

South Wairarapa Tramping Club

Newsletter for November 2019

www.swtc.org.nz

newsletter editor: Lynne King lynne.king@xtra.co.nz 04 478 7795

Club night:

Tuesday 12 November 7.30 pm

St John's Hall Main Street Greytown

Supper: (tea towel, milk and biscuits) Barry Kempton

Speaker: John Rhodes – cycling in France

Trip List

2019

Date	Destination	Trip coordinator	Phone	Fitness
2.11	Powell Hut	Ed & Juliet Cooke	304 9497	F
10.11 *	Three Canoes	Ed & Juliet Cooke	304 9497	F
16.11	Battle Hill	Janet Corlett	306 9079	
23.11	Combined trip Wanganui TC Pinnacle Ridge	Barry Kempton	304 9353	F
30.11	Kapiti Expressway pathway walk	Barry Kempton	304 9353	M

* Sunday

Membership Fees Now Due

The membership fees for 2019 - 2020 have been decided at the AGM and are now due.

Single membership is \$45

Family membership is \$55

This can be paid cash or cheque to South Wairarapa Tramping Club via Bruce Lambert
10 Danske Close Carterton 5713 or direct to our bank
account ANZ 01-0623-0044755-00

Club Christmas Party

Saturday 7 December 6.00. Shared meal.

Barry Kempton's woolshed,
third gateway past 48 Kempton's Line

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 meeting the roster is: Jennifer Pomeroy

Trip Reports

DUNTULM FARM, MANGATARERE 7 SEPTEMBER

Rain caused Jeremy Corban, Stuart Hammond, Katherine Jacobs, Mary Lambert, Ian Montgomerie and John Rhodes to postpone the start of our walk till late morning. Our destination was Duntulm Farm, with its network of tracks through regenerating scrub and bush.

The stream was still up, so we linked up to cross before following the Horseshoe Track to the high point of Duntulm (533 m). We lunched in shelter nearby before climbing the last few metres to enjoy a new perspective of the eastern Tararuas (except for cloud-hidden Holdsworth) and part of the Main Range.

We then followed Curler's Track and descended to Kiddie Creek. Alastair Nicholson welcomed us at the cottage, made a welcome brew and told us about his and Celia's work on the property over the last two decades, and their plans for it (see <https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/farming/110364419/former-wellington-mayor-celia-wadebrown-farms-trees-for-carbon-credits>)

It was a short walk but certainly worth repeating. Many thanks to our hosts. Photos are at <http://swtc.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Duntulm-Farm-2019-09-07.pdf>

ORCHID TRIP, HOLDSWORTH AREA 21 SEPTEMBER

Ten SWTC trampers, three non-financial adherents and one guide assembled in the Mt Holdsworth camping area. Over the last several years, Gary Anderson of Masterton has made it his business to become familiar with the orchids of the Holdsworth area. Many grow on banks beside the tracks where few are apparent to a casual glance, especially when not in flower.

This season's flowering has started, but most species have yet to bloom. We learned therefore to recognise orchids from their foliage. Some have little green discs close to the ground, while others have grass-like but fleshy shoots.

The name 'orchid' comes from the word *orchis*, which is what the Romans called these plants; but further back it derives from a Greek word meaning 'testicle'. Globally the orchid family is one of the two largest families of flowering plants, with about 28 000 species many of which live in the humid tropics. The

number of orchid species nearly equals that of bony fishes, is more than twice that of bird species, and is about four times that of mammal species. New Zealand has more than 70 species of orchids.

An orchid flower produces seeds in thousands (sometimes millions from a single plant). They are so light and minute that many NZ species have originated from seed carried by the wind from Australia. The seeds contain no food reserves and rely on associating with fungi to germinate, but the chance of meeting a suitable fungus is very small so most seeds never develop.

The flowers of all orchids are bilaterally symmetrical and specialised for insect pollination. One petal is enlarged into a labellum (lip), which acts as a landing pad for insects.

Most NZ orchids live on the ground. These ones are either upright with grass-like leaves, or prostrate with a single leaf close to the ground. Our ground-dwelling orchids have underground rhizomes, corms or tubers and lose all their above-ground parts in the winter. A few of our orchids are epiphytic (attached to trees). NZ is unusual in this respect; globally, most orchids are epiphytic. The foliage of our epiphytic orchids can be seen all year round.

Ground orchids that Gary introduced us to were *Aporostylis*, *Caladenia*, *Chiloglottis*, *Corybas*, *Microtis*, *Orthoceras*, *Pterostylis*, *Simpliglottis* and *Thelymitra*. We also saw last year's flower stalks of the remarkable non-photosynthetic *Gastrodia*, which has no leaves and no chlorophyll, and depends for its nutrients entirely on an association with soil fungi. The epiphytic orchids that we saw were *Earina* and *Dendrobium*.

No commercial use has been discovered for our Tararua orchids, but when we eat a vanilla icecream we taste an extract of the fruits of the tropical orchid *Vanilla*.

The walk took us up the main Holdsworth track, down the Carrington Spur track and back down the valley. At the beginning a dozen party members (including the guide) became lost, forcing the main party (Silvia and John) to use advanced search techniques such as asking people if they'd seen them. This worked except for Blair, who was even more seriously lost but Silvia went back and found him.

We shared the Rocky Lookout viewing platform at lunchtime with so many other trampers—mostly heading for the new Powell Hut—that it was hard to find a seat.

Gary's knowledge of our Mt Holdsworth orchids is encyclopaedic. He knows individual plants and can describe their flowering history. We were fortunate to have such a guide to provide a lesson in observation.



The challenge for us now is to re-visit the area in the months before Christmas, to find and photograph these wonderful plants in flower. Gary also provided the photos of *Pterostylis* (two species), *Gastrodia* and *Microtis* for this report.

Gary Anderson (guide), Mike Robinson, Snita Ahir-Knight, Karen Havican, Ian Montgomerie, Lesley Callaghan, Warren Harland, Pat McLean, Blair Crafar, Silvia Sze, Mary Lambert, Ann Rhodes, Barry Kempton and John Rhodes (logistics organiser)



ATIWHAKATU HUT 28TH SEPTEMBER

Five of us met at Holdsworth car park for a walk through to Atiwhakatu Hut. The weather was fine but a bit windy at times.

Barry brought along his farm dog Sioux for a walk and he had his hands full teaching her commands along the way. When we reached the first big swing bridge we four went over first and then Barry with Sioux but no way was she going to go over.

He decided to go down to the stream and see if he could walk over with her through the water but she wasn't having a bar of that either so back up to the bridge for another try. This time she crouched on all fours with Barry pushing her slowly with his foot, it took a while but she finally made it.

We met a couple of families with young children who had come in to the hut on the Friday and stayed and were now coming out. They were training to do the Abel Tasman later on.

We stopped for morning tea around 10.30 and were passed by a few young ones going on up to one of the huts for the night. We carried on walking, a few fallen trees on track that we had to step over. We arrived at the hut around 11.30 and sat on the porch for lunch - it was a bit too cold to sit at the picnic table. There was one sole tramper in the hut tucked up in bed asleep. Three young Asians arrived from the Jumbo direction and said they had tried to get to the hut but it was too windy so they had come back. They had their lunch and then were off back to Lower Hutt. We set off back as well, passing other families coming in, it was good to see so many using the track and the hut. We pointed out to Rosie the little native orchids on the face of the banks here and there that we were shown last week but could not remember the names of some of them. We walked on down to Donnelly's Flat and had a ten minute break and found a few more orchids just off the track.

We arrived back at car park around 2.30, said our goodbyes and headed for home. Those who came were Barry Kempton, Lesley Callaghan, Rosie and Ian Montgomerie and Mary Lambert organiser for the day.

BOGGY POND 5 OCTOBER

We couldn't go to the Donald wetlands as planned so the alternative trip was to Boggy Pond. We drove to Parera Road. It was a flat and pleasant walk on mown tracks surrounded by wetland. We saw many swans and cygnets close by, and some herons roosting in trees. There were many traps at the edges of the tracks, some inhabited by dead rats and a few empty ones. We looked into several bird viewing hides and saw a stoat running up the track ahead of us. The water level in Boggy Pond seemed to be higher than normal, possibly because of the strong norwester blowing water from the eastern side of the lake.

There are several walking opportunities near Boggy Pond worth visiting. Almost back at our starting point we walked over a stopbank that led towards Matthews Lagoon. On returning home we found a website explaining the ecology of the area in depth. Google report no.51 The Water at Boggy Pond Lake Wairarapa by Colin Ogle.

Those on the trip were Jennifer Pomeroy, Mary Lambert, Rosie and Ian Montgomerie, Barry Kempton and Lynne King.



RIMUTAKA - KAITOKE ROUTE 26 OCTOBER

After leaving cars in the Kaitoke carpark, nine of us set off from the Rimutaka road summit. A stiff southerly wind was blowing as we climbed carefully up and down the ridge, trying to avoid being pricked by the golden gorse gleaming in the sunshine, and into the welcome thorn-less shade and shelter of the bush.

We had morning tea in a slightly clear spot, then onwards to the pylon track. After a few minutes the marked tree was located, and we all scrambled up the bank, mostly without the aid of Barry's rope, which unbeknownst to him, had been cut into four pieces by a grandchild!

Stuart led us down the partially marked and sometimes overgrown track - all of us except him were on new "red line" (thanks John) territory. Occasional vistas of the Kaitoke Valley opened up, but in order to get out of the wind, we ate lunch in a spot without a view.

The last bit of our route before we joined the track from Kaitoke to Smiths Creek was slightly steep and narrow, but overall the going was much easier than anticipated.

Despite large numbers having run over to Smiths Creek and back in the morning, the Puffer Track was less slippery and muddy than the last time some of us came along it.

We reached the car park in just over five hours.

Thanks to Stuart for alerting us to this route, and not losing anyone on the way down!

Those on the tramp were Liat and Craig Gush, Stuart Hammond, Barry Kempton, Gerald Leather (MTC), John Rhodes, Hilary Ryan, and Ed & Juliet Cooke, coordinators.

