

South Wairarapa Tramping Club

Newsletter for February 2019

www.swtc.org.nz

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Club night: SUMMER BARBECUE

Tuesday 12 February 6.00 pm

Jennifer Pomeroy's, 4 Homestead Lane (off Udy Street) Greytown

Trip List

February 2019

Date	Destination	Trip coordinator	Phone	Fitness
2.2				
9 - 10.2	Naenae crossing with MTC, a very northern crossing, we will spend the night in Palmerston North and tramp on Sunday	Juliet & Ed Cooke	304 9497	F
16.2				
23.2	Masterton	John Wilson and Charlene James	304 8486	

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:

March: Ian and Rosie Montgomerie

April: Bruce and Mary Lambert

Trip Reports

MT DICK 8TH DECEMBER

Eleven trampers started walking at 9.30. Our destination was the shelter at the top of Mt Dick. It was a brilliant sunny clear morning, the best we have had in two or three weeks.

It is a slow climb because it's up hill all the way on a gravel road. The road was a mess, the recent torrential rain had gouged out big cracks in several places.

We reached the top around 10.40, had a cuppa and chat and then packed up to come back down. We met a guy and his friends who were getting ready to para glide down, we asked him to take a photo of us before we left.

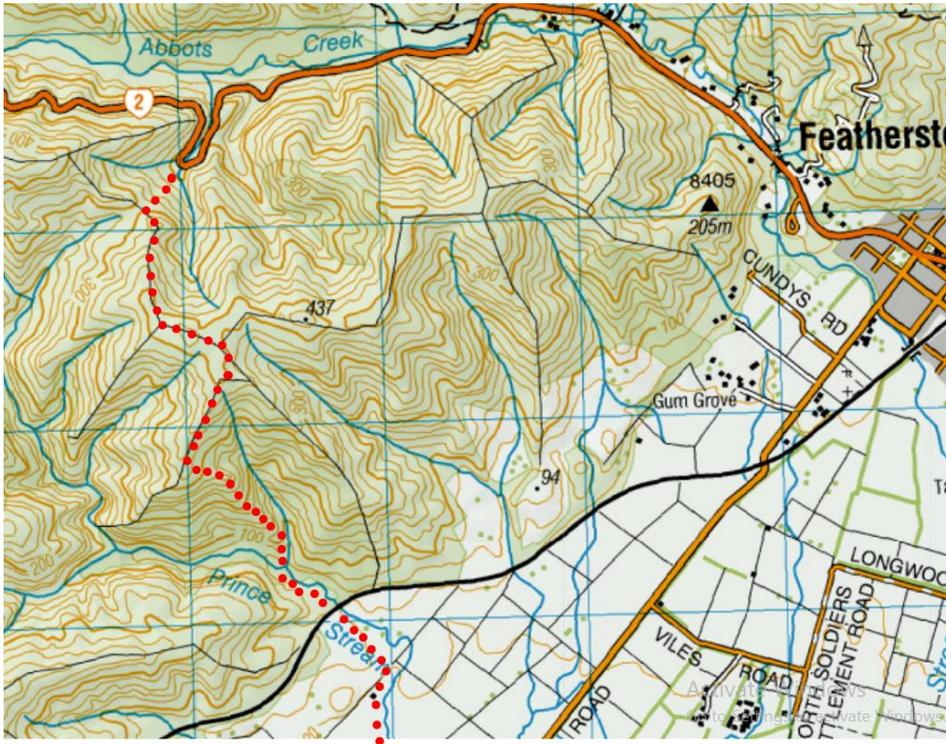
We arrived back down just after midday and all departed for home. A short walk but we ladies had food to prepare as it was our Christmas party at Rosie and Ian's that night.

Those who came were John Wilson, Charlene James, Ed and Juliet Cooke, Steve Maddock, Barry Kempton, Graham Britton, Rosie and Ian Montgomerie, Ingrid Ward and myself Mary Lambert



THOMSON TRACK, PIGEON BUSH 5 JANUARY

Pigeon Bush Reserve is owned by the Native Forest Restoration Trust (<https://www.nfrt.org.nz/>) and is described at <https://www.nfrt.org.nz/reserves/pigeon-bush/>



Two groups crossed the reserve on the Thomson Track (red dots on map) in opposite directions, swapping car keys midway. The trip was uneventful but pleasant, with black beech forest ...



... and panoramic views over the lower valley and Lake Wairarapa.



Thanks to John Thomson of TTC for developing the track, to NFRT ranger Colin Shore for access permission, to Ed Cooke and Ian Montgomerie for driving and to Rosie and Ian Montgomerie for the photos.

Downhill: Ed & Juliet Cooke, Stuart Hammond and Sara Murphy

Uphill: Lesley Callaghan, Ian & Rosie Montgomerie, Jennifer Pomeroy and John Rhodes



PIGEON BUSH 5 JAN - WEST TO EAST

The Cooke Hammond Murphy group set off at 9.10am from the First Big Bend on the Rimutaka Road and headed up the Thomson Track, turned left at the intersection with the Challands Track, and continued winding upwards. The junction with the Mt Nicholl track is marked by a bucket in the bushes and a ribbon, a little hard to spot! Then onwards to the high rocky area, with great views out over the lower Wairarapa Valley and lake.

Shortly afterwards we met the Rhodes Callaghan Montgomery Pomeroy group coming up from Western Lake Road. "Have a good trip!" said Rosie - prophetically, as unfortunately during the steepish descent, Sara did just that, a branch caught in her bootlaces and brought her to the ground. After a recovery period we continued on down, lunched in grassy shade near Prince Stream, and arrived at the road ten minutes later than the other group reached the Rimutaka road.

Thanks to John Rhodes for coordinating the tramp, the weather gods for the clear sunny day, and to the Native Forest Trust for the venue!



MT BRUCE TO MAURICEVILLE - SUNDAY 13 JANUARY

Fourteen from SWTC and ten from MTC met in Masterton to swap cars and keys, so that SWTC could walk west to east, and MTC could walk east to west, returning keys to their owners at lunchtime, enabling both groups to return home in their own vehicles.

We waded through the stream at the beginning of the track, the real trumper amongst us wading through in boots, while the rest of us sooks wore sandals, crocs, or bare feet, and changed into boots on the far side.

An abrupt change from a lovely wide clear track saw us pushing through wet bushes on the overgrown Braddick Track, which leads on up to the top of Bruce's Hill and down to Mt Munro Road near Mauriceville.

We met the MTC group at a large grassy area with great views out over the Mt Bruce area and across to the Tararuas, for a slightly early lunch, and then continued over Bruce's Hill and down the other side.

The bush was much more lush on the eastern side, and we heard kaka nearby.

The last 15 minutes of the track led out over farmland to our cars, after a 4 1/2 hour tramp.

Many thanks to Nigel Boniface of MTC for his organisation.

SWTC members on the tramp were Ian Bardsley, Lou Gallagher, Pete & Ruth Graham, newcomer Elizabeth Halliday, Stuart Hammond, Ian & Rosie Montgomerie, Jen Pomeroy, John Rhodes, Hilary & Jeff Ryan, and Ed & Juliet Cooke, coordinators.



TAUMATA ISLAND CARTERTON BIKE RIDE 19 JANUARY

Our original trip was to drive to the coast at Cape Palliser then bike towards the lighthouse, however the weather report was for thirty five knot northerlies in Cook Strait so a change of plans was necessary.

The morning was cloudy and warm with prospects of wind later in the morning.

Carterton has a maze of roads out to the east, take your pick.

We left from Mary and Bruce's house in Carterton and biked along Moreton Road to Taumata Island. The rural vista was enhanced by the many paddocks of round bales of hay, thousands of them, some wrapped in plastic to make baleage, the rest hay. The Wairarapa hasn't had a season with such a prolific hay crop for years, if ever.

We reached the road end at Taumata Island and had a relaxing early lunch in a shady spot before returning to town. The last twenty minutes peddling up Morton road was hard going as the predicted wind was building up.

Bikers were Mary and Bruce Lambert, Liz Halliday, Lynne King and Barry Kempton.



GENTLE ANNIE SADDLE AND BEYOND 27 JANUARY

A shady river gorge trip may have been preferable on the 32 degree day we did the Gentle Annie Saddle trip, but we had thought that the trees and breeze were going to make the trip bearable. In fact much of our walk was in dappled shade and sun, the breeze mostly stayed up on the mountain tops, and we could all have done with more water, energy drinks, and a constant supply of ice blocks!

We took the usual route up from Holdsworth Lodge taking a short-cut by scaling a steep bank short of the Totara Flats turn-off, which brought us to the historic signposts and the start of the Carrington Ridge. The mossy mounds and flourishing kidney ferns as we descended the ridge were the most beautiful sections of the trip and a testament to the rains that we have had as well as the heat.

Reaching the saddle we were in some doubt whether we were actually at the saddle as the old sign that had been affixed to a tree was not now in sight; did we just miss it or has it been souvenired?

Ed had thought we would return to the carpark down Gentle Annie Creek but in descending we got into a slushy quagmire and tangle of supplejack, so returned to the saddle and the steep climb to the lookout ridge. After several recuperative pauses we reached the lookout, rested, then proceeded down the steep descent to the stream and on to the carpark.

Our advertised "4 hour trip" - a bad guesstimate - took us 6 .5 hours, due to the heat and the aborted creek walk.

Those on the trip were Elizabeth Halliday, Lou Gallagher, Sarah Murphy (and dog "Monti"- even Ian answered to the call!), Ian and Rosie Montgomerie, Jen Pomeroy, Ed and Juliet Cooke (Leaders).

