



The Bush Telegraph

www.pukekohetrampingclub.org.nz

Next meeting: 5th Dec 2022@ 7:30pm

Venue: Anglican Church Hall, Wesley Street – Pukekohe

Supper Duty: Frances Gibbon

Guest Speakers: GEAR SWAP

New Members: nil



EVENING!!

“Where am I competition”

Which City on the East coast North Island would you see these beautiful cliffs



President Notes

Presidents report November 2022

It's hard to believe that this is my last report for 2022 and we will be winding down for the summer break in a few short weeks.

It was wonderful to have so many attend the November meeting when Judy became an Access Champion, whoop whoop. Walking Access/Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa gave some interesting insight into



their work after presenting Judy her award and provided some delicious finger food catered by Caterpillar café. It was great to hear that the hard mahi done by Judy and the team has had such a positive impact on raising interest in developing more trails, and I know Judy is still working hard on this.



Since the meeting the Pukekohe Tramps completed Walking Stars 2022. I'm happy to report the weather was very kind and it was lots of fun walking through the city by night, K Road was especially memorable. The last of the team came in just after Midnight and together we raised \$1623, thank you to all our Walking Stars and wonderful supporters.

However, since that the weather has not been so kind, to me anyway. I postponed my Homunga to Waihi Beach trip due to bad weather to the following weekend, and then changed it to a benched track in the Hunuas when the forecast remained unsettled.

Fortunately, we got out dry and I was very happy to stretch my legs

again.

The Rangitoto Station track maintenance weekend has also been postponed to the Summer schedule. Let's hope things are more settled in the New Year. Planning has started for the Summer schedule, so if you have suggestions of trips you'd like to see on the program, or you can lead a trip do get in touch with our coordinators, Glenn for the weekend trips and Raewyn for the mid-week.

We have just a few more trips on the schedule for this schedule, wrapping up with social picnics, and our final December meeting to see out the year. This meeting is also a gear swap, offering an opportunity for members to swap some quality gear they are not using for something new to them. We have some donated gear also that needs a good home.

It has been a very positive year for the club, we have had a number of new members join, bringing in new energy and a range of wonderful trips across our beautiful country. We can also celebrate some great successes in the inaugural FMC Film Festival, in collaboration with the Waiuku Lions, which raised valuable funds for the Starship pediatric ward, and the Cancer Society's Walking Stars. I look forward to seeing lots of you at the meeting or the Sunday picnic to catch up before we shut down for the summer.

Becky

Future Trips – Spring Programme

Date	Destination	Leader	Grade	Cost { \$ }
Wed 31st Aug				
4th Sept	Rotary Walkway Panmure Estuary	Barry Gibbon	E	A
Thurs 8th	TBA	Ray		
11	Mt Kaitarakihi	Becky	H	B
Wed 14 th				
18	Kaimais Visit Mangamuka Hut	Glenn Clark (2386569)	M	B
Thurs 22nd	Part of Pukekohe five summit trail	Sue Western		
24/25	Kaimais (limit 12) A night at Te Rereatukahia hut	John Kelsey (021 711853)	M	50
Wed 28th	Drury South	Shaaron		
1 & 2 Oct	Rangitoto Station Annual Track and bait station maintenance	Glenn and Maree Clark (2386569)	M	65
Thurs 6th	Hunua	Delwyn		
Thurs 6-Mon 10th	Te Pua-a-Tāne Circuit, Whirinaki Forest (limit 6)	Becky	H	110+food
Wed 12th	Titirangi	Wendy		
16	Hunuas Ernies Track	Selena Wiggill	M	A
Thurs 20th	Waihi?	Mark		
22/23/24	Labour Weekend			

Wed 26th	Devonport / North Shore area	Jenny and Gail		
30	TBA	Becky		
Thurs 3rd Nov	Wattle Downs	Alison		
4th -6th	Rotorua (limit 12) Tarawera and Okataina Trails	John Kelsey (021 711853)	M	
Wed 9th	Panmure to Meadowbank	Prue		
Sat 12th	Walking with the stars	Barry Gibbon	M	
Thurs 17th	TBA	Ray		
20	Homunga Bay to Waihi	Becky	M	B/C
Wed 23rd	Hamilton Gardens to Tamahere	Shaaron	M	B
25/26/27	Rangitoto Station Annual Track and bait station maintenance	Glenn and Maree Clark (2386569)	M	65
Thurs 1st Dec	Rangitoto	Raewyn	M	
2nd, 3rd and 4th	Coromandel Coromandel walkway and White Star Station	John Kelsey (021 711853)	M	
Wed 7th	TBA	Dzintra		
11	Awhitu Regional Park Walk and pre xmas picnic. Camp overnight?	Dee 0273613663		
Thurs 15th	Pukekohe (3 Aufidius Pl, bring a plate)	Delwyn		
	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 \$15, B= \$15-25, C= \$25-35, D=\$35-50, E=\$50-70) Weekend trip costs are estimates only For mid week costs (e.g. A/C with/without Gold card)			
	Version- October 25			

Trip Reports

Trip leader Delwyn Connolly

Syliva Park to Mt Wellington return

A trip with all seasons

Twelve very hardy members started on the trip to Mt Wellington with the weather forecast promising no showers after 10am. We reached Syliva Park after 10am. The forecast was as reliable as the transport system with Betty not able to join us as the bus didn't turn up. Were greeted with showers as shortly after as we left the station and had our morning tea at the Waipuna Basin in between the showers. After walking around the eastern side of the basin we climbed up the road to Mt Wellington.



The wind was very strong and gusty and the planned lunch stop at the top for the view was abandoned. When Erma and Shaaron wanted to climb to the summit, Mark volunteered to accompany them which was just as well. At one stage on the way down they linked arms to prevent being blown over.

The rest of the group found a sunny spot out to the wind on the nearby Heritage Trail for lunch with the showers taking a break and the sun coming out. Two members returned early leaving eight for the walk back to Syliva Park. The weather wasn't done with us, and we encountered some hail on our way back via the Waipuna Basin to make it back to Syliva Park for a warm drink at the café. The distance walked was over 10 km.

We had a beautiful day, **26th October**, to walk from **Bayswater to Devonport**.

Lead by Gail and Jenny

We had 30 people meander through lower Bayswater to Plymouth Reserve, over the bridge to a new playground for lunch.

After lunch we went up a steep walkway on our way to Mary Barrett Glade, a beautiful bush walk through to Lake Rd and onto the walkways at Ngataringa Park on our way to Devonport.

Unfortunately one of our party had a fall tripping over a tree root. We hope that they are on the road to recovery.

The walk finished at Devonport where some had a coffee or Ice cream before making their way home.

The Wattle downs loop 3rd November - this is the first trip that Alison has led.

Leaving from Wattle farm road ponds, the only toilets are here

We had 17 members and 2 guests set off after meeting at 10.20 which coincided with the bus from Manurewa railway station.

Morning tea at the ponds under grey skies and headed round the back of the ponds and then onto the concrete pathway on Bluewater drive continuing on to Manene st and rejoining the trail on the Parhurehure inlet side and lunch at St Anne's foreshore reserve



Then onto the end of the concrete trail then up the short alley to Mcquarrie ave. Then nearly back to the cars. The day was a little damp but pretty good and quite humid, pity the tide wasn't in.

But I think the trail was enjoyed by all, it is mostly flat. No cafe's but some did recharge with coffee and cake at Waiata Shore cafe



Mt Wellington to Meadow bank, Wednesday 9 November – Prue Brown

By the time the train left Papakura there were 15 of us which was a good turnout given the rain the day before and the rather gloomy looking sky in the morning.

We changed trains at Otahuhu (Ray boarded at Papatoetoe) and got off at Panmure to use the loos then walked up Mt Wellington to the flat grassy area for morning tea. After a quick bite to eat most of us did the loop up to the summit and back.

The views from the top were excellent despite the cloudy day. A few stayed back and minded our bags. From there we carried on down the mountain exiting at Gollan Rd and taking the track out into Stonefields. It was footpath walking along Morrin Rd and then we entered the track from Merton Rd just behind Countdown. Shaaron left us here as she was meeting up with a friend back at Stonefields.



The path is called "The Path of Land and Sea" and it took us to our lunch spot just before the top at Sunhill. After lunch we crossed the road and carried on down the same path to the Meadowbank train station. It's such a fantastic feat of engineering and construction and many many of our ratepayer dollars went into it I'm sure!



Anne and Rae decided to take the train home from Meadowbank and the rest of us carried on along the path beside the Orakei Basin to the garden centre at Orakei for refreshments. After a nice rest we boarded the train at Orakei to Papatoetoe then changed to the Southern Line and home. I had a very enjoyable day –thank you all for your company.

Trip report Tarawera trip 4/5/6 November

John Kelsey



Our party of 12 traveled down to Rotorua by van on Friday night stopping in Matamata for dinner at a great cafe selling food from the Philippines. We stayed over the weekend at the Top 10 holiday park at the Blue lakes.

Luckily 4 days earlier the Tarawer trail had reopened so we were able to go ahead with our hike there on Saturday morning. We took a scenic water taxi ride around to hot water beach with perfect weather. Half the group enjoyed a soak in the hot water steam near the lake after an initial 1.5 hour hike. Afterwards we hiked on through a variety of landscapes with great views across the lake. In the evening we had an enjoyable dinner out at a local pizza restaurant and ice cream.



In the morning after are tasty cooked breakfast John dropped us off at the water taxi which took us up the eastern side of Lake Tarawera to Humphreys bay campsite to start the Northern Tarawera track. This took us through nice bush, rock formations and along the lake edge. Lunch was on the jetty at the Outlet with stunning lake views. We then carried on to the stunning Tarawera falls on a track that follows the river which at times goes underground. John very kindly picked us up at the Kawerau forest end for our journey back to Pukekohe.



A fun group and great tracks and scenery made for a great weekend. Many thanks to John Barriball for being our driver and to Joy and Charlie for looking after our cars.

Trip Report – 2022 Walking Stars – 12th Nov 22



This is the 4th time PTC has taken part in the Walking Stars event & supported the NZ Cancer Society Fundraising efforts. 14 registered as a team under the “Pukekohe Tramps” banner – Becky, Gerald, Shelena, Peter, John J, Barry, Michelle Xu, Dave B, Mary, Tony O, Anne & Dennis, Erna & Dianne and the team raised \$1623 supporting this year’s grand total shown of website of \$230, 163.

On the night 12 walked – Tony O came back from holiday with Covid and was sadly in isolation, while Mary had unplanned conflicting commitments arise

and missed the event. On the night, Bill W switched teams and joined us on the walk.



Walking Stars is a night time fun walk of either 21 km or 12 km as loops of Domain / CBD, it’s not a race, as you have to stop at any pedestrian crossings and await the lights, you have to share the streets with Sat night diners & revellers, ensure you don’t trip over uneven footpaths, or dropped electric scooters, or walk into trees, rubbish bins, bus stop seats in the way. However, this makes for a unique experience and getting to see parts of our city your potentially would ever visit.

After a 2year gap due to cancellations by Covid Restrictions / lockdowns etc Walking Stars 2022, was quite small (about ½ the normal pre Covid level entrants), but then it also just happened to clash with the Women’s Rugby World Cup Final between NZ Black Ferns and England Red Roses.

We started as a group at 8pm on fields in front of the Domain Grandstand, firstly around the Domain, then out onto Grafton Rd by the ASB Tennis Centre, up & across Grafton Bridge to Symonds St where Erna & Dianne turned off to complete the inner 12km loop, while the remainder progressed along K Road, Ponsonby Rd and Curran St to end up down by the water under the Harbour Bridge and the Westhaven Marina & officially ½ way & furthest point from Domain. PHEW!



By this time we knew from the wild cheers coming out of the crowded licenced establishments, that the Black Ferns had won with a nail-biting come from behind World Cup win, and from the almost endless parade of Flag waving cars that Samoa had surprising beaten England to progress to the Rugby League World Cup Finals for the first time – a happy time in the city!!

We started back, followed the harbour edge boardwalks, around past all the boats, including a couple advertised for sale for a “reasonable” \$1.8M and \$2.3M, then around Victoria Park and on to Silo Park, Wynyard Quarter and Viaduct Basin to Ferry Building and along Quay Street following the “infamous Red Fence” past Spark Arena, turning on Strand as we approached the final section.

A final short puff up Parnell Rise and along through Village, past the Holy Trinity Cathedral, round front the Museum with its wide Waitemata Harbour / Rangitoto vista, and on to the finish in front of Domain Grandstand.

Everybody COMPLETED their own challenge, finishing in groups taking between the 3½ hrs and 4¼ hrs. Our rewards officially were a finishers ribbon, a cuppa tea/coffee & bikkies, but as a team of Pukekohe Tramps (take that either way you want), we all had a great night, nice cool weather with no rain, good company, interesting fellow walkers, even more interesting members of “community” out & about parts of our city, undiscovered parts of city, great volunteer marshals & a sense of achievement, whilst assisting a good cause.

TO BE REPEATED!!

Trip Report – The Hunt for the Gatland Hilton – Sun 24th Oct – Hunuas

Barry Gibbon

It was Labour weekend, No Club trips scheduled and Hunuas Ranges had announced closure for the 2nd round of 1080 baiting – BUT baiting was delayed, and Park Warden confirmed gates would be open over weekend – therefore an unplanned opportunity for some for a bit of “hut hunting”



On page 29 of the Hunua Kokako Recovery Project booklet, I found the following sentence

Gatland Hotel can be found on the far side of the KMA, across the river on MA line. It was intended for use as another base from which to do bird work such as surveying. Due to her efforts preparing the hut and the site, it was named Gatland Hotel after Rosemary and is normally referred to as the Gatland Hilton. The lean-to at the front of the hut was built with the help of Rosemary’s parents, who were the first people to stay in the hut while Rosemary camped nearby.

Ex PTC Club member Rosemary provided additional instructions to assist our “hunt”

The hut is marked on the 2013 Hunua Kokako map as "Gatland Hilton". It was named that by one of the volunteers, who printed out a fancysign on his computer and hung it up in the hut. It should be relatively easy to get to it from Piggot's Campsite. If bait station numbers remain unchanged, MA starts at #63 on the Upper Mangatawhiri Track. Going downhill on MA, the hut is on the left not very far down, but off the track a bit. If you get to bait station 6, you have gone too far, but not by very much. I don't know how much maintenance it has been getting, but the path in could be quite overgrown.

So, our mission, was to find & confirm condition & location of Gatland Hilton for historic interests.

We parked at Camp ground carpark, walked up onto & across dam



(which was full & overflowing, a bit different to the low levels on the last several trips) and up Lilburne Rd to Piggotts Camp for break, then followed Rosemary’s instructions. Other than slow progress on some sections of track & some initial difficulty finding the MA track turnoff (which a lunch break instantly solved), we found The Gatland Hilton, in good condition, and had been used by 2 members of the Kokako team for few nights back in July during the bird survey.

8.8 Km from dam, 625 metres climb and 4 hours each way.

Trip Report Sunday 27.11.22 Suspension Bridge Wairoa loop track

Leader: Becky

Participants: Jeanette and Shanon



After crossing the dam and following the road we

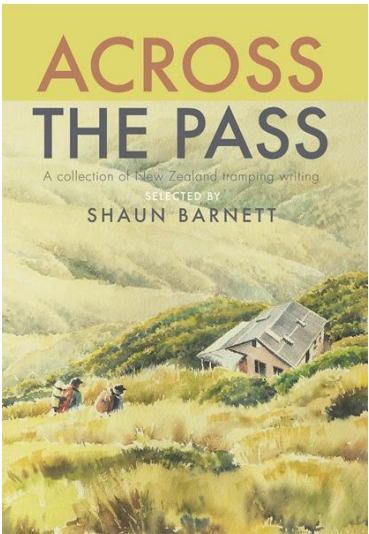


This was a great back up option when the weather is so unpredictable being close to home and utilizing benched tracks with bush cover most the way around. The bush was beautifully lush and fragrant. We has sunny skies leaving Pukekohe at 8am and a short drive to the Carpark on Ohau Road. We were on the track by 8.40am and took the Suspension Bridge track to walk the loop clockwise. We climbed up to lookouts over the reservoir and surrounding farmland before dropping down to the dam, it was great to see it full before summer begins.



picked up the Wairoa track. As we climbed this track the rain started, by the time we got to the off-track lookout it had stopped. Eventually we came out onto mountain road again and followed it until we came to the Wairoa loop track turnoff. This section descended until we eventually followed the Wairoa stream back to the carpark, arriving at 11.10am nice and dry.

ODDS n SODs



One of our Fellow Tramper Mary highly suggested the book below is certainly worth a read, she took it out form the local library:
Across the Pass includes writing from New Zealanders such as writer John Mulgan, mountaineer Sir Edmund Hillary and adventurer Graeme Dingle. The pieces range from epic tales to stories of strolls, writing that pokes fun at companions or instead celebrates that strong bond often forged when facing challenges together.

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:

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

Small first aid pack / whistle

Waterproof pack large enough to hold all your equipment and food

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:

\$25.00 single \$40.00 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 ~~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** (i.e. 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

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

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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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Ph. 2386569 or 0212457 468

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

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Charlie and Joy Browne – Gear Custodian

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Ph. 2387298

Rebecca Banks and John Jacobson- 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

Anna Low – Supper box for Club nights

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.

