

South Wairarapa Tramping Club

Newsletter for April 2022

www.swtc.org.nz

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

Club night:

Tuesday 12 Apr 7.30 pm

St John's Hall Main Street Greytown

Speaker: Tutira tramping opportunities, historical aspects of Holdsworth tracks

Supper: (tea towel, milk and biscuits) Jennifer Pomeroy & Vicki Brooks

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:

May: Ed & Juliet Cooke

June: Bruce Eglinton

Trip List

2022

Date	Destination	Trip coordinator	Phone	Fitness
26.3	Atiwhakatu	Jennifer Pomeroy	027 483 4121	M
2.4				
9.4	TBA	Rosie & Ian Montgomerie	021 189 3892	
16.4				
23.4				
30.4	Winzenberg Track re-opening	John Rhodes	304 9095	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 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

HIDE AND SEEK ON THE OPOUAWE RIVER - AKA WHITE ROCK BANDED DOTTEREL PROJECT

26 – 27 FEB

Some SWTC members agreed to do a trap inspection journey, checking and rebaiting traps which protect the banded dotterel nests. After 2 members reneged, Team SWTC was down to just Ed and Juliet. They were given the 36 traps down the true right of the Opouawe River to seek out, and were provided with GPS positions, map, brief directions, the required tools, and a bag of meat pieces.

Team TTC (Tararua Tramping Club) members Gerald and David were given the same equipment, but had an unfair advantage - they were accompanied by Ranger Joe who knew the location of all the traps on the true left side of the river!

Team SWTC got behind, and almost lost in the swamp due to misleading directions for Trap 2. After retreating from the brink of the swamp they walked further down the riverbank, over a creek, and then managed to seek, find and check the next few traps, cunningly concealed at the base of trees in scrub, and up and down the banks. A stretch along the river was easier until No 9 couldn't be found - probably washed away by recent floods.

At lunch time Team SWTC at Trap 10 was disconcerted to learn over the radio that Team TTC was far ahead numerically.

After the willows and an area of flat open land, the quest became really difficult for Team SWTC. "Follow the sheep tracks" was the direction, but which to choose? Some traps were down near the river, and others high up. The terrain was steep, there were slips to negotiate, and by this time Juliet was afflicted by vertigo and threatening a sit down strike!

Fortunately David abandoned Team TTC, waded across the river, and came to assist Team SWTC. Armed with a superior GPS on his large screen phone, being very fit, and an experienced trap checker, the enhanced Team SWTC recovered, and reached the finish line just as Team TTC arrived.

Both teams recovered with a good meal and comfortable mattresses at the White Rock Shearers' Quarters. And possibly some hawks had a good meal off 3 dead rats and 23 hedgehogs!

Team TTC - Gerald Leather and David McNabb, Team SWTC - Ed and Juliet Cooke, and Trap Checking Instructor Ranger Joe Hansen.





A report of a recent joint SWTC / MTC trip in the southern Tararuas is at <http://swtc.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Quoin-Alpha-Elder-Feb.-2022.pdf>

John Rhodes

KAITOKE LOOP TRACK 5 MARCH

We welcomed two new trampers, Sam Farmer and Dianne Gates, at the Workingmen's Club. We set out on a beautiful morning, meeting at the start of the Kaitoke Loop Track on the old Kaitoke Road, finding the underpass to follow an open track to the Twin Lakes and stopping for a cuppa at Stuart McCaskill Lookout. The storage lakes were built in 1980 - 85, to store three million litres for the Wellington area. We headed down to Te Marua and crossed SH2 to a little walkway through to Plateau Road. We walked at the side the road to arrive at Tunnel Gully Recreation area. There were plenty of cars and bikes in the area. We stayed on Station Road turning left to return to our cars. We stopped for lunch alongside the track and many bikers whizzed past. Sam had said he thought there was a table and within 20 metres there was.

Great company and chats and lovely to be out in fresh surroundings. We were back at our cars by 1.15pm.

Fellow trampers today were Barry, Billy, Dianne, Ken, Liz and Chris, Robyn, Rosanne, Rosie, Sam, and Ian leader for the day.



BATTLE HILL PARK 12 MARCH

Most of the twelve trampers had coats in their packs when we left Greytown, we expected a few showers but none eventuated.

We sent off from the farm park headquarters, making our way past a large number of pony club enthusiasts who were having a full scale horse event.

Our plan for the day was to walk through to the Transmission Gully motorway and have a view of that part of the project complete with underpass. Some of our group had visited the area several years ago when the underpass just stood alone in the paddock with no embankment leading up to it. We stopped for smoko at a good vantage point en route.

Retracing our steps for a short distance had us on the blue marked track that lead us around a small wetland area, then shortly after we joined up with the red track that led us up towards Battle Hill where sign boards relayed the history of the fighting that took place in the area in 1846. It is worth a little research into the full story of this area.

We went back down to the car park for lunch. Afterwards we drove to Gray's Road where we parked and rounded off the day with a short walk around Motukaraka Point where a large number of American soldiers were encamped during 1942 -43 before going back to the fighting in the Pacific.

The participants were Rosanne Shailer, Jennifer Pomeroy, Billy Adair, Leslie Callaghan, Chris Crowe, Blair Crafar, Silvia Sze and Freddy Crafar, Ian and Rosie Montgomerie, Lynne King and Barry Kempton trip organiser.



UNOFFICIAL TRIP REPORT - TRAMPING AT TUTIRA

Six club members spent four nights recently staying at the Tutira Lodge Homestay, slightly north of Lake Tutira in Hawkes Bay. This is a great base for many walks both short and long, so we were spoilt for choice.

Tiny Lake Opouahi Reserve has a Kiwi Creche enclosed in predator fencing, where newly hatched chicks are raised until they weigh 900 g, after which they are released into the wild. We walked round the lake inside the fence, but as it was daylight we didn't hear or see kiwi.

At the Guthrie-Smith Arboretum the curator's wife told us how she and her husband had planted over 20,000 trees since 2002, grouped in countries. We wandered through Australia, China, Himalayas, Europe, Mexico, the Mediterranean and more, marvelling at the huge range of different trees, many completely unknown to us. We just got our international arboreal walk finished before the rain came.

The Lake Tutira Walkway was partly closed due to logging, so we made do with an excursion to a Maori pa site, and walks along part of Lake Tutira and around Lake Waikoporo, with beautiful views.

Shine Falls is Hawkes Bay's largest waterfall at 58 m high. The access track runs past castle-like limestone formations and through forest, before emerging at the foot of the falls. If we had been there in spring we would have seen lots of kowhai and kaka beak in flower.

Our last walk was the best, Bell Rock. We tramped up through dense bush, salmon-coloured fuschia bark gleaming in shafts of sunlight, and then further upwards onto open tussock slopes. We passed sandstone outcrops and tomos before reaching the spectacular Bell Rock. From the hilltops we had panoramic views towards Napier, Poverty Bay, Lake Tutira, and the hinterland of the Urewera.

Other tracks still remain for a future trip.

Those on the trip were Ian Bardsley, Pete & Ruth Graham, John Wilson, and Ed & Juliet Cooke.



Shine Falls



Holt Arboretum



Bell Rock

GENTLE ANNIE CREEK - OLD ROCKY LOOKOUT 19 MARCH

Last time the Club did this tramp, according to our records, was 29 May 2010. In our memory, the route up the creek then was a lot clearer than it is now, but of course it isn't a maintained DOC track. We crisscrossed the creek, seeking the best routes, ducking under or clambering over fallen trees. After an hour we reached a small stream coming in from our right, and a stone cairn confirming that this was the point for us to leave Gentle Annie behind and start climbing.

Our track upwards, while steep in places, was a lot more straightforward than the creek. We admired the sprawling rata, still in flower, and the royal blue berries of dianella nigra shining in the sunshine. (Some people wondered if they were edible: Wikipedia says birds eat the berries, but they are very bitter, and may be poisonous if eaten in large quantities.) As we gained height the forest trees gave way to subalpine varieties such as dracophyllum. After a height gain of about 438m we emerged into bright sunlight at Old Rocky Lookout. No beautiful wooden decking, but we made do with rocky seats and a view out to the plains for our lunch stop.

We had anticipated bushbashing at this point, but discovered that the old Mt Holdsworth track of our youth has been cleared, possibly as part of the pest trapping operation, but also by other trampers. We came down that track for a while before veering on to the current track.

To complete our trip away from populated areas, we took an old track descending to the Donnelly Flat Loop. John Rhodes advises that this was the original route up Mt Holdsworth, cut by Morgan Carkeek in about 1870. We got back to the cars feeling very satisfied after our approximately 6.79km 4 1/2 hour tramp.

Those on the trip were Billy Adair, Sam Farmer, Dianne Gates, Barry Kempton, Desiree Kortink, Chris & Gerald Leather, Rosie & Ian Montgomerie, Cushla Murphy, Roseanne Shailer, John Wilson, and Ed (leader) & Juliet (organiser) Cooke.



