

South Wairarapa Tramping Club

Newsletter for May 2017

www.swtc.org.nz

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

Club night:

Tuesday 8 May 7.30 pm

St John's Hall Main Street Greytown

Supper: (tea towel, milk and biscuits) Bruce and Mary Lambert

Speaker: Dennis Page (HVTC & FMC) - Cycling in Vermont

Trip List

2017

Date	Destination	Trip coordinator	Phone	Fitness
29.4		Ed & Juliet Cooke	304 9497	
6.5	Spanish heath control	John Rhodes	304 9095	
13.5	Wellington east walkways	Ian Montgomerie	304 9252	
20.5	Battle Hill	Ed & Juliet Cooke	304 9497	
27.5	Mt Tiffin & Carter's Reserve	Duncan Moore via Ed Cooke	304 9497	

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:

June - Barry Kempton and Fay Mangin

July – Carol Major and Frances Pike

Trip Reports

ROVERS HILL 1 APRIL

Plans for this weekend were changeable. Vicky Brooks was supposed to take the trip to Rovers Hill, but she was not well. John Rhodes was supposed to take a MTB trip on Sunday, but was unable to get permission to go on the selected route.

So, on Saturday Barry Kempton led a trip to Rovers Hill (near Kiriwhakapapa), with John as navigator (he had been there before), and Nigel Boniface & Jay Just (both MTC) making sure they stayed close to the script. Trip grading was also confused, SWTC had a hard grade, MTC an Easy+ - we all survived!

Early navigation instructions were simple; follow the track to Blue Range Hut until it starts to climb, then veer right and climb through the bush until we crossed a stream and got onto a ridge. As we climbed through beech and supplejack the going became easier for a while especially when we came across old bulldozed tracks and some grassy clearing.

Following a cuppa it was "lights, action" and on up the hill, a faint ground trail coming and going. Lunch was taken at the summit of Rovers Hill, not much of a view, but no wind made for a pleasant stop.

From the summit we headed to HP 810, then, following some study of the map, down through a saddle and up onto the Blue Range ridge.

It seemed to take ages to near Blue Range Hut, (lots of small ups and downs, or maybe we were just tiring), where we took various shortcuts to get to the track leading to the hut.

At the hut we met three guys from Palmerston staying the night. After replacing the rat baits and measuring up the door for a new catch it was time for the final act, down to the carpark which we managed in about 1.5hrs.



WHITE ROCK 8 – 9 APRIL

We picked Neil up at 7.50 and drove out to White Rock arriving about 9.30. The condition of the road was pretty good considering the bad weather we had during the week and the closing of the road.

We put our food in the fridge at the quarters and sussed out our sleeping quarters and laid out sleeping bags. We had morning tea and then set off for our walk around to the stone wall. The weather was fine and cloudy with no wind which was exceptional for out there. All the streams running down from the hills to the sea were full of water and the road was breaking away in parts. There would be no vehicle

access around the coast until it was fixed.

We walked up to the area where a DOC hut used to be, only piles there now. It was gradually getting wrecked by surfies who stayed there so it was taken down a few years ago.

After two hours we arrived at the stone wall. We had to stay this side of the stream as the water level was too high to cross. We had lunch there. A man on a motorbike arrived on the other side ready to come across but we told him it was a 'no go.' He would not have been able to go right through as he'd hoped.

We packed up and returned arriving back about 2.45. We didn't meet anyone else, it was certainly quiet.

The next day Sunday we woke to a beautiful morning with plenty of sun. We had hoped to walk around to the wreck but the river was too high to cross so Janice at the station told us to walk up to the airstrip. We drove out to the start of their station where the White Rock sign is, parked the car on the side of the road and walked up a side road to the top of the hill. It only took us a half an hour. We had morning tea there and took some photos.

We came back down and then headed for home. We were to meet John at the station as he was biking out that day and coming back with us but because of us not being able to get across the river to the wreck we were early. We knew we would meet somewhere along the way, and we did, just past the Tutumuri School, so he had a fairly good ride out.

Good weekend had by the three of us, Neil Johnstone and Mary and Bruce Lambert.



Donnelly's Flat shelter – not a lot of progress made!