

beechleaves

Newsletter of the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club



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

Issue 8: September 2018



Club meetings are held on the 1st 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 September 4th - Inter-club Quiz run by MTSC

Genial Quiz Masters: Bob, William and Tim

Categories:

- 1 NZ History.
- 2 NZ Geography, Parks and Reserves.
- 3 First Aid and Anatomy.
- 4 Huts and Tracks.
- 5 NZ Birds and Bird Song.
- 6 NZ Animals and Insects.
- 7 NZ Natives.

Intermission for Billy T.

- 8 The life and times of Sir Edmund Hillary.
- 9 NZ Personalities.
- 10 Trivia.

Thursday Sept 27th - Inter-club photo competition run by PNTMC

Tuesday October 2nd - What Lurks Below

A talk by Horizons Council Fresh Water Ecologist, Dr Logan Brown

Tuesday November 6th - Walking the Kumano Kodo by Richard Lander

The Kumano Kodo pilgrimage route in the Kii mountain range in Japan was designated a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site in 2004. The route takes pilgrims between the major Buddhist shrines in the Kii mountains and has been walked by Emperors, Shoguns, Samurais and other pilgrims since the 7th century. There are only two major UNESCO World Heritage pilgrimage networks in the world, the Kumano Kodo and the Way of St. James (Camino de Santiago) in Spain.



REPORTS AND NOTICES

MTSC President: Rob Pringle

president@mtsc.org.nz



Another month has passed and another ski season is well under way. Great to see so many club members and enthusiasts out and about and the pictures posted on social media continue to be a welcome interruption to the working week. Having spent the last couple of weekends at the lodge it's always great to hear people's plans for trips and ideas over the winter months. It's also refreshing to have conversations with people with different ideas to make the lodge a better place, and a reminder of the collective wisdom of the membership. Great to see also the number of families present at the lodge, starting the next generation on their path of enjoying the outdoors is something close to my own heart.

Last month I wrote about how access to places in which we all enjoy recreating was changing. This was mainly aimed at the changing attitudes at an ownership or governance level. This month has seen some interesting and, in some cases concerning, shifts within the physical environment. Turoa Ski Field had a significant avalanche which has caused damage to the top of the High Noon chair lift, and destroyed a snow groomer. Staff involved were lucky to be in contact with those above and were able to make it safely into



the return station for protection. It is a timely reminder that the outdoors can, at the best of times, be slightly unpredictable. Keep your own safety and the safety of your group at the forefront of your mind. There are numerous websites out there presenting a lot of technical information regarding present conditions, as well as groups offering courses on how to better understand the risks relevant to the areas we are recreating in. There is lots to be gained from engaging and upskilling when it comes to what we know about the outdoors - and chatting to other club members and participating in courses being run is a great way to facilitate that.

Keep on getting out there, be safe and enjoy a winter that's shaping up to be one of the better ones.

Lodge Manager: John Lyttle

lodge.manager@mtsc.org.nz

At the end of this winter season we will be undertaking renovations and moving the lockers into the upstairs drying room. We request that anyone with a locker empty it before the end of the season please. Lockers will be available again for Winter 2019 and, if you already have one, you will be allocated a new one. We will also have additional lockers available.

Proposed Lodge Work Party weekends:

Please let John Lyttle (phone 027 433 6307) know if you are able to help.

20-22 October - Labour Weekend

3-4 November

17-18 November

1-2 December

19-21 January, 2019 - Wellington Anniversary Weekend

2-6 February - Waitangi Day Looooong Weekend

23-24 February

16-17 March

6-7 April

19-22 April, Easter

FIRST TRACKS - SKI CAPTAIN'S REPORT: HOWARD NICHOLSON

ski@mtsc.org.nz

Spring is a great time to ski at Mt Ruapehu. The temperature is a bit warmer, Spring "corn" snow can be an absolute pleasure to ski and the longer daylight hours adds to the appeal. The ski season is expected to finish at Labour weekend (22 October).

The Whakapapa and Turoa indicative facilities management plans are available at the RAL website at <https://www.mtruapehu.com/ral/plans>. Of interest, the plans show the intended lines of the proposed gondola, Knoll Ridge Express chair (replacing the current Waterfall Express Chair and Knoll Ridge T-bar) and the Cornice Bowl Chair (replacing the Far West T-bar), and identify the terrain changes necessary to cater for the increased skier traffic through the Nose Dive/Second Waterfall area.

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.

Chief Guide Report: Ken Mercer

chief.guide@mtsc.org.nz

Trip leaders have a number of responsibilities towards participants. These range from organizing transport to ensuring individuals and the group are appropriately equipped. There is a useful checklist for trip leaders on the website (<http://mtsc.org.nz/trips.php>) but in my experience most club members bend over backwards to assist each other and, in particular, new members. Pairing a new member with a buddy of like ability often happens naturally and should be done.

Getting lost in the backcountry is something many people fear but losing someone from the group is something I never want to experience. I know of trips where people have vanished from the middle or the front of a group to the great consternation of the leader. Managing a trip with 3 or 4 people is relatively easy but it becomes more difficult with larger groups. One approach is to appoint a leader and a Tail End Charlie and have everyone walk together. Of course that is frustrating for some and exhausting for others so it is reasonable to divide up. This works well providing it is carefully managed. To this end, the club recently purchased three UHF radios.

These modern radios are relatively small, light, rechargeable and easy to operate. When using them, bear in mind that UHF won't go through or around hills so moving may improve communication. It remains important that each subgroup correctly navigate, regroup at decision points if not sooner, and have their own emergency gear such as a PLB and shelter. However we are also hopeful that, in the event of an emergency, everyone can quickly regroup and concentrate resources. Keep safe out there!

Summer Trip Card Suggestions

Thank you for adding your summer adventures to the trip card. If you haven't added your trips yet the last date for adding trips will be the 17th September. See:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1mnfgdAccRKExwO-MlwveJ9Q64C9uos0hDdBBR7s-9ik/edit?usp=sharing>

Alternatively contact Jenny McCarthy on 021 215 2197.

Mountain Films Festival



Massey University Alpine Club is screening an outstanding collection of unique adventure films from NZ's popular Mountain Films Festival at **6.30 pm on Thursday 13th September** in the Social Sciences Lecture Block (SSLB1) at Massey University.

NZ Mountain Film Festival is one of the world's major Mountain Film festivals, an internationally known event that attracts film makers from around the world. The

festival theme, 'A Celebration of Adventurous Sports and Lifestyles', aims to show case a series of short films from the high-octane sports such as skiing, climbing, kayaking and mountain biking.

Pre sale tickets \$15 and can be purchased by emailing socialrep@muac.org.nz. Door sales will be available for \$20.

www.facebook.com/events/237849327037364

We welcome Christina Binsbergen and family, Melanie Farquhar and family, Susan Huang and family, Campbell Johnson, Elliott O'Brien, Anja Padrutt and family, Tanja Rosendorfsky, Katrina Shepherd and family, Kathrine Spencer, Thomas Spencer, Jill Walcroft and family, Judy Callesen, Paihere Tims and Atawhai Tims to the club.

A Tribute to Andrew Brodie, a Wednesday Trampler

For much of his life Andrew was an enthusiastic trampler; indeed he and Carolyn met as members of the University of Canterbury Tramping Club. As his career at Massey moved towards retirement, for over five



years he was a regular trampler with the Wednesday Tramping Group, an integral part of the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club. This group has about sixty active members and on a typical tramp each week, twenty five or more members take part. For over three years Andrew was the coordinator for the group and as such he organised the roster of tramp leaders, the transport arrangements and the report on the tramps for the Club monthly newsletter Beech Leaves. Andrew invented this role and it is a tribute to his good work that, in June 2014, when he gave up the position two people were appointed to replace him! The Wednesday group is noted for its friendly atmosphere and social traditions. Andrew embraced these traditions and became very dear to us. We will miss him and it is hard to accept that we have seen the last of this friendly and genial fellow trampler who was also an exceptional organiser.

Bob Hodgson, Social Convenor MTSC



UPCOMING TRIPS

September Wednesday Tramps			September Thursday Tramps		
5	Judith & Peter Zwart	353 5087	6	Bryce & Raewyn Buddle	353 5163
12	Linda Darbyshire	354 6171	13	John McLeod	323 5785
19	Rod McKenzie	357 0136	20	John & Gillian Thornley	356 9681
26	Bev Akers	325 8879	27	No leader Assigned	
September Weekend Trips					
1-2	Crater Lake postponed til 29-30	Medium	John Lyttle	027 433 6307	
8-9	Sunset Ridge-Mangaturuturu Hut	E-Med/Technical	Adam Matich	022 358 8062	
15-16	Spring Ski	Lodge	Howard Nicholson	027 294 1941	
23 Sun	A-Frame-Stansfield Loop	Med/Fit	Jenny McCarthy	021 215 2197	
29-30	Crater Lake	Medium	John Lyttle	027 433 6307	

Trip Intentions: The email address for leaving trip intentions is 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 Land SAR/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.

8th-9th September: Sunset Ridge-Mangaturuturu Hut

Adam Matich Easy/Medium/Technical 022 358 8062

This trip starts at the top of the Ohakune Mountain Road. We will sidle north across Sunset Ridge and climb to 1720 m which is above the bluffs at BJ34 183473. Eventually, at BJ34 179483, we will head down the spur, through a helpful gap in the bluffs, and continue down towards the 56 m waterfall. At around 1550 m we will drop into and cross over the river. An easy sidle on the true right will eventually allow us to angle up the steeper slope to reach the around-the-mountain track just uphill of the trees. Once on the track we head down to Lake Surprise and then Mangaturuturu Hut for the night. Depending upon who is going, and the conditions, we may reduce this to a day trip as the complete loop does not take very long (in summer). An ice axe and crampons will be necessary due to the winter conditions.

15th-16th September: Spring Ski and Pizza Night

Howard Nicholson Lodge 027 294 1941

Perfect weather and great snow is forecast for this weekend (as at the time of writing). If you feel the need for an excuse to get up to the lodge, then consider booking in for this weekend. Everyone will have the opportunity, should they wish to accept it, to design their own pizza creations from the ingredients provided. Relax in the lodge with a glass of your favourite beverage and reflect on the good times...

23rd September: A Frame Loop

Jenny McCarthy Medium/Fit 021 215 2197

A steep climb up to the A Frame Hut and then along Takapari Road to the Stanfield/Rimu Track turn off. We can take either of these tracks down to the stream/hut and then cross over the stream and take the track up onto Homes Ridge and back to the car. I am open to variation and suggestions for this day trip.

29th-30th September: Crater Lake (Postponed from 1st-2nd Sept)

John Lyttle

Medium

027 433 6307

We will walk to the crater from the top available lift and ski and board back. This trip is for people of intermediate fitness and skiing/boarding ability. This trip will be weather dependent. Please let John Lyttle know if you wish to participate.

Early Notice:

19th-22th Oct Northern Kaimai Range

Adam Matich

Medium

022 358-8062

No one from down this area ever goes to the Kaimais, so this is your chance, unless you organise a trip yourself. The area we are going to is NW of Tauranga, viz. west of Katikati, so we will travel part way and stay somewhere (probably Rotorua) on Friday night. The two huts we are staying at are Waitawheta Hut on Saturday night and Daly's Clearing Hut, somewhat to the north, on Sunday night. Waitawheta Hut will have to be booked months ahead if you want to be assured of a bed.

We will start off on the eastern side at Woodland Road, follow Wairoa Stream Track, touch on Lindemann's Loop Track, steam through Wairoa Shelter, and then travel NW along Upper Waitawheta Track, from the intersection, to Waitawheta Hut for the night. On day two we will head west on Waipapa Track towards Te Aroha and north on Mangakino Pack Track to Daly's Clearing Hut for the night. This is a fair distance. Then on day three we will head east to eventually drop onto Waitengaue Stm Track and through to Woodlands Road.

If you don't want to commit early to hut bookings, there is nothing stopping you taking your chances on there being space at Waitawheta Hut rather closer to the weekend. Apparently there is also space available for camping.

The Kaimais have quite a history of gold mining, and so some of the tracks (but not all) are on defunct tramways which means fast, easy travel. As a result the distances involved don't always have to be daunting. In certain areas of the northern Kaimais there are relics of the mining era, so it is not just a walk in the bush. There will be other things to see. Have a look at the DoC propaganda.

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/Documents/parks-and-recreation/tracks-and-walks/bay-of-plenty/kaimai-to-coast-brochure.pdf>



Thursday 12th July Roaring Stag Lodge Overnight

Report & Photos: Chris Mercer

Ten of us set off for a low-key mid-winter feast. We were confident about the food but not about the forecast southerly front, but this was not a wet one and hardly bothered us. The party split up after the morning break to allow the faster ones to get to, then set off from the Roaring Stag Lodge for an afternoon climb up to Cattle Ridge hut. The sun shone between passing clouds and it was hard to leave the sunny porch of the Lodge, but Chris, Leonie, Royce and Judith set off





with day-trip gear and found Cattle Ridge hut after 2 hours 20 mins up the consistently steep climb. The going was challenging high up in the snow as the track was often obscured and it was very cold above 1100 m but mercifully calm. The tarn just W of the hut was frozen and the ice covered by snow. The hut was at risk of removal a few years ago but the community rallied and supported rescue and an upgrade – the hut has new windows, a porch and a fire box but the flue has yet to be fitted. It’s great to see a hut saved from

demolition. We grabbed a bite to eat and donned any remaining clothing before setting off as soon as possible to minimise the time in the bush with torches. Our friends at the Lodge were keeping watch, looking for torches coming over the bridge, and were pleased to see us! We too were pleased to be back as the Lodge was now at about 25C. I didn’t even take off wet clothes as they dried so quickly on me. Friday’s walk out was uneventful and it was fun to have lunch in Eketahuna.

Thanks to leader Christine Scott and to the wood choppers and fire lighters who warmed the Lodge.



Wednesday 18th July: Mangawhio Lakes Road



The day started fine with warmish temperatures for the winter walk on Mangawhio Lakes road. With the van and five cars in tow (!) we set off for the Waitotara back country, an area at lot of the Wednesday group hadn't been before. The area had been badly damaged in the 2015 flood as had the Mangawhio Lake which lost up to 5 metres of water revealing petrified trees that had that had been submerged for centuries. A lot of work has been done in the area to improve the drainage

resulting in new roads and culverts that weren't there before, making it a little confusing as to what is the right track to go on. However the use of newly acquired radios made keeping track of 33 trampers of different abilities a lot easier.



The lakes are reached after about a 30 minute of open road walk and then a gentle climb on the old main road to a high point which was the lunch stop for most. A few went on further to a higher point for lunch. The road does continue down

to the newer Waitotara River road if time allows. The track was wet and muddy after recent rain making it a little slippery especially coming back down but everyone was back safely by 2.30 and we finished the day with coffee cake and ice-cream at the Pukeko’s Nest cafe near Westmere Lake, Wanganui. A big thank you to drivers Chris, Bob, Bill, Marion and Margaret.



Report & Trip Leader: Rita. Photos, maps and stats. William, Maureen, Angela and Bev

Thursday 19th July: Soames Island

Report: Royce Mills



It was an early start in the dark at 6.30am departing from the Aokautere shopping centre car park with seventeen in our group. We travelled to Plimmerton, parked and caught a train to Wellington. A pleasant morning greeted us, calm with wintery sunshine. We had time to relax and have a coffee before catching the 10am sailing of the East by West ferry. Just a 25 minute trip to

Somes Island where we were greeted by a DOC ranger and had our day packs searched for any nasty pests or plant material. Because the great majority of our group hold Gold cards we had until one o'clock to catch a free ferry back to the city.

This gave us plenty of time to explore the island, walk most of the tracks and view points of interest including the visitor centre, the old quarantine station, old gun emplacements and the lighthouse. We saw a variety of birdlife. The sky was busy with black backed gulls as nesting time is approaching and also seen were spotted shags, pied oysters and kakariki. Nesting boxes were out for little blue penguins but we didn't see any. No tuatara were seen either; it's probably too cold now.

Our transport back home by train and vehicles went smoothly and we were back in Palmerston North by late afternoon. Many thanks to our van driver, Chris Mercer.

A highly recommended trip!

Sunrise Hut on a Wintery Day

Report; Bob Hodgson

Photos: Linda, William and Maureen

On Wednesday July 25th, 24 MTSC Trampers made their way via North Block road to the Mid Eastern entrance to the Ruahine Forest park. It was a cool, dry winter's day with a distinct wind chill felt in exposed positions. Six trampers opted to stay low and to tramp the Swamp Track, Triple X, etc and had a pleasant relaxed day. The balance of the trampers opted to spend their morning on the zig-zaggy track up to the hut. Morning tea taken at the seat adjacent to the junction was cut short by the chill wind blowing across the ridge. The higher we went the cooler it became but with the compensation of some pretty views (see



Linda's photo above). The track in the vicinity of Pack Horse corner was again found to be badly eroded by water flow as it had been four or five years ago prior to repairs (DOC please note!). Most trampers made it up to the hut for lunch. Sitting in its Tussock basin at 1280m the hut was a bleak but welcome sight. Fortunately, the side veranda gave a sunny respite from the searching wind. Those who ventured beyond and behind the hut were met by an icy blast and soon retreated chilled by their exposure. After an invigorating winter tramp made in good conditions all trampers were safely out by about 2-30 pm. Thanks to Trip Leader and Van Driver Evan, Drivers Marion, Chris B and Peter.

Thursday 26th July 2018: Escarpment Track

Report: Royce Mills

We drove to the Pukerua Bay end this time and set out along the track at 9.30 am. Fourteen in this group. There was high cloud to start with but it soon cleared to become fine with blue sky and sunshine, giving us sparkling views. It was mostly calm, just breezy at the very highest points. We took a couple of snack stops along the way and completed a relaxed and



very enjoyable 10km walk (with countless steps!) in 3 hours 20 minutes. We sat in the sun for lunch at Paekakriki and some went for a beach walk while our drivers kindly caught a train to collect the van and one car. Welcome to new Thursday trumper, Pak-Lam Yu, and thank you to our leader, John Brock, and van driver, Wayne Lincoln.

28th/29th July: Waihohonu Hut

Report: Garry Grayson

A good sized group of 9 opted in for this mid winter venture in to Waihohonu Hut which is located on the Eastern side of Mt Ruapehu, an easy wander of about 1 to 1.5hrs from the carpark just off the Desert Rd. This hut is a Serviced Hut on the Great Walks - Round the Mountain Circuit and resembles some 5 star hotels with its many sleeping 'wings' and cooking areas, 28 bunks, 3 - 4 bunkrooms (ideal for family groups), solar LED lighting, gas cookers (in season), inside tap water and loads of exterior deck space for summer overflow. (And usually firewood!)

After departing Adam's at a respectable hour of 8:30am and collecting Mark and Dave en route, the van glided on in to Taihape for the mandatory Wild Bean coffee and pie break right on morning tea time; for some this was also early lunch.

As always it was difficult to determine exact weather conditions expected, but after scanning various forecasting sites a general picture of showers and some wind seemed to be the likely scenario, which turned out about right, but did include the occasional moments of sunshine



thrown in. The track was clear of any snow and none forecast so easy walking.

After securing the van at the Desert Rd carpark, the faster group disappeared into the distance and arrived at the hut soon there after, only to find it was bare of any firewood. This seemed a bit strange given that DOC would, we assume, restock for the winter season. Our conclusions were that the fire was either thrashed during the summer as well, or, the winter supply was never delivered! Anyway, it meant a wood gathering exercise was required from the surrounding area. (There are advantages in being 'tail end charlie': its all done when you get there, Lol!)

Although not touted as an 'All You Can Eat' trip, it did resemble one. An afternoon tea of freshly cooked Pikelets, Jam and Whipped Cream, compliments of Adam, then a bit later, Snacks and Beverages, a main meal of Spag' Bol' and finally the 'knockout blow' of Apple Pie, Custard and Whipped Cream for dessert.

Meanwhile during our snacking session, the kids, which included 3 or 4 from another family in the hut, plus Annalise from our group, had fun cooking and demolishing Helen's bag of Marshmallows on sticks over the woodburner flames.

A recipe for a good nights' sleep if ever there was one, with not too much 'chainsawing.' Most awoke fresh and rearing to go, although a later start of 9:00 was trip leader's order - no pressure today. Again the faster mob went on ahead and got the van warmed up, all aboard and on the road by about 10:30ish, arriving at Taihape just in time for an early lunch at, yes, Wild Bean again! with a bit of Mc D' thrown in.

Back in PN by 1:30 unfortunately meant some people would have to do a few chores like lawns, etc. Oh dear! Our group was Garry, Adam, Dave, Mark, Jenny, Steve, Bernadette, Helen and Annalise.



28th/29th July: Ski Improvement Weekend

Report: Peter Bowker

Well the weather was awful all weekend so in terms of skiing we only did a single half day of practising drills down the Rangitira Chair in partial white out; this included careful work to avoid crashing into other people. We all went back to the Lodge for lunch. Then some of us wandered off into the gloom and practised searching for transceivers and using ice axes and crampons. For avalanche awareness we spent a bit of time climbing into holes that Hazel dug for us, testing the layers, and looking at snowflakes through a magnifying glass. These activities would probably be more useful if you were considering a ski tour or two.

We watched some videos on Saturday night and considered typical faults in carving technique then carefully critiqued videos of Peter and Howie enjoying the wide open spaces of a clear day at Shiga Kogen. Apart from the obvious fits of envy these were reasonably useful to show what not to do. Unfortunately the weather was too bad for us to use the video cameras on the Saturday so we all had to just endure knowing that Peter and Howie had likely improved as a result of being critiqued.

Overall however the commitment was that everyone who attended would have improved by the end of the weekend. And so it was if it wasn't the skiing it was the axing or the cramponing or transceiving or the cheffing or just avoiding smashing into some innocent bystander in the fog or maybe just being a smart so and so and realising you knew it all anyway.

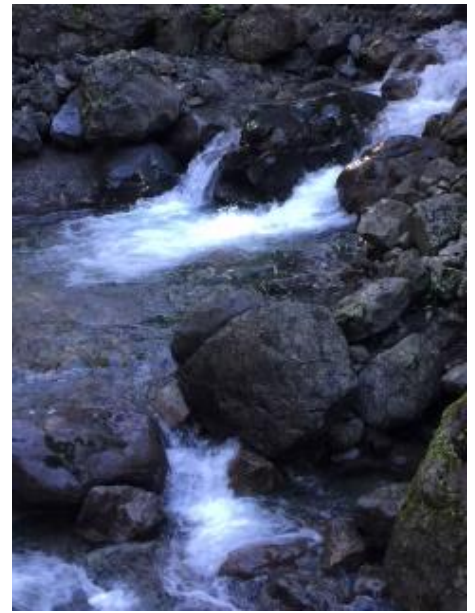


Rainbow on Atiawhakatu Trip
(over page)

Wednesday 1st August: Atiwhakatu Hut

Report: Harold

Thirty two members arrived at Mt. Holdsworth Carpark intending to tramp to Atiwhakatu Hut. Most reached the Hut in about two hours and one group went another half hour on the Jumbo Hut track. The track was in good condition except that extra care had to be taken when traversing the slip but there were no falls. However, the track to Jumbo Hut was reported to be muddy in parts. All returned to the carpark without incident about 2.30 pm. The clubs three emergency radios were shared among groups and they were a useful communication about where people were and when groups were turning around. Reception was generally satisfactory. The radios would be invaluable in



an emergency.

Vivid rainbows (see previous page), a swiftly flowing river, scenic beech forest and a nicely situated hut were features of the tramp. Many photographs were taken and shared by members. Here are three that I took as samples of the scenery. The tramp covered about fifteen kilometres so good exercise and the social side was met by a leisurely coffee stop at the I-site café. All trampers arrived safely back by 5 pm.

My thanks to those who drove or offered cars, Chris, Bev, Marion, Linda, Richard, Evan and Ewen.

Thursday 2nd August 2018: Pinnacle Ridge

Report: Pak Lam Yu

Photos: John Brock

At 9.30 am we arrived at the Holdsworth campsite (400 m). Apart from some runners, we were the only visitors. Fifteen of us headed upwards to Pinnacle (877 m). Three members tramped to the Atiwhakatu Hut along the river. I was one of the fifteen (supposedly fitter group?). After a bit of a gentle walk following the river we came across a big slip on the opposite side from Donnelly Flat. From there onwards the climb got tougher and I fell further behind. At one point, I could hear Judy Swainson (the supreme leader!) calling out "Are you OK Pak at the back?" Judy was both a visible and audible leader! Very reassuring.



After the morning tea break, we worked hard and made it to the Pinnacle. It gave a good 360 degree view of the surrounding ridges and valleys. Jumbo Hut was visible at a distance. A decision was made to walk further to the junction where the track split to head to Atiwhakatu Hut or the carpark. During the lunch break, Norman Cooper, the ex-fireman, decided green was the real fashion for him. His green wig fitted him

nically in the forest. On the downhill track, I had the privilege of hearing John Brock and Syd Easton give an interesting talk on the change of the forest undergrowth. Old tree stumps were scattered and many of them



seemed to have self-destructed - small planks lying neatly around the base. In other areas on the ground there were small logs which were stained with shiny metallic green, blue, or black colours (most likely due to the growth of fungi). Young (silver or mountain) beech trees were growing well to replace the old trees, but in some parts, the forest floor was rather bare, apparently from the heavy grazing by deer or possums. By 3 pm we were all back to the carpark and ready to head back to Palmy after a quick ice cream stop at Masterston. Overall, a great day of adventure, full of challenges, variations and excitement. Thank you Judy

Swainson for organizing this trip and fellow Thursday trampers for your good spirits.

4-5th August 2018: Kime Hut

Report: - Dave Mitchell (Trip Leader)

The weather forecast was for wet and windy conditions, especially in the East. Despite that five of us made our way down to Otaki forks with a mandatory stop for coffee and doughnuts in Otaki. I was interested to see the road repairs over the big slip. Last time we had to walk up into the logging area then drop down to Roaring Meg just to get to the carpark. There was no wind or rain as began our walk up towards Field hut,



which we reached at lunchtime. We sat in the sun having our lunch, it was warmer than the hut and there had been no one there anyway.

After Field hut we continued up to Table Flat. By this stage we were feeling the effect of the NE wind. As we continued higher it started to rain lightly. There were three trampers behind us but they just stopped and we never saw them again. We reached Kime Hut by 2 pm, just as the rain increased. For the rest of the afternoon everyone rugged up and hopped in their sleeping bags to keep warm, while I supplied hot water.

improvement over the old one. Later we rustled up some saveloys and had steamed pudding as well. Everyone was in their sleeping bags before 8pm.

It wasn't freezing in the hut and there was no snow outside as it had washed away. The new hut is a great

Overnight there was some sleeting snow which was gone by morning; in fact the day was reasonably clear. After leaving the hut tidy we made our way back and enjoyed good views of the surrounding peaks. Raj got to see the lie of the land and familiarize himself with where the Tararua peaks are. We reached Field hut by 10 am so we had a brew up for coffee. The inhabitants from last night had not tidied the hut so we did this yet again. It only took about 2 hours to reach the carpark as it was all downhill. I drove the van around to the day carpark so everyone could change under cover, as it just started raining.



On the drive out, just after the Roaring Meg Bridge there is a short walk available. It goes over private land and there is a track up to a dam. It passes the site of the powerhouse which was destroyed in a flood. We were soon back in the traffic mayhem of Otaki Township to enjoy another pie and coffee. We were Dave, Jenny, Raj, Garry and Adam.

Thursday 9th August: Short's track

Report: Judy Swainson and Royce Mills

Photo: High point today, 1300m (Pak-Lam Yu)

Eighteen Thursday trampers set out to walk Shorts Track with the plan to complete the loop via Toka and descend on Knights Track. The weather was mild but as the group proceeded the weather deteriorated. Rain set in, visibility was limited and there were no views. We reached the 1300 metre point at the top of Shorts Track at midday. With rain and strong winds Syd Easton, our leader, made the right decision for the group to turn back and find a sheltered place for lunch. The upper track had recently been trimmed with a brush cutter so that flax and tussock leaf was lying on the surface making it noticeably slippery. As we descended the rain mostly cleared which ensured a very pleasant walk out.



This was the first time we used the club radios. They worked successfully and were useful as two of our group chose to walk the lower Deerford Loop track.

On the drive home we all stopped for welcome hot drinks and cake in front of a warming fire at Hansen's Cafe and Store, Kimbolton. Thanks Syd for excellent organisation and leadership.

Wednesday 15th August: Makairo Track - Beautiful Bush and Views with Sticky Mud and Showers

Report & Trip Leader: Bob Ha.

Editor: Bob Ho.

Twenty eight trampers travelled to the Makairo Track located East of Mangatainoka and deep in the Wairarapa back country. Parking at the start of the track is minimal and could have been a challenge for five cars and a van. Fortunately the adjacent farmer came to our rescue and opened his stockyard gate to provide extra parking space. Problem solved with thanks to the farmer.



The last time the Wednesday trampers waked this track we were led by Andrew Brodie. As a mark of respect to the memory of Andrew we had a silence before setting off on the tramp. The track is a disused road and follows a gentle gradient leading up to the saddle after 7km. The track took us mostly through light bush with good views over the adjoining Waewaepa scenic reserve. Rain combined with 28 trampers "churn" made the track slippery in sections. The track is a little overgrown in places, but quite manageable. Hunters and mountain bike riders also use the track and help to keep it clear.

Most trampers had lunch at the saddle and then turned for a 14km round trip. Walking a further 3km to the end of the track did not appeal due inclement weather. One surprise for experienced Makairo track walkers was news from the farmer about a biv. located a short distance below the track, but not visible from the track. Of course the biv. had to be “bagged”. Once again the club UHF radios proved useful for keeping track of groups of trampers.

By 2.15pm everyone was out and we then drove to the pub adjoining the Mangatainoka brewery for coffee and other refreshments.

Thanks to drivers Chris, Rita, Rod, Bob, Sue and Bev. Photos Bev,Rod,William and Maureen. Stats and Plot William.



Club Talks for Next Year

Tuesday 5th February, 2019: Ravaged Beauty by Katherine Knight

The Environmental History of the Manawatu

Tuesday 5th March, 2019: The Arizona National Scenic Trail by Glenn Pendergast



In the spring of 2017 Glenn Pendergast hiked the Arizona National Scenic Trail, aka: the Arizona Trail, aka: AZT which is part of the USA’s National Scenic Trail system and was officially opened in 2011. The AZT is 1,300 km long and travels the length of Arizona from the Mexican border to the Utah border. The trail is walked in spring or autumn to avoid deep snow in winter and the heat and lack of water in summer. The first half is the most strenuous as the trail crosses many small mountain ranges (collectively known as the Sky Islands) whereas the second half is easier going on a high plateau. The highlight of the trail is hiking across the Grand Canyon just a few days from the finish.



Contact Details

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Committee 2018 - 2019

President	Rob Pringle	president@mtsc.org.nz	027 426 2176
Secretary	Tim Swale	secretary@mtsc.org.nz	06 376 6556
Treasurer	Arthur Flint	treasurer@mtsc.org.nz	06 356 7654
Chief Guide	Ken Mercer	chief_guide@mtsc.org.nz	06 356 7497
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Mini-Bus Manager	Ken Mercer	minibus@mtsc.org.nz	06 356 7497

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

Appointees

Lodge Bookings	Hugh & Liz Wilde	lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz	0212 054 2560
Gear Custodian	Peter Rawlins	gear@mtsc.org.nz	06 356 7443
Ski Captain	Howard Nicholson	ski@mtsc.org.nz	06 357 6325
Social Convenor	Bob Hodgson	social@mtsc.org.nz	06 356 2915
Wednesday Trips	Bev Akers	bevakers@xtra.co.nz	06 325 8879
Thursday Trips	Merv Matthews	merv6817@gmail.com	06 357 2858
Facebook	Ivan Rienks, Karen Tutt, Howard Nicholson	facebook@mtsc.org.nz	

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

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 or phone 021 054 2560. 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	The lodge phone number is (07) 892 3860.
Adult	\$37	\$52	
Secondary School	\$30	\$45	
Primary School	\$25	\$40	
Pre-school (3-5 yo)	\$12	\$12	

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.