

South Wairarapa Tramping Club

Newsletter for August 2019

www.swtc.org.nz

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Club night:

Tuesday 13 August 7.30 pm **AGM**

St John's Hall Main Street Greytown

Supper: (tea towel, milk and biscuits) David and Kay Bowie

Speaker: Video clips of the Old Ghost Road

Trip List

August 2019

Date	Destination	Trip coordinator	Phone	Fitness
27.7	Finis track work	John Rhodes	304 9095	F
3.8	Te Marua / Silverstream	Jennifer Pomeroy	304 8011	M
10.8 *	Greytown trails	Mary Lambert	379 6106	M
17.8	Rewanui	Mary Lambert	379 6106	M
24.8	Karapoti (Stuart Hammond)	Ed & Juliet Cooke	304 9497	F
31.8	Tora	Sara Murphy	306 6370	M
7.9	Duntulm Farm, Mangatarere	John Rhodes	304 9095	M

10.8. Mountain Film Festival, Masterton

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:

September: Anne and Steve Maddock

October: Ken O'Dowd and Vicki Brooks

Trip Reports

MT FINIS 29 JUNE

The weather was good when we left Greytown. We drove to the road leading to Featherston's old reservoir - Featherston's water now comes from Greytown. A short walk up a deteriorating road led us to the man-made lake set in a regenerating valley. You have to cross a spillway weir to reach the start of the track and fortunately we had been warned about the advisability of taking rope. The track then follows up a reasonably steep spur to the top. Unfortunately the wind had picked up and conditions on the ridge were less than pleasant so eventually we turned back shortly before the top and retreated to the far end of the lake to find shelter for lunch.

Trampers were Ian and Rosie Montgomerie, Juliet Cooke, Barry Kempton, Lesley Callaghan and leader Ian Bardsley.

MT. DICK CIRCUIT 13 JULY

The trip coordinator had twice ventured into the Mt. Dick area with his pruning saw at the instigation and insistence of track-maker Joe Nawalaniec. On the second such trip the descent to the Kaipaitangata, despite Joe's promise that it held no horrors, became a nightmare of kiekie and supplejack. On the way downstream Joe marked with rocks on a log what he guaranteed was an easier route. With this assurance the circuit was scheduled for a joint Masterton / South Wairarapa trip, but anti-clockwise to make route-finding simple.

We met at the end of the tar-seal on a cloudy morning, Celia having biked from the Mangatarere. Up the road, through the hole in the fence and on up the stream with the boys (who'd done the circuit with Joe and Shane only a week before) leading, full of enthusiasm and confidence.

After twenty minutes Joe's cairn came in view and we started the 400 metre climb to point 582. We'd been told to expect supplejack near the bottom and to bring secateurs, but the co-ordinator forgot his. Shane and Stuart led and cleared the way while Nigel did more cutting at the back with the co-ordinator behind, glad that others were in charge. The supplejack went on and on. And on.

It was awful, but nobody complained—least of all the boys whose high spirits and positive approach kept us all going. The hill was also mighty steep, causing one trumper to take a spectacular tumble. We took morning smoko while still deep in the supplejack zone. Only at about 400 metres did we reach the northern spur of 582, where delightfully open beech forest made all our suffering worthwhile. We lunched on the summit, sheltering from a chilly NW wind.

We were now on Joe's Track (or Joe's Obsession), which took us gently along to Point 581 and then down to the saddle west of Mt. Dick. There we joined a former forestry road re-opened by Joe and press-ganged helpers to form an attractively overhung, mossy pathway. Along the way was evidence of the affection of a once-great trumper—now beset by knee problems—for his departed mother-in-law.

We separated at the first road junction, two to descend the main Mt Dick road and the rest to follow minor roads and firebreaks more directly to the valley floor.

Celia biked home.

Thanks to Stuart for help with transport from the south.

Masterton TC participants were Nigel Boniface, Shane Mann, Cameron Mann (9), Ange Minto, Margaret McLauchlan and John Rhodes. South Wairarapa TC contributed Liz Halliday, Lesley Callaghan and John Rhodes. From the Tararua TC we had Celia Wade-Brown, from Wellington Forest & Bird Stuart Hammond and from the Carterton-Nawalaniec TC Izaiah Codde (9).

Photos: Liz Halliday & John Rhodes

