



Official Bulletin of
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 869

January 2025

General Committee

(Contact details listed below)

President:	Rupert Craggs	027 6811926
Past President:	Judith Bogle	027 3810283
Secretary:	Dorothy Cawdron	027 7424222
Treasurer:	Guy Domett	027 2483008
Members:	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

Chairperson:		
Ski VP:	Stephen Phillips	021 1031436
Bookings:	Ashley Hoskin	027 4909545
Finance officer:	Michael Barker	021 2463500
Members:	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 7th February

We are hoping to have a fresh-water ecologist as guest speaker or perhaps Jocelyn talking about her Camino walk, so watch this space- more details later

Editorial: This month there is just a list of trip descriptions coming to you, along with a couple of snippets of information. Our usual format will recommence in February

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2025

3163	12 Jan	E/M	Pirongia	John McArthur
3164	18 /19 Jan	M	Te Paki Track, Northland	Judith Bogle
3165A	25 - 27 Jan	F	Kaimanawas	Mike Peck
3165B	25 - 27 Jan	M/F	Opunake, Taranaki	Peter Lye
3166	2 Feb	M	Waiorongomai	John Wilson
3167	2 - 7 Feb	F	Ivory Lake Hut	Mike Peck
3168	6 / 7 Feb		Hawkes Bay - Day Walks	Les Warren
	7-9 Feb	E/M	Bait removal Okahukura	Dianne & Selwyn June
3169	14-16 Feb	M	Tongariro by night	Lynette Morris
3170	23 Feb	E/M	Maungatautari	Lynette Morris
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
3174	16 mar	E/M	Waitawheta Hut	Julia Lile/Judith Bogle
3175	22/-23 Mar	M	Whites clearing/Urewera	Cathy Dickson
3176	30 Mar	E/M	Wairere Falls	Madeleine Fiddes

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 WEDNESDAY 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

Remember: Click ‘**SUBMIT**’ to confirm your booking on the website

Trip 3163

Pirongia

12 Jan

As the first trip of the New Year how about something bracing to get you ready for the exciting trips of the summer? Depending on whether we have transport available, I suggest we go up the Wharauoa route from the end of O'Shea Road to the top of Wharauoa and Mahaukura, then across the ridge line to the Pirongia peak.

From there it is downhill on the Tirohanga track, past Ruapane and across the link track to the Mangakaraa nature walk and the car park at the top of Grey Road.

If we don't have transport we can do the traditional loop up the Mahaukura track and back to the same car park. I am open to the suggestions of those who register.

It is a bit of a challenge so I'm labelling it Medium / Fit

Leader: John McArthur

Ph: 021 2889641

Grade: M/F

Email: mcArthur@outlook.co.nz

Transport: tba

Trip 3164

Te Paki track, Northland

16-19 Jan

This trip being put up in the pretence that the East coast damage should be fixed for the summer period and therefore sorted for January. You will need to take a tent and bookings are required at campsites. Total distance is 48km.

Since it is a 7-hour drive to the start of the track, we will leave on the Wednesday morning and Camp at Kapowairua (Spirits Bay) and spend a nice day hopefully in the sun.

Day 1: We will go from Kapowairua (Spirits Bay) to Tapotupotu Bay. It is a 9km walk (3 hrs) along the beautiful Spirits Bay which takes you over Waitahora Lagoon to Pandora. Then another 9km walk (3 hrs) to Tapotupotu Bay where the track undulates along the top of a ridge, with stunning views across the Te Pahi Reserves and to both the north and west coasts, including sand dunes, Cape Maria Van Diemen, and the distant Cape Reinga lighthouse.

Day 2: We will walk to Cape Reinga/Te Rerenga Wairua, another 9km walk (3 hrs). The track starts at the western end of Tapotupotu Bay and climbs steeply for lovely views back towards the east along the coast or towards the Cape Reinga Lighthouse and Manawatāwhi/Three Kings Islands. You will then follow the cliffs before descending into Sandy Bay. Also there is a return side track to Te Werahi Beach (an extra 2km). Then we will go to Twilight Beach 7.25km walk (3 hrs). Experience dune landscapes and views of Cape Maria van Diemen and Motuopao Island.

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

Leader: Judith Bogle

Ph: 027 3810283

Grade: M

Email: judith.bogle@outlook.com

Transport: Private vehicles

Trip 3165A

Makorako peak

25-27 Jan

The plan for the weekend is to climb Makorako, the highest peak in the Kaimanawa ranges at 1726m. We have been granted an access permit for the weekend.

Leaving Friday night 5.30pm for the drive to Kiko Rd to camp at the road end. Saturday morning take the Ngapuketarua track to access the tops and going via Ngapuketarua and then head off track towards Te Kohatuakaiuru to camp near point 1345.

Sunday is to summit Makorako via point 1470 and Te Wetenga and then we will go back the way we came to camp near the headwaters of the Rangitikei river.

Monday we head back to the Kiko Road end.

Sat/Sun will be 8-10 hours tramping. We will be tenting all three nights.

Leader: Mike Peck

Ph: 021369256

Grade: F

Email: Mikeypeck@yahoo.com

Transport: \$60-70, plus permit charge depending on numbers (\$150 split between number of people)

Trip 3165B

Opunake/Pouakai

25-27 Jan

We will travel to Opunake on Saturday morning. If the tides are right, we'll walk out to the Three Sisters just south of Mokau. This is a flat walk along the river to

some stunning sea stacks that you can walk through. We will also, potentially, climb Paritutu, which is a 156m high rock in New Plymouth. We will be staying at our bach in Opunake. There is plenty of space to put up tents and we might have a couple of bunkrooms ready in time for this trip. You are welcome to use the bach facilities.

Sunday, we hope to do the Pouakai Crossing beside Mt Taranaki. This is a 19km walk that is likened to the Tongariro Crossing. DoC times are 7.5-9.5 hours. This tramp starts at North Egmont, climbs up to a lookout, then sidles along the mountain and passes the towering lava columns of the Dieffenbach Cliffs. The track descends to Holly Hut and crosses the Ahukawakawa swamp. Time dependent, we will take a side trip to Pouakai Tarn where there are reflections of Mt Taranaki. Then there is a long descent through Goblin forest to the Mangorei Road end.

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

Leader: Peter Lye

Ph: 0212265072

Grade: M/F

Email: nicolahlye@gmail.com

Cost: tbc

Trip 3166

Waiorongomai

2 Feb

Waiorongomai Valley south of Te Aroha was once a busy gold mining site. Many relics from that era remain and we will visit some of them. The valley was also the site of a tramping hut, built in 1954 by the WTC. The hut burned down in 1980, but the remains of its brick chimney can still be seen. We will go up the valley on the Low Level and Water Race Tracks. Three stream crossings and a short climb will then get us to the hut site, where some nostalgic memories will be recalled. We will then go part way up the New Era Branch Track (steep), before following an old mining track that sidles back down the valley. This is not a maintained track and will involve some scrambling. For those still with energy, we will climb up Butlers Incline, a steep self-acting railway that will take about 25 minutes. The old winding gear for the incline is at the top. We will then follow Cadman Track back to the carpark.

The grade is medium, but there will be some steep climbs and some scrambling. It should take about 5 hours.

Leader: John Wilson

Ph: 021 168 2082

Grade: M

Email: jnjwilnz@gmail.com

Transport: Senior member \$20-25

Senior non-member: Senior rate +\$10

Trip 3167

Ivory Lake Hut

2-7 Feb

Departing from Hokitika Sunday 2 Feb 0730 shuttling to the start of the Waitaha Access Track about 20km south of the township of Ross. Day 1 is the walk into Moonbeam Hut, approx 10 hours. Day 2 is a 10-14 hour day up the Waitaha river to Top Waitaha Hut. Day 3 is a short 3-4 hour day to arrive at Ivory lake Hut. Day 4 is heading out over Mt Beaumont to Top Tuke Hut, 8 hours.

Day 5 is onwards to Dickie Spur Hut 6 Hours. Day 6 is out to the Totara Valley Rd to meet the shuttle back to Hokitika, 6 hours. This trip involves long stretches of river/canyon walking up the Waitaha river and an alpine crossing after leaving Ivory lake Hut. For detailed information about what to expect on the trip visit remotehuts.co.nz or visit YouTube and watch Ivory Lake Hikoi

Leader: Mike Peck

Ph: 021 369256

Grade: F

Email: *Mikeypeck@yahoo.com*

Transport: tba

Trip 3168

Hawkes Bay day walks

6-9 Feb

We will spend Waitangi Weekend exploring the Hawkes Bay Area with day walks. There will be a variety of day walks from easy to medium of a range of times.

Proposed Programme:

Thu 06 Feb Morning: travel to Napier (4 to 5hrs). Afternoon: Local walks.

Fri 07 Feb Morning: Waipatiki Coastal Track walk. 3hrs return. Afternoon: Bell Rock – 3hrs return. If time allows, we could checkout a couple of shorter walks on the way home.

Sat 08 Feb Te Mata Peak. There is a wide variety of walks to suit all fitness levels. Probably spend most of the day here and if time allows, we could check out some wineries in the afternoon.

Sun 09 Feb Morning: If there is any interest, we can go to Cape Kidnappers Gannet colony. The only way to visit the Colony is by joining a Gannet Safari. The cost is \$96 for the 3hr trip which starts at 0930. When you register, please indicate whether interested. Afternoon: Travel back to Hamilton.

Accommodation: I am looking at staying at the Kennedy Park Resort in Napier. They offer a wide range of accommodation. Suitable accommodation for us is – Deluxe Ensuite Unit (7 to 8 people), Villa (5 to 6 people), Kitchen Cabin (7 to 8 people) and Standard Cabins (7 people). There is also a Group Dining Room with full facilities that we can utilize as a group.

Registration: You should have already done this to ensure we get what we want. Early registrations will also help with transport bookings.

Transport: PLEASE NOTE – We need to travel as a group in the designated hire vehicles booked. I won't accept a number of people travelling in private vehicles. This makes for those travelling in the club vehicles less economic and not fair. However, if numbers mean a private vehicle may be required, I, as leader will decide at the time whether we need to use private vehicles. As usual, further information will be sent out when required.

Leader: Les Warren

Ph: 027 8644937

Grade: M/F

Email: *warrenlb2017@outlook.com*

Transport & accommodation costs: tba

Bait removal in Okahukura

7-9 Feb

This will see the end of the season of pest control in the Okahukura valley of North Pureora forest. The Pirongia Restoration Society will cover the accommodation

cost of staying at the Pureora Forest Park Lodge about 2km off SH 30. It is a fully equipped facility catering for 50 people across 5 bunkrooms and with hot showers and commercial kitchen as well as ample room to pitch a tent or park a motorhome/caravan. Please aim to arrive on Friday night in time for the safety briefing at 7.45pm – you can cook meals while listening in.

The aim, of the weekend is to remove any uneaten bait in the bait stations in the Okahukura valley. The road has been cleared of vegetation so no scratched paint but we are hopeful that the state of the road surface will have been addressed by the time we want to travel to the valley. If you have access to a 4WD vehicle this would be much appreciated – please let us know.

We leave the Lodge by 7.30am and travel in convoy a further 14km to the base area to begin work. If there are sufficient numbers of volunteers it is possible to complete the clearance on Saturday, otherwise the remaining lines are cleared on Sunday morning. At the end of the working day you are able to enjoy treats such as home baking, fruit juice and sweets/fruit before returning to the lodge, and heading home if you wish. Note this is not an official club trip.

Leader: Dianne & Selwyn June

Phone: 07 8433066

Grade: E/M

Email: djune@xtra.co.nz

Transport: Private vehicles

Trip 3169

Tongariro by night

14-16 Feb

Experience the Tongariro Alpine Crossing under the glow of a full moon! 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 Ruapehu on Friday night and stay at our club hut for the weekend.

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: Lynette Morris

Ph: 021 0734519

Grade: M

Email: lynettemorris00@gmail.com

Transport & Accommodation: \$120-\$150

Trip 3170

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: Lynette Morris

Ph: 021 0734519

Grade: E/M

Email: lynettemorris00@gmail.com

Transport: Senior member \$20-25

Senior non-member: Senior rate +\$10

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

Transport: Private vehicles

Summer programme for Tongariro National Park

Mahi Aroha, presented by Project Tongariro and DoC, offers a range of nature-based experiences for the whole family - with bookings open now for January's programme of events.

18th Jan Ohinetonga bat evening

12th Jan Te Porere redoubt cultural visit

13th & 4th Jan Kiwi & whio aversion training in Taupo & Turangi,

13th & 20th Jan Kiwi aversion training in Raetihi/Owhango region

15th Jan Opepe Historic reserve hikoi – great for kids.

15th Jan Paengaroa plant picnic

17th Jan Old coach road historic heritage walk
 18th Jan Waipahihi botanical gardens walk
 19th Jan Historical cycle tour of Taupo lakefront
 19th Jan Okupata caves – morning & afternoon trips
 20th & 21st Jan Kaipo river swing bridge heli-hike with the Sika foundation (2 trips)
 20th Jan Nature art watercolouring session in Turangi
 22nd & 23rd Jan Wairakei Golf course kiwi burrow visits
 25th Jan Motutere Top 10 holiday park trap building
 27th Jan Kaimanawa Alpine adventures heli-hike along a new MTB track
 Visit the Project Tongariro website for more details & bookings:
Tongariro.org.nz/mahi-aroha

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

After sending out the latest newsletter we identified a mistake in one of the news articles. The deadline for submissions on conservation law reform - on access charging and changes to the concession process - is 5 pm on the **28th of February** and not January as stated in our Newsletter. This gives everyone more time to attend webinars and prepare a submission if they wish. We sincerely apologize for the mistake and thank our reader, who kindly pointed it out.
 Ngā mihi nui, Masha Oliver, Communications Officer

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**Snippets:**

✓ **Bookings for Waikato Hut.** Looking for a neat place to spend some time relaxing or doing something energetic like get fit for those South Island trips? How about considering staying at Waikato Hut? The new booking officer is Ashley Hoskin, and the Hut will be open at various times over the summer holidays.

✓ **Obituary Bruce POSTILL 21.10.1945 - 2.1.2025**

Bruce passed away unexpectedly, with his daughters by his side, at Christchurch Hospital, aged 79 years. Bruce's daughters and sons-in-law, Mardi and Patrick Fitzgibbon and Fleur and Bede Skinner, invite you join them to celebrate the life of an extraordinary father and 'GreyGrey' of Ella, Mac, Lachie, Elsie and Gene. Perhaps you built tracks through New Zealand's native bush with Bruce, went tramping together, or tracked the flight path of migratory birds around the world with him. Maybe you scaled cliffs and mountains together, or went on search and rescue missions alongside him. You may have been one of the many friends - old and new - that he liked to share a meal and a few yarns with. Whichever it was, lucky you.

Messages may be addressed to: The family of the late Bruce Postill, c/- PO Box 39001, Christchurch 8545. In lieu of flowers, donations to Forest and Bird would be appreciated and may be made directly online at: [forestandbird.org.nz](http://forestandbird.org.nz). The service to celebrate Bruce's life will be held in the Oaklands Chapel, corner of

Halswell Junction and Wigram Roads, Halswell, Christchurch, on Friday, January 10, at 2.30pm, followed by a private cremation.

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### **February bulletin:**

If you are leading trips in March and April which do not have their trip descriptions already included here, please consider getting them to the editor before the February club night. Early receipt of the material is much appreciated.



Where to go? The heat of the beach or the cool of the forest?

