

South Wairarapa Tramping Club

Newsletter for May 2014

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

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Club night:

Tuesday 13 May 7.30 pm

St John's Hall Main Street Greytown

Supper: (tea towel, milk and biscuits) Derek Wilson and Bruce Eglinton

Speaker: Rosie and Ian Montgomerie – trip to Ireland

Trip List

May 2014

Date	Destination	Trip organiser/leader	Phone	Fitness	Cost
3 May	cycle trip Wgtn Regional Park	Ian & Rosie Montgomerie	304 9252		
10 May	Pinnacle Ridge up a spur from Atiwhakatu Stream and down another. Moderately steep at first.	Vicki Brooks	379 8576		
17 May	Masterton District Council recreation trail	John Rhodes	304 9095		
24 May	Honeycomb Rock	Barry Kempton	304 9353		
31 May	Kapiti section Te Araroa trail. Cycle or walk TBA	Ian & Rosie Montgomerie	304 9252		

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 if you are unable to lead your trip it is your responsibility to find a replacement leader / trip.

Trip Reports

MT REEVES TRACK WORKING PARTY 29 MARCH

This was a great success, with double the number of expected participants. Fully half of them biked to the road end, because SWTC trips near Greytown now eschew car transport.

Last July we worked up from the bottom. This time we walked up to the furthest gorse, a bit beyond the first left-hand corner, and worked our way back down trimming as we went. We did not get to the point reached in July, so scope for another working bee remains.

Ian Montgomerie and John Rhodes

ATIWHAKATU HUT 12 APRIL

Barry was the first to ring in the middle of the week. "Are you still going?" he asked. I told him that even if it was raining I was going, so he said that he would ring back on Friday night. As soon as Mary and I got back from Wellington late on Friday, I hopped on to the net and opened up marineweather.co.nz to check out their rain radar and weather forecast. Looked like we would get a little bit of rain at lunch time but it looked clear for the rest of the day.

Barry rang back on Friday night asking if the trip was still on and I told him about the forecast and that we had nine members who were keen to go on Saturday.

Saturday morning turned out to be fine with a little bit of blue sky and by this time we had sixteen keen trampers; Bruce Lambert, Barry Kempton, Woody Woodcock, Carol Major, Bill Dolan, Janet Corlett, Graham Britton, Frances Pike and her two grandsons, John Rhodes, Ian and Rose Montgomerie, Ed and Juliet Cooke and Vicki Brooks.

Some of us met at Stan's corner in Carterton at 8.30am and the rest met us at Holdsworth car park for a 9am start up to the Atiwhakatu Hut.

If it was not raining Mary and Helen were going to start at lunch time, walk to Donnelly Flat for lunch and then walk in to meet us coming out.

Helen rang Mary just before lunchtime to say that it was raining quite hard at her place so they decided not to go.

Vicki said that she would go on up to Jumbo Hut if it was not raining when we got to Atiwhakatu Hut, but it was so she came back out with the rest of us.

DOC has done a lot of work on the track with new stairs, walkways and bridges. Frances' two grandkids counted the bridges and walkways on the way up and told us that there were 37 from the car park to the Atiwhakatu Hut. The new swing bridge with the wooden walkway was closed for repairs. Vicki said that the builders had used plain steel bolts instead of galvanised, so these had to be replaced. Other than that it's a great bridge, better than the old type swing bridges.

Barry crossed the first swing bridge calling to his dog Victor to follow him but Victor could not work out where to get up onto the bridge. Ed and I tried to get him to go up the wire bridge but he wanted to go down the bank and into the river. In the end Barry had to come back across the bridge to get him. By the time Barry got there Ed had Victor by the collar and had started him onto the bridge just in time for him to walk back across with Barry.

We stopped for smoko just after the first swing bridge at 10.10am where we all commented how great the bush looked after the rain and with a bit more water in the river you could not have wished for a better day.

Arrived at Atiwhakatu Hut at 11.45am just as it started to rain and decided to have lunch there.

This is the first time I have been to the hut since DOC have added a large kitchen on and added more bunks. What a great hut for young families to stay the night in the bush, just a short walk from the car park and with a lovely river beside it.

We left the hut at 12.45pm just as the rain was stopping, wearing our coats, as water was still dripping down through the trees.

At the first big slip the ground seem to be cracking again so it will not be long before this drops away again.

Going out we met two groups of scouts who were going up to Atiwhakatu Hut for the night so there

would have been a full hut for Saturday night.

John was taking lots of photos on the way out so he was last out to the car park at 2pm.

Thanks everyone for your company on a great day.

Bruce



SOMES ISLAND 26 APRIL

The impressive number of 20 people turned up on Somes Island mid morning via ferries from Days Bay and Queen's Wharf. Some were regular trampers and others were family and friends eager to take advantage of a glorious day to visit the island. We were pleased to welcome first timers Odette and Barry Cantwell from Masterton. Fairly quickly the group drifted apart as everyone set off to do their own thing in a very loose version of a tramp. We went to the old graveyard for those who died during wartime internment or quarantine, the DOC visitor centre, the former animal quarantine buildings, the remains of the wartime gun emplacements and the 114 year old lighthouse that still guides ships into the harbour. As we walked around the tracks we saw skinks, wetas and a magnificent tuatara doing his best to look like a bit of branch. He was resting under a large macrocarpa limb where he seems to like hanging out, as Vicki, Barry and Stan had seen him in the same area before. There were several weta / skink boxes beside the tracks that were empty, but the weta motel near the lighthouse was full of contented looking fellows chilling out.

We had our lunch at scattered spots around the island, with those who sat high up on the top enjoying stunning views and not a breath of wind. There were plenty of boats on the harbour; launches, kayaks, yachts and a navy vessel that was cruising around in slow circles, no doubt for some good purpose. A steady stream of aeroplanes drifted gently southward over the harbour towards the airport.

Everyone departed from the wharf at 3.10. Those wanting to go to Queen's Wharf – three of us and many others of the public – had to queue up and be counted before being squeezed on with all the day trippers coming back to the city from Days Bay, and the rest of the trampers took the second ferry directly back to Days Bay.

Those who came were Mary and Bruce Lambert and their daughter Nicola, Odette and Barry Cantwell, Jo, Andy, Connor and Sam Baily Gibson, Margaret Tonkes and Wayne Hodgson, Bruce Eglinton, Fay Mangin, Helen Morison, Frances Pike and her grandson, Rosie and Ian Montgomerie, David Morrison and Sandra Rhynhart, Barry Kempton leader and Lynne King scribe.

