

South Wairarapa Tramping Club

Newsletter for December 2016

www.swtc.org.nz

newsletter editor: Lynne King lynne.king@xtra.co.nz 04 478 7795

Club night:

Tuesday 13 December 7.30 pm

St John's Hall Main Street Greytown

Supper: (tea towel, milk and biscuits) Royce & Mary Cooper

Speaker: Jennifer Pomeroy - Myanmar

Trip List

Dec 2016 Jan 2017

Date	Destination	Trip coordinator	Phone	Fitness
26.11	Cutfield's Hut	Kay Bowie	304 9530	M
3.12	Orongorongo Valley	Jennifer Pomeroy	304 8011	M
10.12	Mt Waiohine	Barry Kempton	304 9353	F
17.12	Percy's Reserve	Fay Mangin	304 9765	E
7.1	Waiorongomai Valley	Janet Corlett	306 9079	M
14.1	Three Canoes	J & E Cooke	304 9497	F
21.1	Kaitoke loop	Ian Bardsley	379 5251	F
28.1	Lower Tauherenikau gorge	Ian Montgomerie	304 9252	M

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, March 2017, the roster is Roger and Ann Coventry.

Trip Reports

ATIWHAKATU 5 NOVEMBER

Forget Hilary Clinton and Donald Trump: VOTE ATIWHAKATU!

By design and with good reason a “*mid-afternoon*” 9.30am meet at the carpark in Greytown got the club trip on the road for three of our number; then at Holdsworth carpark we met up with a further six. It was 10.15am by the time all nine of us were ready to start walking.

And walk we did.

In effect, there were three groups within our party of nine:

Group #1's mindset was *Destination Atiwhakatu Hut*;

Group #2 set out on a *Destination Uncertain* basis but walked to Atiwhakatu Hut anyway.

Group #3 opted for the loop track and an early return home.

All this was fine and the WEATHER WAS FINE!

A very light rain followed the last two walkers out but it wasn't bothersome.

This week's 'STAN photographic opportunity' captured by Ed was stunning clematis in full flower amidst native trees and vegetation. It was an unexpected and beautiful discovery.

So who were we?

Group 1: Ed & Juliet Cooke; Deb Mills + daughter Rose;
and Anne O'Connor (Deb's friend from Eastbourne)

Group 2: Frances Pike and Carol Major

Group 3: Deb Mills' husband Mike and daughter Ruby



In March 1944, the milling company C.E. Daniell Ltd of Masterton was running out of logs. The company applied for access to a block in the Te Mara Basin within State forest 31 north of Masterton, and suggested that the Forest Service could replant it with exotic trees as at nearby Mikimiki.

After inspecting the 350 acres of beech, rimu, rata and kamahi forest—which needed a three mile access road—the Conservator of Forests recommended against logging. However Director of Forestry Alex Entrican, also the government's Timber Controller with the job of keeping mills open, wrote: '... the forest is now mature and the large trees should be utilised before they begin to deteriorate.' He approved the application and informed the local bodies and Chamber of Commerce. All suggested that Entrican consult the Wairarapa Catchment Board, which had been elected under new legislation but had not yet met.

When the proposal became public, resistance soon appeared. Catchment Board member Laurie Robinson wrote to Entrican: 'far too much of our watershed has been depleted already, when this area is stripped of trees down to 15 inches what then? ... The people of Masterton are deeply concerned ...' The *Wairarapa Times-Age* published editorials and a torrent of letters. One correspondent had visited the area and found all millable trees blazed ready for the axe. A returned serviceman wrote: 'The Te Mara Forest is tranquil and cool and green and you can find peace there and somehow it stands for everything we longed for in the sweltering desert and now it seems all that beauty is to go'. From 'Forest Lover' came: 'With a prodigal disregard for the future, we have denuded our country of native bush to such an extent that erosion is becoming rampant, and we are being compelled to retreat ever further back into the high country to obtain essential timber supplies.' A minority favoured logging. 'Be reasonable' wrote: 'When I see the State houses in Masterton and know how many people are wanting them, well I say let's get more State houses. And to do this we must have timber ...'

The first meeting of the Catchment Board discussed the Te Mara hot potato for two and a half hours. Uncertain of its powers and feeling its way, the Board concluded that logging was inevitable but hoped that conditions would be 'rigidly enforced'.

As opposition and anger with the Forest Service grew, the Mayor sent the Minister an urgent telegram: 'STRONG PROTEST BEING RAISED IN MASTERTON AGAINST MILLING TE MARA BUSH IN THIS DISTRICT PLEASE WITHHOLD ANY CUTTING OPERATIONS + KEMP MAYOR

In late July, the MP for Wairarapa inspected the Te Mara area with a delegation that included Masterton Tramping Club member Ben Iorns. As a builder and returned serviceman Iorns understood the need for timber and supported the government's housing projects, but he now resigned as an honorary forest ranger. '...I feel no honour or pride in further association with a Service so obviously out of step with public opinion; the puny efforts of a hundred honorary Rangers would not counter-balance such a mass destruction as is contemplated at Te Mara Creek.' He suggested to the Commissioner of Forests that burial caskets—which consumed annually a third of the projected yield from Te Mara—should be made instead of fibrous plaster.

A well-attended public meeting in Masterton received messages of protest from organisations throughout Wairarapa and carried a resolution against the Te Mara logging. In September, a deputation of six (including Mayor Kemp, Iorns and Robinson) met Prime Minister Peter Fraser and Commissioner of Forests C.F. Skinner. Entrican (in attendance) explained that the bush at Te Mara was badly eaten out by deer and that the only way of re-establishing it was to open it for milling. Fraser said he preferred the timber to be used for housing rather than allowed to rot, and suggested an inspection.

Within days Skinner visited Te Mara with the deputation, who first showed him erosion of the banks of the lower Waipoua River, allegedly caused by logging at Mikimiki (still in progress) and Kiriwhakapapa. Skinner was unconvinced of the erosion risk, but acknowledged the beauty of the large rimu at Te Mara and recommended that some be reserved. A 66 acre reserve, including a rimu seven feet in diameter, was delineated in March 1945. Logging went ahead and continued until 1954.

The three mile (five km) access road runs through a property now farmed by Jason Christensen of Masterton TC. The logged area lies within what is now Tararua Forest Park.

On Sunday 20 November Jason guided us through the Te Mara Basin and showed us the remains of logging activity. We thank him and the owners of two neighbouring properties through which we passed.

Participants were

SWTC: Ed Cooke, Juliet Cooke, Ian Montgomerie

MTC: Nigel Boniface, Jason Christensen, Denise Stagg, Stan Wilton

SWTC + MTC: John Rhodes

NZAC: Don French

Jason's neighbours: Peter Bresaz, Nico Bresaz, Isabel Bresaz

Friends of Mana: Linda Kerkmeester, Brian Bell, Kath Bell



Len Corlett beside a C.E. Daniell truck carrying a large tree at Te Mara on 21 August 1945.
Wairarapa Archive ref. 90-031/D383



Stan Wilton and Nigel Boniface on the old logging road in the Forest Park



In this photo looking north-west from Robin Weston's property, the Te Mara Basin is at the left with Mt Harris on the skyline at centre right. The big trees in the middle distance are in the forest reserve.