



The Bush Telegraph

www.pukekohetrampingclub.org.nz

Next meeting: 6th March 2023 @ 7:30pm

Venue: Anglican Church Hall, Wesley Street – Pukekohe

Supper Duty: Frances Gibbon

Guest Speakers: As tramper's we are very aware of the importance of our feet. The vision of **Counties Podiatry** is to help people stay active and on their feet. Come along to the talk by podiatrist Nathan Hatch, a Pukekohe local, who strives to help people through all stages of life with the care they require for their legs and feet. You may pick up some pointers to help you keep out on the tracks for a long time to come.

New Members:

“Where am I competition”



Photo provided by Raewyn, photo taken in 2017 – where am i?

President Notes

Hi everyone,

The recent weather events have devastated parts of the North Island and I hope our members and their whanau have come through relatively unscathed. I am aware that many communities have been deeply impacted and I'm sure all our thoughts are with them. I have always been deeply impressed by the strong and supportive community spirit of our club and the sincere care members extend to each other and the wider community. So please reach out if the club can be of any service at this time.

The Sunday trip from Homunga bay to Waihi beach was miraculously able to go ahead, but we must all be prepared for ongoing disruption as club activities are likely to be impacted for the foreseeable future. At the time of writing most DOC facilities in Northland, Auckland, Waikato, Coromandel, Bay of Plenty, Tairāwhiti, and Hawke's Bay have been closed to the public and will stay closed until it's been determined they are safe. In addition, many Auckland Regional Parks are closed. You can read about it here <https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/know-before-you-go/alerts/> and here <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/Pages/emergency-facility-closures.aspx>.

It's possible more of our upcoming trips may have to be severely modified if parks and tracks do not open in time. Look out for trip promos to stay informed of what we can offer.

As always look after yourselves and your nearest and dearest, keep as active as possible and stay connected. Research and planning is always fun when options are restricted, Plan My Walk is a great digital tool to help with planning in these uncertain times, check it out at www.planmywalk.nz/home or download the app.

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)	M	
Wed 15 th	Massey/Cossey Track	Delwyn		
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)			

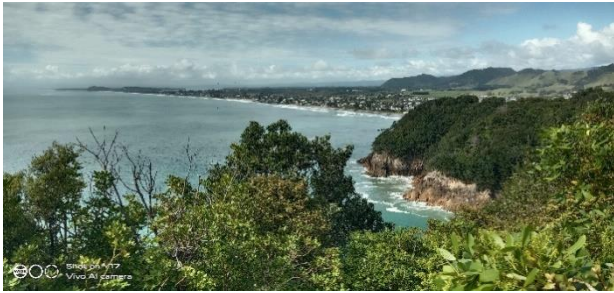
Trip Reports

Trip report 26.02.23 Homunga Bay to Waihi beach with William Wright falls attempt

Leader: Becky

Trampers: Anna, Annie, Anne, Owen, Pip, Dave, Shelena, Barry, John J, Michelle J

Finally, the stars aligned and we were able to go ahead with a trip. 11 excited trampers headed out of Pukekohe in a Pukekohe car rentals van and drove down eerily quiet roads to the Homunga Bay track car park. Eight set off along the Homunga Bay track while Three drove around to Waihi beach to the other end of the track. The Orokawa track starts at the far left side of the beach and we were able to get onto the track without getting wet feet, though if we were any closer to high tide we probably wouldn't have. The track in was wet and muddy but otherwise no issues, as one of the few tracks open at the



moment it was pretty busy. When we got to Orokawa bay we saw lots more damage to the foreshore with many trees down.



We met up with the rest of the party just past the William Wright waterfall track. They reported no major issues, they went off track once but backtracked and picked it up again easily. Five decided to tackle the William Wright falls track, it was quite overgrown in places and washed out further down the track where we decided to call it quits and returned to the beach for a late lunch. After a leisurely lunch we headed back to Waihi beach on the Orokawa track. It had got hot by then and we were glad to feel the breeze as we came around the headland. The ocean looked perfect for swimming, but no one was keen on this trip, so it was to Waihi for ice creams and home by 5pm.



Trip Report – Ngapuriri Farm Walk – 6th Feb – Leader Barry



Walkers – Barry, Anna, Annie, Linda & Steve, Bill, Becky, Anne & Owen, Erna, Shelena, Michelle C, Karen W, John J, Yvonne & Friend Sheryl, Michelle X, Mark & Wilma, Judy, Dave, Norm, Pratik, Alison (1st trip), Ros, Julie (2nd trip), Shannon.



Departed Pukekohe 0800, with 27 walkers carpooling into 6 vehicles. Drive to Port Waikato to regroup & toilet stop. Also need to wait while one vehicle turned around because “somebody who will remain nameless” left his books in his car at Hall Street!! Then 7km on Port Waikato Rd, towards Limestone Downs / Nikau Caves.

Ngapuriri Station is large sheep & beef farm owned by a Waikato family. I had been introduced to farm & meet Farm Mgr Rob, back in Nov 23 when Manukau TC did trip around circuit. 8.1km loop, 430M elevation gain in & out of valleys. 3 hrs walking but lots of wide coastal & farm views, plus amazing / strange Limestone bluffs & torres, so lots of photo stops, resulting in 4.5hrs overall including stops & lunch – the first really fine day in 2-3weeks, so no hurry.

Parked at Woolshed/Yard, and regrouped read to go, some intrepid types utilised the loo with no door, so expansive views!! Started along farm tracks, past airstrip and down steep track to first “point of interest” – a rough clamber along edge of creek, past the “hole in rock= actually an archway” and into the first LOTR film location called Sleepy Hollow, where we took break & had morning tea. From there, it was straight up gully face to admire the ridge after ridge of limestone bluffs. Then it was across couple of narrow limestone ridges, with substantial drop offs – every Ok with just couple needing a steadying hand, up over ridge and back through next gully to farm track again – this was end of the very scenic but scrambly section.



Now farm track & paddock walking, up top of Ridge to lookout under the “balancing rock” on top of ridge, along ridge to access point & down again to paddocks & then track down to creek – so far farm was in excellent condition, and other than 3 minor slips, very little evidence of last couple weeks storm & rainfall. However it was obvious at this creek culvert that water had flowed over track, fence showed retained litter, but no washout. Up the track to huge rock formation which was 2nd LOTR location called Weather Tops or Amun Sul.



Lunch time – some climbed up had lunch inside the cavern, while the rest spread out over the paddock to eat & enjoy to sun & breeze – it was muggy climbing up & down. After lunch it was homeward bound – along track, down into gully, across creek again on bridge of recycled concrete power poles, and UP, UP, UP the short but steep & seeming never ending track back to woolshed to end a great day out. Have to say having 27 on a weekend walk, in rough farm country, with some trying to push ahead, some slow for looking or photos & some



We presented a box of ale to Farm Mgr Rob and a bottle Vino & bunch flowers to Jess, for allowing the Club access to a private property (many Thanks to Julie for bouquet of flowers from her garden) – a \$2pp donation funded this on top of normal transport cost. Back to Port Waikato store where ice creams/ice blocks were appreciated, then back to Pukekohe.

Thanks to Meryl Finlayson for introducing club to walk and to Rob & Jess for sorting access dates with owners. Very good day, very different landscape and outstanding limestone country plus a fine warm day after almost 2 weeks solid rain helped. One comment was 9.5 /10 trip rating, so that says it all. Hopefully can be repeated in Trip Schedule in next couple years

Waiuku Forest Walk Thursday 23rd February.

lead by Erna.

28 keen trampers enjoyed a dry walk through wind battered pine forest. We made it to Karioitahi Beach for lunch before the rain set in. The walk back was past the Mine Site with a talk about their operation given by Barry.

Some made it to a coffee shop in Waiuku. Everyone was in good spirit, even though it was not a typical summers day.



Mid Week Xmas Lunch and walk Thursday Dec 15th

A group of about 23 members meet at my house in Aufidius Place ready for a local walk. The weather forecast was for showers. We set off earlier than intended, hoping to dodge the showers as the sun had come out. We walked up to The Rock which is behind Possum Bourne Retirement Village. This gave us a view of the new subdivision being built off Anselmi Ridge Rd.

We continued down the hill along Lisle Farm Dr, Reynolds Rd, past the duck pond then up to the top of Cape Hill. After a very brief rest and look at the view we continued back to Aufidius Place via Cape Hill Rd, Valley Rd and Twomey Drive. Some more members were waiting to join us for lunch. The weather was kind to us for our shared lunch with only a brief very light shower passing through which did not stop us from enjoying an amazing selection of delicious food. Many thanks to all who helped and contributed to the lunch.

Leader Delwyn Connolly



ODDS n SODs



🌈 Precious Photo taken by Mark Leys: Mid week’s oldest active member takes nana nap at lunch time

🌈 Did you know there are two websites you can visit to find the details of Pukekohe Tramping Club's **Five Summits Trail**? Check out these:

1. [Find My Adventure | Herenga ā Nuku Aotearoa | Outdoor Access Commission \(formerly the Walking Access Commission\)\(herengaanuku.govt.nz\)](#)
2. [Pukekohe Five Summits Trail - Plan My Walk](#)

🌈 For those who are interested and enjoy cross words see below puzzle. Once completed email me (Shelena Wiggill) @ pukekohetrampingclub@gmail.com and I will forward you the answer/ solution sheet. Compliments of wildness magazine (from the website)

WildernessWord 186

By Pam Hutton /
www.puzzlebeetle.co.nz

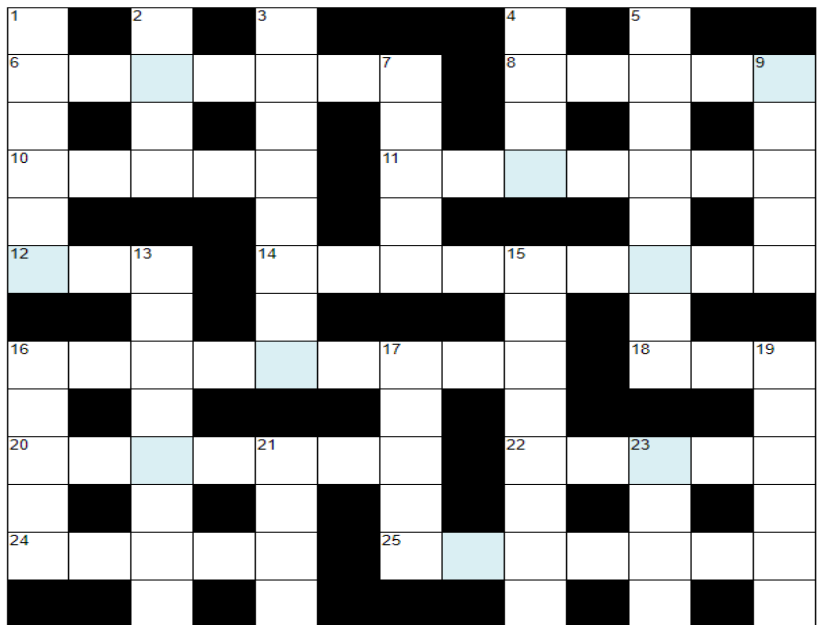
ACROSS

- 6 ____ Loop Trail – mountain bike trail near Queenstown (7)
- 8 Temperature of glacial lake is not this! (5)
- 10 Robert ____ Route – popular tramp in Nelson Lakes National Park (5)
- 11 NZ river in Marlborough that flows into Clarence River (7)
- 12 ____ Pass Hut – resting point on St James Walkway in Lewis Pass area (3)
- 14 Large flat frozen expanses in polar regions (3,6)
- 16 Spork is a handy one! (9)
- 18 Droop like loose tent ropes, eg (3)
- 20 Bag hung on side of rear wheel of bike (7)
- 22 Smouldering remnant of campfire (5)

- 24 Delicious flavour sensation of food at end of long day's tramp (5)
- 25 ____ Head in Otago – where to see albatross colony (7)

DOWN

- 1 Rough cindery fragments of solidified lava (6)
- 2 This describes landscape without sufficient rainfall (4)
- 3 Dark fine-grained volcanic rock found in parts of NZ (8)
- 4 What sandfly bites dol (4)
- 5 Glistens like river in bright summer sun (8)
- 7 Leave no ____ – do not destroy or pollute environment (5)
- 9 Deep narrow wooded valleys of streams (5)
- 13 Expert mountain climber (8)



- 15 Fearless in face of wilderness challenge (8)
- 16 Suggestion during discussion about proposed tramp, eg (5)

- 17 Eastern great ____ – NZ bird also known as kōtuku (5)
- 19 ____ wasp – introduced pest with harmful effect on NZ environment (6)

- 21 ____ up – becomes frozen on surface in cold weather (4)
- 23 Scottish word for small stream (4)

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

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
shelenawiggill@gmail.com

Ph. 027 4033446

Glenn Clark - Weekend Trip Coordinator
glennmaree.clark@gmail.com

Ph. 2386569 or 0212457 468

David Lawrie - Emergency Contact & PLB/ First Aid Book/Walkie Talkie Holder
lawrie@ps.gen.nz

Ph. 021656369

Mark Leys - New Member Contact
mleys@orcon.net.nz

Ph. 09 2948927

Raewyn Lane - Treasurer
raewynlane7@gmail.com

Ph. 232 8005

Raewyn Lane - Mid Week Coordinator (assisted by Betty MacDonald)
raewynlane7@gmail.com

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Dee Keys - Speaker coordinator & Photo Comp organiser
deekeys22@gmail.com

Ph. 235 9921

Charlie and Joy Browne - Gear Custodian
brownex3@xtra.co.nz

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.

