

South Wairarapa Tramping Club

Newsletter for August 2023

www.swtc.org.nz

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Club night:

Tuesday 8 August 7.30 pm

Studio 73, Main Street Greytown

Speaker: Sue Teodoro on Walking the Camino - good and bad aspects.

Supper: (tea towel, milk and biscuits) Bruce and Mary Lambert

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:

October: David and Kay Bowie

November: Billy Adair

Membership for the next year is now due for the South Wairarapa Tramping Club Inc. \$55 for family or \$45 for single. Pay to our bank account at ANZ 01 0623 0044755 00

Thanks

Bruce Lambert

Treasurer.

Trip List

SWTC members are warmly invited to the Wairarapa Walking Festival Programme Launch on the 2nd September. The 2023 Festival is 10th - 19th November.

Tracey Higgins, Co-convenor of the 2023 Festival says "Walking benefits mind and body for all ages and abilities. Walking encourages connections with people and places."

Celia Wade-Brown, Co-convenor, and Founder, says "Wairarapa offers a host of wonderful walking experiences – from the Tararua Ranges to the wild coast. Our walks will include the popular Hurunui-o-Rangi Marae hīkoi, Go Carterton wine and olives, the Putangirua Pinnacles and new special interest walks."

The full Wairarapa-wide programme will be revealed at our launch on Saturday 2nd September. Everyone is welcome to join us at 2pm at the Carterton Events Centre.

At the launch, Ra Smith, Ngāti Kahungunu, will talk about early Māori walking explorers. Gareth Winter, from Wairarapa Archives, will talk about early European foot travellers. Pene Williams, Carterton District Historical Society, will introduce their new self-guided heritage walk.

After the launch, see <https://www.facebook.com/wairarapawalkingfestival> for booking details.

2023

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 are an indication of how tough it will be.

E **Easy.** Completely flat, no hills, 2 – 3 hours.

M **Moderate fitness.** Some hills, well formed tracks. 4-6 hours walk per day.

F **More fitness.** Steep hills, challenging tracks. May go off tracks. 6 – 8 hours walk per day.

Leaders: Please remember if you are unable to lead your trip it is your responsibility to find a replacement leader / trip.

Trip Reports

Two recent trips

On 2 July, Ross Anderson and Clive Baxter walked the Gentle Annie circuit with Masterton Tramping Club.

On 23 July, Chris Crowe ascended Mt Reeves with Masterton Tramping Club.

Photographs are at http://swtc.org.nz/?page_id=1751 (last two items)

Early SWTC history

August 2023

Recently John Rhodes received an email from Chris Bland, correcting John's explanation in the May newsletter about how the club came to have a collection of unused tramping gear.

Chris's account is a valuable record of the beginning of SWTC in 1980. A slightly abridged and edited version follows.

Hello John

You wrote, Younger members, i.e. those who have joined in only the last 30 years, may not remember our Founders, Roger Coventry and Chris Bland. Roger and Chris worked for the Featherston County, often discussed tramping at morning smokos and as a result founded our club in 1980. This was a perfect alliance, because Chris possessed unparalleled administrative skills and Roger knew about tramping. Roger and Chris created SWTC in the image of the Tararua Tramping Club (TTC). Not the TTC of 1980, but rather that of about 1955, when Roger was an active member.

This is slightly incorrect, and I felt that I should respond otherwise we will end up with another Treaty of Waitangi! God forbid.

In 1971, I was employed by the South Wairarapa Combined Health and Building Committee (SWCHBC), yes—that was the title. It comprised the Boroughs of Featherston (FBC) Greytown (GBC) and Martinborough (Mba) and the Featherston County (FCC). It was administered by Featherston County i.e. Bill Taylor, the County Engineer. Technically the County Clerk Norm Stanton was the CEO but as former batman in the army during WWII he was no match for the Engineer Squadron Leader WS Taylor RNZAF (I think). The county was referred to as Taylor County. In a way this was a godsend as I was taken under Bill's wing and versed in his engineering principles.

I should mention that the SWCHBC comprised six local authorities: the four already mentioned plus Carterton Borough and South Wairarapa County. To be honest they were not interested in proper inspection, just as long as they complied with the intent of inspection—with the exception of Bill Taylor.

So I was employed by the SWCHBC. But have you ever tried to get consensus between four local authorities? The 'seizing' of bread crates was a great example (dogs pissing on open crates of bread). Featherston County supported me 100%, MBC 80%, Greytown and Featherston 0%—their mayors operated food premises which I inspected (they were OK)

Anyway along came a new town clerk for Martinborough X2. The second one had great ideas of taking over all the others. He convinced Featherston Borough, and they eventually removed themselves from the scheme and employed a Vietnamese inspector for half the salary I was on, which was not high anyway.

When I took over the combination in 1971, I also took over from Ron Hood in Greytown for 2 or 3 days a week. I soon came to realise that for him and me to be covering the whole area for building inspection was not efficient, I did an analysis of work load. Using info from the previous year's financials I found that my predecessor's travelling time was more than a whole day a week, Ron's similar, so I reorganised it so that Ron did building for only Greytown and Featherston and I did building for the county (999 square miles with roads like octopus arms, i.e. no connection of road ends) This I think worked fine. It still took me 1 day to do 2 foundation inspections 4 km apart as the crow flies, but 150 miles by road, but I did lose some control over Ron; our standards were different, as I was working under Bill Taylor who expected engineering standards.

All the boroughs felt that I was a 'spy' of Bill Taylor - honestly, they thought he wanted to take them all over—may have been some truth in that.

When the Vietnamese guy left, they employed Roger Coventry, who as an ex health inspector from Taihape was looking to supplement his farm income. So Martinborough and Featherston Boroughs employed Roger. I also worked for Dave Flynn (Mayor of Featherston at that time, 1971) at the Greytown picture theatre as an assistant projectionist, from 1964 until it closed. He was the projectionist.

I won't go into all the other intricacies of the system, only that Greytown Borough stuck with the county though they initially wanted nothing kept at the county. However, I negotiated with Campbell Young the Town Clerk (I shared an interest in his book keeping of the financials of Greytown, which was a very good manual system, far better than that at Carterton that I was familiar with from several years previously), and possibly with Wayne Bunny who was Town Clerk after Campbell, and he smoothed over all that nonsense of spying.

Roger and I became friends through work and he used to come to our place for lunch when he was in Martinborough—that was when the SWTC was conceived (not biologically).

We were never employed at the same time by the County

I arranged the inaugural meeting of the club, which was held at the Featherston County office in the council room. The formation of the SWTC was done at a meeting at the residence of John and Ann Rhodes.

Roger may have been employed by FCC after I left—for health only, until they got Bronwyn Johnson ex Health Dept. P.N. I think that's how it went after 1984.

The ditching by Martinborough was most hurtful as they had unparalleled attention from me 24/7 (also clerk of works for flats and sewerage scheme).

Probably forming the Carterton AFFC in 1965 and being secretary /treasurer of that for 4 years was a good training ground.

I did keep copies of most of the minutes newsletters etc of both clubs and work things, until the floods of 2004 which took out 4 banana boxes and 3 out of 4 drawers of a filing cabinet of records.

Sorry it has been so long winded, but I have been meaning to document that for some time to get the facts down. It was very complicated partly due to my inexperience, perhaps?—and to the fact I could not talk - I had the stutter!

However perhaps the stutter was a blessing in disguise, because it enabled me to go about things in a roundabout way.

Chris Bland

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