



# The Bush Telegraph

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

**Next meeting: 3<sup>th</sup> July 2023 @ 7:30pm**

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

**Supper Duty:** Frances Gibbon

**Guest Speakers:** an informative talk from our guest speaker who has army, search and rescue and paramedic experience. You have the chance to learn some useful skills!

**New Members:** Welcome to Rod Newbold

## “Where am I competition”

David identified Barry photos that were submitted for last month –

David Lawrie has submitted a photo not of a place but of a bird. The identification is relatively easy but the story behind it is interesting.



## President Notes

### President's Report June

It's hard to believe we have passed the winter solstice and we are halfway through the year, good news is the longest night is over and the days will now start lengthening again.

The club marked it with a Midwinter Christmas celebration as usual. This year it was a little different as it was combined with a skills building overnighter at Waitawheta hut on 17<sup>th</sup> June. The weekend turned out to be very wet. On the way in we had rain showers and the chance to experience a river crossing with slippery rocks and the weight of an overnight pack.

All this moisture could not dampen spirits though, especially with Anna's mulled wine to warm us up, and extra custard because it was Christmas after all. Gathered around the tinsel, it was a great opportunity to talk about gear (the rain gear got a good test too), survival tools, and suitable food with experienced members and leaders.

In the morning we went over some river crossing techniques in the shelter of the hut. Heavy downpours in the night meant we saw how quickly rivers can rise, and tracks become streams. A great reminder that the safest river crossing is the one you don't have to make.



Here's a comparison of levels going in to coming out.

In other news, Barry is busy confirming dates in September to show the Mountain Film Festival winners again. We are hoping we can do a show in Pukekohe also this year, if we can get a suitable venue pinned down.

This weekend Shelena and I are heading into the Waitakeres for OTNZ survival skills training. We will be building a bivy and sleeping in it as well as cooking raw ingredients on a fire. If we pass the course (and survive) we will see you on Monday for the meeting.

Becky

## 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

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

**3<sup>rd</sup> time lucky -☺ Trip report: Coromandel 'R n R' Weekend, 31 March to 2 April 2023**

Leaders Dee and John plus Glenn, Maree, Judy, Annie, Peter, Frances, Barry, Beth.

We drove up the Thames Coast to Kirita Bay on a sunny Friday afternoon to begin our R n R weekend. Accommodation was a waterfront homestead that is well over 100 years old. Plenty of socialising and a nice dinner made for a pleasant evening.





On Saturday morning it was cloudy but fine when we set off for the summit of Mt Pukewhakatara (394m). This walk is 10km return from sea level, so is all uphill there and all downhill back. The first 3km is on the metalled farm track and the end is a steep little track through bush, culminating in a small rope-assisted rock climb. There were options to suit everyone: walk it all, drive part of the way, walk to a lower altitude than the summit or don't walk at all. Our group took up all the options. We were on the summit by 9am to listen to the music of the bells chiming from the Sanctuary of Mana Retreat below. The spectacular 360-degree Coromandel vista from the rock included Kirita Bay, the islands towards Coromandel and across the firth of Thames towards Waiheke with Auckland in the distance. Then it was back to the homestead for hot cross buns.





Saturday afternoon a group went out with John on the boat for a productive fishing experience. Judy caught the big one and Beth caught her first fish. Well done girls! Beth also had her first lesson in filleting. Dinner that night was yummy fresh snapper!





The rain which had been forecast for Saturday didn't arrive until later, fortunately for us, and overnight there was a torrential downpour. Sunday morning was cloudy and a bit drizzly. We discovered the creek had flooded and burst the flood gates on the culvert. We decided to cancel the planned walk across the creek to do the farm walk next-door.



However, the sky quickly cleared resulting in a hot, sunny day. The group chilled out doing as they pleased which included walking along the beach and up the hill, taking photos, reading, craftwork, kayaking, lots of socialising and laughter and generally just R n R time.

Later in the afternoon we cleaned up and set off for home, each person with a packet of fresh snapper in hand and some good memories. Overall, an enjoyable weekend with a very nice bunch of people. Thanks all!

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### **Green Park - Drury 24th May**

33 eager trampers out on a beautiful sunny day to walk a short 5 km flat footpath in an area that only very few had visited.

I think everybody was keen to get outside after so many days of rain and a short walk is always appreciated.

Mark gave us some interesting facts on the mangroves. NZ Steel Glenbrook Mill (Australian owned) had photographed the inlets in the 60s and there was no evidence whatsoever of any mangroves growing then. There had been some discussion that the trees helped filter the water and protect some of the fish life however after realising that they are introduced and had become virtually a noxious weed many people thought then it's right to take them out.

He also spoke to the group introducing his next week's inner City walk and making a plea for more trip leaders as Raewyn is finding it extremely difficult to fill the dates on her timetable and we don't want to overwork the current leaders for fear that they will walk away. He will be running a trip leaders course and is looking for people to contact him so he can sort a suitable Reckie date.

Robert Dean

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### **City By Ways 1<sup>st</sup> June – Mark Levs**

The trains were running, which was our first bit of luck, but we did have 3 rain showers between Papakura and Auckland. Luck stayed with us however, they were the last for the day.

By now we had grown to 35 plus. We headed out the back of Britomart and into the back streets. A group photo was taken by a most unusual Pohutakawa then it was into the university grounds. We emerged in the Quad where those in need of a coffee could purchase one. Then it was off to the Albert Park band rotunda for morning tea.





Afterwards it was over the bridge and into the grounds AUT. Formerly it was Seddon High that some of the walkers had attended last century. Over Symonds Street behind St Paul's and then we weaved our way towards Grafton Bridge. In the cemetery we encountered people living on the street one of whom was unconscious. Some of our group remained with her until a paramedic and two fire engines attended. The rest of the group moved on via the cemetery and Pigeon Park crossing Upper Queen and the back of the K Rd shops before crossing over to Myers Park via St

Kevin's Arcade.. Construction under Mayoral Drive forced a detour.

Then via Greys Ave to Aotea Square where there was adequate seating for us to spread around.

The caffeine addicts had a supply on hand. We were rejoined by our good Samaritans.

After Lunch it was into Federal Street where we assured it was all down hill so were a little concerned when we were lead onto a long down escalator in the Auckland Council building. However an equally long up Escalator in Sky City solved the problem.

Then it was down the back of the District Court which Hamish recognised ( He claims recent Jury duty ), St Patricks Cathedral, a very salubrious foyer in the ANZ building followed by a sneaky spiral stair case at the end of a lane down to Queen Street and thence to Fort Street

down yet another lane and across Custom Street into the back of Britomart. Some lingered in the city whilst the rest made their way home.





**3<sup>rd</sup> June 2023 Waitawa walk– Mary Crawford**



On the first Kings birthday weekend for over 70 years 8 club members enjoyed the beauty of one of Auckland’s regional parks. Saturday morning saw Mary, Michelle, Suzanne, Barry, Shanon, Dee, Francis and Maureen set out on a voyage of discovery. This was because 3 of the group had not been to the park before. That however was not all as we happened to select a day where there was a disc golf competition taking place. We resisted the urge to help ourselves to their rather splendid looking lunch which was set up in one of the sheds. For all of us it was a learning time. We had no idea there was so many different discs and that the colour of the disc selected was influenced by intended direction and distance of the throw.

The bulk of our group walked the entire red track named Puweto and some took the extension to the Pawhetau pa. After our coffee



break at the shelter at Waitawa Bay some of us took advantage of a shortcut along the beach and were rewarded by a very elegant looking bird who was very happy to be photographed. Those that took the inland route had to stop and allow discs to be thrown!

been answered.

We were lucky with the weather as it was warm and dry for all but five minutes of the walk and the views across the Firth of Thames and towards Auckland were lovely. We sat overlooking Kawakawa Bay for lunch before heading back down to the car park where we learnt about the history of the area and had our questions about what some of the buildings might have



## Owairaka 7 June 23 - Shahar.

On a sunny Wednesday morning the mid-week group took the train to Mt Albert.

After morning tea at the station, we walked up Mt Albert. A nice warmup walk and we were rewarded with great all round views from the top. We shared the top with a large group of young school children who were there at the same time. The track going down the hill was a bit slippery in places but everyone made it without any spills.



We continued down Oakley Creek walkway dodging cyclists racing past us.

After lunch we walked up Mt Roskill. After another photo stop, we made our way to the bus stop on Mt Albert Road, then the train and bus back to Pukekohe.

An enjoyable day out and great company. Thanks to everyone who turned up.





25.06.2023 – Hunuas Pukapuka Track – Shelena Wiggill

Small group of us went and hiked the Pukapuka Track circuit, the club has not done this particular track for at least 3 or more years.

We Looped from Upper Mangatawhiri Dam car park – Lilburn Road Track – Pukapuka Track –Lower Mangatawhiri Camp Ground – Moumoukai Valley Road – River Track – back to Dam car park..

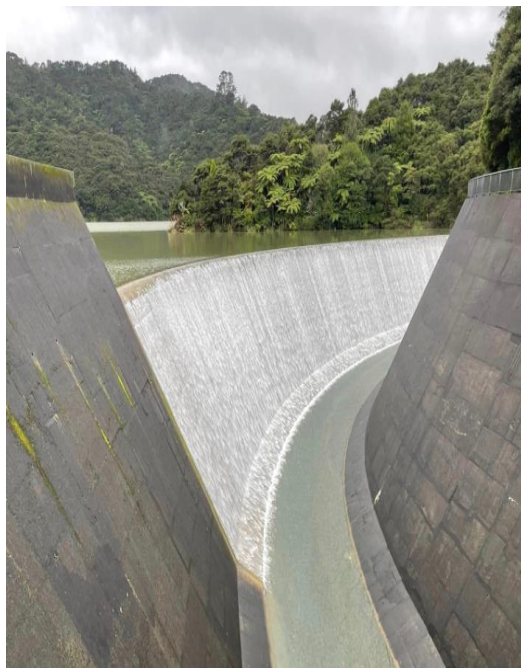
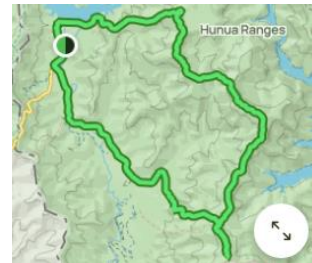
Muddy in parts because of all the rain, we were lucky not to have any rain while walking, besides a light shower that lasted about 2min close to the end of the track.

The was an Optional Side trip up to Mangatangi Trig - which we decided to do another time.

Pukepuke Track is ridge walk across from Lilburne Rd, over Pukapuka summit at 470m, then down to Mangatangi Campground which we completed in 5h45.

Definitely got the heart pumping with the up hills.

Still amazes us how we have this playground on our doorstep.



## 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)

Ph. 235 9077

Shelena Wiggill - Secretary, Bush Telegraph Editor and Aged Expo Organiser, "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

[lawrie@ps.gen.nz](mailto:lawrie@ps.gen.nz)

Ph. 021656369

Mark Leys - New Member Contact

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Ph. 09 2948927

Raewyn Lane - Treasurer

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Ph. 232 8005

Raewyn Lane - Mid Week Coordinator ( assisted by Betty MacDonald)

[raewynlane7@gmail.com](mailto:raewynlane7@gmail.com)

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Dee Keys - Speaker coordinator & Photo Comp organiser

[deekeys22@gmail.com](mailto:deekeys22@gmail.com)

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Charlie and Joy Browne - Gear Custodian

[brownex3@xtra.co.nz](mailto:brownex3@xtra.co.nz)

Ph. 2387298

Rebecca Banks and John Jacobson- Publicity Officer & Facebook Administrator

[rbanks2016@gmail.com](mailto:rbanks2016@gmail.com)

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.



