

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 7 September 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 3rd September: South Island Ski Trip



Tuesday 1st October: Interclub Photo Competition

7.30 pm at Rose City Aquatic Clubrooms (next to the Lido), 50 Park Road, Palmerston North

Hosted by MTSC. Enjoy tea and biscuits while viewing this year's best images from the MTSC, PNTMC and MUAC competitions. An invited judge will comment on the images and choose the prize-winning entries. Prizes have been provided by Hunting & Fishing NZ, Bivouac, Macpac, Bruce Watt Photography and New World Summerhill.

REPORTS AND NOTICES

MTSC President: Rob Pringle

president@mtsc.org.nz



At the time of writing, another clear day dawns on the mountain. Snow has been slow to arrive at the start of this ski season and it's looking like it may be September before the settled weather really takes hold. Eventually the Far West area might get up and running. Roll on spring skiing! Several weeks back, I had my first ride up the Skywaka Gondola. For those who don't know, the new 10 seater cabins run from the Top o' the Bruce Road, directly to Knoll Ridge Café. The system is designed to be more resilient to the changeable weather on the mountain than the old chairlifts. It is also a replacement for the Waterfall Express quad, which was at the end of its life.

The first thing that amazed me about the gondola is it makes the Knoll Ridge Café accessible to nearly everyone since it terminates adjacent to the upstairs entrance to the Café. The distance you're required to walk outside at that altitude is significantly reduced. The second thing is just how social it is. Gone are the days of hunkering down into your jacket, having your face blasted by passing ice / snow / wind as you suffer your way up two chair lifts, shuffling across Hutt Flat and standing in yet another behemoth of a queue while you wait to be able to warm up on what was a short ski run back to the queue to do it all over again.... This time I sat on a padded seat, in a glass box, having a very civilized conversation with 9 other people, as we gently (albeit swiftly) rose up to the highest café in NZ. The 1st waterfall - those who've taken this journey in the past will be all too familiar

with the point I'm referring too....that spot where the wind does its level best to remove any item of clothing that's not well tied down, finding any loose pack strap and repeatedly smashing it against any part of you that doesn't happen to be covered up, and snow being driven through any available opening in your jacket - is a thing of the past. We now ride up in warmth, comfort, and are able to enjoy the company of others, before we wrap up to ski back to the beginning to repeat the exercise. If you haven't done so already, I'd really recommend the trip up to take a look at it. While there are still outstanding cosmetic finishes required on the ancillary buildings, the views are spectacular, the range of food options has increased, and the engineering involved in the installation is something to behold.

At a tangent to this, is a growing awareness within the club to look out for one another, something I think we do well on club trips, both skiing, and tramping. There was discussion at the AGM about increasing the awareness of what people are going through in their every-day lives, and how being part of a community, such as the club, can support people and have a positive impact on the lives of others. Throughout the past month, there have been circumstances that club members have been through, that we have been able to reach out to, and let the families involved know that we are thinking of them. If you know of anyone that could use some support, or is going through a situation where by they could use an ear, or perhaps the distraction of a day in the outdoors, please don't hesitate to let one of the committee know, or point them in the direction of any of the trip leaders.

Have a fantastic month out there, stay safe, and stay in touch.

Rob

First Tracks

ski@mtsc.org.nz

When it rains, it pours, and when it snows, it dumps. It is fair to say that the mountain now has a good base for the season. Spring is arguably the best time to ski Ruapehu, so make the most of what we have. Enjoy the improvements made at the lodge and have fun up there. If you are wanting to have a snow experience or to just "chill" for a while then Manawatu Lodge is the place to be.

Howie

Lodge Manager

lodge.manager@mtsc.org.nz

After a slow start to the season we now have the snow that we have all been waiting for. If you haven't already been up to the lodge, the renovations and our new drying room are up and running so be sure to book early as there is often a rush for beds at the lodge after good snow.

I'm presently starting the planning for the next round of renovations and will be sending out proposed work party dates for you to put in your diaries. The next stage of the work will be on a much smaller scale than last year but we will still need everyone's help.

Here to lots of spring skiing and I look forward to seeing you all at the lodge.

John



September Wednesday Tramps			September Thursday Tramps		
04	Bob Hodgson	356 2915	05	Ewen Cameron	356 8344
11	Ewen Cameron	022 034 1180	12	Suzanne Clark	356 8322
28	Linda Darbyshire	354 6171	19	Norman Cooper	357 5531
25	Robbie Green	022 398 2205	26	John Doolan	D 355 2100
September Weekend Trips					
7-8	Snow Camping	Technical	Howard Nicholson	027 294 1941	
15	The Escarpment Walk	Easy/Med	Jenny McCarthy	021 215 2197	
21-22	Rangipo Hut	Med/Tech	Adam Matich	022 358 8062	
28-29	Crater Lake: ski/board/walk	Easy	John Lyttle	027 433 6307	

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.

7th to 8th September, 2019: Snow Camping

Howard Nicholson Technical 027 294 1941

The idea is to find somewhere with snow and camp there. There are some prerequisites for this trip so please contact me if you are interested. Location is yet to be confirmed, but possibly Ruahines or Tongariro National Park.

Sunday 15th September, 2019: The Escarpment Walk

Jenny McCarthy Easy/Medium 021 215 2197

This is a 10km walk from Paekakariki to Pukerua Bay. We will drive down to Paekakariki and park at the railway station. We will walk to Pukerua Bay on the track and then head back to Paekakariki by train for lunch.

21st to 22nd September, 2019: Rangipo Hut

Adam Matich Medium/Technical 022 358 8062

We will be taking the Around-the-Mountain Track from the Tukino Ski Field road. In summer it would be possible to drive up to the Around-the-Mountain Track and spend an easy 2-3 hours on the track to get to Rangipo Hut. However, winter is another matter. If there is lots of snow then we may have to park further down the mountain and walk up the road. There could be significant snow cover on the track, and possibly ice or even a cornice or two to battle through, so we will need ice axe and crampons. (If you don't have your own you will need to talk to the club gear custodian and prove you are able to use them). I don't believe in this out-in-all-weather nonsense, so the trip will only happen if the forecast is reasonable. Hopefully we will arrive at the hut mid afternoon and can while away the rest of the day tending the fire, eating and drinking lots, and finding other amusements to occupy our time.

28th to 29th September, 2019: Crater Lake: Ski/Board/Walk

John Lyttle Easy 027 433 6307

This more of a casual outing than a strenuous climb and all are welcome. This trip is good for strong beginners upwards, with a reasonable fitness level, as it can take up two hours to reach the lake depending on weather and conditions. Contact John if you have any questions.

26th to 28th September, 2019: Wanganui River Kayak Trip

Carol Exton carolxx48@gmail.com

I am organising a three day paddle down the Wanganui River using sea kayaks, for a maximum of ten people in September. This is the last weekend before the trip becomes a Great Walk. The get in will either be Manunui or, if the river's too low, then 5km down stream at Cherry Grove. First night Whakahoro, second night Tieke Kianga Marae, out third day 28 Sep Pipiriki. I have arranged accom at the Taumarunui Holiday Park the night before 25 Sept, and a shuttle to get us and our gear back to our cars. Four people will cost about \$150 each but it will reduce if more people participate. It is a straight forward trip, with some G2 rapids and many scenic and historical areas along the way - 150km in total. Participants must be comfortable paddling over 60km for the first two days, and under 30km on the last day. Six have already booked so contact Carol by e-mail for further details soon if you are interested.

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). DoC-Te Papa Atawhai Te Papaioea / Palmerston North Office

28 North Street or Private Bag 11010, Palmerston North 4440.

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Results of the 2019 MTSC Photo Competition

Above the bushline with no human element

1 st	Tongariro Crossing	Richard Lander
2 nd	Red Crater	Richard Lander
3 rd	Mt. St. Patrick	Louise Lahmert

Above the bushline with a human element

1 st	MTSC lodge	Richard Lander
1 st =	High Country	Tim Swale
3 rd	Cathedral Rocks	David Harrington

Below the bushline with no human element

1 st	Lake Ruataniwha	Richard Lander
2 nd	Red sky at night shepherds delight	Louise Lahmert
3 rd =	Awatere panorama	Richard Lander
3 rd =	The cliché	Maria Lombard
3 rd =	Sunset at Taupo	Louise Lahmert

Below the bushline with a human element

1 st	Beautiful water	Louise Lahmert
2 nd	Converge	Maria Lombard
3 rd	Waitawaewae valley	Andrea Hall

Historic

1 st	Dome Shelter Ruapehu	Richard Lander
2 nd	Church of the Good Shepherd	Richard Lander
3 rd =	Oruawhoro Homestead	Donald Tang
3 rd =	Old Waihohonu Hut 1983	Helen Peek
3 rd =	Tongariro Crossing 1983	Helen Peek

Native flora and fauna

1 st	Avian narcissist	Maria Lombard
2 nd	Whaaaat?	Maria Lombard
3 rd	Reflective shags on Westmere	Bob Hodgson

Long exposure

1 st	Hooker Valley	Richard Lander
2 nd	Wanaka tree	Richard Lander
3 rd	The Falls	Richard Lander

Best photo overall

Avian narcissist	Maria Lombard
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Near Twizel (above). Tracks on Ohau (below) More at club night on 3 Sept





Wednesday 24th July, 2019: Waitawaewae Track and Arcus Loop

Trip Leader: Richard

Photo: Andrea

The van and two carloads of intrepid Wednesday adventurers and a dog tackled the historic Waitawaewae track from Otaki Forks, following the old logging railway line up the Waitatapia valley. The nineteen headed towards the head of the valley where the track forks; the old track that continued along the railway line to Saddle creek has become overgrown and impassable. The newer “upper” track is a little rough and the faster group took this route to just beyond Papa Creek before returning. The slower group turned back at the fork



and returned to the open flats for lunch and then did the Arcus Loop. The weather was brilliant and felt like a spring day with no wind and mist hanging off the hills in the valley. The groups coalesced back at the carpark at 3 pm and headed for coffee and eel watching at the Quarter Acre Bistro at Manakau before returning to Palmerston North.

Thanks to Linda for driving the van at short notice and to Marion and Robyn for taking their cars and delivering us safely home.

Sunday 4th August, 2019: Navigation for Trampers

Trip Leader, Reporter and Photographer: Tim Swale

This activity was put on in order to develop better navigation skills for tramping trips. Despite a less than wonderful weather forecast, we met at the Woodville Ferry Reserve after lunch on Sunday with a little bit of sun shining through. The new shelter was a good place to base ourselves for a discussion on what we need for navigation, look at the Topo 50 map and then practise using a compass to orient the map and walk on a grid bearing.

We then headed off across the bridge to the Balance Domain where we attempted to put that knowledge to the test with some off-track navigation using the compass. A series of grid references took us to various places along the Manawatu Gorge track and then back down the Klein Track, all the time developing



locational awareness. We also had a brief look at resections from a viewpoint high on the loop track in order to establish our position from known landmarks.

As luck would have it the rain held off until we got back to the cars, at which point the heavens opened for a very wet drive home.

We were Maria, Mel, Louise, Annalise, Alan, Helen and Tim

7th August, 2019: Rangiwahia Hut in Midwinter

Trip leader & Reporter: Bob Hargreaves

Photos and Plots: Lida, Maureen and Bob

25 Wednesday trampers had two options. Option 1, Rangiwahia hut; option 2, Deadman's track. In the event everyone opted for the Rangiwahia hut option. Perhaps the rather dark sky and rain on the way up influenced decisions. After all Deadman's track is more exposed. Perhaps it was also the thought of having lunch at a hut warmed by early arrivals who were designated to get the fire going. We set off in 3 groups with some of the lead group expected to frolic in the snow at the top while waiting for the tail ends to appear at the hut.

The track up to Rangiwahia hut is a favourite tramp enhanced this time by patches of snow in the bush at a low level and further up snow covering the track. Morning tea was taken on the hut side of the big bridge. The waterfall by the little bridge near the top was quite spectacular due to recent rain and snow melt. Everyone had arrived at the hut by lunchtime, but sadly no fire due to a lack of kindling wood and an axe to split dry wood. However, the "fug" created by the trampers seemed to warm the hut to a reasonable level.



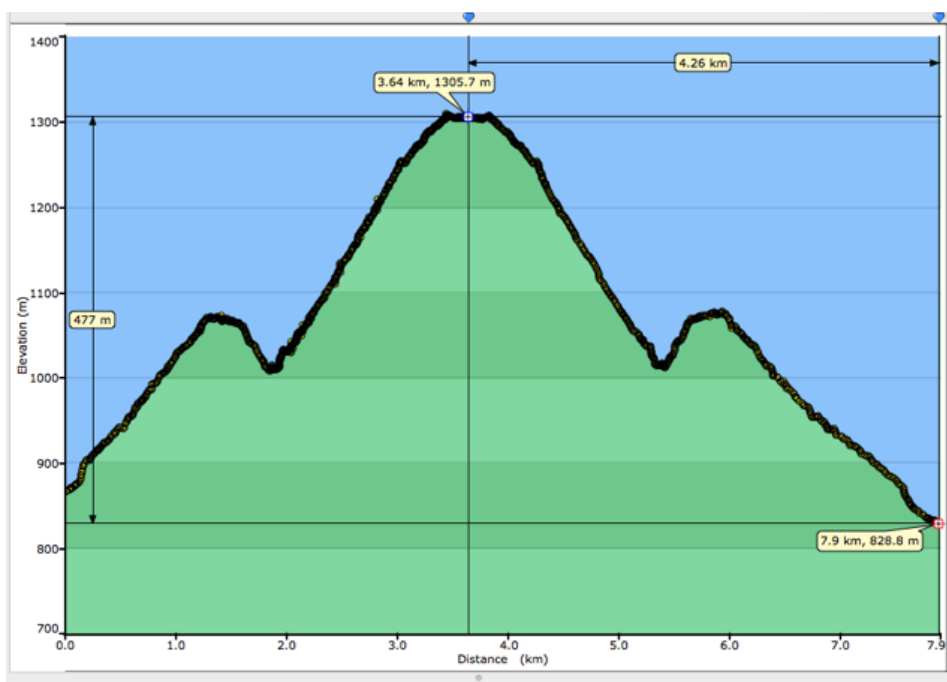
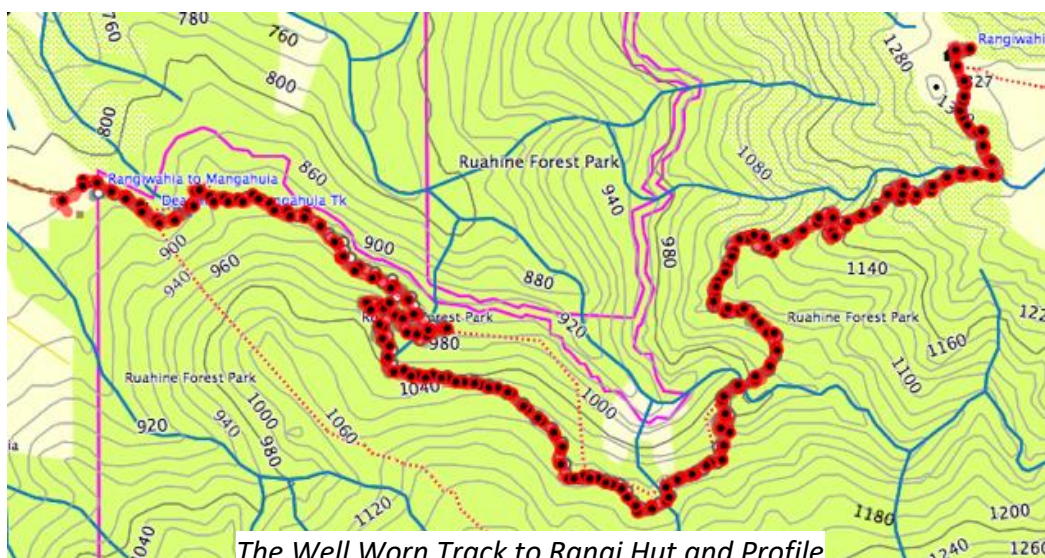


The icy parts of the track on the way up were largely absent on the descent due to the mush created by many boots and snow melt as the day warmed up. All trampers were back at the carpark around 2.00pm.

Thence down to the Rangiwahia Environmental Arts Centre Trust (REACT) headquarters which is based in the old dairy company building. Our hosts for the sumptuous afternoon tea were Bridgette Murphy and partner Jim along with longtime MTSC member, Ian Ritchie, and his partner Angela. Bridgette explained what REACT

does and how thin willow branches are used as the support structures for the fabric and paper covered art work exhibited in the building.

Thanks to van driver Robbie and car drivers Marion, Coralie and Bob for a successful day out. Just a pity our arrival back at Memorial Park was in the midst of a torrential rain storm!





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

Appointments

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, 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.