



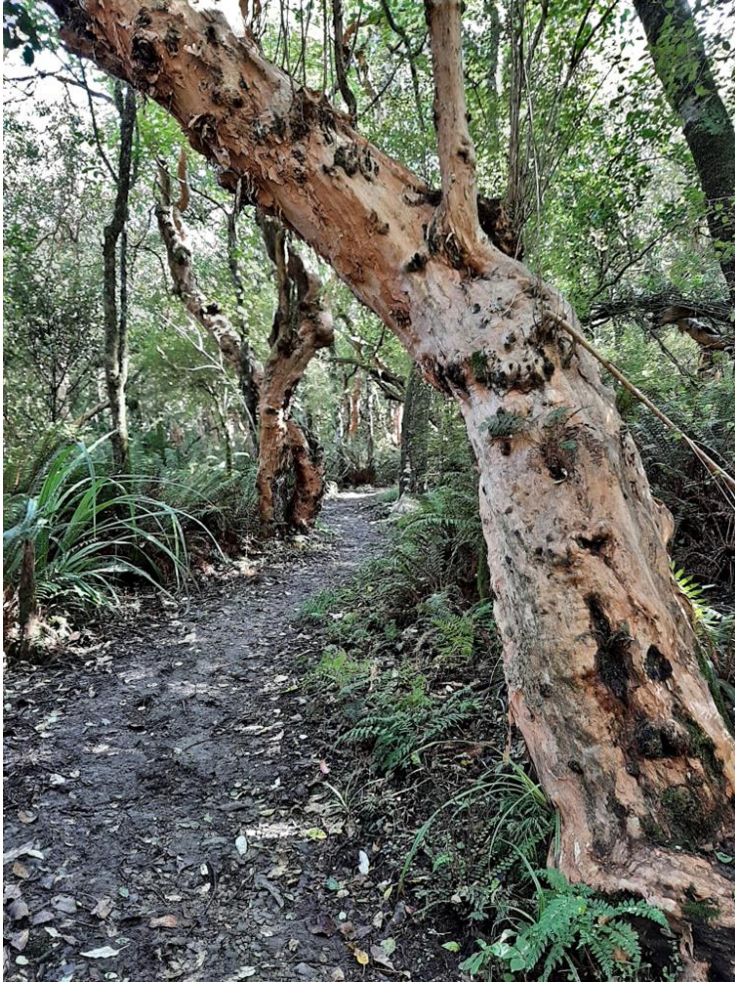
THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

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

October 2024



Where will the path take us? Forest walk photo by Jean Wilson

WAIKATO HUT

Your lodge on Mt Ruapehu
Tongariro National Park



www.wtc.org.nz



Spaniard grass flower by
Allan Wickens

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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 865

September 2024

General Committee

(Contact details listed below)

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

Tramping Subcommittee

Tramping email: waikatotrampingclub@gmail.com

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

Ski Subcommittee

Ski email: waikatoski@gmail.com

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

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

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

Club Night: Wednesday 6th November

Dr Janelle Ward will be talking about the conservation work being done by the biodiversity team at the Mangatautari Sanctuary.

We meet at St. Peter's Cathedral in Victoria St

Door opens at 7.00pm and the meeting starts at 7.30pm.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2024

	9 Oct	n/a	Trip Planning	Les Warren
3146	13 Oct	E/M	Bowentown	Les Warren
3147	20 Oct	E	Waiuku beach cleanup	John McArthur
3148	25-28 Oct	M	Mt. Taranaki walks	Theresa O'Leary
3149	1-3 Nov	E-F	Mountain film festival	Allan Wickens
	6 Nov		CLUB NIGHT	David Totman
3150	10 Nov		Where to???	Club captain
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
3153			tba	Club captain
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	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
3167	2-7 Feb		Ivory Lake Hut	Mike Peck

Note: No club night in January

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 3146

Bowentown

13 Oct

Meet at London Street Carpark 8am. Travel to Bowentown Domain. There are two / three walks to do here or if the weather is warm and fine, go for a swim. Walks on offer is a loop walk via Shelly Bay (about 70min round trip) and the Te Ho Pa walk (another 70min round trip). There is some steep sections to the later walk. We can spend the day at this Domain or after about 3hrs here, go up to Waihi Beach for some more walks. From the Waihi Water Reservoir, there is a 45min return walk to a Lookout and a 90min Forest Loop walk vis the Trig Trail.

So, there are enough options to have a full day trip. I have not done the Waihi Beach walks so, if we visit here, things will be new to me.

Leader: Les Warren

Ph: 027 8644937

Grade: E/M

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

Trip 3147

Waiuku beach cleanup

20 Oct

A walk in the forest and a little beachcombing picking up rubbish and putting it into a shopping bag - what could be more satisfying than this? At the end of our womble we'll deposit all the rubbish in the car park and ring the District Council to pick it up - quite a satisfying feeling, though we only scratch the surface. It is a lot of fun and the ice-cream at Pokeno is well deserved. Let's do it again!

Leader: John McArthur

Ph: 021 2889641

Grade: E

Email: mcarthur@outlook.co.nz

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

Trip 3148

Mt. Taranaki walks

25-28 Oct

Leaving Friday 2pm.

Trip Rationale: 4.5 hr drive – includes 2 x 20 min stops. Arrive 6.30pm, check in is by 8pm. Checkout will be 10am Monday 28th. Sunlight Hours: 0620 – 1955

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fit full day tramps proposed:

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

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

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

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

Accommodation: Backpacker 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

Grade: Variable

Email: Sheresa.oleary.eme@gmail.com

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

A van, seats 12 \$179 + fuel

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

Trip 3149

Mountain film festival

1-3 Nov

After trying without success to run this event on two occasions last year, due to bad weather, we are optimistically going ahead with our inaugural mountain film festival. The event will be held over the weekend but the film festival activities will start Friday night at our Club hut. We will travel down to Whakapapa Friday afternoon/night and spend Friday and Saturday nights at the hut. Some short films will start after we arrive (commencing 7.30 pm), and our guest speaker Don French will be present. Don is well-known among the mountain fraternity, as the first, and only person, to have completed the "100 Peaks Challenge". (Google for more info about Don).

On Saturday, there will be scope to climb to the heights of Ruapehu with Don, and Mike Peck of WTC. The more adventurous will be able to accompany Don and Mike, while others can go to the crater area with Allan. Short walks in the lower regions will also be available. Of course this is all weather dependent. Otherwise, you can stay in the hut, relax and read (or watch more mountain related films if you wish).

Saturday evening, there will be mulled wine and a delicious, shared dinner (food for this provided as part of the food cost). Then we will have the "main event" of our film evening. A variety of short films will be shown, with mountains and adventure as the theme. We will have as good a sound system and screen as we are able to carry up to the hut, with the lounge set up like a movie theatre. Don will be doing an extended presentation, including his "100 Summits" as well as lots of interesting stuff about his life in the mountains, both in New Zealand and overseas. Sunday is a day to relax, walk, socialise or do whatever you please. It may be a "catch up day" if we have bad weather on Saturday. We head home Sunday afternoon at about 3.00 pm.

BYO, lunch and snacks. We will provide a basic breakfast of porridge/cereal and toast (bring your own extras). Saturday dinner is provided. Bring some cash as we will be selling ice creams and popcorn during the film sessions.

Leaders: Allan Wickens
Jacqui Dick

Ph: 027 950 9546
Ph: 021 466 247

Grades: "Sloth" to "fit"

Accommodation: \$70 for WTC members and \$50 for ski members. Non-members \$80. There is scope for pitching a tent outside if the hut is full (\$15 per night to use our hut facilities).

Food: \$30 for the dinner and 2 breakfasts.

Transport: A van or 2 will be available but an early evening start of the event programme means we will have a 3-day van hire approx. \$70-80 Otherwise, private vehicles

FILM FESTIVAL FEE - \$25 per person (covers hire of equipment)

Trip 3150 **where to??** **10 Nov**

This is a date where anyone can put forward a suggestion and take us to wherever you would like to go. It can be of any grade and almost to anywhere. It can be a day trip or a weekend one. Contact the club captain to put your idea forward.

Leader: You **Ph:** yours **Grade:** your choice

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

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+ k's 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

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. The next day after staying at Lake Alabaster Hut, depending on the time the boat leaves, 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.



Barn Bay Hut

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.

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.



Barn Bay

Leader: Judith Bogle

Ph: 027 381 0283

Grade: tba

Email: *judith.bogle@outlook.com*

Cost: 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).

~~~~~

If you think old age is catching up with you ..... walk faster. Anonymous

**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 Rereatukahia 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 Rereatukahia 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](mailto: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 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](mailto:warrenlb2017@outlook.com)

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### **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 Waitahariver 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](http://remotehuts.co.nz) or visit YouTube and watch Ivory Lake Hikoi

**Leader:** Mike Peck

**Ph:** 021369256

**Grade:** F

**Email:** [mikeypeck@yahoo.com](mailto:mikeypeck@yahoo.com)

**Transport:** Private arrangements

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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***

Yay, the warmer and hopefully finer weather is all but upon us so it's time to look at your tramping gear if you haven't already done so and assess what you need for what looks to be a very busy tramping programme.

I am very envious of you all being able to get out there in the rejuvenating atmosphere of our forests and mountains at present and look forward to the time when I can join you,



And on the topic of joining in I would like to thank all those who have helped the Pirongia Society with it's various activities during the winter and the upcoming visit to Okahukura valley again for bait top-ups. This latter event is a great way to enjoy the beautiful Pureora forest while giving something back to conservation, and having the time to listen to the birds, find those wonderful and colourful fungi, and be tramping while you do so.

Many of you head out to do your own interesting tramps and walks and I would encourage you to support the fundraising walk at Maungahau Lodge on Oct 19<sup>th</sup>. This is a novel way to support the rescue helicopter. And what about joining in on the Matuku muster? Both are noted in the Snippets section.

And the presidential blog has an interesting aspect to it this month-FOOD. Send us your comments and ideas. We could set up a cooking page in next months' edition. We look forward to your 'feedback'.

Dianne June

### *Presidential blog*

While we get ready for finer weather and a long hot summer full of marvelous tramps, and as a good tramp can be made greater with fabulous food, it occurred to me while talking with a few other club members that it would be an interesting and fun exercise to collate together some statistics and recipes (for distribution in future club bulletins) of your favourite tried and tested tramping scroggins, snacks, ready prepared meals and drinks!

So here are a few questions for some quick answers if you could spare a minute or two of fun! Write directly into an email addressed to myself and Dianne ([rupert.craggs@niwa.co.nz](mailto:rupert.craggs@niwa.co.nz) or Dianne June <[djune@xtra.co.nz](mailto:djune@xtra.co.nz)>)

1. **Breakfast:** Are you someone who likes a big hearty breakfast to start your day? Y/N

if so what do you eat? – Add detail.

Or have you a magic formula for that something else such as the ultimate trampers breakfast smoothie? – Add detail

2. **Scroggin:** I'm a big FAN of scroggin with lots of dried fruit and salty nuts, but I'm not so fond of adding chocolate.

What is your favourite scroggin – do you prefer it sweet or salty or both?

Do you have a special ingredient - Cranberries anyone? – Add detail

3. **Snack Bars:** What about a home made granola bar or slice? I have been known to take christmas cake on long tramps – it keeps really well and just tastes so great when you are several days into the tamp.

Tell us what snack you eat that makes you feel great on the trail? – I know there is a Brownie out there! – Add detail

4. **Evening Meal:** In these day's of gourmet freeze dried meals, if you are time poor there is little inclination to make that special meal for the overnight tramp. However, I'm sure many of you have some honed recipes for great camp

meals **including deserts** that we would love to hear about. What instant gourmet meals are you able to conjour up?

**Main course** – Add detail

**Dessert** – Add detail

5. **Rehydration:** Do you prefer still or sparkling? More likely tap or filtered or with a special electrolyte hit.

Tell us what you find works best to quench your thirst? – Add detail

6. **Hot drinks:** Coffee, tea, chocolate, or something else? My favourite is chocolate that has been laced with peppermint schnapps

What do you drink to warm you up? – Add detail

Please email your responses to myself and Dianne and we will collate them for next months bulletin, Many thanks.

Rupert Cragg

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Ski club report

The tramping club members can stay 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.

We have the mountain film festival in early November, with Don French – see description for **Trip 3149**.

Trip Reports

Trip 3136

Kai Iwi beach (Wanganui tracks)

8-11 Aug

Day 1 (By Barb)- Thursday we arrived at Horopito to start the Old Coach Road track – Judith took Jim’s car to the other end of the track with Bea and Barb while Jim, Lynette Ian & Cathy Bea started walking. The weather was overcast, drizzling and very cold – minus 6!!!

A bit of history – the Old Coach Road was originally part of an extensive network of trails associated with bird snaring trees used by Māori between the plains & the mountain.

It was surveyed by John Rochfort in 1884 and was used by horses by 1889. Between 1904 & 1906 it was paved with setts (rock pavers) for horse drawn traffic. Now it is used as a walking and biking track – the pavers are still there and at various points along the route are Old Coach Road marker posts and wee snippets of information eg: on the viaduct – very impressive and great fun to walk over and look way down – for those who are not scared of heights!

The tunnel was another interesting structure – it had been made with concrete blocks then concreted over – but massive. Looking at it and the viaduct you realise how much harder it must have been for those who made these compared to nowadays with all the modern machinery available.

We walked through just beautiful bush and at times heard the train swooshing past on the railway line but our group missed seeing it, which was a shame as I wanted

to watch it go over the new viaduct – next time- maybe on a bike. This track would be super easy to ride on and was super easy to walk.

We got out maybe 3is. The wind was pretty strong and cold as we walked the last km on gravel road beside a farmer ploughing up his paddock.

We arrived in Whangarei with red, wind-blown faces, for a yummy dinner at Carolines Boatshed Café & Bar, then we were off to our base at Kai Iwi beach camp – which turned out to be the perfect place to stay whilst we continued on our adventures the following three days. A great start to the trip.

Walking were Judith, Cathy, Lynette, Bea, Ian (aka Gandalf) Jim & Barb.

Day 2 & 4 by Cathy

We were fortunate to have a clear day to wander along Kai Iwi beach after a good coffee made by the campground host/Barista. We planned to walk from the campground along Kai Iwi beach to Oheku stream but the tide was coming in fast so we turned round to avoid getting marooned on rocks or cliffs. This stretch of shoreline has dramatic eroding cliffs and black volcanic sand. It is also known for it's fascinating geological features, particularly its rich deposits of fossils. The campground hosts showed us fossilised moa bones, shark teeth, whale bones and shells. Some of us enjoyed exploring and collecting some interesting fossils, others weren't quite so sure what all the fuss was about! We all enjoyed the fresh sea air and time to escape and relax. Our second beach walk, Ototoke Beach was a quick drive up the coast. It is a secluded beach with a waterfall that cascades down the basalt rockface, creating a beautiful curtain of water that plunged into quick drive up the coast. It is a secluded beach with a waterfall that cascades



down the basalt rockface, creating a beautiful curtain of water that plunged into the pool below. Again we walked, talked and explored, enjoying the peaceful

atmosphere. Spending time on this secluded remote west coast beach was a lovely way to end our adventure-packed long weekend before heading back to the bright lights of Hamilton. Did we really have to go home? Unfortunately, we did. We'll be back!

Day 2 – (By Ian)

The Waitahinga Dam Loop is about a 9.8 km loop trail near the lively town of Whanganui with great Thai curry. It's a trail that has some steep descents and inclines with gorgeous florae and wild fauna. Our mighty, adventurous hiking group started at the no 'entry on Tuesday' sign where we turned right and followed the Okehu Ridge trail.

After a few kilometres on this trail we continued towards the Rimu Walk as a warm up, before getting our A games on and started hiking the Cropper's Clearing track with difficult, arduous terrains.

Once we arrived at the Cropper's Clearing we bravely, safely, followed the barely perceptible signs, as if we were trying to find Wally, to navigate our ways to the Waitahinga Dam.

Along the way we did see many native florae, even had some of us channelling our inner 70s hippies to hug a very large tree. Additionally, there are quite a few fantails and other friendly birdies. There is also lots of evidence of pig rooting and goat's faeces indicating signs of goats in the area.

Once we arrived a bit enervated at the Waitahinga Dam (built in 1904), we browsed the majestic, historic dam and had a few munchies from our morning tea. We continued our journey to Harry's Ridge. Following this long trail will take us back to the Rimu Walk and back to Okehu Ridge track, as a result completing the Waitahinga loop track. At the end of this, after about a kilometre on the gravel road, we finished on the Quarry car park and the hike for the day.

On a side note, due to our tight schedule and the sun setting fast and including me being a pretend Gandalf, I said audaciously to my marvellous, bodacious veteran hikers, with my almighty thick stick - no puns intended; raised in the air: 'Y'all shall NOT pass!'

We weren't able to do the Chicken Run trail and sightsee the Ruapehu and Mount Egmont lookout like we initially planned, due to running out of daylight. Nevertheless the entire hiking experience was still pulchritudinous, fantabulous, making us into impassioned hikers who had a plethora of fun.

Cheerio, Amateur Hiker Ian

Day 3 Atene Skyline Ridge (by Lynnette)

What's a tramp without a pit stop at a Wild Bean Café? With our caffeine levels in check, we set off along the Whanganui River Road, ready to conquer the Atene Skyline Ridge.

The track greeted us with a steep ascent through beautiful lowland forest, climbing to 260 meters. Our fearless trip leader was still shaking off the remnants of a nasty virus so we needed a strategy to keep the momentum going on the climb: maths

games! Counting backward from 1000 in sevens was the challenge of the day. By the time we hit zero, we had conquered a number of steps — and then she decided to go negative!

When numbers wore thin, we switched to names. Each trampler took turns naming girls starting with A, then B, then C..... and having gone through the alphabet, we moved on to naming boys, all while catching our breath on the ridgeline. The track led us to a clearing at the halfway point, where we found a charming little campsite complete with drinking water, shelter, and a toilet—a perfect spot to pitch a tent and spend the night.

But there was more track to explore. We continued to Taumata Trig, the highest point at 572 meters, before winding our way around sandstone bluffs to reach Taupiri Trig. The final stretch was a steep descent back to the Whanganui River Road, where we completed the loop with a sense of accomplishment.

Next time, we might just bring our tents and stay the night. But for now, we've got plenty of maths and names to practice for the next tramp 😊.



Side swiping anyone?

Photos by Lynette Morriss



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**Trip 3138**

**Lindeman track**

**25 Aug**

Our recent trip to the Lindemann Loop Track in the Kaimai ranges was an energising scenic adventure. Located at the end of Lindemann Road, just off SH2 north of Katikati, the loop track offers a rewarding journey through the natural beauty of the Wairoa Valley.

Our group of 11? started the walk just before 10 a.m. We followed the Pack Track, which wound uphill through bush gullies. The gentle, upward grade made for a pleasant walk, with occasional stream crossings adding a sense of adventure. The track provided several opportunities to spot local wildlife, and some of us were lucky enough to spot birds swiftly flitting through the canopy. Along some sections, the trail became narrow with steep drop-offs, requiring a bit of care, but the terrain rewarded us with sweeping views of the Wairoa Valley.

Along the way, we encountered some cascading waterfall and explored the remnants of the old Wairoa Kauri dams. It was fascinating to imagine the early loggers utilizing these dams and streams to transport timber down the valley.

The last part of the loop was steep and more challenging, particularly with its series of stairs near the end of the loop. After five hours, we arrived back at Lindemann Road, tired but uplifted. The weather was perfect—partly cloudy with soft sunshine, creating the ideal conditions for this memorable hike.

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Trip 3140

Snowcraft II

6-8 Sept

Sixteen Club members headed down to Ruapehu and the Club Hut on the Friday evening. After the usual stop at the Taumarunui BP we arrived to rain at Top of the

Bruce and we all donned our wet weather gear for the walk up to the hut. The fire had the Hut nice and warm for Custodian Dave Macdonald's health and safety brief. Saturday's weather meant the planned traverse to Turoa was postponed. Instead, we left the hut about 10:30am and made our way up Delta Ridge in the wind and fog to the Alpine Club Hut. After a break there we planned to head over to the Café and Sky Waka but strong winds and rain forced a retreat back to the Alpine Club Hut and the return to our Club Hut about 1.30pm. Gear into the drying room and an afternoon and evening spent relaxing apart from some competitive Table Tennis matches.

Sunday's weather was much improved but still windy so the plan was to climb as high as possible, thinking we had a 50/50 chance of reaching the summit. Leaving the Hut at 8.30am we made our way up stopping to put crampons on near the Alpine Club Hut. From there it was straight up in gusty winds that weren't getting stronger and approaching Glacier Knob it clouded in reducing our visibility to about 50metres. We summited at the Gap and overlooked what we could see of the Plateau. Soon after the start of the descent, visibility was reduced to near whiteout conditions but with the lack of snow this season, there were bare rocks outcrops visible that kept us on the right track. The weather cleared just above the Alpine Club Hut and we stopped for a lunch break at the top of the Sky Waka. After a brief stop to look at the historical Hut we were back at the Club Hut for a clean-up and the drive back home. While the weekend didn't go to plan, it was a successful trip in challenging weather conditions which allowed us the chance to test gear and navigate in reduced visibility. Club members on the trip were: Allan W, Rupert C, David T, Kat, Mike P (scribe), Mike H, Annika W, Jeanette D, Kegan, Irina, Joshua, Dave G, Kieran, Belinda, Tracey, Dave M.



An attentive audience

photo by Allan Wickens



How to combat hypothermia photo by Allan Wickens

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### **Trip 3139**

### **Cape Brett**

**30 Aug- 1 Sept**

The launching point for this Northland track was Rawhiti, which is 30km from Russell. A fairly long drive so we departed bright and early at 7.00am on Friday morning, to head north.

With 3 vehicles, our trip leader took the reins, coordinating the obligatory caffeine stop at Wild Bean Café, Dairy Flat. After an amusing round of calls — mostly to every passenger in the first vehicle (except for the one with her phone turned off) —we were finally caffeinated and on our way.

Next stop, Whangarei for lunch. Found a lovely picnic area at i-Site and those with homemade wraps, rice cakes, etc., tried not to drool too openly over the toasted sammies the others picked up from the food caravan – melted cheese, layers of ham thicker than the bread, and tomato that scalded tongues—a lesson we never seem to learn! With full bellies, we continued to Rawhiti, ready to catch our water taxi to Deep Water Cove. One vehicle arrived a little late as they encountered a little white terrier trotting down the centre line of the road looking very lost. He didn't hesitate when we opened the car door, jumped in and asked to come along for a ride. Fortunately, Larry was wearing his dog tag so we were able to make a quick call to his owner. She collected him and took home the 16-year-old escapee terrier with dementia who had forgotten where he lived.

Next stop, the water taxi—no wharf, just a rocky beach and some fancy footwork to keep our feet dry. The dry didn't extend to those sitting windward in the boat



who sheltered the others from the salt spray. Thanks Maddy! Our Captain was an entertaining character and gave an interesting insight into life in the Bay of Islands. Arriving at Deep Water Cove with dry feet, we set off on the shorter leg of the track. After stashing water bottles in the undergrowth at the track junction for the return trip (except for one over-enthusiastic senior member who decided to lug a 5-litre container by hand), we start the first of many ascents. DoC's grade of "advanced" didn't lie. The track is well-formed, but the trip description was somewhat inaccurate in saying there are few stretches of level ground. It would have been more accurate to say there were NO flat sections. The steep ascents and slippery descents were relentless, but walking alongside the dramatic cliff-face towards the Cape with spectacular views made every huff and puff worthwhile. Rounding the final bend, we were rewarded with the sight of the historic Cape Brett Lighthouse, standing proud since 1908. The lighthouse and three homes were situated at the end of the cape, where a succession of lighthouse keepers' families lived an isolated life. In addition to manning the lighthouse, their daily duties included sending weather reports to the Meteorological Office. The settlement was staffed for 70 years until, in 1978, an automated light was installed. Surrounded by grassy pasture, it may have been a remote existence for the lighthouse keeper but a beautiful one. The DoC hut, a former lighthouse keeper's home, was full of charm with its hardwood floors and sweeping sea views. The information book in the hut gave the history of more than 100 keepers who looked after the station before it was decommissioned, and there was a photo of our immediate past president's grandfather who was one of those lighthouse keepers!



The birthday girl with air support. Photo Lynette Morriss

Friday night at the hut was peaceful until 3:33 am when a storm rattled the windows. After a quick round of window-fixing, it was back to sleep. Some slept well (even with the lightning, thunder, torrential rain and orchestral manoeuvres in the dark, i.e. snoring) only to wake to a grim weather forecast. A speedy breakfast and an early start allowed the slower trampers to get a head start on the 18km hike back to Rawhiti. We celebrated Judith's birthday by decorating her pack with balloons and streamers, and set off into the mud—lots and lots of mud. Despite the challenging conditions, the scenery was beautiful, and the rain held off until we reached the sheltered lunch spot at the halfway point.

The DoC estimate of 7–8 hours turned into a marathon 10 hours for the back group, thanks to the post-storm sludge and slippery descents. The early start proved wise! Three vehicles meant most of us could head to the campground to enjoy a hot shower before dinner, but the unlucky last group discovered a pancake-flat tyre. With tyre changing equipment challenges, they were at the mercy of the Rawhiti locals, who kindly came to the rescue. After a scenic detour through the backroads (a.k.a. getting lost), they finally made it to the campground on the little space saver tyre, only to discover they were sans shower bags, which were in the other vehicle! The dirty smelly exhausted group almost gave up on joining us for dinner, but were given strict instruction to get the birthday girl to her birthday dinner so cancelling was not an option. It was Cathy to the rescue who drove back to the campground delivering their much-needed shower bags and clean clothes. They eventually arrived at the Duke of Marlborough Hotel in Russell for a well-deserved gourmet meal—albeit fashionably late.



The motley crew

Photo by Allan Wickens

The planned easy walk for Sunday was cancelled and the morning was spent trying to find a tyre repairer who would open up on a Sunday. After numerous googling



and phone calls, our transport officer lived up to his name, and many thanks go to Tyrepower Whangarei who opened up the store to patch the tyre. A thumbs down however to Hertz Whangarei, who refused to answer the phone and wouldn't take a message as their voice mailbox was full. And while the tyre was being patched, the rest of us soaked up the gloriously sunny day sitting outdoors at Whangarei Basin with our takeaway lunches and marveling at the Hundertwasser architecture. All in all, it was a stunning tramp full of laughs, challenges, and unforgettable views. If Cape Brett isn't on your tramping list, it should be!

Trampers: Lynette (leader), Cathy, Judith, Jim, Madeleine, Peter, Bea, Jeanette, Allan, Amanda, Jo, Anita, Sharon, Gail, David, Petrina, Ian.

### **Trip 3144**

### **Redwoods cycle trip**

**29 Sept**

Tea and coffee at the Trail Kitchen were essential before we started cycling. It enabled Jim and I to plan which tracks to explore at the Waipa Mountain Bike Park. We decided on Grade 2 and 3 tracks and set out at 9:30am to Kids Loop, followed by Grinder, Nursery Road, Creek Track, Yellow Brick Road, Ball and Chain (built in 2010 by Corrections Department labour) and The Dipper. Mad If You Don't was avoided. We found a seat in the sun and enjoyed a lunch break followed by our last track, Tahi. Our cycling finished at 12:45pm. Most of the tracks were in good condition. It was a beautiful day and riding through the forest had a cooling effect. Those on the trip were Jim and David (the trip scribe). A special thanks to Jim for leading. And the café is highly recommended.

### *From the committee table:*

**New Members:** Welcome to Craig Mustard.

**Resignations:** Nil

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

### *Snippets*

- Help wanted for a new trumper. Caitlin Nicol is looking for some second-hand gear to get her started in our wonderful outdoor activity, She would like some size 7.5-8 boots and tops and pants in size 18. Her email is [caitlinnz@gmail.com](mailto:caitlinnz@gmail.com)
- If you are keen on birds or wish to learn a bit more about one of our rare species, why not join in on the Matuku/bittern Muster search? Dates are October 19th and November 16<sup>th</sup>. For more information contact Wendy 022 5261972, or email [lovebittern@gmail.com](mailto:lovebittern@gmail.com), or check out the website [www.lovebittern.com](http://www.lovebittern.com)
- Walk for a cause is being hosted on private property at Maungahau Lodge on Saturday October 19<sup>th</sup>. Registrations begin at 7.30am and the walk of 6.5 or 10km begins at 9am, The venue is 281 Duncan road, Wharepuhunga, Te Awamutu. The walk is to raise funds for the Rescue helicopter and Hauraki/Coromandel Rural Support Trust. Tickets, costing \$80, can be purchased from [venturerfishing](http://venturerfishing)



of attack. The wild animals - including part pitbull and German shepherd breeds and lost dogs from hunting expeditions - are also killing kiwi and farm animals. DoC Kaitiāia operations manager says it's time to consider poisoning feral dogs in the wilderness because of their growing threat to humans and endangered species such as kiwi. 5 DoC walking tracks have had wild dog warnings in place for periods between 2021 and 2024: Te Paki in the Far North, Taheke Waterfall near Whangārei, Western Okataina walkway at Rotorua, Kaimanawa Forest Park in the Central Plateau and Otaika Valley tracks near Whangārei. *Source: NZ Herald 15 Sept 2024*

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

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

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

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Winner of 'Above the bushline with a human element' category

Jean at Jean Hut. Photo by John Wilson







Sneaky peek to the team Photo by Annika Wing

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