



THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

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

October 2020



Mt. Tihia gecko Photo by Peter Ayson

Photo by John McArthur



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WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB
P. O. Box 685, Hamilton 3240 • www.wtc.org.nz
Free to members

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

BULLETIN No 820

October 2020

General Committee

(Contact details listed below)

President: Selwyn June **Secretary:** Judith Bogle **Treasurer:** Guy Domett
Members: John McArthur (VP Tramp) Stephen Prendergast (VP Ski)
Stephen Phillips Allan Wickens Russell King Stacey Thompson
Mike Nightingale 8562394

Tramping Subcommittee

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Social convenor: Jacqui Dick 021 1375201
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Editor & Club Librarian: Dianne June djune@xtra.co.nz 07 8433066

Waikato Tramping Club account: 03 1555 0091625 02 (include the trip no.)

Club night, Wednesday, 4th November

This is the night of our annual **photo competition** where all the wonderful entries will be shown and the winner of each category announced. We have had over 100 entries this year which is really exciting. There is such a diverse range of stunning photos so come along for a slide show like no other. You may even see yourself in some of the photos as they were all taken over the last 2 years and mainly on club trips. You may also see yourself in the club character section! Due to the large amount of entries we will make sure the presentation is not too long so the judges will only make comments on the top three in each category.

The next two months of club trips will also be run through as well as our South Island summer trip selection. See you there.

Social activity: Join us for a film evening at the Haines', 11 Alison St. Hamilton, Ph 8395932, on November 20th, 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



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.

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).

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

2904	16-18 Oct	E/M	Blyth & Rangiwahia huts	Merlyn Warren
2905	24-26 Oct	M	Koranga river	Allan Wickens
2906	1 Nov	E/M	Mangatawhiri	Selwyn June
	4 Nov		Photo competition	Jacqui Dick
2907	8 Nov	E	Waikato River trails	Ron Dick
2908	13-15 Nov	M	Te Puia loop/Kawekas	Jacqui Dick
	20 Nov	Too easy	Film night	Graham & Andrea Haines
2909	22 Nov	E/M	Ngamuwahine	Rizal Razak
2910	28/29 Nov	M	Mt. Tama	John Wilson
	2 Dec		CLUB NIGHT	
2911	5 or 6 Dec	E	Potluck Xmas Party	Jacqui Dick
2912	12/13 Dec	E/M	Last tramp of the year	Selwyn June
2913	20 Dec	VF	Mountain madness	John McArthur
			2021	
	16/17 Jan		Lower Matakauia Hut	Mike Peck

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 2904 **Blyth and Rangiwahia huts** **16-18 Oct**

I aim to leave Hamilton on Friday at 2.30pm, travelling to Ohakune and walking in to Blyth Hut for the night.

On Saturday we will walk out and travel to Renfrew Rd end in the Ruahine Forest Park to walk the Deadman's loop track. This track takes us on to the Whanahuia range and the high point of Mangahuia at 15833m before returning us to the Rangiwahia hut. On Sunday we will choose which route to take back to our vehicles for the homeward journey

Leader: Merlyn Warren

Ph: 027 524 9926

Grade: E/M

Transport: Senior member \$ 60-90

Senior Non-member \$ 65-95

Trip 2905 **Koranga River, Waioeka Conservation Area** **24-26 Oct**

This 3-day tramp will also include aspects of RIVER CROSSING TRAINING.

Due to the recent drought we were unable to hold such a course as normal.

On Friday night, we will travel to Opotiki where we stay at backpacker-level accommodation. On Saturday morning there is a 1.5hour drive to Journeys End Station, Koranga where we start the tramp. If the weather is good and Kahunui Stream is passable, we will first tramp for about 4 hours via Kahuiti Stream to the 6-bunk (basic) Tawa Hut. On Sunday, we negotiate the gorge and river section of Kahunui Stream for about 5 hours, to Koranga Forks Hut (6 bunks - basic), learning river crossing techniques en-route. This hut is near the junction of the

Waioeka and Koranga Rivers. The last day involves a short tramp of about 3 hours on an excellent benched track back to the van. During the 3 days, we walk through pleasant tawa forest and in the rivers, will probably spot whio (blue ducks). As the huts are small, and it being a long week-end, we will probably need to camp each night.

Leaders: Allan Wickens **Ph:** 027 9509546 **Grade:** M

Email: allanwickens@hotmail.com

Transport: Senior members \$ 60-90 Senior non-members: \$65-95

Trip 2906 Mangatāwhiri River to Whangamarino Redoubt 1 Nov

This walk, part of the Te Araroa trail, starts on SH2 at the Mangatāwhiri River bridge. A path under the bridge takes us onto a stopbank that follows the lower Mangatāwhiri River beside low-lying, polder-drained farmland. We then pass a swamp managed by Fish and Game and an impressive Archimedes screw used for draining the farmland. Nearby is the site of the first battle of the Waikato War where British troops invaded the Waikato by crossing the Mangatāwhiri Stream in 1863. We cross under SH1 and do a short road walk alongside the Waikato River to the Mercer service centre. Maybe refreshments here?

The next section of the Trail starts in Skeet Road, Mercer and follows the low ridges overlooking the motorway and Waikato River (great views) to the site of Te Teoteo's pa and the Whangamarino Redoubt, built in 1863 by General Cameron. We re-join the bus here. A total of 13.5 km.

Leader: Selwyn June **Ph:** 0274 978 151 **Grade:** E/M

Transport: Senior member \$25-30 Senior non-member: \$30-35

Trip 2907 Waikato river trails 8 Nov

Meeting time for this trip is 0830hrs. This section is a lovely section of the Waikato River Trails. It is 13km-long with a café at both ends. As the club has previously done Mangakino to Whakamaru I may do the reverse this time. This is instead of the previously advertised section as I have recently been advised that the section I was going to do is currently closed. However, I do hope to be able to do that section at some stage.

Leader: Ron Dick **Ph:** 021 260 8149 **Grade:** E

Email: ronjmd@icloud.com

Transport: Senior members \$ 25-30 Senior non-members: \$ 30-95

*Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case
you have to eat them.*

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 **Ngamuawahine** **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 \$ 60-90 Senior Non-member \$ 65-95

Trip 2910 **Mt. Tama** **28/29 Nov**

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 \$ tbc Senior non-members: \$ tbc

Trip 2912 **Last tramp of the year** **12/13 Dec**
 Plans are being made for a most enjoyable surprise for you and the family as the last trip of the year. Watch this space to see where our Trampler of the Year 2019 will take you.
Leader: Selwyn June **Ph:** 07 8433066 **Grade:** E/M
Transport: Senior members \$ tbc Senior non-members: \$ tbc

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

Summer South Island 2021 adventures

31/12– 5/1	Kaikoura Tapuae-o-Uenuku (M/F)	Allan Wickens
6 Jan-17 Jan	SI ramblings & cafes – Huxley & Hopkins (E/M)	Allan Wickens
17/1- 23/01	Albert Burn to Wanaka-Aspiring Rd (M/F)	Les Warren
15/2-19/2	Heaphy Track (M)	Peter Ayson
23/2-26/2	West Coast Wilderness Trail Cycle Trip	Margaret Robbins
(NB numbers are limited so be in really quick)		
24/2-27-2	Jumboland, Wonderland, Wilkin R, Lake Castalia (M)	Steve Cranefield
24/2-3/3	1000 acre plateau, Ballroom overhang (M)	Lois Rowell
1/3-7/3	Ivory L hut via Waitaha and Mikonui rivers (VF)	Mike Peck
7/3-15/3	Tops by Snowy Creek, Cascade/Arawhata saddles (F)	John Davies
5/3-8/3	Hump ridge track. BOOKINGS FULL. (M)	Jacqui Dick
21/3-25/3	Kaimai North south track	Rizal Razal

Editorial

Blimmin’ heck – where has the year gone? With so much action on the international, national, and regional (well, Ruapehu is in our region) fronts, I am having trouble coping with the diary.
 Too often there are conflicts of activities I am interested in but I think I need to check in with the rest of you as you seem to have so much time to get out and

about. I think top marks need to go to our club captain for supporting, helping, encouraging fresh new, and stale old leaders to venture into new territories. I see some wonderful places being listed. Who would have thought the Ed Hillary Hope Reserve on our doorstep could be so interesting – well done John. I hope many of you can take advantage of the new patches we'll visit.

I'm looking forward to being somewhat more mobile over summer once this new knee gets going – I hope I'll be almost unstoppable – well, be able to move much faster than in past years anyway.

And the snippets section this month has some interesting bits worth reading about too. Keep reading.....

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*Presidents' Blog*

A message for newcomers. Welcome to our club. It must be daunting to come along to a club night or join a trip when you don't know anyone or even know what tramping is all about. Tramping is a daunting word, and a distinctly NZ one at that. It sounds like hard work, maybe one requires special gear or maybe it's a bit risky.

My hope is that you enjoy taking part in the life of the club from your first encounter on; that you will make true friends; that you will be challenged by the crossing of a swift river or a steep climb up a ridge. You will see places well away from tourist routes and Great Walks; you will learn some bush survival skills too no doubt. In time you can use your life skills to help with the running of the club – that can be educational and rewarding too.

We learn that holiday accommodation is being booked out fast. Places on the Great Walks have been snapped up a long time ago. New Zealanders are learning to explore their own country rather than heading off on an OE or world tour. There is one place that you should consider for a summer holiday: Waikato Hut (or should I say ski lodge). Situated well above the hubbub of the visitor crowds, here you will find a very comfortable place to stay in the middle of a national park with all its walks and hidden places. Selwyn June

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... from the Ski Club.....

Waikato Hut nightly rates are dropping for October. Ski Club members & Combined members will move to Summer Rates. Tramping Club and friends or guests' rates will drop to \$35 night for adults, \$20 for under 18. It's a great time to get to the Hut for some upper mountain snow, a trip to the crater or some Spring skiing. Whakapapa will stay open until November 15, and Turoa running Fr - Mon through to November 16. On top of that the Whakapapa crew are trying to get the Far West T open. Let's hope that works out for some out west action. Keep an eye on the Mt Ruapehu website for the latest updates. Spring conditions should serve up some variable skiing but the longer days and warmer nights are a reasonable trade off. Keep an eye on our facebook for details of a

couple of an upcoming Pizza night at the Lodge. It has been a big favourite over the years so I am planning on another one. We might not be able to do ski races but no reason to miss PIZZA ! We'll do this as a pot-luck ingredients, and make a bunch of Pizza dough on the day. Stephen Prendergast, Ski Team Leader

Mid-week Walks & Tramps

We are trialling a new format for Midweek Walks & Tramps aiming at having at least 2 activities a month one on the 2nd Tuesday and the other on the 4th Wednesday or thereabouts. These will be as varied as the group is and we will communicate ideas & the up-coming activity via a Mid-week W & T's group page on WhatsApp.

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

Trip Reports

Trip 2897

Ed Hillary Hope Reserve

30 Aug

As in these Covid days with mini buses not being financially practical we met at the London street car park to arrange carpooling, and then made our way out to the reserve ,which is situated off the Old Mountain Road. The weather was looking a bit threatening as the group of thirteen headed off. It's early days for the reserve which is starting to revert back from farmland to native flora.

Navigation is a little difficult but luckily John had scouted it out previously. The track/route is steep in places and would've been hard land to farm. We eventually scrambled up along an old boundary fence line and, after a particularly steep scramble we were having lunch under some very mature macrocarpa trees. Here we had an excellent view of the road and were surprised by the amount of traffic, probably people going to Raglan for lunch. It was about now that one of more senior members of the group over-extended his ankle and found walking a bit painful. He decided that it would better if he made his way down to the road and we would collect him on the way back to Hamilton.

So back to the road and after a bit of a search we found the track up along another ridge line where we had a little bush bashing through some gorse, luckily we had a pair of secateurs to cut it back. Then up along and through a recently milled pine forest block. With a huge amount of slash piled up a thought was spared for the people on the east coast at Tolaga Bay and the huge mess that covers the beach there. Once again, we crossed the road dodging the traffic heavy traffic and down to the car park.

I thought it was a great day tramp, a new undiscovered area with unmarked tracks. The reserve will only get better as time goes by and will be a great asset for people to enjoy. Thanks for John for scouting out and leading. Those on the

trip were: Kathy T, Fiona G, Noeleen C, Lesley K, Jacob H, Debbie and Dave W, Ray H, Marianne L Silke D, Merlyn W, Peter A and John W.

Trip 2898

Mounts Tihia and Tauhara

5/6 Sept

The original plan of climbing a trio of peaks was changed to just two, when our group arrived in Turangi on Saturday morning. Mount Tihia, off Te Ponanga Saddle Road (SH 47 between Turangi and National Park), was our first choice. Information about this track indicated that the most difficult part of the tramp was finding the start, and this proved to be correct. There are no signs indicating where it starts, right beside the busy road and there is only enough parking on the grass verge for about 3 cars. Once inside the bush however, the track was very evident for most of the climb. Pink ribbon is the principal marker, and the track is well-worn in places.



Let's go this way

Photo by Sheryn Dean

The only spot where navigation became a problem, was where the track intersected with an old road. By using GPS and looking hard at the map, we concluded that the less obvious track to the right was the correct one.

Just before the bushline, the track is deeply rutted for a while. Once outside the bush, we were treated to a grand view of Lake Taupo and of the third peak we were originally intent on – Mount Pihanga (1325 metres). From the bush line to the flat “summit” area, the scrub is over head-height in places but again, the pink ribbon helped navigation in the mist. At one point some observant people

managed to spot and photograph a green gecko. (*Ed comment – see the cover photo*)

In a short time, we reached our high point at 1182 metres. By now the weather was turning and we only managed glimpses of the lower slopes of Mount Tongariro. We had lunch sheltered among scrub on the leeward side, then returned to our cars.

From there, the group did a short walk into Lake Rotopounamu before we headed back to Turangi. That night, we stayed at the wonderful Riverstone Backpackers and most of us went to the nearby hot pools at Tokaanu while two of the guys watched the North-South rugby match at the pub.

The following day was definitely not an “alpine start”, as we spent time at the funky “Cadillac Café” in Turangi. Some played “snakes and ladders” while they sipped their coffee. Late in the morning, we were in Taupo for our second tramp. This was on the well-worn Mount Tauhara. Most of the walk of about three hours was done in misty rain and there were limited views.



However, after crossing steep farmland at the start, the bush was pleasant, and we were accompanied by many walkers. Again, parts of the track were deeply rutted - sometimes up to our shoulders.

After the walk, we enjoyed a second bathe, this time in the Wairakei Geothermal pools. Covid19 regulations meant we had to wait our turn to get in but the wait was worth it. Sheer bliss after a walk and in a very nice setting!

Those on this very enjoyable weekend were Beatrix M, Helen M, Jacob H, Sharon S, Peter A, Noeleen C, Sheryn D and Allan Wickens (leader and scribe).

Trip 2899

Pureora baiting

12/13 Sept

20 willing trampers put their hands up to assist with the first fill of bait stations this spring. Along with 12 DoC staff, 16 Uni students, 3 people who had read an article in the Waitomo News about the huge increase in numbers of kokako in the Tunaewaea and Mangatutu valleys, and 42 others!!!

For this scribe, things almost went rather pear-shaped early in the week but with (crisis no.1 solved) we left home earlier than usual and headed for the Pureora Lodge. Only to be met with a locked gate erected by a forestry team working near the Lodge. A few phone calls, much delay and crisis no. 2 was solved, Crisis no 3 at 7pm become a non-event when the power switch for the Lodge was found and all was 'revealed'. Our vehicle wasn't strong enough to pull the trailerload of bait up the final rise to the Lodge but Maureen's Jim was most helpful – crisis no.4 sorted. Our safety briefing was somewhat delayed as was Selwyn's and my dinner (many thanks to Isla and Lois for looking after our cooking and cuppa which we finally sat down for at 10pm sans medication somewhere in all the gear unloaded. Crisis no. 5 solved). Saturday am dawned beautifully fine, the rest of the safety briefing was completed and everyone except us piled into their transport and headed for the starting point. Our car keys were in the pocket of Jims' warm polar fleece that he had lent me the night before. A quick call to a DoC staff member on the walkie talkie got Jim heading back to the Lodge and Crisis no, 6 was done. Thank goodness, I couldn't cope with much more, My merry band of 73 volunteers were driven or walked to their bait lines from the base and got stuck in to lightening their loads rather promptly.



So quickly in fact that I didn't even get time between dropping the last ones at their lines and taking 3 slurps of a cuppa before I was told the first ones had finished their lines – at 11.30 for goodness sake. Put the cup down, pick up some bait for another short line for them to do and off I went again. I think my sandwich hit my lips about 1.30. Many of the teams were coming back to base early too, even though I had said they had until 3.30 to get back. Needless to say they got a few more short bits of lines to do with the earlier ones getting slightly longer bits (penalty clause for this behaviour). I think I'll assign 2 lines instead of 1 to each team next time to allow for a cuppa break.

By 3.30 most people were back at the base, with only Dave and his teammate Brady reporting that they had seen and heard a kokako. Most said the bush was rather quiet but I'll bet by the next round it will be quite different as the birds begin to breed in this area in early November.



73 Volunteers ready to go

Photo by David Totman

Most said the bush was rather quiet but I'll bet by the next round it will be quite different as the birds begin to breed in this area in early November.

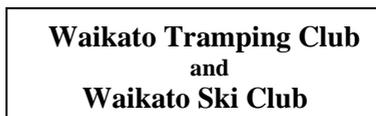
Once all the delicious cakes, and sweets were devoured – oops, I brought the fruit drink but forgot to take the cups along - most headed back to the Lodge and eventually the highway for home. Selwyn and his 2 teammates stretched the 3.30 finish time a bit (3.40) but we were all safe and happy at the Lodge by 5pm. Then I had to decide who would/could stay to assist with the leftover lines on Sunday, who wanted a night's sleep before leaving, who would do the cleaning, and who wanted to do the Waipapa loop beside the Lodge. Sunday morning was a little cloudy but 27 people headed along their chosen routes and the 'baiters' were back at the sparkling clean Lodge by midday. My grateful thanks to Barb & Isla & Annemarie, & Fiona of the cleaning brigade.

This was a major effort by a lot of people that turned out very well in my opinion. I hope I see more of you with us for future expeditions.

Who came? Dianne & Selwyn J (scribe and leaders), Merlyn W, Isla T, Barb C, Debbie & Dave W, Annemarie & Russell L, Pamela & Allan H, Jo M, Fiona G, Maureen F& Jim S, Lois R, Sheryl T, Amanda C, Jacqui D, David T.

Can you find them all in this photo???

Postscript to this trip: Selwyn & I, Amanda, Jacqui, Pamela & Allan, Lesley, Jo, Lois, Sheryl, Debbie & Dave came back for more over the shortened weekend of Oct 10 & 11. It was so short that everything was completed in a single day! We were part of the 60-strong team that worked in coolish weather, listened to kokako, kaka, kereru, tomtits, grey warblers and achieved an amazing unexpected feat. Thankyou to you all.



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

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**From the committee table:**

**No New members or resignations this month**

**Membership:** We have 187 tramping members this month.

**PLEASE:** if you have discontinued your landline number, changed your address or email, no longer have a workplace number, then let the membership convenor know. The membership list is accessed by many on the committee for many reasons (including the editor seeking your trip description or report) and having up to date information saves all of us a lot of time. You could also be missing out on relevant or interesting information because we can't contact you!

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Snippets from here 'n there

➤ Are you interested in helping support a school fundraising effort? One of the participants on the snowcraft course is offering an opportunity to support the local school by advertising a walk over Timahanga station, on the Napier-Taihape road, about midway between Napier and Taihape, and a possible climb up to the Hoggett range, depending on the weather. The tramp would take 6-7 hours. Accommodation would be in the shearers' quarters and you could also use your tent. Dinner will be supplied the night before the walk and the station owner will give a talk about the areas' rich history. You will also receive breakfast on Saturday morning. The Pukeokahu Community Hall Committee are running the event on Saturday, November 14th, for a cost of \$80. Contact person is Kylie Gilbert 06 3881774 or pukeokahuevent@gmail.com. At present, expressions of interest are sought due to the Covid situation and further decisions will be made in October re confirmation of bookings.

➤ **Kaimai-Mamaku Ranges Forest Restoration.** A 4- year pest control project for Kaimai-Mamaku has been announced. It will cover more than 240,000 hectares from Te Aroha to Tokoroa and will create about 60 jobs. Department of Conservation, iwi, Bay of Plenty and Waikato regional councils, community conservation groups are all involved.

Efforts will be ramped up to remove rats, stoats and possums through bait stations, trapping and aerial 1080. Goat control will also be an initial focus of the restoration effort. The Kaimai-Mamaku is a major water catchment for the western Bay of Plenty as well as a significant area for recreation. It also contains kauri stands that are currently considered to be free of kauri dieback disease that affected other kauri forests.

➤ **Party recreation policies** of relevance to this region: a plan for a new National Park on the Coromandel Peninsula and a new Great Walk along the Kaimai Range from Mt Te Aroha to SH29.

➤ **Kaka tracking.** Landcare Research is starting a project to track kākā movements using solar powered GPS tags (first, they'll have to catch the birds). Kākā move around a lot: here they'll appear in people's gardens in the winter and then disappear until next year. There was a kākā banded on Great Barrier Island which was seen in Gisborne a few years later. Kākā are vulnerable to predators as they prefer to nest underground. Part of the research project will look at preferred nesting and food requirements so a sanctuary can be built to encourage nesting. Kākā are classed as 'At Risk but Recovering'. Neil Fitzgerald and John Innes are the Hamilton-based scientists doing this work. *Source: NZ Herald 17 Sept 2020.*

➤ **Waikaremoana Bookings..** Tūhoe Te Uru Taumatua report an increase of bookings for the Great Walk for the July period 2019/2020. Bookings are up 75%, NZ manuhiri numbers are up 95%, International manuhiri numbers are down 77%.

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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.

➤ **Overseas domestic tourism trends.** International destinations hit significantly by the closure of their borders have shown some interesting trends

over the summer months. Some of the trends below may be indicative of what is to come as we head into our own summer:

Visitation to outdoor recreation areas in many countries has been significantly higher than usual reflecting a strong desire to engage with nature

There has been a global spike in outdoor recreation sales – in the USA cycling industry sales in June 2021 increased by 63% compared to June 2020!

Increased visitation is providing an influx of spending but is also resulting in some communities being concerned around a higher risk of exposure to COVID-19. Uncertainty around visitor numbers has required adaptive management (especially in terms of staffing) informed by close monitoring at place

Increased camping and decreased group sizes suggests visitors may be less willing to share their space with others.

Early signs in our own domestic tourism market show a strong interest for our natural places. This is resulting in some areas being increasingly busy (e.g Te Waikoropupū Springs and Kaikōura Peninsula Walkway). However, numbers at some DoC-managed places are down due to reduced international tourism (e.g. Roys Peak Track). As of 31 August, bookings for Great Walks were up 36% compared with the same time last year. The Milford Track is fully booked (over 90% of bookings are New Zealanders).

DoC will be watching visitor trends in the current year with interest, and will publicly release data on this around March/April 2021.

➤ The serviced, 16-bunk **Pouakai Hut**, on the northern slopes, is the busiest on the Mt Taranaki, with more than 40 people wanting to stay overnight during peak season. The hut is on the scenic Pouakai Circuit two-day trek and is popular with visitors to the Pouakai Tarns. The hut could potentially come under more pressure from trampers following the recent **destruction by fire of the 16-bunk Lake Dive Hut** on the southern slopes. Pre-booking online will ensure people get a bunk.

➤ Hefty fines for illegal landings. Illegally dropping off and collecting hunters from a designated wilderness area in the Kaimanawa Ranges has cost a helicopter company and pilot a combined \$32,000 – by far the highest penalty DOC has attained for this kind of prosecution. The pilot was fined \$20,000 in June for the landings. On Friday the company to which he contracted, Precision Helicopters Ltd, was fined \$12,000 for its part in the offences. The prosecution resulted from a complaint from a member of the public who witnessed one of the illegal landings. Help us keep other operators honest by calling (0800 362 468) if you see any suspicious or illegal activity.

➤ Downer Junior Network Inspector Logan Turner was with his colleague Isaak Ryan inspecting culverts on behalf of Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency on State Highway 3 near Tongaporutu. At first glance Isaak Ryan didn't spot the beleaguered bird, but the pair were surprised when a second look revealed the

kiwi and its plight. "It was the first time I'd seen a kiwi in real life, so it was pretty cool. I have never come across wildlife while inspecting culverts before," Logan Turner says. After contacting their supervisor, the two men called the DoC emergency hotline 0800 DoC HOT (0800 362 468) to alert DoC to the predicament of the kiwi and offer information on the tools needed to remove the metal grate and access the bird. Clad in overalls and wearing elbow-length bird-handling gloves, DoC Ranger Alison Evans clambered into sump leading off the culvert and plucked the kiwi from its predicament. "It didn't have any objection to being picked up and seemed almost relieved to be rescued. It was underweight, cold and suffering from exhaustion," Alison Evans says. "The culvert was a pretty inhospitable place to be imprisoned, with large trucks travelling past at open road speeds only a few metres away and water at the bottom of the sump." It wasn't leg-banded or microchipped, suggesting it was a wild kiwi and not bred in captivity or released into the conservation area. The emaciated and battered bird was transported to Massey University's Wildbase Hospital, where staff commenced immediate treatment to keep it alive. Wildbase Supervisor Technician Pauline Nijman says the kiwi had been trying to escape to no avail and the nails on each of his feet were worn down to the bone. So far the kiwi has had several weeks of care, including several "pedicures" to clean the nail and bone, x-rays and blood samples. "This kiwi is such a fighter! We are happy to report the little superstar is eating well in hospital and after the first week – when it was touch and go - he has started to venture around his room, exercise, forage and gain some much-needed weight. But it's going to be a long journey," Pauline Nijman says.

It will be several weeks before Wildbase vets will know if the kiwi has a chance of long-term survival. If he can be released back into the wild, DoC will liaise with iwi on arrangements.

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

### **Notice of General Meeting**

Recently a notice was sent to all clubs about a General Meeting being called on Saturday 17 October 2020 to:

- elect a new Patron; and
- ratify five rule changes

A résumé of Les Molloy, who has been nominated for patron, and a summary of the proposed rule changes are included in the notice. The meeting will only proceed if New Zealand is at Covid-19 Alert Level 1 on the above date.

**Date:** Saturday 17 October 2020    **Time:** 11.30am

**Location:** Miramar Links Conference & Function Venue,  
Stewart Duff Drive, Miramar, Wellington

The General Meeting will be followed by refreshments.

A General Meeting Voting and Attendance Form and a Voting Guide were also sent out with the letter.

The attendance of FMC's member clubs is greatly appreciated.  
For any queries, please contact our Executive Officer at eo@fmc.org.nz.

- We're delighted that the **new Casey Hut is open**, just in time for spring and summer adventures. (*Ed comment: we tramped this beautiful area last year on our trip through the Poulter valley*). FMC have been closely involved in the hut replacement project since the ashes of the previous hut were discovered in 2015. Executive member Tania Seward worked with DoC to look at options, including mobilising the outdoor community to have their say about the future of the hut.



"I thought we might get 50 responses all up," says Seward. "We got 50 in the first day! Nearly 250 groups and individuals told us what the hut meant to them and what a valuable asset it was to the Arthur's Pass National Park."

"Casey Hut is a natural step up from Great Walks or easy tramping tracks. It's the only loop track in the national park not subject to major river crossings or needing a vehicle relocation."

"We're very grateful to Robert and Sharon for their generosity, and for the local DoC team for seeing this project right the way through to the end."

- FMC is delighted to see the Backcountry Trust receive nearly \$2 million to expand its' hut and track repair programme. The funding will create over 100 jobs, many of which will be taken up by tourism workers displaced by the economic impact of COVID-19. "If you look through the hut book, there are so many people that have come through here and have stories to tell about this part of the park, and we are just really keen to keep those opportunities open for the next generation," says Rob Brown, manager of the Backcountry Trust.

## *Commercial ventures you may like to know about...*

This is a section where advertising from groups or individuals who have made contact with the club are advising of their ventures. They will be published on this page as and when space permits and will appear only once.

### **Milton Rotary Tranping club**

We assemble the participants for each trip and provide three or four experienced leaders to give "low key" leadership. We organise all transport from Dunedin return, all the food, permits, accommodation, track and boat fees etc, and our charges only just cover all these costs. We also endeavour to brief everyone thoroughly before the trips, (fitness, equipment etc). and provided those who are inexperienced will heed our advice, we generally encounter few problems. The leaders and organisers from The Otago Youth Adventure Trust and Milton Rotary Club are volunteers, and receive no remuneration for their efforts.

For general enquiries, please contact the administrator Emma Lister, PO Box 93, Milton, 9241 Ph 03 417 7571 [admin@ortt.org.nz](mailto:admin@ortt.org.nz).

### **Footsteps Walking Club of Aotearoa/New Zealand,**

Phillip O'Donnell is delighted to announce the launch of the club, which will commence its programme early in 2021.

*Footsteps* will offer the absolute best day-walks in 20 regions of New Zealand. Each region has a one-week package which operates on no-frills, share-the-cost, not-for-profit basis, including transport, accommodation, information and on-the-track guidance. The maximum group size is ten and the minimum is eight. Further information about *Footsteps* is available enquiry.

In due course, as circumstances allow, it is hoped that *Footsteps* may ultimately be able to offer overseas excursions as well. We would be delighted to have your company on one of our trips! To find out more simply email [footstepsanz@gmail.com](mailto:footstepsanz@gmail.com) or phone Phillip 021 172 3244 or 07 5449509.



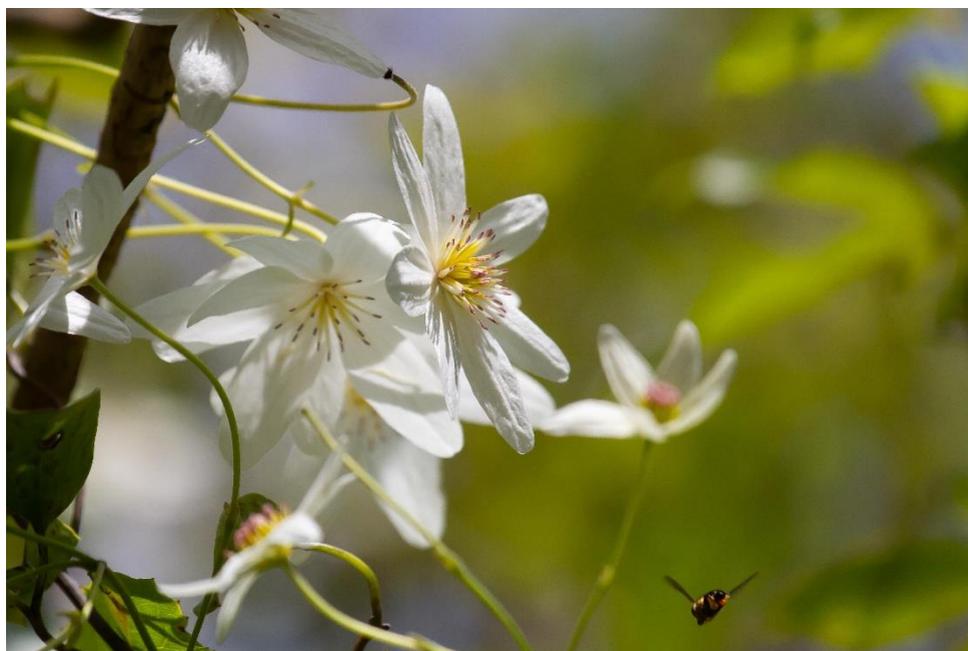
What are we looking at here?

Photo by Peter Ayson



Tomtit

Photo by Jacqui Dick



Clematis & bee

Photo by Jacqui Dick



Bogie on the Waitawheta track

Photo by Margaret Cameron



Camping at Te Whare Okioki  
Photo by John McArthur

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