

# beechleaves

Newsletter of the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club



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

Issue 7. August, 2021



Club meetings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month at the Rose City Aquatic Club Rooms, 50 Park Street, Palmerston North (next to the Lido). Meetings begin at 7.30pm.

## 7.30 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](mailto:photocomp@mtsc.org.nz)) by the 28<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

## 7.30 pm Tuesday 7 September, 2021: Interclub Quiz night

This year we are hosting the Interclub quiz night at our usual (Rose City Aquatic) clubrooms. Tim and Linda will host the evening and would love to see as many club teams of 4-6 people as possible. There will be six lots of twenty questions. Topics will be revealed later. There will be sweet treats for all especially winners and tailenders!

## 7.30 pm Tuesday 5 October, 2021: Packs

This will be a club night for people of all experience levels. Come along and see what some of our most experienced trampers carry in their packs and find out why they take items which may seem unnecessary to some people. Look at a variety of different packs club members use. Look at the equipment taken and some light weight options to



*Waitahinga Dam Trip on 24 March by John Brock*



*Rangi Trip by Jeanette Andersen*

minimise risks in the outdoors for those who are not quite as young as they used to be. Packs for day tramps, overnight tramps and multi day tramps will be covered.

# REPORTS AND NOTICES

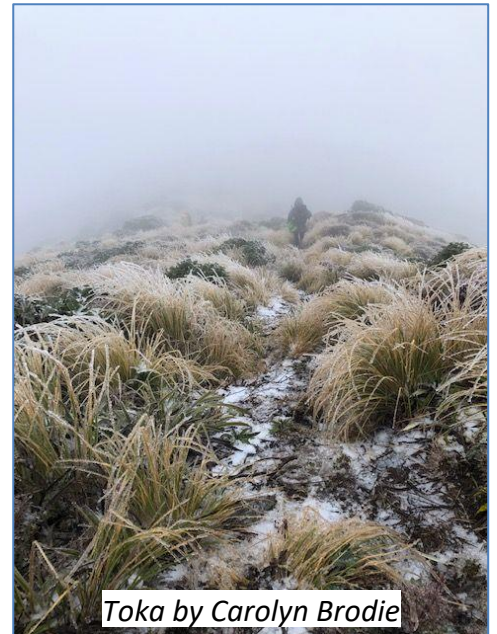
**MTSC President: Tim Swale**

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

Winter is very much upon us, but for those who are prepared to get out and explore the back country there are great rewards. With cooler temperatures there is often greater air clarity bringing incredible views. Huts tend to be empty and sometimes the icy landscapes are stunningly picturesque. A night spent at Waiopehu hut recently, although chilly, gave some awesome views right around to the Taranaki coast.

However, a trip up to Toka with the Thursday trampers In July brought home the need to be well prepared for these more challenging conditions. The group divided, with some intent on doing the Knights- Shorts loop whilst others had decided to walk up the Knights track and then back down. The weather forecast looked reasonable with a mix of fine and cloudy conditions and a wind speed of 6 m/s (approximately 22kph). The lead group headed up towards Toka in pretty good time with fine weather as expected. The temperature dropped considerably as we had ascended 900 m and there were a few patches of snow on the ground with rime ice on the vegetation and waratahs. However, as we neared the ridgeline the wind picked up from what had been a gentle breeze to gale force with gusts making walking quite difficult. The wind chill would probably have been around -8 degrees.

At this point we had a brief discussion on who would like to go on and who would prefer to head back down into the shelter of the bush. A group of seven of us decided to walk the almost two kilometres along the Ruahine tops and then drop down the Shorts track. Within minutes it was obvious that this was going to be quite challenging. It was freezing cold, the wind was buffeting us around, the track was slippery with snow and mud, low cloud restricted visibility and one of our party was struggling to see with his glasses freezing over. Using a phone, GPS or compass is much harder wearing gloves or with hands numbed by cold. There is an analogy in risk management teaching in which accidents are likened to playing a one armed bandit. At each pull of the handle, lemons may appear. Two, three or four don't matter, but a whole row triggers the jackpot, or in our analogy, a situation that becomes a disaster. It struck me that an injury-causing fall that prevented further progress along the ridge would have been that final lemon. In those conditions even after setting off a PLB, no helicopter could have come to the rescue because of low cloud. It would have likely taken six hours for a ground team with warm gear, stretcher etc. to reach us. In the meantime, hypothermia would have been a real concern. Fortunately, that final lemon never appeared and we all made it down into the shelter of the bush after an exhilarating trip along the tops.



*Toka by Carolyn Brodie*

There are some lessons to be learned from this experience which I believe are good for us all to consider. Much of it is in the planning and preparation but also our own attitudes to risk. These are:

- Get a weather forecast but be prepared in case it turns out to be worse than expected.
- Know your team and ensure the proposed trip suits their abilities.
- Ensure you are wearing suitable clothing – warm layers, wind and waterproof shell, hat, gloves and good footwear. Cotton clothing is useless when wet.
- Get your warm gear on early enough – it is impossible to put on leggings or some over-trousers whilst wearing boots and items can easily be blown away.
- Have your map, compass, GPS etc. out so that you are actively navigating – it is too easy to rely on others, assuming that they know the way.
- Have emergency gear available just in case you need it – puffer jacket, emergency shelter, first aid kit, spare food, torch, PLB etc.
- Stay together and look after each other.

With good preparation there is no reason that we should not reap the rewards of tramping in the rather harsher conditions that winter brings. So, stay safe and I look forward to sharing many more adventures with you all.

*We welcome the following to the club: Matthew Dagger and Jackson Little, Pam Menzies, Joe Poff, Gus Shade, Jill Stewart, Mike Tate- Davis and Lauren, Julia and Will, Jerz Singh, Troy Grant, Caleb Phillips, and Oscar Evans.*

Elly Arnst, an NZ Runner/Adventurer, is partnering with Bivouac Palmerston North to hold a discount night on Thursday 5th August - see below. Come along and chat tramping, running, adventure and nab some good deals. A portion of sales will go towards funding travel for upcoming races.

**SAVE THE DATE**



**JOIN ME ON**

**THURSDAY 5TH  
AUGUST 2021  
6 - 8PM**

**BIVOUAC  
PALMERSTON NORTH  
DISCOUNT NIGHT**

*Full details to come...*



[www.bivouac.co.nz](http://www.bivouac.co.nz)



**bivouac /outdoor**

COMMITTED TO ADVENTURE



# UPCOMING TRIPS

August Wednesday Tramps			August Thursday Tramps		
04	Marion Beadle	06 323 3246	05	Carolyn Brodie	027 358 6037
11	Cheryl D, Marilyn H	021 374 882	12	Christine Scott	06 354 0510
18	Carolyn Brodie	027 358 6037	19	Ewen Cameron	022 034 1180
25	Ken & Mary Mercer	027 364 6475	26	Alistair Hall	06 357 1832
August Weekend Tramps					
Sun 1 August	Linda Campbell	Pohangina Walks	Easy	027 333 4493 or <a href="mailto:lindammc@xtra.co.nz">lindammc@xtra.co.nz</a>	
Wed 18 Aug/ Sat 21 Aug	Howard Nicholson	Snow Skills	Technical	027 294 1941	
Mid November	Linda Campbell	Around Mt Taranaki	Medium	027 333 4493 or <a href="mailto:lindammc@xtra.co.nz">lindammc@xtra.co.nz</a>	

**Trip Intentions:** The email address for leaving trip intentions is [intentions@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:intentions@mtsc.org.nz). Intentions sent to this address will not be acted upon UNLESS a party is reported overdue (e.g. by a family member, flatmate, friend, etc). The email is sent to several MTSC members. This information will be provided to Land SAR/RCC only if the party is reported overdue or a MTSC-owned PLB is activated. The email should include: a list of participants and their contact details; a brief description of the intended route and possible alternative routes; starting point; start date; date/time due out; vehicle registration; and any other relevant details.

## Sunday 1 August 2021 Pohangina Walks

**Linda Campbell 027 333 4493 or [lindammc@xtra.co.nz](mailto:lindammc@xtra.co.nz)**

We will start with the Fern Walk which is in the Pohangina Valley, about 30 minutes from Palmerston North. It has an abundance of bird life and mature native trees. Depending on how everyone feels we can also check out other walks in the area. The Fern walk is suitable for all ages and fitness levels. It is a great trip for those new to tramping or those who are keen to take the children or grandchildren out for a walk.

## 18<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> August, 2021: Snow Skills *(Revised dates; postponed from July due to lack of snow)*

**Howard Nicholson 027 294 1941**

The format of the MTSC Snow Skills trip to Ruapehu will be different from past years, starting with a pre-course evening scheduled for Wednesday 11 August to cover off some theory, issuing of gear and fitting of crampons, etc. After travelling to the MTSC Lodge on Friday night, Saturday 14 August will be a practical introduction to the basic skills required for tramping above the bush line.

## Mid November Around Mt Taranaki

**Linda Campbell 027 333 4493 or [lindammc@xtra.co.nz](mailto:lindammc@xtra.co.nz)**

This is just a heads up for a multi-day trip, probably the second week in November, which Linda is planning around Mt Taranaki. Please let her know if you are at all interested as this will aid with planning.

# TRIP REPORTS



## Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2021: Longview Hut

Trip Leader: Anne West

Reporter: Pam Menzies of Dannevirke

Photographers: Pam Menzies and Kevin Crawford

Winter tramping can be tricky. Mostly during the days prior to stepping out – looking at the rain laden weather forecast, worrying about the road access..... I had these worries prior to undertaking my first ever trip with the Wednesday group of the MTS Club. But, there was no need for concern. Members of the group were full of enthusiasm as we assembled at the car park at the end of Kashmir Road, west of Takapau. What impressed me about this group was the fact that they had all risen in the dark and driven a long way from the Manawatu, dead keen to walk despite overcast conditions. They showed me that winter tramping can be enjoyable, even if the clouds take away the long views.

The walk to Longview hut begins with gentle zig zags and then goes straight up an exposed ridge. On the ridge I enjoyed seeing many alpine plants, mountain cabbage trees and fresh green growth on the leather wood. Fortunately, it was not windy so the ridge was fine. I have been blown off this ridge before! We took about 1.5 to 2 hours to reach the hut, where we crowded in to eat our lunch. It is a cool wee hut. When viewed from the Takapau plains it looks exposed but it does in fact sit in the lee of the hill. It's the kind of hut that leaves you saying, "I'd like to come back and stay the night".



The picture (above) I took, I call atmospheric, rather than dull. You will note that as the day wore on the weather improved and we got some blue sky as we made the final descent.

Thanks for the opportunity to walk with you all. I do admire your dedication to a weekly tramp in all kinds of weather.

## Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2021: Mt Field

Trip Leader: Carol Exton

Trip Reporter and Photographer: William Laing

This seven hour tramp in the hills behind Waikanae was advertised as demanding and only 11 hardy souls joined Carol, our leader from Waikanae. Because of the short day light hours, we set off at 7 am in the dark and arrived at the tramp start soon after 8, where Carol awaited us. Rather than the regular track into this Hemi Matangi reserve she led us up a steep ridge further north, past an urban hut sculpture along a trap line. This shortened the tramp by about an hour. The climb, of 400 vertical metres, was reasonable steep and sometimes slippery and joined the regular track for about 500 horizontal metres. We





then diverted from this track to another undulating trapline, then we joined a rough 4 wheel drive track and, finally, a service road to Mt Field and a cell phone tower. We had to walk past Mt Field, and loop back around a valley to arrive above the crash site. Max, Carol's dog, with a bit of staffy in him, managed to catch a wiener by the ear,

and amidst loud squealing (mainly from the pig) had to be persuaded to release it. Max later caught and killed a possum.



The trap lines were excellent tracks, almost comparable to the official track. At Mt Field, (611m) there was a cell tower, and reception was excellent the whole way. We then diverted downhill to the target of our tramp, the 1949 site of a plane crash of a Lockheed Loadstar, 100 m below us. There was wreckage scattered down the steep valley with most of it barely recognizable. The hillside was steep and slippery, only manageable to climb



up by using supple jack (*Ripogonum scandens*: kareao or piritā) vine as ropes and other trees to pull one self up by. There was lots of flowering Kohekohe with the flowers coming straight from the trunk (cauliflory).

We had lunch at the crash site, a sad and dimly lit place so close to Waikanae but so far away for the victims. We then set off back to the road end, managing to twice briefly go down the wrong road in spite of our GPS systems and only being corrected by the sharp eye of Audrey. For some reason the roads were more confusing than the trap lines. We arrived back at the van after the steep, final descent taking a little over 7 hours. It was an interesting tramp, despite the gloom of the crash site; at one stage there was a view of the Kapiti coast below the cloud.

Thanks to Carol for leading the tramp and guiding us to our destination and Syd for driving the van.

## 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> June, 2021: Lodge Food Carry

Trip Leader: Howard Nicholson

Reporter: Mary Mercer

Photographer: Linda Campbell

Eighteen keen folk arrived at the MTSC lodge on Friday night and were joined by two more the next day. True to form it poured with rain and blew all day Saturday so the carriers' packs were soon sodden. Ignoring Howie's instructions, the supermarket staff had taken many of the groceries out of their plastic sleeves and repacked them into paper bags which quickly disintegrated in the damp conditions. In spite of this, all the groceries had been transferred from the Top O' the Bruce carpark to the lodge by about 11 am.



Though a bit late, pin wheel scones and hot drinks were enjoyed for morning tea. The work of checking and storing all the food



continued for some time after that. Then it was time for the cleaning to begin while some continued with the building project. It was great to have keen helpers including some very young club members.

The rain and wind on Sunday made the decision to stay in the lodge and continue with the cleaning and building work an easy one. By the time we left, mid afternoon, the dry creek bed at the bottom of the second set of steps had become a raging torrent. Luckily everyone got across safely and left feeling somewhat damp but with the glow of satisfaction of a job well done. We were Roger Athersuch, Peter

Bowker, Linda Campbell, Lynda Hunt, Naomi Kitchener, John and Sebastian Lyttle, Ken and Mary Mercer, Howard Nicholson, Helen Peek, Rob Pringle, Peter Rawlins, David Schaaf, Tim Swale, Gen and Tahu Taylor-Koolen and daughters, and Tracey Wilson.

## Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2021: Stanfield Hut

Trip Leader and Reporter: Rod McKenzie

Photographer: Evan Davies

On a crisp but overcast morning fourteen trampers left Palmerston North in the Club van and one car. We were met at the Tamaki road end by three more cars increasing the total party size to twenty. Thanks to a kind offer of the farmer, we were able to cross his access bridge thus keeping our feet dry and begin the walk along the 4-wheel drive track on Holmes Ridge. There was no wind or rain, but the temperature was around 8° to 10°C, so everyone wore several layers and, in many cases, hats and gloves. These conditions remained all day. About 45 minutes along the ridge a stop was made for a morning tea break and a dusting of snow was sighted high on the crest of the range to our west. At the end of the 4-wheel drive track we moved onto the down hill bush track which brought us back to the Tamaki River West Branch. The water flowing in the river was about boot top high at the intersection with the track and got lower as we moved up the valley towards the hut. After about 30 minutes we arrived at Stanfield hut where all the party stopped for lunch. After lunch all returned to the road end in about two hours, then headed off to Woodville for coffee and a slice.



Thanks to all in the party for a great winter walk. Further thanks to the drivers of the vehicles.

## Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2021: Rangiwahia Hut

Trip Leader: Garry Grayson

Photographer: Jeanette Andersen

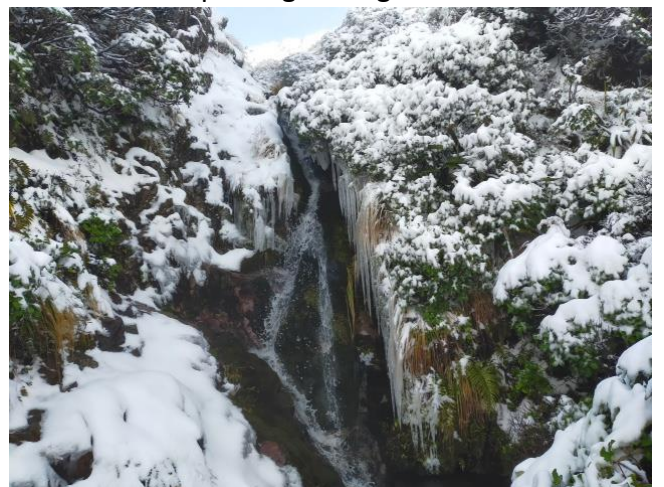
This was the third option of trip destinations after both the first and second (Burn Hut and/or Burtton's Track) had to be abandoned due to the Mangahao Road closure by a slip - the previous weekends deluge leaving its mark. - A bit more interest in the Rangiwahia option resulted in 21 people arriving at the Rangiwahia lower carpark, ready for a play in the snow up top. Still a bit cloudy and around 3°C at the carpark, the group sprinted off with front runners aiming to get straight up to the hut, forgoing the usual smoko break, then halt for a regroup. There had been some interest in completing a circuit around over Mangahuaia and down Deadmans Track but, after reaching the snow-covered tops around Rangiwahia Hut, this idea no longer seemed appealing.



There was still plenty of time for some people to wander on further up the track where some magnificent views of the surrounding tops and Ruapehu eventually emerged out of the murk, along with much needed warm sun.

Meanwhile a 'mini' search developed after Darcy had decided to wander off and do his own bit of exploring, eventually located just up the track, apparently enroute to Triangle Hut which definitely wasn't our destination.

By 12:30pm most people had departed to return to the vehicles, the remaining 3 or 4, who had climbed higher, also catching the tail enders for the walk down. Being ready to head off home by 2:00pm meant a coffee stop in Kimbolton was definitely on the cards, this opportunity often missed due to passing through there too late.





### 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> July, 2021: Mangatainoka Hot Springs

Trip Leader: Linda Campbell

Reporter and Photographer: Tim Swale

This has to be the best winter walk in this part of the world despite the fact that it's a very long drive up to the Kawekas. The eleven trampers in the minibus met up with Robbie and Bill at Origin Cafe in Taradale before driving another ninety minutes to the Makahu road end.

We set off in near perfect tramping weather, cool, clear and windless at about 1pm. The track follows the Mohaka River all of the way to Te Puia Lodge with a couple of little climbs on the way. The dry and rocky terrain supports a fairly open bush dominated by mature kanuka with great views of the valley and hardly a patch of mud to be found. It was a real treat to come across who in a couple of places on the river, seemingly oblivious of the attention they were getting as they foraged for food in the shallow rapids. Despite the fact that there had been quite a few cars at the road end and we thought space may have been in short supply at the hut, it turned out that many were day walkers so we didn't need to use our own airbeds or tarps that we had carried just in case.



It had taken about three hours to the hut so after a short break, and dropping off most of our heavy gear we headed up to the hot pools, another forty five minutes upstream. The track has been re-routed from the original very steep spur and passes up a narrow valley where we heard kiwis calling in the distance. By the time we arrived it was dark so we inspected the three new hot tubs by torchlight before changing into togs for a long and pleasant soak. The new deck is very spacious, but with only one pool completely filled we had a bit of tub cramming for a while until the second one was full enough to use. Good job we are all good friends! After an hour of so

we were well cooked and getting even more wrinkly so decided it was time to head back to the hut for dinner.

The fire had been cranked right up so it was very warm indeed coming from the freezing night air into the hut. With a good meal inside us and feeling fully relaxed it was not long before we were ready for bed. The next morning we were away around 9am and walked back along the riverside track to the road end, again seeing blue ducks as we ambled along. The final treat is the pair of hot tubs set into the hillside by the road end campground so we changed into our still damp togs for a final soak before the long journey home.



A big thank you to Ken who did most of the driving, especially since there are some very narrow bridges and a ford to be navigated which require a lot of care. All in all, a wonderful weekend with great company and superb weather.

### Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2021: Atiwhakatu Hut

Trip Leader, Reporter and Photographer: John Salisbury



A good day out with slightly mixed weather. The group split into two, one in the tender care of Bob Hodgson heading to the Atiwhakatu Hut and the other led by a cohort of people who knew the way, with myself as Tail End Charlie. Straightforward tramping in muddy conditions on good tracks, some views and some showers.

Nicki's Dad from Lower Hutt made a guest appearance and acquitted himself well.

Thanks to Robbie for driving and organizing the cars at Memorial Park, Bob for returning his party hale and well, and whoever closed my car boot.

### Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2021: Toka

Trip Leader and Reporter: Ken Mercer

Photographers: Ken Mercer, William Laing

Twenty one people keen to head to the Ruahine Tops mid-winter? Well, there were, and it was great to have our average age lowered by Judith's grandson, Darcy, although he went with the fast groups and became, for me, a voice on the radio. I was with the cruisy group and we had a lovely day. We climbed 660m up Knights Track to the tussock and found remnants of snow in the hollows. The others went higher and found the exposed spur very cold but a hardy group of seven continued along the tops and down Shorts track, while the slightly less hardy retreated to the bush edge for a quick lunch. The radios proved their worth keeping tabs on everybody.



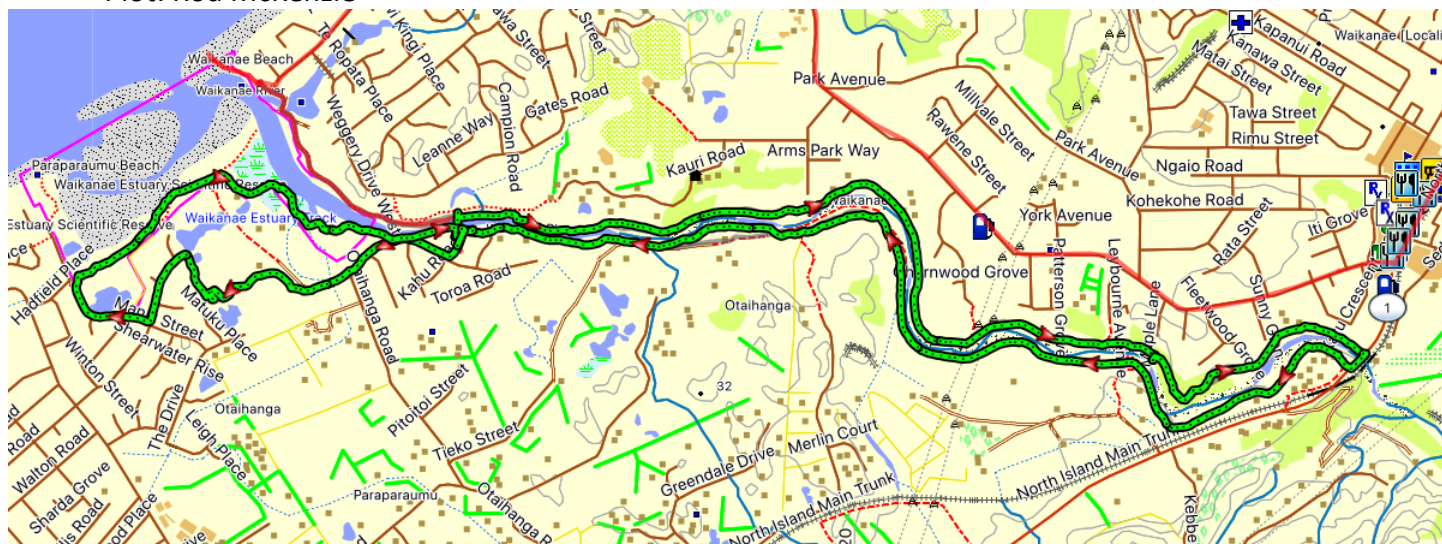
A great day for all, with the possible exception of Sheralee who, at the first steam crossing, dropped her drink bottle in the stream. While that was retrieved, she later discovered her phone was missing, presumably also in the stream. So, rather than heading to the tops she unsuccessfully searched the stream. Perhaps a good case could be made for reviving the Chocolate Hamster Award?



## Wednesday 14th July, 2021: Waikanae River

Trip Leader, Reporter and Photographer: Evan Davies

Plot: Rod McKenzie



An 8 am start on a cold winter's morning saw 13 trampers leave memorial park heading to the Otaihangā domain on the Waikanae River. Arriving at the domain we met up with the rest of the party who had travelled from Feilding and Palmerston North by car. Rod McKenzie, who has a "hut at Waikanae", gave us a run down on the local area. We walked along a good track toward the old main road bridge, had morning tea and then

walked back toward the domain on the other side of the river. The new plantings and the work that has gone into the area deserved admiration.

After lunch we walked around the housing and Waikanae Estuary. Up onto the "sand hill", I was expecting to get a shoe full of sand but the road up to the top has been sealed. Looks like a proper job. The housing from Paraparaumu has almost met up with the housing at Waikanae. It was great to see Chris Brunskill and Dennis Jensen on this trip. I remember when they were regular trampers, always leading up front with their onwards, onwards chant. Well..... maybe not a chant. On the way home we stopped at Waikanae for coffee and refreshments.



## Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2021: Sunrise Hut

Trip Leaders: Raewyn and Bryce Buddle

Photographer: Royce Mills

A group of 14 intrepid trampers set off for Sunrise hut in the Eastern Ruahines. The track had recently undergone considerable improvement to enhance its surface and the track was in excellent condition. With clear skies, views of the surrounding countryside and snow-covered ranges were impressive. The huge beech trees on the early section of the track were magnificent. Clumps of mistletoe surrounded by wire cages were admired, although there were no takers to engage in the true Christmas spirit. The last kilometre of the track was covered in heavy snow, which was picturesque, but slippery to walk on. The hut was a welcome site for lunch, although any attempt to go beyond the hut was repelled by gale force winds. The customary stop for coffee and ice creams in Dannevirke was well received and the trampers returned to Palmerston North in good spirits.



## Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2021: Bushy Park



Trip leaders and Reporters: Jenny Williamson and  
Judy Gerke  
Photographers: Bob Hodgson, Rod McKenzie

What a great day of planting and tramping!  
Twenty one trampers met at the Bushy Park car park for an introduction to the Park and safety briefing by Mandy Brooke, the sanctuary manager. The plan was to collect our plants then carry these and our spades through the bush via a trap line, have morning tea, do the planting, then walk through to the area we planted last year. Here there is seating and we could enjoy our lunch.

Mandy also explained how a huge team of volunteers supported the successful relocation of 40 toutouwai (North Island robin) from the Park to Turitea Reserve, in April. There are about 4-500 North Island robin at Bushy Park so 40 were hardly going to be missed. Catching them was not as difficult as it might sound. Basically, clapping

the hands brought the robin down, a feed of worms was thrown to it and then it was caught. On to the next one! Amazing! As well, Mandy advised us to look out for the many types of fungi which we might come across, all different colours and shapes. Elephant Ears and Coral fungi were two types we saw.

We were also lucky enough to have Esther Williams from the Wanganui Tramping Club, and her friend Sandra Morris, a talented illustrator, with us. Sandra has written and illustrated a booklet with many of the birds, insects and trees in Bushy Park which is available to buy at the Homestead. Esther is a regular volunteer at the sanctuary so full of knowledge about the many types of birds and plants. Predator control is high on the list of things that volunteers help with. Mandy said the most challenging predator to keep under control are mice. Despite trapping and baiting, a recent survey showed increasing numbers. They enjoy the many seeds to be found on the ground and skinks.

We set off, spades in hand. The weather was fine with a cool breeze. We collected flax and toi toi to plant and had our tools sprayed with disinfectant before entering the forest. Instead of following the public track we followed trapping lines until we reached our planting spot and a morning tea break. The planting was soon accomplished, then it was off to look over the trees we planted last year. Mandy left us on the way as she had another group to meet. We emerged from the bush and followed the fence line track to the lookout. We had lunch here with views of Kapiti in one direction and the previous planted area falling away before us. It was good to find many of 'our' trees had survived.

A quick lunch then off back towards the homestead via the Kapiti track. Some of us then did the Wetlands loop and checked out the Visitor Centre, before returning to the vehicles. We saw or heard robin, saddleback, kereru, fantail and tui. The forest was really alive with bird song.

A few of our group had to depart homewards at this point while the remainder trudged up the hill to the homestead for Devonshire tea. While we were enjoying scones, jam and cream the homestead was being decorated for a Mid-Winter Christmas. The meal planned is based around a Danish Christmas dinner. It all looked very festive.

Our grateful thanks to Mandy, Esther, Dale (the owner manager), and Margaret for driving the van. It began to rain on the way home!



The Bushy Park Bunch

## Thursday 22 July , 2021: Motorimu Shelter

Trip Leader and Reporter: John Thornley

Photographer: John Brock

The leader's welcoming words as the van and six cars brought 21 trampers: 'Welcome to the children of the mist'. And so it continued most of the day! But the weather remained a warmish westerly, only giving way to southerly breezes early afternoon. We went up the Back Track, where a canopy of trees and steepish slopes to the south gave good shelter. The first morning tea took place in the carpark shelter for the Arapuke Mountain Bike Park, where the trampers 'in the know' pointed our leader to the noticeboards showing him which direction we should take on Scotts Road! After one hour through the shelter of the Gordon Kear pine forest and the gentle inclines of the Centre Road valley, we came to the whare.



For the leader and many others, including Merv Matthews and Malcolm Prince who normally took alternative gentler tramps, this was their first visit to the Motorimu Shelter (Motorimu means Island of Rimu, the indigenous timber). The hut includes carved features by Rangitane carver, Craig Kawana, and a wall plaque

giving the history of iwi village life in milling days. The whare gave us shelter for our second morning tea. With room for bedspace, this attractive venue must be a welcome sight to those walking the Te Araroa trail.

We returned the same way we came, arriving back at the carpark around 1.30 pm. As one trumper said, 'It's nice to discover a new walking track close to the city as a change from more distant tracks.' Special thanks to Tony Evans for driving the van.



*Whare Motorimu: shelter on the Te Araroa Trail*



*Scotts Road, en route to Motorimu shelter*



### **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](#)



**Contact Details**

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

**Committee 2021 - 2022**

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Mini-Bus Manager	Ken Mercer	<a href="mailto:minibus@mtsc.org.nz">minibus@mtsc.org.nz</a>	027 364 6475

**General Committee:** Bev Akers, Linda Campbell, Richard Lander, Blair Petersen, Rob Pringle, Peter Rawlins

**Appointees**

Lodge Bookings	Hugh & Liz Wilde	<a href="mailto:lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz">lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz</a>	021 054 2560
Gear Custodian	Peter Rawlins	<a href="mailto:gear@mtsc.org.nz">gear@mtsc.org.nz</a>	027 678 0747
Ski Captain	Peter Rawlins	<a href="mailto:ski@mtsc.org.nz">ski@mtsc.org.nz</a>	027 678 0747
Social Convenor	Linda Campbell	<a href="mailto:social@mtsc.org.nz">social@mtsc.org.nz</a>	027 333 4493
Wednesday Trips	Bev Akers	<a href="mailto:bevakers@xtra.co.nz">bevakers@xtra.co.nz</a>	027 274 6265
Thursday Trips	Syd Easton	<a href="mailto:eastonps@inspire.net.nz">eastonps@inspire.net.nz</a>	06 356 7462
Facebook	Ivan Rienks, Rob Pringle, Karen Tutt, Howard Nicholson <a href="https://www.facebook.com/MTandSC">facebook@mtsc.org.nz</a>		

**New Members**

Prospective members must be nominated by a Proposer and a Secunder who are current MTSC members and have been so for at least one year. New memberships are confirmed at the next monthly committee meeting. Prospective members are encouraged to go on a club trip or attend a club night before joining. For further information or an application form please see the club website.

**Club Equipment**

Hire equipment: we have packs, 2 and 3 person tents, tent flies (small and large), snow mats, gas cookers, size 8 and 9 boots, billies 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](http://www.mtsc.org.nz)

This contains club information, photos, contact details and back issues of this newsletter, Beechleaves. The club website is maintained by Howard Nicholson (06) 357 6325 and is kindly hosted by **Inspire Net**, a locally based company.

**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/MTandSC>

**Accommodation at the MTSC lodge on Mount Ruapehu**

The lodge is close to Iwikau Village, has power, heating, hot showers and is stocked with food. Members and their guests are welcome. For Lodge bookings email Liz and Hugh Wilde [lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz) or phone 021 054 2560. To confirm your booking, payment must be made by 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.

	<b>Members</b>	<b>Guests</b>	<b>The lodge phone number is (07) 892 3860.</b>
<b>Adult</b>	<b>\$40</b>	<b>\$58</b>	
<b>Secondary School</b>	<b>\$32</b>	<b>\$48</b>	
<b>Primary School</b>	<b>\$26</b>	<b>\$42</b>	
<b>Pre-school (3-5 yo)</b>	<b>\$13</b>	<b>\$13</b>	

**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.