

South Wairarapa Tramping Club

Newsletter for Feb 2013

<http://techs.net.nz/trusthouse.co.nz/sport/swtc/>

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No club night in February.

Instead the summer barbecue will be held earlier than usual. Tuesday 29 January at 6.30 pm, at Rosie and Ian Montgomerie's, Wards Line. Bring your togs for the pool, meat, salad and something to drink, and ideas for the next trip list.

Trip List

Jan – Feb 2013

Date	Destination	Trip organiser/leader	Phone	Fitness	Cost
26 Jan	Bucks Rd Tauherenikau	Helen Morison	304 9531	M	
1-2 Feb o/n	Atiwhakatu Hut to Pinnacle Ridge *	Ed & Juliet Cooke	304 9497	F	
9 Feb	kids' night in the bush	Bruce Lambert	379 6106		
16 Feb	Sayers Hut	Clive Baxter	308 9313	M	
23 Feb	Ken's track Rimutakas	Ken Stokes	308 9962	F	

*Atiwhakatu hut on Friday night. On Saturday tramp up to the bridge (on way to Mitre Flats) and up (or pick a spur up) to Pinnacle Ridge and out. For those who want a shorter trip they could go from Holdsworth Lodge up Pinnacle on Saturday to meet the others on the way out.

If you wish to go on a trip, please let the organiser know by the Thursday prior.

Trip Gradings

The letters after the cost for a trip are an indication of how tough it will be.

- VE** **Very Easy.** A stroll suitable for the youngest, oldest and least fit of people.
E **Easy.** Up to four hours walk. May involve some uphill. Lots of stops.
M **Moderate fitness.** 4-6 hours walk per day. Lunch and smoko breaks.
F **More fitness.** Some experience needed. May go off tracks. 6 – 8 hours walk per day.
FE **Fitness extreme.** 8 – 18 hours walk, fast. Heaps of climbing. Stops are hurried. Enjoyed only by masochists. May take up to a week to recover.

Leaders: please remember to collect the personal locator beacon from Stan Smith prior to your trip. If unable to lead your trip it is your responsibility to find a replacement leader / trip.

Trip Reports

FRITH TRACK WORKING BEE 10 NOVEMBER

The task was to carry marker poles up the Chimney Spur track to the south ridge of Frith. DOC supplied 12 poles, each weighing 2 kg with its steel rod. We hid four of these in the scrub near the double bridges on S.H.2 and carried the other eight up the hill; the 600 m climb made a good workout with 4 kg in each hand. We had a brew at the top and admired a clear view of the southern Tararuas. Then we did light trimming south to the junction with the pylon track, meeting a group of Manawatu TSC people who had driven from Palmerston North to walk from the Rimutaka summit to Bucks Road. They emailed later saying they had no trouble following the SWTC track. It's good to know that other clubs are enjoying it.

Anyone wanting to help carry more poles should phone John at 304 9095. The next working bee, in April, will be in the same area.

Bill Dolan and John Rhodes

HEREPAI HUT 1 DECEMBER

A party of four left Greytown at 7.30 am, picked up two more in Carterton en route for Putara road end near Eketahuna. The weather was fine and clear with strong wind predicted.

We left the vehicles at approximately 9am . The trip up was uneventful and we reached Herepai hut at 11 something. Some of us went above the hut up the very steep track leading to Mt Herepai. Once above the bushline we were buffeted by strong winds. We retreated to the shelter of the hut where we had lunch then made our way back to our cars.

Trampers were Stan Smith, Roger Coventry , Clive Baxter and Radar, Bill Dolan, Ian Montgomerie, Barry Kempton leader.

MAKARA WALKWAY 15 DECEMBER

It was a perfect Wellington day. Five trampers set off from Greytown, keen to fit some R & R into our pre Christmas schedules. We met up with three others at Makara beach at 9.30.

We started along the coastal walk, then up onto hilly farmland, following the track to the summit. Great views of the turbines, blue-green sea and the South Island.

We reached the gun bunkers, three concrete buildings only now, fenced off and desolate. From this spot we did the short loop walk to B2, the only turbine accessible to the public. Here we found Stan stretched out under the turbine getting some excellent photo shots. The B2 turbines are enormous white structures and generate enough electricity for about 71,000 homes. And they do make a whining noise!

Here six of us left on the Opau loop, a 5.5 km walk through beech trees and great views of coastline and turbines. Helen and Wayne took the downwards track to meet us later.

After lunch we all continued along the coastal track, another 3.3 km of flat pebbles and lots of driftwood, and arrived at Makara Beach settlement about 3.00 to a very welcome coffee at the local café. A great day enjoyed by all.

Helen Morison, Juliet and Ed Cooke, Mary Lambert, Stan Smith, Kay and David Bowie, Angela Kelly from Masterton, Wayne Hodgson and myself, Margaret Tonkes.

OTARI WALK 22 DECEMBER.

At last we got a fine enough day to do this tramp which we had planned for early in the year. We left Greytown at 8am, and met at Otari at 9.15. The entrance way is really inviting with native gardens and water features. A walk along the tree canopy path led us down to the Troup clearing where we began the uphill walk to the 800 year old rimu tree. We had missed the turn but back tracked. A good spot for a cuppa. We followed this same track up to the pine plantation where we could see part of the old Karori cemetery. The signs are a little misleading so Barry, Stan and Bruce continued on this track and we went on the Kohekohe track, which lead us to meet up at the 4WD track that leads to Churton Park. We had lunch on a clearing with a lovely vista, over Wadestown and towards Somes Island. We veered right and this lead us back to the colour coded tracks that are part of Otari, through the flax clearing and back to the Troup lawn. The drizzle cleared for our tramp and it was quite pleasant with a bit of cloud cover.

We were back at the cars and ready for the trip home by 1.30pm, arriving in Greytown in plenty of time to prepare food for our Christmas gathering, held at Bruce Eglington's. Thank you Bruce for such a lovely evening.

We welcomed Theresa Fawdray to our group and we hope to see her on many more of our tramps.

Trampers were Ian and Rosie, Stan, Bruce and Mary, Barry and Lynne, and Theresa. Thanks for the photos Stan.



*Gateway to canopy walk
Smoko by the 800 year old rimu*



TRANSMISSION GULLY 29 DECEMBER

Not an official tramping club trip, but a rare chance to walk over a farm that has been in one family for over 100 years and is now owned by the NZ Transport Agency. The new SH1 road will run right through the property.

Parking was available in paddocks on the north side of the road and access to the main farm was through a concrete drain masquerading as a subway. Over two hundred people gathered to pay a \$10 fee and sign a health and safety waiver. The money went towards the restoration of the Paekakariki community hall. The majority of the crowd was middle aged and older, with some

younger people and a scattering of children. Preparedness ranged from hard core boots, packs and poles to sandals, jandals and no bags.

We set out in a big bunch, queuing to cross a bridge over the stream, but soon spread out as people found their own pace. Two members of the family, who are still farming there until mid 2013, accompanied us and pointed out places of interest and answered lots of questions. There was a very old brick structure half hidden in the trees that had been built during the war to house fuel for the Americans at Mackays Crossing, but it was never used. The track followed a narrow gully beside a stream, with very steep hills either side. Orange poles along the route marked where the centre of the road will be. Some of the poles were breathtakingly high up the hill; some serious earthworks will be required to build the road. Factors to be taken into account include power pylons and an earthquake fault.

We came out on Wainui Saddle and could see the hills behind Whitby in the distance. That was the end of the Smith / Perkins land and the boundaries of the Hutt, Porirua and Kapiti councils' land. We had lunch there, perched on tussock or small banks. The grandfather and some small grandchildren of the Perkins family crawled up out of the gully in a four wheel drive to join us.

There was a choice between going back the same way or taking a steep track up the hill to the west and going down the ridge. Julie Perkins suggested the very fit or mad could do the alternative route, and we all decided we might be mad but we would never get another chance so we'd tackle it. It was all farmland, on top of the world above Centennial Highway out of sight below. It's a thousand acre farm and there's almost no flat land. Some yards perched on a point that looked as though they could blow off the hill or fall over the cliff. About a third of the group took that route and straggled further and further apart. There was a woman with two boys, seven and five, who did incredibly well but were struggling a bit coming downhill, it was steep and long. They were no longer in sight so some of our group and others went back to meet them. The boys were piggybacked and others carried the packs.

A great day out, about 7.5 km. Stan Smith, Kay and David Bowie, Barry Kempton and myself, Lynne King.



Looking north



Looking south

HUTT FORKS 19 JAN

Hutt forks is the spot where the eastern and western streams join and become the Hutt River, way up in the hills. We drove to the information area on the road to Kaitoke waterworks, and set out at

9.15. The track wandered through some farmland and then followed a bulldozed track uphill. It was a steady climb for about an hour, with some great views of the Hutt Valley behind us. We had a smoko break on the way.

At the summit a notice explained that we were entering a water catchment area and care needed to be taken. It also recommended that only experienced trampers proceed, so that was a boost to the ego. We walked down through very attractive bush, appreciating the shade – and trying not to think about coming back up again on the return. Another hour brought us to the edge of a stream where we stopped. Ed, Juliet, Stan and Barry went on over a swing bridge and followed a track on the opposite side to reach the actual fork of the two streams about twenty minutes away. It was a bit of a scramble and the rest of us were happy to sit on the rocks by the stream and rest. We all had our lunch there. It was a very quiet and peaceful spot and reinforced the delight of being a trumper and going to places that the multitudes don't find.

A long pull up the hill again. Part way down the other side Ed, Juliet, Stan, Ian and Tasman decided to plunge off the side of the bulldozed track and take a more obscure route the rest of the way down. The rest of us had enough to manage with loose metal on the track. That led to some unscheduled landing on the backside, and a great appreciation for the benefit of a pair of poles.

At the bottom we compared notes about the steepness of the descents. Those who went off road said they were hanging onto branches to keep their feet, so they probably had the roughest trip.

The group was Ed and Juliet Cooke, Stan Smith, Ian Montgomerie, Theresa Fawdray, John Randall, Bruce and Mary Lambert and their grandson Tasman, Barry Kempton leader and myself, Lynne King.

