

# South Wairarapa Tramping Club

## Newsletter for March 2019

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

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### *Club night:*

Tuesday 12 March 7.30 pm

St John's Hall Main Street Greytown

*Supper:* (tea towel, milk and biscuits) Ian and Rosie Montgomerie

*Speaker:* John Rhodes

### **Trip List**

2019

Date	Destination	Trip coordinator	Phone	Fitness
2.3				
9.3	Wellington Bays bike ride	Ian and Rosie	304 9252	M
16.3	TBA	Ed & Juliet	304 9497	
23.3	Pukerua Bay Loop	Barry Kempton	304 9353	M
30.3	Te Marua/Kaitoke	Ruth and Peter Graham	306 8822	M
6.4	Mt Finis working bee	John Rhodes	304 9095	F
13.4	Mikimiki to Kiriwhakapapa	Ian and Rosie	304 9252	M
20.4	Winzenberg Hill	John Rhodes	304 9095	F

***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: Bruce and Mary Lambert

May: Warren Harland and Fay Mangin

## EVA ROLLS

23 January 1925 - 28 September 2018

*Chris Bland, Secretary and Treasurer of SWTC for the Club's first four years, is a Life Member who now lives in Feilding. He delivered this eulogy at the funeral of Eva Rolls late last year.*

The first time I met Eva was in 1980 at a meeting to discuss the proposal to form a tramping club, in the chambers of the Featherston County Council in Martinborough.

I had no idea who she was. No one did. Who was this woman? But over the next few years we all certainly got to know Eva.

Eva was an original committee member of the SWTC. Her first tramp with the SWTC was the first organised trip of the SWTC. To promote the club the first trip was open to the public and went up the old railway incline from Cross Creek, to the Summit and back.

Eva was hooked, hook, line and sinker for the next 30 years or so. She served diligently on the committee, led trips and was the supper organiser for a long time. She was a very valuable and respected member of the club, and a Life Member.

The tramping club was like another child for Eva to nurture. All of Eva's children had left home, and it was almost like the club was another child, just for her.

Eva talked me into buying Bonus Bonds; she said they were a great income. Sorry Eva, I waited for 20 years for the golden egg to be laid before I tossed them!

I visited Eva last week. I wasn't sure if she knew me. When I arrived she was engrossed in reading a magazine. After chatting a while she picked it up and asked me, 'Are you still getting these FMC Bulletins?' She had confirmed that she knew who I was. All life members of the club get them.

I remember Eva's first overnight trip as though it were yesterday. We had a family tramp up the Tauanui River at Pirinoa. There were about ten of us, and we took a large SWTC fly to sleep under. A fly is a piece of nylon about 7 metres by 7 metres, strung between trees or whatever, like a pitched roof.

When we prepared for bed—sleeping bags on foam pads—Eva, much to the amazement of all came out in a dressing gown (she had changed in the toilet near the hut) and with an alarm clock. How she managed to pack them I have no idea. As for the alarm clock, there was no need; the bird chorus in the morning still rings in my ears. I've never heard such a chorus of birds before or since.

Eva's tramping was not limited to the SWTC. She went on tramps organised by tour companies: Milford Track, Routeburn and many others. Eva was adventurous and rarely went to a place more than once. I recall on several occasions her saying, "I've been there, done that. I'll go somewhere I haven't been."

Eva, now you are embarking on your final adventurous journey into the unknown. You will be missed by us all. Your life membership goes with you. Delivery of the FMC Bulletin may be a little difficult, though.

All the best Eva, and goodbye.



## ***Trip Reports***

### TAUHERENIKAU 3 FEBRUARY

We met as arranged at SWWC at 8.30 and left to meet Ruth and Peter in Featherston. Sorry Sarah we didn't get your message, 😊 Hope to see you on another tramp soon.

Arriving at the end of Bucks Road we headed off on the left track. The sign said River Access 1.5 hours and that was about right. The track is a bit narrow in places and young gorse was a bit scratchy on our legs. There was evidence of previous December rain, some creek beds had scoured and necessitated some awkward climbing, ably assisted by some helping hands. Our morning tea was at 10.00 and we arrived at the river at 10.45. There was a beautiful pool that Ian swam in. We had decided not to walk out along the river as anticipated as it was probably a bit deep in places and cold. We returned to our lunch spot at 12.00, and back to the cars by 1.00. The track seemed easier on the way out, more downhill than up. Thanks to Ruth and Peter, Neil, Jennifer, AJ and Sandra with Ian and Rosie.

### NAENAE CROSSING - NORTHERN TARARUAS, KAHURERAWA VALLEY TO NAENAE RD, MANGAMAIRE 10 FEBRUARY

For this combined trip with Masterton Tramping Club, six of us swapped car keys with Nigel and Margaret of MTC and then drove on to Palmerston North for a comfortable night at Pepper Tree Lodge, to avoid a long drive early Sunday. We set off from the Kahutarawa Valley Road at 8.50am, accompanied by club founder member Chris Bland from Feilding, who made sure we started on the correct track, not one of the many bike paths.

The route sidled alongside the river, until the Ross Creek junction when it climbed through bush to the Hardings Park Toetoe junction with picnic area. From there we followed the main track along thick scrubby bush to "Point C", the appointed place to stop for lunch where we were to meet up with the other party coming from the Wairarapa side. This is also the start of the Otangane Loop track. It was an anxious 15 minute wait until the MTC members plus Elizabeth arrived just as we were contemplating, if all had gone wrong, what our next option might be! However they made it and car keys were swapped back and lunch eaten, as they told us about the difficult section at the top of the farm track they had taken where they had to push through high grasses combined with hook grass and bush lawyer (pardon - Moa's teeth!).

After lunch our team decided to take the long side of the Loop track, taking us over high points of 626m and the Nipple (aka Pukenaemae) at 592m. If we had known what the track was like we may have taken the shorter route! For much of the time we were treading cautiously along ground we couldn't see, due to the enormous mounds of exuberant grasses and horopito, which had grown over the track. Hook grass attached itself liberally to any available surface as we made our way through, coating not only hairy legs but also gaiters and even socks inside gaiters!

With relief we finally reached the official Naenae Track down to the road, and a few metres further along we pushed through bush, grass and horopito to reach farmland, the farmer having kindly said we could traverse through on a quad bike track.

Our time was 7 hours 50 minutes, so even taking into account our lengthy morning tea and lunch stops, we took longer than the Manawatu Tramping and Ski Club, 5-6 hours in 2017, and 6 to 7 hours in 2018 - evidence that the track is not much used and has become increasingly overgrown.

Elizabeth, who walked with the MTC, says: Going from the other direction, with a 9.15am start time, the climbing was done before the heat of the day set in, and the finish was a beautiful shady amble down the Kahutarawa River, where we resisted the lure of the deep pools only with difficulty. By avoiding the rigours of the full loop and The Nipple, the MTC contingent found ourselves back in Masterton before the SWTC-ers. The tramp, with the shorter side of the loop, took 6 1/4 hours. It took at least as much time again to remove the offending flora from our socks, shorts, and boots!

Those on the trip were Chris Bland, Elizabeth Halliday, Stuart Hammond, John Rhodes, Geoff and Hilary Ryan, and Ed and Juliet Cooke (co-ordinators - leading was by group consensus!) Thanks to Wayne Salmons for use of his farm track and marking our way onto his farm, and Nigel Boniface for liaising with him.

John Rhodes has put some beautiful photos on the club website.

