



THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

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

November 2025



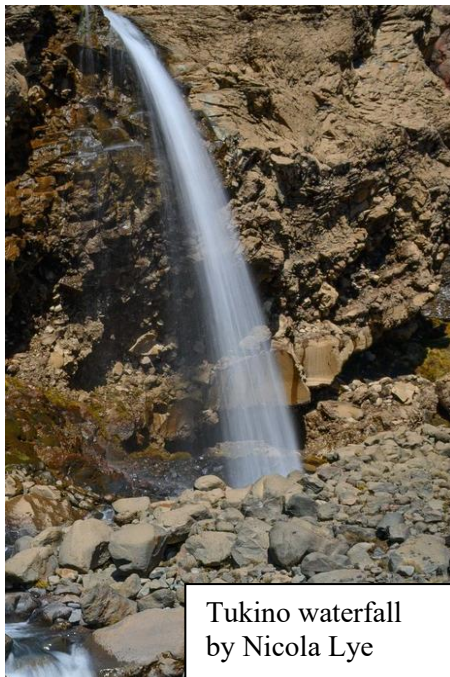
Footwear parking spaces at Tukino Lodge photo by Jacqui Dick

WAIKATO HUT

Your lodge on Mt Ruapehu
Tongariro National Park



www.wtc.org.nz



Tukino waterfall
by Nicola Lye

PLEASE SUPPORT ALL OUR CLUB SPONSORS

FOR ALL YOUR OUTDOOR NEEDS

Travel Packs • Sleeping Bags • Tramping Clothes • Tents
Boots - Tramping & Trekking • Tramping Accessories • Drink Systems

Stockists of:

- Earth Sea Sky
- Aarn Packs
- Camelbak
- Deuter
- One Planet
- Smartwool Socks
- Leki Poles

BOOTS:

- Merrell
- Meindl
- Vasque
- Keen

221a Victoria Street, Hamilton

Phone 07-839 5681

Fax 07-839 5846

shop@trekntravel.co.nz





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 879

November 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
Secretary:	Dorothy Cawdron	027 7424222
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
Secretary:	Dorothy Cawdron	027 7424222
Ski VP:	Stephen Phillips	021 1031436
Bookings:	Ashley Hoskin	027 4909545
Finance officer:	Michael Barker	021 2463500
Members:		

Facebook:	Jacqui Dick	021 1375201
Administrstor	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 December, 2025

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

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

This is usually a fun quiz night but is yet to be confirmed ,as our social
convenor is currently walking the trails in Nepal.

Come along and be pleasantly surprised with what is presented.

Social activity: This is an opportunity to support the club and, in particular, Waikato Hut. On **Nov 15th** bring along some meat to BBQ, a dish to share, your own choice of refreshments, and \$20, to the Haines' place at 11 Alison St., Hamilton at 6.30pm and you'll be entertained by a movie set in Bhutan that Graham has selected. There will be an intermission when we can enjoy dessert, tea and coffee. Bookings are not required but if you have any questions phone Graham and Andrea 0274 822 830. Cost \$20

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2025

	11& 13 Nov	M	Navigation course	Belinda Cooper
	15 Nov		Film evening	Graham & Andrea Haines
3209	15/16 Nov	M	42 Traverse	Judith Bogle
3210	21-23 Nov	M/F	East Egmont walks	Cathy Dickson
3211	28/29 Nov	M	Kaimanawa walks	Les Warren/ Steve Dick
	3 Dec		CLUB NIGHT	David Totman
3213	7 Dec	F	Mountain Madness	John McArthur
	11 & 13 Dec		River safety course	Belinda Cooper
3212	13 Dec	lazy	Christmas party	Judith Bogle
	14 Dec	E/M	Post party walk	Judith Bogle
3214	20/21 Dec		Wairere stream /Pinnacles (Ruapehu)	Cancelled
3215	11 Jan	E	Kawakawa to Kinloch	Club captain
3216	18 Jan	E	Orokawa bay	Allan Wickens
3217	15-18 Jan		Mt Titiroa	Les Waren
3218	21-25 Jan		Monowai Hut	Les Warren
3219	29 Jan-1 Feb		South coast, Southland	Les Warren
3220	20-25 Jan		Kaimanawas	Mike Peck
3223A	5-8 Feb	M/F	Opunake/Pouakai circuit	Peter Lye
3228	1-7 Mar	M	Greenstone-Caples	Peter Ayson

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

Navigation Course

13 & 15 Nov

This course is designed to provide participants with some knowledge and skills to be able to navigate using a map and ground features on well-marked tracks as well as in a simple off-track environment. Maps and compasses provided. Maximum 16 participants.

There is a theory night during the week, 7-9pm to learn basic map reading skills and prepare for the full-day practical.

Theory: Thurs 13th Nov, 7-9pm (Hamilton venue to be confirmed)

Practical: Sat 15th Nov, 8am – 3.30pm, Waiorongomai Valley, Kaimais.

Prerequisites participants must:

- be over 18 years of age OR over 14 if accompanied by a parent / caregiver
- have a reasonable standard of fitness

For registration and more information contact: waikatoadmin@outdoortraining.nz

Trip 3209 **42 Traverse** **15/16 Nov**

The 42 Traverse is 46km long, and the route is an old logging road that gets its name from the original 'State Forest 42'. On one part of the track there has been a slip and therefore we will have to take the bypass route. It leads through fantastic native forest and the awesome Canyon valley. There are superb views back to the volcanoes of Tongariro National Park. The track starts at the end of Kapoors Road, off SH47 and leads north. There are many intersecting tracks and old logging roads. The track descends and crosses Waione Stream. There are many streams therefore we will have to make sure there has not been too much rain before we go. We will travel down on Friday night and stay somewhere (to be advised) because Saturday and Sunday will be long days. We will be taking tents and will have to find a place to camp on the way.

Leader : Judith Bogle **Ph:** 027 3810283 **Grade:** M

Email: judith.bogle@outlook.com

Transport: Senior Member \$65-75 Senior non-member: Senior rate +\$10

Trip 3210 **East Egmont walks** **21-23 Nov**

We will leave Friday morning to drive 4 hours to Konini lodge where we will stay for the night. In the afternoon we will have time for a loop walk, visiting falls and exploring. Saturday night we are booked in the private Kapuni hut. There some options for the next two days walking which can include: Saturday- Lake Dive track lower and upper tracks to Kapuni hut. Long day of 6 to 8 hours. Sunday morning, if clear and calm, a walk up to Syme hut with day packs, then head down collecting our gear from Kapuni lodge on the way down back to the van (all weather permitting). Arrive back in Hamilton Sunday late PM. Maximum number 12 participants so get in quick.

Leader: Cathy Dickson **Ph:** 021 353 561 **Grade:** M/F

Email: dicksoncatherine@xtra.co.nz

Accommodation: tba

Transport: Senior Member \$65-75 Senior non-member: Senior rate +\$10

Trip 3211 **Kaimanawa 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 indications whether people would like to stay at Sika Lodge for the weekend.** This will help us with our planning.

Accommodation: 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 2 or 3 short walks on the Saturday and 1 or 2 on Sunday before driving home.

Leaders: Steve Dick
Les Warren

Ph: 027 4880793
027 8644937

Grade: M

Email: warrenlb20172025@outlook.com

Transport: Senior Member \$65-75

Senior non-member: Senior rate +\$10

Accommodation: tba

Trip 3213

Mountain madness

7 Dec

This is a spontaneous sort of day out - if the weather packs in we will give it away. The plan is to see how many of the Waikato mountains we can climb in one day - the longest day of the year.

Previous years we have done Pirongia, Maungatautari and Te Aroha, and found this sequence was manageable (provided you eat and drink enough to keep you going). Be in! - the car(s) leave Hamilton 6am. And we get back late - that's why they call it the Longest Day.

We climb Mt. Pirongia up and back before lunch, then on to Maungatautari from the north and you can do the loop (Quad bike track and old tramping track) if you wish, before tackling Mt. Te Aroha at the end of the day. If you don't wish to travel with an established team but you do want to be recognised with a certificate, please take a selfie picture on the top of each peak with the recognisable structure on each - Pirongia lookout, Maungatautari communication mast, Te Aroha transmission mast. (The date stamp on the photo file will be proof of doing it all in one day).

Whatever - it will be a full day!!!

Leader: John McArthur

Ph: 021 288 9641

Grade: M/F to F

Email: mcArthur@outlook.co.nz

Transport: Private transport

River Safety Course

11 & 13th Dec

DO YOU REALLY NEED TO CROSS THAT RIVER? Tramping where there are river crossings?

This one-day course is designed for hikers, Te Araroa Trail walkers, teachers and leaders working in outdoor settings – in fact, anyone who will be tramping and doing activities near water. Rivers are one of the greatest hazards in the New Zealand outdoors so learn how to read a river (basic hydrology), when not to cross and where to cross and how to safely cross (solo and in groups). You do not need to be a confident swimmer to do this course. There will be a short weekday evening on-line

meeting in preparation for the practical in the weekend.

Online safety briefing: Thurs 11 Dec, 7-8pm (link will be sent)

Practical: Sat 13th Dec, 9am - approx. 1.30pm, Kaueranga Valley, near Thames,
For registration and more information contact: waikatoadmin@outdoortraining.nz

(Trip) 3212

Christmas Party

Saturday 13th Dec

The Christmas party will be held from 4pm Saturday at 336 Scotsman Vally Road. Bring a plate to share. There will be a BBQ for any meat you wish to bring along to cook (sausages provided). Also good to sit around and keep warm. It would be appreciated if you bring your own plate/ knife and fork for food. Don't forget a deckchair. Also let me know if anyone is interested in doing games.

Post party walkabout

Sunday 14th Dec

If you wish to stay overnight, there is plenty of camping space and we can have breakfast together, plus if anyone wants a jaunt around Mangakawa the next day we can do this. It will take about 3hrs, 20 minutes and starting time will be 10am at Judith's place. Please let me know if you are going to stay overnight or just come for the evening.

Leader : Judith Bogle

Ph: 027 3810283

Grade: slothful

Email: judith.bogle@outlook.com

Transport: Private vehicles but do consider carpooling where possible

Trip 3214

Wairere stream & Pinnacles ridge

20/21 Dec

This trip to the Mt. Ruapehu destinations has been cancelled.

Trip 3215

Kawakawa to Kinloch

11 Jan, 2026

This tramp begins on Whangamata road west of Lake Taupo and follows the mountain bike track down a lovely valley to the shores of the lake at Kawakawa Bay. In the shade or on the beach we can enjoy our lunch before continuing along the track towards Kinloch. This part begins with a short climb which has a magnificent view out to the 3 mountains of the central north island before heading down to a track along the lake shore where one can enjoy a lovely swim followed by a large ice cream or coffee from the nearby shop. This is the perfect trip to start the year.

Leader: Club captain

Ph: 021 369256

Grade: E/M

Email: mikeypeck@yahoo.com

Transport: Senior member \$20-25

Senior non-member: Senior rate +\$10

Trip 3216

Orokawa bay

18 Jan

This trip was first led by Reg Smith, a founding member of the club, in February 1952. (*Ed comment: I'll dig out the trip report for next months' bulletin.*)

From the end of Ngatitangata Road we will walk down to a beach at Homanga Bay, then along the top of coastal cliffs to Orokawa Bay where we'll have lunch under the shade of spreading pohutukawa. There are great

views out to Mayor Island and White Island along the way. The last part of the walk is over the hill to Waihi Beach, with time for a swim and ice cream before heading back to Hamilton. A fairly easy 5 km walk on a good track with a few steep sections.

Leader: Allan Wickens

Ph: 027 9509546

Grade: E/M

Email: allanwickens@hotmail.com

Transport: Senior member \$20-25

Senior non-member: Senior rate +\$10

Trip 3217

Mt. Titiroa

15-18 Jan

Summary: This trip will start and finish from Te Anau. We travel to Manapouri and walk to Hope Arm Hut before climbing Mt Titiroa (1715m). There will be quite a bit of ascending. This trip will be a mixture of huts and camping (with no facilities).

Departure / Return: We depart from Te Anau and return here after the trip. You must **arrive in Te Anau on the 14 January** and be ready to depart early next morning. Each person is to make their own arrangements in getting to Te Anau. Te Anau is easy to get to by flying into Queenstown and getting the Tracknet Shuttle to Te Anau.

Accommodation / Transport to Track: This will be sorted closer to the time.

Proposed Trip Itinerary: The itinerary will be finalized closer to the trip and will need to be flexible with the weather at the time. The idea is to get to Hope Arm Hut or Garnock Burn on the first day. From Garnock Burn the rest of the trip is mainly ascending Mt Titiroa with the plan to camp at a tarn below Mt Titiroa. Next day we will ascend to Mt Titiroa and, if time permits, we could spend the day exploring the area – there are a number of tarns we can check out. The next day we will head back to Hope Arm Hut and catch the ferry. **Note: This trip will be weather dependent and dictate what we end up doing.** A more detailed trip programme will be sent to those who register.

Leader: Les Warren

Ph: 027 864 4937

Grade: MF

Email: warrenlb20172025@outlook.com

Trip costs: tba

Trip 3218

Monowai Hut, Southland

21-25 Jan

Summary: This trip will start and finish from Te Anau. We travel to Monowai Carpark and walk to Monowai Hut via Green Lake.

Departure / Return: We depart from Te Anau and return here after the trip. You must **arrive in Te Anau on the 20 January** 26 and be ready to depart early next morning. Each person is to make their own arrangements in getting to Te Anau. Te Anau is easy to get to by flying into Queenstown and getting the Tracknet Shuttle to Te Anau.

Accommodation Te Anau / Transport to Track: Will advise closer to the time.

Proposed Trip Itinerary: The plan is to start and finish at the same point to make

transport easier to manage. With this in mind, day 1 will walk from Borland Road to Green Lake Hut. Day 2 walk to Clark Hut. Day 3 walk to Monowai Hut. Day 4 walk back to Green Lake Hut. Day 5 return to carpark and Te Anau. **Note: 2 of the huts are small (4 beds) so recommend that tents be taken.** Further trip details will be sent to those who register

Leader: Les Warren **Ph:** 027 864 4937

Grade: MF

Email: warrenlb20172025@outlook.com

Trip costs: tba

Trip 3219

South coast loop

29 Jan-7 or 10 Feb

Summary: This will be a tough long trip which the weather will dictate what we end up doing from the proposed itinerary below. The plan is to walk most of the Coast Track but complete a loop via Lakes Poteriteri and Hauroko. Once the group is known we can discuss to include option to include a rest day.

Departure / Return: We depart from Te Anau and the return place to be decided.

You **must arrive in Te Anau on the 28 January** and be ready to depart early next day. Each person is to make their own arrangements in getting to Te Anau. Te Anau is easy to get to by flying into Queenstown and getting the Tracknet Shuttle to Te Anau.

Accommodation: Accommodation prior to and after the trip to be advised.

Transport to/from the track to be sorted.

Proposed Trip Itinerary: Day prior to start we will look at travelling to Tuatapere and stay the night to give us an early start the next day. Day 1 to Port Craig School Hut. Day 2 to Wairaurahiri Hut. Day three to Waitutu Hut. Option: Overnight trip to Westies Cave Hut (2 days). Back at Waitutu Hut we head north off-track to Lake Poteriteri Hut, where we join tracks again. From Waitutu Hut we follow a DoC trapline to Slaughterburn Hut but, from this Hut to Lake Poteriteri Hut there is no track but we follow a ridgeline. Waitutu Hut to Lake Poteriteri Hut we will allow 2 to 3 days. From Lake Poteriteri Hut we follow a track to Teal Bay Hut on the edge of Lake Hauroko. Then we follow a track back to the Carpark.

Note: Although this trip is 8 or up to 12 days long, we need to build in a couple of days for weather and look at doing a couple of “short” days to give our bodies a rest. Tents will need to be taken. Those doing this trip will need to be flexible with time-frames as there will be no guarantee how long this trip will take and for one to reach them returning home. Further trip details will be sent to those who register.

Leader: Les Warren **Ph:** 027 864 4937

Grade: M/F

Email: warrenlb20172025@outlook.com

Trip costs: tba

Trip 3220

Kaimanawas

23-26 Jan

The Auckland Anniversary Kaimanawa tramp is a fit trip with two 8+ hour days

tramping. There is two plans and the decision of which one to take will be made depending on driver availability and the amount of rainfall in the preceding days. We depart Friday evening 5.30pm and return Monday late afternoon.

Trip 1 is to stay at the Urchin Campsite on the Friday night and to start on the Urchin Track Saturday morning. We'll head up the Waipakahi river to camp near the Hut. Day 2 is to follow the Middle range track up past Thunderbolt to camp near Motutere. Day 3 is the walk out to Urchin to complete a loop circuit.

Trip 2 requires a driver who can drop us at the Southern Access walkway to tramp along the northern edge of the army camp. We follow the track right through to the confluence of the Makomiko stream and Otamateanui stream where we camp for the night. Day 2 is to head for the tops via points 1272 and 1271 and head north to reach Thunderbolt. We'll camp at a known spot near Motutere. Day 3 is the walk out to the Urchin carpark.

Both trips require a tent as well be camping all 3 nights.

Leader: Mike Peck

Ph: 021 369256

Grade: M/F

Email: *mikeypeck@yahoo.com*

Trip costs: tba

Trip 3223A

Opunake/Pouakai Circuit

5-8 Feb

This is advance notice of a February trip which will need to be booked ASAP as accommodation at the hut is filling up fast.

We will travel to Opunake on Thursday evening and stay at our bach in Opunake. There are two bunk rooms available with a queen and single bunk in each room. There is also space to put up a tent. You are welcome to use the bach facilities.

We will start the Pouakai Crossing from North Egmont and head clockwise. The track 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 before climbing to the Pouakai Range. We will be staying at the new Pouakai Hut on Friday night. The second day, we will return to North Egmont via the lower track, passing the famous Pouakai Tarns and through lowland forest.

We will spend another night at Opunake and enjoy the local walks on Sunday before returning back to Hamilton.

A prerequisite to registering for this trip is booking your accommodation at Pouakai Hut for the night of Friday 6th February. Get in quick, before accommodation is fully booked, it is running out fast.

Leader: Peter Lye

Ph: 0212265072

Grade: M/F

Email: *nicolahlye@gmail.com*

Costs: tba

Hiking and happiness go hand in hand or foot in boot. Diane Spicer

Editorial

With the sudden appearance of some rather warm weather it sure inspires one to think about the outdoors and where to go to enjoy it but firstly I wish to say a huge thankyou to all those who helped with the bait station filling in the Okahukura valley of Pureora in September & October. On both occasions all the stations that needed visiting (all of them in September, and most of them in October) were visited in just one day. This is a marvellous achievement and never done before. It goes to show that every little bit counts – and don't think for one minute that I consider your personal effort a 'little bit' at all.

The same goes for being part of this club. Everyone does a bit and what an effect it has. And then when you're out there in the field having an amazing experience with like-minded fellow trampers, how much more enjoyable it is. For those of you who were not at the Tukino lodges over Labour weekend I can only say you missed an amazing experience. Allan pulled one out of the bag for this, and along with a few helpers with the organising, and a veritable army of dishwasher-uppers and tidy-uppers it became a very memorable weekend indeed. I may not have gone too far from the buildings but I sure enjoyed hearing about all the activities in the evenings. Les and Ying and eventually myself all needed help combatting the wind on Monday – tough going but still funny to experience or watch, depending on where you (tried) to stand. Watch out over the next few bulletins for some amazing photos. May we have many more such great adventures together. Don't forget that social get together like the film night at the Haines this coming Friday either. Dianne

Presidential blog

Hello fellow trampers

After scaling Mt. Misery and spelunking through Hollow Hill Caverns, we decided to embrace the horizontal life. This month, we went coastal.

The coast promised sea breezes, scenic strolls, and—most importantly—terrain that didn't require ropes, helmets, or motivational chants. We packed sunscreen, windbreakers, and Maggie's trail mix (now with pretzels shaped like dolphins). Our destination: Driftwood Bay. The name sounded poetic, like a place where seagulls recite haiku.

Arrival was breezy. Literally. The wind greeted us with the enthusiasm of a golden retriever and promptly redistributed our hats. Tessa declared it "invigorating." Tom declared it "a hat conspiracy." We moved on.

Navigation was blissfully linear. The path hugged the coastline like a clingy octopus. No maps required. Just follow the sea. Tessa led again, citing her "deep connection to tidal rhythms." We didn't argue. She had snacks.

Highlights included:

- **A pod of dolphins** that briefly joined us, clearly impressed by Rupert's

interpretive sea dance.

- **A driftwood sculpture garden**, possibly accidental, possibly avant-garde.
- **Maggie discovering a new use for trail mix**: bribing seagulls to pose for selfies.

Challenges:

- **One rogue wave** that soaked Tom's boots and his spirit.
- **A jellyfish encounter** that ended with Rupert inventing "the sideways sprint."
- **Tessa attempting yoga on a slippery rock**. New rule: no downward dog near tidal zones.

We returned sun-kissed, salt-sprayed, and slightly sandier than anticipated. No cliffs. No caves. Just the gentle satisfaction of having gone sideways—and stayed upright.

Losses: • Three hats (claimed by the wind gods) • Maggie's pretzels (shared with a judgmental gull) • Tom's patience (briefly, during the jellyfish incident)

Victories: • Coast conquered • Dolphins acknowledged us • Tessa now leads the club in intertidal yoga

Next month: the forest. Because after up, under, and sideways—it's time to go leafy.

Ever onward, Rupert

Ski report

The mountain has closed for skiing and so has the lodge for winter. The summer rates have started (adult \$25, child \$15) and the lodge bookings are still available to anyone interested.

Trip Reports

Trip 3203

Awakino

5 Oct

As I write this report the weather is still very seasonal and roads in the area are still to be reopened so we were really lucky to accomplish this trip.

We left Hamilton at the unusual hour of 11 am with 11 participants heading south stopping at Fat Pigeon cafe in PioPio for coffee along the way.

Our first stop was at Rapanui stream carpark in Mokau, which gave us beach access. Some went barefoot, some didn't, but we all ended up with wet feet. Wasn't really beach walking weather but it was well worth getting wind and sand-blown as the beach has some fascinating rocks formations large caves and with fossils embedded in the cliff faces.

After exploring it was time to dry out and to drive back up the coast to our accommodation for the night, the iconic Awakino Hotel. The carpark was full, and the place was humming with it being the local pool night and a multitude of white baiters ensconced at the bar. (Great talking to them but very coy about how much

they were catching. Apparently a large cash industry).

After dinner in the pub, it was a fairly uneventful night except for what seemed to be a local tradition of encouraging the resident cats to chase mice up and down the corridors at 2 am in the morning.

Sunday morning and time to go and find a waterfall. It started with a coffee stop at Mokau and then a drive down a long metalled road through the large valley system to the farm at the end.



The youngest ever 'trip leader' perhaps?

Photo by Peter Ayson

Waiting for us at the road end was my cousin, wife and their very active 6 year old who would lead the walk for most of the way.

It was easy walking along the river on a well-formed farm track crossing over a couple of large windfalls with someone insisting on stopping to examine a couple of dead sheep and to check out any large muddy patches along the way. Alas we were stopped in our quest to get to the waterfall, as the river was too high to cross, just before the waterfall. So, after a quick lunch we retraced our tracks back to the van.

Time for another coffee, this time at the trailer cafe, beside the butchers shop in Mokau where everything came with whitebait including burgers, toasted sandwiches, eggs. So, when in Rome..... Next door was the world famous (in Mokau) museum. What an asset. Fantastic historical and geological display of a very interesting area.

Well worth a visit. Ice-creams for some then time to go and head for home. So it was

great weekend and, although we didn't accomplish everything we set out to do, it was a very enjoyable time. Thanks to Jude for organising and Cathy for driving and parking the van. Trip participants: Judith, Cathy, Gary, Lynley, John & Jean, Mohammed, Les, & your scribe - Peter.

Tukino Lodge – the far side

This will hopefully be the first of several short reports for this Labour weekend expedition as groups went in many different directions on different days.



Most of the group Photo taken by Ra on Jacqui's camera.

The little-visited Tukino skifield was our base for a weekend of walks and climbs. At an altitude of 1700 metres above sea level, the same as Waikato Hut, the skifield is located at the end of a 4WD road 14 km in from the Desert Road. We stayed in the Tukino Alpine Sports Club and Desert Alpine lodges. Looking up from the lodges we could see the major peaks of Te Heuheu, Tukino and Pyramid Peak.

Day trips were made up the mountain into the snow, Whangaehu Hut (alpine club), nearby waterfalls and the Whangaehu gorge, to Rangipo Hut via Round the Mountain Track (two trips) and to Waihohonu Hut from the Desert Rd to visit the old historic hut and the Ohinepango Springs.

The Alpine Sports Club Lodge was our meeting place for meals and briefings, a short walk from the other lodge but not easy in the strong winds! Here, we were warmed by a coal fire, cooking was gas-powered, lights by solar and, when Dave got it going, hot showers powered by a coal fired boiler. That's what living off the grid is like.

It was a wonderful weekend giving us a chance to explore the ‘other’ side. There were 44 participants including several from the ski clubs. As usual Allan Wickens organised and lead a very successful event. Acknowledgement also to Jacqui Dick for organising the menu and buying supplies, to Dave McDonald for dealing with energy crises and to Ra, a ski club member who kindly ferried people up the last part of the road.

Out and back to Rangipo Hut (Saturday team)

Aria wanted to visit the Hut. Karen, Selwyn (scribe), Penny and Miriam went along to look after her (her three ‘mothers’). The route looked easy and not too far – down a broad ridge, south-east from the ski lodge, across the Whangaehu River on a swingbridge and along the Round the Mountain Track. Good progress was made despite a cold wind in exposed places. We marveled at the smoothed-out lahar pathway down the valley, the milky waters and the height of the bridge above the riverbed. Warning signs told us not to linger and gave the dates of the previous lahar floods. Out of the valley it wasn’t far to the Hut across barren scoria slopes. Lunch on the Hut verandah, out of the wind and in the sun. The whole trip was logged at 10.6 km, not quite the same as Selwyn’s rough estimate of 6 km from the topo map. We met only 4 other trampers along the Round the Mountain Track which shows how little known this excellent tramping experience is.

Back at the Lodge:



Dinner had many chefs. Some got the dicing and slicing sorted, others washed the dirty dishes from those processes, and I got the job of cooking the sausages-helper Jacqui vanished somewhere along the way and those trying to get the ovens going were just.... in the way all the time! But it was fun. Think I managed to burn just 2 sausages across all 6

Thirsty cook

photo by Jacqui Dick

frying pans all going at once. Sure needed the liquid sustenance as it was hot work.

Whangaehu:

We awoke up to a clear fine day Saturday. Not to be deterred by a waning brisk westerly wind. Allan had already set off following instructions to follow the beginners Whangaehu rope tow then head north -east to Aorangi Tow Drive station and head up Aorangi rope tow line to Banana Valley snow level. I caught the up to Allan W, Brenda, and Wendy after seeing Aria was all setup for her tramp with Selwyn's group to Rangipo Hut.

After instructions from Allan and myself on step cutting and techniques of ice axe use we headed off to Whangaehu Gorge and Whangaehu hut for lunch. This is a basic 4-bunk hut at 2080 m.

After a photo shoot and great views across Whangaehu Gorge, up to Ringatoto peak at 2591m and Pyramid Pk at 2645m we climbed out of the gorge rim and descended Banana Gully.

Some bum sliding on the snow for a fast exit. We checked out the Banana Gully Rope Drive station and continued down to meet up with our intended route back to Aorangi Drive station. We filled our water bottles up at a spring oozing water from the rock face near Aorangi Rope tow. Great day out Allan W. Brenda, Wendy, and scribe David MacDonald

From the committee table:

New Members: Welcome to Greg Phillips

Resignations: Nil

Membership: The club has 201 tramping members. Have you claimed your FMC membership card yet? Please contact Lesley or John McArthur.

From the committee:

This search for a new home for our records is now somewhat urgent. Over many years Colin Jones has allowed the club to use his storage space for our 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. m³ 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. Contact: Dianne 07 8433066 or email djune@xtra.co.nz

Snippets

More Tukino notes:

Did anyone leave a blue zipup hooded jacket at the Lodge? If so, please contact the editor – she has it to return.

And many of you so enjoyed those salads on Saturday night that Jacqui has kindly forwarded the recipes....

Cowboy Rice Salad

Made with brown rice for extra flavour, and a hint of spice flavour in the dressing to drive home the South Western flavours! Serves 8 - 10 as a side, 4 - 6 as a main.

Rice: 4.5c cooked brown or 1.5c cooked short white rice

Dressing: 1/3 cup lime juice , plus more to taste 1/2 cup olive oil
1.5 tbsp honey 1/2 tsp cumin powder
1/2 tsp chipotle powder (sub with smoked paprika + cayenne pepper)
1/2 tsp garlic powder (or 1 garlic clove, minced) 3/4 tsp salt
Black Pepper

Put all ingredients together in a jar and shake.

Salad:

1 red & 1 green capsicum/bell pepper , diced 1 small red onion, chopped
1 x 400g each of corn kernels and black beans, drained & rinsed
3 tomatoes, watery seeds removed then diced
1 cup coriander/cilantro leaves roughly chopped. (Note : Coriander/cilantro is a pretty staple herb for a Southwestern salad! Substitute either 1 1/2 cups of finely sliced shallots / scallions or 3/4 cup finely chopped chives).
Put all ingredients into dish. Pour over dressing and toss well.

Red Cabbage & Apple Slaw with Mustard Dressing

Ingredients:

2c each shredded red and green cabbage 1 finely chopped spring onion
1 segmented orange 1 green apple cut into sticks
1 sprig chopped parsley 1/2 c crumbled feta
Mix all ingredients together and add salt and pepper just before serving.

Dressing:

2 tbsp olive oil 2 tbsp lemon juice 2 tbsp honey 1 tsp Dijon mustard
Shake all ingredients in a jar and toss over salad just before serving.

Do you have other recipes you like to take on tramping trips and would be happy to share them in a column in this bulletin? Forward them to the editor.

....from DoC.....

➤ The first **pukunui/southern New Zealand dotterel** chicks of the breeding season have hatched on Rakiura/Stewart Island. Nest surveying began in September and so far, DoC's Pukunui Recovery Team have found 12 nests, 35 eggs and five chicks. DoC Rakiura Operations Manager Jennifer Ross says it's a promising start to the season and potentially a big boost for pukunui recovery efforts as there are only an estimated 105 left (not including the new chicks) – making them the rarest and most threatened wading bird in the world. “To see these little chicks emerge brings hope that we can save them from extinction.” However, there's no guarantee all eggs will hatch or that the chicks and their parents will survive as they are extremely vulnerable to predation by feral cats.

“In previous years, we’ve lost around 40-50 adult birds to predation, and last year, we lost around 20 adults but gained about 24 chicks,” she says.

There’s cautious optimism that more birds will survive as feral cat numbers have been heavily reduced in an aerial 1080 predator control operation in August covering 40,000 hectares of Rakiura National Park. This included vital pukunui breeding habitat along the Tin Range.

“We are thrilled as camera monitoring in the area has revealed zero feral cat detections for at least six weeks following the operation, however, they will eventually reinvade from areas where 1080 wasn’t applied,” Jennifer says. “The main measure of success will be the pukunui flock count in April, and also the long-term population trends. Our aim is to grow the population to at least 300 birds by 2035.” Nest surveying efforts have had a boost in funding this year from the International Visitor Levy. This is enabling the team to more extensively search breeding sites.

“They don’t breed in one big group, they are very widely distributed, so it’s hard to predict where their nests will be or find them as they blend very well into the alpine vegetation,” she says. “This season, the team have been excited to find a few mystery male birds that we’ve banded at flocking sites but hadn’t seen at breeding sites. This is particularly critical as we estimate there are less than 30 males left. The males play an important role in incubating eggs at night, while females incubate during the day.” The team is very careful to minimise any disturbance to the birds when nest surveying. It’s important when we’re out naturing we keep disturbance to a minimum. Once we are out of the way, pukunui always quickly settle back onto the nest. They aren’t scared away by our activity.” In addition to nest surveying, the team manages a network of nearly 500 traps. They’ve caught 20 feral cats since May, and just one in the operational area since 1080 was applied. “Just one feral cat has the potential to wipe out multiple nests in quick succession.”

Before predators were introduced to New Zealand, pukunui bred throughout the Southern Alps, but they now only breed on the Rakiura mountain tops – earning them a reputation as the “underbirds”.

“It’s been tough weather conditions for the birds lately – especially with the recent storm. The chicks will have been spending a lot of their time sheltering under the wings of their parents.”

From January onwards, the survivors will journey off the mountains to Rakiura beaches and Awarua Bay to gather and forage in groups. New birds will then be banded so their survival can be monitored.

“For birds that have fledged, it’s a rite of passage to make their way down and a bit of a test run for their flying abilities.”

➤ **Cycling to regional resilience in Ruapehu.** Two destination-making

cycle trails will deliver more visitors to the Ruapehu region and boost the Central North Island economy.

“I’m thrilled to announce the Government will fund the completion of Te Ara Mangawhero and progress Te Hangāruru, connecting them into the Mountains to Sea – Ngā Ara Tūhono cycle journey,” Tourism and Hospitality Minister Louise Upston says. These two routes are among the last sections needed to complete the full trail from Mount Ruapehu to the Tasman Sea, with just one section remaining before cyclists can complete the 231 km journey.” Minister of Conservation Tama Potaka says “This kaupapa is linking our people, our stories, and our whenua (land). Completing these trails will strengthen local communities and regional economies while enhancing the environment that sustains us.

“Ngā Waihua o Paerangi Trust and Te Korowai o Wainuiārua are leading this mahi (work) alongside Ngā Ara Tūhono Trust and DoC. This is another powerful example of partnership in action. Together, they’re creating experiences that honour the rich experiences and cultural significance of the land.

“Visitors come to Aotearoa New Zealand for our landscapes, our bush, and our stories. Te Ara Mangawhero and Te Hangāruru will nurture that connection, places where visitors and locals alike can experience the beauty, meaning, and identity of this region. We are focused on practical partnerships that protect our taiao, celebrate our culture, and strengthen regional economies, ensuring our natural heritage continues to sustain people, place, and purpose for generations to come.” The works will be funded by the International Visitor Levy (\$7.7 million) alongside \$3.1 million from the recently announced Major Events and Tourism Package. Sections of the track will be open to the public as they are completed, with the full project due to be concluded in early 2027.

Ngā Ara Tūhono Mountains to Sea cycle journey is one of the Great Rides of New Zealand.

- The Great Ride is divided into ten sections which can be completed separately or completed as a full trail from mountains to sea (including a 32 km boat section on the Whanganui River).
- The trail extensions being funded are 13 km for Te Ara Mangawhero, and 1.1 km for Te Hangāruru (including a 99 m suspension bridge).
- The final short section between the Last Spike and Waimarino (National Park Village) will remain to fully realise the 320 km Ngā Ara Tūhono cycle trail. Ngā Ara Tūhono Trust is progressing this section with Te Korowai o Wainuiārua.

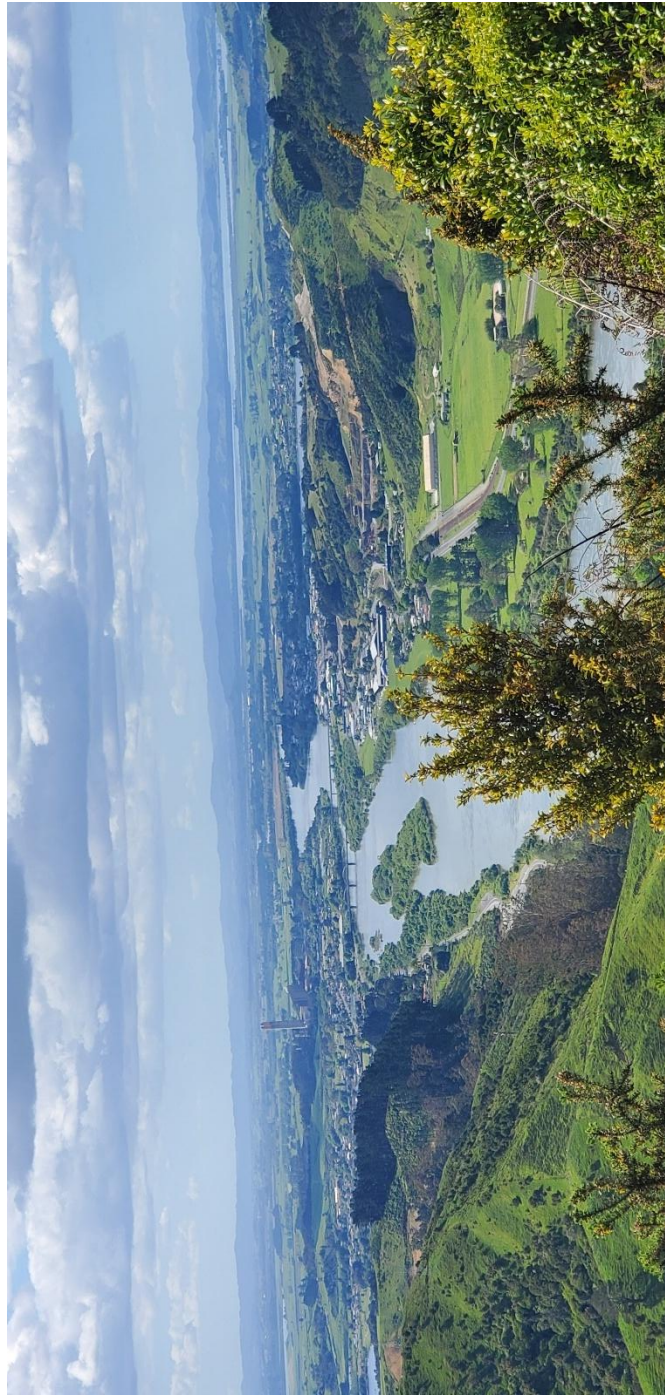
➤ DoC’s plea – stop wrecking our signs. Some last less than a weekend, some much longer, but DoC signs are increasingly targets for vandals. Recent incidents include the iconic green and yellow signs being riddled with bullet holes, being driven into, and being ‘keyed’ so that information can’t be read, or signs removed altogether.

Figures reveal that in the South Island alone, there are 902 flagged in the works system for replacement or repair. That compares with a total of 1155 signs being replaced or repaired in the three-year period from July 2022 to now. DoC Asset Inspector Charlie Barnett has seen it all. His job is to undertake condition assessments on bridges, huts, signs and other structures. He says he sees at least two or three badly damaged signs a month in his inspection rounds. “It’s really frustrating to see the needless destruction of DoC signage and infrastructure. It is also a safety concern, as people could be walking the tracks while signs are being shot at with projectiles travelling far beyond the eye. The signs riddled with bullet holes are usually out in the back country, while closer to town it’s mainly graffiti or being knocked over or driven into,” he says. Charlie Barnett says it’s a huge amount of work to carry in new materials to replace or fix signs and they are often in remote locations. His message is clear. “Be the better person in nature. Save target practice for the range and leave the signs alone.” DoC has 26,759 signs across Aotearoa and it’s a huge job maintaining and replacing them. The department spent \$350,523 on signage in the 2024/2025 financial year. Next year’s budget has increased to \$587,248. DoC Strategic Asset Manager Kushla Tapper says it’s not just a vandalism issue – it’s about keeping the public safe. “Some signs lose their reflective quality when vandalised and that means they can’t be seen in poor weather conditions or the dark. This can be the difference between safety and significant harm for travellers. These signs contain essential information. We want the public to know that the time and costs we spend on repairing and replacing signs, could be better spent on doing other work to protect biodiversity or maintaining huts and tracks. We have a finite budget and are always trying to prioritise our work. We could maintain more visitor assets if we didn’t have to keep reassigning funds to fixing vandalism of essential signage.” Members of the public who see any damaged DoC signs are encouraged to record the location, take a photo if possible, and send the information to the local DoC office.



View to the Desert road from Tukino Lodge on Saturday afternoon

Photo by Jacqui Dick



View from the Hakarimatas photo by Alicia Carthew



The Awakino tramping party versus nature's awesomeness

photo by Peter Ayson

bivouac/outdoor

COMMITTED TO ADVENTURE

we ARE tramping



15% OFF RRP*
for Waikato Tramping Club



**311 Barton St
Hamilton
07 839 4206**

www.bivouac.co.nz 

* Not to be used in conjunction with any other discount, special or offer.
Excludes electronics, hut tickets & gift cards.