

# South Wairarapa Tramping Club

## Newsletter for March 2018

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

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*Club night:*

Tuesday 13 March 7.30 pm

St John's Hall Main Street Greytown

*Supper:* (tea towel, milk and biscuits) Fay Mangin & Carol Major

*Speaker:* Charlene James and John Wilson - the Canadian Rockies

### **Trip List**

2018

These are mainly suggestions – please advise if you can lead any.

Date	Destination	Trip coordinator	Phone	Fitness
3.3	Grenada / Newlands #	Cookes	304 9497	E
10.3	Mt Climie	Montgomeries	304 9252	M
17.3	Gentle Annie stream and climb out to Holdsworth track			
24.3	Finis track working party	John Rhodes	304 9095	M
31.3	Powell Hut from Holdsworth creek			
7.4	Exploration up true left Waiohine from Wall's Whare			
14.1	Taits Stream to pt. 568 & return via old logging road			
21-22.4	With Wanganui club	Barry Kempton	304 9353	
28-29.4	Somes Island MTC			

# through the Seton Rossiter Park and the Gilbert Bush Reserve, a wander through parks and suburban streets ending up above the Hutt Road, with harbour views, and then back to the start. Easy, maybe 8 kms??, and taking maybe 3 hours? Bring morning tea and lunch. Meet at 8.10 at the SWWMC car park. Ring Ed and Juliet on 304 9497 if you want to come, or email [efjac@xtra.co.nz](mailto:efjac@xtra.co.nz).

***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:

April - Ian & Dianne Bardsley

May – Peter & Ruth Graham

### ***Trip Reports***

#### MT FINIS CIRCUIT VIA BOAR BUSH - 27 JAN

Team Leader John Rhodes. Group comprised - Mark King, Silvia Sze, Blair Crafar, Sarah Ross (scribe). "Category F = May go off tracks." Yeah Right!

We met at John's to be on the track at 0830 – back 1430. Weather all morning cloud cover and humid. Afternoon in exposed areas sunny. No wind. Incredible NZ on view, unlike many other views from our walks. Unobstructed, valleys forever, no signs of human activity....

We clambered into one vehicle heading to Featherston back blocks on the railway station side. Mark met us at the lake (about 2km into the walk) and after that it was all "go"..... meaning up, around, across, through, sideways, downwards, and for some (Sarah) "slideways" on a truly exhilarating 5 hours or so of bush manoeuvring, bush skill by leader, GPS tracking to check whereabouts and direction as we found and lost and found and lost .... the track. Humour not lost – see photos.

The track "disappeared" about 1km from the end of lake point upwards to "Colman's Junction" at 530m – a reference to a mustard tin nailed to a tree where our pathway up, and a more formed track from the Rimutaka Summit converge. Spent about 2 hours in this condition with TL coaching on the flora and fauna (Silvia's tree for the day kamahi), support on best tree to hang on to, Blair making footholds, humour, and scientific "only 200m more up ☺".

On Finis track clippers out to maintain it. Work had been done the week before by John, Blair, Sylvia and Byron. A lot of gorse on the upwards and summit sections; and slippery "grasses"<sup>1</sup> underfoot on the Finis-lake segment downwards.

*En route* we met two boar hunter brothers and their 3 dogs (some with radio-tracking collars). We saw a small herd of goats and largely the pathways were also their tracks around the countryside. Mark discovered alien life form in something that looked like drool or sap.

Photos illustrate the walk best. Best part summary individual comments:

- John – 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> cup of tea
- Mark – being seated in the car home
- Blair – the extraordinary views of Wairarapa, Tararuas and Rimutakas from the top
- Silvia – the chatter a smaller group affords
- Sarah – raw nature of on/off track

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<sup>1</sup> *Libertia* or NZ iris



### CROSS KEYS 17 JAN

A trip to Cross Keys is always a delight and a privilege. The weather was perfect, warm but with enough cloud cover to stop us frying, and a breeze to help us keep cool without being too windy. It was low tide so we had a choice of ground to walk on – large stones or the fascinating platforms of ridged stone that the sea has created, which were a little slippery but have flat areas. No one was in a hurry and we enjoyed the scenery and the weather. When we reached the sandy beach Barry and Lynne had a swim, and the others walked on to the Whareama River and back.

Barry brought his truck down the hill to the bach and offered a ride back up to anyone. Gratefully accepted by Lynne.

Those on the trip were Ed and Juliet Cooke, Sarah Ross, Graham Britten, Barry Kempton and Lynne King.



## BELMONT TRIG TOPS 24 FEB

Six club members met at the Stratton St carpark, Maungaraki, for this trip. The forecast was good, not too hot, no rain, and little wind.

We had morning tea below the Belmont Trig, then set off on the Cannons Head route, down and around, and up and down. We were impressed at the amount of new fencing that is being erected, often on quite dangerously steep slopes, and one of us picked up quite a few large staples, to use in his next fencing job. The ground had obviously benefitted from the recent rain, with green grassy hills in all directions. From the high points we had good views to Wellington Harbour to the south, Porirua Harbour to the north, and sections of the new Transmission Gully route.

The large numbers of black cattle milling around, and lying on the track, fortunately all proved to be uninterested in us, even the large bull standing above us at one point. We spotted a few Speckled Park cattle, white with black spots, a new breed noted for its increased meat growing capability.

We passed over Cannons Head, skirted below Round Knob, and lunched behind a munitions building at our turn off south back to the cars. The last part of the track descended to a stream through gorse and scrubby bush, midst gullies of tree ferns. At the beginning of the tar seal at Stratton St we were impressed with the facilities for cyclists, and maps showing far more routes than we had been aware of, which explained our confusion when confronted with choices to be made - 4 Degrees, Weta, Bridle Track etc.

The circuit took about 4 1/2 hours including stops for snacks and lunch, a detour back to fetch a mislaid phone, and conferences at intersections.

Those on the trip were Pete and Ruth Graham, Ian and Rosie Montgomerie, and Ed and Juliet Cooke (coordinators).

