

# 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 9: October 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 3<sup>rd</sup> October: Club Photo Competition

- Categories:
1. NZ Landscapes, no people
  2. NZ Above the Bushline, predominantly alpine scenery (rock, snow, tussock, etc), may include people
  3. NZ Below Bushline, predominantly bush/scrub (lowland to sub-alpine areas), may include people
  4. NZ Natural History, NZ flora, fauna or detail (geology, ice formations, etc)
  5. NZ Topical, people or detail related to tramping, climbing, skiing, hut and camp life etc in NZ
  6. Overseas, photos taken overseas

Submit entries to Howard by Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September

- using Dropbox or OneDrive (preferred) – email [photocomp@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:photocomp@mtsc.org.nz) to be sent a link
- by email to [photocomp@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:photocomp@mtsc.org.nz)

Unless you notify us otherwise, by entering this competition you grant MTSC the right to: use submitted images for MTSC publicity purposes; submit your entries into the local interclub competition; submit your entries into the Federated Mountain Clubs photo competition.

## Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October: InterClub Photo Competition – Hosted by MUAC

MUSA Lounge, Massey University

6:00pm

This year MUAC is hosting the Interclub Photo Competition where the best photographs from the MTSC, PNTMC and MUAC photo competitions go head to head to see which are the best overall. There will be some stunning images.

## Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November: DOC speaks

A senior DOC officer has been asked to address both local and national plans for and issues with the conservation estate. Bring along all your questions!

## Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November: End of Year Function

The MTSC End of Year Function will again take the form of a stroll followed by a convivial meal. We will meet at the car park of the Esplanade Railway at the park entrance off Park Road, adjacent to the Lido, at 6.15pm. We will then make our way at a conversational pace along the riverbank and then over the Bridge and up the road and track to ANZAC Park where magnificent views of the Manawatu and beyond can be enjoyed. After admiring the view we will retrace our steps down to and across the bridge and through the bush tracks back to the car park. By 7.15pm we will arrive at a 'yet to be decided' eatery (contact Bob if you have a preference) where we will have a convivial dinner.

**There will be no December Meeting**

# REPORTS AND NOTICES



## MTSC President: John Beech

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

Hi all, once again, I haven't got a lot to say as it has been another quiet month. However, Winter has finally left us behind, although the snow that appeared on the Tararua tops today suggests otherwise. More snow has also fallen on the mountain so I'm sure that will make the skiers happy. As we come to Spring it might be time to dust off the tramping gear and head out into the bush.

Last weekend I headed up the Sledge track to try out the new bridge over the Kahuterawa and the loop track up through Arapuke forest. I was impressed by the work that had been done and the variety of terrain made it an interesting walk. It's a nice walk with a bit of a climb to get the heart pumping and then a nice stroll along the forestry roads amongst the new plantings of Macrocarpa, Douglas-fir and Radiata pine. The tracks are well signposted to keep you off the mountain bike tracks as you walk back to the Kahuterawa valley car park over the centre track. Once again, it is great to see another asset added to our regional walks.

With the election close at hand, I hope you have all taken the time to check out the various parties' policies on conservation and recreation. Let's hope whoever gets into power will look after our wild places.

To finish, I thought I would put in a picture from the past. A cake of chocolate to the first person who can identify any of the trampers and/or the hut. I'll give you a couple of hints, one of the trampers is still a club member and the picture was taken in the Ruahines in the mid 1970's. *Enjoy the spring tramping and skiing, John*



## First Tracks - Ski Captain Howard Nicholson

Spring is a great time to ski at Mt Ruapehu. The warmer weather, Spring snow and longer daylight hours adds to the appeal. The reported snow base at Whakapapa is over two metres (at the time of writing), which bodes well for a ski season that is expected to finish at Labour weekend (23 October).

Take advantage of being "on-mountain" to beat the queues and car parking hassles, by booking in to the Manawatu Lodge. If you haven't been to the mountain yet this year, then now is the time to book your trip.

Groups of club members who stayed at the lodge in August chanced to get some of the best weather of the season, with one group taking a rest from downhill skiing to ski tour up, over and down the mountain on several of those days. Here are a couple of images to show what you may have missed.



*Across the Summit Plateau, touring towards Tukino*



*On the Pare Traverse between Whakapapa and Turoa*

Howie Nicholson

027 294 1941

## History of the Thursday Trampers

Report: Merv Matthews

Photos: Bev Akers

The first trip of what became known as the "Thursday Trampers" began on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 1992 when two members of the Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club, Russell Johnson and Nancy Cade, decided to do a week-day tramp to Wharite. It was a very windy day as Russell remembers, and they did not go as far as they had originally planned. They had invited others to go with them, including Phil Pearce (who was active in the Manawatu Walkways Promotion Society) but he was unable to go on that occasion. There was such enthusiasm by the participants that another tramp was held on the following



*Some of the "Originals" – Russell Johnson, Pam Wilson, Ken Hall, Monica Cantwell, Rosemary Hall, Nan and Bud Cade.*

Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> May, when Phil Pearce and Monica Cantwell joined them. It was then decided to settle on weekly trips each Thursday. Helen Pearce's diary noted that on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June 1992 -- "*Phil went off with Russell, Nancy and Monica to tramp up the Pohangina*". There was no entry for the previous Thursday.

During June, further members of PNTMC joined them - Sue and Lawson Pither, and Rosemary and Ken Hall. There were now eight in the group. Someone had typed up a short "Leader's Roster" starting at 7<sup>th</sup> July 1992 through August, ending at 1<sup>st</sup> September 1992. It shows four new leaders – Bud Cade, Margaret Gillingham, Peter Johnstone and Judy Stockdale. "Other members" shown on the list, but not yet allocated a date, were John Rockell, Tony Cameron and Pam Wilson. Membership was now fifteen.

As time went on, further members of both PNTMC and MTSC joined, and by 1996 the following additional names had appeared on a 1996 "Trip list": Bev Akers, Carolyn Brodie, Judy Calleson, Peter Carver, Mike Corns, Vina Cottam, Liz Flint, Neville Gray, Neil Gutry, Donna Hayes, Ewart Hunt, Cath Lyttle, Merv Matthews, Susan Paulson, June Sowerby, Jill Spencer, Judy Stockdale, Doug Wakeling and David Warnock. By 1998, further additions to the list were: Harry & Christine Allardice, Keith Domett, Ann Green, Ellie Kidd, Brad Owen, Graham Pritchard, Wendy Sedcole-Harper, John Stantial and Sandra Wilson. Only four of all the above-named remain as regular Thursday trampers. From the very beginning, Nancy Cade had kept a meticulous record of the Thursday trips in a diary, but sadly it cannot now be found.

In 1997, the MTSC purchased a Ford Transit 12-seater Mini-bus for the use of its members on tramping trips. John Rockell, a regular Thursday Trampler and also a member of MTSC, approached the MTSC Committee to see whether the Club would be willing to allow the vehicle to be used by Thursday Trampers. An arrangement was agreed upon and it has worked well to the benefit of both parties. The only condition insisted upon was that the driver must be a member of MTSC. The first use of the bus by Thursday Trampers took place on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1997, to Colenso trig.

Some notable South Island trips by Thursday Trampers have included the Kepler & Hollyford tracks (1997 & 1999) Milford and Routeburn (2001) Cobb Valley, Kahurangi N.P. (2001) St. James, Nina & Mt Fyffe (2005) and Mt Somers, Mt Peel, Huxley (2007).

The Wednesday group is an off-shoot of Thursday Trampers. This is how it happened.....

After many years of meeting at 8:00am for our regular tramp it was agreed to change to 7:30am during daylight saving. This practice continued for about two or three years, when it was decided to stay with 7:30am permanently. A few of the lady members weren't too keen on the early starts in winter, so Judy Calleson, Monica Cantwell, Rosemary Hall, Sue Pither, and a few other ladies decided to start a Wednesday group to do less demanding tramps and use the original start time of 8:00am. It was all very amicable and the "ladies group" was soon established. Later some men, including Ivan Alve and Ken Rush, joined the group, and so it gradually enlarged to what it is today.

Since July 1997, when Thursday Trampers first began using the minibus, the group has made 850 trips totaling 155,000 km (nearly 4 times around the world) and paid more than \$100,000 in travel costs to MTSC.

*Thanks are due to Russell Johnson, Phil Pearce and Sue Pither for their recollections about the formation of Thursday Trampers.*

*We welcome Alex Waterworth and Jenny Williamson to the club.*

# UPCOMING TRIPS

October Wednesday Tramps		
Date	Leader	Phone
4	Ian Brookes	358 7974
11	Leonie Lowndes	359 5005
18	Allan Rae	358 3962
25	Margaret Foot	357 8003

September October Thursday Tramps		
Date	Leader	Phone
Sept 28	Chris Mercer	356 2635
5	Brian & Ruth Evans	323 7614
12	Glenn Pendergrast	356 7487
19	Syd Easton	356 7462
26	Richard Ellis	357 6410

October Weekend Trips				
Date	Trip	Grade	Leader	Phone
14 - 15 or 28 -29	Waterfall Hut	Medium/Fit	Jean Garman	021 176 0209
14 - 15	Lodge Party Weekend	All	John Lyttle	027 433 6307
20 - 24	Southern Richmond FP	Medium/Fit	Adam Matich	022 358 8062
21 - 23	Mangaturuturu Hut	Easy/Medium	Helen Peek	021 065 0754
Sun 29	Zekes Hut	Easy/Medium	Helen Peek	021 065 0754

**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.

### 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>: Waterfall Hut

**Medium/Fit**                              **Jean Garman**                              **021 176 0209**                              [trampski.cave@gmail.com](mailto:trampski.cave@gmail.com)

Due to having to travel for work on the 8<sup>th</sup> this trip will shift to whichever of the two weekends mentioned looks to have better weather. Waterfall hut is a classic NZFS 6 bunker with an open fireplace in the centre of the Ruahines. We will access this hut from the Eastern side probably heading in through Waikamaka hut and Rangī saddle and out up Broken Ridge and around the tops but this may change depending on the weather.

### 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> October: Lodge Party Weekend

**All**    **John Lyttle**    **027 433 6307**

If you enjoy skiing (there might be some snow left), ski touring, climbing, tramping/walking or getting away from it all and just relaxing along with being sociable and having fun then this is the weekend for you.

### Labour Weekend 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> October: The Red Hills: Richmond Forest Park

**Medium/Fit**                                      **Adam Matich**                                      **022 3588062**

This will be an extended (Friday-Tuesday) Labour Weekend trip starting at Red Hills Hut, on the first day, after the ferry trip and a bit of a drive. The bare-bones trip will see us go through Porters Creek Hut to Hunters Hut on day two, an easy five hours to Top Wairoa Hut on day three, a looooong day down the desolate Red Hills Ridge back to Red Hills Hut on day four, and a return home on day five. If the party make-up is more lunatic fringe, then we will also include Beeby's Hut in the route.

### 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> October: Mangaturuturu Hut

**Easy/Medium**                                      **Helen Peek**                                      **021 065 0754**

A traditional hut on the 'round the mountain track'. Great views, interesting vegetation - ring Helen for more details.

### Sun 29<sup>th</sup> October: Zekes Hut

**Easy/Medium**                                      **Helen Peek**                                      **021 065 0754**

Zekes hut is a neat little 4 bunk hut in the Hihitahi Forest Sanctuary (on the right of the road between Taihape and Waiouru). Great chance to go somewhere a little different.

# TRIP REPORTS

## Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> August: Roaring River Redirects Wednesday MTSC Trampers to Herepai

Report: Bob Hodgson

Photos: Maureen, William and Pam

A check made a week in advance of this proposed tramp to Roaring Stag Hut made promise of a dry warm day. Sadly, as the week passed by, the forecast for Wednesday changed from good to poor to worse! For the record 17 day trampers and 7 overnight trampers assembled at the Putaru road end after a drive that had featured spectacular rainbows. The original intention was for most to aim for the Roaring Stag Hut and for the more energetic overnighnters to make their way up and back to Cattle Ridge Hut. Hughie had other ideas! The river and creeks were in high flood so at 9.15am we all set off in the direction of the Cross Roads and Herepai. The day trampers had the target of being out by 3pm.



*Overnighters assembling*



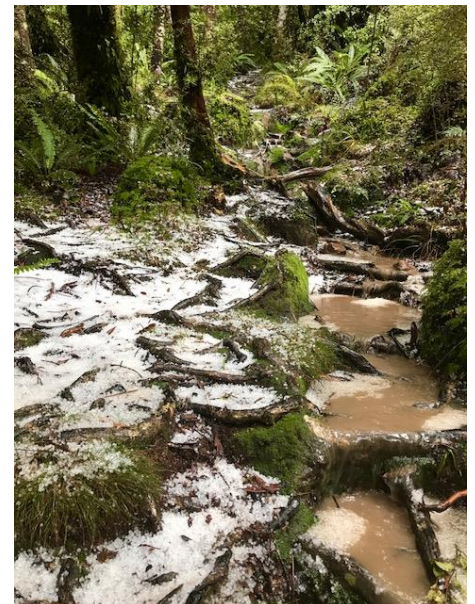
*Day trampers enjoying themselves*

The track was very wet and muddy and the view from the swing bridges was both inspiring and intimidating. At the point in time when the last of the group of overnighters was at about the centre of the second swing bridge, her progress was encouraged by a huge clap of thunder

As we climbed up from the bridge, conditions progressively deteriorated, the rain increased in intensity and the temperature dropped. In these conditions it was slow going and a good test of rain gear. Then the rain turned to hail! By this time it was cold enough for the hail to float and spin on the top of the puddles on the track.

As the last of the overnighters reached the top of the steep climb and were splashing their way towards the junction, they started to encounter groups of day trampers making their way back. Not one of them expressed even a

hint of regret that they were not overnighnting! For the record, six day trampers made it to the hut and kindly kindled the hut fire, but most turned at or near the Junction.



*Note the hail floating on the puddles*



*Retro tramping twins (?) at the Lazy Graze.*

What in summer would have been an easy grade tramp became something of a test of stamina and sure-footedness. But for a few very muddy butts (!) all of the day trampers were safely out by 2.45pm and headed to Lazy Graze in Eketahuna.

Meanwhile the overnighters were cosily installed in the Herepai Hut where the conditions washed away any thoughts of secondary tramps. The tempest continued until late in the evening as the Magnificent Seven enjoyed a shared bottle of wine, traditional hut talk and comforts but not the flames and fumes from Ian's ancient white spirit stove resurrected after long retirement. The stove was a temporal match for his Mountain Mule pack back in use after almost 50 years!!



*Overnighters + Day trampers at the junction*



*Maureen happy to turn back*



*Trip leader Bev*

The following morning, as we made our way back, conditions were improved: it was fine but cool with a drier, but not dry, track.



*Ancient spirit stove in use*



*Mountain Mule Pack in action!*



*Overnighters ready to leave Herepai*

Soon after we reached the first swing bridge, the promised rain for the day started to build and it was in a down-pour that we changed out of our tramping gear. It was a happy band of seven that then made our way back via a welcome stop at the Lazy Graze Cafe.

Thanks to trip leader Bev and drivers Chris, Bernard, Bev and Ian.

## **18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> August: Not a tramp to Triangle Hut**

Report: Jenny McCarthy

The forecast for this weekend was not good enough for Adam and I to brave a weekend trying to go to, and more importantly, get back from Triangle hut. Instead we opted for a day trip up the Deadman's track and back down past Rangi hut. The weather was reasonably kind to us with a few views, although we could see it was going to cloud in later and the weather deteriorate.

It can be a good idea to ring the trip leader even if the forecast isn't looking good for the planned weekend trip, they may be interested in changing their plans to an alternate trip to better deal with the predicted weather.

## **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August: Wairaka Walkway – Pukerua Bay to Plimmerton**

Report: Linda Darbyshire

Photos: Maureen and Linda

A combination of a fine, calm sunny day and no mud brought out 34 Wednesday trampers to trek from Pukerua Bay to Plimmerton. There was plenty of parking down Ocean Parade at Pukerua Bay, and toilets handy. Seas were calm but high tide was 10.20am so the whole group first walked the Ara Harakeke Pathway, which follows SH 1 South. From the car park you walk up a goat track by the toilets to Rawhiti Road, turn left at Tihana Road and start the walk by the shops. There has been extensive planting along the track, which is sealed and shared with bikes. Once at Whenua Tapu Cemetery we followed Airlie Road, crossing a rail over bridge and soon after saw the Taua Tapu Track sign on the left. At this point we entered farmland via a



*Bernard Cobb and Leonie Lowndes enjoying the Wellington Vista*

gate. Trampers needed to look for the blue poles to follow the Taua Tapu track. A good morning tea spot was found by the front group that missed the first blue marker!! Others had a bit of a giggle at the first rise looking down on them. The track continued uphill, exposing great views of Wellington Region, Mana Island, and South Island. Once back on sealed road, we detoured through the Kerehana Reserve to Reserve Rd, and around to Moana Road. At this point Richard felt he had pulled a muscle, so he decided to take the easier trip back. And counting up we realized we were short one other person. A txt soon arrived from Ian that he had missed a turnoff!! He too would join the other group.



*Denis Jensen and John Ridge find some handy pews!*



*Trampers doing the hard slog along the coastline*

20 trampers then walked around the bay following the Wairaka Walkway back to Pukerua Bay. While both ends of the walkway are well tracked the middle section is a hard slog on loose beach gravel. No seals spotted today, however I did encounter a friendly one when I did my reconnaissance trip 5 days previous.

I was pleased to have worn my tramping boots verses hikers for this leg of the trip, given the terrain. There are interesting rock formations, makeshift container homes, sheep, wildlife and shells on display around the coastline. The loop was completed in 5hrs.

The remaining 14 had a leisurely lunch by the boat club in Plimmerton, before taking the train back to Pukerua Bay. Those not game to cross the main road walked to the over bridge and then discovered a shared windy sealed track back down to the Pukerua Beach Road.

Thanks to Chris for driving the van and Evan, Russell, Rita and Charles for taking their vehicles.

## **26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> August: Mt Holdsworth**

Report: Tim Swale

Photos: Tim Swale

Arriving at the Holdsworth Road end at about 10.30am on Saturday morning we were amazed to see how many cars there were in the car park. With Jumbo Hut closed, we suspected that there may be quite a crowd at Powell hut for the night. We were pleased that we had our own air beds! After leaving intentions in the Holdsworth Lodge logbook, we headed off up the Gentle Annie track in near perfect conditions. A leisurely lunch was had at the seats by the Totara Flats turn off before continuing on to Mountain House shelter and ever upwards towards Powell Hut. Those who have not done this walk for a few years will be surprised how many steps have been built (over 400) – looks like a great walk in the making!



By mid-afternoon we were safely at Powell hut and enjoying hot drinks inside, away from the chilling wind that cut right through you. We were pleased to find that there was plenty of space in the hut and firewood to warm the place up. The hut is looking a bit ugly with all the internal bracing, but at least it is safe to use until the new hut is constructed this coming summer. We settled down to a very pleasant evening chatting with an effervescent hut warden (Brett) and fellow trampers. One of the real joys of our back country hut network is the social aspect where a bunch of strangers can come together and have such a great evening together.

Our original intention had been to get up early on Sunday and walk across the tops to Jumbo then down to

Atiwhakatu hut before heading out. Unfortunately, Linda was feeling pretty crook with a sinus infection so Helen and I decided to walk up to Holdsworth summit and return via Powell Hut to collect Linda before heading down. Once we reached High Ridge the wind was pretty strong and pushed us around, making us quite unsteady on our feet. With the wind chill, it felt really cold. The summit was reached in about 45 minutes and provided superb views from coast to coast and up to the Ruahines. The golden morning light made the shimmering tussock look gorgeous. After a few photos we headed back down to Powell Hut for a nice hot cup of tea before packing our gear and descending to Mountain House. This was 9.30am and a mountain runner stopped for a brief chat. He had already run up to Jumbo, across the tops and was on his way down.

Our trip back via the spur that drops down to the Atiwhakatu valley from Mountain house, was uneventful but pleasant as the wind had dropped off and it had become much warmer. Recent snow damage to the trees which had blocked the track in many places a month earlier had been cleared. Arriving back at the Holdsworth Road end at about 2.30pm we met up with the same mountain runner that we had met at Powell Hut. He was just setting out for his third loop over the tops! Our achievements seemed rather unimpressive in comparison. Definitely more social than athletic, so a final leisurely stop for afternoon tea at Mount Bruce was in keeping with the theme for the weekend.



## 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> August: Pizza Night at the Lodge

Report: Howie Nicholson

Photos: Howie Nicholson

A rubbish forecast deterred a few from heading up the mountain, however the 20+ people who kept their bookings enjoyed a social weekend at the lodge. On Saturday, a group walked around the Soda Springs track and then back to the lodge, while others on skis braved the rain showers further up the mountain.

In the evening, budding young "masterchefs" and old hands alike created gourmet pizzas, which were consumed with delight and a touch of mulled wine. Rob put his newfound pastrycook skills to the test and produced some excellent chocolate eclairs for dessert.

On Sunday, passing cloud brought variable visibility during the day, but we managed some enjoyable skiing at times, while others went for a wander through the local Iwikau Village neighbourhood.



*Pablo and Flavia prepare pizza*

## Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> August: A Tale from Four Narrators of Many Slips and Routes: the Otaki Forks-Waitewaewae Track

Report: Rod, William, Bev and Bob

Photos: Assorted persons

*"There's many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip" is a very old proverb; even when a good outcome seems certain, things can still go wrong. For trampers this could be finding a new or enlarged slip....*

The tramping party for Wednesday August 31<sup>st</sup> was large – 35 participants. The morning was warm and sunny with no wind. To avoid any hold up at the second swing bridge, that is the bridge over the Otaki River, we decided to break into three main groups, the fast, the mid paced and the loopers. The fast and mid paced groups headed off to



the Waitewaewae Track, while the loopers first tramped the 3.3km of the scenic Arcus Loop before their crossing of the Otaki swing bridge. The seven mid pacers arrived at the Otaki swing bridge to find that it had been upgraded since our last visit to give better footing with less dip in the middle, allowing three trampers to cross at a time. It used to be restricted to one-at-a-time, so the fast group were well clear by the time the mid pacers arrived.



Looking for trout



Native clematis in bloom



The troublesome slip

On the climb up from the bridge we came to a complete drop out of the track that was about a metre wide. Thanks to two strategically placed trees, we were able to swing over the hole and continue up the hill. (If this slip continues to flow the track will have to be redirected). At the place where the track next levelled off, we came across many white clematis in full bloom – a wonderful sight.

Further on we came to a diversion over the top of the first major slip where we met members of the fast group who had come back from the slip face leaving others to climb around the slip. That point made a good morning tea stop.

The Arcus loopers split into two groups. Having crossed the Otaki river bridge and faced by the challenging drop out in the track a group of five decided to check out the old Penn Creek track, but only got a wee way because of the big slips on this now disused track. There is however a good track down to the river, passing through a historic stone wall. Worth a visit! This small group then retraced their steps by doing the Arcus track in reverse then caught up with Lynn & Margaret and stopped off at Parawai hut for a well-deserved rest. They heard voices coming down the old track and so tagged along with them back to the car park. The balance of the loopers crossed the track drop out and made their way along the Waitewaewae track until noon before turning.

Meanwhile the mid pacers were moving on to the old level and wide bush tramway route where the pace picked up till they reached another diversion heading above the second major slip. Here the track headed uphill where we met others coming back from the slip face leaving four of the fast group who had decided on an 'exploration'. The track at this point deteriorated to an 'experienced only' state - no benching, little marking and steeply uphill with many fallen trees to negotiate. Consequently the group spread out. After about 45 mins of climbing we came to a small clearing on a corner where most stopped for lunch. Four members continued to climb a further 30 mins before stopping for lunch on the trackside.



Some loopers lunching on the YTTY track



Chris bashing some bus.



Joy on reaching the old track.

At the second slip, four explorers decided to continue along the old track, to find their way around the slip and see how far they could get. They were already half way up the slip, so we continued to the top by making our way through the tangled Supplejack or kareao (*Ripogonum scandens*). This required great subtlety to avoid entanglement and tripping but on the other hand, the vines were very useful as anchor points and ropes while climbing down steep slopes. On the way upriver, we went far further than necessary to get round the slip, something we discovered on the way back where the route was much clearer. Part of the trouble was that the top of the slip had extended upwards and the track was missing for short sections (see photos). After passing the top of the slip, grasping any bush that would stop us sliding into oblivion (the other name for the river below) we descended and decided that

the original track lay below us nearer the river. So we pushed on (at least it was downhill) through the bush and vines, finally reaching the old track.

As it was approaching midday, we tramped on until we reached a stream that we used as a path to get to the main Waitatapia Stream where we had lunch. At this point some debate was entered into whether we should follow this stream to below the slip rather than backtrack across the slip, given the difficulty it had given us. However, the speed of the stream, its depth and the temperature made us decide to lunch there at the junction and return the way we came. It turned out that the return trip was easier (in relative terms) as most of the way there was a clear path, only occasionally the path disappearing into the slip. We crossed the slip again, and made our way back at much better speed.

"This exploration was exciting, interesting and challenging. We enjoyed the challenge of bush wacking off track and navigating our way to the track. Unfortunately my GPS route navigator decided we were boxing, so the statistics are dubious. But we must have walked about 8 km and used about 2000 cal!" *William.*

We had eventually split into five groups. All trampers covered between 7 and 10km, and by 2.15pm, all groups had merged and emerged safely. It was a contented mob of trampers that made their way to Otaki Bridge River Cottage café for a social coffee.

In summary: we drove in over a road recently cleared of slips with more in prospect, then we tramped over a landscape riven by active slips and emerged with our cares having slipped away (sic)!

Thanks to trip leader Rod, our many drivers and those who cleared the road of slips.

## Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September: Atiwhakatu Hut Revisited

Report: Bob Hodgson

Photos: William

The morning of Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> of September found twenty odd (!) trampers driving over the Track into the Wairarapa. In a reprise of our last journey in this direction, we were first met by squally rain, then by a wonderful series of rainbows. On arrival, we gathered at the Mt Holdsworth car park in intermittent light rain for the trip leaders briefing. This concluded with the words "and be all back by three." With a 9.50am start and the hut as our farthest destination this was not a tall order.



*Looking down the slip*



*Bob heroically takes the high road*



*Chris takes it steady returning across the slip*



*while Leonie and Dennis danced across to safety!*

The Atiwhakatu was in high flow as were the side streams, but the track was generally in a good condition making for comparatively rapid progress. The washed out bridge early on the track as noted on our last visit had been replaced, eliminating a scramble down and up a steep stream bed and on the day, wet feet.

After about twenty minutes of tramping the rain abated and raincoats were shed. Morning tea was taken after the first swing bridge with its one person at a time limit. About half way to the hut, the first and only significant challenge on the track raised heart rates as we climbed up to the start of the large active slip that had first appeared about three years ago.



Lunch in the Hut was not a riot

The stream was in too high a flow to make the lower track across the slip safely usable so we were met with a choice of crossing the slip directly or using a recent roughly cut detour. Both were tested and for the return journey the direct route was the consensus choice.

By about 2.30pm all trampers had safely returned to the car park and shelter, including the four who chose not to cross the slip and had spent their time checking out the Stoat track and the start of the Carrington Loop where they came across a wrecked, washed out bridge.

In conclusion this was a good, sharp winter tramp enjoyed in mostly fine conditions and completed in about four and a half hours with an estimated consumption of 2200 Calories. The

large active slip remains a challenge. It would be good if a safe and well marked detour track were to be cut as this is described to be a family friendly track whereas it remains distinctly dodgy!

Thanks to trip leader John and drivers including Chris who drove the minibus.



**Contact Details**

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

**Committee 2015 - 2016**

President	John Beech	<a href="mailto:president@mtsc.org.nz">president@mtsc.org.nz</a>	06 354 9310
Secretary	Tim Swale	<a href="mailto:secretary@mtsc.org.nz">secretary@mtsc.org.nz</a>	06 376 6556
Treasurer	Arthur Flint	<a href="mailto:treasurer@mtsc.org.nz">treasurer@mtsc.org.nz</a>	06 356 7654
Chief Guide	Ken Mercer	<a href="mailto:chief.guide@mtsc.org.nz">chief.guide@mtsc.org.nz</a>	06 356 7497
Membership	Sue Nicholson	<a href="mailto:membership@mtsc.org.nz">membership@mtsc.org.nz</a>	06 357 6325
Newsletter Editor	Jean Garman	<a href="mailto:editor@mtsc.org.nz">editor@mtsc.org.nz</a>	021 176 0209
Lodge Manager	John Lyttle	<a href="mailto:lodge.manager@mtsc.org.nz">lodge.manager@mtsc.org.nz</a>	027 433 6307
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, a 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.

	<b>Members</b>	<b>Guests</b>
<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.