

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 5. June, 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 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

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.



Waipakihi River by Ken Mercer

REPORTS AND NOTICES

MTSC President: Tim Swale

president@mtsc.org.nz

It is with a certain amount of trepidation that I take on the responsibilities of club president and am well aware that I have some big shoes to fill after Rob Pringle's tenure. Rob has been a stalwart of the club, showing wise leadership and determination in devoting a substantial part of his life to developing our lodge on Mount Ruapehu. Whilst the skiers in our club see year on year improvements to this amazing asset, the tramping fraternity do not always appreciate just how much work goes into managing, maintaining and developing the facility. I am primarily a tramper but I do enjoy the occasional ski weekend and absolutely love the lodge as a base for tramping trips, particularly out of the ski season when the lodge is such a good venue to socialise and soak up the mountain environment. I encourage you all to make use of this wonderful facility.

Having been on the MTSC committee as secretary since 2005 I have seen first-hand the huge amount of effort that goes on behind the scenes to ensure that we have a fully functioning club. Managing memberships and lodge bookings, looking after the not inconsiderable sums of money that pass through the club accounts, managing the minibus, compiling newsletters, organising a social programme, maintaining a website, providing and looking after club gear as well as a myriad of other tasks that don't just happen by accident. They involve a huge amount of voluntary effort and I am grateful to the current and past committees for their work in making this such a successful club.



It is of course our membership that makes the club. The friendships, the shared experiences, the mentoring and sometimes when needed, helping each other in adversity. This is what gives a club its strength and character. I thank those of you who have gone out of your way to contribute to the club by leading trips, welcoming new members into our group and making our club something to be proud of.

Finally, a few words about myself. I have had a lifelong love, some might say obsession, with the outdoors be it walking, canoeing, cycling, skiing or anything else that has cropped up along the way. To a large extent this is why I came to New Zealand from the UK with my family in 1996. As a teacher, I have, until now, been limited to tramping and skiing at weekends and school holidays but recent retirement is starting to make a difference. I am a firm believer in the outdoors as a place to develop young people's character and build their self-esteem. As such I have for many years been involved with leading school trips, shadowing Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions and instructing for Mountain Safety Council and Outdoor Training New Zealand. I have also been a member of the Palmerston North Search and Rescue group for about 15 years.

I look forward to serving the club and hope that together we can continue to develop the club in a positive way going forwards. In the meantime, happy tramping and when it finally comes, have a great ski season.

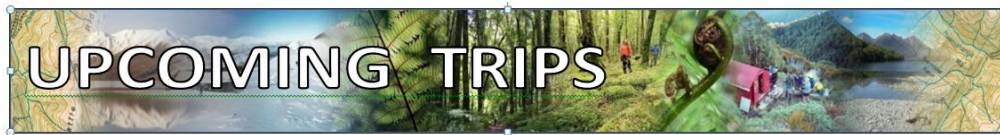
Subscriptions

I have sent out reminders for subscriptions, which are now overdue. If you have not received your invoice, please check your Junk or Spam folders as mailings such as this may end up there. You can prevent this by adding the address MTSCmembership@outlook.co.nz to your Safe Sender's list. If you have any other concerns or queries, please contact me directly.

Sue Nicholson, MTSC Membership Secretary



Tararua Aorangi Remutaka Huts Committee has a new web site (<https://tarhc.org.nz/>) which has lots of useful and interesting information about hut maintenance, DoC activities, FMC newsletter links and more. Well worth a look.



June Wednesday Tramps			June Thursday Tramps		
02	Bob Hargreaves	06 357 0734	03	Carol Exton	022 4047100
09	William Laing	022 099 7988	10-11	Ken Mercer	027 364 6475
16	Christine Finnigan	027 230 5032	17	Darlene Westrupp	021 167 8815
23	Ewen Cameron	022 034 1180	24	Jenny McCarthy	021 215 2197
30	Allen Rae	06 358 3962			
June Weekend Trips					
13	Stanfield Hut	Easy	Tim Swale	022 134 8384	
25-27	Lodge Food Carry	Work Party	Howard Nicholson	027 294 1941	
14,17-18 July	Snow Skills 2021	Technical	Howard Nicholson	027 294 1941	

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.

Sunday 13th June, 2021: Stanfield Hut **Easy**
Tim Swale 022 134 8384

This pleasant tramp in the Ruahine Range, near Dannevirke, is one of my favourite local walks. After a short but steep 15 minute ascent from the campground at Tamaki West, we emerge onto a four wheel drive track along Holmes ridge. This offers easy walking and great views of the main range. A tramping track then descends

to the Tamaki stream which we will follow up to Stanfield Hut, an ex Forest Service hut, where we will have lunch. It takes approximately 2 hours each way and is suitable for people who are new to tramping, so feel free to bring a possible new recruit to the club.

25th-27th June, 2021: Lodge Food Carry

Howard Nicholson

027 294 1941

Work Party

The MTSC lodge at Mt Ruapehu will be stocked with food in preparation for the upcoming Winter season of skiing, riding, climbing and sliding. This involves carrying the food from the Top 'o the Bruce Road to the lodge, and usually takes just a few hours to complete. Porters, inventorialists, cleaners, stackers and scone makers are all welcome.

Other work to be completed includes the final tidy-up before the Winter season starts in earnest. There will be jobs for everyone - vote MTSC! We will celebrate our success with a sumptuous dinner, cooked by you, afterwards.

Transport from Manawatu will be by club minibus (Friday night) and private cars. Travelers from other locations may be able to car pool. Please let me know asap if you are coming along; maybe we can arrange transport with others from your region. Enjoy some pre-season mountain delights before heading home. All welcome!

(Note that we are expecting a late start to the ski season so this trip is scheduled one week later than usual).



17th-18th July, 2021: Snow Skills - Advance Notice

Howard Nicholson

027 294 1941

This is advance notification of the MTSC Snow Skills trip to Ruapehu. The format will be different from past years, starting with a pre-course evening scheduled for Wednesday 14 July to cover off some theory, issuing of gear and fitting of crampons, etc.

After travelling to the MTSC Lodge on Friday night, Saturday 17 July will be a practical introduction to the basic skills required for tramping above the bushline. Sunday will be focused on safe travel in glaciated areas. Participants are welcome to join in only for the pre-course evening and Saturday if they wish. This trip falls in the middle of the school holidays, so make contact with me early so that we can be sure of having enough beds available - numbers may need to be limited.

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

TRIP REPORTS

15th-16th/17th May, 2021: Lodge Work Party 3

Lodge Manager: John Lyttle

Photographer: Mary Mercer

Another successful work party was run with the willing assistance of Ken and Mary Mercer, Ivan Reinks, Robin Lane, Benedicte Florin, Kate Williman and myself. We took delivery of new windows and a structural beam that had to be carried over to the lodge from the carpark. We have installed the internal wall linings and now need some favourable weather to complete the exterior and some of the internal trim. This is planned to be done at a further work party on 29-30 May, with any remaining work to be completed at the food carry planned for 26-27 June. We are open to assistance on the next work party.



Robin, John, Ivan, Kate and Ken carrying the ~80 kg beam into the lodge



Above: Benedicte and John inside the extended bedroom

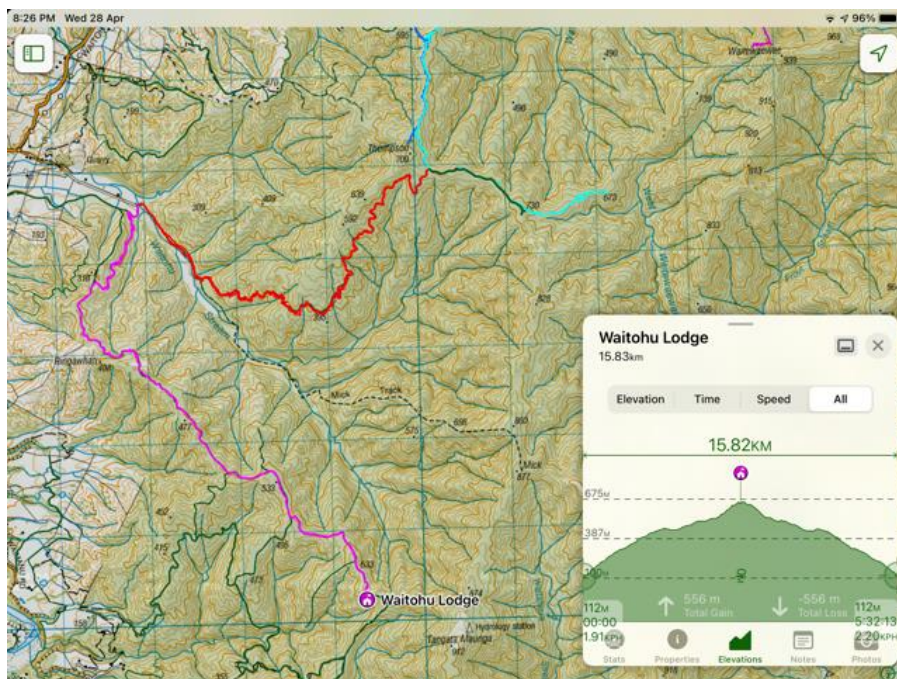
Left: Ken, John and Ivan sealing off the bedroom extension (former entrance porch)

Wednesday 28th April, 2021: Waitohu Lodge and Beyond

Trip Leader and Reporter: Ewen Cameron

Photographs: Bev Akers (map) & Kevin Crawford

After an initial rendezvous at Corbetts Road, our Wednesday group comprising the full club minibus and five cars with passengers, 27 of us in total, travelled in convoy up Waitohu Valley Road, through the Waitohu Quarry and along to the farm road end in the Waitohu valley. Once parking was sorted out, we assembled to find out how the day was to be organised... a surprise was promised at morning tea... The morning was a little chilly but a beautiful sunny autumn day promised to make this an enjoyable outing so we got underway pretty promptly. The track is a steady uphill gradient most of the way with occasional sea views through the regenerating forest and in one place recently replanted pine forest. The nature of the track supports a social sort of day as people can travel two abreast for much of the track.



Morning tea was had at a sunny spot which had plenty of space for the group to sit down but which had no view. The surprise at morning tea was a “reveal of pack contents” by the Trip Leader and a discussion amongst the group about what is required in one’s pack on a day tramp. (People who asked for a list of what is required should refer to the [club’s web site for information](#)).

After morning tea we continued up the hill and arrived at the Lodge just on noon. Lunch was enjoyed in the sun outside the hut where we were afforded a great view over the Horowhenua, Kapiti Island and on to the hills



of the Marlborough sounds in the distance... our photos don’t do the view justice. After lunch just four of the group expressed interest in heading further up towards the Hydrology station in the saddle before the summit of Tangata, most of the group finding the walk up enjoyable enough to go

back to the cars and minibus, happy. The four of us that went on didn’t go far especially as the steep rocky “road” was very slippery. After the 20 minutes we allowed ourselves, we had got into very different and “real” native forest unlike any further down the track.

After an easy walk and social walk back down the group arrived back at the car park to depart in convoy in much the same way as we arrived. Commiserations to the coffee deprived, especially Leonie; the coffee stops we visited or rather tried to visit were closed. The group came home without the trademark coffee stop some in the group are used to. However we all seemed to have had a great day.

Thanks to:

minibus driver Margaret, car drivers Rod, Marion, Marilyn, Rick and Carole; Paul from Waitohu Quarries and Dave the farmer for access through the quarry to the road end. Get well soon to those who couldn't make it on the day because they were ill and condolences to Judy on her family bereavement.

Thursday 29th April, 2021: Green Corridors

Trip Leader: Geraldine Fovakis

Photographer: John Brock



Wednesday 5th May, 2021: Rangi Hut, Deadmans and the Loop

Trip Organizer: Carolyn Brodie

Trip Leader: Marion Beadle

Reporter: Bob Hodgson with input from Marion

Photographers: William Laing, Cheryl Dawson

With a 7.30 am start from memorial park, 17 trampers travelled in the van and two cars then rendezvoused at the Rangi car park. There we were met with the overcast, low cloud and intermittent drizzle that was destined to last all day; to complete the description, the clouds were so low on the tops that any anticipated views of the landscape were eliminated. Trip leader for the day, Marion, organised three groups; one of five to tramp to the hut, one of eight to tramp Deadmans, and one of four aiming to tramp



Three of the 'energetic 4' en route to Mangahua

Deadmans then up through the tussock to Mangahua Peak, down to the hut and complete the loop back to the carpark. The goal set as all out by 3.30 pm, radios were allocated and then it was **hi ho off to tramp we all did go!**

The "Hut 5" had a steady, incident free tramp up in damp conditions. There were no landscape views, only blank white cloud; however this did provide a backdrop that made black spear grass flower stems visible that would normally have not been noticed. A small flock of about five Kereru was also encountered. The Hut was clean and dry but colder on the inside than the outside. The "Energetic 4" completed the full 12.3k loop well before trip leader, Marion's, deadline (just over five hours) and without incident. See the photo taken tab a high point.



The "Deadmans 8" enjoyed a social tramp with plenty of chatter. The tramp was enhanced by the damp conditions that made the bush colours particularly vivid, with a surprising variety of coloured mushrooms and fungi to be observed, including some a lime green and others a canary yellow. The track section that goes through the height range that allows mixture of mature, mountain cedar and leatherwood was particularly beautiful, a beauty subtly enhanced by a faint and sweet aroma attributed to native orchids though none were seen by the author. Although conditions were best described as damp and claggy, it was not an especially cold tramp. We emerged in high spirits and joined with the others as we travelled to the Kimbolton cafe where we were made welcome for coffee and cakes.

Thanks to Organiser Carolyn, Trip leader Marion and Drivers Ken, Bob and Cheryl.

8th-9th May, 2021: Waitewaewae Hut

Trip Leader, Photographer and Reporter: Howard Nicholson

This tramp was put on the trip card after my recent wander down the Otaki River and up the Waitewaewae River, when I did not have the time to visit the hut. Ten years ago our search and rescue team had been flown in to the Otaki River upstream of the hut, and again, we did not have time for a side trip. I was keen to see what the hut was like since I was there last, 24 years ago.

A forecast with a heavy rain watch for Sunday did not dissuade Ken Mercer from joining me on a very pleasant Saturday morning. Otaki Gorge Road is closed at Shields Flat due to the road subsiding at Blue Bluff, and so our trip started with a steepish 250m climb and a descent back to the road, near the carpark that was the end of the road during the 1980s after the Pukeatua Stream bridge had washed away. A small power station was built in the stream during the 1990s, but this too had washed away by the late '90s. High rainfall and unstable geology will continue to threaten future road access, it seems.

After 1 3/4 hours we reached the "start" of our tramp at Boielle Flat. After crossing the Waitotauru and Otaki Rivers we were on the side track high above the Waitatapia Stream. This follows an old logging tramway for a while, but continuing the theme with the road, a new track had to be cut to avoid a large slip in Papa Creek. This track is a bit rough in places, where it diverts around several windfalls. We stopped for several minutes to listen to the abundant birdsong, which is attributable to the work done under Project Kaka. This was a 10-year programme, starting in 2009, of aerial poisoning and trapping across 22,000 Hectares of the Tararua Ranges from Mt Holdsworth to Otaki Forks.



The track crosses the Plateau and Arapito Creeks and led us to the hut with about an hour of daylight to spare. The hut and track are part of the Te Araroa Trail and they are

getting a lot of use, judging by the overflowing hut ticket box. Unlike the Mangahao Flats Hut that is maintained by MTSC, the hut is in need of a good clean and re-paint on the outside to remove the build-up of moss. After a pleasant evening of eating, listening to podcasts and solid sleep, we hit the trail early to beat the rain that was due to get heavy around midday. We retraced our steps back to the Forks, arriving at Parawai Hut in light rain before the heavier showers started. We appreciated the shelter of the hut while having a lunchtime brew-up, before heading back to the car and ending another enjoyable tramp.

Wednesday 12th May, 2021: Sunrise Hut

Trip Leader and Reporter: Harold Pettersson

Photographer: Bill Milham

Eleven trampers left Memorial Park in the van at 7.30 am on 12 May for Sunrise Hut. Several people who had intended to come had to drop out for various reasons. Rain was forecast and this eventuated for most of the day. After some confusion through looking for a sign that wasn't there, the track was reached. This had been closed for some time for maintenance and there was evidence of the track having been widened and levelled near the top. The temperature was 6 degrees when the tramp was started so the fire was lit in the hut by the first arrivals which gave some warmth for lunch.

On the way up to the hut a group of senior school pupils with teachers was met, possibly a Duke of Edinburgh expedition. If so, they were certainly meeting task requirements as it was wet and cold. It seems that they had been in tents for two nights but were going to spend a third at Triplex Hut. They were cheerful and well equipped.



Tomtit at hut

The drive back to Palmerston North was in heavy rain so extra thanks to Margaret our driver.

Thursday 13th May, 2021: Herepai Hut

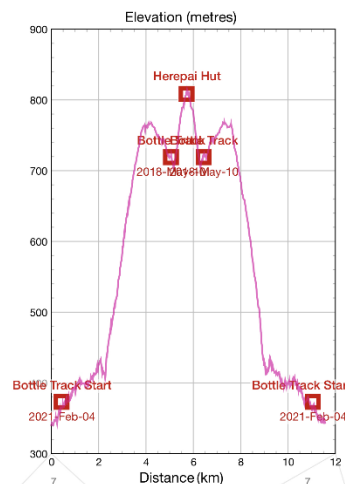
Trip Leader, Reporter and Photographer: William Laing

Seventeen trampers set out for the Herepai hut on a fine and sunny morning. The van was full, expertly driven by Syd, and Chris drove his car with four passengers. A good turnout for Thursday. I sat in the aisle back seat and discovered it was great for people with long legs. With instructions to be back by 3:30, 6 fast trampers set out quickly to go beyond the hut, while the bulk of the pack were more leisurely only intending to travel to the hut. It is a steep climb from the second swing bridge, an average of about 25%, but an honest climb. It's one I enjoy both going up and down.

After morning tea a short way up the hill, we finished the climb and walked along to top of the ridge in a gentle down-hill. Strangely, while it is obviously a gentle decline on the way there, it appears to me flat on the way back. Who says you can't have it in your favour both ways. There was mud as it had been raining in the past week, but the mud was



shallow and water had not penetrated deeply. This gave me an opportunity to give my heavier winter boots a mud pack to soften the leather without going too deeply. We then climbed the remaining short sharp climb to the



hut for lunch. The six fast ones had already gone ahead and were climbing to the cross, in two parties of three. The front three made it to the cross, the other three choosing to find a sheltered spot for

lunch in the sun. A bit chilly up there at the hut, and there was a discussion as to whether that drifting stuff was snow or not. We all made it back in time. Ice creams and the like at Eketahuna as both cafes were closed and home by 5 pm where I learnt how to clean the van for the first time.

Thanks to Syd and Chris for driving

Wednesday 19th May, 2021: Burton's Track

Trip Leaders and Reporter: Bill Milham

Photographer:

Twenty three trampers assembled at the Mangahao Power Station carpark and then made our way to Burton's track. On the way we encountered a fresh slip on the road which needed to be dealt with to enable us to proceed. With willing hands to the task and with John's handy saw we cleared away enough debris and were soon on our way.

The weather was cloudy and cool; however the track was in good condition with only a few muddy areas. A recent slip on the track was negotiated with care and most reached the clearing, the site of James Burton's whare, for lunch. This was our destination and we were back at the carpark all safe and in time to journey back to Shannon where we enjoyed refreshments and a chat.

Burton's Track is a section of the Te Araroa walkway and is an excellent walking track with an undulating contour that follows the Tokomaru Stream in many places, winding through secondary regrowth of Rimu, and other native bush, several clearings and small streams.

Many thanks to our van driver, Margaret, and Jenny, Wendy and Ewen for their cars.

Thursday 20th- Friday 21st May, 2021: Waipakihi Hut

Trip Leader and Reporter: Royce Mills

Photographs: Royce, Syd Easton

Thirteen Thursday trampers set off early on the long drive to Kaimanawa Road, off the northern Desert Road, for our planned tramp to Waipakihi hut. Thirteen was an awkward number, as the hut only sleeps 12. However three in the group had already agreed to sleep outside and everyone was asked to bring a sleeping mat just in case there were other people in the hut.



Waipakihi River and Hut

We started tramping just before 11 am and headed up a steady, but mostly gentle, gradient through beautiful forest. A morning tea stop was taken, then groups headed off according to their preferred tramping speed. The forest edge was reached by 1pm and then we were out on the magnificent open tops of the Kaimanawas. Mist was coming and going but we were still able to enjoy good views of our surroundings. One of the best views of all was eventually seeing the hut below us set in its beautiful mountain surroundings, lit by late afternoon sunlight, and better still, smoke from the fire lit by the first arrivals. The last hour, dropping fairly steeply down to the hut, was slow and rather gnarly. The last challenge of the day was crossing the Waipakihi river to reach the hut. Some managed to rock hop and keep their boots dry, others brought a change of footwear. Everyone arrived within five to six hours of starting. Thankfully no-one else was staying at the hut as our group filled it up very nicely! A busy evening was had, setting up tents (Adam, Royce) and a fly (Tony) and then on to cooking in the hut or out on the deck. It was soon dark and we admired the starry night sky before gathering inside the very warm hut for a congenial evening of conversation. By 8.30 pm we all agreed it was a respectable bed time. Pam chose to sleep out on the deck, which was a highlight for her, enjoying the stars.

There was an overnight frost but morning brought more mist, with ice still remaining on the ground as we set off for our return crossing of the Waipakihi river. Even those who had kept their boots dry found it took a while to get their feet warm despite the uphill climb from the river. On this section I was at the very back and had an unfortunate incident, being attacked by hordes of angry wasps pouring out of a hole in the side of the track. Being steep it was hard to move fast enough to escape them and I received multiple stings on the backs of my legs, through thick winter weight tights! Plus one sting on my hand through merino gloves. Thanks to my companions for their help in dealing with this unexpected event.

A highlight of the trip for the group I was walking out with was taking the very short detour to the Umukarikari high point at 1591m. It had often been misty, but the sun came out here to reveal the wonderful sight of snow



capped Ruapehu and Ngauruhoe which appeared to be floating on mist below. We spent some time here marvelling at the view and taking photos.

Syd told me of another highlight. His group were walking out along the tops. The sun was casting long parallel individual shadows of each person. Each person could see a rainbow "halo" around their head, but only theirs, no-one else. We googled this to find it is called a "Brocken spectre" or "Glory" which occurs in mist/sun in the mountains.

Many of us also saw a cruising falcon - another highlight.

We were all out to the road end by 2.40 pm, in less than 6 1/2 hours (the faster ones considerably earlier). Many thanks to our drivers Ken and Syd (van), and Adam (car), and to the whole group for your very pleasant

company on our Kaimanawas adventure. A particularly special overnight tramp it was, as the majority of us had not been to Waipakihi hut before.

We were Syd Easton, Audrey Jarvis, Jenny McCarthy, Royce Mills, Mary Mercer, Judy Swainson, Raewyn Buddle, Pam Dransfield, Margaret Mathieson, Tony Evans, Adam Match, plus Ken Mercer, and Bryce Buddle (front).



22nd May, 2021: Otangane Loop

Trip Leader, Photographer and Reporter: Tim Swale

Five of us plus Meg the dog set off from Naenae Road on the Pahiatua side of the Tararua Range for a walk up to the plateau area, east of the Sledge Track and Arapuke MTB Park. Fortunately the creek was low and the weather fine but cool, so ideal conditions for this trip. The first 15 minutes on farmland is a bit muddy but once over the stile and into the forest the track is good. In fact, there is currently substantial work going on to



improve the track with lots of steps being built and the bush cut back with a chainsaw to open it up. Nevertheless it is a steep 400m climb which took about an hour to get to the start of the loop track and our morning tea stop. After a chat about the need to stay together and wait at every track junction, we headed off in an anti-clockwise direction. However, by the time we got to the three way junction that heads out to the Sledge track, Meg had forgotten this last instruction and was nowhere to be found. Peter decided to go back the way we had come in case she had doubled back and Brent, Julie, Blair and I continued round the

loop. Fortunately, after about five hundred metres we found Meg sitting, waiting patiently on the track wondering what had taken us so long!

Lunch was had on the top of Pukenaenae (the Nipple) with amazing 360 degree views, before continuing round to meet up with Peter. The journey back was uneventful and we were all back at the cars by 2.30pm.

A great little loop right on our doorstep.





Contact Details

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

Committee 2021 - 2022

President	Tim Swale	president@mtsc.org.nz	022 134 8384
Secretary	Howard Nicholson	secretary@mtsc.org.nz	027 294 1941
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Chief Guide	Ken Mercer	chief.guide@mtsc.org.nz	027 364 6475
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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: Bev Akers, Linda Campbell, Richard Lander, Blair Petersen, Rob Pringle, 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	Peter Rawlins	ski@mtsc.org.nz	027 678 0747
Social Convenor	Linda Campbell	social@mtsc.org.nz	027 333 4493
Wednesday Trips	Bev Akers	bevakers@xtra.co.nz	027 274 6265
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.