



THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

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

May 2022



Crossing the Hauhungaroa stream Photo by Cathy Dickson

WAIKATO HUT

Your lodge on Mt Ruapehu
Tongariro National Park



www.wtc.org.nz



Kaweka trail Photo by Jacqui Dick

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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 837

May 2022

General Committee

(Contact details listed below)

President: Judith Bogle	027 3810283
Secretary: Dorothy Cawdron	027 7424222
Treasurer: Guy Domett treasurer@wtc.org.nz	027 2483008
Members: John McArthur (VP Tramp) Stephen Prendergast (VP Ski)	
Stephen Phillips Allan Wickens Lois Rowell Ashley Hoskin Mike Barker	
Mike Nightingale	8562394

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**Tramping Subcommittee**

**Tramping email:** [waikatotrampingclub@gmail.com](mailto:waikatotrampingclub@gmail.com)

|                                                                                                      |              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Chairperson:</b> John McArthur <a href="mailto:mcArthur@outlook.co.nz">mcArthur@outlook.co.nz</a> | 021 2889641  |
| <b>Club Captain:</b> Les Warren                                                                      | 027 864 4937 |
| <b>Membership:</b> Lois Rowell                                                                       | 027 2881148  |
| <b>Member:</b> Selwyn June                                                                           | 027 4978151  |
| <b>Web &amp; Facebook:</b> Rizal Razak                                                               | 021 2676566  |
| <b>Transport:</b> Ashley Hoskin                                                                      | 027 4909545  |
| <b>Social convenor:</b> Jacqui Dick                                                                  | 021 1375201  |

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Ski Subcommittee

Ski email: waikatoski@gmail.com	Waikato Hut phone: 07 8923821
Chairperson: Stephen Prendergast	021 466247
Bookings: Stephen Prendergast	021 466247
Finance officer: Michael Barker	021 2463500
Members: Steve Phillips	021 1031436
Ashley Hoskin	027 4909545

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**Bulletin:** Lesley Kuggeleijn      027 4942414  
**Editor & Club Librarian:** Dianne June      [djune@xtra.co.nz](mailto:djune@xtra.co.nz)      07 8433066

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

Club night, Wednesday 1st June

Mike Peck, Manager of the Hamilton Bivouac Outdoor store will give a presentation on some of the new and interesting gear that has come onto the market in recent months. This is always an interesting evening, as, last year when Mike spoke, we were fascinated by some of the new and innovative things and gear which could assist our tramping experiences.

Club nights take place at St. Stephen's church on the corner of Mahoe St and Ohaupo Rd. The meeting starts at 7.30pm

Social activity: The recent movie night at the Haines' was attended by a small and select group of 9 people. But, in keeping with tradition, the food was great, the movie (with few spoken words) was entertaining, and the hospitality from Andrea and Graham very welcoming. Some got to test some new seating and very comfortable those couches are too.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2021/2022

3004	14/15 May	E/M	Karangahake/Dickeys flat	Allan Wickens
3005	21/22 May	M/F	Cascade Hut -Te Iringa	John McArthur / Steve Dick
3006	29 May	M	Eliza mines	Judith Bogle
	1 June		CLUB NIGHT	
3007	4-6 Jun	M/F	Round the mountain	Les Warren
3008	12 Jun	M	Wharauoa/Mahaukur a track on Pirongia	Allan Wickens
3009	18/19 Jun	E/M	Mokau walks	Theresa O'Leary
3010	24-26 Jun	M/fun	Ruapehu walks	Jacqui Dick
3011	3 Jul	E/M	Rotorua Walks	Selwyn June
3012	9/10 Jul	E/M	Whirinaki	Judith Bogle
3013	17 Jul	E/M	Natural bridge	tbc
3014	23/24 Jul	M	Snowcraft no. 1	Jacqui Dick/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.

Departure Point: Trips depart from the river end of London Street. Cars can be parked, facing the road, in the 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

REMEMBER: 2 clicks confirm your booking on the website

Trip 3004 Karangahake/Dickey's flat 14/15 May

Over this weekend, there will be two separate day trips involved, with Saturday night camping at Dickey's Flat. To make for a comfortable night, there will be car-based camping gear, marquee etc, set up for a pleasant dinner.

One tramp will be on and around Mount Karangahake and involves a climb to the 544m summit, with accompanying 360-degree panorama taking in parts of the Waikato-Coromandel-BOP. Lower-level tramping may involve the Dubbo 96 track and the mountain circuit.

The other tramp will be the 8 km/4-hour Daly's Clearing Loop track. A highlight of this track are the extensive groves of nikau nestled under tall tawa, kohekohe and pukatea forest.

The weather on Saturday will determine which tramp is done on that day.

These can be day trips if you prefer, without the camping.

Leader: Allan Wickens

Ph: 021 1375201

Grade: E/M

Email: *allanwickens@hotmail.com*

Transport: Senior member \$42-75

Senior non-member: \$52-80

That everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it. Andy Rooney

This trip needs a willing and kind driver who can drop us off on Saturday and pick us up on Monday otherwise we may need to do some route revision.

Leader: Les Warren

Ph: 027 864 4937

Grade: M

Transport: Senior member \$70-128

Senior non-member: \$82-133

Hut Fees will apply. Use your annual pass or organise some hut tickets

Trip 3008

Pirongia Tracks

11 & 12 June

On this weekend, the plan is to do a tramp from the eastern side (Wharauora-Mahaukura tracks) to the summit of Mount Pirongia (959m) and then down the Tahunui Track on Sunday. Saturday night will be spent at Pahautea Hut. We will be booking a total of 10 places in the very popular hut. If more people want to go, there are campsites near the hut. It's unlikely there will be spare beds closer to the date of this tramp so you must book early if you want to stay in the hut. The first 10 bookings will be done via the leader to ensure the trip will go ahead. Any other bookings must be done independently.

This is a good opportunity to stay the night on Pirongia and cover a fair bit of the mountain in one weekend, without it being a long one-day tramp.

Leader : Allan Wickens

Ph: 027 9509546

Grade : M

Email: *allanwickens@hotmail.com*

Transport: Senior member \$42-75

Senior non-member: \$52-80

Hut fee: \$15 hut fee.

Trip 3009

Mokau Winter Weekend

17-19 June

We will base ourselves at Seaview Motor Camp. On the beachfront between Mokau and Awakino. Kitchen cabins, Tourist Flats, motorhome and tent sites available. Make your own booking, or contact me for a shared space – (I have booked 2x2 bedroom flats - first in first served). Arrive Friday night or Saturday morning. Highlight 14k coast walk – White Cliffs Walkway, including the 3 Sisters and Stock Tunnel – we will make a definite plan closer to the trip – high tide is 12md and low 6am for Sat – perhaps only go halfway? or go in over Mt Messenger – TBC depending on group members. Lots to do - great walking, river boat trips, fabulous museum, waterfalls, beach combing, a beer at the Awakino Hotel, surfing, safe kayaking, fishing (including trout fishing in Awakino river), surfcasting, kite fishing and kontiki. Whitebait (in season). Boat ramp available at Mokau.

Leader: Theresa O'Leary

Ph: 027 416 2633

Grade: E/M

Email: *theresa@tolbecs.co.nz*

Costs: shared car costs/accommodation

Trip 3011

Rotorua walks

03 July

First walk of the day is in the Mokaihaha Ecological Area situated on the Mamaku Plateau. A 1.5 hour walk through tall podocarp tawa forest and past the small and ephemeral Lake Rotohokahoka. This is a pest control area where there is a remnant population of Kokako.

Then on to Whakarewarewa Forest on the outskirts of Rotorua city where we'll take the Tokorangi Pa Track (11.5 km, 3.5 hrs). Walking through stands of exotic trees including redwoods, Douglas fir and larch we reach the fortification trenches of an old pa at 500 metres above sea level with views of Mt Ngongotaha, Rotorua Lake and countryside. This is a loop track, parts of which we share with bikes.

Leader: Selwyn June

Ph: 027 4978151

Grade: E/M

Transport: Senior member \$21-35

Senior non-member: \$26-40

Trip 3014

Snowcraft Course No. 1

23/24th July

This is one of the most popular trips we run each year and for good reason. It is aimed at introducing you to the alpine environment in which you will learn valuable skills to safely enjoy it.

The basics of Snowcraft will be taught on Saturday including how to use crampons and ice axes, self-arrest, how to walk on icy slopes, navigation tips, basic avalanche awareness, plus what to wear etc.

On Sunday the aim is to offer a couple of options of day walks in which to practice what you have learnt. Options may include the summit of Ruapehu or up to the Pinnacles lookout. This is very much weather dependent.

Given reasonable weather, by the end of the weekend you will understand the principles behind the rather complex concept of "Snowcraft". It takes a lot of practice and a genuine understanding of what is real and perceived danger when entering into the snow and ice heights such as Ruapehu. Our leaders have been doing this sort of thing for years and yet they never fail to be fascinated by the world of snow and ice.

The departure time will be early evening on Friday 22nd July. We will be based at our very comfortable and warm Lodge on Mt Ruapehu for the weekend. All meals are provided.

A full list of gear will be provided. Crampons and ice axes can be hired from the club. If you have any questions email the leaders or visit Mike in the Bivouac store. To participate in this trip you need to be a member of the club. Application details are on the club website

Leaders: Mike Peck

Ph: 021 369 256

Jacqui Dick

Ph: 021 1375201

Cost: Approximately \$200 – includes transport, food, and hut fees.

Registration: This needs to be done through the Waikato Tramping Club website. Spaces are limited so it is advisable to book in early. A deposit will be required to confirm your booking

Editorial

Our Annual General meeting is now over. A smaller turnout than is usual saw about 30 people in attendance which was great as it meant the tasty bikkies and cake supplied by Rizla's wife and daughter were able to be tasted by everyone.

Hope they continue to contribute for future meetings- fingers crossed. There was very little discussion about the reports which is probably a reflection of the very well-run organisation we have. Top marks to those who have steered us through the past 2 years and some difficult times organising events, only to have them cancelled. The one advantage for our existence is that those places we planned to visit will still be there for another day. Many thanks must go to the untiring efforts of the retiring-but-not-retired-or tired club captain Allan Wickens. His constant enthusiasm for getting out there has been awe-inspiring and sets a good example for the rest of us – get out there and do something, no matter how simple it seems. One can always fashion some sort of silk purse from that sow's ear and have fun doing it. No doubt he will be helping Les, the new captain, with moral and practical support but I'm sure he'll also enjoy just going tramping. I believe he had a rather sleepless night caring for everyone camped on the tops in the Ruahines ranges recently – such dedication for everyone's welfare at the time did not go unnoticed. I would like to thank all the scribes (conscripted or otherwise) for your contributions to the 'voice' of the club over the past couple of years. Without your stories and anecdotes to entertain the rest of us, who knows whether we would have sunk down the rabbit hole of doing nothing. Good stories are always inspiring.

Dianne June

Presidential Blog

The winter months are upon us again but there is much coming up for us to do. The trip planning for the tramping section was well attended and we have come up with many fun options including caving.

There is going to a variety of training from snowcraft to our standard to leadership and bush craft training options. There is even a Monday to Friday option of over the Kaimais. Hopefully there is something there that takes your interest. Also, the Ski team is having to keep a check on Ruapehu activity. It could be an exciting time to see what happens and could affect the trip at the beginning of June around the mountain. It has been especially warm for May so far. This is good for tramping but hopefully the season gets moving, and the snow appears for our avid skiers.

"All good things are wild and free." Have fun and be safe.

Judith Bogle

from the Ski Club...

With the start of the ski season approaching, we are doing the last of the pre-season maintenance over the coming weeks.

Winter rates start on 1 June with ski members paying \$35 and non- members \$60 per night.

This year ski members will get first priority on bookings, with non- member weekend bookings being confirmed the Sunday before the first night. Weekend

bookings are a minimum of 2 nights. They can be either Friday and Saturday or Saturday and Sunday.

Following health advice, masks are not currently required during your stay.

However, masks should be carried in the event of changes to health advice.

The ski committee is putting together the season programme with a mix of ski adventures, some slack (*Ed comment: should this read 'back'*) country travels and evening parties. Keep an eye on the website for updates.

Looking forward to a snowy rewarding season.

Stephen, Ski Team Leader

Mid-week Walks & Tramps

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

If you would like to be part of this communication, please download WhatsApp on your phone & text your request to Isla on 021 209 6539.

Here is a trip report from a recent outing....

Te Waihou Walkway - Blue Springs

The forecast was great and the chance to get outside and appreciate the weather was enticing so we packed a picnic and off we went.

It's just under an hour to the carpark at White's Road, having passed through Tirau and turned off on the road to Rotorua. An easy drive through stunning country. We weren't entirely surprised to see the number of cars already in the carpark and, after a quick hot drink, we set off. Almost immediately we were beside the fast flowing Waihou River and followed it almost entirely the whole way. The sound of the running water, the clear water and sunshine, an easy track, and lots of bird life and it was bliss. Very soon we came upon an elderly Kuia collecting watercress which was plentiful. We were surprised at the speed of the water flow over mostly shallow bottoms with the long green weed flowing like long hair blowing in the wind. So beautiful.



All photos for this report were taken by Val Jones

The track was very good. Mostly a clay type path with lots of options to walk on the grass. At one point we walked under mature Totara trees forming a shaded grove.



Totara walk

photo by Val Jones

About half way along we came to a junction and took the clockwise left route over a sturdy bridge and a short section of boardwalk. We were down beside the river and passed some very old fencing posts covered in moss. Quite possibly made of totara. Before long we joined back up with the main track.

Not long after passing the second toilet we came upon a lovely waterfall with a waterwheel. A farmer, Mr Addenbrooke, built accommodation beside the river and generated electricity and gained a water supply for the farm from here. We had passed the remains of what looked like a bridge and later read that Mr Addenbrooke and fellow deerstalkers set up a running boar across the river for target shooting. This no doubt provided a lot of interest as well as competition. Not much further on, and after just a few steps, the most spectacular sight came into view. The beginning/end of the Blue Springs. It was definitely a WOW moment. From now on, until the pumping station, we followed this crystal-clear water. I stopped often to admire and to take photos. Eventually we came to the stairs to climb to the highest point on the track, some 154m above sea level. The steps were short and sharp but we had no issues. Before long we were at the pump station where water is taken for bottling by Cocoa Cola. It is pumped to Putaruru for bottling. The sign says 70% of bottled NZ water comes from here. Our walk had been very sheltered and comfortably warm but we soon put our jackets on as

we ate our picnic at the open spaced picnic table. A cool breeze seemed to come in from nowhere.

There were several notice boards along the track. The one that sticks out is a message asking us all to act as kaitiaki- guardians of these sacred natural taonga springs. No swimming is allowed .



The water temperature is 11°C year-round. We expected to see a spring but never noticed anything remotely like one.

Another notice board stated that this precious water comes from the Mamaku Plateau and takes anywhere from 50 to 100 years to reach the Blue Spring. Water flows from the spring at a rate of 42m³/minute which could effectively fill a 6- lane swimming pool in just over 12 minutes. The reason for the blue colour , and visual clarity, is the high optical purity of the water. The sign says pure water is intrinsically blue in hue because it absorbs red light leaving only blue and some green light to be transmitted to the receivers' eye. Pure natural waters are blue-green in colour because they lack light absorbing particles that are removed during the long time the spring water spends in the underground aquifers.

Te Waihou. “The New Water”. has had a multifaceted focus for the people of this region since the very beginning. (I quote from the notice board). The river has its source as far up as Ngatira Marae, which marks the eastern boundary of the Raukawa ki Te Kaokaoroa O Patetere and the northern boundary of Ngati Raukawa. It was the main traveling route of King Te Wherowhero Tawhiao, the second Maori King of New Zealand. The river provided food and flax for many uses. maori history records that Kahupeka, a Tainui tupuna, set off with her son shortly after her husbands' death to wander the central North Island. She crossed the upper Waihou while travelling from Pirongia to Te Aroha, and again Te Aroha

to Whakamaru. In 1938 the river area was covered mostly in fern and ti tree which was eventually cleared. At the outset of WW2 defensive trenches were dug along the river in anticipation of invasion. However, these were filled in without ever being used. We certainly didn't see any evidence.

Our return journey kept the river on our right side all the way. It was just a comfortable hour back to our car. A lovely day out. Colin, naughtily, asked children on the walk if there was an ice cream shop at the springs. This cost him an ice cream in Tirau on our way home. 😊. Until next time, Val.

Trip Reports

Cycling the Queen Charlotte track

At the last minute, Michael Nightingale and I decided to cycle the Queen Charlotte track prior to The Great Taste Trail. We left Picton early in the morning by water taxi and stopped at Moutara Island bird sanctuary for an hour and enjoyed a walk to the top with plenty of birdlife evident. At Ships Cove we started cycling and quickly realised we were out of our depth as the track is very rough and difficult to manage for non-mb bikes and riders. However, we thoroughly enjoyed the great views, the beautiful weather and the challenge. Our first night was at Punga Lodge and there we spoke with experienced mb riders and they advised we take the road to Portage for the next day's section. We did this and enjoyed a very peaceful ride on the road (no traffic as the road is closed due to storm damage). From Portage we also cycled on the road for the first section and re-joined the track at Mistletoe saddle. From there it was a pleasant downhill ride to Anakiwa. From here we caught the water taxi back to Picton, but you can cycle this section if you wish. If you're an experienced mb rider it's a great track, otherwise a good tramp. Scribe: Margaret Robbins.

The Great Taste trail in Nelson area

After our efforts on the Queen Charlotte Track, we turned our attentions to the 200 km Great Taste trail, hopefully somewhat easier but still very necessary in our training regime for our forthcoming tramping adventures. Not sure why it's called 'The Taste Trail' as we didn't find anything to taste, no wine, cheese, olives or beer not even a mouthful of grit as we didn't even fall off our bikes. Never mind, as a ride it's quite spectacular from ocean to mountain streams. As we enjoyed mostly fine weather, only requiring a raincoat for 5 minutes we can't complain. We enjoyed 3 swims and some great accommodation, especially at Mapua where we had stunning views up and down the estuary. Highlights were being the first riders on a new section of the track (according to a local farmer who would have taken down the barriers on a brand-new bridge if required, but it wasn't necessary). The downhill run to the Wangapeka bridge we thought was great but the next day the Spooner tunnel and the downhill run after it were the highlights of the whole trip because it went on forever. Our advice would be to do this ride anti clockwise,

much, much easier, even on E Bikes. The riders were: Margaret R, and scribe Michael N.

Trip 2997

the Paparoa track

29 Mar-1 Apr

This trip was a long time coming as I booked 7 places the day the DoC bookings opened in June last year!! It was well worth the wait and if you're thinking about what to do next year this is a fantastic tramp.

We started from Punakaiki Beach campground catching their shuttle at 8am for the drive south to Blackball and up the windy road to Smoke-ho carpark.

Beginning on the historic Croesus Track, we passed remnants of the area's gold mining history and ascended through beech and podocarp forest to reach Ces Clark Hut. It has a big deck with fantastic views out over the Grey River valley and we were treated to a very colourful sunset and sunrise as well. A 10 km and 5-hour walk

Leaving Ces Clark Hut we passed through alpine scrub and tussock and made the short uphill climb to the top of Croesus Knob. Wow, the views are spectacular. We even thought we could hear the waves crashing onto the beach at Barrytown. We reached Moonlight Tops Hut in about 4 hours (10kms). It's a hut with an amazing outlook in all directions. The escarpment is magnificent and you can even see the next hut which seems a long way away and it is. We spent 2 nights at Moonlight in case we had bad weather but we didn't. On our rest day we went for walks in various directions and Keith tried to find the start to the Pike 29 Memorial track which is still not open. He got the fright of his life when a blast went off very close by!! We heard it loud and clear and saw the plume rising above the ridge.

A big day from Moonlight Tops Hut to Pororari Hut, 19 kms and 7 hours.. Open tops give way to alpine forest stunted by the harsh environment and then the track winds along the top of the escarpment, with steep cliffs and stunning views. About half-way, we descended from the escarpment through ancient podocarp forest and then followed the ridge to Pororari Hut. Another lovely hut and the only rain was that evening for an hour or so. There was also an earthquake in the middle of the night!!

Last day we left early and descended into the upper Pororari River valley. It joins an old track built to establish settlement in the upper valley and sidles along a spectacular gorge through beech forest interspersed with northern rātā. After a rest stop at the junction with the historic Inland Pack Track, we followed the Pororari River through the lower gorge admiring the lush rainforest and glades of nīkau palms. 16 kms and 5 hours.

We didn't experience any problems sharing the track with mountain bikers and found most of them ride the track in 1 - 2 days. One couple we met at Moonlight Tops Hut were running it in one day, 55kms, wow!!

We thoroughly enjoyed this great walk helped of course by fine weather and highly recommend it to others (book early to avoid disappointment).

Who went: Keith and Margaret R (scribe), Jim S and Maureen F, Michael N, Ian F and Merlyn W.

Trip 2998

Tuahu track

3 Apr

On a fine Sunday morning 6 keen trampers checked out the loop up to Killarney Lakes, then up to the North South Track. From here we headed north along the North South Track to the junction with the Tuahu Track, which the eventual route back to the car park.

The trip started from the Tuahu track car park off Wairakau Rd. This area was familiar with me (Trip Leader) as back in my orienteering days, this area was mapped at 1:10000 scale (very detailed). After a reasonably steady climb we came to an old hut, called The Hut, which was in good condition. Probably used by hunters.

We continued on our way circling the Killarney Lakes – three small lakes. Unfortunately, the vegetation around the Lakes prevented good views. We continued heading in an eastward direction towards the Motutapere Hut just off the North South Track. To reach the North South Track we had a comfortable steep climb up a ridge marked by various coloured ribbons. The unofficial track was easily found. At Motutapere Hut we stopped for a short break before continuing north along the North South Track. This section to the Tuahu Track junction was slow going as quite undulating and includes a ladder section which we all managed OK.

At the junction with the Tuahu Track, we stopped for another break before the final trip back to the car park. This final section is mainly downhill – a bit of a steeper section once you hit the pines. Can't remember how long we took; I think it was around 6 to 7hrs.

Participants were: Les W (Leader & scribe), Dale H, Lynley M, Lynette M, David R and Cathy D..

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*From the committee table:*

**New members:** Dawn Angove, Alton Melville

**Resignations:** Angela Stevens, Aron Kwok

**Membership:** We have 180 tramping members this month.

**Note that subscriptions are now overdue.**

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Snippets from here and there...

➤ Kaimai Backcountry News, April (report from Kaimai Ridgeway Trust). From July 1st, Te Rereatukahia Hut will change from a Standard Hut to a Serviced Hut and advance booking, via the DoC website, will be required.

A significant portion of the hut fees will be available for KRT's ongoing maintenance of the hut, including the provision of firewood. Soon we will be installing a second water tank to expand the water capacity for the hut. Kaimai track maintenance work by tramping clubs and KRT has continued through the summer and autumn months, including the following:

North South Track north from Motutapere Hut – Auckland TC
Pylon Peak Track – Cambridge TC
NS Track – Hurunui Hut to North Henderson – Auckland TC
Aongatete Long Loop – Kaimai Ramblers
Leyland O’Brien – NS track past Cookhouse Clearing and towards The Blade –
KRT and Waikato TC

NS Track south from the Tuahu Saddle – Hikoi Tramping Group
Mt Karangahake area – Auckland Baptist TC

NS Track – Aongatete Saddle area – North Shore TC

NS Track – Poupou Stream to Kauritatahi Stream – Auckland TC

Te Whare Okioki Hut continues to be a busy place, especially at weekends, providing a great place to stay, even on cold nights. Earlier this year Rob tidied up the clearing, after the vegetation there had a growth spurt through spring and summer. Do remember that this hut needs to be booked in advance, but normally there are bunks available on nights other than Saturday or other holiday weekends. A significant portion of the hut fees are received by KRT for funding our Kaimai hut and track maintenance work, so the hut fees are definitely put to good use

➤ **Kokako recovery success.** A survey of North Island kōkako following an aerial 1080 predator control operation on the Mamaku Plateau has revealed 71 pairs – up from 44 pairs in 2018. This is in the Mokaihaha Ecological Area, an area of approximately 2000 ha of unlogged native forest. We will be visiting this forest on our 26th June Sunday trip.

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

➤ **Great Walks bookings.** Hut bookings on the Milford Track sold out in 3 minutes, setting a new record for DoC. Accommodation bookings for the 2022/23 Great Walks season went on sale on Tuesday 3 May. At that time there were 6000 customers logged on, ready to snap up the 7480 spaces. Bookings for the Routeburn Track were not in as high a demand but within an hour, the peak months of February, March and April were sold out. This will be the first year since the 2019/20 season that international visitors will be able to experience the Great Walks. Still, bookings data showed 80% of bunk space was secured by Kiwis, followed by Australians at 10% and Americans at 5%. The remaining 5% was taken up by a mix of overseas customers.

➤ **Outdoor visitor trends over summer from DoC survey.** A lot of people stayed at campsites on the Coromandel at Waikawau Bay, Port Jackson and Stony Bay where occupancy rates ranged 19% to 59%, with high peaks at or near full capacity during Christmas/New Year.

The Pinnacles Hut (Coromandel) was the most visited non-Great Walk hut in New Zealand this summer, with 2,870 people staying overnight. The serviced 80-bunk hut had an occupancy rate of 61% across summer and 94% on weekends. Both

Pinnacles Hut and Pahautea Hut (Waikato) were popular on weekends, especially with Aucklanders.

Like many regions of New Zealand, visitor activity in Central North Island decreased. Tongariro Alpine Crossing visitor activity dropped 29% reflecting the lack of international tourists. At Tama Lakes, visitor activity dropped by 18%. There was less demand for Great Walks but they were still popular, despite no international visitors. Around 40,000 people stayed at Great Walk huts and campsites, down 17% compared to this time last year. This reflects the impacts of COVID-19, the partial closure of Lake Waikaremoana and track damage on the Heaphy. There has been a huge uptake of New Zealanders on Great Walks when compared to 2019/20, up 53%. Milford Track huts were at full capacity over summer, while the Abel Tasman and Routeburn huts were close to full capacity. Abel Tasman Coast Track continues to be the busiest Great Walk over summer, with more than double the visitors of any other Great Walk.

➤ **Public feedback is being sought on proposed changes** to improve management planning and concession processes in conservation legislation. Management strategies and plans are key tools which help manage natural and historic resources by providing guidance on what can and cannot be done in our national parks and conservation areas, says Conservation Minister Kiri Allan. “The way we view and use conservation land is constantly evolving, but a significant proportion of the almost 40 conservation management strategies and plans, and national park management plans are overdue to be reviewed and no longer reflect what local communities want, or the latest environmental science. That has led to frustration across the board. Part of that tension is because guidance or limits on specific activities, like mountain biking or aircraft landings, cannot be easily updated to reflect changes in how people want to connect with and use conservation land and waters.” For more information check out the DoC website.

➤ Flora, fauna, and communities set to flourish through **Jobs for Nature**. An initiative that has provided tourism workers with alternative employment into the lead up to New Zealand’s borders reopening is being extended to ensure staff are retained, Conservation Minister Kiri Allan says. It is one of two projects in the Waikato-Maniapoto to receive funding through the Government’s Jobs for Nature programme, and will mean job certainty for 39 locals. Today’s announcements build on an existing \$12.3 million Jobs for Nature investment the Government has made into the Waikato and Maniapoto districts. There are 14 Jobs for Nature projects in Waikato, Maniapoto and Coromandel set to employ 202 people in a range of conservation work which will see them upskilled and focus on protection of natural areas, biodiversity and a broad range predator control. The projects deliver protection of native species including whio and kauri and empower mana whenua to undertake work on ancestral land. Revegetation and protection of endemic species are key features of the projects.

“The Apakura Ruranga project – the Maungatautari to Pirongia Ecological Corridor – will see work commence to rejoin two mountains, both of which have significant biodiversity value and are rich with native flora and fauna,” Minister Allan said. The project is a collaboration involving iwi, central and local government agencies, local communities, and volunteers from across the Waikato. It will focus on the Mangapiko Stream that runs east-west between Pirongia and Maungatautari. Improving areas along the stream will create a natural ‘stepping stone’ for native birds and other fauna travelling between the two mountains. DoC’s three year investment is tagged for Matakitaki Pā, a culturally significant site. Tourism Holdings Limited is a key employer in Maniapoto, through its Discover Waitomo operations offering blackwater rafting and glowworm cave experiences. The company’s staff have been redeployed into tasks and work programmes supporting species protection and maintaining DoC areas in Maniapoto, including locations near where the company runs its operations, since last year. The investment extends the project by a further 12 months, ensuring the company can retain 39 staff, including three new team members, who live and work in the community. Pest control work will ensure native species can flourish, while revegetation and fencing work at several sites will benefit waterways and the species within them. Projects announced recently were

Tourism Holdings Limited will be funded \$650,000 for a 12-month extension of its existing Jobs for Nature project. The team will undertake track maintenance and ecosystem restoration planting at several sites in the Waitomo District, including popular reserves Ruakuri, Marokopa Falls and Mangapohue Natural Bridge Walk. The Maungatautari to Pirongia Ecological Corridor Project will receive \$250,000 in funding over three years for planting and protecting ecological “stepping stones” at the Matakitaki Pā. The stream and surrounding area are a vital corridor for native bird populations at Maungatautari and Pirongia, and planting work will improve and extend suitable habitat. The project will employ up to 15 people.

➤ Wetlands expert and advocate **Dr Beverley Clarkson** was recently presented with New Zealand’s most prestigious conservation award, the *Loder Cup* by Minister of Conservation Kiri Allan. Dr Clarkson is a plant ecologist based at Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research in Hamilton. She is nationally renowned for her knowledge and championing of the value of New Zealand’s wetlands, and has written or co-authored dozens of research papers, guides and handbooks on wetland care and restoration. Dr Clarkson encapsulated the objective of the Loder Cup and, without a doubt, has made a tangible difference to the health of our wetlands. We thank Beverley for her integrity and passion” Kiri Allan said. The Loder Cup was first donated in 1926 to encourage and honour New Zealanders who work to investigate, promote, retain and cherish our indigenous flora – an ethos resonating throughout Dr Clarkson’s life and work. Since 1995, Dr Clarkson has successfully obtained government funding for and led the national terrestrial wetland research programme. As a founding trustee of the National Wetland Trust,

she continues to connect science with the public through symposia, field days, restoration projects, events, articles, policy input, and advice. Dr Clarkson's investigations into the ecology and functioning of terrestrial freshwater wetlands, and other rare and threatened ecosystems, has greatly assisted those working to improve the state of New Zealand's wetlands. Dr Clarkson was nominated by both the University of Waikato and the Waikato Conservation Board, with supporting letters from Northland Regional Council, Hawke's Bay Regional Council, National Wetland Trust, Ministry for the Environment, and Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research.

➤ The opening of the 2022–23 Great Walks booking season next week heralds **30 years of epic adventures** in our backyard throughout the country, says Minister of Conservation Kiri Allan. The Great Walks were created in 1992, to manage iconic tracks that were becoming overwhelmed with walkers camping anywhere near the track. The protections put in place on Great Walks include limiting numbers through a booking service for a set amount of hut and campsite spaces, limits on concessionaire activities and the introduction of by-laws that require people to stay in huts and designated campsites. Efforts were also increased to protect and restore the biodiversity along these walks in partnership with mana whenua – iwi, hapū and whānau, community groups and businesses, including a now 10-year partnership with Air New Zealand which invests in six large Great Walks biodiversity projects. “Through these conservation efforts we've seen huge gains such as takahē restored to the Heaphy Track and 43,000 hectares of sustained predator control alongside six of the walks,” Kiri Allan said.

➤ An investment of \$1.56 million from the Jobs for Nature fund will kickstart a project to reinstate mauri across coastal and wetland landscapes east and south of the **Remutaka ranges**. The newly announced Hem of Remutaka restoration project is focused on the coastal environment from Eastbourne to Turakirae, and is led by Taranaki Whānui ki te Upoko o te Ika in partnership with Conservation Volunteers New Zealand, DoC, and Greater Wellington Regional Council. The funding will include the planting of over 7,000 riparian and coastal plants, weed and pest control over 4,000ha, the maintenance of 30km of tracks, as well as community engagement. This mahi will support the creation of 19.5 FTE over three years to carry out conservation and engagement work, says Minister of Conservation Kiri Allan. The Hem of Remutaka project will help Taranaki Whānui increase their presence and ability to act as kaitiaki in their whenua, using mātauranga principles to protect biodiversity and freshwater health. Ideally, uri/descendants of Taranaki Whānui and locals from the Wainuiomata and the Te Awa Kairangi areas, who have been hit hard by COVID, are employed by this mahi. Conservation Volunteers New Zealand will manage staff and support project delivery, building capability and practical skills, while Taranaki Whānui will lead thinking and implementation of a mātauranga-based approach to kaitiakitanga. Work like maintaining 30 km of tracks, information boards telling

local stories, and engagement with the public to ensure compliance with fishing regulations, will help forge and strengthen people's connection with the land.

➤ Efforts to **rescue a kiwi egg** living life on the edge near roadworks have proven successful and Eastern Bay of Plenty locals couldn't be happier. Now named Tumai, the chick was found as an egg in a nest perilously close to where roadworks machinery was operating near Kohi point in Whakatāne in April. The egg was taken to Rotorua's Rainbow Springs National Kiwi Hatchery where it was incubated, and the chick was raised. Tumai was welcomed back to Whakatāne in April with Te Runanga o Ngāti Awa and Whakatane Kiwi Trust both being over the moon about the juvenile eastern brown kiwi's return. Whakatane Kiwi Trust kiwi handler, Sue Laurent says kiwi are not restricted to native forest and can use a wide range of diverse places to nest and breed. "They can be found in native forest, dunes, pine forests – or in Tumai's case, a roadside verge". Kaumātua Charlie Bluett and Mac Kingi of Ngāti Hokopū hapū – Ngāti Awa led the karakia with the support of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa and kaimahi from Korehāhā Whakahau – a Ngāti Awa-led pest eradication project. Tūmai originates from the name Rangitūmai – who was the son of Tamaruarangi a principal chief of the area who occupied a pā of historical significance to Ngāti Awa nearby on the eastern side of Ōtarawairere. Thanks to captive rearing at Rainbow Springs, Tumai reached the 'stoat proof' weight of 1000 g at which young kiwi can be safely returned to the wild or transferred to a new site to establish a new population. With help from the Whakatane Kiwi Trust, local iwi and the community, kiwi in the Whakatane district are continuing to prosper. Kiwi calls can be heard all around town, and those who live adjacent to reserves may even have kiwi forage in their garden. There is no other urban centre in the country that has kiwi in such proximity. Whakatane's thriving Kiwi population has led it to be known as the 'Kiwi Capital of the World' and Whakatane Kiwi Trust estimates there's 350 Kiwi in the reserves surrounding the township.

➤ A Kahurangi National Park who has proved a steadfast survivor, becoming one of the longest-lived of her species despite losing part of a wing and not being able to fly.



Whio/blue duck are thought to live to about 12 years but Tūmanako has lived to more than 14 years of age in the wilds of the Wangapeka River catchment. The plucky duck was one of seven female whio released on the South Branch of the Wangapeka River in March 2008.

➤

They had been taken as eggs from wild pairs in Kahurangi National Park and reared at the Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust facilities in Christchurch to boost the Wangapeka-Fyfe Whio Security Site population. DoC science technicians monitoring whio in the park first discovered Tūmanako was missing her left wing below the “elbow” joint about five years ago. It’s not known how the wing was severed but the wound had healed over. “We saw Tumanako recently with her mate and were impressed she made it to 14 years, possibly setting a new age record for whio,” said Jason Malham. “Life would be tougher with the lower part of her wing missing as it would impede her movement. She wouldn’t be able to fly and whio also use their wings for power when hopping from boulder to boulder in the river. She also lives in a rugged stretch of river with a steep gradient and numerous boulders as big as tables and cars.” Tūmanako is only known to have bred in 2012 but unfortunately the eggs were lost through predation, possibly by a weka. The Wangapeka-Fyfe Whio Security Site was started in 2003 to provide a protected area to grow and secure a whio population. It now covers 85 kilometres of trapped waterway in the Wangapeka, Fyfe, Rolling and upper Karamea rivers. A population count found 79 pairs in the site last year, surpassing the target of 50 pairs. This was achieved through 18 years of predator control and management, with the support of Genesis Energy through its Whio Forever partnership with DOC, the Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust, and contractors and community volunteers who do the hard yards to help maintain stoat traps to protect the whio.

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

➤ **Stewardship land.** These areas of public conservation do not have reserve status. Their future as reserves or as land for disposal/sale is being decided by government. There are pockets of stewardship land on the margins of the Kaimai Mamaku Forest Park and at Kaniwhaniwha, Whareorino (Leitch's Clearing) and Hapuakohe for example. You can see where these areas are on a FMC sponsored online

map <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=fb48568bd1624551be2a40c37a9b456d>

➤ Recreation and conservation in the Lindis are the winners in the Dunstan Downs Crown pastoral lease’s tenure review, with 99% of the property to become public conservation land. The tenure review agreement for the 12,351.4 hectare property, which spans Canterbury and Otago, was announced recently by LINZ. Dunstan Downs stretches from the Ahuriri River in the north to Lindis Pass in the west, and to Mt St Bathans in the south. Approximately 80% of the area is sparsely vegetated or rocky high country with little to no value for grazing, but the land is of high landscape and ecological importance and has strong conservation and recreation values.

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*That the less time I have to work with, the more things I get done.*



Hauhangaroa Hut campsite  
photo by Cathy Dickson



On our recent trip to Waihaha Hut we met a young hunter who was setting up a new business making socks to suit the NZ environment. We inspected his product that he had been wearing for some hours and noted there was no smell either. We invited him to place the following small **advertisement** in the bulletin. His website is [sockscience.co.nz](http://sockscience.co.nz) .

**SockScience** is proudly made here in New Zealand from the finest Merino wool. tried and tested by kiwis for kiwis, we have developed a product uniquely tailored to the thrashing only our backyard can provide. Built to endure, designed to perform and priced to promote a lifestyle uniquely kiwi. SockScience, there with you every step of the way."





Photos from the recent Kaweka trip by Jacqui Dick



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