



# THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

## WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

PO Box 685, Hamilton 3240 • [www.wtc.org.nz](http://www.wtc.org.nz)

November 2024



Auctioneers & scribe keeping busy. Photo by Allan Wickens

# WAIKATO HUT

Your lodge on Mt Ruapehu  
Tongariro National Park



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Kaimai mist by Brian Prescott

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WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB  
P. O. Box 685, Hamilton 3240 • [www.wtc.org.nz](http://www.wtc.org.nz)

Free to members

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

BULLETIN No 867

November 2024

### General Committee

(Contact details listed below)

<b>President:</b>	Rupert Craggs	027 6811926
<b>Secretary:</b>	Dorothy Cawdron	027 7424222
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Guy Domett	027 2483008
<b>Members:</b>	John McArthur (VP Tramp) Stephen Phillips (VP Ski) Allan Wickens Selwyn June Les Warren	

### 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

### Ski Subcommittee

**Ski email:** [waikatoski@gmail.com](mailto:waikatoski@gmail.com)

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

<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

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

## Club Night: Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December

Dr Oliver McCleod from the University will speak at the Club night about his work on the Mt Karioi geology.

**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

3150	10 Nov	M/F	Hikurangi	Miriam Bennett
3151a	16/17 Nov	M	Kayaking Taupo	Theresa O'Leary
3151b	16/17 Nov	E/M	Taupo trails	Dianne & Selwyn June
3152	24 Nov	E/M	Karamu walkway	Les Warren
3154	30 Nov/1 Dec	M	Blackberry Flat	Jim Scott
	4 Dec		CLUB NIGHT	David Totman
3155	8 Dec	E	Ruapuke to Schnackenberg Bay	David McDonald
3156	14 Dec		Christmas party	Judith Bogle
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
	16 Feb		Maungatautari	Lynette Morris



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

<b>E = Easy.</b>	Up to 4 hours per day, pace slower than E/M.
<b>E/M = Easy/Medium.</b>	Up to 5-6 hours/day, pace slower than M.
<b>M = Medium.</b>	Up to 6-7 hours/day, at standard walking pace.
<b>M/F = Medium/Fit.</b>	Up to 7-8 hours/day, pace faster than M.
<b>F = Fit.</b>	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.

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## Trip Descriptions

### Trip 3150

### Hikurangi

10 Nov

Hikurangi is the 771m high flat-topped mountain that you see on the left just before you drive into Taumarunui. This landmark, in spite of its shape, is not a volcano but is still a very interesting and steep climb. On a clear day you can see Mts Ruapehu, Ngauruhoe, Tongariro and Taranaki.

The first two thirds of the climb is over fairly steep sheep country (grassy lumpy paddocks). The route we take will be decided based on how we are feeling on the day, with the energetic approach of aiming for the next appealing point in the distance as we head upwards towards the bushline, and on the return taking the failsafe route of the cut 4x4 track over the farmland.

Through the bush section, the going is steep and tricky, with spray painted trees to help guide the path, thanks to the farmer who does this each year.

This is a fairly strenuous walk of just under 7km return with an ascent of 561m.

Estimated time of 5 hours. Departing the Uni at 7.45am on the Sunday.

**Leader:** Miriam Bennett                      **Ph:** 021146420                      **Grade:** M

**Email:** *miriamlbennett@gmail.com*

**Transport:** Senior member \$25-30    Senior non-member: Senior rate +\$10

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**Trip 3151A                      Kayaking the Western Bays                      15-17 Nov**

- Similar to our Kawhia camp weekend – arrive Friday afternoon 2pm on, maybe an evening trip?
  - Stay in campground – **Great Lake Holiday Park – many options, must make own bookings** – guide \$40 for a one person tent/van site, \$135 for a deluxe cabin – all details on website *www.greatlake.co.nz*
  - Kayak hire close by – Taupo Kayaking Adventures - \$65/4 hours, \$120 a day, they do have a 12-kayak trailer we could hire to be dropped off/picked up – *www.tka.co.nz*
  - Long day trip - we could hug the shore and kayak southwest around the lake – depending on who comes with a trailer, or a shuttle/water taxi, maybe a pick-up at one of the DoC camp beaches towards or past Kinloch 7+ kms and be dropped off/picked up again to kayak another section on Sunday???
  - Those wanting to kayak/camp overnight could base themselves with our group
  - Trampers and cyclists are welcome to come and share basecamp as well – all welcome ☺ (Taupo Kayaking also hire paddle boards and mountain bikes)
- Interested?

Make your Great Lake Holiday Park accommodation booking, **then register for the WTC trip so Theresa has your contact details.**

Please fill in the comments to tell her if you'd like to hire a kayak and if you wish to share transport there.

Also, if you would like to be part of the WTC Kayak WhatsApp group for this or other trips - send Theresa your mobile phone number *theresa@earsmadeeasy.com* or 027 416 2633

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

**Email:** *Theresa.oleary.eme@gmail.com*

**Transport:** tba

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**Trip 3151B                      Walking & cycling Taupo trails                      15-17 Nov**

We will travel with the kayaking group and stay at the same camping ground but will focus more on walking some easier trails in the area. Options could be from Kinloch to Kawakawa bay and back, from the Aratiatia dam (watch the water flow when the gates are opened first), then proceed to Huka falls or perhaps even further to the Spa road park in Taupo.

Follow the Holiday Park camp booking details and trip booking details as Theresa suggests above. Record that you would be a walker.

**Leaders:** Selwyn & Dianne June

**Ph:** 0274978151

**Grade:** variable

**Trip 3152**

**Karamu walkway**

**24 Nov**

The Karamu Walkway is primarily over farmland between Four Brothers Reserve on the Hamilton – Raglan Road south, to Limeworks Loop Road, which crosses Old Mountain Road. We will be only walking the section between Old Mountain Road and Limeworks Loop Road. The plan is to walk one way from Old Mountain Road and finish at Limeworks Loop Road. **But, I need a kind offer of someone willing to drive and drop the group at the start on Old Mountain Road and meet the group at the finish.**

The Walkway is over farmland which will be quite rough terrain. There are poles to follow and a few stiles to cross fences. On a good day there are lovely views but need to keep in-mind if windy / wet, we are quite exposed.

I would estimate a time of around 3 to 4hrs whether one way or an a out and back walk. The Walkway is closed in October due to lambing so, will plan to visit the Walkway at the beginning of November to check out the trip further and be able to provide more accurate details. Further details will be sent out closer to the trip.

**Leader:** Les Warren

**Ph:** 027 8644937

**Grade:** E/M

**Email:** [warrenlb2017@outlook.com](mailto:warrenlb2017@outlook.com)

**Transport:** Senior member \$20-25

Senior non-member: Senior rate +\$10

**Trip 3154**

**Blackberry Flat**

**30 Nov/1 Dec**

Leave Hamilton Saturday morning and drive to Speedies Road, Te Angra. Walk into Blackberry Flats is about 3hrs. On Sunday, walk to Twin Falls, 40min each way and return to cars and drive home.

Note – Only tenting as no Hut. **Also note, that there are NO toilets available, therefore only bush toilet option.**

Further details will be sent out closer to the time.

**Leader:** Jim Scott

**Ph:** 021 049 7115

**Grade:** M

**Email:** [scottyja1950@gmail.com](mailto:scottyja1950@gmail.com)

**Transport:** Senior member \$45-55

Senior non-member: member rate + \$10

**Trip 3155**

**Ruapuke to Schnackenberg bay**

**8 Dec**

Travel out towards Raglan. We will take turn off to Ruapuke Beach and head south along beach walk to Schnackenberg Bay (near Aotea Harbour) to our waiting van driver. Distance is Approx. 7kms it is and isolated beach walk so we are unlikely to see anyone. There are interesting Pancake rock formations. Fresh water and salt water options on offer for refreshing swim. Those wishing to contribute to beach clean-up bring a bag. The grading is due to the distance walking on sand.

**Leader:** David MacDonald

**Ph:** 0274908560

**Grade:** M

**Email:** [threedlss@orcon.net.nz](mailto:threedlss@orcon.net.nz)

**Transport:** Senior member \$20-25

Senior non-member: Senior rate +\$10

Children: \$15

*If you find age catching up with you..... Walk faster      Anonymous*

### 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.

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### Trip 3157 A

### Hollyford to Barn Bay

10-19 Dec

The Hollyford track is in the Darren Mountains and follows the Hollyford River.

We would start at the beginning of the Hollyford track then stay at Lake Alabaster Hut. This will take 7 hours so we will need to start early.

The plan would be to meet up the day before, where it will depend on who is flying in and who has travelled down by car to where we stay and if we need a shuttle.



Barn Bay Hut



The next day after staying at Lake Alabaster Hut, depending on the time the boat eaves, we would either stay at McKerrow Island Hut which is at the shoreline, or walk from Lake Alabaster hut to catch the boat.

(We will not be walking the demon trail) and possibly go to Martins Bay in the same day. From here either you can continue with us for the second leg of the trip to Barn bay or you have the option of flying out.

Worthy of note is McKerrow Island Hut at the shoreline is the site of the abandoned Jamestown.

Then we will continue to Big Bay and then to Gorge river. There is a hut at Gorge river but we will take 2 days to get there so you will need your tents. The same on the way to Barn bay there will be another overnight in a tent. At Gorge River lives the famous artist (Robert Long) who has bought his family up there. We should be able to meet him and his wife. We will have to cross over the river in a boat that is left at the banks.

From Big bay to Barn bay it along the coast which is 63km. Note from Gorge river to barn bay it is quite rocky so slower going. At the end we need to cross Hope river so will need to keep an eye on the tides and rainfall. But Barn Bay Hut is just on the other side.



Barn Bay

I have allowed 10 days for this trip to make allowances for weather but also if you wish you can stay at Barn Bay longer and have a bit of a holiday. It is right next to an estuary, the ocean and there are lakes further up the beach. We will be helicoptering out from here to Haast. Costing is dependent on numbers, but the flight is well worth it

You can either stay with us in Haast where we will be continuing on Les's trip or catch the bus back to Queenstown to fly out.

**Leader:** Judith Bogle

**Ph:** 027 381 0283

**Grade:** tba

**Email:** [judith.bogle@outlook.com](mailto:judith.bogle@outlook.com)

**Cost:** tba

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**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](mailto: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).

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**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](mailto:mcarthur@outlook.co.nz)

**Transport:** private vehicles

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**Trip 3159** **Mataketake ranges** **22-26 Dec**

The bookings for this trip are now closed.

**Leader:** Les Warren **Ph:** 027 8644937

**Grade:** F

**Email:** [warrenlb2017@outlook.com](mailto:warrenlb2017@outlook.com)

**Trip 3160** **Copland Track** **29-31 Dec**  
The bookings for this trip are also closed.  
**Leader:** Les Warren **Ph:** 027 8644937 **Grade:** F  
**Email:** warrenlb2017@outlook.com

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**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 (4 Jan 2025) 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

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**Trip 3162** **Hopkins river valley** **3-6 Jan**  
You should have already registered for this trip, **Trips 3159 & 3160** are full.

Important Notes:

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 December 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

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**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

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**Trip 3164**    **Te Paki**    **16-19 Jan**

This trip being put up in the hope that the east coast damage should be 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 before descending into Sandy Bay. There is also a return side track to Te Werahi Beach (an extra 2km). Then we will go to Twilight Beach 7.25km walk (3 hrs). Experience dune landscapes and views of Cape Maria van Diemen and Motuopao Island.

Day 3: We will exit Twilight Beach and walk out Te Paki Stream 11km (4.5hrs). The track ascends above the beach and you will walk through low growing vegetation with views across Te Paki Farm and out through the dunes.

**Leader:** Judith Bogle **Ph:** 027 381 0283 **Grade:** M

**Email:** *judith.bogle@outlook.com*

**Transport:** tba

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**Trip 3165A** **Kaimanawas** **24- 27 Jan**

We drive down Friday night leaving the Waikato University carpark at 5.30pm to camp at the Urchin campground south of Turangi. We'll stop for a dinner in Taupo. Saturday morning we'll be dropped off at the Southern Access Corridor route on the Desert Road. We follow the Army camp boundary all the way and drop down to the Otamateanui Stream and camp at its confluence with the Makomiko Stream. 6-8 hour walking day.

Sunday we take a route up via point 1272 and 1271 to reach the tops and head north to reach Thunderbolt. We'll camp near Motutere. An 8 + hour day with plenty of elevation.

Sunday is the walk out to the Urchin carpark. 5 hours.

**Leader:** Mike Peck **Ph:** 021369256 **Grade:** F

**Email:** *Mikeypeck@yahoo.com*

**Transport:** tba

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**Trip 3165B** **Opunake/Pouakai crossing** **24-27 Jan**

We will travel to Opunake on Saturday morning. If the tides are right, we'll walk out to the Three Sisters just south of Mokau. This is a flat walk along the river to some stunning sea stacks that you can walk through. We will also, potentially, climb Paritutu, which is a 156m high rock in New Plymouth. We will be staying at our bach in Opunake. There is plenty of space to put up tents and we might have a couple of bunkrooms ready in time for this trip. You are welcome to use the bach facilities.

Sunday, we hope to do the Pouakai Crossing beside Mt Taranaki. This is a 19km walk that is likened to the Tongariro Crossing. DOC times are 7.5 to 9.5 hours.

This tramp starts at North Egmont, climbs up to a lookout, then sidles along the mountain and passes the towering lava columns of the Dieffenbach Cliffs. The track descends to Holly Hut and crosses the Ahukawakawa swamp. Time dependent, we will take a side trip to Pouakai Tarn where there are reflections of Mt Taranaki. Then there is a long descent through Goblin forest to the Mangorei Road end.

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

**Leader:** Peter Lye **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 Hiko

**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 check out 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, those interested, we can go to Cape Kidnappers Ganet colony. The only way to visit the Colony is by joining a Ganet 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

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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

No replies yet for the food column so let’s get your submissions ready for the summer tramping season. I’m sure you have so tasty dishes to share. I’ll start the ball rolling with a yummy muesli bar recipe near the back of this edition.

But far more exciting was the inaugural film festival Jacqui & Allan organised for Waikato Hut. Absolutely amazing what they pulled off and the level of enthusiastic participation was to be greatly admired. My thanks to everyone who attended and

was careful about my health- and of course their own. It all worked well. I think the event ran so well that I feel it justifies a 'feature' article this month. There are plans to do this again next year so be prepared to come along.

The point was made to a photo last month that I titled 'Hypothermia treatment' last month that sharing a sleeping bag with a sufferer is perhaps not quite the recommended treatment these days. Wrapping up warm and having warm drinks could be part of a better solution.

Dianne June

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### *Presidential blog*

As we have just had one of my favourite nights of the year - Guy Fawkes night – I thought it might be interesting to delve into a how it all came to be.....

Guy Fawkes was actually called Guido Fawkes (or Johnson) and was a rebel who fought for Catholic Spain in the Eighty Years' war against the Protestant Dutch. He was thwarted in his attempt to restore a Catholic monarch (Princess Elizabeth) to the British throne by blowing up the then protestant King James 1<sup>st</sup> and the House of Lords on 5<sup>th</sup> November 1605.

In July 1606 he leased a cellar beneath the House of Lords and stockpiled 26 barrels of gunpowder ready for the opening of Parliament. The threat of the plague had delayed the opening until Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> November and Fawkes was ready in the cellar. But during the early hours of that morning, due to an anonymous tip-off, the authorities found Fawkes with the explosives. He was tortured in the Tower of London over the next few days using manacles and the rack but was steadfast and only admitted his regret at failing to kill the King. The trial of Fawkes and 7 other conspirators began on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January 1606 at Westminster Hall where he was sentenced to be Hung, Drawn and Quartered on 31<sup>st</sup> January. However, in a lucky escape, Fawkes fell from the hanging scaffold and broke his neck.

An Act of Parliament in 1606 designated November 5<sup>th</sup> as the joyful day of deliverance of the King, which remained in force until 1859. People were encouraged to celebrate by lighting bonfires which were accompanied by fireworks from the 1650s. After the heir presumptive James, Duke of York, converted to Catholicism in 1673 it became the custom after to burn an effigy of Fawkes or even the Pope. More recent bonfire effigies have included politicians such as the South African Paul Kruger and Margaret Thatcher.

So next time you light your camp fire and imagine a poignant effigy burning away.....Remember, remember, the 5<sup>th</sup> of November with gunpowder, treason and plot!

Rupert Cragg

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### *Skj club report*

Hut rate from October till June for \$25 per night. 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.

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## Trip Reports

### Report from the **Mangahau Fundraiser farm walk:**

Cathy Lynette, Julia, Les, Jim and Barb walked the Mangahau fundraiser farm walk on Saturday (for Rural Support & Westpac Helicopters) was just the most beautiful farm, raised 12k and will do again next year- we are all going back was so good. Lynette won the first prize of a helicopter flight for three- Cathy has reminded her many times that she is a very good friend! 🍷 🍷. ....and tramping colleagues willing to congratulate her and join her on the ride.

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### **Trip 3145**

### **Whitecliffs**

**5/6 Oct**

On the Saturday we started at the boat ramp where we were to carry on to the Whitecliffs walk. We choose the right day since it was sunny.

There was quite a surge into the beach so we were not sure if we would get back along the beach or not. But we carried on with a walk up the road and across the farmers' land. Once we reached a high point we walked along the ridge and then down to Wai Pingao stream turn off.



The lime kiln

photo by Judith Bogle

We decided to carry onto to the trig which is not too far from the turn off to Mt Messenger track. We had a great view of the coastline and there were holes in the rocks like Cathedrals. When we came back we walked down to Wai Pingao stream to the beach but even though it was heading to low tide there was quite a surge into the beach so we decided to walk back along the ridge and out the farmers gate. Sunday, we did the Mokau Lyme Kiln walk. Starting with an address that looked like a person's place (we decided to check with a local farmer who told us to go talk to old fella to get directions). The directions were good; we got through the correct gates before getting to the piece of forest which led then onto the next farm. Note there is no track showing on the topo-map, so we were fully reliant on the old fellas' directions. We followed the Mokau river and there was a farm track if you can call that sinking slug a farm track. We were grass-lump hopping to trying not to sink into it and trying to pick out the drier bits. The old fella did say summer would be better to go there. Anyway, we got to the next edge of forest expecting to bush bash but with a happy surprise it was not too hard to follow going in the general direction. Ureka, we found the kiln. This a reasonable structure and worth coming to see. Also, what was humorous was the Mokau DOC sign for the kiln was on the other end of the track leading to the river, not at the beginning. Then the rain came in and we made a rush back.

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### *From the committee table:*

**New Members:** Nil.

**Resignations:** Nil

**Membership:** The club has 194 tramping members.

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### *Snippets*

➤ Project Tongariro are looking for 8 volunteers to help marshal The Poronui Passage on **Saturday 30th November 2024**. The main duties will be manning the plush aid stations and directing participants as they head around the course. Event volunteering is an important fundraising opportunity for Project Tongariro as all funds raised from these events go towards supporting our projects. If you can spare your Saturday, come and marshal this event with us!

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### *....from FMC.....*

➤ How's your hut bagging going? Make sure you plan a trip this November and become part of the **Love Our Huts and Tracks Campaign**. FMC is 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. 2 club members have expressed an interest in loving a hut - anyone else please contact John McArthur and he'll put you in touch.

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

- **Hump Ridge Track** in western Southland has officially become New Zealand's 11th Great Walk.
- Te Araroa Trust and DoC have teamed up to create the **Te Araroa 'Trail Pass'** for summer 2024/25. 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*.
- DoC and Mokai Station agree on **access into Ruahine Forest Park**. A dispute between Mokai Station and the Department of Conservation about public access to the north-western part of Ruahine Forest Park has been resolved. This is a great tramping area, especially places like Lake Colenso and Ruahine Corner hut. Public access will be restricted to a single route via the paper road (unformed legal road). Jessamine Corpe of Maia Manawanui Whenua, the owner of Mokai Station, said Mokai Station and the DoC came to an agreement early last week. She said the DoC agreed that the non-registered easement (the current route) would disappear and that access would be along the paper road. Both DoC and Corpe said the details of the agreement are still to be finalised. A spokesperson from DoC said: "DOC and Ms Corpe have resolved this issue in principle. We will meet with stakeholders shortly, and following this will work towards formalising the agreed outcome."

Source: Farmers Weekly October 1, 2024

## *The inaugural film festival at Waikato Hut*

What a weekend Allan and Jacqui pulled off. It may have been the third attempt by Allan to hold this event but it sure was worth waiting for. Friday saw people arrive in dribs and drabs throughout the afternoon and evening and sorting themselves out for food and bunks, some even stayed at the Rotorua hut and commuted. This was followed by much advice as the seating was re-arranged several times to make the lounge look just like a movie theatre. About 7.30 we settled in for some films hosted by Don French – mountaineer extraordinaire. He has climbed 100 peaks in NZ and done much climbing overseas to augment his skills. Throughout the course of the weekend we were entertained by coverage of some of his climbs and there were a few of us who got the tummy butterflies

looking at where he was climbing – the peak to Mt Unicorn being particularly scary.

Saturday dawned at some point – it was so windy and cloudy we couldn't see far past the verandah railings. But that didn't stop a small group from going for a walk not the Taranaki falls, and the rest staying inhouse and watching another couple of movies.

The afternoon hilarity began at 5pm when the valuable goods donated by Mike of Bivouac fame and various members attending donating their services as part of an hilarious auction. Mike and Dianne were the auctioneers who frequently forgot where the bids were at or who made them, and each often chased bidders to the detriment of others. And absolute hoot. Jacqui did a sterling job recording who was the final successful bidder and everyone quenched their thirst by a consuming a very tasty mulled wine at the same time. This plonk may have lubricated the prices a tad too. Much laughter kept the action moving quickly. After a fantastic dinner of Mexican chicken and roast veges, pavlova and fruit salad prepared by all and sundry it was time for more movies- especially those of Don's 100 peaks. The cinema closed at 10pm and all headed off to bed having moved all the couches back to their usual positions.

Sunday dawned bright, clear and sunny, so Mike took his group up to crater Lake, Allan took his group towards Alpine hut for some more snowcraft/crampon/ice axe training, and Les took a group on a loop over Meads wall, and back to the hut via all the other huts. Twas a beautiful day for all the walks. Everyone was back at the hut for a late lunch and in double quick time and some disorganisation the hut was clean and tidy again for Dave Macdonald to stay on, eat the many leftovers and continue his plans for some hut maintenance. Total value for all the auction items was donated to Waikato Hut and amounted to \$ 1765 which will go a long way to covering the debt for the hut management this year.



The movie theatre

photo by Allan Wickens



The auctioneer in fine form

photo by Jean Wilson



Ready for the show

photo by Dianne Jue





A busy dinner table

photo by Allan Wickens



Left: Allan Wicken

Middle: Audience

Right Don French

Photo by Dianne June



The lads in the stalls

photo by Dianne June





Saturday rolling in.....

Photo by Dianne June

Don French introducing his anecdotes

Photo by Allan Wickens





Getting to grips with gear and ice

photo by Allan Wickens

The fit group

photo by Mike Peck



The fit pack

photo by Annika Wing



Knowing what to do

photo by Annika Wing

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## Oat Slices

1.5C rolled oats

½ C coconut

½ C pumpkin and/or sunflower seeds

3tbsp sesame seeds

½ C dried fruit-raisins, sultans, dried apricots, and/or prunes

1tsp cinnamon

Pinch of salt

Put all the above ingredients in a bowl

In a pot put:

100g butter (or coconut oil for dairy-free)

½ C sugar

3tbsp honey

Bring to gentle boil for 5 minutes then pour over dried ingredients.

Mix well. Add zest of orange if desired.

Place mixture into flat tin lined with baking paper and bake for 25 minutes

@180°C until golden. Remove from oven, leave in tin until cool (mixture hardens as it cools). Lift the paper out and leave to cool completely. Slice into 18 bars. Store pieces in airtight tin. Keeps for 1 week.





Final pus on skyline track Photo by Annika Wing



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