

South Wairarapa Tramping Club

Newsletter for October 2026

www.swtc.org.nz

Club night:

Tuesday 13 October 7.30 pm

Studio 73, Main Street, Greytown

Speaker: Ross Anderson

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

For the next two meetings the roster is:

November: Kay and David Bowie

December: Barry Kempton

Trip List

2026

Date	Destination	Trip Coordinator	Phone	Fitness
3.10	Boggy Pond	Ian Montgomerie	021 0237 4092	M
10.10	TBA			
17.10	Murray's Track	Barry Kempton	027 430 5935	M
24.10	Mt Clyde, Rewanui	Jane Lenting	021 0257 8799	M
31.10	Butterfly Creek	Ross Anderson	021 597 777	M
7.11	Wellington bee sculpture trail	Juliet Cooke	027 445 0677	M

If you wish to go on a trip, please let the organiser know by the Thursday prior. 7.11

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

FENSHAM RESERVE, SUNDAY 23 AUGUST

A combined MTC / SWTC walk.

In a westerly gale the bush at Fensham provided shelter, and the chance—for those with sharp eyes—to spot tiny orchids on a walk of the circuit track .

The greatly outnumbered SWTC contingent acquitted itself well in Sandra's native plant quiz, afterwards enjoying the first prize of coffee at Kāinga Eatery in Carterton.

Participants: Margaret Beale, Brenda Blatchford, Sandra Burles (leader), Laura Hopkins, Mike Hopkins, Katrina McGillicuddy, Josh Oakly, John Rhodes, Ron Webster-Jones, Viv Webster-Jones and John Wilson

Thanks to Sandra for an excellent walk on an un-promising day.

Photos are at <https://swtc.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/2026.08.23-Fensham-Reserve.pdf>

BELMONT REGIONAL PARK, 5 SEPTEMBER (a joint SWTC / MTC walk)

We climbed to Belmont Trig for morning tea, then followed the ridge track north to Cannons Head, intending to continue to Round Knob. However, strong westerly wind made us reconsider and descend the Middle Ridge escape route back to the car park.

Nigel Boniface, John Rhodes and Karen Serjeantson (guest)

Photos are at <https://swtc.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/2026.09.05-Belmont-Regional-park.pdf>

TUNNEL GULLY – TRIP REPORT SATURDAY 12 SEPTEMBER

A lovely day for a drive over the Rimutaka Hill to Tunnel Gully. After the nice sunny ride, we found that the shade temperature at our parking place was about five degrees! However, as we walked around Tane's Track the sun filtered through the trees, and we gradually warmed up.

Apart from beautiful forest and a tinkling stream, the most noticeable sight was the number of people walking the loop with dogs. All dog owners, including Barry, made efforts to restrain their dogs, and stop them disturbing the peace with loud barking or dog fights. The most interesting dog was a huge and remarkably furry monster, a German Leonberger – see photo.

After morning tea beneath the eucalypts, five people left for other appointments in Wellington, while the others continued on through the tunnel to the station and back.

Those on the walk were Ross Anderson, Chris and Liz Crowe, Barry Kempton, Ian Montgomery, John Wilson, and Ed and Juliet Cooke (coordinators) with daughter Merran.



TE WHAKATŪRĀKAU HUT 1 SEPTEMBER

Five members met at Mt Holdsworth car park shortly after 9am and walked along the river track to Te Whakatūrākau Hut.

A little chilly to begin but dry underfoot and blue skies. Quiet on the track initially and easy going but we were slowed down a little by a major slip.

We arrived at the hut at 11:30am and enjoyed our lunch at the picnic table. It soon became busy with numerous walkers arriving - good job we got the table.

Clouds soon began rolling in and a strong southerly wind picked up. It also began to look like rain so we headed back after 30 minutes.

Back in the car park by 2:30pm. A good walk and a great day out.

Walkers - John Wilson, Liz & Chris Crowe, Ross Anderson and Jane Lenting.





ROCKY HILLS, 26 SEPTEMBER

A combined SWTC / MTC trip

Because the weather forecast for the Pahiatua area was poor, we changed from our planned Makairo Track walk to one closer to home. The day was perfect.

It took an hour to drive the nearly 50 kilometres from Greytown to the end of Rocky Hills Road, with a stop at Gladstone to pick up Sandra.

A Department of Conservation sign at the road end showed the walking route to the Rocky Hills Sanctuary, and after deviating through a woolshed to avoid a locked gate we followed a clearly marked 4WD track along a ridge in open country, maintaining height. This puzzled John, because his memory from 20+ years ago was of going downhill to the forest sanctuary.

Further puzzlement ensued when the marked route tried to lead us through (or over) another locked gate into Craigie Lea Forest. Instead, from this point we took a less travelled path down through young pine trees to the valley floor, uncertain of our position and wishing that we had GPS.

At Waipunga Stream, our surroundings seemed less unfamiliar. Luxuriant native forest led us to believe that we were now at the northern boundary of the sanctuary, but subsequent analysis of the map suggests that we were still several hundred metres to the north of it. We elected to follow a well-used road that climbed, was remembered by John and ultimately returned us to the woolshed.

Another look at the notice board showed that we'd have reached the north-eastern corner of the sanctuary had we gone a few hundred metres through the Craigie Lea Forest land.

With stops, the walk took about 3½ hours.

Stuart Hammond, Sandra Hayes, John Rhodes (coordinator) and Ingrid Ward.