



THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

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

September 2025



Flora & Fauna winner Nicola Guy Blue damselfly

WAIKATO HUT

Your lodge on Mt Ruapehu
Tongariro National Park



www.wtc.org.nz

Fast food aint good
Amanda Collins



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 877

September 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
Facebook:	Lynette Morris	waikatotrampingclub@gmail.com
Website:	Kat Rowe	wtcwebmanager@gmail.com
Bulletin:	Lesley Kuggeleijn	027 4942414
Editor & Club Librarian:	Dianne June	djune@xtra.co.nz 07 8433066

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

Club Night: Wednesday 1st October, 2025

This is going to be a presentation by those participants on the 3 Passes trip done earlier this year. It is a classic summer tramp for experienced trampers so let them take you on an adventure in the Southern Alps over Harman Pass, Whitehorn Pass and Browning Pass/Noti Raureka

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

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

Trip Planning meeting: Wednesday 17 Sept, 7pm, St Peter's Cathedral Hall, 51 Victoria Street – to plan the weekly and South Island summer trips for the next 6 months to May 2026. All ideas welcome – we want a good mix of easy day walks, weekend hut and camping trips, long weekend trips and long excursions with day walks. The South Island trips can include easy access areas and more challenging back country hikes. Come along to hear the plans and to throw in your ideas. All welcome.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR 2025

3200	13/14 Sept	E/M	Okahukura baiting	Dianne & Selwyn June
	17 Sept		Trip Planning	Mike Peck
3201	20/21 Sept		Hauhangaroa track	Cathy Dickson
	25 & 27 Sept		Night navigation	Outdoor training
3202	28 Sept		Karioi	John McArthur
	1 Oct		Club night	
3203	5 Oct		Matapeka waterfall	Cathy Dickson/ Judith Bogle
3204	11/12 Oct		Hut weekend	Allan Wickens
3205	19 Oct		tba	Madeleine Fiddes
3206	25-27 Oct	M	Tukino walks & climbs	Allan Wickens
3207	2 Nov		Length of Hakarimatas	Chris Howell/ Judith Bogle
	2 & 4 Nov		River safety	Outdoor training
	5 Nov		Club night	Outdoor training
3208	8/9 Nov	M	Motutapu Is	Les Warren
3209	15/16 Nov		42 Traverse	Judith Bogle
3210	22-/23 Nov		Mayor Island	Cathy Dickson
3211	28/29 Nov		Kaimanawa walks	Les Warren/ Steve Dick

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 3200

Okahukura bait station filling

13/14 Sept

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

We can organise club transport or you can come in your own vehicle/carpool. Feel free to bring as many people as you would like.

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

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

Your hosts, the Pirongia Restoration Society will supply tea, coffee, milk, milo &

sugar, as well as some treats for you at the end of your field work. To earn the opportunity to have some treats you will be asked to carry 5-8kg of bait and distribute it to bait stations along 2-3 baitlines for which you will be given 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. There are 42 lines/958 bait stations to visit. With lots of people we can complete the task in a single day but any leftover lines will be visited on Sunday morning. You will be asked to be back at the base (where the treats will be) by 3.30pm so it shouldn't be a long day. If you get back too early you might get that 3rd line assigned to you.

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

Email: djune@xtra.co.nz

Transport: Senior Member \$60 Senior non-member: Senior rate +\$10

Trip 3201 Hauhangaroa track 20/21 Sept

We will leave on Friday morning and travel to Mangakahu Valley Road end and be dropped off by our driver. The walk is a steady climb of approx 3 to 4 hours along the Motere Track to Hauhangaroa Hut (6 bunks). Saturday we will traverse along the undulating Hauhangaroa ridge and descend down to Waihaha hut (10 bunks). There is a good tenting area here. Sunday is a 3 hour walk following the Waihaha River to the road end, where we will be picked up by our driver. If we have time and the weather is favourable, we will do a short walk or two on the way home. Tents will be needed as the huts are first come first served.

Leader: Cathy Dickson **Ph:** 021 353 561 **Grade:** E
Judith Bogle **Ph:** 027 3810283

Email: dicksoncatherine@xtra.co.nz

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

Night Navigation Course - Thursday 25th Sept and Saturday 27th Sept

This course is an introduction to navigating at night. It will teach you skills and give you confidence to navigate on and off-track during the hours of darkness.

There will be a short compulsory evening on-line meeting on Thurs 25th Sept in preparation for the practical.

Practical on Saturday 27th September 6.30pm - approx. 9.30pm at Pukemokemoke Reserve. Maps, compasses and hi-viz vests provided. Maximum of 12 participants.

Prerequisites - participants must:

- have completed a Basic Navigation Course within the past 2 years
- be over 18 years of age OR over 14 if accompanied by a parent / caregiver
- have a reasonable standard of fitness.

Please contact our Administrator for the online registration form and cost details: waikatoadmin@outdoortraining.nz

Trip 3202 Karioi 28 Sept

We will gather in Hamilton, London Street at 8am and either carpool or use a van depending on numbers, and drive out to either the inland track or the Te Toto Gorge

lookout car park on the coast road south of Raglan.

Then, either climb to track I've never done up the inland side or, from Te Toto: we climb about 500m elevation through a mix of open farm and mixed scrubby forest into proper forest. The effects of this windy coast make the trees all shaped to bend inland and their canopy shape is a well coifed wind resistant unity. We also get great sea vistas as we climb up through the bush to a peak at 706m. A small detour out to a lookout gives a view into a valley that may have been one of the major craters.

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

Leader: John McArthur **Ph:** 021 2889641

Grade: M/F

Email: mcarthur@outlook.co.nz

Transport: Senior Member \$25

Senior non-member: Senior rate +\$10

River Crossing Course **Thursday 2nd Oct and Saturday 4th October**

DO YOU 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, however, it is not suitable for anyone under 18 years of age.

There will be a short on-line meeting on Thursday 2nd October, 7pm in preparation for the practical in the weekend.

Venue: Kaueranga Valley, near Thames, Saturday 4th October 9am – approx 3pm.

We supply safety equipment and instructors are fully qualified, including a safety officer. Limited numbers.

Please contact our Administrator for the online registration form and cost details: waikatoadmin@outdoortraining.nz

Trip 3203

Matapeka Falls

4/5 Oct

This weekend trip begins on Saturday morning with the drive from Hamilton down to Awakino. On arrival, you'll check in at the Awakino Hotel, which will be home for the night, before stretching your legs with a walk along the local beach. Sunday starts with a drive to the beginning of the Matapeka Falls track. The walk to the falls and back takes about two to three hours, giving plenty of time to enjoy the scenery before heading back to Hamilton in the afternoon.

Leader: Cathy Dickson **Ph:** 021 353 561

Grade: E

Judith Bogle **Ph:** 027 3810283

Email: dicksoncatherine@xtra.co.nz

Transport: Senior Member tba

Senior non-member: Senior rate +\$10

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.

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

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

Grade: E-F

Email: allanwickens@hotmail.com

Transport: Senior Member tba

Senior non-member: Senior rate +\$10

Trip 3206**Tukino based walks & climbs****25-27 Oct**

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

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

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

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 3208

Motutapu Island

8/9 Nov

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

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

Trip 3209

42 Traverse

15/16 Nov

The 42 Traverse is 46Km and the route is an old logging road that gets its name from the original 'State Forest 42'. 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

Transport: tba

Trip 3211

Kaimanawa's Walks

29/30 Nov

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

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

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

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

Leaders: Steve Dick **Ph:** 027 4880793

Les Warren **Ph:** 027 8644937

Email: warrenlb20172025@outlook.com

Editorial

Photo competition: only a small number of contributors but the quality of entries was fantastic. Expect to see many of them appear in the bulletin over the next few months. Why not set up a file on your computer now and store your best favourites ready for next years' competition so you don't get hassled closer to that time. My congratulations to this years' winners – your entries will be put forward to the FMC annual competition. And thankyou to all competitors for a beautiful travelogue at club night.

With the temperatures finally starting to feel like there is some heat in them it is time to plan for the time in the great outdoors again. At present Selwyn & I are very focussed on making your contribution to the environment a good one. After all, with no good environment to recreate in where would we go? Even our past club captain Tracey Riley likes it still- it was an absolute surprise and delight to see her and her friend Amanda at the club night this month. Here's hoping she gets to join you on a trip again one day. Tracey wishes for her greetings to be passed on to all her previous fellow trampers.

I love hearing the midweek walkers adventurers too. They are a small group of regular walkers and make outings of various lengths to interesting places. If you think you can manage a daywalk why not join them?

And on that note I'm very short of trip reports. If you were on a trip and haven't seen a report in the bulleting please either contact me to check whether I have it but not yet been able to squeeze it in to a production, or the trip leader to see whether someone else agreed to write it and hasn't done so, or why not just write one yourself? It really is the second-most important part of the bulletin – the first one being the advertising of the trip in the first place and you can bet your bottom dollar I chase those up because I know who is delegated to write it – the trip leader. Enough of the not so happy stuff – get out there, enjoy the bush and tell us about it with enthusiasm.

Dianne

Presidential blog

Hello fellow trampers

Last month, we fled the wetlands with Barry the Pūkeko nipping at our heels. So this month, we sought redemption back in the hills—less feathers, more altitude. Or so we thought. We set off with renewed optimism, fresh socks, and a collective vow to

avoid anything with wings. The target: Mt. Misery, which, in hindsight, was a name we should've taken more seriously.

The ascent began innocently enough. Birds were scarce. Spirits were high. Tom, still nursing emotional wounds from Barry's rejection, led the charge with a compass and a questionable sense of direction. Maggie brought trail mix again, this time fortified with chocolate-covered almonds—an upgrade that would later prove critical.

Halfway up, the weather turned. Mist rolled in like a passive-aggressive curtain, and the hill began to speak. Not literally, but metaphorically—through slippery scree, sudden gusts, and one particularly judgmental goat that watched us from a ledge like it was evaluating our life choices. Tessa, still riding high from her dance-off victory, attempted a celebratory cartwheel near the summit. It ended in an ungraceful tumble and a new club rule: no gymnastics above 800 metres. We reached the top soaked, scraped, and spiritually humbled. But the view—oh, the view. Mist parted just long enough to reveal the valley and turquoise coloured lake. We stood in silence, not from awe, but from lack of oxygen.

Losses:

- One walking pole (sacrificed to the scree gods) and 3 egos
- Maggie's trail mix (devoured during a motivational speech)

Victories:

- Summit reached
- Goat ignored us, No birds
- Tessa now leads the club in altitude-based acrobatics

Next month: caves. Because if we can't go over it, and we've already gone around it, we might as well go under it.

Ever onward, Rupert

~~~~~

## *Ski club report*



They say a picture is worth a thousand words so here they are....

This is Waikato Hut 2 weeks before this bulletin was printed. Temperature at the top of the gondola on Sept 7<sup>th</sup> at 11am was minus 3 degrees – perfect skiing weather. The accommodation is still very much open for visitors so why not book a few nights up there while the snow to play in is at the back door quite literally? Ashley

## Trip Reports

### Trip 3186

### Rotorua walks: three became one

8 Jun

Eleven of us set off on a cold winter's day to visit three out-of-the-way places this side of Rotorua. Passing through Mamaku village and along South Road we started the first walk in the Mokaihaha Ecological Area after meeting up with Laraine from Katikati. The track led us through unlogged podocarp forest in flat but 'bumpy' terrain past the small, ephemeral Lake Rotohokahoka and back in a loop to the road in 2.5 hours.



Lake Rotohokahoka

photo by John McArthur

Lunch in Mamaku village. As time was moving on, we bypassed the Dansey Reserve and headed along Paradise Valley Road to the start of an ascent of Mt Ngongataha. Here the track leads upwards past some massive rata and rimu trees and then through low forest. At the top was a communication tower but no view over Rotorua and the lake. For the obligatory coffee stop we continued on through the town, then headed

home. Participants: John D, Kevin B, Michael P, Peter A, Desma B, Jim S, Alicia C, Zoe Q, John Mc, Laraine H, Selwyn (trip leader)

---

**Trip 3192      Leyland O'Brien Tramline Track, Whakamarama      20 July**

After an issue with the van we hired not being available, a group of 6 trampers headed over to the BOP for a relaxed winter walk along the Leyland O'Brien Tramline Track.

We met a 7<sup>th</sup> trumper and local Laraine H at the Blade carpark. Tis track is mostly flat, at this time of the year is plagued with muddy sections. Not hard, just messy, so it was prudent to be wearing gaiters to keep clean. Laraine was familiar with the track so gave us a good bit of information on the area itself. The track follows the Ngamuwahine River for much of the way and eventually comes to a point where the river needs to be crossed. Despite the recent rain the river levels were not overly high, but there are quite a few slippery rocks to contend with. After some deliberation and the fact that we had a few members returning from injuries, we erred on the side of caution and elected not cross. We noted that in the summer months the whole Whakamarama area has numerous tracks we can explore with more time in the day. We explored further along a track that was marked and what looked to be trapline. We went as far as the tape markers ended and used it as a bit of a navigation exercise amongst the group to ascertain where we were on the map. In those sections there were a couple of nice flat sites in the bush where it would be good to camp overnight. The walk turned out to be a quite good reccy mission to see what sort of trips we could organise in the future. We returned to the carpark the same way and the walk took approximately 4 hours. We headed back towards Tauranga and finished off with coffee and a bite to eat at Greerton. With around 1.5 hours travelling time each way this was an enjoyable mid mid-winter day walk. Trampers who attended were, Les W, Lynette M, Jim S, Alicia C, Lorraine H, Kathryn R, leader by Julia L

---

**Trip 3194      Auckland Coast to Coast Walk      3 Aug**

On a clear and sunny winter day we headed up the highway to start on the east coast of Auckland at the ferry terminal wharf. After a little mishap reading the traffic directions signs we are met by the final group member, one of the participants' sisters who came across from Waiheke Island. Soon we were pasting through downtown Auckland, past the high rise office buildings, the viewing windows looking down at Britomart as our senses were being bombarded by the numerous café and coffee outlets but, alas, all suggestions of stopping to partake were denied by the trip leader stating that we didn't have enough time to partake.

As we navigated through the streets we sometimes managed to follow the route markings and sometimes not, made our way up and past the wonderful University buildings taking in the historic buildings that still exist in the area. Walking over the motorway past the sprawling Auckland Grammar campus then it was off to summit





The tramping party

photo by Peter Ayson

(who knew) and onto Gillies Ave, through Epsom Village passing the cafes and small ethnic restaurants on to the reserve and into Cornwall Park where we finally stopped and had lunch.

Fuelled we went up the Auckland icon known as One Tree Hill where, along with the locals, we enjoyed reading the history boards and taking in the expansive views



All downhill from here, winding our way down Symonds Street and eventually to Onehunga bay reserve on the west coast. We were to meet up with Allen here but because we had done it in a faster time than last time Allan was still doing his own thing so we headed over the walkway to the beach. Soon it was time to head back down the highway to Pokeno to enjoy the obligatory ice cream.

the first of the extinct volcanoes, Mount Eden. Whilst climbing up there was dissension in the ranks and three participants went AWOL to a local coffee caravan for some takeaway coffees (thank you it was very much appreciated). As we waited for the deserters we took in the views looking back to the coast and where we had come from. After those deserters caught up it was down the other side past the large NZ Government House mansion





Auckland sights along the walk photos by Peter Ayson

On a Bluebird day it is a good walk and yes we really did have time to enjoy the coffee (next time). Thanks John for leading and trying to make us go Cold Turkey.  
Amanda, Christine x 2, Jo, Liz and big thanks to Allan for driving.

**Trip 3195**

**Snowcraft II**

**9/10 Aug**



This was the second attempt for Snowcraft after postponing the original date due to

the weather. Unfortunately a number of people were unable to come on the follow up date so we ended up with nine of us heading to the club hut on the Friday night. The weather was looking good, really promising and it played its part... mostly. The original plan was for a traverse to Turoa but we lacked vehicle space and a driver so the plan was changed to summit the peak Paretetaitonga. We headed away at the respectable time of 8:00am and were about halfway to the alpine club when it was time to put on the crampons. We picked our way up the ridge just to the west of the Alpine club and made our way over to the Whakapapa glacier.

Conditions were perfect and I was looking forward to the views from the top of Pare. We started sidling up the eastern face of Pare identifying a spot where best to front point up to the ridge. Once on the ridge we had two rock/ice outcrops that took a bit of time and step cutting to get around. It was then the adventure began.... I noticed a few clouds heading our way, coming from the north right along the ridge line. I was somewhat surprised as it was still mostly a sunny day. Quicker than I'd ever experienced, the clouds/clag rolled through and we were in a near whiteout. We stood on the peak of Pare and saw... nothing. Feeling slightly anxious, we headed back with only our footprints as markers, navigating the two tricky parts took time and then we debated and searched around to find the line from where we ascended. Kat double checked with her waypoints and we made a "blind" descent back down to the glacier. While it was a bit unnerving, we took our time and reached relative safety. Relief for me.



We stopped for lunch on the glacier and watched the clag clear and bright sunshine and there was Pare in all its glory. Lynley commented that on both Snowcraft courses this year she's been to the top but yet to see the lake. We headed down and I couldn't stop thinking about how quickly the weather changed and then changed

again, reminding me that you can't take anything for granted with Ruapehu and the weather. It turned out to be a long day, arriving back at 5pm. Sunday was a more relaxed affair, we wandered up and then looped over to Pinnacle ridge and back to the club hut for lunch. The tops were clogged in the whole time and I was very happy not to be up there. On the trip. David T, Jo , Irina , Kat, Brian, Dave G, Mike H , Lynley, and Mike P.

~~~~~

From the committee table:

New Members: Welcome to Anna Krieger Shaunik Punjabi. And welcome back to rejoining members Kim Pickering and Karen Mumme.

Resignations: Nil

Membership: The club has 198 tramping members. Have you claimed your FMC membership card yet? Please contact Lesley.

From the committee: 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.

Get in touch with Dianne 07 8433066 or email djune@xtra.co.nz

Photo competition results:

Above the bushline,

No human element

- 1st: Annemarie Lamb Icy patterns
- 2nd: David Totman Lake Manapouri in the evening
- 3rd: Nicola Lye Brooding Ruapehu

With human element

- 1st: Nicola Lye Backlit snowmaking
- 2nd: Russell Lamb Out for a stroll
- 3rd: Nicola Lye Return from Tama Lakes

Below the bushline,

No human element

- 1st: Nicole Lye Omaru Falls
- 2nd: Annemarie Lamb Magic morning Molesworth
- 3rd: David Totman On the beech, Lake Manapouri

With human element

- 1st: Annemarie Lamb Human insignificance
- 2nd: Russell Lamb Lake Moke sunrise
- 3rd: Amanda Collins West Coast flora

Flora & fauna

- 1st: Nicola Guy Blue damselfly
- 2nd: Russell Lamb Untitled (fantail)
- 3rd: Annemarie Lamb Alpine garden

Long Exposure

1st: Annemarie Lamb Time for a moonlight snack

2nd: Annemarie Lamb Starry sky night Lake Moke

BEST OVERALL: Annemarie Lamb : Human insignificance

Club Character: Annemarie Lamb: some people go to great lengths for a photo

~~~~~

### *Snippets*

➤ **Gnarliest track descents.** New Zealand Mountain Safety Council asked their Facebook followers: which NZ track has the gnarliest descent? Hundreds of comments later, they put together the top 10 most-commented tracks plus a couple of honourable mentions. These are the tracks that had people gripping their hiking poles tighter than expected:

Taranaki Maunga Summit Track

Tongariro Alpine Crossing

French Ridge Track

Cascade Saddle Route

Billygoat Track, Kauaeranga Kauri Trail (Pinnacles)

Avalanche Track from McKinnon Pass, Milford Track

Rain gauge Spur, Holdsworth Jumbo Circuit

Avalanche Peak Route

Lake Roe Hut to Loch Maree Hut, Dusky Track

Panitahi and Syme Hut Track

Special mentions :

Brewster Track

Deadmans Track

Devils Staircase to Jubilee Hut,

Silverpeaks Circuit Track

Read track reviews and get more info on these brutal descents in **planmywalk.nz**

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

➤ **Strength and balance** classes. Some of our aging trampers have been attending these classes and they are getting a great cardio and flexibility workout while having fun. They are sponsored by ACC and are aimed at preventing falls and keeping you fit. They are low cost and any old clothes will do. Selwyn, Dianne, Lesley and Michael have been attending a weekly 45 minute class at the Scouts hall in Belmont St, Chartwell run by the enthusiastic Janell Knox. There are also classes at Glenview Community centre and All Saints Church, Sandwich Rd. The instructor will be our guest speaker at the November club night so be prepared for some hi-jinks.

~~~~~

....from DoC.....

➤ **Bird flu vaccination** trial a success.

The H5N1 strain of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) has spread globally, causing severe impacts on wild and domestic birds as well as mammals such as seals and sea lions. However, it has not yet reached Oceania, including New Zealand, Australia and the Pacific Islands. DoC is working with MPI, the Ministry

of Health and Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora as part of a One Health approach to preparing for the possible arrival of H5N1 in New Zealand. DoC carried out the intensive year-long trial on captive birds from five endangered species – kākāpō, takahē, kakī/black stilt, tūturuatu/shore plover and kākārīki/parakeet – to see if the bird flu vaccine would be an effective tool to help prevent species loss during a disease outbreak. Up to 10 birds from each species were given two doses of the vaccine one month apart, followed by regular health assessments and blood tests to monitor their health and development of antibodies. DoC Senior Science Advisor and wildlife vet, Kate McInnes, says the trial was a success and all the study birds responded well to the vaccine.

“We now know for at least five of our most critically endangered bird species the vaccine will work to protect them from the highly contagious H5N1 virus. We knew it had been successfully used in overseas zoos, but we didn’t know how effective it would be on New Zealand’s unique native birds which are found nowhere else in the world.”

While 4 of the species had a strong response over 6 months, in kakī antibody levels dropped at three months, showing the need for a different vaccine regime for this species. If the H5N1 strain of bird flu arrives in New Zealand and spreads in wild birds, we won’t be able to eradicate it and management options will be limited, says Kate McInnes. “We will do everything we can through strict biosecurity to prevent threatened birds in captive facilities and managed populations being exposed to the virus, but the vaccine will give us an extra layer of protection. It won’t be possible to vaccinate all our endangered birds, but we can focus on species in captivity where the full two doses of the vaccine can be given.”

The bird species in the trial are all critically endangered with populations just in the hundreds. Red-crowned kākārīki was used as a stand-in for the highly threatened orange-fronted kākārīki. MPI approved the trial using Poulvac Flufend RG vaccine, which was carried out under strictly controlled conditions. The vaccine contains dead, low pathogenicity virus and cannot cause bird flu infection. The research was led by DoC technical experts and involved assistance and support from iwi and hapū, captive facilities, international vets, specialist vet and diagnostic services PacificVet and BioPacifica Laboratories, and MPI.

It’s the first trial in the world to involve five species over a year and the internationally significant results will be published in a science paper. The research has been shared with Australian agencies to help with their vaccination planning and research. DoC is working with MPI on a broader vaccination plan for the five species and potentially others that might also benefit from vaccination if H5N1 reaches Aotearoa. Early detection of H5N1, if it arrives here, will be crucial. The public are asked to watch out for signs of bird flu and report groups of 3 or more sick or dead birds, marine mammals or other wildlife to the MPI exotic pest and disease hotline: 0800 80 99 66. Do not touch, handle or collect dead or dying birds to avoid spread of the virus and protect yourself.

➤ Tree-felling at Cathedral Cove. Work has been undertaken at Hahei beach to remove some invasive conifers as the track reinstatement progresses. Local arborists removed the *Pinus pilaster* trees, more commonly known as maritime or cluster pines. 300 native trees were planted recently at Gemstone Bay. The wood from the felling will be broken down at the site and left to rot naturally.

➤ New research released by DoC recently reveals New Zealanders care deeply about nature and want to help but aren't aware of the scale of challenges nature is up against. The research was commissioned to inform DoC's Always Be Naturing campaign. Undertaken by market research agency TRA, it looks at New Zealanders' attitudes towards nature, and barriers and motivations for taking action for it.

"Always Be Naturing is simple. No matter who you are, or where you live, you can do something for nature every day," says DoC Deputy Director-General Public Affairs, Sia Aston. "The research shows us all the right ingredients are there to turn the dial. It's unsurprising but still makes me proud to see 97% of us feel we are connected to nature and 98% of us care about protecting and restoring it. But the flip side – we might not realise at DoC managing conservation challenges every day – 89% of people think nature is in good shape. The truth is, nature is in trouble. It needs us now more than ever. If we want our grandchildren to experience nature as we know it, we all need to take more action, now. Habitat loss, over-exploitation, introduced invasive animals and plants, pollution and climate change are devastating our environment. New Zealand has 4000 species threatened or at risk of extinction. More alarmingly, over 63% of our ecosystems are threatened with collapse."

The research reveals many New Zealanders are willing to take biodiversity and conservation actions but can feel overwhelmed or are unsure how. It found people are motivated by the idea of protecting their local area, because it helps improve their health, they're proud of New Zealand's nature, and to have fun with others. "Nature needs more action, faster. We have an important job ahead to flip the script and raise awareness of what's really going on, but also to show what's possible when we all do our bit," says Sia. "Every day at DoC we see evidence that when we take action for nature, nature bounces back. The good news is many people are already setting a stellar example. More than half the population took some kind of action to protect nature in the last 12 months. It's a great foundation to build on. New Zealanders are uniquely placed to be global leaders in normalising looking after nature as something we all do each day", says Sia. "Nature is our biggest asset, and it's also our insurance policy against climate change. It's central to our economy and way of life. DoC's Always Be Naturing campaign is designed to build on our national love for nature and make it simple for everyone to take small, regular steps that add up to deliver big results. Our actions now will make all the difference."

➤ A competitive process for farming and other commercial opportunities in Rangitahi/**Molesworth Recreation Reserve** will open for expressions of interest later this year. Rangitahi/Molesworth is a nationally important drylands ecosystem with a rich heritage and deep cultural significance. It's also New Zealand's largest farm and has a long history of high-country farming. DoC South Marlborough Operations Manager Stacey Wrenn says staff are currently defining the scope of the opportunity to be offered – which will involve farming but may include other opportunities like guiding or accommodation alongside it. “This scoping work will safeguard the ecological, recreational and cultural values that make Rangitahi/Molesworth such a special place while ensuring a commercially viable offering.” Planting pine trees on Rangitahi/Molesworth will not be part of the opportunity. Iwi and the Molesworth Steering Committee will provide advice to inform development of the expression of interest and competitive allocation process. The current farming lease, held by Pāmu Farms of New Zealand (Landcorp Farming), expires on 30 June 2026. Stacey says DoC intends to have the next operator(s) confirmed well before then, to allow for a transition if required. “We want to acknowledge the great work Pāmu have done as stewards of an iconic New Zealand landscape. DoC remains committed to the wellbeing and protection of Rangitahi/Molesworth. The current lease with Pāmu is under the Land Act and was in place before DoC took over management of the reserve. Any new commercial arrangements on Rangitahi/Molesworth will be under the Conservation Act. This will better recognise the reserve's ecological, recreation and heritage values and may allow for better public access.”

➤ In late August 193 Māhoenui **giant wētā** were translocated from Ōtorohanga Kiwi House to Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari. The translocation marks a significant milestone in ongoing efforts to protect the critically endangered species.



The Māhoenui giant wētā is one of the world's largest insects, measuring up to 7cm and weighing approximately 15 grams. Originating from a single site in the North Island and found at only three other North Island locations, they are classified as "Nationally Critical" and face serious threats. DoC staff have been working closely with Ōtorohanga Kiwi House – where there is a captive breeding programme and specially built laboratories – and Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari on the translocation, which follows earlier releases to the sanctuary in 2012-13.

On a club trip to the Māhoenui site
photo by Dawn Anselmi

Previous translocations to private land at Warrenheip (near Cambridge) and Mahurangi Island (off the Coromandel coast) have played a crucial role in protection of this species. "The translocation reflects just how successful Ōtorohanga Kiwi House's captive breeding programme has been," says DoC Senior Biodiversity Advisor Amanda Haigh. "Releasing the precious offspring of captive wētā into a natural habitat at Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari – free of predators and threats – is really rewarding for everyone involved. Our hope is they breed with offspring of those Māhoenui giant wētā released at Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari in 2012-13. Support of Ngāti Maniapoto and Ngāti Koroki Kahukura, who regard the wētā as a taonga species, has been vital for the captive breeding programme. To have our iwi partners providing guidance on the appropriate tikanga for the handover of the wētā from Ngāti Maniapoto to Ngāti Koroki Kahukura demonstrates the partnership which has made this translocation possible." The tono (request) of this taonga to Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari reflects the shared kaitiakitanga and enduring relationship between Ngāti Koroki Kahukura and Ngāti Maniapoto. It strengthens iwi connection to the whenua and collective commitment to restoring balance to the ngahere. Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari CEO Helen Hughes echoed the importance of collaboration. "This translocation of Māhoenui giant wētā to Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari is a powerful example of what can be achieved through strong conservation partnerships and collaboration. Working alongside iwi, the Department of Conservation and Ōtorohanga Kiwi House, we're proud to support the recovery of this nationally significant species and once again contribute to the protection of Aotearoa's unique biodiversity."

The nocturnal animals were released by experienced wētā handlers into pre-selected locations across Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari. Ōtorohanga Kiwi House Wildlife Manager Mathew Ronaldson says each wētā underwent thorough health checks and individual monitoring to maximise survival and successful adaptation to the wild habitat. The captive breeding programme is the only one of its kind for this species, with every wētā released at Sanctuary Mountain Maungatautari the result of a carefully managed and intensive multi-year effort. “The programme began in 2021 with founder individuals transferred from the Mahoenui Scientific Reserve, laying the foundation for a long-term recovery plan,” he says. “Specialist wētā husbandry techniques have been developed at Ōtorohanga Kiwi House, including artificial incubation, climate-controlled environments, species-specific diets, and custom-designed enclosures mimicking the wētā natural behaviours.”

➤ Visitors can now book the iconic Waihohonu and Mangatepopo huts and experience a summer taster of the Tongariro Northern Circuit while Oturere Hut is rebuilt. Both huts have mattresses, water supply, toilets, heating and cooking facilities and Waihohonu will have full-time wardens during summer. The huts will be cheaper this season – Usually \$44/night for an adult, they’re down to \$25 for this season only, children \$12.50/night, infants are free. The Northern Circuit is closed for safety reasons while DoC works with local iwi to replace the more than 50yr old Oturere Hut.

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

The FMC team are busy on many fronts at present so read their latest circulated newsletter.

➤ **Proposed closure of iconic coastal road:** South Wairarapa District Council wants to close all public access—including walking and cycling—on the unformed legal road beyond the Cape Palliser road end. FMC has submitted in opposition, joining Herenga ā Nuku's stance, as this move is both unjustified and unlawful.

➤ **Doolans Basin expansion:** FMC has provided feedback on NZSki’s proposed Doolans Basin expansion, highlighting the area’s very high recreational values and the need for strong protections if any development goes ahead. Watch out for more news about this soon.

➤ FMC joins hikoi highlighting threats from proposed revival of **Ruataniwha dam**. In mid-August, FMC representatives Megan Dimozantos and Nick McBride, along with three members of Hutt Valley Tramping Club, joined a hikoi organised by Wise Water Use (WWU) to raise awareness of the proposed Tukituki Water Security Project and its potential impact on the Makaroro river’s natural and recreational values.

Around 20 locals attended, hearing from Trevor Le Leivre and other WWU members, including mana whenua representative Tony Renata. Tony led a karakia,

and Trevor shared a poem highlighting how the proposed dam threatens the river's mauri.

The Tukituki Water Security Project (formerly the Ruataniwha Dam) has been revived under the Fast Track Approvals Act. It would flood key access points to several huts, including Poutaki, Barlow, and Gold Creek, destroy a grove of original podocarps and other native trees, and undermine the river's natural values. While promoters suggest alternative access, past experience shows such promises are not always kept. WWU also highlights serious feasibility issues, including enormous gravel removal requirements, and debunks claimed economic benefits.

➤ FMC responds to the next step of **conservation reform proposal**. At the start of the month, the Government announced further proposals to modernise conservation management and consider access charges, building on initiatives first announced last year. These proposals follow earlier consultations, including submissions from FMC and other stakeholders. The recently announced changes—including potential access charges and the removal of key safeguards—raise serious concerns. Many of FMC's earlier submissions appear not to have been considered, calling into question how genuine the consultation has been. Conservation law exists to protect the intrinsic values of our whenua—its wild places, unique species, and natural heritage—not to prioritise commercial interests. While FMC supports some changes in principle, we strongly oppose removing the role of the New Zealand Conservation Authority from key planning decisions, giving the Minister sole power over the future of public conservation land, and allowing development or disposal without strong safeguards. We also welcome the Government's assurance that Kiwis won't be charged to access public land, but more clarity is needed on the financial feasibility, enforcement, and legal requirement to reinvest revenue into the land it comes from.

Photo competition winners

Nicola Guy Backlit snowmaking Above the bushline with human element



Annemarie Lamb Icy patterns – Above the bushline, no human element

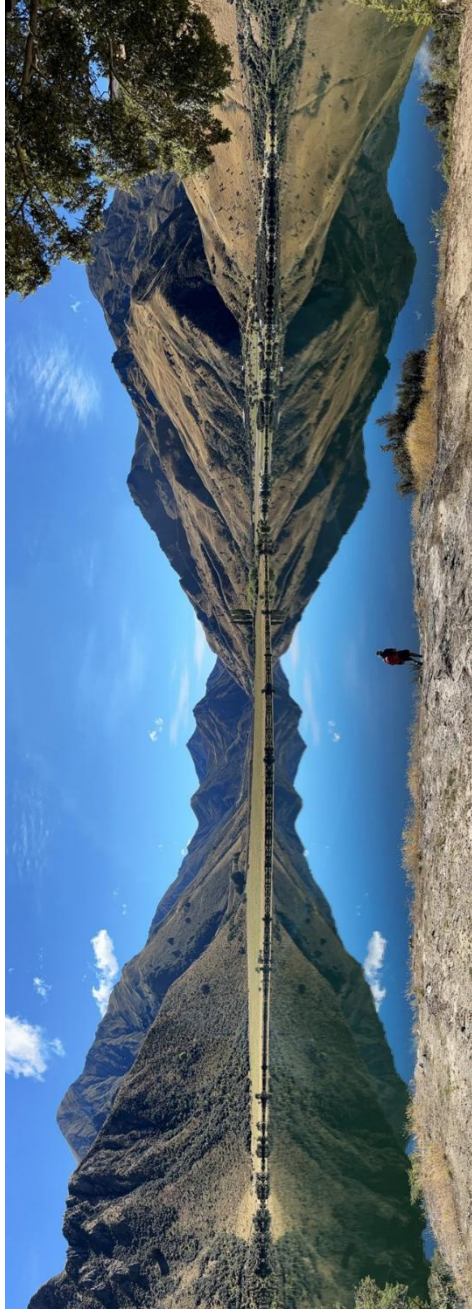


Nicola Guy Omaru Falls Below the bushline with no human element





Annemarie Lamb Time for a moonlight snack Long exposure



BEST OVERALL PICTURE

Annemarie Lamb Human insignificance

Below the bushline no human element

