



# The Bush Telegraph

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

**Next meeting: 7<sup>th</sup> Nov 2022@ 6:30pm ( earlier start for Award evening)**

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

Supper Duty: Frances Gibbon & Outside Catering

Guest Speakers: Walking Access NZ - Five Summits Trail presenting member Judy Donovan with an Access Champion award

New Members: Shanon Ngampiyaskul and Mavis Capper

## “Where am I competition”



**Photo is provided by: Hamish was not identified**

To go in the draw for the prize at our next club night, give your entry to the club secretary Shelena (or get someone to do it for you if you are not attending the meeting). Alternatively email Shelena

## President Notes

October has been a mixed bag, the scheduled Rangitoto station weekend was abandoned due to high river levels. This has now been rescheduled to next month, November 25-27, to do some maintenance of our bait lines. It's a fun weekend and you get to experience some beautiful bush that is closed to the general public and help our native Kokako numbers continue to climb, win, win win! I encourage you to join us if you can.

We enjoyed bluebird days on our trip in the Whirinaki forest but started out with snow and icicles, thankfully it warmed up over the 5 days we were there. It was a really fun trip with plenty of slips, tree fall, and wet boots on the Te Pua-a-Tāne loop (see trip report).

1080 drops in the Hunuas have been a little disruptive, but a couple of trips have managed to go ahead between drops this month. It looks like October may finish as it started, very wet, but fingers crossed trips can go ahead.

You should all have heard that we are hosting Walking Access NZ in our November meeting. The club worked with them to develop and open the Five Summits Trail and they are presenting member Judy Donovan with an Access Champion award for her work on this. The trail was developed as a gift to the Franklin community to celebrate the Club's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019, and has become popular, frequented by locals and tramping clubs from further afield. It is truly worthy of celebration, but Judy insists the award should go to the Five Summits Committee who all played an important part in the creation of this 21km trail. I thought newer members might appreciate a bit of backstory, so here it is...



In the run up to the anniversary Dee Keys was the Club President. Glenn Clark had developed a trail that connected various volcanic summits around Pukekohe which he had led as a club trip. Dee proposed making it a 'Five Summit Trail' as an appropriate celebration of PTC's 50th and put together funding applications for NZ Walking Access Commission, Franklin Local Board and Pukekohe Business Assn. who all came on board. Glenn prospected the trail and mapped it out. David Lawrie chaired the committee and by the time the trail officially opened was the club president. He was also the club's first president and had a large part in starting the club in 1969. Judy organised the fantastic map, which is available online on our website and as a handy pocket-sized folding map, acted as Secretary for the Planning Committee, researched the family history for Belmont Rise (Roulston family) and The Rock (Lauer family). Eric Muir worked on all the History Boards, co-designed them with Mike Massey (who designed the logo) and installed them (repeatedly in one case). Barry Gibbon organised two working bees (well supported by willing club members) to improve some of the bush sections of the trail, installed the DOC and 5 Summit badges, and liaised with Deed Printing for History Boards and Railway maps. Very much a team effort and we thank them all for their commitment and hard work on behalf of the club to benefit our community.

I look forward to seeing lots of you (thanks for all the RSVPs) at the meeting and celebrating. Remember we are starting at 6.30pm and NZWAC is providing refreshments.

Becky



## Future Trips – Spring Programme

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

**Edition 578 – October 2022**

Wed 26th	Devonport / Nth Shore area	Jenny and Gail		
30	TBA	Becky		
Thurs 3rd Nov	Wattle Downs	Alison		
4th -6th	Rotorua (limit 12) Tarawerea 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?			
Thurs 15th	Pukekohe (3 Aufidius PI, 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 report- 24/25 September 2022



Leader John, Participants Glenn, Maree, Terry and Suzanne

We left at 8.00 on Saturday and travelled down to Katikati with a coffee on the way. We left the car at the start of the Te Rereatukahia hut Track (made up of Tuahau track onto the North-South track) at the end of Hot Springs Rd. This well-formed track travelled up gradually to the ridge line, through beautiful bush making this track one of the most family friendly on the western side of the Kaimai ranges. Great views from the ridge line in both directions as we walked northwards on the North South track towards the 12 bunk Te Reretukahia Hut. A lot of work has been done on this section of the track by volunteer groups making for a very enjoyable hike. The North

South track to the north of the hut is in poor condition at present so the main track detours eastwards.

The hut was very cosy with a wood burner and plenty of firewood. We had nice meal and good sleep. In the morning the day was perfect with no clouds and we returned to the car by the same track taking around 3.5 hours. Great to see lots of people of all ages using the track including the kauri loop and Sentinel rock trails.



## Trip report Te Puo-a-Tāne Circuit 6-10 October 2022

Becky (leader), Barry, John K, Suzanne, Tessa

### Day 1

We took 1 car and drove down to Minginui on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> Oct this was a 542km round trip. We left just after 7am and arrived at Jailhouse Shuttles just after 11am with a rest stop in Matamata. We left the car parked safely and were driven 50kms+ on forestry roads to the Plateau Road End carpark. This meant we could skip busy Central Whirinaki Hut and spend the first night at Upper Whirinaki Hut. We drove through snow flurries on the way to the start and there were dustings of snow here and there.

There are 2 options to get from Plateau Road end to the hut, both take about 3 hours. We took the shortest route (4kms), which branched off to the right close to the start of the track which involved a climb up and over. The alternative is longer in kms (8) but flatter I believe. We had to cross a stream to get to the hut so arrived with wet boots, this set the tone for the rest of the trip. The hut is in a wide clearing beside the stream. All the huts had 9 bunks across 3 levels, though this arrangement made some of them entertainingly difficult to get in and out of. This first night was our coldest with the thermometer reading -6 in the morning, not a great time to forget hut shoes, just ask Barry. Lucky John was a boy scout and had got his fire lighting barge. Barry's folding saw came in very handy cutting up branches for the stoves and dealing with tree fall along the way.



### Day 2

A clear and frosty start on Friday and some very cold toes to begin but wet boots didn't matter as it was straight back across the stream to start with. The track is classed as a route until Central Te Hoe hut, so there were lots of stream crossings, tree fall and slips to keep things interesting, and a decent climb of 400ms. We stopped to refuel for lunch before the top. Then we walked along a ridge before climbing back down as much to Upper Te Hoe hut. It took about 8hrs including breaks. The hut is set high over the river, and we enjoyed the views in the warmth of the afternoon sun. We were joined by another party of 3 going the opposite way this night.



Day 3

Saturday dawned another clear sunny day, though frost free. We started with a steady climb today of about 300ms followed by some ridge walking before dropping down about 1000ms to Central Te Hoe hut. The Te Hoe bluffs required care as there were steep drop offs and the rock was quite crumbly. The views were stunning, however. It took 5 hours to complete these 7ms, we had a longish lunch break here in the sun as the track standard becomes tramping track from here, so the next 8.5kms would be much more straight forward. We passed the Bull Ring clearing and a deer enclosure plot before finally arriving at Mangakahika hut well after 5pm. Another lovely spot beside a stream.



Day 4

More sunshine on Sunday and minimal climbing today, we aimed for Rogers Hut for lunch 8.5kms away. We caught sight of a deer on this section. Sadly, there was lots of sign deer and pigs out here. We encountered the worst slip just before Rogers hut where the track had collapsed into the river and there was a very deep section two steps wide to get across. The other party had tried laying some logs across, but they weren't wide enough and were free floating. One was a little wedge and I and John got across. Barry tried to add more but Tessa went in up to her hip. Barry then went in up to his chest while trying to shore it up. Suzy managed to get across with a pull. We arrived at historic Rogers hut soon after so could warm up in the sun a bit. We had our second who sighting here as a pair floated down the river in front of us. A group of dads and their boys had helicoptered in for a few nights of hunting and fishing here.



After this we joined the dual use Moerangi mountain biking track for 9kms of easy walking to Moerangi hut, set above the river again. This night we had the company of a Doc ranger, and she had the company of some very smelly socks 😞.



Day 5

Monday was a little cloudy, we had to 13kms to cover this morning and a 300m climb over Moerangi saddle. We then travelled down 600ms on dual use track to River Road carpark. It took about 4 hours to get here, and meet Tony and our shuttle (Jailhouse Shuttle Plateau Rd end – River Road \$80 pp). It was a little sad to come out to hear that there was a chance Rogers Hut could be removed by Christmas along with 50 other back country huts in the Uruweras. It was



Murupara bakehouse for lunch and back home for dinner and to finally dry out our feet.



### Trip report 16 October 2022 – Shelena Wiggill

9 of us headed to the Hunua's to complete the Ernie's loop track. Could not have asked for perfect weather. We walked 5.1-km which took us around 5.5 hours including 2 tea stops, moderately challenging



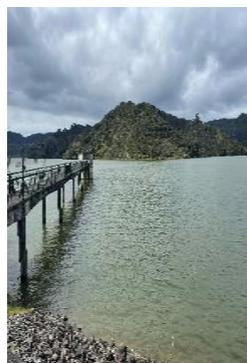
route in some places, it was said that SAS use this track for their training and selections. After about 45 minutes of gravel road we reached the sign for Ernie's Track on the right and



We headed right for the start of the track, down some stairs leading to a stream crossing which was close to mid-calf of which fellow tamperers found alternative options for crossing. There was only a small bit of boardwalk (but not too much) over the swampy bits. It undulates slightly through lush bush and fairly low ground over a series of small shallow streams. Piggots campsite I recon in summer would be great place to soak up the summer evening, Track was well maintained. The views were spectacular from the top... to have this



right in our back yard with only a 35-40min drive from Pukekohe was a bonus.



### Trip report 20 October – Mark Leys

We continue to make best use of the rail network until it closes. We travelled from Pukekohe accumulating

walkers as we went including recruiting a new member on the train. At Newmarket Betty Mac Donald joined us from Northshore.

Those who did not mind stairs went via Newmarket gully while others risked life and limb passing the site of the Basset Road murders.

At Ayr Street Prue Brown and friend joined us and we were 26.

We followed the waterfront walkway to the Base of Victoria Road taking note of seriously expensive real estate and Remuera taxi's with a similar price tags.

We followed the cliff face around to Orakei Road past Palmers Garden centre / Cafe. We arrived at The Plant Barn cafe. Serious navigation skills were tested here



as there are 3 cafe at this site but we all made it as witnessed by the attached photos. In case the reader thinks this sounds like a cake walk there were 2 falls suffered making it this far. Pleasing to say no helicopter recoveries or hospitalizations required. Following lunch tough decisions were required.

Catch the train at Orakei 3, Meadow bank 14 or crest the ridge and press on to Glen Innes 9.

Weather was good, Company great, we just hope the public transport system can stand the strain of next week's adventure.

## ODDS n SODs

✚ Come and join us for the last club night of the year enjoy an evening of gear swapping or buying

**GEAR SWAP**

Embrace the season and do some strategic regifting to shed that extra weight. Bring along your festive spirit and any good quality tramping gear you are no longer using to sell or swap at our last meeting for 2022.

HAVE YOURSELF A  
**MERRY**  
LITTLE  
Christmas

Mon 5th  
December

## 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](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 , "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 - Past President, Speaker coordinator & Photo Comp organiser

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Rebecca Banks and John Jacobson- Publicity Officer & Facebook Administrator

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Judy Donavan - Committee

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Ph. 027 477 4004

### Other Positions but not on Committee

Frances Gibbon - Supper box for Club  
nights

Eric and Linda Muir - Archives and 50th Anniversary booklets

### Trip Leaders

Please inform David Lawrie (021 656369) 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 leader's use. Please return these promptly so they are available for the next week's trip.

