

South Wairarapa Tramping Club

Newsletter for March 2026

www.swtc.org.nz

Club night:

Tuesday 10 Mar 7.30 pm

Cookes' house, 57 Wood Street

Speaker: Wendell Cooke – 50th birthday travels and in particular his long walks in Scotland and Cappadocia

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

Supper box is kept in the store cupboard at Studio 73

For the next two meetings the roster is:

April: Rosie & Ian Montgomerie

May: Bruce & Mary Lambert

Trip List

2026

Date	Destination	Trip Coordinator	Phone	Fitness
7.3	Rimutaka Summit to Abbots Creek	Stuart Hammond	04 526 7224	M
14.3	Whakatūrākau Hut	Neil Johnstone	379 5420 or 021 073 6162	M
21.3	Cross Creek area	Vince Monk (contact John Rhodes)	304 9095	M
28.3	Cycling, Carterton back roads	Bruce & Mary Lambert	379 6106 or 021 0857 5654	M
4.4	Walk and coordinator needed!			

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

BELMONT REGIONAL PARK 8 FEB

John Rhodes, Chris and Liz Crowe and Karen Serjeantson walked the trail up Korokoro Stream to the old dam and had lunch there in the shade. Some of the route was steep. John took photos, which can be seen at <https://swtc.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/2026.02.08-Belmont-Regional-Park.pdf>

DOBSON SHELTER LOOP 14 FEB

Seven tramping club members completed the Dobson Smith Creek loop knowing they had had a good work out. The weather was perfect for tramping, overcast and warm. Much of the track is steep with fine exposed tree roots. Unfortunately there was no chance of promising views as low misty clouds blocked the view. We came across many fallen trees, some were true giants of the forest, and a few tumbles were taken on slippery ground and roots. We had lunch near Smith Creek shelter. The return trip following the stream was interrupted by DOC danger signs. Neil and Stewart took the danger sign as chance to show off adventures skills much less challenging than the DOC detour. At this point we caught up John Rhodes who had departed our group earlier on his own mission. Everyone was pleased to reach the car park after a great day out. Thanks to drivers for transport.

Those on the trip were Barry, Ross, Chris, Neil, John, Stewart and Ian

RANGITUHI / COLONIAL KNOB (COMBINED SWTC / MTC TRIP) 28 FEB

Four of us did a loop hike, starting and ending just at the edge of Porirua.

We started at the entrance to Porirua Scenic Reserve and walked up a track for walkers and uphill mountain bikers. We enjoyed lunch at the top of Colonial Knob, with great views of Wellington and the ocean. The day was warm and clear. We then backtracked to the Lookout and then down the part of the Colonial Knob Lookout Loop with over 700 steps. Back in Porirua, we stopped at the Pataka Art + Museum to check out the exhibits. Then back home to the Wairarapa using a combination of car-pooling, KiwiRail and more car-pooling.

Trampers were:

- Joshua Oakly
- Michelle Pahl
- John Rhodes
- Karen Serjeantson
- a small stuffed wombat, aptly named Wombat

Photos are at <https://swtc.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/2026.02.28-Rangituhi-Colonial-Knob.pdf>

Michelle Pahl