



The Bush Telegraph

www.pukekohetrampingclub.org.nz

Next meeting: 1st July 2024 @ 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 Gibbon

Speaker: Becky- Summer on the Te Araroa Trail & and a demonstration of her gear packing

New Members:

The President's Notes

June has seen the start of Matariki, which culminates this weekend with our public holiday. There is no club trip scheduled for the long weekend, but hopefully many of you will have your own plans to enjoy this time with family and friends. The stars have been somewhat elusive lately though, but hopefully we will get some clear skies before then.

The 2024/25 committee met at the end of May. It is time to get started on the club constitution to bring it in line with new regulations.

It was also agreed the club would offer support to the Waiuku venture scouts for a South Island tramp they are planning, in terms of advice and access to trips for training.

Becky

PTC Photo Competition Reminder

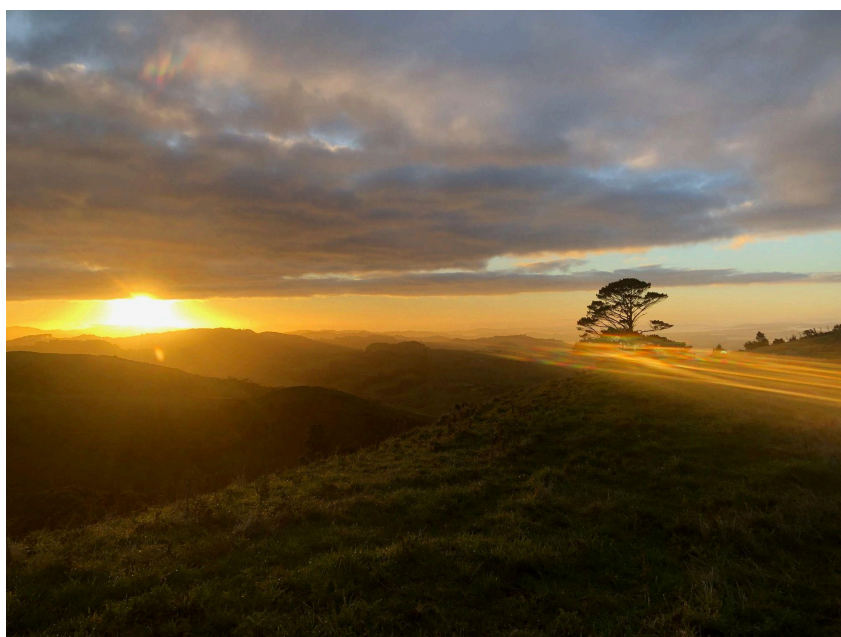
To enter email your labelled images by Monday 22nd July to deekeys22@gmail.com.

Images **must relate to club activities**, so you may have taken them in the wilderness or in the city, depending on the tramp/walk you were doing at the time. Find your favourite photos and send them in, even if you're not sure of the category (see full guidelines at end of this *Bush Telegraph*). A varied selection from weekends and mid-weekers will be fun to look at on club night. You don't need to have used a fancy camera; most people are using phones. Happy hunting for your favourite photos, a nice thing to do on dull winter days!

Everyone is welcome to attend club night on Monday 5th August to view the wonderful entries. You will get a glimpse of what our club is all about through the lenses of our members. The judging offers you the opportunity to learn some great photography tips. Mark it on your calendar and see you there!

Where am I Competition?

Mary



**2024 PTC PHOTO COMPETITION is at Club Night
Monday 5th August**

Future Trips

Winter Programme 2024			
Date	Destination	Leaders	Grade
May			
Thursday 27th	Dingle Dell Reserve	Robert	
28th, 29th, 30th Matariki Weekend			
July			
Wednesday 3rd	Kauri Glen to Akoranga Station	Prue	
Weekend Trip 6th & 7th Athenree	Lindemans & Homunga Bay	Mary & Suzanne	
Thursday 11th	City Byways	Mark	
Sunday 14th	Huntly Lakes & Pukemokemoke	Linda Gillard	
Wednesday 17th	Waiuku Forest	Annette E	
Sunday 21st	Taupiri Maunga & Kauri Loop (Hakarimata)	Pip & Mary	

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Thursday 25th	Mt William	Pru & Alison	
Sunday 28th	TBC	Becky	
Wednesday 31st	Lower Mt Eden	Jenny & Gail	
August			
Sunday 4th	Waharau Loop Track	Shelena Wiggill	
Thursday 8th	TBC		
Sunday 11th	TBC		
Wednesday 14th	Taitua Arboretum Hamilton	Annette E	
Sunday 18th	TBC	Becky	
Thursday 22nd	Kaiaua	Mark	
Sunday 25th	Hapuakohe Walkway Northern	Shelena	
Wednesday 28th	TBC		
As a Guide Easy (E) up to 4 hours Medium (M) 4 - 6 hours Hard (H) more than 6 hours Leaders will confirm costs Weekend Trips Costs are estimates only			

Backcountry Hut Passes

Mary has twelve hut passes that are surplus to requirements. They expire February 2025. Please message her on +64210548324 if you are interested.

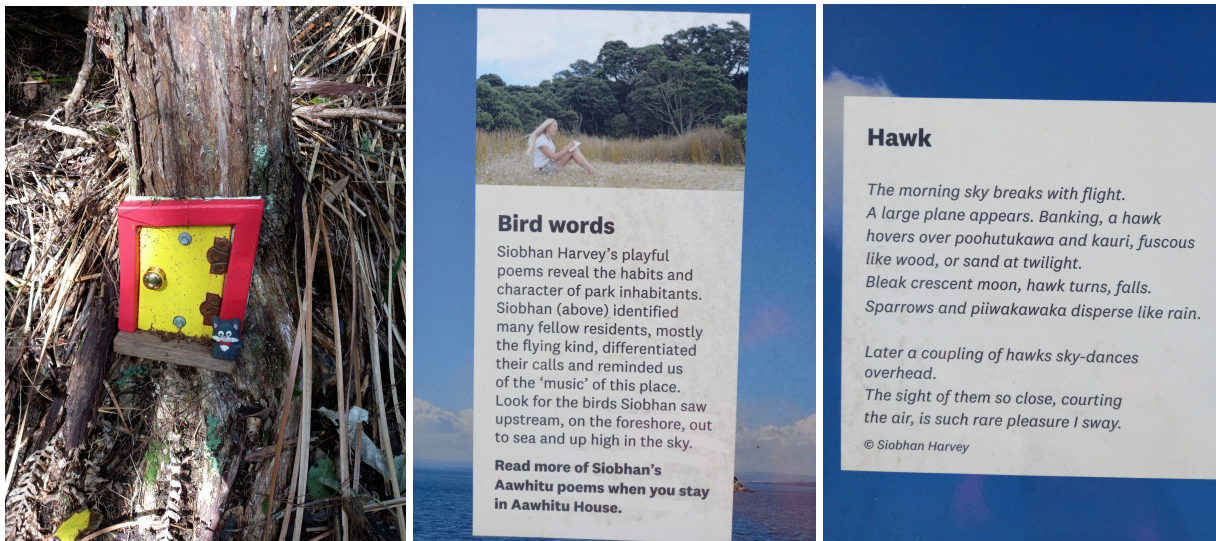
Duder Regional Park lead by Erna

Wednesday 5th of June saw 17 of us heading to Duder Regional Park for a walk with a bit of difference. Three teams were formed who completed some fun tasks and challenges whilst on the 6.5km walk. It was a dry but coldish winter day and the Duder farm was busy sorting out stock and moving mobs of sheep about. One of the very friendly steers was determined to share lunch with us. The winning team was The Tui's lead by Raewyn.



Awhitu Regional Park Shaaron McKee

On Thursday 30 May small numbers turned up for a walk from Matakawau to Awhitu regional park. It was the day after the storms and some may have expected mud but the path was dry and all stayed upright. If anyone hasn't done this walk there are a couple of very lovely beach fronts. Great views and only 5 - 6 kms. The walk started from Sergeants Reserve, at the beach turn left and follow the ridge. We were on a new board walk and stairs up to Awhitu Environmental Camp then up to the Awhitu Park lookout. There is a bush track behind the lookout which we walked and it is getting a drastic makeover. Was it needed? The old path was great (the handrailed boardwalk is to protect the newly planted Kauri trees that are flourishing). We continued on to Brooks Homestead for lunch and read about the history of the house and bach. A different track back was via Brooks Beach and up another piece of bush with some tiny fairy houses. Five in total? We enjoyed our coffee at OHA in Waiuku on return.



King's Birthday Weekend, Crosbies Hut

The group consisted of myself, Mary, Pip, Norm, Karen B and Lisa on her first trip with the club. We set out on Saturday morning for Thames and the start of the Karaka track. There was parking for a few vehicles here, and in view of several houses it was pretty secure. We all donned boots and big packs (mostly cheese and chocolate) for our walk into the hut. The start of the Karaka track has been upgraded to multi-use track so it was easy going to start. After an hour or so we started to encounter wash outs and mud. This proved too much for Norm's neglected boots and his sole began to detach. Some emergency first aid with a bootlace meant the show could go on, if a little slower. We passed the Waiotahi and then the Tararu track junctions, stopping for lunch before continuing our climb. The track here was a bit of a packtrack so wider and rockier on this section, but still had plenty of mud. Eventually we passed the Whangaiterenga Track, currently closed, and 30 minutes later we came to the hut. It is a very comfortable hut with lovely views out to the eastern coastline of the Coromandel Peninsula. However, despite the favourable weather forecast we encountered a whiteout which only lifted a couple of times while we were up there to give a brief and tantalising glimpse. We also had some rain showers and cold winds, so the hut fire was very welcome. We were joined by 2 other parties of 2 the first night, and a large group of young people doing Silver level Duke of Edinburgh at the campsite for the 2 nights.

On Sunday the ladies explored the Crosbies main range tramping track while Norm kept the homefires burning. It was flat walking, but the track was extremely waterlogged. In light of this and the weather we headed back to the hut for a warm by the fire and hot drinks with our lunch. In the afternoon half the party relaxed at the hut and while the rest retraced steps back to the Whangaiterenga Track and along this a short way. It was a brief but lovely foray, hopefully this track will open again in due course to be fully enjoyed. We returned to the hut in good light to attack the cheese and chocolate mountain awaiting us. We can heartily recommend the NZ bush cheese from the Mercer cheese shop. The DoEers gratefully received our offerings of 2 Whittakers blocks of chocolate.

On Monday we packed up and tidied the hut, strapped up Norm's boots and set out for our return journey. This entailed several stops to re-secure Norm's soles and several encounters with the DoE party until they separated from us at the Karaka track. We continued down the Waiotahi all weather track. At lunchtime 2 of us pushed on ahead to collect the cars which entailed a rather hot 25 minute walk through Thames, as the sun had finally

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emerged of course. The rest of the party were waiting at the trail end when we returned, even Norm's soles made it. There were refreshments at Melbourne Cafe for all before making the journey back to Pukekohe.

Becky



Trip Report - Moumoukai Valley Trails

This trip was promoted as a Sun 9 th June outing into the Hunuas, but after finding out from Jenette that on Sun 9 th a "sold out" Xterra Macpac Auckland Trail Running event with 1000 runners / walkers entered, it was a QUICK change of date to Sat 8 th June so we got in first!!! The Xterra PR promo byline – ***Welcome to the very special Hunua Ranges. The largest area of native forest in the Auckland region boasts an outstanding selection of trails, and with event base tucked right in the heart of the forest you quickly forget you are anywhere near the big city!***

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We arrived at 0830 and parked at the Upper Mangatawhiri carpark. Lots of Portaloos at the car park confirmed preparations for a big event underway.

Through the boot /bike wash station and headed down the Moumoukai Valley following the Intermediate rated MTB trail.

A mixture of wide gravel forestry access tracks and lots of nice short "single track" gravel sections through bush, open grasslands, including three stream crossing (ankle deep) & a couple soggy patches .

Easy contour with max height gain of only 76m, with 229m gain across whole gently undulating circuit.

A short stop trackside for a break, followed by lunch stop at Lower Mangatawhiri Campground - the new pole shelter was finished but not open, a couple picnic tables, a couple of long drops and a nice swimming hole in river (will make a great summer walk, with lunch time swim)

We shared the circuit today with couple of horse riders, a couple of MTB riders, a couple of runners and quite lot of activity in some areas putting up event signage and finalising water stations and checkpoint shelters.

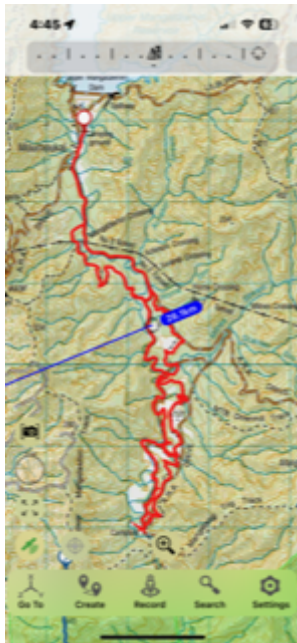
You need to ensure you follow the Intermediate MTB signs as the one way track sections are on both sides of access roads, they twist and turn and sometimes backtrack on themselves.

We had some very confused walkers at times. We found three obvious points where this trip could be shortened into an easy, medium or full walk in future if needed depending on the group.

A nice clear day, a flat to slightly undulating circuit, 17km, 5.5hrs and everybody made it.

If you did trip with PTC it cost you \$7pp for travel cost sharing – If you entered via Xterra Macpac Series it would cost between \$69 & \$88pp entry fee!!

Walkers Anne, Anna, Annie (phew!), Owen, Steve, Linda, Pip
Leader Barry



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Sunday June 16th Mt Te Aroha and Waiorongomai

Ten of us travelled in two cars to Te Aroha township and 6 keen walkers set off while the drivers did a car shuffle so we had a vehicle at the Waiorongomai car park where the walk ended. We all met up at the lookout on the way up the mountain.

From Te Aroha domain we took the steep, wet, tree root ridden and unrelenting main track to the summit of the mountain. Tree fall added to the excitement. This little jaunt took about 2.5 hours but throughout we were rewarded with clear skies, a warm day, great bush and lovely views. After refuelling at the summit we headed to the Waiorongomai saddle. The tramping track, rather than the service road, offered stunning views to the south west and towards our finish point. This is a lovely gentle track taking us about an hour to reach the saddle. From here it was down and what a relief that was! The track down to the car park took us through a mining tunnel, beside the Piako tramway and past old mine equipment. We heard from several of the group about the time they had walked up the tramway track and were very pleased we weren't having to cope with that steep path. We reached the car park just after 6 hours after setting out. A good day out. **Mary Crawford**



2024 PTC PHOTO COMPETITION Guidelines

TO ENTER: email your photos to Dee Keys by **Mon 22nd July:** deekeys22@gmail.com

Hunt out your favourite photos and email them to me (no need to print photos).

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Photos **must relate to club activities** and must be taken **from Jan 1st 2022**, except Historic category which must be taken **pre 2020** (i.e. Not photos of old things but photos taken long ago, the earlier the year the better).

Please enter maximum 2 images per category (see below) for however many categories you choose. If you only want to enter one image that is fine! **NOTE for Category 7:** you may enter two images for each of flora, fauna and fungi.

Please clearly state the category code and a caption/title for every image. For example a scenic image of people looking at a dam could be labelled: **BBW, Massey Cossey Loop Track**

Digital manipulation by cropping, adjustment for tone/contrast and stitching of photos is allowed but filters are not. You don't need to resize images.

For more info about the criteria for the categories check out the FMC website at this link:

<https://fmc.org.nz/members-area/members-benefits/photo-competition/>

The Categories

1. **ABOVE BUSHLINE** (No Human Element) - **ABN**
2. **ABOVE BUSHLINE** (With Human Element) - **ABW**
3. **BELOW BUSHLINE** (No Human Element) - **BBN**
4. **BELOW BUSHLINE** (With Human Element) - **BBW**
5. **HISTORIC** (Any image taken pre-2020) - **HIS**
6. **LONG EXPOSURE – LE**
7. **NATIVE FLORA, FAUNA & FUNGI – NFF** (Max. 2 images for each of flora, fauna & fungi, so possible 6 images total in this category)

All members are welcome to come to club night on **Monday 5th August** to see the wonderful entries and judging. If you need help email me at: deekeys22@gmail.com

Pukekohe Tramping Club Committee 2024/25		
Name	Position	email

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

Trip Leaders

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.

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.


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.

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.

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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.

Annual Subscriptions:

\$25.00 single \$35.00 family (two or more) **Saturday/Sunday Trips:**

Please pay your Subscriptions 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**