

South Wairarapa Tramping Club

Newsletter for May 2013

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

newsletter editor: Lynne King lynne.king@xtra.co.nz 04 478 7795

Club night:

Tuesday 14 May 7.30 pm

St John's Hall Main Street Greytown

Supper: (tea towel, milk and biscuits) David and Kay Bowie

Speaker: Glenys Robertson slide show

Trip List

May - June

Date	Destination	Trip organiser/leader	Phone	Fitness	Cost
4 May	Martinborough region	David Lawrence	306 8122	M	
11 May	Clearing gorse on Reeves track. Club has done this several times over the years but not for a long time.	will be discussed at meeting			
18/19 May	Sayers Hut Totara Flats overnight	Vicki Brooks	379 8576	F	
25 May	Skyline walk Wellington A short climb up the ridge and then rolling country with great views	Barry Kempton	304 9353	M	
1 June	Blue Range Hut / Kiriwhakapapa. Some steep climb but not for long.	Stan Smith	379 7592		
8 June	Powell Hut	Bruce & Mary Lambert	379 6106		
15 June	vacant				
22 June	TBA	Vicki Brooks			
29 June	Ara Hakeke walkway Pukerua Bay to Paremata. Downhill on formed road	Ed & Juliet Cooke			

After 29 June until late September trips will be run fortnightly. If the weather is bad on the scheduled day the trip will run a week later.

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. You can contact me to find out who is scheduled ahead if it's not in the current newsletter, and then you must arrange it with the people concerned.

Trip Reports

DRY RIVER ROAD, LIME WORKS 6 APRIL

We met in Martinborough at 9 a.m. and drove to our start on Dry River road. The weather was a little drizzly but meant to improve. We follow a farm track on our slow climb to a point where we over looked the Ruakokoputuno Valley, stopping on the way amongst a mob of cows for a cuppa. The weather was slowly improving which was great.

From here we could see the windmills, Lake Wairarapa and north to Martinborough and beyond. A great view and no wind which was a bonus. We followed along the tops to a point above the Lime Works where we stopped for lunch amongst scattered bush.

After lunch we went through the Lime Works and onto Dennis Handyside & Andee de Latour's who invited us into their interesting home. Thank you. From here it was a short walk back to the cars. We all had a good day. We were Kay Bowie, Juliet Cooke, Ruth & Peter Graham, Barry Kempton, Mary & Bruce Lambert, Dave Lawrence, Helen Morison, Rosie & Ian Montgmerie, Stan Smith & Derek Wilson, leader and scribe.

FRITH WORKING PARTY 27 APRIL

Ian Montgomerie, Anna Burrows, Charlie Fairbairn, Sage Baisden-Pettus (6), Sarah Pettus, Troy Baisden and John Rhodes gathered near the double bridges at the foot of the Rimutaka Hill on Saturday morning. All but two came as a result of seeing SWTC information in the Featherston *Phoenix*—thanks to Juliet Cooke.

The mission was to carry marker poles up Chimney Spur and place them to mark the trail through the low scrub on the southern approach to Mt Frith. We retrieved four poles that had been hidden in the scrub since November, when Bill Dolan and John Rhodes carried eight up the hill. An hour and a half later we had a smoko break just below the ridge as wind howled above. Sarah took Sage south to the power line track, holding on to her when she threatened to blow away. She reports: 'We had a great walk / run / skip down'.

The rest of us picked up the eight poles left by Bill and John and carried them along the ridge to the north, placing them in strategic spots. Twelve poles had been placed in April 2011, but the wind had snapped them off at ground level. The Mark II versions have long steel spikes to reinforce them. We rammed these into the ground and slid the poles over them—no mean feat in wind that made it difficult to

stand. A film crew that happened to be in the area recorded our efforts; see <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bx3LVDJBBNl>

Lunch was taken in a sheltered spot near Mt Frith, and we did minor clearing on the way back.

Several broken poles from the first batch are long enough to re-use. We plan to fix a couple of them to small trees with cable ties and plant five in the ground; and have asked DOC for five more steel stakes.

Alex Ball of Underhill Road recently wrote: 'After lengthy debate within the family we have decided to rescind access rights for your walking track across the back of our property. We have made this decision because we have lost the control and use of a significant portion of our land.'

The north-east NE leg of the Frith-Finis track, between Bucks Road and Finis, passes through the back of the Balls' property – or did. Mike and Sue Ball have been hugely supportive since we began this project in about 1994, not only allowing us to route the track along their 4WD track (which they maintain) saving a huge amount of work, but also letting us walk up through their place when working in that area. Their son Alex lives nearby and is a hunter. He understandably objects to other hunters using the track to trespass on his parents' place, shooting deer and pigs there without permission. Some have even encroached close to Mike and Sue's house. This didn't happen before we opened the track. Alex can no longer keep his family in meat as he used to.

Hayden Barrett (DOC), Ed Cooke and I hope to reconnoitre an alternative route.

John Rhodes

There are no other reports due to cancelled trips, so I'll tell you a story of a trip that went wrong. About fifteen years ago a friend and I set out for a walk in the Rimutaka Forest Park. It was a warm Sunday afternoon in February, we were walkers not trampers, and we wore shorts, t-shirts and sneakers. It was a great day for an outing.

We took the track from the end of the road in the Catchpool Valley and climbed steadily. It was a bit of a scramble, and I scratched my shin quite badly on a protruding branch. Finally reaching the top of the hill, we were faced with signs that told us things that meant nothing. Mentally tossing a coin, we decided to take the track that led to the Orongorongo River.

A long descent to another valley. A river, and tracks, and not a sign that told us where we were or where we should go. In vain we looked for something that said, "BACK TO CARPARK!" In the absence of that we had to guess where to go.

My friend was an upside down Pom who would say, "Down to Auckland" (from Wellington) so that was no earthly help. I have a reasonable sense of direction and gave it my best shot, deciding to follow the river. We walked for a long time. No jerseys, no food or drink, no first aid, no map, no cellphone – they didn't exist in those days.

As we were starting to get rather anxious we met some people walking towards us. (They were probably proper trampers.) We asked where we were and where we should be going. They told us we were heading north and would end up many hours later in behind Wainuiomata. We needed to turn around and go back, and take another track over the hill again.

What was intended to be a walk of an hour or two on a lovely summer day turned into a five hour marathon. We reached the car about 8pm, thankful for daylight saving. Both our families were frantic, had no idea where we were, and had just rung the police.

We only had ourselves to blame, but we were ignorant and innocent. I did write to DOC later and urged them to put up some signs that showed the way "BACK TO CARPARK." It would have helped.
Lynne