

South Wairarapa Tramping Club

Newsletter for December 2025

www.swtc.org.nz

Club night:

Tuesday 9 Dec 7.30 pm

Cookes' house, 57 Wood Street

Speaker: John Wilson on his recent trip to Camino de Santiago

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

Trip List

2025

Date	Destination	Trip Coordinator	Phone	Fitness
6.12	Lower Waiohine Track	John Wilson	027 557 2873	M
13.12	Rocky Lookout	Liz and Chris Crowe	021 152 6240	M
20.12	Rata Ridge	Ian Montgomerie	021 0237 4092	M
3.1	Putangirua Pinnacles	Barry Kempton	027 430 5935	M
11.1#	Rimutaka Incline with MTC	John Rhodes	06 304 9095	M
17.1	Near Martinborough	Ruth & Peter Graham	027 445 0882	M
24.1	trip required			
31.1	trip required			
7.2	Korokoro dam loop	John Rhodes	06 304 9095	M

Sunday

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

BUCKS ROAD 8 NOVEMBER

We left the cars at 9 am, headed into the bush and followed the track up. On the way we had some good views of the river. We headed on to the turn off that takes you down to the Tauherenikau River.

The track and the bush were very dry. On the way down we come across a couple of creeks that were a little bit challenging because the water had washed quite a bit of the path away.

The last thirty or forty metres down to the river had some steps but the rain has washed around them and they're quite big steps so it was a little bit tricky. Time for a cuppa and a bit of a rest for 15 or 20 minutes, then we headed back to the car park arriving at 12 pm. The weather was perfect.

Those on the tramp were Ed, Juliet, Ross, Stuart and Neil.







TE AHU A TURANGI MANAWATU GORGE HIGHWAY 16 NOV

Six of us arrived at the western end of the new highway, and managed to find spaces for our two cars in the very full carpark. After queuing for the loo and looking at the route map, we started our walk by crossing the Manawatu River on the beautiful curving Parahaki bridge. There are many information panels on the bridge and at intervals along the shared walking and cycling track, covering Maori history and legend, details of the route design and how they dealt with the many small streams in the area by creating wetlands.

Thousands of flax, toi toi, manuka, grasses and other plants line the sides of the road and track, mostly still quite small. The rock faces have been coated with Pro-Granite, a sprayed medium that encourages vegetation growth, secured with netting to hold the surface while vegetation establishes. It all looks pretty good now, but will eventually be quite beautiful and bushy.

The views along the track are stunning, but overall the hard walking surface, traffic noise and lack of any toilet (or big enough bushes!) en route detracted from our enjoyment, and meant the track is far more suited to cyclists than walkers. Nevertheless, there were quite a few other walkers, including a group from the Whanganui Tramping Club.

We walked past the halfway point, had lunch and returned to the cars after an 11.41 walk, with an ascent of about 356m, duration just under four hours. It was a hot day, and we were very pleased to discover a small café selling coffees and icecreams!

Those on the walk were Liz and Chris Crowe, Ruth and Peter Graham and Juliet and Ed Cooke, coordinators.







OTARI -WILTONS BUSH 30 NOVEMBER

After a few emails requiring leaders for a trip, Ian and Ed decided on an Otari walk. As it panned out, just the four of us met at the northern entrance off Churchill Drive at 10am. The car park was full and we parked on a grass verge.

Signage is very good as there are many trails throughout this great reserve. Plenty of information booklets too. There are 100 hectares of forest, made up of original and regenerating podocarp forest. We made our way to the Troupe Picnic Lawn, a very sheltered picnic area with seating, loo and a shelter surrounded by beautiful bush. A man practising Tai Chi looked very relaxing, as we enjoyed our cuppa.

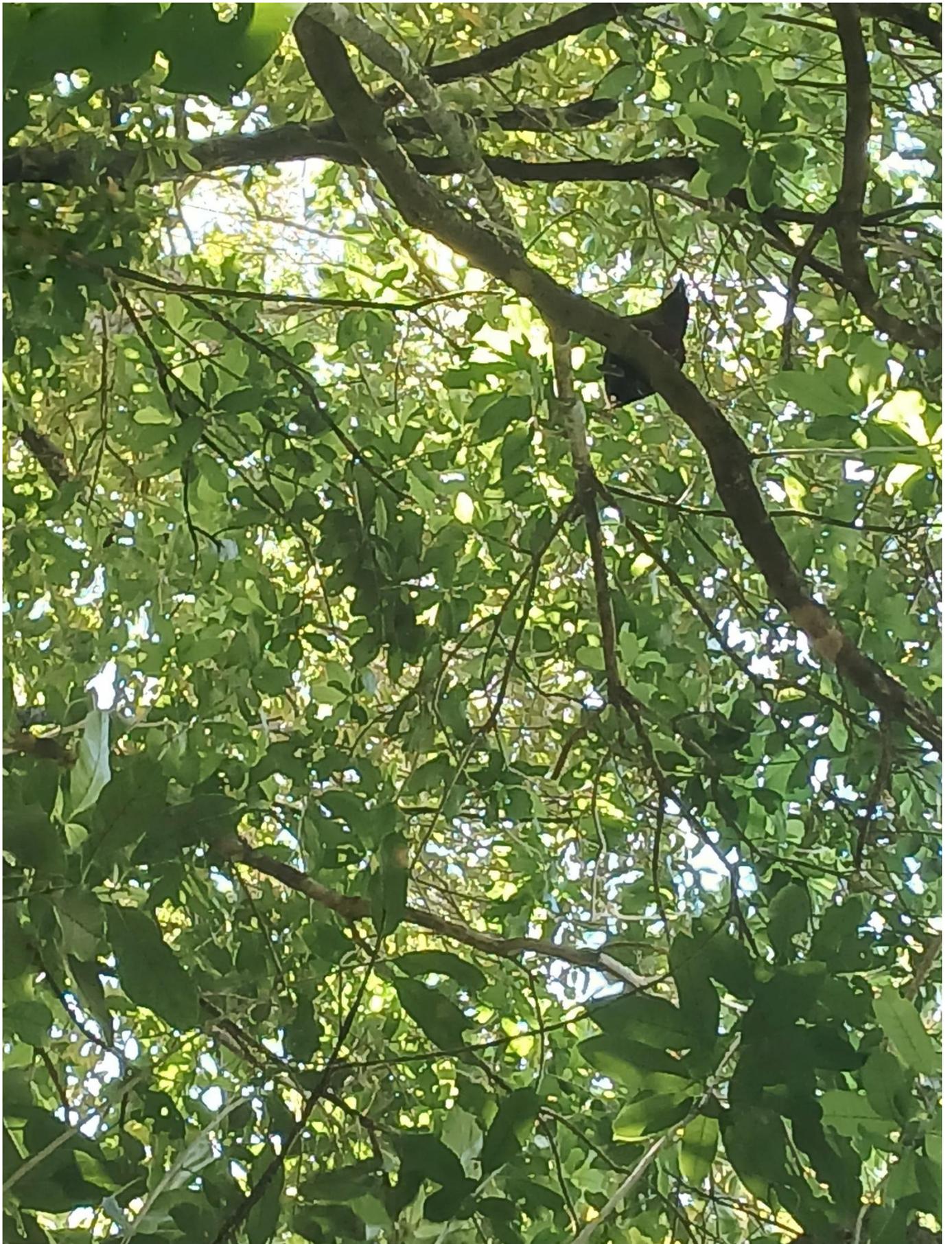
We took the steep path and man sized steps that led to an 800 year old rimu tree. This is located on the Blue Trail, with lots of supplejack vines, mature rimu, and kohekohe, Rewarewa, Tawa, Mahoe and Matai dominated forest. Lots of bird sound, seeing tui, Piwakawaka and kereru who were feasting on the orange berries of Pigeonwood trees and Rewarewa flowers

We were also rewarded with seeing noisy Kaka. On the top part of the track there was a bit of gorse and lupin. We went past the pine tree lined lane, where it joins the Skyline Track, and had views of Wellington Heads, Brooklyn Wind Turbine and out towards Matu/ Somes Island. It was a bit windy on top, we had to hold the pole as we climbed over the stile. We saw a couple of bikers on that part of the track. We made our way down to the flax clearing for a later lunch, sheltered and with views of hills and harbour.

All downhill from here, through more lovely bush, alongside the Kaiwharawhara stream, over a few bridges, seeing a beautiful waterfall edged by native bronze/green Begonia. Following the Purple trail, we arrived back at the carpark about 1.30. We all agreed a lovely walk and we enjoyed the company of our great friends. We had taken our time to enjoy these trails so not fast but we walked 6.8 kms and a climb of 337 metres.

We all had things to do in the city, and Ed and Juliet went off to meet their son, returning from travelling overseas.







TE KOPAHOU RESERVE, WELLINGTON 22 NOV

Combined SWTC / MTC trip

An early start from Greytown brought us by car and train before 9 a.m. to Wellington, where Liz joined us. Bus 29 then provided a tour of the southern suburbs before depositing us at Owhiro Bay.

It was a short walk to the road end, where the visitor centre taught us about shipwrecks, seals, quarrying and geology. The lady with the coffee caravan was just opening up. 'It'll be 20 minutes,' she said. We waited and were glad.

The day was cloudy with a cool southerly breeze. Many walkers and 4WD vehicles were on the coastal road. At Waipapa Stream, around the corner from Red Rocks, we climbed an old 4WD track with just enough room to squeeze between the gorse bushes. We later discovered that it had been abandoned. If we'd crossed the stream we'd have found the entrance to its replacement, which we saw from above.

Our lunch stop gave a view over the harbour entrance to Pencarrow Head, Cape Turakirae and the southern Remutaka Range. Now with more open travel, we made good progress northwards in the direction of—but not to—Hawkins Hill. A right turn at our highest point for the day, 320 metres, took us steeply into and out of a deep gully rich in mahoe. All that remained was to descend the Tip Track, with Wellington's landfill on our left, to Happy Valley Road.

Including stops, the walk took about five hours. A spare quarter hour before our bus arrived allowed us to admire the sculptures at Carlucci Land Mini Golf.

Liz Frater, Josh Oakly, Geraldine Oliver and John Rhodes (coordinator)

Photos will be at http://swtc.org.nz/?page_id=1996 when the webmaster can get back into the site.

