



THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

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

December 2024



Earina orchid species Photo by Amanda Collins

WAIKATO HUT

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Tongariro National Park



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Squeezed living by John Wilson

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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 868

December 2024

General Committee

(Contact details listed below)

President:	Rupert Craggs	027 6811926
Past President:	Judith Bogle	027 3810283
Secretary:	Dorothy Cawdron	027 7424222
Treasurer:	Guy Domett	027 2483008
Members:	John McArthur (VP Tramp) Stephen Phillips (VP Ski) Allan Wickens Selwyn June Les Warren	

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**Tramping Subcommittee**

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

|                         |                                                                                  |             |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Chairperson:</b>     | John McArthur <a href="mailto:mcarthur@outlook.co.nz">mcarthur@outlook.co.nz</a> | 021 2889641 |
| <b>Club Captain:</b>    | Les Warren                                                                       | 027 8644937 |
| <b>Membership:</b>      | Jocelyn Widmer                                                                   | 027 8664795 |
| <b>Member:</b>          | Selwyn June                                                                      | 027 4978151 |
| <b>Transport:</b>       | Allan Wickens                                                                    | 027 9509546 |
| <b>Social convenor:</b> | David Totman                                                                     | 021 868720  |

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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

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|                                     |                                                                    |             |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Facebook:</b>                    | Jacqui Dick                                                        | 021 1375201 |
| <b>Bulletin:</b>                    | Lesley Kuggeleijn                                                  | 027 4942414 |
| <b>Editor &amp; Club Librarian:</b> | Dianne June <a href="mailto:djune@xtra.co.nz">djune@xtra.co.nz</a> | 07 8433066  |

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

Club Night: Wednesday 5th February 2025

To be advised.

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

Note: No club night in January

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2024

3156	14 Dec		Christmas party	David Totman
3157A	10-19 Dec		Hollyford to Barn Bay	Judith Bogle
3157B	20-24 Dec		Mid Canterbury peak bagging	Allan Wickens
3158	15 Dec	M/F	Mountain madness	John McArthur
3159	22-26 Dec		Mataketake ranges	Les Warren
3160	29-31 Dec		Copeland Track	Les Warren
3161	31 Dec- 4 Jan		Kaimai Ridgeway track	Sarah McLeay
3162	3-7 Jan		Hopkins river valley	Les Warren
3163	12 Jan		Pirongia	John McArthur
3164	18/19 Jan		Te Paki track	Judith Bogle
3165A	25-27 Jan		Kaimanawas	Mike Peck
3165B	25-27 Jan		Opunake/Pouakai crossing	Peter Lye
3166	2 Feb		Waiorongomai	John Wilson
3167	2-7 Feb		Ivory Lake Hut	Mike Peck
	5 Feb		CLUB NIGHT	
3168	6/7 Feb		Hawkes Bay day walks	Les Warren
3169			Tongariro Crossing by night	Lynette Morris
	15/16 Feb		Firewood at Waikato Hut	Mary Reed, Stephen Phillips
3170	16 Feb		Maungatautari	Lynette Morris
	15/16 Mar & 1-14 April		Waikato Hut work parties	Mary Reed, Stephen Phillips

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.

M = Medium.

M/F = Medium/Fit.

F = Fit.

Up to 5-6 hours/day, pace slower than M.

Up to 6-7 hours/day, at standard walking pace.

Up to 7-8 hours/day, pace faster than M.

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 3156

Christmas party

14 Dec

It will be something really quite different this year – like many of the other activities we have undertaken in 2024.....To have a get-together at the sculpture Park Waitakaruru, Tauwhare on the morning of the 14th December at 10-12am. There is an entry fee of \$15, which gets us into this gorgeous garden to have a morning picnic together, and includes the opportunity for a good walk around the arboretum and sculptures. There is even a coffee shop with ice cream on site.

What to bring - Bring some snack brunch food and drinks to have and share in something you can carry - eg picnic basket or carry bag or backpack. Include something to sit on - eg a camp chair or cushion or mat. There are some fixed seats in places in the park.

What time - Aim to all be there by 10.30am (latest) to get together We'll find a good spot not too far from the carpark to gather, (there are a couple of options). The coffee shop is close to hand

Note suggest you don't eat a big breakfast before this event so that you enjoy it more! What to expect and do - have a catch-up with friends and share some food. After the picnic brunch, suggest a walk around the park. The group can break into small groups to explore, it is a very pleasant park full of surprises.

If it's wet: We will have some marquees and tables available and will decide closer to the day where to put them up – might be at the Sculpture park, might be elsewhere. Whatever the option Book in and you'll be kept informed!

Leader: David Totman

Ph: 021 868 720

Grade: E

Email: dtotman@gmail.com

Transport: we may be able to organise a van or share transport- tba.

Trip 3157B

Mid-Canterbury Peak Bagging

18-24 Dec

For this trip, flexibility is the key. Allan is inviting a small group to accompany him over a 5-day period, “bagging” as many Mid-Canterbury peaks as possible, weather and time permitting. The focus will be on prominent peaks in the “foothills”, which is a misnomer, as some are over 2000 metres in height. They include (north to south): Mt Oxford (1364m), Foggy Peak (1741m), Castle Hill Peak (1998m), Mt Enys (2194m), Mt Somers (1688m) and Little Mt Peel (1311m) or the higher peak of Mount Peel (1743m). After departing Hamilton on Dec. 18th Allan will drive the group in his own car from Hamilton, crossing over on the early ferry on 19 December. There is then a drive to Oxford the same day and the first peak will be Mount Oxford, en-route to where we will be based in Methven. Each of the peaks varies from top-end “easy” (Little Mount Peel), to moderate-hard (Enys and Somers). However, all are day trips with no camping required.

Departure : Hamilton on Wed 18 December (if travelling with Allan – maximum of 3 passengers). Or meet up in Oxford on 19 December.

Note: This is a one-way trip only and you will have to organise your return journey after the trip is completed Xmas eve in Methven.

Early registrations please. You will need to buy a ferry ticket (passenger) for early 19 December Wellington-Picton

Leader: Allan Wickens

Ph: 027 950 9546

Grades: M-F

Email: allanwickens@hotmail.com

Cost: TBA. Accommodation – one night close to Wellington (18 Dec) for early ferry, 1 in Oxford (19 Dec), then 4 in Methven (20-24 Dec).

Trip 3158

Mountain Madness

15 Dec

The plan is to see how many of the Waikato mountains we can climb in one day - the longest day of the year. Previous years we have done Pirongia, Maungatautari and Te Aroha, and found this sequence was manageable (provided you eat and drink enough to keep you going). We are back to climbing Maungatautari from the north and you can do the loop (Quad bike track and old tramping track) if you wish. I am not sure I will be back from the South Island so I'm adjusting the rules to:

- Do it on whichever day suits you

- team up with others to help motivate you to complete (I'm happy to coordinate this)

- you must take a selfie picture on the top of each peak with the recognisable structure on each - Pirongia lookout, Maungatautari communication mast, Te Aroha transmission mast. (The date stamp on the photo file will be proof of doing it all in one day). Whatever - it will be a full day!!!

Leader: John McArthur

Ph: 0212889641

Grade: M/F

Email: mcarthur@outlook.co.nz

Transport: private vehicles

Trip 3161

Kaimai Ridgeway track

31 Dec-4 Jan

This trip in the Kaimais starts at SH 26 on the way to Tauranga from Hamilton and is 5 days, 4 nights ending at Woodland Road Katikati. The first night will be at Te Whare Okioki Hut and I have two bunks booked there as they may go quickly. Let me know if you would like the second one (\$25). You can't use your backcountry pass for Te Whare Okioki as it is owned by the Kaimai Ridgeway Trust not DoC (although you book on the DoC site). The second night is at Poupou Stream, and you will need to carry a tent as this is a campsite only. The third night is at Te Rereatakahia Hut and this is free with your back country pass but must be booked as soon as possible if you want to ensure you have a bunk. The last night is at Waitewheta Hut and this will also need to be booked as soon as possible due to demand and is also free if you have a pass. If you don't have a pass the DoC huts are \$25 per night (Te Rereatakahia and Waitewheta). The last day will be a 4 hour walk out to Woodland Road on the Katikati side of the Kaimais. The first 4 days are all between 7 and 8 hours walking each and require a good level of fitness along with the ability to carry an overnight pack including a tent (if you are very careful you should be able to keep your weight to around 14 kgs).

We will need to carpool both a drop off and a pickup. I have room for 3 in addition to myself (4 of us in my car and a driver). If there are more, there will need to be someone else available to do a drop off and pick up. Happy to help with the organisation. We will contribute to travel costs at the club rate which is 90 cents a km shared between the vehicle occupants.

If you wish to join this trip, please book your bunks as you register.

Leader: Sarah McLeay

Ph: 020 408 96364

Grade: M

Email: mcleayclan@xtra.co.nz

Transport: Private arrangements

Trip 3162

Hopkins river valley

3-6 Jan

You should have already registered for this trip, **Trips 3159 & 3160** are also full.

These trips are graded as fit but at an easy pace. Need to carry packs for multi-day trips, including a tent, except for the Copland Track trip. This trip is in and out of Queenstown.

• You will need to arrive in Queenstown NO LATER than Midday 21 Dec 24.

- Do NOT book a return flight from Queenstown for the 07 January when we plan on finishing the Hopkins River trip as there will be no guarantee that we can get you to the airport on time. Suggest a late flight on the 08 January or even wait till the 09 January.

- The plan is to hire a van or Kia Carnival from Queenstown Airport. If you are interested, once you register, I will send you out more detailed information. When you register, please indicate whether you will do all three trips or one or two trips. I can then discuss any finer details with you.

I need to know numbers to book a couple of huts and accommodation off the track.

Leader: Les Warren

Ph: 027 8644937

Grade: M/F

Email: warrenlb2017@outlook.com

Transport: tba

Trip 3163

Pirongia

12 Jan

As the first trip of the New Year how about something bracing to get you ready for the exciting trips of the summer? Depending on whether we have transport available, I suggest we go up the Wharaurua route from the end of O'Shea Road to the top of Wharaurua and Mahaukura, then across the ridge line to the Pirongia peak. From there it is downhill on the Tirohanga track, past Ruapane and across the link track to the Mangakara nature walk and the car park at the top of Grey Road. If we don't have transport we can do the traditional loop up the Mahaukura track and back to the same car park. I am open to the suggestions of those who register. It is a bit of a challenge, hence the grade.

Leader: John McArthur

Ph: 021 2889641

Grade: M/F

Email: mcarthur@outlook.co.nz

Transport: Senior member \$20-25

Senior non-member: Senior rate +\$10

Trip 3164

Te Paki

16-19 Jan

This trip is being put up in the hope that the east coast damage should have been fixed for the summer period and therefore sorted for January. You will need to take a tent and bookings are required at campsites. Total distance is 48km.

Since it is a 7 hour drive north to the start of the track, we will leave on the Wednesday morning and Camp at Kapowairua (Spirits Bay) and spend a nice day hopefully in the sun.

Day 1: We will go from Kapowairua to Tapotupotu Bay. It is a 9km walk (3 hrs) along the beautiful Spirits Bay which takes you over Waitahora Lagoon to Pandora. Then another 9km walk (3 hrs) to Tapotupotu Bay where the track undulates along the top of a ridge, with stunning views across the Te Paki Reserves and to both the north and west coasts, including sand dunes, Cape Maria Van Diemen, and the distant Cape Reinga lighthouse.

Day 2: We will walk to Cape Reinga/Te Rerenga Wairua, another 9km walk (3 hrs). The track starts at the western end of Tapotupotu Bay and climbs steeply for lovely views back towards the east along the coast or towards the Cape Reinga Lighthouse and Manawatāwhi/Three Kings Islands. You will then follow the cliffs

Monday, we will do some of the walks around Opunake, including the clifftop garden, and walk around the lake, before heading back to Hamilton.

Leader: Peter Lye & Nicola Guy

Ph: 021265072

Grade: M/F

Email: *nicolahlye@gmail.com*

Transport cost: tbc

Trip 3166

Waiorongomai

2 Feb

Our club built a bush hut in the valley in 1954. Unfortunately, it burned down in 1980, but we will show you the hut site on a circuit in the valley and see the remains of the brick chimney. I can tell a few stories about club trips to the hut. Gold mining about 100 years ago left a legacy of relics, tram tracks, water races and mines, all interesting to see now. Situated just south of Te Aroha, the valley is a popular destination and always worth a visit.

Leader: John Wilson

Ph: 021 168 2082

Grade: E/M

Email: *jnjwilnz@gmail.com*

Transport: Senior member \$20-25

Senior non-member: Senior rate +\$10

Trip 3167

Ivory Lake Hut

2-7 Feb

Departing from Hokitika Sunday 2 Feb 0730 shuttling to the start of the Waitaha Access Track about 20km south of the township of Ross. Day 1 is the walk into Moonbeam Hut ,approx 10 hours. Day 2 is a 10-14 hour day up the Waitaha river to Top Waitaha Hut. Day 3 is a short 3-4 hour day to arrive at Ivory lake Hut. Day 4 is heading out over Mt Beaumont to Top Tuke Hut, 8 hours. Day 5 is onwards to Dickie Spur Hut 6 Hours. Day 6 is out to the Totara Valley Rd to meet the shuttle back to Hokitika , 6 hours. This trip involves long stretches of river/canyon walking up the Waitaha river and an alpine crossing after leaving Ivory lake Hut. For detailed information about what to expect on the trip visit remotehuts.co.nz or visit YouTube and watch Ivory Lake Hikoi

Leader: Mike Peck

Ph: 021369256

Grade: F

Email: *mikeypeck@yahoo.com*

Transport: Private arrangements

Trip 3168

Exploring the Hawkes Bay

6-9 Feb

We will spend Waitangi Weekend exploring the Hawkes Bay Area with day walks. There will be a variety of day walks from easy to medium of a range of times.

Proposed Programme

Thu 06 Feb Travel to Napier (4- 5hrs) in the morning. Afternoon – Local walks.

Fri 07 Feb (Morning) Waipatiki Coastal Track walk. 3hrs return.

(Afternoon) Bell Rock – 3hrs return. If time allows, we could checkout a couple of shorter walks on the way home.

Sat 08 Feb Te Mata Peak. There is a wide variety of walks to suit all fitness levels. Probably spend most of the day here and if time allows, we could check out some wineries in the afternoon.

Sun 09 Feb (Morning) If there is any interest, we can go to Cape Kidnappers Gannet colony. The only way to visit the Colony is by joining a Gannet Safari. The

cost is \$96 for the 3hr trip which starts at 0930. When you register, please indicate whether interested. (Afternoon) Travel back to Hamilton.

Accommodation: I am looking at staying at the Kennedy Park Resort in Napier. They offer a wide range of accommodation. Suitable accommodation for us is – Deluxe Ensuite Unit (7 to 8 people), Villa (5 to 6 people), Kitchen Cabin (7 to 8 people) and Standard Cabins (7 people). There is also a Group Dining Room with full facilities that we can utilize as a group.

Registration: I really need people to register by the 15 DECEMBER 24 so I can book suitable accommodation early to ensure we get what we want. Early registrations will also help with transport bookings.

As I am away in the South Island between 18 December 24 and 13 January 25, I really would like to secure our accommodation as much as possible before I head South.

Transport: PLEASE NOTE – We need to travel as a group in the designated hire vehicles booked. I am, not going to accept a number of people travelling in private vehicles. This makes for those travelling in the van or kia carnival vehicles less economic and not fair. However, if numbers mean a private vehicle may be required, I, as Leader will decide at the time whether we need to use private vehicles.

Leader: Les Warren

Ph: 027 8644937

Grade: variable

Email: *warrenlb2017@outlook.com*

Costs: tba

Mid-week Walks & Tramps

We have 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 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.

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* 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

Editorial

Summer holiday, relaxation, sunshine, beach, cool clean forests, socialising with friends and family..... what more could one ask for to recharge the batteries? This

past year has seen some dramatic events in my life and the one thing I have learnt from the whole experience has been the importance and benefit of having people around you with whom you spend many wonderful hours. I have often said this year that I didn't realise just how big our social circle was and even less did I realise the contribution all the members of it have made to my wellbeing. I always thought that it was time in a forest that did things for me, but now I am aware that having that circle around me is just as significant. Please take the time now to think about all those important people in your life and, like you have all done for myself and Selwyn, gift them some of your time – time is valuable to you but way more valuable to others! I hope the summer brings many delightful surprises for you, be it just a phone call from someone you've not seen or heard from for ages- you'll always end the contact with a smile on your face. I thank you all for your smiles this year, and tolerance for those wee glitches in the bulletin. Dianne

Presidential blog

As we approach the holiday season and hopefully lots of amazing tramps I was looking for a festive Scroggin mix and then got curious about where the term originated.....

Various dictionary definitions describe it as:

An “informal” New Zealand term, “a tramper’s home-made high-calorie sweetmeat”, A pre-prepared mixture of dried fruit, nuts, and confectionery such as chocolate, typically eaten as a snack when hiking or bushwalkin

Some say it Is an acronym for either:

“sultanas, currants, raisins and other goody-goodies including nuts” or “sultanas, chocolate, raisins, orange peel (candied), ginger (crytalized), glucose (barley sugars), imagination, and nuts”. There are some off topic definitions such as:

“A last name of amazing rich people who have a very kind heart and give money to the poor and live on the moon.”

“A small hairy creature that is part squirrel and part spider. it makes a raspy high-pitched screeching noise.”

Also a few X-rated definitions that I won't list here!

Then there is Scroggin Noggin”:

To kill something (usually a bird) by grasping it by the head and swinging at arm's length in a circular motion.

As for the recipe, I couldn't actually find one..... so decided to add cranberries, gogi berries, cinnamon spiced roasted almonds and Terry's chocolate orange slices along with everything else.

Rupert Cragg

One day your life will flash before your eyes. Make sure it's worth watching.

Ski club report

Waikato Hut is in need of maintenance this summer to make it watertight. This could be at weekends or during the week, with accommodation available at the Hut, and with volunteer helpers available. The Ski committee would like to know of any tradespeople within the tramping membership who could assist them with their tasks. Or it could be someone outside the club you may know of. Please let the President know of any leads at: Rupert.Craggs@niwa.co.nz



We are also working with the club captain to use the lodge as a base for tramping excursions over the summer. Booking system is setup for summer rate only. The password is available from David Macdonald, ph: 0274908560. Steven Phillips ph: 021 1031436 and Ashley Hoskins ph: 027 4909545.

Yes you can use Waikato Hut/Lodge during the summer. There are heaps of things to do on Mt Ruapehu in the summer. Or what about spending Christmas or New Year (*Ed comment: a great option!*) with the family or friend on Mount Ruapehu, or thinking forward to March or April time.

Really short walks such as the Mounds, Nature Walk and Ridge track. Short walks such as Silica Rapids, Tawhai Fall (Gollums Pool from Lord of the rings), Taranaki Falls, or Whakapapaiti. Or longer walks to Tama Lakes, or even the Tongariro Alpine crossing. Further afield there are walks on the Ohakune side of the mountain such as the Lake surprise track or the Waitonga Falls. If you are really fit you can go up to crater lake from the Hut or over to Stanton memorial (route finding and experience needed) .

At Raetihi there are the Ameku Road Walkway, Puketawa and Slips Track (native rainforest). Or get on your bike and do the Ohakune Coach Road, Marton Sash and Door, 42 traverse which can be walked too.

The Skywaka is open for summer – get transported up the mountain to Knoll ridge for great views. Good coffee and food. You can also walk to the Crater or Skyline from here.

There is the Tongariro Mahi Aroha Program running from the 5-26th of January. See the snippets section for more info on this. Also if you or your friends or family are looking for accommodation for the Goat run is on the 18th of Jan or the Tussock Traverse on the 25th Jan it would be a great place to stay.

Even if the weather isn't great there is still lots to do – Climbing wall in National Park and Ohakune. A dinosaur museum in Raetihi, and Horopito motors museum (world famous in NZ for the Movie Smash Palace). The Whakapapa visitor centre has interesting displays on the mountains and local natural history.

Then come back to the Hut for a well-deserved rest, food, and hot showers. Just bring yourself, a sleeping bag, pillow and your food (and drink!).

SUMMER BOOKINGS

Please book in online at <https://b9c5011ab7bb99eb.sirvoy.me/> or go to the Waikato Ski website and click on winter bookings. You will need to use the code - SUMMER RATES to access bookings/members rates.

Please note during the summer this will not be getting checked every day, so you may not get your booking confirmed right away. If it is last minute, and you know how to get to lodge, that is fine just make sure there is space and book and pay via the online booking system above.

If there is no one else there you will need to open and close the lodge down. There are stepwise instructions for this in the foyer.

Hut fees for summer (nightly rates) and continue until June

○ Adult - \$25 Child (0-17 years) - \$15.

Or you can book the entire lodge for \$600 – sleeps 32 in mix of double and single bunks (+2 extra in custodians room) . Need any more info or have questions – contact Waikatoski@gmail.com

WORKING PARTIES

Working parties for the Waikato Hut are as follows, come and help keep the Hut looking great. Soffits need replacing, windows re-installed with better flashings, barge boards replaced, plus other minor jobs.

February 15/16th – Firewood working party + general spring clean and maintenance. Want to keep warm this winter, or want to get fit? We have to carry our firewood up to the Hut for the winter. If you don't want to carry wood there are lots of other jobs with maintenance and spring cleaning. All welcome. To book – Contact Mary Reed on drmarydoll@hotmail.com or 0211185107

March 15/16th – General maintenance and spring cleaning

Another working party to finish the general maintenance and cleaning and tidying, this might include painting and other maintenance

To book contact Stephen Phillips on innovative.p@hotmail.com or 0211031436.

There will be a longer session between 1-14th April for any bigger jobs that need doing.

Accommodation is complimentary whilst you are on a working party, and food from Sat breakfast to Sunday lunch is provided. You can also get a free night in the hut for later on in the year to use. Transport private vehicles, carpooling. We have other smaller working parties which may require those with appropriate skills, so would love to hear from you if you can help in this area. Soffits need replacing, windows re-installed with better flashings, barge boards replaced, plus other minor jobs. This could be at weekends or during the week (depending on available of helpers) , with accommodation available at the Hut, and with volunteer helpers available. The Ski committee would like to know of any tradespeople within the tramping membership who could assist them with their tasks. Or it could be someone outside the club you may know of. Please let the President know of any leads at: *Rupert.Craggs@niwa.co.nz*.

Trip Reports

Let's get started on all those missing trip reports.....

Trip 3132

Te Rereatukahia Hut

13/14 Jul

Maddie: I had an awesome time with the walk - I was end Charlie but I picked up once we got to the crossing and had some lunch! The views were awesome! Such a beautiful clear day - no wind! The hut was beautiful and rustic with views towards the coast. It had a beautiful little coal ranger that kept us all snuggly warm during the night. I woke during early hours of the morning and the hut was QUIET! Nobody snored! Thanks to John and Jean for driving us to the beginning and fetched us again the next day.

Sharon: The weekend was a pleasant surprise - in that every part of it was enjoyable (on any tramp you usually have to take the bad with the good but, on this occasion, it was only good). Fantastic summer-like weather, an interesting track with long views east and west from the ridge. The hut is one of the older ones (with character and charm!) and it was very cosy on Saturday evening with the convivial atmosphere and stoked-up log burner. It was my first tramp with WTC and my fellow trampers were awesome. Thanks so much for the opportunity to participate. I'm looking forward to many more.

Jim: It was a great trip Everyone worked well together. It was good seeing 2 new ladies. Thanks JULIA for helping with the leading.

Julia: Great trip. First time I have tramped one side of the Kaimais to the other. Tracks were in good condition, couple of stream crossings but low enough to have no wet boots. Hut was a great place to stay overnight. The little wood burner heated it up very quickly, plenty of firewood and a notice in the woodshed to remind us of how expensive it is to get wood to huts. \$3.5k per helicopter load. We didn't use very much. Two other hut companions for the night, young women in their 20s supplied a deck of cards and a few laughs for the night. Great to see the youth and enthusiasm for the outdoors and the future of tramping. Four of us walked up to the highest point c. 735m the next morning for a good view of the

west and the east. Met with John and Jean at the north south track junction and nice walk out to the Katikati side. A couple of roosters at the car park to greet us. Thanks to John and Jean for driving. Jim for taking the lead, well supported by the group.

Participants: Jim, Maddie, Julia, Ying, Sharon, Beatrix, Gail, John & Jean

Trip 3141

Pureora baiting

7/8 Sept

One record broken and a successful weekend. The broken record? Our last wet session was 7 years ago. That's the sad news, so now for the good stuff – it was all good.

We had 59 volunteers on our list on the Thursday night but by Friday night the number had gone down and back up to 55 volunteers. This meant some last-minute changes to the allocations of teammates and assigned bait lines but that didn't matter as so many of you picked up extra lines with gusto as you arrived back at base or met me along the road with a load of bait on board. Doing all those lines in the light rain certainly impressed me and I hope you managed to have a warm shower at the Lodge before you left.

I certainly heard lots of reports of seeing or hearing kokako. Selwyn heard a whio whistling near the Bailey bridge, and many of you could recognise tomtits, kāka, grey warblers, kakariki/parakeets, falcons, tui and robins. On Sunday Amanda and her teammate did the Fernbird G line and got to watch a pair of kōkako up in a tawa tree. I nearly reduced the census figure of 92 pairs to 91 pairs when a single when one flew out of the manuka not 50m from the base as I was driving the LUV back up the access track towards the bailey bridge. Thank goodness the bird flew faster than I was driving. Abi Q also put her bat detector out by the loop track on Friday night, and the base on Saturday night and recorded long-tailed bats both times. Selwyn even heard a whio whistling near the Bailey bridge.



The baiting team

Photographer unknown

At the end of Saturday we had 5 bait lines, part of Kokako A line, and a section of roadside stations left to do and by Saturday night I realised there was exactly the

right number of volunteers available to do them while Annette W and Laraine H cleaned the Lodge.

So, some figures: 55 volunteers put 600kg of bait into 955 of 958 bait stations. 2 stations were missing and 1 was underneath a fallen tree. 663 hours. To the cleaning fairies Theresa O'L and Annette W I say thanks for washing the Hi-vis vests.

WTC members on this trip were: Amanda C, Annette W, Selwyn & Dianne J (leaders), Theresa O'L, Debbie & Dave W, Miriam B, Lynley M, Jim S, and Brian P. a job well done and a great weekend.

Trip 3147

Waiuku beach cleanup

20 Oct

Four of us were keen, but to do what exactly?

The road to the carpark near the beach is now gated some kilometre or more from the beach which means dragging all rubbish that kilometre back to the car. The District Council no longer picks up the collected rubbish meaning you have to cram it into your clean and tidy (yes it was!) car.

So, a best idea that came forward was 'Climb Te Aroha'.

We gathered on Sunday morning in Hillcrest and set off eager and excited - packed lunch, good boots....

There are (were) road works on Morrinsville Road but they were no problem and the conversation rolled along. Until Morrinsville, where the magic of modern motoring told the driver the left rear tyre was going flat. This vehicle has no spare tyre, it does have a small compressor that works off the 'cigarette' lighter.

We pumped up the tyre in Morrinsville, knew it would be flat in the Te Aroha car park after a climb, so decided on retreat.

We headed home watching the tyre pressure and tried to find a pump at the Waitomo auto fuel pumps at Ruakura - there are no air pumps at auto fuel pumps (Remember that).

The tyre made it to Clyde Street and we abandoned the tramp. Did get some household chores done!!

Better luck next time Prativa, Lynette and Pete. Leader John McA.

Trip 3148

Mt Taranaki Base Camp

25-28 Oct

With the weather for the weekend looking somewhat horrid the trip numbers were down to 8 brave souls. So, taking private cars we arrived at wonderfully rustic historical Camphouse, located on the Stratford side of the maunga at various times on Friday evening. There were already occupants in residence, including some very active young children. Some people made the most of the fine evening with number of short walks around the Camphouse before retiring for the night.

Looking forward to a coffee on Saturday morning I was sadly disappointed as the Cafe at the visitor centre has been closed for upcoming renovations, which according to DoC could take up to 2 years to build. We checked out the displays and short videos in the visitors centre, but really there wasn't much to do except to retire back to the accommodation. A few hardy members, who dressed in full wet

weather gear, disappeared for a walk into the clouds. The rest retired to the lounge to play games, talk and relax.



Night-time at the Camphouse

Photo by Peter Ayson

unday morning dawned a little better, and after breakfast, we ventured out, with some doing the shorter Veronica walk and the others going up to Tahurangi Lodge track. Views were zero.

The drying room got a good workout, with people venturing out and back again, including the young families with very courageous children who went out for a considerable time given the conditions. As per the weather forecast the weather started to clear but too late in the afternoon. By evening it was clear so there were great views over New Plymouth and the ocean.

So, on Monday morning, we packed for the drive back to Hamilton, and, after a coffee at Urenui and lunch in a very delectable sushi café at Otorohanga (well worth a visit) we got home in the early afternoon.

Thanks to Theresa for organising the trip and driving and packing everything! Although the weather was not great it was still an enjoyable weekend with people new to the club.

The brave where Ying S, Peter A, Theresa O, Sebastian B, Miriam B, Maree L, Monique S

Trip 3150

Hikurangi

10 Nov

This was a trip of adventure, as in which route do we take. Straight up the ridge, round the side on the motorbike track or a variety of just find your way. Well, I guess we choose the latter. We first navigated the flock of sheep to get to the gate and head on the farm track. Initially we went through a few gates that looked like the general track and then just headed uphill (well kind of straight up). Not sure how far up we were when we first stopped but there was a great view out to hills

and across the farmland. Got to the edge of the bush and followed the blue markers to the clearing at the top where the repeater station was. I have to say we were made to navigate the giant spider web so as not to disturb it on the way up. There were some really nice rocks with moss over them in the bush (really pretty). Once we were at the top Miriam showed us a photograph of what we were supposed to see.



The team at the top

photo by Miriam Bennett

The cloud had come in. There is a clearing up there to sit in the sun if there was some, so we chose to have lunch in the bush. On the way back through the bush we had to stop Jim admiring a giant hole. Then once on the farmland we took another route on the farmland down the motorbike track and another ridge.

Group: Sebastian B, Beatrix M Jim S, Judith B, Miles R, Analeise B, Miriam B – Leader

Trip 3151

Taupo - not kayaking

15-17 Nov

Or, how the “kayakers” became walkers. It started on Friday night when the “kayakers” lost their enthusiasm for setting up their tents in pouring rain and arrived on Saturday morning when the sun was out. Meanwhile, the walkers had driven through the rain to set themselves up in comfortable cabins at the motor camp in Acacia Bay. So, after a Saturday morning arrival and the setting up of tents (and John’s new and elaborate trailer-camper), the “kayakers” seemed to lose enthusiasm for paddling in the Lake, citing the cold southerlies, etc.

Now the walkers took over proceedings. We set off to climb **Mt Tauhara**, the small volcanic cone behind Taupō township. This popular track crosses farmland, then heads up and up, passing a decent-sized stream which drains the crater. John said “we will s idle soon” but it was a steep, relentless climb. It did level off near

the top in the crater and that's where we had lunch.



Next stop was the summit trig (1088m above sea level) with views out to Tongariro and Ngāruahoe, the Kaimanawa and Urewera ranges, Mt Edgecombe/Putauaki and Mt Tarawera. A further, rocky vantage point to the south was visited for further views and backdrop photos. This track is obviously the local 'training track' much like our Hakarimata steps or Ruapane. One guy with his son was on his second ascent for the day and had been doing it daily for a workplace challenge.

On the summit rock
Photo by John McArthur



Every which way you look there is something to see photo by John McArthur

Meanwhile, Dianne had taken a leisurely stroll around **Opepe Bush**. Back to camp for a dine-in meal.

Sunday, another fine day with a keen southerly. Everyone was now a committed walker.



On the summit rock

Photo by John McArthur



Tauhara walking track

Photo by Theres O'Leary

So, around to Kinloch to do a 18km return trip to **Kawakawa Bay** and back. This is a wide, well graded track on a pumice surface, and is very popular with cyclists and walkers (about 50/50). Most cyclists were considerate although bell ringing was unknown and there was one aggressive dude. The track starts along the lake foreshore and gradually climbs to a ridge where we stopped for the view and a group photo. Then a slow descent to the lake shore where there is a shelter and

camping spots. Here we had lunch and watched climbers tackling the ignimbrite cliffs. Along the way rewarewa flowers attracted our attention, and the tuis who were there for a feast. Back at Kinloch it was time for large ice creams and a return home. A good weekend.



Kawakawa Bay

Photo by Theresa O'Leary



Participants in order around the circle: Amanda C, Beatrix M, Theresa O', Dianne J, Selwyn J(scribe) and John McA.

The mid-week walkers trip to Rotorua

A later departure time of 1.30pm found 20 of us heading to Rotorua Thermal

Holiday Park for 3 nights of exercise, good food, fine weather & lots of laughs. After settling in we all met for drinks, had shared meals back at our accommodation then down to the parks kitchen for a quiz hosted by Quiz master Val, some of the questions were not easy but we all learnt something!

Next day we head to Blue Lakes for a nice leisurely walk around it then to a nice tasty Cafe for lunch. Afternoon was free so some biked or walked in the Redwoods or had a wee nap & ended it with a hot soak in the hot pools - my favourite ! Home- made tasty hamburgers at Colin & Vals' motel room followed by the baby photo competition, who would have thought Michael N looked exactly the same & then the boys made us all dessert.



Dessert preparation by the lads.

Photo by Nette Lowe

Then most of us went to the Treetop night walk -wow it was the perfect night with lots of people waiting in line, but it was well worth the wait.

We headed up Mt Ngongataha the next morning only to arrive at the top with no view but a nice area to sit & have M/tea sitting in the sun. It's a lovely walk in the bush which everyone enjoyed. More free time in the afternoon before heading to the Pig & Whistle for tea, they did a great job, having our meals out to us in pretty quick time.

Heading home Thursday morning after a really great trip had by all, a huge big Thank You to Val Jones for organising, it was much appreciated by all of us.



Are they waiting for the night walk?

Photo by Nette Lowe

~~~~~  
*From the committee table:*

**New Members:** Laraine Hughes

**Resignations:** Nil

**Membership:** The club has 195 tramping members.

Let's acknowledge the contributions made by all those who work behind the scenes. At the last club night your editor found out (quite easily) that our tea & coffee man Roger Pinner has been looking after our supper for possibly more than 20 years (since Paul McLennan went to live in Northland). This is a sterling effort - thank you Roger. To those who have brought along some delectable cakes and biscuits you can rest assured that we have truly enjoyed them.

And Lesley Kuggeleijn keeps a close on the bulletin distribution as well has her fitness by peddling the bulletin around her neighbourhood. Good on you Lesley.

~~~~~  
Snippets

- Mahi Aroha – DoC/Project Tongariro summer programme:
 - 5 January Te Onetapu Rangipo Desert hike
 - 9 January Tauranga Taupo waterfall hike
 - 11 January Sika foundation heli hike to Kaipo lagoon

“ am	Sue Graham Nature art – funky fungi (Turangi)
“ pm	Sue Graham Nature art -alluring alpine (Turangi)
11 & 18 January	Waihaha-Waihora Guided MTB & Water Taxi trips
12 January	Te Matapuna wetland wonder
17 January am & pm	Ōkupata caves
18 January	Adventure Goat run
20 & 21 & 23 January	Kiwi burrow tour – Wairakei Golf sanctuary
25 January	Tussock traverse

In between all these dates are kiwi & whoi aversion training for dogs, some trap building sessions, and some sessions targeted at children. Check out the website <https://www.tongariro.org.nz/mahi-aroha>.

.....*from DoC*.....

➤ **Cathedral Cove walking track finally reopens.** After being closed for almost two years, the Cathedral Cove Walk has reopened to the public. The 3.8 km walking track was extensively damaged by Cyclones Hale and Gabrielle in early 2023. It has been repaired and rerouted around a large landslide. There were up to 180 slips along its length, some of them historic and others caused by the storms. A new boardwalk was built to reconnect undamaged sections of the track, and steps to the beach were also rebuilt. The track was repaired through \$1.4m in funding from the International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy. This is an initial step in a \$5m project to restore walking access; the second stage will provide more resilient access, making the track less prone to land movement over the long term.

Source: December 1, 2024 NZ Herald

➤ A **feral cat** has single-handedly destroyed the largest black-fronted tern/tarapirohe colony on Canterbury’s Waiiau Toa/Clarence River in one weekend. DOC South Marlborough Senior Biodiversity Ranger Pat Crowe says a single male feral cat reached a large island with 95 nests, eating several adult birds, chicks, and eggs, and disturbing the colony to the point where almost all nests have been abandoned. Environment Canterbury Principal Biodiversity Advisor Frances Schmechel says it’s essential the work continues as Canterbury provides vital habitat. About two-thirds of their nesting habitat occurs in the braided rivers of this region. Black-fronted terns are endemic and have a conservation status of Threatened – Nationally Endangered. They have a national population of 5-10,000 birds, which is declining. Braided rivers like the Waiiau Toa are dynamic and globally rare ecosystems which face pressures from weed encroachment, introduced predators and land use changes, in addition to human disturbance.

➤ A **fire** that burnt through more than 1,000 hectares of the internationally significant **Whangamarino wetland** is fully controlled. Fire and Emergency New Zealand initially responded to the fire on 21 October with support from DoC and mana whenua.

With the fire under control, management was handed to DoC to continue mop-up and start monitoring for hotspots from 26 October. Over Labour Weekend, DoC aerial and ground crews inspected along the fire perimeter using thermal drones. The burnt area contains the largest and most intact raised peatland habitat in Whangamarino. This globally rare habitat is one of the few remaining raised peatlands in the southern hemisphere – and the peat soil plays an important role in storing carbon. The fire released an estimated 96,000-181,800 tonnes of greenhouse gasses back into the atmosphere. The unique habitat supports a high diversity of threatened native wetland species, including black mudfish/waikaka, Australasian bittern/matuku-hūrepo, and spotless crane/pūweto. It also hosts many threatened plant species and is the only known location of the critically endangered swamp helmet orchid. DoC’s Regional Director Tinaka Mearns says DoC worked closely with Fire and Emergency, Ngā Muka linking to Ngāti Naho, Ngāti Tamaoho, Ngāti Pāoa, Ngāti Māhuta and other groups to ensure ecologically and culturally sensitive areas threatened by the fire were prioritised for protection.

“Individual animals will have perished in this fire, and there has been an enormous loss of habitat. However, we protected around 148 hectares of peatland, thanks to the quick response and co-ordinated effort of everyone involved. This area will be critical to the vegetation recovery as it provides a seed source. After taking a breath, we will move towards creating a recovery plan with the same collaborative approach. It will likely take decades to achieve the work.”

Mana whenua will continue to advocate matauranga Māori throughout the recovery process. Nga mihi kia koutou katoa.”

DoC Incident controller Steve Bolton says, “the whakatauki gifted to the response by Kelvin Tupuhi ‘Ehara He Toa Takitahi, Engari He Toa Takitini’ recognises that the outcome could not be achieved by one alone but by the many.

“This includes the fire fighters, their families, employers and the community surrounding the wetland.”

➤ **H7N6 strain of bird flu** in Otago. Biosecurity New Zealand has placed strict movement controls on a commercial, free-range egg farm in a remote part of rural Otago after testing confirmed a high pathogenic strain of avian influenza, H7N6, in chickens on the farm. The H7N6 strain is closely related to low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) strains present in wild birds in New Zealand. When an LPAI strain is introduced to chickens, it can mutate into a high pathogenic strain.

While this is a high pathogenic strain, it is not the HPAI H5N1 strain that has caused deaths in poultry, wild birds, and mammals overseas. **New Zealand remains free of HPAI H5N1.** Testing also shows that the strain is unrelated to the H7 strain of avian influenza identified in Australia earlier this year. While the HPAI H5N1 strain is still some distance from New Zealand, it’s important that we take a cautious approach. If anyone sees 3 or more sick or dead wild birds in a group, report it immediately to the MPI exotic pest and disease hotline on 0800 80 99 66.

With them setting out for a dawn hunt, we launched into indoor cleaning mode for a couple of hours before the 2 ½ hour tramp in the rain back to the car.



Now, "you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear" and this little hut is pretty 'rustic,' but it looked so much better after its clean up and 7kgs of rubbish taken out. A very satisfying 20- hour turnaround job! (Belinda Cooper & Vicki Moon).

Photo competition entry 2024, Native flora and fauna



Puapua-a-autahi and pollinator

Photo by Annemarie Lamb

Keep an eye out for *Corybas cuminosa* orchids over the next few months.



Photo by Hannah Rogers



Chicken of the woods Photo by Russell Lamb

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