



THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

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

July 2024



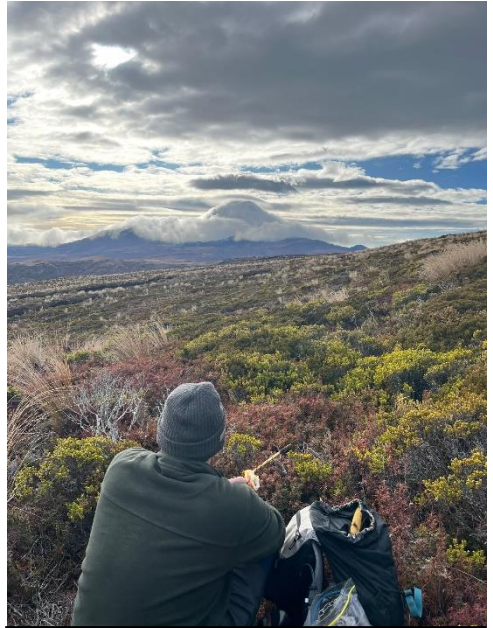
Waitakeres photo by Allan Wickens

WAIKATO HUT

Your lodge on Mt Ruapehu
Tongariro National Park



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Matariki

Photo: 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 863

July 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
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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

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 7th August

We meet at St. Peter's Cathedral in Victoria St
 Door opens at 7.00pm and the meeting starts at 7.30pm.
 Speleologist Mieke Heyns will tell us about cave exploration in
 New Zealand.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2024

3133	21 July	E/M	Meremere to Rangiriri	John McArthur
3134	27/28 July	M	Snowcraft I	Mike Peck
	31 July		South Island trip planning	
3135	4 August	M	Sthn Hakarimatas	John Wilson
3136	8-11 August	M	Whanganui Day Trips	Judith Bogle
3137	18 August	E/M	Pukehohe 5 Summits	Selwyn June
3138	25 August		Lindemann Loop	Madeleine Fiddes
3139	30 Aug-1 Sept	M/F	Cape Brett	Lynette Morris
3143	21/22 Sept		Waitakeres 2	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 3133

Meremere to Rangiriri

21 July

From Meremere to Rangiriri the Te Araroa Trail runs mostly along stop banks beside the Waikato River. We will start by the drag strip, cross farmland to the river and walk along the stop banks, ending at Rangiriri. Cattle pugging may cause uneven surfaces to walk on.

Leader: John McArthur

Ph: 021 288 9641

Grade: E

Trip 3134

Snowcraft 1

27/28 July

This is one of the most popular trips we run each year and for good reason. The Basic Snowcraft Course is aimed at introducing you to the alpine environment in which you will learn valuable skills to safely enjoy it. You must attend a gear assessment evening prior to the weekend. This will be on Wednesday 24 July between 5.30 - 7.00 pm at Bivouac. The basics of snowcraft will be taught on Saturday, including how to use crampons and ice axes, self-arrest, how to walk on icy slopes, navigation tips, basic avalanche awareness plus what to wear etc. The instruction will be done in areas close to the WTC Club hut, but we will spend most of the day out, weather permitting. A full assessment will be done by the instructors, of those learning the skills that are taught. If anyone is having difficulty, extra training will be given the next day if necessary. If the weather is too bad on Saturday, we will do instruction in our cosy lounge, as far as is practicable.

On Saturday evening, there will be a sumptuous meal in our large dining area.

Sunday's instruction depends on how much we managed to cover on Saturday. If all went well, then we have the chance to try out our new-found skills by walking up as far as the NZ Alpine Hut, the highest inhabited building on the mountain. We plan on being out most of the day, returning to the Club hut by about 2.00 pm at the latest to clean up and get back to Hamilton at a reasonable time. Given good weather, by the end of the weekend you will understand the principles behind the rather complex concept of "snowcraft". It takes a lot of practice and a genuine understanding of what is real and perceived danger when entering the snow and ice heights of Ruapehu. On satisfying our instructors that you have completed this course with competence, you

may attend our follow-up Snowcraft 2, which will be held over the weekend of 7-8 September.

The departure time will be early evening on Friday 26 July. Most will go in the vans from London Street, or another designated departure point but we can pick up others en route. We will be based in our large and comfortable hut Friday-Saturday nights. All meals will be provided. A full list of gear will be provided upon registration (get in early as you may miss out). Crampons and ice axes can be hired from the Club or Bivouac. Mike, who is Manager of Bivouac in Hamilton, is the principal instructor and he can answer any queries you may have pre-course. Please note: To participate in the course, you must be a member of the Waikato Tramping Club. Application details are on our Club website. Spaces for this course are limited and a deposit will be required to confirm your booking.



Mike Peck

Leaders: Allan Wickens (course coordinator) **Ph:** 027 950 9546

Mike Peck (principal instructor) **Ph:** 021 369 256

Grade: M

Cost: approximately \$200 —includes transport, food, and hut fees (gear hire extra)

Trip 3135

Southern Hakarimata

4 August

I will take a route from Waingaro Road to the summit that the Club has not been on before. We will follow an informal track, to the west of the Walkway Track, which follows the Maui gas pipeline up to Point 219 where there is a nice view to Hamilton. We leave the pipeline and follow up (and down) a ridge through really nice bush; think rimu, miro, matai, tanekaha, and kohekohe. This joins the Walkway Track not far from the summit. Note that the track has some rough, steep and slippery sections, with some low windfalls to scramble over. The lookout tower at the summit gives expansive views over the Waikato and out to the west. We will have lunch at the summit before returning to Waingaro Road via the Walkway Track, which has an even surface and lots of steps. Attractive bush is a feature of the Hakarimata.

Leader: John Wilson

Ph: 021 1682082.

Grade: M

Trip 3136

Whanganui Day Trips

8-11 August

Long weekend, Thursday to Sunday

The plan is to head down to Ohakune and do the Old Coach Road on the way to Whanganui. At this stage we will head to Kai Iwi and stay at the camping ground where we will stay for 3 nights. There is Kai Iwi Beach to Okehu Stream walk, 4 km in length. Friday we will do the Atene Skyline walk 16.1km 6-8 hrs. It's a spectacular walk that circles around the centre island on a high ridge track. The track is not too strenuous, but a good level of fitness is required. There are beautiful views and a range of flora throughout the track. Saturday, explore Waitahinga Dam Loop which

is 9.8km. Generally considered a moderately challenging route, it takes an average of 3.5hrs to complete. Sunday a couple of short walks such as Rotokawau Virginia Lake 1.9 and Virginia Lake walk 2.1 km before heading back home. There are other things to do around Kai Iwi such as a ferry ride. But the idea is to have a bit of a social weekend and if we have time fit in some of the other shore walks around Whanganui.

Leader: Judith Bogle

Ph: 027 381 0283

Grade: M

Transport: TBA

Trip 3137

Pukehohe 5 Summits Trail

18 August

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

Trip 3138

Lindemann Loop Track

25 August

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 Cashmores 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

I love places that make you realise how tiny you and your problems are.

Trip 3139**Cape Brett****30 August – 1 September**

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**Grade:** Medium – Fit**Accommodation:** Cape Brett Hut \$25 (serviced – 23 bunks)**Water Taxi:** \$250 for 1 to 5 pax (\$50 for each extra)**Track Fee:** \$40**Transport:** Approx \$80 depending on numbers**Leader:** Lynette Morris**Ph:** 027 073 4519

Trip 3143

Waitakeres 2

21-22 September

This weekend trip follows on from the very enjoyable Waitakeres One, 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.

Leader: Allan Wickens (day walks) and Les Warren (overnight)

Main contact is Allan on email allanwickens@hotmail.com

Grades: E- E/M and M

Transport / Accommodation (based on Waitakeres One) should be around \$120-130 for senior members and \$130-140 for senior non-members. BYO food unless we agree on a communal meal.

Egmont Camphouse Base

25-28 October

Leaving Friday 2pm Oct 25th

Trip Rationale: 4.5 hours drive – includes 2 x 20 min stops. Arrive 6.30pm, check in is by 8pm.

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. Fri 25th – 28th Mon checkout – 10am.

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-go/taranaki/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 Stradford 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/Kaiiauai/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.

Hertz Drivers Rules: any WTC member can register as a driver for any WTC Hertz Hired vehicle.

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-go/taranaki/places/egmont-national-park/things-to-do/lodges/the-camphouse/>

Any questions, queries, suggestions welcome to...

Leader: Theresa O’Leary **Ph:** 027 416 2633 theresa.oleary.eme@gmail.com

Cost: shared transport; guide: Kia-\$149 a day, seats 7 with packs + fuel a van, seats 12 \$179 + fuel and your pre-paid \$28 a night x 3 = \$84pp hut tickets 😊

South Island Trip Planning Meeting

Wednesday 31st July, 7.00pm, St Peters Cathedral Hall

Start looking at what you would like to do in the South Island over next summer and bring your ideas along to include in the trip programme. These will be advertised well in advance so that people can make work and travel arrangements.

The DOC website, Wilderness magazine, and Plan my Walk website are some sources that may give you a brilliant idea. Trips that other club members have done often spark an interest to do that trip yourself, so talk to them. It doesn’t have to be multi-day hard-core; basing yourself somewhere and doing day or overnight tramps from there can provide wonderful opportunities.

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

Dianne

At time of writing Dianne is still in hospital, recovering from an operation removing part of her stomach. After the operation she came down with flu, so has been really battling it. She is now feeling better and is able to sit in a chair rather than being in bed all the time. Physio is helping her regain strength and she is starting to walk again. The Club gave her these lovely flowers and a large card with messages from those at the last Club Night, which gave her much enjoyment. She is very grateful for the support from friends in the club.



Editorial

Last Club Night several trip leaders were not present to tell us about their trips. It really is desirable for leaders to do this as there is a tendency for people to think if the leader is not enthusiastic enough to come along and promote their trip, why should I be interested. There may be good reasons why a leader cannot make it to Club Night, but they should try their best to get there.

A couple of weeks ago we went to Wairere Falls, keen to see what track improvements had been carried out. At the carpark we were stopped at a police cordon. A policewoman explained that a tramper was missing on the track and a rahui for seven days was in place. Rahui we thought, they are not missing, they are dead. We turned around and enjoyed a perfect day at Waiorongomai instead. Two weeks later we headed to Wairere Falls again after checking on the DOC website that the track was open. Big surprise when we got there, a 'Track Closed' sign! The rahui was still in place. We checked the website again and this time an alert popped

explaining the rahui. Judging by the few cars in the carpark, some people were ignoring the rahui, but observing it is a way of showing respect for the deceased and we were happy to instead go to... Waiorongomai.

John Wilson

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 !

July Dates & Events

- 28 - 30 June Matariki weekend.
- 6 - 21 School Holidays. Stay for a few days or a week.
- 27 / 28 Beginner's Snowcraft. Run by our Tramping section. For those who want to learn how to travel safely in an alpine environment. Get in quick. The Hut is booked out for this event. There's normally plenty of midweek space during July although mountain facilities are opened progressively as staffing and snow cover permits.

Trip Reports

Trip 3122

Leitch's Clearing B

11/12 May

Learning to go to a NZ Backcountry Hut

Six attended our pre-trip 'prep' education evening. We went through an overnight pack's contents together; discussing reasoning for choices and pros and cons, safety considerations, and light weight choices. Chris and Bob, visitors from overseas, were on their first NZ bush walk, Anne, who had recently joined friends for her first hut night, now wanted to learn what gear to invest in for her own trips, and John and Maddie, who had tramped before, wanted to explore how to put together lighter packs. We all enjoyed the evening sharing information and gaining new learning. Sadly, Anne later sustained an injury and wasn't able to join us for the trip.

I enjoyed experiencing the Leitch's track through new eyes. Chris and Bob have had lots of previous USA outdoors experience but found our NZ bush very different on a rough track. Open loose rock mini-stream crossings, trippy tree roots and greasy punga stems became their hazards to get used to. I loved hearing the warning 'slippery things' being called back as we came to another bunch of rotting punga. Unfortunately, John's knee crunching hard down on rocks brought the walk to a decision point. He and Maddie stayed put comfortably in the bush and kept warm and fed. The remaining 3 of us walked on to the hut where the Trip A members were.

A big thank you to those who helped John and Maddie and their packs back to the hut in the dark and assisted with a PLB callout for a helicopter ride to Waikato hospital on Sunday morning.

Chris, Bob and I left in the frosty morning for our enjoyable sunny walk out and can recommend Otorohanga as a great place to stop for delicious kebabs 😊

Theresa, scribe.

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### Trip 3127

### Karangahake Mountain

9 June

After meeting at the main Karangahake car park, we crossed the bridge and took the Karangahake Mountain Track to the summit which took us about two hours. It's a generally well-formed track through native bush. There are normally good views at the top towards Coromandel, across the plains and out to the ocean, but today the weather gods had different ideas! It was a cold day with cloud cover swirling around. No views of note today. We descended via the Country Road Track which is an easy downhill walk with some impressively sized disused mining tunnels. Back at the carpark there were two resident kereru siting in the tree. A good photo opportunity to be had. The cold of the day caused some need for a warm drink and food, so a wee stop in Paeroa to refuel was welcomed! Thanks to trip leader for a good winter Sunday walk in the old mining country. We will be back!



Photo: Cathy Dickson

Trampers; Bea, Jim, Judith, Lynette (leader), Les, Barb, Allan, Ross, Julia, Kegan and Cathy D (scribe).

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Trip 3129

Waitakere 1

21-23 June

Yet again a fantastic weekend away with a fun group of trampers, a trip lead by Allan, that took us into 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 west coast as far south as Mount 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 Rangiriri pub.

A trip much enjoyed by Allan, Les, Lynette, Jim (of course), Julia, Peter and myself, Bea.



Photo: Allan Wickens

Thanks to everyone for a fantastic weekend!!!! Thanks Allan for all your hard work to make it happen x.

Trip 3130

Matariki Weekend

28-30 June

Twinkling in the winter sky just before dawn, Matariki (the Pleiades) signals the Maaori New Year. For Maaori, the appearance of Matariki heralds a time of remembrance, connection, joy and peace. It is a time for communities to come together and celebrate. Sixteen people set out from Hamilton to enjoy Matariki

weekend at Waikato Hut on Mount Ruapehu. As the van wound its way up the Bruce Road, it became apparent that many people had a similar idea. The carparks were full and a steady stream of people were walking up the roadway to enjoy the alpine environment at the 'Top of the Bruce'. After settling into the lodge, we went for an afternoon walk up to Ruapehu Hut, owned by the New Zealand Alpine Club. The snow was patchy but enough to make a snowman. Unfortunately, the carrot had been left at the lodge. As we clambered over the rocks the snow became deeper and Allan was able to teach us the basics of 'Snowcraft 101'. For those who were new to snowcraft it was good to learn about pigeonholing, edging, self-arrest and bum-sliding. The conditions were perfect at Ruapehu Hut with spectacular views of Knoll Ridge Chalet and Pinnacle Ridge. Waikato Hut – with the fire going – was a welcome sight on our return at 4:30 p.m., as the sun was setting. The next day there were three trips on offer; a climb to Dome, the Horopito Expedition and a loop walk from Whakapapa Village. We walked the Ridge Track to the picnic table, went off-track through the alpine shrublands and dropped down to the Wairere Stream. We found a picturesque waterfall for a lunch break, walked downstream to the bridge on the Tama Lakes Track and returned to Whakapapa Village by the Taranaki Falls Track. One brave soul from another party had a quick dip in the pool below the falls. We were fortunate in dodging the rain on this tramp and a stop at the coffee cart overlooking the Chateau completed a most enjoyable five hour walk. Back at the lodge, Ron set the scene for our special Matariki dinner. Mulled wine was served and he spoke on the themes of Matariki; remembrance, celebrating the present and looking to the future. It is a privilege to have the lodge on the mountain. The table was beautifully decorated with candles, greenery and red berries. A delicious meal of chicken casserole, roast vegetables (kumara and pumpkin), green beans, steam pudding, custard and pavlova was served. Compliments to the chef were received by Jacqui. It was frosty underfoot when we left the lodge at 9:00 a.m. for the journey home. Great food and service was enjoyed at Café 75 at Taumarunui. The final walk for the weekend was to a waterfall many of us would have driven past between Taumarunui and Te Kuiti. The Omaru Falls Walk is clearly signposted from SH 4 and a gentle 30 min walk through the bush and over farmland leads to this hidden gem. This trip was true to the spirit of Matariki, a period of celebration, relaxation and merriment.

Those on the trip were: Les, Julia, Nicola, Peter, Ying, Mike H, Jim, Jacqui, Ron, Bea, Allan, Mike P, Kat, Prativa, Josh. And me, David (the trip scribe). A special thanks to Les for leading the trip and to the drivers; Allan, Les, Jacqui and Ron.

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*Memories made in the mountains stay in our hearts forever.*

## CELEBRATING THE WINTER SOLSTICE

21 June



Photo: Val Jones

A group of 18 mid-week walkers got together on the night of the winter solstice to celebrate. It was the most beautiful calm clear evening with lots of positive chatter as we walked around Kainui Lake (Lake D). We hardly needed a torch as we were blessed with a bright full moon.

Following the walk we shared camaraderie at the Cock n Bull for a meal and a tippie. Thanks for joining in so well everyone. It was a great night out.

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### *From the committee table:*

**New Members:** Welcome to Belinda Cooper, Vicki Moon, Kate Stedman, Tracy Burchell, Campbell Dawson, Emma Fogg, Stacey Walker and Rose Kemp Lloyd.

**Resignations:** nil

**Membership:** The club has 186 tramping members.

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## WTC Annual Photo Competition

Our annual competition closes on 7th August 2024. Our dates are a little earlier this year to align with the FMC photo competition. Entries must be supplied before or on the closing date in digital form. The following categories are in alignment with those of FMC:

1. Above bushline with no human element
2. Above bushline with a human element
3. Below bushline with no human element
4. Below bushline with a human element
5. Historic
6. Native flora, fauna and fungi
7. Long exposure

We also have two WTC categories which are ineligible for the FMC photo competition:

8. Club Character - features a humorous subject which has a club context
9. International

Our photos will be judged, and results presented at the September Club Night. Entries are to be emailed to Jacqui Dick: jacquimd@me.com or given to Jacqui on a USB stick before or on 7<sup>th</sup> August.



Rules:

- A. Definition of a "human element". The definition of a "human element" is flexible but the general intention is: Where the photo contains anything, other than as a very minor feature: people, a hut, a track sign/marker, bridge, ice axe and anything else that has been introduced by humans into the environment then we would define that as having "a Human element". But if a photo has what could be called a Human Element but that element is very small, inconsequential and not a feature in the photo then you could count it as "No Human Element".
- B. The intention of the long exposure category is for photography of scenes that the naked eye cannot normally comprehend. These shots require a very long exposure and the use of a tripod. The category is intended for highly technical images of shots taken at night, (including star trails), or in extremely low light situations such as caves or canyons. The category is not intended for normal dusk/dawn photography, or images where a long exposure is used to 'blur' the image (such as flowing water, or movement of the subject).
- C. Entries for the FMC aligned categories, apart from Historic, must be taken after 1 Jan 2022.
- D. Definition of "historic": The intention for the historic category is for entrants to go back through club and individual archives to select "old photos" rather than "photos of old things". As an example, a recent photo of a hut built in the 1950's is not a 'historic' photo. However, a photo of the same hut taken in the 1960's certainly is a 'historic' photo. Photos for the historic category must be taken before 1 Jan 2022.
- E. All photos, apart from the International Category, must be taken within New Zealand, which is defined as within our Exclusive Economic Zone. This includes the following islands: North, South, Stewart, Chatham, Kermadec, Sub-Antarctic.
- F. Only two entries per category allowed.
- G. Photos must be between 1MB and 5MB (if they go into the FMC competition, this is the size they have stipulated).

**Notes:**

**Please update your file name to reflect the title or to indicate there is no title, plus the category name e.g. "In the Wild – Above bushline with human element" or "No Title – Long Exposure". It is advisable to title your photos as this adds to the interest of the photo.**

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Wherever we go in the mountains we find more than we seek.
John Muir

Care of Walking Poles

Taking good care of your walking poles will keep them functioning and lasting longer.

Inspect and Adjust

Regularly check the poles for signs of wear and damage. Look for worn out grips, straps, baskets and tips. Bivouac and Trek N Travel have replacement tips. Check the shafts for damage. Check the locking system and that it is adjusted correctly. With clamp systems open the lever and adjust the bolt with a screwdriver in quarter turns until the sections lock satisfactorily. Do not over tighten as that could cause damage. Screw locking systems should be tightened just enough to hold without slipping. Do not over tighten as too much pressure could split the sleeve section.

Cleaning

After every tramp clean the poles to remove any mud and grit. A soft damp cloth, with soapy water if necessary, should be used for cleaning. Take the pole sections apart and cleaning each section. Soak the poles in soapy water to soften stubborn dirt. Rinse with clean water and leave to thoroughly dry before reassembling. Moisture inside can cause the aluminium to corrode, and the poles will become difficult to slide in and out. Do not use cleaners like vinegar and bleach as they can corrode the aluminium.

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## *Snippets*

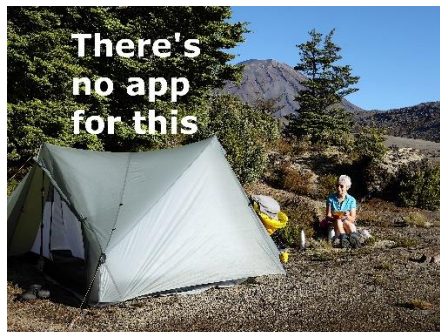
### **The Pukeokahu Walk, Saturday November 16**

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 Riaver. 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](mailto:pukeokahuevents@gmail.com)



## Waitakeres Trip



## Matariki Weekend



*Photos by Allan Wickens*



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