

South Wairarapa Tramping Club

Newsletter for April 2025

www.swtc.org.nz

Club night:

Tuesday 8 April 7.30 pm

Cookes' house, 57 Wood Street

Speaker: Rebecca Kempton will be doing a presentation on her recent trip to the Karamea region where her group went caving in the Megamania cave network (only first discovered in 1994 and further surveyed in 2015) within Kahurangi National Park. They were flown by helicopter approximately 23km up the Gunner River to start their adventure. Rebecca's group was guided by some of NZ's top caving guides, slept underground for 3 days/2 nights, explored caves that took them to 100 metres deep and got up close and personal with NZ's largest spider and moa bones.

Supper: (tea towel, milk and biscuits) Rosie & Ian Montgomerie
Please pass the supper box to the next person on the roster

For the next two meetings the roster is:

May – Bruce and Mary Lambert

June – David & Kay Bowie

Our Treasurer, Bruce Lambert, is giving up the job at the end of this financial year, after over 20 years of being Treasurer.

The club is in a good financial position and the job will not take up much of your time.

This is a great way of giving something back to our club by way of a small amount of your time.

He is quite happy to give assistance to the new Treasurer.

Contact Bruce on 027 379 6106 Phone or Txt

Trip List

April 2025

Date	Destination	Trip Coordinator	Phone	Fitness
5.4	Winzenberg Hill	Bruce Clay	027 237 2080	F
12.6	Norbert's Track & Golden Road, Kaitoke Regional Park	Stuart Hammond	04 526 7224	F
19.6	Smith Creek Waterfall	John Rhodes *	304 9095	F
26.4	Guided walk with Kathy Ombler at Ōtari-Wiltons Bush	John Rhodes *	304 9095	M
3.5	Baring Head	Ross Anderson	021 597 777	F

If you wish to go on a trip, please let the organiser know by the Thursday prior.

- Preferably reply to John by email rhodesja@xtra.co.nz

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

WINZENBERG HILL TRACK WORK 1 MARCH

Ross Anderson, Chris Crowe and John Rhodes (at first also with Bruce Clay, who had to depart early) cleared some of the vegetation that has regrown along the track since its official opening in April 2022. The weather had been hot, but a westerly breeze on the hill made the work pleasant. The orchid *Earina autumnalis* was flowering in abundance.

More work is needed, but the track is now clear enough to walk to the summit.





MIKIMIKI -KIRIWHAKAPAPA 8 MARCH

Six of us, plus Sioux the dog, set off at 9:20am from the Mikimiki end of the tramp. We enjoyed morning tea just before the river crossing. This was a great spot to stop, as the bank provided a perfect seating area.

We arrived at Kiriwhakapapa at noon, where we had a relaxed lunch in the seating area. Set off just before 12:30pm and included the 'loop' on the way back.

The weather was perfect for a long tramp. The forecasted rain arrived on our return trip but was only a brief, light shower.

The up-hill on the return trip was a bit of a slog for some of us but we arrived back at our cars bang on 3pm. According to the signage, we had walked 15.6 kilometres. The only casualty was Liz when a wasp hitched a ride and stung her twice through her trousers!

Many thanks to the club members who accompanied us - Ian Montgomerie, Barry Kempton, John Wilson & Ross Anderson. Leaders: Liz & Chris Crowe







HUTT RIVER BIKE TRIP 15 MARCH

Five of us did the ride. Mary, Bruce, Bob and I met in Greytown and Ross joined us at Moonshine bridge carpark.

We rode down the true left bank, apart from a small deviation where the track is closed, to Petone. We had our lunch and then rode back along the true right side. A track I enjoy.

The weather was warm and sunny but with a north wester which occasionally caught us with strong gusts.

An enjoyable 42 km ride.

The second photo is of the water pipe and bridge being built across the river at Silverstream. It has been under construction for ages! By Wellington Water!!

Leader Jennifer (with Bob).





PIRINOA / POUNUI 22 MARCH

There were eleven of us who assembled in Martinborough to have a look at two areas south of Martinborough. Good calm sunny day and not too hot.

The first was a walk around a hill archaeological site on private land near Pirinoa, described in the book *“Wairarapa Moana - the lake and its people”* by Christine Barnett as a *“ring-ditch pā form with rectangular storage pits. It has a double ditch and bank sequence clearly related to protecting food stores as well as people”*. It was interesting to try and work out which were the kūmara (or maybe potato?) pits, which indentations formed part of the perimeter ditches, and where the palisades would have been. We put our imaginations to work trying to think what life might have been like in the early 1800s at this spot. Also – it was a great view from this elevated location!

The second was a look at wetlands at the southern part of Western Lake Road. We walked past the Pounui Lagoons to the area where the Ruamāhanga River meets Lake Ōnoke. This walk was along stop banks, and you could see that the water was kept at different levels at the wetlands and in adjacent farmland. The pump was operating while we were there. Sadly, no Australasian bittern <https://www.nzbirdsonline.org.nz/species/australasian-bittern> wanted to be spotted that day.



from Pounui Lagoons looking back towards the western side of the valley



Double ditch structure at the Pirinoa archeological site



Where the Ruamāhanga meets Lake Ōnoke

CARTERTON BIKE RIDE 29 MARCH

Eight of us left our place at 9.30 am, Rosie and Ian and Barry biked up from Greytown and met us here as well. It was a great day, nice and sunny and no wind, and we reached the end of Taumata Rd at about 10.30am. We passed another group of cyclists coming back from Taumata road end.

We stopped in the sun and had morning tea and watched a few hang gliders taking off from the Forman Jury Road off the Ponatahi Road.

On the way back Rosie and Ian and Barry said goodbye to us at the turnoff to Riverside Road and continued to SH2 and home.

We continued on up to Park Road and to the roundabout on Main Street, went across to Belvedere Road and down to Lincoln Road and then along to Charles Street, arriving home about 11.40am. A lovely morning's bike ride enjoyed by all.

Ross Anderson, Barry Kempton, Rosie and Ian Montgomerie, Jen and Bob Pomeroy and Mary and Bruce Lambert organisers for the day.



