

South Wairarapa Tramping Club

Newsletter for August 2016

www.swtc.org.nz

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Club night:

Tuesday 9 August 7.30 pm **AGM**

St John's Hall Main Street Greytown

Supper: (tea towel, milk and biscuits) Kay & David Bowie

Speaker: Ed and Juliet Cooke, a historic presentation of our two week Christmas 1966 trip - photos and the diary - a round trip from Lake Wakatipu to the West Coast and back.

Trip List

July – September 2016

Date	Destination	Trip coordinator	Phone	Fitness
30.7	Battle Hill Farm Forest Park	Ed & Juliet Cooke	304 9497	
6.8	White Rock O/N	Mary & Bruce Lambert	379 6106	
13.8	Skyline Walk (Wgtn)Kaukau-Karori	Carol Major	304 8210	M
20.8	Atiwhakatu	Ian Montgomerie / Frances Pike	304 9252	M
27.8	local walk	Barry Kempton	304 9353	M
3.9	Winzenberg Hill	<i>leaders required</i>		
10.9	Wellington Botanical Gardens & Bolton Street Cemetery	"		
17.9	Mt Bruce track	"		
24.9	Pigeon Bush Reserve	John Rhodes	304 9095	

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 meeting the roster is: Ken O'Dowd.

Trip Reports

KAITOKE REGIONAL PARK 25 JUNE

Ignoring the emailed warning about the very steep track, seven hardy souls walked the Norbett Loop in the Kaitoke Regional Park on Saturday June 25th. The walk starts with a river crossing to ensure the boots are heavy and follows with an unremitting climb which does not let up for over an hour. On the plus side the bush was fairly spectacular and there was a lot of birdsong - even if we could not see the blighters. The sun was shining between the trees making a beautiful bush scene, - and Barry found some bivouacs. We eventually reached a rough four wheel drive track and descended at an even rate to the park's camp facilities which boasted a loo, table, sink etc, making it a pleasant place for lunch. It was so new the paint was wet as some discovered. Rather than walking back up the road to our cars we took a bush track through some huge ratas, rimus and beech and eventually arrived at Rivendell where parts of the 'Lord of the Rings' were filmed. A few pieces of scenery remain including a stone arch, - well it looks like stone until you tap it!

The intrepid were Mary Lambert, Barry Kempton, Carol Major, Frances Pike, Rosie and Ian Montgomerie and Ian Bardsley (leaders).



CANNON'S POINT WALKWAY 2 JULY

Ten of us left a beautiful, sunny, but freezing cold and frosty Wairarapa and drove over to Upper Hutt, disappointingly covered in thick cloud. We parked by the suspension bridge over the Hutt River at Upper Hutt, and walked down beside the river, crossing at Totara Park. We then headed up the hill, taking the steeper more direct route to the top. Morning tea was eaten facing the view down the Hutt Valley. Sarah discovered that it was more practical to place one's seating mat on the bench in a portrait position, rather than landscape, in order to fit more backsides on the bench. Discussion followed as to whether backsides could or should actually be described as either "portrait" or "landscape"!

We continued on our way over and down the hill, past the dam, and lunched in the sun at the car park at the end of the new road put in to serve the Bridge Road residents who are now bridgeless.

Those on the trip were Ian Bardsley, new member Chris Cassells, Peter and Ruth Graham, Carol Major, Ian and Rosie Montgomerie, Sarah Ross, and organisers Ed and Juliet Cooke.



CARTERTON BIKE RIDE SATURDAY 9 JULY

The day was overcast and cold but eight cyclists rugged up with their winter woollies and set off from Danske Close to bike out to the end of Taumata Island Road. Bruce changed the route at the last minute, because every now and again it would rain in the Tararua Ranges and that was the direction we were going to head to.

We biked down to the dairy on Moreton Road, went to the end, turned right into Para Road, turned left into Riverside Road and then on to Waihakeke Road. On Riverside Road there was a farm yard full of old American 2nd World War trucks and truck parts. On Waihakeke Road there were old Subaru, Jaguar and Toyota cars covered in lichen parked in yards and sheds, and farm houses that were just about falling down, they looked like they had been left to rot.

At the end of the road we stopped for morning tea and Mary shared out a chocolate cake that she had made the day before.

On the way back to town (which was a bit up hill) we stopped to watch a farmer load a large trailer with hay and sugar beet. The trailer had a mixer inside to mix all the feed up before feeding out to stock. We arrived back at 10 Danske Close at 11.50. An easy ride which was enjoyed by David Bowie, Carol and David Major, Royce and Mary Cooper, Fay Mangin and Mary and Bruce Lambert, leaders for the day.

PETONE HISTORICAL WALK 16 JULY

We met at Settlers' Museum on the Petone Esplanade but it was closed, so we set out on the route of the official walk. We strolled to the end of the wharf and back, saw the little cemetery in Te Puni Street, named after one of the early Maori chiefs, and the Anzac flagpole near Petone Railway Station. Collett Street is the location of one of the original early cottages, tucked down a long drive among other intriguing old houses. Historic buildings included the former Oddfellows Hall, the former Empire theatre, and a large house known as Price's Folly. Nelson Street has the first church built in Petone, the Wesley Methodist. Other churches on the route were Sacred Heart Catholic, St Augustine's Anglican and St David's Presbyterian in Britannia Street. Scholes Lane is a delightful narrow street with the back entrances to houses on one side and light commercial properties on the other. It was used by a local rope manufacturer named Brown to dry lengths of rope and was originally called Brown's Lane.

The Petone Community house is an attractive building set back from the street with trees in front. It was originally a family home and then a doctor's surgery. The Labour Hall in Beach Street is now the Petone Lighthouse Cinema. The old police station and jail were moved from Elizabeth Street to Jackson Street where they are used as the Jackson Street Programme office. The old Petone Courthouse in Elizabeth Street is in a rather neglected state but clearly it was once an impressive building.

We had morning tea at a café, rather unusual for a tramping trip. Sarah had forewarned the owners and they had a big table set up and coped very well with the large influx of customers. The lunch spot was on the waterfront, where we sat on the sea wall in the sun and looked over the calm sea. We decided not to continue with the rest of the official walk, and spent some time in the Settlers' Museum which was now open. It has had a major renovation recently and was very interesting.

This trip was different from the usual off road tramps and showed us some history that we would never have known about without the guide. The perfect weather just complimented it. A largish group wandering around the streets with boots and backpacks attracted some interest and a few passersby chatted to us. Carol and Sarah put in all the hard work of planning it and providing the paperwork, which was much appreciated, but Lynne took over as unofficial leader because she knew the area well.

The group was Sarah Ross, Carol Major, Barry Kempton, Lynne King, Carol's Chris friend, Kay and David Bowie, Bruce Eglinton, John Rhodes, Neil Johnston, Royce Cooper, Mary Lambert and Fay Mangin.



AN OLD ARTICLE

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THE TARARUA TRAMPER

October, 1955.

A REAL WINTER NORTHERN September 9-11

THE night was young when our party of six assembled in Ohau Hut, and with the twinkling stars promising a fine day on the morrow we pushed on up the river to South Ohau Hut for the night.

Hastening through a "solid" breakfast, we left at 6 a.m. on Saturday and pounded up to Te Matewai. A breather and on we went towards the tops and the snow. Here, Bob Rodda and Graham McEwan decided to stop, as Bob had no ice axe. There remained only Tony Robins, Merv. Rodgers, George Broadbent (from Levin) and myself. Cramming down some scroggin we pressed on, over Arete and along towards the Waiohine Pinnacles. What a view! On all sides the peaks were glistening in their winter snow, Bannister on the left, Mitre ahead. On and on, we crossed the pinnacles and stopped for lunch by a frozen tarn. Clouds began to shroud the higher peaks, but the sun was hot and we still wore only shorts and shirt. Pushing on again we began the long climb up to Girdlestone. Soon the cold mist forced us to put on more suitable clothing, but before long

we were kicking and cutting our way onto the hard smooth cone of Girdlestone. No time to stop, we almost ran round to Brockett and shortly after we pulled up short at the base of Mitre.

Hoping the mist would clear when we reached the top, we struggled up this last stiff climb and finally only the "down" part remained. Out to Peggy's Peak we hurried, when, lo and behold, the clouds broke and there was the setting sun in all its glorious colour. Shutters clicked while impatient boots stamped, and finally we ran and slid down to the bush, reaching the track just as darkness fell.

Another two hours were spent in following the track to Mitre Flats, and missing it near the bottom, wound up in the South Mitre stream just at a very fine campsite. After 14 hours' tramping, we could still eat eight pints of stew between the four of us.

On Sunday morning we ambled the last five minutes out to the hut, where much good food was offered and quickly eaten. A pleasant amble down the Lower Waingawa Gorge completed a memorable trip.

ROGER COVENTRY.