



THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

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

September 2024



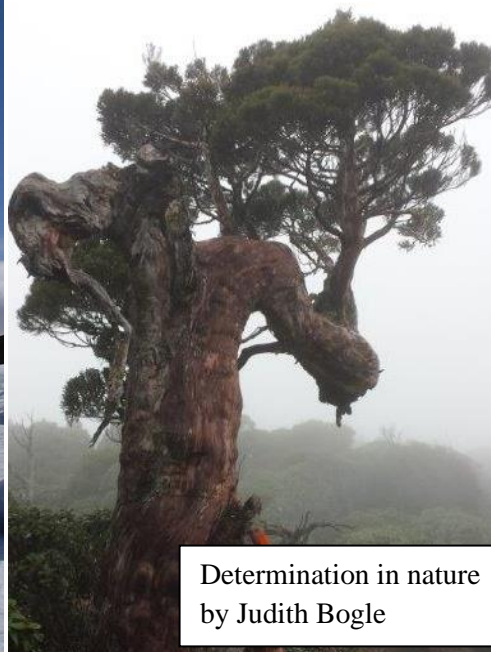
Cape Brett Lighthouse photo by Amanda Collins

WAIKATO HUT

Your lodge on Mt Ruapehu
Tongariro National Park



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Determination in nature
by Judith Bogle

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WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB

P. O. Box 685, Hamilton 3240 • www.wtc.org.nz

Free to members

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

BULLETIN No 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 2nd October

Our illustrious president will be taking us on his walks in the Lake District in Britain and in the mountains of Georgia. These are both interesting places so we will be well entertained.

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

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

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2024

3142	15 Sept	E/M	Karangahake Gorge	Cathy Dickson
3143	21/22 Sept	M	Waitakeres II	Allan Wickens
	27 Sept		FILM EVENING	Andrea & Graham Haines
3144	29 Sept	E-F	Bike Trip	Jacqui Dick
	2 October		CLUB NIGHT	David Totman
3145	5/6 Oct	E/M	Whitecliffs	Madeleine Fiddes
	9 Oct	n/a	Trip Planning	Les Warren
3146	13 Oct		Bowentown	Les Warren
3147	20 Oct	E	Waiuku beach cleanup	John McArthur
3148	25-28 Oct	M	Mt. Taranaki walks	Theresa O'Leary
3149	1-3 Nov	E-F	Mountain film festival	Allan Wickens
	6 Nov		CLUB NIGHT	David Totman
3150a	16/17 Nov	M	Kayaking Taupo	Theresa O'leary
3150b	16/17 Nov	E/M	Kinloch-Kawakawa Bay walk	Dianne June
3151	24 Nov	E/M	Karamu walkway	Les Warren
3152	30 Nov-1 Dec		Tramper of the year trip	Jim Scott

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 3142

Karangahake Gorge Historic Walkway

15 Sept

Leave London Street carpark at 8am. We will start our day from the Main Carpark. Will do the Windows walk first but, unfortunately this walk will be an out and back walk as the bridge across the River and track, is closed. There are plenty of mining relics to check out including many notices on the history of the mining days. Time: About 45min. After this walk, we will walk along the track alongside the River to the bridge to the Tunnel Track. Then, walk thru the Tunnel (a bit over 1km) on a good sealed track and some lighting. Best to still have a torch or headlamp. Once out of the Tunnel, we cross back over the River to some more mining relics and, walk back to the carpark. Time: About 45min.

Next, we drive down the Road and cross the River onto Waitawheta Road and park in carpark. Take a short 300m walk to Owharoa Falls (worth visiting) then walk to the Victoria Battery (1km one way). Probably time for some lunch here before returning to the Carpark.

Another Option: Depending on those registering, we can extend the day by walking from the Tunnel bridge across the Ohinemuri River at the eastern end, to the Victoria Battery and, return. Time: About a 3hr return walk (probably less thou).

I will check with those registering on what they would like to do.

All tracks are well graded and mostly fairly flat.

Bring a torch or Headlamp. Suitable footwear also required.

Leader: Les Warren

Ph: 027 8644937

Grade: E

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

Trip 3143

Waitakeres II

21-22 Sept

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

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

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

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

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

Leaders: Allan Wickens (day walks)

Email: allanwickens@hotmail.com

and Les Warren (overnight)

Grades: E- E/M and M

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

Trip 3144

Rotorua Redwoods Cycle trip

29 Sept

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

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

Grade 1 & 2 Trails - Waipa / Rotorua city side: Kids loop; ball & chain; Puarenga; Mokopuna; Tahī; Creek track; the dipper; Hemo gorge trail; lion trail, the wash; Verry safe trail; chestnut link; Sweet & sour; yellow brick road. Access to these Redwood forest trails can be along the 'Verry safe trail' starting at the Waipa carpark. You can either BYO bike or hire a bike (pedal power or ebike). 'Mountain Bike Rotorua' is the best place for hiring bikes as they are situated at the Waipa State Mill Road main entrance. There is also a really good cafe for afterwards! We will meet at the carpark at 9am and aim to have about 3-4 hours of riding.

Leader: Jacqui Dick

Email: jacquimd@me.com

Transport: Private arrangements

Trip 3145

Whitecliffs

5/6 Oct

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Leader: Madeleine Fiddes

Ph: 021 2273560

Grade: E/M

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

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

Leader: John McArthur

Ph: 021 2889641

Grade: E

Email: mcarthur@outlook.co.nz

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

3148

Mt. Taranaki walks

25-28 Oct

Leaving Friday 2pm.

Trip Rationale: 4.5 hr drive – includes 2 x 20 min stops. Arrive 6.30pm, check in is by 8pm. Checkout will be 10am Monday 28th. Sunlight Hours: 0620 – 1955
Weather Impact: None, if you bring inside activities – books, cards, board games.

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

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

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

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

The Tramps: here is the DoC Brochure link - a mix of tramps for different abilities.
<https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/taranaki/places/egmont-national-park/north-egmont-area/?tab-id=50578>.

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

Fit full day tramps proposed:

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

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

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

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

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

Full details: <https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-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: Theresa.oleary.eme@gmail.com

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

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

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 **Ph:** 027 950 9546 **Grades:** “Sloth” to “fit”
Jacqui Dick **Ph:** 021 466 247

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 3150a **Kayaking the Western Bays** **16/17 Nov**

Early info: Basecamp at Acacia Bay campground. Canoe/Kayak hire close by. Kayak day trips as a group. Some may make an overnight option? More details will be confirmed in the coming month!

Trampers and cyclists welcome to come and share basecamp as well – all welcome 😊

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

Email: Sheresa.oleary.eme@gmail.com

Transport: tba

Heads up for the South Island trips in summer:

Trip 3157 **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.

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



Barn Bay

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.

Leader: Judith Bogle

Ph: 027 381 0283

Grade: tba

Email: judith.bogle@outlook.com

Cost: tba

Trip 3157A

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.

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).

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

Trip 3159 21-25 December Mataketake ranges Les Warren

Trip 3160 29-31 December Copeland Track Les Warren

Trip 3161 3-6 January, 2025 Hopkins river valley Les Warren

You should have already registered for the above trips

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 25.
- 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 then can discuss with you any finer details.

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

Leader: Les Warren

Email: warrenlb2017@outlook.com

Ivory Lake Hut

2-7 Feb 2025

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 lakeHut. For detailed information about what to expect on the trip visit remotehuts.co.nz or visit YouTube and watch Ivory Lake Hikoi

Mid-week Walks & Tramps

We have a walk or tramp on the 2nd Tuesday and 4th Wednesday of the month. The activities have proven to be as varied as the group is and the communication is via the Mid-week W & Ts Group page on WhatsApp. If you would like to be part of this communication, please download WhatsApp on your phone and text your request to Marion on 021 442 452.

Kayakers Unite

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

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

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

Theresa O’Leary

“I took a walk in the woods and came out taller than the trees” by Henry David Thoreau.

Editorial

Yippee, it's finally starting to feel as though the sun has some warmth in it. Time to make the most of any good tramping weather and the superb trips the leaders have lined up for you.

I too am feeling great – as I write – but next week might be a different story. But I'm still interested in participating when I can and hearing about all your expeditions. The south island trips look amazing and inspiring. I hope many of you can participate in them.

The latest news about an increase in International visitor levies having a 50% component going to conservation is good news as it hopefully means a few access roads, huts and other facilities might be in for some TLC. Watch this space.

I'm writing this as the last few baitlines are filled in Pureora by a very keen bunch of volunteers. It has been the first wet weekend we have experienced for 7 years – and still the keen team came. Such dedication and I thank you for this. Trip report will follow next month – just before the top-up fill is due. Feel free to join us again then.
Dianne June

Presidential blog

Great to see so many wonderful photos in the photo competition at this month's clubnight. Congratulations to all the winners and many thanks to our judges Kat and Nicola for the challenging task in selecting them, and to Jacqui for collating all the entries.

I'm reminded of some stages that trampers can go through with photography. Some, myself included, started out on a mission to get to the top, with little inclination to dawdle or stop to take in a view, let alone take a photo. As we get a little older we grow to appreciate the scenery along the way and take the odd snap. We then mature to loiter for a while, soaking up the inspiration from a vista we have caught. We may even stop for longer and wait specifically for conditions to change to get a better photo. There's also the trigger-snapper who is poised to take and capable of seeing the beauty as it often only fleetingly occurs. Whichever of these stages you are at, or no doubt, you have had others of your own, your photos will become priceless reminders of epic adventures with great company and connecting with nature in the amazing playground that is New Zealand.

Or elsewhere in the world, such as California for the author of the following quote!
“In every walk with nature, one receives far more than he seeks.” – John Muir

Ski club report

Ashley Here again from the lodge where I have been doing another short visit with skiing after a break away with work.

The Ski season is rapidly coming to an end with most of the runs closed at Whakapapa as of 4th September. Happy valley is still holding up, if you like a gentler slope.

Dave McDonald has been covering the custodian role in the latter part of August. He hosted NZ alpine club at the lodge with a medium ropes skills course. Along with Mike Greer and Don Patterson. We had Fairfield college yr13 students visit. Plus we had new member families Mike Mika, Andrew, Nicola, Mia, Gavin and children as well as Hagan and Glenn visit as new members. Really great to have keen new members visit with us.

We have our tramping club back 6 to 8th September with snowcraft two.

The club has had a busy season with lots of alpine groups and a few school groups.

Coming up is the summer season

We are going to close down the booking system.

So any booking will need to contact Ashley Hoskin txt 0274 909545.

Dave McDonald is hosting a touring and climbing meet from 10th - 13th October.

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 3131 Mt Te Aroha – Coffee, Clouds, and Climbing 7 Jul

Mt Te Aroha—the highest point in the Kaimai Range and the site of our club tramp. Our plan was simple: summit the mountain from Waiorongomai Valley via Butlers Incline, that infamous tram track with more steps than a bad dance routine, enjoy lunch at the top, and then gracefully descend via Tui Mine. Spoiler alert: the plan didn't exactly go as expected.

The Optimistic Beginning

We set off from Hamilton under a clear blue sky, the kind of weather that makes you think, "Today is going to be a great day!" Naturally, we stopped at Ironique for a quick takeaway coffee—because nothing says "serious trampers" like a cappuccino to go. But by the time we reached Waiorongomai, the weather had decided to play a cruel joke. The sun vanished, and in its place, ominous clouds rolled in, casting a grey shroud over our day.

The Journey Begins

Undeterred by the weather change, we began our ascent up Butler's Incline. If you've ever wondered what it's like to climb a never-ending series of long steps with short legs, let me tell you—it's exactly as delightful as it sounds. But we pressed on, buoyed by the hope that the summit would reward us with magnificent views. Spoiler alert: it didn't.

We finally reached the top of Butler's Incline, feeling a mix of triumph and impending doom as the clouds thickened and rain started to fall. Meanwhile, Judith—who had generously offered to drive our vehicle to Te Aroha Domain and climb from there—was already at the summit and started to descend to meet us.



The Summit

She greeted us not with sunshine and rainbows, but with news that the summit was, in technical terms, "extremely windy, wet, and miserable."

Given this stellar report, we decided to stop where we were for lunch as we figured it was better to eat while we could still feel our fingers.



The Final Push

After our "pleasant" lunch break, we soldiered on to the summit, only to find that the weather had somehow become even more miserable. The wind was howling, the rain was coming at us, and any hopes of descending via Tui Mine were promptly scrapped. Instead, we opted for the more straightforward route. So down we went directly to the Domain, with the new plan to get off the mountain as quickly as possible.



The Aftermath: Duck, Cover, and Decompress

Back at the car, we decided that the best remedy for our day was a quick stop at Duck and Cover for a warming beverage.

Despite the weather's best efforts to dampen our spirits (and everything else), we had a fabulous day filled with lots of laughs. The group may have been small, but we had fun, the laughs were plentiful, and the bush glistened beautifully. And in the end, that's what it's all about.

Trampers: Cathy (leader), Judith (driver), Lynette & Jim

From the committee table:

New Members: Welcome to Mark Comaga

Resignations: Nil

Membership: The club has 193 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

➤ NZ mistletoes are parasites but not villains – they're vital for birds and insects during winter. Mistletoes are the stuff of myth and legend, vilified for providing the arrow that shot Norse god Balder, but venerated in Celtic and Roman mythology as protection against dark forces. When Tāne made the forests he made the mistletoe last. He saw his youngest child was small and weak, so he lifted the mistletoe from the forest floor and placed it in the arms of its larger siblings.

It is no wonder – mistletoes are unlike any other plant. All species in the mistletoe family, Loranthaceae, are parasites.

The bird-dispersed seeds stick to branches with a special glue and tap into the host tree's water-conducting vessels (xylem) to access nutrients from the sap.

Mistletoes are called hemi-parasites because they still photosynthesise to produce their own carbohydrates. Most are evergreen, remaining leafy in winter even when their deciduous host trees lose their leaves. This feat is possible because they can continue to draw sap by capillary action, even when the host tree is dormant.

This ability to remain leafy year-round is one reason mistletoes are increasingly called keystone species – they play a key role in maintaining ecosystem function, just as a keystone at the top of a masonry arch holds the whole structure in place. Mistletoe fruits, as well as the flowers of many species, feed birds. The shelter they provide could moderate the impacts of climate change on bird populations.

A new study shows mistletoes also provide a critically important winter refuge for foliage-dwelling arthropods, especially when they grow in non-native deciduous trees which now dominate many landscapes in New Zealand.

Arthropods – which include insects, arachnids, crustaceans and myriapods – account for most species on the planet. They are not only an important food source for other animals but are crucial to maintaining ecosystems globally, with ecological contributions from pollination to the breakdown of organic matter.

All of New Zealand's six species of leafy mistletoes are native. In te reo Māori, they are known as pirita, pikirangi or roeroe. One is extinct and four are considered at risk, mainly due to habitat loss and damage from possums.

The green mistletoe, *Ileostylus micranthus*, grows on both evergreen and deciduous trees

All New Zealand mistletoes are evergreen, as are almost all native trees. But deforestation and the widespread planting of non-native deciduous trees in urban and agricultural areas has drastically altered the types of host trees available for native mistletoes and native arthropods.

The green mistletoe *Ileostylus micranthus* is the most common throughout New Zealand because it is able to parasitise a wide range of hosts, including non-native deciduous trees. The study examined the arthropod communities on green mistletoes parasitising evergreen and deciduous host trees. The idea was specifically to see whether the host type (evergreen vs deciduous) and season (summer vs winter) affect the proportion of arthropods found on mistletoes themselves, compared with their host trees.



It was found mistletoes harbour significantly more native arthropods overall than the host trees they parasitise. But most importantly, they shelter significantly more arthropods in winter when growing on deciduous hosts, suggesting they are acting as habitat refuges during the colder months. The benefits of leafy mistletoes in winter may be that they shelter arthropods from weather extremes and hungry birds.

Ileostylus micranthus on *Coprosma*

They may also provide a more humid microclimate due to the “wasteful” water usage mistletoes engage in to draw sap from the host.

Humidity is important to small arthropods. They are vulnerable to desiccation as they have a much higher surface-to-volume ratio than vertebrates and many have external respiratory systems. Relocating to a humid refuge is a common way for arthropods to avoid desiccation.

Other research on the endangered white mistletoe, *Tupeia antarctica*, was also disrupted. A tree branch that had been banded, with council permission, to stop possums destroying one of the rare mistletoes, was completely removed by council contractors. This was all the more distressing as the at-risk endemic moth *Zelleria sphenota* was plentiful on that particular mistletoe.



Tupeia antarctica

....from FMC.....

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

➤ Scenic Hotel Group is New Zealand's largest privately owned and operated hotel group with 17 properties in some idyllic tramping locations in New Zealand. Discounted rates for FMC members can be reserved in three easy ways by using the promo code: TRAMPING. You can either book online via their website, by calling 0800 69 69 63 or by emailing reservations@scenicgroup.co.nz

.....from DoC....

➤ 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)*.

Live but for one day at a time

Live-but for one day at a time

There are two days in every week, about which you should not worry

Two days which should be kept free from fear and apprehension

One of these days is Yesterday, with its mistakes and cares

Its faults and blunders, its aches and pains

Yesterday had passed forever beyond our control

All the money cannot bring it back

We cannot undo a single word we said

Yesterday is gone

The other day we should not worry about is Tomorrow

With its possible adversaries, its burdens, its large promise, and poor performance

*Tomorrow is beyond our control
Tomorrows' sun will rise, either with splendour or behind a mask of clouds - but
it will rise
Until it does, we have no stake in Tomorrow, for it is yet unborn
This leaves only today – one day
Anyone can fight the battles of just one day
It is only when you and I add the burdens of those two awful eternities –
Yesterday and Tomorrow that we break down
It is not the experience of Today that drives one mad –
It is the remorse or bitterness for something that happened yesterday
And the dread of what tomorrow may bring
Let us therefore live but one day at a time*



Peek a boo – Winner of the club character section of this years' photo comp- by Lynette Morris



OVERALL WINNER 2024

Winner of category 'Above Bushline with no human element'

Sunrise Hut

Photo by Annika Wing



Wairere Falls cascades Photo by Annika Wing



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**Official Bulletin of
WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)
PO Box 685, Hamilton 3240**

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