



THE BUSH TELEGRAPH

www.pukekohetrampingclub.org

EDITION 560

April 2021

Next Meeting: Monday 3rd May 2021

VENUE: Anglican Church Hall, Wesley Street, Pukekohe.

Supper Duty May Meeting: No one selected at March meeting so a couple of volunteers to assist would be appreciated.

Guest Speaker: No speaker this month as it is our AGM.

Muddy Boot Award: No nominations received at the March meeting. Need some good stories for April meeting.



New Members : A warm welcome to the following who has recently joined:
Ursula Gisler- Howard and Rob Brake

“Where am I?” Competition:

Last month's picture was Port Craig hut on the Humpridge Track. It was not identified by anyone so the editor got nominated to find the photo.

To go in the draw for the prize at our next club night, email the correct identification to deekeys22@gmail.com or put your entry in the boot before the meeting on club night.



President's Notes For AGM

Well what an interesting year the past 12 months have been for not only our club but also the whole country. I think during the past 12 months we have had 4 lockdowns which have severely impacted our meetings and more seriously our trip programme.

However throughout these frustrating times I am really proud of how the club has responded and how we have complied with the government requirements. Some of the rules and restrictions appeared to be unnecessary but still we complied and hopefully did our bit as part of the team of 5 million.

While I think that there is likely to be further restrictions in the coming year or further years let's all take advantage of the opportunities that exist when they are available.

During the past year there have been a wide range of trips that suited most people from multi day hard tramps to easy afternoon strolls. This wide variety of activities is one of the reasons that the club is so strong and long may that continue.

These multitude of trips do not happen by chance and I would take this opportunity of thanking all those people who planned and led trips through the year. Without your efforts the trips would not happen. Throughout the year we have had several discussions about the roles of trip leaders and I would take this opportunity to reinforce the outcome of those discussions that the trip leader is exactly as the name implies, the leader of that particular trip. That of course does not mean that you cannot discuss various options with the leader but ultimately the leader must have the final say.

As this is my final report for this year I would thank the committee members who have supported me throughout the year. I do not believe in holding meetings just for the sake of a meeting but whenever necessary we met or had email conversations over any issues that arose.

At this stage the only committee member that I am aware of who is standing down is Peter Stewart from the bulletin editor role. I would take this chance to thank Peter for his efforts and he has continued the fine line of bulletin editors and has made his own mark in the quality of the bulletins that help keep the club focused and interested.

It may be of interest to members that I have booked a trip to walk the Hollyford Valley track early in December and that I have commenced training to try to regain some of my fitness. So do not be surprised if later in the year I join some easy trips and that is one of the strengths of our club in that such a wide range of trips are available.

I note from the March 2021 FMC Bulletin that the president of that organisation stated that our 5 Summits Tramp was one of the most popular tracks showing in the FMC find my adventure mapping system. This is a real endorsement of the work that was put into this by our small team and we can all be proud of that success. There are a number of groups active in the community who are looking to extend the network of walking and biking tracks around Pukekohe based on our 5 Summits Trail.

I would take this opportunity to thank all members for their assistance and attendance at the various meetings through the year and wish you all happy tramping at whatever level suits you in the coming year.

David

PTC Committee 2020/2021



David Lawrie – President, Emergency Contact & PLB/First Aid Book/Walkie Talkie Holder
lawrie@ps.gen.nz Ph. 238 8407 or 021 656 369

Glenn Clark – Vice President, Weekend Trip Coordinator, Emergency Contact & PLB/First Aid Book Holder
glennmaree.clark@gmail.com Ph. 238 6569 or 021 2457 468

Mark Leys - Secretary, New Member Contact, Aged Expo Organiser, 'Safety in Mountains' Book Holder
mleys@orcon.net.nz Ph. 09 294 8927

Raewyn Lane – Treasurer
raewynlane7@gmail.com Ph. 232 8005

Betty MacDonald – Midweek Trip Coordinator (assisted by Raewyn Lane), Club Shirt Sales
macdonald.betty@gmail.com Ph. 027 224 1470

Dee Keys – Past President, Speaker co-ordinator, Photo Comp organiser
deekeys22@gmail.com Ph. 235 9921

Barry Gibbon – New Member Greeter at Club Night
bandfgibbon@gmail.com Ph. 235 9077

Charlie Browne - Gear Custodian (with Joy Browne)
brownex3@xtra.co.nz Ph. 238 7298

Becky Banks – Publicity Officer & Facebook Administrator
rbanks2016@gmail.com Ph.0210 238 2178

Judy Donovan – Committee
judy.countryknits@gmail.com Ph 027 477 4004

Other positions but not on committee:

Peter Stewart - Bush Telegraph Editor
gardeningpete@xtra.co.nz Ph. 239 1235

Anna Low – Supper box for Club Nights
annalow836@gmail.com Ph. 232 1835

Eric and Linda Muir – Archives and 50th Anniversary booklet

Trip Leaders please inform David Lawrie (2388407 or 021656369) or Glenn Clark (2386568 or 0212457468) about your trip intentions as they are the PTC Emergency Contacts. If they have no knowledge of when/where/who is on your trip, then they can't be of any assistance if help is required. They also each hold a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) and First Aid Manual for trip leaders use. Please return these promptly so they are available for the next week's trip.

Trip Reports

Stonefields/Meadowbank

Leader: Shahar Shaharudin

Its 8.50 am and 8 keen Ramblers gathered at Pukekohe train station. Its raining outside. Perfect. We are on a mission to test drive our rain coats. (although most of us are not aware of the Mission). What time are we going to start the test? Not until 9.00 am. Why? Gold Card holders travel free after 9 am.

Ok. It's 9.01 am. We can tag on. Quite happy we have managed to carry out the process without any drama, we pile into our Pukekohe Rattler. But wait. There's more! AT requires all passengers to have face coverings. A quick look around the team. Yes. We all have our masks on.

Another member joined the team at Papakura.

The rain had eased (as forecast by the weather app) by the time we arrive at Ellerslie train station.

Time for morning tea at the Ellerslie Community Center courtyard.

The trek to Stonefields was as expected. Lots of pavement and a short off-road shortcut.

The rain returned in earnest as we tucked into our lunches at Maungarei Springs lunch stop. Lots of umbrellas suddenly sprung up to protect our lunches.

After lunch we negotiated busy Abbots Way and made it safely to Waitatarua Reserve. It's a pleasant space for lots of dogs going for their daily exercise.

We summited a couple of hills before arriving at Meadowbank Eatery. The rain decided to have another go at us but we were safely seated in the café. The sudden increase in customers put the single barista under pressure but she had all the coffee orders under control.

After filling up with coffee and cakes, we made our way to Meadowbank train station for the return journey back to Pukekohe arriving at 3.30pm.

Test Results.

The rain coat test – Pass.

Face covering test – Easy pass because no official came and told us off for not having it on.

Umbrella test – Successfully deployed. (an un planned test extra)

Well done team and thank you to everyone who took part in the Mission. Enjoyed your company.



Trip Reports cont:

Chelsea/Birkenhead—April 8th

Trip Leader: Betty MacDonald

The group started off minus a leader – 22 boarded the train at Pukekohe, 3 more joined them at Papakura and by the time they arrived at Birkenhead Ferry terminal (about 11am) there were 28, plus the leader.

Great to have public transport return to a more reliable service. When the train arrived at Britomart, the group were pleasantly surprised by the new facilities. And it was a short walk to the ferry without negotiating an obstacle course. The ferry was held up for a few minutes at Northcote Point but otherwise all went well, much to my relief! With several toilet options en route, it meant they didn't all have to queue at Birkenhead and we were quickly on our way.

There is a short steep track from the terminal and then about 10 minutes walk to George Giles walkway round Chelsea Bay to the refinery playground and cafe. After so long in transit with opportunities for morning tea, I didn't plan on a cafe stop there but.... 2 or 3 couldn't resist and kept the group waiting at the start of the Chelsea Heritage Estate track. It's a fairly easy track through beautiful bush to Kauri Point Centennial park. There they had 2 options – either take a short track out and then walk up the road to the main entrance to the park and the good walking track to Kendall Bay, or, continue on a more rugged clifftop bush track to join the Kendall Bay track. Only 3 took the shortcut. At one junction, I decided there would not be time for the large group to continue to Kendall Bay, so, with one exception, we made our way through the bush to join the main track closer to the park entrance, where we would meet the other 3. The youngest and fittest member of the group followed the planned route, but at a sprint, and we all met up on the main track.

Then it was just a few minutes downhill to my place. With builders and a painter at work, it was an obstacle course there but fortunately it was a fine day and we had lunch under the shade on the deck.

The return walk to the ferry was via the shortcut option to Chelsea and most left with plenty of time for a coffee stop at the ferry cafe. A few were happy to take a slower pace planning to catch the next ferry an hour later. I was the tail-end charlie for that group most of the way. The ferry was 10 minutes late and they all caught the same one – so all were reunited for the trip back to Pukekohe without a leader.

A beautiful day and it was great to lead a trip and not leave home till 10.30!! Hopefully we'll get to Kendall Bay another time and check out the other tracks in my new neighbourhood.

Riverhaven Artland, Clevedon—April 14th

Leader: Christine Jenkins

Trip went very well with 13 attending and we had a one and half hour walk in between showers, amazing. It rained heavily before and after but we took the small window of sunshine to enjoy our walk.

I didn't record the names of the artists of the sculptures - all I can say is that it was thoroughly enjoyable with Katie Blundell guiding us around the 40 acre property with its wonderful landscaping, including 20 sculptures interspersed around the trees that were just coming into autumn colours, I would happily go there again. We lunched at the Ciao Bella Café on the Clevedon Papakura road after finding the Farmhouse café full up. We also experienced a tremendous hail storm while we were inside which caused the café to spring a major leak, a curtain of water streamed through the front entrance and caused a bit of excitement for a few minutes!! I am sure we were all home easily by 1.30 or 2pm.

Trip Reports cont:

Rocky's Track, Thames and Waiomu Kauri Grove Track—April 18th

Leader: Linda Gillard

Trampers: Mary, Steve, Kathy, Peter, Michele

Five of us left Pukekohe at 8.00am, collecting Michele at Bombay. Unfortunately, Peter had a foot problem and wisely opted out of Rocky's Tramp, so the remaining five of us climbed steeply for the first hour, being rewarded with clear views across the Firth of Thames. There were a lot of tree roots and you had to watch closely on the descent as the ground was slippery in places. The downward track brings you into Tinkers Gully, passing through regenerating bush and a small nikau palm grove. The track then follows a stream, with a few water crossings, out to the road, and some very tall punga trees caught our attention on this section. We also passed a few old goldmines before coming out on Victoria Street, walking along the gravel road for approximately 15 minutes back to the carpark and greeting Peter 2 hours and 45 minutes after our departure.

We then drove 20 minutes up the coast to the Waiomu Domain Beachfront Reserve for our lunch stop before continuing on to the carpark on Waiomu Valley Road, where we left the cars. Peter joined us for this tramp (with no steep uphill in sight) and we walked approximately 500 metres along the gravel road before crossing a ford (the only place you got your feet wet) and once past the Kauri Dieback Cleaning Station starting on the old pack saddle track which follows a stream with all crossings now being bridged. It is a picturesque easy peaceful walk surrounded by a variety of native ferns and trees. There is a 10 minute steep climb up steps at the end to the Kauri Grove where you once again realise how majestic these trees are. The track deteriorates just past the Kauri Grove continuing on into the wilderness and Crosbies Hut, but we turned around here retracing our steps. Not sure the downhill steps were good for Peter's foot but we all made it back to the cars. An enjoyable 2 hour walk. Homeward bound, we stopped at the Thames Garden Centre Café for refreshments and then safely back to Pukekohe.

Karamatura, Waitakeres—April 22nd

Leader: Diana Murray

11 of our members met up at Cinema 3 and proceeded to the Karamatura Carpark where we met up with two others and had morning tea. We left 1 car and took 2 to the Mt Don McLean carpark. A quick walk to Mt Don McLean summit and a superb view of the Manukau bar and Awhitu lighthouse on one side and the inner Manukau harbour on the other. The weather was perfect for walking but unfortunately we did not see Mt Taranaki due to cloud cover. As we were heading back to the carpark another 4 members were heading up. Back to the carpark and 7 of the group decided to do the first part of the track to the start of the Karamatura track and have lunch then return to the Mt Donald McLean carpark and take the cars back to Karamatura. The others walked on down the 1000 stairs to the Karamatura waterfall. The Bush was stunning with beautiful Kauri and Nikau. We had afternoon tea in the sun at Huia General store.



Hamish's Trip To the Chatham Islands - 8-15 April 2021

Eight day tour of the Chatham Islands. Saw the key highlights.

Visit north to basalt columns. Flow dated back 80 million years.

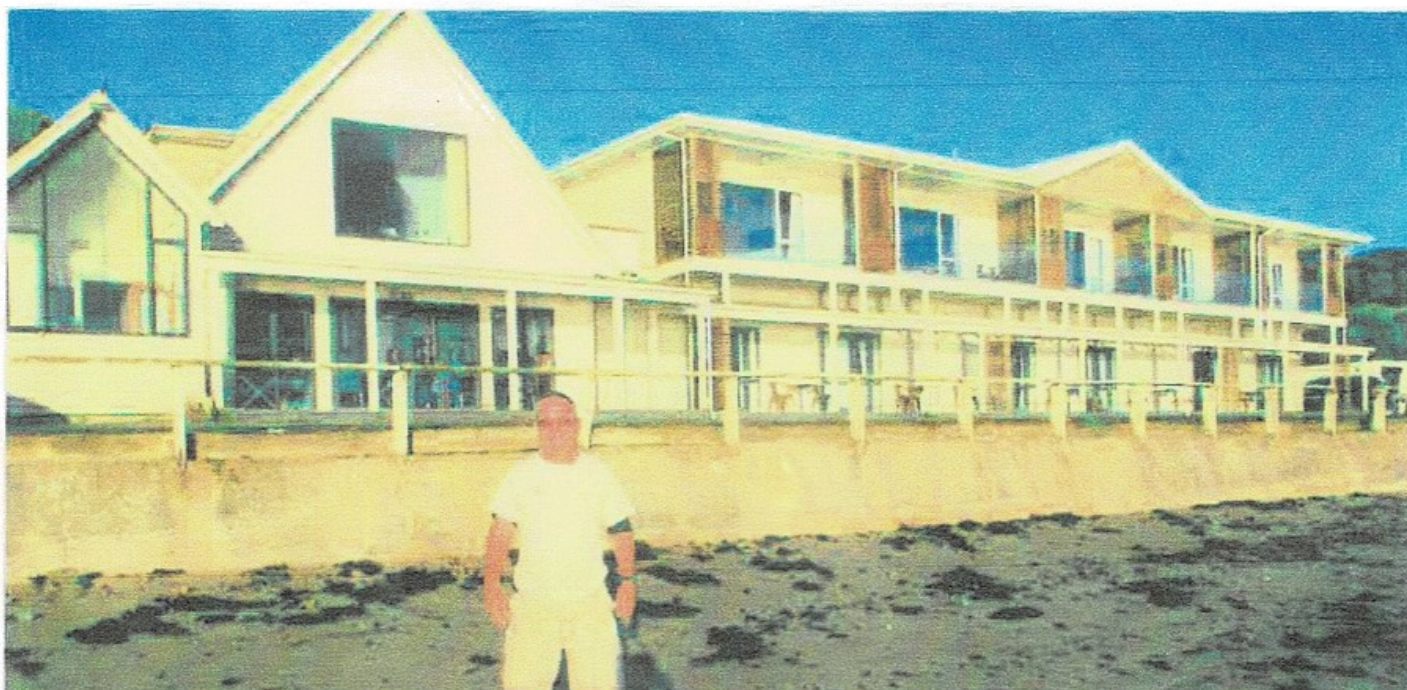
Went to Port Hutt. Has the shipwrecks on the island. Went fishing and got a blue cod.

Been to see Moriori tree carvings. Broughton Landing an old mission whaling station before our cross to reach huge fur seal colony at Port Munning.

Went to Kaingaroa and saw Sunderland flying boat.

Went to Tommy Soloman statue. He was last remaining Moriori.

Great trip, recommend for anybody.



Future Trips

Winter programme 2021

Date	Destination	Leader	Grade	Cost (\$)
Thur 6	Port Waikato	Raewyn Lane		
9				
Wed 12	TBA	Joan Leitch (09)2363288		
16				
Thur 20	North Head, Devonport	Betty MacDonald 027 224 1470		
23	Wauitakeres Huia to Whatipu	John K		
Wed 26	New Lynn/Mt Albert	Shaaron McKee 027 257 0789		
30	Hunuas Suspension bridge loop and Wairoa loop track	Linda		
Thur 3 June	Hunuas (Massey/Cossey Track)	Delwyn Connolly 021 1254261		
5th- 7th	Queens Birthday			
Wed 9	TBA	Ray Handcock 09 278 5878		
13	Waikato Karamu walkway	John K		
Thur 17	Britomart to Cornwall Park (Coast to Coast trail)	Erna Walles		
20				
Wed 23	Eric Armishaw Reserve, Point Chevalier.	Shahar 021 259 0299		
27				

Future Trips cont.

Thur 1 July	TBA	Wendy Quinn 2360704
4	Mid Winter Xmas	
Wed 7		
11	Waikato walks Pukemokemoke Bush and other walks	Linda
Thur 15	Te Awa walk/cycleway – Horotiu section	Mark and Anne Leys 09 2948927
18		
Wed 21		
25	Mt Karioi	John K
Thur 29	Northcote to Birkenhead	Shaaron McKee 027 257 0789
1st Aug		
Wed 4	Mangemangeroa Reserve, Howick	Annette Teague 238 9815
7 & 8	Waitawheta Hut Weekend	John K
Thur 12	Lake Pupuke	Gail Moy (09)576 9177 and Jenny Hari
15		
Wed 18	TBA	Wendy Quinn 2360704
22		
Thur 26	Pt Chev beach and Western Springs	Carole Chambers 027 310 4317
29		

As a guide: Easy=up to 4 hours tramping, Medium=4-6 hours, Hard=>6 hours

Costs- the leader will confirm final costs (A= up to \$10, B= \$10-20, C= \$20-30, D=\$30-45, E=\$45-60)

Weekend trip costs are estimates only

Quote of the Month “If there’s one thing I’ve learned from hiking, it’s that the early bird gets the face full of spider webs.”

GEAR REQUIREMENTS

Day Trips:

Small pack	Suitable footwear
Lunch and snacks	Full drink bottle
Rainwear	Hat (woollen or sun)
Gloves	Small first aid kit / whistle
Thermal blanket	Change of clothes

Weekend Trips:

Waterproof pack large enough to hold all your equipment and food

Sleeping bag	Boots
Rainwear	Warm clothing eg fleece garments, polypropylene, etc
Woolly hat	Gloves/mittens
Torch or headlight	Thermal longs for winter trips or if above the bushline
Toilet gear	Plate and mug and cutlery

Small first aid pack / whistle

If in doubt ask the Trip Leader for advice for day, weekend or longer trips. It is recommended for all trips that the NZ Mountain Safety Council's pack liners be used. These are available from Charlie & Joy Browne (Phone 238 7298) at a cost of \$4.50 each.

Use of Whistle:

Please remember the whistle should be your equipment of choice to attract attention if needed. If anybody falls behind and loses sight of others, feels unwell and must stop for a rest, becomes injured, etc then the agreed call to alert the Trip Leader and others in the party is **THREE (3) LONG whistle blasts, REPEATED as necessary**. The Trip Leader and/or others in the party will respond with **TWO (2) LONG blasts** indicating they have heard and are coming to your aid. It may be helpful in some circumstances that a repeat whistle blast will allow accurate location.

Club Gear:

All Club gear is stored at Charlie & Joy Browne's residence, Jenkin Road, Pukekohe West. All Club members are welcome to use the gear for Club and private trips (however Club trips have booking priority) – hireage to non-members is not encouraged. Club gear is, at all times, to be returned in good, clean condition. All losses/damages must be reported to the Club's Gear Custodians.

HANDY INFORMATION

Monthly Club Meeting:

The Club meets at the Anglican Church Hall, Wesley Street, Pukekohe on the **first Monday of each month at 7.30pm** unless otherwise advised.

Annual Subscriptions:

\$35.00 single \$45.00 family (two or more)

Saturday/Sunday Trips:

Unless otherwise stated **SATURDAY/SUNDAY** Club trips leave from the carpark opposite McDonalds in Hall Street, Pukekohe. Members who wish to be picked up elsewhere must make arrangements with the Trip Leader. Leaders must be contacted by **Thursday** night if you are going on a **Sunday** trip or **Wednesday** night for a **Saturday** trip. Leaders reserve the right to refuse any member participation in any tramp not considered suitable.

Weekend and Longer Trips:

Monday night is cut-off point. Any member who does not adhere to this will miss out. The reason for the cut-off point is to allow time for the Trip Leader to arrange, transport, food, bookings, etc.

Midweek Trips:

Contact Trip Leader for start place and time for trip.

Clarification of Trip Leader's Responsibilities under OSH Regulations:

Only **PAID** (ie Commercial) group leaders are under legal Health and Safety obligation to members of that group. As all Pukekohe Tramping Club leaders are **UNPAID VOLUNTEERS**, the responsibility is on **ALL** members of the group to observe and take responsibility for their own actions.