



The Bush Telegraph

www.pukekohetrampingclub.org.nz

Next meeting: 3 April 2023 @ 7:30pm

Venue: Anglican Church Hall, Wesley Street – Pukekohe

Supper Duty: Frances Gibbon

Guest Speakers: Brian Hamilton

As trampers we are always checking the weather. An Awhitu Peninsula local, Brian Hamilton, has taken checking the weather to another level! He has written software since 1999 that enables people to get the most from their weather stations. Not only does his software support a huge range of stations from all the major manufacturers but it's also stacked with features and options. It is used by thousands of people around the world. In this time of crazy weather events, his talk is bound to be of interest to all.

We will be having dinner at Paasha beforehand, if you interested please book with Dee by Thursday 30th March deekeys@gmail.com

New Members: no new member this month.

“Where am I competition”



Photo Provided by John Kelsey.

President Notes

Kauaranga valley remains closed, so Glenn's camping weekend had to be cancelled, but otherwise trips have been going ahead and we have been enjoying more settled weather over the last month. Big thanks to those who have stepped in to organize alternatives where necessary. There are some holes in the Weekend schedule for April to be filled, if you can lead a trip, get in touch with Barry or Glenn please. You will be supported if it's your first time.

The club continues to grow with new members which is fantastic, but we are short of experienced leaders, which puts pressure on those who are leading trips. The committee met recently to discuss this and decided that the club would subsidize members who want to upskill themselves in outdoor safety. The club will contribute 50% of the fees for members who wish to do a course with Outdoor Training NZ (OTNZ), and 100% of the cost for leaders or those who intend to lead club trips. PTC is also planning in house skill building for members and leaders. If interested please inquire with one of the committee members.

The best place to find course dates and information is their Facebook events page: <https://www.facebook.com/OutdoorTrainingNZ/events/>. But here's a rundown of upcoming courses and dates.

River Safety Courses: Karangahake Gorge, \$70

Saturday 7 October (not yet advertised)

Sunday 8 October (not yet advertised)

Saturday 11 November (not yet advertised)

Sunday 12 November (not yet advertised)

Saturday 2 December (not yet advertised)

Sunday 3 December (not yet advertised)

Basic Navigation and Compass Skills Courses: Henderson (Tuesday), Wenderholm (Saturday), \$60

Tuesday 16 and Saturday 20 May: <https://forms.gle/JnRpf4ZHw8YcVqHXA>

Tuesday 25 and Saturday 29 July: (not yet advertised)

Tuesday 5 and Saturday 9 September: (not yet advertised)

Intro. Bushcraft Courses: Kaukapakapa, \$120 (18 years +)

Saturday 25 to Sunday 26 November (not yet advertised)

Survival Skills Courses: Waitakere Ranges (private property), \$110 (18 years +)

Saturday 6 to Sunday 7 May: <https://forms.gle/2X7p2K5xgqxR8K4z6>

Saturday 1 to Sunday 2 July: (not yet advertised)

Saturday 23 to Sunday 24 September: (not yet advertised)

Day Walker Training Course: Location and price to be confirmed

Saturday 10 June: (not yet advertised)

Leave No Trace Trainer Course: Location and price to be confirmed (18 years +)

Saturday 19 to Sunday 20 August: (not yet advertised)

Shelena and I did the river safety course last Sunday and found it excellent. Very informative and lots of fun.

Things are starting to open up in Auckland, which a few exceptions that are likely to stay closed for a while, such as Waitakere Tramway, Karangahake tunnel loop, Scotsman gully track, and Dickey Flat to Dalys hut in the Kaimais. The west coast remains heavily impacted with the Te Henga walkway closed indefinitely. Many areas in the Waikato remain impacted, with alerts for Hakarimata, Pi rongia, and Ka riari tracks. The Coromandel remains pretty much closed with Kauaranga Valley road closed as well as tracks to Crosbies hut and many others. You can stay up to date on the DoC website by searching for alerts in each region.

A party of 9 went into Rangitoto Station this month to do some track maintenance. We were very excited to hear Kokako in the bush. There was quite a bit of tree fall to clear or re-route around. The team did an amazing job clearing the track into the old hut site. Glenn has been able to book the house for the long weekend in July (Matariki) to go back and clear the rest of the tracks. We'd love to see some new faces come along and experience this magic place.

The speaker next meeting is sure to be very interesting and topical. See you then I hope

Cheers Becky

Future Trips – Spring Programme

Summer programme 2023				
Date	Destination	Leader	Grade	\$
January				
Thurs 12th	Waihi	Mark		
15	Waiuku Forest	Barry Gibbon	E	
Wed 18th	Harkers Track	Sue Saxton		
22	New Year BBQ Te Toro	Barry is contact		
Thurs 26th	St Heliers (Churchill Park)	Shaaron		
28, 29, 30	Auckland Anniv Weekend			
Wed 1st Feb.	Daleys Clearing	Shahar		
4, 5, 6	Waitangi Weekend			
Thurs 9th	ST Johns Bush	Ray		
12	Kaimais Lindemans Loop	Becky Banks (02102382178)	M	
Wed 15th				
19	Tairua Broken Hills	Peter Stewart	M	B
Thurs 23rd				
26	Waihi Homunga Bay to Waihi Beach	Becky Banks (02102382178)	M	B

Wed 1st Mar.				
5				
Thurs 9 th	Hakarimata- Kauri walk	Dzintra/Larry		
11th/12th	Kauearanga Valley- Camping Camping weekend/day walks	Glenn & Maree Clark (2386569) Delwyn	M	
Wed 15 th	Massey/Cossey Track			
18/19	Rangitoto Station Bait line work and stay at house	Glenn & Maree Clark (2386569)	H/E	
Thurs 23rd	Awhitu Regional Park	Maureen/Frances		
26	Mt Pirongia	Peter Stewart	M	B
Wed 29th	TBA	Ray		
Friday 31 - April 2nd	Coromandel Stay Kirita Bay. Swim , fish, kayak, chill out	Dee And John	E	
Thurs 6th				
7, 8, 9, 10	Easter			
Wed 12th				
16				
Thurs 20th				
23				
Wed 26th	TBA	Jenny & Gail		
	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=\$50-7			
	Weekend trip costs are estimates only			
	For mid week costs (e.g. A/C with/without Gold card)			

Trip Reports

Hobbiton Halfling Marathon 25th March 2023

This was a private trip I did but I thought it might be of interest to members who are fans of the books or movies, or who enjoy a farm ramble. This is an annual event with two options, the 21km Halfling Marathon, or the 11km Eleventy-first race. It started late so we made our way down to matamata at about 10am to be there in time to register and check out the food trucks. Some great local options, I had a sausage in a fresh roll. Lots of participants dressed up for the event. The halfling marathon



started at 2.10pm and the shorter race an hour later. We walked mostly over rolling farm land, so lots of lovely views from the high points with other interesting surprises along the way. The highlight of course was walking through Hobbiton village past the cute little hobbit doors, windows, and



chimneys set into the hillside. There was a beautiful veggie garden and village green too. We headed back out over the farm before we came to a water hole set up with a slide and jumping platform. Lots of people stopped for a dip, but I was pressed for time so had to push on.

Towards the end we stopped at the Green Dragon, the busiest pub in New Zealand for a cider. The sun was dipping down to the hills surrounding, so I couldn't linger long. The finish line was just over the next hill.

This was pretty pricy at over \$200, but it was a very enjoyable experience, and I would recommend

Trip Report - Sunday 12th March - Wairoa Loop, Suspension Bridge & Repeater Road Circuit

Party – Barry, Judy, Gail McGuinness (1st trip), Pip, Dave, Suzanne

Left Pukekohe 0800 on a fine day in 1 car, meeting up with Dave at gate.



To be bit different, we parked up at Repeater Rd carpark off Moumoukai Rd, setting off just before 0845. Off along Repeater Rd, with our first stop at the little 2 bunk Repeater Shelter, built for TA walkers, but with TA trail through Hunua's closed for last couple years due to storm damage & kauri dieback track closures it's sadly hardly used at present.

Down Wairoa Stream Track, had to negotiate round a couple minor tree falls and one track edge slip, otherwise if good condition, with lots of windblown tree litter to tread carefully through. Took our morning tea break in sun at Otau Rd carpark.

Across the swing-bridge & up track to the first of today lookouts, across the across Paparimu country side and out to the Firth of Thames with Coromandel hills beyond, onward to junction with Wairoa Cossey track (still closed awaiting “kauri dieback upgrading”), where we dropped down past lookout over the Wairoa dam (the water was a very muddy colour due to high slit load from both Anniversary weekend storm & Cyclone Gabrielle rains) before stopping for early lunch at the two tables on dam.

After lunch, we looked at the informative noticeboards about dam construction & wondered the whereabouts of the “missing / stolen” brass plaque off the monument stone as we crossed the dam and down the access road to start of the Wairoa Loop Track again, taking a leisurely climb up to the next lookout with spectacular views back over the Wairoa dam & reservoir.

We continued up track to highest point at the Telecom/Radio Repeater compound, then continue along the ridge line metallised access road (we found a Taped off/ Isolated seat along road – looked really strange from distance until we arrived to find the whole area in front of seat had slipped away down hill, so your feet would hang in mid air)

Back past the start of the Wairoa Stream Track & Repeater Camp before final lookout stop, looking across the Mangatawhiri dam & the remainder of Hunua Regional Park & back to vehicles.

11km & 5 hrs with plenty of lookout stops & lunch – very pleasant outing

It was nice to walk with & welcome Gail McGuinness a prospective member for her 1stouting with club.

Trip Report - Sunday 5th March – Rata Ridge Loop

Party – Barry, Pip, Peter, Karen Mc, Shannon, Anne & Dennis, MichelleJ, Karen W,

Left Pukekohe 0800 on a nice overcast day. This trip was in the balance till Hunuas Regional Park re -opened was announced on Mon 27th, but with some tracks still closed, we had no guarantee Rata Ridge would be open & what we would find.

It’s always a nice short 40 min drive to Hunuas, parked at Upper Mangatawhiri Campground carpark, where we meet Ranger Sarah who was restocked the noticeboard pamphlets, so we got the latest track status “hot off the press” – Rata Ridge open!!

Across dam, which was full to overflowing, but with very muddy water with high slit load, but still two “hopeful trout fisherman working along the dam face, and started the slog up Lilburne Rd – as we climbed up road, it was very clear that a significant number of large slips had occurred on road & crews had done a quick but through road clearing job to allow



Park to reopen

Turned off Lilburne Rd and onto Rata Ridge Track, which lived up to its name following its undulating contours – to our surprise, no windfalls or major wind damage & no track damage. Had our morning tea break on edge of track, before starting down the ridge line with its steeper decline being a bit slippery.

We discovered and admired a significant Kauri tree approx. 80M off track – even though I have done this loop a number of times, it was the first time sighted this tree here, so not sure why, maybe a treefall has opened up area or something, but it’s a really nice straight, sturdy tree.

Down at track junction we headed right and attempted to bush bash along the edge of stream following an overgrown baitline, hoping to find a nice open stream edge lunch spot, however we had to turn back at a slipface that exposed a section of 45 degree wet rock face straight down to stream, that we decided was “not worth the risk” – so back to track



junction and headed for Piggot Campsite for lunch – only 2 side creek crossing showed any water scouring at all.

Lunch at Piggots, then return down Lilburne Road to dam, and back to vehicles

12km & 5 hrs – very pleasant outing



On March 1st 23 walkers enjoyed a beautiful sunny day and wandered approx 3.5 km north of the surf club to return back to have lunch in a safer spot regarding tides.

On the beach we discovered a net full of fish and sharks that we decided needed to be removed from the beach. Rob will follow this up.

After lunch we returned to our cars and then 17 members had coffee at Nick’s cafe in Waiuku



Annette Egbers(leader)

ODDS n SODs

Note from Barry:

If you missed Guest speaker Nathan Hatch of Counties Podiatry talk – March - amongst many bits of advice, he made comments about

1 - having good shoes / boots with lots of room in toe box (at least 1 thumb width longer than longest toe) and that some newer walking/running shoes types are moving to a more foot shaped toe box. - see shoe shape below

- Trent at Pukekohe Shoe Science has both Altra & Topo foot shaped shoes - and remember he offers discount to PTC members



2 - If you suffer from toes rubbing, then consider Injinji Toe socks - Shoe Science Pukekohe has short walking shoes socks in various thicknesses in stock, also longer CoolMax Liner for summer & Merino Liners for winter are available online, or Trent will order liners in for you - Photo attached



3 - Cracked heels - recommends 20%+ Urea cremes from chemists - Aqua creme HP for example

Nathan is located in the building between KFC & Optik - access from Cinema 3 carpark - please support if you want advice or have foot issues.

PS - this is not intended to be a advert for Shoe Science - just these things are available in Pukekohe, support & local business, Trent can discuss & you can trial fit shoes & socks kif you are interested - When I dropped in today to have a look at shoes & have chat, Trent was wearing a pair of Topo shoes round shop!!

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
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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

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
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Ph. 021656369

Mark Leys - New Member Contact
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Raewyn Lane - Treasurer
raewynlane7@gmail.com

Ph. 232 8005

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.

