

South Wairarapa Tramping Club

Newsletter for May 2026

www.swtc.org.nz

Club night:

Tuesday 12 May 7.30 pm

Studio 73, Main Street, Greytown

Speaker: Charlene James and John Wilson - Peru Adventure July 2025. Eight days Amazon riverboat exploration with Earthwatch. Pink and grey freshwater dolphin census, jungle transects, wading bird monitoring, piranha census, caiman spotting, visit to local Cocama community. Then -

Nine days High Andes trek from Cusco to Machu Picchu from lodge-to-lodge, with porters and mules. Trekking the famed Salkantay Pass route to 15,200 feet with dramatic views of the snow-covered Andes and a sunning bird's eye view of Machu Picchu before a visit to the Lost City.

Supper: (tea towel, milk and biscuits) Bruce & Mary Lambert
Supper box is kept in the store cupboard at Studio 73

For the next two meetings the roster is:

June: David & Kay Bowie

July: Barry Kempton

Trip List

2026

Date	Destination	Trip Coordinator	Phone	Fitness
9.5	walk near Pirinoa or Lake Ferry	Jane Lenting	021 0257 8799	
16.5	Mountain House circuit	John Wilson	027 557 2873	
23.5	Mt Dick	Lesley Callaghan	021 033 5538	
30.5	Whareroa Farm Park and Mt Wainui	John Rhodes	304 9095	
6.6	TBA	Barry Kempton	027 430 5935	

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

RIMUTAKA RAIL TRAIL 26 APRIL

Around 9am two courageous SWTC members headed for the Cross Creek entrance of the Rimutaka Rail Trail, destination the Summit yards.

This excursion is around 8km long and took them just over an hour, forty- five to reach. On the ascent, they met numerous cyclists from both directions, also taking advantage of the fine but occasionally very gusty weather conditions. The track is punctuated with historical posts, citing events around the Fell engine line that used to run over it.

At about the halfway point, a mass bleating of goats could be heard further up the gulley, possibly mourning the dismembered remains of one found close to the track itself.

Arriving at the Siberian curve, the wind had increased to the point where one SWTC member lost his hat to it (temporarily), and cyclists had to dismount to cross the swing bridge. It was a reminder of the topography of the area and the prevailing winds there, that had caused the Fell engine to topple into the gulley back in 1880, killing four. One of the survivors of this tragedy was the great, great, great grandmother of one of today's two trampers!

After a short meal break at the Summit yard, our two intrepid trampers returned to Cross Creek at around 12.40, having enjoyed the weather & exercise and having shared travel and work stories along the way.

DALEFIELD HORSE RIDING PARK 4 APRIL

Lesley Callaghan, John Rhodes and Ingrid Ward walked from the Kaipaitangata road to the highest point on the Carterton District Council (CDC) land to the north.

We're grateful to CDC and the committee of the Dalefield Horse Riding Park Society (which normally has sole weekend use of this area) for access.

Photos are at <http://swtc.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Dalefield-Horse-Riding-Park-4.04.2026-1.pdf>