

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 4 June 2019

CLUB MEETINGS

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 4th June, 2019: Camino del Norte by Linda Campbell



In September 2018, club member Linda Campbell and three friends walked the Camino del Norte along the northern coast of Spain. This is the third most popular of the Camino after the Camino Francis and the Portuguese Way. Starting in the lovely town of Irun, near the French border, it follows the Atlantic coast for more than 800km, through beautiful villages, towns and cities of the Basque country, Cantabria, Asturias and Galicia to Santiago de Compostela. It is hilly and mountainous in places with a lot of ascents and descents, and for this reason it is considered more



challenging than other Caminos. It is however nothing like walking in the Tararua or Ruahine!

Tuesday 6th August: Club Photo Competition

Tuesday 8th October: Interclub Photo Competition



Jean Garman 1st prize 2013



View from Jumbo Hut – 9-10 May, 2019

REPORTS AND NOTICES

MTSC President: Rob Pringle

president@mtsc.org.nz



As I sit down to write this, there's a chill in the air – coming back from a recent lodge working party the days seem shorter, and there's a still Autumn fog lingering in the air as we travel south.

In the past month I took some time out to walk the Round the Mountain track, starting off from the Bruce road. Despite an inclement forecast for the day, the long range had the weather clearing. The mountain was kind in that the direction of travel had us walking into the weather so plenty of opportunity was had to wrap up in the appropriate clothing. There was a degree of nerves from my end as it was the first multiday trip for a number of years. However I was surprised at how light my pack was and how well the body recovered at the end of each day. Plenty of hot drinks and good snacks really made a difference. I mused that the weight component at least must be as a result of material advancements. The huts encountered were in great shape, with healthy wood supplies, suitable amounts of good company, always interesting to read hut books, and in the case of a few of them, LED lighting, and even somewhere to charge your cellphone.... In last month's report, I put out a challenge to see what we should call skiing with all the developments in technology, and I am still pondering this... it seems to be permeating even the back country huts, which are far nicer than I remember.

Of particular note is the Waiohonu hut aka the Ruapehu Hilton. Whilst traversing the slopes of Ruapehu, I had been reflecting on the lack of people undertaking the same route. However, as we sat down to remove boots at Waiohonu, we were greeted by two enthusiastic head torches, followed by a number more, and advised that there were still more to come. Given we were outside of the booking season requirements, a quick scramble ensued to grab appropriate bunks, given that behind them followed 20 something students from an Auckland out door education group. We were feeling somewhat relieved that we had made it in the door just a whisker ahead of them. On the upside they were very enthusiastic group, including the teaching staff that had made the trip possible for them. They had an early start to get back to Auckland, so we didn't hear too much from them. It was great to see such a lively and enthusiastic group of individuals enjoying the wilderness areas, and also very encouraging to see that in today's education system, trips like this can still take place.

At the time of writing the AGM is nearly upon us, and as such would like to thank the committee for a fine job of taking care of the club over the past year. There are a few people who won't be with us for a variety of reasons for the coming year and I would like to take this moment to publicly thank them for their sustained efforts over many years.

The AGM also presents a time where fresh faces can join the committee, and familiar faces can step back up to contributing at a committee level. The club is built on volunteers, from the Wednesday and Thursday trampers, weekend trips, or the skiing fraternity, people from all over the country, contributing to the organizing, delegating, report writing, and even just turning up on trips makes what we have all the more special.

Do get out and enjoy the wilderness. Even with the decline in temperatures, some of those sunsets and sunrises are all the more special snuggled up in a sleeping bag with a cup of tea or coffee

Till next month.

Rob

Lodge Manager: John Lyttle 027 433 6307

lodge.manager@mtsc.org.nz

Work on our renovations is progressing well but we are still in need of assistance from people regardless of skill ability. Next planned work party is:

1-3 June Queens Birthday weekend.

We will also have the usual food carry where we stock the lodge and undertake final touches to our renovations on 22-23 June.

The club van will be leaving Palmerston North on the Friday evening (31 May) so please contact John Lyttle (Lodge manager) if you need a ride and/or can assist at lodge.manager@mtsc.org.nz or 027 433 6307.

First Tracks: Ski Captain: Howard Nicholson

ski@mtsc.org.nz

Here are some reasons to go to the Manawatu Lodge this Winter:

- We have made big improvements to the lodge that you really should come and see.
- Snowmaking has begun, with a pile of machine-made snow already accumulating in Happy Valley in time for beginners to ski and slide on from 1 June.
- Whakapapa will have a new Gondola running from the Top o' The Bruce to the Knoll Cafe from 22 June.
- Being up the mountain, in the snow and in the Manawatu Lodge afterwards, is just awesome.

See you up there!

Late notices: Please see back page.

Iron Gate Closure Delay

Iron Gate Hut replacement has been delayed. NZ Defence Force now plan to commence work in September. In the meantime the hut is open for use.

Sue Moore

Senior Ranger (Biodiversity)- Kaitiaki Matua (Kanorau Koiora)

Department of Conservation-Te Papa Atawhai

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www.doc.govt.nz<<http://www.doc.govt.nz/>>

Reel Earth Environmental Film Festival

24 May to 7 June

Film topics range from the space station through a year with Helen Clark to Antarctica. See details at:

<https://www.reearth.org.nz/>

*Broken Spectre-tramper, taken on Castle Rock
By Bev Akers on Tinui Anzac Walk 24 April*





UPCOMING TRIPS

June Wednesday Tramps			June Thursday Tramps		
05	Anne West	357 5716	06	Royce Mills	D 355 8556
12	Christine Finnigan	329 7822	13	Glenn Pendergrast	356 7487
19	Denise/Chris Brunskill	354 2511	20	Craig Ross	355 3445
26	Marion Beadle	323 3246	27	Christine Scott	354 0510
June Weekend Trips					
1-3	Around Taranaki	Med/Fit	Adam Matich	022 358 8062	
1-3	Lodge Work Party	All	John Lyttle	027433 6307	
9 (Sun)	Rangiwahia Hut	Easy	Linda Campbell	027 333 4493 or 06 323 3836	
15-16	Almost Full-Moon Tongariro or Ruapehu Night Climb	Technical	Hazel Phillips	027 0841 9501	
22-23	Lodge Food Carry – see above	All	Howard Nicholson	027 294 1941	

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.

Sunday 9th June, 2019: Rangiwahia Hut

Linda Campbell Easy 027 333 4493 or 06 323 3836

This trip is suitable for beginners and anyone who would like an easy trip. The track to the hut, which is accessed from Renfrew Road, Rangiwahia, is well defined and steadily zig zags up through the beech forest, past a lovely waterfall to tussock covered open tops. It should take 2-3 hours to reach the hut.

15th-16th June, 2019: Almost Full-Moon Tongariro or Ruapehu Night Climb

Hazel Phillips Technical 027 0841 9501

Last year a friend and I did the Tongariro Alpine Crossing by moonlight (story in Wilderness here: <https://www.wildernessmag.co.nz/cant-fight-moonlight/>). We got the perfect combination of excellent weather, fresh snow down to low levels, low avalanche conditions and a full moon. In clear conditions with snow and a full moon, the moonlight shines on the snow and lights up the night sky - so you almost don't need a torch. The planned trip is almost on the full moon and will be heavily weather dependent. Plan A is to do the Tongariro Summit via Hardman's Ridge and return via the Devil's Staircase and the Crossing track. Plan B is a Ruapehu climb to the summit plateau. We'll start late (7-8pm) on either the Friday or the Saturday, depending on the best weather. If we climb on the Friday night, the rest of the weekend is open for further climbs (perhaps on Ruapehu). You'll need to have the ability to use ice axe and crampons, a head torch, and appropriate warm clothing and emergency gear. You should also preferably have avalanche gear and know how to use it. We'll make a final call on the trip (timing, route) according to the weather report on the Thursday night, so some flexibility is required. If we don't get the required conditions, we'll look to shift the trip idea to the weekend of July 19-20.

21st- 23rd June, 2019 Lodge Food Carry

Howard Nicholson

All Welcome

027 294 1941

The lodge at Mt Ruapehu will be stocked with food in preparation for the upcoming Winter season of skiing, riding, climbing and sliding. This involves carrying the food from the Top 'o the Bruce Road to the lodge, and usually takes just a few hours to complete. Porters, inventorialists, cleaners, stackers and scone makers are all welcome.

Other work to be completed includes the final tidy-up before the Winter season starts in earnest, and this year it follows a very busy programme of works that included remodelling the basement area, shifting the drying room, installing new lockers and more. There will be jobs for everyone - vote MTSC! Let's celebrate our success with a sumptuous dinner while we are at it.

Transport from Manawatu will be by club minibus (Friday night) and private cars. Travelers from other locations may be able to car pool. Please let me know asap if you are coming along; maybe we can arrange transport with others from your region.

Enjoy some pre-season mountain delights before heading home. All welcome!



23rd-24th March, 2019: Triangle Hut

Report and Photos: Howard Nicholson

Deadman's Track has a foreboding name, but it was a pure delight on the day. At the Renfrew Road carpark, and without walking anywhere, we were already over half way up to the high point of our trip, Mangahuia (1583m). Easy! From there, the Deadman's Track led effortlessly through Beech, Mountain Cedar, Hakeke (Mountain Holly) and Leatherwood to the tussock tops. We, on the other hand, were in a lather having climbed nearly 800m on an unusually calm Ruahine day. The clouds above and around us promised a shower but left us alone to bathe in our own 'glow'.



Helen negotiates the scrub near Mangahuia

The normal route seemed too easy, so from Mangahuia we followed a spur south then southeast through scrub and bush to the track that bypasses a section of river between Iron Gate and Triangle Huts; numerous stoat traps reminded us that we were not the first to travel this route.

Back on a track, we descended North towards Triangle Hut. Near the bottom, the track entered a small, steep gully, and it was here that gravity won a battle with friction underneath Helen's boots, which sent her rolling out of control down the hill. We were both wearing Aarn packs, which are wonderful for balancing the load; in this case, however, they turned Helen into a Zorb™-like projectile, rolling through 180 - 360 - 540 - 720 degrees, before luckily, I think, coming to rest against a tree above an even steeper slope. Helen dusted herself off, decided that that was a bit of fun, and we carried on down to the river.



Triangle Hut

The stroll up the river from here is pleasant and we observed many wasp-like insects along the way. They were later identified as Red Spider Wasps, endemic to New Zealand. They hunt for spiders, climbing on their backs or confronting them head-on before stinging them. See <http://www.terrain.net.nz/friends-of-tehenui-group/bees-and-wasps/wasp-red-spider-wasp-sphictostethus-nitidus.html> for more fascinating details.



Whanahuia Range

Triangle Hut is in a great location overlooking the Oroua River. Deer love it too, judging by the amount of fresh sign around the hut. The "roar" had started and I could visualize deer thumbing their noses (bear with me) at the hunting fraternity by defecating on the front lawn, as it were.

A good night's sleep primed us for our morning climb up the track to the Whanahuia Range. On the way, we cleared a couple of rats from the Ruahine Whio Protector traps

(see <http://www.rwp.org.nz/>), before making a gradual descent to Rangiwahia Hut. The walk out from here was a pleasant stroll for me and a bit of pain for Helen, who had twisted her ankle on some rough ground earlier in the day. Thank you Helen for a memorable and enjoyable trip to Triangle Hut and back.

23rd-24th April, 2019: Three Generations Tramp to Cone and Tutuwai Huts from Waiohine Gorge

Report and Photos: Bob Hodgson

On Tuesday 23rd a party of three departed Palmerston North for the Waiohine Gorge located 18 km NW of Greytown. The Waiohine Gorge Road is gravel, narrow and windy in places with two forded stream crossings requiring careful driving. This first obstacle overcome we arrived at the road end and the start of our tramp which began with a walk across the the Waiohine swing bridge. This bridge, completed in 2007, is 124m long and 40m above the river bed. This magnificent bridge is a destination for many visitors (Trip Advisor). The bridge crossing was the reason we chose to do this tramp.



Let me introduce the party; Connor, grandson, fit and energetic and in his final year of a degree, Peter, son in his thirties, of powerful build, he is exceptionally strong and fit. Peter is a professional scaffolder specialising in high rise buildings and curious to walk the bridge. Then there is me, Bob, aged 73 and 20 years older than the sum of the ages of the rest of the party!

The bridge enjoyed, we then picked up the track to Cone Hut signed as three hours. We spent the first hour or so on the rather brutal climb up that starts with a 315m gain in 1km and, in all, a height gain of 510m in 3km. Comprehensive overnight packs warmed us up and we were very pleased to have Peter with us and carrying far more than

his share. The weather was beautiful with intermittent sun-shine and a temperature of around 16 degrees. We enjoyed the bush as it changed with altitude and we were serenaded by a few Tuis. The next challenge was the descent to Cone Hut, located 4.98km from our start, and at the foot(point of inflection!) of the slope

down on the profile. This was challenging as recent heavy rain had washed down the track resulting in many drops of a meter or more. At the hut we took a well earned break and met up with a father and son hunting party that we later to join in the Tutuwai Hut.

The second half of the tramp, the Tauherenikau track down to the hut, is a pleasant side of about 5km enlivened by a series of side stream crossings. The absence of recent rain made these only a minor hazard to dry feet. This pretty walk took us about an hour and a half before we were cheered by the sign pointing to the hut.



The Tutuwai Hut made a welcome sight when reached it after a brief, muddy scramble up from the river flat. It is a modern insulated hut with 20 bunks. On our arrival we agreed to occupy the opposite end to the father and son hunters and a stray solo Australian trumper. We soon relaxed, lit the stove and made preparation for our evening meal. Peter had carried in a large billy and two, 2L ice cream containers of pre-cooked and initially frozen beef, vegetable and pasta. When carefully fully defrosted and brought to a healthy simmer it made a memorable evening meal. The younger members of the party ate the remainders as a cold breakfast. *** see below.

And so, after a good nights rest, we retraced our route of the previous day in ideal weather conditions. Morning tea was taken at Cone Hut and then we hauled ourselves 350m up the track and out of the Tauherenikau river valley. We then enjoyed the gentle walk along the middle section. The final 500m+ descent was challenging especially in the muddy pitches with few tree roots. We were all relieved to reach the bottom, cross the stream and enjoy the swing bridge back to civilisation. This was a vintage tramp that united three generations and will be a source of satisfaction for the rest of my life.

Bob Hodgson

***Grandad's Special Hut Pasta Stew.

800gm prime beef mince, one large finely chopped onion, fresh garlic, large chopped carrot, large diced brandy-wine tomato, half a tin of diced tomatoes, a good handful of chopped perpetual spinach, garden herbs-coriander, parsley, mint, basil, spices-tablespoon of soy sauce, one Massel beef stock plus half a cup of Earthworks Shiraz. Brown the onions and garlic then the meat. Slowly add the other ingredients and finally, a handful each of rice-pasta and macaroni. Cook, cool then freeze.

Wednesday 24th April, 2019: The Tinui ANZAC Walkway; a Memorable Memorial Walk

Report: Bob Hodgson

Photos: Bev Akers

Nineteen MTSC trampers made their way by road to Tinui via Masterton. There, with the conditions of low visibility, the tall, rocky peak that we were to climb was barely noticeable. About 2km further in the direction of Castlepoint we came to the large brown sign for the Tinui Anzac Walkway and a very informative notice board plus a good off-road car park. Over the stile, at the start of the track, there was a stash of walking sticks. The track stretches from the Tinui cemetery to the 358-metre high



summit of Mt Maunsell, which Tinui Station landowners Kelso and Jane Rushton, are in the process of donating to the trust for public access. We walked through plantation forest, farmland and native bush peaking at the Anzac Cross and Trig point at the top of the Tinui Taipo (Mount Mansell) in misty conditions.

Some History - Tinui was the 1st place in the world to have a formal celebration of Anzac Day. Back in 1914 there were over a thousand single men in the area; many volunteered for service and some lost their lives ("One of which was my uncle" says Bev). In 1916 Rev Basil Ashcroft held a ANZAC ceremony at Tinui and erected a cross. The Tinui Parish Anzac Trust, established in 2010, aims to preserve the Tinui ANZAC heritage, maintain full access to the Cross, monument & surrounding area.

On reaching the peak we enjoyed the misty view and reflected on its significance as a memorial. It took about



Castlepoint – lighthouse, reef, lagoon & Castle Rock

an hour to walk up from the car park. On descending we continued to Castlepoint for lunch where some climbed Castle Rock, the hill south of “The Gap”, while some climbed around the Lighthouse. It was a relaxing afternoon with coffee & ice creams at the local Store. The weather improved as the day went on to becoming ... Perfect !!

The walkway and the visit to Castlepoint made for a pleasant and not too demanding day with a difference; it is recommended. The ANZAC Walkway is open from November through to 25th April: good timing for us!

Wednesday 1st May, 2019: A Tale of Two Loops

Trip Leaders: Leonie Lowndes and Bev Akers

Report and Photos: Leonie Lowndes, Bob Hodgson and Maureen

Pinnacle Ridge to Donnelly’s Flat Loop and a Mountain House Loop

Both groups started off from the Holdsworth car park at the same time. Group one (15 of us) turned off just before the bridge and headed off on a track which took us along the side of the Atiwhakatu river for about 30 minutes where we had to step over numerous tree roots. We then headed up the hill steeply, past a slip that is opposite Donnelly Flat. The bush was lush and attractive with many moss, orchids and large Rimu, Beech and Matai trees.

The track incline eased off about half an hour before we reached Pinnacle where we stepped out of the bush at 877 meters. As we looked out towards Jumbo and Powell Hut we had to wait for the cloud to pass, at which point we had glimpses of the impressive new orange roof of Powell Hut and the white of Jumbo Hut. We continued around the ridge until we reached the Atiwhakatu - Donnelly’s flat turn-off, where we had a leisurely lunch.



Orchids in flower



After lunch we set off down the spur to Donnelly's flat. Along the way it was interesting to see the varied state of the bush which went from lush green to barren undergrowth with mainly Kamahi trees.

We had to scale down ropes to the Atiwhakatu stream, which was exciting, cross the stream, and climb up the bank on the other side using ropes



once again. From here we got to Donnelly's flat via the old Atiwhakatu track, which in turn joined up with the new Atiwhakatu track which left us a short walk to where it all began.

The total distance took us just under six hours to complete. Everyone agreed it was a great day out and I personally would like to thank everyone who took part, especially my co-leader, Bev, our bus driver Ewen, and the people who took their cars.

Mountain House Loop

Twelve, mostly tramp-hardened, trampers made a 9-20am start from the Holdsworth car park to tramp along the Atiwhakatu track and turn left and up the River Ridge track Junction. Morning tea was taken before the steep 400m climb up to the Mount Holdsworth track. It was a coolish day with good light so the climb up in the open forest was rewarding. On the ascent we were treated to a bell bird and a handsome tomtit (miromiro). Those trampers who were not tramp hardened at the start of the tramp felt that they were so by the time we arrived at the Mountain House shelter for lunch with all arriving by noon.



After a convivial lunch we then launched ourselves down the track via Pig Flat to Rocky Knob. After a radio call between the groups we were able to spot the leading trampers of the other group making their way down towards a river crossing at Donnelly's Flat. Once the excitement had died away we continued on and down with all safely arriving at the car park by 2-40pm. A satisfying autumn tramp with lovely bush, great views in fine but chilly weather.
 Data: 12.27 km Max Height Gain 463m
 25,398 Steps Duration ~ 5 hours

4th- 5th May, 2019: Dundas Loop

Trip Leader and Reporter: Jean Garman

Photos: Howie Nicholson

The Dundas Loop is a 'classic' Tararua tramp. Unfortunately, the forecast was not the best: winds strong and increasing to gale on Saturday with some wetness developing overnight and into Sunday but at least with decreasing winds. Three of us decided it was worth a go anyway. Good time was made from the Putara road

end through to Herepai hut and the weather seemed to not be too bad. Ivan was the first to the top of Herepai Peak and the involuntary stumbling indicated that we had been pretty sheltered from the wind up to then. We got a quite a buffeting, but luckily this was some of the worst of it and, while the wind continued strong further along, it wasn't knocking us round and there were bits along the way in the lee of the ridge. More layers, gloves and hats were donned as the wind was cold and while most of the time we had views the sunshine we could see to the east came nowhere near us.



Looking down at Herepai Hut



Still in the clear but windy

A quick lunch was had in the lee of the ridge around Ruapae, then came the well-remembered descent from West peak and subsequent climb to East peak. We once more got knocked around by the wind near Walker as it was funnelling up the Barra Stream. Stops were kept to a bare minimum. Howie and I both succumbed to an almost identical cramp (different legs) at almost the same time on the last climb and were very pleased when we could move again as not moving was very cold. Ivan was almost at the hut as we started our last descent – respite from the wind at last.



Dundas Hut here we come

We made it in 7½ hours all up which, although we recollected the days we could do it in 7 hours, we thought wasn't too bad. The hut has had a spruce up (thanks exNZFS) and is back to the lovely traditional colours of external orange and internal pale green and is looking very tidy. We had it to ourselves and spent the remaining time before bed eating, drinking and reading through VUWTC and WTMC journals.



Early morning wetness



Not much visibility

After a good, thorough, long sleep we awoke to a day of dampness, lack of visibility and continuing wind. Psyching ourselves up for a day of wet and wind and possibly crawling across Cattle Ridge we rugged up well and headed off down to our first visit to the Ruamahunga River. As we lost height we dropped out of the

cloud and things became less wet; we could see the end of Cattle ridge and it even looked quite nice out towards the east – spirits lifted.

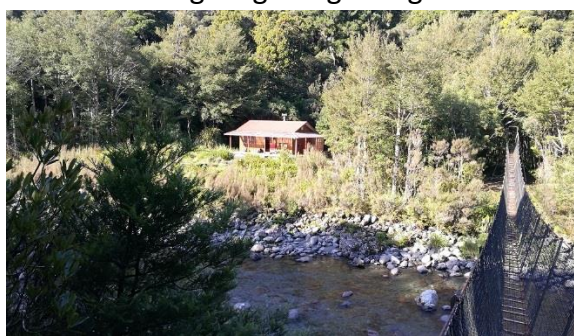


Heading down out of the cloud



Boots off to cross the river

Care was taken not to get wet boots crossing the Ruamahunga with Ivan deftly boulder hopping, Howie making a quick dash and Jean opting to take her footwear off. While no more precipitation was falling it was quite wetting swimming steeply up through the tussock, flax and astelia covering the overgrown track up onto Cattle Ridge. Eventually we cleared this and life got quite pleasant, the wind had dropped and it wasn't far to Cattle Ridge hut (freshly repainted inside due to mould issues) for lunch. A leisurely affair and we even indulged with a hot drink before we headed down to Roaring Stag hut glinting in the sunshine below.



Cattle Ridge and Roaring Stag huts

Part way down we met up with Malcolm who had joined Jenny and Adam for a Sunday daytrip in to meet us. The others had succumbed to the temptation of sloth on the sunny veranda of the hut. We joined up with them still basking and all headed out together in a state of continuous chatter to the road end. As I was having some knee issues and hence being pretty slow (2 week old large thigh bruises can cause issues when fluid moves downwards) and hence being pretty slow I took up Jenny's kind offer of swapping my overnight pack for her day pack. I was still the slowest on the downhill but we made it out before darkness. Many thanks to Ivan and Howie (over nighters) and Malcolm, Jenny and Adam (day trippers) for a good trip.

8th May, 2019: Wednesday trampers Enjoy The Makairo track (Except For The Nettles!)

Report and Trip Leader: Allan

Photos: Judith and Maureen

Compilation: Bob

On 8 May a party of 16 trampers went over the hills and descended into the thick Pahiatua fog. Eventually we reached our destination at the end of the Makairo Road. By then we had left the worst of the fog behind so we looked forward to an enjoyable day. The Makairo track can be described as an old coach road, which for the most part winds gently uphill through a tunnel of trees. Our aim was to go as far as possible up the track, have lunch and return. Several of the group got right through to the quarry for lunch, while the remainder climbed a hill near the saddle, about 30 minutes from the quarry, for their lunch. The sun was shining by then and the temperature mild - a perfect autumn's day for being out and about. On the way back, several stopped at the side-track that descends in about 5 minutes to a biv, deer shooters lookout, blokes get-away from it all – call it what you like. But whatever, it is a charming rustic



Almost at the top

structure. The group then proceeded to the Tui Brewery café for a well-deserved coffee. Thanks to van driver Robbie and to Carol and Bob who took their cars.

9th-10th May, 2019: Thursdays Tip to Jumbo Hut

Report and Trip Leader: Leonie

Photos: William and others



The crew outside Jumbo Hut

A group (14 of us) headed off from the Holdsworth car park towards the Atiwhakatu Hut at 9.20am. It was a sunny Autumn morning, as we started our ascent from 300 meters, climbing to 400 meters over the next seven kilometres along the side of the Atiwhakatu stream to the hut. The track was in outstanding condition, apart from a large slip about half way along the track. We sidled along the bottom of the slip which was the easiest option to move forward down the track. We arrived at the Atiwhakatu Hut for an early lunch at about 11.00am.

After lunch the work began as we headed up the Rain Gauge Spur track for a solid two and half hours. The track was well marked, extremely steep, and we had to negotiate over large tree roots. The incline lessened after about one and half hours, briefly, and then steepened again for the rest of the climb to the hut. The height at Jumbo hut is 1220 meters.

After having a break some of the group carried on up to Jumbo peak at 1405 meters as the weather was expected to deteriorate overnight and would not be an option the following day. The wind conditions were very gusty. We shared the Hut with a lovely young German couple who were on their honeymoon. With sixteen people in the hut it felt very full. We had a very windy and rainy night, with winds gusts of 55 km per hour.

Because of the high wind conditions we were unable to attempt the circuit, so after a group discussion, it was decided that one group of seven would come down an older, unnamed track on the north side of Jumbo hut, and the other seven would return down the same way we came up, with both groups meeting up at Atiwhakatu hut. It took the group on the unnamed track two hours, with the track well marked with orange arrows but there were a lot of fallen trees that took a bit of navigating at times. It came out at Atiwhakatu stream track near the swing bridge to Mitre Flats hut, and then we headed back towards Atiwhakatu hut for an hour, with the track in good condition.

The other group returning down the same way they came up took two and half hours to get back to the hut.

We all had a much deserved hot drink and then returned back along the stream arriving at the car park, where it all began at 2pm. A big thanks to John for driving the bus, Bev for taking her car, the people who took photos and everyone else who came along and enjoyed a challenging but satisfying overnighter. Everyone I have spoken too over the weekend is reporting strained muscles.



A rare photo of our photographer, William



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Social Convenor	Linda Campbell	social@mtsc.org.nz	027 333 4493
Wednesday Trips	Bev Akers	bevakers@xtra.co.nz	06 325 8879
Thursday Trips	Merv Matthews	merv6817@gmail.com	06 357 2858
Facebook	Ivan Rienks, Rob Pringle, Karen Tutt, Howard Nicholson	facebook@mtsc.org.nz	

New Members

Prospective members must be nominated by a Proposer and a Seconder who are current MTSC members and have been so for at least one year. New memberships are confirmed at the next monthly committee meeting. Prospective members are encouraged to go on a club trip or attend a club night before joining. For further information or an application form please see the club website.

Club Equipment

Hire equipment: we have packs, 2 and 3 person tents, tent flies (small and large), snow mats, gas cookers, size 8 and 9 boots, billys, 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	\$40	\$58	
Secondary School	\$32	\$48	
Primary School	\$26	\$42	
Pre-school (3-5 yo)	\$13	\$13	

Booking the MTSC Van: For bookings: Contact Ken Mercer 027 364 6475. 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.

More Notices

Annual Subscriptions

Subs are now well overdue. Reminders have been sent by e-mail but note that the year in the text was not changed to 2019 so still read 2018. Apologies for any confusion.

Sue Nicholson
Membership Secretary.
membership@mtsc.org.nz

Fuel card for the Van

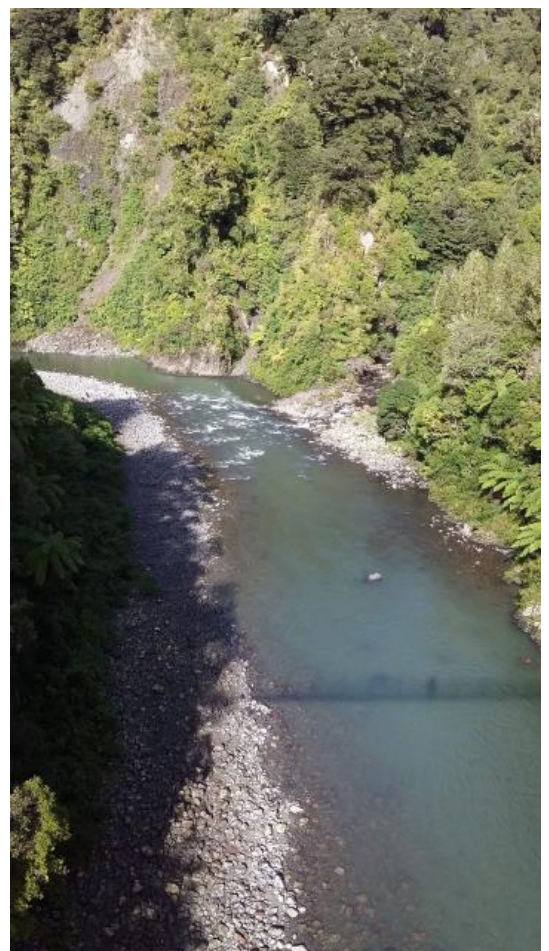
Thanks to Ewen, our new Treasurer, we have recently learned that there is a significant transaction cost if we refuel at Mobil or Gull. The preferred fuel companies are:

BP, Caltex, Z Energy and GAS
where we get a 5 cent discount.

Ken Mercer
Mini-bus Manager
minibus@mtsc.org.nz



Tinui Village



*Shadow of bridge crossing en route
to Cone Hut*