Level Pack track and gently meandered back

down to the car park. Allan did his best to recruit new members along the way!! Welcome back on to the track Jeanette.

Trip Leader: Allan Wickens, Jeanette & Sheryl

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Trip 2789 Pureora Forest (Hauhungaroa Range) 20-22 Oct

The tramp began at the Mangakahu Valley road end, east of Ongarue. Limited turning space required the removal of the trailer to turn the van around. After climbing over a massive gate, the track took us over farmland for a short while until we reached the bush edge. From there we began a gradual climb towards the top of Motere, the highest point of the track, the forest becoming thicker as we went. We stopped for lunch at a clearing near the summit and enjoyed the fantastic spring sunshine. After lunch we continued along the track with a gentle

gradient this time, until we reached the empty hut. Hauhungaroa Hut is a standard 6 bunk hut with a fireplace and good views to the north. The rest of the afternoon was spent sunbathing on the deck and playing a game of 500. Afterwards a card was dropped beneath the deck but skilful use of a wire and some tape and it was liberated from its confines.

The next day saw us traverse a similar gentle gradient as the previous day and pass by an old trig marker. The track then descended a ridge toward the Waihaha River. As it did so the large trees of the Pureora Forest became more noticeable and the bird life became more apparent. We stopped for lunch on the riverbank as a pair of alarmed Paradise Ducks flew back and forth past us. After lunch it was a relatively easy walk along the valley floor with the occasional stream crossing. Throughout the valley are superb stands of native trees; early colonizers of the post Taupo eruption landscape. These massive trees, thousands of years old, provide homes for the numerous kaka that inhabit the Pureora Forest. The smell of smoke heralded our arrival at Waihaha hut, already occupied by a number of trampers and hunters.

Waihaha hut, adjacent to a river (ideal for swimming if the water had been warmer), is a standard 10 bunk hut with a fireplace. After assembling the tents, we spent the afternoon enjoying the afternoon sun listening to the bird song and watching the occasional kaka, kereru, and robin fly overhead.

The final day saw us emerge from the mature forest with its giant rimu and matai trees, and into a more thinly vegetated landscape of beech forest and manuka scrub. The thin pumice soil and exposed rock allowed for good views of the landscape. After descending a ridge line and over a swing bridge we rejoined the Waihaha River. It was amazingly clear as it flowed through deep pools and cascaded over smooth rock formations. Making record time we arrived at the end of the track in time for lunch. Upon the arrival of our driver Allan, who, after dropping us off at the start of the tramp, had spent the weekend exploring Tongariro; we were all treated to a much-appreciated ice-cream and drink. Hauhungaroa Range had proven to be a great three-day trip over the long weekend across an amazing landscape, through stunning native forest and with interesting wildlife and awesome weather.

Trip participants were Ray H, Les W, Merlyn W, Dave & Debbie W, Peter L, Damon C, Ashley H and Allan W - Driver.

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facebook

**Waikato Tramping Club**

and

**Waikato Ski Club**

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

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

Every Tuesday morning we meet at Flagstaff Shopping Centre ready for a 7.30 start. We head north into the new subdivisions using the extensive pathways along the gully systems. Pace is fast but not so fast that you can't discuss the week's events. One hour later we're back near the start and toilets. If you need to get away, now's your chance. Usually we walk for another hour and return to the carpark by 9.30am. No need to book, just turn up, but if it's your first time please phone Margaret on 8536921 or Colin on 849 4420 the night before so we know you are coming.

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

**New Members:** Nil

**Resignations:** Nil

**Membership:** We now have 190 tramping members.

**From the tramping chairman:** Hi fellow WTC trampers.

The basis of the programmes is "I'd like to lead a tramp into ....." so ideally, we are looking for tramping trips that you would be comfortable leading. But don't let that leader role hold you back, suggest some trips you would like to do and that may stimulate someone to step forward to lead.

Similarly - cycling, kayaking or some other form of energetic trip into our fabulous countryside is on the table.

And so is the southern North Island - some ideas are hatching here.

**From the transport Coordinator:** After 5 years in the role Alan Grant is stepping down at the 2019 AGM next April. So the Club is looking for someone to take over this role. If someone volunteers now Alan can spend the next 6 months working alongside them training them into the role

The Transport Coordinator (TC) role involves planning van, bus and driver options for upcoming club trips, and providing trip costings. After getting an updated trip list from the Club Captain, the TC books vans with CCR, emails out to the club's 15-20 approved drivers seeking drivers for trips and booking both in.

In the week preceding each trip the TC liaises with the Trip leader to confirm that a van is needed. If numbers are less the Leader arranges to use private cars. The TC provides a per person transport cost for each option based on numbers

So it is 2 hours planning every 6-8 weeks, and half an hour per week ahead of each trip. All is done by email these days. Skills needed, to be organized and able to plan in advance.

Please call Alan to discuss the role and answer any queries. 0274 501 530



**From the Treasurer:** We need a new treasurer! This would suit someone who has some moderate accounting skills and would like to contribute to the running of the club. We are using the Xero system which is very user friendly and paperless. The web based system means this role can be undertaken at work, home or even on holiday!

For those unfamiliar with Xero it is an opportunity to gain some new skills. You will not be thrown in at the deep end, I will remain on as a user and make sure the transition goes smoothly.

I have enjoyed the rôle, my primary reason for passing this on is that I am desk bound for a 10 hour day and really need to get out from behind the PC in my non work time. If anyone has an interest (and maybe is a bit hesitant), feel free to contact me. I will be happy to give you a run down on the role and we can see if it might be for you.

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Snippets from here 'n there....

➤ Before you visit Mt Pirongia from now on, check out the Thundermaps website and download the kokako app to your mobile phone. When you hear or see a kokako you can use the app to record your GPS location and a message is sent to the app provider to advise the Pirongia Restoration Society of the location. If you can spot the bands, make a note of them – left leg first, band closest to the body, then the lower band (i.e. top to bottom) and then the same for the right leg.

➤ The Department of Conservation has increasingly been receiving reports of people removing the plant Bracket Fungus from locations around the country including Pirongia. The compliance team will be launching an investigation and is asking for your help. If you see anyone removing the fungus (or anything else) please contact me and gather as much information as possible. Thank you, Cara Hansen, DoC, 027 877 7799.

➤ If you are tramping, cycling or horse trekking across a farm you need to be aware of *Mycoplasma bovis*. It does not pose any risk to you, but you can take some simple steps to stop it spreading. You can help farm owners who share their land with you by taking some simple steps to stop the bacteria spreading. What to do:

1. DO NOT interact with cattle if you are walking through mobs of stock.
2. Follow all instructional notices you come across.
3. Have clean footwear when you enter a farm and when you reach the boundary, remove any visible mud or effluent before entering the next property.
4. Wash your footwear at the end of your trip.

➤ Kauri dieback Track closures 17 Oct 2018

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/news/media-releases/2018/doc-closing-tracks-to-protect-kauri/>

DoC is closing 21 tracks across kauri land to prevent the spread of kauri dieback. 10 tracks will also be partially closed and upgraded to protect kauri roots and eliminate wet and muddy sections of track.

The track closures are permanent, however a track closure may be reconsidered in the future should information become available that would ensure public access would not cause any risk to kauri.

The 10 partially closed tracks will be upgraded to protect kauri roots and to eliminate wet and muddy sections – ensuring visitors don't accidentally spread the disease by moving soil around with them. Sections of these tracks will be permanently closed.

The decision to close tracks was not taken lightly, and was considered in situations where there is:

- high kauri dieback risk
- low visitor use
- high upgrade and ongoing maintenance costs
- a similar experience provided in the vicinity.

Please email your queries to kauridieback@doc.govt.nz

➤ **New video series raises awareness of dangers of the Tongariro Alpine Crossing**

Selfie-seekers desperate to add the Tongariro Alpine Crossing to their albums can now see how treacherous the track can be before taking it on.

A video series, which give an overview of how to prepare for the popular but potentially risky track, has been released just two weeks after a death on the crossing. Questions were asked about how tourists could be better warned of the potential dangers of the track.

Each video covers off what the track looks like, where the mountain passes are and where the track travels on a 3D map. It also has advice on the best time of year to do the track, the equipment necessary and handy tips on avoiding known hazards. The videos can be viewed on the New Zealand Mountain Safety Council Facebook page. Source:

Stuff 18 Oct 2018

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

➤ Hunter Valley agreement signed. In a recent [press release](#) DoC has announced the signature of an [agreement with Orange Lakes \(NZ\) Ltd](#), describing public access through Hunter Valley Station. Access is available by permission only, and must be arranged with Orange Lakes at least one day prior to arrival to the station. The preferred method of contact is via e-mail on hvfarmingco@gmail.com; alternatively you can ring 03 442 1242. There will be no access during lambing (1 October to 1 December) and no access to 4WD vehicles during the winter months (1 May to 30 November). Access may also be restricted during farming operations.

We would like to thank the owner of Hunter Valley Station, Matt Lauer, for his goodwill in giving public access through his land, and the Department of Conservation for their work and negotiations to make this happen.

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

Next Month: Email your contributions to the editor by **Friday, 7th December**



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