

South Wairarapa Tramping Club

Newsletter for Mar 2013

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

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Club night:

Tuesday 12 March 7.30 pm

St John's Hall Main Street Greytown

Supper: Fay Mangin and John Rhodes (tea towel, milk and biscuits)

Speaker: Bob Pomeroy – hunting in Africa

Trip List

March – May 2013

Date	Destination	Trip organiser/leader	Phone	Fitness	Cost
2 Mar	Atiwhakatu area. Some off track bush navigation.	Stan Smith	379 7592	M	\$3
9 Mar	Greytown rail trail and Waiohine loop.	Ed and Juliet Cooke	304 9497	M	
16 Mar	Pinnacles and beyond. Climb through the Pinnacles on the south coast and loop back on farmland.	Bruce and Mary Lambert	379 6160	M	\$6
23 Mar	Western Lake cycle trip from Ocean Beach on four wheel drive track towards Orongorongo.	Ian and Rosie Montgomerie	304 9252	M	\$6
23/24 Mar	heath pulling Tauherenikau Valley	John Rhodes	304 9095		
30 Mar	Easter – no tramp				
6 Apr	Near Martinborough. Rolling hill country walk, not steep	Derek Wilson	306 9079	M	\$2
13 Apr	TBA	Peter & Ruth Graham	306 8822		
20 Apr	Pararaki Hut, Cape Palliser area. Mostly walking up an easy river bed. No big boulders.	Janet Corlett	306 9079	M	
27 Apr	Finnis work party	John Rhodes	304 9095		

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.

Bill Dolan is out of tramping action for a few months but he wants us to know he has not lost interest in the club. Hope you get well soon Bill.

Here's some information about a new service that may be of interest:

Safety Outdoors is a new safety check service that acts as your trusted outdoor contact with real people in real time. It couldn't be easier to use with a toll free number, text option or online registration via the website.

If you belong to a club, chances are you're pretty passionate about your outdoor activity. Getting out or training with other members is all part of the enjoyment, as is the support and encouragement that makes up a like-minded community.

Safety Outdoors recognises the good work clubs do in catering for all their members at different levels of fitness and experience, and that sometimes members choose to get out on their own trips.

The service is set up to ensure two vital elements are covered whether you are going solo or with an organized club group: That you can call toll free or text at your convenience for any outdoor activity and that last minute changes can be accommodated if you stray from your planned schedule or route.

Your activity details are registered and the Safety Outdoors team waits for confirmation that you've finished your activity. If they don't hear from you, and are unable to reach you, they immediately follow a checking process with every contact point provided. If necessary, the police are immediately notified.

It's important to make safety as much a part of your routine as your equipment and nutritional requirements. It really couldn't be easier!

www.safetyoutdoors.com

Don't forget the photo competition. Over this spring and summer you can enter photos, only taken in the Tararuas, in a competition in four categories: scenes above or below the snow line, outdoor landscape, hut or camp life, and native flora and fauna. They must be in digital form and printed in 6" x 8" or bigger. Photos need to be at the hall by 7.15 on the night of the meeting on Tuesday 12 March 2013. Judging will be in March and there are some worthwhile prizes. Winners will go into the FMC photo competition. Questions to Vicki Brooks, 379 8576 just4brooks@hotmail.com

Trip Reports

BUCKS ROAD 26 JANUARY

We drove to Featherston and then halfway back to Greytown on Underhill Road almost to the Tauherenikau River before turning west onto Bucks Road. There is an attractive picnic / camp site at the end of the road. The track was a steady and reasonable climb through bush, with quite a lot of overgrowth and some minor subsidences. We came out to a grassy ridge with a seat, some shady trees, a spectacular dead pine tree and a great view, so that was our smoko spot.

Down into the bush again, and our biggest effort for the day, negotiating some very high and muddy steps down to the river. We emerged to a beautiful sandy beach beside a sharp bend in the river, with a steep cliff on the other side. A few people paddled in and even crossed the river, and all reported in various degrees of language how cold it was.

We hung out there for a while enjoying the location but it was far too early for lunch so we headed back up to the grassy ridge. A couple of trampers returned earlier, and the rest of us were back at the cars about 1.30.

Trampers were David Bowie, Helen Morison and her grandchildren Emily and Harvey, Fay Mangin, Stan Smith, Theresa Fawdray, a welcome new member Anne Firmin, Barry Kempton and myself, Lynne King.



ATIWHAKATU - PINNACLE RIDGE 1-2 FEBRUARY

Despite very low numbers, the trip departed as scheduled. The club had Atiwhakatu hut to itself on Friday night, despite the warning in the hut book that bridge builders might be in occupation. (One washed out bridge has been replaced, and the other one is in the course of construction.) The hut water tank was empty, but luckily the river still had water!

The party left the hut at 8, and despite complaining about huge deviations up and around slips, decided to stick to the track, rather than take John Rhodes' advice that the river was preferable.

We crossed the river, climbed up to the saddle to the Baldy turn off, and looked around for the Pinnacle Ridge track going off on the right. The start of the track is cunningly concealed by a large fallen tree, but we found it by doing an arc-like sweep. Following along the track was not easy, due to lots more fallen trees, and large ferns growing over the track, but the occasional tiny square of venetian blind confirmed we were on the right path - as did the GPS, and the fact that there is really only one ridge to go along.

The day was very hot, but the going wasn't too bad, under the trees, and with a slight breeze. We lunched on 862, and continued on to Pinnacle itself. The track up to the "peak" is exceedingly overgrown. We were disappointed that the promised arrival of a couple of members coming from the carpark didn't eventuate. During the steep descent, we appreciated why they had chosen not to come up to Pinnacle on such a hot day!

At the bottom, the leader decided to go off on a "short cut" across the river to the main track, but unfortunately chose the point where the main track is furthest from the river, so there was a lot of clambering up, down and through until we emerged, rather scratched and bedraggled, on to the track, to the surprise of a nearby family group. It was a 7¼ hour day, so we were glad we had done the trip up to the hut the previous evening.

Those on the tramp were Ed (leader and GPS operator), and Juliet (marker spotter and scribe) Cooke.



Fungi, taken in the Atiwhakatu Valley



Looking towards Holdsworth from Pinnacle Peak

KIDS' NIGHT IN THE BUSH 9 FEB

On a stunning afternoon five grandparents, two parents and ten children set out to camp at Waiohine Gorge. Janet and her family arrived first and secured a great spot, a grassy bay surrounded by bushes, with a couple of wooden tables and benches. The others arrived and set themselves up. The river beckoned, and soon we were all thoroughly enjoying ourselves playing on the sand and stones, paddling and swimming in the river, diving off the rocks on the far side or just sitting in the sun. Victor retrieved endless sticks thrown in for him and spent so much time in the water he came out beautifully clean and several shades lighter in colour.

Back up at the campsite it was dinner time for the children and drinks time for the adults. While we ate the kids had a glorious time tearing around together, all getting on well and having a lot of fun with nothing much more than their own energy and imagination. Some were put to bed reasonably early but sleep did not come. Their heads were outside their tents offering encouragement to the other kids still outside. As dusk approached families retreated to their tents and most slept well. One adult who was banished to the quarantine section slept very soundly all night (and snored). The night time temperature dropped to 7 or 8 degrees so some felt quite cold.

About 7 am voices and the sound of small feet were heard and the camp started stirring. The various families cooked and ate breakfast, waiting for the sun to reach the site and warm and dry the gear. Everyone packed up and left over the next hour or two. It was a great experience.

Those present were Mary and Bruce Lambert with Asha and Blake, Janet Corlett with Dylan, Matthew and Holly, Frances Pike with Nate and Cody, Angela Kelly with Luca, Barry Kempton, Andy Baily Gibson and Lynne King with Connor, Sam and dog Victor.



CROSS KEYS 16 FEB

Cross Keys is always good for another visit, no matter how many times it's been done before. The weather was perfect. We took in the amazing views as we walked down the hill, and stopped part way for smoko. A breather and a look at the hut at the bottom and then we set out along the coastline to the south. The beach is an irresistible attraction for beachcombing, especially the paua shells and the beautiful stones and rocks. The tide was quite high on our way so the horizontally layered rocks were under water but they were showing themselves as we came back.

At times we walked on farmland above the beach, choosing the most comfortable route. Eventually we came out onto lovely firm, clean sand. We stopped just short of the Whareama River mouth and spread ourselves around various clean, white branches of driftwood for lunch. It was very hot and several of us went into the sea, either to paddle or get right in and dive under the waves. It was a gloriously refreshing break.

Having a flush toilet, running water and the ability to boil water at the hut at the foot of the hill is a great luxury. A spell there set us up for the climb back up. It is certainly a bit of a challenge, but the whole trip was a delightful day.

Those who went were Carol Major, Anne Firman, Derek Wilson, David Lawrence, Barry Kempton and myself, Lynne King.

