

South Wairarapa Tramping Club

Newsletter for February 2021

www.swtc.org.nz

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Club night:

Tuesday 9 Feb 6 pm barbecue at Ruth and Peter Graham's, 93 Cromarty Drive Martinborough. Bring main and dessert to share, your own drinks, plates and cutlery.

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:

March: Anne & Steve Maddock

April: Jennifer Pomeroy and Vicki Brooks

Trip List

2021

Date	Destination	Trip coordinator	Phone	Fitness

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

MOTURIMU 21 NOVEMBER

This was the first of two days that SWTC spent in the Fitzherbert Ranges near Palmerston North.

We drove to Palmerston North on Friday afternoon and stayed in the Pepper Tree backpacker hostel. Next morning Ian Argyle, our guide, led us in two 4WD vehicles to Moturimu. Ian farmed there from 1947 to 1974, knows the area intimately and has written its history in *Beyond the Black Bridge*. Also with us as gate-opener, safety backup and foil for Ian's jokes was John Doolan of Manawatu T. & S.C., an experienced ambulance man. We were in good hands.

High on Scotts Road which climbs to the plateau from Highway 57, we visited Drum Point, the top of the former steep tramway incline that the milled timber descended. Further on Ian pointed out the sites of the Moturimu mill and its village. We then visited the site of the winch (marked by bolts set in the ground) that brought logs up a slope to the plateau on its east side. To reach this we climbed a line of tramway marked by wooden rails now sunk deep in the grass.

Although about 15 kilometres from the Square, we were still within Palmerston North City.

Back in the valley we took smoko and lunch in a fine hut built by the City Council for Te Araroa walkers. In the 4WDs we then followed Te Araroa to where it enters the bush and descends to the valley of the Tokomaru to follow Burtton's Track—about which Ian Argyle has written another book. One of the logging tramways extended about 6 kilometres south from the mill to this point high above the Tokomaru. Ian directed us into the bush to find signs of it, but no luck. At another spot we followed cuttings made to keep the line on an even grade, and another Ian (our one) found coils of steel cable with spliced eyes, and bits of a heavy cast gear wheel.

We drove up Centre Road and Scrub Ridge Road to be shown where to start our tramp to Punga Hut, and finished the day at the top of Arapuke Mountain Bike Park, overlooking the Kahuterawa Valley where we started our northern Tararua crossing in February last year.

PUNGA (OR MIRO) HUT 22 NOVEMBER

Ed, Juliet, Stuart and John (the Montys having gone) agreed to attempt Punga Hut only in favourable conditions. Otherwise we'd walk near the city and its coffee shops. Sunday morning's weather looked vaguely promising, so we drove south and ascended Scotts Road.

We set off up Centre and Scrub Ridge roads with Punga Hut firmly in mind; a firmness that lasted until we exited the cars and cold southerly rain started. Stuart led the way up an old 4WD track through pines and pepper trees. At the ridge-top we found the start of the foot track. The track went into bush and became muddy. This we interpreted as a sign that many people visit Punga Hut, which must therefore be easy to find. We squelched out of the bush into scrub, where faintly less dense areas showed where the track might be. Mainly we felt the track with our feet and saw it by peering down.

At about this time the outlook began to change. The track became obscure. Stuart re-found it, resumed the lead and forged on. The cold rain had returned and we were uncertain of the location of Punga Hut. Eventually we found orange triangles and a clear track down through the forest. We reached the bottom of the hill, crossed a small stream, reached Punga Hut and had an early lunch.

By early afternoon and in improving weather we were back at the cars. We changed at the Te Araroa shelter, unlocked and re-locked the gate without incident, farewelled Stuart and drove to Palmerston North to return the key to Ian Argyle.

Participants: Ed Cooke, Juliet Cooke, Stuart Hammond (*de facto* leader) and John Rhodes.





WAIWHETU 5 DECEMBER

Four of us met at SWMC at 8.30 and travelled to Mawson Street, beside the Waiwhetu Stream, Lower Hutt. The fleeting showers stopped and we started up the relatively steep section on the track, marked by green arrows. This was mainly in bush, a variety of very tall native trees, orange berries attracting Keruru. The track had great views over the Hutt Valley. We followed the blue arrow and this led onto the red arrow track. The choice of direction was confirmed by another walker. Numerous tracks led off and at one stage we were on the zigzag track up to the fire break. Once on this the gradient increased, it was OK going up but coming down those with poles found it easier to stay upright, as by now it was more than a breeze. The views from the top encompassed the Hutt Valley, Matiu / Somes Island and Wainuomata. We went out to Whites Line East and passed the Marae and the huge building on Riverside Drive, Te Runanganui Taranaki Whanui, that houses the canoes from Te Papa. We had lunch at Waiwhetu Park. A bit windy there and as we walked beside the Waiwhetu Stream back to our car. Three and a half hours, we all felt it was a good stretch. We were home in Greytown by 2.30. Barry Kempton, Lesley Callaghan, Rosie and Ian Montgomerie (leaders).

CARTERTON BIKE RIDE 12 DECEMBER

Lying in bed listening to the wind blowing a gale at 5am I did not think we would be biking this morning. But it calmed down and by 9.30ish nine bikers left our place for a shortish ride.

We biked up Dalefield road with a head wind. Bruce left us at the school, as he was going around the block, and we carried on to Jervois Road and turned left there. The countryside looked pretty good with all the rain we've had.

We carried on up to Moffat's Road and turned left, passed Gold Creek farm, and looking over the fence at us all riding by was a herd of deer. Rosie stopped and took a photo of them in the paddock.

We biked on over the railway line and turned right into Matarawa Road and biked down to just before the hill and stopped on the side of road and had morning tea.

Left again back to Moffat's Road, right into Railway Road and past the little station into Waterson's Line. Rode along there till we got back to the Dalefield School and then back home arriving about 11.40.

Bikers loaded their bikes on their vehicles, then wandered down the garden to Bruce who was in our vegie garden digging up new potatoes and planting leeks for the winter. After a chat and wandering around they all headed off home.

Good outing for the morning. Those who came were David Bowie, Fay Mangin, Lesley Callaghan, Peter and Ruth Graham, Ian and Rosie Montgomerie, and Bruce and Mary Lambert.

