

# South Wairarapa Tramping Club

## Newsletter for November 2017

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

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*Club night:*

Tuesday 14 November 7.30 pm

St John's Hall Main Street Greytown

*Supper:* (tea towel, milk and biscuits) Janet Corlett and Bill Dolan

*Speaker:* Jan Heine (HVTC) Greenland

### **Trip List**

2017

Date	Destination	Trip coordinator	Phone	Fitness
4.11	Finis track work party	John Rhodes	304 9095	M
11.11	Wharite with Wanganui TC	Barry Kempton	304 9353	F
18.11	Belmont Trig Loop	Ed & Juliet Cooke	304 9497	M
25.11	Jury Hills	Barry Kempton	304 9353	M
2.12	Mikimiki - Kiriwhakapapa	Mary Lambert	379 6106	M
9.12	Kaukau to Karori	Peter & Ruth Graham	306 8822	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 the roster is:  
Ed & Juliet Cooke

### **Christmas Party**

Sunday 3 December 5 pm at Ian and Rosie Montgomerie's. Pot luck tea. No presents. Bring your togs.

## ***Trip Reports***

### **ONOKI SPIT 16 SEPTEMBER**

You could get blown away on Onoke Spit but we had a calm day for the walk. It wasn't a strenuous tramp. We walked east on the seaward side, and spotted a seal out in the water. The opening was quite rough and running fast. There a few surfcasters trying their luck on the Lake Ferry side. As we turned and went back on the inland side it started to rain, so by the time we returned to the cars we decided to leave and not have lunch there. There were thirteen of us, John Randall, Steve and Anne Maddock, Jennifer Pomeroy, Ian and Rosie Montgomerie, Graeme Britton, Bruce and Mary Lambert, Frances Pike, Fay Mangin, Lynne King and Barry Kempton leader.

### **NGA WAKA O KUPE- THE CANOES OF KUPE 14 OCTOBER**

Eight of us set out at 8am, taking an hour between leaving Greytown to put cars in White Rock Road for the end of our walk, and finally reaching the starting point in Cannock Road

We had a sunny day for our initial walk up grassy hills and along the top ridge. While there is a route marked on the mapping systems, it is not so obvious on the ground, so there was a fair bit of comparing the map and the coloured aerial photos provided by David Bowie, with the hills in front of us.

It wasn't until we reached Windy Peak (!) 412m, that we noticed the slight stirrings of air had developed into a strong cold gale and there was an enormous north west arch in the sky with delicate feathery wing tips.

Legend has it that explorer and navigator Kupe sailed into Palliser Bay in his canoe, commemorated by place names such as Nga ra o Kupe ( the sails of Kupe) past Ngawi. Three hills just east of Martinborough, known as the canoes of Kupe, are seen as the upturned canoes, and our route was intended to pass by them.

The route became a little more difficult to discern from Windy Peak as the three farms we were walking on all met at that point and we had to make sure we were going to come down the right valley on the right farm to rejoin our vehicles.

As we descended the three canoes were seen on our left, but no sight of any Polynesian explorers!

We reached the cars just after 2pm.

Many thanks to the farmers who kindly allowed us to traverse their farms.

Those on the walk were Pete and Ruth Graham, Barry Kempton, Mary Lambert, Ian and Rosie Montgomerie, and Ed and Juliet Cooke (coordinators).



## KAITOKE -DOBSONS HUT, SMITH'S CREEK LOOP 21 OCTOBER

A great way to spend Labour weekend Saturday with Ed and Juliet and Merran Cooke on a five hour tramp starting at Kaitoke Camp Road.

A muddy link track lead us to the Puffer Saddle track. Plenty of uphill to test our fitness and the mud continued. Not a surprise after the wet weather we have had. Lovely glimpses of farmland in the Kaitoke area, and then once in the alpine area, views looking to Wairarapa valley and back towards Marchant Ridge. Morning tea along the way and then a brief stop at the site of the old Dobson Hut. which Ed has memories of staying in, now just a concrete fireplace base remains. Downhill to Smith's Creek Shelter which is looking somewhat colourful. Someone had some time ago gone to the trouble of covering the walls with psychedelic adhesive paper. The hut has no windows, door, or spouting, but would be ok if heavy rain prevented you tramping further.

We reached the Tauherenikau/Smith's Creek junction for lunch, in a nice sheltered glade. We met our first other trumper of the day. A gentle benched track along the river, followed by a steady climb back to complete the loop. We all had a great workout, and after 5 hours 15 mins arrived back at the car park. Led by Ian and Rosie.



## WHAREROA FARM RESERVE 28 OCTOBER

Whareroa, situated on the Kapiti Coast near MacKay's Crossing, was farmed by Alexander MacKay from 1850 onwards, and was later passed to the Wellington Hospital Board as a potential site for a chest hospital. In 1942 the land was acquired for defence purposes, and became a training and recuperation camp for US Marines fighting in the Pacific campaign. There are still a few relics from the Marines' occupation era, with interesting information boards, and photos of the encampment.

After WWII, Lands & Survey developed the land as a public recreation and education farm park. After departmental restructuring in 1987 it was closed to the public, with a sale to developers in view. Thanks to the efforts of local groups, who formed themselves into the Whareroa Guardians, the land was saved for conservation, recreation and farming. There are large areas where annual tree planting has been done, and as these grow up they will really enhance the reserve.

Seven of us set out on a beautiful summery morning, detouring along the Forest Loop Walk to start, then on up the Link Track to the rather spidery Five Ways intersection, and out on to Campbells Mill Road. Avoiding a large party of cyclists, we had the road to ourselves as we walked the two or three kilometres to the top of the Catchment View Track. We lunched just past the stile at the top of the track, on a grassy bank with a stupendous view down over Whareroa Reserve and out to Kapiti.

Knees were sorely tested on the steep grassy track downhill to the water intake for the Marines' camp site, and ankles too, as the long lush grass concealed holes and other traps for incautious legs. Penny, the youngest member of the party, easily outstripped everyone else with the speed of her descent!

We were surprised to get back to the cars in 3 1/2 hours, having expected the walk to take longer. Those on the walk were Mary Lambert, Hilary Ryan, Ed & Juliet Cooke (leaders), plus daughter Merran, son Wendell, and granddaughter Penny.

