



THE WAIKATO TRAMPER

Official Bulletin of

WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)

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

June 2026



Selwyn & Dianne June – each received a KSM award Photo by Allan Wickens

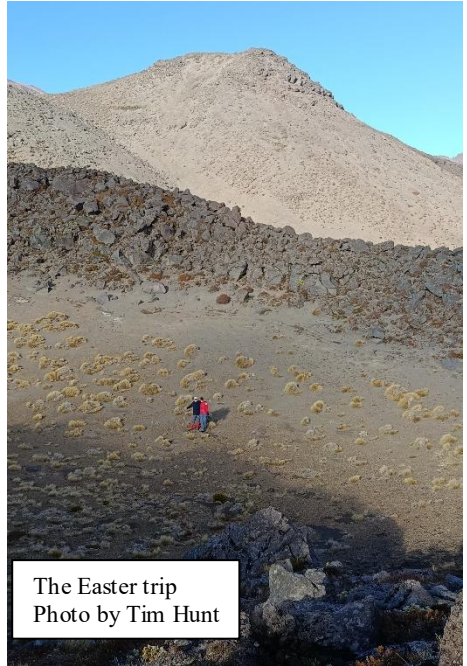
Member of: Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand Inc
Ruapehu Mountain Clubs Association

WAIKATO HUT

Your lodge on Mt Ruapehu
Tongariro National Park



www.wtc.org.nz



The Easter trip
Photo by Tim Hunt

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 | BOOTS: |
| • Aarn Packs | • Merrell |
| • Camelbak | • Meindl |
| • Deuter | • Vasque |
| • One Planet | • Keen |
| • Smartwool Socks | |
| • Leki Poles | |

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 886

June 2026

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 Peter Ayson Mike Peck	
Members: Ski:	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
	Allan Wickens	027 9509546
Transport:	Peter Ayson	027 497077
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:	David Macdonald	0274 908560
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 1st July

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

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

At the June club night Stephen Prendergast began telling us about his cycle safari through southern Africa. He had our attention and kept us well entertained with some great pictures. However, he only got us to the Zambian border so, at a suggestion from the social convenor, so it was decided that he do a part 2 session.

This will take place at this next club night.

Social night at the movies on **Friday July 3rd**: Graham and Andrea will be our hosts at their home for a social get together and a movie. Bring along your meat to cook on the BBQ, your refreshments, and a dish to share at 11 Alison St., from 6.30pm. After the main course we will sit back and relax while watching the first part of a movie. At 'half-time' we'll take a pause for dessert and coffee and cake – all of which will be supplied. At \$20/person this makes for a fundraising venture for Waikato Hut and is always a very congenial atmosphere – come along and see for yourself. Enquiries to the hosts: Ph 0274 822 830

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

3245	13/14 Jun	E/M	Trip leader training	Judith Bogle/ Les Warren
	20 Jun		Tramping gear auction	Lorna Gribble
3246	21 Jun	E	Raglan beach walk	Peter Ayson
3247	27/28 Jun	M	Overnight in the Kaimais	Les warren
	1 July		CLUB NIGHT	David Totman
	3 July		Movie Night	Graham & Andrea Haines
3248	5 July	E/M	Karangahake	Judith Bogle
3249	10-12 Jul	E-F	Matariki at Waikato Hut	Allan Wickens
3250	19 July	M	Lake Okareka	Les Warren
3251	25/26 July	M/F	Snowcraft	Mike Peck
3252	2 Aug	E/M	Jurassic Falls	Cathy Dickson
	5 Aug		CLUB NIGHT Photo competition	Nicola Guy
3253	8/9 Aug	E/M	Pinnacles Hut	Peter Ayson
3257		E/M	Neavesville	Judith Bogle

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. PLB is recommended but the club does have some for members' use

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 conditions. PLB is recommended but the club does have some for members' use

Trip Descriptions

Trip 3245

Trip Leader training

13/14 Jun

We will leave Hamilton on Saturday morning for a regional Leadership Weekend to be held at the DoC visitor centre, Kaueranga Valley. The course will encompass:

- Leadership qualities, trip planning, group management, risk management, emergencies and technology.
- Speakers Include: Les Warren, Allan Wickens, Mike Peck, Brenda Crook and Myself.
- Saturday start time 8:30am and runs to 4pm
- On the Sunday 14th, if enough interest, we are going to do a practical leadership exercise. I need to know in advance if individuals are wanting to take this up for logistical purposes.

Trip 3249 **Matariki long weekend at WTC Lodge** **10-12 Jul**

Matariki public holiday is on Friday 10 July this year. The Waikato Tramping Club will be spending the 3 days at our well-appointed Club Hut/Ski Lodge. The event will have exclusive use of the 32-bed facility. On Matariki Day, we will celebrate with a sumptuous dinner in the evening, after participating in various walk-related activities that day. If the weather is suitable, and snow conditions allow, those who opt to explore the heights of the Maunga can do so, if they are proficient in snow and ice travel. The Sky Waka gondola can allow quick access to the mid-levels for those who prefer an easier day. Otherwise, there will be tramps/hikes on various walks from the skifield and Whakapapa Village. From experience, if the weather is fine, there will be a large crowd of mainly sightseers on this day.

Saturday will be like Friday and is a back-up day in the event of bad weather.

Sunday will be similar but with the time constraint of hut clean-up and travel home. Over the weekend, we will have several films shown relating

to Matariki and Tongariro National Park as well as mountain-related ones.

Thursday 9th. Anyone is welcome to travel down to Whakapapa at various times on this day. The main (hire) transport group will leave later in the day, arriving somewhere around 9.00-9.30 pm. On this evening, self-catering can be done using our large kitchen.

Friday 10th – as above. Breakfast will be available at a small cost. Please bring your own lunch food and snacks for while you are walking/climbing. Dinner will be provided, again at a modest cost per person.

Saturday 11th – as for Friday. Dinner may consist of “potluck” with a theme (more details from our event cooks later).

Sunday 12th – Breakfast only provided.

Leader Allan Wickens **Ph:** 027 9509546 **Grades :** E-M, & F (the climbers)

Email: allanwickens@hotmail.com.

Transport: private vehicles or hire van. The van will cost \$80-90 per person for members and \$85-95 pp for non-members (Note: this cost is dependent on fuel costs at the time).

Accommodation: Seniors \$25/night (members & non-members) \$15/ night for children under 16 years.

Hire gear: crampons and ice axes are available for hire. Contact Mike Peck (club captain) at Bivouac in Hamilton. You must have boots suitable for fitting crampons to properly.

Trip 3250 **Lake Okareka** **19 July**

This walk goes around Lake Okareka, near Blue Lake in Rotorua. The track is a diverse 9km walk, ranging from easy to moderate terrain. It is approx. a 1hr 40 drive to our carpark.

The trip will start from Boyes Reserve with the first 40min following streets to the

start of the Walkway. It is a well-graded track to Silver Beach taking about 1hr (allowing for some time in the wetlands). Soon after starting on the Walkway, we come to a boardwalk thru the wetlands. Here, there is a shed with many viewing windows to view the large variety of water birds. We will probably stop at Silver Beach for lunch. From here to the Lake Okareka Campsite the track becomes more of a tramping track but still well-graded. From Silver Beach it is a short walk to a bridge across the Outlet. From the Outlet to the Campsite, the track becomes undulating while we sidle thru the bush section. Time on this section is about 1hr. From Lake Okareka Campsite (and toilets) it is a 20min walk back to the Carpark on a well-graded walking track. We can add another 10min on this time on a side track to a viewing point across the Lake. Plenty of birdlife and birdsong to enjoy. Walking time: Will be about 4hrs 30. This will allow time at the wetlands and breaks. We pass four toilets so, this should cover any personnel needs.

Leader Les Warren

Ph: 027 8644937

Grade: E

Email: warrenlb20172025@outlook.com

Transport: Senior member \$25-30

Senior non-member: Senior rate +\$10

Trip 3251

Snowcraft

25/26 July

Snowcraft - Aimed at introducing you to the alpine environment, you will learn valuable skills to safely enjoy that experience.

The group will travel to Mount Ruapehu on Friday night and the basics of snowcraft will be taught the following day and Sunday. Trainees will be taught how to use crampons and ice axe, self-arrest, how to walk on icy slopes, navigation tips, basic avalanche awareness plus what to wear etc. This instruction will be done in areas close to the club Hut, but we will spend most of the day out, weather permitting. A full assessment will be done by the instructors of those learning the skills that are taught. If anyone is having difficulty, extra training will be given the next day where necessary. If the weather is too bad on Saturday, we will do instruction in our cosy lounge as far as practical. On Saturday evening, there will be a sumptuous meal in our large dining room.

Sunday's instruction depends on how much we managed to cover on Saturday. If all went well, we have a chance to try out our new-found skills by climbing to the crater or as far as the Alpine Club hut, the highest inhabited building on the maunga. We plan on being out for most of the day, returning to our lodge by about 2.00 pm at the latest to clean up and get back to Hamilton at a reasonable time.

Given good weather, by the end of the weekend you will understand the principles behind the rather complex concept of "Snowcraft". It takes a lot of practice and genuine understanding of what is real and perceived danger when entering the snow and ice heights of Ruapehu. Our leaders have been doing this sort of thing for years and yet they never fail to be fascinated by the world of snow and ice.

The departure time will be early Friday evening. Most will go in vans from our

weekend departure point at Waikato University Gate One carpark. We can pick up others enroute (SH3 only via Te Awamutu and Te Kuiti please) and will be based in our large and comfortable Lodge Friday and Saturday nights. All meals will be provided.

A full list of gear will be provided on registration (get in early as you may miss out). Crampons and ice axes can be hired from the Club or Bivouac. Mike, who is the Manager of Bivouac in Hamilton, is the Principal Instructor and he can answer any queries you may have pre-course.

Please Note: To participate in this course, you must be a member of WTC.

Application details are on the Club website. Spaces for this course are limited, and a deposit is required to confirm your booking. You must also attend a gear evening prior to the course. Held at Bivouac on a date to be determined this gives you a good chance to sort out your gear needs, especially footwear. Light-weight boots or shoes are a problem when it comes to wearing crampons for example.

The course cost/trainee represents excellent value when compared to identical courses both commercial and through other clubs.

Leader: Mike Peck

Ph: 021369256

Grade: M/F

Email: mikeypeck@yahoo.com

Accommodation/Transport/Food/Gear hire: tba

Trip 3252

Jurassic Falls

2 Aug

A day trip from Hamilton to Matapeka Falls (Jurassic Waterfall), located in the Mōhakatino area north of Tongapōrutu on the Taranaki coast (see DoC info: <https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/taranaki/>). The walk to the falls will take approximately 2-3 hours return, following a river route to a scenic waterfall. The area is known for its layered sedimentary cliffs and fossil-rich rocks, with opportunities to spot marine fossils along the river and nearby coast. We will have lunch at the waterfall and explore. This trip has been attempted before but high river levels meant we couldn't reach the waterfall, so this is a return visit hoping for better conditions. If time and tide allows, we'll also walk along Ruapane Beach before heading home.

Leader: Cathy Dickson

Ph: 021 353561

Grade: E/M

Email: dicksoncatherine@xtra.co.nz

Transport: Senior member \$25-30

Senior non-member: Senior rate +\$10

Trip 3253

Pinnacles Hut

8/9Aug

This is early warning, as huts full up quickly so if you are remotely interested, please book a bunk and confirm that you are intent on coming. Unfortunately at time of writing this you cannot park at the top car park so the van driver will have to ferry people up or you'll have to walk an extra 2.5 km to the start.

This popular walk leads to Pinnacles Hut, and on to the summit of the Pinnacles with spectacular views of the Coromandel Peninsula. We will be leaving on early

Saturday morning and look at doing a short walk in Thames on Sunday. More information later. Check out the DoC website for other walks we could do too:

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/coromandel/places/>

Leader: Peter Ayson

Ph: 027 497077

Grade: E/M

Email: peter.ayson@yahoo.com

Transport: Senior Member \$65-75

Senior non-member: Senior rate +\$10

Editorial

This is probably the most difficult editorial I have ever had to write and yet it should be the easiest. It also comes to you from Selwyn too. First the history: some 8 weeks ago Selwyn and I were each sent an email advising that we had been nominated for a royal honour, namely the King's Service Medal. It is awarded for voluntary service at a local/regional level (the King's Service Order is given for voluntary work on a national scale). We both thought it was a scam until we checked all the attachments that came with it and realised it was genuine. We were dumbfounded and stunned that we were nominated by an as-yet-unknown person or persons for our 'services to wildlife conservation' – I am trying hard to find out who the perpetrator was 😊. A citation by the nominee was edited very slightly for accuracy and we decided to accept it on behalf of all the volunteers we have coerced, badgered or conscripted to help us with the mischief we plan and organise in our environment. For this award truly belongs to all the volunteers who have answered our call. You are the real recipients of it, we are just the agents who provide a proud chest to wear the medal on. One volunteer asked whether he should bow and scrape next time we met but I replied that it is we who should be bowing and scraping to him or you. Letting others know of this news was embargoed until 5am on June 1st – the king's 'birthday'. We have had such a difficult time keeping our mouths shut for such a long time, all the while continuing to ask volunteers to join us in other voluntary activities.

And secondly the fun stuff: Now that you all know what is afoot we would like to thank you for the wee party at the last club night (see the cover photo) and for all your congratulations, messages, phone calls and handshakes. Our 'smile' muscles are still recovering, several days later.

The next stage is that we will be going to Wellington (after the baiting weekend in Okahukura in September of course 😊) to receive our KSM (Kindred Soul Mate) at Government House, along with a few guests we are allowed to take to observe the event. We will proudly wear the medal at the October club night for all to see, and at the October baiting round in Okahukura. Please come and see it.

It is humbling to think that the last club member to receive this award was John Kendrick (of radio bird call fame) in 2010 and that the club has supported us by including a baiting session as a regular event in the club's annual calendar. This

means a lot to us both, as does your continued hands-on support. We thank you very much for everything
Dianne and Selwyn

Presidential blog

Hello Trampers

After last month's coastal excursion (where the tide attempted to repossess Gary and Sandra accidentally as they joined a surf lesson), we agreed the club needed something "calm and restorative." So naturally, we went into a swamp.

The Misty Flats Track sounded peaceful in the brochure. The brochure neglected to mention the mud with emotional depth. We set off beneath low clouds and high optimism. Pete arrived wearing "fully waterproof" boots, which became "fully water-filled" within 7 minutes. He described this as "part of the wilderness experience" while squelching loudly behind us.

Trip Highlights:

Sandra discovering that walking poles are remarkably effective for balance and dramatically pointing at distant birds she could not identify.

A mysterious hut guestbook entry reading: "Do not trust the ducks."

The sunrise over the marshlands, which was so stunning we briefly stopped complaining.

Trip Challenges:

The Boardwalk of False Confidence, where every third plank produced a noise suggesting immediate collapse.

Gary insisting he knew a "shortcut," which added 90 minutes and at least one new species of mosquito to our lives.

Pete losing a boot in the mud and having to negotiate its release like a hostage situation.

At lunch, morale dipped slightly when Sandra unpacked what she called "energy hummus" and what the rest of us called "an avoidable mistake." Fortunately, Maggie produced emergency ginger crunch and restored order to the group.

By the final stretch we had entered the traditional phase of any tramp: silence, mild delirium, and deeply personal arguments with our own backpacks.

At the carpark, Pete finally recovered his missing boot, Gary claimed his shortcut "would've worked in drier conditions," and Sandra announced she had achieved "swamp enlightenment," though this may have been exhaustion.

Losses:

One boot (temporarily) Three sandwiches (duck-related incident) Faith in Gary's navigation

Victories:

Nobody sank completely The hut still stands Pete reunited with his footwear

We now possess powerful marsh-based survival knowledge

Next month: alpine tarns. Because apparently we haven't suffered at altitude recently enough.

Ever onward,

Rupert

Enjoy life – it has an expiry date

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. This season we will continue with the lower membership rates. The Ski membership rate will match tramping. We can also continue to use the same winter rate for all ski or tramping club members to stay at the lodge. This is to continue to encourage new ski members, and use of the lodge in the winter by trampers.

Trip Reports

Trip 3234

Tama Lakes Circuit

Easter 2026

Firstly, this trip ended up in missing the part planned to go up and around the Tama Lakes due to a recurring knee problem by the Leader.

Day One (Friday) started with an early 7am departure from Hamilton and arriving at Whakapapa Village around 10am. We started walking at 1030 and first ascended the Ridge Track and continued ascending from the NZ Topo marked track to the high point 1315. From here we continued along the ridgeline for approx. 1.5km before sidling down to the Wairere Stream. The Stream was very suitable to cross.



The stream crossing and rock hopping

Photo by Tim Hunt

After a lunch break, we followed the Stream before ascending by sidling up to a plateau area between two streams. From this plateau we could see our destination for the day - Saddle Cone.

Shortly after, we descended from the plateau and a watercourse, which was great news to find running water - needed for camping tonight. This water source originated from a waterfall over a bluff / cliff face. We decided on our campsite approx. 100m from the base of Saddle Cone and with wonderful views of Ngauruhoe and the Pinnacles. We arrived at our Campsite at 3pm - a nice 4.5 hour walk. The terrain was good with a little scrub to contend with but, easy to walk thru. It was a bit steep and gnarly dropping down to the Wairere Stream. The weather was fine, cloudy and a light breeze - so nice walking weather. After setting up our tents, we had either a hot drink or soup (in my case) with a few snacks and checked out each others' tent types. Then it was time for dinner. During this time it was quite breezy and I hoped it would die down during the night.

Day Two (Saturday) we awoke around 7am. The breeze during the night did not let up and I had to get out of bed to re-stake a peg (the soil was very soft). I was a little cold during the night (only decided to take my summer sleeping bag with some extra clothes) but the others were OK.

After a welcome hot breakfast, we set-off on today's journey at about 9am. First task was to visit Saddle Cone. We dropped our packs at the bottom for the short and easy climb to the rim of the Cone. Finally, another place on my "bucket list" I managed to visit. We then headed in a northerly direction to hit Waihohonu Track. We mainly followed easy terrain but after several hours, we hit some snags. I could see where I wanted to head to - a dry Stream which I saw would take us to the Track.



Munchies time

photo by Tim Hunt

The terrain became more scrub bashing. We managed to find our way down a scrubby dry creek but soon came stuck with deep drops. After some further exploring

around us, it was decided our best option was to climb onto a ridgeline that headed towards our destination that presented much easier walking. A short while later we stopped for lunch close to good access to this dry Stream.

After lunch, we dropped to the dry stream and followed it for a while before becoming stuck again. Had to sidle around this thru easy scrub to finally reach the Waihohonu track, which we followed towards the Hut for about 1hr and before deciding to find a campsite close to the Stream. We found a lovely large area to setup our tents.

Day Three (Sunday). I did not have a good night's sleep as my knee was throbbing a lot. When we all woke, I discussed my problem and said that I felt that I needed to cancel our trip up and around the Upper Tama Lake, as planned.

The group was most gracious in changing our options. It was decided to walk back along the track to the Tama Lakes track junction and try and look for somewhere to camp close to water. Once we arrived at the junction, there was no suitable place so it was decided we would head back to the carpark. Three of the group opted to visit the Upper Tama Lake while the other two headed back to the carpark. So, ended a nice trip where we had good weather.

Trip participants: Les (Leader & scribe), Tim, Kim, Sandra and Mohamed.

Trip 3236

Otanewainuku photography

12 Apr



And this is what they were learning to capture!

Photo by Nicola Lye

Stream to Mangamate Hut (9 beds) and they said the Stream became easier to cross further up towards the Hut. This was part of our earlier discussion - it was unknown what the Stream crossings would be like. They also had heaps of stream crossings between Mangamate Hut and Central Whirinaki Hut.

We stopped for a late lunch at Vern's Shelter before continuing onto Central Whirinaki Hut for the night. This is a 25-bed Hut and we were the only ones here. It took us 6 ¼ hrs from the carpark to the Hut.

Saturday 18th - I had another night with my knee aching a lot. Today we decided on doing a day trip to a cave a couple of hours up the track towards Upper Whirinaki Hut. This track was in better condition than yesterday's walk in.

Six of us returned to the Hut while three keen ones did a further loop from the Cave. The rest of the afternoon was spent relaxing around the Hut. Due to the trip change, I managed to get a txt to the Shuttle company but had no reply, so we were unsure whether it was read. Sure enough, it rained quite heavily during the night while we were tucked up in bed.

Sunday 19th - When we woke in the morning, the rain had stopped. After breakfast and packing we left the Hut at 0745 to hopefully reach the carpark before 3pm. The walk back to the carpark took a bit less time than the walk in. Two of us arrived at the carpark around 1345, with the others arriving around 1430 (they did the part of the Loop track.

The Shuttle arrived at 1500 only to find out that the driver did come at 1330, the original time and, only then checked his phone messages! He was out hunting yesterday. Anyway, we all got out safe and well and had the usual stop in Murupara for our food and drink fix.

The Group was: Les Warren (Leader & Scribe), Jim, Alicia, Peter, Bea, Sandra, Maddie, Kathryn and Luke (a prospective new member).

Trip 3238

42 Traverse

25-27Apr

Saturday the 25th started bright and early with a brief stop at BP Taumarunui before hitting Kapoors Road. This road is unsealed and pot-holed but the Kia managed it due to Les' superb driving skills. After a brief snack we set off walking at 11am. It was reasonably easy undulating walking along a 4WD track. At one point we were passed by a set of five 4WD drivers who looked like they had just driven off the showroom floor! 5km in on the left was Saturday's lunch stop - a hunters' shelter complete with chairs, an outdoor log burner and an open-air bog. We then continued along the 4WD track with the odd view of the snow-capped peaks of Ruapehu, Ngauruhoe and Tongariro. Once again, we were passed by 4WDs - at least 20 of them this time, one wondered where they would have space to turn around!!

A steep downhill led us down to the river. On the right was the first potential campsite, an open space by the river with no tree cover. We decided to continue and found the 4WDs over the river in the next potential camping spot. So, we continued!

Up a big slippery hill and around to the junction of the 42 Traverse and the Te Araroa trail. We headed to the left and down the hill to follow the track to where it crossed the Waione Stream. There were several campsites in the bush in this area - one on the right just prior to the stream crossing, then 2 more on the other side before the bend in the track - one on the right and another on the left. Tents were set up before Bea set about creating a fire which was helped significantly by Lynley's find of dry wood up the hill. Unfortunately, the packing list had not included marshmallows!

Quality of sleep was variable, but morning dawned eventually! First up was the stream crossing, and some very cold feet! Up the hill we went and onto the Waione/Cokers track (Te Araroa). The track was fairly rutted in places and obviously had seen the presence of many quad bikes.

Judith was on the lookout for a campsite that was meant to be off to the right of the track. While contemplating whether the track we had found was likely to lead to it, a pair of hunters emerged from the track in question. Turned out they had built a hut down by the river a number of years ago and it is used frequently by hunters as a base while they are in the area. Of course we decided to go and have a look - a fairly well-maintained quadbike track headed down to the banks of the Wanganui. The hut in question was a sturdy affair complete with water tank, bunk beds and a comprehensive set of rules for use. Maddie's legs had a fight with some blackberry, some would say the blackberry won!

Back on the main track we continued on our way, with some fairly steep ascents and descents. The main river crossing of the trip approached, and was ticked off with no issues - knee high at most and good footing. Lunch was had in the sun in another possible campsite just after the river crossing. We set off with full tums to tackle the last few hours, occasional bits of dense forest with the occasional view of river valley and mountains. A final snack stop had Jim falling asleep in the sun before we set off on the final section. The mud had mainly been detoured around so it was not as bad as forecast. No luck finding the limestone caves however. In hindsight they may have been where we spotted a selection of orange markers. We emerged onto the road to find Les waiting for us in the Kia. All in all, a successful trip, no major injuries and happy campers. Day one: 13.5kms, 4.5 hours. Day two: 11km, 4 hours.

Trip participants: Maddie F (leader), Les W (driver), Jess C (scribe), Emma F, Beatrix M, Lynley M, Jim S, Mohamed A, Christine L, and Judith B.

From the committee table:

New Member: Welcome to Luke Hindmarsh, Matai Moorfield, Logan Cook, Jarrod Paranihi, Bryce & Wendy Powell, and Isabella Powell. Happy tramping to you all, especially the 2 juniors

Resignations: Mark Cornaga and Adele Williamson.

Struck off for non-payment of subscriptions: Richard & Ciele Everson, Hamish Ross, Craig Mustard, Sally Tan, Sandy Hawke , and Carlin Hamill (*Ed comment: every effort is made to make contact with all members regarding this situation*).

Membership: The club has 185 tramping members.

From the club captain: If you are **picking up a club PLB** from Bivouac please ensure the staff are aware that you are a club member as they get the device from a different box to those the business hires out to the general public – who have to pay.

From the committee: Trailer storage handy to Hamilton has been found. If you would like to use the trailer, please contact the new transport officer (Peter Ayson peter.ayson@yahoo.com) for details.

Snippets

➤ **WTC Annual Photo Competition.** Entries for our annual competition are **due on 5th August 2026**. Our dates align with the FMC photo competition so that winners from the WTC competition go on to the FMC competition, which is in September. Entries must be supplied before or on the closing date in digital form. The following categories are in alignment with those of FMC:

1. Above bushline with no human element
2. Above bushline with a human element
3. Below bushline with no human element
4. Below bushline with a human element
5. Historic
6. Native flora, fauna and fungi
7. Long exposure

We also have two WTC categories which are ineligible for the FMC photo competition:

8. Club Character - features a humorous subject which has a club context
9. International

Our photos will be judged by Nicola Lye and Annemarie Lamb, and results presented at the September Club Night. Entries are to be emailed to Jacqui Dick: jacquimd@me.com or given to Jacqui on a USB stick before or on 5th August.

Please don't give them to the judges.

Rules:

A. The definition of a "human element" is flexible but the general intention is: Where the photo contains anything, other than as a very minor feature: people, a hut, a track sign/marker, bridge, ice axe and anything else that has been introduced by humans into the environment then we would define that as having "a Human element". But if a photo has what could be called a Human Element but that element is very small, inconsequential and not a feature in the photo then you could count it as "No Human Element".

B. The intention of the long exposure category is for photography of scenes that the naked eye cannot normally comprehend. These shots require a very long exposure and the use of a tripod. The category is intended for highly technical images of shots taken at night, (including star trails), or in extremely low light situations such as caves or canyons. The category is not intended for normal dusk/dawn photography, or images where a long exposure is used to 'blur' the image (such as flowing water, or movement of the subject).

C. Entries for the FMC aligned categories, apart from Historic, must be taken after 1 September 2024.

D. Definition of "historic": The intention for the historic category is for entrants to go back through club and individual archives to select "old photos" rather than "photos of old things". As an example, a recent photo of a hut built in the 1950's is not a 'historic' photo. However, a photo of the same hut taken in the 1960's certainly is a 'historic' photo. Photos for the historic category must be taken before 1 January 2024.

E. All photos, apart from the International Category, must be taken within New Zealand, which is defined as within our Exclusive Economic Zone. This includes the following islands: North, South, Stewart, Chatham, Kermadec, Sub-Antarctic.

F. Only **two entries per category** allowed.

G. Photos must be between 1MB and 5MB (if they go into the FMC competition, this is the size they have stipulated).

H. Removal or insertion of features not in the original image is not allowed.

Note: Please update your file name to reflect the title or to indicate there is no title, plus the category name e.g. "In the Wild – Above bushline with human element" or "No Title – Long Exposure".


It is advisable to title your photos as this adds to the interest of the photo.


➤ 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 "Wilderness Hiking" and the channel address will show near the top of the page. 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. Auction is normal style, doors open at 10 so 1 hr to view, then bidding starts. If you wish to pay cash please bring small notes as the float might be a bit small. We will happily accept internet banking. If you would like to drop goods off (in the next 10 days would be good) do so at Backstreet Bargains, unit 9, Aston Business court, 45 The Boulevard, Te Rapa. Hours 10-4pm. (The staff know), or call Lorna Gribble, **Ph:**021122 9703 to arrange a pickup.

 **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**).

...from DoC.....

- DoC **great walk and campsite bookings** opened on 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. 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.
- Waihohonu and Mangatepopo huts in Tongariro National Park can now be booked for winter adventures, with each operating as a serviced hut until the next Great Walk season begins.

FMC News

- Despite our efforts to have a voice in the Fast-Track process for the Waitaha Hydro Scheme, the Fast-Track Panel did its best to exclude FMC from it. The Panel was also forced to commission an independent review after we publicly raised concerns about a recreation assessment prepared for Westpower, which included incorrect information about access to the valley. We believe the decision to approve the project was reached through a fundamentally flawed process.

➤ New Zealand is facing the most significant changes to conservation legislation in 40 years, and our skilled volunteer Executive team will be working hard in the coming months to engage with and respond to these proposals. There are three consultations open currently that affect our public conservation land, with more to come soon. We encourage members to have their say.

Conservation Amendment Bill: The Government wants to make changes to the Conservation Act 1987, some of which will adversely affect recreation and conservation across Aotearoa. We are collaborating with a number of organisations to lead a joint submission on this major proposal. Submissions close on 2 July.

National Conservation Policy Statement: DOC is consulting on the first National Conservation Policy Statement, which will replace the current policies directing how public conservation land is managed nationally. Submissions close on 9 July 2026. Find out more on the DoC website.

Evangeline Bivvy DoC is proposing to dispose of Evangeline Bivvy in Lake Sumner (Hoka Kura) Forest Park. Submissions close on 9 July 2026. Find out more at the DoC website.

Other advocacy:

Illegal track closures: We met with DoC for a discussion on track closures following a list put together by FMC followers, noting concerns on certain tracks that had been closed. In the meeting, we came to a common ground and reaffirmed our position to avoid using 'closed' wherever possible, leaving people to make informed decisions. We meet with DoC again to assess progress in June. We will continue to keep members up to date as we know more.

Back Country Trust, Kaweka forest track maintenance, 16-21 May.

Scrolling through Facebook at the beginning of May I saw an appeal from Back Country Trust (BCT) for 6 people to fill the spaces of 6 who had just dropped out of a long-organised track maintenance session. I didn't hesitate in volunteering.

We flew in to Tussock Hut on 16 May, a day early due to cloud forecast for 17 May. I was with two teams at Tussock, one clearing tussock grass and putting in blue waratahs on the track towards Harkness Hut. In retrospect I'm really glad I was on the team clearing windfall and cutting back kanuka and less than a kilometre of tussock grass towards Boyd Hut. Our limit was the Ngaruroro River, where we were met by a team coming from Boyd.

We worked hard for 4 days. My team was a chain saw operator, a scrub-bar operator and two picker-upperers - which was me, I'm grateful for the ear protection! What was cut had to be thrown either side of the track, or stashed in gaps so the wind wouldn't blow it back over the track. The track up to the high point 1254m was mostly beech, classic Kaweka tracks through moss. I saw sign of sika deer, even identifying a rutting pad. The nights were cold, the cloud inversion in the morning gave spectacular vistas over the Harkness and Ngaruroro valleys. I

sat in the front seat for the 10 minute flight out; watching the narrow line between the top of the ridge and the underside of the cloud I was impressed by the navigation skills of the pilot.

I really enjoyed the 6 days and hope to be included in future projects.

The tracks cleared and marked were from Boyd to Tussock, and Tussock to Harkness. If you walk those tracks in the next couple of years I hope you find them easy to navigate.

Amanda



The stream on the Whangarei trip

Photo by Diane Palmer



Tent time on the Easter trip to Tama Lakes Photo by Tim Hunt

bivouac/outdoor
 COMMITTED TO ADVENTURE

we ARE tramping



15% OFF RRP*
 for Waikato Tramping Club


**311 Barton St
 Hamilton
 07 839 4206**

www.bivouac.co.nz 

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



Official Bulletin of
WAIKATO TRAMPING CLUB (INC)
 PO Box 685, Hamilton 3240

NEW ZEALAND REGISTERED MAGAZINE