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 1 March 2019



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 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.

Tuesday 2nd April, 2019: Introducing High School Students to Tramping by John Beech

Taking high school students into the mountains can be an extremely rewarding activity. It is where they often step up and demonstrate incredible resilience and stamina. Students love the camaraderie of each other plus enjoy the camping or staying in hut experience. Of course, there are some that struggle from time to time but most agree that spending time in the bush is a valuable experience that stretches them and provides a sense of accomplishment.





MTSC President: Rob Pringle

president@mtsc.org.nz



As I write this there is a dusting of snow in the forecast for the coming weekend on the upper reaches of Ruapehu. In spite of a cyclone in the forecast, it looks like Mother Nature will soften the blow a little bit and allow us to have our work party in peace.

With more than five work parties under our tool belts now, we can safely declare the programme of renovations and reconstruction to be a resounding success. The past couple of work weekends have seen the team shift 4 tonnes of concrete

in less than an hour and a half, with the help of Andrew from Helicopter Services in Taupo. He shuttled the goods from the Top of the Bruce out to our lodge for the merry band of workers to wheelbarrow and distribute in the basement. A fantastic team effort and one that will pay dividends for decades to come. Thanks to all who have been involved so far – giving up your weekends is hugely appreciated.

With the lodge work in great shape and snow on the hill, many club members have turned their attention to potential ski touring and climbing trips this winter in Westland Tai Poutini and Mount Cook national parks. These spaces afford Kiwis the opportunity to have alpine experiences on a level with Europe – experiencing big mountains and wild rivers. These are our highest national parks, and as such, hold some of our wildest and least accessible terrain.

On that note, I was disappointed to read some of the proposed changes in the latest draft Management Plans for these national parks, but heartened to see FMC's and NZAC's thorough critique and responses. FMC stated it had deep concerns about many aspects of the draft plan, with flaws on all levels "from the systemic to the detailed", and requested that it be withdrawn and rewritten. The draft Management Plans started with an idea that development should push further into the national parks, violating the most remote corners, in order to meet tourism demand. The reality is that these places and landscapes can't absorb such high levels of tourism and traffic while retaining their unique character – that of wilderness spaces.

NZAC supplied a submission template for members and non-members alike to make it easier to make an individual submission. Those closed at the beginning of the month. Since then it's quickly became clear that the Plans are unpopular and unworkable, and DOC has paused its review of both Parks due to an impending Supreme Court decision with Auckland iwi Ngai Tai. It's a separate issue from the problems with the Management Plans but it's clear that more consideration is needed.

FMC's submission covers MTSC but I would encourage club members to watch the process carefully and consider making submissions individually when other areas come up for review. In the meantime, enjoy the last vestiges of summer BBQs before autumn tramping (and winter snow!) is upon us.

Cheers Rob Lodge Manager: John Lyttle 027 433 6307

Lodge Upgrade Project



We are making great progress on the renovations at the lodge and are always looking for additional helpers regardless of your abilities. This is a free weekend with the club providing transport from Wellington and Palmerston North with free bed and food. Please contact me if you are interested in helping or have questions.

John Lyttle 027 4336307 john@bcsltd.co.nz

March Thursday Tramps

Upcoming Lodge Work Party weekends:

23-24 February 16-17 March 6-7 April 19-22 April, Easter

March Wodnosday Tramp

MAY to OCTOBER, 2019 TRIP CARD

Seems crazy to be thinking of winter already but if we are to save on postage and send the trip card out with the March FMC Bullitin it needs to be printed by the middle of March. Could you please add your adventures at the link below by the end of February?

Thank you

Jenny

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/17mXeW5d6eqpBMAJZCnpD tTNum0oiAW1L yfh8Cl8qg/edit?usp=sharing



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06	Bob Hargreaves		357 0734		07 Ev		Ewen Cameron		356 8344
13	Rod Mckenzie		357 0136		14	Sι	Suzanne Clark		356 8322
20	William Laing		358 4876		21	Norman Cooper			367 5531
27	Richard Hunter		357 6821		28	John Doolan			D 355 2100
March Weekend Trips									
23-24 Feb		Bush Craft – Tamaki West		Ε	Easy		Tim Swale 022 134 8384		22 134 8384
2-3 March		Penn Creek – Otaki Gorge		٨	/ledium/Fit	t	Jean Garman	0	21 176 0209
16-18		Southern Crossing		٨	Medium/Fit		Adam Matich	022 358 8062	
16-17		Lodge Upgrade Work Party		All			John Lyttle 02		27 433 6307
23-24		Triangle Hut		٨	Medium/Fit		Howard Nicholson 0		27 294 1941
30 (Sat)		Holdsworth Creek		F	Fit		Jean Garman 02		21 176 0209
30-31		Wellington Hike and Bike		Ε	Easy		Tim Swale	022 134 8384	

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.

23rd-24th February: Bush Craft – Tamaki West

Tim Swale Easy 022 134 8384

Please note: this trip is a week earlier than advertised on the Trip Card

This weekend is an opportunity to develop a range of outdoor skills that will help to make trips into the back country safer and more enjoyable. We will start at the Tamiki West road-end near Dannevirke - where we can spend some time on topics such as clothing for tramping, navigation with map and compass, route planning, environmental care code, stoves and fuel, leadership etc. After lunch we will make our way up Holmes Ridge to find a suitable spot just north of Stanfield Hut where we can fly camp for the night. We will discuss camp-craft, food and water, emergency communications and first aid. On Sunday the intention is to have a session on water safety and loss of route procedure before following the creek back to the road end. Please be aware that there may be some young people involved.

NOT 2nd-3rd March: Penn Creek & Otaki River

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

Unfortunately the deep cave SAREX (only comes round every 3 years) has landed on this weekend so it takes priority. If the idea of walking into Penn Creek via Field Hut and Table Top for the night then pack floating out down the Otaki River appeals to you let me know and I might be able to fit in on another weekend - definitely requires fine, warm weather though!

23rd-24th March: Triangle Hut

Howard Nicholson Medium 027 294 1941

This trip to the Western Ruahine Ranges will follow bush tracks, tops routes, trap lines, a bit of scrub and a river. We will likely be camping out if the weather is passable. Expect about 7 hours tramping per day.

30th March: Holdsworth Creek

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

The aim of this trip is to follow up the stream that ends a little below Powell hut. If this goes smoothly we may head across the tops and down one of the Jumbo creeks. If it doesn't we will come back down the track.

30th-31st March: Wellington Hike and Bike

Tim Swale Easy 022 134 8384

Wellington has a vast array of walking and mountain biking opportunities. At this stage my plan is to have a day biking and a day walking but can be pretty flexible depending on who comes and what they would like to do. I am keen to spend a day exploring the Makara Peak Mountain Bike Park as there has been a lot of track development there in the last year. These are mainly intermediate (grade 3) type tracks. There are also plenty of walking options, of which a loop out to Red Rocks or a circuit around the Korokoro dam and Belmont trig are possibilities. Trainers rather than heavy tramping boots will work fine.



Wednesday 21st November:

Trip leader & Reporter: Jill Photos: Linda & Maureen



Some tramps never disappoint if enough factors coincide. This one was a great example. Nine people set off along the zig zag path, with the aim of reaching Rangiwahia hut and beyond. The proved to be



favour of hardy, out door types and kindly allowed panoramic views. Higher up the track a young DOC worker was spotted and conversation exchanged. He was keeping a keen eye on the tracks, checking hut

books and general conditions. He'd earlier in the morning. He advised our snowfall made slippery, slow going and difficult along the cold air was starting to bite, the his advice.

Meanwhile in a parallel universe, party and headed up, up Deadmans cedars, and beyond to the tussock and beckoned us on and the snow crept Enjoying the sunshine, we also on their parallel ridge. Bright neon wear or carry. Although the heavy | Waterfall near hut plateau

already walked Deadmans Track group not to attempt the loop as the environment, "diabolical, extremely the top of the Whanahuia Range." As MTSC members were happy to heed

eleven trampers made up the second Track under beech trees, mountain cooler temperatures. The waratahs ever closer in the quiet, still conditions. delighted in observing the first group green and yellow are safe colours to snow cover deterred the advanced

group completing the loop, (they made 1395m) the near perfect conditions invigorated and lightened the spirit. More energy arrived the higher we climbed helped I'm sure by the 360 degree views. We were all back to the carpark by 3pm safe and dry.

Many thanks to van driver, Chris, and to Bill and Marion for driving their vehicles.

Sunday 9th December: Scandlyn Creek

Trip Leader: David Harrington Reporter: Jean Garman Photos: David, Adam, Jean

Another once in a lifetime David day trip special – when will I ever learn..... The original plan could not go ahead to avoid further upsetting the lambs in the process of losing their tails so David came up with an alternative waterway to climb -Scandlyn Creek. The Thursdays had done a trip in the area, and reading their trip report it didn't sound too bad; what I failed to note was that while we were covering some of the ground they did we were also going where they hadn't. From



the road end it was pleasant travel to Scandlyn creek and upstream in not much more than ankle deep, warm water all the way to the 3 stream junction. The sun was shining and the toetoe did a thorough job of trying to pollinate us. At the junction we took the true right branch and from this point the nature of our travel began to change. There were cascades and waterfalls to climb up or bash around. Not too bad in the bush but as we got higher there were increasingly deep pools beneath the waterfalls. At first below short level, then waist level and finally nipple level; the water also got increasing colder.





Climbing up cascades and waterfalls

The other problem was the leatherwood, sometimes we were climbing and sidling on near vertical faces standing on the trunks of leatherwood growing outwards. Great care was needed as we couldn't figure out how someone could be retrieved if they hurt themselves.







Progress was slow, it took about 3 hours to travel less than 1km of the streambed. We were grateful there is lots of daylight at this time of year as we just might have needed it. The scrubby sidles progressively battered and flayed us. Once the gradient lessened, we thought our troubles might decrease..... they didn't. No more climbing waterfalls but the leatherwood closed in. We leatherwood bashed up the streambed until when no further forward progress could be made, even when lying in the stream. It was into the full-on Ruahine leatherwood for yet more battering and flaying.







Just leatherwood

The tussock spied in the distance seemed to take a long time to be reach but eventually we got there and then life got a whole lot easier. We climbed up onto the ridgeline, headed south, then down the spur that the Thursdays had come up.



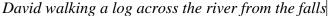
It had a very old trail on it which made the travel down through the leatherwood considerably less painful and once in the trees there were occasional paint marks, blazes and bits of tape but we did need to use map/compass/altimeter/GPS to make sure we didn't go astray. Luckily, we managed to pick up the line of white tape which took us from a saddle back into the Scandlyn Creek. Back at the road end by 5.30pm, a bit under a 8½ hour day. A true experience and I am sure I will appreciate it once the scratches have healed and the bruises faded. We were David, Adam and Jean.

Saturday 12th January: Tauranga-Taupo River

Trip Leader: David Harrington Reporter: Adam Matich

This trip started at the end of Kiko Road, from where we followed the northern arm of the Kiko Loop Track. Somewhere near the easternmost part of this track, a trail heads easterly to cross over the stream and head up onto the adjacent ridge a bit north of 760. It then heads NE down the ridge, and eventually turns sharply east (easy turn to miss) to drop down the sometimes steep slope into the stream just upriver of the waterfall. You need to know where to look, on the Kiko Loop Track, to find the beginning of this trail, but otherwise it is mostly well padded and reasonably marked. The Taupo tramping Club has GPS info in one of their trip reports (https://www.austinhutcheon.com/taurangataupowaterfall.pdf). It took us a little over two hours to reach the base of the waterfall.







Tauranga-Taupo Waterfall

We then travelled around 1½ km (80 minutes) downriver to have lunch at BH36 6099 7866 (Topo50), where there were some large bluffs looming above us. There were quite a lot of bluffs, so escaping the river could be problematic. This was the most difficult part of the river; not nasty or dangerous, but requiring lots of rock-hopping and climbing over and around boulders and logs.

After lunch the river became almost friendly, with extensive shallow, shingly-bottomed pools. Most of the pools had trout in them; we have never seen so many trout in a river before.



Looking back upriver to a section of bluffs

of the ridge in the native forest, where it was a bit easier. We probably did this for longer than was necessary, as when we climbed back up onto the ridge, somewhere around BH36 5861 7916, we found a well-formed logging road heading south (not shown on the topo maps). This road dropped us on another logging road a bit SE (BH36 5868 7814) of a sharp bend in a gravel road, and we followed this road SE for 300 m before picking up another road (not on the maps but visible on satellite photos) heading southerly towards Kiko Road. This road eventually turned west and stopped; OH dear! However, near the bend in the track is a side track off to the It took us 2½ hours to reach our point of departure from the river (BH36 5832 8022), which was just upriver of a stream confluence. The stream consisted of a waterfall so we had to climb up the spur just to the east of it where it looked as though there had been traffic. On the little bench about 40 m above the river there were obvious signs of people. Seems it is not possible to go where no one has gone before!

We headed SE directly up the spur (a bit scrubby) until we hit the edge of the pines where travel was difficult due to thick understory. So we sidled the western side



left, which continues on for another 300 m to reach Kiko Road, maybe ½ km from the road end. This 300 m long side track has had something travel through parts of it, but is not glaringly obvious; it is ill-defined and requires pushing through vegetation and a little guess-work. Even so this shortcut was considerably quicker than following the gravel road all the way round. It took us about two hours to reach the car from the river.



The one obligatory pack float

The river travel ended up being considerably better than expected; sections of the lower river, below where we exited, have one or two long, deep gorges which would require extensive swims in sections of the waterway that may not have very much current. In all, we had one deep crossing (we floated a little) and one obligatory pack-float of maybe 10 metres. So we got off lightly. Also it was a warm, sunny day!

We were David Harrington and Adam Matich

19th -21st January: Western Ureweras

Trip Leader, Reporter & Photos: Adam Matich

We stayed at the Murupara Motor Camp on Friday night, from where they drove us to the Horomanga Base Camp road end the next morning. The track is on the true right, so we had our first crossing of the Horomanga

River at the road end just downstream of the only deep section of the river. The Horomanga Frontal track has to be one of the easiest river routes I have travelled. It was well marked and shallow. Even though there were around 46 crossings to reach the Midway Hut site (burned down in 2016), they were no more than knee deep and there were no waterfalls or rapids or big rocks to climb over. After each crossing it was worthwhile keeping an eye peeled for where the track entered the bush as there were very considerable tracks along some of the river flats.

It took us three, not very energetic hours to reach the

site of Midway Hut (E1936054, N5735300) which is visible, on the true left, up on a bench well above the river. The hut may have gone, but someone has built a nice big shelter on the site; a roof with no walls. There



are also some nice sheltered campsites in the trees next to the shelter. It would be a waste to discontinue the use of such a nice spot with its views down onto the river flats.

After lunch we continued on for another 2½ hours until just before Pongakawa Stream, where we edged into a stand of very tall trees on the true left and found ample space to set up camp for the night; it was almost sandfly free. The travel had become increasingly easy, with a faint vehicle track to follow up the valley, criss-

crossing the helpfully shallow river. We later decided that 4WD-type vehicles can access the upper Horomanga River via the Pukareao Access Track.

The next morning we headed 40 easy minutes up-river to the confluence with the Arowhana Stream. There were some hunters camped at this confluence; they had come in on four-wheel bikes. We headed 2 hours up this stream to reach Mangapouri Hut for morning tea. There was a period of about an hour, in this section, when we needed our raincoats due to occasional rain showers, which faded after morning tea. Some of the stream travel was very good; flat easy travel through stands of forest giants. Other parts were a bit manky, with a little



bit of scrub, predatory hook-grass, and malicious stinging nettle. The stinging nettle wasn't difficult to avoid if one wasn't day-dreaming.

The track up onto the tops wandered vaguely past the toilet, and then up through a big windfall; a large tree had come down and rolled, taking out everything in its path. Once through this awkward section we were on a steep slope, but a quality, wellbenched track, which sported regular orange triangles all the way to Okui Hut. The higher we climbed, in the short sharp 200 m climb to the ridge, the better the forest got until on the ridge we were in open forest among some big trees. It took us about 2 hours to reach the corner at bump 843. Thereafter it was mostly downwards travel. This whole track system was easy to follow; a few windfalls but not enough to get seriously upset about.



Steep windfall section of the climb out of Mangapouri Hut

At the eastern junction on the Okui-Boundary-Circuit Track some of us took the north branch, and some of us took the south branch down to Okui Hut. The south branch was a quality track at an easy gradient. The northern branch was steeper, was not maintained and the track marking was a bit iffy. We lost the track when about 50 m above the river and had to make our own way down to the river-side track before heading along it to the hut (8-hour day). It turns out that on some maps the very bottom section of the north branch is incorrectly drawn; that is why our GPS wasn't very helpful.

Okui Hut is a nice place to stay. It is in a big grassy clearing decorated with a couple of big conifers. Next to the hut is a stand of big trees with space for camping therein. We had a very pleasant afternoon sitting on the veranda doing very little, apart from conjecturing about how long it would take for the blackberry to totally encircle the hut. Next day there was a brief exploration of the Okui Loop Track, which was worthwhile light, early morning exercise, the nature walk in amongst even more really big trees, and a discovery of the western end of the north branch of the Okui-Boundary-Circuit Track. According to the WAMS website, Okui Hut and its loop and circuit tracks are on DoC land, not private land. So DoC, there is no excuse for the hut not having a proper hut book.



Late morning, we made our way out to Te Whaiti Road (2 hr), which was not without a little bit of drama. The bridge across the Whirinaki River was destroyed in the floods a year or so ago so we had to get wet. It was waist deep and fast flowing. A couple more inches and it would have been troublesome. So don't bother with it after there has been some rain. The rest of the 4WD track was easy going, apart from dodging the blackberry. We found this tramp a pleasant surprise. It was far easier than expected, camping was plentiful, the huts were in good condition, and the river and track systems posed no difficulties. There was some really nice forest and quite a lot of bird-life.

We were Alan Taylor, Mark Learmonth and Adam Matich.

Sunday 27th January: Atiawhakatu Gorge

Trip Leader, Reporter & Photos: Tim Swale

Despite a great weather forecast for the Wairarapa, our spirits were somewhat dampened by persistent drizzle between Palmerston North and Pahiatua. However, as is often the case, once we were over Mount

Bruce, the weather miraculously changed to clear blue skies and much higher temperatures. This was exactly what we



wanted for our trip down the Atiwhakatu Gorge.



After a brief equipment check and leaving our intentions in the Holdsworth Lodge logbook, the seven of us headed up the track that follows the Atiwhakatu upstream as far as the Mountain House turn-off. From the



track, a short slither down into the creek saw us finding a shady shingle beach on the opposite bank to have our lunch. Once fed and watered we were on our way. There are multiple crossings of the river, mostly no more than knee deep but, with the rocks quite slippery underfoot, a couple of walking poles come in very handy. However, before long the pools started to get deeper with a few waist deep wades

and then a couple of short swims. Having dry bags in our packs gave good flotation and luckily at this time of year the water is not too cold. The gorge, with shafts of bright light shining through, is stunningly beautiful. After a couple of hours slowly making our way downstream we climbed out of the river on the true right and followed the old track, which is now a trap-line, until it joined the main



track near Donnelly Flat. It was only a short walk from here but the afternoon was so hot that we were very nearly dry by the time we got back at the van.

A wonderful short trip, absolutely ideal with low river levels during the warm summer months, and of course as usual, enhanced by good company.

We were: Linda Campbell, Mary and Ken Mercer, Karen Tutt, Helen Peek, Alan Hawkins and Tim Swale.



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

Committee 2018 - 2019

President	Rob Pringle	president@mtsc.org.nz	027 426 2176
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Treasurer	Arthur Flint	treasurer@mtsc.org.nz	06 356 7654
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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.o	org.nz	021 054 2560
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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@mts	c.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 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.