

South Wairarapa Tramping Club

Newsletter for June 2018

www.swtc.org.nz

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Club night:

Tuesday 12 June 7.30 pm

St John's Hall Main Street Greytown

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

Speaker: Peter Graham - Chasing Eclipses

Trip List

June2018

Date	Destination	Trip coordinator	Phone	Fitness
2.6	Mt Nichol	John Rhodes	304 9095	F
10.6	Battle Hill	Ed & Juliet Cooke	304 9497	M
17.6	Gentle Annie circuit with MTC	Ian Montgomerie	304 9252	M
23.6	Finis working party	John Rhodes	304 9095	M
1.7	Rewanui with MTC	Ian Bardsley	379 5251	M

Note the three trips with dates in bold are on a Sunday

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:

July: Jennifer Pomeroy and Bruce Eglinton

August: Barry Kempton and Fay Mangin

Trip Reports

STOKES VALLEY 12 MAY

Having received helpful advice on the possibilities of Stokes Valley Hills from Bruce Miller of the HVTC, we decided to go up from Kingsley Street, the easiest route, and down to Tawhai Street. Accordingly we put one car at the top of Tawhai Street, and all met up at the top of Tawhai Street.

A sign saying the track was closed till 3pm on Saturday (and Monday to Friday) gave us pause. We rang the phone number on the sign, and then a cell phone number given on the phone message - but are still waiting to be phoned back! A passing cyclist said, just go, so we did.

Rather smelly as we passed the tip below, but then it improved, and we reached the intersection of Kingsley and Horoeka tracks far sooner than expected. At this rate, we thought, we would be back at the cars by lunch time. But no, shortly afterwards, as we continued to climb, we got on to a freshly bulldozed road. Heaps of mud, and puddles! We passed a huge digger and bulldozer, and continued on, our boots becoming heavier and heavier as they continued to collect more and more mud. It was at least half an hour before we finally joined the main ridge track, a lovely gravelled surface and no more mud!

By then we were looking out for the sign indicating the Tawhai track descent. The earlier track before the bulldozer had been well marked, but other than a possible track marked No Exit, and the pylon line and a pylon, there was nothing but distant views of Haywards and the Hutt Valley, and Whitemans Valley. We were beginning to think we had missed the track, or that it had been destroyed by the bulldozer, when we came on a post which had the almost nonexistent remnants of a sign having been attached. Ah we said, this must be our track, so we had lunch in a grassy clearing, and started the descent.

Bruce had said that in a couple of places the track follows old stream beds, and this one certainly did. Three of our party had rather muddy backsides as a result!

As we had felt we had come too far along the top ridge, we weren't really surprised not to see our car when we got down to the road. Turned out we were in Kamahi Street, so we all got an extra leg stretch as we walked down to Hawthorn Street then split in two, the drivers heading up to the car at Tawhai Street, and the rest of us continuing down to the bottom of Stokes Valley Road and waited to be picked up.

We have now rechecked with Bruce. Apparently the Regional Council had put up track signs along the ECNZ ridge top track, but vandals came along and destroyed them. He says the best way to find the top end of the Tawhai Street Track is to go up it from the end of the road.

The actual track took 4 hours, plus a "bonus" hour!

Those on the tramp were Charlene James, Barry Kempton, Mary Lambert, Jane Lenting, Ian and Rosie Montgomerie, Jen Pomeroy, John Wilson, and Ed and Juliet Cooke, coordinators, with daughter Merran.



ATIWHAKATU 19 MAY

We started walking from Holdsworth car park at about 8.50. We had coats on as it was raining, and probably had been raining all night up at Holdsworth because there were puddles everywhere. It was supposed to clear around 9 am and come out fine but as yet it was not happening. We passed the Lodge and got to the bridge over the river and it was high and dirty and flowing full force. We walked up to the swing bridge, it was pretty wet underfoot and puddles everywhere and we were soaked. We had morning tea there and decided to turn around and go back to the cars.

As we were nearing the car park the weather started to clear and come out fine, we should have gone on to the hut but we had all made our minds up to go back. We had a two hour walk so not so bad.

Those who braved the weather were Jennifer Pomeroy, Barry Kempton, Ian Montgomerie, Adrian and Sandra, neighbours of Ian's and Mary Lambert leader for the day.

