



THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

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

July 2025



On the Ruahine trail photo by Cathy Dickson

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

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The red hut at Hutt flat
Helen Mitchell

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Free to members

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

BULLETIN No 876

August 2025

General Committee

President:	Rupert Craggs	027 6811926
Secretary:	Dorothy Cawdron	027 7424222
Treasurer:	Guy Domett	027 2483008
Members:	Judith Bogle (VP Tramp) Ashley Hoskin (VP Ski)	
Members: Tramp:	Allan Wickens Selwyn June Mike Peck	
Members: Ski:	Stephen Phillips Mary Reed David Macdonald	

Tramping Subcommittee

Tramping email: waikatotrampingclub@gmail.com

Chairperson:	Judith Bogle	027 3810283
Club Captain:	Mike Peck	021 369256
Membership:	Jocelyn Widmer	027 8664795
Member:	Selwyn June	027 4978151
Transport:	Allan Wickens	027 9509546
Social convenor:	David Totman	021 868720

Ski Subcommittee

Ski email: waikatoski@gmail.com

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

Facebook:	Jacqui Dick	021 1375201
Facebook:	Lynette Morris	waikatotrampingclub@gmail.com
Website:	Kat Rowe	wtcwebmanager@gmail.com
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 3rd September, 2025

Photo competition

This is truly a night for eye candy – Nicola and her team will be presenting the submissions you have made to the club photo competition. The winners of the appropriate categories will be submitted to the FMC competition too so come along and enjoy the views.

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

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

Social: This coming Friday (15th) we can meet at 11 Alison St, Hamilton from 6pm onwards for another film evening, BBQ, and supper. The movie is entitled "Mountain Queen" and is about a female sherpa- something we rarely hear spoken of. Cost is \$20 which goes toward Waikato hut maintenance. You should bring along whatever you prefer to imbibe, meat to BBQ, and a dish to share. Supper and dessert will be provided. If you need more details please contact Graham and Andrea Haines Ph 0274 822 830.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2025

	15 Aug		Film evening	Graham & Andrea Haines
3196	17 Aug	E/M	Pipeline track	Les Warren
3197	23/24 Aug		tba	Club captain
3198	31 Aug	M/F	Karioi	John McArthur
	3 Sept		Club night/photo comp	Nicola Guy
3199	6/7 Sept	M/F	Winter tramp	Mike Peck
3200	13/14 Sept	E/M	Okahukura baiting	Dianne & Selwyn June
3201	20/21 Sept		Hauhangaroa track	Cathy Dickson
	1 Oct		Club night	
3206	25-27 Oct	M	Tukino walks & climbs	Allan Wickens

Don't let a lack of equipment deter you from coming on a trip. Talk to the trip leader – who may be able to assist with lending or sharing gear.

TIME and FITNESS GUIDELINES

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

Note that factors such as party size, fitness, weather, terrain and leadership will influence actual times, so the above are estimates only.

Bookings and Cancellations: no later than the **TUESDAY** before the trip. Any person withdrawing after this day without good reason will be charged the full cost of the trip.

Departure Point: **Weekend** trips depart from the Gate 1 at Waikato University. Park closer to other vehicles as this area is security monitored. Leave on Friday nights at 7pm sharp unless otherwise stated. **Day** trips depart from London St at the river end-park on the roadside. Leave Sunday mornings at 8am sharp.

If someone is concerned because a trip is **late back**, contact:

1) Club Captain; 2) President; 3) a committee member.

Minimum equipment required:

Day Trips: A thermal layer (polypropylene, polyester etc or wool), an insulating layer of fleece (polartec etc) or wool and a water & wind-proof parka outer shell. Shorts or long-johns/over-trousers in cool or wet weather. Torch and sunscreen. Boots or strong shoes. Lunch, snacks and water bottle. First aid kit.

Weekend Trips: The above, plus pack with plastic liner bag, sleeping bag, tent, sleeping mat, cooker, billy, plate or bowl, spoon, food, spare dry clothes for evening, towel, toilet gear, light camp shoes. A water purifier can be useful. Plus, in extreme weather or country: additional warm top, over-trousers or woollen/ fleece trousers, warm outdoor mittens or gloves, over-mitts, warm hat or balaclava, sunglasses. Ice axe and crampons for snow.

Trip Descriptions

Trip 3196 **Pipeline Track, Hakarimata Range** **17 Aug**

As the walk is close to Hamilton, we will carpool to the carpark. As this carpark can be popular, we need to carpool as much as we can. We could meet at the University Gate 1 Carpark at 0900 and go from there. The University carpark has more parking space and saver parking.

Leader: Les Warren Ph: 027 8644937

Grade: E/M

Email: warrenlb20172025@outlook.com

Transport: Senior member \$20 – 25

Non-member: senior rate+\$10.

Trip 3197 **.....and where shall we go this weekend?** **23/24 Aug**

Got a good suggestion for a day trip or weekend one? Check in with the club captain

Leader: tba

Grade:

Trip 3198 **Karioi** **31 Aug**

We will gather in Hamilton, London Street at 8am and either car pool or use a van depending on numbers, and drive out to the Te Toto Gorge lookout car park on the coast road south of Raglan.

From there we climb about 500m elevation through a mix of open farm and mixed scrubby forest into proper forest. The effects of this windy coast make the trees all shaped to bend inland and their canopy shape is a well coifed wind resistant unity. We also get great sea vistas as we climb up through the bush to a peak at 706m. A

small detour out to a lookout gives a view into a valley that may have been one of the major craters.

Then back to the main track and on up what becomes a bit of a tricky ridge, with some four-points-of-contact monkey work to get onto the final rise to the peak at 756m. Finally back the way we came and a possible stop for refreshments in Raglan. Great day out – good views, good exercise and fresh air.

Leaders: John McArthur

Ph: 021 2889641

Grade: M/F

Email: *mcArthur@outlook.co.nz*

Transport: Senior member \$20 – 25

Non-member: senior rate+\$10

Trip 3199

Winter tramp

6/7 Sept

The winter tramp is an exploration of the eastern slopes of Mount Taranaki. Departing Friday night for the drive to North Egmont to stay at the Camphouse. On Saturday we'll take the Curtis Falls track to East Egmont and the Waingongoro track to Dawson Falls. From Dawson Falls we'll head up to Kapuni Lodge for the night. Returning on Sunday via the Manganui Gorge track across to the Taurangi Lodge and back down to the North Egmont visitor centre.

Leader: Mike Peck

Ph: 021 369256

Grade: M/F

Email: *mikeypeck@yahoo.com*

Transport: Senior Member \$65-75

Senior non-member: Senior rate +\$10

Trip 3200

Okahukura bait station filling

13/14 Sept

This is time to give back to the environment- again! The kokako breeding season will begin in Pureora about late October so we need to have the rat numbers as low as possible by that time.

We can organise club transport or you can come in your own vehicle/carpool. Feel free to bring as many people as you would like. Juniors (>10yrs) are welcome but should have a parent or guardian with them.

Accommodation for the weekend will be at the Lions Lodge at the end of Gully road in North Pureora forest. The lodge sleeps 50 people but you can also pitch a tent on the adjacent grassed area, or even bring your campervan and park it there too. There is a large reasonably well-equipped kitchen (not a lot of microwave equipment though) and hot & cold showers.

You will need to bring all the food & refreshments you need for the weekend, water bottle, tramping boots, raincoat (but of course it won't rain!), weekend pack, gardening gloves if you have some. This is not tough work so you'll be able to enjoy a lovely day in a beautiful forest.

Your hosts, the Pirongia Restoration Society will supply tea, coffee, milk, milo & sugar, as well as some treats for you at the end of your field work. To earn the opportunity to have some treats you will be asked to carry 5-8kg of bait and distribute it to bait stations along 2-3 baitlines for which you will be given a map, a teammate who has done this kind of work in the past, a hi-vis vest, with a PLB, compass, & first aid kit/team as well as disposable gloves and masks should you wish to use them.

We will travel a further 14km from the Lodge to the starting point so will need to be ready to move out by 7.30am on Saturday morning. There are 42 lines/958 bait stations to visit. With lots of people we can complete the task in a single day but any leftover lines will be visited on Sunday morning. You will be asked to be back at the base (where the treats will be) by 3.30pm so it shouldn't be a long day. If you get back too early you might get that 3rd line assigned to you.

And why help out? Think of a beautiful forest, wonderful bird sounds from parakeets, kokako, kaka, tui, whiteheads, falcon, tomtits, grey warblers, chaffinches, and the chance to just wander along looking and listening.

There is the beautiful Waipapa loop walk which begins beside the lodge and takes about an hour to walk. Many a good photo has been taken on this track. It can be walked (or run) when you return to the lodge at the end of Saturday's work or at night-time or perhaps on Sunday morning.



Lichen glowing at night – picture taken with a UV light

photo by Helen Kuck

The Pirongia Society will cover the cost of the accommodation.

Leaders: Dianne & Selwyn June **Ph:** 07 843066 or 0274978151

Grade: E/M

Email: djune@xtra.co.nz

Transport: Senior Member \$65-75

Senior non-member: Senior rate +\$10

Trip 3206

Tukino based walks & climbs

25-27 Oct

Over the long (Labour) weekend, we will be based at Tukino Alpine Sports Club lodge, at the Tukino skifield on the Desert Road side of Mount Ruapehu. From their website *“ Our lodge was built in 1976, and we reckon it's a bit of a classic with its funky lines and super solid timber construction. The lodge offers a basic but comfortable standard of accommodation with a large kitchen and living area, four bunk rooms etc”.*

The plan is to travel to Tukino Friday night 24 October. The last bit of road to the skifield is a bit rough so 4WD's may be utilised. Over the 3 days, we'll look at doing as much exploration of the area as time and the weather allows. Being on the less windy side of Ruapehu should help in this regard. There's scope from easy to hard walking, and snowcraft skills are needed to get up onto the heights.

The fitter, more experienced people can climb up to the NZAC Whangaehu Hut and on up to the crater. From the access road, moderate day tramps can be done to

Waihothonu and Rangipo Huts, part of the Round the Mountain Track. From Waihothonu you can visit the old historic hut and Ohinepango Springs.

Leader : Allan Wickens

Email: allanwickens@hotmail.com

Grades: E-F (snow skills)

Transport: tba

Food: tba – dinner Sat/Sun

Accommodation: \$30 per night

Gear Hire: Crampons/Ice axe hire –\$25 p.p

Below are 2 Club Trip descriptions. They are not 'til November but, I would really know some details as soon as possible to help with the planning.

Trip 3208

Motutapu Island

8/9 Nov

Can you please let the Leader know whether you would like to take the ferry on Friday afternoon or Saturday morning?

I need this information as soon as possible so I can research the ferry timetables and for accommodation bookings. I have not, done any bookings yet.

Accommodation: I will look at staying at the Outdoor Education Camp on Motutapu Island. We will need to be self-sufficient.

Walks: The island has a wide variety of tracks to explore (even more than Rangitoto Island. More details will come closer to the time BUT, **please reply to my questions above as soon as possible.** Thank you.

Leader: Les Warren Ph: 027 8644937

Email: warrenlb20172025@outlook.com

Trip 3211

Kaimanawa's Walks

29/30 Nov

This trip is co-organised by Steve Dick and myself. We initially tried doing this trip at Auckland Anniversary Weekend in 2023 but, had to cancel due to the major storm at the time. **We need early indication whether people would like to stay at Sika Lodge for the weekend?** This will help us with our planning.

Accommodation: As mention above, we will look at using Sika Lodge (if enough interest) but, just down the Road is a large area for camping and parking campervans. Both types of accommodation require no walking to.

As the travelling time is around 4hrs, we are happy to travel Friday afternoon as this will give us more time on Saturday and Sunday to do short walks.

Walks: Steve and I have several short walks to explore which we checked out prior to the 2023 trip. These tracks are not marked on the topo maps. We should be able to fit in at least two/three short walks on the Saturday and one/two on Sunday before driving home.

Leaders: Steve Dick Ph: 027 4880793

Les Warren Ph: 027 8644937

Email: warrenlb20172025@outlook.com

Editorial

What a bother – for the first time in many years we forgot that it was club night and missed Jocelyn's talk on her walk. My apologies to you Jocelyn, and to everyone

else present for not providing my usual spiel. But I'm sure you had a great meeting anyway... and have submitted your pictures to Nicola for the photo competition. I have seen some great ones throughout the year that I consider very worthy of consideration and kudos!

This coming Friday we have another movie night hosted by the Haines and it is about a female sherpa so should complement the talk from Sherpa Wangda whom we listened to at the July meeting,

On a personal note – I have finally managed to go tramping again – for the first time in well over 18 months! OK, Mt. Mangakawa is no Mt. Everest but as a first step towards getting back on the trails it worked for me. And with no stiff muscles the next day I was thrilled. Mind you, when one has no muscles to speak of how can anything get stiff? Check out the 'Snippets' for some info about our exercise sessions! The class is not targeted at the 'lycra-lot' rather those of us in the older age group who want to gain or maintain strength and balance. I wonder whether you'd be interested in having a physio/exercise session and club night sometime?

I am **very short of trip reports** for the bulletin this month. Were you delegated to write one that we would all like to read about? Please put pen to paper and get it to me in time for next months' edition.

Enough waffling, time to get on and see if I can assemble something worth reading this month while not having my usual laptop to work from. Being without my 'toy' feels like I've had my feet cut off as I'm struggling to access files etc that I need for the many bits of mischief I get involved in. If I have omitted some important information you have sent me for this months' edition, please forgive me. If appropriate, I'll catch up next month.

Dianne

~~~~~  
*Presidential blog*

Gather 'round, brave trampers,  
and hear the tale of Saturday past—  
when we journeyed into the wetlands,  
and were defeated by birds.

The day began with high hopes, dry socks,  
and zero awareness of the feathered fury ahead.

Then came Barry the Pūkeko,  
guardian of the swamp,  
beady-eyed, blue-feathered, and  
very emotionally invested in his territory.

Tom tried diplomacy.

Maggie offered trail mix.

Both were rebuffed with a hiss and a peck.

We retreated heroically (read: sprinted through flax),  
with Barry and his marsh marauders

in hot pursuit, squawking like the wrath of Tāwhirimātea.

Losses:

One gumboot

Two snacks

All dignity

Victories:

We survived

Tessa won a dance-off with a bird (kind of)

Barry is now listed on the club hazards register

Next week: hills, fewer birds, and hopefully no flashbacks.

Marching ever onward,

Rupert the Slightly Pecked

Many thanks, Rupert

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### *Ski club report*

Waikato Hut has a fresh fall of snow surrounding it after the latest snow fall last weekend.



Hot off the press... - the snow has arrived higher up

Photo by Ahsley Hoskin

I am visiting the lodge for a week of skiing with the ridge of high pressure giving settled conditions. The snow has been nice underfoot and the new snow makers have kept the sky waka run open. Next week with the cold conditions I am expecting early morning ice. Come down for a midweek snow adventure. Looks like lots of snow up high and the groomers have been into the valley this weekend, so look out for an announcement about that later this week.

There have been three alpine trips this season and another two to come. Hopefully successful for everyone involved. There looks to be a lot of snow higher up on the mountain. Wow the mountain top just cleared, here it is.

We are looking forward to our first school group on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Then hopefully three more.

There is more snow in the forecast next week, so here's hoping more runs can open. We saw the far west new drum on cable arriving last Tuesday, so hopefully that gets used this season. Thanks everyone for supporting the club. Enjoy your Hut while the snow is available.

Ashley

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## Trip Reports

### Trip 3185

### Ruahines

31 May- 2 Jun

This leadership development trip was initiated and supervised by Judith Bogle. Its purpose was to help emerging leaders build skills in planning and executing a multi-day tramp. The four newer leaders were given maps of the Ruahine Range several months in advance and asked to submit proposals for a 3-day, 2-night tramp. Their plans had to take into account key factors such as weather, group capability, terrain, daylight hours, and accommodation options.

We left Waikato at 4:30 PM on Friday and made the long drive to Hastings, where we stayed the night in a comfortable motel. That evening, we discussed the proposed routes in light of a newly issued orange weather warning—strong westerly winds were forecast, with gusts reaching up to 130 km/h. After a good night's sleep, we drove in 4WD vehicles, thanks to Ross and Judith, up to the DOC carpark.

Our original plan to tackle the Longview Track was deemed too risky. The track climbs a ridge exposed to the full force of the wind, and in these conditions, the danger was too great. Instead, we chose to descend out of the wind toward Awatere Hut, a bright orange gem nestled in the bush beside a river—with a matching long drop.

We geared up in our wet weather gear, as the wind was bringing rain with it. On our way up the initial section, we met a hunter and his son who had stayed at Awatere Hut the night before. He warned us of about 20 minutes of extremely strong wind along the ridge before the descent. Comfortingly, he noted that if anyone were blown over, it would likely be into the low bush to the left—rather than down the steep drop to the right!

The wind was absolutely ferocious—breathtaking in its strength. We stayed close together, taking shelter behind low shrubs before tackling each exposed section. Eventually, we descended into the valley and entered the serenity of the bush, a welcome contrast to the roaring wind above. After crossing a wide, stony riverbed and spotting a large orange marker, we found the Awatere 6-bunk hut, our accommodation for the night.

Inside, we warmed up and got a fire going.



Starting the process of heat generation... and the finished product. Photos by Cathy Dickson

Since there were seven of us, Miles kindly opted to tent nearby, finding a safe, sheltered spot beside the meat safe.

The next morning, weather updates via our two InReach devices confirmed that wind conditions had not improved enough to safely attempt Longview. In addition, one team member was feeling unwell, so we adjusted our plans. A small group of us took an exploratory walk up the riverbed to see if there was a viable alternative route to Longview Hut from below. Though we concluded a climb up and return could be possible, the last steep section didn't feel safe or comfortable for all, so we turned back together. Back at the hut, we refuelled with a hot drink and food before heading out to chop and collect firewood. The woodshed was nearly empty, and it felt good to replenish it for the winter ahead. The work was shared, and the atmosphere was filled with chatter and laughter.

Suddenly—Bang! A gunshot echoed nearby. We assumed hunters were out. Sure enough, about half an hour later, a solo hunter and his dog arrived. He had shot a possum but hadn't seen any deer. After a brief chat, he disappeared into the night to pitch his tent, ready for a 4:30 AM climb out.

The next morning, we enjoyed a peaceful 90-minute walk back to the utes and began the long drive home. Along the way, we shared ideas and enthusiasm for future tramps in the Ruahine Range.

We'll definitely be back. Trip team, Judith, Julia, Miles, Miriam, Gary, Brenda and scribe, Cathy. D. Many thanks to Ross and Judith for driving.

## *From the committee table:*

**New Members:** Welcome to Roz Russo and Christine Louange. We hope you enjoy many outings with us in the future.

**Resignations:** Nil

**Membership:** The club has 194 tramping members. Have you claimed your FMC membership card yet? Please contact Dianne or Selwyn to collect them as Lesley is not available at present.

**From the committee:** Over many years Colin Jones has allowed the club to use his storage space for 9ur archived papers, gear and materials. He is now relinquishing this space so we have to move all our gear too. Does anyone have about 1-1.5cu. m<sup>3</sup> of space they could allow the club to use please? The main requirement is that the space be watertight, and if possible, have some form of shelving but this could be supplied by the club if needed.

Get in touch with Dianne 07 8433066 or email [djune@xtra.co.nz](mailto:djune@xtra.co.nz)

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## *Snippets*

➤ This is what former trampers get up to:

Back in 2024 Convex Plastics donated 5000 plus bags for rat removal program in the Pureora forest. As part of this ongoing contact Dianne & Selwyn June, Elizabeth-Ann & Michael Nightingale met up with Owen Embling (CEO of Convex and former WTC club member) for a very interesting tour of the new office and very large factory. What was most interesting was the way in which so many plastics now incorporate different methods for breaking down in the environment, including the many rolls of crumpet wraps that we saw, that are now plant-based. What was most impressive was the huge number of highly technical machines from plastic extruders, bag converters to very complicated and sophisticated colour printers. Who would know when driving down Kahikatea Drive that such a complex, trail-blazing business was hiding behind that very smart office building. What was also obvious on our tour was the excellent staff relationship throughout the office and factory. Scribe: Michael.  
*(Ed comment: the Pirongia Restoration Society thanks Owen for his very generous donation of the bags for the conservation work we undertake – every \$ saved means we can put more effort into the environment).*

➤ Kaka in the city. Just a bit of good news from Sheryl – there have been Kākā in the Chartwell area for several weeks in January and again recently (heard two again one morning as she was leaving home). There were also two up the Hakarimata for a couple of weeks in May, haven't heard them for a few weeks now. Report from Selwyn: We have heard 1, perhaps 2, Kākā in Fitzroy recently too. Here's hoping the numbers grow in the same way the Tui 2000 project grew over 25 years ago.



- Strength and balance classes. Some of our aging trampers have been attending these classes and they are getting a great cardio and flexibility workout while having fun. They are sponsored by ACC and are aimed at preventing falls and keeping you fit. They are low cost and any old clothes will do. Selwyn, Dianne, Lesley and Michael have been attending a weekly 45 minute class at the Scouts hall in Belmont St, Chartwell run by the enthusiastic Janell Knox. There are also classes at Glenview Community centre and All Saints Church, Sandwich Rd.
- A woman who posted images of herself holding a dog in front of a “no dogs” sign in Tongariro National Park has been fined \$400



. Tongariro National Park has a no dog policy, including no dogs in vehicles. Department of Conservation Tongariro Operations Manager Libby O’Brien said the infringement notice was a “no-brainer”. “This person didn’t make a mistake, she showed blatant disregard for the law, for nature, for the mana of the dual World Heritage listed TNP

Under the National Parks Act dogs are not allowed in any national park, with the exception of guide dogs and dogs engaged in duties for the purposes of law, search and rescue, or for approved management purposes.

- An email from Julian Wroblewski:

Dear Waikato Tramping Club, I hope this email finds you well. I’m reaching out as the creator of [hutsandcamps.co.nz](http://hutsandcamps.co.nz), a digital platform designed specifically for New Zealand’s outdoor community.

About myself: Kiwi expat who recently moved back to NZ after 10+ years working across large tech companies in the US and Europe. I’m now working in Product Strategy at one of NZ’s leading tech firms.

Why I Built This: Like many of your members, I spend most weekends hiking or camping somewhere in New Zealand. Every trip starts the same way: hunt down a hut or campsite, open multiple weather tabs, scribble a gear list... I kept thinking, what if all of that lived in one place and even helped me discover spots I’d never heard of? That led me to building Huts & Camps NZ – a tool born from the same passion for the outdoors that drives your club community.

Why This Matters to Your Members:

Your club members are passionate about exploring New Zealand’s backcountry, and I’ve built a tool that directly supports more informed tramping experiences. Huts &

Camps NZ consolidates essential planning resources that your members currently have to gather from multiple sources.

The Product:

Comprehensive Mapping & Discovery

- 2,500+ huts, camps, and walks on one interactive map
- Smart filtering to find exactly what members need (e.g., dog-friendly campsites, etc.)
- Location-based discovery to uncover hidden gems near your area
- Live weather integration with current conditions and forecasts displayed directly on the map incl weather overlay on the map itself
- Complete facility information, activities, and direct booking links
- Mobile-optimized and UX friendly

Smart Gear Checklist

- Smart gear packer that generates customized checklists based on weather, trip duration, accommodation type, and altitude
- Ability to also manually edit / add / remove to the checklist
- Offline capability and shareable trip plans

I'm reaching out to understand if there might be a possibility to have:

1. Resource Link: Add [hutsandcamps.co.nz](https://hutsandcamps.co.nz) somewhere as a resource, giving your members easy access to this comprehensive planning tool.
2. Community Feedback: Help me improve the platform by sharing insights from your experienced members about what features would best serve the tramping community

Your club's expertise and community connection would be invaluable in helping me create the best possible resource for New Zealand's outdoor enthusiasts.

Best regards, Julian

P.S. Feel free to explore the platform and let me know what you think – I'd love to hear your initial impressions!

➤ Check out the club calendar for October- Outdoor Training NZ is offering 2 courses for river safety and night navigation.

~~~~~  
....from DoC.....

➤ **Waitawheta Hut** has just been named as DoC's third most popular bookable hut! Top 10. In order they are: Pinnacles hut (Coromandel Forest Park), Mueller hut (Aoraki Mt Cook National Park) Waitawheta hut (Kaimai Mamaku Conservation Park), Woolshed Creek hut (Mount Somers, Canterbury), Kōhanga Atawhai – Manson Nicholls hut (Lewis Pass), McKellar hut (Greenstone, Otago) Aspiring hut (Mount Aspiring) Welcome Flat hut (Westland Tai Poutini National Park), Greenstone hut (Otago), Angelus hut (Nelson Lakes National Park)

➤ **New Pouākai Hut open.** The 34-bunk \$2.4 million hut was formally opened this week, marking the official completion of an eight-month build project. It replaces an old hut half the size. The Pouākai Hut is part of the Taranaki Crossing project in Egmont National Park/ Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki. The hut will be on the DOC booking system and available to visitors from 12 August.

➤ **DoC Visitor Insights Report** for 2024/25 summer

- Almost 670,000 bed nights were booked at DoC huts, campsites and Great Walks between December 2024 and February 2025, bringing in more than \$13 million in fees.
- Nearly 60,000 people did a Great Walk, 60 percent of whom were New Zealanders.
- New Zealanders tend to visit easily accessible places in the outdoors. Many of the top 10 recently visited places are in the North Island, near coastal areas and urban population centres. 45% of New Zealanders visited Protected Natural Areas (such as parks and beaches) each month. Around 30% of New Zealanders visited Protected Heritage Places (such as historic reserves).
- Fiordland and Aoraki Mount Cook are the two most popular national parks.
- Half of international tourists visited a national park.
- Coastal areas and marine reserves were popular with New Zealanders, with Long Bay-Okura Marine Reserve in Auckland top of DOC's most-visited destinations.

➤ **Paying for parking at DoC sites.** DoC Director of Heritage and Visitors, Catherine Wilson says all submissions have been reviewed, from iwi, stakeholders, businesses, concessionaires and the community across the two sites of Dolomite Point/Punakaiki and Franz Josef/Waiau. "The outcome is a pricing proposal which we think is fair and reasonable. "The pricing proposal aims to answer submitters' calls for an initial free period, special consideration for locals, and a reasonable price for visitors. The details of the pricing proposal are:

- Free parking period for 20 minutes to allow for drop-offs/pick-ups or short stops
- Hourly rate of \$5 per hour, daily rate of \$20 per day
- Annual pass for locals (within district boundaries) of \$10 per year, which allows for unlimited access during the year. Annual pass for other regular visitors for \$60 per year
- Concession-holding tourism operators will be able to apply for a parking fee exemption during the pilot, allowing DoC time to assess how parking and the coming access charges at some sites align with Crown activity fees.

The paid parking pilot is planned to start in October 2025 and continue for nine months until the end of June 2026. Paid parking is also planned to be introduced at White Horse Hill, Aoraki/Mount Cook in December 2025.

Payment machines will be installed at the sites and cameras will record the entry and exit of vehicles. The company providing paid parking hardware will issue breach notices to vehicles for non-payment.

The introduction of paid parking means visitors can contribute to the facilities and nature they enjoy. DoC's estimated combined revenue from the Dolomite Point and Franz Josef paid parking pilots is between \$1 million and \$1.3 million over the nine-month pilot period (October 2025 to June 2026). "Legislation allows us to charge people fair and reasonable fees to use our facilities, which include campsites, huts and car parks," says Catherine. "

Once the pilot is complete and the outcomes have been reviewed, a decision will be made whether to continue with paid parking at the three sites, and if it should be extended to other busy sites.

.....from FMC....

➤ FMC advocacy helps scale back **quarry proposal** in South Westland
In a win for UNESCO protection's integrity and conservation generally, a 15-hectare quarry proposal for old-growth forest in the Te Wāhipounamu – South West New Zealand World Heritage Area has been significantly reduced.

In 2021, Kokiri Lime Company applied to develop a quarry on stewardship land in South Westland. FMC submitted against the proposal due to its threat to public access, natural quiet, and the ecologically intact forest and, significantly, New Zealand's commitment to the World Heritage inscription.

Instead of the 15 hectares sought, only one hectare has been approved — reflecting the area's internationally recognised natural values. World Heritage status comes with an expectation that these values remain protected; if they are compromised, the site risks losing that status. This outcome shows the power of public advocacy in defending Aotearoa's wild places.

➤ Overseas Investment Bill could undermine public access. "New Zealanders must retain their right to enjoy the places that define who we are," says FMC Executive Board Member Raymond Ford, in response to the government's proposed changes to overseas investment rules.

The Overseas Investment Amendment Bill, introduced to encourage foreign investment by simplifying the current regime, adopts a narrow economic focus and overlooks wider social, environmental, and public access considerations. While FMC supports overseas investment in principle, the organisation is concerned that the Bill's focus on economic opportunity and national security will sideline important factors — including public access, environmental protection, and community wellbeing. The Bill seeks to replace the existing multifaceted testing framework with a single 'National Interest' test. This change would remove longstanding requirements to assess impacts on heritage, the environment, and access to public lands.

FMC recommends, amongst other points, replacing the narrow test with a broader one that includes environmental, heritage, and public access considerations. The Bill should be withdrawn and the entire Act redrafted, setting out a clear process for foreign investment proposals with the relevant tests to assess whether they would generally benefit New Zealand. “The future of public access depends on balanced, transparent decision-making that values more than just profit,” Ford said.

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A rest break on the Tama Lakes walk at Kings Birthday weekend.   Photographer Nicola Guy





Somewhere under the rainbow    phot by Cathy Dickson

