

South Wairarapa Tramping Club

Newsletter for March 2015

www.swtc.org.nz

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Club night:

Tuesday 10 March 7.30 pm

St John's Hall Main Street Greytown

Supper: (tea towel, milk and biscuits) Frances Pike & Vicki Brooks

Speaker: Bob and Jennifer Pomeroy – Africa

Trip List

March 2015

Date	Destination	Trip coordinator	Phone	Fitness
7.3	Wainuiomata hill saddle to Days Bay or Eastbourne	ring Barry Kempton Cooles leaders	304 9353	
14.3	Gentle Annie saddle near Holdsworth Lodge navigation reqd	leader required		
21.3	Lower Ruamahanga track near Mt Bruce	Vicki Brooks	379 8576	

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

PAHAOA NORTH TOWARDS HONEYCOMB ROCK 7 FEB

We met Sarah and Graham at the SWWC at 8 am. As the Martinborough Fair was on we were a bit worried about traffic heading east but all was well, though some drivers lost sight of the lead vehicle and did a few laps of the square. We were relieved to meet on the Hinakura road. Lovely drive to the start of the Honeycomb walking track, just over the Pahoa Bridge. We set off across farm land alongside the river. It was about one kilometre or more to the beach 4WD track, an easy walk on a near perfect day for walking. A bit of cloud, blue skies in between, huge seas, and great company. A pity for Graham that signs indicated NO DOGS, so he and Pepsil decided not to risk any confrontation with landowners. This was a pity, as we would have enjoyed their company and a wee dog his size would not have been a problem. He would have fitted in your pack Graham!

We had morning tea in a sheltered spot among scrub as the southerly wind was a bit cool to start. We walked for another two hours before lunch. We didn't make it quite as far as the wreck of the Tivali or to Honeycomb rock, so perhaps we will walk from the Glenburn end another time. The return back to the cars was pleasant, a bit of beach fossicking for Helen and Rosie. Sarah had a surprise to see a lonely seal. The rock formations on the coast are stunning and trees indicated the strength of the coastal winds. It was interesting to see the number of beach baches dotted along the coast, nice on a good day. We arrived back at the cars about 2.30 and home by 4.00. Happy walkers were Bruce and Mary Lambert, Barry Kempton, Sarah Ross, Carol Major, Helen Morison, Frances Pike, and leaders Ian and Rosie Montgomerie.



OHARIU VALLEY – MILL CREEK WIND FARM 14 FEB

Seventeen members and friends met at SWWMC at 8.00 and travelled over the hill, across to Johnsonville and down into Ohariu Valley where we entered the Bryant property on Boom Rock Road around 9.30 to begin what turned out to be a Kiwi Tiki Tour. We were there to investigate the Mill Creek wind farm comprising 26 windmills which has been established by Meridian Energy, and was only completed in Nov/Dec 2014. The cost of construction was around \$169 million. Each turbine generates 2.3MVs and the 26 turbines will produce enough electricity each year for 30,000 average NZ homes.

We first drove up through the farm on a sealed road which took us through huge cuttings to the ridge top, and then we continued for about five kilometres in a southerly direction on a wide gravel road with great views back down into Ohariu Valley itself. Sealed road again as we dropped steeply down into a valley where a large marshalling yard had been formed during the construction stage. Here we marvelled at the size of a spare blade which is kept here, it was huge. It was hard to imagine that those blades up there are that big.

As this was about the only spot slightly sheltered from the cold wind we decided it was time for morning tea beside an old container. Meridian has constructed very large sheep/cattle yards for the farmer, what

an asset for them. We were to learn that Meridian has replaced/ referenced everything for the four landowners, and the access for them all is just incredible.

Back onto the sealed road again as we wound our way back up to the next ridge, where we could now look out over the coast, another five kilometres to the northern-most windmill, where we exited the five vehicles for a quick look around. As it was so cold it was into vehicles again and we continued to explore more of the windfarm until we overlooked Makara and the 62 windmills of the West Wind wind farm.

We retraced our way through the properties to Boom Rock Road and then turned into Ohariu Valley Road and drove north to be greeted by a barrier gate which leads on to the road which was constructed through the pines known as Spicer Forest. This road was built to access the machinery and turbines to the windfarm via Porirua. It was relatively calm there compared to on the tops so we decided as it is a walkway we would investigate.

We found a spot for lunch and then walked on until we had views over Tawa, Linden, and eventually the Porirua rubbish tip and a view of the Porirua Harbour.

We returned to the cars early afternoon. We hope everyone enjoyed the opportunity to explore a part of the country that is not normally accessible to us. It is with thanks to the landowners that we are able to do these great trips, it was just a pity about the weather.

Those on the trip were Helen Morison, Barry Kempton, Lynne King, Mary & Bruce Lambert, Juliet & Ed Cooke, Bruce Eglinton, Sarah Ross, Theresa Fawdray, Carol Major, Frances Pike & Nate, Mary & Royce Cooper and David & Kay Bowie, leader & scribe.



TWO-DAY WHAREAMA COASTAL WALK 15-17 FEB

The Cookes, Grahams and Bardsleys had intended to do this catered walk for some time – having heard very positive reports. It lived up to our expectations! We actually crossed six farm properties: Golden Downs (our first night's accommodation), Waiteko, Waierua, Cross Keys, Castlepoint Station, and Ica Station. Most of the walk of 29 kilometres was on hills, much of this on farm tracks, and a little on the roadway or along the coast.

Once on the heights we had spectacular views of the sea, mainly looking north to Castle Rock.

The second night was spent at Wai Ngaio retreat, an expansive lodge owned by Castlepoint Station. From there we had a distant view of the ocean, and a closer view of some quiet Angus-Hereford cross cattle and their calves. We showed questionable initiative on the second day of walking in taking an uphill short cut which probably used up more calories than taking the intended track. Once we left the views of the coast it was almost all downhill through Castlepoint and Ica Stations. We were fortunate enough that the Walk hosts, Carmen and Dick, have just purchased Ica Station homestead so we were given a quick tour of the exterior of the impressive building (see below) with its various historic out-buildings. Our meals and accommodation were superb and we would heartily recommend the walk.



Juliet and Ed Cooke, Ruth and Pete Graham, and Dianne and Ian Bardsley were the happy participants.

HERBERTVILLE 20 – 22 FEB

Seven club members made the excursion to Herbertville; three campervans and one motorbike. We stayed at the Herbertville Motor Camp which we found very good. The shared dinner on Friday night met (and exceeded) all expectations, but it was lucky John R was not there as pavlova was not on the menu.

By courtesy of the manager of Burnview Station we enjoyed a six hour farm walk, three kilometres along a flat driveway to the woolshed, then up onto the hill tops amongst cabbage trees and the occasional totara and macrocarpa. We could see around the coast to Cape Turnagain to the north, the whole coastal sweep of Herbertville with the river meandering into the estuary, and as far as Castle Rock to the south. Our highest point was the trig on Wainui, 270m.

Tina Everitt at the Cock and Pullet Cafe produced an amazing three course dinner for \$35 each - entree being seafood filo parcels, a steak main, and dessert of Black Doris plum shortcake. If you're ever out at Herbertville, give Tina a call on 06 374 3840.

On Sunday morning we walked along the road and beach to Cape Turnagain. It was just on high tide, so there was not much beach to walk on - about ten kilometres there and back.

Those on the trip were David and Kay Bowie, Bruce and Mary Lambert, Barry Kempton and Ed and Juliet Cooke (organisers).



SUTHERLAND'S HUT 28 FEB

We left Carterton at 7.45 and drove out to Kay and David's where the others were waiting. We drove to Martinborough and out to the very end of Ruakokaputuna Road. There were several vehicles parked there with trailers on, hunters on quad bikes we thought. We were amazed how dry the area is, the paddocks are just dirt, we are greener in Carterton.

The track hasn't improved much, still huge ruts but more overgrown at the sides. We stopped for smoko at one of the stream crossings and two more quads came over with young guys with hunting gear.

The day was hot, clear blue sky and temperatures rising, we weren't looking forward to walking up this track later on in the day.

We arrived at Sutherland's Hut at 11.30, had a wander around and sat inside in the cool to have lunch. The hut needed a 'woman's touch' and so did the toilet!

We left again around 1pm and got back to vehicles at 2.30. It certainly was hot walking back up the track. The hunters had gone with only two vehicles left.

Back to Kay and David's where we had a wander around their garden and then had a cuppa and came home with a container of bulbs.

A great day spent with great people. Those who came were Frances Pike, Carol Major, Royce Cooper, Kay and David Bowie, Mary and Bruce Lambert leaders for the day.