



# The Bush Telegraph

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

**Next meeting: 2nd December 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: Gents it is your turn to provide the Christmas SUPPER**

**Speaker: No Speaker BUT there could be a visit from some guy dressed in red**

**New Members:** Andrea Burmister, Michelle Critchley

## The President's Notes

In November's meeting we had some fun exploring topographic maps with the materials provided on the Mountain Safety Council website. We looked at contour lines, grid lines and grid references. We also had a go at working out travel time for an upcoming trip to the Kaitarakihi Summit using this rough guide.

In terms of planning a trip, it is often necessary to work out how long a track would take to walk. *The below times vary depending on size of the group, overgrown track, hazards in the bush:*



## Edition 601 - November 2024

For very steep or technical descents you may be for every 400m of downhill walking, you need to add one hour onto the time you've calculated above or add three minutes per contour line (every 20m) on the Topo50 map series.

Most worked out it should take about 6 hours to walk to the summit and back to the start. We will find out how accurate it was on Sunday.

In our final meeting of the year we will focus on compass skills and get some practice with bearings, which we didn't get to last time. All the information we have/will cover can be found here <https://www.mountainsafety.org.nz/learn/skills/navigation>.

The meeting also saw the reappearance of the Muddy Boot award after a lengthy sabbatical, with Glenn receiving it for falling into Norm's mistake of trusting boots from the back of the cupboard on the November Baiting weekend. The result being no bait made it into stations that trip. This leaves lots of work to be done in the December weekend, hence the call for volunteers.

The year is rapidly drawing to a close with just a few more trips until things wrap up for the summer. The next schedule is currently under development, if you have a trip you feel you could offer do get in touch with our trip coordinators, Raewyn for mid-week and Glenn for weekend.

Hope to see you either on the track or at the meeting for Christmas and compass fun, and supper offerings from the boys. David tried to convince us it was the girl's turn, but he was promptly and firmly corrected, nice try David.

**Becky**



## Where am I Competition?

This month's challenge - What is here? identify the landmark located at these coordinates (BB32) 679 780.

The brackets indicates the topo map, if you don't have access to a physical map, you can search for it here <https://www.linz.govt.nz/> and download the map to view on your computer, or you can use the online version <https://www.topomap.co.nz/>.

Bonus points available for these (BB35) 388 879, (BB32) 795 801

## Future Trips

December			
Date	Destination	Leaders	Grade
Sunday 1st	Kaitarakihi Summit	Becky	M/H Cost \$15-25
Wednesday 4th	Hunua	Ben	
Saturday-Sunday 7th & 8th	Rangitoto Station Assist with Kokako Recovery	Barry & Glenn	M Cost \$65
Sunday 8th	Hapuakohe Southern end to end with car swap	Mary & Pip	M/H
Thursday 12th	Takapuna & Lake Pupuke	Prue	
Sunday 15th			
Wednesday 18th		Shaaron	

Date	Destination	Leaders	Grade
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**Edition 601 - November 2024**

<b>January</b>			
Thursday 9th	New Year BBQ		
Sunday 12th			
Wednesday 15th			
Sunday 19th	Hunuas	Mary	
Thursday 23rd			
Friday - Sunday 22-27th			
Wednesday 29th			
<b>February</b>			
Sunday 2nd	Hapuakohe North (part section)	Pip	
Thursday 6th			
Sunday 9th	TBC	Mary	
Wednesday 12th			
Sunday 16th			
Thursday 20th			
Sunday 23rd			

**Completed / Past trips**

**Huntly Lakes Hakanoa and Puketirini 31st Oct lead by Annette Edgbers**

Twenty-eight walkers met at Lake Hakanoa. It is an easy flat walk around the lake. great views of the power station. It takes about an hour to walk around.  
 We stopped to look at some of the lovely gardens and the dinosaurs hiding in the garden.  
 We had lunch then drove to Lake Puketirini. Another very easy flat walk.  
 We called in to Hampton Downs for afternoon tea. Very easy, nice day out.

## **Edition 601 - November 2024**

### **Dubbo 96 Track 6th November**

A group of Mid-Week trampers travelled to Karangahake Gorge Reserve car park. After a snack we started walking up Scotsman Gully track and No 7 track to Dubbo 96 track.

Several stops were made along the way for rest and refreshment and to enjoy the views of the countryside. The weather was overcast and fine.

Dubbo 96 track was dry and we made good progress.

The stream crossing caused a few anxious moments but we made it safely across. At a clearing further along the track we stopped for a well-deserved lunch break.

After lunch we continued to the Waitawheta Pipeline track. We turned left and after crossing the river on a swing bridge, entered a tunnel. Headlights and torches were very helpful to see where to put our feet in the tunnel. It was wet and rough underfoot.

We continued along the track to Windows Walk before ending back at the carpark after a longish 5-hour day.

The refreshment stop at Paeroa Café was a welcomed stop on the way home to Pukekohe.

A very enjoyable and tiring day. Thanks everyone for coming along to the walk.

**Shahar**



**SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2024 – TWO WALKS IN THE WAIKATO**

Seven trampers left Pukekohe on a warm spring day headed for the Waikato.

First stop, Lake Ngaroto, situated north-west of Te Awamutu. The carpark was relatively full on our arrival, with locals out for their Sunday morning exercise, including family groups with bicycles and prams. A walking and cycling track of approximately 6 km long, with a large part board-walked, has been constructed around the lake. The track is almost completely flat with no steps or steep gradients. The boardwalk, which commenced a short distance from the carpark, was tilted due to plastic pontoons holding up one side, which is to help stabilise the walkway with regard to water levels. There was plenty of birdlife to be seen, and views of Kakepuku in the distance, and on a clear day you would also be able to see Mt Pirongia, but that day it was covered in clouds. It was a pleasant walk, and including a stop for morning tea, we were back at the carpark and departing for Kakepuku by 11.00am.

The small car park off Kakepuku Mountain Road was also full. There were a few spits of rain as we headed up the track to the low-level viewing platform which gave expansive views of the local low-lying area. From here on it is a steady climb, with a few switchbacks, before the old farm track winds around the mountain. Regenerating bush, including several large punga trees, line the side of the track, making it easy to find a shady spot for lunch. From approximately 400 metres there are steps that take you up onto the ridge line and through bush where you reach a carved entrance to the pa site, then boardwalk and more steps before you reach the summit (449 metres), and spectacular views. Heading down from the summit there is a small loop walk back to the carved entranceway, and then the return is the same as the ascent. Luckily the rain held off until we were back in the carpark at approximately 2.30pm.

Lake Ngaroto with Kakepuku in the background



## Edition 601 - November 2024

### Moumoukai Valley November 14th lead by Mark Leys

Twenty-three of us drove to the first car park, moved onto the second car park and then finally found the 3rd car park. Now we can start the walk.

There was a well formed gravel roadway to start with. Then we moved onto bush trails which are used by mountain bikes.

We wound our way along the tracks and occasionally went through large grass areas.

As there is no internet coverage we couldn't find out where we were travelling. We found a bush area to have lunch away from the wind.

We kept going and going. We pushed our way through a mesh fence to walk over a bridge being built.

Finally back onto the gravel road. We took ages to get back to the cars.

Mark accidentally lost the way and we ended up walking an extra 3 km which made it a 13km walk instead of just 10km!

A stop at Te Kowhai for ice creams and refreshments, and then we encountered heavy squally showers heading home on the expressway. Lucky with the weather!



### Pahautea Hut overnight, Mt Pirongia 16-17 November FMC Love Our Huts trip

A huge thank you to Karen (Bunyan) for joining me on this trip and helping give this awesome hut a spring clean and a health check. We placed stickers on the hut wall and in the hut book, so look out for them on your summer adventures. There were over 500 huts registered so they should pop up quite regularly. There is more information here <https://fmc.org.nz/what-we-do/campaigns/love-our-huts-and-tracks/> about the campaign including huts that were not registered should you be able and interested in loving a hut.

We were surprised to find the Pirongia Trail run was on and we were dodging runners on the way up. We parked at Grey Road carpark and started on the Mangakara Nature Walk for a short section before we were on the gradual

### **Edition 601 - November 2024**

incline up the Ruapane Link track to the foot of Ruapane, we met a guy working on bait lines on the way, and a short while later heard kokako, which was very special. It was about here the first runners started passing us and also when the track steeped considerably to Ruapane trig. This made a great (and busy) spot to stop for lunch. As we continued on the Tirohanga track we hit the first chains, there were a few short scrambly sections as we made our way to the Summit and its viewing platform on rather tired legs. There were still plenty of runners to dodge, these ones running the full loop we were doing over 2 days, just in the opposite direction. There were some runners doing this loop and a loop over the Cone down the Bell track and back up the Tahuani track, unbelievable. After a short ridge walk we reached the hut a little before 4pm, We took about 5 1/2 hours in all including breaks.

As usual for a Saturday the hut was fully booked. There were 2 TA walkers when we arrived, 2 separate parties staggered in after 6pm and then a solo walker after 7pm. It was a very lively evening.

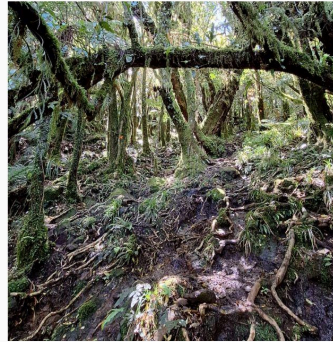
In the morning we let everyone clear out and then set to work cleaning the windows and sills, wiping the surfaces and doing a good sweep out. Health check revealed it to be in excellent condition and the hut book showed it was very popular, though with many laments about the mud and lack of fire, particularly in the colder months.

Just after 9am we said job done, hoisted on the packs and started the journey down, this time on the Mahaukura track. It started by undulating over a series of false peaks and through some seriously boggy sections before reaching the Mahaukura where we stopped on the helipad for lunch with great relief. After this it continued descending quite steeply until we reached a taller forest and it finally eased off and the mud dried out. In contrast to yesterday, we only met 2 people on the track today. It took about 6 hours to get to the car.

A challenging tramp with overnight packs, but immensely rewarding.



**Edition 601 - November 2024**



**Maraetai Beach Trail November 20th lead by Chris Jenkins**

Twenty-one walkers met at Maraetai boat parking area. Some of us travelled extra kms as they had shut the Maraetai North Rd for repairs.

We dressed for the rainy day and walked along the coastal pathway to Leigh Auton Reserve to have lunch in the rain!

There are some lovely views of Waiheke. The tide was in and the water was a lovely green colour.

It finally stopped raining on the way back. It's an easy walk. well worth it to see the lovely views.

We went to the Lime Tree Cafe in Whitford for Afternoon tea.



### Sunday 24th November Piha

Three walkers had a lovely day at Piha completing the Whites Track and Kitekite Falls. We think Becky was a bit tired to start with! White's Beach is reached by taking the Marawhara Walk, as the track from the northern end of Piha Beach is still being repaired. The Marawhara Walk joins the White's Beach Track which **climbs fairly relentlessly** up to Anawhata Rd. We saw lots of cyclone devastation. We admired the coastal bush with nikau and pohutukawa which are so different from the mountains. There are also some lovely kauri close to the track. We then walked down a long steep concrete drive to end up above White's Beach and then took the track down to the shore where all on our own we had morning tea. We returned the same way and drove to the Kitekite Falls Carpark at the end of Glenesk Road. We walked the **Kitekite Falls Track which has** been upgraded since the cyclones and is easy walking with a new boardwalk before a section of steps up to the falls. This track was extremely busy with families, groups and dog walkers. We had lunch there and had intended to walk up to the top of the falls but this section has been closed since we were out there a couple of months ago.

Pip



Edition 601 - November 2024


Pukekohe Tramping Club Committee 2024/25		
Name	Position	email
Rebecca Banks	President	<a href="mailto:rbanks2016@gmail.com">rbanks2016@gmail.com</a>
Barry Gibbon	Vice President New Member Greeter at Club night First Aid Book	<a href="mailto:bandfgibbon@gmail.com">bandfgibbon@gmail.com</a>
David Lawrie	Secretary Emergency Contact & PLB First Aid Book Walkie Talkie Holder	<a href="mailto:lawrie@ps.gen.nz">lawrie@ps.gen.nz</a>
Glenn Clark	Weekend Trip Coordinator	<a href="mailto:glennmareeclark@gmail.com">glennmareeclark@gmail.com</a>
Mark Leys	New Member Contact Aged Expo Organiser	<a href="mailto:mleys@orcon.net.nz">mleys@orcon.net.nz</a>
Raewyn Lane	Treasurer Mid-Week Walk Coordinator	<a href="mailto:raewynlane7@gmail.com">raewynlane7@gmail.com</a>
Dee Keys	Speaker Coordinator Photo Competition Organiser	<a href="mailto:dkeys22@gmail.com">dkeys22@gmail.com</a>
Charlie & Joy Browne	Gear Custodian	<a href="mailto:brownex3@xtra.co.nz">brownex3@xtra.co.nz</a>
Pip Wooffindin	Bush Telegraph Editor	<a href="mailto:pipwoofnz@gmail.com">pipwoofnz@gmail.com</a>
Rebecca Banks & John Jacobson	Publicity Facebook Page Administrator	<a href="mailto:rbanks2016@gmail.com">rbanks2016@gmail.com</a>
Shelena Wiggill	Committee Member	<a href="mailto:shelenanwiggill@gmail.com">shelenanwiggill@gmail.com</a>
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.

## Edition 601 - November 2024

### **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.