



The Bush Telegraph

www.pukekohetrampingclub.org.nz

Next meeting: 4th Dec Nov 2023 @ 7:30pm

Venue: Anglican Church Hall, Wesley Street – Pukekohe

Supper Duty: Frances Gibbon

Guest Speakers:

There will be No Guest Speaker-

But there will be a **Xmas Mix n**  **Mingle night.**

This year LADIES, you have the pleasure of providing supper.

New Members – Jennifer Lynch

“Where am I competition” or what am I?

Barry had gruesome story to tell about with these photos in the last meeting: for those who missed the meeting below is the story around this.



<https://www.sciencelearn.org.nz/resources/1435-vegetable-caterpillar>

Vegetable caterpillar fungus specimen

The vegetable caterpillar fungus infects the porina moth caterpillar and turns it into a dried mummy.

How does this happen?



The caterpillars of the native *Aoraia dinodes* or *Dumbletonius* characterifer species of moths accidentally eat the very small, reproductive spores of the fungus when feeding on leaf litter. The insides of the caterpillar form an ideal habitat for the fungus spores to germinate and grow. When the caterpillar retreats underground to start to form into a pupa, preparing to develop into a moth, the fungus starts to grow using the caterpillar’s body for food. As the fungus

grows, it forms a shell around the caterpillar's body, and slowly the whole thing dries out. The caterpillar is slowly turned into a mummy and is dried and preserved in the fungal casing.

As the fungus feeds from the nutrients in the caterpillar's body, it grows and is eventually ready to reproduce again. It grows a small stem through the head of the caterpillar, which is the part of the body closest to the forest floor. The stem grows slowly until it pushes through to the forest floor. When it reaches the fresh air, the top of the stem thickens to develop a layer of flask-shaped structures in which are produced fungal spores in sets of eight, each set within a sac called an ascus. These are released into the atmosphere, to be inadvertently consumed by another unsuspecting caterpillar moth, and the cycle begins again.

President Notes

November saw a successful, if muddy, baiting weekend at Rangitoto Station. With just three volunteers able to attend in October, only one of the two lines was completed. It was great to find all that bait had been taken and there was still bait left along the other line, so missing a month on that line doesn't seem to have been a big problem. Results from the other lines were very encouraging, Tunawaea dropped from 40% in October to 14% bait uptake, while Mangatutu dropped from 40% to around 10%. Hopefully, this means pest numbers are right down and we are set for a successful breeding season. We will find out when Rat Track Indexes are done in December. This really reinforces how important our bait lines are, being on the outer edges and subject to constant incursions. Next weekend is the last bait weekend of the season, hopefully we finish on a high, with plenty of volunteers and good weather.

I saw a call for clubs to engage in volunteer mahi with BCT (Back Country Trust) and look at "tramp-and-work" trips, where they could go on one of their weekend tramping trips and also do some basic mahi with hand tools. It would be interesting to see if we have the skills and appetite to take on one or two of these sorts of trips next year. There is a post on the BCT Facebook page of a trip Auckland Tramping Club undertook earlier in the year in the Kaimanawa.

Early in the month I attended the FMC Club Korero over Zoom. This is an opportunity to hear about what FMC has been doing and network with other clubs. The main conversation was around the need for clubs to re-register as incorporated societies under the new legislation by April 2026. We have a couple of years to do this, and resources seem to be coming out to support clubs in the process. There is a write up in November FMC newsletter if anyone is interested. The other topic of conversation was around access to tramping tracks. It was encouraging to hear that there is a will to open some longer tracks in the Hunuas in the future. The Wairoa-Cossey track should be opening soon(ish) and a detailed Kauri survey is currently being completed before public consultation begins. The next Club Korero will take place in February, if you have any questions you'd like put forward to FMC, submit them early to me.



Finally, as an early Christmas present we have another track opening up with the Windows loop in Karangahake Gorge now fully open and rail loops expected to open soon. This is great news for the summer. I hope everyone has some fun plans to get out there over the next couple of months and I look forward to hearing about how they went when we start back up in the New Year.

Stay safe everyone and have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Future Trips – Programme

Spring programme 2023				
Date	Destination	Leader	Grade	Cost {฿}
Wed 30th Aug				
Septemeber				
2/3 Sept	Rangitoto Station 1 Assist again with the Kokako Programme	Glenn and Maree Clark (2386569)	M	65
Thurs 7th	TBC	Frances Gibbon		
10	Maratoto/Wires track	Becky Banks	M	25-30
Wed 13 th	Remuera - Ellerslie	Gail & Jenny		
17	Kaimais Pylon Peak Loop	Becky Banks	M	25-30
Thurs 21st	Hunuas	Delwyn		
24				
Wed 27th	Remuera are, Mt Hobson	Prue		
October				
1st Oct				
Thurs 5th	Longford Park - Panurehue Inlet	Mark		
7th/8th	Rangitoto Station 2 Assist again with the Kokako Programme	Glenn and Maree Clark (2386569)	M	65
Wed 11th	Patumahoe	Annette Egbers		
15				
Thurs 19th	Whitford bridle path	Shahar		
21/22/23	Kawekas	Becky Banks	M	125
Wed 25th				
29				

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November					
Thurs 2nd Nov	Ocean to Mountain	Mark			
4th/5th	Rangitoto Station 3 Assist again with the Kokako Programme	Glenn and Maree Clark (2386569)	M	65	
Wed 8th	Mt Victoria - North Head	Annette Egbers			
12					
Thurs 16th					
18	Mt Karioi	Mary Crawford			
Wed 22nd					
26	Karamatura to Mount Donald McLean	Shelena Wiqqill			
Thurs 30th	Morrinsville	Shaaron			
December					
2nd/3rd Dec	Rangitoto Station 4 Assist again with the Kokako Programme	Glenn and Maree Clark (2386569)	M	65	
Wed 6th					
10	Awhitu Regional Park Walk and pre xmas picnic. Camp overnight?				
Thurs 14th					
<p>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=\$50-70) Weekend trip costs are estimates only For mid week costs (e.g. A/C with/without Gold card)</p>					
Version- August 28					

PUKEKOHE TRAMPING CLUB

ONLINE RAFFLE IN SUPPORT OF THE BACKCOUNTRY TRUST



KAURI BOWL, DIAMETER 340MM, 150MM DEEP
RETAIL VALUE APPROX \$250
TICKETS \$5 EACH

To purchase deposit money in club account 12-3023-0324204-00 with your name and bowl as reference.
Email Raewyn once done and if you want a particular number/s (1-100)
Winner will be drawn at club meeting once all tickets sold

Trip Reports

26 November Karakmatura & Puriri Track
Leader: Shelena



We embarked on a laid-back escape with our group as we meandered through the Karakmatura track and Puriri in the Waitākere Ranges. The journey began at the Hillary Trail, marked by a serene 15-meter waterfall dancing along the Karakmatura Stream, and kauri trees.



The hike unfolded effortlessly, a casual mix of around 1300 stairs and a leisurely 12-kilometer stroll. The trail, a blend of unassuming boardwalks and unpretentious metal walkways, offered a relaxed connection with nature. Even the stairs seemed to invite us at an unhurried pace.

The weather played along, providing a soft backdrop to our leisurely exploration. As we reached the waterfall's base, a tempting swimming spot awaited, but the chilly water and our collective sense of low-key adventure led us to a simpler pleasure—a stop for ice cream.

Amidst the quiet rustle of leaves and the occasional chatter of our group, we found joy in the unassuming beauty of the trail, the shared laughter, and the modest satisfaction of a day well-enjoyed.

Mid-Week Walk 2 Nov. 2023



We made our way by train and bus to Mangere Bridge. To the leader's surprise, it was too early for the caffeine addicts so we made our way onto the old bridge where we had morning tea.

We then followed the waterfront to the Queenstown Rd end. We

then crossed over to the foot of Queenstown Hill. Then we went uphill to some large Norfolk Pines. Some of the group split off to go Cross-country to Queenstown Rd. At this point, the caffeine addicts could bear it no longer. They headed straight for the big house Monte Cecilia while the remainder had lunch in the shade of trees on the lower lawn. We then congregated in Mt Albert Rd before using side streets to make our way to Cornwall Park. At that point we broke into two groups, one climbing the mountain and the other heading for the cafe. From there we headed back down the road to Greenlane Railway Station and caught the train home.

28 October Duder Regional Park - Leader Becky

Trampers: Anna, Anne and Owen, John J, Rod

We left Hall Street at 8am and after a brief side trip to check out the Pukekohe East Presbyterian Church and its musket holes, we arrived at the carpark just before 9am. The sun was shining as we set off down the road before taking the track to Te Wharau Bay campground off to the right. We negotiated a small slip, some tree fall and mud on the rather overgrown track and once we arrived at the campground we stopped a while on the beach to enjoy the tranquillity. A little further along the beach and around the corner there is now a well benched track up through bush that meets the Whakakaiwhara Pa track by the red outbuilding. Make sure you go through the gate or you'll have to jump the fence like we did at the outbuilding. We followed the track over the headland to the point where we had a leisurely morning tea soaking up the sun and doing a little bird spotting. A few seabirds including a gannet included in the usual mix. Once fully rested we made strides for the Trig point with a slight detour down the bush section of the sustainability trail. This follow a stream and has a mix of remnants with newer regenerating bush. Lots of bait lines throughout so plenty of birdsong along the way. We scrambled up paddock and hopped another gate to reach the trig where we found some shelter to enjoy lunch with a view of the surrounding coastline. We then headed down to the Coastal Walk which dropped down to Waiapu Bay and then walk along the foreshore (this is underwater at high tide) to Umupuia Beach. We then crossed a small stream (slippery mud but some handy stepping stones) turned right and walked past 2 houses before turning left along a farm road, going through a gate and following the road over the stream and then to the left back to the carpark. There is an option to go right after the stream and meeting the farm loop track if you want another climb, but we took the low road, which skirts the Buffalo paddock (which supply the buffalo mozzarella to Clevedon market). It must have been afternoon nap time, they were all sleeping, including a little calf with his mum. We arrived back about 1pm, so a leisurely 4 hour ramble around the park, 8.5 kms in total. Plenty of time to stop at one of the many café's around Clevedon on the way home and get a few hours in the Garden in.

Tranquil waters



Hopping fences like a pro



Trig Views



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 "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

Ph. 232 8005

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

Frances Gibbon - Supper box for Club nights
bandfgibbon@gmail.com

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.

