

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 8. September 2020



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.

7.30pm Tuesday 1 September, 2020: Richard Lander on Wild Frontiers

In December 2019 Richard and Elizabeth Lander travelled to the Rift Valley in Africa to visit the endangered mountain gorillas in the Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, Uganda. They also sought out tree climbing lions in the Queen Elizabeth National Park and chimpanzees in the wild at the Kyambura Gorge and the Kibale Forest. Follow with them Wild Frontiers from the source of the Nile and through the national parks of Uganda to their encounters with our distant relatives.



7.30pm Tuesday 6 October, 2020: Margaret McKenzie with Jill Faulkner on Old Ghost Road



A five day gourmet adventure traversing the South Island's 'Old Ghost Road' in March 2020. Presented by Margaret McKenzie and supported by Jill Faulkner

7.30pm Tuesday 3 November, 2020: Howard Nicholson on a South Island Ski Trip



7.30pm Tuesday 1 December, 2020: Walk and Dinner

REPORTS AND NOTICES

A Simple First Aid Kit for the Outdoors

by Richard Lander

- 75mm Co-adhesive bandage
- 25mm Strapping tape
- 75 x 75mm Cotton Swabs
- Assorted size Band-Aids
- Small pair of scissors
- Pair of Tweezers
- Paracetamol Tablets

Approximate weight 120g

Pack into a small waterproof plastic bag or small dry sack

Add personal medications where appropriate e.g. Asthma inhaler, Aspirin, antihistamines or Epi-pen.

Note: The key element of the first aid kit is the first aid knowledge of the person carrying it. We encourage all trampers (and skiers) to do a first aid course.



MTSC Photo Competition 2020 Prize winners

The prize-winning photos will be displayed on the MTSC web site in due course. A selection of the photos will also be displayed in the newsletter after the interclub competition in October.



Above the bush line with no human element

1 st	Taranaki	Richard Lander
2 nd	Ruapehu Meltwater Lake	Hazel Phillips
3 rd	Tongariro and Ngauruhoe	David Harrington

*View from Mangahuia
30 July, 2020
by Judith Tonson*

Above the bush line with a human element

1 st	Ball of Fire	Louise Lahmert
2 nd	Goggles	Ken Mercer
3 rd	Dundas	Howie Nicholson

Below the bush line with no human element

1 st	Tauranga Taupo	David Harrington
2 nd	Central Otago Beauty	Louise Lahmert
3 rd	Hello Up There	Louise Lahmert

Below the bush line with a human element

1 st =	Fading	Maria Lombard
1 st =	Blue Waters	Louise Lahmert
3 rd	Tranquility	Cheryl Dawson

Historic

1 st	Kereru	Richard Lander
2 nd =	Opunake Beach Beauty	Louise Lahmert
2 nd =	High Five	Louise Lahmert

Native Flora and Fauna

1 st	Morepork	David Harrington
2 nd	Young Morepork	David Harrington
3 rd =	Love on the Lake	Maria Lombard
3 rd =	Fungi	Helen Peek

Long Exposure

1 st	Monumental	Maria Lombard
2 nd	Twinke Twinkle	Louise Lahmert
3 rd	Searching	Maria Lombard

Best overall image on the night

Monumental	Maria Lombard
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UPCOMING TRIPS

September Wednesday Tramps			September Thursday Tramps		
02	Bill Milham	356 8136	03	Carolyn Brodie	027 358 6037
09	Margaret McKenzie	358 2535	10	Bryce & Raewyn Buddle	353 5163
16	Darlene Westrupp	021 167 8815	17	Ewen Cameron	022 034 1180
23	Jill Faulkner	323 6094	24	Susanne Clarke	356 8322
30	Jenny Williamson	328 68957	1 Oct	Norman Cooper	357 5531
September Weekend Trips					
12-13	Crater Camping in the Snow		Technical	Peter Rawlins	021 678 0747
20	Sledge to Naenae Crossing		Medium	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 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.

12th – 13th September, 2020: Crater Camping in the Snow

Peter Rawlins Technical 021 678 0747

This trip will be a camping in the snow trip with some possible ski touring thrown in. The plan is to head up on Saturday morning early and camp in South Crater on Saturday night. Climbing and skiing Ngauruhoe is frowned on these days but I am sure we can find some areas to tour, possibly up Tongariro and down the Silica Rapids ridge.

20th September, 2020: Naenae Crossing

Tim Swale Medium 022 134 8384

This is a short crossing of the Tararua Range between the Kahuterawa Road end and Naenae Road near Pahiatua. The route is about 10km long with around 600 m of climbing and is likely to take approximately six hours. To reduce travel times I am hoping to have two parties starting at either end of the route and doing a key swap mid-way. At the conclusion of the tramp both parties would meet up at the Summerhill shops for a coffee and to swap vehicles. If you are keen, let me know so that we can balance passenger numbers so that everyone has a ride home!

We welcome the following new members to the club: Alice van der Bruggen and family (Amelia and Andrew), Hayden Ricketts and family (Harry and Benjamin), Noah Costar, Lawrie Stewart and Cullen Browne.

Tribute to Rita

Rita Hodson died on 29 July, 2020.

Rita and Arthur Hodson, joined the MTSC in 2006. They were both well-liked and respected club members. Arthur died in June 2017. One thing mentioned at Arthur's service was that, after tramping he always cleaned Rita's boots, a practice he continued even when he was too ill to tramp himself. That gesture said a lot about their loving relationship.



We all loved Rita for what she always was; friendly, cheerful robust and down to earth. A good example of this was in the last email that I received from her dated July 17th. In it she told me that her cancer therapy doctor, the wonderful Richard Issacs, had described her as quote "a tough old bird!" And so she was. In all my many hours of tramping in her company literally through mud, lots of mud, rain, hail and snow, she never complained and was always cheerful. Several years ago we were tramping the rough Apiti track, on the other size of the ranges, on a windy day. As we crossed a dip between hills and were making our way on our hands and knees, Rita's walking pole blew out of her hands never to be found again in the low, dense bush.

Rita had a talent for finding new or less visited tracks to tramp and several of these will always be associated with her. For those of us who have tramped with her over many years, it is a matter of sadness that she will never be out with us again but we are all better for having known her and her best mate Arthur.
Bob Hodgson.



Wednesday 22 July, 2020: Ross Peak

Reporter: Judy Swainson

Photographer: William Laing

Thirteen trampers set off on a clear windless morning with a steady climb over farmland. As we entered the bush we were pleased with the natural cover as it started to rain. On reaching the trig we paused for a photo and, with almost no visibility, descended to a sheltered spot for lunch. Shortly into our descent we encountered a significant but short-lived hailstorm.

The descent was muddy in many places and required concentration to prevent sliding but the cloud lifted and, as the sun came out, we were treated with a magnificent panorama of the Pohingina Valley. Thank you to Ken Mercer for driving the van and my co-leader, Suzanne Clarke.

A pleasant coffee was enjoyed at The Herb Farm, after we delivered a box of beer to Shane Carroll in appreciation of the access to his property.

An enjoyable day with a variety of terrains and weather patterns.



24-25 July, 2020: Parks Peak Hut: North East Ruahines

Trip Leader and Reporter: Dave Mitchell

Photographer: Jenny McCarthy

On the tail end of some wet and cold weather during the week Saturday turned out fine and calm as we headed towards Hastings. It's a long drive to get around the Gwavas forest to the Sentry Box hut road end on Mangleton road.

The track crosses a small section of farm and enters the bush; from there it's uphill. After 10 mins Sentry Box hut appears; the hut is clean and well looked after. The track carry's on up the ridge before hitting the snowline. It wasn't deep snow as it had fallen during the week. After about 2 hours the top of the ridge was reached where there is a 3 way sign to indicate the direction. From this point the track follows the ridge up and down before reaching the hut. It was fine but with quite a cold breeze so we had lunch at the hut.



There were two day walkers ahead of us who had already been down and back to Upper Makaroro hut. Our intention was to carry on to Upper Makaroro hut but Adam had a sore hip so we decided to stay at Parks Peak Hut. The rest of the afternoon was spent searching for and cutting up firewood. Then Adam brewed up some mulled mulberry wine. By this stage the fire was lit and it was very cosy sitting by the fire.

The hut has seven mattresses and six bunks fortunately. A couple showed up first who had unsuccessfully tried to service the stoat

traps but it was too cold. Then another couple of blokes from the PNTMC showed up after coming up from Wakarara road. With the fireplace cranking the hut was very warm and eventually we all turned in with one on the floor.

Next day was cold until the sun came out. We headed off the way we came. After 2.5 hours we were back on the farmland again. Some of the people who manage the farms were out and about, so we chatted with them. Our return journey took us through the Gwavas pine forest which was a typically bumpy logging road.



This was a nice easy winter weekend tramp and in cold clear weather. I recommend this part of the Ruahines: it's well tracked and easy to get to. Thanks to Adam and Jenny for coming along.

Wednesday 29th July, 2020: Not Orange Hut

Trip Reporter: Allan Rae

Photographers: Richard Lander, Mary Mercer

Eighteen trampers set off in very mild conditions from Whareroa Farm, aiming for Orange Hut. The trek up the farmland hill went well if steeply, and we had morning tea soon after arriving at the forestry road. By then, as forecast, the sun was breaking through and we enjoyed the wonderful view over the Kapiti coast in warm conditions. We then headed along the road for some distance, until the sound of machinery was heard. Around a corner we could see a truck and workers busy felling pine trees very near the road, and it was deemed unsafe to continue. So we about-turned, headed down the road, then had our lunch at a grassy clearing and picnic table, just off the road.

A general discussion followed as to how we might fill in the rest of the afternoon. Sharp eyes spotted what



looked like a small hut down below, so we decided to check that. It turned out to be small, newish and extremely well-constructed. It is one of five huts created by husband and wife team, Kimi and Niko, and commissioned by the NZ Festival of the Arts. Each of these huts throughout the Kapiti community has a logbook and a new short story for visitors to enjoy. With the theme 'interactively connecting with nature' this hut project was food for thought.

We had taken a different track back down the hill, and noticed two or

three very obvious signs saying the forestry road was closed – but we observed no such signs on the track we had earlier ascended.

On the way to the small hut we passed a sign to a cairn, so we next set off to see that. It turned out to be, yes, a pile of stones, but the plan is to create a lizard reserve. Once plentiful, lizards along the coast are falling prey to the usual predators.

After returning to the vehicles, we set off for the 1/4 Acre for coffee but, on finding it closed til September, we finally quenched our thirst at a very nice café in Ohau.

Thanks to drivers Ken, Bob and Jenny.



Thursday 30th July, 2020: Rangiwahia Hut

Trip Leader: Christine Scott

Trip Reporter: Royce Mills

Photographer: Ewen Cameron

Blue sky, sunshine and calm weather greeted our Thursday tramping group heading to Rangiwahia hut on this mid-winter day. It was a pleasure to walk upwards through beautiful forest in dappled sunshine, and then be rewarded with views of Ruapehu and Ngauruhoe, both coated white with snow, as we headed higher. Four energetic members of our group of 13 chose to walk the whole Deadman's loop. The rest of



us had a leisurely morning tea at the hut and most headed higher up through the tussock until lunchtime. Still calm and sunny, we agreed it was a most pleasant place to sit and enjoy the stunning views. We could just make out the group of four on the horizon moving across the top of Mangahuia. Steps were retraced back to the hut for more relaxed conversation out in the sun before the walk back to the car park, arriving about 2pm. About 40 minutes later the adventurous four arrived back with smiles on their faces, although telling us that the tops had been quite icy and challenging. We departed in time to enjoy hot drinks and a warm welcome at Hansen's cafe at Kimbolton. Thanks to our leader Christine Scott, for a most enjoyable and relaxed day

in the outdoors and our drivers, Wayne Lincoln (van) and Peter Rawlins (car).

Wednesday 5th August, 2020: Rangiwahia Hut (2)

Trip Leader, Reporter and Photographer: Richard Hunter

On a fine mid-winter's morning, the Wednesday Trampers met at the Rangiwahia Hut track carpark. There were 29 of us and we welcomed Gary Bevins along with his accompanying dogs, Storm and Pip. Around 9.40am we set off walking along the graded pathway that soon started climbing the zig-zag track above the large slip (which apparently is still rated as "active"). The track then descended to the picturesque arched wooden bridge across the deep ravine of the Mangahuia Stream. From there it was a slightly steeper grade through the horopito and then the leatherwood bush, past the small waterfall and then onto the Rangiwahia Hut sited just above the bush line. The last to reach the Hut got there by 12.00 noon. The view from there was simply spectacular. The weather was perfect at Hut level with clear blue skies, no real wind, and glorious sunshine. Rising out of the cloud base, we could see Mount Ruapehu, Ngauruhoe and the peaks around Tongariro.

A small group of the trampers that reached the Hut (1327m) by 11.15 continued on for a while along the tussock track towards Mount Mangahuia, and another group followed for around half an hour before stopping for lunch. The aim was to return to the carpark by 3.00pm so, after lunch, those at the Hut and most of the others started off back.

The conditions past the Hut were fairly good and, as there was adequate time, two keen trampers, Peter and John, continued doing the loop. Peter

has kindly added his comments regarding that stage:

"The weather was beautiful which gave us a great view when we tramped up Mount Mangahuia (1583m). It became cold and windy and there was not much snow, although at the sheltered spot at the crossing,



there was a big drift of snow so we couldn't use it. It was a quick lunch as it was windy, and not pleasant to sit there. From there on, we took Deadman's track which was muddy at the top. As we went down, the condition's improved again. We were out by 2.45 pm. It was a very enjoyable day."

The social interaction continued at our "coffee stop" on the way home at the very-welcoming Hansens Café in Kimbolton. I too thought it was a very enjoyable day, and I have always considered the track to have a certain special appeal. I would like to thank drivers Cheryl, Bev, Marion, Rod and Peter for taking their cars, and for Evan for driving the van - and for cleaning it for us at the end of the day!

Thursday 6th August, 2020: Blue Range Hut/Mikimiki Walkway

Trip Leaders: Nigel and Jill Spencer

Reporter: Royce Mills

Photographers: Jenny McCarthy & John Brock

Our early morning drive through the Wairarapa countryside was in fog, with temperatures as low as 2-3°C, but the forecast was good. Fourteen Thursday trampers met at the Kiriwhakapapa road end. Here we were greeted with perfect conditions - sunshine, blue sky and no wind. - Choices were made: seven decided to head up to Blue Range hut, the other seven took the option of the Mikimiki walkway. We all started tramping at 9am and, when returning, the front runners of each group met at the track junction leading to the car park just before 2pm!

Blue Range hut:

The walk was typical of the Tararua Ranges with its very steep ascent. The group split at the sign and four went to investigate the start of the track to Cow Creek Hut. We came to a lookout where excellent views were had of Mitre and Peggys Peak. This group then rejoined the others for lunch at Blue Range Hut. For a winter trip the track was unseasonably dry. (Judy Swainson)



The Blue Range Team



The Mikimiki Team

Mikimiki Walkway:

A very pleasant walk of 15km was had by this group. This track too was dry and easy, apart from an occasional minor mud patch. The beech forest was impressive and there was often birdsong above us - grey warblers, bellbirds and tui. We had a relaxed stop at the clearing at the far end for lunch in the warm sun, shedding our outer layers, and then retraced our steps. The main challenge was using stepping stones to cross the Mikimiki stream and keep our boots dry. Well, it was achieved by most of us..... (Royce Mills)

Thanks to our leaders Nigel and Jill Spencer for organising this excellent day, and to Syd Easton for driving the van.

Hut Tickets for Sale

Hut tickets can be purchased from Howard Nicholson at club nights. \$5/ticket for adults and \$2.50 for youth (11-17 years). Information about Back Country Hut Passes, valid for 6 or 12 months, as well as the use of hut tickets is available on the [DOC web site](#).

More photographs from the Mikimiki Walkway by John Brock:





Contact Details

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

Committee 2019 - 2020

President	Rob Pringle	president@mtsc.org.nz	020 426 2176
Secretary	Tim Swale	secretary@mtsc.org.nz	06 376 6556
Treasurer	Ewen Cameron	treasurer@mtsc.org.nz	022 0341180
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General Committee: 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	027 678 0747
Ski Captain	Howard Nicholson	ski@mtsc.org.nz	027 294 1941
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.