

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 5 July 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 2nd July: In the Footsteps of Scott and Shackleton

Christine and Barry will talk about their recent trip with Heritage Expeditions to the subantarctic islands, Ross sea, and McMurdo & Scott base. Highlights included visiting Scott's and Shackleton's huts, walking amongst penguin colonies and walking on an ice floe with orcas and emperor penguins around us.



Tuesday 6th August: Club Photo Competition



Entries need to be submitted by 1st August, 2019

Categories

This year, we are trialling a new category, long exposure, and introducing the concept of an annual theme (FMC's Forgotten Lands, see over). The best three images in each category will be entered into the interclub and FMC competitions.

ABN ABOVE BUSHLINE With no Human Element, i.e. Alpine scenery with no people or man-made objects
ABW ABOVE BUSHLINE With a Human Element i.e. may include people or man-made objects
BBN BELOW BUSHLINE With no Human Element i.e. Bush/lowland/subalpine and no people or man-made objects

BBW BELOW BUSHLINE With a Human Element

HIS HISTORIC Photographs taken prior to 1 January

2016

NFF NZ NATIVE FLORA & FAUNA

LE LONG EXPOSURE (Trial category for 2019, explained in rule #4 on web)



You can enter up to 3 photographs in any category and up to 21 images in total.

Further information and the rules are available on the MTSC web site at

<http://www.mtsc.nz/photocomp2019.pdf>

Tuesday 3rd September: South Island Ski Trip

Tuesday 1st October: Interclub Photo Competition



Chief Guide: Ken Mercer

chief.guide@mtsc.org.nz

We recently received a query about when to use the mailbox which the club has for trip intentions. In particular what about trips which are not listed on the tripcard?

It is always sensible to leave intentions with a trusted person when tramping and, while there are several available on line, our email system works very well. It is not just for official club trips but for the convenience of members for those spur of the moment trips and the efficient operation of Search and Rescue (SAR). The email goes to a small group, known to the police, who are all involved in SAR. If something happens one of us can easily forward the email to the police. If your plans change while you still have email access a small update would be appropriate.

In the past the police would not be called until a group had failed to return and was many hours overdue. Today a PLB is usually activated which alerts the Rescue Coordination Centre (RCC) who, often with Police, have to make a decision on which resources to call on. Options include a helicopter, if the weather allows, or an E-Text to SAR volunteers requesting us to pack and report to the police station. Having access to the emailed info helps enormously. Often the first check the police will make is to see if your vehicle is still at the road end.

The registration details of the club PLBs lead, in the first instance, to Peter Rawlins, who has access to the list. Activation of a personal PLB will lead to RCC calling your nominated contact people who, hopefully, can accurately supply the necessary details. Having first distributed the information in an email is particularly useful.

So, to answer the query, we welcome club members sending a list for any tramping trip they are going on. And the email address? intentions@mtsc.org.nz

First Tracks: Ski Captain: Howard Nicholson

ski@mtsc.org.nz

The pantries have been stocked and the Lodge has been cleaned from top to bottom in preparation for your upcoming visits. Now is a good time to book your stay, as I hear some dates are filling fast.

NIWA is predicting that Central North Island temperatures may be near or above average in July, and rainfall will most likely be near average (see <https://www.niwa.co.nz/climate/seasonal-climate-outlook/seasonal-climate-outlook-june-august-2019>). I will be an optimist and predict a reasonable start to the snow season during the July school holidays, based on feeling lucky and knowing there is a lot of food get through at the lodge.

We witnessed the new Sky Waka gondola circulating during the food carry weekend. The opening date is yet to be announced but we are hopeful that it will be soon. Stay tuned!

Howie

UPCOMING TRIPS

July Wednesday Tramps			July Thursday Tramps		
03	Coralie/Evan Davies	357 6288	04	Nigel & Jill Spencer	D 329 8738
10	Carolyn Brodie	358 6576	11	Judy Swainson	358 4082
17	Rita Hodson	323 5491	18	John & Gillian Thornley	356 9681
24	Harold Petterson	357 4248	25	Hugh Wilde	D 356 9450
31	Richard Lander	354 0472			
July Weekend Trips					
6-7	Pureora: Hauhungaroa-Timber Trail	Med	David Harrington	021 240 9056	
7 (Sun)	Atiawhakatu Hut	Easy	Ewen Cameron	022034 1180	
13-14	Powell Hut	Easy	Linda Campbell	027 333 4493	
13-14	Beginners' Ski Weekend	Easy	Ken Mercer	027 364 6475	
20-21	Ski Improvement Weekend	Medium	John Lyttle & Peter Bowker	027 433 6307	
27 (Sun)	Powell Hut – Postponed	Med/Fit	Jenny McCarthy	021 215 2197	

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 MTSC-owned 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.

6th-7th July, 2019: Pureora: Hauhungaroa-Timber Trail

David Harrington Medium 021 240 9056

This trip is unusual for me as it's all on tracks! NE of Taumarunui the trip starts at the end of Mangakahu Rd where we'll follow the Hauhungaroa Track to approx 1 km short of the hut. There we'll follow another track NNW onto the Waione Tram Track and camp at the Waione Stream crossing. On Sunday we'll continue NW along the track to the Timber Trail and then follow that out to the Ngakonui Ongarue Rd. Some vehicle shuffling required for this trip. The terrain is easy with only one climb of 250m near the start but long distance. May also do a short side trip to a possible private hut near the start.

13th-14th July, 2019: Powell Hut

Linda Campbell Easy 027 333 4493

It is new. It is beautiful and I am really looking forward to seeing it! DOC expect the opening of the new hut to be 12 July and it is already proving popular. If you haven't already contacted me, please check availability of beds on www.doc.govt.nz and book yourself a bed before contacting me. We will then sort travel plans etc.

Linda lindammc@xtra.co.nz

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

Te Papaioea / Palmerston North Office 28 North Street or Private Bag 11010, Palmerston North 4442

DDI: +64 6 350 9675 | VPN: 6985 | 027 539 5466

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



Wednesday 5th June, 2019: Kohitere

Trip Leader and Reporter: Anne West

Twenty four trampers set off for the Denton Road carpark, heartened to see a clear view of the hills, as the weather forecast was not favourable. We split into 2 groups, six electing to take a longer circuit, the remaining 18 aiming to explore a shorter route at a slower pace. In fine conditions we first followed a fern-filled valley, then up through pine forest via mountain bike trails. These trails zig-zagged up the hill but with many short-cuts, there were moments of confusion as trampers pondered which trail to take. Luckily it seemed that all routes converged, we reached the forestry road and continued up to the trig. The first group had carried on past the trig and down the other side of the hill following a track through the Kohitere Scenic Reserve, this took them all the way to Gladstone Road.



One of the Slower Trampers

Meanwhile group 2 paused at the trig to admire the views; then after a short diversion into the Scenic Reserve we continued along the forestry road to the Arapaepae Lookout. Again there was a clear view to the west and out to sea, but we could see a thick rain cloud approaching across the plain. Rain coats were donned, and we carried on along the route towards Makahika. Some of the group paused for lunch at about midday, others continued a little further down the hill. And there coming toward us were group 1, happy to be reunited with us after their adventures on the other side of the hill, their circuit having included a challenging steep off-track scramble. The

combined group now paused for lunch, but not for too long, as more showers were coming. Everyone headed back towards the carpark, we found another mountain bike trail which descended the hill through tall pine trees.

This was a walk with variety, following both bike trails and forest roads through either pine plantation or native bush. A few slippery patches but very little mud. The worst part of the day was arriving back at the vehicles in the rain, and having to change without the benefit of any shelter. Most of the group adjourned to the nearby Masonic Village Cafe, which was dry, warm and spacious – the ideal venue for a group of damp trampers. It was still early in the afternoon, so we were happy to linger and chat.

A big thank you to Dennis and Ewen who helped to scope out the route: to Bev, Ewen and Dennis for guiding: to drivers Ewen, Bev, Linda and Jenny.

Sunday 9th June, 2019: Rangī Hut

Trip Leader: Linda Campbell

Reporters: Mary Mercer & Linda Campbell

Photos: Mary and Helen

The weather forecasts were wrong! Sunday was fine though overcast and cool, but no wind and rain. We departed so punctually from Palmerston North that we managed to catch our highly organised trip leader, Linda, by surprise when we arrived a few minutes early in Feilding. From there our van load of eight plus Simon and Melissa, following in their car, continued up the green, green valley through Kimbolten to the road end where we met Helen and her car load from Whanganui. That made 14 in total including several new to tramping.



The Rangī Hut team

As always the bush was beautiful, with bright red berries tucked away in the tiny coprosma lining the banks, gracious beech trees lower down and craggy mountain cedar higher up. Though we could easily see down to the farm land as we climbed, the air had so much moisture in it our views were somewhat foreshortened. The track is in good condition though the many banks of steps are challenging for those with shorter legs. The most exciting part was along the edge of a second slip, close to the big slip that forced DOC to re-route the track some years ago.



Much to the disappointment of some, we didn't come across any snow till we were quite close to the hut. Luckily there was plenty there so Helen's granddaughter, Analise, and friend, Ocean, plus a boy whose group overtook us on the way up, had a great time constructing a snow man with a genuine carrot nose. While the kids threw snow balls and ate slushies some of the adults, at least, enjoyed a freshly brewed hot drink with their lunch inside. Then it was back down, down, down over the lovely arched bridge again and finally down to the vehicles. It was pitch dark by the time we got back to Feilding.

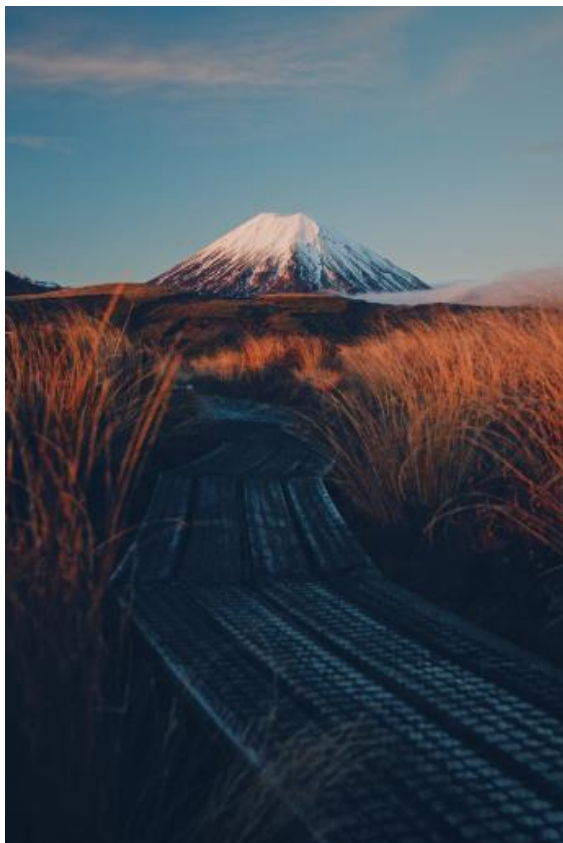
The trip was most enjoyable thanks to a wonderful group of people who worked/walked together to make sure everyone achieved their goal.

15th-16th June, 2019: Not a Full Moon & Not a Climb

Trip leader & Reporter: Hazel Phillips

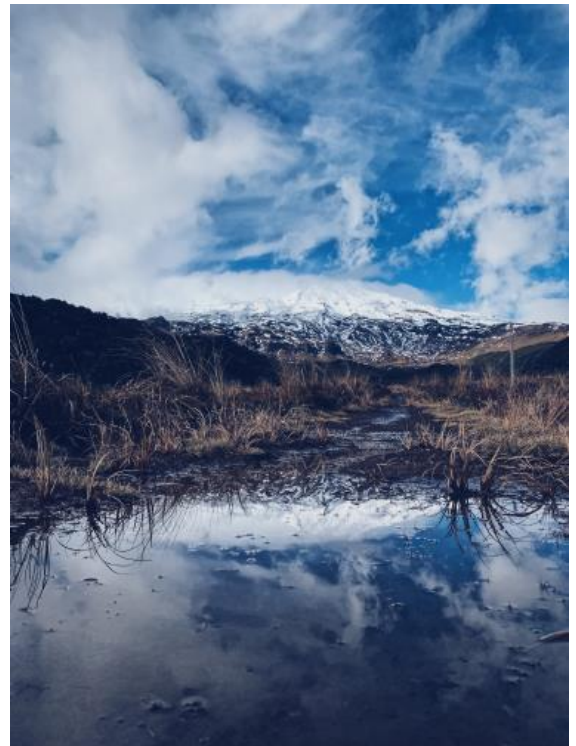
Photos: Mike Heydon @ Jet Productions

June's 'almost full moon' climbing trip idea of Tongariro or Ruapehu turned out to be just that: an idea. The weather forecast didn't co-operate, so the weekend transformed into an 'oh well, let's go to Ruapehu anyway' sort of event. Mike and Hazel did a trail run from the Chateau to Mangahua (13km), meeting in the middle to swap car keys, which we'd parked at different track ends. Mike got far too enthusiastic and kept



on running to Whakapapaiti Hut and up to Scoria Flat, then down the Bruce Road back to the Chateau, which put the 13km at something more like a half marathon. It was sodden

underfoot, so much of the trail wasn't properly runnable, but that did not dampen enthusiasm. We finished off the day (which had turned out quite nice, weather-wise, after all) with a visit to Ohinetonga Lagoon, just out of Owhango, and a leg stretcher to Taranaki Falls. On the Sunday we did the Old Blyth Track, which was equally wet and muddy, then drank too much coffee.

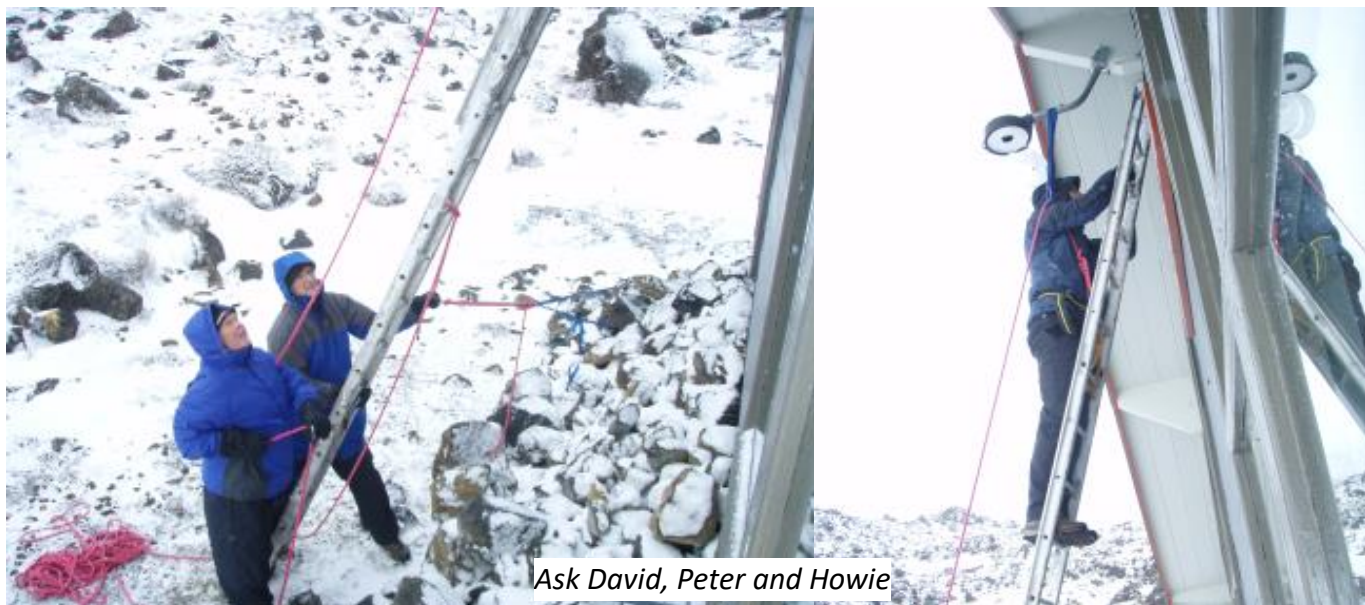


We were Hazel Phillips and Mike Heydon.



Ohinetonga Lagoon

How many skiers does it take to change a light bulb?



Ask David, Peter and Howie

22nd-23rd June, 2019: Lodge Food Carry

Trip Leader: Howard Nicholson

Trip Reporter: Mary Mercer

Photos: Mary and Howard

The walk in from the Top O' The Bruce was somewhat slippery in places thanks to the frozen state of the "snow" but 17 adults and 6 children made it safely to the lodge by 11 pm on Friday night. Saturday was a beautiful sunny day with the sun sparkling on the rather frosty snow. Straight after an early breakfast we all

set to work wiping down and restacking shelves and cleaning out the cool store and freezer ready for the fresh supplies. Then the 'porters' set forth on the first of many trips from the lodge to the trailer, transporting a total of 1.5 tonnes of food and other supplies into the lodge and carting building debris back out to the road. Meantime others in the lodge checked off and stacked the food. Amazingly it all fitted in the end and we even got the lid of the freezer closed. This phase took all the morning and part of the afternoon during which we were sustained by cinnamon scrolls and other goodies prepared by David Stevens.



David S in what is left of the old locker room



Peter R, Rob (ladder front), Mike, David (ladder back), Peter B and Pablo (behind)

Once the bulk of the food was stowed it was on to the other jobs. One was to bring a new 70 kg washing machine, kindly donated by Pablo Gomes and family, in from the car park. After some planning the blokes who carried it made it look easy, marching along so fast with the machine suspended from a ladder resting on their shoulders, that it was hard to catch them for a photo.

Believe it or not, although the major reconstruction work on the lodge has finished there is still quite a bit of work to do such as finishing the boot dryer, plumbing in the washing machine and tub and painting and bogging, replacing the outside light bulb and so on and on and on.

There was also a whole entry room full of rubbish to carry out for disposal. As well all the building activity had spread a layer of dust over walls, shelves and even inside cupboards throughout the whole lodge. This just added to the usual thorough cleaning to be done at this time of year. Everyone worked hard for the rest of the afternoon.

Snow fell most of Sunday, much to the delight of the children. Nonetheless everyone went back to work until lunch time. Then it was a rushed pack up and final clean up for a 2 pm departure..... Oh no! Lots of mess still all over the place and a door that needed to be rehung.....We finally left at 3 pm, weary but feeling that we had earned a rest on the drive back.



David & Milan carrying out Rob's table saw

A very big thank you must go to Howie Nicholson, our Ski Captain, who managed the whole weekend with enthusiasm and good humour as well as excellent organisation which kept everyone on track. Also, thanks to all the other participants, some of whom were newbies to the lodge but worked hard the whole weekend along with the trusty regulars. We were David Baddeley, Mike Baker, Peter Bowker, Linda Campbell, Pablo Gomes, Milan Gurung, Alan Hawkins, Ken and Mary Mercer, Elliott O'Brien, Helen Peak and granddaughter, Analise and friend Ocean Balsley, Hazel Phillips, Rob Pringle and children, Isaac and Charlotte, Peter Rawlins, David Stevens and sons, Eddie and Joshua, Tim Swale and Howie Nicholson.



Howie and Rob at work on the downstairs tub



Child labour: Ocean, Isaac (front), Charlotte, Analise (rear) clearing the snow off the verandah



What is Helen doing under the mattress? Maybe Isaac, Linda and Ocean know.



Milan, Tim, Alan, Ken at work on the basement boot dryer



Mary cleaning the stoves

Late Notice:
FMC memberships cards will be sent in August with Bulletin. Late posting due to issues with new system.



Contact Details

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

Committee 2019 - 2020

President	Rob Pringle	president@mtsc.org.nz	027 426 2176
Secretary	Tim Swale	secretary@mtsc.org.nz	06 376 6556
Treasurer	Ewen Cameron	treasurer@mtsc.org.nz	0220341180
Chief Guide	Ken Mercer	chief.guide@mtsc.org.nz	027 364 6475
Membership	Sue Nicholson	membership@mtsc.org.nz	06 357 6325
Newsletter Editor	Mary Mercer	editor@mtsc.org.nz	027 372 5375
Lodge Manager	John Lyttle	lodge.manager@mtsc.org.nz	027 433 6307
Mini-Bus Manager	Ken Mercer	minibus@mtsc.org.nz	027 364 6475

General Committee: John Beech, William Laing, Richard Lander, Howard Nicholson, Peter Rawlins

Appointees

Lodge Bookings	Hugh & Liz Wilde	lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz	021 054 2560
Gear Custodian	Peter Rawlins	gear@mtsc.org.nz	06 356 7443
Ski Captain	Howard Nicholson	ski@mtsc.org.nz	06 357 6325
Social Convenor	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, 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	\$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.