



THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

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

October 2025



John McA receiving the club service award Photo by Selwyn June

WAIKATO HUT

Your lodge on Mt Ruapehu
Tongariro National Park



www.wtc.org.nz

Alseuosmia flowers
Photo by Dianne June



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WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB

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

Free to members

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

BULLETIN No 878

October 2025

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Secretary:	Dorothy Cawdron	027 7424222
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Members: Ski:	Stephen Phillips Mary Reed David Macdonald	

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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

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Ski VP:	Stephen Phillips	021 1031436
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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 5th November, 2025

This is going to be an active presentation by Janelle Knox. She leads several classes for strength and balance throughout the city as well as some personal trainer sessions. Her enthusiasm will have you laughing while she gets you to think about those exercises that set you up for a great day in the bush. Come prepared to join in the fun.

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

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

Social activity: This is an opportunity to support the club and, in particular, Waikato Hut. 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

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2025

3204	11/12 Oct	E-F	Hut weekend	Allan Wickens
	18 Oct	M	Mangahau Lodge walk	Rescue chopper
3205	19 Oct	E/M	Otanewainuku	Madeleine Fiddes
3206	25-27 Oct	M	Tukino walks & climbs	Allan Wickens
3207	2 Nov	M	Length of Hakarimatas	Judith Bogle
	2 & 4 Nov	M	River safety	Outdoor training
	5 Nov		CLUB NIGHT	Ron Dick
3208	8/9 Nov	M	Motutapu Is	Les Warren
	12 Nov	E/M	Te Whareokioki cleanup	Peter Ayson
	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
	6 Dec		Christmas Party	Judith Bogle
3212	7 Dec	E/M	Post Christmas dinner	Judith Bogle
3213	14 Dec	F	Mountain Madness	John McArthur
3214	20/21 Dec		Wairere stream /Pinnacles (Ruapehu)	David Macdonald/ Allan Wickens
3223A	5-8 Feb	M/F	Opunake/Pouakai circuit	Peter Lye

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

TIME and FITNESS GUIDELINES

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

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

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

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

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

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

Minimum equipment required:

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

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

Trip Descriptions

Trip 3204

Ruapehu roundup

11/12 Oct

This weekend trip to the Waikato TC lodge/hut, is aimed at various groups. Firstly, finishing off Snowcraft One, which was subject to poor snow and weather conditions in July. Secondly, to welcome anyone who has done the basic/Snowcraft One in the past and wants to do more at Tongariro National Park and Mount Ruapehu in particular. Thirdly, to welcome anyone who wants to enjoy a weekend at our hut, doing some of the many walks on offer. Or to anyone who just wants a laid-back weekend overall. We MAY fit in a Tongariro Crossing if anyone expresses interest.

With longer and warmer days, there's no need to rush anywhere so we can cater for all levels of fitness. Everything depends on the response and on the leadership available.

Sign on and we will see what we can manage as a programme. In the comments

section, let Allan know what you would like to do.

For anyone who is keen on joining our Club, here's a great chance to try something new. As a reminder, we are having a big meet at the Tukino skifield over Labour weekend, so here's a good opportunity to get some fitness training in and learn some snowcraft skills, do a walk or two etc.

Leader: Allan Wickens **Ph:** 027 9509546

Grade: E-F

Email: *allanwickens@hotmail.com*

Cost: \$25.00 per night accommodation / Juniors \$15 per night (food to be arranged once the group is sorted)

Transport- Private vehicles or hire transport at \$60-70 (member) and \$70-80 (non-member). Junior rates also apply

Okahukura bait station filling

11/12 Oct

This weekend trip is not part of the club's trip programme but we know many of you enjoy the opportunity for a good walk. Accommodation for the weekend is at the Lions Lodge at the end of Gully road in North Pureora forest. The lodge sleeps 50 people but you can also pitch a tent on the adjacent grassed area there too. There is a large reasonably well-equipped kitchen (not a lot of microwave equipment though) and hot & cold showers.

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

Your hosts, the Pirongia Restoration Society will supply tea, coffee, milk, milo & sugar, as well as some treats for you at the end of your field work. To earn the opportunity to have some treats you will be asked to carry a smaller load of bait than in September and distribute it to bait stations along 2-3 baitlines for which you will be given all the safety equipment necessary as well as disposable gloves and masks should you wish to use them. We will travel a further 14km from the Lodge to the starting point so will need to be ready to move out by 7.30am on Saturday morning. We will visit a large portion of the 42 lines/958 bait stations but not all of them. With lots of people we can complete the task in a single day but any leftover lines will be visited on Sunday morning. You will be asked to be back at the base (where the treats will be) by 3.30pm so it shouldn't be a long day. If you get back too early you might get that 3rd line assigned to you.

Leaders: Dianne & Selwyn June **Ph:** 07 843066 or 0274978151 **Grade:** E/M

Email: *djune@xtra.co.nz*

Maungahau Lodge Walk for a Cause

18 Oct

Waikato Westpac Rescue Helicopter

Where: 281 Duncan Rd, Wharepuhunga, Te Awamutu 3874. All funds go towards your rescue helicopter. This is a cross country walk across farmland with amazing views of Pureora Forest Park, the Waikato Basin. All funds raised go to directly supporting the operational costs of the Waikato Westpac Rescue

Helicopter. Your Waikato Westpac Rescue Helicopter serves the Waikato, King Country and Coromandel regions, providing a 24/7 emergency service, 365 days a year. The Waikato Westpac Rescue Helicopter is a fully-fledged air emergency medical service and is powered by an expert crew of Pilots, Air Flight Officers, and Critical Care Flight Paramedics. With its quick response times, the rescue helicopter can be airborne within 10 minutes during the day and 20 minutes at night, ready to provide time-critical flights to those in need. Thanks to its advanced medical capabilities, patients can receive treatment en-route to a medical facility, potentially reducing disability and improving survival. In 2024 alone, the Waikato Westpac Rescue Helicopter carried out a total of 687 life-saving missions with July being the busiest month carrying out 61 missions. Tickets now cost \$100 for adults and \$15 for those under 14 yrs of age and they must be accompanied by an adult.

The walk starts at 9am with registration opening at 7:30am. There will be coffee carts on site along with food.

Register at: maungahau-lodge-walk-for-a cause

Trip 3205	Otanewainuku	19 Oct
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These tracks are situated in the Otanewainuku Forest – south of Tauranga and Te Puke.

The loop track to the summit starts behind the shelter and is reasonably steep in parts, but the view from the top is worth the climb. Amazing fungi, old Kauri and other trees. Heaps of birds - Robin, Tui, Silver eye, Kereru and Tomtit. The lookout tower constructed on the summit (640 metres) offers panoramic views from East Cape to Mount Tarawera and Rotorua, and across the Mamaku Plateau to Mount Ruapehu. Then return via loop to the Otanewainuku loop lookout track to carpark. This walk should take us about 105hrs return.

Otanewainuku Rimu loop: Walk among large Rimu trees in Otanewainuku Forest. We can also take a side trip to Whataroa Falls, a popular swimming hole and picnic spot.

This gently graded walk with some impressively large rimu trees is suitable for walking children - it's not suitable for strollers or wheelchairs. Time 1.5 return

Side trip - Whataroa Falls: For the slightly more agile a well-marked route branches off the Rimu Loop Walk after 15 minutes and undulates through the forest to the Whataroa Falls for a further hour. The waterfall is a popular swimming hole and picnic spot. Explore this lovely stream with cascades and pools before returning the same way to complete the other half of the loop.

Time: 2hrs return without the waterfall walk. Total for the day: 4-5 hours.

Leader: Maddie Fiddes

Ph: 021 2273560

Grade: E/M

Email: madeleine@actrix.co.nz

Transport: Senior member \$20-25

Senior non-member: Senior rate +\$10

Trip 3206	Tukino based walks & climbs	25-27 Oct
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Over the long (Labour) weekend, we will be based at Tukino Alpine Sports Club lodge, at the Tukino skifield on the Desert Road side of Mount Ruapehu. From

their website “ *Our lodge was built in 1976, and we reckon it’s a bit of a classic with its funky lines and super solid timber construction. The lodge offers a basic but comfortable standard of accommodation with a large kitchen and living area, four bunk rooms etc*”.

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

The fitter, more experienced people can climb up to the NZAC Whangaehu Hut and on up to the crater. From the access road, moderate day tramps can be done to Waihohonu and Rangipo Huts, part of the Round the Mountain Track. From Waihohonu you can visit the old historic hut and Ohinepango Springs.

Leader : Allan Wickens **Ph:** 027 9509546 **Grades:** E-F (snow skills)

Email: allanwickens@hotmail.com

Transport: tba

Food: tba – dinner Sat/Sun

Accommodation: \$30 per night **Gear Hire:** Crampons/Ice axe hire –\$25 p.p

Trip 3207

Length of the Hakarimatas

2 Nov

We will walk from Parker road to the Perry Quarry. This is about a 7hour trip for the length of the Hakarimata range. Or maybe we go south to north – we’ll decide on the day.

From Parker road the summit there are plenty of tree roots and the track is a bit rough. It passes through mature native forest of rimu, miro, matai, totara, rata, rewarewa, hangehange and tawa, with occasional views out to the west. From the summit to the Quarry the track is well maintain and you end the track along a river and over a bridge.

Leader : Judith Bogle

Ph: 027 3810283

Grade: E/M

Email: judith.bogle@outlook.com

Transport: Senior member \$20-25

Senior non-member: Senior rate +\$10

Trip 3208

Motutapu Island

8/9 Nov

We are using the Auckland Sea Shuttles to and from Motutapu Island, Administration Bay (which is where our accommodation is).

I have "pencilled in" our accommodation at the Education Camp. Hopefully, I can secure a 10-bed Cottage. This trip is now restricted to 10 people (logistical reasons). 4 people have already registered. If you miss the cut-off for numbers, please email me and I will see what I can arrange. Further trip details will be sent to the group closer to the time.

Walks: The island has a wide variety of tracks to explore (even more than Rangitoto Island).

Leader: Les Warren **Ph:** 027 8644937

Grade: various

Email: warrenlb20172025@outlook.com

Ferry: maximum \$90 per person, return

Accommodation: \$57.50 per person for the weekend

Love our huts: Te Whareokioki**12 Nov**

I think most of us are aware of the FMC program so on the 12 November I have booked the Te Whare Okioki hut in the Kaimais to give it a spring clean as described on their website. I'm looking for another couple of volunteers to help with the cleaning, basic maintenance and removal of any rubbish that needs to be packed out.

I will be walking from Te Tuhi Road which is approximately 3 hours and staying the night (you will have to book a bunk). If interested please drop me an email.

Leader: Peter Ayson **Ph:** 027 8644937

Grade: E/M

Email: *peter.ayson@yahoo.com*

Transport: probably private cars.

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: tba

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's Walks****29/30 Nov**

This trip is co-organised by Steve Dick and myself. We initially tried doing this

trip at Auckland Anniversary Weekend in 2023 but had to cancel due to the major storm at the time. **We need early 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

Ph: 027 4880793

Grade: M

Les Warren

Ph: 027 8644937

Email: warrenlb20172025@outlook.com

Transport: Senior Member \$65-75

Senior non-member: Senior rate +\$10

Accommodation: tba

Trip 3213

Mountain madness

December date to be confirmed

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

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

South Island trips coming up in 2026

3217	15th-18th Jan	W	Mt Titiroa	Les Warren
3218	21st -25th Jan	W	Monowai	Les Warren
3219	29th Jan -10th Feb	W	South Coast loop	Les Warren
3222	1st -8th Feb 2026	W	Arthurs Pass	Mike Peck
3228	1st - 08 March	W	Greenstone and Caples	Peter Ayson
3232	22nd - 27th March	W	Gillespies Pass Circuit	David Totman

Please register by November 30, 2025 for all 3 of the following trips

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 with this trip. 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 3228

Greenstone-Caples out over the Routeburn

1-8 Mar

This is Classic trip South Island valley tramp that the club hasn't done for a few years. It will be limited to a small group so register early. More information to come.

Leader: Peter Ayson

Ph: 0274 797 077

Grade: M

Email: peter.ayson@icloud.com

Trip costs: tba

Editorial

Spring is doing it's usual thing of telling us it's warm.... and then dowsing any plans for a lovely walk on a warm dry day. Guess we'll just have to keep the wet weather gear handy and get out there. And do I ever want to join you – there are some great destinations on the activity list for the coming months. If you're a newcomer to the club don't be hesitant about approaching any member for help, information, looking to borrow some gear, or for guidance. We are or were all beginners to tramping and this club at some point, and, having just read the 50yr anniversary bulletin produced in 2000, there have been some enduring friendships formed while out tramping. Even the occasional marriage or 2 (can't say 'odd' though can I?)

This club has been renowned for going to all sorts of unusual places and doing fun things so take advantage of every opportunity when it is placed in front of you. You never know when the day will come that you can't do it.

I note that Allan is a real bundle of energy when it comes to our alpine environment in the centre of this island. I have walked past the Tukino skifield a few times over the years but I'm certainly looking forward to actually residing there for a couple of nights at Labour Weekend. How does sitting on a deck in the late afternoon, looking out to the Desert road watching the silent traffic go by while slurping on something appealing sound? He has a huge group to manage so I hope everyone has got themselves well organised and booked in early. Another experience not everyone gets to enjoy but wonderful in a group environment.

Dianne

Presidential blog

Hello fellow trampers

Last month, we scaled Mt. Misery and lived to tell the tale—barely. Spirits were bruised, socks were muddied, and Tessa’s cartwheel remains a cautionary tale whispered at club meetings.

So this month, we went subterranean. The caves promised shelter, mystery, and—most importantly—zero goats. We packed headlamps, extra batteries, and Maggie’s trail mix (now featuring dried mango. Our destination: Hollow Hill Caverns. The name sounded inviting, like a place where hobbits might host brunch.

Entry was dramatic. A narrow crevice swallowed us one by one. Inside: damp air, echoing drips, and rock formations that looked suspiciously like Barry the Pūkeko if you squinted hard enough. Tom did. He screamed. We moved on.

Navigation was tricky. The map resembled a toddler’s doodle, and our compass—still traumatized from Mt. Misery—refused to cooperate. Tessa took charge, citing her “excellent sense of underground feng shui.” We didn’t argue. She had snacks.

Highlights included:

- A glowworm grotto that made us feel like we’d stumbled into a rave hosted by bioluminescent insects.
- A stalactite shaped like a disgruntled Pūkeko.
- Maggie discovering a new use for trail mix: emergency gravel.

Challenges:

- One minor cave-in (resolved with teamwork and a motivational chant led by Tom).
- A bat encounter that ended with Rupert wearing his pack backwards for “aerodynamic defense.”
- Tessa attempting a handstand in a narrow tunnel. New rule: no inversions in confined spaces.

We emerged blinking into daylight, covered in mud and triumph. No birds. No goats. Just the quiet satisfaction of having gone under it—and come out the other side.

Losses: • One headlamp (now part of cave décor) • Maggie’s mango (used as bait for bat diplomacy) • Tom’s dignity (briefly, during a tight squeeze)

Victories: • Cave conquered • Bat ignored us (eventually) • Tessa now leads the club in subterranean gymnastics

Next month: the coast. Because after up, around, and under—it’s time to go sideways.

Ever onward, Rupert

Trip Reports

Trip 3201

Southern Pureora-Hauhungaroa–Waihaha

20/21 Sept

Day 1. A leisurely start with beautiful weather, Les left 6 us to clamber the gate and off we set. Stream crossings, boggy patches, bush lawyer and steep climbs.

Heavy packs filled with our extra warm clothes, with the overnight low predicted to -1. We hoped the hut would be empty and tents left in backpacks. After 3 hours we were wondering if we would ever arrive. A misleading signpost and a challenging track we arrive at 4hr 30, 10 km total. A small detour lengthened the route and a hailstorm at the Hauhungaroa Hut arrival didn't deter a few tents going up. Fire shouldering and full bellies. Time for rest.

Day 2. Frosty tent, icy deck, early departure (once the tent defrosted). Undulating track, clearer than yesterday, sun peeking through the trees. Faster travel, lots of birds out today. Deep gullies to navigate with deeper streams to cross. Feet mostly dry. Day was filled with log acrobatics, kaka calling, whio whistling and a puriri moth hitchhiker. Arrived 7hrs, 14km later. The Waihaha Hut was full, and tents were deployed. We set up residence inside the hut for dinner. Early night in tents.

Day 3. We awoke to find we were in "tent city". 13 tents were under the trees and with the birds in full force, up we got. A cool night with frost on the grass. A speedy breakfast, fast pack down and we were power walking our way out before 8am. No mucking around, real coffee was on the agenda. A couple of scenic spots and 10 km, 3 hours later we were back in the van. A coffee stop in Mangakino to finish off the trip and off home we went, ready for the week ahead.

Trampers: Miriam (scribe), Jim, Miles, Alicia, Dale, Judith (leader); and Les (driver)

Trip 3202

Karioi

28 Sept



Cool and cloudy but great smiles Photo by Rebecca Brown

On the 28th of September, a group led by John McArthur braved the elements to take on the challenge of Karioi. With weather forecasting not entirely on their side Rebecca, Alicia, Peter, Kim and John took the inland route up.

A new gate in place meant the walk started slightly sooner than might have been anticipated (and probably limits parking for larger groups to a few cars). The initial farmland crossing was covered in a glorious sunny glow and views. The group shared company of putangitangi/paradise shelduck as well as riroriro/grey warbler all the way to the top. The trail generally okay, but a bit mucky in parts (ok that's the Great Outdoors for you). The view at the top was..... limited, somewhat along the lines of gorillas in the mist. However great conversation and a little side exploration of a storage building provided plenty of entertainment. The intrepid team made it safely to the bottom in time to explore the local watering hole at Whatawhata where beer, a G&T, tea and hot chips were sampled. Overall, a lovely day out with a lovely group of people. Thanks to John for his organisation of this.



The reward at the end of the day

Photo by Rebecca Brown

From the committee table:

New Members: Welcome to Andrew Wark and Kay Stockman

Resignations: Nil

Membership: The club has 200 tramping members. Have you claimed your FMC membership card yet? Please contact Lesley or John McArthur.

From the committee:

John McArthur was awarded an Outstanding Service Award at our September club night by Judith Bogle, the current tramping chairperson.



Club night surprise for John McA

Photo by Selwyn June

John has made an amazing contribution to the running of the club over a long period. He made an impact as soon as he joined in February 2009 and, as a very keen and competent tramper, soon became a trip leader and Club Captain, organising the trip programme. John was a keen collector of trip statistics, allowing us to see how well balanced the trip programme was. Somewhere along the line he dreamt up Mountain Madness where mad people see if they can climb three local peaks in one day.

After four years as Club Captain he was our Secretary for a year, and then Tramping Chairperson from 2017 to 2025, much longer than the ideal 3 year stint! In this role he has guided the club through a lot of changes in bulletin distribution, website maintenance, satellite phone communication, Dropbox use and new navigation technology, i.e. our technology guru. John led the club in taking over track maintenance for the Kaimai Ridgeway Trust project. Most importantly he 'manned' the club emails, replying to enquiries with great patience while promoting the benefits of joining the club. When there have been delicate matters of personal complaints to deal with, he handled these effectively and with great diplomacy. Without him our club would not have functioned so effectively.

At the presentation some stories were told, mainly around how far away you should pitch your tent. John, in receiving his award, commented on his gratitude at receiving so much camaraderie and fun from the time he joined us. Well done John.

➤ 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

➤ **Wairere Falls Track closed.** Wairere Falls Track is closed until further notice due to dangerous rock fall and the potential for further land movement.

➤ The **Karearea** has been named as the bird of the year 2025! This fast and fierce endemic bird of prey got its talons into the top spot early, and held on, with 14317 votes out of a whopping 75,439 votes.

➤ **Last of the map sellers.** Murray Jones runs the Map and Chart Shop in Victoria St. If you are fond of maps, and not just topographical ones, have a look at this shop. It has maps and charts from every part of NZ, National and Forest Park maps and maps for travelling overseas. According to Jones, the general demographic of clientele leans towards an older age group who still prefer physical maps. However, there are also those looking for unique, novelty, or vintage maps along with younger clients either interested in topography, or outdoor sports.

Source: Waikato Times 21/8/25

➤ Recently your editor was given a selection of **historical documents** for the club archives. It was interesting to read about the submissions made to various Conservation ministers about issues around the country, letters of sympathy for members of club members who had died, and apology to a school who felt that their students had been accused of damaged our hut and Whakapapa hut but were in fact not the guilty party. Another member gave her a folder of memorabilia that was great fun to read. She wonders who drew the large maps of the Waitengaue and Waiorongomai tramping areas. Such a great skill. The 'golden wedding' edition of 50yrs of WTC had some wonderful stories from days gone by. Your editor just happened to be the President at that time too. The story about the team which put 3 dinghies on the crater lake of Mt. Ruapehu in 1951 to take depth soundings of it (264 feet) will long remain an interesting record of club activities. Had the authorities of the day listened to the warnings from those party members that the lake level was rising in the ensuing 2 years, the Tangiwai disaster of Christmas eve 1953 may have been avoided. And in the Waikato hut visitors book, begun on 14/15 January 2009, Dianne & Selwyn were the first entry, and on the final page for the Matariki weekend, June 2025, they were there again. My, how the world goes around.

...from DoC.....

➤ This summer we expect the South Island to experience the biggest beech forest mast in 7 years where trillions of seeds blanket forest floors, causing rat

and stoat populations to surge, and putting significant pressure on our vulnerable native wildlife. We're planning and expanded predator control programme to protect priority populations of native birds, bats and other wildlife during the beech mast. Read more at <https://bit.ly/46hjBmw>.

There is also an acorn mast in the UK when locals are permitted to let their pigs roam free on horticultural and public lands to eat the acorns up. Who likes nut-fed pork?

➤ A popular **Whakatipu walking track** and gateway to the southwest Otago backcountry now has full access restored with the opening of the brand-new Sylvan Bridge. A new 42 m suspension bridge across the Routeburn River is now open, reconnecting the popular Lake Sylvan Track after the previous bridge was damaged in a significant storm in 2020, repaired, and then swept away in another storm in 2023. The new bridge is also approximately 11 m above the river's median river height, greatly increasing its resilience to erosion and flood events. A new section of approximately 1.5 km of track has been constructed to connect the bridge to the Sylvan Campsite and other popular walking tracks in the area, such as Lake Sylvan Track. The bridge provides access for experienced trampers to back country tracks like the Beans Burn and Sugarloaf/Rock Burn Track

.....from FMC....

➤ Waitaha hydro application presents false information to the Fast-track panel. Concerns have been raised with the Fast-track applications panel about serious inaccuracies in Westpower's fast-track application for the Waitaha Hydro Project. Significant inaccuracies include misrepresentation of legal public access to the Waitaha Valley, claims of improved access despite Westpower confirming they have no plans to facilitate such access, false suggestions that FMC and other groups would financially benefit, and inappropriately applying an outdated (11 year old) peer review. A significant amount of the information used to support the report is over 10 years old.

➤ Love our huts is back! FMC has kicked things off with a bang – in just the first 18 days since the registrations opened, 218 groups signed up to give some love to 320 huts! That still leaves around 500 huts to go, so, if you haven't already, now's the time to start planning. The campaign runs from November to March – and summer will be here before we know it. This year FMC is keeping the spirit the same, but adding some fresh touches:

- Giving care to all non-wardened huts – around 800 in total.
- Spot prizes and support giveaways along the way
- Simplified health checks – no hutbook audits needed this year.

Our network of public huts is the envy of the world – let's care for it together.

(*Ed comment: Did you read in the latest bulletin that if no-one signs the hut*

book, it is assumed the hut is not being used? It could therefore not receive as much attention as it needs, More reason why one should sign in).

If just loving huts over the summer isn't enough, you can get involved with the Backcountry Trust (BCT) projects across the North Island – they're looking for volunteers! Check out the latest update for opportunities. Please note that the dates are subject to weather conditions, so a bit of flexibility is required. BCT covers the cost of food and mileage.

➤ Herenga ā Nuku Outdoor Access Commission map updates. After 2 years of work, Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa – the Outdoor Access Commission - has launched a major upgrade to New Zealand's most comprehensive public access map. The new map shows 55,000km of paper roads (Unformed Legal Roads or ULRs) across NZ, thousands of newly identified reserves, and the identities of public access land managers. These ULRs are now much easier to find and explore, helping you move with clarity and confidence. The Commission is excited about this tool and hope it will improve public access and understanding. While the public has a legal right to use unformed legal roads, please remember that the land on either side is private – stick to the paper road.

➤ Cape Palliser road closure: South Wairarapa District Council dropped its' proposal to close public access to the Cape Palliser paper road. After receiving over 3500 submissions (84% against it), councillors will now decide between an amended bylaw allowing walking, cycling and some managed vehicle use, keeping the status quo, or working with hapū and the community on other solutions.

Looking for a nice Christmas present for a tramping? What about these 2 items? They have been donated by club members and any donation for their purchase will go towards Waikato Hut. Contact Dianne June 07 8433066 if you're interested.



A very nice pair of tramping boots – about size 7-7.5. Have been worn perhaps twice in their lifetime.



A brand new cooking pot that will fit on a cooking top.

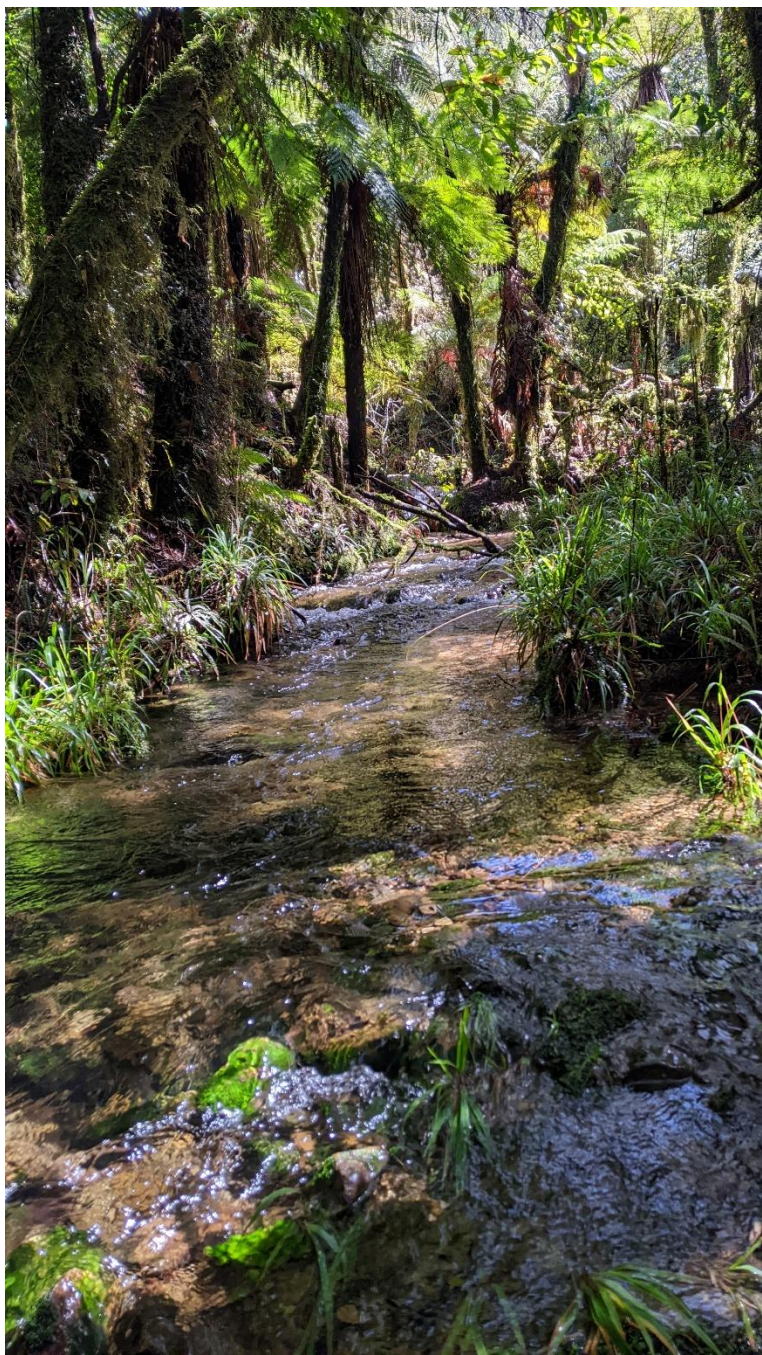


Keep your eye out for these beautiful Fuschia flowers with blue pollen in the forest at the moment. The small trees like to be on the edges of sunny areas – such as along the access track in the Okahukura valley where Amanda Collins took this picture.

Also flowering on Mt, Pirongia are those Alseuosmia (Al-Sue-Oz-Mia) which have flowers hanging below the leaves and smell absolutely gorgeous - see inside front cover



Light display at sunset photo by Annemarie Lamb



A beautiful clear stream in North Pureora forest. Photo by Amanda Collins

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