

South Wairarapa Tramping Club

Newsletter for July 2021

www.swtc.org.nz

newsletter editor: Lynne King lynne.king@xtra.co.nz 04 232 1426

Club night:

Tuesday 13 June 7.30 pm

St John's Hall Main Street Greytown

Speaker: John Hayes on his experiences in PNG from 1989 when he became the NZ High Commissioner, and his later involvement with Bougainville independence talks. This follows on from the discussion after we heard from Chris and Gerald Leather in April about their time in Bougainville.

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.

For the next two meetings the roster is:

Aug: Ian and Rosie Montgomerie

Sep: Bruce and Mary Lambert

The subs for the South Wairarapa Tramping Club are now due.

The cost is \$55 for a family or \$45 for a single.

You can pay by direct into our bank account ANZ 010623 0044755 00

or cash to the Treasurer Bruce Lambert, 10 Danske Close Carterton, Ph 027 379 6106, email blambert@xtra.co.nz

If you are a new member could you please supply me with your name, email address, postal address and phone number.

This is for mailing and contacting for trips and FMC magazines.

Trip List

2021

Date	Destination	Trip coordinator	Phone	Fitness
3.7	Hutt River Maymorn to Totara Park return	Ed & Juliet Cooke	304 9497	M
11.7	Manawatu Gorge Sunday	Ed & Juliet Cooke	304 9497	F
17.7	Paekakariki Escarpment track	Rosie & Ian Montgomerie	021 0237 4092	F

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

PIGEON BUSH RESERVE, SUNDAY 30 MAY

Three Greytown trampers biked to the Western Lake turnoff in Featherston, where our Wellington and Karapoti and Wellington participants had arrived. After one of their cars had been positioned at the Prince Stream access to the Reserve, the other took us to a layby about 1.5 kilometres up Highway 2. There landowner Tim Verran met us to guide us through his property beside the road and up the hill into the Reserve.

This was the fourth SWTC trip in Pigeon Bush Reserve, one of more than 30 reserves owned by the Native Forest Restoration Trust in various parts of the country.

The Trust's website [<https://www.nfrt.org.nz/>] says:

Pigeon Bush Reserve ... borders the southern side of SH2 and extends right over the range to the Wairarapa / Wellington railway. It forms a conspicuous backdrop to Featherston and the lower Wairarapa. At 1157 ha it is by far our largest reserve.



The land has been farmed since the 1860s and was eventually almost completely cleared. Since the Second World War gorse began to take over, but native regeneration is now very dense. As there was pressure to subdivide for lifestyle blocks the Trust was fortunate to secure such a large piece for permanent protection.

Originally the reserve was a mixture of black beech, podocarps and northern rata with small pockets of hard beech on the gentler slopes. Today a mosaic of secondary beech and broadleaf forest, manuka shrubland, gorse and remnant stands of beech and northern rata trees is spread throughout the reserve. There is a small patch of grassland by Prince Stream.

Falcon, kingfisher, morepork, fantail and kereru are frequently seen. A native snail, a species of Wainuia, has also been found.

The link the reserve makes between the Remutaka and Tararua Conservation Parks expands the forest boundaries in an ecologically significant way, providing an assured corridor for wildlife. The lowland beech forest present on the reserve is the most rare of all the lowland forests in the Tararua Ecological Area, so more representation of this type is important. The visual satisfaction of an unbroken forested line along SH2 and behind Featherston is realised as lifestyle development gradually encroaches into these areas of high scenic value.

Plant pests in the reserve are wildling pines, gorse, and broom. The gorse and broom act as a good nursery for native plants, but are a fire risk. ... Goats, pigs and possums are present on the reserve, as well as the lesser rodents and mustelids. The Department of Conservation and the Greater Wellington Regional Council help control the larger pests.

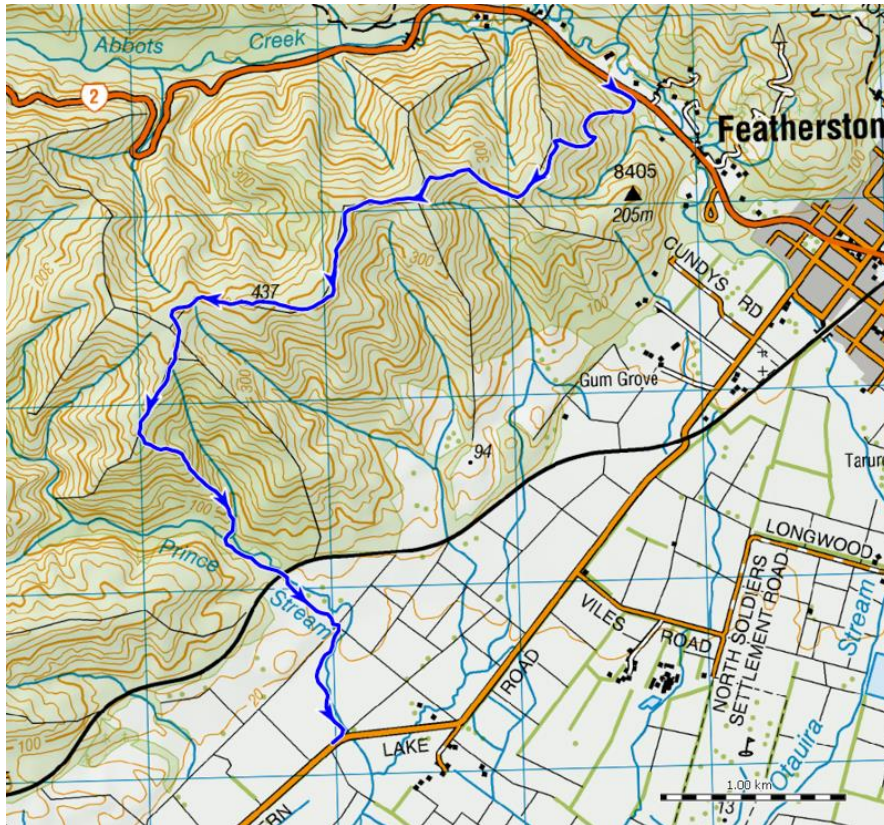
The reserve has been thoroughly tracked by volunteers. When our club completes its present project it could help maintain these tracks, some of which are (in Tim Verran's words) 'A bit ropy'.

We took morning tea at an altitude of about 300 m, where most of the climb was done. We then continued to the south-west over pt. 437 (shown as Nicholl on older maps) with a lunch stop on a grassy clearing with a fine view of Lake Wairarapa. The Thomson Track (named after the Tararua Tramping Club's John Thomson) brought us down to Prince Stream through beautiful beech forest. Passing under the railway line we reached the car in good time for Stuart to attend a concert at Juliet and Ed Cooke's home later in the afternoon.

The walk took about five hours. Participants were Kohe Habberfield, Stuart Hammond, Rachel Horwell, Ian Leask and John Rhodes (coordinator).

Photos by Rachel; GPS track by Ian





WINZENBERG HILL 5 JUNE

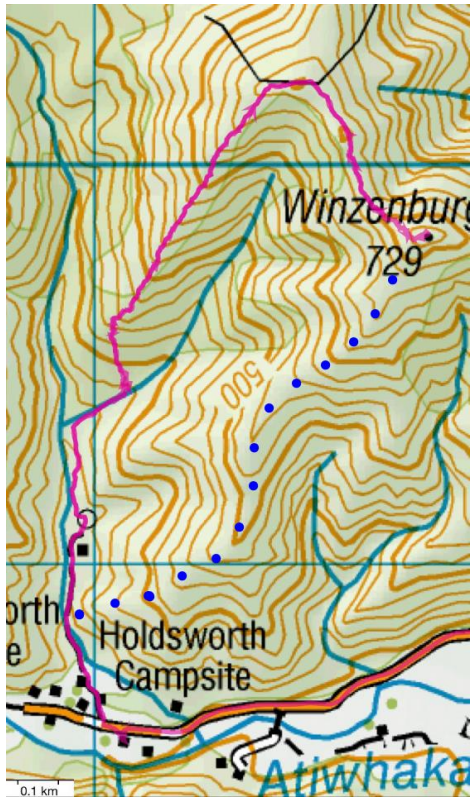
We'd intended to visit the big rata in the Akatarawa Forest, but the early start required would have caused some of us to fall asleep before we reached it. That trip, to be led by Peter Harvey of Lowry Bay will be rescheduled for summer.

The replacement was a continuation of work trips held on 5 October, 14 November and 24 April. Four SWTC and three Masterton TC members took part. Notable was the presence of Clive Baxter, who retired from tramping about 25 years ago but today made a forceful comeback celebrated with pink and chocolate lamingtons.

Morning tea (rushed by team members eager to start work) was taken after the main climb. About 300 metres of clearing brought us almost to the summit, with 20 metres or less remaining for a ceremonial ribbon-cutting on the next trip. Gerald dropped his tools and pushed through the last scrub to take in the view to the east.

We could now develop a track on the ridge marked by blue dots below, creating a round trip. What do you think?

Participants from SWTC: Clive Baxter, Chris Crowe, Ian Montgomerie & John Rhodes. From Masterton TC: Nigel Boniface, Gerald Leather & John Rhodes



Gerald Leather



Cone, Neill (centre) and Concertina Knob in distance. Clive Baxter



View to NE from below Winzenberg. *Chris Crowe*



Clive, Chris, John, Nigel and Gerald. *Ian Montgomerie*

ZEALANDIA SAT 12 JUNE

Eleven of us (plus Freddy) met at Zealandia at 10am. Although misty as we drove down, Wellington was dry, cloudy, calm and mild.

We started up the main track, past the lake, which is being drained for cleaning and removal of perch,

turned left up the Valley View Track, and then on to the Perimeter Track. This route gave us views through the pest-free mesh fence out to the city and harbour on our left, and bush on our right. Croaking and squawking kakas circled round above us, in and out of the treetops.

We had morning tea at a dilapidated table and seating area. Freddy offered to share some baking, carefully placing a box of biscuits on the table. He looked so mournful about this that we all said No thanks, which cheered him up tremendously! Silvia, Blair and Freddy turned back after morning tea.

We climbed on up beside the fence, detouring slightly into the bush and out again by the wind turbine, turning slowly above us despite the apparent lack of wind. As we ate lunch beside the perimeter fence, we felt rather like caged zoo inmates, as walkers, runners, and mountain bikers passed by on the outside.

The Eastern Firebreak Track took us down a cleared spur into the bush again, where we were surrounded by wonderful birdsong. We paused from time to time to focus on tui, bellbirds, saddlebacks and stitchbirds flitting and feeding amongst the trees. After crossing the Upper Dam we followed the main track back to the visitor centre, and were back at our cars after a good four hour walk of approximately 7kms.

Those on the trip were Blair Crafar, Silvia Sze & Freddy, Ruth & Peter Graham, Barry Kempton, Lynne King, Rosie & Ian Montgomerie, Kevin Wilkinson, and Ed & Juliet Cooke (Leaders).





NEW WINCHCOMBE BIVOUAC 10 – 12 JUNE

Winchcombe Bivouac, removed by DOC in 1987, was recently rebuilt and installed by Ex NZFS volunteers; see <https://www.facebook.com/exNZFS/posts/winchcombe-bivouac-returnsthis-week-the-exnzfs-team-got-the-all-new-winchcombe-b/1889181617926799/> and scroll down for a wonderful YouTube video.

In June a combined SWTC / MTC party inspected the new biv. and spent a night there. A report is at <http://swtc.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Neill-Winchcombe-crossing-10-12-June-2021.pdf>