

South Wairarapa Tramping Club

Newsletter for December 2020

www.swtc.org.nz

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

Club night:

Tuesday 8 Dec 7.30 pm

St John's Hall Main Street Greytown

Speaker: John Glover talking about his trip to Ecuador. He is a keen birdwatcher so the talk will include birds.

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

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: Sunday 6 December 6pm Juliet & Ed Cooke's 57 Wood St, Greytown, back house down a shared drive. BYO plates, cutlery, drinks, and contributions to the main course and dessert for sharing.

Trip List

2020

| Date | Destination | Trip coordinator | Phone | Fitness |
|----------------|--|----------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 5.12 | Waiwhetu Stream & Lower Hutt hill walk | Rosie & Ian Montgomerie | 021 0237 4092 | M |
| 12 or 19.12 | walk or bike ride | Mary Lambert | 379 6106 | M |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

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

RAPAKI WALK 7 NOVEMBER

Saturday morning was calm, overcast and cool - perfect for walking - when seven trampers keen for a gentle walk met in the Martinborough Square for the Rapaki Walk trip.

From the Square it was an easy 3k to Shooting Butts Road and the start of the loop walk across farmland which has spectacular views of the Wairarapa valley and Martinborough vineyards. En route to the highest point we stopped to chat to John Hancox, the farm owner, fed several groups of enthusiastic 'wild' chooks and some very cautious pea fowl before heading up the moderately steep slope to Ineke Kershaw's memorial seat where we stopped for morning tea.

Near the highest point we left the loop track and headed over the stile (one of several on the track) to the edge of the escarpment above the scenic Te Muna Valley. Massive new plantings of vines over the past two seasons were duly admired from our birdseye viewpoint. From there we followed the ridge down from the upper terraces of the track across a stream and onto the Te Muna Road, watched all the way by a herd of curious cattle.

It was another 4k or so back to Martinborough via Te Muna and Hinekura Roads, passing by olive groves, vineyards, the golf course (where one member of our party decided the seat on the No.3 tee looked too enticing to go past) and down Oxford Street to the Square and the end of a very enjoyable 3 1/2 hour, 11.5k walk.

The walkers were Mary Lambert, Stuart and Pam Hammond, Barry Kempton, Lynne King and Pete and Ruth Graham (leaders).



WINZENBERG HILL WORK PARTY 14 NOVEMBER

John had four WWOOFers (Willing Workers On Organic Forests) accompanying him on the Winzenberg work party. It was a beautiful day as we started off up behind the rubbish recycling area at Holdsworth, but the wind came up later.

We hadn't been told about the four or five stream crossings, but, to be fair, there has been a lot of rain recently, so the water level was unexpectedly high.

John had warned us that track clearing would result in scratches and blood, but Juliet produced the only blood of the trip when she caught a foot in a loop of blackberry which tripped her up. Fortunately the long grass and blackberry cushioned her fall!

The pink ribboned track, marked by John and Nigel a few weeks ago, wound up a steep face for an hour or so, before we got into more scrubby trees, and track clearing started in earnest. The men cut more of the larger branches, particularly Ed with the baby chainsaw he gave Juliet for her birthday, while the women cut back all the smaller growth, picked up the cut branches and threw them off the track, sometimes getting them blown back in their faces by the strong wind!

John made sure, by boiling his billy at morning tea and lunch time, that the breaks were longer than usual, so his willing workers didn't become wilting workers. In this way, he exacted another hour's work after lunch!

It was a pleasure to walk back down the track afterwards, and even the steep pink ribbon area wasn't as perilous to descend as some of us had feared.

We were back at the car in just under six hours. The work party members were John Rhodes (leader), Ian and Rosie Montgomerie, and Ed and Juliet Cooke (scribe).