

South Wairarapa Tramping Club

Newsletter for September 2026

www.swtc.org.nz

Club night:

Tuesday 8 Sep 7.30 pm

Studio 73, Main Street, Greytown

Speaker: Pot luck dinner see email from Cookes

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

For the next two meetings the roster is:

Oct: Mary & Bruce Lambert

Nov: Kay and David Bowie

Trip List

2026

Date	Destination	Trip Coordinator	Phone	Fitness
5.9	Belmont Regional Park	John Rhodes	06 304 9095	M
12.9	Tunnel Gully	Ed & Juliet Cooke	06 304 9797	M
19.9	Te Whakatūrākau Hut	John Wilson	027 557 2873	M
26.9	Makairo Track	John Rhodes	06 304 9095	M
3.10	Boggy Pond	Ian Montgomerie	06 304 9252	E

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

MASTERTON TRAILS 18 JULY

Having had to previously postpone the trip due to atrocious weather, it was a relief to set off on a fine and windless day. Seven of us set from the River Road end of the trail (we ignored all the dire warnings we received about leaving our cars there!)

Our plan was to walk along the river and cross the second bridge, before heading towards Henley Lake Park. However, a suggestion was made to take a more circuitous route, taking many of us to a previously unexplored area of Lansdowne.

We arrived at the park about 10:30am, well and truly ready for a cuppa. Not realising that numerous more comfortable seating arrangements were only a short distance away, we parked ourselves under a couple of trees. Strange how the ground seems to be getting further away these days!

It was great to see so many people taking advantage of the fine weather and a great venue – dog walkers; cyclists; runners and walkers – and, of course, the intrepid band of South Wairarapa trampers!

We returned to find our cars unscathed. Many thanks to John Rhodes, his friend Alan Radcliffe, John Wilson, Barry Kempton and Ian Montgomerie for their advice and directions – most appreciated by Liz & Chris Crowe.

John Rhodes kindly sent us this photo link.

<https://swtc.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/2026.07.18-Masterton-trails.pdf>





KAITOKE RIDGE 8 AUGUST

On a cloudy, still morning, five participants met at the Waterworks Road car park in the Kaitoke Regional Park for a car shuffle to the other end of the track at Te Marua.

From here we commenced our ascent to the ridge up the well defined but at times muddy track through bush which varied from low to mature. Steep at first with zig zags but evening out and undulating later.

We stopped for morning tea after about an hour before continuing along the ridge with a short diversion to a look out with views down the Hutt Valley and across to the Whiteman's Valley area as well as the ranges beyond. Unfortunately it was too hazy to see Wellington which is normally visible.

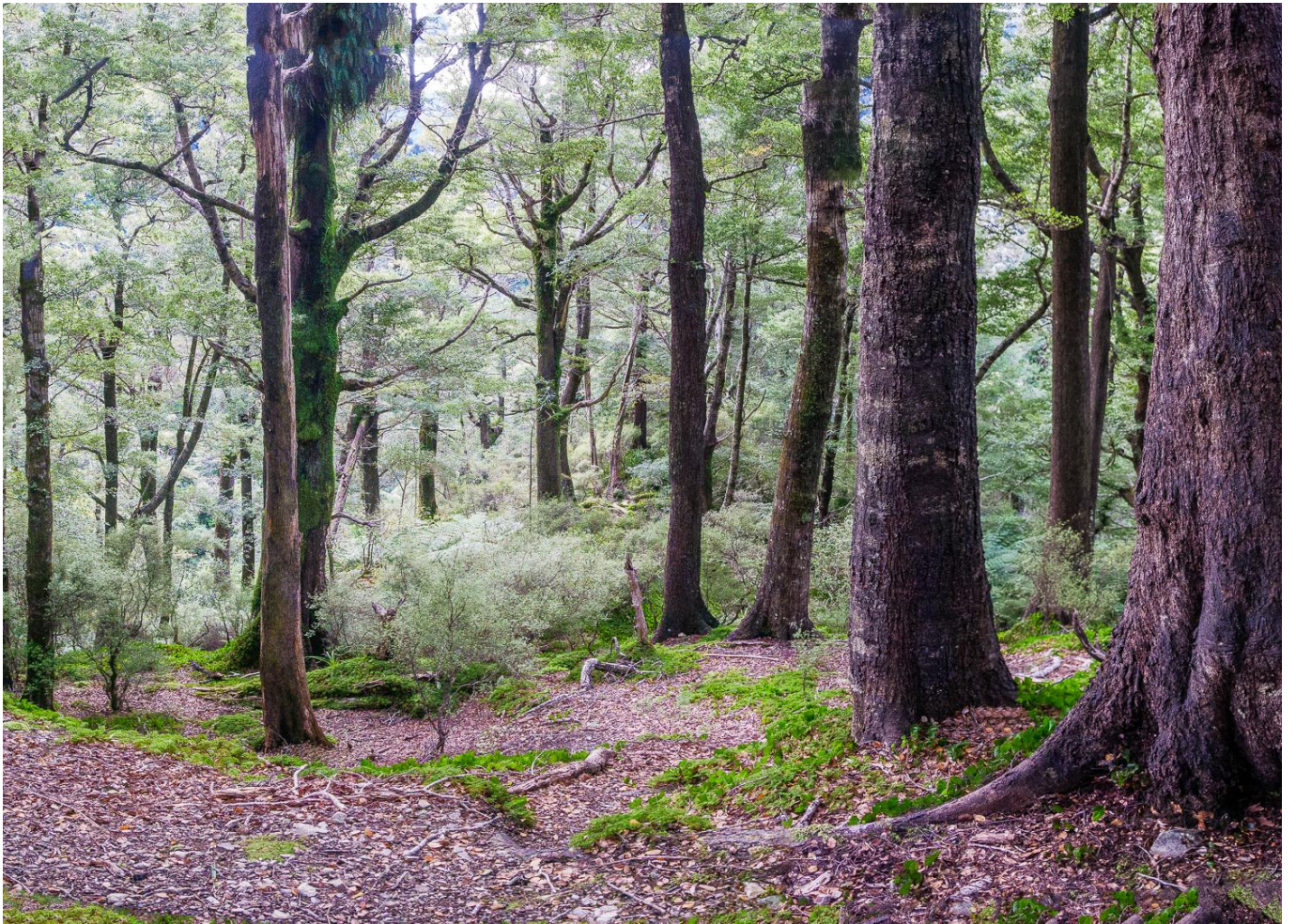
A lunch stop was made at Dave Peebles Seat in intermittent sunshine, this time with views into the Tararuas. The long descent down to the Pakuratahi River was through sunlit mature bush and steep at times with some very "rooty" portions underfoot needing care.

Once down at river level it was a delightful riverside walk back to the car park.

The walk was completed in 4.5 hours.

Those attending: John Rhodes, Janet Rhodes, Karen Serjeantson, Ingrid Ward, Stuart Hammond (leader)





STONESTEAD FARM, 15 AUGUST

With a few hours before rain arrived, Ross Anderson, Barry Kempton, Ian Montgomerie, John Rhodes and John Wilson walked up a 4WD track on Roger and Barbie Barton's farm, 'Stonestead', near Woodside. Low cloud had dispersed by the time we reached the end of the track near spot height 414, giving good views over the valley and to Lake Wairarapa.

Photos are at <https://swtc.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/2026.08.16-SWTC-Stonestead.pdf>

MT DICK 29 AUGUST

Two people ably led by four-legged Sioux walked up and back Mt Dick in two hours. Since Sioux led the pace, there was no slacking. Under her careful gaze as she regularly turned to check on her humans, Ingrid Ward and Barry Kempton did the course. The weather was fine and mild with spectacular views.