



# THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

**WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)**

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

February 2025



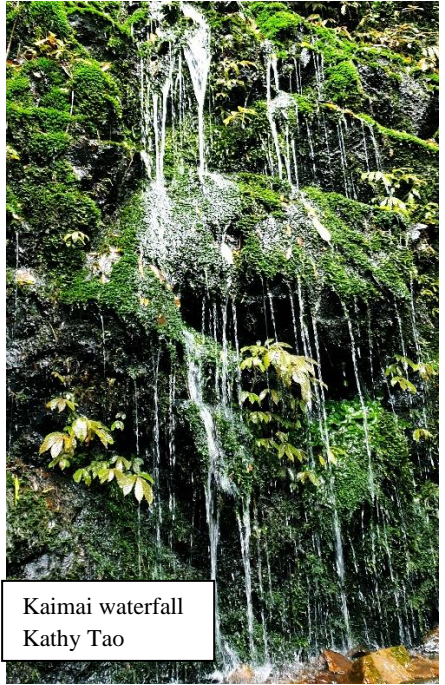
John Wilson revisiting a tree he saw 62 years ago Photo by Allan Wickens

# WAIKATO HUT

Your lodge on Mt Ruapehu  
Tongariro National Park



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Kaimai waterfall  
Kathy Tao

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Free to members

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

BULLETIN No 870

February 2025

### General Committee

(Contact details listed below)

<b>President:</b>	Rupert Craggs	027 6811926
<b>Past President:</b>	Judith Bogle	027 3810283
<b>Secretary:</b>	Dorothy Cawdron	027 7424222
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Guy Domett	027 2483008
<b>Members:</b>	John McArthur (VP Tramp) Stephen Phillips (VP Ski) Allan Wickens Selwyn June Les Warren	

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### Tramping Subcommittee

**Tramping email:** [waikatotrampingclub@gmail.com](mailto:waikatotrampingclub@gmail.com)

|                         |                                                                                  |             |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Chairperson:</b>     | John McArthur <a href="mailto:mcarthur@outlook.co.nz">mcarthur@outlook.co.nz</a> | 021 2889641 |
| <b>Club Captain:</b>    | Les Warren                                                                       | 027 8644937 |
| <b>Membership:</b>      | Jocelyn Widmer                                                                   | 027 8664795 |
| <b>Member:</b>          | Selwyn June                                                                      | 027 4978151 |
| <b>Transport:</b>       | Allan Wickens                                                                    | 027 9509546 |
| <b>Social convenor:</b> | David Totman                                                                     | 021 868720  |

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### Ski Subcommittee

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

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

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|                                     |                                                                    |             |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Facebook:</b>                    | Jacqui Dick                                                        | 021 1375201 |
| <b>Bulletin:</b>                    | Lesley Kuggeleijn                                                  | 027 4942414 |
| <b>Editor &amp; Club Librarian:</b> | Dianne June <a href="mailto:djune@xtra.co.nz">djune@xtra.co.nz</a> | 07 8433066  |

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

## Club Night: Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Etienne de Villiers will present his thesis based upon those interviews he did with some of us older trampers in the club a while ago. It will be interesting to discover the backgrounds to our decisions to go tramping won't it?

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

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

### ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2025

	15/16 Feb		Firewood at Waikato Hut	Mary Reed, Stephen Phillips
3170	16 Feb	E/M	Maungatautari	Cathy Dickson
3169	22/23 Feb	M	Tongariro Crossing	Les Warren
3171	27 Feb – 02 Mar	LW	Kawekas	Jacqui Dick & Steve Dick
3172	2 Mar	M	Kaitarakihi	Cathy Dickson
3173	8/9 Mar	M/F	Te Rereatukahia hut	Sarah McLeay
	15/16 Mar		Waikato Hut work parties	Mary Reed, Stephen Phillips
3174	16 Mar	E/M	Waitawheta Hut	Julia Lile/Judith Bogle
3175			tba	
3176	30 Mar	E/M	Wairere Falls	Madeleine Fiddes
	1-14 April		Waikato Hut work parties	Mary Reed, Stephen Phillips
	4-6 Apr		Music on the mountain	David MacDonald/ Allan Wickens
	4-6 Apr		Rangitoto & Motutapu Is	Les Warren
	11 April		Mt. William & Vivien falls	tba
	18-21 Apr		Whirinaki	Peter Ayson
	25-27 Apr		Whanganui	Judith Bogle

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.

**E/M** = Easy/Medium.

**M** = Medium.

**M/F** = Medium/Fit.

Up to 4 hours per day, pace slower than E/M.

Up to 5-6 hours/day, pace slower than M.

Up to 6-7 hours/day, at standard walking pace.

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.

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## **Trip Descriptions**

**Waikato Hut work parties**

**15/16 Feb, 15/16 Mar, 1-14 Apr**

These trips are described in the ski report at the end of all the tramping descriptions.

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**Trip 3170**

**Tongariro crossing**

**22/23 Feb**

Experience the Tongariro Alpine Crossing under the glow of a full moon! But this is of course weather dependent! This adventure offers a whole new way to see the landscape, and with (hopefully) clear skies, the moonlight will light the way.

We'll head to Mangatepopo hut on Friday night and rest until about 10pm before starting our walk. Whether we do the walk on Friday or Saturday night will be weather dependent and will be determined closer to the date. After our moonlit adventure, we'll return to the hut for a well-deserved rest before travelling home on Sunday.

Scenic highlights at night include:

- Emerald Lakes and Blue Lake: These vibrant lakes reflect the moonlight, creating an almost surreal glow against the darkened volcanic backdrop.
- Red Crater: The rust-coloured crater takes on an eerie beauty in the moonlight, with stark contrasts between the volcanic rock and the shadows.

- Views of Mount Ngauruhoe: Ngauruhoe stands out dramatically in the moonlight, adding to the experience of the Crossing.

**Leader:** Les Warren

**Ph:** 027 8644937

**Grade:** M

**Email:** warrenlb2017@outlook.com

**Transport & Accommodation:** \$120-\$150

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**Trip 3169**

**Maungatautari- over the mountain**

**23 Feb**

Join us for a day on Maungatautari Mountain, an iconic conservation reserve offering stunning views and diverse native flora and fauna.

We will meet at the London Street car park, departing at 8.00am, to travel to the Southern Enclosure of Maungatautari (Tari Road). After entering the reserve, we will head along the old hiking track that meanders through a mix of lush forest and cleared areas, following the Te Tonga Tramping Track to Pukeatua Peak (753m). It is a little steep in places so be prepared for a bit of a vertical scramble in a couple of spots, but there are plenty of roots and rocks to help pull yourself up. We will descend via the Te Raki Track and our walk will conclude at the Northern Enclosure (Hicks Road), where a van will be waiting to transport us back to Hamilton.

This route offers fantastic views of the forest and lush Waikato landscape with abundant bird life – bring some binoculars if you have them. The track is reasonably well-maintained, with a gradual climb and steady descents. The total distance is 10.8 km, and the estimated walking time is 5 – 6 hours, depending on pace and stops.

This walk is suitable for those with moderate fitness. Some sections may involve some climbing, but we'll take it at a relaxed pace with plenty of time to enjoy the surroundings.

**Leader:** Cathy Dickson

**Ph:** 021 353 561

**Grade:** E/M

**Email:** dicksoncatherine@xtra.co.nz

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

Senior non-member: Senior rate +\$10

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**Trip 3171**

**Kaweka Forest Park**

**27 Feb-2 Mar**

This trip will have an easy base camp option & a fit option. Details are as follows: Fit trip: Steve Dick will lead a trip that heads up to the highest point of the Kaweka Ranges, Kaweka J. From there they will walk along the tops to spend the first night at Venison Tops Hut (Tara Lodge). The next day will be a descent down to the river, then following the river out to join the track to the Mangatainoka Hot Pools where they will join the base camp group for the Saturday night. Sunday we all walk out together to the van then head home.

Base Camp group. Jacqui Dick (no relation to Steve!!) will lead this option. On Friday we walk into the Mangatainoka Hot Springs which is a delightful spot to camp and has three very nice hot pools, a great campsite and a river nearby for hot/cold plunges if you want to cool off after the hot pools. We will spend two nights here, enjoying the surrounds and relaxing or going for walks. Bring a book and cards!

We will have a shared meal Saturday night, details will follow and will depend on numbers in each group.

Schedule: Depart Thursday 27th February at 5pm. Dinner in Taupo then on to Mohaka River Farm for the night (tents or cabin options)

Friday 28th February - Early start to drop fit group off then base camp group walk in and set up camp

Saturday 1 March - both groups stay at the hot pool campsite with a shared meal

Sunday 2 March - walk out to road end and head home, arriving back in Hamilton late afternoon.

**Leaders:** Jacqui Dick

**Ph:** 021 2608149

**Grade:** E/M

: Steve Dick

**Ph:** 021 353561

**Email:** Jacqui: [jacquimd@me.com](mailto:jacquimd@me.com)

Steve: [steve\\_dick@outlook.co.nz](mailto:steve_dick@outlook.co.nz)

**Transport:** Senior member \$ tba

Senior non-member: Senior rate +\$10

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### Trip 3172

### Kaitarakihi

2 Mar

Watch this space – information will be emailed to all.

**Leader:** Cathy Dickson

**Ph:** 021 353 561

**Grade:** E/M

**Email:** [dicksoncatherine@xtra.co.nz](mailto:dicksoncatherine@xtra.co.nz)

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

Senior non-member: Senior rate +\$10

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### Trip 3173

### Te Rereatukahia hut/ Kaimai track

8/9 Mar

This trip walks into Te Rereatukahia Hut on the Saturday via Tuahu Track (5.5km, 3 hours). Saturday night is at the Hut. Please book a bunk or a tent site on the DoC website (book early as this is a popular hut). Sunday we will walk the Old North South Track turning into Waipapa Track and then to Mt Te Aroha to be picked up. Sunday is about 13km but will take about 10 hours, including stops, at a moderate pace. The track is a route not a track, and not well marked. Parts are overgrown. A good level of fitness is required. We will either carpool for drop off and pick up or I have a driver who will drop and pick up in a hired van or 8-seater wagon. Cost will depend on numbers & final transport decision. Will be advised closer to date.

**Leader:** Sarah McLeay

**Ph:** 020 40896364

**Grade:** F

**Email:** [mcleayclan@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mcleayclan@xtra.co.nz)

**Transport:** Private vehicles

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### Trip 3174

### Waitawheta hut

16 Mar

An easy walk along the old Waitawheta bush tramway in Kaimai Mamaku Forest Park to a well-appointed hut. The track follows the relatively flat, Waitawheta Tramway. After about an hour and a half the track crosses a large suspension bridge to the site of a replica logging bogie (a tram cart that carried the massive kauri logs). There are information signs to show when, why and how the tramway was built. We continue south along the tramline through the spectacular Waitawheta Gorge. The main track requires one river crossing but there is a bypass track that requires just a few small side stream crossings. The track then leaves the river and goes through an old campsite before reaching the toilet bowl waterfall,

Waitawheta Hut, and the site of the old logging mill. Waitawheta Hut has two bunkrooms, a separate dining/lounge area, and a generous deck outside. 3 - 4 hrs walking, 7.5 km (one way).

**Leaders:** Julia Lile

**Ph:** 027 478 9989

**Grade:** F

Judith Bogle

**Ph:** 027 381 0283

**Emails:** Julia [gjlile@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gjlile@xtra.co.nz) Judith [judith.bogle@outlook.com](mailto:judith.bogle@outlook.com)

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

Senior non-member: Senior rate +\$10

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### **Trip 3175**

**22/23 Mar**

tba

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### **Trip 3176**

### **Wairere Falls**

**30 Mar**

This is where the club went on its very first trip back in May 1950. It's on the western side of the Kaimais overlooking Matamata. The track follows a stream and then there is a steep climb to the top of the escarpment with views of the falls from beneath and peering over them from a platform at the top. It's a short walk further on to the junction of the North-South Track. If there is time we may go a little further along the track to find the hidden waterfall also.

**Leader:** Madeleine Fiddes

**Ph:** 021 2273560

**Grade:** E/M

**Email:** [madeleine@actrix.co.nz](mailto:madeleine@actrix.co.nz)

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

Senior non-member: Senior rate +\$10

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### **Trip 3177**

### **Music Festival at Waikato Hut**

**4-6 Apr**

Following on from our successful inaugural *WTC Mountain Film Festival* last November, we've decided to have another big event at our Lodge on Mount Ruapehu. This time, its music, with some nice walking to round out the weekend. Although the main event will happen on Saturday night (5<sup>th</sup>), our guest musician Jon Sanders, will be present Friday night (4<sup>th</sup>) for a short session for those who are able to attend. On Saturday, there will be some easy walking and after dinner, Jon will perform, along with his guest singer Sarah Marlowe Spence. The following day (6<sup>th</sup>), weather permitting, there will be some more easy walks. The event will conclude after the lodge is cleaned up in the usual manner, and the latest departures from Whakapapa will be about 3.00 pm.

#### **OUR GUEST MUSICIANS**

Jon Sanders. (From his website). *"The quantum leaping music of Jon Sanders has circumnavigated the globe many times over the past 30 years, entertaining thousands of listeners along the way. His compositions for drop D guitar, bouzouki and ukelele have been covered by bands and used in film, television and radio and he has performed in an impressive number of bands in the modern acoustic scene – see Bio page Jon Sanders Music.*

Sarah Marlowe Spence. ((From her website in summary).) *"I Help people uncover their true potential with a variety of healing and music modalities"*. Sarah is multi-talented and of most relevance to this event are her music performances. She is also



a qualified yoga teacher and can offers classes during the weekend if there is a demand.

## AUCTION

As we had a financially rewarding and fun auction at the Film Festival, we've decided to have another one, so be prepared to bid. (*Ed comment: or offer auction lots too*)

## THE WALKS

Two WTC members well-versed in what Whakapapa has to offer, will lead hut-based trips and will pick out their favourite walks that are sure to please everyone. The walks will be easy-medium at most.

## ACCOMMODATION

Primarily, the WTC Hut and nearby (closer to the Top of The Bruce) Rotorua Ski and Tramp. Both Huts hold 32 people. The WTC Hut is about a 15–20-minute walk up and down a rudimentary track that has some large scoria boulders. Once you have booked, a check list will be sent to registrants asking which hut they would prefer to stay at. There is a SAFETY aspect involved, as those staying in the Rotorua hut will have to make their own way up and down between huts (for some several times over the weekend also in darkness at some point). In particular, after the music event late Saturday night. We have to check people in and out in the event of bad weather for example. More about that later once you register. The cost is \$25 per night for adults (17 and over) and \$15 for those younger. The same price for Rotorua Hut. We'd love to see family groups at this event. The WTC hut is fully serviced with comfortable bunks (double and single), reading lamp, curtain on each bunk. Good showers. Sorry, no Wi-fi. You do not need to bring any cooking gear as we have it all. For those walking, a check list will be given once you register.

## FOOD

For those who will be staying both nights or just the one, the meals on offer will be two breakfasts (Saturday and Sunday) and one dinner (Saturday). As people will be arriving at different times, for those who want breakfast it is \$10.00 per time and dinner will cost \$20.00. We will not be providing lunches so bring your own. No dinner Friday night as well. More about meals on registration and we cater for your dietary needs.

## TRANSPORT

Vans will be provided leaving at different times ex Hamilton depending on what registrants want to do. The cost is below (estimate depending on loading).

Otherwise feel free to take your own car and meet up at Whakapapa.

## REGISTRATION

Everyone attending this event MUST register at our WTC online site. Note that it is Trip Number 3177. Even if you are just coming for the music on Saturday night, you must also register (again it is a safety issue as we don't want people getting lost on leaving our Hut). When registering we need to know contact details about next-of-kin as we are in a high alpine environment. You must also register as an

individual so we can keep track of actual numbers attending (eg – no “Sarah Smith and friend”). This helps differentiate between WTC members and non-members.

#### THE MUSIC COST

\$40 per head for adults, \$15 per head those under 17. Please note – although this event is family friendly, we recommend it should only be for kids over 5 years, due to the location of our Hut, closed quarter- accommodation etc.

We recommend you register early as this event will be open to the wider public realm. If you want to stay in Waikato Hut, then this is a priority consideration.

**Leader/Event Co-Ordinator:** Allan Wickens **Ph:**027 950 9546 but prefer email  
: David MacDonald **Ph:** 027 4908560

**Email:** *allanwickens@hotmail.com* to keep track of participants)

**Grade:** Easy walking but there may be something a bit more strenuous on offer if decided.

**Transport:** Van (Member \$60-70 ; Non-member \$70-80) and private vehicles

We recommend you register early as this event will be open to the wider public realm. If you want to stay in the WTC Lodge, then this is a priority consideration.

**Cost:** Food: breakfast is \$10.00 per time and Saturday dinner will cost \$20.00.

WTC Accommodation: \$25 per night for adults (17 +) and \$15 for those younger

RTC Accommodation: \$35/night for all ages. Wifi available here.

Music: \$40 per head for adults, \$15 per head those under 17.

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### Whirinaki

18-22 Apr

This will be the Te Pua-a-Tane Circuit. I intend to walk the full circuit of the Whirinaki Forest Par over Easter. It is a 5-day/4night trip so you might need to take an extra days' leave. On Friday morning we will travel down and start at the river Road carpark, stopping at Central hut after 5hours walking along 16kms.

Day 2: Central hut to Upper te Hoe Hut 8-9 hours/17.7km

Day 3: Upper te Hoe to Mangahika hut 8.5hours/15km

Day 4: Mangahika hut to Morqangi hut 6.5 hours/17.5km

Daty 5: Morangi Hut back to river road 4.5hours/ 13km.

We will then be homward bound via the ice cream shop in Murupara

The Whirinaki forest is home to some of the oldest and largest native tree in the north island. I can promise you will get wet feet as there are many river crossings but only one that is ankle deep (hopefully). Many a time I've been into the area I have seen blue ducks (whio), heard kiwi, heard roaring stags. It is truly a wonderful forest to tramp in. Huts are small and it will be a busy time of year so numbers will be limited and please bring a tent.

For more information check out the website [www.doc.govt.nz/whirinaki](http://www.doc.govt.nz/whirinaki)

**Leader:** Peter Ayson

**Ph:** 027 4797077

**Grade:** M/F

**Email:** *peter.ayson@yahoo.com*

**Cost:** tba

## **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***

The peak tramping season is getting going now so dust off your boots and get moving. And on that note please do make sure you have clean boots to start your tramping trip and that you clean, where possible before you leave the area you are tramping in, then after your travels. We all know about kauri dieback but it seems these days there are more infectious and unwelcome diseases we are capable of spreading without realising we are doing so. In north Pureora the chytrid fungus was detected and it kills native frogs. There is a managed population of Archey's frogs not far from our base, and several populations of Hochstetters;'frogs throughout the area. Unfortunately, we forgot to take the sterilising equipment with us last weekend when we removed the bait. If you were there, please clean your boots before your next trip.

And what a variety of trips we have coming up but the special one has to be another feature visit to Waikato Hut for a music festival. This is shaping up to be something you don't want to miss. It is a perfect way to support the club and be entertained while doing so, Club members have first choice of attending (there will need to be a limitation on number able to be present) so make your booking NOW. The weekend will include some tramping so everyone wins this time, And of course you could be lucky to win another offer at the auction. The one we had at the film festival was an absolute hoot so we're hopeful the same atmosphere will be evident. If you have a skill or item you'd like to offer to the auction, leet David or Allan know. If you can't make it, they can table the bid on your behalf.

I wish you all the best for the autumn tramping programme and am looking forward to some tentative attempts myself to get out there at last too.

Dianne

## *Presidential blog*

No blog this month – the President is incommunicado- where is he?

### *Ski club report*

Waikato Hut is in need of maintenance to make it watertight. This could be at weekends or during the week, with accommodation available at the Hut, and with volunteer helpers available. The Ski committee would like to know of any tradespeople within the tramping membership who could assist them with their tasks. Or it could be someone outside the club you may know of. Please let the President know of any leads at: *Rupert.Craggs@niwa.co.nz*

We are also working with the club captain to use the lodge as a base for tramping excursions. Booking system is setup for summer rate only. The password is available from David Macdonald, ph: 0274908560, Steven Phillips ph: 021 1031436 and Ashley Hoskins ph: 027 4909545.

The Whakapapa visitor centre has interesting displays on the mountains and local natural history. Then come back to the Hut for a well-deserved rest, food, and hot showers. Just bring yourself, a sleeping bag, pillow and your food (and drink!).

#### SUMMER BOOKINGS

Please book in online at <https://b9c5011ab7bb99eb.sirvoy.me/> or go to the Waikato Ski website and click on winter bookings. You will need to use the code - SUMMER RATES to access bookings/members rates.

Please note during the summer this will not be getting checked every day, so you may not get your booking confirmed right away. If it is last minute, and you know how to get to lodge, that is fine just make sure there is space and book and pay via the online booking system above.

If there is no one else there you will need to open and close the lodge down. There are stepwise instructions for this in the foyer.

Hut fees for summer (nightly rates) and continue until June

o Adult - \$25                      Child (0-17 years) - \$15.

Or you can book the entire lodge for \$600 – sleeps 32 in mix of double and single bunks (+2 extra in custodians room) . Need any more info or have questions – contact *Waikatoski@gmail.com*

#### WORKING PARTIES

Working parties for the Waikato Hut are as follows, come and help keep the Hut looking great. Soffits need replacing, windows re-installed with better flashings, barge boards replaced, plus other minor jobs.

February 15/16th – Firewood working party + general spring clean and maintenance. Want to keep warm this winter, or want to get fit? We have to carry our firewood up to the Hut for the winter. If you don't want to carry wood there

are lots of other jobs with maintenance and spring cleaning. All welcome. To book – Contact Mary Reed on [drmarydoll@hotmail.com](mailto:drmarydoll@hotmail.com) or 0211185107  
March 15/16<sup>th</sup> – General maintenance and spring cleaning  
Another working party to finish the general maintenance and cleaning and tidying, this might include painting and other maintenance  
To book contact Stephen Phillips on [innovative.p@hotmail.com](mailto:innovative.p@hotmail.com) or 0211031436.  
There will be a longer session between 1-14<sup>th</sup> April for any bigger jobs that need doing.  
Accommodation is complimentary whilst you are on a working party, and food from Sat breakfast to Sunday lunch is provided. You can also get a free night in the hut for later on in the year to use. Transport private vehicles, carpooling.  
We have other smaller working parties which may require those with appropriate skills, so would love to hear from you if you can help in this area, This could be at weekends or during the week (depending on available of helpers) , with accommodation available at the Hut, and with volunteer helpers available.

## Trip Reports

**Trip 3143**

**Waitakeres two**

**21/22 Sept 2024**



The team

All pictures for this story taken on Allan Wickens' camera

This being the second such foray into the Waitakeres Ranges Regional Park by our Club, the plan was to explore the southern area after concentrating on the north and central during *Waitakeres One* (held earlier in June). Most who went on the first trip were back for more. This time, we also included an overnight trip led by Les W who was accompanied by four others (Jim S, Sarah M, Julia L and Beatrice M). On Friday night, the whole group travelled to the area and stayed at the Auckland Tramping Club hut, where we were previously based. On Saturday morning, Les and his group were dropped off at Huia. The weather was good, and the group

followed several tracks south to Whatipu, where they had booked some camp spots for the night. In the meantime, Allan, John and Madeleine did the easy and very pleasant Karamatura loop walk. This area was heavily milled for kauri up until the 1950's. They then drove around and did the short walk to Mount Donald McLean, meeting up with Les and Co in the process (and in doing so cutting out the walking bit in between there and the start point). From there, the easy group drove to Whatipu and managed to time things right, to get to the end of the short walk beside Paratutae Island.



Unfamiliar with the area, they were astonished to see groups of people fishing on both Paratutae Island (with a large incoming tide) and Te Toka-Tapu-a-Kupe (“Ninepin Rock”). The latter was the scene of a drowning a few days before, when people went fishing late at night.

From there, the easy group drove around to Cornwallis on Puponga Peninsula. This was the site of the first colonial settlement in Auckland, when the ship “Brilliant” and a band of settlers controlled by the Manukau Land Company (manager Lachlan McLachlan), started a short-lived foray into the area on 29 October 1841. A short walk past the monument led to an expansive view of the entrance to Manakau Harbour. That night, our small group stayed a second night in the Auckland TC hut. The following morning, Allan, John and Madeleine drove to Anawhata for fine views on a picture-perfect day, before heading to Piha and the nearby Mercer Bay Loop Track Walk. Again, the weather was great, which meant lots of people doing the walk.

In the meantime, Les and his group had walked on well-graded tracks with many steps and then spent a humid night at Whatipu. On Sunday, they followed the Gibbons and Muir Tracks to Parahara Bay and along the sand dune track to Karekare, where they met up with the easy group.

Having seen much of what the Waitakeres offer over the two weekends, thoughts turned to a third foray into the area. This trip is planned for the second half of the year and should also prove popular. Auckland people are blessed with such a fine place to spend a day, or a night or two camping. Most of the interior is still closed off due to kauri die-back, and the damage from the two weather events the previous year still means some tracks and even roads are restricting former activity in the park. But don't be put off, as there is still lots to see and do!

### **Trip 3157B**

### **Mid-Canterbury peak-**

**20-24 Dec 2024**

This trip was relatively ambitious from the outset. The aim was to visit Allan's old tramping area where he did many trips with the Methven & District Tramping Club (MAD T C), several decades before. All peaks are considered suitable for trampers for most of the year, but some become quite formidable when coated with snow and ice in winter. No such problem there however, being a warm start to summer. After driving down to Paraparumu where Allan, Miriam and her 15-year-old son Sebastian stayed the night, it meant easy and quick access down the motorway for the early morning ferries. And ferries are the right word, as Allan had booked his car and himself on the *Interislander* while the other two couldn't get on the same crossing. Instead, they took a *Bluebridge* crossing that arrived in Picton almost 3 hours later. They had tried to get on the same ferry as Allan and we were all mystified as to why it was booked out until Allan discovered (it being the first sailing of the day) that it was the “dangerous goods crossing, with only about 50 passengers allowed on board. Talk about plenty of room. Allan had a whole lounge to himself!

As Miriam had only been to Christchurch and Sebastian never to the South Island, they were keen to see as much as possible. Before leaving Picton, our trio visited the interesting pa site at Te Rae o Karaka or Karaka Point. This narrow headland juts out into Totaranui/Queen Charlotte Sound. Restorative efforts since 1953 show the remnant groundwork of the pa, whose occupants were annihilated by Te

Atiawa during the summer of 1829-30. On the drive down to Oxford, base for the first of the peaks to be “bagged”, we stopped off near Seddon and walked across the old two-level bridge. This bridge, built in 1902 is now only for rail traffic (the top part). The lower level was formerly part of the main highway for vehicular traffic. However, it is now the means of crossing the Awatere River and is part of the yet to be completed “*Whale Trail*”. Eventually it will encompass a 200-kilometre ride from Picton to Kaikoura. On each end of the bridge there are spanking new picnic facilities and some impressive murals. Finally, the group stopped off at the wonderfully constructed viewing area at Ohau Point, where many hundreds of seals of all ages are concentrated along several kilometres of coastline (lots of lovely baby seals in this major “nursery”).

Peak One:-

With the tourist things aside, it was time to get down to business. The group stayed the night at a very clean and tidy backpackers in Oxford, before scaling the heights of our first peak – Mount Oxford (1364 metres). The walk was fine, but the weather wasn't, and we were rather sodden by the time we returned from the almost 1000 metre / 6-hour tramp. Still, we weren't going to let a bit of weather get in the way of the grand plan and the lovely black beech forest, meandering stream and fog-bound tops made for an excellent day out regardless. Methven was the base for the next few days. Allan stayed with long-time friends while the other two spent their stay in a comfortable backpacker.

Peak Two:-

Allan invited his friends Ross and Pete on the second peak. Pete suggested Red Hill (1641 metres) as it meant he didn't have to travel far from his home at Rangiora. This seldom-climbed peak is a few kilometres southwest of Lake Lyndon in what is now the Korowai-Torlesse Conservation Park. That meant minimal tracks and luckily Pete had done it before. After crossing retired and currently used farmland, with a boggy section, it was mostly scree and rock with some pockets of bush. Although unpretentious (un-imaginative people might say “boring”) the walk was another 1000 metre climb overall. And the view from the broad top was excellent, with nearby Lake Coleridge prominent plus a broad sweep of the lower Rakaia-Wilberforce area as far as the Main Divide. But, so much for seldom – climbed, as a group of trampers from nearby Castle Hill Village came up to the top via a different ridge and just “pipped” our arrival. Later that day, the first of several thunderstorm afternoons happened. The following day, the decision was made to rest up a bit, so a drive out through the Ashburton Gorge to the inland wonders of the Ashburton Lakes-Rangitata- Arrowsmiths meant for a long day out. We went as far as Erewhon Station, had lunch at the Potts Station café, and climbed our third “peak” – the innocuous “Mount Sunday”, which was a major LOTR set and is now a major tourist spot. After checking out Lake Heron and the start of the walk up the Cameron River it was back to Methven.

By now, the weather on and near the main divide was becoming problematical, with heavy thunder showers and even snow forecast at one stage. The following



day, we travelled to Christchurch and checked out the amazingly restored city centre, before doing the Godley Head Walk. This fine walk, of about 3 hours is very pleasant and we were blessed with fine weather and excellent views, along with the historical gun emplacements and remnant historical baches at Taylor's Mistake.

With only two of a hoped for 5-6 peaks under our belt, the initial plan didn't quite pan out as we had hoped. However, by not doing so much full-on stuff, we managed to get to see and do other things. And Sebastian was happy about that!



Mt. Sunday



Godley head walk



Godley head walk



Red Hills

Photo by Allan Wickens

*It's not the number of breaths we take .. but the moments that  
take our breath away*

pp Belinda Cooper

## Trip 3158

## Mountain Madness

15 Dec

Leaving Corcoran Rd carpark at 7:15 , 8 of us started up Pirongia , the first peak to complete for Mountain Madness. The track was the usual mud and swamp in places and as we approached the summit , the blue sky had disappeared and it was surprisingly claggy considering how good the weather forecast was. We had a 5 min stop at the viewing platform and headed back down. First peak completed in 3:30 hours.





Atop all the peaks photographers unknown

The drive to Maungatautari had an ice cream stop near Lake Karapiro and then onwards to the carpark at the northern entrance. By this stage the weather was back to the predicted forecast, sun with little wind.

We made good time on the climb to the peak and after the photo op when headed back down, total time 3 hours.

The drive to Te Aroha had another cold drink and snack stop and we started up Te Aroha at 5:00pm with the temperature at 27 degrees. We reached the top at 6:30 with glorious views and a long rest.

Annika shared out some home baking and we relaxed for nearly 30min enjoying the achievement. We headed down and arrived back at the cars 8:15pm. 7 of us completed the 3 peaks and 1 completed 2.

Participants: Kat R, Mike H, Kegan L, Jeanette D, Annika W, Kieran, Rhianna, and Mike P.

**Trip 3166**

**Wairongomai**

**2 Feb**



This was a trip to view the old club hut site which had been destroyed by fire many years ago. The trip was led by John, who had been visiting the site for over 50 years! Thirteen people gathered at the road end and carpark, and up and along we went, reading the many information boards describing historical mining sites along the way.

Parts of the trip were a bit steeper than what I had remembered from years ago but we all safely made it to view the old chimney and relics that mark the old site. John then took us on a shortcut which I think was not a shortcut, just a little bit more sweat was exerted, then back on to the track. After a while we stopped for lunch which was very much appreciated.



Renewing old acquaintances

Photographer unknown

Next it was to the start of the May Queen incline which divided the group into

those who wanted to climb it and those who didn't. I, being of sensible mind and unfit, was in the second group and 3 of us headed back down to the vehicle. As we waited we had a much appreciated swim in the river as the carpark was full up with locals going upstream to swim in deeper swimming holes.

Back into town for the compulsory ice cream but it really was too hot to eat them as I successfully put most of mine down the front of my shirt. Great to meet up with everyone and one club member who I hadn't tramped for 26 years or more. Enjoyable times. Thanks to Joh for organising the trip

Participants: John W, Kevin, Davids x2, Amanda, Wendy, Rizal R, Miriam B, Marion F, Weiwei, Alan, and me Peter A.

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### *From the committee table:*

**New Members:** Nil

**Resignations:** Jilliene Beale, Anna Sutton, Paul Quinn, Deidre Jackson, Kegan Lim, Don & Helen Burns.

**Membership:** The club has 191 tramping members.

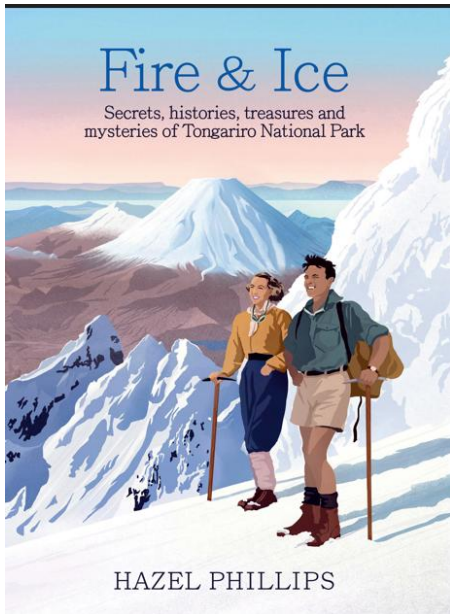
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### *Snippets*

➤ What is Forest Bathing? Forest Bathing/ Forest Therapy is a Westernized approach to the traditional Japanese practice of *shinrin yoku*. Forest bathing is about slowing down and providing nature immersion to improve overall health and well-being. Forest bathing and forest therapy have been shown to reduce stress chemicals in the body, slow the pulse and blood pressure, and evoke a sense of calm. Guided forest walks can help with symptoms of ADHD, depression, anxiety, anger, and PTSD. It improves sleep, boosts energy and vitality, and even increases sensory awareness and connection. Relaxes an overworked brain and fosters healthier aging, and has been shown to increase self-esteem, empathy, kindness, and compassion. Tune in to the world of nature around you. Forest bathing increases awareness of the Beyond-Human world-- from plants to fungi to insects to a feeling of connection to something greater. Regardless of your own personal beliefs, forest bathing has been shown to increase feelings of awe, wonder, and gratitude and instil a love of nature and an ecological mindset. There are organised walks available on the internet but of course you can undertake your own or organise a group. Why not take some time to just sit in the forest and listen to the sounds around you and breathe the really fresh air?

➤ **Record-breaking hiker aims to complete Te Araroa in fastest-ever time**  
American Billy Meredith, whose trail name is "Wahoo", is aiming to complete the Te Araroa Trail in a "really ambitious" 45 days, which works out to be about 67.5 kilometres per day. Meredith said he would be doing the trail self-supported, which meant he could not accept any help that was not available to everyone else. Despite this, he has his sights set on beating the supported record - currently held by New

Zealander George Henderson who completed the trail in 49 days, 14 hours and 27 minutes in 2020. His pack has a base weight of 5kg without food or water, allowing him to run where possible. He will have competition from the Belgian ultrarunner Karel Sabbe who is also attempting to do the fastest Te Araroa with the support of a team.



➤ Over the past two years local Ruapehu enthusiast and writer Hazel Phillips has been working on a book about the backcountry history of Tongariro National Park. The result is her fourth book, *Fire & Ice: Secrets, histories, treasures and mysteries of Tongariro National Park*, which is due to be published on May 8th this year by Massey University Press. *Fire & Ice* features stories of daring rescues, ghosts, mysterious fires, crevasses, avalanches, derelict huts, plane wrecks, secret spots, sly grogging and carrot waving. Hazel says the book was great fun to research and write, and she hopes it will be equally fun for people to read.

With more than 200 historic and present-day images and 25 maps, it's a must-have for all who love skiing, climbing and tramping around our mighty mountain. Copies cost \$50 and can be pre-ordered through the Massey University Press website, or bought from any good bookstore from 8th May.

Hazel is now hard at work on her next book, which will be about early women climbers and adventurers of Aoraki Mount Cook.

<https://www.masseypress.ac.nz/books/fire-and-ice>

➤ *To Waikato Tramping Club from Orienteering Waikato: We would like to invite your members to participate in a rogaine event we are organising for **Sunday March 2<sup>nd</sup>**. It's a unique chance for teams to explore the network of monitoring trails in this spectacular predator-free environment and support the ongoing work to keep it thriving. Funds raised at this event will go to Sanctuary Mountain<sup>®</sup> Maungatautari.*

*You'll spend 2, 4 or 8 hours travelling the usually private monitoring trails of this mature Tawa forest, surrounded by kākā, toutouwai (NZ robin), tīeke (saddleback) and pōpokotea (whitehead). Six kākāpō, and approximately 2,500 kiwi will all be*

*asleep for the day, but your participation will be helping them, and the team who care for them. Rogaining is an endurance sport combining tramping, navigation, competition and strategy. Teams of two to five people are given a map and must plan a route with the aim of visiting as many checkpoints as possible in a set time period (2, 4 or 8 hours). The checkpoints are marked by orange flags with electronic timing devices. The Save the Sanctuary Rogaine will be an awesome adventure for those who are comfortable to walk/run through NZ bush and who have some map reading experience. Sadly, this event is not for inexperienced navigators. The map will be 1:15,000 or 1:20,000. The course will have between 30-50 controls (depending on your choice of length). The 2-hour course will have some easier controls for the less experienced.*

*The sanctuary need our help to keep the fence secure, to continue with their world-leading kiwi conservation programme and to monitor critically endangered kākāpō on the maunga.*

***Claim Your Exclusive Pass to Off-Track Sanctuary Mountain*** – Entry is online via Enter-O. Pre-entry closes the Wednesday 26th

***February <https://entero.co.nz/evento.php?eventName=rogaine-2025>. Be in to WIN! Enter before February 15<sup>th</sup> to be in the draw to win a Camelbak. Prize to be awarded to the winner at prizegiving on event day.***

### ➤ **Te Araroa's increasing popularity**

There is a record number of people on the trail this year, with nearly 2000 people registered and another 1000 estimated to be doing the walk. The Te Araroa Trust has asked walkers for a donation of \$5 a day, which equated to 32 cents a kilometre, to help with the upkeep of the 1200km trail. This income has been used to eradicate wasps, build a new bridge in the Whanganui region and develop huts and campsites and areas off the public conservation estate.

➤ **The many volcanoes of Karioi: club night talk by Dr Oliver Macleod.** At the December club night Oliver spoke about his work on the rocks and volcanic history of Mt Karioi and Raglan. He spent many months hiking up and around the mountain armed with a backpack, hammer and GPS, collecting hundreds of rock samples, some of which were sent to Japan for ageing. Oliver's findings reveal a history of volcanic eruptions that lasted for around 300,000 years between 2.6 and 2.3 million years ago. These eruptions produced explosive ash, scoria cones and lava fields and Mount Karioi itself. There were dozens of volcanic vents spread all around the current mountain and out to sea. The lava flows went as far as the Bridal Veil Falls and underlie the township of Raglan. The large cones have now eroded into the ridges we see today on the mountain. The sea has cut away the layers of rocks - you can see them at Te Toto Gorge for example.

Dr McLeod has published a booklet "Geology of Karioi Volcano" which includes a detailed map showing the rock layers, and place names that have been preserved in oral history for centuries. These names don't appear on topographical maps but were shared by kaumātua. The map also shows the locations of ancient pā sites.



Oliver has a suggestion for a club trip to get on top of one of the more dramatic plugs – (from the west through Mitchel’s farm).

➤ **The Cone becomes Pūāwhē.** The New Zealand Geographic Board (Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa ) recently decided to change the unofficial recorded place name The Cone to an original Māori name Pūāwhē, which at 953m is the second highest peak on Pirongia Mountain. The proposer advised that Pūāwhē is a traditional name on Pirongia Mountain as recorded in the lament Kāore te rangi nei, a story of love and conflict between Māori and patupaiarehe (spirit people) and was used to refer to the mountain as a whole. The Cone is the only major peak on Pirongia Mountain not to have an original Māori name.

The Cone has been in long term use on plans and maps for 120 years. However, there is evidence in a waiata published in 1894 and Ngāti Maniapoto oral history that Pūāwhē is an original Māori name on the maunga. The proposer provided evidence of support on behalf of Pūrekireki Marae, and Shane Te Ruki on behalf of Te Kōpua Marae, home of Ngāti Unu and Ngāti Kahu.

The maunga attracts high recreational use and The Cone may be an important reference for emergency response. However, altering the name is unlikely to cause identification issues when communicating with emergency services as they rely on digital technology to locate an emergency. The Cone would also be recorded as an alias in emergency services’ databases.

Source: New Zealand Geographic Board website, decision announced 18/12/24

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

➤ The Government is thinking about **charging visitors** a fair price **to access some public conservation land (PCL)** where it makes sense to do so. Charging for access is a significant opportunity for conservations. It would support a fairer user-pays system and improve the experience of all visitors to PCL This discussion document is seeking public feedback on whether access charging is a good idea, and key design questions for an access charging system (who to charge, where to charge, how to allocate funding).

➤ **Raising revenue from conservation lands.** DoC is looking at a variety of ways to increase revenue streams including a trial at three popular South Island tourist destinations which will begin charging for parking. Visitors to Punakaiki Pancake Rocks and Franz Josef Glacier on the West Coast, and White Horse Hill in Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park will start paying from next summer.

Source: Stuff 26 Nov 2024

The levy on international tourist arrivals, now \$100, is to be used to upgrade huts and tracks. The \$4.2 million will be spent in a joint effort between DoC and the Backcountry Trust, a voluntary group. Source: Stuff 24 Jan 2025

Source: Stuff 26 Nov 2024

....from FMC.....

## Conservation first for Te Tai Poutini West Coast Conservation Management Strategy

Te Tai Poutini, the West Coast, is a raw and untamed gem of Aotearoa's natural beauty, with over 80% of its land and waters managed by DoC. This wild and rugged landscape holds a special place in the hearts of many Kiwis, especially our members and supporters.

To protect the West Coast's exquisite natural and recreational values FMC has submitted feedback on the DoC survey as they get ready to prepare a new Tai Poutini West Coast Conservation Management Strategy (CMS). We hope this will be followed by a meeting with DOC, to discuss our recommendations.

FMC's submission underscores the importance of the CMS aligning with the *Conservation Act* priorities regarding conservation, fostering non-commercial recreation, and allowing tourism. It highlights the need for the CMS to establish clear objectives for the management of national parks, as required under the *National Parks Act 1980*, rather than unlawfully delegating this responsibility to National Park Management Plans, as currently suggested by DoC on their website. FMC also emphasises that stewardship land reclassification should be completed as a matter of urgency and before finalising the new CMS, as the outcomes of reclassification will directly shape its application and that of related management plans. We also offer recommendations about what should be considered in the reclassification process, with a general view that reclassification must give the land the most appropriate protection consistent with its conservation values. Further details are available on the FMC website.





On the Waiorongomai track photo by Peter Ayson



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