

beechleaves

Newsletter of the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club



P.O. Box 245, Palmerston North 4440 www.mtsc.nz <https://www.facebook.com/MTandSC>

Issue 2. March, 2021



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 2 March, 2021: Summer snippets:

Lynda Hunt and Peter Rawlins, Robyn and William Laing, Ian Richie and Royce Mills will talk about their summer activities.

7.30 pm Tuesday 6 April, 2021: South Island Tramps

In February, Ken, Mary, Tim and Linda walked a number of South Island tramps. They will share their adventures with you at our April club night.

7.30 pm Tuesday 4 May, 2021: Great Barrier Island by Christine and Barry Scott

Barry will talk about land conservation and Christine will cover walks and things to do.



Rata on Six Disc's Track by John Brock

Bottles Track by John Brock

REPORTS AND NOTICES

MTSC President: Rob Pringle

president@mtsc.org.nz

The countdown is on In May the club will be holding it's AGM at the Lido Aquatic Centre in Park Road. If you've ever had a thought about being a part of a dynamic committee, or assisting with the governance of an amazing club, now is your chance to put your hand up, and have a think about the skill-sets you can bring to the table for a role on the committee. As is the norm at the AGM, all appointments are up for grabs. I will be stepping down as my three years is up and it's time for someone else to govern us through the next few years. We have a range of positions and it would be great to see some new people coming on board and lending their

thoughts as to how best to govern the club. If you think you can contribute, please don't hesitate to reach out to someone already on the committee and express an interest, or turn up to the AGM prepared to put that hand up and be part of a great community.

Summer is racing by, and it is with a twinge of sadness I note that the mornings are growing increasingly darker, a forewarning of what is to come. Still there's been plenty of great weather for getting out and about and exploring the world we live in. I have been exploring a few great trails recently, partaking in a couple of running events, one from the Desert Road to the Chateau, and the other in Rotorua. I am forever amazed by the positivity of people who're pushing the physical limits of what they're capable of, the energy they find to encourage the people around them; also going through various stages of physical suffering and the sheer determination of some talented people. Of note was the winner of the 102 kilometre Rotorua event in 9 hrs 21 minutes. I take my hat off to Ruth Croft, who set a new women's course record for the event.

Be encouraged to get out and about yourselves. I, and no doubt many of you, unlike Ruth, are not in the class of being able to pull off an overall win for that sort of event / distance, but I am able to get out and push my own limits, exploring the countryside, and meeting some fantastic like-minded individuals along the way. As usual, keep exploring, keep having fun out there, and look after one another.

Rob

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 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).*

Sunrise Hut Track Closure

Sunrise hut and Track will be closed from 8th February to 5th April, 2021 due to a major track upgrade. Surrounding huts in the area will remain open but access will be closed via the Sunrise track.

Message from Ed, Ruahine Users Group



Six Disc's Track by John Brock

Maureen Naylor Will Not Be Tramping With Us On Wednesdays....Ever

On Tuesday 26th, as we gathered at Memorial Park prior to departing for our first tramp of the year, Judy Gerke shared the sad news that Maureen Naylor had passed away on Monday evening.

Judy had called on Maureen's relatives to delivered a card and the singed copy of the Burrtons Track booklet from our end of year shared lunch at "McKenzies Hut." She was told that Maureen was not well enough to receive visitors but that our support had been appreciated.

Maureen was for many years a popular and regular Wednesday Trumper. Many of our MTSC trip reports of her era were illustrated by her photographs. She took special delight in photographing flora and fauna as well as trampers eating lunches!

She will be missed.

Bob Hodgson



March Wednesday Tramps			March Thursday Tramps		
03	Ian Brookes	358 7974	04	Tony Evans	027 829 3069
10	Cheryl D & Marilyn H	06 374 8968 / 027 715 8438	11	Ewen Cameron	022 034 1180
17	Allan Rae	358 3962	18	Suzanne Clarke	356 8322
24	Bill Milham	356 8136	25	Judy Swainson	358 4082
31	Margaret McKenzie	358 2535			
March Weekend Trip					
21	Atiwhakatu Gorge	Easy	Tim Swale		0221348384

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.

21st March, 2021: Atiwhakatu Gorge Easy Tim Swale 022 1348384

The intention is to walk from the Holdsworth road end on the Atiwhakatu track as far as the Mountain House turn-off. From there we scramble down into the river and walk, wade and swim the gorge back to Donnelly Flats. A day pack with a sealed dry bag is good for flotation. If the river is running high we will walk the Mountain House circuit instead.

We welcome the following new members to the club: Alex Ehlert and family.



26th-27th January, 2021: Waiopehu Hut Track

Trip Leader, Photographer and Reporter: Carole Kennerley

Mud Glorious Mud was the anthem for this tramping adventure. We had been forewarned from reviews online, so equipped with hiking poles and gaiters we approached the challenge with anticipation. The weather played ball and made for memorable photos.

Five trampers did the day walk, opting to go around the Six Discs Loop instead of doing a 'there and back' up the Waiopehu track. However a slip on the river trail was too much of a challenge to overcome so the group returned to the junction and headed up Waiopehu track for a while. Thanks to Jill for messaging me when the group were safely back out to the carpark. Thanks to Ian Brooks for driving this group.

Seven trampers did the overnight hike to Waiopehu Hut. We were rewarded for our efforts by the stunning views from the hut. A low cloud cover rolled in from the coast below us as we watched the sunset.

Both Taranaki and Ruapehu stood out clearly on the horizon although my camera hasn't been able to pick them out. 😊

The climb to Waiopehu Hut is in bush until the last couple of hundred metres before the hut, which is a welcome sight after the approx 900m climb. Sleep in huts is never the easiest and we survived the night despite all! (barking dog etc). The next morning four trampers headed back



down the Waiopehu track and out. The other three took on the challenge of climbing to Waiopehu Peak (1054m) and onto the highest point at Twin Peaks (1097m). Passing the Memorial Beacon and heading onto Richard's Knob and down to Gable End via the Gable End Ridge track. This was by far the muddiest part of the tramp and the mud was

pretty well continuous as we followed the ridgeline. The views were spectacular as this track continues for some time at around 900m above the bushline. After lunch the cloud rolled in and we were pleased to have shade, which increased as we gradually descended back into the beautiful bush of the Tararuas. We were especially lucky to come around a corner to find a full grown hind standing on the track. For about 30 seconds she didn't realise we were there, so we had a good look at her - she was stunning... and then she startled and ran.

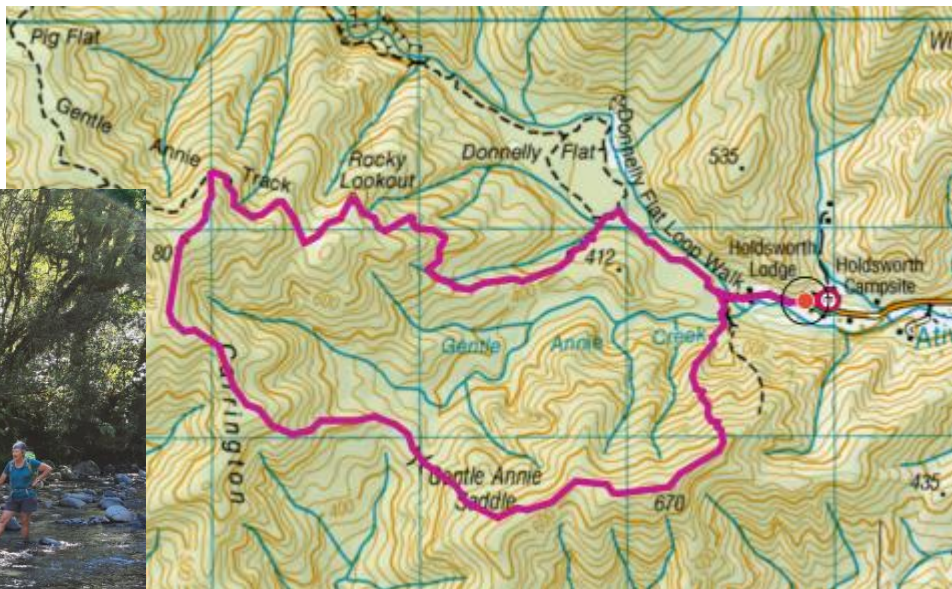
Thanks to all who participated and worked together as a team to make this tramp a success. Especially thanks to Robbie who is always happy to help out in whatever way is needed. You are well appreciated 😊

Wednesday 3rd February, 2021: Carrington Loop

Trip Leader and Reporter: Anne West

Photographer: Cheryl Dawson

Eighteen trampers assembled at Holdsworth carpark on a hot summer's day; 12 decided to take the Carrington Loop and six chose the Atiwhakatu track.



The Carrington group found Gentle Annie creek was so low, all socks remained dry as we crossed it. After a steep climb to the

lookout, the bench seat was a welcome place to rest. The trail became easier as we descended to the saddle for our lunch stop. What a delight to walk on a soft dry trail, in contrast to muddy puddles or stony paths. Climbing then to Carrington Ridge we rested in a mossy patch which was so soft and comfortable that some of us would have preferred to take a siesta. But no, we continued to the top of the ridge and on to join the main Gentle Annie track. Then it was a hot trudge down the track, passing a number of other people and dogs. On reaching the Atiwhakatu stream, many of us bypassed the bridge and waded across, pausing to cool off. Meanwhile the Atiwhakatu walkers had lunched at the Hut, but on their return journey two had slipped and fallen. A reminder to all of us that it is best to tramp with others rather than alone. Thanks to all those who assisted their fellow trampers. It was good to have radio contact between the groups. Thanks also to Bev who guided us around the loop, to Robbie and other drivers, and to photographer Cheryl.

Thursday 4th February, 2021: Bottles Track

Trip Leader and Reporter: Wayne Lincoln

Photographer: John Brock

This tramp was originally planned for October but as the first suspension bridge was out of service and not wanting to get wet feet, we went to Stanfield Hut and got wet feet there instead, but that is another story. The Bottles Track is accessed by travelling along a well-formed track up the Mangatinoka River, across two suspension bridges, and then a steep climb up through mature bush to the track junction on the top of the ridge. Left to Roaring Stag Hut, right and north to Herepai Hut which we took until we reached a small saddle before the track



climbs up to Herepai Hut. The Bottles Track is posted with a small sign which is difficult to spot as it merges into the tree on which it is mounted. A not well-defined track marked with coloured ribbons leads off down to the

Mangatinoka River. Travel is up the river and through some small river flats and lunch was had on a nicely grassed river flat.

Unfortunately, lunch was a short experience as it was realized (by those who will remain anonymous) that the coffee shop in Eketahuna closed at 3.30 pm and what the leader thought was to be a nice post lunch nap in the sun quickly disappeared. From the river the track marked with coloured ribbons ascends and travels through ferns along a well-rounded ridge. It was here that one person suffered a laceration to his shin which required the use of the first aid kit. The injury was quickly bandaged using a bandage used to cover the lower legs of horses by a group of first aiders and assisted by an even larger group of advisors. It was a community event! The bandage called a cohesive bandage is available in some attractive colours from the Saddlery Warehouse on Andrew Young Street Palmerston North for \$3 each. A bargain!

At the Mangatinoka River the track steeply descends to the river just upstream of the first suspension bridge. It was a great day in the shade of the bush with perfect weather conditions, little wind, mixed sun and a comfortable temperature. And the people? They were good company.



5th-7th February, 2021: Going to the Butcher

Trip Leader, Reporter and Photographer: Howard Nicholson

The upper Otaki River is an area I had passed through a few times on previous trips, but there were a few sections that I had not traversed. This trip connected the dots and provided a little adventure on the way.

Many of my early tramping trips had started at the "Pipe Bridge" (Poads Road) at the back of Levin, and I



Butcher Creek

reflected on how little had changed when I arrived on a perfect Friday evening of Waitangi weekend. My walk up a surprisingly dry Ohau Track and the Ohau River in low flow was a joy. A little over 3 hours later I stepped into South Ohau Hut, where I decided to stay and be sociable with the 3 other trampers instead of fly-camping.

I had a mile-wide smile as I wandered up Butcher Creek, basking in the ease of travel up the open stream-bed. A small, tight creek entered the main valley from the true right and I realised that this was my chosen route. The enclosed stream started out OK but soon there was a log-jam on top of a cascade to get around. Clambering around the steep true right worked for me, but it took time and was a little precarious at times. Travel was slow as I traversed up the tight little creek to about the halfway point, where the windfall-choked streambed was no longer a navigable option. After climbing up an old slip on the true left and traversing to a minor spur, I climbed up to the major spur west of the creek.

Conditions were back to "normal" bush-bashing, and I would recommend this spur for future trips; I have since heard that the spur is a little steep at the bottom but do-able.

Soon I was on the Dora Track, but about an hour later than expected. Descending to Butcher Saddle and the Otaki River headwaters were uneventful, with some small waterfalls easily sidled on the true right. Travel in the Upper Otaki was a delight. Eels and trout were seen and heard as they splashed away from their basking spots. Deep pools were easily avoided. I counted off the side streams - Waiopehu, Collie Creek, Puketoro and Murray Creek - before emerging at the Mid Otaki flats and hut. A goat and a stag were seen at close range as they rushed away in surprise. At Kelleher Creek, I reminisced about how on an earlier trip, our party had linked together for safety to cross the fast-flowing river; today the river was low and travel was easy. This point marked the start of another section of river that I had not traversed.

The river narrowed and I found myself at the top of a deep pool. My hopes that it was only waist deep were dispelled and I made the split-second decision to pack-float through the pool. About one second after my feet left the ground I remembered that my non-waterproof phone was below the dry zone...

My 7 pm deadline for finding a suitable campsite was approaching and the valley was closing in once more. More pools were ahead and so I retreated upstream a few minutes to an idyllic camp site opposite an old slip.

After a comfortable night under the fly, I packed up and steeled myself for a wet descent through the next section of river. At the first deep

pool I found that I could easily gain the terraces on the true left, which provided excellent and fast travel down this section of river, avoiding any swimming along the way. I regained the river and was soon at the Waitewaewae-Otaki Forks. Travelling up the Waitewaewae River I managed to keep dry from the hips up. A hind with a fawn, and then a stag, two hinds and fawn, were seen at close quarters as I headed upstream.



West Waitewaewae River

The river narrowed as I approached Island Forks, where I had an early lunch and attempted to dry my phone



some more. Travel through the gorges was easy and soon I headed up a spur to Point 828m, southeast of Mt Thompson. I had mobile phone text coverage here (it works!) and I was able to confirm that I was on my way but would be two hours later than planned; my phone died shortly after. Tape marked the route from here to the old vehicle logging tracks, which I followed to Waikawa Reserve and the waiting car at the road-end, ending what was a thoroughly enjoyable summer river tramp that I would recommend as a 3-4 day medium-fit trip.

Near Mid Otaki Hut

Thursday 11th February, 2021: West Maharashtra

Trip Leader and Reporter: John

Photographer: Margaret Mathieson



Eleven trampers in three cars (the van's retractable back step was not working) left the carpark at 7.30 am and were heading to the steep first slope soon after 8.30. All of us made the top by 11.30 or soon after, and enjoyed marvellous views over to Hawkes Bay and south to the ranges beyond Wharite. We welcomed two new trampers: Blair Petersen and Ian August. The latter was on a week's holiday, so unlikely to become a regular, but Ian, a farmer from Shannon, wants to join our regular trips. He did comment that the farmland was totally different from his flat land farmland. However, he didn't seem put off by a vertical up and down trip for his tramping baptism and we look forward to having him join us in future tramps. We were lucky with the weather, as clouds cleared the tops as we made it to the summit. It was the end of a southerly wind coming through, hence the warm clothes shown in the photograph. No serious falls

coming down, a relief to us all! We stopped in Ashhurst for drinks and ice creams, and were back in Palmy by 3.30 pm. Thanks to Tony Evans and Alistair Hall and the Thornleys for use of their vehicles.



Wednesday 17th February, 2021: Branch Track and Beehive Walk

Trip Leader, Reporter and Photographer: John Salisbury

An excellent day's tramping near Pohangina village was enjoyed by 11 members, with many thanks to Ewen for giving up his day to drive us. This was my first leaders' walk, so I was a bit apprehensive, but it worked out well.

We were blessed with a fine day, despite a little drizzle on the way. The tramp follows an abandoned road linking Pohangina with Ridge Road and climbs fairly steeply through pine forest out of the village, well marked, with steep drop offs most of the way. There are lovely views higher up and we managed two morning tea stops to celebrate.

Once we had returned to the van, we were treated to the hospitality of the Brocks, and enjoyed lunch at their home, sharing their stunning location and warm beverages.

Sterner stuff lay ahead though. A short drive to the lower end of Beehive Creek led to no less than 17



stream crossings though luckily the level was low. It was a real grind up and down the final section of 4x4 track to the road end where Ewen waiting for us at the upper carpark.

Note: The track may be closed intermittently, so check signs at both ends before starting.

Mild panic ensued when we realised we may not make the Herb Farm in time for a well-deserved coffee, but it is open until 4.30pm, so the staff had to don their aprons and set to, to serve us all.

Once again, thanks to Ewen and the Brocks.

Thursday 18th February, 2021: Six Discs Walk

Trip Leader, Reporter and Photographer: John Brock

When the weather made river conditions doubtful for the planned trip to the Waipawa Saddle, plan B, a walk around the Six Disc's/Waiopahu tracks loop came into action.

A full van-load headed south to Levin in brilliantly fine weather, endless blue skies which persisted all day. Forewarned about problems with a slip on the Six Disc's, the plan was to go clockwise up the Ohau Gorge first to check it out – just in case. It was certainly a vicious narrow slip, just cutting the track and falling steeply into the river. A quick scramble through the bush over the top soon had us on our way again. Morning tea break

was on the bank of the Ohau River, with rata flowering and back-lit tree ferns – very pleasant, so much so, that it was



decided to have lunch there as well. That is, after a quick (?) trip up the Gable End Track as far as the Mayo Knob (four made it) and back. The forest looked particularly good with the back-lighting on the way down. An interesting find was the world's tallest moss (*Dawsonia superba*); a good stand was located on the bank by the swing bridge. After a leisurely lunch, it was an hour's slog up the Six Disc's Track across to the Waiopahu Track for another break, a group photo, then down the hill and back to the van. A good day out!!

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 Passes, valid for 6 or 12 months, as well as the use of hut tickets is available on the [DOC web site](#).



Contact Details

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

Committee 2020 - 2021

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
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: 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	Syd Easton	eastonps@inspire.net.nz	06 356 7462
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 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 and two bivvy bags. Ice axes, crampons, and helmets are also available. We have three 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 internet payment (please email to confirm before depositing) Westpac account number 03 1521 022035300 or by cash to 179 Cook St Palmerston North 4410 in person.

	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.