

# South Wairarapa Tramping Club

## Newsletter for February 2016

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

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*Club night:*

Tuesday 9 Feb 6.00 pm

*Barbecue at Ed and Juliet Cooke's 57 Wood Street Greytown 6 pm*

Please food to share and drinks, cutlery and crockery for yourselves.

RSVP 304 9497

### **Trip List**

Jan – Mar 2016

<b>Date</b>	<b>Destination</b>	<b>Trip coordinator</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Fitness</b>
30.1	City to sea walkway Wellington	Barry Kempton	304 9353	M
6.2	Tinui cross & Rewanui (if time)			
13.2	Atiwhakatu River	Ian Bardsley	379 5251	M
20.2	old mill track Ruakokoputuna			
27.2 #	Paekakariki Pukerua Bay Titahi Bay			
5.3	Lake Reserve, Tauherenikau Delta	Ian Montgomerie or Barry Kempton	304 9252 304 9353	M
12.3	cycling Carterton area	Bruce & Mary Lambert	379 6106	M
19.3	Honeycomb Rock	Bruce & Mary Lambert	379 6106	M
25 – 28 .3 Easter	Mt Reeves	Ann & John Rhodes	304 9095	F

**Leaders needed for trips 6, 20 and 27 February.**

# Originally Ed and Juliet planned a weekend trip with walks on Saturday and Sunday, but now they have to go to an 80th Birthday party in Raglan. Can someone else please organise either a walk on Saturday 27th, or a whole weekend, on the Kapiti Coast.

***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.

**Supper:** At the end of each club meeting, the people who did the supper should pass the supper box to the people next on the roster.

For the next two meetings the roster is:

March: John and Ann Rhodes

April: Ed & Juliet Cooke

### ***Trip Reports***

#### BARING HEAD 29 NOV

We had noticed the entrance to the Baring Head tracks when we walked the coastal track from the Wainuiomata road-end last year. None of us had explored the area before, and it is always good to visit a new area.

We set off along the river heading towards the sea, past the old pumphouse, from which water was pumped up to the lighthouse area. The track led on up the hill to a large grassy plateau overlooking the sea. At the far side was the lighthouse, and a group of boarded-up cottages.

The Baring Head lighthouse was the second last manned lighthouse to be built in New Zealand. It was opened in 1935, the first light in NZ to start operating immediately on electricity, supplied by diesel generators until mains electricity arrived in 1950. Originally there were two keepers, but that was reduced to one, and the light was automated in 1989. In 2005 the original light was replaced with a new LED beacon. It was used as a signal station during the war.

The lighthouse was in a slight hollow, so we were sheltered from the wind, and that, combined with interesting vegetation and fantastic views out over Cook Strait and the harbour entrance, meant that it was difficult to get the group moving again.

We lunched at Para Trig, 166m, beside the WWII bunkers, huddled down to avoid the wind, and then completed the circuit back to the cars.

Those on the trip were Ian Bardsley, Kay Bowie, Jimmy Climo, Ray Commisa from Alaska, Ian & Rosie Montgomerie, John Rhodes, Sarah Ross, John Wilson, and Ed & Juliet Cooke (organisers) with daughter Merran and granddaughter Bethany.



## MANAWATU GORGE 5 DEC

Woke to a warm fine day for our walk through the Manawatu Gorge. Ten of us left Carterton at 8 am and drove to the other side of the gorge and started walking at 9.40am. Neil and I drove our vehicle to the Ballance end first and Kay and David were waiting there to take us to the other side. There has to be a vehicle left at that end to take the drivers back to pick up their cars.

It was much colder there than the Wairarapa. We reckoned it dropped by ten degrees.

The track is in very good condition. There has been a lot of work done since we were there three or four years ago. There have been wooden tables and chairs built along the way in areas where there are good views. We had morning tea at one of the look-out platforms where there was a seat and a view. We met lots of other walkers and runners going both ways.

Further on where the big slip started from the top and closed the road they have built a huge Maori statue made of steel that is six metres tall. It is called a whatonga and parts of the intricate carving on it mean certain things. There is a notice board erected there to explain everything. You then walk down a steep stairway to a lookout that looks over the slip and road. It took ten minutes to get down and was pretty impressive.

We walked on again to our usual lunch spot but this time there was a table and chairs to sit on and a toilet in the trees.

We reached the end of the track around 2.20. Neil took the three drivers back to the other side to pick up cars then they came back to pick their passengers up.

A good day had by all. Those who came were Alan Wasmuth, Jimmy Climo, Ian Montgomerie, Fay Mangin, Kay and David Bowie, Carol Major, Juliet Cooke, Neil Johnston and Mary Lambert leader for the day.

## MOUNTAIN HOUSE LOOP WALK 12 DEC

Ten people met at Holdsworth to help David Bowie unload from his trailer the memorial seat to Stan Smith at the ranger's house. The seat will be installed at Donnelly's Flat in the new year. Kay and David Bowie left us to do a different walk and Barry Kempton, Lynne and Victor had morning tea with us at Rocky Lookout. Six of us continued on to complete the loop walk. We were watching the weather all day as the clouds threatened rain but the sun won the battle. The bush was very beautiful but only a few birds were heard. The NZ iris was resplendent in full bloom. We were looking for the orchids at Pig Flat which are usually out in December but were unable to find any. A quick visit to show Bill the mountain house shelter then off we went down to the Atiwhakatu valley stopping for lunch in a lovely clearing ten minutes away from the bottom of the track. Back to the cars by 2pm and back home in plenty of time to have a sleep and prepare for the Christmas get together. A good trip enjoyed by Graeme Britton, Bill Dolan, Neil Johnstone, Ed and Juliet Cooke and Fay Mangin.

## TAIT'S STREAM LOGGING TRACK 9 JAN

Ian & Rosie Montgomerie, Donna & Reuben Simonsen and John Rhodes biked to Tait's Stream from Greytown. Bruce Lambert, prevented from walking by an ankle problem, accompanied us to the locked gate on Underhill Road, while Neil Johnstone, Mary Lambert and Barry Kempton came by car.

The 1951 logging road on the Saywell property took us (on foot) up through beech forest to the site of the one-time deer trap. Back at the foot of the hill we received a friendly welcome from Donald Saywell, who was working on his hut, and some of us later stopped to chat with Rex Saywell.

We thank the Saywell family for access to this beautiful corner of Greytown's "Tararua back yard".

## WAIRONGOMAI VALLEY 16 JAN

On a beautiful warm, drizzly day Mary Lambert (leader), Anne Taylor, Ian & Rosie Montgomerie, Ian Bardsley, Neil Johnstone and Ann, Heather & John Rhodes (co-ordinator) walked up the valley to Waiorongomai Hut and back down again.

Photos are at <http://swtc.org.nz/> > People & photos > Trip photos 2016 > SWTC Waiorongomai 16.1.2016