

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 4. May, 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.

7.30 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.

7.30 pm Tuesday 18 May, 2021: Annual General Meeting

This is your chance to have your say about the running of the club and even contribute it by standing for the committee. All positions are up for election: President, Secretary, Treasurer, Chief Guide, Newsletter Editor, Membership Secretary, Lodge Manager, Minibus Manager and five General Committee members. Do come along. *Note that AGM Booklet will be made available on the MTSC web site with the link circulated to members. A limited number of printed copies will be available at the Aquatic Club Rooms prior to the meeting.*

7.30 pm Tuesday 1 June, 2021: Federated Mountain Clubs (FMC) by John Beech

John will talk about the role of FMC and how the MTSC is represented. He will also cover the structure of FMC and what our subs are used for.

7.30 pm Tuesday 6 July, 2021: Whio Recovery Project by Janet Wilson



Waitahinga Dam by Cheryl Dawson

7.30 pm Tuesday 3 August, 2021: Photo competition organised by Richard Lander

Time to pull out your camera, head for the hills and take a few photos for the annual photo competition. Last year we had some fantastic images and a fun night voting for our favourites. Our sponsors have kindly donated prizes for the best images in each category. With your permission the best images will be entered into the interclub and FMC photo competitions. Entries to be sent to Richard Lander (photocomp@mtsc.org.nz) by the 28th July 2021.

REPORTS AND NOTICES

MTSC President: Rob Pringle

president@mtsc.org.nz

Well, this is the last time I get to put pen to paper to write up a report for the club newsletter. In keeping with the club's constitution, I move aside after my term, and at the AGM later this month, a new president will be elected. The AGM is on the 18th of May, and I'd encourage you if you're able to pop down and have your say and also to gain a little further insight into the administration of the club, and what goes on behind the scenes. As I reflect on the 3 years that I've been writing reports for the newsletter, it's great to look back on what the club has achieved, the trips that have been taken and the friendships which continue to be forged, as well as new friendships made. One of the things which amazes me is the tenacity with which both club and committee members tirelessly give of themselves to advance the interests of the club. Without these efforts, without people pulling together to organize and coordinate activities, the club would be a far less interesting place to be. Thank you to those who go out of their way, devoting their spare time and expertise to ensure the smooth running of the club and making sure that there are always interesting trips on the trip card.

At present, the club's having a bit of a push to get further weekend trips on the trip card. There's a link to the proposed trips. If you find yourself wondering what it would take to lead a trip, feel free to get in touch with anyone on the trip card already, and make enquiry about being a trip leader. The great thing is you get to plan trips to the destination of your choice, as well as picking on as much of a challenge as you wish.

I've been in and around the committee for a number of years now, and it's been a great privilege to serve in the position elected. I look forward to continued involvement with the committee as the new executive is established, as well as continuing to assist in a practical capacity with the ongoing work at the lodge.

Keep doing the great work that you're all doing, and I look forward to seeing you up the mountain, on the ski slopes, or toiling away at a lodge work party. Thanks to everyone who's been involved in the last three years, and long may we all continue. As always, take care out there, be kind, and look after one another.

Rob

Lodge Manager: John Lyttle

lodge.manager@mtsc.org.nz

Lodge work parties will be on: 15-16 May, 2021 and
28-29 May, 2021.

Weekends at the lodge are free for workers, cleaners, cooks, etc and, if there are enough people, we may use the club van for transport. Please let me know if you can attend so that we can manage numbers.

Cheers

John Cell – 027 4336307; e-mail above.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions are now due and emails have been sent out to those for whom we have email addresses. If you have not received yours, please check your junk mail folder, and then contact me to ensure that we have the correct contact details.

Subscriptions have been increased by \$5 per membership this year to \$40 Individual, \$25 Junior and \$55 Family. This is to cover the cost of more modern (!) administration platforms, such a Xero for financial management, and an online platform to manage the membership database. The cost of a Hard copy newsletter has increased to \$20 to better reflect the cost of printing and mailing them.

Sue Nicholson

MTSC Membership Secretary membership@mtsc.org.nz

Mt Ruapehu Season Passes

Did you know that season passes from Ruapehu Alpine Lifts Ltd are still available (as at the time of writing)? Note that they are half price for first responders (e.g. SAR, Fire, military, etc). Numbers are limited so don't dilly dally if you want one. See <https://www.mtruapehu.com/season-pass/anytime>.

UPCOMING TRIPS

May Wednesday Tramps			May Thursday Tramps		
05	Carolyn Brodie	027 358 6037	06	Bryce & Raewyn Buddle	06 353 5163
12	Harold Pettersson	06 357 4248	13	William Laing	022 099 7988
19	Bill Milham	06 356 8136	20	Geraldine Fovakis	06 356 4327
26	Carole Kennerley	06 329 9694	27	Audrey Shepherd / Syd Easton	D 06 356 7462
May Weekend Trip					
8-9	Waitewaewae Hut	Medium-Fit	Howard Nicholson	027 294 1941	
23	Sledge Track/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.

8th-9th May, 2021: Waitewaewae Hut Medium Fit
Howard Nicholson 027 294 1941

Due to an unstable slip at Blue Bluff on the Otaki Gorge Road, this trip will be about 5km (2 hours) longer each way and is expected to take around 7-9 hours (one way). This tramping track on the western side of the Tararuas follows an old tramway in part, and crosses several streams and a low saddle along the way to the hut. We will return to the carpark using the same route on Sunday.

See:

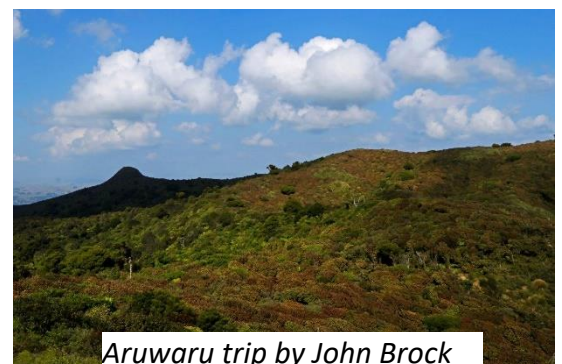
Otaki Gorge Emergency Track [Link](#)

Waitewaewae Hut Track [Link](#)

Sunday 23rd May, 2021: Sledge Track / Naenae Crossing
Tim Swale 022 134 9394

Medium

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 do a key swap mid-way. At the conclusion of the tramp both parties meet up at the Summerhill shops for a coffee and to swap vehicles. If the numbers don't work out for a crossing the fall-back plan would be to do the Otangane Loop, starting and finishing at Naenae Road end.



Aruwaru trip by John Brock

TRIP REPORTS

Lodge Work Parties

Lodge Manager and Reporter: John Lyttle

We have had two successful work parties this year, 27-29 March and 17-19 April as part of the ongoing renovations to the lodge. This year we are completing a fire wall between the living spaces and bedrooms. In doing this we are incorporating the top foyer into the adjacent bedroom and installing a new entry door into the middle lounge.

With the construction industry stretched with the present boom we have had some resources issues and that, combined with the need for favourable weather to fly in materials, has meant that we have had to move and cancel some of the planned work parties. Hope this hasn't put keen helpers off. We hope to have the bulk of this work completed before the ski season starts and should you be interested in helping out, please make direct contact with me over dates.



Work Party 27-29 March, 2021: Ken, Rob, John, Tahu



Work Party 27-29 March, 2021: John, Tahu, Peter

Thanks to all of those that have assisted so far: Rob, Peter, Tahu, Ken, Mary, Tracey, Howie, Christopher, Benedicte, Garth and Bianca.



Work Party 17-19 April, 2021: Rob, Howie outside bedroom 2



Inside bedroom 2

Thursday 18th March 2021: Sayer Hut

Trip Leader and Reporter: Suzanne Clark

Photographer: John Brock

Sixteen keen trampers headed off on the well-marked track to Sayer Hut which is accessed off Mangatarere Valley Road. The track goes up quite steeply to a high point of 772 meters and then drops down to Sayer Hut which sits near the true left bank of the Waiohine river. Sayer hut is one of the oldest huts in the Tararua Range. It is well maintained and rather quirky. A very pleasant lunch break was had at the hut before the big climb back out. The day was a very fine autumn day and the bush looked beautiful. We were all out by 4.30pm and then it was off to Masterton for an ice cream before heading home. Thanks to van driver Tony and car driver Syd.



Wednesday 24th March, 2021: Waitahinga Trails and Dam

Trip Leader and Reporter: Bob Hodgson

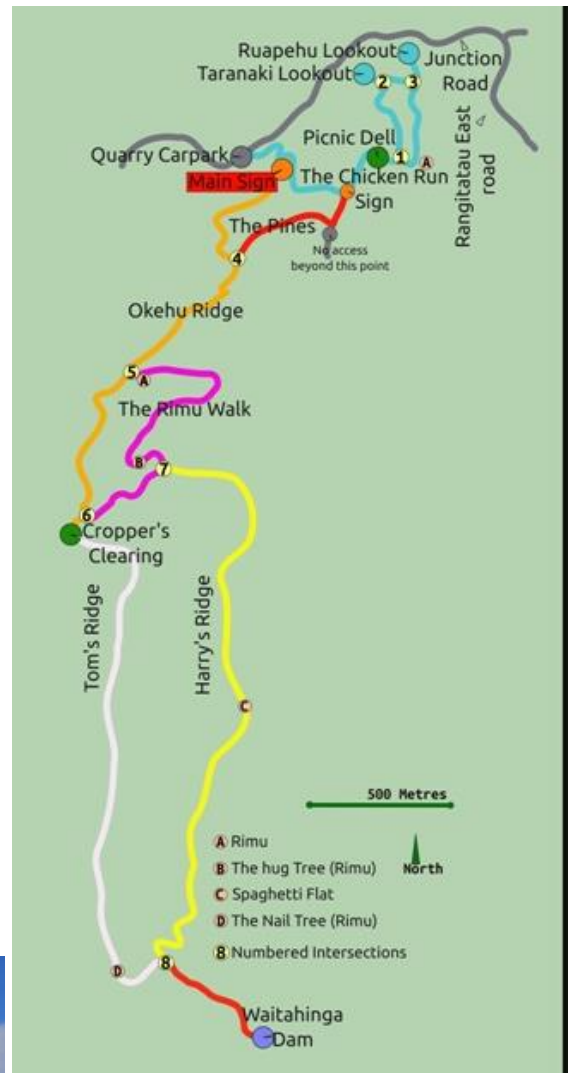
Photographer: Chery Dawson

With a 7.30 start from Memorial Park 26 eager trappers made their way via Whanganui, Rangitatau Road East and Junction Road to the Quarry Car Park at the start of the Waitahinga Trails. We then assembled at the Trails Map Display Sign to briefly study the layout of the trails before setting out in groups with the intention of having morning tea at Croppers Clearing (see sketch map on right) and then regathering at the dam to eat lunch and to enjoy the sunshine and view.

This is an unusual trip in that the tramp to the dam is made with a net loss in height of about 250m. The dam is a disused water supply for Whanganui. Conditions were good: dry underfoot on a tramp that has in the past presented us with extremely muddy sections on the immediate ascent and decent to the dam. By 3.15pm all had returned to the Quarry Car Park with some also having tramped up to the Ruapehu and Taranaki Lookouts.

Then, by 4pm, almost all of us were enjoying coffees and, in some cases, cakes at the Pukekos Nest who were kind enough to remain open to cater for us. We then made a short deviation to make a walk-over inspection of the new Upokongaro cycle and pedestrian bridge over the Whanganui River - a most impressive structure that, by chance, had been in place, (but not opened) for one year. We arrived back at the Memorial Park by about 6pm after an interesting and rewarding day.

Thanks to bus drivers Evan Cameron and Margaret McKenzie, car drivers Mary Mercer, Marilyn Hewitt, Catherine Henderson and Ewan Cameron.



Upokongaro Cycle and Pedestrian Bridge



Bob, Bev & Margaret communing with nature on Waitahinga Dam trail

Thursday 25th March, 2021: Gold Creek Hut

Trip Leaders: Judy Swainson, Royce Mills

Photographer: John Brock



Wednesday 31st March, 2021: Not Maharahara

Trip Leaders and Reporter: Margaret McKenzie

Photographer: Robyn Laing

After a couple of months of very dry tramping weather, our tramp leader listened all the previous night to pouring rain and imagined a very tricky, difficult day ahead attempting to get up to Maharahara Peak. The forecast was for continuing rain becoming heavy in the afternoon. So, on arriving at Memorial Park, she listened to the advice of one of the "wise old heads" of our Wednesday trampers and so Plan B was hatched.

Fourteen of us headed out to Pohangina East and we all thoroughly enjoyed walking the Fern Walk. In fact, some in our group had not walked it before and it was really lovely with the rain moisture making the leaves shiny and fresh looking. At the first lookout we got a great view of the poplar leaves in Pohangina valley turning yellow for autumn. Then we drove on to Totara Reserve and walked the "long" way round to meet up with the giant totara which lives beside the road. Lunch was enjoyed at new seating around a fire pit (not in use today!) and by now there had not been a drop of rain.



Fungi on the Fern Walk

On our way back to PN, we stopped to do the Pettifar Track and emerged out of the bush into lovely sunshine. The rain did not eventuate but the humidity made it a hot exercise. The Herb Farm cafe hosted our afternoon tea and we were back in PN at 3.30 pm with us all looking forward to another attempt at Mount Maharahara in the future.

Many thanks to Ken and Kevin for being our drivers.

Thursday 1st April, 2021: Atiwhakatu Hut

Trip Leader and Reporter: Margaret Mathieson

The forecast was not encouraging for Easter Thursday; hence the choice of the well-maintained track and a good hut for lunch in comfort. However we only met with some drizzle until around morning tea-time. Then we were treated to two birthday cakes, one being to celebrate John's 81st.

We had a pleasant walk to the hut and even some sunny spells on the path back. We returned to a grey Manawatu with a cold SE wind.

Thanks to Syd for suggesting the sheltered route and driving the van and for the company of Audrey, Noah (12), Tony, Adam, William, John and Gill



Gold Creek Trip by John Brock

2nd-4th April, 2021: Easter Mountain Biking Trip

Trip Reporter: Peter Rawlins

Friday dawned fine and calm. Lynda, Roger and I set off to wrestle with the Easter traffic. We were headed to Taupo to base ourselves there for the weekend and get some good mountain biking in.

First stop was the Craters of the Moon mountain biking park located a short distance north of Taupo. It was a long time since we had been there and there has been some track development as well as some logging. Because of the nature of the access agreement, you need to be a member of Bike Taupo to ride the almost 50 km of trails. Fortunately, you can buy a 7 day pass for \$10. We went up Tank Stand and then Kinda Grinder which was supposed to be easier than the steeper alternative but it didn't feel so. This led us to Mr and Mrs, a nice long grade 3 that winds its way around the park taking in a wide variety of scenery. Being Subaru lovers we had to check out Outback, another long and winding road that leads to your door (hang on a minute, isn't that a song?). Accommodation for the night was the Great Lakes Holiday Park in Acacia bay. The tents were soon up, and tea was cooking. About 3.5hrs riding for the day.



Saturday, we decided to do the W2K track. This track goes from Whakaipo Bay through to Kinloch. The track is a straightforward grade 2-3 and 13 km each way. It works its way up to a saddle, with a few undulations, and then down to the very picturesque hamlet of Kinloch where we had a coffee and milk drink and marvelled at how many flash cars there were. The trip back does start with 6.5km of relatively gentle uphill but the 7.5 km downhill at the end is worth it. Back to camp for a BBQ tea. A little over 5 hrs for the day and Roger had a swim in the lake.



Sunday, we decided to link together three tracks from Kinloch. We were doing this loop anti-clockwise which has sharper uphill but more gentle and longer downhills. Others do it clockwise. The first track, the Otaketake track, is a relatively new track finished in 2019. It is mainly uphill to the car park at Whangamata Rd. From the carpark it is 9.3km down the Orakau track to the

shelter at Kawakawa bay. This is a popular place for walkers and particularly climbers. The crags were filled with little dots working themselves up the rock face. It was unbelievable how many little tents were squirrelled away in the bush near the shelter. Pretty basic facilities with long drop toilets and water from the lake. Still, a great place to be. From the shelter it is a short 2 or so kilometre climb along the K2K track to the saddle before a nice, mainly downhill 6.5km back to Kinloch. A little over 4 hrs riding today. Back to camp for a shower and so Lynda can listen to the cricket.



We were: Lynda Hunt, Roger Athersuch and Peter Rawlins

2nd- 5th April, 2021: Easter Dundas Circuit

Trip Reporter: Ken Mercer

Three set off for the Dundas Circuit midday good Friday: Howie, who's been everywhere, Kirsty, a descendant of the surveyor, Alexander Dundas, and whose idea the trip was, and myself, keen to go further afield. We had a good forecast for Saturday and gale force winds plus rain either side so we started the loop with Herepai Hut. Kirsty and I found the ten bed hut only half full when we arrived at 3:30pm. However Howie was planning on a longer trip so first went to Roaring Stag to leave a food dump. When he arrived after dark we had 16 in the hut and two outside tenting. Many of the others were also doing the loop and all were constrained by the same forecasts. However, with some on the floor and others crammed in, we all fitted.

True to the forecast, Saturday was clear although the air in the distance was hazy. The climb to Herepai Peak was further than I remembered; then we were bouncing along the tops: Ruapae, East Peak, down 200m then up to West Peak, where we ate lunch. Another bounce to Walker and a clamber over Pukemoremore which, Howie told us, was named, as a joke on a surveyor, after his bald pate.

It was late in the day and becoming windy so time to head down the spur to Dundas hut. Err, no. Let's actually get to Dundas. After all, Kirsty had tried on four occasions and we were "quite" close. Hmm. Up to Logan, 150m down to a saddle, 150m up to Dundas then return. So 400m vertical up and down added two hours which we achieved after dumping some of our weight.

Camping in the lee, near the saddle, had been considered; however, fitting three into Howie's Olympus fly on a soggy, undulating surface with gale force winds didn't appeal so we took our chances, descending to the six bunk hut. Again, there were two already with their tent up and five sleeping inside. But they'd left two bunks for Kirsty and me by doubling up, while Howie had a night on the floor with the luxury of two inflatable mattresses.



On Sunday morning the 700m descent to the Ruamahanga River started with a 60m warm up back to the spur. Our feet were wet to varying degrees crossing the river; then, following an early lunch break, we ground our way up 600m to Cattle Ridge, with a couple or five breaks! Above the bush line, the full fury of the gale hit us but at least it was on our backs. We were pleased we weren't attempting Saturday's traverse with much more time exposed on a narrower ridge. The party of two ahead of us generously had boiling water ready in Cattle Ridge Hut which sits in the lee of the ridge. So, after a short break, we descended the final 700m to Roaring Stag for the night. This hut was not overfull. Howie's stash of food was recovered, free of interference from either mice or men. Monday morning Kirsty and I walked out while Howie continued down river, heading for Cow Creek and Tarn Ridge. See below.

I'm pleased to have completed the loop but the best part was the enthusiasm and generosity of my companions and the other parties. This included a youngish group from Wellington who had mostly completed the South Island part of Te Araroa together. It's really encouraging to see such people enjoying the hills.

5th- 7th April, 2021: Reconnecting With Routes From the Past

Reporter and Photographer: Howard Nicholson

The Dundas Hut loop had been a very enjoyable tramp, with some stunning scenery along the way and great company. As Ken and Kirsty prepared to set off from Roaring Stag Hut for Putara Road, I set my sights in the

opposite direction, re-crossing the Ruamahanga River bridge and heading downstream to Cleft Creek. The river was running sufficiently high that I was not keen to cross it again. Travel beside the river was easy until a slip forced a rethink of the route. The open slip provided a feasible route up and into the bush, onto a terrace that was cut off from the next side stream by a 15m vertical drop. A safe way down to the stream was found at around 500m elevation and, after some further sidling, I gained the bush terrace above Cleft Creek, which I followed until forced down to the stream once more.

Reasonable travel upstream led me to the re-routed track to Cow Saddle, which follows a spur south of the old route before sidling into the saddle. Soon I was crossing the Waingawa River, thankfully low enough to



Tararua Snake near Cow Saddle



A welcome dry spot on a damp day: Arete Forks Hut

avoid the 20-minute wet weather route over a slip to the bridge; however, the morning's extra route-finding meant that I was a little later than intended.

After lunch, I tackled the Arete Forks track, which sidles around a gorge section of the Waingawa River. My memory from long ago was that the track dipped steeply by about 60-120m into and out of 6 steep-sided stream gullies, but I also knew that the track was re-cut about 6 years ago and is shown

higher up on newer maps. My memory was right... Although the track is marked, the terrain is such that it is easy to miss the route if one is not paying attention. It was raining and by about 4 pm it was so dark under the canopy that I contemplated getting my torch out.

Feeling pleased with the day, I arrived at Arete Forks Hut in the rain, right on dark at around 6:10 pm and 10 hours after leaving Roaring Stag Hut. Built in 1960 to the standard NZ Forest Service S70 design, the hut has been restored to its original design specification in recent years; kudos to the Ex-NZFS group.

As expected, the weather steadily improved on Tuesday morning and I headed up the Waingawa River to the 3rd creek on the true left (TL). The spur from here to Tarn Ridge is an old route, used by deer cullers back in the day, that I had used a few times before but not in recent decades. To my pleasant surprise, I found that it was not a total bush bash all the way. Soon I was near high point 1313m, enjoying a 2-hour lunch break and admiring the peaks of Lancaster and Bannister, dramatically backlit by the clearing clouds behind. National park status for the Tararuas had been considered in 1940 and today reminded me of why.



Waingawa River towards Bannister



Tarn Ridge

During the day, the buzz of helicopters marked the arrival of hunters to the central huts; "the roar" had begun. That night I shared Tarn Ridge Hut with four hunters from up north.

Wednesday dawned a bit breezy but crystal clear, with views to Tapuae-o-Uenuku, Kapiti, Taranaki, Tongariro and everything in between as I traversed Girdlestone, Brockett and Mitre. It was a struggle to leave the tops on such a beautiful day, but I dragged myself away down the hill to Mitre Flats Hut for lunch and out to The Pines (Upper Plains Road end) for an arranged pickup at 2:30 pm. In Masterton I had the pleasure of meeting up with the MTSC Wednesday Trampers for a ride home to Palmy in the club minibus.

Six days revisiting some old haunts was just the ticket for an autumnal recharge.



Brockett, Mitre, The Three Kings and Dorset Ridge from Girdlestone

Wednesday 7th April, 2021: Holdsworth Loop with a Difference

Trip Leader: Bev Akers

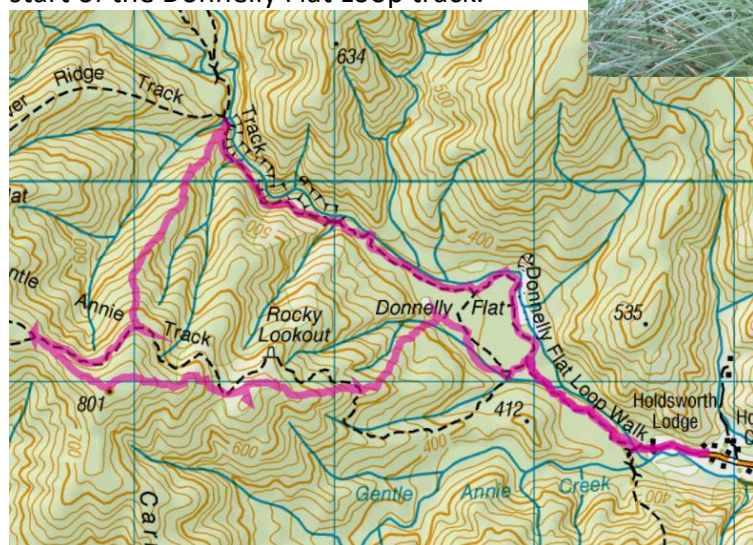
Reporter: Bob Hodgson

Photographer & plotter: William Laing

Nineteen trampers assembled at the Holdsworth entrance of the Tararua Park. After a trip-leader's briefing and the distribution of radios, we set out at 9.10am on what was to be a memorably pleasant tramp over tracks that were new to most of us. We made our way at a spritely pace along the Atiwhakatu Track almost to the start of the River Ridge Track (RRT), our regularly tramped route taken with Mountain House as a destination. Here we picked up an unsigned, but readily followed, ridge-line track (see map) that had us climbing for about an hour and forty minutes with a height gain of about 400m in a distance of 2km. This is a beautiful track, generally, easier underfoot than RRT with its bigger trees and tree roots. The smaller trees and sparser vegetation on our new found track suggested that it was in a partial rain shadow that was more significant as we climbed. The consensus among the trampers was that the new track was preferred. We took a morning tea

stop part of the way up, then lunch when we arrived at the junction between the Mount Holdsworth and Totara Creek tracks with its bench seats and sign posts.

After lunch we picked up another of the old tracks which we followed for about 2km. After a gentle start this track proved to be challenging as it was deeply rutted with the appearance of a dry stream bed. Where it crossed the Mount Holdsworth Track several trampers opted to descend by this less demanding option, to be joined by four more at the next junction between the old unmarked track and the "official" track. At one point the two parties communicated by waves and shouts. The main party persisted in following the old track down, eventually joining the main track at the start of the Donnelly Flat Loop track.



We were all out by about 2.30pm on what had been an interesting tramp on attractive old tracks. With a rise and fall of 500m+ and a duration of about 5 hours we had all earned the ice creams that we collected as we skirted Marsterton on the return journey. There, by arrangement, we collected Howie, an intrepid MTSC trumper on his way home after six days of tramping.

Thanks to Trip Leader Bev who had scouted the new /old tracks, to van driver Robbie, and car drivers Jenny and Robyn.

Thursday 8th April, 2021: Aruwaru

Trip Reporter: Tony Evans

Photographers: John Brock & Tony Evans

With the short drive to the carpark at Kahuterawa Road we were on the Sledge track soon after 8am. Along the track and onto Quartz Creek track which very quickly becomes a steep uphill climb. After walking for longer than we normally walk before our morning tea break (just over two hours), we came to the lookout on top of .624. There we enjoyed a leisurely morning break in lovely weather with great views and the hardest part of the tramp was behind us.

From there the track follows the ridge in a south-east

direction until it meets the leatherwood and a cut track up to Aruwaru. After photos at the trig we had lunch on the track nearby and headed on down the track to the Otangane Loop Track and, taking time to enjoys the views, we continued on to the picnic table at the top of the Sledge Track for our afternoon break. From there we headed down the Sledge Track and all 11 happy trampers were back at the carpark by half past three.



At Aruwaru Trig



Wednesday 14th April, 2021: Bruce Hill

Trip Leader, Reporter and Photographer: Marion Beadle

We arrived at the end of Mount Munro Road to much better weather than expected. The lady farmer with a small person and a number of very friendly dogs greeted us and told us where to park (beside the stock yards) and to look out for mushrooms. Off up the hill, over the rather high stile and into a blackberry bush (which was later rearranged). The ground was damp but not muddy, the bush was beautiful - it is a very pleasant walk. We all visited the trig - see photo - and some of the group went on a little further to the clearing looking toward SH 2.



Back to the large clearing for lunch. Sunny with good views later including views of passing showers. Then one shower turned on us and everyone packed up and headed off.

The foragers among us collected mushrooms to share around. Coffee and cake at Lazy Graze. My thanks to our van driver.

17th-18th April, 2021: Wellington Walks – CITY TO SEA

Trip Leader, Reporter and Photographer: Linda Campbell

A great thing about the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club is the people and, therefore, it is always a pleasure to have a group of members along on a weekend trip. Eleven of us set off from the Ministry of Education building near the Beehive in Wellington on Saturday and made our way up through the Bolton Street Cemetery. We did not stop to check out any graves this time but headed straight into the Botanical Gardens for a comfort stop as most of us had travelled down from the Manawatu in the morning. After a short stroll in the gardens a



couple of the group members retreated to the café at the top of the cable car for a coffee while the rest of us found a lovely spot in the sun for morning tea. This turned out to be rather a long stop and Alla and Ben made the most of it to check out the Cable Car Museum.

We walked down and through Kelburn Park, past Victoria University, and through the Mount Street Cemetery. This old cemetery is a protected heritage site and has great views of the city and the harbour. We then carried on past Te Aro School before heading

into Te Aro valley. A short walk up the street took us to Epuni Street. Many of the houses in this street were built around 1900 and there are some interesting paint jobs on several of the houses, one of which has the history of the colour mauve on a sign near the gate way. The trail goes up hill once again and past the Tanera Community Gardens which were established in 1991 and are managed by the Mokaï Kainga Trust. There are thirty three plots being worked there at present. We then went downhill and entered Central Park which was established in 1913. The walk goes through the park beside the Moturua Stream and under a lovely old bridge. As we continued along the trail we were rewarded with great views from Prince of Wales Park of Government House, the city, the harbour and the surrounding hills. There were also great views of Mt Albert as we walked along. Further on we passed the Wellington City Council's Berhampore Nursery before entering the Berhampore Golf Course. From here we continued along the tops and down into Island Bay to arrive at the end of the Trail at Shorland Park.



We stopped by at the Empire Cinema for leisurely liquid refreshments before crossing the road to dine at the Original Thai Restaurant. Here the service was much slower than expected as it was extremely busy. Our last leg back to Bowen Street and to where we started was by bus before most of us headed to Ben's place for the night.

On the Sunday individuals and smaller groups did their own thing which included walking a loop on Makara Peak, attending the mountain bike races on Mt Victoria (as a spectator), shopping, visiting relatives and snorkelling.

All in all it was a fantastic weekend and I thank Mary, Ken and Colin Mercer, Tim and Ben Swale, Nicki Fielder, Alla Seleznyova, Helen Peek, Jinny Anderson and Jill Stewart for their wonderful company and sense of adventure.

Wednesday 21st April, 2021: Coppermine Creek

Trip Leader and Reporter Jenny Williamson

Photographer: John Salisbury

The weather report was not good, leaving this leader to consider where we could go if the stream came up and it became too dangerous to cross.....All the worry was unnecessary. As 28 trampers set off at 8.50am to walk the Coppermine creek and loop tracks it was fine and mild. The weather gurus seemed to have got the report back to front as "rain in the morning clearing by midday" was the opposite to what we got.

The track was a little muddy in parts but the stream was easy enough to get through, barely wetting the feet. With 28 people going at different paces we were soon split into four groups with some opting to do just the loop track; others did the two tracks and another group included the Billygoat track. Christine had brought two grandchildren. Despite their shorter legs, little Mila and Billie did a grand job of keeping up with the adults and seemed to enjoy the whole experience including the cave wetas at the magazine. (This was where ammunition was stored during WW2). The children negotiated the creek and the steep climb on the loop track without any complaints but I'm sure they were ready for bed that night!

A few of us had morning tea at the end of the Coppermine track. There are drives, shafts and tunnels in this area where the mining took place, but most are high up above the stream and well concealed by the bush. This track is very narrow in parts and storm damage has caused several slips but it seems reasonably stable at present.

The turn off to the loop track took us back through the creek again and then to a fairly steep climb up the hill and along a ridge. There was not a lot of bird song and, unfortunately, the rain and mist prevented us from seeing the magnificent views across southern Hawkes Bay. We were however rewarded for our efforts by a rainbow which hung in the sky above us as we descended through farmland towards the car park.



We were all back at the car park by 1.45pm, plenty of time to change and regroup at Cafe 88 in Woodville for delicious cakes and beverages. Thanks to Margaret for driving the van and to Ewen, Chris, Carol and Christine for assisting driving cars.

22nd-23rd April, 2021: Mangahao Flats Hut

Trip Leader: Jenny McCarthy

Reporter: Royce Mills

Photographers: William Laing and Royce Mills

A recent entry seen in the hut logbook when we arrived said it is a "tough, rough track". That is certainly an appropriate description, although there are some lovely parts too. Seven of us set off at 9.20 am in blue sky and sunshine. The good news was that the upper No.1 reservoir was empty so we were able to skirt around the muddy edges, then walk for an hour up the Mangahao river to near the first swing bridge where we had morning tea. We crossed the river many times but it was good going with the water level being just knee deep

at most. That was the first leg. Our leader Jenny warned us that the next leg on the track through to the footbridge at Harris Creek was going to be slow going with many ups and downs (the track climbs above gorges in the river). It was - upper body strength was needed at times to pull ourselves up using root hand holds, at other times "yoga moves" while spread eagled across banks, or drops or climbs. Sometimes hanging on and feeling for a foot hold. Good teamwork here, talking each other through tricky spots. At least there always seemed to be good root hand holds available. It was actually no worse than terrain we might come across on a Thursday tramp - but on this track there was a lot of it! Jean and Adam often dropped behind to improve track marking, or tidy the track. Jean had orange triangles and a hammer; Adam was carrying a serious saw. This stage, leg 2, was about 1 3/4 hours of slow tramping. Along the way we enjoyed a relaxing lunch break in sunshine on the rocks of the river. Approaching Harris Creek we explored the site of Harris Creek hut which some of us have memories of. It's close to the track and remains as an open grassy gap in the forest.



The next leg from Harris Creek to the footbridge across Barra Stream was kinder, but still some ups and downs. The track now became much muddier in places. More views of this amazing (now) wide, open river valley, reminiscent of South Island tramping scenery. We were entertained by stags roaring to each other across the river from somewhere high up - they were noisy! - Next we passed a large active slip which meant crossing the river before and after. There is an escape track if the river is in flood and Jean and Adam climbed up high to re-route part of this track that is in danger of falling down the slip and into the river. The rest of us had an afternoon tea stop, then left the workers to it and carried on to the hut.

We were rewarded with a final leg that is much flatter and easier - close to the river with scenic views and attractive bush. Suddenly, at nearly 4 pm we saw the hut - looking resplendent with its new coat of paint. It



was a walk of 6 1/2 hours including stops. The sign says 9.5 km, but all our devices were recording more like 12 km. We admired the new interior paintwork, and just how immaculate this building is looking after the recent work party activity by a large group of keen club members. We settled into this roomy, airy hut with excellent river views out the windows. It sleeps 16. The grounds outside have been tidied up too and a big heap of cut firewood has been stored in the wood shed. Well done to all the workers. Jean and Adam arrived later; Jean had been carrying a new lid for the

water tank on the outside of her pack, a difficult round item to carry and it had rolled off at least once along the way. On arrival she successfully installed the lid.

A very congenial evening was had in the hut. We woke in the morning to high cloud, but calm and mild - perfect tramping conditions again. - No raincoats were needed on this tramp. We set off at 8 am and retraced our steps out except for Jean (self described "water baby") who decided to go out along the river all the way. This included some swims and pack floating in the deep parts of the gorges. She was fastest out in four hours, but this was

not for the rest of us! After two hours of walking we reached a campsite by the river which unexpectedly, but conveniently, had a picnic table, which made for an ideal morning tea stop. At the last footbridge on the way out Adam chose to walk out the river, the way we all had come in. As an alternative, Jenny offered to show the rest of us the inland bush route out to the upper No.1 dam so we could experience this track as well. We actually chose to come out into the open at Roaring Creek and walked out beside the reservoir which surprisingly now had water in it, though it was not full. By the time we came out at 1.40 pm (in a time of 5 hours 40 minutes), Jean and Adam were waiting for us.

Thank you Jenny for choosing to lead this tramp. It certainly was a workout and challenging at times but it was very satisfying and memorable to complete. We also appreciated having Jean and Adam along as well; the three of you have so much knowledge about the track and the hut. Special appreciation to Syd for driving the club van; it is certainly a slow, winding road in and out.

Mangahao Flats hut is a fine hut, one of the best in Tararuas, and reflects the dedication of club members to keep it in immaculate condition. In fact "hut" is hardly appropriate, it deserves to be called a Lodge. And it deserves more visits!

We were Jenny McCarthy (leader), Jean Garman, Adam Match, Syd Easton, Audrey Shepherd, William Laing and Royce Mills.



31st October 1992: Mangahao Flats hut opening day

My recent trip to this hut (22-23 April 2021, outlined above) reminded me that I attended its opening day. This led me to check through old tramping diaries and I was delighted to find my notes, especially as I haven't been back to the hut since.

Nine of us left Palmerston North at 7 am: the only names I have noted are John Doolan, Lynda Hunt, Peter Rawlins, Greg Durkin and John Baker. We started tramping at 8.30 am. It was a slow walk to Harris Creek hut with several good stops. Often muddy! Early lunch at Harris Creek hut, departing 12.15 pm. A steady non-stop walk to Mangahao Flats hut arriving at 1.45 pm. Total walk in time was 5 hours 15 minutes (I was definitely younger and faster). About 50 people attended the opening ceremony; most had been helicoptered in. There were speeches, afternoon tea, bubbly and wine. Our helicopter ride out took 4 1/2 minutes.

We had a wonderful warm, sunny day for the opening. I also noted that there were lots of questionable jokes: "I haven't laughed so much in one day for a long time!"

Maybe there are other club members who have memories to share of this opening day.
Royce Mills

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 from 1/4/21	William Laing	treasurer@mtsc.org.nz	022 099 7988
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, Linda Campbell

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.