



THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

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

August 2024



A snow cave haven photo by Belinda & Paul Cooper

WAIKATO HUT

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Tongariro National Park



www.wtc.org.nz



Crampon practice
photo by Allan Wickens

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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 864

August 2024

General Committee

(Contact details listed below)

President:	Rupert Craggs	027 6811926
Secretary:	Dorothy Cawdron	027 7424222
Treasurer:	Guy Domett	027 2483008
Members:	John McArthur (VP Tramp) Stephen Phillips Allan Wickens Selwyn June	

Tramping Subcommittee

Tramping email: waikatotrampingclub@gmail.com

Chairperson:	John McArthur mcarthur@outlook.co.nz	021 2889641
Club Captain:	Les Warren	027 8644937
Membership:	Jocelyn Widmer	027 8664795
Member:	Selwyn June	027 4978151
Transport:	Allan Wickens	027 9509546
Social convenor:	David Totman	021 868720
Facebook:	Jacqui Dick	021 1375201

Ski Subcommittee

Ski email: waikatoski@gmail.com

Chairperson:		
Ski VP:	Stephen Phillips	021 1031436
Bookings:	Ashley Hoskin	027 4909545
Finance officer:	Michael Barker	021 2463500
Members:	Ashley Hoskin	027 4909545

Bulletin:	Lesley Kuggeleijn	027 4942414
Editor & Club Librarian:	Dianne June djune@xtra.co.nz	07 8433066

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

Club Night: Wednesday 4th September

**We meet at St. Peter's Cathedral in Victoria St
Door opens at 7.00pm and the meeting starts at 7.30pm.**

This PHOTO COMPETITION night.

Come along and see how your entries stack up against your peers and hear how you can improve the picture you took – step back a bit, lean sideways or just fall off the cliff while making these adjustments.

Always an entertaining evening with our judges Kat and Jacqui.

Social: Sit back and relax at the Haines' over a potluck dinner & BBQ followed by an entertaining movie. Come along Friday, Sept 27th, to their home at 11 Alison St, Hamilton starting at 6.30pm. Ph 0274 822 830 for any queries. The cost goes towards fundraising for Waikato hut. **Cost:** \$20

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2024

3137	18 August	E/M	Pukekohe 5 Summits	Selwyn June
3138	25 August	E/M	Lindemann Loop	Madeleine Fiddes
3139	30 Aug-1 Sept	M/F	Cape Brett	Lynette Morris
3140	6-8 Sept	F	Snowcraft II	Mike Peck
3141	7/8 Sept	E/M	Pureora Baiting	Dianne & Selwyn June
3142	15 Sept	E/M	Karangahake Gorge	Cathy Dickson
3143	21/22 Sept	M	Waitakeres II	Allan Wickens
	27 Sept		Film evening	Andrea & Graham Haines
3144	29 Sept	E-F	Bike Trip	Jacqui Dick
3145	5/6 Oct	E/M	Whitecliffs	Madeleine Fiddes
	9 Oct	n/a	Trip Planning	Les Warren
3146	13 Oct		Bowentown	Les Warren
3147	20 Oct	E	Waiuku beach cleanup	John McArthur
3148	25-28 Oct	M	Mt. Taranaki walks	Theresa O'Leary
	Nov		Mountain film festival	Allan Wickens

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 **TUESDAY** before the trip. Any person withdrawing after this day without good reason will be charged the full cost of the trip.

Departure Point: **Weekend** trips depart from the Gate 1 at Waikato University. Park closer to other vehicles as this area is security monitored. Leave on Friday nights at 7pm sharp unless otherwise stated. **Day** trips depart from London St at the river end- park on the roadside. Leave Sunday mornings at 8am sharp.

If someone is concerned because a trip is **late back**, contact:

1) Club Captain; 2) President; 3) a 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 long-johns/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 3137

Pukekohe 5 Summits Trail

18 Aug

A semi-urban walk around the high points of Pukekohe. Set up by the Pukekohe Tramping Club for its 50th Anniversary, the Five Summits Trail is a loop track linking the five main summits of the town. The trail is mostly on off-road walking paths and passes through parks and reserves, including the bush reserve of Roosevelt Park. We will see interesting geological features and have good views of the urban area and rural surrounds.

The trail starts and finishes at Pukekohe Train Station. It heads west to Bledisloe Park and thence to the top of Pukekohe Hill, 222 metres above sea level, the highest point in the immediate area. We won't do the whole 21 km loop but will bus up Pukekohe Hill.

Leader: Selwyn June **Ph:** 07 843 3066 or 027 497 8151 **Grade:** E/M

Transport: Senior member \$20-25 Senior non-member: Senior rate +\$10

Trip 3138

Lindemann Loop Track

25 Aug

Kaimai/Mamaku Forest Park near Katikati, Bay of Plenty.

This is a loop track. Difficulty - Moderate/advanced. Length 11 km. Estimate 5 hrs
Starts at end of Lindemann Road and can be walked in either direction.
Track loops around the Wairoa Valley where the last of the kauri dam driving history took place 1935-41.

Left side of track is a steep climb up to the ridge. Right side is a more gentle climb on the Lindemann Pack Track. It is a pleasant walk with views, streams, fine vegetation and remains of old kauri dams.

After about 3 hours a junction reached to Cashmore's Clearing. A side track to Kauri dam site about 25min further has a shelter and will be lunchtime!

There are excellent views of Tauranga offshore islands from the ridge. The pack track was originally developed in the early 1900s during the logging of kauri in the Wairoa headwaters area. Supplies were taken on pack horses along this track to the logging camps. As we do this walk, imagine loaded pack horses negotiating some of the stream crossings and gullies!

Leader: Madeleine Fiddes

Ph: 021 251 2772

Grade: E/M

Transport: Senior member \$20-25 Senior non-member: Senior rate +\$10

Trip 3139

Cape Brett

30 Aug – 1 Sept

With its dramatic views, wind-swept cliffs, and rugged tracks, Cape Brett Peninsula is a stunning one-way tramp. In 1908, a lighthouse and three homes were built at the cape, where a succession of lighthouse keepers' families lived an isolated life. The keepers also sent weather reports to the Meteorological Office. The settlement was staffed for 70 years until, in 1978, an automated light was installed. More than 100 keepers looked after the station before it was decommissioned, including our immediate past president's grandfather!

The launching point for this Northland track is Rawhiti, which is 30km from Russell. The plan is to head north at 7.00am on Friday morning, arriving just after lunchtime. We will catch the water taxi from Rawhiti to Deep Water Cove where we will start the tramp by walking the shorter leg of the track to the hut. That way we can walk the longer section with lighter packs. When walking alongside the dramatic cliff-face towards the Cape, you can apparently see abundant fish and bird life below and often dolphins and seals come close to shore.

DoC manages this section of track and there are ongoing predator control programmes on the peninsula. An electric fence helps keep the outer reaches of the peninsula virtually pest-free.

The hut is nestled on a bed of grass just metres from the cliffs of the cape and is the former lighthouse keeper's home. It is full of character – hardwood floors and broad windows with views out to sea. Please note the water at the hut is salty and may be undrinkable so we need to take our own drinking water.

After spending Friday night at the hut, on Saturday we will hike 16km back to Rawhiti. The track from Deep Water Cove to Rawhiti runs along a ridge through Māori-owned land and is leased from Te Rawhiti Trust by Cape Brett Walkways.

There is a \$40 fee to walk it. In addition to kilometre markers, there are several small shelters along the route, including a fully enclosed lunch spot around the 8km mark. DOC grades this track as 'advanced', and this is due to its elevation profile. The track is well-formed, but there are few stretches of level ground. Some sections are particularly steep, which means uphill climbs and slippery descents, but the spectacular views make it worthwhile.

On Saturday night we will stay in Rawhiti (probably at the marae) and drive back to Hamilton on Sunday stopping for a short walk on the way if time permits.

Distance: 16.3km

Total ascent: 1213m

Time: 2-3 hrs Deep Water Cove to hut / 7-8hrs hut to Rawhiti

Leader: Lynette Morris

Ph: 027 073 4519

Grade: M/F

Transport: Approx \$80 depending on numbers

Water Taxi: \$250 for 1 to 5 pax (\$50 for each extra person)

Track Fee: \$40

Accommodation: Cape Brett Hut \$25 (serviced – 23 bunks)

Trip 3140

Snowcraft II

6-8 Sept

Snowcraft II will take place over the weekend 6-8 Sept based at the Waikato Hut - our lodge at Whakapapa. To attend this course, it is a requirement that you've completed a snowcraft I course and are a current club member. The emphasis of Snow II is to refresh and extend the skills learnt in snow I with an emphasis on route planning and navigation. On the Saturday we will complete a full traverse of Ruapehu; Whakapapa to Turoa, with the crux of the trip being a summit of Paretaitonga and Taurangi. On Sunday, there is an option to take the Pinnacle Ridge to summit Te Heuheu and Tukino and loop back to the club Hut. We will be driving down Friday night and departing mid-afternoon on Sunday. This trip is self-catered with full access to the club kitchen.

Trip leaders: Mike Peck

Ph: 021369256

Email: mikeypeck@yahoo.com

Rupert Craggs.

Grade: F

Allan Wickens will assist and be our driver for the pickup at Turoa.

Cost: approx \$135.00-150.00, includes 2 nights accommodation and transport.

Trip 3141

Pureora baiting

6-8 Sept

This has become an annual event on our tramping calendar when we give back to the environment we so like tramping in.

We travel down to North Pureora Forest either in a club vehicle or using your own transport to arrive at the Pureora Forest Park Lodge no later than 7.30pm on Friday night. Park your caravan, campervan, or tent or select your bunk first. This timing is so that you can listen to the H&S briefing and find out who your teammate for your assigned beltlines will be and be given the necessary maps and safety equipment. You are welcome to be cooking your evening meal while you listen.

We leave the Lodge no later than 7.30am in a transport convoy along 16km of gravel road, taking 40 minutes to get to the base site of the Okahukura valley. Some of you will travel a further 20 minutes to lines which start in the N & NE of the valley while others will begin walking along an access track to their lines in the

NW & W of the valley. Those who will be working in the top end of the access track will be transported in an LUV in order to get them to their starting places much quicker.

Each team of 2 people (newbies are teamed up with someone who has done this work in the past) is given 2 bait lines, which generally have no more than 35 bait stations on them, and a small bag of Pindone bait is placed in each bait station as you come to them. The lines are very clearly marked and travel through the forest is reasonably easy – only a few steep spots on a few lines. You have all day to complete the 2 lines and should aim to be back at the base or moving along those roads towards the base by 3.30pm where treats such as sweets, fruit juice, fruit, and home baking will await you. On a fine day we often wait for all to be at the base before we head back to the Lodge, but a cold or damp day will mean that travel back to the Lodge takes place as a vehicle + driver is present to take you. The lodge has hot showers (mixed), commercial kitchen, large dining area, & separate toilets. If you still have some energy left the beautiful Waipapa loop track begins on the far side of the camping area and takes a short hour to walk around.

If all the bait lines have not been filled on Saturday (dependent on how many volunteers are present), we will return on Sunday morning when there will be just a small number of lines within a short walking distance from the base to be completed. If all the lines have been filled, there are other walks that can be done in the broader area of Pureora Village – perhaps even a tramp to the top of Mt. Pureora from Link Road.

BYO your food and refreshments (alcohol OK), lunchbox, water bottle, raincoat, warm clothing, torch and a weekend-sized pack. You will be away from the Lodge all day. More questions? Contact the trip leaders.

This is a beautiful piece of unlogged forest that is full of birdlife. The reason we are putting out bait is to kill the rats as that there is a significantly sized kokako population in the valley worth protecting. But you will also hear long-tailed cuckoos, tuis, falcons, kaka, whiteheads, rifleman, tomtits and many others.

Leaders: Dianne & Selwyn June **Ph:** 07 8433066 or 0274978151 **Grade:** E/M

Accommodation: Free – the Pirongia Restoration Society covers this cost.

Transport: Senior member \$40-50 Senior non-member: member rate + \$10

It's so rewarding knowing that our work will continue to have a positive impact well beyond the hours initially invested. Amanda Collins

Trip 3142

Karangahake Gorge Historic Walkway

15 Sept

We will leave Hamilton (London Street carpark) at 8am.

This walk will start and finish at the Main Karangahake Gorge Carpark. We will follow the trail following the Ohinemuri River to the Victoria Battery site. The trail is primarily flat but there are a couple of easy little bumps along the way. The trail is well graded with good footing. The trail is approx. 4hrs return but expect a little longer to allow for photo and snack stops. Will have lunch at the Victoria Battery before returning the same way to the Carpark.

Leader: Les Warren

Ph: 027 8644937

Grade: E

Transport: Senior member \$20-25 Senior non-member: Senior rate +\$10

Trip 3143

Waitakeres II

21-22 Sept

This weekend trip follows on from the very enjoyable Waitakeres I, which was held late June.

Again, we aim to explore as many tracks in Waitakere Ranges Regional Park as the Kauri die-back and track damage (from last year) will allow. The situation with regards track and road closures and access has stabilised in the past year so there remains scope for some wonderful walks.

This time, we may be able to incorporate an overnight tramp, along the southern coast of the park. This will be separate from the day walks, where we are based at the comfortable and easily accessed Auckland Tramping Club Hut. This hut, which holds 21 people, has all utensils, crockery and pots but does not have electricity. We have booked the whole hut for the princely sum of \$180 per night so even if a small number stay in the hut, it's still a good-value couple of bed nights.

As in the first trip, we will travel to the hut Friday night, departing at 5.00 pm. There is an easy 5-minute walk from the carpark to the hut, down a quaint ponga-lined track. On Saturday we'll do day walks most likely in the southern section at Whatipu-Huia. This is an area the overnight group will also travel through. The logistics will be sorted closer to the weekend.

Please register EARLY as we need to sort out transport well before the event. If the overnight tramp goes ahead, it will be graded M (due to the length of walking per day plus having to carry a weekend pack with tent). The remainder of the walks will be graded Easy or Easy-Medium and should appeal to most Club members. BYO food unless we agree on a communal meal.

Leaders: Allan Wickens (day walks) **Email:** allanwickens@hotmail.com
and Les Warren (overnight)

Grades: E- E/M and M

Transport/Accommodation: (based on Waitakeres I) should be around \$120-130 for senior members and \$130-140 for senior non-members.

Trip 3144

Rotorua Redwoods Cycle trip

29 Sept

There are a number of beginner and easier grade trails that are accessible from the main entry points at Rotorua Mountain Bike carpark at Waipa, the Te Puke o Tawa carpark.

These trails are a great introduction to riding in the forest if you are new to biking or want to ride with a group at a cruiser pace that suits everyone:

Grade 1 & 2 Trails - Waipa / Rotorua city side: Kids loop; ball & chain; Puarenga; Mokopuna; Tahī; Creek track; the dipper; Hemo gorge trail; lion trail, the wash; Verry safe trail; chestnut link; Sweet & sour; yellow brick road. Access to these Redwood forest trails can be along the 'Verry safe trail' starting at the Waipa carpark. You can either BYO bike or hire a bike (pedal power or ebike). 'Mountain Bike Rotorua' is the best place for hiring bikes as they are situated at the Waipa State Mill Road main entrance. There is also a really good cafe for afterwards!

We will meet at the carpark at 9am and aim to have about 3-4 hours of riding.

Leader: Jacqui Dick

Email: jacquimd@me.com

Transport: Private arrangements

Trip 3145

Whitecliffs

5/6 Oct

Planning to stay Friday or Saturday night at Seaview Holiday Park at Mokau – traditional campground – pitch a tent and listen to the roar of the sea! FRESH Fish and Chips!

Next day allow about 4-5 hours to complete this wonderful walk across the sheer cliffs and bluffs of northern Taranaki.

This walkway uses the Kapuni to Auckland gas pipeline route for 11 km. The laying of the pipeline involved an immense amount of heavy construction work. These operations opened up walking access to the dramatic forest and coastal country of the region. The entire walkway is across private land.

Major scenic features include the dramatic white cliffs (Paraninihi), the Three Sisters rock formations and the historic Te Horo stock tunnel. The northern end of the walkway between the stock tunnel and Clifton Road at Tongaporutu is closed. There are 2 walking options along the Whitecliffs Walkway:

Pukearuhe to Wai Pingao Stream, returning to Pukearuhe via the beach (low tide only) along a 6.5km loop, taking 3-4 hours.

The walkway crosses open farmland to Mt Davidson, where it enters Ngati Tama private land. It then follows the pipeline route along the ridge tops before descending to the Wai Pingao Stream.

Here you can divert from the main track and return to Pukearuhe by following the stream to the coast and walking south along the beach.

Yes, you can get to the Te Horo Stock Tunnel – start at Pukearuhe Road end, walk up the beach as soon as the tide is low enough, keep walking past the Wai Pingao Stream and under the White Cliffs. At the end of the Whitecliffs you will see the tunnel from the beach. It is faster to walk up the beach, but you can also take the inland track to the Wai Pingao stream, then you have to walk under the white Cliffs to get to the tunnel.

(Ed comment: It is also possible to walk from the Mt Messenger tunnel down to the Wai Pingao stream to camp. This can take 5.5hrs along a ridge and in some parts, is on a boardwalk down to the beach). This means you start the walk at the north end. A Pukearuhe road start north of Urenui means you start from the south end of the beach.

This is an interesting tramp with the combination of bush, west coast beach, towering cliffs, an historic tunnel and coastal views.

Leader: Madeleine Fiddes

Ph: 021 2273560

Grade: E/M

Transport: Senior member \$40-50 Senior non-member: member rate + \$10

Trip 3147

Waiuku beach cleanup

20 Oct

A walk in the forest and a little beachcombing picking up rubbish and putting it into a shopping bag what could be more satisfying than this? At the end of our

womble we'll deposit all the rubbish in the car park and ring the District Council to pick it up - quite a satisfying feeling, though we only scratch the surface. It is a lot of fun and the ice-cream at Pokeno is well deserved. Let's do it again!

Leader: John McArthur

Ph: 021 2889641

Grade: E

Email: mcarthur@outlook.co.nz

Transport: Senior member \$20-25 Senior non-member: Senior rate +\$10

3148

Mt. Taranaki walks

25-28 Oct

Leaving Friday 2pm.

Trip Rationale: 4.5 hr drive – includes 2 x 20 min stops. Arrive 6.30pm, check in is by 8pm. Checkout will be 10am Monday 28th.

Sunlight Hours: 0620 – 1955

Weather Impact: None, if you bring inside activities – books, cards, board games.

We will all check often with the mountain conditions to make safe tramp choices.

Numbers Limited - BOOK EARLY: You must book your own 3 x \$28 Hut bunk nights ASAP before you register for this trip. First in First served! 34 bunks.

Note: Anyone booking on the DoC site must set up their own DoC Hut account before they can book.

Wide Range Fitness/Tramps: choose your activity at a level you are comfortable with - long day tramps, short walks from the base or simply sit on the deck and enjoy the fantastic views or visit local attractions?

The Tramps: here is the DoC Brochure link - a mix of tramps for different abilities.

[https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-](https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/taranaki/places/egmont-national-park/north-egmont-area/?tab-id=50578)

[go/taranaki/places/egmont-national-park/north-egmont-area/?tab-id=50578.](https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places/egmont-national-park/north-egmont-area/?tab-id=50578)

Tramps chosen will depend on the mountain conditions and the weather forecast.

Fit full day tramps proposed:

Saturday – walk left: a group could be dropped off early at Lake Dive Road end and walk back to the hut – via the Stratford Plateau/Translator Road Tracks or the Curtis Falls/Maketawa Tracks.

Sunday – walk right: a group could walk to Holly Hut and back via the Kokowai/Kaiiua/Ram Tracks.

Transport: WTC will have a minimum of 2 vehicles and have enough drivers to allow for some drop-offs/pick-ups for multi-choices each day.

Private Groups: those who choose to travel on their own, please register as normal and state in the comments 'I DON'T WANT A WTC SEAT' and then email the leader with your travel ETA's etc.

Accommodation: Back packer style - The Camphouse must be booked in advance. Parking is close by.

Full details: [https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-](https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/taranaki/places/egmont-national-park/things-to-do/lodges/the-camphouse/)

[go/taranaki/places/egmont-national-park/things-to-do/lodges/the-camphouse/](https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places/egmont-national-park/things-to-do/lodges/the-camphouse/)

Any questions, queries, suggestions welcome to...

Leader: Theresa O'Leary **Ph:** 027 416 2633

Email: theresa.oleary.eme@gmail.com

Cost: shared transport; guide: Kia-\$149 a day, seats 7 with packs + fuel. A van, seats 12 \$179 + fuel

Accommodation: pre-paid \$28 a night x 3 = \$84pp hut tickets

Heads up for the South ^{Island} trips in summer:

Trip 3157	10-19 December	Hollyford to Barn Bay	Judith Bogle
Trip 3159	22-26 December	Mataketake ranges	Les Warren
Trip 3160.	29-31 December	Copeland Track	Les Warren
Trip 3161	3-6 January, 2025	Hopkins river valley	Les Warren

Trip descriptions will be published from September onwards.

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## **Mid-week Walks & Tramps**

We have a walk or tramp on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. The activities have proven to be as varied as the group is and the communication is via the Mid-week W & Ts 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 Marion on 021 442 452.

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## **Kayakers Unite**

Who is interested in kayak trips? Perhaps a bit similar to the 'Tramping on Bikes' trips. Some for a single day trip, some with overnight camping.

Some where you might hire a kayak when we get there, many where we will each need to have one and bring it.

If you are interested and would like to join in, please email me your permission [theresa.oleary.eme@gmail.com](mailto:theresa.oleary.eme@gmail.com) to add you and your mobile phone number into a WhatsApp 'WTC on water' group and that will get us off to a beginning. And do send suggestions for trips, and how you personally might help get this group off to a great start.

Theresa O'Leary

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## ***Editorial***

What a relief it is to know that this club is such a treasure. I have been astounded by the support the club has given Selwyn and I during my 7 week stay in hospital and how so many of you squeezed some time out of your day to visit during that time, and even after I was discharged. I am quite sure that having visitors every day helped keep me focussed on the world outside the 4 walls of my room and contributed significantly to my very good recovery (the doctors are quite surprised at how well I 'm doing). The next stage includes attention from the oncology department for some months but I'm sure It can't be as traumatic as those previous 7 weeks! Thankyou for the beautiful flowers and gorgeous card, kind wishes and good deeds like warming my cold feet, massaging cream into my muscles and the pedicure, and just being there. I will keep these memories in my heart for a very long time.

And special thanks must go to John Wilson for taking up the reins as bulletin editor at very short notice in June when I realised I could not get my act together

very well. I enjoyed reading the bulletins with all the ‘new’ information instead of having read it several times during the proof-reading process. How lucky we are that we have such a depth of experience in times like this. And the same thing goes when it comes to trips. To the newcomers in the club I say, don’t be shy about wanting to go somewhere and seeking support to lead it, let alone checking with the more experienced club members for information, tips and hints. Someone may have already been where you want to go and can render significant advice. Go for it, I’m hoping that I’ll be back with you on some of the easier trips in the not too distant future so please keep the trails cleared for me.

On that note, don’t forget to join us for the Pureora baiting weekends – the destination may be the same as your starting point but the gap between them is always a pleasure, See you there.

Dianne June

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### *Presidential blog*

Hello, I’ve recently been away for five weeks attending my dear old Dad’s 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday, catching up with family and having a few epic tramps in the UK’s Lake District, Jurassic Coast and then in Georgia’s (the country) Caucasus mountains. Happy to share some photos at a future club night should there be sufficient interest...

On my return, I’m reminded how fortunate we are within this club for all the hard work and dedication our volunteer committee’s and trip leaders provide to keep both the Tamping and Ski sides of our club going. A huge thanks to you all, especially for the behind-the-scenes stuff that isn’t easily noticed.

It was great for me to be able to contribute in a small way assisting Mike and Allan with the recent Snowcraft 1 course. This was my third time assisting and I finally felt confident about making my way back down to the lodge from the Ruapehu crater. This was a good thing as I got the chance to do it. Not too difficult to do on a calm, clear brilliant sunshine day, but I am still full of admiration for the navigation skills of John Wilson who led my first Snowcraft trip with the club, nearly 30 years ago. We went up to the crater and back, but I never saw it due to the blizzard at the top!

Finally, I’d especially like to thank Judith for all the great things that she has done for the club during her term as president, and for being willing, along with Selwyn as past presidents, to provide continued support as needed.

Rupert Cragg

Continuing the theme of tramping related quotes, I like this one....

*It isn’t the mountains ahead to climb that wear you out, it is the pebble in your shoe (Muhammad Ali)*

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### *Ski club*

**Membership** is open! We’re one of the most affordable clubs on the mountain with our \$115 annual membership, and nightly members’ rates of \$35 / \$20 (adult / child). Staying on the mountain is a pretty epic experience and a great way to get on the lifts

early. Members get priority access to the Lodge for themselves and guests at weekends. During our peak months there are a small number of non-member beds available, as a result. If you are interested in membership then get in touch. Or just apply now !

### **From the hut custodian Ashley Hoskin:**

I am writing this note from the ski club lodge/Hut, having been here for nearly a month filling in as a temporary custodian for July and into early August.

I think I have found my dream job. Some really great days up at the lodge along with some of the best sunrises and sunsets I have ever seen.

Everyday something different. To say this is my happy place would be an understatement.

There have been lots of new people to meet. Marcus and Holly, Duncan, Mani, Hagan, Mike Greer and the snowcraft crew. Grant Christian and his snowcraft crew. The tramping club snowcraft team.

We also have schools staying in August and September including Fairfield, Raglan amongst others.

Skiing has been great, the snow has been great, the lifties and staff have been cool too. There have been very few people at Whakapapa, so no queues to speak of.

Then we had a snow fall on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> August. The valley opened up to some great areas of fresh powder. One of the best days skiing I have had on the mountain to date.

Then this weekend we had some top to bottom skiing as the waterfalls were opened. Come visit with us and ski the gondola. Some great top to bottom runs and snow.

Come enjoy the views and play in the snow. The lodge is kid-friendly.

For bookings you can use the [www.waikatoskiclub.co.nz](http://www.waikatoskiclub.co.nz)

For any group bookings contact [waikatoski@gmail.com](mailto:waikatoski@gmail.com)

Booking officer is Ashley Hoskin 0274-909-545. Memberships officer is Dorothy Cawdron.

The Lodge is open, repeat the Lodge is open. The snow has arrived the lifts are open Where are you?

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## **Trip Reports**

### **Trip 3129**

### **Waitakeres I**

**22/23 Jun**

Yet again a fantastic weekend away with a fun group of trampers, a trip led by Allan, that took us in to the heart of the Waitakere ranges, an area the club does not venture to very often.

Leaving Hamilton on Friday late afternoon. With Les and Allen taking turns driving the van, we are heading to the Auckland tramping club hut. Everyone dreading the traffic and a long drive through Auckland suburbs, which turns out not bad at all.

With a weather forecast for plenty of rain we are all well kitted out with rain gear and plenty of food to keep us warm.

Arriving at the Hut close to 8.00pm, making dinner, and snuggling up in the sleeping bags soon after.

The gorgeous (upside-down 😊) full moon on the shortest day of the year, is keeping the hut well-lit all night long.

Next morning we are walking from Karekare to Tunnel Point along the beach and back, plus venturing up Comans track and Mercer Bay loop track with magnificent views from up high, all along the Westcoast as far south as Mt. Karioi, only just visible in the far distance. The coastline is spectacular.

After lunch there is coffee, ice-cream and "Donuts" to be enjoyed at a funky café in Piha before exploring the beaches around Piha and trekking up to Maungaroa lookout.

Only as we head back to our comfy hut for a well-deserved rest, dinner and drinks is light rain setting in for the night.

Sunday morning we awake to partly blue skies with the heavy rain that was in the forecast missing us completely.

After exploring beautiful Anawhata bay and nice coffee at the Piha store, enjoyed in the company of two greedy Mallard ducks (dubbed Crock and pot) by avid hunter Julia, we are heading back to Arataki visitor centre to end our journey with spectacular views, sunshine and more tramping before heading back to Hamilton with dinner on the way at the famous Rangariri pup.

A trip much enjoyed by Allan, Les, Lynette, Jim (of course 😊), Julia, Peter and myself Bea. Thanks to everyone for a fantastic weekend!!!!

Thanks Allen for all your hard work to make it happen x

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### **Trip 3131**

### **Meremere to Rangiriri**

**7 July**

When I saw this trip advertised I thought it would be a great day trip to put some kms on my new hip and see how I would handle the terrain as the trail had multiple exit points. Another clever thought was to get picked up at the Horotiu BP to save driving into town. Unfortunately, somebody (who will nameless but lives in Te Awamutu) had forgot to set his alarm clock which led to a 20 minute plus delay.

There were 13 keen day walkers in two hire vehicles meeting up at the starting point just behind the Meremere drag strip. Although this track was part of the Te Arora Trail I was a little concerned that it was described as 'could be boring' in the bulletin which was a novel way of trying to sell a trip but nevertheless here we all were. We started walking along the riverbank track, passing several small car/motorbike racetracks which you cannot see from the road, and after a short while the metalled farm track came to an end. Progress was then along the farmland flood banks passing quite a few large stands of kahikatea trees that looked to be in remarkably good condition.

As we progressed south we started sliding a little bit in the muddy conditions and those in the group with shiny new hip joints found it a little bit concerning (there were two of us). The weather looked more threatening as we journeyed along but



in reality, we only got a couple of passing showers so it was a case of stopping and adding or removing raincoats. As we passed the 5 km mark no one quit so we carried on further along the river bank with the track getting a little harder with more slippery areas to navigate.



The fence-sitters

photo by Sarah McLeay

Soon we were coming up to the 10km mark where we met up again with Ron & Jacqui who had graciously volunteered to drive the two hire vehicles which they had parked at the next exit point. *Later Jacqui told us of being somewhat reprimanded by the local farmer for parking on his driveway.*

Time to have lunch in the weak winter sunlight looking out over the Waikato River and then on to pump station where the track ended, and the cars were parked. The final bit of the tramp was probably the most challenging part, being quite muddy and a steep uphill section if you wanted to avoid the gorse and the mud. Some went high, others bashed along the track next to the river, but we all made it back to the cars parked at the main track end complete with a flash toilet, somewhat muddy but intact. Here some of the team continued on to do the last part of the trail but gave it away when it seemed to turn into a road walk.

Still being quite early we decided that we really needed to rehydrate so off to the Rangiriri hotel we went (Always great to support local business). An enjoyable local winter day trip to a part of the Waikato I had never been to. Great to have the

weather obliging. Thanks to John McArthur for organising and Ron and Jacqui for doing the car shuffling. Definitely not a boring trip!

### **Trip 3134**

### **Snowcraft I**

**27/28 July**

Trip leaders: Mike Peck, with Rupert Craggs (27 July) and David Totman (28 July)

#### **Part I**

On the morning of Saturday 27 July, Mike and Allan, looking out from the Waikato ski lodge at ~1700m above sea level, remarked that it was the least snow they'd ever seen at the start of a snowcraft course weekend. They would have to take us quite high up before there would be enough snow for teaching basic skills. I learned that scientists reckon the planet is warming up and that might be an explanation.

I set out in the faster group with Mike and Rupert on Saturday at about 8am. After about a 300m climb from the lodge, there was enough snow and ice to make crampons worthwhile. We practiced fitting our crampons, kicking in, using the French technique, four-pointing, and cutting steps.

A big highlight was coming across a couple snow caves at about 2100m elevation. These naturally occur in areas with high alpinist populations.

We sidled along the mountain to the top of the West Ridge Chair. A little further along, there was a nice slope and runoff where we learned how to self-arrest. One by one we hurled ourselves down the slope feet first, headfirst, on our backs, on our fronts. Mike and Rupert guided us through getting our picks into the snow and under as much of our weight as soon as possible. It was a fun way to spend a morning - a lot of whooping and cheering each other on. Many of us gave ourselves bruises and ice burns. By the 10th or 11th fall most of us were developing decent technique.

After self-arresting practice, we made our way up to the Summit Plateau. We split into a faster group, led by Mike, and a slower group, a.k.a. Kegan's solo bespoke tour, led by Rupert. We had a quick lunch overlooking the Summit Plateau at what was probably our highest point of elevation of the day, about 2600m.

We tramped across the Plateau towards the Crater Lake, sidling around the eastern base of the Dome. This was a longish flat section through the deepest snow of the day, nearly up to our knees in some places. We got to a good viewpoint over Crater Lake about halfway between Pyramid Peak and the Dome.

Despite being an absolutely spectacular viewpoint, the icy wind in our faces and the hellish smell made this a quick photo stop before we turned back to head down via Whakapapa Glacier.

We encountered plenty of wildlife (cross-country skiers) and other trampers from less important clubs also making the most of a gorgeous Saturday on the mountain. I felt so warm in the sun that I tramped in just in a singlet for most of the descent. The clouds started coming in for the last hour or so, giving us poorer visibility. After a rewarding day on the mountain that went very smoothly thanks to the leadership of Mike and Rupert, we made it back to the lodge at around 3.30pm. We

had covered a distance of 12.54km and gained 1127m elevation. We were very grateful for the delicious dinner that awaited us, courtesy of Jacqui. The next day, I joined Mike's group again, once again setting out at 8am to attempt to get to Crater Lake. We took a more direct route to the Summit Plateau viewpoint, following the path of the gondola and sticking closer to the typical summer route. One very steep section with deep, soft snow gave us the opportunity to make full use of our crampons. The conditions were less favourable, with some strong icy winds down the valleys and on the Summit Plateau viewpoint. We didn't make it further than the Summit Plateau as we had to stick to our 11am turnaround time, so all in all we covered 9.40km and gained 1023m in elevation. The skies cleared for beautiful views on the descent.

### **Trip 3135**

### **Southern Hakarimata**

**4 Aug**

A trip the club had not been on before attracted 14 trampers. We met at the carpark on Waingaro Road and began our walk along the Hakarimata Rail Trail. The track followed the route of the former Ngaruawahia to Glen Massey railway which closed in the 1950's coinciding with the closure of the Glen Massey coal mine. A 1.5 km walk took us to the picnic area where John briefed the group as to where to find our informal track. He set the group a competition as to who would find it first. The clues were a track to the west of the Walkway Track, a couple of steps and three pungas. Julia was the first to say, "found it". The track followed the Maui gas pipeline, commissioned in 1973 to supply natural gas to industry, businesses and households north of Taranaki from the Maui field. The amount of earthworks was significant to lay the underground pipeline but today it resembles a grassy strip, with white battens on farm fence lines to track its path. As we climbed, we were able to look back to nice views of Hamilton. At Point 219 we diverged into the forest and followed a ridge. The track was easy to follow, and it was evident it had been there for some time. Some of the track markers were orange, metal strips of a type no longer used.



Marker



and possible cyanide protection Photos by David Cumming

One tree had been blazed; a method no longer used due to the risk of tree infection. Possum trappers had previously worked the area, as numerous trees had pieces of sheet metal attached, possibly to protect cyanide paste from the elements. Two

dogs, one wearing a GPS tracker, enjoyed our company and joined in on the walk. The track came out at the first set of steps on the Walkway Track, and a short walk to the Hakarimata summit view tower. Lunch was enjoyed sitting in the sun and the group returned to Waingaro Road via the Walkway track. This tramp is a highly recommended addition to the club captain's repertoire of day walks. The track is a circuit with a walking time of five hours through attractive podocarp forest. Other highlights are the expansive views, the Maui gas pipeline, the railway history and the remnants of possum trapping. Those on the trip were: John, Jean, Anna, Lynette, Lynley, Amanda, Angie, Ian, Julia, Ying, Miriam, Sebastian, Les. And me, David (the trip scribe). A special thanks to John and Jean for their leadership and to the driver; John.

Insert photo 1 An old-style track marker has been enveloped by the growth of the tree.

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### *From the committee table:*

**New Members:** Welcome to Miriam Bennett, Lynley Mourits, Laura Deeming, Zane Herald, Paul Mounsey, Kieran Smith

**Resignations:** nil

**Membership:** The club has 192 tramping members.

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### *Snippets*

#### **The Pukeokahu Walk, Saturday November 16**

About 45 km northeast of Taihape lies the 4840 hectare Mangaohane Station. Pukeokahu rises to 983 metres with views to Ruapehu and down to the Rangitikei River. The public is invited to walk up Pukeokahu on Saturday 16 November. Base for the day is at Pukeokahu Hall and there is an option to stay over on Saturday night. Limited to the first 60 people to register.

The Walk Only: \$120pp, which includes light refreshments at the conclusion.

The Walk Plus: \$140pp, which includes the above, Friday night dinner, breakfast and accommodation in a woolshed or tent. Contact: Kylie Gilbert,

*pukeokahuevents@gmail.com. (Ed Comment: Selwyn and I tramped with this keen group a few years ago and they are very hospitable as well as keen trampers. Well worth supporting them as they take you to places not open to the general public).*







*The first ever  
wedding held at  
Waikato Hut  
of  
Holly Armit  
to  
Marcus  
Macdonell*



*I do.....eat cake  
.....from FMC.....*

➤ Like every year, **the NZ Mountain Film and Book Festival** did not disappoint! The programme catered for all sorts of tastes: adventure enthusiasts, social movers, environmentalists, explorers, and boundary pushers. It offered a great selection of high-quality, inspiring films, so we encourage you to have a look at the online program and watch some online from home. Our support to the NZMFF also allows the festival to offer a 45-minute selection of this year’s films to schools and Scout groups for free! To register, please email [programme@mountainfilm.nz](mailto:programme@mountainfilm.nz)

➤ Make sure you plan a trip this November and become part of the ***Love Our Huts and Tracks Campaign***. We're looking for clubs and keen people to connect their backcountry plans this spring with visiting some of our 951 public huts. Together we hope to visit them all so we can give them a quick spring clean, and also conduct a simple audit of their current state and from looking at the hut book, see how they are making a difference in terms of keeping people safe, conservation projects and types of recreation. To find out more, and to sign up your trips please

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..... from DoC....

➤ **New camera trial** sheds light on forest canopy health. Monitoring Science Advisor Terry Greene says the cameras allowed for a comparison of forest canopy health between two adjacent tracts of land in the Papakai area of the park, totalling 2016 ha.

“The aircraft’s flight path took it over two distinct areas of Papakai – a 1300 ha strip we’ve treated with 1080 to control possums, and a 716 ha area where we haven’t,” Terry says. “We analysed the images to determine the extent of dead and living trees in the canopy. “The differences between treated and untreated

areas are stark – with more than eight times the amount of dead wood seen in the untreated area compared to the Papakai predator control area,” Terry says. The high-resolution images allow individual trees to be identified within the forest canopy. Images were collated into a seamless picture or ‘orthomosaic’ and analysed using computer algorithms to group pixels with similar characteristics, enabling trees to be classed as either dead or alive. The difference in the size of the treated and untreated areas (1,300 ha compared to 716 ha) was factored into the analysis so they could be more equally compared.

The trial results correlate with long-term predator control in the Papakai area. Where possums are controlled, the forest canopy is much healthier in the images captured and where there is no possum control there is significantly more dead wood.

Possums are known to go for the most appetizing species first – and in Coromandel, that’s tōtara and kāmahi species. Possums will continually target these trees, eating all their foliage and eventually killing the tree. Over time, possums will impact the structure and composition of a forest as the canopy trees are replaced by less possum-palatable species.

The reduction of healthy forest canopy trees means the wider forest is more susceptible to disease and storm events which cause further dieback and can ultimately lead to complete collapse of the forest ecosystem.

Possum control keeps the possums from building up to levels where they are causing canopy dieback which means the forest is more resilient.

Terry says more work is needed to assess the relative contribution of other factors such as drought and disease to assessments of forest canopy mortality.

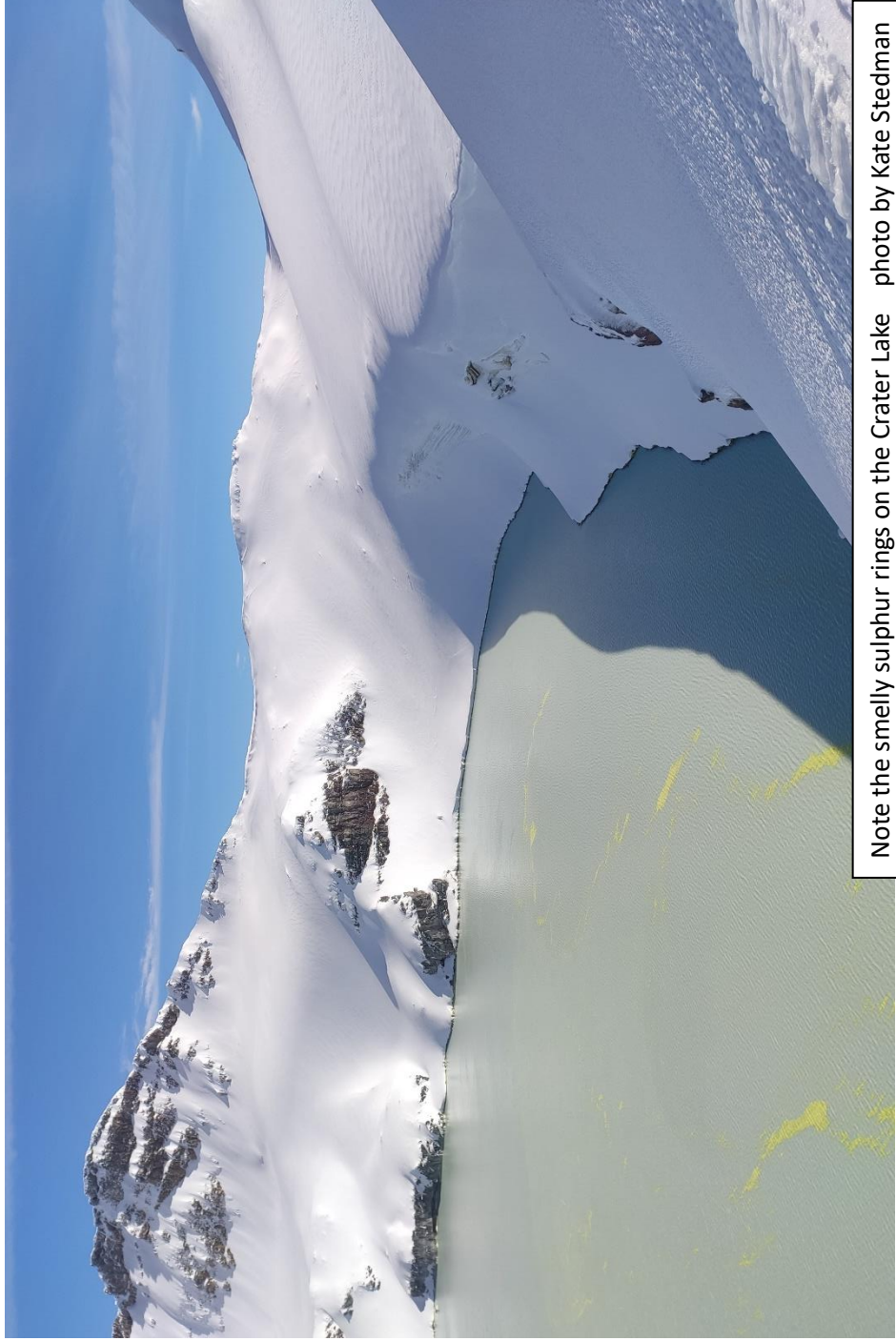
Background information. The protected Coromandel forest is home to important native species such as Archey's frogs, Coromandel striped gecko and Coromandel brown kiwi.

Forest canopy monitoring is part of DoC’s broader programme to monitor the outcomes of its predator control work for the native species and forests that it’s designed to protect.

➤ Te Araroa Trust and DoC have teamed up to create the **Te Araroa ‘Trail Pass’** for summer 2024/25. With the Trust now offering the Trail Pass, people can save time and money. The new Te Araroa Trail Pass can be used to stay at some DoC huts and campsites and provides a discount at others along the trail. “It also ensures that revenue from the Trail Pass will support trail development and maintenance,” says Andy Roberts.

Walkers need to register their walks through the Trust. The Trail Pass will be sold by the Trust as part of their ‘walker registration’ process, which opened on 2 August 2024 for walking dates from September.

The Trail Pass also offers users a 20% discount on a further 10 serviced huts along the trail. More information on the Trail Pass can be found on the *Te Araroa website (external site)*.



Note the smelly sulphur rings on the Crater Lake photo by Kate Stedman



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Photo: Mark Watson / Highluxphoto

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