# beechleaves

Newsletter of the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club



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

Issue 11: December 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 December 11th – 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. The walk will start at 6pm, from the **car park on the city side of Fitzherbert Bridge**, then 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. Note change in starting place so it is possible to complete in 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)? Note that the walk is optional.

Please let Karen Tutt on <u>tutto71@outlook.com</u> 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 5th 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



Well summer is now upon us – the days are longer, the weather has settled, and the evenings are ripe for adventures.

During the course of this month I have been reflecting on what a fantastic membership we have, specifically the amount of time and effort that people are putting into making the club what it is. Without naming and shaming people, the tramping club is a wheel with many spokes, and it takes all of us reaching out into our communities to continue to grow what we have and build into people's experience in engaging with the outdoors.

Winter for the club has been an exceptional year with lodge occupancy running

at levels it has not reached for some time. A huge thanks to all those who run trips, encourage others to go on trips, and who participate on trips. Also a massive thanks to the bookings officers who juggle many balls,

ensure that we can all fit in on any given weekend, and convey important information to newcomers using our facilities.

Work parties at the lodge have kicked off for the summer season, and all help is welcome. There is a long list of jobs to do, and the strong turnout of people over the past couple of weekends has made light work of removing the rocks under the lodge. — Thanks to those who have attended these.

One of the points of encouragement that was passed onto me recently was an enthusiasm for what the club is doing with its building work. In a climate where a number of clubs are



struggling to get by from year to year, and are operating on a 'let's just maintain what we have' mentality, thanks to the enthusiasm and determination of our lodge maintenance manager, the support of the committee and the club membership, we have an opportunity to not just maintain what we have, but to make improvements, to make the space we have better, and to encourage more people to use and interact with the club. This has a direct impact on the next generation of club members and enhances the experience for them when engaging with the outdoors.

Keep up the good work everyone; look forward to end of year catch-ups as 2018 draws to a close; remember to keep in contact with people over the festive season, and keep on adventuring.

Cheers

Rob

## Lodge Manager: John Lyttle 027 433 6307



#### lodge.manager@mtsc.org.nz

#### **Upgrade** project

Work is progressing well so please check club web site for future work parties and let me know if you can assist.

This is a free weekend with food and bed supplied. Club van is running free of charge, leaving Palmy on the Friday evening and returning Sunday night. John Lyttle 027 4336307

Members of the last work party still smiling at the end of the weekend!

# **Proposed Lodge Work Party weekends:**

1-2 December & 15-16 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



Lyttle (027 4336307) to claim them or tell him what you want done with them. Otherwise they will be disposed of.

#### **TREASURER**

The club is seeking a new treasurer to take over the accounts from 1 April 2019.

At present the accounts, both monthly and annual, are completed on XL spreadsheets. The club is registered for GST and also has to file the annual accounts. The committee would not be averse to the new Treasurer using an accounting package such as Zero. 50% of invoices are received via email. Time taken each month can vary but is usually about 6 hours.

Anyone interested in the position should contact Arthur Flint at <a href="treasurer@mtsc.org.nz">treasurer@mtsc.org.nz</a>

#### **PACK FOR SALE** – mint condition



AARN effortless 72 litre pack for sale. \$350. Well below retail cost. An all-round tramping pack. The hip belt is fully adjustable for natural balance.

Completely waterproof with a built in liner. Pack can float across rivers. Free motion system designed to let you move freely when wearing the pack. The harness moves separate from the pack via movable straps. Separate bottom waterproof



compartment. Balance waterproof lined front pockets. - 10 litres. These let you balance the load. Pack only used for an overseas trip.

Call Carolyn 021 0332796.

### MAY to OCTOBER, 2019 TRIP CARD

Is there somewhere you have always wanted to tramp? What is your favourite tramp? Now is your chance to lead a trip there next year. Just add the details to the next trip card at <a href="Next Trip Card">Next Trip Card</a>



December Wednesday Tramps				December Thursday Tramps					
5	Anne West	357 5716		6	Ewen Cameron			356 8344	
12	Denise & Chris Brunskill	354 2511		13	John Doolan D 355 2		D 355 2100		
				14	Ва	rbeque			
January Wednesday Tramp									
30	Sue Pither	357 3033							
December Weekend Trips									
1-2	Lodge Upgrade Work Party			All		John Lyttle	02	7 433 6307	
1-2	Mangatutu Track			Medium/Fit		Adam Matich	02	2 358 8062	
9 Sun	Mangakokeke Stream (Western			Fit		David Harrington	02	1 240 9056	
22-23	Jumbo Creeks			Medium/Fit		Jean Garman	02	1 176 0209	

January Weekend Trips					
13 Sun	Tauranga-Taupo River	Fit	David Harrington	021 240 9056	
19-21	Western Ureweras	Medium/Fit	Adam Matich	022 358 8062	
19-21	Lodge Upgrade Work Party	All	John Lyttle	027 433 6307	
26-27	Smith Stream Hut	Medium	Mark Learmonth	355 9143	
27 Sun	Atiwhakatu Gorge (Walk/Swim)	Easy	Tim Swale	022 134 8384	

**Trip Intentions:** The email address for leaving trip intentions is <a href="intentions@mtsc.org.nz">intentions@mtsc.org.nz</a>. 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.

# **1**<sup>st</sup>-**2**<sup>nd</sup> December: Mangakokeke Steam (Western Ruahines)

# David Harrington Fit 021 240 9056

From the end of Mangakokeke Rd we'll head up the Mangakokeke Stream for its full length and climb out onto Wooden Peg. We'll return via Purity Hut and track. I have no idea what the stream travel will involve so be prepared! I may choose to do the trip in reverse but will decide closer to the day. Trip will be weather dependant.

# 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> December: Jumbo Creeks

Jean Garman Medium/Fit 021 176 0209 <u>trampski.cave@gmail.com</u>

A chance to explore the catchment bounded by the East Holdsworth track and the Raingauge Spur track. A cruise up the Atiwhakatu valley to the bridge just before Atiwhakatu hut, then up the creek (not actually named on the map so made up the name). Where it branches we will take one fork on the way up to the ridge line and the other fork on the way down. Planning to camp somewhere for the night. Quite likely a longer day on Saturday and a cruiser day on Sunday.

# Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> January: Tauranga-Taupo River David Harrington Fit 021 240 9056

From the end of Kiko Rd we'll follow the Loop Track half way round then follow an unofficial track to the Tauranga Taupo Falls. From here we'll follow the river down to the Park boundary which may be challenging (possible pack floats etc) then climb out onto the forestry tracks that we'll follow back to road end. Trip will be weather dependant.

# 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> January: Smith Stream Hut

#### Mark Learmonth Medium 355 9143 or 027 2004960

Tony Evans and I will lead this trip. Located in the eastern Ruahines we will access the hut from the North Block Road end starting around the Sunrise car park area. From here there is a 1.5km walk to the Waipawa river. On the Southern side is the start of the track which follows the forest edge to the park boundary. It passes through scrub and forest to Middle Stream. After crossing the river the track climbs steeply to a peak then descends to Smiths Stream. Then you follow the steam for 1km to the hut. The Hut is an old Forest Service-designed deer cullers' hut. It should take between 4 & 5 hours.

# Sunday 27th January: Atiwhakatu Gorge

# Tim Swale Easy-Walk/Swim 022 134 8384

I first did this trip during a hot spell last summer and was impressed with this awesome little gorge. It is a bit over an hour's walk from the Holdsworth Road end up to the Mountain House turn off where there is good

access into the river. From there we follow the river back to Donelly Flat where we can get back onto the track. There is a lot of wading, up to waist deep in a few places, and one short swim. A day pack with a dry bag inside to provide flotation is needed. The water is always chilly so dress appropriately. More information can be found at the kiwicanyons link below.

http://www.kiwicanyons.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/Atiwhakatu-Gorge-Tararua-FP.pdf



# 13th-14th October: Cattle Creek Hut

Report and Photos: Jean Garman

The forecast wasn't appalling but it was a little chilly (snow visible on the Puketoi Range as we drove over the Pahiatua Track) and we were expecting showers on and off both days. At the Tamaki West Road end there was a cold breeze so the three of us rapidly got changed. Once onto the track it was sheltered and quite pleasant; we even kept our feet dry as we rock hopped across the river before heading up the Holmes Ridge track. A bit of puffing ensued but quite a few plants were flowering to provide a distraction.







Flowering bushlawyer, horopito and clematis

Once up on the ridge it was a pleasant stroll in the sunshine with views of snow dusted tops until the track dropped back into the Tamaki River (which we once more managed to cross without getting our feet wet). Stanfield hut came into sight just in time for a slightly early lunch. While we munched away a rain shower came through then kindly left before we were ready to move on.





View of snow dusted tops from Holmes Ridge

Malcolm and Jenny ready to leave Stanfield hut

Climbing up the track back to the ridge line we were treated to a snow shower, but it wasn't very wetting as it was lovely dry snow. It was very, very pretty and, to top it all off, after a while the sun came out again.





Starting to snow

Back to sunshine

It is a short steep decent to Cattle Creek hut which was unoccupied; we even managed to arrive before the next snow shower came through. Luckily the sun soon came out again so we had plenty of time to gather firewood for a nice cosy fire to warm the hut while some sewing and reading helped the rest of the afternoon to pass. Well rested and relaxed, it was time for nibbles, dinner, dessert and port followed by even more relaxation then a big long sleep.

Sunday dawned sunny with no rain so we decided to have a go at heading up the Cattle Creek Stream to try and find the old track up to the saddle (last attempt to do this was a complete failure). With walking up the stream it was no longer possible to keep our feet dry. We picked a different starting point to last time, which turned out not to help at all. Lots of old large windfall made progress torturous but eventually after exercising every muscle in our bodies we arrived at the saddle from where it was relatively easy to regain the track and head back down to Stanfield hut just in time for an early lunch.





Bright sunshiny morning at Cattle Creek hut

Emerging from the torturous section

Once again, a rain shower came to visit while we enjoyed the dryness of the hut and thankfully departed before we were ready to carry on down the river. The river was quite low but some care was needed as it was a little slimy in places. Even with the presence of willow and buddleia weeds progress was not difficult. We practiced our map reading and counted streams to mark our progress on the way out. This was also a failure as further down we all failed to spot the last few streams (must be coming in under gravel). On the positive side it was a pleasant surprise when we reached the camp ground earlier than we expected. We didn't see anyone else for the whole trip; maybe people were put off by the less than lovely forecast – just goes to show you can never trust forecasts.

We were Jean, Malcolm and Jenny. Jenny deserves an award being the only person to collect the "Bovine Hut Trio" from a single trip card (winter 2018) having been on the tramps to Cattle Ridge, Cow Creek and now Cattle Creek huts.

# Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October: Six Discs and Gable End Tracks

Trip Leader and Reporter: Russell Poole

Photos: Evan, Russell

Trip started punctually at 8.45am in fine, slightly cloudy weather. All 21 trampers initially made for the site of the old Ohau shelter, on the far side of the bridge, where morning tea was had.



Eleven continued up the Gable End Track, while the remainder opted for the Six Discs.

The Gablers reported good track conditions, with surprisingly little mud and not as many steep pinches as had been rumoured. Some got as far as Mayo Knob while one reached Gable End. The suggestion was that this ought to be a regular outing for the club.



The Discers also encountered dry conditions on their ascent.



DoC had obviously been working on the Waiopehu Track with a weed-eater.

On both routes a lot of birdsong, including shining cuckoos, was to be heard. A fine tawa and kamahi canopy can be seen on Six Discs with a lot of miro saplings but the understorey is otherwise pretty much wrecked



by possum (and deer?) browse. On the Waiopehu Track there is an abundance of kiekie, with flowers starting to appear.

All trampers were out by just after 3pm and enjoyed almost summery temperatures at the carpark after the somewhat cooler weather on the hills.

Thanks to drivers Evan, Bill, Marion and Rod.

# Thursday 18th October: Mangaeheuhu Hut

Trip Leader, Reporter and Photographer: Norman Cooper

The drive up was in misty rain and low clouds, but a coffee stop at Ohakune did the trick, because, when we arrived at Waitonga Falls car park, 11km up the Ohakune Mountain Roaqd, the cloud lifted and Mt. Ruapehu



was there in all its glory.

With three radios and three PLB's and a turn around time of 1330 hrs decided, we were on our way. Will anyone turn up when it is a long drive? Seventeen did and I was surprised how many had not been on the track before or had not been for over 20 years. About 20 minutes in, long board walks protecting alpine wetlands gave way to spectacular views of Mt. Ruapehu with very easy walking. A downhill with lots of steps gave us the 39m Waitonga water fall. A few minor stream crossings, then you pass a turn off to Blyth hut (it is a ½ hour up. 3 trampers had come from Rangipo hut and were going to Blyth for the night.) A gradual uphill weaves through alpine tussock and mountain beech stands.

The Mangaehuehu hut is a beautiful 22 bed serviced hut with a fire and mattresses and no bookings required. Great views both south and looking up at looking up at the mountain. Our van to van time for the last tramper was 5hrs 41min (me). I know we were very lucky with the weather but everyone really enjoyed the track itself. Down off the mountain for another coffee stop which was rather longer than usual considering the



long drive back. We were still very warm with no wind or cloud, sitting outside the coffee shop in Ohakune. Thanks to Syd, Allan for driving van, Pak for car, Judy and Suzanne for cleaning van.

# Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November: Waitarere Forest

Trip Leader and Reporter: Hugh Wilde

This was to be Richard's trip but, unfortunately, he was unwell so I took this trip to the north part of the forest using Richard's maps. Only five turned up. Maybe it was something to do with the weather: the forecast was for strong south-westerly winds and rain, and early Thursday morning we certainly had heavy rain in town and during the drive to the coast. Once at Waitarere, however, the weather improved – no rain but still windy with patches of sun.

We headed north along the main forest access road to the Manawatu River, then west toward the coast, following the route of our previous trip there. Logging operations and a closed road caused some direction changes but we eventually reached the forest road nearest the coast where we lunched. Instead of continuing to the beach and walking south back to Waitarere in the strong wind we chose the more sheltered forest road. However, quite extensive windfall to the south frustrated any reasonable progress, so we retraced our steps and opted for the middle access road which gave a sheltered route back to within a couple of km of the village. At this point we walked the short distance to the beach and braved the strong wind back to Waitarere, described by one of our members as 'refreshing'. All in all about 16km was covered during the day. After a refreshment stop and the drive back to Palmerston we reached home mid afternoon.

# Thursday 8th November: North Mangahao Biv

Report: Royce Mills

Photo: Owen Mills on Pak Lam Yu's phone

Today's destination was a rarely visited Biv in the NE Tararuas. It was a popular choice with 18 Thursday trampers signing up. Only four in our group had done this route before, two of us in 2016, and another two many years ago. One reason that the Biv has not been visited much is that on older maps its location is shown incorrectly, about 1 km out, and some trampers and hunters have really struggled to find it.

Permission was obtained in advance from the farmer who lives in Kopikopiko Road. He was very helpful to us, offering parking in a paddock close to his house. We had to walk across several of his paddocks before reaching the bush and he met us so that we all signed the required health and safety paperwork. He then kindly offered to show us a route through the bush that kept us out of walking in the stream, with just one stream crossing along the way. This was much appreciated as the rocks in the stream were extremely

slippery and the stream looked to be deep enough to be slow travel in places. The farmer left us to carry on by ourselves at a stream junction.

From here we headed up a broad spur in the direction of North Mangahao Biv. There is mostly a faint foot trail, but no orange triangles. From experience on the trip two years ago we placed many marker tapes on the way up, particularly as we were a large group. The club radios were also very useful. The vegetation is mostly fairly open with many false trails so care was needed.

We arrived at the Biv at 10 to 12 and enjoyed a well earned lunch. The Biv is in immaculate condition with the luxury of two deck chairs provided. With eighteen of us there was keen competition for these two comfortable seats, especially as there is not a lot of room outside the small building. We squeezed together for a group photo for the record. This is likely to be the largest number of visitors in one go!



Those of us who have done this tramp before knew that finding our way back downhill was less easy than going up. We were instructed to stay together and look for our tapes. The tapes were collected by the last person in the long line. Some of us were following our GPS tracking back. Unfortunately one tramper at the front got too far ahead, then took a wrong turn and lost the group without us realising. We started to hear shouts and eventually realised what had happened. It was a worrying 20-30 minutes while we shouted and whistled, and it could easily have turned into a serious search. However the tramper found their way back to the group, but was rather knocked about by pushing through dense vegetation and sliding about. This had turned into a good team exercise under rather stressful circumstances, and some good leadership and common sense was shown. We all retraced our steps as a group back to our vehicles parked by the farmer's house, arriving at 3.15 pm. We left some beers to say thank you.

Thanks to our leader Suzanne Clark and drivers Allan Hardacre, Bev Akers and Chris Mercer. It had been a very good day out in pleasant weather. A bonus to visit an area that very few had previously been to, and yet quite close to Palmerston North!

# 15<sup>th</sup> November: Pukerua Bay

Trip Leader and Reporter: Craig Ross Photos: Craig Ross and Pak-Lam Yu

Ten Thursday trampers made the most of a sunny morning and a tail northerly breeze by heading out, at 9 am, along the beach from Pukerua Bay around to Plimmerton. En route Royce (Mills), assisted by Judith (Tonson), successfully searched the deep, dark recesses of a cave in the Wairaka Point rocks to locate a



Group by the Maori Pou Tangaroa on Pukerua Bay beach: P-L Y

collected in plenty by a few enthusiasts! Then it was morning tea on the rocks, before completing the seashore walk to Plimmerton. Notable in the village this year was a change to a "Mother Christmas" manikin in the feature window of a two-storied house on the shores of Hongoeka Bay. Sadly there is a "For Sale" sign on the property, so we may not have any manikins to admire, as we walk past, on future circuit tramps. Then

geocache. Paua shells were also

lunch at Karehana Park gave us sustenance to climb the over 300 steps through the forest up to The Track Road. The northerly breeze was a welcome cooler, as we tramped along the Taua Tapu Track down to the cycle-walk-way back to Pukerua Bay. Arriving back just after 2 pm, it was ice creams at the Pukerua Bay dairy before we packed-up for the return trip to Palmy.





At Wairaka Point: CR

"Mother Christmas" manikin, perhaps watching out for her amphibious sleigh coming in through Cook Strait! CR



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

#### 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
Membership	Sue Nicholson	membership@mtsc.org.nz	06 357 6325
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Lodge Manager	John Lyttle	lodge.manager@mtsc.org.nz	027 433 6307
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.c	org.nz	021 054 2560
Gear Custodian	Peter Rawlins	gear@mtsc.org.nz		06 356 7443
Ski Captain	<b>Howard Nicholson</b>	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	facehook@mtsc	n 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 <a href="https://www.facebook.com/MTandSC">https://www.facebook.com/MTandSC</a>

#### 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 cash to 179 Cook St Palmerston North 4410 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. Cancelations 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.