



THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

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

April 2026



Walking the Mangorewa track photo by Allan Wickens

WAIKATO HUT

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Pureora dragonfly
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 884

April 2026

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Secretary:	Dorothy Cawdron	027 7424222
Treasurer:	Guy Domett	027 2483008
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Members: Tramp:	Allan Wickens Selwyn June	Mike Peck
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

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

Facebook:	Jacqui Dick	021 1375201
Administrator	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 6th May

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

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

Brenda Crook will be talking about a recent Hollyford Track trip.

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

3236	12 Apr	E/M	Otanewainuku photography	Nicola Lye
3237	17-19 Apr	E	Whirinaki loop	Les Warren
	22 Apr		Trip planning	Club captain
3238	25-27 Apr	M	42 Traverse	Maddie Fiddes
	6 May		AGM	Rupert Craggs
3239	3 May	M	Coffee at Crosbies Hut	Mike Peck
3240	9/10 May	F	Te U revisited	John McArthur
3241	17 May	M	Cossey Massey loop track, Hunuas	Les Warren
	21 & 23 May		Navigation course	Belinda Cooper
3242	24 May	E/M	Mangatawhiri to Whangamarino redoubt	Selwyn June
3243	29 May- 1 Jun	M & M/F	Ruahines	Allan Wickens/ Miles Rowe
	3 Jun		CLUB NIGHT	David Totman
3244	7 Jun	E/M	Maungatautari	John McArthur
3245	Sat 13 Jun	E/M	Trip leader training	Judith Bogle/ Les Warren
3246	21 Jun	E	Raglan beach walk	Peter Ayson

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

TIME and FITNESS GUIDELINES

E = Easy.

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

E/M = Easy/Medium.

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

M = Medium.

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

M/F = Medium/Fit.

Up to 7-8 hours/day, pace faster than M.

F = Fit.

Over 8 hours/day, pace faster than M/F.

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

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

Departure Point: Weekend trips depart from the Gate 1 at Waikato University. Park closer to other vehicles as this area is security monitored. Leave on Friday nights at

7pm sharp unless otherwise stated. **Day** trips depart from London St at the river end-park on the roadside. Leave Sunday mornings at 8am sharp. If someone is concerned because a trip is **late back**, contact: 1. Club Captain; 2) President; 3) a committee member.

Minimum equipment required:

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

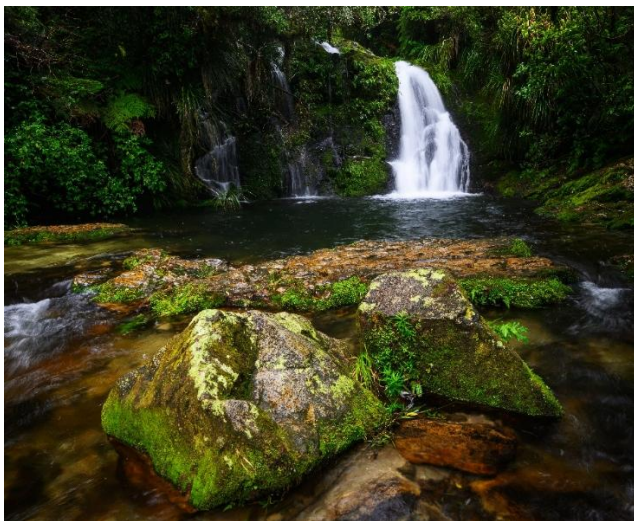
Weekend Trips: The above, plus pack with plastic liner bag, sleeping bag, tent, sleeping mat, cooker, billy, plate or bowl, spoon, food, spare dry clothes for evening, towel, toilet gear, light camp shoes. A water purifier can be useful. Plus, in extreme weather or country: additional warm top, over-trousers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

Trip Descriptions

Trip 3236

Otanewainuku photography

12 Apr



This will primarily be a photography trip, with Whataroa Falls our destination in Otanewainuku Forest. This is a small forest south of Tauranga and is well-known for its' prolific fungi. We will head in via the Rimu Loop Walk and take the side trip to the picturesque Whataroa Falls. We can also spend time photographing fungi. This is roughly a 2.5hour return trip, excluding the time we spend taking photos. Ideally you will have a camera with "Manual Mode", a tripod, and a lens that is 24mm or less (for the waterfall), and a macro lens, if you have one, for

fungi. A polariser makes a big difference in forest/waterfall photography, so bring that along if you have one. I have a couple of tripods that I am happy to lend out if you have a camera and don't have a tripod. I also have some polarisers of different diameters. If you would like to try one, let me know what diameter your lens is and I'll see if I have one that would fit. Here are a couple of photos from our recent recce (fungi photo taken with phone).

Leader: Nicola Lye

Ph: 027 4213458

Grade: E

Email: nicolahlye@gmail.com

Transport: Senior member \$20-25

Senior non-member: Senior rate +\$10

Trip 3237 **Mangamate Loop Track, Whirinaki Forest** **17- 19 Apr**

This track is a 3-day/2-nights trip starting and finishing at the River Road Carpark. The Whirinaki Forest is truly a lovely forest to explore and one is guaranteed to see whio. Nights will be at huts but, a tent would be recommended or, at least a sleeping mat, as these Huts can be popular.

Day 1 - Early departure from Hamilton (time to be decided) to Carpark. Walk River Road Carpark to Central Whirinaki Hut (25 beds), 5hrs. We pass Vern's Shelter. It is a well graded track to the Hut following the Whirinaki River.

Day 2 - Central Whirinaki Hut to Mangamate Hut (9 beds), 4hrs. The track is still a good tramping track but not as well graded as day one. There will be some river crossing.

Day 3 - Mangamate Hut to River Road Carpark, 4hrs. The first few hours is mainly crossing/walking down the Mangamate River - hopefully the level is nice and low! If the river level is low, this is a nice River to follow (have done it in the past).

Apart from day 1 being a long day due to the travelling, the next two days are comfortable days of around 4hrs.

NOTE: This trip will be dependent on any rainy weather prior to the trip as the Mangamate River will be unsuitable to walk and cross thru.

This trip departs Hamilton on Friday 17 April 26, early morning.

Leader: Les Warren

Ph: 027 8644937

Grade: M

Email: warrenlb20172025@outlook.com

Transport: tba

Accommodation: Hut Fees tba

Trip 3238 **42 Traverse** **25-27 Apr**

The 42 Traverse is a 46 km multi-use track through the Tongariro Forrest Conservation Area. We will be doing the first part from Kapoor Road which is a 4WD track and mainly downhill. The 42 Traverse leads through fantastic native forest and the awesome Canyon valley. There are superb views back to the volcanoes of Tongariro National Park.

The route is an old logging road that gets its name from the original 'State Forest 42'. It is popular for a range of activities: "Mount to Sea" mountain biking, four-wheel driving (summer only), horse riding, fishing, hunting and is part of the Te

Araroa trail.

We are planning to start the track he from Kapoor Road, off SH47 to the just after the turn-off to Te Araroa trail – estimated 15km/5+hrs. Camping near Waione Stream which is in the middle of the 42 traverse. The next day we follow the Waione/Cokers track (Mangatetepopo stream) on to Access Rd 3 for about 6km before joining SH46 - finishing up from the outdoor pursuit centre – estimated 15km/5+hrs

There are multiple unbridged stream crossings on this track. These can rise rapidly after rain and may not be safe to cross. Will assess in regards to the amount of rainfall before doing this track.

Leader: Maddie Fiddes

Ph: 021 2273560

Grade: M

Email: *madeleine@actrix.co.nz*

Transport: tba

Accommodation: tba -perhaps at Waikato Hut on the night of Friday 24th.

Trip 3239

Coffee at Crosbies Hut

3 May

This a day trip to Crosbies Hut for some coffee tasting. We'll take the Whangaiterenga track which is near the Pinnacles carpark. If we have a willing driver it can be turned into a through trip exiting down the Waiomu track, otherwise it's up and back the same way. There will be 3 different types of coffee making on display using different beans from different brands. Bring something sweet or savory to complement the coffee that can be shared. This trip may be very muddy in places.

Leader : Mike Peck

Ph: 021 369 256

Grade: M

Email: *mikeypeck@yahoo.com*

Transport: tba depending on whether we need a van or using private transport

Trip 3240

Te U revisited

9/10 May

We haven't visited this remote hut for eleven years or so, January 2015 to be precise. On that occasion we approached the hut from the Waimana valley with a fairly long approach over a ridge and up the Waiiti river.

For logistical convenience I'm proposing that we come up the Waiotahi river, over a small (300m) saddle and down the Kaharoa stream to the hut, then return the same way back to the car(s). DoC notes state the trip as 15.5km each way and approximately 7 to 8 hours each way. The "track" is noted as a route on the Topo maps and there will be river crossings. It is an "Expert" route in DoC's classification.

This trip is in the back country behind Opotiki and therefore there is a long drive to the start and to get home (3 hours + each way). This is the proposal but I have further research to determine the necessary logistics of the trip. Can we camp at the end of the road or shall we stay in Ohope? Is the hut still available or do we need tents? As we will be in the river for a good bit of this trip, weather will be critical.

If you are keen, please contact me to discuss your preferences on some of these questions.

Leader: John McArthur

Ph: 02128 9641

Grade: F

Email: mcArthur@outlook.co.nz

Transport: Senior Member \$65-75

Senior non-member: Senior rate +\$10

Trip 3241

Cossey Massey Loop Track, Hunua Ranges

17 May

I have recently walked this track and is a good 3hrs or maybe a bit more with breaks. The start/finish is at the Hunua Falls Carpark and one can go in either direction. Either way, there is some ascending involved on well graded tracks.

Leader: Les Warren

Ph: 027 864 4937

Grade: E/M

Email: warrenlb20172025@outlook.com

Transport: Senior member \$20-25

Senior non-member: Senior rate +\$10

Navigation course

21 & 23 May

The online safety briefing will take place on Thursday 21st May from 7-9pm, and then followed by the practical part on Sat 23rd May 8am -approx. 4pm, in Waiorongomai Valley, Kaimais.

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

Please contact the leader for the online registration form and cost

Leader: Belinda Cooper

Email: waikatoadmin@outdoortraining.nz

Transport: Private vehicles

Trip 3242

Mangatāwhiri

24 May

This walk, part of the Te Araroa trail, starts on SH2 at the Mangatāwhiri River bridge. A path under the bridge takes us onto a stopbank that follows the lower Mangatāwhiri River beside low-lying, polder-drained farmland. We then pass a swamp managed by Fish and Game and an impressive Archimedes screw used for draining the farmland. Nearby is the site of the first battle of the Waikato War where British troops invaded the Waikato by crossing the Mangatāwhiri Stream in 1863. We cross under SH1 and do a short road walk alongside the Waikato River to the Mercer service centre. Maybe refreshments here?

The next section of the Trail starts in Skeet Road, Mercer and follows the low ridges overlooking the motorway and Waikato River (great views) to the site of Te Teoteo's pa and the embankments of the Whangamarino Redoubt, built in 1863 by General Cameron. We re-join the bus here. A total of 13.5 km.

Leader: Selwyn June

Ph: 0274 978 151

Grade: E/M

Transport: Senior member \$25-30

Senior non-member: \$30-35

Trip 3243

Ruahines

29 May- 1 Jun

This is a combined trip with a M and M/F group in the Kaweka's, starting from

Kuripapango, off the Taihape-Napier Road. Both options starting and finishing at the same point and are a mix of bush and tops travel. We will depart Friday night and stay at some accommodation enroute. Some of the huts are quite small and tents are recommended, with camping available at all of the huts. The route may need to be modified if there has been early snow on the tops.

Day 1 - Both groups start from the Lakes car park, After crossing the Tutaekuri River the track climbs the steep Rogue Ridge Track, and traverses along the tops to The Tits and Kaiarahi (1507m), before descending the scree to Studholme Saddle Hut (4 bunk) which has been relocated to the site of the Studholme Saddle Biv. The M/F group will continue along Kaweka Range to Mad Dog Hill and across the tops to Kaweka J (1724m) before taking one of two spurs leading to Back Ridge Hut (4 bunk). 4 hrs/6-7 hours.

Day 2 - M group will ascend back to point Kaiarahi, then take the junction that traverses along the tops via poled route to Castle Camp and onto Kiwi Saddle Hut (Heretaunga Tramping Club) (8 bunk). The M/F group will leave the hut, headed for Sterns Saddle before descending gradually along Back Ridge, then dropping into Ngaruroro River to the Kiwi Mouth Hut. From Kiwi Mouth two options are available. The preferred option is the route via Kiwi Creek if the water level is not high, or the longer and steeper track over point 1238; Both tracks rejoin about 1km from Kiwi Saddle Hut to join the M group for the night.

Day 3 - Both groups walk out via Smith-Russell track to Kuripapango Hill junction before descending steeply back to the car park before driving back to Hamilton.

Leader: Miles Rowe **Ph:** 0274 978 151 **Grade:** M & M/F
Allan Wickens **Ph:** 027 9509546

Email: *miles.rowe@gmail.com* or *allanwickens@hotmail.com*

Transport: tba

Trip 3244 **Maungatautari** **7 Jun**

This day trip will start with normal pickup/car pooling at the end of London Street at 8am.

We then go to the Marae at the end of Hicks Road and climb up into the Sanctuary. We will use the Quad bike track to head toward the peak, but when we get close, we veer off to the west for approximately a kilometre to gain a high rocky lookout. This probably has the best view to the northern Waikato on the mountain so its worth the slightly bush bashing exercise. For there, we return to the main Quad track and on to the peak. We will take the old tramping track back down to the northern car park. We should hear plenty of bird song, possibly Kokako.

Total distance 11.5km, Elevation gain 915m

Leader: John McArthur **Ph:** 02128 9641 **Grade:** M

Email: *mcarthur@outlook.co.nz*

Transport: Senior member \$25-30

Senior non-member: \$30-35

Editorial

What is a club? By definition it is an association of people united by a common interest or goal. Ours has 195 members.

Recently I had occasion to want to contact a club member, so used the membership database Jocelyn does her best to keep up to date. This did not prove to be a successful time and the member missed out on a meeting.

The landline was no longer in operation and the mobile number listed on the database was a work-related one so was not answered after hours.

Keeping your contact details up to date and relevant should be your obligation to us all. It is very difficult for the committee members, trip leaders, and other office holders like me to reach you if the details we have for you are not current. Sometimes we seek background information on a trip you may be able to advise on, it may be an invitation to a social function, or, heaven forbid, it may be required in an emergency situation. Accurate information is not just the club operation being nosy, it is in your best interests. Just because you receive your bulletin each month does not mean your phone or address details are correct either (unless you are getting hardcopies).

Please take some time to think about what details the club has for you and the ramifications if they are not up to date. Contact Jocelyn with your updates soon please. If you're not sure what is on file, I can also assist.

And it is with much sadness that I say we will no longer have contact with 2 of our past very active club members - Graham Boswell and Beverley McGowan. May they both rest peacefully. Their obituaries appear later in this bulletin. Dianne

Presidential blog

Hello again, brave wanderers

After conquering Mount Softstep (and losing both snacks and dignity), we decided to try something “gentler.” Naturally, this led us straight into the Wobbly Fern Coastal Loop Track, named after the native silver fern that looks delicate but, like us, is surprisingly good at surviving poor decisions.

Trip Highlights: Maggie attempted to befriend a weka, which immediately stole her sandwich and her self-respect.

Tom insisted the pōhutukawa trees were “waving encouragement,” which is generous considering they mostly looked like they were judging us.

Tessa discovered she can mimic a tūī call. Unfortunately, so did an actual tūī, who responded with what we assume was an insult.

Trip Challenges: The “gentle incline” that turned out to be a staircase built by someone who hates knees.

Tom’s ongoing feud with birds. All birds.

Maggie declaring she’d “never walk again” at least four times, only to sprint

after the weka thief moments later.

At the lookout, we enjoyed a view so stunning it almost made us forget Tom had just fallen into a bush of kōwhai seedlings. (He's fine. The seedlings are filing a complaint.)

Losses: One sandwich (weka heist)
 Tom's dignity (again)
 Maggie's vow to "never walk again" (broken repeatedly)

Victories: Zero altitude eels
 One successful tūi conversation (depending on how you define "successful")

Next month: the coast. Again. Because the ocean hasn't judged us enough.

Ever onward,

Rupert

Waikato Hut

The summer rates are still going (adult \$25, child \$15) and the lodge bookings are available to anyone interested. This is a great place to chill out (or not) over a weekend. Why not take a group of family and friends up to our home away from home or take part in the couple of organised trips coming up?

Trip Reports

Trip 3218

Monowai

21-25 Jan

The 5 of us set off from Te Anau to Borland Bivvy which was the starting point for our 5-day tramp.



Green Lake Hut view on Monowai trip

photo by Lois Rowell

The tranquil undulating beech forest made the start very enjoyable. As we descended to a golden tussock valley a couple of tarns came into view. The tussock however was boggy and very uneven making progress slow. The second tussock valley was much easier to negotiate.

After a strenuous 350 metre climb and then a downhill section, we arrived at Green Lake itself. The hut was situated further up the lake. We later learnt that the lake was full to the brim which meant that the shoreline track was underwater. After 30 minutes of bush bashing around tussock, hebes and bog rush, we arrived at the hut. And, what a great hut; double glazed and warm. However, we were not alone, as the sandflies were there in their thousands. But the boardwalk all the way to the toilet made up for the pesky sandflies. The birdlife along the track included robins, tomtits, warblers and waterfowl on the lake.

On day 2 we retraced our steps back along the tussock shoreline, over the hill to the junction which heads to Clark A-Frame Hut, our bed for the night. Island Lake was our morning tea stop with lovely views. A short time later we arrived at the lake outlet to find that the water level was extremely high and swift. It was decided that it was too dangerous to cross and as rain was forecast, we could not afford to get trapped on the way back.

Les our leader was in regular communication with the shuttle driver, so we were able to arrange an early pick up. However, this entailed a very steep road climb of two to three kilometres to the top of the saddle. Lovely views down the valley of the many pylons that spanned the countryside. Now plan B swung into action. Les (Leader), Dale, Fiona, Helen, Lois (Scribe)



Hope Arm hut

photo by Lois Rowell

After returning to Te Anau, four of us set off to do an overnight stay at Hope Arm

Hut, a comfortable older style 12 bunk hut on the edge of Lake Manapouri. This walk was much easier than the Monowai track. The terrain was a generous mix of beech trees, tall ferns, swamp with boardwalk just high enough to keep our boots dry. Some parts of the track were muddy with tree falls, but nothing too hard to negotiate. It was interesting seeing parts looking desolate, dead for lack of water flow. Just under three hours we were alongside the foreshore, a great area for tenting, including toilet and fireplace. A little further along was the hut, set back under bush.

That evening we shared it with two well-travelled tramping ladies. They were very friendly and we had a great evening laughing and sharing tramping experiences. The next day two of our group returned via Back Valley Hut. They said it was a quaint four bunk rustic looking hut, mostly used by deer hunters. This track was swampy but mainly flat. They noticed plenty of deer footprints. The track had a few undulating areas, but said it was an easy track. We met up on the track just before getting to our dingy boat transport across the Waiau River where it flows into lake Manapouri. Plan B was a great overnight trip. Participants were Fiona, Dale, Lois, Helen (Scribe)

Trip 3230

Mangorewa Track

15 Mar



A group of 9 intrepid trampers completed the 6-hour long Mangorewa Track, which starts from the Rotorua to Tauranga highway. Walking through the bush proved no problem, however the 4 km / 3 hour stint down the Mangorewa River was a bit of an ordeal, due to the very slippery nature of almost everything they walked on. This included hidden

nature of almost everything they walked on. This included hidden "potholes" obscured by the stream ripples. Definitely not a tramp to be done without the perfect weather encountered by the group.

From the committee table:

New Member: Welcome to Iain MacDonald

Resignations: Kate Stedman, Ying Schick, and Tony Phillip

Membership: The club has 195 tramping members.

From the committee: It is with much delight that we are able to say a repository for our archives has finally been found. Hamilton City Library is able to offer a dry space for our archives. It should also mean that anyone can access the files at some point in the future. We are in the initial stages of setting this opportunity up so watch this space for more information.

Obituary

Graham Boswell 10 Dec 54 – 18 Feb 26



Graham was born in Hamilton, the only son, and second child of Yvonne and Maurice, and attended local schools. He was neither academically inclined nor interested in team sports but was keen on photography. This was fortuitous as his parents owned the Snapshot camera business and Graham joined the business fulltime as an employee, eventually taking over as manager in 1984.

In 1973 Graham took part in a WTC open climb on Mt. Pirongia and this influenced him to join the club for its' comradeship and to go to those interesting places we like. He became involved in the fundraising efforts to extend Waikato Hut by 1975, as well as later efforts to install fire alarms and the sewerage system.

He took an extended overseas trip in 1978 and returned to Hamilton in 1980. Jill Davis joined the club and caught Graham's attention – they married in September 1984 and eventually sons Sam and Lucas arrived. He led several trips to Waikato Hut and the Tongariro National Park, the Kaimai and Kaimanawa ranges, Hakarimatas, Lake Tarawera, and a memorable trip to Lake Waikaremoana with over 25 participants 'enjoying' a rather wet Easter weekend followed by a sunny Tuesday and Anzac Wednesday at L. Waikareiti.

Graham became involved in Search & Rescue callouts, was one of the original 6 club members who obtained their HT & passenger licenses in order to be able to drive buses the club hired for our trips (when trip participant numbers could often be close to 40), served as treasurer, and as President. Due to the long business hours, Jill and Graham resigned from the club in 2005 but still retained a keen interest in the club activities and

and supporting members' attempts at good photography and problem solver of camera issues for many club members. (*Ed comment: Friday nights seemed to be a de facto meeting place for club members on many occasions*). He was always an enthusiastic listener to stories, admirer of pictures taken. Graham had an excellent reputation as a knowledgeable photographer and employer both locally, and internationally. Jill was also very much involved when the digital age came to the fore.

In 2023 they sold the business and went motor-homing in the South Island. Upon their return Graham was diagnosed with melanoma. It made itself more evident in November 2025 and he died on February 18th this year.

Obituary

Beverley McGowan 24 Apr 54 -1 Apr 26



On Friday 20th Feb the Waimakariri District Council held a Kings' Birthday Honours and Community Service afternoon tea. One of the 2 people being honoured was a former, very enthusiastic Waikato Tramping Club member, Beverley McGowan. Bev was a member of our club from 1988-1995. During this time her efforts saw the club well-advertised across many outlets using posters, equipment, and word of mouth, including the sporting goods stores who generously lend us window space, Hamilton Public Library, and other opportunities such as Expos. She was instrumental in raising our profile so much that we had around 300 members!

Beverley did not own a car so was always on

her bike and this likely contributed greatly to her excellent fitness. She led trips to Whirinaki, Tongariro and Egmont National Parks, participated in a few marathon runs over Maungatautari, led a track maintenance trip on the Hihi track, and trips to Blackberry Flat, the Hakarimatas, and the Pinnacles hut, amongst others.

Alongside her nursing career, particularly in the field of orthopaedic surgery, Beverley developed a lifelong love of the natural environment and the

outdoors with tramping becoming a constant thread throughout her life. Her passion took her across Africa, Greenland, the Americas, Antarctica, Asia and Europe. She has climbed Mount Kilimanjaro, travelled overland from Nairobi to see gorillas, and named Borneo as her favourite destination. While living in Canada, she joined a cross-country skiing club, describing it as the best “winter tramping” she has ever done, complete with a memorable encounter with a moose. Beverley returned to New Zealand in 2009 to be closer to family in Rangiora, but maintained her links with several club members in Hamilton and New Plymouth. She made an extraordinary contribution to her Rangiora community. A dedicated member of Keep Rangiora Beautiful, she translated her love of the outdoors into practical, hands-on service as a DoC trapper and key organiser of trapping overnights, collecting equipment, preparing kits and ensuring others can simply turn up and take part. She managed a pest control operation in the Hawden valley and another to protect the wrybill population which breeds on the Ashley riverbeds. Through Keep Rangiora Beautiful, she coordinated river clean-ups alongside the Waimakariri Youth Council and other community groups, enabling projects to go ahead where capacity might otherwise have been lacking. She volunteered mowing lawns at the Anglican Cemetery in Rangiora and cleaning the gravestones. She also answered the call from Environment Canterbury to assist with efforts to eradicate wilding pine.

The Mayor said her contribution would leave a lasting legacy in the District. “It was important for us that Beverley hear clearly, and publicly, just how much her service has meant,” he said.

Her 3 sisters (Adrienne, Gail, & Fiona) looked after her in her final days when she deteriorated rapidly. Beverley died in Christchurch hospital on Wednesday April 1st of disseminated pancreatic cancer which she had only known about for a few months.

Snippets

➤ Hamilton hosts the **Banff film festival** on June 4 & 5 and tickets are on sale now. Hosted by the New Zealand Alpine Club and proudly supported by presenting partners La Sportiva, Osprey, World Expeditions, and the NZ Mountain Safety Council, this year's tour promises over two hours of the world's most breathtaking mountain, adventure, and outdoor films — from daring first descents to ultrarunning epics, big wall climbing, and remote wilderness expeditions. This is the adventure film event of the year. For enquiries phone 03 3777595 or email: events@alpineclub.org.nz or banff@alpineclub.org.nz.

➤ Club member Les Warren has created a **Youtube channel** - Wilderness Hiking. Currently, the best way to view the videos is by the following search: Google search "youtube.com", Click on Youtube site, In the top "search box" type in "Back Valley Hut and Out", then look for this video with a "W in a purple circle, then click on this "W in a circle" which will take you to my Channel and showing five videos. Any nice feedback is welcome. Thanks, Les Warren.

➤ **Tramping Gear Auction.** In 2022 the Hamilton Tramping Club held a successful auction of used tramping related gear and made \$1200 for the Perry Outdoor Education Trust - aka POET. POET is about enabling accessible outdoor education programs in Waikato schools. <https://poet.org.nz/> Therefore, **the Hamilton Tramping Club** invites you to donate any surplus tramping gear and clothes to our upcoming Tramping Gear Auction — and on the day come along, bring any prospective trampers you know and join the fun! *After all, one person's junk is another person's treasure!*

📍 **Where:** Purdie Hall, The Link Community Centre, 4 Te Aroha St, Hamilton

🕒 **When:** Saturday 20 June 2026, 10am

👣 **Who:** Trampers and would-be trampers alike

👛 **What:** Any tramping gear or clothing you no longer need

All donated goods will become the property of the auction. Any unsold items will be donated to **POET** or another worthy organisation (such as the **Scouts** or **Guides**).

So please, **hold onto your unwanted tramping gear** until closer to the date — we'll be in touch with details about drop-off. It's the perfect chance to clear out your wardrobe, update your gear, and support a great cause!

Lorna Gribble, **Ph:021122 9703**

...from DoC.....

➤ The **first kākāpō breeding season in 4 years** officially began on December 29th. Since 1995 Ngai Tahu and DoC's recovery programme have rebuilt the population from just 51 birds (31 males & 20 females) through 12 breeding seasons, to 252 in 2022. Kakapo are the only lek-breeding parrot in the world – males gather together in a communal area, called a lek, to display to females. The males spend months preparing 'track & bowl' systems (networks of paths and depressions that help resonate sound) where they perform booming and changing courtship calls. These nightly displays to attract the females can last for weeks or even months. After mating the female takes on all the parenting duties. There are 3 breeding populations: on Whenua Hou/Codfish Island near Stewart Island, with

Pukenui/Anchor Island and Te Kāhaku/Chalky Island in Fiordland.

As of early April 2026, over 100 chicks have hatched, with roughly 200 eggs laid (over 70 fertile) and high hopes for a record-breaking year for the now 237-strong population

➤ DoC hut with ‘best view in New Zealand’ gets a makeover. The iconic **Mueller Hut** in the Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park has had a spruce up, which is no easy feat. The hut sits at 1850 m and looks out over New Zealand’s highest peak, Aoraki/Mount Cook. It was opened by Sir Edmund Hillary in 2003. DoC contractors have just finished work on Mueller Hut putting in new windows and doors, replacing interior and exterior cladding and putting in new water tanks, all while working in extreme alpine conditions. DoC project lead Rob Stewart says the job was insanely challenging due to gale force winds and snow. The weather was horrendous to be honest, apart from one day. We had 16 loads of materials to helicopter in plus 10 loads of people including gasfitters, plumbers, painters and builders. This was the biggest maintenance project on Mueller for over twenty years.” As well as work on the building itself, the team gave the inside a sandpaper, paint and polish, re-coating the tables, bench seats and other surfaces.

“Because it’s such a mission getting up there, we wanted to make the most of it. We’ve future-proofed Mueller Hut with an upgrade to the gas system and water tanks and strengthened the hut structure. DoC Aoraki/Mount Cook Operations Manager Sally Jones says the route to Mueller Hut is one of the most popular destinations in New Zealand outside the Great Walks. It’s a challenging “stair climb” of around four hours one way and attracts numerous day walkers and visitors for overnight stays. Mueller Hut is on the DoC booking system from 1 November to the end of April. Anyone wanting to visit should visit the DoC website for information.

➤ **WONDERFUL NEWS!!! Kiwi** caught on camera - a **Pureora milestone**. A rare kiwi has been captured on a trail camera in the northern Pureora Forest's Waipapa block – the first recorded sighting of the species in the area for more than 25 years. DoC’s Maniapoto Operations Manager Graham Kimber says the bird was filmed by a trail camera set up as part of a non-toxic trial to test a new sausage bait being developed to control introduced predators. A time stamp on the footage shows the bird was filmed at about 4 am on 25 February, on a camera located in the southern part of the Waipapa Block. The kiwi is thought to be a western brown kiwi, and it's the first live member of its species identified in northern Pureora since 2000. Graham says the appearance of the bird is a welcome surprise – and a reward for the hard work of the DoC team who manage species and predator control in the forest. "We did not expect to have this bird crop up on a camera," Graham says. "Any native birds in Pureora forest face ongoing threats from stoats and ferrets, and ground-dwelling birds like kiwi can also be attacked and killed by

dogs." Expert DoC staff who have assessed the video believe it is a young bird that has now reached more than 1 kg – meaning it's probably large enough to fend off a stoat. Without capturing and examining the bird, its gender remains unknown. "To have this bird emerge is very encouraging for our team and the volunteer groups also contributing to conservation in Pureora," Graham says.

Anyone naturing in Pureora Forest Park – including those in the Pureora Hunting Competition – is urged to report any kiwi sightings to DoC, by calling 0800 DOC HOT. Video and photographs are valuable, as are GPS co-ordinates of where the bird is found or a description of its location. Hunters taking dogs into the forest should ensure they are trained to avoid kiwi.

The trial in Pureora is part of DoC's research work to develop an 18 g meat sausage for targeting stoats and feral cats. 50 trail cameras were in place to monitor introduced predator and non-target species' interactions with the non-toxic bait. Previous studies have shown the sausages are highly attractive to feral cats and stoats but not to most native species like kiwi, nor to deer.

➤ Hunters have been asked to **watch out for weeds** this roar season. DoC Biosecurity Technical Advisor Connor Hines says invasive weeds like common heather, gorse, and broom are very harmful for our native bush, and can quickly get out of control once they get established. Invasive weeds can outcompete native plants and animals and completely change ecosystems, if left unchecked. And if these weeds take over the landscape, it will also wreck the hunting experience. Getting early reports is massively helpful, since rangers can get in and sort the weeds out before they really take hold and become a major problem. We're after reports of things that look out of place- sites where it looks like the invasive weed is just getting established and DoC wouldn't know about it already. If you find an invasive wees somewhere unexpected, sightings can be reported through the iNaturalist app or by emailing DoC (info@doc.govt.nz) with a photo & waypoint or detailed location. iNaturalist is great because it's easy - you take the photo in the app, it uploads with exact coordinates, and we get an alert directly. But we realise not everyone has the app so, if you prefer to email, pictures and detailed location information are crucial. Before you head out, please give your gear – especially your boots, pockets, and tent - a good check and thorough clean for seeds and other biosecurity risks, to prevent accidentally spreading something. (*Ed comment something we should be doing after every trip these days*).

➤ DoC **great walk and campsite bookings** open from May 12th. To give everyone a fair go, opening dates for bookings are staggered across several days, opening at either 9.30am or 12pm on their respective days. DoC's upgraded online booking system, introduced last year, will again include a virtual queue to help manage peak demand and create a smoother experience for users. Last summer many Great Walk huts reached or were close to capacity during the peak season,

with Milford and Abel Tasman reaching around 95% and the Kepler at 91%. Across the Great Walk network last season, around 60 per cent of hut bookings were made by New Zealanders, highlighting strong domestic appetite alongside a return of international visitors. DoC knows people plan their holidays around these bookings. High demand isn't limited to Great Walks either, with places like Mueller Hut, Hooker Hut, and Totaranui campsite regularly booking out over peak periods. Booking data shows visitors spent more than 400,000 nights in DoC campsites last year, up more than 10 per cent on the previous year, reflecting growing interest in affordable, flexible outdoor experiences, while also highlighting that availability still exists across the wider network for those willing to explore beyond the busiest spots.

➤ **Mangakaraa nature walk** on Mt Pirongia has been reopened but caution urged. DoC staff have been working hard to reopen and assess tracks. The storm destroyed the 2 footbridges on the track meaning the 'loop' is now a 'there and back' experience with 2 end points. Meanwhile DoC staff have used drones to capture footage of some of the landslips further up the maunga. The footage shows 2 large slips near the Mahaukura track, which includes the helicopter pad. If a track is marked 'closed' there's a very good reason for it and DoC asks people to respect those closures.

➤ **Coromandel kiwi** move off Motutapu for the first time. The first 3 kiwi were transferred back to the Hauraki- Coromandel region on the Kuaotunu Peninsula as part of a 10-day muster. Motutapu, an island connected to Rangitoto, is a kohanga for Coromandel brown kiwi. Since 2012, 156 kiwi have been sourced from the Hauraki- Coromandel region and released on predator-free Motutapu. This is the first muster of adult offspring from the island as part of the next phase in the 'To the Motu & back' strategy. The Coromandel subspecies of brown kiwi are the rarest of the north island brown kiwi.

➤ **Speargrass surprise** revealed after Tongariro fires. The fire-charred ground at Tongariro has revealed some unexpected good news, with DoC ecologists discovering an abundance of a threatened plant species. Normally hidden amongst dense tussock, flax, and manuka scrub. The Volcanic Plateau speargrass has been exposed. Although the plant was known in the area, its' abundance wouldn't have been understood without the fires. The plant is classified as 'threatened-nationally vulnerable'. DoC expects to see it increase even more while there is less competition for light from taller-growing vegetation.

The speargrass find was just one of the surprises. Another was walking into a completely intact stand of Hall's totara with a chorus of native birds, including robins/toutouwai. Despite an optimistic outlook there is still plenty of work to be done, particularly when it comes to weeds and deer. Walking on the burnt area can introduce new threats like weeds and affect the recovery of slow-growing alpine

plants. We are asked to respect the 10-year rahui by keeping off the firegrounds and staying on marked tracks.

➤ Tech tool used to target pest plants at **Whangamarino wetland**. This wetland is significant under the international Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and is home to numerous threatened plant and insect species. One of the biggest threats is invasive weed, with royal fern is numbered among these. It is an introduced, tough, and adaptable deciduous plant which can crowd out slower-growing rare native species. 2 drones were used to map the fern and implement herbicide control in late February. Contractors used a helicopter to control willow species across the wetland during summer. Willow is another introduced pest plant which can cover the breeding and feeding habitat for matuku-hurepo/Australasian bittern. The helicopter method was similar to the use of the drone, with half a boom used to apply herbicide to the willows. Precision spot-spraying on individual trees complements aerial control and means surrounding vegetation is not impacted

(Ed comment: The Pirongia Te Aoro o Kahu Restoration Society undertakes a fundraising programme to assist DoC staff with the planting in the wetland and it is hoped to begin the 2026 effort over the weekend of May 9 & 10th. If you would like to join in with this worthwhile activity please contact Dianne & Selwyn June, 027497815 or djune@xtra.co.nz)

FMC News

➤ **That's a wrap on Love Our Huts.** It's been a huge second season for Love Our Huts, with over 391 individuals/groups registered for around 550 backcountry huts. Hut cleans are still happening (no one wants to stop!) - we'll share final numbers once all have been completed. Spot prizes and video competition winners will be announced on April 2, and an anonymous survey will be sent out in April/May to gauge participants' experience. We are also developing a new online registration and photo upload platform to provide a smarter and easier experience. Thank you to everyone who showed up for our huts this season, and for us. Your support has not gone unnoticed. See you next time!

➤ Outdoor Access Commission release of DOC public access easement maps. Te Herenga ā Nuku / The Outdoor Access Commission has published 858 land parcels - representing 175 confirmed DoC public access easements - on its mapping system (WAMS). Until now, easements existed in legal documentation rather than a public-facing map. Geospatial Manager Matt Grose said, "We have turned that historic property information into accurate spatial data that can be confidently shared with the public." For more information, you can head to the Outdoor Access Commission website.

➤ The annual report for 2025 is now available to view, and nominations for the executive close on April 12th.

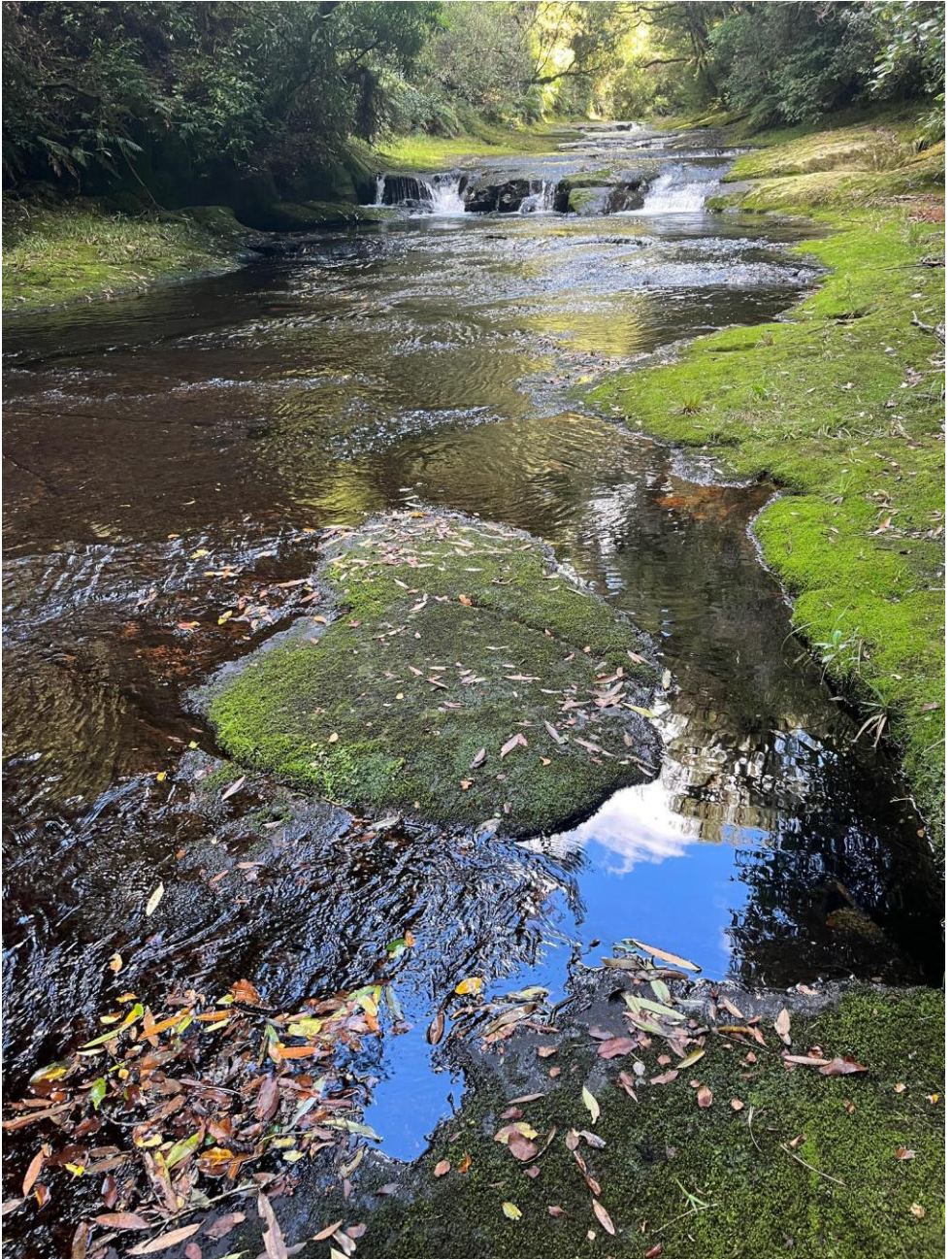


Mt Awful on Gillespie pass photo by Lois Rowell

This photo was submitted to the 2023 photo competition. But in late March this year David Totman led a trip to this area too so watch this space for the latest trip report.



A colourful harmony another photo by Allan Wickens



Mangorewa stream photo by Allan Wickens

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