



# The Bush Telegraph

[www.pukekohetrampingclub.org.nz](http://www.pukekohetrampingclub.org.nz)

**Next meeting: 1 May 2023 @ 7:30pm**

**Venue: Anglican Church Hall, Wesley Street – Pukekohe**

Supper Duty: Frances Gibbon

Guest Speakers: AGM

New Members: Sheryll Martin

## “Where am I competition”



Photo Provided by John Kelsey.

Was identified by Barry as Cape Brett



Where am I Photo x2 supplied by Barry:



## President Notes

Hello all,

Another month has flown by, and our next meeting is just a round the corner. I have just returned from the south Island and crossing the Gillespie Pass near Makarora with Shelena.



We were lucky enough with the weather to get beautiful views on the day of the pass, followed by a hut day of heavy rain. A week before Shelena and I made it up to Dome Summit on Mt Ruapehu for staggering views of Crater lake and the surrounding area, including Mt Taranaki. We felt especially blessed as the forecast was for gales and cloud. We will look at putting this trip on the schedule after winter.

We have had correspondence from Manukau Tramping club who are looking for support in re-opening access to Ma taitai forest and the tracks in Ness Valley. It would certainly be great to have some local tracks opening up when the trend has been going the other way for some time.

Shelena has the new FMC magazines, they will be at the meeting if you would like a copy. The article on the hut removal in Te Urewera was very interesting reading. *It is also time for their executive elections, the current president is stepping down (his thoughts also make for interesting reading in the latest backcountry mag) and there are 2 candidates nominated for the role. Information about both can be found on the FMC website under news, or use this link <https://fmc.org.nz/2023/04/18/fmc-executive-elections-2023/>. In the past we have voted as a club.*

### 5 SUMMITS CHALLENGE

#### Day 11



Peter · 23 Apr 2023



Day 11 - Hump day so now with fewer days to do than I have already done. I was joined today by members of the Pukekohe Tramping club, all of us enjoying the steady rainfall.

As I write this, Peter is just a week away from completing his 21km for 21 days challenge to raise awareness and funds for Cancer Society. It was great to see the club support for him last Saturday despite the miserable day. You can follow his daily updates and make a donation here <https://www.youcanforcancer.org.nz/5summitschallenge/>.

The new schedule will be out soon, my next job is to add my trips. Next month will be another busy one for me, after completing the OTNZ river safety course with Shelena in March I have signed up for the survival skills course involving making my own bivvy and surviving a night in the wilds of an Auckland RP, and the navigation and compass skills course happening in May. If you are keen to take on more challenge in your tramping I encourage you to check them out, details in odds and sods section.

Ngā mihi

Becky

## Future Trips – Programme

Will send out once our Trip Co – coordinator (Glenn) is back next week.

### Trip Reports

On Wednesday 12th April a small but keen group arrived at Tamahere for a walk from Hamilton gardens back to Tamahere. The only rain we had was waiting for the bus. We had an early lunch at Hamilton Gardens courtyard than we walked the new cycle path back to Tamahere. This follows the Waikato River and the Mangaharakeke stream crossing new bridges and onto River glade drive with its big houses.

The boardwalks beside the Waikato River are very pleasant.

The day turned out to be very hot and muggy and a stop at Forever Bound cafe for a well-deserved coffee and cake was great before the drive home.

One note is the kilometres signposted do not appear to be correct and even though flat it was a reasonably long 11k

Which everyone enjoyed.

Shaaron McKee



Late Trip Report ☺

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Three Summits Pukekohe

The weather forecast was for fine but warm weather. There were sixteen walkers ready at the cinema for our walk to Roosevelt Park where Ray joined us. After a short bush to appreciate the lovely Totara trees, we had our morning tea. From the park, we followed the Five Summits of Pukekohe route to the drainage ponds off Anselmi Ridge Road then onto Raven's Rock, Top Rd, William Andrews, Grace James and ending up at the top of Cape Hill for lunch. The shelter at the top of Cape Hill gave us relief from the hot sun. We continued our walk down to Colin Lawrie fields then across to the other side of the fields via walkways to Ridgeway Rd. A walkway from Parvin Place finally bought us back out to East St. From there, it didn't take long to return to the car park or to Columbus for a coffee. The walk was about 10km with a walking time of about 3 hours

Leader Delwyn Connolly





Leader – Barry plus Pip, Mary, Judy, Dennis & Anne, Terry, Erna, Karen W, Bill, Dave, Frances, Maureen, Romi, Kathy, Steve – Kathy's Hubby Dave walked with us for awhile to a surfcasting spot to try his luck. It was Romi's first walk back with us after his motorbike accident, and after 8 operation was great to have his company for part of the way as he built up strength & endurance.



Two key points when planning this 20km beach walk – firstly selecting the correct day with lowest possible low water & tide approx. midday & then sorting the car shuttles to get folks to & from the end points which are 33km apart by road.

While the group from Pukekohe carpooled across to Kentish carpark in Waiuku, we shuttled 3 cars out to Karioitahi Beach ready for afterwards. Once the Pukekohe group arrived at 0830 we headed out to Hamilton's Gap in vehicles and put on boots etc. The

wind was howling down the valley as we prepared, this was unexpected and not a good sign, but once the 17 of us were through the Gap and started heading south down beach it turned out to be good walking weather, overcast, variable wind from behind, and hard wet sand to walk on. The offshore wind and almost no sea swell, we had the least surf I have ever seen in 40+ yrs in Waiuku, in places it was calm as.

First section of 4km brought us round Flat rock to Cochranes Gap, on the way the highlight was a seal playing in the shallows, waving its flipper at us. Morning tea taken here, all the time trying to manage the walking speed & stops to arrive at Black Rock/Mussel Rock point at 12.30pm to match low tide. At this point Frances, Maureen & Romi our shuttle drivers turned back. The meet Dave on way back, he caught 3 fish so Kathy had fresh fish for dinner!!



Next section of 6km brought us to Lake Pokorua outlet / Walton's Gap, we were too early, we had at least 30 mins to kill, so it was time to sit on the beach logs for a break & natter, that turned into early lunch. Lake Pokorua is the Lake you can see from main road at end of Kohekohe Straight down below the "world famous in Kohekohe – Historic Church". This area also has a fenced off historical Iwi Pa site right on edge of coast. They used these gaps down the coast as access from Auckland & Manukau to get to food, but also to travel up & down coast in their waka. So far not a soul meet since starting.

At noon, we departed and headed the 2 km down toward Black / Mussel Rock, the longest of the various headland along this section of coast, and requiring the lowest water to round with dry boots / trousers as no way to climb up and over. Great news, no water, so rounded rock and headed on with the final 8km to Karioitahi Surf Club. Once past rock we were instantly back in civilisation, cars driving along beach, 4x4 vehicles parked along water edge fishing with their torpedos

out. Even worse is the number of abandoned & half buried, rusting wrecks lying along beach Stolen cars/ joy riding???

We meet Romi again, he had walked in couple km's to meet us, so overall an 12km workout for his leg.

Arrived 2pm at carpark, Erna has a chocolate cake as reward for days effort, 20km, 5hrs overall with 2 breaks. Excellent walk, significant areas of cliff face erosion evident, not sure if caused by undercutting from rough seas, or from the huge rainfall over the Anniversary Day / Cyclone Gabrielle weather. As cliff's are mostly sand, they quickly disappear by wave action & redistributed along coast. Thanks to the 8 members for making their vehicles available for shuttling.

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It rained all night, it was still raining as dawn broke, but Sat 22nd April was Day11 and 1/2 way through Peter's 21 day / 400 km 5 Summit's Fundraising Challenge.

Steve, Bill & I carpooled across from Waiuku, and were meet at start by Rod, John & Mark making our support team of 6 willing lads ready for 20.5 km of Pukekohe best parks, right of ways, streets & Summits. One comment was where were the weekend Ladies today???

0800 on the dot we departed in our wet weather gear, firstly heading to Anselmi Ridge summit (didn't stop here as no views) so onwards heading to Roosevelt Park / Doctors Hill summit (again didn't stop as no views but here it was due to the nice established trees & bush) - along the bush tracks and worked our way down to Railway Station, across the over bridge to see a section of the "old" Pukekohe Station being lifted onto a house removal trailer ready to "disappear", the foundations of the new Station platform now in place as P2P (Pukekohe to Papakura) Electrification Project work progresses.



Comfort stop done, it was past the 'old' Franklin Council Offices, now without windows & missing lots of roof tiles, obviously getting ready for demolition, across Bledisloe Park, Samuel Millar Reserve & Pioneer Reserve and started the plod up Upper Queen St to Pukekohe Hill Summit. It was hot work in our rain gear, especially up the steep concrete right of way. Morning tea at top of Hill, under the trees giving us

some slight shelter - and again no view except inside of the low clouds. Our hot drink & snacks were much appreciated. Before we departed we had to earn the Sponsors \$ with a great "wet rat" PR poster shot for bags of Dalton's Garden Mix. This point marked exactly 1/2 way in Peter challenge, 10 days completed, 10 days to go and 1/2 way around today - the count down to finish started!!

Refuelled we were off towards Belmont Rise, past the new school, through the spreading housing areas, past the civil works in McNally Rd (Retirement Village / Rest Home is rumour), and around streets to Belmont rise now all new homes, onwards through Belmont's streets where team split, some via Moloney pathway and couple down the Whangapouri Stream trail to check it's condition after the Anniversary Day Floods (fairly good (some tidy up work required, but still being well used & better than expected) - Past the flooded and now Yellow stickered resthome. Through Kennelly Reserve and Kayes Reserve finally coming out on Paerata Rd at NW, this was the only section with any real damage, several trees down & not been cleaned up yet, wet patches, long unmown grass sections.

Still raining, on the home stretch now, can we smell the coffee!! - under the rail overbridge, past the most expensive roundabout in Pukekohe and up our 5th summit - Cape Hill, where we could see the finish line below. After high 5's, it was down throu the bush section and out onto Max Short Dr and THE END, just as the time



ticked over 1pm - exactly 5 hrs - off with the wet gear, towel down & change of clothes and inside for a lovely cuppa, carrot cake & walnut loaf & chat with Peter daughter Kim over from OZ on short break.

Great day, we all made it, stayed together and had lots of banter as we went. Great effort so far Peter with 11 days & over 200 km completed. Keep it up!! If you want to contribute then link is [• You Can For Cancer](#)

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### Trip Report:

#### Mt Pirongia Giant Kahikatea March 26<sup>th</sup>.

Leader: Peter Stewart.

Party: Pip Wooffindin, Yvonne Spratt, Sheryll Martin, Steve Sherry, Barry Gibbon, Michelle Xu, Kathy Millar, Karen Wyatt.

Leaving Pukekohe at 8am we travelled to the Waikato arriving at the Kaniwhahaniwha Reserve carpark on Limeworks Loop RD around 9:15. After boots on and a toilet stop at the carpark we set off up the Nikau track and then onto the Bell track.

A stop for morning tea at the Kaniwhaniwha caves and then on to the Giant Kahikatea for a lunch stop. At 66.5m this is NZ's tallest recorded tree and is some 400 to 500 years old.

Returning via the same track we arrived back at the carpark around 2:30pm. After changing out of our boots we had time to make a stop for tea and coffee, plus a few sweet treats because we had earned them, at the Whatawhata café.

NZ's tallest tree.



Morning tea stop.

## Gear Requirement

### 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 nonmembers 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:**

\$25.00 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. **Online:** with your surname as the reference and "Sub" as the code, to the PTC bank which is ASB Pukekohe, account number **12 3023 0324204 00**

#### **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 cutoff 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.

## PTC Committee 2021/2022



Rebecca Banks - President  
[rbanks2016@gmail.com](mailto:rbanks2016@gmail.com)

Ph. 0210 238 2178

Barry Gibbon - Vice President, New member Greeter at Club Night and Emergency Contact & PLB/ First Aid Book/Walkie Talkie Holder  
[bandfgibbon@gmail.com](mailto:bandfgibbon@gmail.com)

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Shelena Wiggill - Secretary, Bush Telegraph Editor and Aged Expo Organiser, "Safety in Mountain" Book Holder  
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Glenn Clark - Weekend Trip Coordinator  
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David Lawrie - Emergency Contact & PLB/ First Aid Book/Walkie Talkie Holder  
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Mark Leys - New Member Contact  
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Raewyn Lane - Treasurer  
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Raewyn Lane - Mid Week Coordinator ( assisted by Betty MacDonald)  
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Dee Keys - Speaker coordinator & Photo Comp organiser  
[deekeys22@gmail.com](mailto:deekeys22@gmail.com)

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Rebecca Banks and John Jacobson- Publicity Officer & Facebook Administrator  
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Ph. 0210 238 2178

Judy Donovan - Committee  
[judy.countryknits@gmail.com](mailto:judy.countryknits@gmail.com)

Ph. 027 477 4004

### Other Positions but not on Committee

Anna Low - Supper box for Club nights  
[annalow836@gmail.com](mailto:annalow836@gmail.com)

Ph. 232 1835

Eric and Linda Muir - Archives and 50th Anniversary booklets

### Trip Leaders

Please inform David Lawrie ( 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.



