



# The Bush Telegraph

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

**Next meeting: 7th April @ 7:30pm**

**Venue: Anglican Church Hall, Wesley Street – Pukekohe**

**Monthly Club Meeting:**

The Club meets at the Anglican Church Hall, Wesley Street, and Pukekohe on the **first Monday of each month at 7.30pm** unless otherwise advised.

**Supper Duty:** Frances Gibbons

**Speaker:** Barry - Europe 2024

**New Members:** Welcome Lynda Plunkett

## The President's Notes

### President's Notes

It is with great sadness we acknowledge it has been a year now since club and committee member Judy Donovan went missing in the Northern Pureora forest on 23rd March 2024 while working on baitlines. Now she has been recovered a funeral service is planned to celebrate her life. Judy was a passionate advocate for the outdoors community and made a huge contribution to the club. I'm sure there will be many who are grateful for this opportunity to connect, share and start to heal. Details of the service are

**Funeral of Judy Mary Donovan**

**Saturday 10th May**

**11am**

**St Andrews Anglican Church, 43 Queen Street, Pukekohe**

**All welcome**

## **Edition 604 - March 2025**

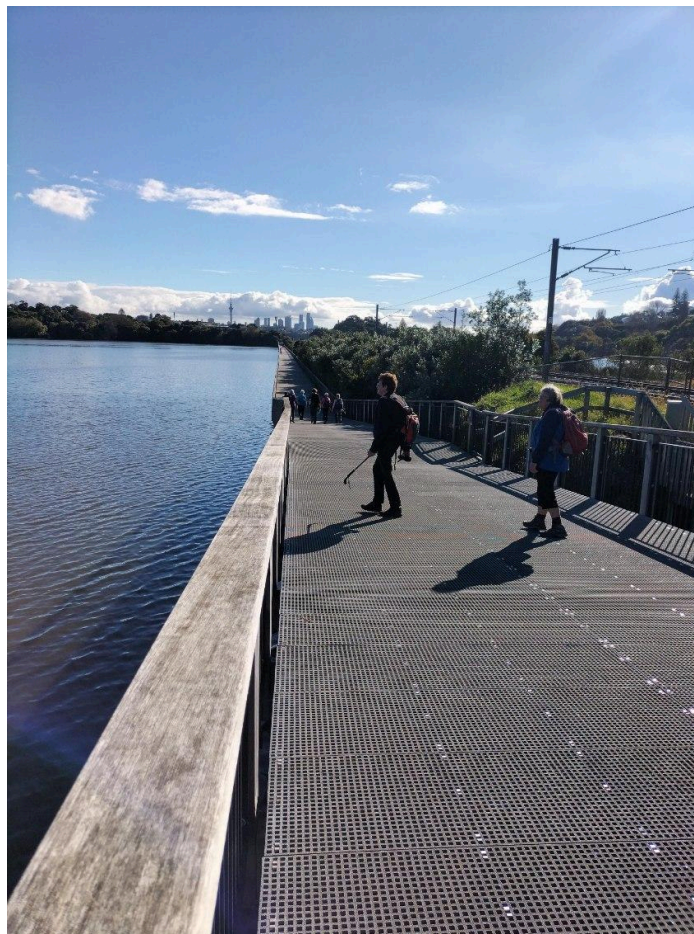
Plans for a memorial bench on the Five Summits Track that she was instrumental in creating continue to move along, and we hope this will be in place to coincide with the service.

The committee met this week to review the club constitution and bring it in line with the new Incorporated Societies Act 2022. A tedious job but necessary for us to remain an Incorporated Society beyond 2026. A huge thank you to Mark Leys for the work he did to provide us with a first draft to work with, and also to the committee members who gave up several hours on a Friday evening to go through it. The new proposed constitution will be circulated before our AGM in May, so club members can vote to accept it (or not). Your committee can attest it makes excellent bedtime reading. Once accepted, we can re register as an Incorporated Society under the new act.

A new issue of FMC's Backcountry is in and will be available at the meeting. Stay safe everyone.

**Becky**

### **Where am I Competition?**



## Future Trips

### Summer Programme 2025

Date	Destination	Leaders	Grade
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#### April

Thursday 3rd	Kingsland to Westmere	Ray	
Sunday 6th	Wires Maratoto Loop	Becky	Medium
Wednesday 9th	Waiuku Forest	Annette E	
Sunday 13th	Pylon Peak Loop	Becky	Hard
Thursday 17th	Pararekau Is	Robert	
EASTER 18, 19, 20, 21	North South Track	Becky	
Wednesday 23rd	Weymouth	Mark	
Sunday 27th	Waharau	Mary	Light Plus

### Winter Programme 2025

Date	Destination	Leaders	Grade
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#### May

Thursday 1st			
Sunday 4th	Pinnacles	Mary & Lisa	
Wednesday 7th			
Sunday 11th			
Thursday 15th			
Sunday 18th	Piha to Karekare Return	Pip	

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Wednesday 21st			
Sunday 25th			
Thursday 29th			

## Completed / Past trips

### Milford to Takapuna – Thursday 6th March

Another great turnout today for our walk from Milford to Takapuna. There were twenty six of us. We took the 9.11 train from Pukekohe and eventually arrived at Britomart for a quick loo stop then through Commercial Bay to get the Northern Express bus to Smales Farm Station. From there a quick walk through to the lake at the canoe club. We had our morning tea stop here then we cut through the hospital to Shakespeare Road. I'd emailed Milford School to ask if we could walk through their grounds to the lake which they had agreed to. We crept through as quietly as possible and found the track around the lake down by Waterwise. After a little while the track becomes a fabulous boardwalk which we stayed on around the back of the tennis club and through to Sylvan Park. We could have carried on around the lake a bit further but I decided to take the group over to the beach so we safely negotiated Kitchener Road and went down Ocean View Rd to Milford Beach. From there it was a lovely walk around the coast, past some sunbathers at Thorne Bay and on to what I hoped would be a nice climb around the rocks. Unfortunately the tide was too far in so we had to walk up Minnehaha Ave and along Hurstmere Rd to Earnoch Ave. I could possibly have taken O'Neills or Brett Aves back to the coast but I still wasn't certain we could get around from there with the high tide. We emerged onto the camping ground at the northern end of Takapuna Beach and from there to the welcome shade of the trees near the changing rooms for lunch. Three (Annette E, Alison and I) then four (Robert) went for a swim. It was nice but a cool wind once we got out. Gail left us at the beach to visit a friend and Shaaron felt the lure of the shops so now we were down to 24. We walked up The Strand and over into Northcross St but all the shops were empty there, even the BNZ which had been there forever. We took a left into the carpark on Auburn St past the Croquet Club and entered a bush track which wends its way behind Woolworths and Barrys Point Road. There has been considerable track and boardwalk work since I was last there so it was a lovely walk past the mangroves down to the bottom of Barrys Point Road and on to Akoranga Station to take the bus back to town. We didn't have too long to wait for the train home, but did strike all the schools. Thanks Alison for being the tail end Charlie. We all had a great day and the weather obliged beautifully.

Prue





**Wednesday March 12th Thames**

Seventeen walkers met at Porritt Park Thames for a walk that began with a little history walking tour of some of the back streets of Thames. Points of interest were : Brian Boru hotel, Thames Hospital, Museum of Technology ( Bella Street Pumphouse), A&G Price Foundry, Caledonian mine and War Memorial.

Lunch was enjoyed at Kuranui Bay Reserve after which we strolled along the Coastal walkway back to the cars. A few light showers kept the heat away. Afternoon tea was enjoyed at The Wharf cafe. **Leader Annette Egbers**



**Montana Heritage trail, Waitakere**



### **Edition 604 - March 2025**

We left at 8.30 am and arrived at Falls Road car park at 10 am after navigating Auckland's morning rush hour. We took the Upper Kauri track and walked amongst the majestic Kauri trees. Morning tea at the picnic table, after a short walk up the steep steps and boardwalk, was a welcomed break. We walked to the end of the boardwalk, then followed Long Road and Fenceline track to Waitakere Dam. Lunch stop was at a clearing overlooking the Waitakere Reservoir. After lunch, we had another test down the steps and boardwalks leading through regenerating forest back to the car park. We arrived back in Pukekohe about 4 pm after navigating the afternoon rush hour. Great weather, an interesting walk and a happy group of trampers. Thanks to our leaders Ben Lazarus and Young David who did a great job. Thanks to everyone who came on the walk. **Shahar**



### **9 March - Mt Karangahake loop 17.2kms 6.5hrs**

Just four trampers tackled this loop with me, Shelena, Jenette and Chrissy. It was a beautiful day for it and quite a hot and sweaty climb up to the summit. We took the shortcut on the way up to save a bit of time. A bit steeper but mostly dry underfoot at this time of year. We had morning tea at the summit and enjoyed the expansive views before picking up the Country Road track and sidling around the other side of the mountain. This was considerably cooler and easy walking. After stopping for lunch on the track, we took the Dubbo 96 track down to the Waitawheta river, crossed over on the bridge and then followed the Crown Track. We had a long dark tunnel to negotiate, uneven and wet underfoot (do bring your head torch), before arriving at the very busy swimming spot. Most of us enjoyed a refreshing dip before continuing on along the very easy walking track beside the river. Plenty of history along the way and the track finishes with the Windows Walk for some more great views. **Becky**



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### 22-23 March - Mangawhai Weekend

At 4pm on Friday afternoon Karen B, Ros and I started the drive across Auckland. Expectations were managed, but though traffic flow was slow at times we made steady progress and made it up to Mangawhai in a bit over 2 hours. With a stop to get dinner and some drama with the holiday park gate we arrived at our three bedroom house in the Riverside Holiday Park around 7pm. It was dinner, showers and into bed.

On Saturday we made use of the early low tide to walk Mangawhai cliff track as a loop, by walking along the beach to start. There were a few rocky sections, but it was generally easy beach walking. After about 4 kms we reached the Natural Arch and walked through to find the end of the track. We climbed up steps to about 100ms, and then walked along the cliffs back to the start (8kms and 3hrs). This track is part of the Te Araroa (TA) trail. The coastal views were amazing, and we enjoyed all the birds we encountered along here as well as ogling the fancy houses. There were some very handy vendors at the carpark, so we had some morning tea before heading to the Tanekaha tramping area, just 10 or so minutes drive away. Named after the Tanekaha or Celery Leaf tree that is in the area. There are numerous tracks available, Karen and I decided to do the loop track, Ros started with us but took the Botanical track part way up to shorten her walk. The Tanekaha loop climbed up to a trig point on the Brynderwyn ridge before picking up the Langsview track, which is also part of the TA. This is where we found a lovely camp spot

with shelter, picnic table and longdrop as well as sweeping views over Waipu Cove set up by the local community for TA walkers. A great spot for lunch. We continued along the undulating ridgeline before taking the Waterfall track down. This follows a stream and is steep and a bit rough at the top with some boulder hopping across the stream at times. But once we reached the main waterfalls it was much easier going. Waterfalls 3 and 2 were a bit dark and murky, but we found a small pool further on for a quick dip and then waterfall 1 was the perfect little swimming hole so we had to go in again. It was not much further to get back to the start. The bird call around the start of the tracks was just amazing. We were all very impressed by the area and are keen to return and explore it some more. It took us 4 hours to get back to the car and 3 on the Botanical loop. As a bonus we enjoyed a stunning sunset from the holiday park that evening. **Becky**



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On Sunday we drove up the coast a little and did the Waipu coastal track from the Waterman Drive entrance to Waipu Cove (2km each way). This track hugs the rocky coastline lined with pohutukawas and was stunning. It passed through some pancake rocks, the same type found in Punakaiki on the West Coast of the South Island. After reaching Waipu Cove we returned on the same track with plans to drive on to Waipu Cove for a swim, but it was so busy we couldn't even find a park. Instead we continued to Waipu and had some lunch and a short stroll along the river track. We were considering a visit to Waipu Caves, but with time marching on we skipped that this trip and decided it was time to head home. Slow going again once we hit Auckland, but an accident seemed to have brought northbound traffic to a halt, so we counted ourselves lucky and were back in Pukekohe by 4pm. Thank you to Ros for supplying a delicious Sri Lankan curry and to Karen who supplied the treats. A fabulous weekend.






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<b>Pukekohe Tramping Club Committee 2024/25</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>email</b>
<b>Rebecca Banks</b>	<b>President</b>	<a href="mailto:rbanks2016@gmail.com">rbanks2016@gmail.com</a>
<b>Barry Gibbon</b>	<b>Vice President</b> New Member Greeter at Club night First Aid Book	<a href="mailto:bandfgibbon@gmail.com">bandfgibbon@gmail.com</a>
<b>David Lawrie</b>	<b>Secretary</b> Emergency Contact & PLB First Aid Book Walkie Talkie Holder	<a href="mailto:lawrie@ps.gen.nz">lawrie@ps.gen.nz</a>
<b>Glenn Clark</b>	<b>Weekend Trip Coordinator</b>	<a href="mailto:glennmareeclark@gmail.com">glennmareeclark@gmail.com</a>
<b>Mark Leys</b>	<b>New Member Contact</b> Aged Expo Organiser	<a href="mailto:mleys@orcon.net.nz">mleys@orcon.net.nz</a>
<b>Raewyn Lane</b>	<b>Treasurer</b> Mid-Week Walk Coordinator	<a href="mailto:raewynlane7@gmail.com">raewynlane7@gmail.com</a>
<b>Dee Keys</b>	<b>Speaker Coordinator</b> <b>Photo Competition Organiser</b>	<a href="mailto:dkeys22@gmail.com">dkeys22@gmail.com</a>
<b>Charlie &amp; Joy Browne</b>	<b>Gear Custodian</b>	<a href="mailto:brownesx3@xtra.co.nz">brownesx3@xtra.co.nz</a>
<b>Pip Wooffindin</b>	<b>Bush Telegraph Editor</b>	<a href="mailto:pipwoofnz@gmail.com">pipwoofnz@gmail.com</a>
<b>Rebecca Banks &amp; John Jacobson</b>	<b>Publicity</b> <b>Facebook Page Administrator</b>	<a href="mailto:rbanks2016@gmail.com">rbanks2016@gmail.com</a>
<b>Shelena Wiggill</b>	<b>Committee Member</b>	<a href="mailto:shelenanwiggill@gmail.com">shelenanwiggill@gmail.com</a>
<b>Other Positions Not on the Committee</b>		
<b>Eric &amp; Linda Muir</b>	<b>Archives</b> <b>50th Anniversary Booklets</b>	

<b>Trip Leaders</b>
<p><b>Please inform David Lawrie 021 656 369 or Glenn Clark 09 2386568 or 021 245 7468 as to your trip intentions as they are Pukekohe Tramping Club Emergency Contacts.</b></p> <p>If they have no knowledge of where you are or who is on your trip they are unable to be of assistance if help is required. They also hold a Personal Locator Beacon and First Aid Manual for trip leaders use. Please return these promptly as they will be required for next week's trip.</p>


### Clarification of Trip Leader's Responsibilities under OSH Regulations:

Commercial Group Leaders (employees) are responsible under legal Health and Safety Regulations for the members of the group they are leading. As 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. 

Trip Leaders reserve the right to refuse any member participation in any tramp not considered suitable.

## Gear Requirement

### Day Trips:

Small pack   
Suitable footwear  
Lunch and snacks  
Full drink bottle  
Rainwear Hat (woollen or sun), gloves, change of clothes  
Small first aid kit, whistle, thermal blanket

### 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  
Thermal longs for winter trips or if above the bushline  
Torch or headlight  
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.

### Weekend and Longer Trips:

**Monday** night is the cut-off point. Any member who does not adhere to this will miss out.

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The reason for the cutoff point is to allow time for the Trip Leader to arrange, transport, food, bookings, etc.

### **Midweek Trips:**

**These can be viewed in the Bush Telegraph in advance.**

An email is sent out approximately a week in advance by the leader with details regarding transport and meeting points and more details of the walk.

You **DO NOT** need to contact the leader in advance of these trips. Just turn up at one of the appointed meeting places.

Contact the Trip Leader for further information as required.

### **Saturday or Sunday Trips:**

**These can be viewed in the Bush Telegraph in advance.**

An email is sent out approximately a week in advance with information from the leader regarding transport, the meeting point and more details of the walk.

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.

You **DO** need to contact the leader in advance of these trips. Their details will be in the email.

Contact the Trip Leader for further information as required.