

# South Wairarapa Tramping Club

## Newsletter for Dec 2014

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

newsletter editor: Lynne King [lynne.king@xtra.co.nz](mailto:lynne.king@xtra.co.nz) 04 478 7795

### Club night:

Tuesday 9 December 7.30 pm

St John's Hall Main Street Greytown

*Supper:* (tea towel, milk and biscuits) Barry Kempton and Helen Morison

*Speaker:* Sarah Ross – St Jaques de Compostelle – French side. Also Taupo trip in January if anyone interested.

### CHRISTMAS PARTY!

**SATURDAY 13 DEC 6PM**

Carol and David Major's, 210 Ward's Line Greytown. Bring food for a shared meal and a unisex present for under \$5.

### *Trip List*

Dec – Feb 2014 - 2015

Date	Destination	Trip coordinator	Phone	Fitness
6.12	Wainuiomata road end towards Corner Creek coastal walk	Juliet Cooke	304 9497	M
13.12	Ruakokoputuna Chasm SE of Martinborough.	Rosie & Ian Montgomerie	304 9252	M
20.12	Jury Hill Ponatahi area.	David & Kay Bowie	304 9530	M
10.1	Tauherenikau River paddle from end of Bucks Road track	leader needed if possible		M
17.1	Rocky Hills Forest Sanctuary	Dianne Bardsley	379 5251	M
24.1				
31.1	Roaring Stag Hut	Vicki Brooks	379 8576	F
7.2	Pahaoa north to Honeycomb Rock	Rosie & Ian Montgomerie	304 9252	M

*\*Sarah Ross - my family bach. Sleeps 8 (2 beds, 2 bunks, 3 camp beds, one sofa bed for one etc) plus tent space if anyone wishes. Idea is to drive up in couple of cars with a view to doing Tongariro from Mangatepoto to Ketatahi carpark. Side trip up Ngauruhoe for those who wish. Leave cars at either end and shuttle between at end of journey. Bus fares expensive. Suggest drive up Friday leaving around lunch time return Sunday night but could stay longer. If weather bad other walks possible.*

***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***

#### **HUTT RIVER TE MARUA TO TOTARA PARK AND RETURN 25 OCT**

The weather was superb and all participants enjoyed a quiet ramble from near the Te Marua Dairy along the true left bank of the Hutt river to Totara Park bridge, over it and then up the true right side. There is some beautiful bush (not much) near the start with some large trees obviously saved from the bushman's saw and then- Llama Love- at least it might be or simply an overgrown alpaca. The beast gambled over to us and leaned over the 8 wire fence by placing its large and hairy feet on a wire and standing up, towering over each one of us. It resisted offers of grass disdainfully but at least it didn't spit at Ian as he was offering it.

Lunch was had on the return leg, after Totara Park bridge was crossed, by the river in a bend where there are some interesting rocks and a great swimming hole. Some locals brought their kids and dogs for a play in the water. The dogs on the loose sensed Juliet's dislike of that and them, cementing that feeling by vigorously shaking themselves right in front of her as she was eating her lunch. (Actually they really only wanted her lunch).

We crossed back to the true left of the river at Akatarawa and returned to the cars adequately exercised. It is a trip worth repeating in the future.

Participants were Ed and Juliet plus daughter Merran and granddaughter Bethany, Barry Kempton, Ian and Rosie Montgomerie, and Carol Major.



## MT KAIPARORO 1 NOV

Greytown trappers departed from the Workingmen's Club around 9.00 and picked up others as we made our way north to Mt Bruce, turning left into Kaiparoro Road, about 1.6kms past the DOC Centre. We parked at the end of the road and most donned wet shoes here, as the first part of the tramp is to cross Mahakahi River, which was fairly swift but no problem. False start here for a few minutes, but soon rectified, as we turned left over the river and along a small flat area before the never ending 4WD track climb up through towering pine trees into manuka/kanuka. A necessary smoko stop here, it was so nice to relax in the sun and finally into lovely bush. After about two hours of climbing we turned left onto a bush track for half an hour, more gentle here but a couple of steep climbs and then out into the tussock covered 40 hectare flat top of Mt Kaiparoro. Five more minutes saw us standing next to the Trig, at 810 metres. The day had been fine, sunny and calm when we left Greytown but up here the wind was cool and although still sunny the tops were covered with cloud. We enjoyed our lunch sitting among the red tussock, leatherwood, Dracophyllum and manuka. This is the lowest and most accessible area of open tops in the Tararuas. John tells us that an analysis of charcoal and fossil pollen suggests that fire created the Kaiparoro Clearing about 3500 years ago and it still remains (John says he can just remember it). The unusual feature is the presence of the red tussock. Looking across the clearing the colours of the foliage make for a wonderful vista, and there were also views out to farmland to the east and north.

Lunch over it was time to return through the clearing and on to the bush track. When we reached the 4WD track we turned left and continued on along the ridge top noticing the numerous mountain cabbage trees. Here the track is becoming overgrown but very easy going. Then it was down through the last of the native bush to the pine trees, and then down, down and down. There must have been very strong winds here because a number of pines had been blown over. Our poor knees were really telling us that it was steep but about one hour later saw us all crossing a small stream, across a flat and then to the river again, thus completing a very successful round trip.

Those enjoying the day with us were Ann & John Rhodes, Carol Major, Vicki Brooks, FRANCES PIKE, (didn't forget you Frances) and David & Kay Bowie.



## SKYLINE WALKWAY WELLINGTON 8 NOV

The wind had blown us its meanest shot throughout the 3 days leading up to our trip, causing uncertainty about the wisdom of tackling the Wellington Skyline Walkway. No *Plan B* though. Not yet, anyway.

Come Saturday, the day dawned sunny and calm and spirits were high. An 8.00am getaway from WMC Greytown ensured one of just 2 remaining parking slots for the *Lambert tank* upon arrival at Khandallah Park carpark at 9.15am. As the popularity of the area was an unknown, the potential for parking difficulties had not been factored in to the trip plan. We were lucky!

We morning-tea'd at Mt Kaukau lookout (well deserved, having just mounted about a thousand steps) where we met up with Barry and Lynne\*, setting off from there on the Skyline Walkway at 10.45am and stopping at 12.10pm for a leisurely lunch break on Johnston Hill.

\* Most unfortunate that the earthquake overnight on Kaukau altered the junctions so significantly... *yeah right!*

- No wind – windmills virtually stationary – a perfect day!
- Postcard views from many vantage points on the tracks.
- Observed permanently streamlined bush and wind-carved sculptures in the vegetation.
- Chose for our exit route the track that passes the power pylons to Chartwell Drive.
- Spotted signs directing stragglers like us to the Crofton Downs Primary School Fair where we called in for ice cream trumpets.
- Walked out to Crofton Downs railway station to discover that *some of the oldies in the group* hadn't had the presence of mind to bring their SuperGold cards for a free ride. Nek Minnit, two SuperGold cards were produced which were tendered and accepted for *the entire group of 7 smiling trampers* travelling to Khandallah Station.☺
- Walked from the station to Khandallah Park carpark and headed for home at 3.00pm.

Thanks, Barry and Lynne for your guidance on the walking tracks.

Trip starters at WMC Greytown: Bruce & Mary Lambert, Frances Pike, Ian Montgomerie and Carol Major; linking up with Barry Kempton and Lynne King at Mt Kaukau summit.

Graham Britton had registered his intention to join us but was under instruction from Pooch Pepsil to withdraw from the trip when pooch made it known to master that he didn't wish to walk on a lead all day.

Sorry Pepsil, but that's Dog Policy on the Wellington Skyline Walkway!

Carol Major (trip co-ordinator/reporter)

