



THE BUSH TELEGRAPH

www.pukekohetrampingclub.org

EDITION 547

February 2020

Next Meeting: Monday 2nd March 2020 at 7.30pm

VENUE: Anglican Church Hall, Wesley Street, Pukekohe.

Supper Duty December Meeting: Catering by "The Flour Mill".

Guest Speaker: Nepal "Charity Trek" - Dee Keys & Peter Stewart.

Muddy Boot Award:

After a recent mid-week tramp to Wairere Falls, trampers piled into cars for trip home. As the driver of one of the vehicles approached an intersection and he was heard to say "we turn here, right?". Back seat driver pipes up with, "No just keep going straight ahead." After a 40 minute detour through interesting Waikato countryside they got their bearings again as being just outside Matamata, so were able to make their way safely home. Back seat driver Dennis Sutton has therefore been taken off navigation duties and receives this month's Muddy. Boot award.



"Where am I?" Competition:

Last month's picture was correctly identified by many as Rangipo Hut, on the Ruepehu Round the Mountain track. Glenn Clark's name was pulled from the boot as the winner.

Glenn has supplied a new photo for this month, below, for you to identify. 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.



“President’s Post”

There was a big turn out to the first meeting of the year and it was good to see everyone in great spirits after the holiday season.

The main attraction however were the guest speakers, Charlie & Joy Browne, giving us the first instalment of their trans Russian expedition. The first instalment covered the period from the very east of Russia up to Mongolia. We look forward at a future meeting to the rest of the trip through the central Russian countries and eventually ending up in London.

The mid-January barbeque was a great success with extremely kind weather. Barry organised the whole event and there were over 50 members turned up which is a huge gathering for the club, including the President

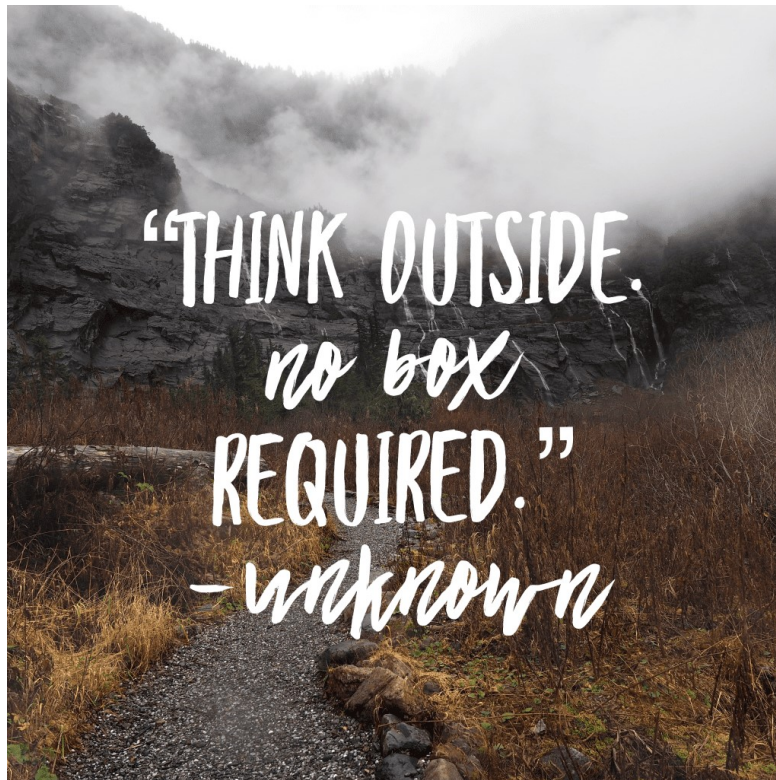
The Pukekohe trail is proving successful and we have undertaken an additional print run of maps and these should be available shortly. We have also ordered additional signs to place around the trail and on the summits indicating the position along the walkway.

I have heard many favourable comments about the work that the club has undertaken on this project.

Remember that the supper for the next meeting is being provided by “The Flour Mill” so lets turn up and support these sponsors.

David

Quote of the



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 2019

David Lawrie - President and Emergency Contact & PLB/First Aid Book Holder
lawrie@ps.gen.nz Ph. 238 8407 or 021 656 369

Dee Keys - Past President
deekeys22@gmail.com Ph. 235 9921

Derek Hopkins - Vice President
dhopkins@fgrp.nz Ph. 238 2476

Barry Gibbon - New Member Greeter at Club Night.
bandfgibbon@gmail.com Ph. 235 9077

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

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

Glenn Clark - Weekend Trip Coordinator, Emergency Contact & PLB/First Aid Book Holder
glennmaree.clark@gmail.com Ph. 238 6569 or 021 2457 468

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

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 (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

Trip organiser and committee meet four monthly. Members should put forward any suggestions for trips they wish to do

Promos for Future Tramps: Weekly promos for the Franklin County News to Becky rbanks2016@gmail.com .

Promos for weekend tramps to Barry bandfgibbon@gmail.com

Promos for midweek tramps to Betty macdonald.betty@gmail.com

Trip Reports: For inclusion in The Bush Telegraph these should be emailed to the editor,

Peter Stewart at: gardeningpete@xtra.co.nz

Emergency contact details: Please check yours and update with Secretary Mark Leys if necessary.

Oxfam Trailwalker 2020

21-22 March Whakatāne

This year the club has a team taking part in the Oxfam Trailwalkers in Whakatane. Shelena Wiggill, has strong armed myself, John Kelsey and non-member Lorraine Higgins into walking 50kms within 14 hours to raise funds to support Oxfam's work in the Pacific Islands. Through the link below you can follow our training progress, and if moved you can donate to our team fundraising.

Many thanks for your support.

Becky, Shelena, John and Lorraine.

<https://www.oxfamtrailwalker.org.nz/legs-miserable->



Trip Reports

Orewa – Silverdale Estuary (7.5 kms) 16th January 2020

Leader: Carole Chambers

21 of us began the Te Ara Tahuna walk at 10.30 – school holidays a good time to drive north (an hour and a quarter). Parked at Western Reserve for toilets and morning tea.

Keeping to the water, we followed a well-signed sealed path, veering left at first fork, towards school. Continued around estuary, stopped on the only hill for a great view of the water and all its small clumps of mangroves.

Found shade under large trees for lunch stop, after the next toilets.

Walked by the 'Pop-up' suburb of Millwater with many large homes and own shops, through a greener area then over bridge and back to starting point. Two hours walking time with rests and half-hour lunch break – so shorter than most, but a very hot day and a chance to join holiday makers and campers on the main beach enjoying the full tide and warm water, for a swim.

Hauraki Rail Trail—Paeroa to Matatama 19th January.

Leader: Judy Donovan

8 Cyclists travelled down to Paeroa where we met up with our shuttle for transfer to Matamata.

The trail took us alongside quiet country roads and past lush thoroughbred and dairy farms to West Te Aroha, where we stopped for lunch at the Old Forge. This proved to be an excellent recommendation from our shuttle driver, Wayne, and was really busy, considering it only opened at Labour Weekend.

The trail through Te Aroha and onwards to Paeroa put us back on an old railway line and through dairy farms. This section was very hot and threw a few curve balls—Mike Massey developed cramp, and then a puncture which put him on the road waiting for Mark's buddy to rescue him.

However, 7 completed the trail and thoroughly enjoyed the experience and companionship.

We enjoyed a stunning summers day.

Wairere Falls Track, Waikato. Wednesday 22 January 2020

Leader Joan Leitch

Twenty-three members travelled to the start of the Wairere Falls track, nestled in the foot of the Kaimai ranges near Matamata, for a walk to the waterfall. DOC have built a new carpark and it was well-used. They were also conducting a survey, trying to find out who was using the track. It seemed popular with tourists, and there were also families with young children.

We initially split into two groups, with walkie-talkies for communication. The speedier group took off up a track with boulders and tree roots, but fortunately little mud. The seven who took the scenic tour option followed on the same track but stopped frequently to observe the trees and undergrowth. Both groups benefitted from the shade of the trees and the cloud cover.

Trip Reports cont:

Wairere Falls Track, Waikato—cont.



The base of the waterfall has a sturdy lookout. Despite the recent lack of rain, plenty of water was still falling the 153 metres which makes it the highest waterfall in the North Island. The water then flows over huge boulders and looked clean and cool. Most of our group used this as a lunch stop and turning point, but five intrepid souls carried on to the summit for a stunning view of the Waikato and a look at the plateau at the top of the falls. One lesson learnt was to carry your own lunch if your partner is likely to leave you behind!

The walk was challenging at times, with boulder-hopping, a narrow track and many stairs. A few members decided to return early rather than risk their ankles. On the way down we stopped at the International Seat of Peace, which was a short climb up a paddock to further views of the Waikato area.

We gathered for coffee at Ironique Café in Te Aroha, as did the Tauranga Tramping Club and a cycle group.



Trip Reports cont:

Rangiwhia Hut Auckland Anniversary Weekend- January 25-27

Leader: Glenn Clark.

Party: Maree, Linda, Steve, Ros, Peter, Emma, Grant, Becky, Shelena and Charlie

Travel details – 450 km and approx. 6.0 hrs travel time one way.

Saturday- Most of the party gathered at the Browne's residence and loaded the van for the drive to Rangiwhia, with a 7.10 am departure. We picked up Becky and Shelena in town and headed south. A stop for coffee and toilets in Tokoroa and Taihape.

Turned inland at Mangaweka and proceeded to the Rangiwhia carpark at the foot of the Ruahines. After lunch it was the HOT trudge up to Rangiwhia hut (1300m). DOC have spent a lot of money re-routing the track above the slip and putting in steps. A relief to arrive at the hut for which we had booked beds. Able to enjoy the great views out over the plains and north to mountains. Great sunset.

Sunday- Most went for a half day trip above the hut, climbing up through the tussock to a high point on the loop track (Mangahua 1583m). Great views and lovely to be walking on the tops, looking across to points we have been to on previous trips. Back for a lazy afternoon once the day trippers left. Another great evening sitting outside the hut into the evening.

Monday- We were away about 8.15 am for the 1.5 hr walk back down to the carpark. More enjoyable in the cooler part of the day. It was then the long drive home with lunch in Turangi. Back at the Browne's by 4.30 pm.

Homunga Bay to Waihi Beach via William Wright Falls—2nd February.

Leader: Becky Banks

Party: Linda, Steve, Gerald, Ros, Robert, Andrea, Jade, Makayah

Nine set off in a rental van at the usual time. Bridge closure at Ngataea meant a diversion, so the group set off on the track down to Homunga Bay at 10am and I drove the van around to Waihi Beach. There were strong winds in exposed places, but calm and sunny otherwise.

The group had morning tea in a sheltered area near Homunga Bay then continued on around to Orokawa Bay, enjoying beautiful coastal views and stunning blue skies. I met up with the group and we all had lunch under a pohutukawa on Okokawa Bay while our youngest cooled off with a swim.

Linda remained at Orokawa while others made the 40 minute, very hot trek up the stream to William Wright Falls. Water was low but the cutty grass was high. After refreshing at the falls we collected Linda before continuing in the heat to Waihi Beach for a well deserved swim.

Ice creams in hand we left Waihi Beach at about 4pm and got back to Pukekohe just before 6pm.



Trip Reports cont:

Homunga Bay to Waihi Beach via William Wright Falls cont:



Duder Regional Park, 13th February, 2020

Trip Leader- Annette Teague

On a lovely summer's day 27 walkers drove to the park- Welcome to the visitors on their first walk.

We followed the Farm Loop track up the hill and over very dry pastures to the trig station. From that vantage point we enjoyed great coastal views and welcome sea breezes. Walking on we enjoyed a drinks break in the shade of the trees. Continuing on down to the shoreline our track led through bush to Waipokaia/ Duck Bay where we had lunch on the beach in the shade. It was high tide so we didn't have the opportunity to observe the wading birds but some of us enjoyed a paddle.

After a pleasant few hours at the park we stopped at Ciao Bella for coffee on the way home.

Future Trips

Mid Week- Wed 19th February – TBA

Leader- Linda Cass (2393763)

Rangitoto Island- 23/24th February (Fully Booked)

Leader- John Kelsey (021 711853)

Cost-

Stay at Historic Baches

Mid Week- Thurs 27th February – Westgate to Westharbour

Leader- Shaaron McKee (0272570789)

TBA – 1st March

Leader- Becky Banks (02102382178)

Cost- Approx. \$20

TBA. Medium 5-6 hours.

Mid Week- Wed 4th March – Daleys Clearing

Leader- Shahar (0212590299)

Bike Trip- 8th March

Leader- Rosemary Gatland (092675087)

Upper Manukau Foreshore. Easy 4-5 hours.

Mid Week- Thurs 12th March- Conifer Grove/Waiata Shores

Leader- Shaaron McKee (0272570789)

Mt Karioi- 15th March

Leader- John Kelsey (021 711853)

Cost- \$20

Explore the tracks on Mt Karioi near Raglan. Medium 5-6 hours.

Mid Week- Wed 18th March – Kauaeranga Valley

Leader- Annette Egbers (2359382)

Rangitoto Station (Otorohanga)- 21/22 March

Leader- Glenn and Maree Clark 2386569

Cost- Approx. \$60

Clean up weekend for the season for the Rangitoto Station Kokako recovery program. Do some track work, empty bait stations. Stay at house. Option for easy walks. Medium 7-8 hours.

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.