

South Wairarapa Tramping Club

Newsletter for March 2022

www.swtc.org.nz

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

Club night:

Tuesday 8 March 7.30 pm

St John's Hall Main Street Greytown

Speaker: TBA

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

May: Ed & Juliet Cooke

Trip List

2021

Date	Destination	Trip coordinator	Phone	Fitness
20.2	Kakahi count	Renee.Mason@gw.govt.nz		
26.2				
5.3	Kaitoke – Tunnel Gully	Ian & Rosie Montgomerie	021 189 3863	M
12.3	Battle Hill	Barry Kempton	304 9353	M
19.3	TBA	Ed & Juliet Cooke	304 9497	

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.

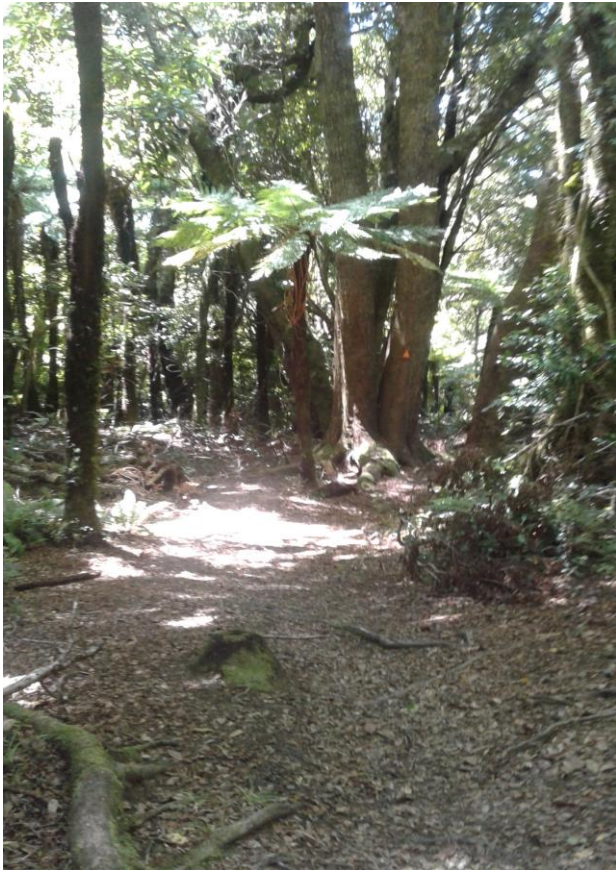
F **More fitness.** Some experience needed. May go off tracks. 6 – 8 hours walk per day.

FE **Fitness essential.** 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

MIKIMIKI 22 JANUARY



BIG RĀTĀ, 29 JANUARY

West of the Akatarawa Valley lies a 15,000 hectare tract of native and plantation forest. This Akatarawa Forest, managed by Greater Wellington Regional Council, is rich in logging history and well known to mountain-bikers who compete in the annual Karapoti Classic or ride the 4WD road that links Paraparaumu to Akatarawa.

South Wairarapa Tramping Club members have rarely penetrated the area, but did so on 29 January. Peter Harvey of Hutt Valley Tramping Club guided us from the end of Karapoti Road up a steep track following a spur west of the Little Akatarawa River. People with trail bikes, struggling to coax them up the hill, envied our Shanks' pony method. At about 500 metres the terrain levelled and the track—or tracks, for there were many—became less distinct, but Peter knew every turning. Parts of the route followed old logging tramways through bush cleared of big trees during the early 20th century, helping to build Wellington's many wooden houses.

At about noon we reached our goal, a northern rātā (*Metrosideros robusta*) believed to be 1100 years old. Probably the largest rātā in Aotearoa, it's 39 metres tall and has a girth of 15.4 metres, equalling that of Northland's famous Tāne Mahuta. The tree was discovered in 2008 and is estimated to be at least 1000 years old. It's one of the two largest recorded northern rātā; the other, of equal size, is also in the Akatarawa Forest, a little over four kilometres away in the Whakatikei catchment.

To return, we descended to the Little Akatarawa River and followed it for a kilometre and a half before climbing out on an easy gradient to rejoin our inward route.

Trampers were Ed Cooke, Juliet Cooke, Peter Harvey, Peter Law, Don McIlroy, Anne McIlroy, Bev Orchiston, Colin Orchiston, John Rhodes, Peter Thompson and Maggie Westergren.

