

South Wairarapa Tramping Club

Newsletter for October 2025

www.swtc.org.nz

Club night:

Tuesday 14 Oct 7.30 pm

Cookes' house, 57 Wood Street

Speaker: Jenney Dey, a professional photographer from Martinborough

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

For the next two meetings the roster is:

November: Bruce & Mary Lambert

December: David & Kay Bowie

Trip List

2025

Date	Destination	Trip Coordinator	Phone	Fitness
4.10	Putangirua Pinnacles	Barry Kempton	027 430 5935	M
11.10	Murray's Track	Stefan van Trig	021 293 6632	?
18.10	Kaitoke ridge track	Jane Lenting	021 0257 8799	F
25.10 *	Wellington cable car, Cable Car Museum, Botanic Gardens, Begonia House, Bolton Street Cemetery	transport coordinator needed train Upper Hutt		M
1.11	Norbert Creek circuit with MTC	Stuart Hammond	04 526 7224	F

- If you are willing to coordinate transport for this trip please 'Reply all' to this email so that members will know whom to contact if they wish to go.

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

WESTERN LAKE / CORNER CREEK 30 AUG

Four of us met at the Workingmen's Club at 9.00 - Ingrid Ward, Barry Kempton, John Wilson and Ross Anderson.

The walk started at 10 am at Wharekauhau River. The weather was fine with a clear sky and a strong wind gusting 20 - 40 knots est. We had morning tea at 1000am at Corner Creek after observing a burnt out bach on the way.

There was a head wind on the way to Corner Creek - Centennial MukaMuka Covenant Memorial. The track then deviates to the beach due to slips.

1230 lunch on the track with strong winds and sea spray making for gravel sandwiches.

We returned home via the foreshore to avoid climbing over slips back to Corner Creek- Wharekauhau with a helpful tail wind. The walk was enjoyed by all.

REWA BUSH 20 SEP

Nine of us had a wonderful experience at Rewa Bush Conservation Area on a glorious calm and sunny day! Hidden inside Ngāumu Forest, the reserve has only recently become accessible to the public again after approximately 25 years. Entry is along a Public Access Easement which is normally open but can be closed for operational reasons.

We met up with two Friends of Rewa Bush, farmers Pat and Julia Ryan, at the intersection of the Masterton-Stronvar and Puketiritiri Roads, and drove from there in the Ryans' vehicles and Barry's Ute.

Once inside Ngāumu Forest, we proceeded with some difficulty in places, due to log trucks tearing up the road, before we reached the reserve.

Rewa Bush was shown as a "Conservation Area" in 1924 when the forest was looked after by the Forest Service, and was later taken over by DOC. The Ryans have been exploring Rewa Bush for several years and recently discovered remnants of an old track (probably the original access into the reserve), with steps, bridges, and surprisingly well-preserved identification signs on trees, all possibly dating back to the 1960s. We walked the route of this old track, which the Ryans have marked with orange flagging tape.

Then, after a difficult about turn, we were driven to another area where we walked out along a ridge, and lunched in patchy sunlight, listening to our first shining cuckoo of the season, along with grey warblers and bellbirds. After lunch we descended steeply, past an enormous cabbage tree, and entered an area of tall rewarewa, with lots of loops of supplejack making progress difficult. A fallen matai had left a bare space which was being colonised by baby matai, lancewood and others. Finally, we looped back up the hill to find ourselves back at the vehicles. It was a great introduction to a very small section of the 1200-hectare Rewa Bush.

Many thanks to Julia and Pat for giving up their time to show us through some of the Rewa Bush, and for providing so much information.

Those on the tramp were Peter and Ruth Graham, new club member Katie Harrison, Stuart Hammond, Barry Kempton, Ingrid Ward, John Wilson, and Ed and Juliet Cooke, co-ordinators.







SKYLINE WALKWAY, WELLINGTON 14 SEP

Combined walk with Masterton TC

Consultation of weather forecasts during the week led to running the trip on Sunday to avoid gale westerlies, but with risk of chilliness as the air flow turned to the south.

To minimise CO₂ emissions, avoid parking problems and eliminate the need for a car shuttle, we used public transport from Upper Hutt.

From Karori West we walked up Makara Road to morning tea at the shelter where the walk began. A brisk, cold southerly on the ridges failed to deter many other walkers, runners and mountain bikers, out for their weekly exercise fix.

Cloud restricted views, but we could see the harbour and city, the Makara wind farm, and (just) the South Island. Ahead, the TV transmission mast on Mt Kaukau grew slowly closer. A grassy depression in the lee of the ridge made a sheltered lunch spot.

From Kaukau, rather than continuing to Johnsonville in the wind we descended to Khandallah Park and its nearby café. Two swift train journeys returned us to Upper Hutt.

Thanks to Nigel and Ross for car transport and to Karen for chocolate chip cookies.

Photos are at <https://swtc.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/2025-09-14-MTC-SWTC-Skyline-Walkway.pdf>

Ross Anderson, Nathan Ball, Nigel Boniface, John Rhodes, Karen Serjeantson (guest) and Simona Savickait (visiting from Lithuania).

MASTERTON TRAILS 27 SEP

Juliet, Barry and myself set off from the Akura Road entrance to the Waipoua River section of the Masterton trails. We then headed up Totara Road to the Lansdowne trails at Fourth Street. Morning tea was by the bug hotels with a view of the Tararuas.

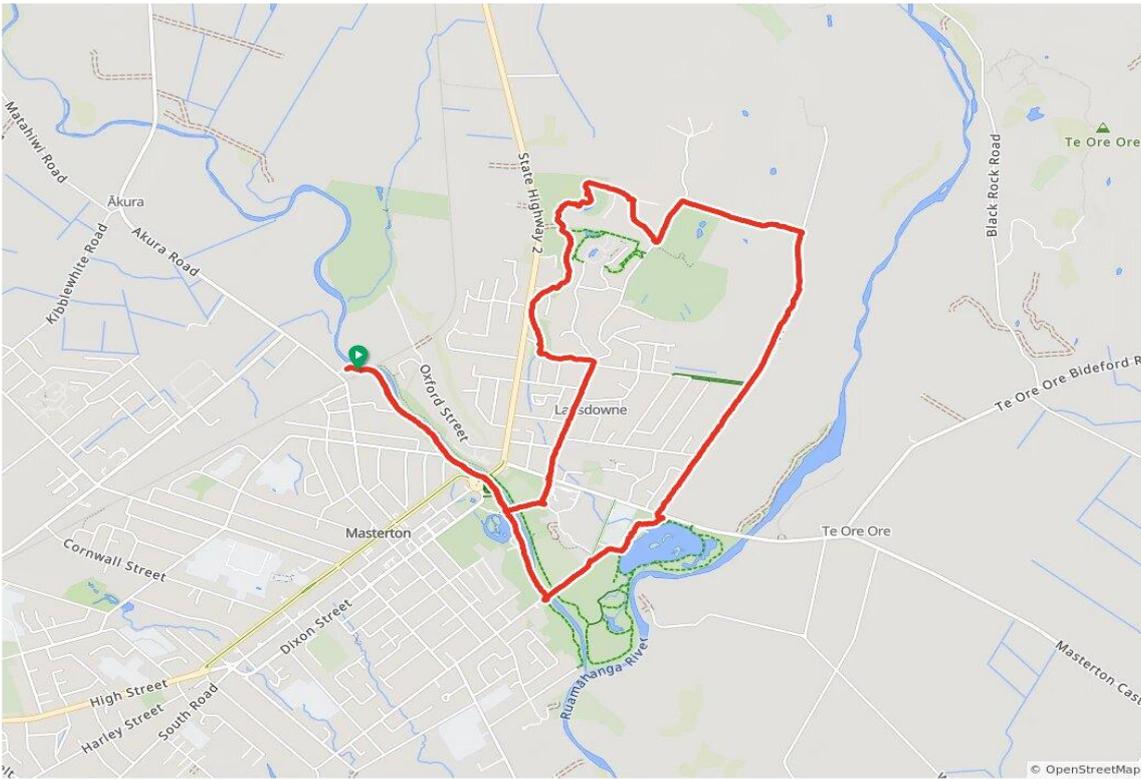
We then continued around the trail and strode confidently up the short incline to Milford Downs. Turning left, then headed down to Nikau Heights and Gordon Road, noting how much residential development there has been in the area over the last 3-4 years.

We then headed past Lake Henley to Colombo Road, where we rejoined the Waipoua River back to our cars.

It was a lovely and sunny and plenty of walkers enjoying a warm spring day. Barry counted 13 dogs and we heard one bull frog.

As can be seen from the map, we walked 13 kilometres at an average pace of 5.1 km per hour.





13.0 km
DISTANCE

136 m
ELEVATION GAIN

2 h 32 m
MOVING TIME

