

The summer has come and gone and as a result of a bumper growing season (and treefall season on some tracks) we have a lot of trackwork lined up for the next few months.

Our big news is that KRT has funded a major upgrade of the Wairoa Shelter – see the item below.

The latest news from DOC is that in June a boardwalk is going to be constructed at the start of the Wharawhara Tramway Track across the historic sawmill dump where kauri dieback was found last year. The expectation is that during July the track, and the link track up to Te Rereatukahia Hut will be reopened.

Some track and hut work has continued over the summer, including:

- Pylon Peak Track – Cambridge TC
- Mt Eliza Track survey and treefall work – Auckland TC
- Track survey and tidy up from Motutapere Hut north, via Ols NS Track to Waiorongomai - KRT
- NS Track from Tuahu Saddle south – Auckland University TC
- Te Rereatukahia Hut – hut cleaning and commencement of painting – a composite group
- Lindemanns Pack Track – Katikati TC
- Waitengau Track treefall clearance – Auckland TC
- Karangahake Mountain Tracks – Auckland Baptist TC
- NS Track from Motutapere Hut north to the metal ladder – Auckland TC

Immediate Plans for the next few months

- Daly's Hut and tracks tidy up – Manukau TC then KRT, DOC, builder visit
- Tracks behind Mt Te Aroha / southern Mangakino Pack Track
- North South Track from metal ladder north to Te Rereatukahia Hut
- Mangakino Pack Track treefalls
- NS Track from Kaimai Summit northwards
- Track surveys

Wairoa Shelter

The Wairoa Shelter is on the track linking the Lindemanns Loop to the North South Track at Cashmores Clearing. It is a site of historic interest where there were once kauri dams on the upper reaches of the Wairoa Stream. The roof had rusted, and the ponga walls were falling down, so the roof and walls have now been replaced with coloursteel, a wooden seat added, boardwalks placed on the nearby tracks, and the helipad upgraded, amongst a number of other tasks that have made the shelter area more attractive for visitors and campers.

Thanks a heap to Katikati TC members - Ian Newman (also KRT trustee), David Vickers the "chippie", Brian Haworth, Laraine Hughes, Peter Williams and Brett Wisheart





Daly's Clearing Hut



This hut is a very important hut for youngsters new to tramping, camping and learning to appreciate the Kaimai backcountry. It is maintained on behalf of KRT by the Manukau TC, with support from KRT and DOC. We have all been concerned for some time about the recurring mould on the ceiling, the condensation issues, drainage issues and the general state of the hut walls and roof. During May it is planned for KRT, DOC and a professional builder to visit the hut to assess the situation, with a view to deciding what form the future maintenance work will take.



Te Whare Okioki

The new toilets are definitely a great improvement to the experience of visiting the hut, although somehow a door latch that had been checked carefully would not open and someone was stuck in the toilet – one could say too much of a good thing ! The door latches have now been replaced and one of the manufacturer's toilet fans needs replacing with a more robust model. We are expecting to fly in another 4-6 bags of firewood soon, so as usual we remind everyone to use the wood economically – please !

Te Rereatukahia Hut

At the end of last year and earlier this month a team of people managed by John Parsons spent several days at the hut cleaning, removing accumulated rubbish and commenced work on the repainting of the hut and toilet. The weather did not play ball, so the painting is not yet completed, but good to know that this work is underway and in capable hands.

Kauritatahi Hut

We have had reports from DOC, Megan from BCT and NZDA Thames Valley all confirming that this wonderful little hut up in the sky on its own side track, not too far from the Thompsons Saddle, needs some significant maintenance work. The hut is maintained by NZDA Thames Valley on behalf of KRT. They are gearing up for that work now, getting quotes on materials, finalising a work list, then working through the logistics of transporting a work party up there. A project to watch over the next few months.



How Do We Pay for it all ?

Our major funding comes from the hut fees people pay for staying at Te Whare Okioki and Te Rereatukahia Hut, less an admin fee deducted by DOC for the use of their hut booking administration. In addition, we have had two major donations that are on on term deposit, meaning with the current high interest rates we receive some useful interest income. But of course the high interest rates won't last at the current levels for long.

The Kaimai Ridgeway Trust is a charitable trust, meaning that donations we receive can be claimed for tax purposes by the donor. We do really appreciate donations whether for general expenses or for a specific purpose. When asked, we encourage groups camping at Te Whare Okioki to provide a donation to KRT, since they are using the facilities that have been provided at significant expense by KRT.

In the past we have received grants from the Backcountry Trust, Lion Foundation and private donors, but nothing recently – timing is always challenging when applying for grants, since quotes typically have a very short shelf life.

Whenever we commission Aviation Training to helicopter into our hut sites, we seldom get any change out of \$3,000, and more complex operations can cost us over \$5,000. That is a lot of hut nights !

We are always happy to discuss funding options with anyone 😊

Who Does Kaimai Backcountry Work ?

KRT is an association of local tramping clubs, branches of NZ Deerstalkers Association and some great individuals who are not attached to either. Most tramping clubs and the NZDA branches have specific areas of Kaimai backcountry responsibility, but there are many gaps in the Kaimai track network that KRT organises mixed work parties for.

A key benefit of this quite loose organisational structure is that KRT can manage the overall administration of the track and hut work, including the key relationship with DOC, while enabling individual groups to get on and do ... real work on the ground.

The number of people who organise work parties is very small, so if you like organising people and getting work done, we would really like to talk to you about how and when to get you on board.

We are also always on the lookout for people passionate about the Kaimai backcountry who can potentially move into a KRT trustee role to help direct the overall Kaimai project and liaise with a variety of groups. However, if that appears daunting (it isn't) , taking on some operational role that interests you most would be of tremendous benefit to us all.

Contact KRT

Website: <http://www.kaimairidgeway.nz/>
Email: kaimairidgeway@gmail.com

Facebook: [Kaimai Track and Hut Users](#)
GiveALittle: Kaimai Firewood

If you want to help, a simple job you can do is walk designated tracks on a regular basis and let us know what condition they are in. Interested ? Then please email us.