

# 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 10: November 2018



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 November 6<sup>th</sup> - 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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.



## Tuesday December 11<sup>th</sup> – MTSC End of Year Walk and Meal

Following the long established tradition of at least four (4) years the December Club Night and End -of-year Function is to be in the form of a pre-prandial walk. This will start at 6pm from the river end of Albert Street where there is ample parking, then follow the river bank track towards and over the bridge to ANZAC park. Thence we will walk the step loop down to the river and back up to retrace our steps. The step loop is optional and not to be attempted in high heels!



This walk is intended to be an appetite stimulant and will take a little over an hour. We will then gather at Halikarnas' new restaurant, "Viva" at 21 Rangatikei Street (at the corner with Cuba street) about 7.20pm. The menu includes Turkish, Mediterranean or European food; it is both licensed and BYO and

is well priced

Why not make up a group and enjoy a relaxed evening with the **walk (6pm) and/or meal (7.20pm)?**

Please let Karen Tutt on [tutto71@outlook.com](mailto:tutto71@outlook.com) know if you plan to come to the meal so we can alert Halikarnas to the numbers to expect.

All welcome and note that the walk is optional!

Bob Hodgson

MTSC Social Convenor

## Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> February, 2019: Ravaged Beauty by Catherine Knight

The Environmental History of the Manawatu

## Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2019: The Arizona National Scenic Trail by Glenn Pendergast



In the spring of 2017 Glenn Pendergrast 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.



### MTSC President: Rob Pringle

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



The time has come when the evenings are longer, bird song is in the air, and the enthusiasm is strong to start gaining traction on all those summer projects that have been on hold for the winter.

I recently attended the end of season round of meetings held up at the ski field. It will be business as usual for the most part but with some significant changes for access / availability of the facilities at Whakapapa. The construction programme for the new gondola kicks into gear almost as soon as they turn the lifts off (22 October), so summer sightseeing, and all food and beverage facilities will be shut for the summer. More importantly for us, there will be an exclusion zone put in place around the construction works. This is to allow them their best shot at completing the build prior to the start of the winter 2019 season on 1 July. RAL has promised to circulate some maps of areas they'd like people to avoid, so if anyone is planning any summer trips in and around the mountain, it may be good to keep in mind the lack of facilities and lift access to kick off those trips.

For those who have missed the news – the gondola project for RAL is a new 50 cabin gondola spanning from the current base area to the Knoll Ridge café. This is designed to provide more reliable and consistent transport between the two areas and open up greater opportunities for year-round tourism in the vicinity. It may also open up some opportunities for us as a club to capitalise on the increase in visitor numbers over a quieter period in our calendar.

For those who missed the mail out – season passes are on sale now. – Get in quick before the price rises on 1 November. These passes offer great value for money for those wishing to enjoy the season for anything more than two weekends, and they also offer a good option to beat the queues at the ticket office.

With the Christmas season fast approaching and settled summer weather beyond, my thoughts have turned to summer fitness, with goal setting rising to the forefront. For many of us the winter provides a natural rest period where we are perhaps not as physically active as in summer, or simply participate in more gravity-assisted sports. Thanks largely due to metrics provided by a new toy I have, I have been reminded that standing on my feet whilst sliding down hill doesn't burn a lot of calories; nor does it do a huge amount for my step count! Whilst I have tried to undertake some ski touring / climbing activities to combat this lack of movement, some more physically intense activity is going to be in order to get me to a place where I would like to be for the summer period.

Planning out objectives is a great way to map out your summer and ensure that your time in the hills is put to good use. Set yourself some goals – make them smart goals if you like. Keep them specific: where am I going, who am I taking, how are we going, and why do I want to achieve this goal? Measurable: how will you know when you've achieved it? Attainable: don't set goals that are so far outside your abilities that they are unrealistic. Relevant: make sure your goal has a connection to your life, and what you'd like to achieve. Time-bound: make sure you put a time limit on it. Setting and achieving goals provides a great sense of accomplishment when journeys of interest are undertaken and achieved. Also having a clear plan to achieve objectives that possibly push the comfort zone a little are easier to schedule at a time and place where you're feeling like you've done the ground work to prepare for them.

Remember in all you do in the hills, have fun, leave intentions with a trusted party, and keep each other safe out there. There are also some great guidelines on the MTSC web page for trip leaders, and those joining trips. Have a read and brush up on any skills that may have not been used as much lately. Also keep the 2019 summer trip card stuck to the fridge and go and enjoy the outdoors.

Cheers  
Rob.

**Lodge Manager: John Lyttle 027 433 6307**

[lodge.manager@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:lodge.manager@mtsc.org.nz)

Many hands will make light work on this large project to revitalise the lodge. Be sure to book a bed at the lodge and let me know if you will be attending. Club van will be available for rides from Palmy and I have spare seats leaving from Wellington on the Friday night.

### **Proposed Lodge Work Party weekends:**

3-4 November

17-18 November

1-2 December

19-21 January, 2019 - Wellington Anniversary Weekend

2-6 February - Waitangi Day Long Weekend

23-24 February

16-17 March

6-7 April

19-22 April, Easter (Correction c.f. Sept newsletter)

### **TREASURER**

The club is seeking a new treasurer to take over from Arthur Flint from 1 April next year. Anyone interested is asked to contact Arthur to discuss the role.

Email: [treasurer@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:treasurer@mtsc.org.nz)

*We welcome Philip Lucas to the club.*

## MTSC Chief Guide: Ken Mercer

[chief.guide@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:chief.guide@mtsc.org.nz)



As is usual in the winter I've been skiing frequently, both on and off piste. Rob and I recently attended a meeting with other backcountry skiers and RAL to develop guidelines for ski touring. This is a tricky situation with RAL operating vehicles and performing avalanche control work in a national park where everyone has a "right of access". They are wanting a proactive and educational approach to prevent accidents. In the meeting I learned several things:

Snowmaking staff do heaps of kms on skidoos at night maintaining the snow guns. The skidoos are difficult to control downhill (Think of a bike minus front brake) so it is really dumb to travel on the track they're using wearing dark clothing without lighting.

We all know that sections of the skifield are often closed, generally early in the day, for avalanche control which keeps punters away from any triggered avalanche. In addition, the ski patrol occasionally have a timed explosive get loose and tumble way down a gully before exploding. Something to ruin your day if you've crossed a barrier.

Lastly a hazard I was aware of is winch grooming. RAL's fleet of snow groomers push the snow back up the mountain for much of the night. On all the steeper slopes they use a 1km long cable attached to an anchor up the hill for assistance. Under tension this can pull under the snow then release unexpectedly with good amputation potential if you're in its path. There is no issue walking into our lodge in the evening as we are well away from these operations. However carefully consider your route if ski touring early or late.



Ken

## First Tracks – Ski Captain's Report – Howard Nicholson

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

The Ski season at Mt Ruapehu finished at Labour Weekend with a 3-metre snow base still intact on the upper mountain. The lodge has been busy all season, particularly at weekends but also during the week. Members will have some great memories to get them through the lean Summer period until the snow falls again.

On any given morning you may find families hitting the Happy Valley slopes with their pre-schoolers, people trying skiing for their first time, others challenging themselves to go that little bit faster/steeper/more in control, climbers preparing to tackle an icy route, or ski tourers heading for the back of beyond. Some will be content to just be there on the mountain, enjoying the comforts of the lodge. At night, all of these groups come together and the place is abuzz with the excitement of the day. This atmosphere is special and is something to be savoured.

You will be aware of the improvements to be made to the lodge in the coming months and years. You will be most welcome to join a work party over summer to help make the lodge an even nicer place to stay - see the web site or this newsletter for details.

It is time to dust off the lightweight tramping boots once more - I look forward to seeing you in the hills, at Mt Ruapehu and beyond.

Howard

## Fundraiser for Pukeokahu School and Community: Aorangi Walk Sat 17 November

A 6-7 hour tramp up Mt Aorangi; dinner, breakfast and accommodation \$100 or walk from \$80/person.

For more information contact Heather Gilbert on 063880762 or <[pukeokahuevents@gmail.com](mailto:pukeokahuevents@gmail.com)>



November Wednesday Tramps			November Thursday Tramps		
			1	Carolyn Brodie	358 6576
7	Ian Brookes	358 7974	8	Suzanne Clark	356 8322
14	Dennis Jensen	329 3229	15	Craig Ross	355 3445
21	Jill Faulkner	323 6094	22	Leonie Lowndes	359 5005
28	Christine Finnigan	329 7822	29	Norman Cooper	357 5531
November Weekend Trips					
3-4	Lodge Upgrade Work Party	All	John Lyttle	027 433 6307	
11 Sun	Makairo Track	Medium	Jenny McCarthy	021 215 2197	
17-18	Lodge Upgrade Work Party	All	John Lyttle	027 433 6307	
24-25	Maropea Forks Hut	Fit	Jean Garman	021 176 0209	

**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 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.

### Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November: Makairo Track

**Jenny McCarthy            Medium            021 215 2197**

This walk follows an old road that that goes through the Northern side of the Waewaepa Reserve across to Coonor in the east. As it is going to be a lovely day we will be looking for the biv that the Wednesday trampers were told about. I plan to walk as far as the saddle and possibly to the quarry which is where the road starts on the Coonor side.

### 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> November: Maropea Forks Hut

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

The plan is to head in through Sunrise Hut/Armstrong Saddle and North along the tops to the Maropea high point before dropping down to Maropea Forks Hut for the night. The next day up the river to Top Maropea Hut and back out through Sunrise Hut/Armstrong saddle. Or visa-versa if it suits the weather better.



### August -September: South Island Ski Touring Trip

<https://www.wilderlife.nz/2018/10/craigieburn-haute-route/>

## 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> November: Spring Ski

Report and Photos: Howard Nicholson

The planned event for this weekend was a pizza night at the lodge, but that highlight was surpassed by the day's activities. Some people stayed around the lodge and on the deck chilling in the sun. Others had quality family time on the learner and intermediate slopes.

After several runs on the increasingly busy skifield, it was time to head further up the hill to catch up with Rob, who was very keen to try out his new snow kite. After a sweat-inducing ski-tour up the Whakapapaiti Glacier, I caught up with Rob, Hazel and Nate near the Crater Lake. The weather was superb and a cunning plan was hatched to bag the Whangaehu Hut. Joined also by Jenni from TTC, we were soon skinning our way across the Summit Plateau to the slopes beneath Te Heu Heu.

Our first turn on the Mangatoetoenui Glacier proved that this would be a day to remember for all the right reasons, and after a mere 20 minutes or so, five skiers grinning like Cheshire Cats grinned slid into Whangaehu Hut. We were half way...



*Hazel, Rob and Nate desperately trying to stop grinning*

We did not stop for long, for although we were already half way through our trip, we still had the grinding uphill of the Whangaehu Glacier to come. This was completed in style in a little over 90 minutes. I counted 50 people near the Crater Lake, with many more still making their way up from the skifield, taking advantage of the clear sky and good conditions.

As we descended towards Whakapapa, a bank of dense cloud reduced our visibility to barely 10 metres. We were now in familiar territory and we were able to feel our way down to below the Yankee Slalom, where we could see again. We wondered how the other people would fare on their way down; indeed, another group from the lodge found the clag to be challenging. We had enough snow to ski all the way to the lodge.

For the main event, we turned fast food (pizza) into a slow food extravaganza. The lodge was full and we had capacity to cook only 4 pizzas at a time, so the children and the very hungry were fed first, followed by the rest. Pastry discs decorated many different ways were scoffed, with nary a scrap left over. A floating chocolate pudding finished us off.



*Crossing the Summit Plateau*

Sunday was another cracker day and we tired ourselves on the skifield before driving home and reflecting on an energetic and ultimately enjoyable weekend.

## Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September: Mania

Report: Rod McKenzie and Bob Hodgson

Photos and Plots: Bob Hodgson

After briefing and distribution of beacons and radios we split into three groups:

the leaders - aiming to go above the bush line  
the middle group - aiming for the top of the big slip  
above the steepest part of the track and  
the tail enders - planning to stop at the hunters  
camp.

All three groups achieved their objective.

The lead group (eight members), after taking a morning tea stop at the hunters camp, made it to a small knoll at 1432 m for lunch in the tussock. In the balmy conditions they had time to seek out a suitable snow patch for a bit of 'frolicking' before heading back down. They claimed ~900m and used 4183Kcal.



*On the peak*



*Trampers go troppo in the snow*



*Tail Enders Lunch*

The middle group (nine members) arrived at the hunters camp for their morning tea just as the leaders were leaving. After the morning tea stop the group slowly climbed the steep part of the track and reached the top of the big slip in time for lunch. Sitting in a small sunny clearing there were great views to the Central Plateau and across to Rangī Hut.

The tail enders took morning tea on the track and all made it to the hunters camp for a long lunch with several tramping on for 20 minutes after lunch.

Timing of the return of the groups to the car park varied and people were able to relax in the sun while awaiting the return of all trampers. The last group was back to the car park by 3.45 and everyone headed home.

The fine conditions and wonderful bush made this a memorable walk.

Thanks to trip leader Rod and drivers Chris (van), and cars Evan, Bob and Rod.

## Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> September: A Frame-Rimu Track Loop

Report: Jenny McCarthy

Adam, Leonie, Raj and Jenny headed up to the A-Frame (for morning tea) and then into the cloud along the Takapari road. From there we followed the track towards the Takapari trig and then turned off onto the no-longer-maintained Rimu track. This was the main focus of our day as two of us had not been down this track before. There were some markers and the track was easy to follow in the leather wood though it was harder to follow as we left the leather wood and went down into the forest. The further we went down the more the track played hide and seek. In the end the track won and we emerged into the river down stream of the track junction. A small climb up onto the Homes Ridge Track and we were on our way back to the car.

## Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September: Maharahara Revisited – Again!

Trip Leader and Report: Bob Hodgson

Photos: William, Maureen and Rod



A band of 22 self-selected, winter-clad and cheerfully optimistic Wednesday Trampers assembled at the head of Opawe Road for a 9 am start. In the trip leaders briefing, Bob asked the trampers to stay in self care groups and, in the vicinity of the peak where strong cold winds were to be anticipated, to be alert to the possibility of exposure. To allow all who wished to make it to the peak and back, a 4pm return time was specified.

This is what DOC says of the track that it classes as advanced tramping. “This is a well defined but often muddy track that climbs steeply through typical southern Ruahine rimu, kamahi and tawa forest. Higher up the track passes through more shrubby species such as horopito, flax and pink pine. From here it heads across a series of open, rocky knolls (hillocks) to Mt Maharahara. The scratchy, leathery leaved shrub leatherwood is evident on the tops here. The rata and kamahi forest that once thrived in this southern area of the park has been severely damaged over the years by possums. Introduced as early as the 1890’s, their chomping, in combination with high winds, heavy rains and slips, contributed to a major forest collapse by the 1950’s. Today the forest has more horopito, rangiora, bush lawyer and toetoe - all species possums don’t favour.”

We set out on the chilly tramp across the paddocks and up the steep climb (140m height gain) to the Ruahine Forest Park entrance and the start of the DOC bush track. The track meanders through what appears to be recovering bush past a few specimen trees and giving no hint of the challenging climb to come. Abruptly, the track changes its nature from a walk in the park to a steep scramble up a series of zigzags until a view point is reached and there the zigzag structure is abandoned in favor of a steep and direct climb. This goes on (and on!) until by way of respite, an extensive reach of goblin forest is reached and the gradient moderates for a time until again steep pitches resume. Eventually the leatherwood is reached where a few small pockets of snow were in evidence. As height was gained the track became stickier and muddier



It was about 100m from the peak, at a height of 909m, in cold and windy conditions that, on meeting a small group descending after abandoning their quest for the summit, the tail end trampers decided by a majority to follow their example. About seven trampers briefly visited the summit with at least one (well done Anne W!) making it for the first time. Trumper William reported that the clouds had briefly cleared at the peak and that he had enjoyed a magnificent view. He also recorded a total height gain of 890m and a calorie expenditure of 4081 Kcal. By noon all were descending and by 2.40pm all had made it safely back to the car park. That is, give or take a few muddy bums!

At the car park the wisdom of not leaving before all vehicles are mobile was nicely demonstrated when one vehicle was found to have a flat battery as the consequence of lights having been left on. Fortunately a local contact of the group was able to help with jumper leads. After a delay of about 40 minutes we all mobile and by 4pm most enjoyed the efficient hospitality of the herb Farm Café.

Thanks to our drivers Chris, Anne R, Arthur and Marion. Statistics William



## Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2018: Battle Hill Forest Park

Report and Trip Leader: Pak Lam Yu

Trip members: Raewyn Buddle, Judy Callesen, Norman Cooper, Syd Easton, Phil Hoskin, Tony Paterson, John and Gillian Thornley.

At 9 am we arrived at the Battle Hill farm, with tidy red buildings and well-manicured paddocks. Not many ewes were to be seen; likely they have been kept away from the public for lambing. After crossing the transmission gully (under construction), we arrived at the SE corner of the huge Akatarawa Forest. For the



tramp, we followed the 10 km Puketiro Loop. There were numerous mountain biking tracks (with other colour markers) criss-crossing inside the pine forest. Shortly after morning tea, we arrived at the highest point of the loop (464 m). At this site, we had a clear view of the Pauatahanui Inlet and the surrounding hills. Besides the panoramic vista, it was the flora and fauna that attracted our attention in this tramp. We saw white clematis, paradise shelduck, longfin eels, and red head parakeet. After lunch at the farm, we did a short walk up the Summit Track (255 m) in native bush.

For afternoon tea, we stopped at the Groundup café in Pauatahanui, which has a wildlife

reserve linking to a well-developed walking track along the shore of the inlet. At Plimmerton, we joined SH1 again. Overall, it was a nice day trip, away from the wet Palmerston North, which greeted us with a heavy downpour but a beautiful rainbow.

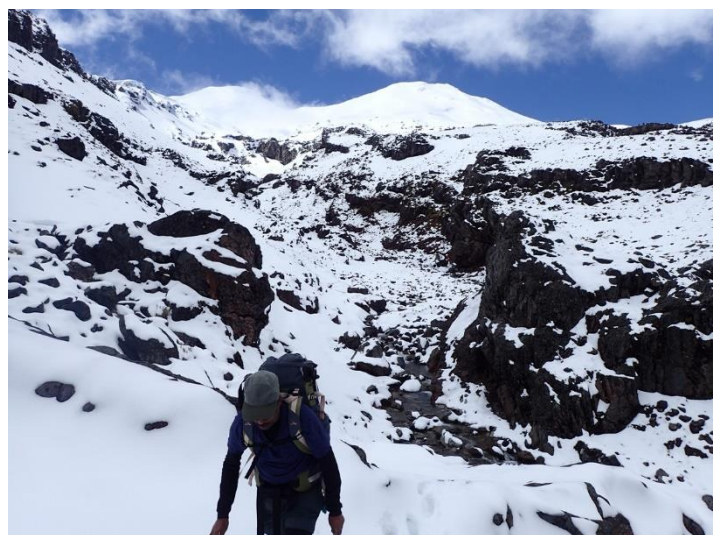
Thank you Syd for driving the van and navigating the whole trip.

## 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2018: Sunset Ridge – Mangaturuturu Loop

Report: Adam Matich

We started from the top car park on the Ohakune Mountain Road and climbed 20 m up the left ski run before sidling around the mountain across Sunset Ridge. It was a bit overcast and was snowing, so the day wasn't looking that promising. However, as time progressed it cleared up and we even had a bit of sun. On our way north we maintained a gentle climb so that somewhere along the way we reached a maximum altitude of 1780 m which was necessary for one of the gully crossings (possibly at BJ34 183 473) as it had bluffs lower down. With the improving visibility it was easy to make our way around the bluffs and we never found ourselves exposed or in difficulty. The slope of the mountain was quite gentle; it was only climbing out of a couple of the gullies that was steep. We could probably have survived without crampons as the snow was generally quite soft, but wore them anyway as it made us feel less insecure.

At BJ34 179 483 we headed down the spur through a helpful gap in the bluffs and continued heading down the spur towards the 56 m waterfall. Finding our way off the spur into the river was not as straightforward as it had been in summer. The route we had taken previously was down a steep slope with vegetation. Snow and vegetation don't mix well.



*The Upper Mangaturuturu River*

So we continued further down the spur until we found a very gentle entry into the river at around 1460 m, where we decided it was time to take our crampons off. After crossing over we had an easy sidle on the true right before angling up the steeper slope to reach the around-the-mountain track just uphill of the trees.

Once on the track it was brain-in-idle tramping through Lake Surprise and on to Mangaturuturu Hut for a late lunch, four hours from the car. After ascending the waterfall face, we climbed 100 m above the track and sidled around to reach the top car park.

We were Raj Palanisamy and Adam Matich

## Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October: Mountain House Loop and beyond – Holdsworth

Report and Trip Leader: Ewen

Photos: Bob, Russell

The Wairarapa turned on a fantastic spring day to enable twenty seven members to complete the tramp to the Mountain House on the route to Powell Hut via the Atiwhakatu and River Ridge tracks on the way out and back down the “Gentle Annie” Track. While the usual approach for people heading to Powell Hut is up the Gentle Annie track, the main objective for the day was to allow everyone to enjoy a good day in the bush. From comments received at the end of the day I believe this aim was met.

At the start of the day, with conflicting weather forecasts from various sources and the tops shrouded in cloud, it seemed that the members of the group who wished to make it up to say their farewells to Powell Hut would be thwarted. As usual the party split into groups depending on their objectives beyond getting to the Mountain House. Morning tea was taken on one of the few appropriate places on the River Ridge Track in relays. A faster group leaving as slower people arrived. Not far from the morning tea stop Russell was excited to see a Kaka, which made its presence heard. Clearly the River Ridge track is well used as locals were found walking their dogs up the track to the Mountain House.



From the Mountain House various of the twenty-seven went different ways. Many went above “the bus shelter” and on to the infamous steps. Eight of the group got to Powell Hut and spent time reminiscing about good nights and bad spent at the soon to be demolished hut. The views on the way up were fantastic: despite some cloud, the party could not have had better weather. Three intrepid members of the group went on a “bush bash” up a ridge parallel to that which the steps ascend and were able to describe their view across to Powell Hut.

Apart from the three bush bashers, all of the party returned to the carpark down the Gentle Annie Track, taking it easy and stopping

at the Rocky Knob lookout to enjoy each other’s company in the lovely spring weather.

We were all out by 3:30pm. Given the weather, many headed out to grab an ice cream in Masterton, before the drive home.

Thanks to Chris, who drove the van and to Rita, Bill and Charles for driving their cars. As this was my first lead with the club, I would like to thank Marion, Bev, Chris and Bob for their advice and Robbie for coming on the reccy and for putting up with my foibles.



## Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2018: Gable End Track

Report: John Thornley

Sixteen of us spent a greyish day enveloped in the cloud over the Gable End Ridge, by the Ohau River valley. The fittest seven got to within one hour of the Gable End trig; eight made it to Mayo Knob. A friend of one member had boot trouble – the heel gave way at the Ohau Shelter morning tea break – and had the company of some electronic reading while she waited for us to return. The highs of the trip were remnant giant rimu



rising above healthy fernery and native shrubs below, while the negatives were slipping and sliding on rain-sodden tracks. Our photographer, Pak-Lam Yu, captures the mood with his photo of the Thornley family – son Matthew from Melbourne and grandson Andrew from Paraparaumu on a holiday visit, with Gillian in foreground and John's back – eating lunch at Mayo Knob (666 m). The site has no marker, and it was just the map expertise of Merv Matthew that confirmed that it was indeed Mayo Knob we had reached.

## 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> Sept: MTSC Wednesday Trampers Take A Spring Tramp To The Te Puia Hot Springs

Trip report: Bob Hodgson

Photos: Bev and Rita.

On the recent expedition to Te Puia Hot Springs, our run of bad weather for overnight MTSC Wednesday Tramps was broken. On both days we enjoyed predominantly warm spring (no pun intended!) weather with some light rain confined to the evening of the first day. After an early start to our travel, the party of sixteen finally arrived at the end of the road for a 1.15pm start to tramping.

For the majority this was a first visit so soon after starting we found out that the description of “an easy stroll along a river bank to a hut then along to the springs” was missing the detail best appreciated by considering



the tramp profile. The challenge of the sidle track with its many ascents and descents, was more than compensated for by the captivating scenery. After three hours of tramping we were all at the Lodge where four remained to bag their beds.

The rest of us tramped on for about an hour to the Mangatainoka Hot Springs and adjacent camp site. From Te Puia Hut the track continues up river, past the turnoff to [Makino Hut](#), and crosses a bridge over the Makino River just above its confluence with the Mohaka River. The track then continues alongside the Mohaka, through native bush with some rolling terrain. Steep drop-offs in some sections lend nice views of

the surrounding foothills. There is a final steep descent to reach the hot springs. At the springs, located on a small manuka terrace beside the Mohaka River, there are two fibreglass baths surrounded by a decking area.



In spite of the drizzle and the arrival of a party dripping with children, we had a good night's camp with a happy relaxed, social wallowing in the hot spring. We heard Kiwis in the night; blue ducks were seen nearby as well as glow worms on the bank near the campsite. The following day saw a 6am start and we were all packed up and tramping by 8am to collect our hut dwellers en route.



On our way out and while passing through a sunlit glade with butterflies flirting around us one hard boiled trumper was heard to remark "paradise must be like this!"

After a gently paced tramp out we arrived back at the van by about noon and then had a brief excursion to view the Mangatutu Hot Springs. With a brief stop in Taradale, we arrived back in PN by 6-15pm. This was a memorable tramp for all but especially the first timers. It had a companionable atmosphere, mostly good weather, a stunning landscape and no injuries.



*Mangatutu Hot Springs*

Thanks to trip leader Bev and our drivers Ewen and Gary. This was Ewen's first outing as a MTSC van driver; with almost 500km driven this was an heroic effort.

## 10<sup>th</sup> September: Ten Wednesday Trampers Explore The Otaki Gorge Waioatauru Track

Reporter: Denise

Photos: Evan

Ten Wednesday trampers who were unable to join the overnights travelled to the Otaki Gorge. With Chris, our leader for the day, we explored the Waioatauru Track, which has not been on the radar for Wednesday trampers for at least four years. DOC had advised that there were slips on the track but they were all passable with care. This definitely was the case, as we followed a narrow track alongside the river to a swing bridge, approx three hours in. A lovely clearing was



*Dennis gives a riveting explanation about an industrial artefact*



found shortly after crossing the swing

bridge so it was decided to have lunch and retrace our steps. All trampers were back just after three and adjourned to the River Cottage Cafe for refreshments before heading home.

I think it was agreed that we should do this tramp more often as it has a bit of everything with no serious ups or downs. All in all, a very good day out. Special thanks to Chris for organising and Dennis for assisting with the driving.



## Contact Details

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

### Committee 2018 - 2019

President	Rob Pringle	<a href="mailto:president@mtsc.org.nz">president@mtsc.org.nz</a>	027 426 2176
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	Mary Mercer	<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	<a href="mailto:minibus@mtsc.org.nz">minibus@mtsc.org.nz</a>	06 356 7497

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

### Appointees

Lodge Bookings	Hugh & Liz Wilde	<a href="mailto:lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz">lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz</a>	0212 054 2560
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="mailto:facebook@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 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.