

# 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 9. October, 2021

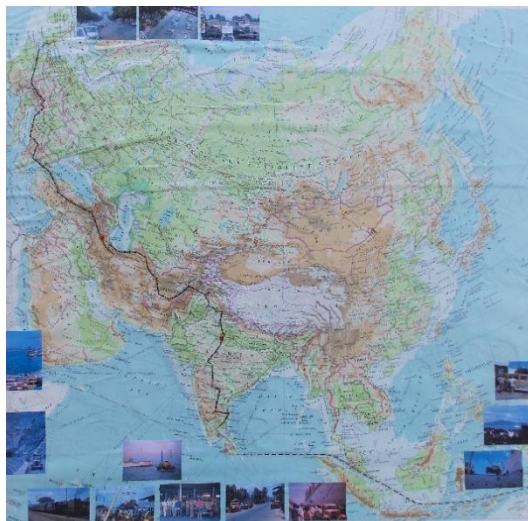


Club meetings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month at the Rose City Aquatic Club Rooms, 50 Park Street, Palmerston North (next to the Lido). Meetings begin at 7.30pm.

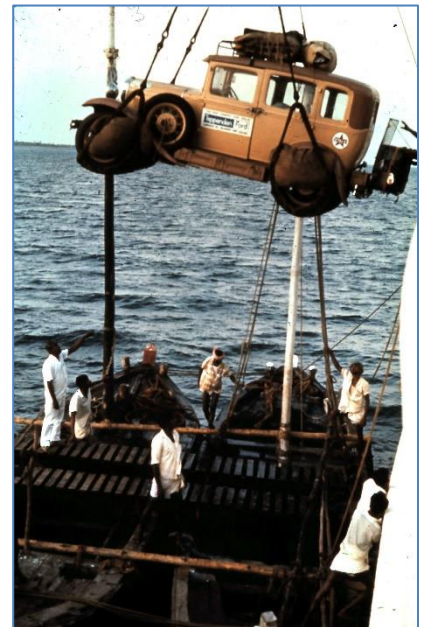
## 7.30 pm Tuesday 5 October, 2021: Packs

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 Nov, 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.



## 7.30 pm Tuesday 7 December, 2021:

Yet to be revealed.....



*John Brock: Zeke's Hut  
Sept, 2020*

# REPORTS AND NOTICES

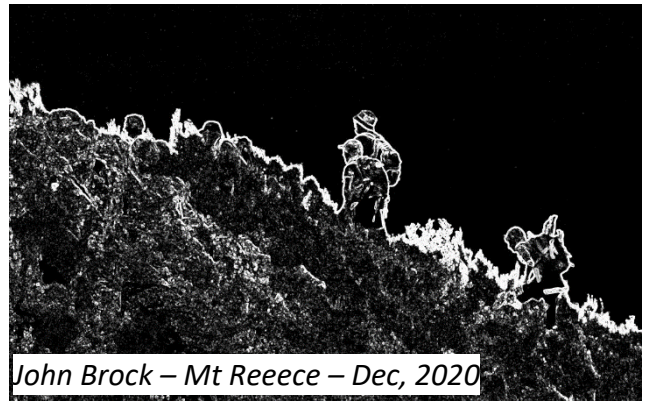
**MTSC President: Tim Swale**

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

The recent outbreak of Covid in New Zealand has been a real set-back for the whole country and, in particular, comes at a most unwelcome time as far as our skiers are concerned. Not only did the snow arrive late this year but, just when we had sufficient snow, we were unable to travel to the mountain. Whilst some are now returning to the Lodge under level 2 restrictions, I commiserate with our Auckland members who are still not able to travel. Hopefully the snow will last long enough to salvage something from this disrupted ski season.

On the positive side, it is good to see our tramping groups getting right back into walking at level 2, despite having to wear masks in the minibus. The number of people turning out on both Wednesdays and Thursdays continues to grow, with groups in the high twenties being quite the norm. We are greatly indebted to the leaders of these groups for all of their work in planning routes, co-ordinating transport, posting intentions for our SAR advisors and endeavouring to keep everyone safe on the trip. The responsibility of running club trips struck home recently on Ewen's trip to the Akatarawas, near Paraparaumu, an area of thick bush, a multitude of tracks and no track markers. Keeping a group of 25 together between a leader and tail end Charlie, waiting at every track junction and ensuring that everyone is counted before moving on, is quite a mission. Without this good shepherding there would have been a real risk of losing someone.

As usual, we had a great day out but at the back of my mind is always the possibility that, despite every leader's best efforts, there is still a risk that someone could be separated from the group. It is important to know what to do if you ever became that missing person. Being prepared is the key. Many club members are now carrying their own PLB which makes good sense, but it will not keep you warm and dry or feed you, and it could take many hours, even a couple of days, for rescuers to get to you. You should think: can I survive a night out if necessary? On a day tramp it is normal



John Brock – Mt Reece – Dec, 2020

to have a rain jacket and over-trousers, along with our usual layered clothing system. However, if you do not already do so, consider carrying a lightweight shelter (a small tarp can be less than 500g), a puffer jacket in a dry bag, some spare, high energy food, a whistle and a torch. I am also a fan of having a foam pad to sit on as it prevents a lot of heat loss to the ground. Quite a lot of people now have Topo 50 maps on their phone which makes navigation so much easier than in the past. If you really are lost, stay put and keep warm by wrapping up and getting out of the wind. Help your rescuers by always leaving your intentions with a trusted contact and writing in hut log books as you go along. Try your cell phone first – you may get a signal. SAR will usually start a search by checking on hut log books, then searching tracks, ridges and creeks. Make yourself visible from the air and, at night, use light which can be seen from a long way out with night vision goggles. Once a search has started you should stay in one place as, if you enter an area that has already been searched, you will likely be missed. If you have a PLB, rescue will be far easier as there is no searching involved and it is just a matter of keeping yourself comfortable until help arrives. Of course, this is a last resort and the ideal is to complete our tramps without mishap. Staying together and looking after each other is by far the best way of not only having an enjoyable tramp, but also avoiding any problems.

So, thank you again to all of our wonderful trip leaders for your efforts in ensuring that club trips are so well organised, enabling members to experience the outdoors in a safe and enjoyable way.

Tim

*We welcome the following to the club: Warren Cheetham and family (Corina, Skye, Archie) and Chloe Deaker and family (Andrew, Archie, Hugo, Felix Hill).*



# UPCOMING TRIPS

October Wednesday Tramps			October Thursday Tramps		
06	Bev Akers	06 325 8879	07	Alistair Hall	06 357 1832
13	Kevin Crawford	021 984 586	14	Norman Cooper	06 357 5531
20	Bob Hargreaves	06 357 0734	21	Judy Swainson	021 035 1933
27	Robyn Laing	021 267 8328	28	William Laing	022 099 7988
October Weekend Tramps					
Sun 10 Oct	Ken & Mary Mercer	Manawatu Gorge	027 364 6475	Easy	
Sat 30 Oct	Linda Campbell	Whanganui to Ūpokongaro and back	027 333 4493	Easy	
4-7 November	Linda Campbell	Taranaki	027 333 4493	Medium	

**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.

**Saturday 30 October. 2021 Whanganui to Ūpokongaro and back**  
**Linda Campbell 027 333 4493 or [lindammc@xtra.co.nz](mailto:lindammc@xtra.co.nz) Easy**

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

Due to track damage, it looks likely that we will be unable to complete the Round the Mountain Circuit at this stage. I still intend taking a trip to Mt Taranaki from November 4-7 as we will be able to do some of the walks there. If you have given me your names already, please confirm or otherwise whether you are still interested in coming.

I will reschedule the full Round the Mountain Circuit once the repair work to the track has been completed.

# TRIP REPORTS

## Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2021: It is not a long way to Waitare

Trip Leader: Bill Milham

Reporter: Bob (Handsome) Hodgson

Photographers: William Laing

The grey dawn was greeted with enthusiasm as 36 trampers readied themselves for their Wednesday outing. The heavily overcast sky confirmed the forecast of impending rain and possible thunder. After 20+ days of lockdowns we were undaunted! En route to our liaison at the Waitare Beach Surf Club car park, we travelled through extremely heavy and squally rain to surprisingly, arrive in damp, cool but fine conditions.

As the windswept beach then had little appeal, our leader chose to first tramp along the forest tracks towards Hokio. In the dense, flat, forest, the rolling, sandy tracks required careful navigation. Fortunately, Ewen and Anne had recently made a reconnaissance so were able to guide us through.

Unfortunately, after about forty minutes of tramping, Cheryl, who we know to be an experienced and doughty trumper, had a nasty fall. "Yesterday was a reminder as to how easily things can go wrong. After slipping on the track, I now have a non-displaced fracture of my right ankle so am in another forced lock down!" She also acknowledged her helpers and the sympathetic response from us all.

Shortly after the accident, morning tea was taken in gloomy conditions in the beach-fringing forest. We then continued our meandering progress to Hokio. With a backdrop of unsuccessful white baiters, our lunch

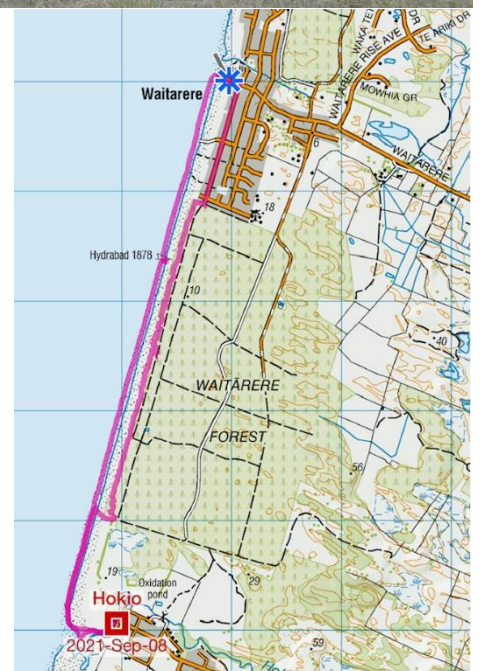


Can you spot Kapiti?

picnic was taken on the tables at the small stream-side park. After our social repast, most chose to return along the beach on a high but falling tide. With the wind at our backs and improving, and dry conditions, we tramped along the beach. Excitement was provided for some by a dead cow and an inspection of a

blue post, the memorial to the 1878 [wreck of the Hyderabad](#). Nearby, some of the wreck is still visible but most has been swallowed by the encroaching sand.

We were then a most welcome seasonal rush at the Waitare Store & Café where coffee and slices were enthusiastically consumed. All in all, our near 14 km walk was a suitable return to tramping on a day on which the clagged-in tops were best avoided. Thanks to trip leader Bill, the reconnaissance team of Anne and Ewen, and the numerous drivers including Ken and Bill, who drove the van. Special thanks to Ken, Bill, Carol and Marion who provided assistance to Cheryl.



## Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2021: Old Holdsworth Track

Trip Leader and Reporter: Judy Swainson

Photographer: William Laing

Twenty three of us set off from Mount Holdsworth carpark, ably led by Suzanne Clark, to Old Holdsworth track. We initially walked the Atiwhakatu track before ascending a steep ridge to join the main Gentle Annie Track.

From there we walked to .801, to the first signed tree, and then descended the Old Holdsworth Track and on to Old Rocky Knob. We had to hunker down for lunch as it was very windy. We continued down the track, past Rocky Lookout, and then onto the second signed tree. Impressive signs with historical interest. From there we descended to the main track and moved straight across to a track which took us back to Donnelly's Flat loop track.



Once back to the carpark we noted this tramp had taken five hours. The bush on this tramp is particularly beautiful and the day was finished off nicely with afternoon tea at the Lazy Graze cafe. Thanks to Allan for driving the van and other drivers. Special thanks to Suzanne for leading my tramp and to Syd for able assistance as tail end Charlie.

## Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2021: Titi Loop

Trip Leader and Reporter: Ewen Cameron

Photographer: Helen Peek

A fortunate break in the weather enabled twenty-five of us to get into the Northern Akatarawas from Maungakotukutuku Road to climb up part of the Karapoti classic track to Titi and then return down Titi and Perhams Roads. The track is variously known as "Fred Allan's Track" (There used to be a sign saying this at the top of the track) and as "Fred's Track" and "Allan's Track" with other tracks coming off where Fred's track finishes.

There was light rain falling in Palmerston North when we left and various delays of the van and cars due to road works and an accident. - Once everyone got to the car park, the sun was out and we had a perfect start to our

~400m morning climb. The old forestry road, that is now an off-road bike track, was in good condition and the muddy patches were able to be avoided. To ensure that we lost no one on any of the various tracks off our route we stayed together although we were quite a big group. To quote Adam Matich, *there are more tracks up there than an angry man can shake a stick at*. Thanks to everyone for your understanding to enable this to occur. Despite this, the leader had one heart stopping moment when head counts by two or three of us came to 24! Fortunately, a verbal count off



*The unspectacular summit of Titi*

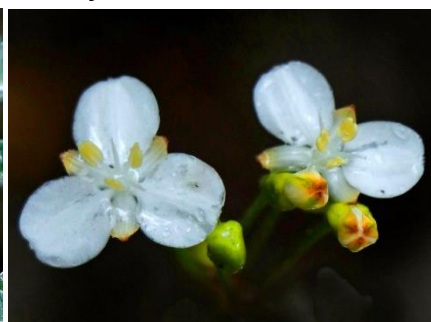
came to 25 - I had not lost someone after-all. The unspectacular summit of Titi (613m) was visited by all before we dropped down to the corner of the ridge track (that leads to Maunganui) and Titi Road for our lunch stop.

We were afforded some great views of Kapiti and the South Island as we walked down Titi and Perham's roads to the car park. (See map over page.) Some light rain fell in the last hour or so, but as is usual, it eased after we put our coats on. We all finished our loop by 3:00pm ready to head out into the school traffic around Paraparaumu and the rain in the Manawatu. Thanks to drivers: Robbie in the minibus, and Dan, Jenny, Robyn and Rod. I also want to thank former club member, John Hunt, for the maps of this area, which have been used to both set up this tramp and provide hours of pleasure checking routes. (Map showing Titi Loop over page.)

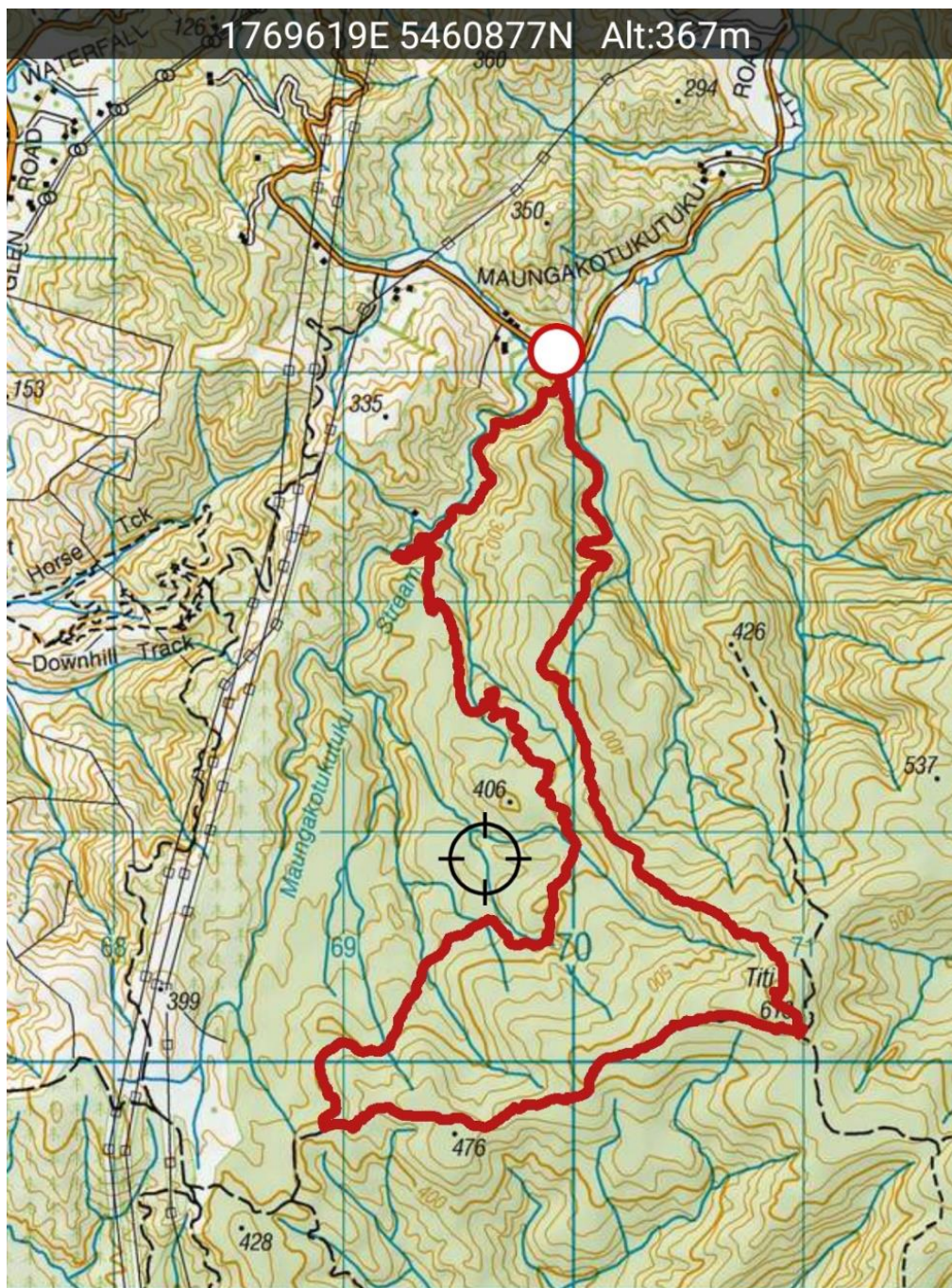


Paraparaumu and the rain in the Manawatu. Thanks to drivers: Robbie in the minibus, and Dan, Jenny, Robyn and Rod. I also want to thank former club member, John Hunt, for the maps of this area, which have been used to both set up this tramp and provide hours of pleasure checking routes. (Map showing Titi Loop over page.)

*Flowers by John Brock  
Stanfield Hut Nov, 2020*



The route taken to Titi, up the ridge on the east, and then down Titi Road and Perham's Road.



## Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2021: Pohangina Loops-An Alternative Wednesday Tramp

Trip Leader and Reporter: Bob Hodgson

This was the first of a series of alternative, lighter tramps to be offered on Wednesdays at about fortnightly intervals.

We had a good day with ten of us tramping, with a "Bob" at each end of the group and a Harold in-between! Not to mention a Coralie, a Margaret, a Lucy, a Carolyn and a Charles with Jill and Gay as the Fielding contingent. The bush was a treat with some fine fungi. Tracks muddy and slippery in places but there were no (very) wet feet or muddy bums! We tramped the Fern Walk then lunched at the Camp Ground. After which two trampers called it a day and the rest then enjoyed the Old Coach Road, with one of us opting to read a book on how to understand Englishmen!! It rained as we drove in and was fine until we were changing as we left to enjoy the Herb Farm Cafe by 3.30pm. Thanks to drivers Bob, Gay, Charles and Carolyn.

## Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2021: Mikimiki Tramway

Trip Leader: Gary Grayson

Photographers: Assorted

Once again the planned Burn Hut visit had to be abandoned due to forecasts of heavy rain and cold SE winds for the entire region. The risks of getting stuck up Mangahao Rd behind a slip blocking our exit were increasing by the hour. Hence, an alternate destination of Kiriwhakapapa area, the Mikimiki Tramway, was chosen.

Although rain would still be in the mix, the Mikimiki is reasonably sheltered and there is the covered shelter for changing out of wet gear at the finish. After finalising numbers due to a few last-minute cancellations, eleven of us departed the Kiriwhakapapa carpark and headed off along the Tramway to reach the 200 m climb up the saddle, reaching the top in about 45 minutes. First on the scene was William, just in time to witness a wild pig wander across the track in front of him.

After regrouping at the top, the downhill on the other side threw in a few more challenges due to some large trees, down over the track, requiring careful negotiation. The whole area had been really beaten up during recent high winds, with large trees, broken-off branches and debris strewn all the



way along the track. DOC had done some clearing but it is likely some of the large trees will remain where they fell. Reaching the Mikimiki Stream crossing at the bottom there was a sigh of relief after finding very little increase in level following the overnight deluge. Crossing was managed without incident and the remainder of the walk down TR of Mikimiki to the road end took about another 45 minutes.

Just a short break here then the return journey; the lunch stop was picked to be back at the carpark shelter under cover. There had been a slight increase in depth at Mikimiki Stream crossing during our absence but still manageable. Safely back at the shelter in about 4.5 hrs it was time for dry clothing and a quick lunch amongst the resident chook population. After a test of the van's braking system was carried out to avoid a 'head on' with a logging truck on the way out, the mandatory coffee stop at Lazy Graze in Eketahuna topped off an enjoyable day, given the conditions.





16 Sept, 2021 Mikimiki Tramway trampers at Lazy Graze Café

### **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](#)

### **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.

PTO for an invitation to participate in a showcase of the “Plan My Walk App” <https://planmywalk.nz/tracks>

## Kia ora Manawatu Tramping & Skiing Club

I hope everyone, especially those of you in Auckland, are doing well.

We're excited to show you a 'behind the scenes' update of our [Plan My Walk app](#).

As I write this, we have entered the final week of additional development and upgrades, which was always part of our plan. Having launched on 7 May 2021 we've had four months over winter to build an 'early adopter' userbase and most importantly gather helpful user feedback. Our current development work has focused on implementing a raft of new features and functions, heavily influenced by user input. Additionally, we're excited to include new tracks from across the Auckland and the Greater Wellington regions.

As has been our approach to date, we would love to now offer our partners the opportunity to 'go behind the scenes' and see first-hand some of the new features and functions. In addition, our paid promotion begins on 11 October, and we'd like to share some of those details with you.

Partnerships and collaboration have been at the core of Plan My Walk, and they will continue to be. Your organisation's input and support has been instrumental in connecting people with this new app. For this we thank you.

We hope you can join us online at one of the following sessions where we'll showcase the latest updates and answer any questions you might have.

If you would like a bespoke session just for your organisation, please let me know, we'd be happy to set this up.

**Thank you.**

**Nathan Watson, Operations Manager, NZMSC**

---

**Click your preferred date to RSVP. We will then send you a Microsoft Teams Meeting invite.**

*Each session will take approximately 1hr including covering questions.*

[Friday 1 October > starting 10.30am](#)

[Monday 4 October > starting 1.30pm](#)

[Wednesday 6 October > starting 7.30pm](#)



**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: Rob Pringle on 020 426 2176..

**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.