



# THE BUSH TELEGRAPH

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

EDITION 559

March 2021

**Next Meeting: Monday 5th April 2021**

**VENUE: Anglican Church Hall, Wesley Street, Pukekohe.**

**Supper Duty November Meeting:** Judy, Annette and Anna.—rolled over from cancelled March meeting.

**Guest Speaker:** No speaker this month.

**Muddy Boot Award:** No March meeting so Muddy Boot not awarded.



**New Members :** A warm welcome to the following who has recently joined:  
Elise Cullen plus Lyn Walworth.

## **“Where am I?” Competition:**

Rolled over from cancelled March meeting.

Last month’s picture was Mangere Mountain, but was incorrectly identified by Mark Leys, so as a penalty he has supplied this month’s photo.

To go in the draw for the prize at our next club night, email the correct identification to [deekeys22@gmail.com](mailto:deekeys22@gmail.com) or put your entry in the boot before the meeting on club night.



## President's Notes - April Meeting

After the cancellation of the March meeting we are hopeful that April's meeting will proceed as normal. At the time of the declaration of the last lockdown I was in the South Island but due to fly home on the Sunday and that flight proceeded normally. So I would have been available for the meeting if we were permitted.

While in the South Island I did not undertake any real tramps although we drove to Moke Lake which is a hub for a number of tracks just to the west of Queenstown. I also tramped to Lake Johnson in the hills to the east of Queenstown although tramped is a bit of an exaggeration as it is only a couple of 100m up a hill and down the other side.

On another day we drove to the end of the road past Paradise, near Glenorchy, which was along a very dusty gravel road with virtually no birds as the reward at the end of the trip. On the way home from Queenstown we drove to Naseby and over Danseys Pass. This is a very steep winding twisty gravel road and Lynne was driving and I was in the passenger seat hanging on, when I was not looking for Falcons!!! We stayed the night in Waimate before travelling onto Christchurch by way of Coopers Lagoon.

There are therefore many places around New Zealand that can be explored and I hope that people are taking advantage of the lack of tourists.

I hope that all our members spotted the photo in the recent Council publicity brochure showing a photo of our sign at the top of the hill in Anselmi Ridge. Surely this is an endorsement of our work being recognised by the Council.

Safe tramping and hope to see as many of you as possible at the April meeting even though it is at the end of the Easter break.



## PTC Committee 2020/2021



David Lawrie – President, Emergency Contact & PLB/First Aid Book/Walkie Talkie Holder  
[lawrie@ps.gen.nz](mailto:lawrie@ps.gen.nz) Ph. 238 8407 or 021 656 369

Glenn Clark – Vice President, Weekend Trip Coordinator, Emergency Contact & PLB/First Aid Book Holder  
[glennmaree.clark@gmail.com](mailto:glennmaree.clark@gmail.com) Ph. 238 6569 or 021 2457 468

Mark Leys - Secretary, New Member Contact, Aged Expo Organiser, 'Safety in Mountains' Book Holder  
[mleys@orcon.net.nz](mailto:mleys@orcon.net.nz) Ph. 09 294 8927

Raewyn Lane – Treasurer  
[raewynlane7@gmail.com](mailto:raewynlane7@gmail.com) Ph. 232 8005

Betty MacDonald – Midweek Trip Coordinator (assisted by Raewyn Lane), Club Shirt Sales  
[macdonald.betty@gmail.com](mailto:macdonald.betty@gmail.com) Ph. 235 7079

Dee Keys – Past President, Speaker co-ordinator, Photo Comp organiser  
[deekeys22@gmail.com](mailto:deekeys22@gmail.com) Ph. 235 9921

Barry Gibbon – New Member Greeter at Club Night  
[bandfgibbon@gmail.com](mailto:bandfgibbon@gmail.com) Ph. 235 9077

Charlie Browne - Gear Custodian (with Joy Browne)  
[brownex3@xtra.co.nz](mailto:brownex3@xtra.co.nz) Ph. 238 7298

Becky Banks – 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:**

Peter Stewart - Bush Telegraph Editor  
[gardeningpete@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gardeningpete@xtra.co.nz) Ph. 239 1235

Anna Low – Supper box for Club Nights  
[annalow836@gmail.com](mailto:annalow836@gmail.com) Ph. 232 1835

Eric and Linda Muir – Archives and 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary booklet

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**Trip Leaders** please inform David Lawrie (2388407 or 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.

## Trip Reports

### Pahurehure Inlet and Keri Downs Park Redhill March 11th

Leaders: Marion Rowe and Lorraine Alley

15 Trampers braved the possibility of rain to complete the Pahurehure Inlet walk and Margans Bush Redhill, Papakura tramp.

After mustering at Ray Small Park the first part of the walk took us around the Pahurehure Inlet taking in the sights of the new cycle/walkway along the motorway and the beautiful houses around the inlet. Tide was in so even looked better.

After a quick morning tea it was off to Keri Downs Park Redhill. A walk through Margans Bush then onto Puke-o-kiwiriki Pa site for lunch. Nice new steps have been built to get up to the Pa site.

After lunch it was a good walk back to the cars through the children's forest.

Great walk and very, very little rain.

### Rata Ridge Tramp March 14th

**Leader:** Linda

**Trampers:** Michele, David, Barry, Mary, Kathy, John and Tony

Seven of us left Pukekohe at 8.00am picking Michele up at Bombay on the way to the Upper Mangatawhiri Campground Carpark in the Hunuas. There were a number of vehicles already at the Campground Carpark at our arrival just before 9.00am, with a lot of them being mountain bike riders plus a few tents in the campground. We headed up Waterline Road to the dam and crossed the spillway weir to the right of the dam face. The level of the water was a little higher than six months ago, but still low. Then it was an uphill climb of one hour following Lilburne Road until we came to the junction with Rata Ridge Track on the right. We stopped here for morning tea before heading into the bush and following the track upwards and along the ridgeline before it dropped steeply down to come out on Mangatangi Ridge Track. We were lucky it was dry underfoot so only had to cope with tree roots and supple jack vines, and no muddy downhill slides. At the junction we turned right and followed a bait line track down to the stream where we had our lunch on the bank listening to the rippling water.

We retraced our steps along the bait line track which was overgrown in places and with the bank dropping sharply down on one side to the stream, before once again continuing along the clearly defined Mangatangi Ridge Track with a few small stream crossings, until we came out into the clearing at Piggott's Hut. Here we had a brief rest, then commenced a short uphill climb on Lilburne Road before it was downhill all the way back to the carpark, arriving back at approximately 2.30pm. It was a very warm day so we were grateful to have been in the shade of the bush for the majority of the afternoon tramp.



## **Trip Reports cont:**

### **Takapakanga Regional Park March 17th**

Leader: Robert Dean

21 members turned out on a beautiful sunny day to walk up the 'Farm track' to the trig after having morning tea at tables above the car park by the Ashby homestead with a beautiful view to the east across the Harbour to the Coromandel township.

Quite a warm day. We started the one hour hike about 11:00 under a clear blue sky. Looking out on our way up across to the Coromandel shrouded in cloud exactly as the weather forecast had forecast. Some members commented that the hill was a little steeper than they had envisaged (about a 100 metre climb) but everyone enjoyed the scenery which from the trig station is quite spectacular with a full tide.

Lunch at the Waikaha stream campground overlooking the sea under the native broadleaf trees.

Another hours walk along the coastal track to the cemetery where some of the Ashby family were buried. A lovely walk although a bit challenging with some steep climbs on metal which made it a bit slippery in places. Back to the Ashby Homestead and home via the Pink Shop which some of you may recognise as the location for 'Sparks' America's Cup ad with the young girl standing on the beach of rocks skipping a stone across the water. Excellent value ice creams!

I was somewhat frustrated that I couldn't find the three pa sites and storage pits, terraces, stone heaps and shell middens that are mentioned in the brochure (and on the Auckland Council website) but are not shown on the map so I contacted the Council and eventually got in touch with Lawrence, a park ranger who said that he thought the three pa sites were along the coastal walk but that he wasn't certain where they were and would talk to somebody in council and suggest they add the sites to the map. I also wanted to know the history of the land purchases and all he knew was it was purchased by the Ashby family from the Maori.

### **Ayrlies Gardens March 19th (extra trip)**

Leader: Shaaron McKee

A small group of 3 went to Ayrlies Garden Open Day on Friday 19th March. Betty had driven all the way from North Shore taking our number to 4. She found us on the cottage lawn having a rest. We wandered the wetlands, looked at an array of plants for sale, made use of the coffee carts and enjoyed the stunning gardens and ponds. We were very tired after a few hours of trails and paths. It was a lovely day at a beautiful spot. Well worth the visit.

### **Motukaraka Island, Beachlands March 25th**

Leader: Shaaron McKee

Had 29 turn up for boat shoe walk to Motukaraka Island at low tide. Early start due to tides didn't deter the eager walkers. Morning tea at Sunkist Bay reserve with great new bathrooms and a view of the island. Then we carried on to Green Bay reserve. The original stairs have long since collapsed so a walk along the beach, then crossed over the sand spit at the highest point. We went slowly as it can be slippery. At the little beach on the island all but 3 wanted to circumnavigate the island. We kept together as a group and went slowly but enjoyed the stunning calm day and great views. A bit of cave exploring by a few made for some good photos. Once we got around, the group crossed back over the sand spit. We could have stayed on the island for a good hour longer as tide had just changed. A change of shoes and a concrete path took us to Pine Harbour marina. A lovely lunch on the marina front and some wonderful coffee from Pepperjacks cafe. A stroll around the marina was a great end to another nice summer day.



# Future Trips

## Summer programme 2021

Date	Destination	Leader	Grade	\$
March				
Wed 31st	Cambridge/Karapiro	Mark and Anne Leys (021 0668536)	E	B
2,3,4,5,6 April	Te Pahi Track (limit 10)	Becky Banks (02102382178)	M	
	Top of the North Coastal track (camping)	Glenn Clark (2386569)		
Thurs 8th	Birkenhead/Chelsea	Betty MacDonald (0272241470)	E	A/C
11th	Mt Pirongia	John Kelsey (021 711853)	H	B
	Loop via Mahaukura and Tirohanga tracks			
Wed 14th	Riverhaven Artland, Clevedon	Christine Jenkins (2321418)	E	C
18th	Thames Area	Linda Gillard (2351441)	M	B
	Rockys Track and Waiumu Kauris			
Thurs 22nd	Waitakeres	Diana Murray 92364566)	E/M	B
24,25,26	Anzac Weekend			
Wed 28th	Mt Eden	Ray Handcock (092785878)	E	A
30th to 2nd May	Mangamate Loop Trip	Becky Banks (02102382178)	M	

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 \$10, B= \$10-20, C= \$20-30, D=\$30-45, E=\$45-60)

Weekend trip costs are estimates only

Midweek trips using public transport are usually free for gold card holders.

### Quote of the Month



## **GEAR REQUIREMENTS**

### **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 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:**

\$35.00 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.

### **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 cut-off 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.