

# beechleaves

Newsletter of the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club



P.O. Box 245, Palmerston North 4440 [www.mtsc.org.nz](http://www.mtsc.org.nz) <https://www.facebook.com/MTandSC>

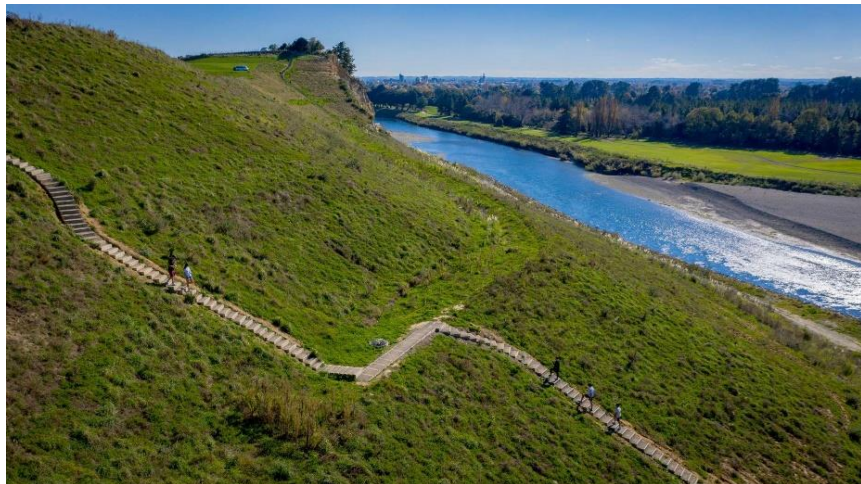
Issue 11. December 2020



Club meetings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 December, 2020: Walk and Dinner

*Meeting at 6.00pm for the walk in ANZAC Park. Dinner at Angkor 7.30pm*



The walk provides great views across Palmerston North and includes the steps known as the Stairway of Tane. We will park our vehicles near the Fitzherbert Bridge and cross the bridge to get to start our walk on Cliff Road.

After our walk we will head to Angkor Restaurant, 4 Coleman Place, Palmerston North for a 7.30pm dinner. Vegetarian meals available. Mains range from around \$19 to \$28. Why not get a group of your fellow trampers together and either walk

and have dinner or just join us for dinner? All welcome. So that she can book for everyone, please let Linda know on or before **Tuesday 24 November** if you will be joining us for dinner. Phone/text 027 333 4493 or email [lindammc@xtra.co.nz](mailto:lindammc@xtra.co.nz)

## 7.30pm Tuesday 2 February, 2021: Walking Te Araroa by Clare Veltman

Clare left Cape Reinga on 23 September 2018 and reached Bluff on 4 February 2019, travelling solo. She mostly followed Te Araroa except when she couldn't and nothing dramatic happened, though a couple of times it could have. Clare will talk about what she carried, what she ate, and what she saw. You can liven it up by asking her questions.



# REPORTS AND NOTICES

**MTSC President: Rob Pringle**

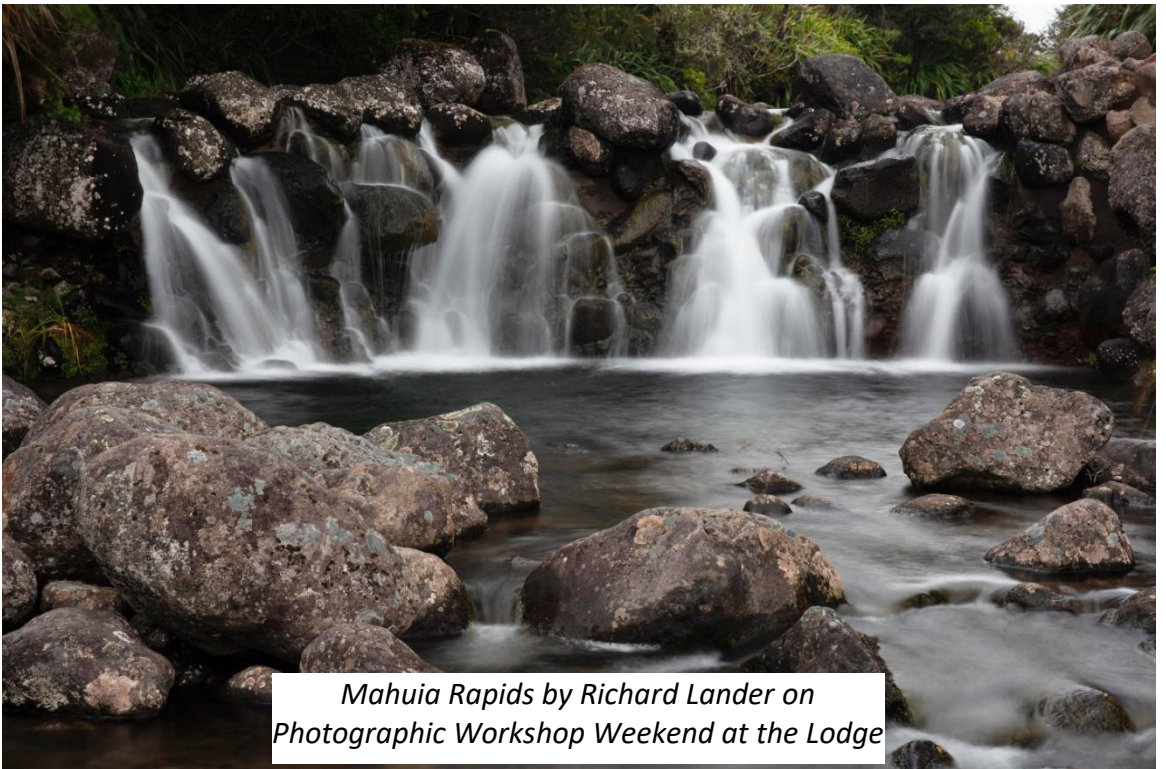
[president@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:president@mtsc.org.nz)

2020.... Wow.... What a year..... I was reading my report from this time last year, contemplating all that had and had not occurred for the year, and the question of when to put up the Christmas tree. For some reason, it just doesn't do this year justice.

The extended daylight in the evenings is providing a welcome blessing for getting things done around the house, and for undertaking the odd adventure here and there. With the onset of the holiday season, and beyond, I would encourage you all to consider using the lodge as a base for your summer activities. There are a vast range

of tramping, walking, mountain biking, and more serious objectives available within a stone's throw from the top of the Bruce road, with local shuttle operators readily available for those trips which require it.

Evenings relaxing at the lodge, are a fantastic way to see out the end of any day's adventuring, with a sunset soaked balcony, to



*Mahuia Rapids by Richard Lander on  
Photographic Workshop Weekend at the Lodge*

panoramic views across the Ruapehu region. Let's make summer 2021 the time where we recognize what an amazing asset we have on the side of Ruapehu and make good use of it.

With 2021 rolling around the corner, it's worth noting that there are a few committee positions coming available: Ewen will step down as treasurer at the end of March, and we're actively seeking a replacement for him. Ewen has done a power of work beating the spreadsheet into a work of art. I wish to thank Ewen for his work on this, and the accountability he provides for how the club is run.

My tenure as president has also run its course; as such I will be stepping aside at the AGM. The club survives on a healthy and active membership. If you are willing and available, it would be great to see some new hands raised to take on roles on the committee. You will find it rewarding and some great friendships, if not already developed, will soon.

As for the holiday season, I wish you all the best for the festive season. You'll know when the time is right to put your tree up and when to take it down again. Remember to look after one another out there and, in the words of our recently re-elected leader, be kind to one another.

Regards

Rob

## Chief Guide: Ken Mercer

[chief.guide@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:chief.guide@mtsc.org.nz)

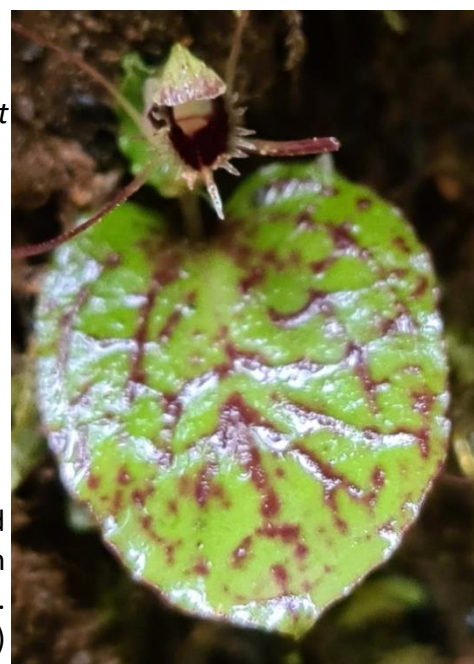
The Wednesday group recently made a decision not to go up the Mangahau valley. The forecast rain led to a concern that the group might get stuck on the far side of Roaring Creek. However, although some rain fell as we walked along Waitarere beach, we thought we'd been overly conservative. Interestingly, the following day there was a SAR callout for an overdue trapper who was trapped in the valley overnight due to high creek levels..... Phew – there could have been 30 of us keeping him company. Might have been a few more very cold people by the morning!

## Trip Card

I'm looking for trip leaders and trips for 2021 for a new trip card which I want to get finalized by the end of the year. Please either email [chief.guide@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:chief.guide@mtsc.org.nz) with your offerings or enter them directly in [the google sheet using this link](#). Thanks!



*Puriri moth*  
Photo by Peter Zwart  
en route to Aiwahakatu Hut



*Corybas oblongus* orchid  
Photo by Cheryl Dawson  
en route to Powell Hut.  
(Identified by Allan Rae)

## Treasurer Wanted

Our current treasurer, Ewen Cameron, plans to step down from the position on 31 March, 2021 due to other commitments so the club is in need of a volunteer willing to take on this role. Some knowledge of accounting would be very useful and experience with Xero, an accounting software package, would also be an advantage but not essential. If you are willing to take on this task please contact Rob Pringle at [president@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:president@mtsc.org.nz) or on 020 426 2176.

Note: All club committee positions are up for election at the AGM in May 2021, including that of President (when Rob will have completed his term of three years).

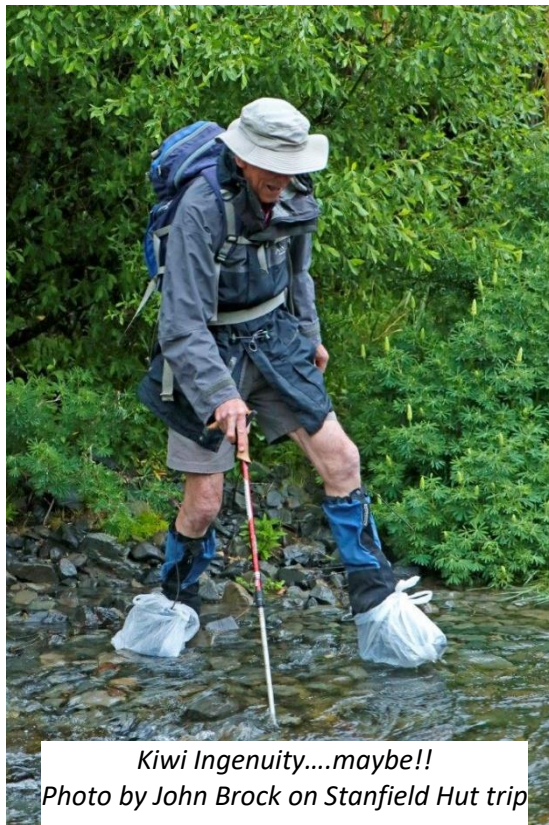


*Stanfield Hut trip*  
Photo by John Brock

## PLB protocols

At a recent meeting of the MTSC Tramping Steering Group discussion took place on how PLBs should be used, if required, on club trips. The following guidelines were formulated:

- Register your beacon with the Rescue Co-ordination Centre in Wellington
- Check it is in date
- Periodically test it using the test function – see your PLB instruction manual
- Carry the PLB on your person
- Only activate it in an emergency – try your cell phone first
- Activate in a timely manner
- Set off ideally with a clear view of the sky and to north – deep valleys are not ideal
- Try to keep the aerial as vertical as possible
- Once activated, leave it on and stay put
- Set off one beacon only (two beacons may cause confusion)
- Put up shelter to keep all in the group safe while you wait for help.
- If accidentally activated leave it on and try to contact RCC or Police ASAP.



*Kiwi Ingenuity....maybe!!  
Photo by John Brock on Stanfield Hut trip*

Be aware that a PLB activation will set an emergency response in motion but it could still take many hours for a ground team to get to you if the helicopter cannot fly or is not available. Always take a first aid kit, emergency shelter and enough warm clothing to keep you safe until help arrives. Make it easy for search teams to find you by moving to a clearing, wearing bright clothing, using a whistle or torch at night. Secure any loose clothing or shelters if you are about to be picked up by a helicopter.

Tim Swale



December Wednesday Tramps			December Thursday Tramps		
02	Ewen Cameron	022 034 1180	03	Royce Mills	021 055 2527
09	Rod McKenzie	357 0136	10	William Laing	358 4876

**Trip Intentions:** The email address for leaving trip intentions is [intentions@mtsc.org.nz](mailto: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.

# TRIP REPORTS

## Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2020: Hemi Matenga

Trip Leader and Reporter: Harold Pettersson

The van left Memorial Park at 8 am with eleven trampers on board. Three cars with a total of ten more trampers were met at Waikanae. Most of the group walked down the road to the Huia Street entrance to the Hemi Matenga track to climb up the steep section of the track rather than slip down it. After an hour of climbing over tree roots and some muddy patches we stopped for morning tea before the "steep bit". After another hour, through the picturesque native bush, the lookout was reached where we had a leisurely lunch with a fine view over Kapiti. On the way down to the carpark we met trampers who had started from Tui Crescent and eventually we all stopped for coffee and cake at the Riverside Cafe at Otaki. This ended a rather relaxing day. Thanks to the drivers, Robbie, Bev and Bernard.

## Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2020: Rimutaka Incline Re-visited

Trip Leader and Reporter: Bob Hodgson

Photographer: Richard Lander

MTSC trampers (plus a small dog, Elke) gathered at the Cross Creek car park in the Wairarapa. The weather was fine with a light breeze and a temperature of about 10° C. Less than two hours later, at a distance of 7km, and 300m higher up, the party was eating lunch in the engine inspection pit beyond Summit station and the engine graveyard. The pit provided shelter from a chilly wind, only noticed beyond the top tunnel. The track was in good condition including underfoot in the tunnels, where puddles were noticeable by their absence (in contrast to previous tramps). There were also beautiful waterfalls on each side of the entrance to the top {long} tunnel.



*Troglodytes Emerge*

Since our last visit as a group in 2017, a decked, swing bridge had been constructed to eliminate the scramble down and across the stream at Siberia Corner. With a limit of 20 persons and extensive steel rope stabilizing ties it is an impressive structure across a valley that was once, long ago, the scene of a wind/weather driven derailment resulting in the deaths of several young passengers. Towards the start of the track the ranges present a considerable barrier making a railway across them unlikely. I wondered what the reaction of the early railway engineers would have been to the challenge? The day after the tramp,

William Laing, one of our trampers, emailed me with a link to an historical website that documents the career of his great grandfather who retired as Chief Engineer to the New Zealand Railways in 1915. It documented that James Burnett had been part of the survey party that established the route of the Rimutaka Incline Railway, including the top tunnel. William noted that as he walked through that tunnel that he was following in the steps of an ancestor!

By 3pm, after an interesting and rewarding tramp with a difference, we were well down the road to Masterton in search of a coffee and ice-cream. Special thanks to Robbie, who drove the van on our 260k round-trip, and to Jenny who drove the Fielding contingent and also to William for his fascinating historical detail.

### Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2020: Stanfield Hut

Trip Leader: Wayne Lincoln

Photographer: John Brock



### Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2020: Tawhirihoe Reserve

Trip Leader and Reporter: Ewen Cameron

Photographer: William Laing

It may be a pretty plant to look at, but Pink Ragwort is an invasive weed. Thirteen club members donated their Saturday to help contribute to dealing to this pest plant by weeding at the Tawhirihoe reserve near Tangimoana. Last year, when we made a brief visit to this area, we learned that Tawhirihoe Reserve, contains some rare native plants at risk of inundation by Pink Ragwort. On our first visit to remove Pink Ragwort we spent just a couple of hours there and made some impression on removing the invader. This year we spent nearly four hours weeding and made a huge difference. We felt that the areas we had worked on last year had fewer plants for removal, so our efforts seemed to be paying off.





*Alastair digging out a tough plant, not making a sand castle*

Although we didn't take a "before photo" this year, at the end of our time we could see no pink flowers in the area we worked on and had produced several big heaps of weeded out plants for disposal. I don't envy whoever has to shift them!

We also had a really social time catching up on tramping and other news both while we pulled ragwort (and in some cases near the margins of the dunes dug it out) and over lunch in what is an atypical environment for mid-week trampers. Great care was necessary to ensure that lunches did not suffer the sand incursion that befell the DoC supplied chocolate biscuits.

We stopped work at about 2pm as the forecast rain showed signs of arrival and also interest was flagging after our "intense" activity earlier. Afternoon tea at Viv's Kitchen went well with many trying one of the now famous cream cones.

Jaden Lewis, DoC's recently appointed Community Ranger, has expressed thanks to the MTSC members involved. We so enjoyed ourselves we want to make this a regular event.



*Lunch on the dunes....all present except William, the photographer. Note one heap being used as a wind break.*

### Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2020: Atiwhakatu/Powell Huts

Trip Leader, Reporter: Richard Lander  
 Photographers: Richard Lander and Cheryl Dawson (Powell Hut)

The destination for this tramp was Holdsworth with an easy group wandering up the Atiwhakatu river to the Hut for lunch and a medium group who headed up to Powell Hut. There was a smaller intermediate group who did the Mountain House/Atiwhakatu circuit. The MetService weather forecast for Mt Holdsworth was for fine spells, warm northerlies & a high of 24°C and the weatherman was right. No rain! We left Memorial Park at 0730 hours and met at the Holdsworth Lodge carpark for a departure briefing. The 30 keen trampers split into the three groups and headed off in good spirits. Good radio contact was maintained between the three groups allowing the trip leader to keep track of everyone. The cloud level was above Powell hut allowing good views



back over the Wairarapa and surrounds. Celebratory scorched almonds courtesy of Carolyn were enjoyed by all when we reached our destination goals. Most enjoyed coffee and ice cream in Masterton on



return. Thanks to Evan who drove the van and Gay, Ewen, Anne, Cheryl and the trip leader for taking their cars.

## Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November, 2020: Mania to Rangī

Trip Leader and Reporter: Syd Easton

Photographer: William Laing

After having to turn back 3 weeks earlier, we had another go at the loop. This time the plan was to go clockwise, starting from the Mania Road car park. This meant a little more climbing as the car park (680m approx.) is lower than the Rangiwahia Hut car park but the navigation would be simpler if the weather closed in. Only three weeks after facing snow on the lower slopes, we were raising a dust cloud on the road.

Thirteen of us did the loop, while three others looked after the vehicles. We made good time up through the forest for lunch in the tussock. The forest this year has had magnificent sprays of clematis, but there is significant dying off of the fern in the undergrowth. Near the top of the Mania track there has been recent work with a brush cutter. The result is a bit ugly in places but it is certainly easier to follow the path through the leatherwood that reaches up into the tussock. We had little wind and enjoyed good visibility throughout, under high cloud. We could clearly see the Rangiwahia Hut, and could see the base of Ruapehu but not its upper reaches.

From where the Mania Track peters out in the tussock, tramping was a bit harder, requiring lifting of feet higher, but we continued to make good time, up over the high point (1635m) and down to the track from Mangahuia to Triangle Hut. This led us back to the junction with the track to the Rangiwahia Hut. We stopped there for a snack, made radio contact with the vehicle party, and walked out. The tramp took us 7 hours. As Royce noted in an email, "It was great to tick this route off at last, and to get deep into some big country in the Ruahines."

In the meantime, Norman, Gillian and John (Doolan) had explored the recently cut track in the Rangiwahia Domain, enjoyed a visit to the Pinetum and begun walking in to meet us on the Rangiwahia Track. A big thanks to them for making the loop tramp possible. After such a big day, conversation was quite lively in the van as we drove back, but there was no interest in stopping for an icecream. Coffee shops of course were all closed.





## First Tuesday Short Walk 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2020: Amazing Forest in the Turakina Valley Region

Trip Leader and Reporter: Ewen Cameron

Photographer: John Doolan

In spite of a very poor weather forecast and intermittent rain in Palmerston North, twelve of us departed for three short walks in the Turakina Valley/Mangahowhi Stream catchment area. We arrived for our first walk to find the bush sodden with recent rain, but the rain had stopped falling. After some debate about the need for packs, raincoats etc was brought to a stop by the decision to have to carry morning tea, we headed off to have a look

at [Sutherland's Puriri Reserve](#) (which is named as Mangahoe on the signage on site). This 60 Ha block of remnant forest contains some great bush which had most of us botanising and looking for wildlife rather more than we are accustomed to. Thanks to the plant experts, Suzanne and Alan, the vast majority of plants were able to be identified.... If only we had had a fungi expert with us! Our pace was slow as we went from plant to plant along a fairly clearly marked trail.

Tree trunks were examined carefully to decide whether the tree was a Matai or a Miro and orchids were spotted along the side of the track in great profusion... who knew there were so many? The wet foliage seemed to be extra lively and the many shades of green seemed to almost shine for us. Although the Sulphur Crested Cockatoos that make this bush their home were not to be seen, they could be heard from time to time as could the raucous call of wild peacocks. Still there were plenty of native birds to be seen and heard... After morning tea, taken on the far side of the reserve overlooking the Turakina river, we returned to the vehicles via the food storage pits, a remnant of the Pā that was on this site nearly 100 years ago.



*Inaugural Tuesday Trampers minus photographer, John Doolan*

Our second visit was to the [Sutherland's Mangahoe reserve](#) where we were blown away by the fantastic Totara and Rimu trees. We ate lunch in a clearing amongst giant trees of a size many of us haven't seen in this region. As there was a sign of sunshine our pace was able to be very leisurely, although we wondered how all the weather forecasters could have got it so wrong.

Our final visit was [Laird's Reserve](#) where again the huge trees were impressive, but, as some of us had begun to get coffee withdrawal, this visit was a bit of a rush through. We had done enough botanising and were keen to get on. The first Tuesday short walk was enjoyed by all. Thanks to Robbie for driving; John for the photos and everyone for sharing a good time on what might have been a very wet day.

## Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2020: Makahika Track

Trip Leader and Reporter: Bob Hargreaves

Photographer: Cheryl Dawson

Thirty Wednesday trampers enjoyed a warm and dry day for their 9.15am start to an out and back tramp along part of the Te Araroa trail. The Makahika track starts east of Levin and heads north towards Mangahao. The trail notes on the Te Araroa website refer to "several" stream crossings but chat in the club van on the way down indicated we were facing 29 stream crossings. Almost a river walk! Fortunately, the stream levels were

low and easily navigated. Less easily navigated were the muddy patches, some more than ankle deep. At one stage strains of the Hippopotamus song “mud, mud, glorious mud” rang out in the bush. Clearly, funding ongoing track maintenance is a problem that needs to be addressed.

We hadn't gone far when we encountered another issue; one trumper with boots disintegrating as the soles became detached. Some kiwi ingenuity was called for. Bev and Sue answered the call. A combination of an old stocking combined with tape and boots strapped with spare laces lasted the distance. Thanks Bev and Sue.

Early on the track follows an old logging road through the second growth bush with lots of Punga evident. Meantime the trampers had spread out. At the front Robbie and Evan were heading for the lookout and at the back this scribe was part of group who had missed a track marker and needed to backtrack. Most of the party made it to the Horowhenua or, at least, Archey's Lookout. The five club radios kept the groups in touch with each other. All trampers were safely back to the van by 2.30pm. We then proceeded to the



Masonic Café Levin for refreshments. Thanks to van driver, Robbie, and car drivers, Bernard, Judith, Margaret, Christine and Marilyn.

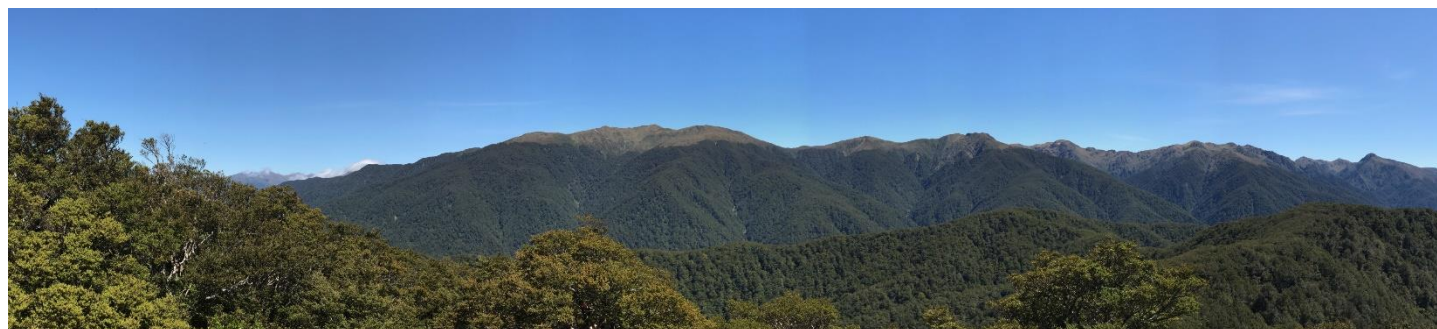


## Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2020: Pinnacles

Trip Leader and Reporter: Judy Swainson

Photographer: William Laing

Eleven of us set off to walk the Pinnacle Ridge. As you can see by the attached photo the weather was picture perfect, not a cloud in the sky and no wind. A perfect day to climb Mr Holdsworth and for the crossing but that wasn't our plan; it's there to do on another day. The climb is a steady ascent and we stopped for morning tea, before reaching the high point, to admire perfect views of Mt Holdsworth and surrounding peaks as well as



Powell and Jumbo Huts. We descended to the junction for lunch and the decision was made to continue down Donnelly Ridge and cross the river just before Donnelly's Flat. An excellent five and a half hour tramp made

possible with a river level suitable for crossing. An icecream stop in Masterton was enjoyed by all after a very warm walk out. Thanks to Wayne Lincoln our driver

### 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> November, 2020: Howletts Hut, Ruahines

Trip Leader, Reporter and Photographer: Dave Mitchell

Due to the fact that a group of us had visited Howletts hut recently there was no interest in another trip there so it was only me. The plan was to drive to the Daphne carpark on Kashmir road. The weather was fine except for the clouds piling over Sawtooth ridge, driven by the westerlies. I tramped towards Daphne hut via the low ridge and dropped down to the Tukituki River. After negotiating the gorge section I stopped off at Daphne hut where four women from Wellington were planning to stay. The most direct route to Howletts is straight up the Daphne spur which is about 700m straight up. When the bush edge is reached the top is visible and, at that point, the hut is only about 10 mins along Daphne ridge.

It was very windy and cold at Howletts hut with the cloud obscuring the tops. I settled in for a cold and windy night with no other trampers showing up. I didn't light the fire but the next day I discovered there is quite a bit of firewood further along the ridge. The weather improved; however there was still a strong cold wind blowing over the tops. I decided not go over Sawtooth ridge, due to the strong wind, so I retraced my steps down to Daphne hut by which stage the wind had blown itself out. I should have gone over Sawtooth after all! Daphne hut was left very tidy and it was hot outside by now. The Rosvalls track starts about 10 mins up the river from Daphne hut and I had planned on coming down this track from Tarn Biv. For me it was down river and



*Tiraha from Howletts Hut*

out over the ridge to Daphne car park. Howletts hut is always good place to visit being close to some of the higher peaks in the Ruahines. If anyone is interested in a 3 day trip around Sawtooth ridge give me a call.

### 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> November, 2020: Photographic Workshop Weekend



*Whitecliff Boulders by Richard Lander*

Trip leader and Reporter:

Richard Lander

In mid-November the club organized a beginner's photography workshop at the lodge on Mt Ruapehu. The weekend was aimed at improving photographic skills, exploring places and "composition, focus and exposure" in a beautiful landscape. This was fun weekend and was an opportunity for us to get to know our cameras in a variety of locations around the Tongariro National Park including Lake Otamangakau, Mahuia Rapids, The Mounds, Tawhai Falls, the

Whakapapa Nature Walk and the environs of Mt Ruapehu, Ngauruhoe and Mt Tongariro.

We shared each other's knowledge and skills and, in the evenings, our best photos. In the night we ventured outside behind the lodge to photograph the stars. We picked a weekend with no moon in the sky which gave us excellent views of the night sky. Luckily the weather was great with little cloud cover and minimal light pollution. Jon Davey had his telescope set up behind the lodge and was a fountain of knowledge about the night sky as well as showing us an array of magnificent photos of gas nebulae, galaxies and star clusters.

We travelled to the lodge on Friday exploring photographic opportunities on the way. On Saturday morning we were all up at 4.30 am to catch the sunrise. There was cloud cover on the mountains, so we headed for Lake Otamangakau to catch the sun rising over the lake. After returning to the lodge for breakfast we returned to photograph the Mahaia Rapids and Tawai Falls. In the afternoon we had a coffee at National Park



before heading back to the lodge for an afternoon nap and to download and share our photos. The evening was misty and drizzling, so we settled in to critique our collection of photos. The projector and screen at the lodge was a huge bonus.

We were up early again on the Sunday morning at 4.30 am to catch the sunrise over Mt Ngauruhoe from the Mounds before returning to the lodge for breakfast and clean up. After breakfast we packed out all our gear to the cars at the Iwikau Village and motored on down to Whakapapa Village to explore the walks along the Whakapapanui Stream. On the way home we stopped briefly at "Smash Palace", a car wrecker's yard at Horopito where there are thousands of rusty wrecks. A photographer's delight.

This was a great weekend with great company, plenty of photographic opportunities and no doubt, a great improvement in our photographic skills thanks to Jon Davey, Maria Lombard, Louise Lahmert, Colin Wilson, Rhona Johnson and Richard Lander.





*Tawhai Falls by Richard Lander*

### **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](#).



*Clematis by John Brock on Stanfield Hut trip*



## Contact Details

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

### Committee 2019 - 2020

President	Rob Pringle	<a href="mailto:president@mtsc.org.nz">president@mtsc.org.nz</a>	020 426 2176
Secretary	Tim Swale	<a href="mailto:secretary@mtsc.org.nz">secretary@mtsc.org.nz</a>	06 376 6556
Treasurer	Ewen Cameron	<a href="mailto:treasurer@mtsc.org.nz">treasurer@mtsc.org.nz</a>	022 0341180
Chief Guide	Ken Mercer	<a href="mailto:chief_guide@mtsc.org.nz">chief_guide@mtsc.org.nz</a>	027 364 6475
Membership	Sue Nicholson	<a href="mailto:membership@mtsc.org.nz">membership@mtsc.org.nz</a>	06 357 6325
Newsletter Editor	Mary Mercer	<a href="mailto:editor@mtsc.org.nz">editor@mtsc.org.nz</a>	027 372 5375
Lodge Manager	John Lyttle	<a href="mailto:lodge.manager@mtsc.org.nz">lodge.manager@mtsc.org.nz</a>	027 433 6307
Mini-Bus Manager	Ken Mercer	<a href="mailto:minibus@mtsc.org.nz">minibus@mtsc.org.nz</a>	027 364 6475

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

### Appointees

Lodge Bookings	Hugh & Liz Wilde	<a href="mailto:lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz">lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz</a>	021 054 2560
Gear Custodian	Peter Rawlins	<a href="mailto:gear@mtsc.org.nz">gear@mtsc.org.nz</a>	027 678 0747
Ski Captain	Howard Nicholson	<a href="mailto:ski@mtsc.org.nz">ski@mtsc.org.nz</a>	027 294 1941
Social Convenor	Linda Campbell	<a href="mailto:social@mtsc.org.nz">social@mtsc.org.nz</a>	027 333 4493
Wednesday Trips	Bev Akers	<a href="mailto:bevakers@xtra.co.nz">bevakers@xtra.co.nz</a>	06 325 8879
Thursday Trips	Syd Easton	<a href="mailto:eastonps@inspire.net.nz">eastonps@inspire.net.nz</a>	06 356 7462
Facebook	Ivan Rienks, Rob Pringle, Karen Tutt, Howard Nicholson <a href="mailto:facebook@mtsc.org.nz">facebook@mtsc.org.nz</a>		

### New Members

Prospective members must be nominated by a Proposer and a Secunder 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](http://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](mailto: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.