

# 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 8. September, 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.

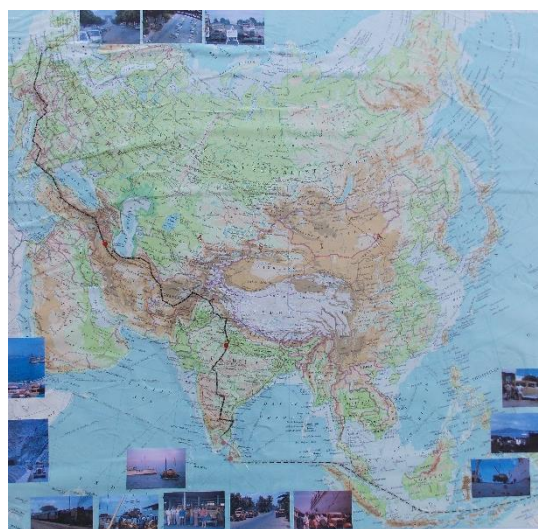
## 7.30 pm Tuesday 7 September, 2021: Interclub Quiz night\*

This year the MTSC is 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!

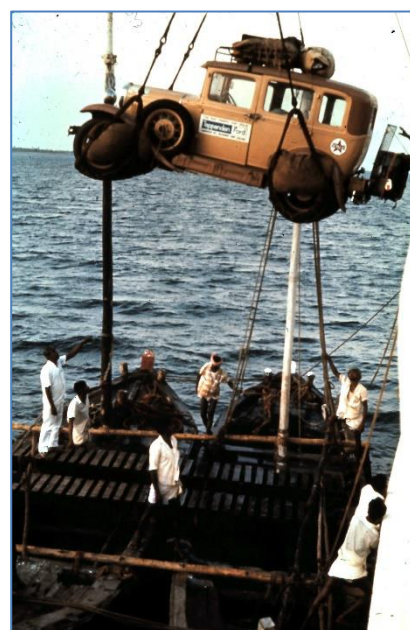
## 7.30 pm Tuesday 5 October, 2021: Packs

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 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.

## 7.30 pm Tuesday 2 November, 2021: NZ to England in Model A Fords



In 1973 Liz Thevenard, who is a member of MTSC and has been since she was nine years old, travelled from New Zealand to England in two Model A Ford vintage cars via Sri Lanka, India and Afghanistan. This was a huge undertaking and a real adventure for a Kiwi from Kimbolton. Some of the places she travelled to are now inaccessible to travellers. Here is a chance to catch up with Liz and see and hear about places we can no longer travel to, Covid aside.



***\*Meetings (face to face) & club tramps will only be possible if NZ Covid Restrictions are reduced to Levels 1 or 2.***

# REPORTS AND NOTICES

**MTSC President: Tim Swale**

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

Winter has so far been kind to our tramping groups with few disruptions due to weather (at the time of writing) and massive numbers of people getting out on both Wednesdays and Thursdays. We have even had reasonable turn-outs for weekend walks. The snows on Mount Ruapehu have, on the other hand, been a bit slow arriving, even causing the postponement of the snowcraft course planned for mid-July. However, the upper mountain now appears to have a solid snow base and this year there are some surprisingly good deals for anyone wanting to ski midweek. Our lodge on Mount Ruapehu is a fantastic place to base yourself for a couple of days skiing midweek so well worth booking in with Liz and Hugh to make full use of this great club asset.

Being part of a club has much to commend it. One of the real strengths is in the connections that our members have and the ability to organise walks to places that are generally out of bounds to the general public. One such recent walk was with the Thursday group where John Brock had organised with the landowner for us to cross his farm in order to access Te Ekaou and Forks Huts. Whilst these DOC huts are only a short walk from the road, they are rarely visited. What a delight they were, with lovely bush, superb views and a bit of excitement in descending an incredibly steep track to Forks Hut. The group camaraderie was magnificent and topped off by a wonderful afternoon tea provided by John and his wife Claire. A hard act to follow!



As our members have matured, the midweek tramping groups have become ever more popular. For those of us lucky enough to be able to participate in leisure activities during the week, we may forget that, with passing time, there is ever increasing pressure on DOC facilities, particularly at weekends. On a recent tramp accompanying a group of boys doing their Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition to Sunrise Hut and beyond,



*Sunrise hut by Tim Swale: Runner Up, Best Overall Photo*

the popularity of this hut really struck home. We arrived at about 2pm to an already fairly full hut. We left heavy overnight gear at the hut and headed off to play in the snow above Armstrong Saddle. When we returned, the hut was overflowing. That night there were three tents outside, every bunk filled, with some double bunked, and hardly any floor space left. There were people sleeping in the woodshed and a number who turned up, saw the crowds and decided not to stay at all. DOC have already

started to address the problem with many huts now on a booking system and newly introduced differential pricing for midweek and weekend stays. It certainly pays to take along your own inflatable mattress and a lightweight tent or tarp even when you intend staying in a hut.

Lastly, a very big thank you to Richard Lander who organised a really successful photo competition for our August meeting (Report below). There were 120 images providing us with a visual feast of some of the amazing places that club members have visited. There were some good tips on taking winning photos and I think we can all be inspired to use this medium to tell a story about the outdoor environment that we all enjoy so much.

*We welcome the following to the club: Corinne Davies and family, Elena Kay, and Paul McKimm and family.*

### **Back Country Huts Survey**

Our names are Trent Maguire and Aleisha Coombes; we are fourth year students studying civil engineering at the University of Waikato. We are currently working on a research and development project where we are looking at methods that could potentially make backcountry huts safer for users and the environment. From our research we will create a design that could be used for new hut locations and replacing current huts.

To gain as much information as possible on this topic we have decided to create a survey which will allow the users of these huts to have a say in what they would like to see in new huts. We would very much appreciate your help in the distribution of our survey to ensure that it reaches as many users of the backcountry huts as possible, allowing us to get a good understanding of what they want.

The survey has been approved through the University of Waikato Ethics Committee and is completely voluntary to everyone who participates. Participants will have the opportunity to withdraw from the survey at any time throughout its 7-minute duration. No personal data will be collected at any point during survey.

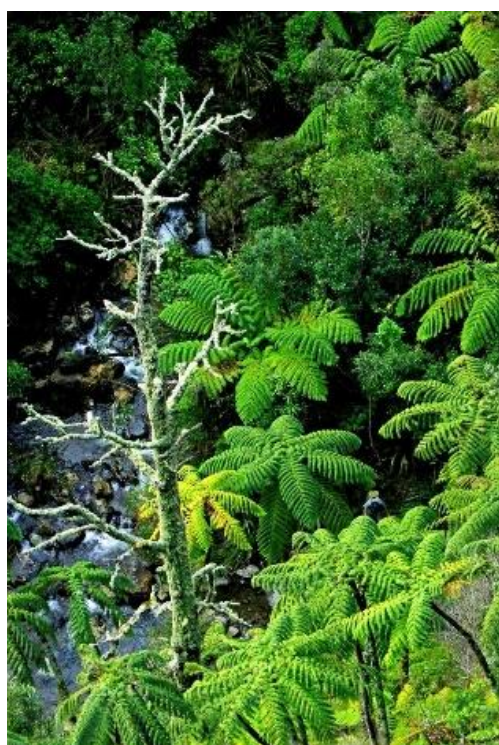
Thanks for your time.

Aleisha Coombes and Trent Maguire

Survey Link: [https://waikato.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_9zqApgLNen50KR8](https://waikato.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9zqApgLNen50KR8)

### **Ruahine Whio Protection Trust Calendar**

Thanks to MTSC members who came and listened to my Whio (Blue Duck) talk at your July club meeting. The Ruahine Whio Protection Trust, with the help of designer Anthony Behrens, have produced a calendar as our annual public fundraising effort – We would greatly appreciate your support. Cost is \$20 – available by emailing Janet at [jwilson@inspire.net.nz](mailto:jwilson@inspire.net.nz). Also available for cash sales at Bivouac Palmerston North and, possibly, at MTSC club nights. Get in quickly for early Xmas – numbers are limited.



*(L) Forks Hut trip,  
29 July by John Brock*

*(R) Maharahara trip,  
4 August by Cheryl Dawson  
The orange fruit is the NZ  
passionfruit or Kohia,  
Passiflora tetrandra*



## NZ Mountain Film Festival

**Program:** Six NZMFF Kiwi Made films: A celebration of Adventurous Sports and Lifestyles:

A showcase of films from high-octane sports such as skiing, climbing, kayaking, and mountain biking.

It also features increasingly topical environmental and mountain culture films to inform and entertain.

**Date:** Thursday 16th September 2020

**Time:** Show starts 6.30pm, BBQ and drinks available from 5.30pm

**Location:** SSLB1, Massey University

**Tickets:** Pre-sale tickets are **\$15**, purchased from Bivouac Palmerston North or email [socialrep@muac.org.nz](mailto:socialrep@muac.org.nz)

Alternatively, tickets will be sold at the door for \$20 - eftpos available.

### NZ Mountain Film Festival Films:

1) *Canterbury Alps Ski Traverse* (10 mins) - Epic Adventure Award

Director Alastair McDowell, NZ. Traversing the Southern Alps on skis... now that sounds like an adventure; through the heart of Canterbury's wild yet withering glaciers, peaks and passes, from Arthur's Pass to the Godley Valley.

2) *Airport Wall* (15 mins) - Pushing the Boundaries Award

Director Allie Rood, NZ. Dan and Merry have both been looking at the Airport Wall in Fiordland for over 20 years. As almost a culmination of their careers as climbers, this is the story of how these guys achieved a first ascent of this massive big wall climb. It explains in detail what it takes, and what it means, for people interested in going there and trying to climb it themselves.

3) *Newton Peak* (25 mins) - Grass Roots Award

Director Nick Kowalski, NZ. Four Canterbury climbers set off into the heart of the Southern Alps to explore a rarely climbed peak with the hope of climbing a new route. Their journey takes them through the infamous 'Garden of Eden' ice plateau and through the thick, wild vegetation of the West Coast bush.

4) *In the Theatre of the Gogs* (19 mins) - Best NZ Made Film Award

Director Richard Sidey, NZ. A contemplation of art and adventure in the southern wilds of New Zealand by two Wanaka locals: landscape photographer Christopher David Thompson and adventure filmmaker Richard Sidey. This film is the unexpected result of their two unique perspectives.

5) *Pilgrimage to Pilgrim* (17 mins)

Director Emil Hansen, NZ. A self-filmed free climb of Aoraki/Mt Cook's East Ridge. A pilgrimage to the recently discovered route 'Pilgrim' - the last unclimbed route on Mt Cook.

6) *Made in Aotearoa* (37 mins) - Best Film on Adventurous Sports and Lifestyle Award

Directors Andy Deere and Ryan Heron, NZ. Young up-and-coming surfer Kehu Butler shows us his favourite spots around NZ as we learn about his family and deep connections to friends and ocean. This is the first time an NZ film has won this award, EPIC!



Photo by John Brock, 29 July, 2021

## Annual Photo Competition Report

The club held a very successful photo competition this year. There were 120 entries submitted by 16 photographers. The photographs were of high quality and a credit to those who entered. Because of the number of photos entered, the entries were pre-judged by an independent panel from the Manawatu Camera Club. The best three images from each of the sections were chosen by the judging panel and these went forward for popular voting on the night of the competition. Prizes were awarded to every photographer who entered a photo and there were also prizes for the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in each section. Bivouac and Hunting & Fishing kindly donated some of the prizes. Congratulations to all the winners.

| <b>Results of the 2021 MTSC Photo Competition</b> |                                    |                    |                                 |
|---|------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Placing   | Category                           | Photographer       | Photo Title                     |
| 1   | Above Bush Line No Human Element   | Richard Lander     | Ngauruhoe Reflection            |
| 2   | ABN                                | Royce Mills        | Floating Volcanoes              |
| 3   | ABN                                | Hazel Phillips     | Ruapehu Swimming Hole           |
| 1   | Above Bush Line with Human Element | Tim Swale          | Sunrise Hut                     |
| 2   | ABW                                | Hazel Phillips     | Ball Pass Crevasse              |
| 3   | ABW                                | Ken Mercer         | Home Time                       |
| 1   | Below Bushline No Human Element    | Maria Lombard      | Endless Horizon                 |
| 2   | BBN                                | Maria Lombard      | Moody Grey                      |
| 3   | BBN                                | Richard Lander     | Mahuia Falls                    |
| 1   | Below Bushline with Human Element  | Louise Lahmert     | Where the Stream Takes Us       |
| 2=  | BBW                                | Louise Lahmert     | West Coast Sunset               |
| 2=  | BBW                                | Christine Finnigan | Ernslaw Hut                     |
| 1   | Historical                         | David Harrington   | Snowy Tent                      |
| 2   | HIS                                | Howie Nicholson    | MTSC RA Fuller Harris Creek Hut |
| 3   | HIS                                | David Harrington   | Daphne Hut                      |
| 1=  | Native Flora and Fauna             | Louise Lahmert     | Little Blue Surprise            |
| 1=  | NFF                                | Davide Conti       | Kaka Sunrise Breakfast          |
| 3   | NFF                                | Maria Lombard      | Camouflage                      |
| 1   | Long Exposure                      | Richard Lander     | Milky Way Over Ruapehu          |
| 2   | LE                                 | Louise Lahmert     | Gibbs Hut                       |
| 3   | LE                                 | Maria Lombard      | Moonrise                        |

### Best Overall Photo

|  |                                   |                |                           |
|--|-----------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
|  | Below Bushline with Human Element | Louise Lahmert | Where the Stream Takes Us |
|--|-----------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|

### Runner Up

|  |                                    |           |   |
|--|------------------------------------|-----------|---|
|  | Above Bush Line with Human Element | Tim Swale | Sunrise Hut <i>(see President's report)</i> |
|--|------------------------------------|-----------|---|



# UPCOMING TRIPS

**Club tramps will only be possible if NZ Covid Restrictions are reduced to Levels 1 or 2.**

| September Wednesday Tramps |                   |   | September Thursday Tramps |   |                |
|----------------------------|-------------------|---|---------------------------|---|----------------|
| 01                         | Harold Pettersson | 021 047 2055                              | 02                        | Suzanne Clark   | 356 8322       |
| 08                         | Bill Milham       | 06 356 8136                               | 09                        | Judy Swainson   | 358 4082       |
| 15                         | Ewen Cameron      | 022 034 1180                              | 16                        | Garry Grayson   | 027 2695934    |
| 22                         | Carolyn Brodie    | 027 358 6037                              | 23                        |   |                |
| 29                         | Carole Kennerley  | 06 329 9694                               | 30                        | Wayne Lincoln   | D 021 068 5237 |
| September Weekend Tramps   |                   |   |                           |   |                |
| Sun 5 Sept                 | Linda Campbell    | Whanganui to Upokongaro<br>Cycle or tramp | Easy                      | 027 333 4493 or<br><a href="mailto:lindammc@xtra.co.nz">lindammc@xtra.co.nz</a> |                |
| 4-7 November               | Linda Campbell    | Around Mt Taranaki                        | Medium                    | 027 333 4493 or<br><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 5 September, 2021 Whanganui to Upokongaro

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

**BIKE OR WALK** the final leg of the Mountains to Sea Cycle Trail from Whanganui to Ūpokongaro and back.

**BIKE:** Starting from North Mole at the Whanganui River mouth this well signposted trail is suitable for riders of most abilities and fitness, including family groups. There is a small on-road section along the relatively quiet SH4 and a bit through town (hence the track is graded Grade 3) but most of the trail is off-road on paved cycle paths - perfect for all the family. Most types of bikes would be suitable.

**WALK:** You'd prefer to walk?? Walkers could start from the railway bridge in Whanganui and meet the cyclists at Ūpokongaro for lunch before heading back.

## 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> November, 2021 Around Mt Taranaki

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

Due to hut capacity, there are a limited number of spaces available for this trip already and a reserve list will be compiled if necessary. The actual route will be decided closer to the time as, at present, it is not possible to complete the whole walk due to major track damage caused by the weather event the weekend of 17<sup>th</sup> July (which hopefully will have been repaired before November) and Lake Dive Hut being burnt down.

# TRIP REPORTS



## Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> July, 2021: Battle Hill Farm Forest Park

Trip Leader and Reporter: Ian Brookes

Photographer: Evan Davies

Nineteen Wednesday trampers were scheduled on this tramp, but there were two late defections due to sickness. Consequently, seventeen of us departed from Palmerston North and Feilding at 8am heading for Paekakariki. Once there, we turned on to the Paekakariki Hill Road and wound our way to the summit, from which spectacular views of the Kapiti Coast were to be had. Continuing down the other side of the hill, we reached the Battle Hill Farm Forest Park around 9.50 am and signalled our intentions on the message board at the ranger station.

The first destination was to complete the Transmission Gully – Puketiro Loop following the farm road through the Airstrip and over the Gas Line Ridge to Transmission Gully. Progress on the Transmission Gully has continued since our last visit and the road is due to open later in 2021. On the way, we met a party of small kindergarten children and their carers enjoying a day out in the sunshine.

Passing through the large underpass, we crossed a grassy paddock to the gate into the forest, forded an ankle-deep stream and proceeded to climb up through the pine forest, stopping for morning tea on the way. After about an hour's climbing, we reached more open bush and finally emerged at the summit (446m asl). The weather was fine and sunny, although somewhat cool, and we were afforded great views of the Pauatahanui Inlet and Porirua Harbour.



The track then crosses over a grassy knoll and completes the loop on a long descent through more pines.



On our return to the vehicles, lunch was eaten at a shelter with picnic tables and we discovered our tail-end group (which we thought had turned back on the ascent) had, in fact, soldiered on and completed the loop. Their resolute determination is to be applauded.

After lunch, one group tackled the Summit Loop, which crosses farmland to reach the Battle Hill summit. Here, in 1846, Government forces confronted around 300 of Te Rangihaeata's Ngati Toa and then settled into a siege, and bombarded the pa for several days. Eventually the Ngati Toa fled north and Te Rangihaeata was never to return, living out his remaining 10 years of his life in exile, north of Levin.

The loop returns through an impressive patch of bush alongside the Horokiri Stream. A smaller group just walked through the bush, while the remainder stayed at the lunch spot enjoying the sun.

## Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> July, 2021: ME AND YOU AND A DOG NAMED ..... BAXTER?!!

Trip Leader and Reporter: John Brock

Photographers: John Brock and Royce Mills

Leader for the day, John Brock, wasn't looking for anything too energetic or long, so this relatively low-level ramble in the Pohangina Valley, across the farmed terraces and foothills of the Ruahine's and into the bush to visit a couple of huts, more usually frequented by hunters than trampers, seemed to fit the bill. Our last foray here was way back in June 2012, so it was more than time to revisit.

It seemed to be a popular choice, as the enrolments kept rolling in, until eventually, **me and 27 you's**, collected at the Komako Church car park at 8.30 a.m. After touching base with owner David Stuart and his many farm dogs, it was off up the nearest river terrace and along the track through the rolling foothills, reaching the bush on the back boundary after a quick 4 km. Not long after the start we realised our numbers had increased to 29, as the farmer's house dog, a Jack Russell/Foxy cross (later found to be called **Baxter**) joined in and accompanied us all the way; well almost - a very sociable and friendly companion. - Weatherwise, we were lucky, being generally fine with enough cloud and sun to provide interesting lighting, particularly backlighting on the way out.

We regrouped at the bush line for a group photo (too many of us to do it anywhere else) then moved the few metres into the bush to the Te Ekaou Hut for morning tea, where we proved we could fit 28 into a 6-bunk hut



with room to spare. From there on the pace slowed, the track crossing a small stream then up to the high point and following a ridge line out to the Forks Hut. The bush here was a very picturesque mixed podocarp/broadleaf forest dominated by Rimu, Kahikatea and Tawa with scattered open areas of dead trees and windfalls, leading to many discussions on canopy collapse and the possible reasons therefore. It was also clear that regeneration was also well underway as evidenced by the large numbers of healthy regenerating seedlings. Both huts and tracks are largely maintained by the hunting fraternity and, while not up to the standard found on most of the main tramping tracks in the ranges, were nevertheless adequate for the purpose.



As we neared the stated goal of the Forks Hut, the only two of the group to have been here before, issued a warning of the very steep last 400 m down to the hut. After a quick peek, ten decided the top looked like a good lunch spot. The remainder carried on, accompanied by Baxter, but such was the steepness of the track that half way down, Baxter refused to attempt it and returned for a safer and more leisurely lunch at the top. The other





John Brock, camera in hand, by Royce Mills



18 lunched in the sun on the porch of the Forks Hut in a very beautiful spot, deep in the gully. Getting back up turned out to be relatively easier than getting down.

The return trip against the light was a pleasant experience and after a quick drink back at Te Ekaou Hut, it was an easy downhill ramble across farm and back to the car park. Baxter abandoned us once reaching the farmland but could be heard barking from inside the farmhouse as we trudged past.

**All in all, a ... good ... day ... out!** - an oft repeated summary heard from many of the group at the end of the day.

## Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2021: Pohangina Walks

Trip Leader and Reporter: Linda Campbell

Photographers: Tim Swale and Linda Campbell



Twelve of us, ranging in age from four years upward, set off to do the Fern Walk on a lovely Sunday morning. This is a great track with large trees, beautiful fungi, heaps of seedlings and a lot of bird sound. There was mud, of course. Lots of mud. There were also good views in places. Morning tea was had in the sun at a clearing where the size of our group seemed to surprise a couple of young women walking the track. The youngest in our group started to tire near the end but, with the help of rhyming games, he kept plodding along and made it to the end on his own feet. Once back at the vehicles



the children and their parents had a healthy snack and headed home. The rest of us travelled down to Totara Reserve and walked in to have lunch on the seats in the sun. There was hardly a breath of wind and it would have been easy to just stay there. There is a short walk starting behind Camp Rangī Wood which we did before returning to our vehicles and Ashhurst for an ice cream. Thanks to Zac, Josh, Dan, Lisa, Tim B, Lynne, Karen, Alla, Ken, Mary and Tim S for their company.

## Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2021: Maharahara

Trip Leader and Reporter: Marion Beadle

Photographer: Bill Milham

Having seen Bob's revisited trip of Sept 2018, I can confirm the Maharahara track is still just as steep.

The weather was hazy but bright, the ground on both farm paddocks and bush was much dryer than I had anticipated with very little mud. The delight of the day was no wind and those who reached the summit were able to lunch in comfort there although, it was noted, we all wanted to sit on the sunny side of the clearing. Welcome to two new trampers whom we hope to see again. The Herb Farm Café provided refreshments. My thanks to the drivers.



## Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2021: A Frame Hut

Trip Leader, Reporter and Photographer: Carolyn Brodie



The weather forecast was dire so I chose a destination with a hut. We were a van load + Riki from Dannevirke. When we left Palmerston North it was 3 degrees and, on arrival at Tamaki West carpark, still 3 degrees. However, it was not raining to start with so we set off without putting on all our storm gear. It was the usual challenging, invigorating climb up to the more exposed leatherwood, very chilly and the question for everyone was “do I stop and put on storm gear or do I get to hut as fast as possible”. We all wrapped up as warmly as we could at the hut and, best of all, the potbelly stove was lit and produced some heat during our lunch. The cloud cleared a bit with some views to the South

for those brave enough to take on the challenge of the wind.

Back at the carpark much better weather and we got a chance to compare various styles of ‘after tramp’ dress code. Pleasant coffee stop at Woodville. Thanks Syd for driving and thanks to the brave people who ventured out with me.



Scarlet Berry Truffle, *Paurocotylis pila*, an NZ native; photo by Cheryl Dawson

## Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2021: A Frame Hut or Roki Track

Trip Leaders: Cheryl Dawson & Marilyn Hewitt

Photographers: Terry Stewart, Nicki Fielder, Cheryl Dawson

The day dawned sunny and not too cold after heavy snow fall on Monday. Twenty nine keen trampers met at the Tamaki West road end. We had two options for the day so, after dividing into our respective groups, off we



set. A group of 14 chose to do the shorter, low level Rokaiwhana track which follows the stream of the same name. This is a well-formed track through lovely, lowland bush. We split into two groups. Some stopped at the large Rimu tree to have a leisurely morning tea as we had plenty of time. The other group carried on to the river for an early lunch where we all met up once again. The first group decided to head off, planning to hike up the A frame hut track for a short distance. After a lovely lunch we went back to the car park arriving around 1.30pm. It was not long until the group

that chose to go up to the Travers (A Frame) hut started to arrive back so the timing worked well.

A group of 15 headed up the steep climb through the leatherwood to the top of the range (1091m). The southern Ruahine Range lies within the sub-alpine area and is covered with the largest continuous tract of leatherwood (Tupare or *Olearia colensoi*) in New Zealand. The track was rather muddy in places due to the recent snow fall so there were a few muddy bottoms at the end of the day. Nearing the top some great views of Dannevirke, surrounding farmland and beyond were to be had.



Even though the weather had cleared at the top the wind chill still had us sheltering by the newly renovated Travers Hut, known as the A Frame by many but recently re named Te Apotupoue Hut. The hut was originally built by the Forest Service in the seventies. The renovation has been made possible with the support of the backcountry trust, hunters and trampers. Local Hapu have transformed the rundown and vandalized shelter into the lovely unique where it is today.

We would like to thank all participants for making this a memorable day, as a good number had not done either of these trips before; also thanks to Margaret for driving the van and helping out with the Rokaiwhana track walk, along with Evan, Rod and Tim for helping out with the A Frame group.



*Nau Mai Te Ao Tapare  
The realm of the Leatherwood*

## 11<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> August, 2021: Totara Flats Hut

Trip Leader and Reporter: Christine Scott

Photographer: Pam Dransfield

Only four of us braved the polar blast for an overnighter to Totara Flats which unfortunately meant that we could only do a there and back trip. However, the upside was when we climbed up to the Gentle Annie Saddle from Holdsworth there was snow right down to Rocky Lookout and a magical scattering through the trees as we descended down into Totara Creek. It was a slow descent with snow, mud and water making footing treacherous as we tip toe-ed over tree roots but sections of the new track over point 575 were gravelled and straight forward. The new bridge over the Waiohine river stretched approximately 75m from



We were Carole, Christine, Suzanne and Photographer, Pam.



bank to bank and allowed for five people at a time to cross without a bounce or a quiver thanks to a number of very robust guy ropes. It was quite a feat of engineering. Damp wood at the hut made for a rather sulky fire so we weren't too late out of bed, but it wasn't cold once snuggled up in our sleeping bags. For the trip back out, it was a different track with very little snow left and it took us an hour less for the return trip.

## Thursday 12th August, 2021: Coppermines and Billy Goat Creek

Leader and Reporter: Tony Evans

Photographer: John Brock

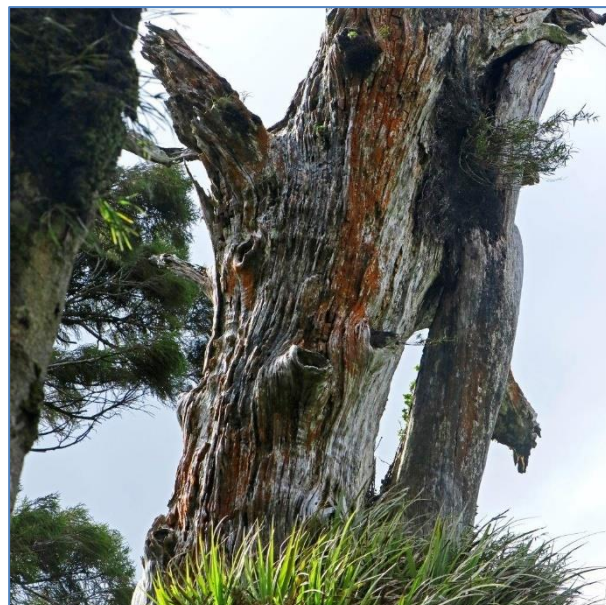
As an alternative to the overnight tramp this week, I decided to repeat this tramp which I had done solo last summer. Eleven trampers left the Coppermine Road carpark at 8.20am and followed the track to the Magazine, an old horizontal mineshaft which was also used to store explosives. Then on to the site of one of the larger mineshafts; only some old pieces of iron and a sign to see there. Then back to the Magazine for morning tea.

We then retraced our footsteps back to the junction with the Wharite and Loop tracks and went up the Loop Track (a climb of over 300 m) to meet the track down to Billy Goat Creek (about 250 m down) for a leisurely lunch and photo opportunity. On my previous trip in here I had been very annoyed to see litter, mostly beer cans, left at the campsite so I had a supermarket shopping bag with me in which I put the offending rubbish and tied to my



pack to carry out: an easy task so why some lowlives think their behaviour is acceptable never cease to amaze me!

The weather was kind to us with the showers holding off and only a gentle but cool breeze; the creeks were low enough to cross dry footed with care. We returned to the van following the Loop Track, the same way we went in, rather than following the loop round through farmland at lambing time. Coffee and cake in Woodville on the way home rounded off a very enjoyable day.



### 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

|                   |                  |  |              |
|-------------------|------------------|--|--------------|
| President         | Tim Swale        | <a href="mailto:president@mtsc.org.nz">president@mtsc.org.nz</a>         | 022 134 8384 |
| Secretary         | Howard Nicholson | <a href="mailto:secretary@mtsc.org.nz">secretary@mtsc.org.nz</a>         | 027 294 1941 |
| Treasurer         | William Laing    | <a href="mailto:treasurer@mtsc.org.nz">treasurer@mtsc.org.nz</a>         | 022099 7988  |
| Chief Guide       | Ken Mercer       | <a href="mailto:chief.guide@mtsc.org.nz">chief.guide@mtsc.org.nz</a>     | 027 364 6475 |
| Membership        | Sue Nicholson    | <a href="mailto:membership@mtsc.org.nz">membership@mtsc.org.nz</a>       | 06 357 6325  |
| Newsletter Editor | Mary Mercer      | <a href="mailto:editor@mtsc.org.nz">editor@mtsc.org.nz</a>               | 027 372 5375 |
| Lodge Manager     | John Lyttle      | <a href="mailto:lodge.manager@mtsc.org.nz">lodge.manager@mtsc.org.nz</a> | 027 433 6307 |
| Mini-Bus Manager  | Ken Mercer       | <a href="mailto:minibus@mtsc.org.nz">minibus@mtsc.org.nz</a>             | 027 364 6475 |

**General Committee:** 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  | Rob Pringle  | <a href="mailto:gear@mtsc.org.nz">gear@mtsc.org.nz</a>                     | 020 426 2176 |
| 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.

|                     | 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.