

South Wairarapa Tramping Club

Newsletter for December 2017

www.swtc.org.nz

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

Club night:

Tuesday 12 December 7.30 pm

St John's Hall Main Street Greytown

Supper: (tea towel, milk and biscuits) Juliet and Ed Cooke

Speaker: Marilyn and Ralph Suke – West Coast Trail Vancouver Island

Trip List

December January 2017 2018

Date	Destination	Trip coordinator	Phone	Fitness
2.12	Mikimiki – Kiriwhakapapa	Mary Lambert	379 6106	
9.12	Kaukau to Karori	Peter and Ruth Graham	306 8822	
16.12	Rimutaka Incline			
13.1	Pinnacles	Mary Lambert	379 6106	
20.1		Juliet & Ed Cooke?	304 9497	
27.1	Mt Finis circuit via Boar Bush	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.

Christmas Party

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

Trip Reports

WHARITE PEAK 11 NOVEMBER

This combined trip with the Wanganui Tramping club had been arranged months prior so it was with some relief that the weather report looked ok for Saturday.

Eight SWTCers met the same number of WTC people at the Copper Mine road end carpark. After brief introductions we set off up the copper mine creek track which was well graded. There is some history in this area. Copper mining took place from about 1887 when some locals discovered signs of copper when they were searching for lost cattle.

After twenty minutes on a benched track the real tramp started, straight up hanging onto tree roots and branches in places to haul one's body up. The ground conditions were muddy in places making progress very challenging. As we gained height the wind picked up and this added to the challenge.

By this time two of the WTC group had retreated to base and soon after four of the SWTC party thought that retreating would be a safer option for them. Once we had gained almost bushline height the track levelled out a bit. From here to the summit we encountered mud like I haven't seen for years, knee deep in places. One younger trumper in sneakers and white socks managed to get most of the way without slipping into the bog and the rest of us just ploughed on. Our lunch stop ten minutes before the summit was brief as weather conditions were deteriorating with strong cold wind.

After a quick lunch we reached the summit 920 metres where there was a good view of the surrounding countryside. We then retreated through the mud and the challenging steep descent.

Thanks to the Wanganui club for meeting up with us to do this trip.

Ian and Jack Montgomerie, Ed and Juliet Cooke, John Wilson, Charlene James, Warren Harland and Barry Kempton.

BELMONT TRIG 17 NOVEMBER

Five days out the weather for a hilltop walk looked great, but then a southerly, with misty rain and strong winds, moved in. Our group arrived at the top of Stratton St in the Belmont Hills about 9.15, and walked up to Belmont Trig in reasonable conditions. However, at the top the temperature was cool, the wind was getting up, and looking round us we could see there was a good chance of rain, so we opted for a southern loop in the bush instead of the much more exposed northern dress circle loop.

An easy graded descent took us to Baked Beans Bend (no sign of anyone eating or offering BBs!) and on to the Korokoro Dam for lunch. The Grahams had promised us a beautiful grassy area with picnic tables, but in fact floods since their last visit had destroyed much of the beauty, though there were benches, some grass, and ducks paddling in the rather shallow looking water.

Fortified by lunch, we climbed up the much steeper ascent to near our starting point, then a short descent back to the cars, after a 4 1/2 hour walk. Hopefully the weather will be better for our next attempt on the Belmont Trig-Cannons Head-Round Knob circuit!

Those on the trip were Ruth & Peter Graham, Barry Kempton, Mary Lambert, Carol Major, Ian Montgomerie and Ed & Juliet Cooke, coordinators.



JURY HILLS 25 NOVEMBER

Friday was 28c in Greytown, I was somewhat concerned that our Jury hills trip on Saturday might be a real cooker as shade is fairly limited in these parts.

After leaving a vehicle at the Riverside Road end our party met up on Foreman Jury road some seventeen kilometres north by road.

Our party of nine left the vehicles in a comfortable temperature of 21, with high cloud cover, great. The route leads from north to south, crossing four farms en route. I had gained permission from the four farmers whose farms we were crossing. We met the first farmer early in the walk and he pointed out the farm boundaries.

We had no significant climbing to undertake but we had to keep an eagle eye out for the correct route to follow, one or two short retreats were needed to correct our line of travel.

Our lunch stop was early so we could make use of the shade as by now we were getting more sun. We found Frances's water trough where she cooled off on the last trip, Ian cleaned it out but no one would have a dip, too cold?

Even though we had done this trip a few times over the last twenty years our leader had some difficulty getting the route right, once again a couple of short retreats and direction changes.

Four and a half hours after start we arrived at our vehicle and did some shuttling to get all punters back to their cars and home. John Wilson, Juliet Cooke, Ian and Rosie Montgomerie, Neil Johnstone, Mary Lambert, Carol Major, Sarah Ross and Barry Kempton.

