



THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

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

March 2022



Podium star Photo by Amanda Collins

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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 835

March 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
Immediate past president: Selwyn June	
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>Secretary:</b> Dorothy Cawdron <b>Treasurer:</b> Guy Domett                                       |             |
| <b>Club Captain:</b> Allan Wickens                                                                   | 027 9509546 |
| <b>Membership:</b> Lois Rowell                                                                       | 027 2881148 |
| <b>Web &amp; Facebook:</b> Rizal Razak                                                               | 021 2676566 |
| <b>Transport:</b> Ashley Hoskin                                                                      | 027 4909545 |
| <b>Social convenor:</b> Jacqui Dick                                                                  | 021 1375201 |
| <b>Sub-committee:</b> Selwyn June                                                                    | 027 4978151 |

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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
Mary Reed	021 1185107

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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 6th April

With the limitations being imposed on us by the Covid situation we will assess the situation closer to the date and let you know by email what is going to happen this evening. If you haven't been notified, please contact the social convenor.

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: It's time to get together again and renew our social activity – as much as Covid will allow us. Come along to the Graham and Andrea's place at 11 Alison St, for a BBQ and potluck dinner, followed by a movie. BYO your meat to cook, a dish to share, and your own refreshments. Your hosts will supply coffee and dessert at the interval. Don't forget \$20 towards the evening and club raising effort. Contact phone number is 8395932.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2021/2022

2993	13 Mar		Kaitarakihi	Judith Bogle
2994	19/20 Mar	M	Haungahautahi wilderness	Les Warren
2995	22-25 Mar	M	Arthurs Pass	Keith Robbins
	25 Mar		Film evening	Graham Haines
2996	26/27 Mar	M/F	Kaimai work party	Allan Wickens
2997	29 Mar/1 Apr	M	Paparoa Range	Margaret Robbins
2998	3 Apr	M	Tuahu/Killarney lakes loop	Les Warren
2999	9/10 Apr	E	Ruapehu working party	Stephen Prendergast
3000	15-18 Apr	M/F	Barlows-Colenso Spur-Sparrowhawk	Allan Wickens
3001	23-25 Apr	M/F	Pureora traverse	Theresa O'Leary
3002	1 May	E	Rapurapu Stm	CANCELLED
3003	7/8 May	E/M	Tarawera/Hot H ₂ O beach	Jacqui Dick
3004	14/15 May		Karangahake/Dickeys flat	Allan Wickens
3005	21/22 May		Te Iringa – Oamaru Hut	John McArthur /Steve Dick
3006	29 May	M	Eliza mines	Judith Bogle
3007	4-6 June	M/F	Manuoha/Waikareiti	Les Warren
3008	18/19 June		Wharauoa/Mahaukura tracks on Pirongia	Allan Wickens
3009	25-26 June		Rotorua walks	Selwyn June

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

Please be aware of the serious amount of work leaders of the South island trips put into developing a trip, arranging accommodation, shuttles etc so be clear in your intentions when you sign up.

Trip 2993

Kaitarakihi

13 Mar

The track to this summit of 835m goes off the Kopu-Hikuai road (SH25A). It is for the fitter category tramper. The final ascent is usually achieved by ascending a ladder and this has been removed as part of the kauri dieback protection measures. Watch this space for more details – we may have to go somewhere else.

Leader: Judith Bogle **Ph:** 027 3810283 **Grade:** M/F
Transport: Senior member \$20-35 Senior non-member: \$25-30

Trip 2994 Hauhungatahi wilderness 19/20 Mar

Friday 18th – Travel to Backpackers at National Park. Saturday 19th – Travel to the Mangahua Campsite the, walk up the Mangahua Track to a Wilderness sign.

From here it is all wilderness travel with no markers or tracks. From the signpost we head west to a large slip from where we ascend to a ridge that ascends to Hauhungatahi (1521m). On our way to Hauhungatahi we will explore for some camping spots (as a back-up). The aim is to climb to Hauhungatahi and hopefully the weather will allow for spectacular views, then drop down to Pt 1407 and down to the bushline and tarns to camp.

Sunday 20th – The aim is to find our way descending thru the bush then, either with time permitting, either head straight towards the Mangahua Track or head slightly east towards the Round the Mountain Track. From the RTM track we will head south to the Whakapapaiti Valley track then onto the Mangahua Track and car park. While we are in the wilderness area, there will be a few if's & but's with the terrain so, our plans may change on the go.

I will try and have more details closer to the time.

Leader: Les Warren **Ph:** 027 864 4937 **Grade:** M
Transport: Senior member \$45-75 Senior non-member: \$50-80

Trip 2995 Adventures in Arthurs Pass 22-25 Mar

Fancy getting out of the valleys and camping up on the tops beside an alpine lake and a river, plus a night in iconic Goat Pass Hut? Then join us on this 4-day Edwards Minga loop via Lake Mavis. Nothing too strenuous, above those sandflies, and amazing scenery makes this a great introduction to South Island remote camping. Bring a tent .And to round out the week, NZ's finest one day walk [ask any Cantabrian] -a day trip up Avalanche peak. We will stay at CTC house in Arthurs Pass before and after the tramp so extra gear can be left there.

As this tramp is on the Eastern side of the Divide the weather is generally kinder but if it is too wet, we will walk the wonderful Cass Lagoon circuit further to the East. Further enquiries to the trip leader.

Leader: Keith Robbins **Ph:** 021 120 7752 **Grade:** M
Transport: Private arrangements

Trip 2996 Kaimai Working Party 26/27 Mar

At the request of the Kaimai Restoration Trust, we will be carrying out a working bee over this weekend, with the main aim of track clearing. Vegetation, including gorse, will need to be removed or cut back. The entry point is Ngamuwahine Road, where we will park our vehicle/s. From there, we walk into the Leyland-Obrien Junction area to do the work. Further details will come prior to the trip on what equipment we need to do the job. It has been suggested we camp the night at Camphouse Clearing, to be near the work area the following day. This will be valuable work ensuring the North-South track is kept open for all to use.

Leader: Allan Wickens **Ph:** 027 9509546 **Grade:** M/F
Email: *allanwickens@hotmail.com*
Transport: Senior member \$45-75 Senior non-member: \$50-80

Trip 2997 **Paparoa range** **29 Mar/1 Apr**
This trip is full

The Paparoa Track provides walking and cycling access through the remote and spectacular wilderness of the Paparoa National Park. The track is challenging in poor weather. We head up from Blackball to the Moonlight tops Hut through alpine scrub and past spectacular views. Then its' along an escarpment and a ridge top to Pororari hut. From here, it's down to the Punakaiki river valley to the Waikori Rd carpark through nikau glades

Leader: Margaret Robbins **Ph:** 021 120 7752 **Grade:** M
Transport: Private arrangements

Trip 2998 **Tuahu/Killarney lakes loop** **3 Apr**

We start and finish on Wairakau Road. Initially we follow a farm track thru farmland then climb to the pine forest and Killarney Lakes. At the back of the Lakes, we follow a steep spur (hopefully I can mark a route with tape) up to the North South track close to Motutapere Hut. From here, we follow the North South Track north, to the junction with Tuahu Track, which we follow back down to the car park. More details, such as times and track condition to be sent out closer to the trip.

Leader: Les Warren **Ph:** 027 864 4937 **Grade:** M
Transport: Senior member \$20-35 Senior non-member: \$25-30

Trip 2999 **Ruapehu Working party** **9/10 Apr**

We were planning on 2 working parties , 1st in Feb & second in early March. That's not viable given the current modelling of the community spread of Omicron. We might try and do some targeted maintenance with very small numbers for our most essential items. I'll be speaking to people personally about how they might help. We are in need of a firewood restock, and I am hoping that we get to run this in late March or early April, if the situation has stabilized or been less impactful than forecast.

Leader: Stephen Prendergast **Ph:** 021 466247 **Grade:** E
Transport: Senior member \$40-75 Senior non-member: \$50-80

Trip 3000 **Barlows-Colenso Spur- Sparrowhawk (Ruahines)** **15-18 Apr**

Starting off at Makaroro Road on the eastern side of the Ruahines, the aim is to cover the area that includes Barlow's Hut, Colenso Spur, the range south from Te Atua Mahuru Peak to Sparrowhawk Bivvy and down the Sparrowhawk track. As we will have 4 days available, the area will be enlarged (more details coming). Colenso Spur was named after William Colenso, a missionary who frequently used the old Māori route over the Range. We will travel to the Napier-Taupo Road where we stay Thursday night. On Friday, the plan is to travel the extra distance in

the morning before starting the tramp. On Monday, we will be handy to a road end to enable an early return to Hamilton. If we can get a full vanload, we may look at having two different trips. Allan will run the M/F and if someone suitably experienced (and need I say fitter) prefers to do something that is more challenging, we will combine that tramp into the plan.

Leader: Allan Wickens

Ph: 027 9509546

Grade: M/F

Transport: Senior member \$60-100

Senior non-member: \$65-105

Trip 3001

Pureora Traverse

23-25 Apr

A 3 day trip – 26k's advanced DoC Tramping track. We will leave 8am Saturday morning. The first stage of this walk is 6.5km to Hauhungaroa Hut. The track climbs steeply through predominantly tawa forest. Once the crest of the range is reached, the going gets easier. The six bunk Hauhungaroa Hut is sited at 950m, offering good views over the King Country to the north-west.

From Hauhungaroa Hut, the track continues north along the ridgeline before descending a long but obvious spur to meet the Waihaha River just south of Te Awaiti Stream. Then we will enter the valley of the giants – the enormous trees of the Waihaha Ecological Area. A tight canopy of rimu, matai, miro, totara, and occasional kahikatea, reaching 40-50m in height tower above. Within a couple of hours the 10-bunk Waihaha Hut is reached, complete with wood-stove and covered veranda.

Then on ANZAC Monday we will walk 9.5km on a benched, all-weather track to the Western Bay Road. It's the diversity of plant communities that are the outstanding feature of this trip. (*Ed comment: don't forget to watch out for whio!*) Given the small hut space we may need to carry some tents.

Leader: Theresa O'Leary

Ph: 027 4162633

Grade: M/F

Email: theresa@tolbecs.co.nz

Transport: Senior member \$50-100

Senior non-member: \$65-105

Trip 3002

Rapurapu stream

1 May

This trip to Rapurapu stream has been cancelled. Watch out for an alternate destination in the next bulletin.

Trip 3003

Lake Tarawera/Hot water beach

7/8 May

Depart Hamilton 7.30am on the Saturday and drive to the carpark at the start of the Tarawera trail. We'll walk the 15km to the Hot Water Beach campsite where we'll camp for the night. DoC give the walking time as 5-6 hours. Returning on Sunday morning via water taxi or for the very keen, walk back to the carpark. You'll need your normal camping gear with a few extra items of warm clothing as we get into late Autumn. Bring your togs/bathers for a soak in the hot springs at Te Rata Bay.

Leader: Jacqui Dick

Ph: 021 1375201

Grade: E/M

Email: jacquimd@me.com

Transport: Senior member \$40-75

Senior non-member: \$50-80

Water taxi: \$15/person, paid prior to the trip.

Editorial

First point this month is a very sincere and humble apology to David Cumming. We noted the passing of his mum last month and that was definitely not correct. Editing this month's edition of your bulletin has been on one hand easy (good cooperation) and on the other complicated. Getting the information for the trips was the simple part, and then I find that so many trips are either not going ahead, or being postponed or amended or... or... Difficult to put a comprehensive list together. It really behoves you to make contact with the trip leader to check what is happening with the trip you wish to go on. Some may be possible if private transport is used, others may not be possible, and Covid can put it's spike into any plans any of us can make. One thing is for sure though- the places we want to visit won't be going away anywhere. Even though changing your plan may cost you some \$\$\$ it won't potentially cost you your health or life if you don't go to that place at this time. Be kind to yourself and all those around you. And patient too – we're all finding some things rather hard to cope with - you're not alone with your frustrations! Maybe use the time to look at the issues Judith mentions in her blog.

Dianne

Presidential Blog

Autumn is upon us and the cooler season is coming. At present we are all aware of omicron becoming more prevalent in the community and being of concern with regard to tramping trips, so take care. But this year there is going to be legislative amendments with regards to resource management and many aspects regarding conservation legislation. Food for thought; what do you want to see happen to our playground that we are so privileged to have?

Part of this is stewardship land reclassification which the Forgotten Lands is a part of. The Forgotten Lands is more than 10% of New Zealand and are in temporary holdings by the Conservation Department. They are in a status of limbo being classified as Stewardship lands. These areas lack a level of protection and active management afforded to other areas managed under the Conservation Act 1987, or the National Parks Act 1980. Some of the areas include Coromandel Peninsula; Rangataua Forest, South Ruapehu, Waitotara Forest, Whanganui–Taranaki and The Remarkables. Most of us know these areas and spend time there. I encourage you all to keep an eye on the changes that maybe coming up and take an active part in having your say to the direction that you wish your playgrounds to take.

Happy Tramping. Judith Bogle

from the Ski Club...

It's been a pretty quiet summer and getting Waikato Hut ready for the next winter has been our focus. A team gathered at the start of March to restock the firewood, replace the water pump and inspect a troublesome water leak from the drying room

chimney flue. Unfortunately, upon arrival, there was a flood to deal with, as a result of damage caused in the recent high winds in the February cyclone. This has meant there is still work to do to get the kitchen area tidied up, and some additional future work to repair water damaged areas.

There is an upcoming working party on 9th and 10th of April and with sufficient people in attendance we should get more additional work completed particularly on the external cladding which is in need of a touch up in the high wear areas. Internally we would be targeting the clean out of the abandoned lockers and residue clothing etc that has been accumulating as a result of people leaving gear behind.

The Ski committee met late February to review our COVID policies for the season. We have identified a few additional changes but largely will have in place the approach that has taken us through the last 2 years. This is designed to respond quickly to changes in NZ's COVID risk. Whilst we're currently focused on the Omicron variant, this will be largely historical by the start of the Season in July. Our biggest protection is to advise people not to come to the Lodge if they are not 100% well. This will also protect other people from what is shaping up to be a fairly challenging flu season. It seems sensible for people with concerns about illness to make sure they get a flu vaccination before winter. As there is a very low occupancy at this time of year we have decided that up to 1 June there is no requirement to have a vaccine pass to stay in the Hut It's pretty easy to find an opportunity where you can have sole occupancy if you wish to take a more controlled approach and bookings can be arranged to facilitate that.

We await the notification of the vaccination requirement that RAL will employ once the ski season gets underway. With recent reiteration of an 'all pupil' approach to school activities it's clear that there is no one size fits all approach that should be taken. Keep an eye out for updates as we get closer to July.

Please consider if you are available to help with the upcoming working party and get in touch a waikatoski@gmail.com . 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.

Trip Reports

Trip 2977

Southern NI ramblings & cafes

14-26 Jan

January again! Time for another of Allan's eating, camping and tramping tours, this time in the Wellington region.



Lynette and I agreed to drive down together, complete with Lynette's precious gas-fired chilly bin. I was driving to her place to pick her up on Friday 14th January when Allan phoned me from Taihape, to announce his car had died. He was very pleased to find that I had a tow bar to take over the pulling of the club trailer. The AA were going to rescue him, and we would meet as planned at a Masterton supermarket

All photos taken by Allan Wickens

The AA were going to rescue him, and we would meet as planned at a Masterton supermarket. By the time we arrived he and Gabe were waiting for us in Gabe's car, so we did a final shop, and drove to Allan's sister's house to pick up the trailer. Then on to the Holdsworth camping area, where we set up our awning and tents, making ourselves comfortable for a few days. Saturday dawned fine and clear, with just enough wind to provide cooling. Our goal was to climb Mount Holdsworth and back to the camp, in one day. A good warm-up easy till the Mountain House shelter, and then my puffing rate increased greatly. Powell Hut, our lunch stop, was a welcome sight when it suddenly appeared in front of us. The top was only another hour or so, with great views in all directions. Just moving a few metres down the leeward side of the peak meant we escaped the wind, and the rest of us relaxed while Allan made a succession of new-found friends. Eventually Lynette and I decided we might as well leave him to it. Another break at Powell ended in the same way! Mountain House again was a welcome pause. Shortly after that we came to a junction. The signs told me that we could save half an hour by not returning via Gentle Annie track, but by instead heading down a ridge to the valley floor. At this stage, saving a half hour would be very welcome, and Allan thought it would be OK. Mistake! The track was clear, but steep and requiring very careful

steps because of tree roots, all the way to the bottom of the ridge. I called it the Root Route. And once reaching the river valley, instead of a nice clear path the track rose and fell many metres at each stream crossing. However, we got back eventually. 10 hours from our start. Not all walking time, but only Allan had the energy for a swim to refresh. An easy day on Sunday. Maybe! We walked up the river reversing the last part of yesterday's route, heading to Atiwhakatu hut. The track looks much easier on the map, unless you look very carefully to see how it rises and falls. I am not sure if it was on this walk or a later one that Allan announced after looking at the track on his map "The contours are all flat from here on!" (When are they not?) Lunch at the hut was very welcome, as was the private swim and sunbathe that I enjoyed. We packed up on Monday morning, heading for a Masterton motel for a few nights. Everything was loaded into the 2 cars and the trailer, I got into my driving seat, pressed "start", and nothing happened! Flat battery. No problem says the camp warden. He brings out his car starter kit, but still no joy. Lots of fluffing around with faulty jumper leads and then a DOC truck comes by with heavy duty cables. We gave up after 10 minutes, removed the battery from my car, and Gabe drove me in to town where I bought a replacement. End of problem! We checked into our motel for a few nights. 3 beds for 4 people, but Allan hardly noticed me during the night.

Tuesday's entertainment was to drive to Castlepoint to do the loop walk and the lighthouse. Fine weather but very high winds made for spectacular waves. We started by doing the loop walk to Castle Rock coming back by the beach. I decided neither my legs nor my sneaker soles would be safe on the scramble to the top of Castle Rock, so enjoyed the views and a phone call home while I waited for the others to do that.

At the beach about a dozen seals amused us just by being seals, and at the lighthouse end of the beach we cavorted on the rocks to get the best view of the waves crashing high, creating rainbows in the spume.

We were on a high when on our way back home, so thought we really deserved a beer at the Whakataki Hotel, just a few minutes away, The hotel was so pleasant I thought I might return one day for a stay And I have.

It is a long drive from Masterton, but worth the effort.

Another good weather day dawned on Wednesday, so there was nothing for it but to get into the hills again, this time to Blue Range hut. It proved to be a good walk, up and back, with some views of the ranges in the distance. The club-owned hut had quite a personality, from its blue colour, to solar lighting, and quirky signs filched from a hospital by tramping club members. The long drop was the social workers office. At bit of op shopping on Thursday Lynette scored a \$4 sleeping mat to add to her self-deflating one. While Allan did personal things, Lynette and I visited Mt Bruce wildlife centre. We arrived at lunch time and timed it perfectly to see the eel feeding and kaka feeding. One kiwi displayed itself, and a pair of takahe were easily seen from a viewing balcony. Other birds were not so easy to find,

but a tuatara on display was probably alive – it's hard to tell.

Friday, and we left the comfort of our motel to set up camp in the Waiohine gorge. We decided to rebuild our fitness by a wander up the gorge towards Totara flats, knowing we would not get there, but checking out the track. Nice bush, but a very undulating track. As usual.

When we returned, we found that Gabe had arrived after checking out his future university prospects. This should not have been a problem, but do you think the wheel would come off after undoing the nuts? I drove Gabe back to cellphone range so he could contact relevant authorities. "Just pull it" seemed to be the advice.

What did they think we had already tried? So, we put the car back on the jack, removed the nuts,



and then Allan used his brute strength. Success! Gabe put on the temporary spare wheel and took off to get the puncture fixed.



Ron and Jackie were due to join us about 9am on Saturday morning, but I had a funny feeling about 8.45. We were tucked away in a corner of the rather large campground so I walked out to the turnaround area just as Jackie bounded up with relief, having no idea where to look for us.

Today's expedition was to Cone hut. There was a steep uphill and downhill at each end, but a nice flattish section at the top. I found it great to get back to Cone, since it had been important to me in my university days, Allan waited for Gabe to return after buying 2 new tyres, and they passed us going down to Cone as we were returning.

Jackie enjoyed her swim at Cone, but the rest of us waited till we got back to the Waiohine for a very pleasurable soak. It was after that that I realised I had discovered a new rating scale for tramps – the Beer number. I was browsing the statistics of the day's walk on my mapping app, and saw I had spent about 6000 kJ of energy. Trying to understand what that meant, I noticed that my beer contained 610kJ of energy. So, this was a 10 Beer tramp! Feel free to use this as an official Club grading system. On Sunday we moved again, over the Remutaka hill to a private campground at Akatarawa. We set up the communal shelter again, and I set up my tent, for one night.

I was wary of upcoming rain though and booked a small cabin for myself for the remaining nights. I would have shared it but there was so little rain there was no need.

Russell and Anne Marie joined us there, staying in a cabin. with Ron and Jackie also renting a comfortable room.



After lunch we explored easy parts of Kaitoke regional park, the old Wellington waterworks. Great old trees, and a LOTR film site,

The Monday excursion was the Escarpment walk from Paekakariki to Pukerua station. Great views, but very exposed to the sun and wind. We were glad to be met near the end by a friend of Ron, who drove the drivers back to get our cars while the rest of us ate lunch in a memorial hut.

There were a couple of tramping hours left in the day, so Colonial Knob beckoned some of us, Fortunately for me, we settled on a short downhill walk through the pine forest and past the play towns of toy elves, smurfs and toy cars.

Putangirua pinnacles on Tuesday was the last major event on this trip, for me. These are spectacular columns of cemented gravels. We walked up to the viewpoint, a platform about 200m above the start of the track, high enough to look down on the pinnacles. The views were much better from the unsafe positions on the wrong side of the barrier, but from the valley below the weirdness was even more pronounced.

A beer in the Lake Ferry pub seemed like a suitable reward for our efforts, and we were pleased to see the "Open" sign when we arrived. However, we were after 3pm so it was not open to strangers like us. The "Brac & Bow" pub in Featherston had to do instead, although it was a bit up-market for Allan's taste.



Wednesday was the end a great 12 days of varied activities, some easy and some pushing my limits. And good companionship, with new and renewed friendships - what Club tramping is all about.

Ray Hoare

A great accomplishment shouldn't be the end of the road, just the starting point for the next leap forward. Harvey Mackay



Putangirua pinnacles

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**Trip 2980**

**S-K Main Range :**

**28 – 31 Jan**

After a couple of weeks hiking in the South Island for Christmas, I sadly came back to Hamilton hungry for more. I checked the website for suggestions and saw Mike’s proposal for a sub 48-hour S-K main range hike. Not going to lie, I didn’t read the description, I saw the location – Tararua’s – “Great, not been there” – saw the level – “F, ideal, that’s just what I need, sign me up”. Was Mike foolish for

suggesting it or was I silly to go along with it! Note to trampers – always read the description!



The S-K team

All photos by Katherine Rowe

As we drove South the range came into view, a serrated ridge line of up and down and up and down, the nerves started to set in. We met up with Ron, had our last great feed in Masterton before being dropped off at the start of the track at the end of Putara Road. Starting the stop watch exactly at 7pm we were off. We had a 90min walk up to Herepai Hut where we stopped for the night to help give us a good head start in the morning. Luckily, we had the whole hut to ourselves so no one cared that we got started the next day at 05:45. Headtorches on we went up through the bush only for it to clear perfectly as the sunrise peeked up and over. The valleys turned orange and the peaks up ahead a pink. This continued as we walked up and over Herepai and Ruapae peaks before we dropped off East peak, down to a saddle and then a climb up to West Peak, to the start of the Main Range. The weather continued to impress us as we traversed up and down and up and down and... well you get the point, eventually reaching Mount Dundas at midday and thankfully a snack session. Later we connected with the Te Araroa trail, which dropped off the tops and into the bush line. Our hopes of having a partially more “tramped” tracked was dashed as we eventually found Dracophyllum Biv for a late lunch while we cooled off and reloaded on water. After another two hours we were back onto the ridgeline. It was getting later on in the day and the wind started to pick up so we layered up at the turnoff to Nichols Hut. The evening was really starting to set in as we hiked up Mount Crawford. Headtorches were back on as we slowly and carefully picked our way down, pole to pole, finding the reflective tape.



Fortunately, there was a flat location that didn't require too much thinking and allowed us to look up only to see the stars and amazingly, Elon Musk' "Starlink", a chain of just under 2,000 satellites all in a perfect line that went on for miles and miles. We arrived at Anderson's Memorial Hut at 10pm - it was decided we would stop. Our hopes for a sub 48 hours were now over and yet we all remained positive about that decision.

We were away from Anderson's Memorial hut at 7am, somewhat a lie in! The weather was now overcast and windy as we hiked up and over the peaks of Kahiwiroa and Aokaparangi. Some pretty steep ascents but the wind dropped and the sunscreen found its way out of our packs once again all just in time for lunch at Maungahuka Hut. Now the real mental challenge kicked in, the famous Tararua Ladder, which from someone who is really not keen on heights it wasn't too bad at all. Sections along there really made me question the word "hike", but it just added to the overall adventure. After the long climb up Bridge Peak and over to Kime Hut we decided to stop there for the evening. We were welcomed in by a few people from the Auckland tramping group and we even had a small food parcel waiting for us to help keep our spirits high (Thanks Jacqui). A few rounds of "Monopoly Deal" were played, not that any of us knew what we were doing, I at least could relate to the London Road names, and soon after we retired to bed. At this point the soreness of it all was starting to kick in. Kevin and I were now out of painkillers, and we still had a whole day to get through!

We, of course had an early start, but that was well worth it for the views up at Mount Hector with its Memorial War Cross. The cloud was hanging in the valleys, and some even had a that awesome waterfall effect when the clouds flow down off the peaks. Moods were high, this was it, we were going to finish today, no matter what time! Stopped for breakfast at Alpha Hut and then it was just down, down,

down the Marchant Ridge, and down also was my mood! The knee pain was really starting to make me miserable. The day just seems to take much longer than I thought but the others made for a good distraction. We finally made it down to the Kaitoke Carpark, and I was very ready to sit down only to be mauled by sandflies, which despite my pain got me leaping around again. Overall, the sub 48 hours S-K turned into 71 hours, but we were all super pleased of what we had achieved. No doubt thinking of our next adventure.

Club members : Mike P, Katherine R, & last-minute ring-in, Kevin Bruffy.

**Trip 2989**

**Kawekas**

**3-6 Mar**

Thanks for the great tramp at Kaweka! It was so good :)

We left Hamilton at 6pm on Thursday, and after a dinner stop in Taupo, we arrived at Mohaka River Farm after 10pm. Everyone went to sleep right away, looking forward to the following day's walk. On Friday, Ron dropped us up at Kaweka J trailhead at 10am (2-hour drive from Mohaka River Farm), and we started walking toward Kaweka J.



On the tops

Photo by Jacqui Dick

We were rewarded with magnificent views from Kaweka J just before lunchtime, and we kept walking on tops until Venison Tops hut where we met a group of hunters and we unpacked for the night.

After dinner we played 500 then went to bed!

On Saturday we started the walk at 7:30am, and descended into Makino River by lunchtime. The walk by Makino River proved to be challenging as the track was rough and not easy to spot. We eventually crossed the river. In hindsight we didn't have to as it was just another 10 minutes to the bridge! We arrived at the hot pools campsite just before dinner. To everyone's surprise, apart from Jacqui and Mike, Steve "the hunter" was already at the campsite (he came via the road close by), and he delighted us with a dinner of sausages and venison curry!!

After a soothing soak in Mangatutu hot spring pools and a magnificent dinner, we lit a campfire and roasted marshmallows and chocolate in tortillas! By the night some of the group went back into the hot pools and enjoyed gazing at the stars.

On Sunday, and after breakfast and more soaking in the hot pools, we started heading to the car park at 8:30am to meet Ron in the van. We arrived just before midday, and some of us had another soak in the hot pools at the car park before the van started making it back into Hamilton.

In the group: Jacqui, Ron, Mike, Tameem (scribe), Rupert, Kat, Barb, and Callum, and Les.

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From the committee table:

New members: Nil

Resignations: Hannah & Dirk van Niekirk, Mike Barker (still a ski member), David Meadows, Liz Halsey, Suzanne Henly-Smith, Brent Barber.

Membership: We have 188 tramping members this month.

Note that subscriptions are now due.

From the tramping Captain: The way the tramping schedule is going, it looks like trip 3000 will be in April 2022. How shall we celebrate it? Champagne breakfast on top of a hill? Any thoughts?

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*Snippets from here and there...*

➤ Maungatautari access reopened. Access from Hicks Road into the northern enclosure of Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari was reopened on New Year's Day after being closed to the public since 2018. Waipā District Council has worked with local iwi trusts and landowners to develop a new fenced track from Hicks Road to Maungatautari reserve. Parking for the Hicks Road access is now provided adjacent to Maungatautari Marae and track users will need to make a short walk to the end of Hicks road to the start of the track. Parking at the end of Hicks Road is prohibited. Council is also ready to install new public toilets adjacent to the Marae to service track users. The facility will be built in the first half of 2022.

➤ For those of you who were at the February club night and want a Gear list as discussed, this has now been added to the website. When in the Gear page of the website, click the "here" link which takes you to the spreadsheet checklist in

Dropbox. Then click the Download button in the top left of the screen to save a copy into your PC. Modify as you wish.

➤ Te Awa River Ride is expecting to open its sixth section between Hooker Road and the Velodrome in Cambridge in early March. This 6.5km section cost around \$5.9 million and includes 3km of a three-metre-wide concrete path, 1.4km of boardwalks, two bridges, drainage, culverts, landscaping and fencing alongside the Waikato River. This leaves only one section of the decade long project to connect Ngāruawāhia to Karāpiro through a 66 km cycle trail. The last stretch between Hamilton Gardens and the Tamahere Interchange is expected to be completed in a couple of months' time. Source: Stuff, 23 February 2022

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...from the DoC website...

➤ The first stage of work in repairing storm damage to the Heaphy Track will began in the first week of March. Torrential rain during storms in early February damaged bridges and other visitor infrastructure on the Heaphy Track and across Buller district and the wider West Coast. Late last month DoC structural engineers declared the Heaphy Bridge a write-off. The contractor will salvage the Heaphy Bridge to gather parts which can be used for a new bridge and clear the site of material which cannot be reused. The salvage work will take about seven days. It has to be done before any new works are started.

➤ With eight tara iti/New Zealand fairy tern expected to fledge (leave the nest), it's been the best breeding season since 2013–2014 for one of Aotearoa New Zealand's rarest birds. With fewer than 40 adult birds, the conservation status of tara iti is Nationally Critical. Despite extensive management, the population has teetered on the brink of extinction since the 1970s. This season has been successful because of ongoing management of the birds and their habitats, strong support from volunteers and the wider community, new intensive management techniques from Auckland Zoo, and periods of settled weather. DoC, alongside iwi and key stakeholders, have been developing a new recovery strategy for tara iti over the past few years. This plan includes management of the vegetation, sand, and shell at site to improve the quality of tara iti habitats, and identifying and managing new sites for the birds. This is married with ongoing predator control, artificial incubation of eggs, and seasonal monitoring by DoC rangers and volunteers. The plan is informed by ongoing research into tara iti fertility, genetics, feeding, and improvements to data and field-based best practices. Adaptive management is an important tool in the tara iti recovery programme. For example, site management designed to prevent tara iti nesting on an exposed area at Mangawhai this season resulted in fewer losses of eggs and chicks than in previous seasons. "By deterring the tara iti from nesting in this undesirable location we've seen them move to more stable areas nearby which are well protected from mobile sand during storm events. Mangawhai is the most

significant breeding site with six breeding pairs, and all but one of these pairs successfully raised chicks this year,” says DoC Biodiversity Ranger Ayla Wiles.

➤ DoC Ecologist Brian Rance believes he’s found a new plant species high in the Livingstone Mountains of Southland and is thrilled by the implications of the rare find. The discovery was made during an expedition at the end of January, when Brian was assisting Te Papa scientist Heidi Meudt in surveying for forget-me-not (*Myosotis*) species. Brian first came across the unusual plant in 1995, suspecting then that it might be unique. Returning to the Livingstone Mountains nearly three decades later, he was pleased to see it was still there and have a chance to study and photograph it. The plant is a small rosette-forming herbaceous plant 5–8 cm in diameter with a strong taproot. It has been given a temporary tag name of *Chaerophyllum* sp. ‘Livingstone.’

Brian says it is distinctive from other *Chaerophyllum* species because it is growing in a very exposed, alpine gravel habitat on ultramafic or serpentine geology, which is unusual for that group of plants. It has relatively robust leaves, a stout tap root and large seeds. Its flower and fruit characteristics confirm that it is a *Chaerophyllum* species, which is a member of the carrot family – though this plant may not be edible. The ‘new’ plant will need additional research to rigorously compare it to its close relatives before being formally considered a new species. This research could take some time, but if it turns out the population is a new species, then its threat status would need to be determined. It is likely to have a threat status because of its small population size and very limited geographical extent. And if it does turn out to be a new species, why is finding such a tiny plant exciting for New Zealand? “Who knows what special chemicals or properties it may have – for all we know a new plant could hold the cure to a disease,” says Brian.

“Any new discovery is a taonga of New Zealand. Our flora is part of what makes New Zealand such a distinctive and special place and is part of our national identity. It is exciting to think that there are still plants out there that have not previously been seen or recognised as distinctive.

➤ Huts and bridges in Te Urewera in a state of disrepair. The Te Urewera Board has now re-opened parts of the former National Park, including Lake Waikaremoana and its Great Walk, after many months of closure. DoC reported in April 2021 that 23 huts in the Park were in poor condition needing “serious work”, while 32 were deteriorating and needing “substantial work”. Only two huts were in “reasonable” condition. Of the swing bridges throughout Te Urewera, 17 were in poor condition and 23 were deteriorating. A DoC report in June included a proposed list of repair projects “driven by some serious safety concerns”, including seven swing bridges with a known deficiency identified after a near-fatal accident in the South Island in 2020, and 16 huts with “potentially serious issues” with LPG installations or fireplace construction. DoC now reports that “nearly all” the safety work identified last year for the Lake Waikaremoana Great Walk has now been

completed, although work continues on a major slip near Panekiri Hut and installation of some handrails is incomplete. DoC co-governs Te Urewera with Tūhoe. Source: *Stuff* 20 February 2022

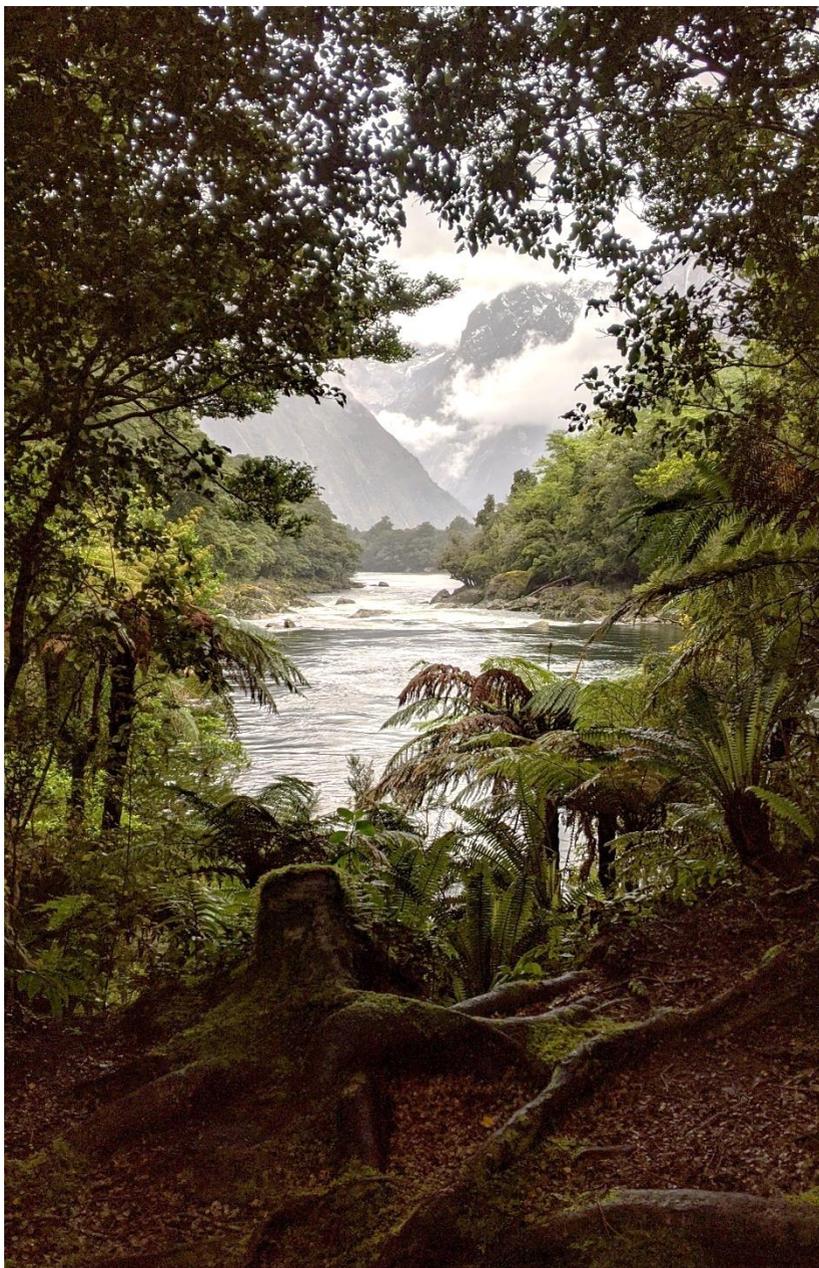
.... from the FMC website.....

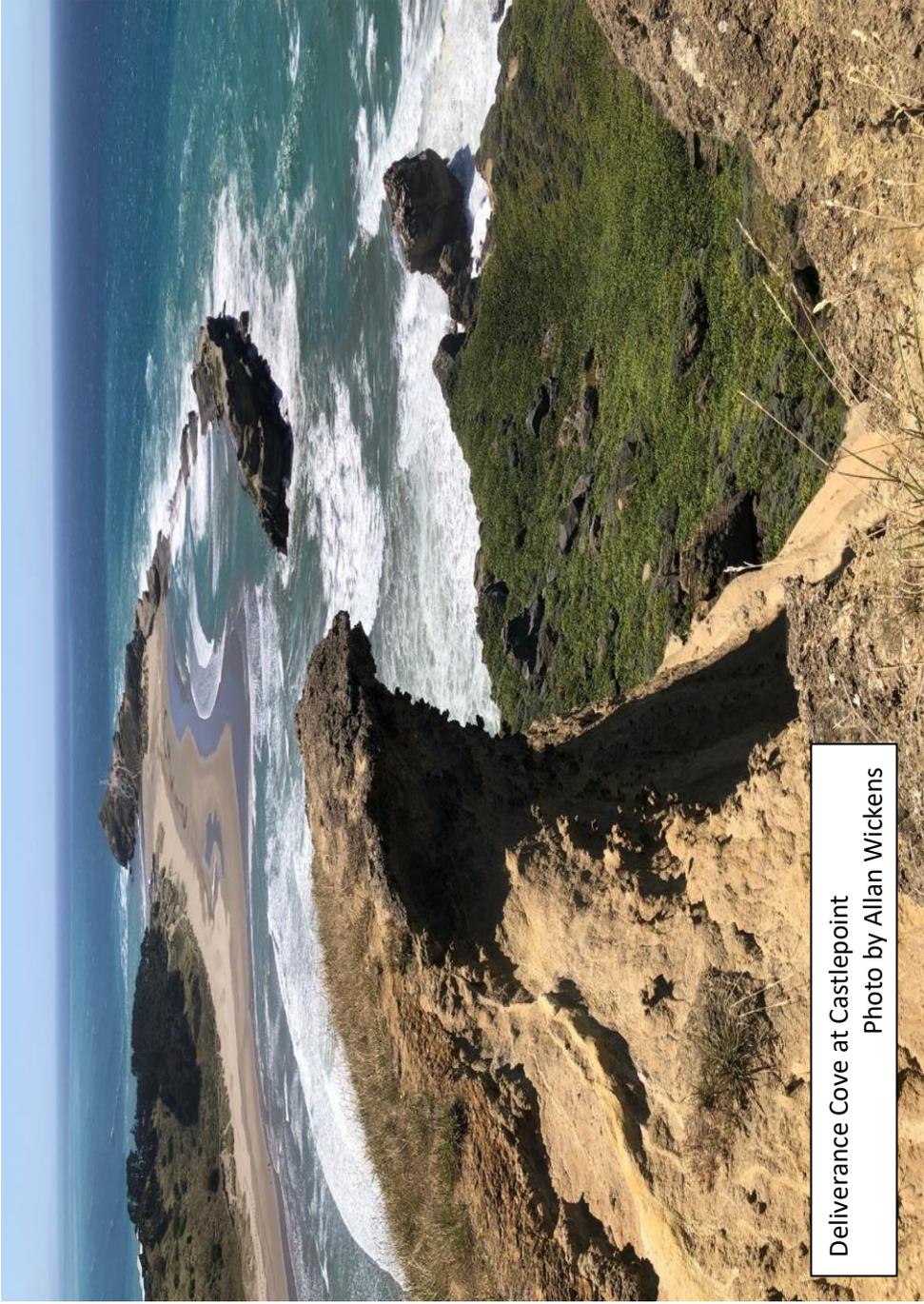
- In early March all member clubs will receive information related to membership renewal for 2022 and nominations for the Executive. Start thinking now about whether there is someone in your club who would like to join our Executive to advocate on behalf of all our membership. As Jan Finlayson's third consecutive one-year term as FMC President comes to an end in May 2022, this year clubs will also vote for a new president.
- FMC is reviewing the Auckland Draft Regional Parks Management plan. The 508 page draft Regional Parks Management Plan prepared by Auckland Council is now open for public submissions. The FMC submission is in draft, and will soon be available for clubs to review and follow or support with their own submissions. There are several points that may be of interest to we club members too,
- Conservation land review raises anxiety. "Scant due diligence has been done in DoC's stewardship reclassification project", says FMC president Jan Finlayson. She says the land "is being treated very frivolously. DoC needs to take it much more seriously." She has asked DoC to pause the work until significant issues, such as treatment of conflict of interest and DoC's interpretation of 'significance', are sorted out. Stewardship land is 9% of New Zealand; 2.7 million hectares of mainly forested land. Most likely has high conservation values, but has not been assessed. The stewardship category was meant to be temporary, pending assessment and appropriate classification, such as national park or scenic reserve. It can also be given low status or be disposed of. With only a fraction of the reclassification job done in DoC's 35 years, Acting Conservation Minister Ayesha Verrall's 2021 announcement that the Government was accelerating it was welcome. FMC has long campaigned for reclassification, but the work must be done right.
- Loose Line clothing. Based in Nelson, Loose Line is where NZ art meets dirt. We illustrate our fabrics by hand-drawing a mix of NZ fauna and other kiwi inspired things. The gear is made tough and original using the best quick-dry fabric we can source, you can wear them biking, running, hiking and wherever the outdoors takes you. FMC card holders get 10% off all purchases online using the code FMC10. www.looseline.co.nz

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And now for another photo competition entry...

Window on Milford by Amanda Collins





Deliverance Cove at Castlepoint  
Photo by Allan Wickens

**bivouac/outdoor**  
COMMITTED TO ADVENTURE

we ARE tramping

Anatom footwear  
EARTH SEA SKY  
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icebreaker  
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Image: Mark Wabor

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