

South Wairarapa Tramping Club

Newsletter for July 2026

www.swtc.org.nz

Club night:

Tuesday 14 July 7.30 pm

Studio 73, Main Street, Greytown

Speaker: Unfortunately we don't have a speaker this month. Just talk amongst yourselves, or find a good story to tell (or make one up).

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

For the next two meetings the roster is:

August: Juliet & Ed Cooke

September: Rosie & Ian Montgomerie

Annual subscriptions are now due. The rates are the same as in previous years, \$45 for single and \$55 for family membership..

Please make your remittance to our bank account - ANZ 010623 0044755 00.

Thank you

John

027 557 2873

Trip List

2026

Date	Destination	Trip Coordinator	Phone	Fitness
4.7	Somes Island	Hilary Ryan	027 446 9044	M
11.7	Near Martinborough	Ruth & Peter Graham	027 445 0882	M
18.7	Masterton trails	Liz & Chris Crowe	021 152 6240, 021 213 6747	M
25.7	Bike Ride	Bruce & Mary Lambert	021 0857 5654	M
1.8	Mt Dick	Ingrid Ward	021 264 8343	M

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

SOUTHERN WALKWAY, WELLINGTON 24 MAY

With low cloud hanging over Wairarapa, eight trampers drove to Upper Hutt and took a train to sunny Wellington. After walking around the waterfront—among many others enjoying the day—we had morning tea at Te Papa.

A temporary separation ensued, but six reassembled on Mt Victoria and completed the mostly downhill walk to Houghton and Island Bays. A double-decker bus returned us to the railway station where we entrained, to rejoin our two companions at Upper Hutt.

Nigel Boniface, Brenda Blatchford, Jenny Bradley, Laura Hopkins, Mike Hopkins, Ian Montgomerie, Josh Oakly, John Rhodes (Masterton TC and SWTC)

Photos are at <https://swtc.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/2026-05-24-Wellington-Southern-Walkway.pdf>

MT DICK 30 MAY

Five of us drove to the Carterton Mountain Bike club carpark. Leaving the car there, we walked back 200m to the start of the mountain bike track. Luckily there had been no rain for three weeks, so the clay track was dry and firm underfoot. The track is wide and rutted, quite steep in places, but not a difficult walk. Some good views along the way. 75 mins brisk walking and we arrived at the lookout at the top of Mt Dick for a welcome break and morning tea. We spent 30 to 40 minutes at the top admiring the view. The day was still and clear, and we had views down to Cook Strait. Thanks to John R for pointing out and naming all the peaks. We descended down the forest road which was almost down to bare rock. Only one lone runner was making her way up, and there were no bikers on the trail either. A little surprising for a long weekend, and such a sunny, dry day.

Participants were Lesley Callaghan, Peter Ammunson (possible new recruit from Featherston who found our website), Ross Anderson, John Rhodes and John Wilson.

Credit for the photos goes to John Rhodes - they are much, much better than mine.

Lesley

<https://swtc.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/2026.05.30-Mt-Dick.pdf>

HUTT RIVER 7 JUNE

As Saturday was raining we did this walk on the Sunday. Five of us arrived at the Silverstream car park, and headed for the loo, only to find it occupied. After about ten minutes we checked that all was OK with

the occupier of the loo and were told that he would take as long as he needed. We decided that he was probably a homeless person who had spent the night there! Fortunately there were bushes....

We crossed the Hutt River on the new, beautiful, Whakawhirinaki pipe bridge, and headed downstream, around the edge of the very long Manor Park golf course, through Manor Park, and had morning tea beside the rail bridge. We wondered how people could possibly paint graffiti on the sides of the very high bridge – a long extension ladder, or lying on the rail track and reaching down??

We walked on, and on, could we possibly have passed the Kennedy Good bridge without noticing it? However, we arrived there eventually, crossed over the river, and ate lunch in Avalon Park, amid, it seemed, hundreds of small children riding trikes and bikes round “race tracks”. Lynne joined us for lunch and rode beside us for the next kilometre or so.

The route back up the eastern side of the river seemed endless, we were all on automatic, one foot after the other, and it was a relief when we got back to Barry’s ute. 18.31km on mostly hard sealed paths meant that most of us were stiff and sore the next day. Time taken 5.5 hours.

Those on the walk were Barry Kempton, Jenny Bradley and Brenda Blatchford from MTC, and Ed & Juliet Cooke (co-ordinators).





BARRA TRACK 20 JUNE

Saturday was overcast but an OK forecast. Five of us headed out from Masterton. While talking I drove to the end of the road past the entrance to the track - what a leader's mistake. By this time misty rain clouds were getting closer. The water in the Waingawa River was so clear and inviting, great for a summer swim but too cold today. Entering the bush gave us a sense of shelter from the misty rain. We took a break for morning tea at the stile over the fence then a little more rain. The track was by now a little more difficult with slips and drop outs slowing progress. At 11.15 we decided a retreat was the best option, and make it back to the road shelter for a late lunch. An enjoyable day out thanks to Ingrid, Jacqueline, Josh, Peter and Ian.



