

# South Wairarapa Tramping Club

## Newsletter for October 2020

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

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### *Club night:*

Tuesday 13 October 7.30 pm

St John's Hall Main Street Greytown

*Speaker:* Ed & Juliet, Cape to Cape walk Western Australia, with spring flowers

*Supper:* (tea towel, milk and biscuits) Bruce Eglinton

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:

November: Barry Kempton

December: Ian and Rosie Montgomerie

### ***Trip List***

2020

<b>Date</b>	<b>Destination</b>	<b>Trip coordinator</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Fitness</b>
3-4. 10	Mt Bruce #	with MTC		
10.10	Winzenberg Hill track clearing	John Rhodes	304 9095	

# Saturday or Sunday depending on weather. Details later

***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***

#### WINZENBERG HILL, SUNDAY 30 AUGUST

Twenty-five years ago you could walk up Winzenberg Hill (729 m) on open grassy hillsides. Much earlier the area was in forest, but during the dry summer of 1907-08 a fire in the Waingawa valley got away and swept over the ridge to the Atiwhakatu. Settler Hans Thomsen lost his house (insured) but the fire also saved him from felling the bush; he needed only to scatter grass seed.

After the farm became part of the Tararua Forest Park in 1970, grazing ended. The rich seed source of adjacent Mt. Holdsworth has been helping the bush to recover and the burnt slopes are now in scrub, with a remnant of original beech forest.

We last attempted Winzenberg in 2016 and reached a subsidiary knob nearly as high as our goal but about 300 horizontal metres short. This time we were confident of attaining the summit. We got closer than before, but then dense scrub forced a retreat to our lunch lookout, with panoramic views of the eastern Tararuas and Wairarapa valley.

Rachel's route-finding then brought us unerringly back to our starting-point. We finished with bloodied legs, the sign of a satisfying walk.

SWTC will return with secateurs and loppers.

*Kohe Habberfield, Stuart Hammond, Rachel Horwell and John Rhodes*

P.S. Current maps bear the incorrect name 'Winzenburg'. After the trip we pointed this out to staff at the NZ Geographic Board, who consulted the Chairman and agreed to change it.



#### NGAHAU, PIRINOA SATURDAY 5 SEPTEMBER

The group met at Ngahau, near the village of Pirinoa [at 9.15 am](#). We spotted a few cars up the farm lane - all having flown the Big Dipper. We then climbed a ridge of the southern extension of the Aorangi Range - to an altitude of about 500 m (climb, 350 m). Cloud obscured the usually visible South Island but there were good views of Palliser Bay, Lake Onoke, Lake Wairarapa and the Tararuas; crossing cloud and rain showers provided great contrasts of lights on these mountains, and the rain, kindly, did not quite make it to us in the Aorangi.

Lunch was in the sheltering edge of the forest. A steep descent lead us through some beech forest and some grazing land back to our vehicles - about a 4 or so hour trip.

Kevin Wilkinson, Mary Lambert, Lesley Callaghan, Barry Kempton, Lynne King, Ingrid Ward, John Rhodes, Gabrielle and Matthew Walker, Stuart Hammond, Ed and Juliet Cooke, Merran and Wendell Cooke, Ann Hume

John Rhodes has posted some gorgeous photographs he took  
<http://swtc.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Ngahau-Pirinoa-5.9.2020.pdf>  
I attach a couple of pics showing view from top, had there been no clouds.





## NORBETTS CREEK LOOP 12 SEPTEMBER

It was a glorious morning, snowy tops on the Tararuas, as we all gathered from various directions at the camping area in Waterworks Road, Kaitoke.

We had intended to do the Norbetts Creek Loop anticlockwise, following the four wheel drive Catchment Road uphill. However, we found that Farm Creek looked more like a river, due to heavy rain on preceding days, it looked quite deep and fast, and none of us found the thought of wet feet at the start appealing. So we retreated back through the very attractive camping area, admiring the new kitchen and toilet buildings, and set off up the road to the Pukuratahi River Walk, crossing both rivers safely on bridges.

The track passes through towering forest, gleaming in the morning sun, so photograph stops slowed our progress, which came to a complete stop at the Rivendell area used in The Lord of the Rings trilogy, which some of our party hadn't visited before. It made an ideal morning tea spot.

From the upper car park we headed slightly past the Pukuratahi Forks, and turned off to cross Norbetts Creek, which fortunately had a line of boulders so most of us got over with dry feet. The track above the creek is very steep in places, and slippery after the rain, and we were glad to be going UP, not down, with less potential for nasty accidents.

We took more time than the one hour the signpost had suggested, to reach the Catchment Road at the top, but no one wanted to race, and stops to remove layers of clothing and take photographs provided welcome pauses. The area has never been logged. and there are tall rimu, hinau, kamahi and beech.

The view at the top was well worth the climb: down the Hutt River Valley to Wellington Harbour and the hills beyond, and snowy Tapuae-o-uenuku in the far distance. We lunched on the track, and then continued on downwards, casting a look back to see Alpha with patchy snow.

We were unsure whether Farm Creek had risen or gone down, but it looked quite innocuous as the deeper water is by the far bank. We certainly got wet feet, and calves too!

We were back at the cars after a really enjoyable "feels good to be alive!" four hour tramp. Participants were Ruth Graham, Elizabeth Halliday, Jen Pomeroy, Hilary Ryan, Ingrid Ward, and Ed & Juliet Cooke (co-ordinators) with daughter Merran.



## STONE WALL AND BEYOND TO THE SHINGLE SLIDE SEPTEMBER 19

Fifteen trampers arrived at the lighthouse parking at Cape Palliser just before 10am.

We were walking the coastal track around to the Stone Wall and further for the ones who wanted a longer walk.

The weather was perfect, no wind, no rain, and the sea flat but a big swell running, hence the great number of surfies at the bay just before Ngawi. I counted fifty vehicles. Some were camper vans, and a few tents were also pitched.

The previous rain had made the track muddy with huge puddles of water so it was on and off the track until we got to the gate and the Stone Wall. We had morning tea there and at this point four trampers went back, two climbed up to the waterfall which is to the left of the gate and into the gully a bit, and then went back to climb the stairs to the lighthouse, and the other two young ladies, one of whom had a wee toddler, went back to the lighthouse to wait for us to get back. We then proceeded to walk through the stream, so all got wet socks and boots, and then went on up the track for a while to the shingle slide and further on till we had good views of White Rock and the bay. We looked for a sheltered lunch spot out of the sea breeze and Stuart pointed us to a big rock perched on the side of the bank which we all clambered up to and sat around to have lunch and enjoy the views of the sea and White Rock in the distance. A big black cloud hovered over us and it dropped some light rain. Some put on coats but it didn't come to much. We left again just before 12.50pm and were back at the car park around 2.30. The car park was full of cars and a few camper vans and plenty of people walking up the lighthouse steps. Ngawi was certainly a busy place that day.

Thank you to those who came, it was an enjoyable day. Trampers were Charlene, Jennifer, Zoya, Melanie and toddler Clementine, Carol, Ingrid, Juliet, Ruth and Peter, Lesley, Stuart and partner Pam, and her friend Susan and Bruce and Mary, Mary being the leader for the day.

