

PUKEKOHE HILL

222 metres above sea level.



Photo: Hand raking onions to dry on the eastern slope of the hill about 1956, Vic Lauer and his son John.

The Pukekohe Hill volcano is a prominent feature in the South Auckland volcanic field. It played a significant role in creating the valuable soils that Pukekohe is known for. Early Maori were well aware of its fertile soil qualities. They cleared an area referred to by early European settlers as "The Paddock" in the vicinity of Ward and Nelson Streets. This landmark was named by early Maori after the Kohekohe tree which was abundant in the area, meaning "The Hill of the Kohekohe Tree".

The direction finder on the summit was unveiled as part of Pukekohe's Golden Jubilee Celebration in 1965. Four years later, in 1969, the viewing platform and lights on the summit were erected in memory of William Massey who was the MP for Franklin from 1896 until his death in 1925. He was Prime Minister of New Zealand from 1912-1925.

BELMONT RISE

108 metres above sea level.



Photo: 'Delmont', the Roulston homestead.

Belmont Rise is a remnant of the Helvetia Tuff Ring, the edge of a crater centred around Adams Road South. James Roulston, who had been the proprietor of the Pukekohe Hotel for a time, purchased land surrounding this summit some time before 1892. He named the farm "Belmont", meaning 'good view' or 'hill'.

James Roulston gained a reputation for breeding quality race horses. The first Franklin Agricultural and Pastoral Show was held on April 29th 1886 in 'Roulston's Paddock' which was located behind the Pukekohe Hotel.

CAPE HILL

98 metres above sea level.



Photo: Adams Rock 1955.

Cape Hill is a remnant of the Roosevelt tuff ring which surrounds the crater forming the area now occupied by Colin Lawrie Fields and houses. Cape Hill gets its name from the settlers who came from Capetown, South Africa in the 1860's.

In 1876 part of Cape Hill was purchased sight unseen by James Golding. It looked promising on paper with the railway so handy, but, there was no indication of the steep topography. It was subsequently sold to Mr Thomas Adams who already owned property to the north.

The hill became known as Adams Rock.

THE ROCK

102 metres above sea level.



Photo: The Rock Taken from Ngahere Road 1970

Known by some as Raven Rock. The surrounding farm was owned by William Scott who was mortally wounded just a fortnight before the attack on the Pukekohe East Church in September 1863. Frederick Lauer purchased and farmed the property (152 acres) in 1894.

In 1943 Mr Julian Raven purchased 101 acres of the Lauer property, including The Rock, and continued clearing gorse that covered The Rock. Julian farmed the property for a number of years but was tragically killed on the farm in 1961 by a Jersey bull. In 1965 the property was sold to Patrick Anselmi who farmed it for a number of years.

The Rock has been considerably modified on the western and southern faces to accommodate development for housing.

ROOSEVILLE PARK

107 metres above sea level.



Photo: Roosevelt Park 1955

Rooseville Park contains a southern portion of the tuff ring of the Colin Lawrie Fields crater. The Five Summits Trail passes close to the formation where the layers can clearly be seen with occasional small ballistics sagging the underlying layers. 27 acres was purchased from Elijah Roose at a token price to create Roosevelt Park with the proviso it remain a reserve to be enjoyed by future generations.

In 1942, during WW2, the Americans built a camp for the troops in Roosevelt Park. It consisted of 11 two-man huts, 53 four-man huts, 2 cookhouses, 1 mess room and 4 ablution blocks. When they vacated the camp early in 1944, it was used to house workers at the Dehydration Factory which was sited just south of the Railway Station.

After the war, the camp was used by ex-servicemen and their families for accommodation as a transit camp while permanent housing was found.

PUKEKOHE



WALK & CYCLE TRAIL

Thank-you

to all our generous sponsors



and supporters



The 'Five Summits Trail' has been established as a permanent gift to the community by the Pukekohe Tramping Club to celebrate its 50th Anniversary. It provides a 21km loop around Pukekohe that connects many parks and reserves and visits five of the main volcanic hill tops for views that highlight the town.

There are numerous alternative paths throughout the town that enable shorter loops to be created. We hope you enjoy your walk or cycle.



Puke Hill → Belmont Rise 4.4km

Belmont Rise → Cape Hill 5km

Cape Hill → The Rock 2.7km

The Rock → Roosevelt Park 2.3km

Pukekohe Tramping Club History

TRAMPING CLUB

Anyone interested in forming a tramping club please contact David Lawrie, 2 Dublin Street, PHONE 1427-R - PUKEKOHE, EVENINGS.

It all started with a tiny notice in Pukekohe's local paper. Having recently returned home after a three-year stint

at Otago University and being a keen birdwatcher and trumper David Lawrie was looking for like-minded people to accompany him on his regular forays in and around Franklin District and further afield. So a small ad was placed in the Franklin Times in the Public Notices column on September 30 1969 seeking interest from fellow locals in setting up a tramping club.

The following week's paper ran an article stating that 14 replies had been received and nine were from girls - a great start to a tramping fraternity. The Pukekohe Tramping Club was formed and has gone on to provide wonderful opportunities to

get out and see the great outdoors in the company of others keen for adventure in a safe setting. In the early years the club met monthly in members' homes. As it grew in size local venues were used, most often church halls. Over time the club developed from a base of enthusiastic school leavers and university graduates to include families with young children and more mature trampers.

Day tramps and regular weekend tramps were held. Destinations have ranged from Kauaeranga Valley, Great Barrier Island, the Kawekas, the Ruahines, the Kaimanawas, Mt Egmont and many more. Multi-day trips to the South Island were included, and even a few overseas ventures. Today the club has regular midweek and weekend day tramps along with overnight excursions to a diverse range of areas. Activities such as rafting, canoeing, biking, snow weekends and caving have also been included.

Regular trips are also made assisting with the kokako recovery programs servicing bait stations in the Hunua Ranges and at Rangitoto Station south of Otorohanga.

The Bush Telegraph, a monthly newsletter with trip reports and notices of future tramps began in 1973 and continues to this day, now mostly distributed by email.



History and photos collated with the help of local families and the Franklin Historical Society

CELEBRATING



50 YEARS

1969

2019

pukekohetrampingclub@gmail.com

Find us on