

# South Wairarapa Tramping Club

## Newsletter for Feb 2015

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

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No club night – ANNUAL SUMMER BARBECUE

Frances Pike's place, 63A Millard Avenue Carterton, 6.00 Tuesday 10 February

Bring meat and salad, cutlery and crockery

### *Trip List*

Jan – Feb 2015

Date	Destination	Trip coordinator	Phone	Fitness
31.1	Roaring Stag Hut	Vicki Brooks	379 8576	F
7.2	Pahaoa north to Honeycomb Rock	Rosie & Ian Montgomerie	304 9252	M
14.2	Boom Rock coast west of Ohariu Valley	Bowies?		
21.2	Tauanui Stream SW Aorangi Forest Park permission needed	leader required		
28.2	Sutherland's Hut (from end of Ruakokoputuna Road)	leader required		
7.3	Eastern Hutt hills from Naenae or Wainuiomata	leader required		
14.3	Gentle Annie saddle near Holdsworth Lodge navigation reqd	leader required		
21.3	Lower Ruamahanga track near Mt Bruce	leader required		

*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***

### FENSHAM RESERVE & MILLENNIUM PARK 22 NOV

This was the day we were to go to Tairoa wetlands beside Lake Wairarapa but we were warned not to go if there were gale force winds and of course that morning the wind was very strong at my place. However seven of us met in Greytown at 8.30am and decided to go to Fensham Reserve instead. It was a good decision as it was very sheltered in the trees and even the little rain that fell didn't come through. We were surprised to see how much work had been done out there. Morning tea was enjoyed at the tables near the back entrance.

During the morning someone mentioned they had read about the Millennium Park in Masterton and we all thought it was worth a look. After we had completed a circuit of Fensham we headed off to Masterton, except Juliet who had visitors coming for lunch.

Millennium Park is on the corner of Hillcrest and Pownall Streets and we found it without too much trouble. There were several different paths around many small lakes but I think we managed to walk around most paths. There have been a lot of trees and shrubs planted and there were even ducks and swans on the lakes. It's well worth a visit if you have an hour or two to spare in Masterton sometime. We found a table and seats to have our lunch on and then headed home early afternoon. I think everyone enjoyed their walk as several had not been to Fensham before and I don't think any of us had looked around the Millennium Park before.

Those who came were Fay Mangin, Theresa Fawdray, Sarah Ross, Juliet Cooke, Bill Dolan, Barry Kempton and Helen Morison leader and scribe.

### MT REEVES 29 NOV

After some trepidation during the week about the weather eight of us left the Woodside road end at 8.20. The first hour was a steep climb up from the farmland and pine plantation into the regenerating bush covering old farmland. This track follows the old Mt Hector proposed tourist route dating back to 1910. Little sign of the benched track is visible now.

After smoko and some rests we made the summit in just over three hours in ideal weather conditions. We found a good lunch spot with great vistas over the southern Wairarapa valley. Despite the good weather our lunch break was quite short and we were soon on our way back down. The return trip was quite rapid and some of us were feeling a bit jaded by the time we were back at the cars. It was good to see two visitors on the trip, Geoff Warburton and John Wilson. The others were Jennifer Pomeroy, Theresa Fawdray, Sarah Ross, Carol Major, Ian Montgomerie and Barry Kempton.

### ORONGORONGO RIVER TO KOTUMU STREAM 6 DEC

Despite gales all week, it was calm and sunny as eleven of us drove off from the Wairarapa. The weather over the hill was cloudy and damp, so we were relieved to see blue sky above the coast, and we set off from the car park in sunshine and almost calm conditions.

We had morning tea on Turakirae Head, nestled down amongst rocks and bushes to avoid the wind which by then had sprung up. Shortly after that we caught up with Barry and Lynne, who had started five minutes before us, from the second car park - how could we all have failed to see Barry's ute?!

The walking/cycle track is much easier at that end of the coast than on our previous walk from the other end, and we had to get out of the way of at least fifteen vehicles - a 4wd tour, farm vehicles, hunters and fishermen - and several bicycles.

We stopped for lunch near a bach, then five returned to the cars, and eight of us continued on to the Kotumu Stream, a huge area of shingle fans two kilometres wide, unpleasantly up and down and rocky. We stopped about ten minutes short of our lunch spot on 11 October.

Coming back, the wind changed direction and velocity, making the last half hour most unpleasant, battling against a head wind.

Those on the tramp were Ian Bardsley, Vicki Brooks, Ruth Graham, Barry Kempton, Lynne King, Bruce and Mary Lambert, Carol Major, Ian Montgomerie, John Wilson, and Ed and Juliet (leader and scribe) Cooke with granddaughter Beth.

The tramp was especially noteworthy for Ed, being his first tramp after spinal surgery.



#### PATUNA CHASM 13 DEC

The weather looked like it was in our favour as we met at the Martinborough Square at 8.30. We arrived at Patuna and were met by Alan Wilkinson, who then drove with us to the start of the walk, gave us our written instructions and warned us of the deeper parts of the chasm. Ropes were helpful on some areas that have slipped close to the edge of the chasm. Ian and Bill were of assistance when needed. The wave rock had lots of exposed fossils, and these are also evident in many of the rock faces. A quick stop before entering the chasm for morning tea in the dry was enjoyed. Grass areas were slippery from the rain, but we were very soon at the ropes and ladder.

The ladder section was taken carefully. Bill didn't need his stick, so tossed it over, only to have it get stuck in an overhanging branch. Ian soon dislodged it with some accurate rock throwing, with Bill getting just a tad splashed. We turned right to the waterfall. We were wading in knee deep water by now, and it certainly felt cold. The water over the mossy bank and the deepness of the gorge is stunning. We then came back down to split rock. The best option is to go across the rock close to its edge and jump into the pool. Robin discovered the right side was deep, and had a compulsory swim! Others backtracked. Always read all of the information sheet!

The chasm deepens in parts and the sides are close with tunnel effects, and it becomes quite dark in the narrowest part of the chasm. The downstream part of the chasm is simply stunning, with stalagmite and stalactite formations, ferns and mosses. Eels were seen at times. The rocks were very slippery and those with poles felt a bit more secure, however at least half of our party had falls, some more wet than others. Kaye needed some first aid for a nasty cut/graze to her shin. The cold water probably helped to numb the pain.

Once out of the chasm we recrossed the river and made our way uphill through the pine trees and back to the vehicles. Rain was a little heavy at times, so little time was taken for breaks.

Patuna Chasm is a very special place and one that is fun to return to. Certainly worth the \$15 fee. A nice summer's day would make it even more enjoyable.

A super day out with Bill Dolan, Juliet Cooke, Vicki Brooks, Glenys Robertson, David and Kaye Bowie, Ian and Dianne Bardsley and son in law Robin with daughter Iris, Sarah Ross, John Wilson, Rosie and Ian Montgomerie ( leader and scribe).

#### PONATAHI HILL – FOREMAN JURY ROAD SOUTH TO RIVERSIDE ROAD 20 DEC

8.30 saw two members meet at the usual place in Greytown and others joined us on the way to Foreman Jury Road. We parked by Marshall Jury's woolshed and started walking around 9.45. We headed up a ridge which turned out to be different from the one we had done before, but probably a better choice (last trip up here was in 2007), as we got to the top in a shorter distance. We had a cuppa under the shade of some manuka just before the top ridge and then tried to follow the ridge south. It is a bit of a maze, you have to keep taking the left ridge or you end up in very steep gullies, until you come to the airstrip where you take the right ridge. A few looks and backtracks were needed to keep us on course. Lunch was enjoyed under some trees by the water tanks (not only dogs hop in water troughs at lunchtime. Also view of J R's Orchard - see photo). Some great views over Gladstone, Ponatahi, Greytown and the whole of the Wairarapa Valley are to be had from along here, ever changing as we headed south. We managed to make it to Riverside Road, after taking the last wrong ridge. A steep downhill and a short track up put us back on course and we walked down through a subdivision to the waiting car. The seven of us then drove back to Foreman Jury Road to the other waiting cars. A good trip but very hot. Home by 3.00.

Those enjoying the walk were: Sarah Ross, Barry Kempton, Mary & Bruce Lambert, Frances Pike, Woody Woodcock and myself David Bowie.



## LOWER TAUHERENIKAU GORGE 10 JAN

We met in Featherston at 2.30 pm; and half an hour later we were on the track from Bucks Road. An hour's walk took us to the river and two more hours brought us down it and back to the cars. Apart from Greg slipping and damaging a ligament in his wrist, it was a pleasant way to cool off on a scorching afternoon. Pictures are at <http://swtc.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/SWTC-Lower-Tauherenikau-Gorge-10.1.2015.pdf>

Greg Allan, Andreas Braa, Ian Montgomerie, Rosie Montgomerie & John Rhodes (coordinator)

## ROCKY HILLS 17 JAN

Fifteen intrepid souls set out on the Rocky Hill Road walk. We were supposed to be walking down a paper road but discovered later that the paper road was the one we had avoided and we were indeed on a farm track. The area has some spectacular land forms with taipos and steep faces. A shepherd's hut provided a pleasant lunch spot. Totaras and rewarewa were dominant in the bush reserve. It was a scorching hot day so we all retired to the Gladstone Pub for a drink on the way home. Some of us thought we would try the paper road walk when it's considerably cooler. There is very little shade. The walkers were Juliet, Ed, Merran and Wendell Cooke, Bruce and Mary Lambert, Barry Kempton, Lynne King, Ruth and Peter Graham, Fay Mangin, Theresa Fawdray, Jennifer Pomeroy, Dianne and Ian Bardsley, leaders.

