

South Wairarapa Tramping Club

Newsletter for March 2021

www.swtc.org.nz

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Club night:

Tuesday 9 Mar 7.30 pm

St John's Hall Main Street Greytown

Speaker: Ed & Juliet Cooke, Jennifer Pomeroy, John Rhodes, Charlene James – Fiordland travels.

Supper: (tea towel, milk and biscuits) Anne & Steve Maddock

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:

April: Jennifer Pomeroy and Vicki Brooks

May: Ed & Juliet Cooke

Trip List

2021

Date	Destination	Trip coordinator	Phone	Fitness
20.2	Putangirua Pinnacles	Ruth & Peter Graham	306 8822	M
27.2	Bike ride	Mary & Bruce Lambert	379 6106	E
6.3	Honeycomb Rock	Barry Kempton	304 9353	M
13.3	Rimutaka Summit – Pylon Track	Lesley Callaghan	379 5012	M
20.3	City to Sea walkway	Rosie & Ian Montgomerie	021 0237 4092	E
26 – 28.3	Rangitikei Rambles	Ed & Juliet Cooke	304 9497	E

There are a number of small scenic reserves between Feilding and Whanganui, all with walks of approximately one hour, some longer, some shorter. We thought it would be interesting to see how many we can do over a weekend. We will stay Friday and Saturday nights in either motor camp cabins, or a motel, or a backpackers, either in Feilding or Wanganui, depending on who comes, how many people, and what they feel would be preferable. As accommodation will need to be booked, please let us know if you are interested in coming, and we can discuss arrangements. It will be bring your own breakfasts, and either the makings for lunches, or they can be purchased in the town we stay in. Probably eating out for evening meals is easier, but possibly a potluck shared meal on the Friday.

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

NAENAE TRACK W.P. AND PUKENAENAE 30 JANUARY

Eight SWTC members travelled to Mangamaire, Marima and ultimately Naenae Road in the Ryan and Cooke cars—thanks Ryans and Cookes!

Ian Argyle and John Doolan (who both guided our Moturimu exploration in November) were already there. Fortunately it was a cool morning as John led us, carrying waratahs, up an old formed road on farmland, then a steep track beside a tributary of Otangane Stream. The track with its many steps and handrails has been created by Ian, John and a small band of Palmerston North helpers.

At about 11.30 am we reached the point where our waratahs will be used to support more handrails, farewelled John Doolan and continued to the main ridge at about 590 m. Three chose to return while five walked a kilometre to the south on the Otangane Loop Track (traversed by some of us in February 2019) to Pukenaenae alias ‘The Nipple’ (620 m).

The day’s walk impressed us with the amount and quality of the work done by the Palmerston North volunteers and with the smallness of our own contribution in comparison.

Participants: Juliet & Ed Cooke, Hilary & Jeff Ryan, Liz Halliday, Stuart Hammond, Kevin Wilkinson and John Rhodes (coordinator)



John D., Kevin, Stuart, Ian, John R.



Heading for “The Nipple.”



Kevin, Juliet, John, Hilary, Ed, Stuart, Jeff.



View east from Pukenaenae

FARM EXCURSION 8 MARCH

The SWTC joined in with the Masterton club for a walk on Kate and Steve Pitney's farm, which backs on to the Tararua foothills west of Carterton. Twentyone of us set out on what promised to be a very hot day. On our way across the farmland Kate talked to us about the farm, and various aspects of how they in particular handled their land and animals. We were impressed by the Rotoflo milking shed, an unusual design with concrete circles on two levels, floating on a large tank of water.

We criss-crossed a stream, water levels low enough for there to be no danger of getting our feet wet, and gradually rose up through the bush, passing two small huts which looked rather inviting.

The slope increased in intensity, a steepening slog upwards, gaining about 400 metres of height. The nice grassy track deteriorated into a bulldozer track, with loose gravel and small rocks slipping under our feet. We were dreading having to come back down the track, as we envisaged ourselves carefully inching down, clinging on to the wire fence and the occasional tree for support, but it turned out to be a round trip.

Many members of our group found the going quite difficult, and wished they had the boundless energy of our leader - probably 30 years younger than most of us! Several turned back, and we were down to 15 trampers by lunchtime.

After lunch the track levelled out, and we had magnificent views of the Mangatarere Valley on our left, and out over the Wairarapa valley far below on our right.

Our route downwards was zigzagged, making for much easier walking. It was so hot by then that the stock water troughs almost looked inviting enough for a quick dip! We got back to the farmhouse after a really satisfying five hour excursion.

Thanks to Kate and Steve for sharing their farm with us, and to MTC for enabling us to join in on the trip. Those on the tramp from SWTC were Charlene James, Barry Kempton, Lynne King, John & Ann Rhodes, Hilary Ryan, Ingrid & Robyn Ward, Kevin Wilkinson, and Ed & Juliet Cooke.



WAIORONGOMAI RIVER TRACK 13 FEBRUARY

With the weather forecast showing high temperatures for the weekend, we thought a river trip would be a good choice, as at least our feet would be cooled down by frequent immersions as we walked across, upstream, and downstream in the water.

Sixteen of us, including four potential new members, and one not-quite toddler, started up the river from the carpark at 9.15. Blair and Silvia had consulted 16 month old Freddy, and as he was apparently keen to go, Blair carried Freddy in a back pack, being extra careful not to slip on slimy rocks during river crossings.

It was quite a few years since we had done the tramp, and while we had been warned about slippery rocks, we didn't know that slips had cut away the track in many places, and ropes had been attached to trees to help trampers get over the very steep tricky bits.

Ropes assisting us to descend to the river, or ascend out of it, were quite manageable. The longer rope, helping trampers up a very steep bank high above the river, followed by a narrow sidle, was a bit more taxing. As the leaders of the tramp we became rather apprehensive in case anyone was unable to manage the rope ascent, but everyone coped really well. Alf was very quick to assist people, pointing out hand and foot holds, taking walking poles and handing them on up later, and generally holding out a helping hand.

The bush compensated for the difficulties, nice and cool, nikau palms gleaming in the sunlight, and fantails flitting about. It was certainly a relief to get out of the riverbed and out of the sun.

About midday Freddy was complaining a bit, so we decided we had come far enough, even though we hadn't reached the hut, and we stopped for lunch, and then turned back.

So, it was a satisfying tramp: all ropes were negotiated safely, Blair never stumbled and dropped Freddy, only one person slipped in the river and got fully wet, and some members said that the ropes had been the best parts of the tramp! We were back at the cars by about 3.15.

Those on the tramp were Greg Allan, Roz & Alf Clear, Blair Crafar & Silvia Sze with Freddy, Ruth & Peter Graham, Rachel Horwell, Charlene James, Carol McNaught, Ingrid & Robyn Ward, Kevin Wilkinson, and Ed & Juliet Cooke, leaders.

