



The Bush Telegraph

www.pukekohetrampingclub.org.nz

Next meeting: 7th Aug 2023 @ 7:30pm

Venue: Anglican Church Hall, Wesley Street – Pukekohe

Supper Duty: Frances Gibbon

Guest Speakers: This is sure to be an interesting talk from our intrepid club member John Kelsey, who has recently completed several overseas hikes and adventures in exotic locations.

New Members – none

“Where am I competition”

The Where Am I photo from the July meeting created some interest and I have been requested to provide details for the next edition of the newsletter.

The bird in question was a Bar Tailed Godwit which most people correctly guessed. However, the real interest in the photo was that it is clearly showing a green leg flag with the letters BVJ. On close inspection it will also be seen to have a thin metal aerial projecting from its back end.



The green leg flag indicates that the bird was captured and banded in Brisbane in Australia. Each country along the flyway has an individual colour, ie NZ is white. This was on its southward migration and was captured early in November 2021.

It was anticipated that the bird would remain in Morton Bay in the Brisbane area and hence it was fitted with a solar battery powered satellite transmitter so that the banders could determine where it travelled in that area. This transmitter is located on the birds back and hence the aerial projecting from its rear end.

However, shortly after it was tagged it left Brisbane and flew to New Zealand. We received a report that it was in the Manukau Harbour, and a friend and I went looking for it on the high tide roost near Karaka. We found the bird on the 21st of November, not long after it would have arrived in New Zealand. As can be seen from the photo the bird is a little skinny because it utilised its fat reserves in the flight across the Tasman Sea.

The bird remained in the Manukau Harbour and was regularly seen up until March 2023. It then left from New Zealand and headed to China and has recently moved on to its breeding grounds in Alaska.

It will be interesting to see if it returns to New Zealand or back to Australia.



Photo provided by Barry for July, he to has an interesting story to tell about this photo.

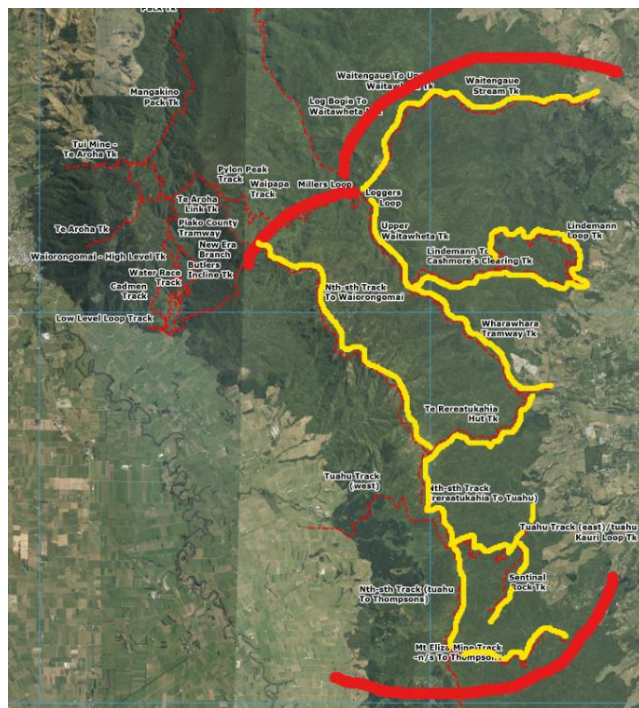
President Notes

President's Report July 2023

Very sad news this month that Kauri die-back has been found in the Kaimai ranges, which has triggered the closure of more tracks.

The closures include:

- Waitengau Track
- Waitengau to Upper Waitawheta Track
- Upper Waitawheta Track
- Lindemann to Cashmore's Clearing Track
- Lindemann Loop Track
- Wharawhara Tramway Track
- North-South Track to Waiorongomai
- Te Rereatukahia Hut Track
- Wharawhara Link Track
- North-South Track (Rereatukahia to Tuahu)
- Tuahu Track (east)
- Tuahu Kauri Loop Track
- North-South Track (Tuahu to Thompsons)
- Sentinel Rock Lookout Track
- Eliza Mine Loop Track to Thompsons



Track)

Edition 586 – July 2023

This will further restrict the tramping tracks we can access for the time being and is a reminder for us all to be sure to do our part to prevent further spread. Obey track closures, stay on the track and be sure to clean and disinfect footwear and gear at cleaning stations. There is more information on the DOC website [here](#). The map of closures can be downloaded [here](#).

The latest FMC Backcountry magazine is in, along with FMC cards. If you have not received yours yet be sure to pick it up at the meeting. It was interesting reading the president's column and his thoughts on the threats facing our backcountry huts and tracks as we continue to feel the effects of climate change. There were also some interesting articles on the Back Country Trust and the Cyclone Gabrielle aftermath. And a couple on Zero Carbon Dreams and reducing the carbon footprint of recreation. A difficulty task in Auckland with the limitations of its public transport system and getting harder with every track closure. A worthy challenge for the next schedule though, perhaps we can take inspiration from our intrepid midweekers, who make ample use of whatever buses and trains are available. It is clear that we are all going to have to get creative and do our bit as we adapt to our changing environment.

We are starting to plan the next schedule so do shout out if you have a trip or track on your list you'd like included or that you are able to lead. We had great weather for once this weekend to climb up the Pinnacles and NIWAs outlook for a dryer than average August has me very optimistic we will be able to enjoy the last few weeks of this schedule.

Take care on the tracks

Becky

PUKEKOHE TRAMPING CLUB

ONLINE RAFFLE IN SUPPORT OF THE BACKCOUNTRY TRUST

KAURI BOWL, DIAMETER 340MM, 150MM DEEP
RETAIL VALUE APPROX \$250
TICKETS \$5 EACH

To purchase deposit money in club account 12-3023-0324204-00 with your name and bowl as reference.
Email Raewyn once done and if you want a particular number/s (1-100)
Winner will be drawn at club meeting once all tickets sold

Future Trips – Programme

Winter programme 2023

Thur 1st June	City By Ways	Mark		
3rd	Waitawa Regional Park	Mary Crawford	E	A
Wed 7	TBA	Shahar		
11	Wairere Falls	Peter Stewart (0272391235)	E	20
Thur 15	TBA	Ray		
17/18	Waitawheta Hut (Skills Weekend)	Becky Banks	E	C
Wed 21	Ponsonby Herne Bay	Gail and Jenny		
25		Peter Stewart (0272391235)		
Thur 29	Surf to Soil	Mark		
1st July	Hakarimata	Becky Banks (02102382178)	M	B
Wed 5				
9	Waiotahi Track	Peter Stewart (0272391235)	E	20
Thur 13	TBA	Shaaron		
14/15/16	Rangitoto Staion Track work	Glenn & Maree Clark (2386569)	E/M/H	60
Wed 19	Hill Park Reserve	Rita and Ngaire		
23	Mt Te Aroha	Peter Stewart (0272391235)	M	40
Thur 27	Parnell	Prue		
30	Mt Kakepuku	Shelena Wiggill (0274033446)	M	B

Winter programme 2023

Wed 2 August TBA

Ray

6	Sentinal Rock	Becky Banks (02102382178)	M	B
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Thur 10

13	Mt Auckland	Peter Stewart (0272391235)	E	15
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Wed 16

20

Thur 24 TBA

Dzintra & Larry

27	Te Tapui Loop Track	Shelena Wiggill (0274033446)	M	C
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Wed 30

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

Version- 8 May

Trip Reports

Oops I forgot to add the below Waiorongomai trip to June edition.

Waiorongomai Trip Report 28.05.23 – Pip and Mary |



Pete, John, Suzy, Pip, Mary and Dave set out UP the High Level Pack Track in warm dry conditions, and climbed for just over an hour where we stopped for morning tea. The track was a lot muddier than the reconnaissance trip we had done in April. We met up with a group of nine from the Cambridge Tramping Club and one of the guys was asking about a "Peter Stewart". Of course Pete was just standing there. It was funny to watch as the context stopped that instant recognition. This group had come up another way, more of that later.

We continued to climb up and then followed undulating terrain, crossing several small bridges and through the short tunnel. The water coming off the hills and across the track was faster and more copious than in April. The waterfalls were rushing with water.



The plan had been to climb to the saddle but we stopped just short of there and ate lunch in a

sheltered spot but with no view.

We retraced our steps for a short while and then joined the

May Queen Incline walking over the Piako Tramway. Care was taken as the boards were very slippery and the mud was like thick soup between them.



When we arrived back at the junction where we would rejoin the High Level pack track down to the carpark we checked whether Pete knew anything about the Cadman Track, that the Cambridge group had come up. He said it was ten minutes longer but meant we wouldn't be covering old ground. What a great decision (thanks Pete). The track hugged the hills winding around and down. The forest was completely different, much more open with some wonderful old Puriri trees and lots of tui.

Fortunately the weather gods were on our side, with only about five minutes of a cold wind and five minutes of rain.

Ponsonby/ Herne Bay trip 21 June lead by Gail & Jenny

26 people came on the trip. We were fortunate that the showers stayed away until we were on our way home.

We left Britomart and followed the viaduct stopping where we had a good view of the fabulous launches and yachts. We seemed to be sheltered from the wind. After morning tea we went across Victoria Park to Franklin Rd. There we wound our way through the streets looking at the old former working man houses. Most of them have been restored to a better glory than their former years. It was interesting to see the quirky additions some people have added onto the top of their places to get a prime view.]

Upon reaching Ponsonby Rd we then took our lives in our hands to cross to Tole Rd and through Tole Park to slightly bigger residences at the back of Jervois Rd. White appeared to be the colour of choice of the newly renovated villas. Many had added onto the back of their places keeping the character of the houses. We emerged onto Jervois Rd crossing to the more superior residences. Here we saw some huge old villas. The upkeep would be enormous. We had lunch at a beach at the end of Wallace Rd.



After lunch we wandered along looking at the large houses until we came up to Jervois Rd. We were fortunate that the outer link bus came along almost straight away which gave us a tour to Newmarket. We thought we were doing well to get home reasonably early. We did until we got to

Papakura. Unfortunately we got caught in gridlock after a truck accident on the Drury motorway bridge. It took the bus 2 hours to make its way to Pukekohe. At least we were warm

Surf to Soil – Leader Mark Leys

29 June



Would you trust a trip leader who wore non-matching socks? Despite the poor forecast, we did the first section under cover via Commercial Bay to Viaduct Harbour. Taking morning coffee (Foodcourt handy) on a sun drenched deck at the HSBC. Then being careful not to cover the same route as the previous walk we made it to Beaumont St. Before sheltering from a passing shower.

We visited the Base of Sea Cleaners who we had observed in action on our Green Park walk.

Then it was on to West haven Marina and into a stiff breeze under the Harbour Bridge to a small beach beside the Curran st. Onramp for lunch. 25 pensioners with sticks must be pretty threatening as 3 members of the public and their dogs promptly left. After lunch we split into two – those who wished to keep their footwear clean and those who wanted like weekend trampers. We arrived at the same time at Jacob 's ladder.

At Victoria Park the group split again. Half headed for Britomart and the rest did a further 6 kilometres of city byways including the celebrity walk at Victoria Market, 2 spiral staircases, Pioneer cottages between skyscrapers, Grafton Bridge, Auckland Hospital, the Domain and thence to Parnell Railway Station. We were back at Papakura at 1630.

Saturday, July 1 Hakarimata – Leader Mary and Pip

Five of us set off from Pukekohe in not so favourable weather to meet Sheryl in Ngaruawahia.



We started off in what could be described as spits that lasted about 10 minutes. We set a cracking pace up the 1400 steps that took about an hour. The green markers are not worth looking at until you are nearly at the top, who wants to know you've only walked 200 of them! Some of us walked up to the historic waterworks, a short diversion. We had a great conversation with a man (not so young) at the top who was on his second of his sixth UP of the day. Later in the year is hoping for 24 accents in 24 hours as a fundraiser for blood cancer. Now that is inspirational, just like our Peter.

The views from the summit were clear but there was a cold wind so

we ate morning tea under the platform in the glorious sunshine.



From the top we headed south descending to Waingaro Road. The walk down being less strenuous allowed us to admire the beautiful bush. The nikau at the top are copious for such a spot. The track was in great condition which allowed a quick pace to the cascades. A great place for lunch in the summer but a bit too cool in the middle of winter so we headed to the picnic spot in the sun for lunch before heading out along the short road section to the car. The Hopin Stopin Cafe in Taupiri was very busy but super quick and efficient. After stocking up on a few calories and caffeine we farewelled Sheryl there and were home by 2 00 p.m.

Hillpark Reserves and Auckland Botanic Gardens Walk



On July 19th 2023 a keen group of walkers came along to our first walk as leaders. We started off from the Manurewa Library with the weather gods shining on us .Our walk led us up Hill Road to the Orford Reserve with its mature native bush and then onto David Nathan Park also known as Nathan Homestead, a historic mansion built 1925. Here we had morning tea.

From here

we made our way through the Nathan reserve bush on to Auckland Botanic Gardens .This is a great place to engage with nature and get some exercise. We walked the pathways which

also led us to interesting parts of the garden used by the American military in World War 11. Soon it was time for lunch stop at the Glade shelter in the gardens used for many weddings.



After lunch we made our way back to the beginning at the Library and coffee for some at the Chatz café. A nice day out. Maybe some handy gardening tips and ideas picked up.

Ngaire and Rita

Pinnacles Overnighter 29/30 July – leader Shelena Wiggill



We few of us ladies headed out for an overnighter to the Pinnacles hut. From the road end car park, we walked to the swing bridge to cross the Kauaeranga River. The first track on your right leads you for a 5 minutes' walk to Billy goat Landing. Here we got to see Billy goat Falls (180 m high).

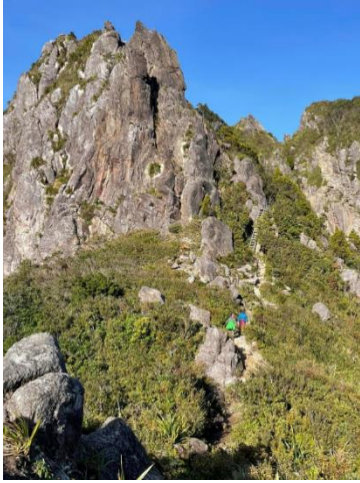


From there we followed the Webb Creek Track to Hydro Camp (roughly 2 hrs). Where we climbed lots of steps that were cut into rock to make the journey easier for the packhorses during the kauri logging era.

From Hydro Camp junction, we took the Pinnacles Track which climbed and sidled around a hill before following a more open ridge. There were impressive views down a branch of the Tairua River and the rugged volcanic landforms of Tauranikau and the Pinnacles.

As always the Pinnacles never disappoints with spectacular views. The hut was pretty full with around 60 booked bunks for the evening.

You can see why this track is busy it offers a good challenging hike and views.



Saturday we had amazingly beautiful weather with NO RAIN for a change. Sunday morning broke with Bacon and eggs for breakfast to start the day, the weather was however not as glorious as the day before, a bit grey and gloomy but cleared by lunch time.



Inspiring Quote of the MONTH



“It had nothing to do with gear or footwear or the backpacking fads or philosophies of any particular era or even with getting from point A to point B. It had to do with how it felt to be in the wild. With what it was like to walk for miles with no reason other than to witness the accumulation of trees and meadows, mountains and deserts, streams and rocks, rivers and grasses, sunrises and sunsets. The experience was powerful and fundamental. It seemed to me that it had always felt like this to be a human in the wild, and as long as the wild existed it would always feel this way.”

By Edward Abbey

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

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 "Safety in Mountain" Book Holder

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Ph. 027 4033446

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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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

Frances Gibbon - Supper box for Club nights

bandfgibbon@gmail.com

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.

