

# South Wairarapa Tramping Club

## Newsletter for December 2018

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

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### *Club night:*

Tuesday 11 Dec 2018 7.30 pm

St John's Hall Main Street Greytown

*Supper:* (tea towel, milk and biscuits) Ken O'Dowd & Vicki Brooks

*Speaker:* Grayson Cooke will talk about the legacies of mineral extraction in the Atacama Desert in Chile, and the Flinders Ranges in South Australia. The extraction of nitrate, or saltpetre, formed the backbone of a vast colonial enterprise in the Atacama which supplied the world with raw materials for fertiliser and explosives. In the Flinders, it was the discovery of copper that spawned an enormous range of exploration activities. Grayson and his colleague have been looking at what remains of these activities, exploring through photography and film the complex inter-weavings of mineral and human histories in some of the driest places on earth.

### **Trip List**

2018

Date	Destination	Trip coordinator	Phone	Fitness
2.12 *	Eastbourne walk	Ian & Rosie Montgomerie	304 9252	M
8.12	Mt Dick, followed by Xmas party at Montgomeries	Mary Lambert	379 6106	M
15.12	Tauanui (Pirinoa)	Janet Corlett	306 9079	M
5.1	Rata ridge x	Clive Paton		
13.1 *	Mt Bruce crossing MTC	TBA		F
19.1	Palliser Bay bike ride	Fay Mangin	304 9765	M

- **Sunday**

x Clive Paton has a vineyard and forest area. He has a passion for native plants, in particular the northern rata, and has been growing hundreds of plants and planting them on his property. Hopefully the rata will be in flower at the time of the tramp.

***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.

### ***Trip Reports***

#### ATIWHAKATU 3 NOVEMBER

We started walking just after 9am. We put our coats on because there was a light drizzle at the car park but it was not long before they came off.

A scout group was staying at the Lodge and they were going through to the Atiwhakatu Hut for the night. They were doing little training exercises on the way. Some of them had made a stretcher out of pieces of tree branches and further along the track some had made a temporary shelter for two boys who had a make believe accident.

A couple of pairs of runners passed us. We met three guys at the first swing bridge, they had just come down from Jumbo Hut and were going over to Totara Flats hut for the night. They said it had been a bit rough at Jumbo the previous night.

Considering the weather forecast the track was quite busy.

We reached the hut at 11.25 and sat inside for lunch, no sitting outside at the table today as it had started to rain lightly. We met a Lithuanian couple who had just come down from Jumbo as well. They had been in NZ for eleven months doing as many climbs as they could. They were going on to do the Tongariro Crossing and Mt Taranaki the following week. We had a good conversation with them.

We left at midday and had to put our coats on, the rain had set in. We met the scouts again coming up to the hut. We met another middle aged couple going through to Jumbo Hut for the night and they were hoping to go across to Powell on Sunday and then down, but we didn't like their chances.

Further along we met Lynne, who had walked in to meet us. We stopped at Donnelly's Flat to view the shelter and table and chairs that the club had built. We were back at car park at 2pm.

A good day out, we hadn't been out for a few weeks so it was good to shake the cobwebs out. Those who joined me were Barry Kempton, Linda Pugh and Lynne King who joined us on the way out.

Thanks for your company. Mary Lambert, leader for the day.

#### FINIS TRACK WORKING BEE 4 NOVEMBER

Nigel Boniface, Jack Sheppard, Ken Stokes and John Rhodes walked in from the locked gate on Boar Bush Road and met Byron Radford, who biked to the dam. We climbed Finis via the SWTC access track and had morning tea under a beech tree near the Frith track junction. The scrub sheltered us well from the westerly gale, which slowly eased.

From the point where our effort of 23 June ended, progress was rapid and easy. We rejuvenated the track to the south end of the DOC bypass and the corner of the Ball property at about 953498. The next trip will continue northward from there, as the DOC track needs attention.

## PIGEON BUSH RESERVE 10 NOVEMBER

Southerly showers cleared before Juliet Cooke, Barry Kempton, Ian Montgomerie, Ingrid Ward and John Rhodes walked in from Western Lake Road, under the railway line and up the Trig Track. Before reaching the trig we turned off down the Spade Track to Prince Stream and followed it out on a 4WD track. The bush was glorious after the rain.

Many thanks to Ranger Colin Shore for advice and for arranging access through the Pigeon Bush farm property to the Reserve, which has a great network of tracks that will repay further exploration.

## MANGATOETOE HUT 17 NOVEMBER

We parked the cars at Mangatoetoe on a fine warm morning. We set off up the Mangatoetoe stream, boulder hopping and crossing the stream at intervals. Over the years this stream bed has seen some serious flooding that has left the old four wheel drive track unusable and deposited fallen trees and debris over the river bed.

We stopped for smoko in a good sheltered spot. Surveying the route we were to travel required some patience as we did not want to have to go through any deep fords. There were very minimal signs of bird life. The trip to the hut took one hour and forty minutes and we crossed the river about eight or ten times. The water level was quite low for this time of year.

We found the Mangatoetoe Hut in good shape, and after an early lunch we made our way back to the cars.

Trampers were Juliet Cooke, Lou Gallagher, Jennifer Pomeroy, Mary Lambert, Sandra and Adrian Kelly, Rosie Montgomerie, Janet Corlett, Lynne King and Barry Kempton.

