

# beechleaves

Newsletter of the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club



P.O. Box 245, Palmerston North 4440 [www.mtsc.org.nz](http://www.mtsc.org.nz) <https://www.facebook.com/MTandSC>

## Issue 6: July 2017



Club meetings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month at the Rose City Aquatic Club Rooms, 50 Park Street, Palmerston North (next to the Lido). Meetings begin at 7.30pm.

### Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July: SAR - Search and Rescue

**Speaker Andy Brooke:** Andy has been with the Police (and MOT) for 35 years. Based in Palmerston North for the past 18 years (Section Sergeant, General Duties Branch) and on the SAR squad for 13 years, the last 9 as the Officer in Charge for Manawatu Police Search and Rescue. Andy has also been a member of MTSC for the last 11 years.

**Talk Synopsis:** Search is an Emergency and a Classic Mystery. Not so much a "Who Done it?" as a "Where was it done?"



Search is underpinned by investigation. This presentation describes the decisions made around searches; where to search, when to start, how to search. This develops into how a search progresses including different search methods and some examples. Andy's talk will be followed by a Q&A session, then three club members, active in SAR, will briefly describe some of their own experiences.

### Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> August: Brian Way, PNCC Leisure Assets Officer

Brian will talk about the PNCC program for the development of recreational tracks, footpaths, bridges, etc in the Palmerston North area. He will cover the provision of the recently opened Arapuke Swing Bridge on the Sledge Track, the planned foot bridge over the Manawatu River along with the present state and further developments of the Green Corridor and other projects underway or planned of likely interest.

*Brian at the Arapuke Swing Bridge Opening*



# REPORTS AND NOTICES



## MTSC President: John Beech

[president@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:president@mtsc.org.nz)

Hi all, Winter seems to have arrived as I sit down to write this. It's cold although fine outside but not very conducive to getting out and about. The tramping may not be as enticing as in the warmer months but I'm sure the skiers in the club are getting their gear ready in preparation for the upcoming season. For those of you that are keen skiers, or even not so keen, a trip to the club's lodge on the mountain is well worth while. Over the past few years the club has continued to upgrade the facilities and it is an excellent place to spend the weekend in relative luxury, at least in comparison to a DOC hut!

Recently there has been considerable activity in regard to the recreational opportunities in Tongariro National Park. For some time, DOC has been battling with the ever-increasing numbers on the alpine crossing and the associated infrastructure problems that this is causing. DOC recently conducted a workshop with various stakeholders and came up with a few ideas, one of which is to try and improve the chronic transport problems at the road ends. The idea mooted is to establish transport hubs in the surrounding towns. This was all that was included in their press release but presumably other options will be considered as well. What would happen, I assume, is that the road to Mangatepopo and Ketatahi would be restricted in some way and the general public would be forced to take the shuttle options and presumably pay as well. The difficulty is that this is being implemented to cater for the overseas tourists that make up the majority of the walkers. So where does that leave the locals and those that aren't necessarily doing the crossing but just want a walk up the Mangetepopo valley or something like it? Possibly it leaves us with having to pay extra for access to these road ends or an extra-long walk. I am not sure whether Kiwis will be catered for but I suspect not. Unfortunately, from reading the press release, it would appear that business interests and the tourists are the primary focus and I am not overly comfortable with that. Restricting numbers on the track does not seem to be an option for them. Whilst I am not against the opportunities that tourism brings, I believe DOC should remember the wording in the Conservation Act, which is their governing document, and that is in section 6(e): *"to the extent that the use of any natural or historic resource for recreation or tourism is not inconsistent with its conservation, to foster the use of natural and historic resources for recreation, and to allow their use for tourism"*. My emphasis on the last bit, so I hope that we haven't got our priorities around the wrong way.

Recently DOC also had submissions open for the follow up to the TNP management plan amendment to allow more mountain bike tracks. In my opinion I think the lower level options for the Old Coach road and the link section further towards National Park are OK but I am skeptical of the Ohakune Mountain road option. This is a very fragile environment and, in my opinion, would end up being a fast downhill, thus not exactly conducive for a family friendly shared use track that it's being promoted as. Also, included in the plan change is the allowing of e-bikes on all the mountain bike tracks. Once again it would be better to take a cautious approach with the introduction of e-bikes. It makes more sense to run some trials in other areas (not national parks) and then evaluate any issues such as environmental damage etc.

In the meantime, as you travel up the mountain for skiing or some winter tramping, take the time to think about the tourist pressures that DOC and our oldest national park are under. Let's hope for some wise decision making on behalf of all Kiwis.

John



## First Tracks - Ski Captain Howard Nicholson

The snow is falling, the lodge is stocked with food, and the ski season has started. Time now to reserve your beds at the lodge. This can be done by contacting Liz and Hugh using the details on our web site – see <http://www.mtsc.nz/lodge.php>

Changes to overnight car parking arrangements at the Top of the Bruce Road (Whakapapa Ski Area) are of concern. The large area immediately below the Iwikau Shelter has become a "Platinum Pass Day Car Park", available only to those people that pay a premium annual fee to RAL. This has been an overnight parking area until now, and is the closest car park to our lodge access track. This change appears to have reduced the amount of overnight parking available at the top of the road. The committee has written to Ruapehu Mountain Clubs Association (RMCA), who will be negotiating on our behalf on the topic.

We receive several notifications about ski races and events during the year. If you wish to be notified about these events then please send me an email, and I will forward the notifications to you.

There are several snow trips and a few lodge-based social events listed on trip card. We look forward to seeing you up the mountain sometime soon.

Howard Nicholson



Boots are a difficult purchase as it is impossible to be confident of the fit until they've been used, at which point it's too late to return them. Of course boots don't last forever and most people don't mind replacing their old faithfuls having had a good run with them. It is tempting to save the good boots for proper trips and use an older pair for something like walking into the lodge or around the Tawa loop. Unfortunately there's a trap with this approach called hydrolysis.

Modern boots generally use polyurethane foam between the tread and the boot. PU is both lighter than rubber and provides good cushioning under extremes of temperature. It has the disadvantage that it deteriorates badly with a combination of time, oxygen, and humidity, crumbling to a dirty powder. Two friends have had their only partly worn treads detach in this way and searching the web will find many examples.

I haven't been able to find a reliable source describing how to avoid hydrolysis. There is a suspicion out there that it's accelerated by disuse which is a nice but unsubstantiated theory. The industry has an accelerated test called Humid Aging and the degradation is caused by PU reacting with water so lowering the humidity is likely to be beneficial. Higher temperatures also accelerate the process.

So, at this time of year, after drying them thoroughly, leave your boots in your garage. Simple really!

<https://www.thestalkingdirectory.co.uk/showthread.php/107554-Hydrolysis-of-polyurethane-soles-warning>

### MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual subscription notices were sent out at the beginning of May; if you have not received yours, please contact the membership secretary at [membership@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:membership@mtsc.org.nz) or 06 357 6325.

Thanks to all those who have paid, and those who have sent me updates of their details and their emergency contacts. An updated list has been generated for the newsletter editor and Lodge Booking Officers.

If you have not yet paid your subs, payment was due by 31<sup>st</sup> May. Please make sure that you include your membership code as a reference, whether you are paying on-line or by cheque. We have already had some unidentifiable payments come through.

*Sue N, Membership Secretary*



### Most Spirited Trampler Trophy 2017 Presented

On 7<sup>th</sup> June the Wednesday Trampers tramped into the Kaiparoro Trig and on return called at the Lazy Graze Cafe in Eketahuna. Here the opportunity was taken to present Jill Faulkner with the 'Most Spirited Trampler' trophy for 2017. Jill is a regular Wednesday trampler who is always of good cheer, her characteristic laughter often to be heard as we tramp. The trophy was awarded because, in addition to her warm spirit, she has been observed to often give help and encouragement to struggling trampers and on several occasions elected to keep the company of trampers who have pulled out early. By this action she has graciously given away her own tramp. It was a popular award with the group.

*We welcome Gen D'Amours + Tahu, Celeste & Fenella and Bill Milham to the club.*



July Wednesday Tramps		
Date	Leader	Phone
5	Ian Richie	328 9618
12	Bob Hargreaves	357 0734
19	Jenny Orange	357 3380
26	Evan/Coralie Davies	357 6288

July Thursday Tramps		
Date	Leader	Phone
6	Royce Mills	355 8556
13	John Doolan	355 2100
20	John Brock	329 4834
27	Hugh Wilde	356 9450

July Weekend Trips				
Date	Trip	Grade	Leader	Phone
8 - 9	Beginner's Ski Weekend	All	Ken Mercer	027 364 6475
Sun 16	Tree Trunk Gorge	Medium/Fit	David Harrington	021 240 9056
29 - 30	Technical Ski Improvement	Intermediate & up	John Lyttle	027 433 6307

**Trip Intentions:** The email address for leaving trip intentions is [intentions@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:intentions@mtsc.org.nz). Intentions sent to this address will not be acted upon UNLESS a party is reported overdue (e.g. by a family member, flatmate, friend, etc). The email is sent to several MTSC members. This information will be provided to LandSAR/RCC only if the party is reported overdue or a PLB is activated. The email should include: a list of participants and their contact details; a brief description of the intended route and possible alternative routes; starting point; start date; date/time due out; vehicle registration; and any other relevant details.

### 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> July: Beginner's Ski Weekend

**All Ken Mercer 356 7497 027 364 6475**

This is a good opportunity for budding skiers to get together, enjoy company at the lodge, and learn how to handle long slippery feet. Lesson 1 for absolute beginners: borrow an old set of skis and shuffle around your lawn. Don't be put off by the name – boarders are welcome too. Please book in early and I'll do what I can to coordinate transport.

### Sun 16<sup>th</sup> July: Tree Trunk Gorge

**Medium/Fit David Harrington 021 240 9056**

This trip starts from the Desert Rd just north of the Mangatawai Stream bridge at a small car park. We'll follow a cycle/walking track east to the Pillars of Hercules and continue round to the Tree Trunk Gorge. If stream levels allows we'll return via the pylon access tracks with a short off track stretch midway to drop steeply into the Mangatawai stream to cross and a steep climb up the other side and back onto the cycle/walking track to return.

### 29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> July: Technical Ski Improvement

**Intermediate & up John Lyttle 027 433 6307**

These weekends will focus around the technical aspects of the physical side of your skiing, your equipment and the different disciplines of skiing now available. We will also go over some basic on the mountain skills. It will be run by fellow skiers that jointly have decades of experience and while we won't be instructing you in your skiing, we will discuss and review each other's style and form, with input provided as to what may make a difference in your technique. This interaction is free for members.

For me personally, after 38 years of skiing I'm always on the lookout for ways to make my skiing easier and my technique more refined by ensuring that it's still fun. Looking for a better way has helped me keep my passion for skiing going.

While this is more for the intermediate to advanced skier, beginners and snowboarders will also get some benefit from this course. Numbers are limited, so please let me know if you wish to attend one or all of these weekends, ASAP.

## PNTMC Snowcraft courses: Applications for registration required by the 27<sup>th</sup> July

PNTMC are running a series of three snow craft courses which MTSC members are welcome to attend.

Snowcraft 1 is for beginners and those wanting confidence for tramping and basic survival in snow conditions.

12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> August, Mt Ruapehu (evening intro and briefing Wed 9<sup>th</sup> August)

Snowcraft 2 is Intermediate in level and includes basic rope work for alpine tramping and climbing.

26<sup>th</sup> or 27<sup>th</sup> August, Mt Ruapehu (evening briefing and intro rope work Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> August)

Snowcraft 3 is Advanced and includes more skills for mountaineering.

9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> September, Mt Ruapehu (evening briefing and rope work Wed 6<sup>th</sup> September)

Each level (or equivalent) is a prerequisite for the next. The Wednesday night sessions are an integral part of the programme. For further information and to register use the link below or call Grant Christian, 06 354 5843 or 021 1176921. [http://www.pntmc.org.nz/courses/Course\\_info.html](http://www.pntmc.org.nz/courses/Course_info.html)

# TRIP REPORTS

## Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May: Wednesday Trampers Enjoy the Mountain House Loop

Report: Bob Hodgson

Photos: William and Sandra

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of May, a day that promised clearing intermittent light rain, 26 Wednesday trampers assembled at 9.30am in the Holdsworth car park to be briefed by the leaders of the day, Judith and Peter. All present decided to tramp the 12.25km loop formed by the first part of the riverside track to the Atiwhakatu Hut, the steep track up to the vicinity of Mountain House and the return track past the Rocky Point Lookout back down to the car park. The tramp up proved to be a good cardiovascular workout as we pick our way up on the mesh of wet tree roots.

A recent heavy rain event has taken its toll of the Holdsworth tracks. On the tramp along the river we came across a tributary stream bridge that had been severely damaged in the flood and taken out of use by DOC. One 3" by 4" stanchion on the bridge had been impressively splintered by the force of the flood. The bridge was bypassed by steps cut in the muddy sides of the side stream making a slippery challenge for trampers. On the descent after lunch we also encountered a steep stream that had been severely gouged out as well as several large old trees that have recently toppled: in all other respects the tracks were in good order.

By about noon, all of the tramping groups had arrived at Mountain House for lunch and a respite from the wet conditions that had by then started to improve. With so many in a small space it was cosy! The tramp down was a treat; with the exception of a small area in the vicinity of Mountain House, the bush was in pristine order. Well before trip leaders deadline of 3pm all were safely out, however, in the area of the car park and shelter several of us were bitten by sandflies. The tramp required an exertion equated to 2140kcal. A social stop for coffee and calories was made at the Masterton Mitre 10 and we were all back in town before 5.30pm.

Thanks to first time leaders Judith and Peter and to the rain gods for saving their heaviest for the Thursday trampers!



*As Promised only Light Rain! Maurice Negotiates Muddy Cut Steps Bypassing a Broken Bridge Nice Wet Bush*



*Many Lunching Trampers Make Mountain House Warm! Clouds Boiling Off The Ranges*

# Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May: Blue Range Hut and the Mikimiki Stream: A Tale of Two Tramps

Report: Maurice and Bob

Photos: William, Maureen and Bob

On the misty and moist morning that was May the 24<sup>th</sup>, 32 Wednesday trampers assembled for a 9.30am start that included a safety briefing on good practices recently underscored by the recent experiences of the Thursday group when a trumper was evacuated by helicopter. The two tramps then started and rain proof layers were rapidly removed as the ascents started.

## Tramp to Blue Range Hut for Lunch

The Tararuas were cloudy when we set off, most rain-showers held their distance and all 17 trampers reached the Blue Range hut by about midday. Inside seating was at a premium and the chatter intense and any sound of heavy rain on the roof was not heard. The downward journey was muddy in places but not too slippery and in the still conditions, the bush, foliage and the green moss close to the track was enjoyable.



A Crowded Blue Range Hut



Dennis and Peter at The Cross Roads

## The Mikimiki-Up and Down and Up and Down Again!

The Mikimiki trampers made good progress up to the benches near the peak having by then formed three groups. The faster group departing as the main group arrived. The track was wet needing care so we were all pleased to find the stream clear and in relatively low flow as the streams and rivers that we had passed on the drive in were mostly in high flow. Most were able to cross with dry feet. Up to the crossing we had only experienced light showers but thereafter, as we made our way along the track, it rained with increasing intensity. The bush was beautiful. As it dripped rain it almost appeared to glow a lush green. A feature of this track is the absence of any manmade shelter so at about 11.40am the main group made the decision to tramp out and eat lunch in the car park shelter and so we tramped on. By the time that we reached the benches near the peak the rain had at last abated so a quick snack was taken then the group tramped on. We reached the car park by 1.40pm to join two short (sic) trampers for a delayed lunch. We were very pleased to eat as one of our numbers was expressing such hunger pangs that cannibalism was a danger to be considered! We were joined by our faster group soon after 2pm and then the Hut trampers started to arrive having had the advantage of a dry, cosy hut for lunch. We were made welcome at the Lazy Graze in Ekatahuna for coffee and cakes.



A Welcome Morning Tea at The Top Of The Mikimiki



Tramp Statistics for the Blue Range Tramp

Thanks to trip leader Maurice and deputy Ian, to our drivers and to all of the Wednesday trampers who had turned out in good numbers on an indifferent day.

## Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May: Standfield Hut

Report: Royce Mills

Photos: John B

No rain, no wind! Eighteen of us enjoyed a perfect tramping day to Stanfield hut. We reached the hut at just after 10.30am so took a morning tea stop there. The hut had been left in immaculate condition by the previous visitors but some windfall was almost blocking the toilet door so Allan wielded the axe to clear things up.

We then divided into two groups, some choosing to head up the track towards Cattle Creek hut, stopping for lunch in an open area at 850m. The remainder relaxed at the hut then headed back, taking a detour to explore the magnificent stand of Rimu trees at the foot of the old Rimu track (no longer maintained).



*Enjoying the sunshine*

We were all back at the car park by 2.45pm, with big smiles after a very good day in the bush. Thanks to our leader Suzanne.

## 27<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> May: Ngamoko Hut

Report: Jean Garman

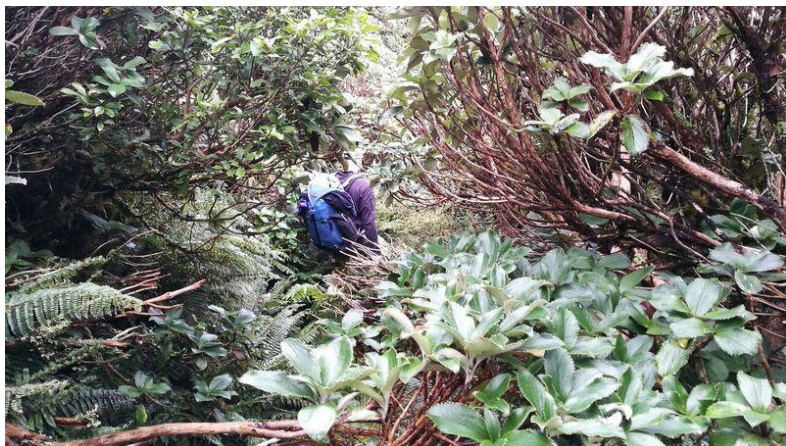
Photos: Howie & Jean

I was keeping an avid watch on a selection of weather websites leading up to the weekend but every time I looked at them they told a different story. Wet on Saturday but OK on Sunday, OK on Saturday but wet on Sunday, rain both days – there was definitely going to be some rain but no real idea on exactly when or how much. On the positive side, it wasn't forecast to be that windy although it did look like the wind was going to turn to the South so it was going to get cold. After a bit of umming and ahing over whether we should go at all we almost all decided that we (Howie, Ivan and Jean) were in need of a walk and would just have to put up with what the weather threw at us (Jenny decided warmth and dryness were preferable).



*The cloud progressively cleared throughout the day*

The Ruahines were obscured by a thick grey cloud as we drove North so we didn't hold out much hope for a dry day. We consoled ourselves with the thought that if it was too bad we could always turn round and head for home. However, as we approached the road end, the clouds started to roll back and we became more hopeful. As we did not expect the break in the weather to last we opted for the shortest route; up Shorts track, along the range and down to Ngamoko hut. But much to our delight the cloud just continued to clear; there was no rain, not much wind and once on the tops we even got views all the way to Ruapehu. A boastful txt was sent to Jenny. The scratchy bit of scrubby leatherwood along the tops was not too bad but the track down was getting quite overgrown in places. Luckily Howie had his trusty saw with him so a bit of impromptu track work was carried out in the leatherwood zone. Below this only a few bits of windfall needed removing from the track. We reached the hut without needing our coats – awesome ☺. The hut hadn't been visited for about a month but was clean and tidy with plenty of dry firewood. The hut must be insulated as when we lit the fire we had a very cosy evening without having to burn much wood. We didn't escape the rain for the whole weekend - it started to drizzle lightly sometime after dark and was still drizzling the next morning. The climb back up onto the range wasn't too unpleasant but the wind had turned to a South Easterly so it was cold, wet and quite miserable across the tops. The scratchy scrubby leatherwood along the tops was a lot less pleasant in the wet and cold and we were all thinking that Jenny had been the smart one. As we weren't stopping for anything while out in the open, we didn't get a break till we were down into the shelter of the bush on the Shorts track. Once sheltered from the wind, the last part was quite pleasant and to make sure it wasn't a pure in/out trip we walked the other half of the Deerford loop on the way out.



*The track was quite overgrown in places*



*So we did a bit of track work*



*Howie checking out where Ngamoko Hut is*



*the weather wasn't quite so kind on Sunday*

## **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May: Kapakapanui Loop**

Report: Helen Peek

Photos: Helen. Ken & Tim

Linda always stated that it was going to be a long day, and it was, a long day of mud, mud, and more mud!

Yet again the forecasted weather did not happen and we experienced weather that was fine and sunny, mainly mild, and at times near the top a little windy. The four river crossings at the start took longer to negotiate than expected, but once all sorted, we proceeded steadily up through the mud, following a size 12 boot print, and with only one leg requiring a second person to help rescue it from the suction in a particularly deep section.

The hut was reached by early afternoon where the lunch stop was held in the wood/veranda area due to our muddied state. We then continued up through the mud, still following the size 12 boot print, on to the tops with increasingly stunning views and arriving at the trig mid-afternoon. The painted rock phenomena has arrived there with a small painted rock next to the trig plaque, although it was highly unlikely to have been left by the presumably little person who had painted it, maybe delivered by the size 12 boot...





*Give Way ???*



*Stunning view of Kapiti Island*

We then headed downhill through the mud, still following the size 12 boot print. After a couple of hundred or so metres drop in elevation we ran out of the mud, and the decent with the afternoon light pouring through the trees was extremely pretty and very atmospheric. The headlights were turned on about 5.15pm and it was almost a weird feeling when we eventually began walking on flat ground again. The river crossings were plunged through with gay abandon, and we were back at the road end at 6pm.



*On top!*



*Not quite enough daylight.....*

So a long day of mud, mud and more mud, a size 12 boot print, fabulous weather and views, a little bit of adventure, good company, and the satisfaction of having achieved what we had set out to do. We were Linda Campbell, Tim Swale, Mary & Ken Mercer, Helen Peek.

### **Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May: Wednesday Trampers Return to Hemi Matenga**

Report: Bob William

Photos: William, Judith and Maureen

On a dry, cool day with no wind, thirty one trampers assembled at the southern entrance to the Hemi Matenga Memorial Park Scenic Reserve. It is several years since this reserve was last selected for a Wednesday tramp. On our last visit one of our recently recruited members had the misfortune to take a fall in the bush near the high point and broke her arm in two places resulting in a helicopter evacuation. She made a good recovery but we have stayed away from the reserve for a few years.

Two thirds of the group opted to do the full tramp so walked the streets to the northern entrance off Huia Street. Those with good memories immediately removed layers of clothing in anticipation of the steep climb along the fence line and then upwards into the bush. Much of area of the reserve is a good example of coastal bush. We climbed steeply up through the bush and about 50 minutes after the start of our climb at 9.30am, the first of our morning tea stops was called. The second was held in the vicinity of the big tree near the top. The track was muddy and slippery in places so progress was restricted.

By about noon both the fast and main groups converged at the look out, there to be joined by the balance of the trampers who had in the meantime tramped up the zigzag tracks and along the fence line and up into the bush along the ridge top. The views from the lookout were well worth the effort of getting there.



*At The Big Tree*

We all then made our way in self-selected groups along the ridge and down to the southern entrance to the reserve where we met up with a few trampers who had chosen a shorter in-out tramp. By 2pm we were all safely out and entertaining the locals by our antics as we shed our tramping clothes on the berm.



*At the look Out*



*Log Finned Eels*

On our return journey we stopped at the Quarter Acre Cafe in Manakau where we were made welcome for coffee, cakes and to the feeding of the long finned eels in the adjacent stream. It was a good day out with 2600 Kcal used according to William.

Thanks to trip leader Margaret and to our drivers.

### **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June: Pukerua Bay to Plimmerton Circuit**

Report: Craig Ross

Photos: Craig Ross

The Thursday trampers started June with 17 of us walking the Pukerua Bay to Plimmerton circuit. We went anti-clockwise along the coast first, to make the most of a low tide, calm sea, and a sunny day, with a light westerly breeze at our backs. Morning tea on the beach amongst the flotsam and jetsam gave us time to take in the seascape. The breeze had picked-up to a southeaster along the Plimmerton end, but we enjoyed the shelter (and seating) of Karehana Park for lunch.



*Lunch on the beach, Pukerua Bay*

Then it was up the stairs under the bush to Tawa Tapu Track (restricted war party trail in Maori times – presumably used for raiding between villages). Great views down Porirua Harbour from the ridge. With the wind again at our backs, sunshine in our faces, but instead of the sound of the sea crashing on rocks, traffic noise of State Hwy1, we picked-up the pace along the ridge and onto the cycling/walking tar seal back to Pukerua Bay.



*Brian & Ruth Evans, with John Brock by the hole-in-the-rock*



*Tramping along Tawa Tapu track*

### **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June: Wednesday Trampers Kaiparoro Trig Tramp**

Report: Christine

Photos: William, Maureen, Allan and Judith



*Carefully up the steep Bulldozed Track, and up through the Pine Forest*

31 Wednesday trampers left the end of the Kaiparoro Road in cold clear weather. We crossed the river via a temporary steel girder logging bridge and headed up a very steep bulldozed track. This narrowed after about half an hour, leaving forestry and entering bush. The track remains steep and a little greasy until we reached the trig turnoff (50mins). The next hour meandered pleasantly uphill through attractive beech forest until we reached the bush edge, and 5mins later, the trig. The area is in a state of vegetational change. It was once predominantly red tussock but is now mixed with waist deep Celery pine, Manuka and Dracophyllum. The surrounding peaks were brilliantly clear on arrival but slowly disappeared into low cloud and mist. We backtracked to just into the bush and then headed off track down the first southerly spur to a 1952 plane crash and grave. The route is adequately marked and takes about 25mins to get there. Care is required coming back but all returned safely. The crash site is a sombre sight and strewn over 50m. We left exploration of tarns on the tops for another time due to the "clag" that had set in. Lunch was in the bush followed by a careful walk down. All were out by 3pm. We then repaired



to the Lazy Graze Cafe in Eketahuna where Jill Faulkner was presented with the “Most Spirited Trampler” trophy for 2017.



*Snacking In the bush*



*At The Trig*

## Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June: Rangiwahia Hut

Report: Royce Mills

The fire was still going when we arrived at the hut thanks to a group of seven that had stayed the previous night and had now departed. We enjoyed a cosy morning tea / early lunch. Some of us just continued to relax and chat by the fire, while seven hardy Thursday trampers went on in the cold and mist and did the Deadman’s loop. No snow to be seen, but higher up the tussock was heavily decorated with icicles.

There were twenty in our group, another two separate trampers arrived, one a day tripper and one planning to stay overnight. This added up to 29 visitors to the hut on this day - impressive for a midweek day in winter!

Thanks to our leaders, Nigel and Jill Spencer, for an enjoyable day out.



*Enjoying the warm fire at Rangiwahia Hut*



### Contact Details

**Postal Address:** MTSC, P.O. Box 245, Palmerston North

#### Committee 2015 - 2016

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Mini-Bus Manager	Ken Mercer		06 356 7497

**General Committee:** Bob Hodgson, Howard Nicholson, Linda Campbell, Karen Tutt, William Laing

#### Appointees

Lodge Bookings	Hugh & Liz Wilde	<a href="mailto:lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz">lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz</a>	06 356 9450
Gear Custodian	Peter Rawlins	<a href="mailto:gear@mtsc.org.nz">gear@mtsc.org.nz</a>	06 356 7443
Ski Captain	Howard Nicholson	<a href="mailto:ski@mtsc.org.nz">ski@mtsc.org.nz</a>	06 357 6325

Social Convenor	Bob Hodgson	<a href="mailto:social@mtsc.org.nz">social@mtsc.org.nz</a>	06 356 2915
Wednesday Trips	Bev Akers	<a href="mailto:bevakers@xtra.co.nz">bevakers@xtra.co.nz</a>	06 325 8879
Thursday Trips	Merv Matthews	<a href="mailto:merv6817@gmail.com">merv6817@gmail.com</a>	06 357 2858
Facebook	Ivan Rienks, Karen Tutt, Howard Nicholson	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/mtsc.org.nz">facebook@mtsc.org.nz</a>	

## New Members

Prospective members must be nominated by a Proposer and a Seconder who are current MTSC members and have been so for at least one year. New memberships are confirmed at the next monthly committee meeting. Prospective members are encouraged to go on a club trip or attend a club night before joining. For further information or an application form please see the club website.

## Club Equipment

Hire equipment: we have packs, 2 and 3 person tents, tent flies (small and large), snow mats, gas cookers, size 8 and 9 boots, billies, food dehydrator and two bivvy bags. Ice axes, crampons, and helmets are also available. We have two personal locator beacons (PLB) for which there is no charge. Contact the Gear Custodian: Peter Rawlins on (06) 356 7443.

## Website [www.mtsc.org.nz](http://www.mtsc.org.nz)

This contains club information, photos, contact details and back issues of this newsletter, Beechleaves. The club website is maintained by Howard Nicholson (06) 357 6325 and is kindly hosted by **Inspire Net**, a locally based company.

## Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/MTandSC>

## Accommodation at the MTSC lodge on Mount Ruapehu

The lodge is close to Iwikau Village, has power, heating, hot showers and is stocked with food. Members and their guests are welcome. For Lodge bookings email Liz and Hugh Wilde [lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz) or phone (06) 356 9450. To confirm your booking, payment must be made by cheque to 179 Cook St Palmerston North 4410, by cash in person or internet payment (please email to confirm before depositing) Westpac account number 03 1521 022035300.

	Members	Guests
<b>Adult</b>	<b>\$36</b>	<b>\$51</b>
<b>Secondary School</b>	<b>\$29</b>	<b>\$44</b>
<b>Primary School</b>	<b>\$24</b>	<b>\$39</b>
<b>Pre-school (3-5 yo)</b>	<b>\$11</b>	<b>\$11</b>

The Lodge phone number is (07) 892 3860.

## Booking the MTSC Van

For bookings: Contact Ken Mercer (06) 356 7497. Cancellations should be made as soon as practicable to accommodate other potential users. A tent fly (in the passenger door) and a Personal Locator Beacon (in the glove box) are available for use free of charge on trips.