



THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

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

August 2020



Practising front pointing photo by Edric Verbeek

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



Photo by Anne Wecking

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Free to members

Member of: Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand
Inc

Ruapehu Mountain Clubs Association

BULLETIN No 818

August 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

Peter Lye

Mike Nightingale

8562394

Tramping Subcommittee

Tramping email: waikatotrampingclub@gmail.com

Chairperson: John McArthur mcArthur@outlook.co.nz 021 2889641

Treasurer: Guy Domett treasurer@wtc.org.nz 027 2483008

Secretary: Judith Bogle 027 3810283

Club Captain: Allan Wickens 027 9509546

Membership: Lois Rowell 027 2881148

Web & Facebook: Dianne Ngapo 021 1192611

Transport: Ashley Hoskin 027 4909545

Social convenor: Jacqui Dick 021 2608149

Sub-committee: Dave White 027 4534550

Selwyn June 8433066

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 021 246 3500

Members: Steve Phillips 021 1031436

Russell King 027 4866953

Stacey Thompson

Mary Reed 021 1185107

Bulletin: Lesley Kuggeleijn 027 4942414

Editor & Club Librarian: Dianne June djune@xtra.co.nz 8433066

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

Club night, Wednesday, 2nd September.

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

2985	16 Aug	E	Mangakawa loop	Lois Rowell
2896	22/23 Aug	F	Winter tramp	John McArthur
2897	30 Aug	E/M	Ed Hillary Hope reserve	John Wilson
	2 Sept		CLUB NIGHT	Jacqui Dick
2898	5/6 Sept	E/M	Mts. Tauhara & Pihanga	Allan Wickens
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 & Rangiwhia huts	Merlyn Warren
2905	24-26 Oct	M	Koranga river	Steve Cranefield
	4 Nov		Photo competition	Jacqui Dick
2910	28/29 Nov	M	Mt. Tama	John Wilson

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 2895

Mangakawa

16 Aug

It takes about 45 minutes from Hamilton via Scotsman's Valley and Kiwitahi. The track is located on Paratu Rd, Walton. There are no toilets at the carpark. From the car park, the loop track leads a short distance into the bush before splitting in two directions. The track to the right is shorter but does involve a

steady climb to the summit. The last ten to fifteen minutes is quite steep. Tramping time in this direction takes between one hour and one hour fifteen. The track to the left is gentler but takes around two hours to the summit or one and a half hours down from the summit. There is a look out platform at the top with 360° views. However, the trees are starting to block these lovely views. Lunch will be at the summit where there are a couple of seats just below the viewing platform. The entire track is through bush. There are not a lot of roots to negotiate but may be a bit soft due to rain. Unlikely to get boots wet.

Leader: Lois Rowell **Ph:** 0272881148 **Grade:** E
Transport: Senior member \$20-30 Senior Non-member \$25-35

Trip 2896 **Winter Tramp** **22/23 Aug**

We will drive down Friday night and stay at the YHA in National Park. On Saturday morning we will get dropped off at Mangatepopo and head up onto the Tongariro crossing turning off to head for Oturere Hut for the night. Walk out on the Sunday to Whakapapa village possibly via Waihohonu, the Ohinepango springs, and Tama lakes.

Leader: John McArthur **Ph:** 021 2889641 **Grade:** M/F
Email: *mcarthur@outlook.co.nz*
Transport: Senior member \$60-90 Senior Non-member \$65-95
Accommodation: tba

Trip 2897 **Ed Hillary Hope Reserve** **27 Sept**

This Native Forest Restoration Trust reserve lies on the western side of the Kapamahunga Range. There is a mix of native forest and farmland regenerating back to forest with some planting help. At this stage the plan is to start from the Old Mountain Road and tramp up through the reserve and over to the Raglan Road. Crossing the road, we will climb up, re-cross the road at the summit and drop back down to our starting point. At different times we should get views of Karioi and Raglan Harbour to the west and Pirongia to the south.

Leader: John Wilson **Ph:** 021 168 2082 **Grade:** M
Email: *jnjwilnz@gmail.com*
Transport: Senior members \$25-35 Senior non-members: \$30-35

Trip 2898 **Taupo & Turangi walks** **5/6 Sept**

This is another of our "theme" weekends where we do as many walks as we can fit in over a regular or long weekend. Please **book in early** as we need to book the accommodation as soon as possible. On Saturday morning we will drive to Turangi and do the first of 3 peaks. Mount Tihia (1182 metres) involves a climb of some 544 metres and takes about 4 hours return. Although this tramp is described as easy-medium, it does involve some walking through scrubby bush. For the fitter people in the group, there is an option of climbing Mount Pihanga (1325 metres) with a 650-metre height gain. Again, there is some bush-bashing involved. For those who want to do something less strenuous in the

afternoon there are easier walks in the area. We will stay the night in Turangi at the Riverstone backpackers where multiple rooms will be booked, with a visit to the hot pools. We have sufficient beds booked for a vanload. On Sunday, there will be an easier day when we travel to Taupo and climb Mount Tauhara (1088 metres / 3 hours) on a formed track. By mid-afternoon we will be heading back to Hamilton.

Leader: Allan Wickens

Ph: 0279509546

Grade: E/M & M

Email: *allanwickens@hotmail.com*

Accommodation: Approx \$40/person

Transport: Senior member \$60-90

Senior Non-member \$65-95

Trip 2899

Pureora baiting

12/13 Sept

This is an opportunity to give back to conservation by helping the Pirongia Restoration Society with the bait station filling 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. 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 \$60-90

Senior Non-member \$65-95

Trip 2901

Otawa 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 \$25-35

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 hour Nga TapuwaheToi ("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 \$ tba

Senior non-members: \$ tba

Accommodation: 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 \$ tba Senior non-members: \$ tba

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 \$ tba Senior Non-member \$ tba

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: Steve Cranefield **Ph:** 0274 368 216 **Grade:** M

Transport: Senior members \$ tbs Senior non-members: \$ tba

Wanted: some tramping companions.

I am looking at having a weeks' holiday between 5 Sep and 16 Sep, no firm dates yet. Looking at doing some tramps on Mt Egmont area. Anyone interested in joining me can contact Les at 027 8644937 or warrenlb2017@outlook.com

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### *Editorial*

By now we are probably all back into our past routines – be they good or bad ones. If they were good, then may the exercise programme continue to be of benefit. If they are bad ones, go tramping so you can't partake in them! For those of you whose employment has been lost or is in jeopardy, you have my commiserations and a recommendation that you go tramping to use the time as a networking opportunity. You never know who you'll meet nor when a door could open for you. If you are an employer maybe you could put the word around if you are looking for staff – we all know that trampers are a nice reliable bunch as we don't get lost, look out for each other, turn up on time and regularly etc.

I am pleased to see a few new names appearing as trip leaders on the programme. Please support them as they learn the 'ropes' and endeavour to look after to you in the field.

The committee has decided to remove personal email addresses from the first page. The booking email remains there, as does the treasurers' and the club captains' personal one. If you wish to contact the tramping president you can use [admin@wtc.org.nz](mailto:admin@wtc.org.nz).

Humble apologies for the glitches in last months' edition – I forgot to make the pictures lighter (and therefore easier to interpret) for the hard copy version, and there were a few outdated bits of information. I'm sure I'm back into the swing of things now but feel free to let me know if I have missed something.

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Presidents' Blog

Reading the trip reports on mountain adventures in the South Island over summer not only makes you envious but also gives you the sense of joy felt by those looking upwards to mountain passes they have to get over and down into those spectacular valleys. I did see mention of 10hour days on the track, but no complaints. There were challenges and funny moments (think Doug chasing kea). Inspiring stories.

Our trip programme post-lockdown has been busy and well patronised. Ruapehu has thrown up some lovely weather even if the snow hasn't been that deep for the skiers. Trip planning is underway for the later part of the year and for next summer down south, so go along to planning sessions with your ideas for great trips.

I'm pleased that the club is purchasing a new and better projector for club nights. I was responsible for selecting the last one and it turned out to be inadequate to

display the detail and colour range in the high-quality images supplied by speakers and club members. Thanks to Graham Haines for his advice on what to buy, to Allan Wickens for pushing the purchase along and to Dave White for 'sealing the deal'.

Jacqui Dick has had a fine start as social convenor. Note that she has asked for someone to organise the photo competition and for a roster of people to MC at club nights. A good chance to spread the workload around and practice public speaking in front of friendly people!

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

Bookings can be made from the ski club web site, [www.waikatoskiclub.co.nz](http://www.waikatoskiclub.co.nz). August is traditionally our happiest snow making month and it feels like we are due for some after another pretty miserly July. For the first time in my memory it produced a snow-free snowcraft. It was great to see so many people getting up to the Hut for this event, congratulations to those involved. As for summit-bound trips and adventures, the modest snowfall has ensured a nice crunchy base over the scoria and kept the avalanche risk low for an almost unprecedented 2 weeks. Our online booking system is now running and you can book and pay for your stay via self-service. We have good availability across weekends and a number of the weekdays at present - but this is likely to change for August as weather patterns are established. As we are not appointing a custodian we are continuing to manage the weekends with Lodge Hosts. Many of whom you will know as more experienced club members, with a history of Hut use over the years. This time of year we like to do some spontaneous social activities and these are promoted via our facebook page and email list. You can sign up for email when you visit the ski club website - just search for 'waikato ski club' to find us. A reminder that we are on winter rates - but if you want to enjoy a few weekend or even weeknight stays you are welcome to become a combined member which gives you the same membership options and rates as a ski club member. That means your stay costs \$35 /night instead of \$60. After a couple of weekends where Saturday / Sunday parking has required booking it's clear this works reasonably efficiently on arrival at the mountain. Fridays are largely unchanged. Chains or 4WD are likely to be required as the winter develops. Shuttles are running from National Park if you need transport or the car parking is full. We would love to see you at The Hut this winter so jump online and find some dates to come up.

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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 2889

Ruapehu Traverse

11/12 July



Group
David Totman
(leader),
Allan Wickens
(Driver),
Mike Peck, Jo
Walker,
Fiona Glass,
Rupert Craggs,
Steve
Cranefield,
Paul Quinn and
John
McArthur.

From this.....

Photo by Allan Wickens

Pleasingly, this somewhat ambitious winter trip went as planned with the weather mostly proving obliging resulting in a very satisfying weekend on Mt



After spending Friday night at the Waikato hut/ lodge at Whakapapa, five of the group of eight, David Totman, Mike Peck, Jo Walker, Steve Cranefield and Rupert Craggs, set off at about 8.30am on an invitingly fine Saturday morning. Allan Wickens, who kindly and willingly drove for the party, and John McArthur, Fiona Glass and Paul Quinn stayed on at the Waikato lodge to do day walks.

Upon reaching the West Ridge Shelter (alt 2035m) Jo Walker turned back as an existing leg muscle injury was bothering her. Thankfully, she later texted her safe return to the Lodge.

After ascending the Whakapapa Glacier to The Col (alt 2610m) and across the summit crater next to Crater lake in rising westerly winds at about 11.30am, the remaining group of four quickly descended through the soft wind driven snow on the Whangaehu Glacier. A steep sidle up a south facing snow slope got the group out of the gully below the glacier to the Alpine Hut (alt2060m) for a late lunch break.



The route down from the Hut proved slow and circuitous over and around rock drop-offs and soft snow filled gullies before finally reaching the final tail slopes of the Tukino ski field (alt 1700m).

We reached the welcome warmth of our Tukino Lodge, Saturday night's accommodation, at about 4pm. The group shared the hut with a large festive young group doing weekend avalanche training. We were decidedly hungry by At the round-the-mountain track we headed north on the track. After crossing the Whangaehu River we left the path, to continue cross-terrain in a more north westerly direction. Apart from some soft snow filled gullies to cross, most of the walking was easy across lightly snow-covered scoria rises and flats before finally picking up the round-the-mountain about 2km east of the lower Tama Lake. dinner time and really tucked into the sumptuous roast chicken and potato dinner provided by the lodge staff. Sitting in the lounge we played many rounds of 500 under the large picture window looking out and up at the eastern face of Ruapehu. An early rise on Sunday morning followed by a quick breakfast looking at the early light on Ruapehu turn from pink to orange as the sun rose heralded another thankfully sunny start. After thankyou's and goodbyes to the Tukino Lodge staff, we set off again at about 8.30am with a stiff westerly wind at our backs following the 4x4 access road.



It was at this point that we caught up with the rain-plagued western side of the mountain.

After a short lunch-time break, we resumed the final slog back towards Whakapapa, facing into the rain filled cold westerly. It was a very grateful meeting with beaming Allan outside the Chateau Tongariro at 4pm before a quick hot drink in the café and the start of the long drive back to Hamilton. Mike Peck measured the second day's return walk at 22.2km and many hundreds of metres of ascent or descent.

Sincere thanks to Allan and the group for making this trip happen and to the weather gods for giving us passage over and around much of the mountain in sunshine.



Photo by Allan Wickens

..... to this

I am also pleased that the group that remained at the Whakapapa Lodge enjoyed a good day walk up to the crater on the Saturday before being confounded by Sunday's weather. Steve Cranefield produced a very professional and visually stunning video clip of the trip recorded on his GoPro. Scribe: David Totman

Trip 2890

Karamu walkway

12 Jul

A full van load and car left at 8.00am to head to the Four Brothers Scenic Reserve car park where a few raindrops started to fall. However, it stopped quickly and our group made our way up a 15min climb through bush to open farmland and fabulous views. Lots of photographs were taken, & we were all surprised how far we could see across the whole of the Waikato including low cloud and green pastures. We made our way past the new Hillary Hope Reserve & continued walking on farmland scattered with sheep. We stopped to have our morning tea on the top of a hillside looking over to the Te Uku Wind turbines. The walk is relatively easy with a few hill climbs but everyone was happy to be out in nature again - even poor Ray who took a tumble & sprained his ankle. There were lots of limestone outcrops & we stopped for an early lunch underneath a huge outcrop. There were lots of places to sit on the rocks & the sun came out which was lovely. Trip leader Jacqui had done it again with the weather behaving itself for most of the day! We then met up with van driver Amanda and Ron who had walked in from the Limeworks Loop Road pick up point. This was the start of the muddy section with a few of us slipping and sliding on the wet ground. We had a big uphill & a steep downhill which then dropped down into bush. The remainder of the walk was on flattish farmland and tracks & we finished at an earlier time than expected. Everyone enjoyed Jacqui's amazing baking - thanks for the delicious treats!! We arrived back in Hamilton around 2.00pm, Thanks to

our driver Amanda and trip leader Jacqui - we all had a great day out with awesome views of the Waikato. Jacqui & Ron D, Chris & John D, Kathy T, Steve D, Anita S, Ray H, Amanda C, Laurie V, Barb C, Noeleen C, Anne-Marie R, Marion F, Jeanette B, and Rudi made up our large group! Scribe Nette

Trip 2891

Waitawheta Hut

19 Jul



The day started overcast & cool. 9 hardy souls braved the weather conditions to take part in the tramp. As we drew closer to our destination, some members thought it might be a good idea to abandon the tramp & head to the nearest cafe as the rain clouds threatened to take over.

After initially missing the turn off & ending up in Waihi, we reached our destination, piled out of the van and adorned our raincoats. The walk started out over farmland before entering bush and it wasn't long before we were walking alongside the Waitawheta River. The river had benefited from the past week's rain so was noisy and put on a good display of water tumbling

over rocks. We walked at a good steady pace as Judith thought that the trip may take 7 hours to complete and was anxious that we didn't dawdle. Along the way, we encountered remnants of the logging activity that took part in this area between 1898 to 1928..



The track followed the old tramway track that was used by horses pulling bogies to carry out logs from this area.

There were remnants of the tramway in parts and the track itself was uneven due to the stones that had been laid as a foundation for the tramway tracks. We crossed 4 or 5 swing bridges along the track and walked alongside the river for most of the way. We marvelled at the size of some of the boulders in the and

wondered where did they come from & further marvelled at the power of the force of water to get them there. The bush was scenic but was lacking in birdsong. With the last 2 km's to go, the track came to a point where we could cross the river in times when the river level was lower. At this point, we took the detour loop to the Waitawheta Hut. Before reaching the hut, we crossed another bridge that over looked the toilet bowl waterfall. This waterfall was spectacular to watch and it's easy to see why it is called the toilet bowl waterfall..



This waterfall was spectacular to watch and it's easy to see why it is called the toilet bowl waterfall. Just a short distance from the waterfall, there is the remnant of the old logging mill. The mill itself has been renovated complete with a large log & saw blade in place to give you an idea of how it worked. We reached the Waitawheta Hut around midday. Some of the group had their lunch inside the hut. It looked well equipped & it was in a nice setting. There are a number of walks that can be done from the campsite. Once we had eaten & rested, we commenced the walk back to the van in sunshine and completed the walk in 6 & 1/4 hours. The walk to the hut & back is 19 km's in total. The walk is easy going with the track being mostly flat but the uneven surface of the track proved uncomfortable after 6 hours of walking on it. Overall, a great walk & I enjoyed it. Thank you to my fellow trampers for your company & thanks to Judith our team leader & Allan Wickens for driving the van. Group members were: Kathy, Lisa, Amanda, Margaret, Ross, John & Steve. Scribe and photographer: Margaret Cameron



Part 1. As Snowcraft 1 was a totally snow free weekend our leaders agreed we needed to learn some practical skills before embarking on a trip to the summit of Ruapehu, so the Tongariro Circuit was chosen. This proved to be an excellent choice. We headed up the Tongariro Crossing track for a short while before branching off and climbing steeply up onto the ridge line that lead up to the summit of Tongariro. As we climbed the snow quickly became deeper and we were able to practise self- arrests, front pointing, cutting steps and using our ice axe in different ways. It was good to start these lessons on nice gentle slopes and then progress to steeper icier ones.

As we climbed the clouds parted and we were blown away by the absolutely stunning 360° panoramic views. I took way too many photos! Ngauruhoe looked very impressive and as the clouds billowed around it was a constantly changing visual feast. We had lunch at the top then headed down linking onto the Tongariro Crossing track, then walked back down to the Mangatepopo carpark (22km in total). An absolutely brilliant day that I would rate 10/10. Jacqui Dick

Part 2 of the weekend was a tramp to the Ruapehu crater lake. After the exertions of Saturday's Tongariro trek, the group was reduced to 9 and we planned an early start fearing the road would be closed, getting away from the hostel at 7.00am. Walking up past the Waikato Hut, we choose a route via the West Ridge t-bar, having a break at the cafe which was deserted and taking a break from the wind. We followed the gully up with a few short sharp climbs and then flattening out as we reached the Whakapapa glacier. We walked up the glacier with a lot of snow being blown into our faces and then a miracle. as we reached the crater rim the wind dropped away almost completely. We were able to have a short lunch overlooking the lake in very pleasant conditions. We continued on walking up the

ridge to Dome and along to the gap and the start of the descent back to the carpark. As we descended the temperature increased and some of us were soon down to t-shirt and singlet. We practiced some ice-axe climbing in behind the Alpine club hut and then down Delta ridge to meet up outside the club hut. A perfect day on Mount Ruapehu. The Dome 9 were, Paul Q, Anne, Alona, Rupert, Russell, Sarah, Ed, Kate, Mike P (leader)

Trip 2893

Waikato River Trails

2 July



The happy wanderers

Photo by Susan Jenkins

After a leisurely coffee stop at Rhubarb Café in Arapuni and many attempts of establishing the number actually in the group, 19 walkers, including a keen number of newcomers, set off from Jones Landing. Heading north on a serene and mild day we meandered our way beside Lake Arapuni taking in the spectacular rock formations and views across to the other side. Although we constituted the only foot traffic, we did have to cheerfully negotiate a steady number of Sunday trail cyclists from both directions. We arrived at the Arapuni Domain for lunch and were met by Jacqui and Dianne, the two drivers for the day who had walked in from Little Waipa Reserve. After lunch we crossed the Arapuni suspension bridge, 152 metres high above the river and a fairly low level of damn water. We enjoyed the unique wetland and posing in the two new sculptures erected along the way. The trip took 4 hours including lunch and was a relaxed, chatty and easy walk along a very scenic section of the river AND we still had the same number of trampers at the end!

Thanks to Ron D, our leader and Jacqui D, van driver. Group: Kathy T, Jocelyn W, Liz H, Amanda C, Jeanette B, Debbie & Dave W (aka Bruce), Dianne N, Sharon S, Dean R, Dora L, Debbie M, Jolene P, Alpana R, Jake M, Vanya W, Rudi van D, Christiaan K, Susan J (scribe).



**Waikato Tramping Club
and
Waikato Ski Club**

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

From the committee table:

New members: Welcome to Edric Verbeek-Martin & Kate Jackson, Russell Knipe & Sarah Patrick, Andrew McMaster, John & Madeleine Fiddes, Alpana Ray, and welcome back to Peter Ayson,

Resignations: Nil

Membership: We have 185 tramping members this month

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*Snippets from here 'n there*

- Watch out for the **photo competition** coming up. Your entries will need to be in the hands of the social convenor no later than the October club night. The results will be revealed at the November club night. The rules for entry will be in the September bulletin but now is the time to wander through your collection and pick out some good ones. Hopefully we will be able to do your entries really good justice with the use of a new projector being considered at present.
- The cobble skink was discovered in 2007 near Granity on the West Coast. In 2016 with storms threatening their habitat, DoC whipped all 34 remaining individuals up to Auckland Zoo. Just as well, as next year storms destroyed all their previous habitat. It's taken the zoo a while to get conditions to their liking, but 22 babies were born this year, delighting ectotherm experts and a big step in the survival of the species.

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

- Bookings for Fiordland's Milford and Routeburn Great Walks will open on August 18 and 19 respectively. DoC also announced opening dates for the two tracks. The Milford opens on November 30 and the Routeburn will be open from December 7. The usual Great Walk season runs from Labour Weekend through to the end of April. Both tracks were extensively damaged by an extreme weather event in February when a three-day storm dumped one-tenth of the region's average annual rainfall on northern Fiordland. This sparked a major search and rescue operation, damaged 440km of tracks and wiped out key infrastructure, including parts of the Milford Road. Lake Howden Hut was almost destroyed and 32 bridges were damaged, along with other huts, campsites, and facilities. While there is full confidence the tracks will be open this summer, critical repairs are still being undertaken, and minor repairs may continue into the walking season. Howden Hut on the Routeburn will not be open this summer and won't be

available to book – walkers will need to plan to tramp all the way out to The Divide near the Milford Road (or vice versa to Lake Mackenzie heading towards Glenorchy. If the booking figures for the other Great Walks – which had a record opening week – are anything to go by, DoC is expecting to again see huge demand for these tracks heading into the summer season. Both Great Walks can be booked at the DoC website.

➤ Rakitū will now join more than 40 existing pest-free islands in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park, including Rangitoto, Motutapu, Motuihe, Tiritiri Matangi and Hauturu/ Little Barrier Island. These pest-free islands provide a safe haven for threatened native wildlife including takahē, kākāpō, kokako, kiwi, geckos, skinks, bats, wetāpunga and tuatara. Rakitū had thriving breeding colonies of native birds, particularly seabirds, before rats were introduced to the island. Kakariki, ōi/ grey-faced petrel, pōpokotea/whitehead, korimako/bellbird, toitoi/North Island tomtit and pīhoiho/New Zealand pipit once bred on the 330ha island. Covering 330 ha, Rakitū's sheer cliffs rise 180m from the sea in places, giving it an imposing fortress-like appearance. Rakitū Island became a Scenic Reserve in 1994 after being purchased by DoC, with Natural Heritage Fund assistance, from the Rope family. North Island weka on Rakitū are abundant and not indigenous to the island. They were released on the island in 1951, 36 years before DoC was established when the North Island weka population on mainland North Island was declining. Today, the North Island weka population is increasing. More than 60 weka were removed for the rat eradication then returned to Rakitū 5 months later.

➤ Loo with a view gets cleaned. The 2-toilet block overlooks the popular Whanganui A Hei marine reserve – a key attraction for visitors to Cathedral Cove, an idyllic location visited by more than ¼million people every year. Hidden discreetly between two large pohutukawa trees at the southern end of the picturesque white-sand beach, the toilets are in an elevated timber structure with visitors' waste captured in four large plastic drums. Visitors using the toilets can gaze out over the beach and the adjacent marine reserve while answering the call of nature. The clean requires the use of a helicopter and its crew, a septic tank truck and several DoC staff. The first stage of the job requires shepherding visitors to the northern end of the beach and temporarily closing the operation area to the public. A DoC Marine Ranger in a boat is positioned just off the beach to ensure other vessels and recreational water users don't sail under the helicopter's flight path. The toilets' waste drums are on trolleys, which roll out from beneath the toilets on specially constructed rails. The helicopter hovers above the beach and, using a special 45m dynamic long line and remote hook device, it lifts the drums one by one to a nearby landing site on a farmer's paddock. The waste in the drums is then pumped into a waiting septic tank truck, before the drums are returned to the beach via chopper. The septic tank truck empties its load at an approved facility. All told, more than 3.5 tonnes of waste were emptied from the four drums in July. During the busiest times of year, the

combined weight of the full drums can exceed 4t and they are emptied quarterly. DoC runs a nationwide campaign, 'Poo in a loo', encouraging visitors to use toilet facilities.

- Conservation week 15-23 August, Check out the DoC website. Make a lizard lounge, plant a native tree, build a weta motel, set up a rat trap in your garden (contact your editor for a rat & possum trap for just \$15), monitor what lives in your garden,
- Take a macro photo and enter the DoC competition to win a Canon Camera with extra macro lenses and accessories worth over \$4500. This is an Instagram competition for macro shots. Upload to #NatureThroughNewEyes and tag @docgovt.nz. You can enter as many times as you like, must be over 13 years old (although parents can enter on their child's behalf) and have an Instagram account to enter. Check out the DoC website if you want more details.

.... from the FMC website...

✓ FMC, along with other interested organisations and individuals, has been talking to DoC and Ruapehu Alpine Lifts regarding access to Tongariro National Park. Ruapehu Alpine Lifts (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 may need to be modified so people don't need to visit Whakapapa Visitor Centre during opening hours to get a permit.

✓ Public lands are New Zealanders' commons, and are administered on their behalf by the Department of Conservation under the Conservation Act 1987. Potential to concede use of parts of the commons to private commercial endeavor exists under the legislation. Potential to concede nature's right to perpetual preservation is substantially more limited. Fundamental to concessions is the 'conceding' of something of value – in this context, a part of the common good. Concessions are privileges, involving use of public land set aside for conservation and, subject to that, public enjoyment. The public conservation estate is not land that is awaiting exploitation. Check out the website for more information.



Waihora Lagoon, Pureora Forest

Photo by Rupert Craggs



Practising snowcraft skills

Photo by John McArthur

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Official Bulletin of
WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)
PO Box 685, Hamilton 3240

NEW ZEALAND REGISTERED MAGAZINE