



THE BUSH TELEGRAPH

www.pukekohetrampingclub.org

EDITION 555

November 2020

Next Meeting: Monday 2nd November 2020

VENUE: Anglican Church Hall, Wesley Street, Pukekohe.

Supper Duty November Meeting: Anna and Judy.

Guest Speaker: Peter Stewart—Inca Trail and other South American adventures.

Muddy Boot Award:

Muddy Boot this month is awarded to everyone except Eric as he was the only entry to the “Where am I” competition. Dee generously provided a picture with the hut name on the door so everyone could’ve provided the correct answer.



“Where am I?” Competition:

Last month’s picture was identified by Eric Muir as the Goat Creek Hut on the Mokihinui River towards the end of the Old Ghost Rd.

This month’s photograph is to the right.

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



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.

PTC Committee 2020/2021



David Lawrie – President, Emergency Contact & PLB/First Aid Book/Walkie Talkie Holder
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 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 Ph. 09 294 8927

Raewyn Lane – Treasurer
raewynlane7@gmail.com Ph. 232 8005

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

Dee Keys – Past President, Speaker co-ordinator, Photo Comp organiser
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Barry Gibbon – New Member Greeter at Club Night
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Charlie Browne - Gear Custodian (with Joy Browne)
brownex3@xtra.co.nz Ph. 238 7298

Becky Banks – 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:

Peter Stewart - Bush Telegraph Editor
gardeningpete@xtra.co.nz Ph. 239 1235

Anna Low – Supper box for Club Nights
annalow836@gmail.com Ph. 232 1835

Eric and Linda Muir – Archives and 50th Anniversary booklet

Subs are now due.

\$35 per single \$45 per couple/family.

Payment can be made in person to the Treasurer, Raewyn Lane at a club meeting

Or pay directly to the club bank account number **12 3023 0324204 00** using your surname as the reference and "Sub" as the code. Once done please email the Treasurer, Raewyn Lane with the date and amount deposited at raewynlane7@gmail.com

Trip Reports

Clarks Beach – September 16th

Trip leader: Carole Chambers

(The planned trip was in the Pt Chev/Western Springs area but it was decided it was better to avoid the train because of Covid concerns and the trains running at limited speed because of track maintenance. So we did a local walk instead.)

23 of us met at carpark at end of Torkar Rd and because of near gale force winds from the West, set off fairly quickly to walk around village and golf course, being surprised at the housing there now. We rested at Bradley Reserve in Crisp Rd then Nicholas led us around a further development and back to Crisp Rd. Tide was still quite high (4m that day) so continued down Torkar Rd to Knights Way to access beach. Sun and outgoing tide made it very enjoyable until back near estuary, so most opted to collect cars and drive back to reasonable shelter of main beach for lunch before heading home.

Kaniwhaniwha, Pirongia Forest Park—24th September

Leader: Betty McDonald

Rain had been forecast for a few days but when the day dawned, it didn't look too bad so I sent an email before 8am to confirm, saying "I'm prepared to brave it if you are". However, by 9am the rain had really set in and I got various calls to warn me but one car was already on the way from Pokeno and it was too late to cancel. Much to my surprise 20 turned up – I was really impressed – apparently my email was taken as a challenge!

It was a 1 hour 15 minute drive to the car park in Limeworks Loop Rd. - faster thanks to the recently opened Huntly bypass. The track follows the stream to a loop walk, lush with nikau palms and tree ferns. We detoured to the campsite hoping there would be shelter for lunch, but no (apart from the toilets!), so we continued to the limestone caves. A few managed to squeeze in out of the rain but only two ventured right through the narrow 20 metre cave (twice). As the rain hadn't cleared we decided the loop and cave walk was long enough (about 7 kms) but one new member bravely continued to the giant kahikatea tree.

It is a lovely walk and an easy track so we'll repeat it (and extend it) when the weather is better.

We had a welcome coffee stop on the way home at the Village Cafe in Whatawhata where we shared the delicious birthday cake Annette had kindly made for David.

Rangitoto Baiting Weekend—October 2nd/3rd/4th

Almost back to normal for this month's visit after major re-organisation necessary last month due to L2.5 restrictions

4 departed Pukekohe at 4pm in one vehicle, after dinner stop & comfort break in Otorohanga, then final drive up the track to our weekend base at "the Woolshed" at Rangitoto Station.

Sat morning dawned crisp but fine with some cloud & little breeze, so a good work day. Breakfast over, we were underway at 0730. Objective was to check & rebait the 60+ stations on the 4 baits lines we are responsible for. Arrived a base "camp" after 2 hours walk.

Becky & John J checked & rebaited the NE Ridge loop stations while Barry & Peter did the Central Ridge loop. Last month's (Sept) baiting was the first for the breeding year, so 500gm bait bags were put out, this time 300pm bags used, as historically consumed baits decrease with each visit. Overall PTC lines had 75% bait consumed which was good result – some areas cleaned out completely and other not touched. The nesting survey completed in May, showed that the PTC bait lines protect 20 pairs of breeding birds, so very worthwhile effort.

Trip Reports cont.

Rangitoto Baiting Weekend—October 2nd/3rd/4th

After return to base “camp” & late lunch, we headed back to start at 1400. Back to woolshed at 1630, for shower, change of clothes then visit to house where Howick TC members were based for hot soup & scones which went down a treat. A few red wines / Choc biscuits & chat filled in the time before our roast dinner & desert provided by “cook” Clare – much appreciated after long day we have meal prepared.

Bad news on Sun morning, no water at “woolshed” so we could do breakfast & normal cleanup, so to plan B, off the have breakfast at “the Fat Kiwi” café in Otorohanga, then back to Pukekohe by 1200. A good weekend, thank to John J for his first Rangitoto input, and for Becky & Peter for their inputs



Martha Gold Mine Pit Rim Walkway and Mill Stream Walkway— October 8th

Leader Annette Teague

A group of 14 walkers gathered at the historic Cornish Pumphouse at the start of the walkway.

We were interested to discover plans are being made by Oceana Gold to move this 3-storey building 200 meters at the cost of millions of dollars. This is due to proposed expansion at the site.

We followed the Pit Rim Walkway, branching off to Mill Stream historical walkway and lunch at Gilmour Park.

Seated on a large, semi circular kauri seat about to eat our lunch we were approached by a newspaper reporter. She wanted to take a group photo and write an article for the local paper. We all posed for the camera

apart from Ewan who was soaking his feet in the lake!

After lunch we walked around the lake and along Winner Hill track, returning along Ohinemuri River.

We rejoined the Pit Rim Walkway and continued back to a well earned coffee break.

We had an enjoyable 10km walk in fine weather but met rain on our drive home.



Trip Reports cont.

Hakarimata Walkway (End to End) - October 11th

5 members departed Pukekohe at 0800 in one vehicle, and after short drive arrived at Parker Rd carpark at Huntly. We found a surprising number of other vehicles. Boots on and ready at 0900, through Kauri Dieback station & up the track to the Kauri Loop Track. Here Dee & Linda, diverted and started the Loop Track, whilst Peter, Anna & Barry continued up the stairs to lookout with good view over Huntly, Waikato River, Hamilton etc. Most vehicle owners here enjoying the views and their workout.

From Lookout the walkway follows the ridge line, undulating up & down, with many sections of exposed tree roots and occasional views over River & out to West. No mud this trip. Nice Nikau groves plus mature specimens of rimu, totara, miro, rata etc. Took lunch stop along track, this 6km Northern section took us 4 hrs to get to Lookout Tower & track junction and await Dee & Linda who had relocated vehicle and were coming up the southern section.

After catchup, Dee & Linda headed down the 1349 stairs to Brownlee Ave, while Peter, Anna & Barry carried on to complete the southern section. Lots of Kohekohe trees near top - they have unique characteristics with white flowers & red berries growing directly from tree trunk, visit from April to June to see. Down hundreds of stairs, past Cascades waterfall, picnic spot and along the section of the Rail Track back to carpark where we meet up with Dee & Linda.

Overall 12km in 7 hrs, good walk, this is section of Te Araroa Trail. Lots of people at lookouts at both ends, but only meet 2 locals, and 2 TA walkers on the ridgeline track.



Trip Reports cont.

Labour Weekend Tramp – Pouakai Crossing

Leaders: Ros and Linda

Trampers: Dee, Steve, Michele, Romi, Sue, Becky, Shelena and Kathy

Nine of us left by van and one in a private car bound for New Plymouth on Saturday 24 October 2020, meeting up in New Plymouth at approximately 3.00pm at the Te Rewa Rewa Bridge on the western side of the New Plymouth Coastal Walkway. Mt Taranaki was covered in cloud and could not be seen, but it was a warm afternoon in the city.



Our next stop was Paritutu Rock, at the eastern end of the New Plymouth Harbour. This rock is 156 metres tall, and takes approximately 15 minutes to climb, beginning the ascent with wooden steps, but halfway up the climb becomes more demanding and there is a chain to help manoeuvre yourself up almost vertically to the top, with vast views of New Plymouth district and the coastline as your reward. Still no view of Mt Taranaki though. From here it was on to our accommodation. After settling in, Ros went off to catch up with her Taranaki cousins, while the remaining nine of us found a pub with good food for our dinner that evening.

The next morning (Sunday) nine of us left our accommodation just before 7.00am to drive to the end of the Track (Mangorei Road Trailhead), where we were to meet our shuttle at 7.30am for the drive to the Egmont National Park Visitor Centre and the start of the Pouakai Crossing. Ros stayed in New Plymouth having an urban tour of Pukekura Park and viewing a beautiful Taranaki Garden open to the public, and soaking up the vibe of New Plymouth and the warm weather in the city.

It was cool and overcast when we left the city, and as we drove higher up to the mountain to the Visitor Centre we were surrounded in cloud and drizzle, only catching glimpses of occasional blue sky. Our shuttle driver then told us it had been a miserable day on the mountain the day prior (Saturday).



On disembarking at the Egmont National Park Visitor Centre we all donned our raincoats due to the deteriorating weather conditions. Starting at approximately 8.30am, the track climbed uphill (steps!) for just over an hour to start with. We were then just above the bushline, and commenced sidling along the mountain below the Dieffenbach Cliffs. I am sure there are great views looking outwards if you are lucky enough to be up there on a clear day. Morning tea was swiftly eaten in the rain, then onwards to the Ahukawakawa Track and Holly Hut Junction by following the track around the mountain and

gradually descending, with the occasional view of Ahukawakawa Swamp when the cloud parted. The Ahukawakawa Swamp lies between Mt Taranaki and the Pouakai Range and consists of a wide range of plants, abundant with mosses, grasses and tussocks. At the Junction we turned left for the five minute walk to Holly Hut, a welcome sight offering shelter from the rain where we ate our lunch, and some of us donned extra layers of clothing. There were a number of walkers on the track so Holly Hut was well used as a lunch stop with many raincoats hanging up outside by the time our group left.



Trip Reports cont.

Labour Weekend Tramp – Pouakai Crossing cont.

Back to the Junction and along the boardwalk across Ahukawakawa Swamp. Supposedly if you look back at this point you will see great views of Mt Taranaki. We saw cloud and rain! After the swamp, the track climbs steeply towards the Pouakai Range Ridge. There are lots of steps upwards and it goes on forever. The soil in the boxed steps had worn down and eroded away, and with all the rain turned into big muddy puddles for unsuspecting trampers' feet! Once we came out of the trees (gnarled and covered in moss), the wind on the top of the ridge was cold, and we were all glad to arrive at Pouakai Hut which was packed full of wet trampers with several having walked in from the Mangorei Road Trailhead. After more food to sustain us we headed out into the elements and started the long downhill descent. Two hours of constant steps and boardwalk meant you had to focus as it dropped down in uneven spacings along the boardwalk. Not good for people with sore knees, hips and ankles. The descent is through forest trees not only dripping in water, but also in mosses and lichens, quite enchanting with streams and ferns.

We had all finally arrived back at the carpark by 4.30pm. Not once did we see Mt Taranaki in all her glory, but we did experience her diverse landscape and inclement weather conditions. Back at our accommodation Ros, in our absence, had managed to sort out the problem of the trickling shower which we were very thankful for. She then provided a great curry and rice for our dinner.

Farewelling Romi who was spending a few more days in New Plymouth, we left on Monday morning to travel home at approximately 8.15am, with a morning tea stop at Tongaporutu and lunch in Te Kuiti before arriving back in Pukekohe at approximately 2.30pm.

Shame about the weather for the tramp, but a great bunch of people to have a weekend away with.



Trip Reports cont.

Dubbo 96 Track—October 28th

Leader Shah

Our group met up at the Karangahake Gorge car park and after some refreshments, took Scotsman Gully track towards Karangahake mountain. We were joined by a group of 4 people from a Wellington tramping club doing a recce in the area. We walked up Country Road stopping at a number of locations to look at the surrounding landscape. Two members of our group turn back about half way up the track.

At the Dubbo 96 track junction, we met another group of trampers from Tauranga walking up the track in the opposite direction. We continued down Dubbo 96 track towards Dickey's Flat.

After lunch at Dickey's Flat, we followed Waitawheta Pipeline and the Crown Tramway tracks back to our cars stopping along the way to take note of the mining history of the area.

Although rain was forecast it did not arrive.

The day ended with coffee and cakes at the L and P café Paeroa. Thanks to everyone who came.

Quote of the Month:

NATURE IS NOT A PLACE TO VISIT.
IT IS HOME.
— GARY SNYDER



Results of PTC 2020 Photo Competition

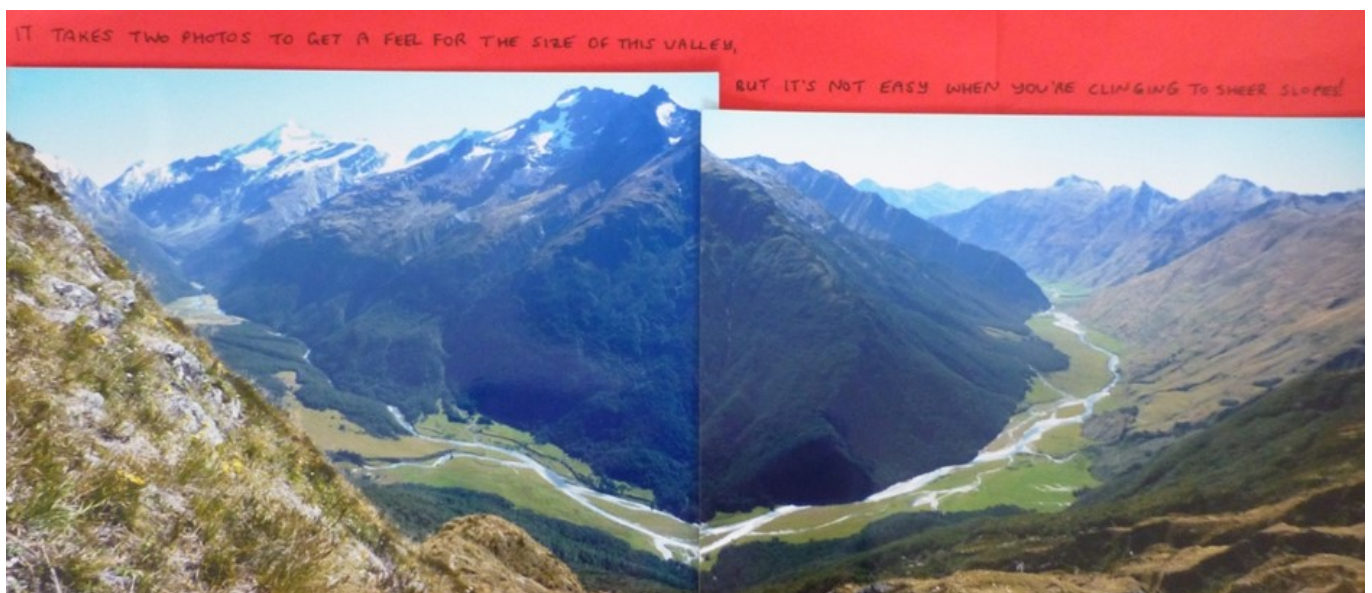
Many thanks to Bruce Shanks, professional guest judge, who shared his vast knowledge with us. He gave positive advice to help us improve our photography skills. Also, many thanks to those who entered photos. Lastly, thanks to the people who raced around to fix the lighting problem!

1. ABOVE BUSHLINE (With no Human Element)

Winner: Dee Keys-Sunburst over the tops on Old Ghost Rd.



Runner-up: Dee Keys-West Matukituki Valley panorama.



2. ABOVE BUSHLINE (With a Human Element)

Winner: Dee Keys-Out on a ledge in Mt Aspiring NP.



Runner-up: Shaaron McKee-Stewart Island.



3. BELOW BUSHLINE (With no Human Element)

Winner: Dee Keys-Sunlight streaming through wet bush on Mt Auckland Track.



Runner-up: Frances Gibbon-Grahams Beach to ARA Park, Awhitu coastal walk.



4. BELOW BUSHLINE (With a Human Element)

Winner: Dee Keys-Cecil King Hut in misty beech forest on Wangapeka Track.



Runner-up: Dee Keys-Wonder who walked in these shoes long ago on the Old Ghost Road?



5. HISTORIC (Any image taken pre 2018)

Winner: Barry Gibbon-Cecil King Hut on Wangapeka Track.



Runner-up: Terry Leonard-The view from Key Summit on this 1974 Routeburn Tramp will still be there today, 46 years later, but not those packs!



6. LONG EXPOSURE

Winner: Dee Keys-Waterfall on Tram Line Track on the way to Waitawheta Hut.



Runner-up: Dee Keys-Waterfall on Leitch's Hut Track in Whareorino Forest.



7. NATIVE FLORA & FAUNA

Winner Flora: Shaaron McKee-Windswept trees, Catlins.



Winner Fauna: Dee Keys-Perfect balance, Oyster Catchers on Abel Tasman Track.



Runner-up Flora: Dee Keys-Mt Cook Lily on sheer slope on the way to Cascade Saddle.



Runner-up Fauna: Shaaron McKee-Sea Lions on Stewart Is.



8. HUMOUR

Winner: Dee Keys-Cracked Lips, Mt Ruapehu.



Runner-up: Dee Keys-Spot the Difference.



9. URBAN

Winner: Frances Gibbon-Mangere Mountain Walkway.



Runner-up: Dee Keys-Keeping the feet dry on boardwalk over Lake Karapiro.



10. SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Winner: Dee Keys-PTC New Year Picnic at Te Toro Beach.



Runner-up: Dee Keys-No stopping until all 1000 pieces are in place!
Communal jigsaw in hut on Wangapeka Track.



OVERALL 2020 WINNER: Dee Keys



OVERALL 2020 RUNNER-UP: Dee Keys



Future Trips

Mid Week- Thurs 5th November- Harkers Reserve
Leader- Raewyn Lane (2328005)

Rangitoto Station (Otorohanga)- 7 & 8 November

Leader- Glenn and Maree Clark (2386569)

Cost- Approx. \$60

Third weekend of the season for the Rangitoto Station Kokako recovery program.

Help carry in and put out bait. Medium+ 7-8 hours.

Mid Week- Wed 11th November- Waiuku Forest

Leader- Annette Egbers (2359382)

North Shore- Saturday 14th November

Leader- Becky Banks (021 02382178)

Cost- Approx. \$10

Coastal walk. Medium 6 hours.

Mid Week- Thurs 19th November- Waterview/Oakley Creek

Leader- Ruth Budden

22nd November

Mid Week- Wed 25th November- Te Tapui loop track

Leader- Shahar (2390662)

29 November

Mid Week- Thurs 3rd December- TBA

Leader- Ray Handcock (092785878)

Rangitoto Station (Otorohanga)- 5 & 6th December

Leader- Glenn and Maree Clark (2386569)

Cost- Approx. \$60

Fourth weekend of the season for the Rangitoto Station Kokako recovery program. Help carry in and put out bait.

Medium+ 7-8 hours.

Mid Week- Wed 9th December- Kariotahi walk and Pot Luck lunch

Leader- Annette Egbers (2359382)

Local- 13th December

Leader- Dee Keys (2359921)

Town and around walk. Picnic lunch for weekend walkers



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.