

# South Wairarapa Tramping Club

## Newsletter for October 2024

[www.swtc.org.nz](http://www.swtc.org.nz)

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*Club night:*

Tuesday 8 October 7.30 pm

**Cookes, 57 Wood Street**

*Speaker:* Ed and Juliet on their campervan trip Perth to Adelaide

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

For the November meeting the roster is Jennifer Pomeroy and Vicki Brooks

### ***Trip List***

2024

<b>Date</b>	<b>Destination</b>	<b>Trip coordinator</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Fitness</b>
5.10	Cycling Rimutaka rail trail Kaitoke to summit & return	Bruce & Mary Lambert	379 6106	M
<b>13.10</b> *	Ahumairangi Wadestown Hill through to Botanic Gardens and return to Wellington station	Rosie & Ian Montgomerie	021 189 3862	M
19.10	Finis track work	John Rhodes	304 9095	
26.10	Walking Rimutaka rail trail from both ends with car key swap	Hilary & Jeff Ryan	027 446 9044	M
2.11	Gentle Annie circuit	Bruce Clay	027 237 2080	M

\*Sunday trip. Meet in Greytown at 8 am, drive to Upper Hutt station, train through to Wellington and reverse after the walk. Hillside walk with a bit of flat, bring morning tea and lunch, can be windy so be prepared. Gold card for those old enough.

***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***

### RIMUTAKA RIDGE TRACK 17 AUGUST

Despite the forecasted strong winds and rain for the ridge track area, five members of the SWTC left from Greytown for the Rimutaka summit, at a slightly earlier than usual departure time in an attempt to stay ahead of the forthcoming weather.

The walk began around 8.30, initially through patches of limited visibility, steady drizzle and occasional white-out. However, the temperature stayed remarkably mild throughout.

Evidence of recent track clearing was encountered along the ridge until we entered the beech canopy.

After a morning tea break, we carried on until emerging onto the pylon track at the two hour mark.

A discussion en-route had culminated in the decision that the group would separate at this point; three descending the pylon track to the Abbott's Creek bridge entrance whilst the other two returned to the vehicle and then driving down to collect the rest of the party.

Weather conditions had greatly improved at this stage, so we successfully carried out this plan. The day's outing concluded around 1.30pm.

Thanks to Ian Montgomerie, John Rhodes, Barry Kempton and Bruce Clay.

### RAPAKI FARM 31 AUGUST

In the two and a half years since the last SWTC walk around the Rapaki Farm, many changes have taken place. The farm is under new ownership, it is currently leased to a local farmer and a subdivision has been approved to divide it into more than 30 4 hectare lifestyle blocks.

There were eight of us who headed off up the Rapaki Track from Shooting Butts Road, and very soon came across new fencing, cleared waterways and preparation for future plantings. We followed the track up past the dam, now massively denuded of surrounding vegetation (and no sign of the resident chooks, but we did spy one peacock!), before stopping for a breather at Ineke's memorial seat to admire the view. At the top of the hill we veered off the track and went south down the ridge, looking for a sheltered spot to get out of the wind and have morning tea. No luck that way so we went back along the ridge to the north towards the trees. Still no shelter, but we were able to admire the vastly increased vineyard plantings in the Te Muna Valley below us. Eventually after crossing several paddocks and taking a route known only to the leaders we stopped for morning tea in a sheltered grove surrounded by olive, citrus and fruit trees. (If you want a new lifestyle block this is the one to go for!). It transpired that a few necessary things had been left behind - a thermos of soup and a "...stove - which is very small & new, easily overlooked and left in a pannier ..."

We walked through a few more paddocks and past the farm yards arriving back where we started at midday. A short but most enjoyable walk with Jane and Victor Lenting, Ed and Juliet Cooke, Barry Kempton, John Rhodes and Pete and Ruth Graham (leader for the day). Photos by John Rhodes.

## 7 SEPTEMBER

The tramp went ahead for keen trampers Barry, Ian, Bruce, Neil and Barry's 🐶 The weather wasn't too bad, not cold but windy. We left the car park at 9.00 and headed up the track to a reasonable height and had a bit of a view out the eastern side. We could see somebody had been up there cutting the trees and scrub off the track, there was still a bit of blackberry vine to watch out for but overall it wasn't too bad. Barry and Ian went at their pace. Bruce and I were ahead and we got to 505 and sat and waited for them to catch up.

The wind was getting stronger. We carried on for another 15 or so minutes and Barry said he wasn't enjoying it. The wind was quite strong so we decided to head back.

