

South Wairarapa Tramping Club

Newsletter for April 2026

www.swtc.org.nz

Club night:

Tuesday 14 Apr 7.30 pm

Cookes' house, 57 Wood Street

Speaker: Rosie and Ian Montgomerie on their trip from Darwin to Albany

Supper: (tea towel, milk and biscuits) Rosie and Ian Montgomerie
Supper box is kept in the store cupboard at Studio 73

For the next two meetings the roster is:

May: Bruce and Mary Lambert

June: David and Kay Bowie

Trip List

2026

Date	Destination	Trip Coordinator	Phone	Fitness
4.4	Dalefield Horse Riding Park	John Rhodes	304 9095	M
11.4	Belmont Regional Park with MTC	John Rhodes	304 9095	M
18.4	Somes Island	Hilary Ryan	027 446 9044	M
26.4 #	TBA	Stefan van Trig	021 293 6632	
2.5	Kaitoke Regional Park	Ross Anderson	021 59 7777	E

Sunday

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.

M **Moderate fitness.** Some hills, well formed tracks.

F **More fitness.** Steep hills, challenging tracks. May go off tracks.

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

Trip Reports

ROCKY LOOKOUT 31 JANUARY

Third time lucky! After having to postpone the trip twice, due to the weather and other commitments, eight of us, plus a dog, set off on a beautiful day. The carpark was nearly full when we arrived, indicating just how popular this area is. The track was in good condition but there was plenty of evidence of previous storm damage, with large trees toppled.

We arrived at the lookout to be met with stunning views across the valley. Another traveller kindly offered to take a photo of our group, before we settled down for a welcome cuppa.

Thanks to Ed & Juliet Cooke, Barry Kempton (and Sioux), John Wilson, Ross Anderson and Jane Lenting, who joined Liz & Chris Crowe for the trip.



RIMUTAKA SUMMIT TO ABBOT'S CREEK 7 MARCH

Three people plus a dog enjoyed a 4.5 hour tramp on a beautiful sunny day with terrific views over both Maymorn and the Wairarapa as well as the Tararuas.

There were quite a few windfalls from the recent storm with some big old moss covered trees across the track which we circumvented without too much difficulty.

Those participating were - Stuart Hammond (leader), Hillary Ryan, Paul Hendy and Lulu (the dog).



ATIWHAKATU HUT 14 MARCH

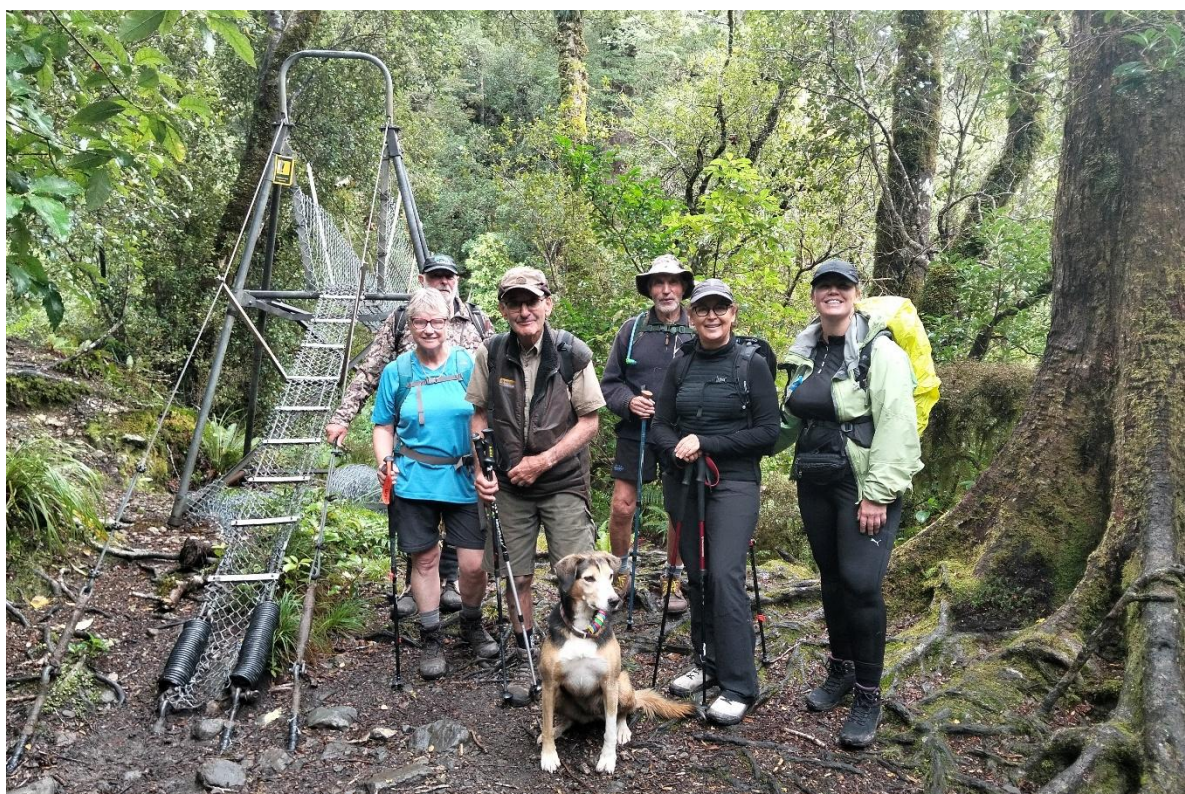
We left Holdsworth car park at 9:30 with raincoats on to Donnelly's Flat. We stopped there and Barry talked about the table and the shelter that had been damaged by a tree.

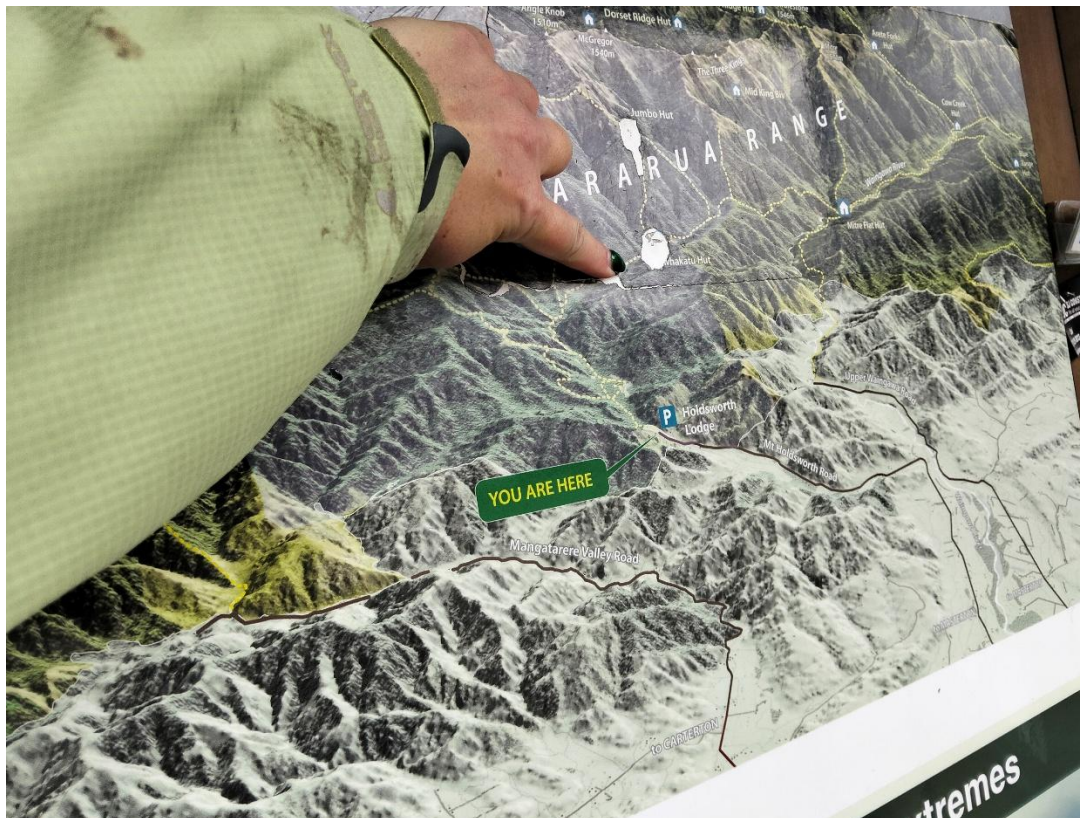
We carried on for about another half an hour and everyone was getting hot so they took their raincoats off.

On the way up the track we met some people who had stayed the night at the hut. There were some big trees that had gone over in the big wind. Barry took his dog Sioux who behaved well and met some new friends on the track.

I was wondering how the slip on the track was after that wind and rain and how bad it would be. It was worse than the last time I crossed it, a lot bigger. We managed to get over it without falling over and headed off to the hut, arriving around 12 o'clock. We had lunch and a half an hour break. A few other people turned up. We all put our packs on and headed back to the car park getting back around 2.30 that afternoon, all safe and happy.

Barry Kempton, Chris and Liz Crowe, Katie Harrison, Marysia Depczynski, Ian Montgomerie, leader Neil Johnstone





CROSS CREEK FARM 21 MARCH

Cross Creek is the site of the Magnificat Community (<https://www.magnificat.org.nz/retreat-centre/>), operated by a charitable trust that provides facilities for retreats and conferences. Former SWTC member Vince Monk manages the surrounding 26 hectare road farm, which is owned by the trust.

Starting at the car park for the Rimutaka Incline trail, Vince led us across the farm to a south-facing gully clad in regenerating bush. We then followed an overgrown logging track to a point about 180 metres above Lake Wairarapa. The track is part of a network that will offer good walking opportunities if we clear it.

Returning to the paddocks below, we followed the line of the former Rimutaka railway through the farm towards the site of the Cross Creek settlement, then climbed a short way up the hill to the north to visit a hut tucked in the bush, where we lunched.

Many thanks to Vince for his time and guidance. Other participants were Jenny Bradley (MTC), Ed Cooke, Juliet Cooke, Barry Kempton, Ian Montgomerie, Neil Johnstone, John Rhodes and Ingrid Ward.

Photos are at <https://swtc.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Cross-Creek-Farm-2026.03.21.pdf>

CARTERTON BIKE TRIP 28 MARCH

We left Danske Close Carterton at 9.30 to bike around the corner to meet the rest of the bikers. Leaving there we went through the subdivision, down Brooklyn Road then turned into Mannings Road which took us to Belvedere Road. We stopped there to let everyone catch up.

We biked up to Fensham and two riders turned right to miss Carrington Hill (one was riding a push bike, the rest of us were riding electric bikes). The rest of us went up over Carrington Hill and met up with the

others on the way back. It was easy biking back down hill to Wild Oats for a coffee etc. Someone's was a cream bun with jam on top.

At one of our stops Barry had a short Nana nap and at another stop by a bridge, there was a sign with an arrow saying Troll - he should have stopped there!

Great crew of 11, Ross Anderson, Jen & Bob Pomeroy, Lesley Callaghan, Barry Kempton, David Bowie, Ian & Rosie Monty, Neil Johnston, Marysia Depczynski and leader Bruce Lambert.