

South Wairarapa Tramping Club

Newsletter for April 2024

www.swtc.org.nz

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Club night:

Tuesday 9 April 7.30 pm

Studio 73, Main Street Greytown

Speaker: John Wilson, trip to Antarctica

Supper: (tea towel, milk and biscuits) Juliet & Ed Cooke

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: Bruce Eglinton

June: Barry Kempton

Trip List

2024

Date	Destination	Trip coordinator	Phone	Fitness
4.5	Boar Bush to Gully to Finis working party with Tararua TC	John Rhodes	304 9095	F

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

MIKIMIKI TO KIRIWHAKAPAPA RETURN 23 MARCH

Five enthusiastic trampers meet at 8.30am in Greytown and travelled in two cars to Mikimiki Road north of Masterton, arriving at the carpark at the start of the track. It is noted to take the left hand track at the fork in the road, signposted Tararua Forest Park.

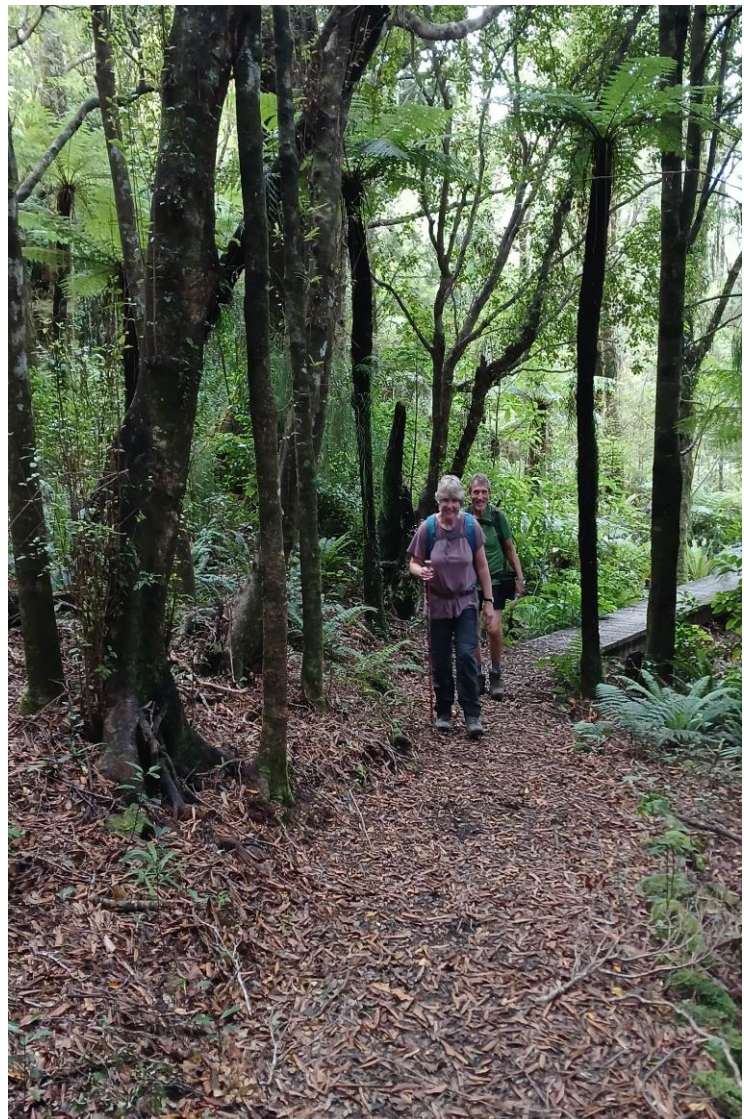
The initial open track was full of sunshine and was a nice start to the quite cool morning. At 10am we stopped for a cuppa in a sunny spot. Great chat along with a cuppa.

The track was quite muddy in places. Liz had her boot and stick stuck for a brief moment. It made for much cautiousness in getting through or around these areas. We came across several fallen trees, two still blocking the track, so we climbed over or around these giant trees.

We reached the shelter at Kiriwhakapapa for lunch in the sunshine just after noon. On our return we included the Loop Track, past the huge redwoods, and this brought us back to the main track. We heard and saw fantails, Tui and Kereru but alas no sleeping Ruru.

The hill climb always seems steeper from this end and we had several wee stops to get our breath back. We were back at the carpark at 3.45, so about three hours each way, including breaks. Well done fellow trampers, Chris and Liz Crowe, Ross Anderson and Rosie and Ian Montgomerie Trip Leader.





Link to a trip, from John Rhodes

<https://swtc.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Tongariro-northern-circuit-Feb.-20-23-2024-3.pdf>

Photo from John – story to follow in the May newsletter. Any idea where it is?



Here's a record of a trip Ken Stokes did with his two grandsons:

The tramp started on the Mt Ross DOC track and ended at the Ngapotiki coastline. It took 4 days and 37 hours of off track plus Mt Ross track 4 hours.

I will not go into too much detail apart from: a hail storm, an unmarked hunters hut and track, strong wind on Mt Barton and some retracing of our steps.

The route from Mt Ross follows the ridge south and dropped into a saddle between the Pararaki stream and Poley stream. We mistakenly camped in a stream west of the ridge, then south to Kaiwhiri, a hard turn to the east dropped us into saddle below 422 and camp. Up to 422 south to Ngapotiki very tight bush with minor knobs to 735, 900, then Hunters Track through sub alpine scrub to 906. We camped in the saddle below Mt Barton. Strong wind meant we took down the fly at 3am. Next morning along the Mt Barton ridge past Frog Tarn to point 800 dropping east down the spur with the northern slip to the very dry and hot coast with only sips of water left. We had to find water either side of each saddle. We went to the Martinborough Brewery where Greg works and drank 4 carafes of water. The streams were all dry.

I will not be doing this trip again it is off my bucket list now. Grandsons coped well. Raven is a leader in the air cadets and Evelyn has been doing trips in the Tararuas. We shared the route finding and navigation and made collective decisions.

We saw a few human marks mostly around Ngapotiki ridge north but nowhere else. It is possible that we are the first, but maybe Forest Service hunters did bits?

