



THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

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

September 2020



Snowcraft achievers Photo by Jacqui Dick

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

Photo by John McArthur



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Club night, Wednesday, 7th October

Bring along your entries to the photo competition. Rules are listed under the 'From the committee' section.

Tonight we have the privilege of hearing Dave Williams speak to us about his amazing 'Sea2summit7' challenge.

In 2013 Dave set off on the epic adventure to become the first ever person to climb the highest mountain in each of the seven continents from sea level. This entails him running back to back marathons from the nearest feasible sea or ocean to the base of the mountain then continuing to walk, crawl and climb his way to the summit. He brings us in to his story at summit 5. With the aim to raise awareness and funds for the Mental Health Foundation, he relates to this cause while explaining that giving up is not an option even though the path ahead seems dark and impassable. Dave explores the definitions of success and failure, and challenges

Note: For the talk a koha of an outdoor garment or any tramping gear that you no longer need and that is still usable would be most appreciated. Dave will then give these to students on the Wintec certificate and diploma in Outdoor Adventure Education programme that he is currently running. This is a great opportunity for us all to have a sort out of our tramping gear and to donate any spare items which will be going to a good home, encouraging students to be able to enjoy the outdoors as much as we all do.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2020

2899	12/13 Sept	E/M	Pureora Baiting	Dianne June
2900	19/20 Sept	E/M	Leitches Clearing	Judith Bogle
2901	27 Sept	E/M	Otawa Trig	Les Warren
2902	3 / 4 Oct	E/M	Karaponga Reserve	Allan Wickens
	7 Oct		CLUB NIGHT	Jacqui Dick
2903	11 Oct	M	Pylon peak track	Rizal Razak
2904	16-18 Oct	E/M	Blyth & Rangiwahia huts	Merlyn Warren
2905	24-26 Oct	M	Koranga river	Allan Wickens & John Wilson
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
2909	22 Nov		Ngamuwahine	Rizal Razak
2910	28/29 Nov	M	Mt. Tama	John Wilson
	5 or 6 Dec		Potluck Xmas Party	

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.

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

Trip Descriptions

Trip 2899

Pureora baiting

12/13 Sept

This is an opportunity to give back to conservation by helping the Pirongia Restoration Society fill bait stations in the Okahukura valley of Pureora Forest. The Society covers the cost of accommodation at the fully equipped Pureora Forest Lodge. We travel to the Lodge on Friday night in private cars due to the Covid 19 restrictions. Please bring your own mask if possible. Safety measures will be in place at the Lodge. You can cook your evening meal while listening to the safety briefing, finding out who your teammate will be, and gathering up your safety gear, map and bait. On Saturday we travel a further 16km into the Okahukura Valley and you begin moving along your assigned bait lines filling bait stations as you go. We head back to the Lodge at 3.30 for a social time or even a walk around the adjacent Waipapa loop – wonderful walk in the dark too – or admire the night sky.

On Sunday we will go back to the valley to complete any lines not visited on Saturday. Volunteer numbers present on Saturday will dictate how much there is to do on Sunday. If we have 70 volunteers like we did last September, there will be nothing to do and we can go tramping! – perhaps the MTB track to Kawakawa Bay and Kinloch. You'll know about this before you leave Hamilton.

Bring a weekend pack to carry the bait in – you will be supplied with a pack liner. You will also need your sleeping bag, pillow, toilet gear and food but the kitchen is well-equipped. We'll send you a bit more info about the equipment you could bring once you sign up. The Society will supply tea, coffee, milk, milo, and sugar. Don't forget a lunchbox, water bottle, and perhaps even a thermos for a warm drink during the day

Leader: Dianne & Selwyn June

Ph: 8433066

Grade: E/M

Transport: Senior member \$60-90

Senior Non-member \$65-95

Trip 2900

Leitches Clearing

19/20 Sept

We will go up Leitches track 17km return 2-3hrs each way. It's a former surveyed road and is well graded. The track passes through farmland and climbs before entering bush. The track descends to Leitch's clearing - walk across the clearing to reach the hut. There are no major streams to cross on this track. At the beginning it goes through Whareorino forest. There is supposed to be the Archey's frog which is rare which you may be able to spot on the way. It will be a walk in and walk out on the same track unless I can find a suitable track out. At present none of the others are being maintained.

There are mattresses, a wood-burning stove for heating and a toilet are provided. You will need to carry a portable stove for cooking. There are only 16 bunks and its first in first served. You will need 1 standard ticket to stay. There are many areas suitable for camping in Leitch's clearing but If you want to camp and use hut facilities you still need to purchase a hut ticket.

Leader: Judith Bogle **Ph:** 027 3810283 **Grade:** E/M
Transport: Senior member \$50-75 Senior Non-member \$55-80

Trip 2901 Ottawa Trig 30 Aug

The Ottawa trig is in the Papamoa hills behind Te Puke. We will travel to Te Puke Quarry Road carpark and walk along the Trig Track to Ottawa Trig. From here continue to a track junction, then head to Manoeka Road. Some descending is a little steep with three easy stream crossings in the last 10 minutes at the bottom, but there is a long section between the descents that is nice and easy walking. The trip is estimated to take 3.5-5 hrs. There is a mixture of farmland to walk thru first than the most of the day is walking thru lowland forest dominated by tawa and rewarewa.

Leader: Les Warren **Ph:** 027 8644937 **Grade:** E/M
Transport: Senior member \$25-30 Senior Non-member \$30-35

Trip 2902 Karaponga Reserve and Footprints of Toi 3/4 Oct

On this weekend trip, we will depart London Street at 8.00 am on Saturday, driving to Manawahe, near Lake Rotoma. For the next 4 hours, we will tramp through an area of native bush, where the Manawahe Eco and Kokako Trusts have carried out intensive pest control and monitoring. This is private land, under the Queen Elizabeth 2 Trust and the area now houses New Zealand's 4th largest kokako colony, of about 50 birds. We will be accompanied by Owen Vaughan of the Nga-Tapuwahe O Taneatua Tramping Club. Owen hopes to have a member of the Kokako Trust accompany us as this person knows the area well and can hopefully assist us in making contact with a couple of the resident birds. If we have time, we can then do a short walk of about 1-2 hours on Latham's Track. This walk has stunning native bush, the site of an ancient Maori pa and spectacular views over the eastern Bay of Plenty, out to Whakaari/White Island. The walk ends at Awakeri Hot Springs, where we stay for the night. During the evening we may do a kiwi trail. On Sunday, we travel to Whakatane where we will do the 4-5 hr Nga Tapuwaeo Toi ("Footprints of Toi") walk around the coast before heading back to Hamilton at about 2.30 pm.

Leader: Allan Wickens **Ph:** 027 9509546 **Grade:** E/M

Email: *allanwickens@hotmail.com*

Transport: Senior members \$ 50-75 Senior non-members: \$ 55-80

Accommodation: \$ tba . 1 night in a cabin at Awakeri Hot Springs and campground. (Please enrol early as this trip will have limited numbers and campground bookings must be made.)

Trip 2903 Pylon Peak Track – Waiorongomai Loop 11 Oct

The walk starts at the Old Battery in the valley via the low level track, after crossing the Waiorongomai Stream, we will ascend approximately 660m up the Pylon Peak Track and past some mining relics, the final approach to the ridge top is steep and

out onto the top of the Kaimai Range at Pylon Peak. After reaching the top, we will be bush bashing along the Kaimai Ridgeway to get to the Waipapa Track, a bit rough and has a few muddy sections. From the Ridgeway/Waipapa junction we will proceed to the head of the valley, and return to the carpark via the Waiorongomai valley High Level Track.

Leader: Rizal Razak **Ph:** 021 267 6566 **Grade:** M

Email: rizraz@gmail.com

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

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 & John Wilson **Ph:** 027 9509546

Email: allanwickens@hotmail.com **Grade:** M

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 and where British troops invaded 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. 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 the Jim Barnett Reserve to the Mangarewa suspension bridge. We start the walk with a 250m descent zig-zagging down the hillside on a gentle slope to the river flats. We then follow the river to the Mangarewa Suspension Bridge before retracing our steps back to the van at the start of the track, covering a total distance of about 12km.

need to camp each night.

Leader: Ron Dick

Ph: 021 260 8149

Grade: E

Email: ronjmd@icloud.com

Transport: Senior members \$ 25-30

Senior non-members: \$ 30-95

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

Another round of Pureora baiting

10/11th October

Would you be interested in helping with the second fill of bait stations in Pureora on this weekend on behalf of the Pirongia Restoration Society? It would not be an official club trip but if we get enough people together we could organise transport again. Hopefully we will be down to level 1 again and can be together in a van.

If you are available contact us before Oct 4th.

Leaders: Dianne & Selwyn June

Ph: 8433066

Editorial

It has been interesting to see how our tramping programme seems to have some very varied trips since we got back into action after the first Covid lockdown. I wonder how many of you spent the lockdown time poring over maps and reports from other clubs and trampers seeking out new and different places to go. I'm only sorry I can't join in on them yet. We also seem to have members of other clubs joining us on our expeditions and this can only be good for all of us – new places to go and new experiences.

On behalf of the Pirongia Restoration Society I would like to thank all those who have helped with the maintenance of the bait lines in Pureora and will be helping with filling the bait stations over the next month or so. You will be pleased to hear that the numbers of kokako in the Mangatutu/Rangitoto station area and the Tunawaea area nearby have markedly increased. This club has assisted with bait station filling in the past and a few of you continue to do so. The kokako population in the whole of the Pureora area was around 350 pairs in 1999 and is now over 1000 pairs – a very genetically sustainable population. Your efforts don't go unnoticed and that beautiful haunting bird call is your reward while you are busy there.

I have been sent some wonderful pictures over the past year as part of the trip reports and you make my editing so difficult as a result – which one should I include? Now is your chance to suffer the same – pick out your best 2 pictures for each category in the photo competition and submit them for everyone to see and perhaps eventually show the rest of NZ how good you are when the pictures are forwarded to the FMC competition. I wish you all happy 'snapping' and much glory when you win.

Presidents' Blog

Covid restrictions continue to affect the activities of the club, but we can meet and go on trips. Mask wearing is now a feature at meetings, with the side effect of damping down the speaker's voice!

An interesting comment from our club captain: there are a lot of people out using huts and tracks as they explore closer to home. Bookings for Great Walks now sell out in hours. Ski field parking can be full if you're not prepared. The planned summer programme in the South Island looks exciting, with some very challenging trips (rated as Fit/Fit), more leisurely packages of day trips and plenty in between. Time to look ahead to a holiday down south. Oliver's McLeod's talk at the September club night on the volcanic history of Mt. Pirongia made me realise that some people can 'read' the landscape in a unique way, seeing it as it once was before several million years of erosion. I accompanied Oliver on several field trips and was fascinated by how he could find rocky outcrops from different eruptions as well as lava dykes and other features. He expertly chipped off small samples of rock with his geologist's hammer for further analysis - and his pack got heavier and heavier. He talked about fault lines, old lava lakes and massive slumps of rocks. In doing his research, Oliver talked to local kaumatua and was able to find four old names for Pirongia peaks and restore them on his geological map. Oliver has produced a book summarising his findings, and a large map of the different geological structures associated with each eruption.

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... *from the ski Club*.....

Spring seemed to start a little earlier this year - as evidenced by the August climate figures. Fortunately, we're getting top ups from the muted storm cycles. It's still a coin toss whether the West terrain will open - but there has been some work over there as snow coverage has allowed. You can continue to get a reasonable day in when all the elements combine. It may well also be the time to consider those parts of the mountain which require a little more exertion to reach - and as a result, only draw small numbers. Thanks to Ashley, David, Mary, Naomi and others who have been hosts this year. Our annual Ski races won't be run as we require course setting and clearance from the Mt Ruapehu crew. This is very limited due to staffing constraints. In its' place we're looking to hold a more social pizza weekend - sometime later in September. Keep an eye on the website or our Facebook page. Hopefully we'll see reasonable spring conditions through to November, which will be great for warmer evening gatherings and socialising. REMINDER You need to book parking if you are arriving at the mountain between 7 am - 2 pm. This is variable due to demand and conditions. Check the Mt Ruapehu website for details and booking. If you arrive in the evening and park in the overnight areas you won't need to book.

Stephen Prendergast, Ski Team Leader

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Accept that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue.

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 2985

Maungakawa loop

16 Aug

A 9am start! A blissful lie-in to start the day, after waking to a cloudless sky and only a little frost. I arrived at London Street to find I was the lone male among 6 women. I had no problem with this, and I was assured another man would join us at the start of the track.

In my car I followed Lois's one closely, not wanting to miss a turn on the maze of roads once we left Scotsman Valley Road, but not so close on the unsealed road that undid much of the good work I did cleaning my car this week!

Ten o'clock saw us at the track, ready to walk, with two more women joining us. 8 on 1 now - I can cope, but we waited for my male company. And waited. And phoned. And texted. We took off without him, and shortly received his phone call – from one of the other Maungakawas, in Cambridge. Just as well he did not find the one East of Lake Waikare! We told him we would take the left branch at the junction, and kept on walking up this is longer, but less steep, route to the 500m a.s.l. summit.

The grey warblers were in fine form at the start, and I think I heard a kaka. Further on there were not so many calls. The undergrowth was relatively sparse, and there were very few supplejacks to fight when we bush bashed around windfalls, which meant that several times we got clear long views through the trees. Very pretty, but indicative of the destructive effects of the stock that were only fenced out about 5 years ago, and the fallow deer still roaming in these hills. Denuding the bush was not something the people who released the deer cared about (*see <https://bit.ly/deernz>*).

We arrived at the top, where we got fabulous views from the lookout tower including Ruapehu all in white, just after midday. Ten minutes were spent getting just the right group photo, on all the right cameras. At least one photo must be good!

While we had our leisurely lunch, we were joined by Tristan, our missing person. Also joined by several walkers, two dogs, and as we were leaving, two pre-schoolers on their own legs, showing us this was not a hard tramp. I delayed our

departure to listen to the Chris and Ashley show giving us the latest COVID 19 count.



The happy crew

Photo by Lois Rowell

On the way down I learned from Tristan about hunting of the fallow deer referred to above. (Guy talk!) An easy hour saw us back at the cars, and then in convoy to the Ruakura berry farm, for coffee (the clever ones) or enormous fruit ice creams (the ones who forgot it was too cold for ice cream).

A very pleasant day – thank you Lois.

Group members were Helen, Nette, Jeanette, Noeleen, Joke, Debbie, Sarah, Lois, Tristan and scribe Ray H.

Trip 2888

Waihora Lagoon to Waihaha

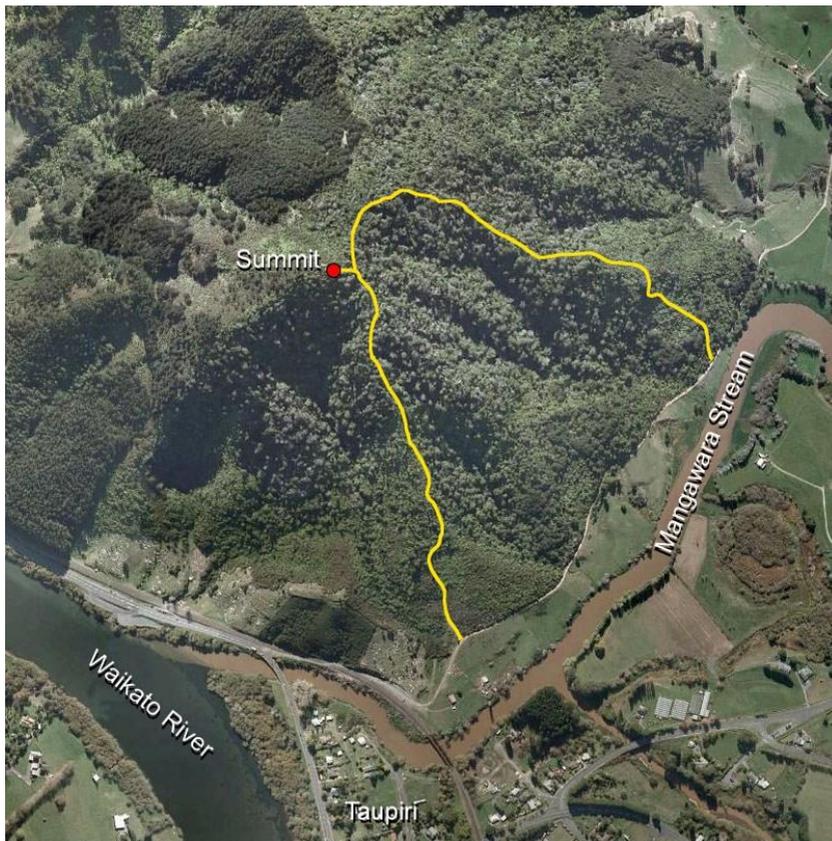
4/5 July

The first overnight tramp after lockdown began with an early Saturday morning drive to the Waihora lagoon carpark near Tihoi. We opted to leave the lagoon walk for the next day and set off toward the Hauhangaroa track. The first section had seen a lot of quad bikes (presumably hunters) but this soon gave way to a good well-formed track as we got into the forest that Pureora is known for - huge rimu, totara, and kahikatea. After 2 hours we reached the Hauhangaroa track junction and opted to head towards Waihaha hut. John turned back to get the van and walk into Waihaha hut while the rest carried on. There were some steep gullies to drop into and climb out of and one stream crossing through great virgin forest. After 6 hours including a short stop for lunch, we reached Waihaha hut where John Mc was waiting for us with the fire blazing. There were hunters already in residence so 4 of us opted for tents for the night. Next morning, we set off along the Waihaha river back to the road and the van. We returned to the Waihora lagoon for much anticipated lunch and views of the lagoon only to find it completely dry - so much for the recent rain but the lagoon has no feeder

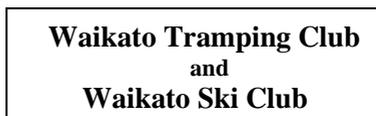
streams and is only full of water after lots of rain. Great views of the forest anyhow before the return to Hamilton. Trampers; Steve C, Rupert C, Dale H, Les W, Barbara C, Beatrix M, Joanna G, Simon. driver John Mc.

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**Trip 2892                      Taupiri mountain & Pukemokemoke                      7 July**

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of May, New Zealand went down to Level Two under the Covid-19 regime. At last, we were able to get out and do some tramping, albeit in a mildly restricted form (and certainly more relaxed than at Level Three). With many people still apprehensive, this meant trips that were being run, had small numbers on them. On this day out, just three of us went. The first objective was a climb of Taupiri Mountain and the hardest part was finding the start! A change has been made to the access road, which now crosses a relatively new bridge across the Mangawara Stream, to the main cemetery entrance and carpark. (See the attached map). To get there, go to the end of Watts Road (a dead-end cul-de-sac – and I'll refrain from making the obvious joke) . From there, it is about 100 metres to the start of the loop track where an arched gateway entrance stands. A steady but nice climb up through bush and nikau palms, leads to the summit, where we had a clear view.



On the summit we missed where the track carried on to the loop and instead came down the same way we ascended. On looking at the sign below we could see where we went wrong. From there, we went to the Pukemokemoke Reserve and did the loop walk. There were quite a lot of other walkers doing this popular short walk. On the summit we had another excellent view, this time of the Hakarimatas and Mount Te Aroha. The Club has done walks on the Hapuakohe Track in the past, but a recent “check-it-out” trip done last year by one of our leaders, felt the track was getting overgrown and in a state of disrepair. After driving up the windy, narrow Matahuru Road, we made a brief walk into the track, leading off the summit area and thought them to be “fit for purpose”. This proved to be true when our Club held a walk on this track recently. For the three of us, this was mostly new country to explore, even though the walks are very handy to Hamilton and are visited by many. With the exception of the last track of course. This “old timer’s trip” (average age about 75!) was done by John Mac, Ray H and Allan Wickens (scribe).



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

### From the committee table:

**New members:** Welcome to Noleen Christensen. We also welcome back Denise Flemming. I extend my apology to Alpana Roy whose surname was misspelt in last month’s bulletin.

**Resignations:** Nil.

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



## Photo competition

Our Annual competition closes this year on October 7th. Entries must be supplied by the closing date in digital form. Our categories are in alignment with those of FMC

1. Above bushline with no human element
2. or with a human element
3. Below bushline with no human element
4. or with a human element

5. Historic

6. Native flora and fauna

7. Long exposure - Photography of scenes that the naked eye cannot normally comprehend. This category is intended for highly technical images of shots taken at night, (including star trails), or in extremely low light situations such as caves or canyons.

We also have the 2 WTC categories of:

8. Club Character - features a humorous subject which has a club context.

9. International. Caters for photos which are otherwise ineligible for the FMC photo competition.

FMC has an annual theme to the competition, which encourages photography that documents topical places which we are fighting for, current campaigns we're battling and values under immediate threat. The theme in no way restricts entries, it merely offers a little reward for entries consistent with the theme! And this years' theme is yet to be defined but may be 'Wilderness areas' or 'Wild rivers'.

Rules:

A. Definition of a "human element"

The definition of a "human element" is flexible but the general intention is: Where the photo contains anything other than as a very minor feature: people, a hut, a track sign/marker, bridge, ice axe and anything else that has been introduced by humans into the environment then we would define that as having "a Human element". But if a photo has what could be called a Human Element but that element is very small, inconsequential and not a feature in the photo then you could count it as "No Human Element".

B. Entries for the FMC aligned categories must be taken after 1 Jan 2016.

Any photos taken prior to this date will automatically be entered into the historic category.

C. Definition of "historic"

The intention for the historic category is for entrants to go back through club and individual archives to select "old photos" rather than "photos of old things". As an example, a recent photo of a hut built in the 1950's is not a 'historic' photo. However, a photo of the same hut taken in the 1960's certainly is a 'historic' photo. Photos for the historic category must be taken before 1 Jan 2016.

D. All photos apart from the International Category must be taken within New Zealand, which is defined as within our Exclusive Economic Zone. This includes the following islands; North, South, Stewart, Chatham, Kermadec, Sub-Antarctic.

Our photos will be judged by an independent photographer and results presented at the November Club Night.

Entries to be emailed or given on a USB stick to

Jacqui Dick, **email:** [jacquimd@me.com](mailto:jacquimd@me.com), **ph** 021 1375201

## 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 14<sup>th</sup>, for a cost of \$80. Contact person is Kylie Gilbert 06 3881774 or [pukeokahuevent@gmail.com](mailto: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.
- Hot off the press – there are now **2000 pairs (!) of kokako** in NZ i.e. the north island. This is the result of some great, ongoing, intensive effort by many volunteers and professionals from all walks of life. Give yourself a big pat on the back if you have been contributing to this huge success.
- Did you enjoy Oliver Mcleod's talk at the last club night? To buy his book contact him at: [oliveremcleod@gmail.com](mailto:oliveremcleod@gmail.com). Cost will be about \$30. Order now.

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### .....from the DoC website.....

- Backcountry huts to be restored. Conservation Minister Eugenie Sage announced a \$2 million expansion of the Backcountry Trust's programme to repair and maintain huts, tracks and bridges in some of New Zealand's more remote places as part of the Government's \$1.3 billion Jobs for Nature programme. Murchison rafting company Ultimate Descents, which has been mothballed because of COVID-19, is one of the businesses to benefit. Its staff have been employed by the Trust to work on the East Matakītaki Hut, repairing the roof and chimney, and repainting the hut.
- The annual check of Kapiti Island's trap network by DoC staff and volunteers shows the island is still predator free – which is vital to protect precious native species that live there, such as little spotted kiwi/kiwi pukupuku, kōkako and takahē. Each year over 200 mustelid and rodent traps spread across the island are armed, baited with dried rabbit and cinnamon-flavoured lure and left for around two months to see if any pests have made their way to the island sanctuary.
- Anecdotal reports of more birdlife on the Heaphy Track have been backed up by a five-year study showing increased numbers of some forest birds. Results show a trend of increasing numbers of nine native species — korimako/bellbird,

pīwakawaka/fantail, riroriro/grey warbler, kākāriki/parakeet, toutouwai/robin, tauhou/silvereye, miromiro/tomtit, tūi and weka. Rarer birds such as kārearea/New Zealand falcon, fernbird, kākā, and kea were only occasionally observed although there was a promising increase in kākā seen in 2019.

- Two doctors with a passion for the outdoors are urging people to get a healthy dose of nature to help with their well-being. Hiker and skier Dr Lesley Topping works in general practice in Hamilton, while Dr Kim Hurst is a Hutt Valley-based GP who enjoys trail running and mountain biking. The two doctors both urge patients to spend time in the outdoors – and advocate for active lifestyles involving experiences and exercise in nature. Lesley, a GP since 1981, considers time in the outdoors essential to her personal well-being, and says people "weren't built for sitting on their backsides all day". "Each person should find what they enjoy, and do it as often as they can manage, whether in small bites or, from time to time, pushing themselves harder," she says. "Making a walk in the bush into a voyage of family fun and exploration, brings colour to cheeks, smiles to lips, and settles restless kids too. Enjoyment is key". The 2 doctors say research demonstrates the value of time spent in nature. A British Journal of Psychiatry journal paper states: "Simple exposure to nature environments is psychologically restorative and has beneficial influences on individuals' emotions and ability to reflect on life problems." Lesley says: "There is good evidence regular exercise in the outdoors improves both quality and quantity of life, reduces Alzheimer's Disease, and helps with mental illness, especially depression. Even exercising in city parks shows an advantage over exercising indoors."

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

FMC, along with other interested organisations and individuals, has been talking to DoC and Ruapehu Alpine Lifts (RAL) regarding access to Tongariro National Park. RAL has implemented a free-of-charge booking system for parking at Whakapapa and Turoa ski-fields for peak times at weekends until the end of September, while DoC has implemented a 3hr parking restriction in Whakapapa village. FMC applauds RAL and DoC for actually doing something to attempt to ease the congestion. Nobody wants the Park to be a circus. FMC is happy with how discussions of our interests have been responded to. RAL has reduced the hours the parking booking system will be operational to weekend mornings only, and removed plans to lock carparks after ski-field closure (except for carpark 1 at Whakapapa). DoC has implemented a permit system for long-term parking at Whakapapa, mirroring the solution provided during summer for the Mangatepopo road-end. In the future, we will be exploring whether DoC's system may need to be modified so people don't need to visit Whakapapa Visitor Centre during opening hours to get a permit.



Bogie on the Waitawheta track

Photo by Margaret Cameron



Camping at Te Whare Okioki  
Photo by John McArthur



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