

South Wairarapa Tramping Club

Newsletter for November 2020

www.swtc.org.nz

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Club night:

Tuesday 10 Nov 7.30 pm

St John's Hall Main Street Greytown

Speaker: Charlene James on the UK Ramblers' trip she and John Wilson did to Madeira, Portugal

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

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.

Christmas party in December, details to be arranged.

Trip List

2020

Date	Destination	Trip coordinator	Phone	Fitness
7.11	Rapaki, Martinborough	Pete & Ruth Graham	306 8822	M
14.11		Juliet & Ed Cooke	304 9497	
20 – 22.11	Palmerston North weekend, led by Ian Argyle from PN & John Rhodes. Info sent out by John in separate email	John Rhodes	304 9095	

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

TUNNEL GULLY 26 SEPTEMBER

Nineteen of us gathered near the entrance to the Tunnel Gully Recreation Area, glowering moisture-laden clouds above, with occasional sprinkles of rain. We walked around Tane's Track, through tawa and beech forest to Collins Stream, a picturesque waterfall, and our morning tea stop at the upper picnic area. The crowds of tall eucalypts made us think for a moment we had been transported to Australia! This area was once the campsite for workers building the nearby Mangaroa Railway Tunnel, which was completed in 1877.

The Firebreak and Maymorn Ridge tracks gave us good views out over the Hutt Valley to Wellington as we descended to the main Tunnel Drive and Station Road, leading to Maymorn. As we came close to the current railway line a log train thundered past, probably keeping at least a dozen logging trucks off the Rimutaka Hill.

The station provided a mostly sheltered spot for lunch. Two of our party chose to sit on the edge of the platform, legs dangling over the edge. They ignored the woman's warning voice telling them to move back behind the yellow line, but shifted fairly quickly after loud bells and a man's voice telling them a train was coming, and wouldn't be able to stop if they were still there, and warning them of stiff penalties! Obviously all platforms are monitored by cameras. An empty logging train passed through about ten minutes later, and we could see it would amputate hanging legs quite speedily!

We walked back along the way we had come, decided to omit the deviation round Pondy's Loop due to possibly slippery wet clay slopes, made our way through the old Maymorn Tunnel, along the last bit of Tane's Track, and back to the cars, after an easy 3 ½ hour tramp.

Participants were Ian Bardsley, Lesley Callaghan, Pete & Ruth Graham, Richard & Kay Harvey and 2 dogs, Charlene James, Barry Kempton and 1 dog, Carol McNaught, Rosie & Ian Montgomerie, Jen Pomeroy, John Rhodes, Ingrid Ward, Robyn Ward, Kevin Wilkinson, and Ed & Juliet Cooke (co-ordinators).



COMBINED CLUBS WORKING BEE, WINZENBERG TRACK 5 OCTOBER

This trip was advanced from 10 October owing to the coordinator's unavailability that day. Masterton TC members outnumbered the SWTC contingent two to one.

Our first task was to clear the water intake for caretaker Eric Barber's house. That done, we ascended the western ridge of Mt. Winzenberg to the 590 m contour, snipping and flagging as we went.

This was a good start in reopening the track to one of the finest view points in the eastern Tararuas. There remains another 140 m of altitude gain, which will be more time consuming.

Nigel Boniface (MTC) and John Rhodes (MTC, SWTC)

Blue dots – track cleared and marked

Red dots – still to do



PUKAHA AND BEYOND 4 OCTOBER

Seven SWTC members (+ 1 baby) joined five MTC members for a tramp at Pukaha and the hills beyond. We started off up the main track behind the visitor centre in beautiful weather, baby Freddie appearing to enjoy his ride. As we passed the kokako enclosure, the bearded men in our party stimulated the bird in to voice - ko-ka-ko! We ate morning tea at the attractive grassy stepped picnic area with views over to the Tararuas, and then continued on to the intersection to Braddicks Track, which leads over the hills to Mauriceville. At this point Silvia and Blair decided that the terrain was too steep and hazardous for the by then sleeping baby, so they turned back.

We climbed on uphill, most of us detouring to the pipe in the ground marking the top of Bruce's Hill, and lunched at a high open point looking over to the Tararuas in one direction, and out to Mauriceville in the other.

That was the easy part of the tramp!

We backtracked 900 m to the top of the Billy Goat Track, a trapping line with beautiful new purple markers gleaming when they caught the sun. Opinions differed as to how easy it was to follow the "track" down the steep hillside! At one high drop there was a fixed rope to assist the descent, rather too short, but Michael was stationed at the bottom to push a searching foot into the right position to make contact with the ground. Most of us resorted to the backside method in places, to the detriment of at least one pair of shorts!

By this stage, as we looked far, far down into the gully and over to the ridge opposite up which we would have to climb, we began to get concerned that by the time we got back to the visitor centre it would be closed, no one to let us out to our cars, and a locked gate possibly barring our exit.

Finally reaching the bottom of the valley we met a track running along beside the stream, marked SH1! We eventually found a continuation of the Billy Goat Track heading upwards. We had thought the descent was bad, but the ascent was even worse, no purple markers, bogs and streams, very steep, closely growing trees, and lots of supplejack tangles. But not such a high hill as the one we had descended. We struggled up to the top ridge, turned left, and in no time, to the amazement of most of us, we were back at our morning tea site!

The visitor centre was still open, no hot drinks or ice creams available, but cold drinks were very welcome.

Vital statistics from Fiona's amazing watch: a total of 965m in total height climbed, and approximately 13.5 kms traversed.

Many thanks to Nigel Boniface for organising and leading, and to all who helped in navigating us safely back to our cars.

Those on this nominally 5 hour but actually 8 hour tramp were MTC members Nigel Boniface (leader), Philip Brown, Michael Bruce-Smith, Ange Minto, and Anita Nicholls, with SWTC members Stuart Hammond, Silvia Sze & Blair Crafar with almost 1 year old Freddie, Fiona Tuckett, Ingrid Ward, and Ed & Juliet Cooke (co-ordinators).





CORNER CREEK 24 OCTOBER

A lovely sunny warm morning seemed perfect for our planned walk along Ocean Beach towards Turakirae Head on the NZ Cycleway. We meet in Greytown at 8.30 am. Two vehicles transported eight walkers and Barry's dog Sue, who was needing a good run.

We arrived at the coast around 9.30. We could see snow on the Kaikouras clearly and the sea was an amazing blue, though covered with white caps. It seemed a gentle breeze as we headed south, but in places especially when in open creek beds the wind turned gale force. Heads down, walking poles used to steady our balance, sunglasses blown off, lighter members nearly blown off course and a stinging sandblasting was a bit unpleasant. Thank goodness it was warm and the stunning scenery provided the incentive to endure this rough and remote track.

We saw many people on bikes and were glad we were walking. Faye, Barry and Mary recalled riding this trail. We noted the cyclists did have to carry their bikes a bit. Both morning tea and lunch were enjoyed in sheltered spots. We arrived back at Corner Creek at 2pm and detoured across the East West access

road to the barrage to Kahutara - Te Marie Road to Wards Line (Ingrid's great grandparents farmed here) and back to Greytown by 3.00.

Thanks to fellow walkers for a great day out, enjoying stunning vistas. Definitely a bad hair day, grit in our hair and exfoliated skin from the wind blown gravelly sand.

Barry Kempton and Sue (dog), Faye Mangin. Carol McNaught, Mary Lambert, Ingrid Ward and Rosie and Ian Montgomerie (leaders.)

ATIWHAKATU 31 OCTOBER

Despite a few morning showers we decided to go ahead with our tramp to Atiwhakatu Hut. We met in Greytown at 8.30 am, travelling in one vehicle to arrive at Mount Holdsworth and ready to walk at 9.30. It was pleasant enough weather to start. Donnelly's flat was dry and we were happy. The track is in good condition, considering the popularity of this lead in track to much of the Tararuas.

We had smoko beside a lovely creek. The new growth on ferns was a gorgeous lush green and little orchids, native white iris and a beautiful clematis were a pleasure to see.

The track is made interesting by the many bridges. No trouble for our group to cross the swing bridges. By 12.00 we were at the hut and a little wet, and it was still raining on our return to carpark. We passed many individuals and groups on the track. Most were on overnights to Atiwhakatu, Jumbo and Powell Huts.

We were back at our car within the two hours and back in Greytown by 3pm, all needing to get our wet clothes off, have a shower and cup of tea.

Thanks for fellow trappers' enthusiasm, considering the weather.
Led by Ian and Rosie Montgomerie along with Jen Pomeroy and Ingrid Ward.



