

beechleaves

Newsletter of the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club



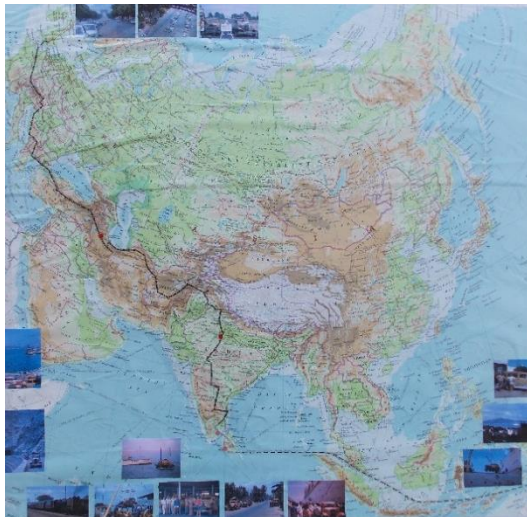
P.O. Box 245, Palmerston North 4440 www.mtsc.nz <https://www.facebook.com/MTandSC>

Issue 10. November, 2021

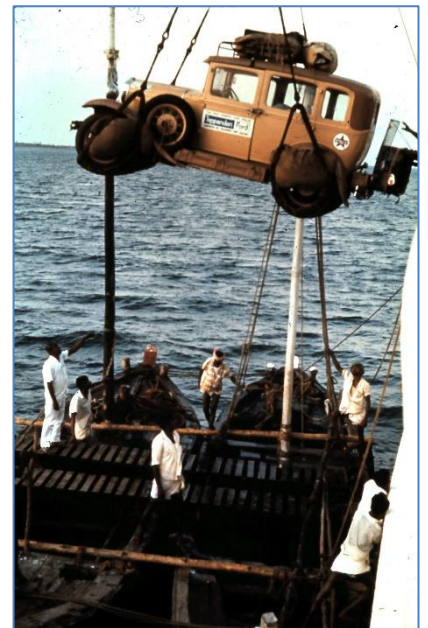


Club meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of the month at the Rose City Aquatic Club Rooms, 50 Park Street, Palmerston North (next to the Lido). Meetings begin at 7.30pm.

7.30 pm Tuesday 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.



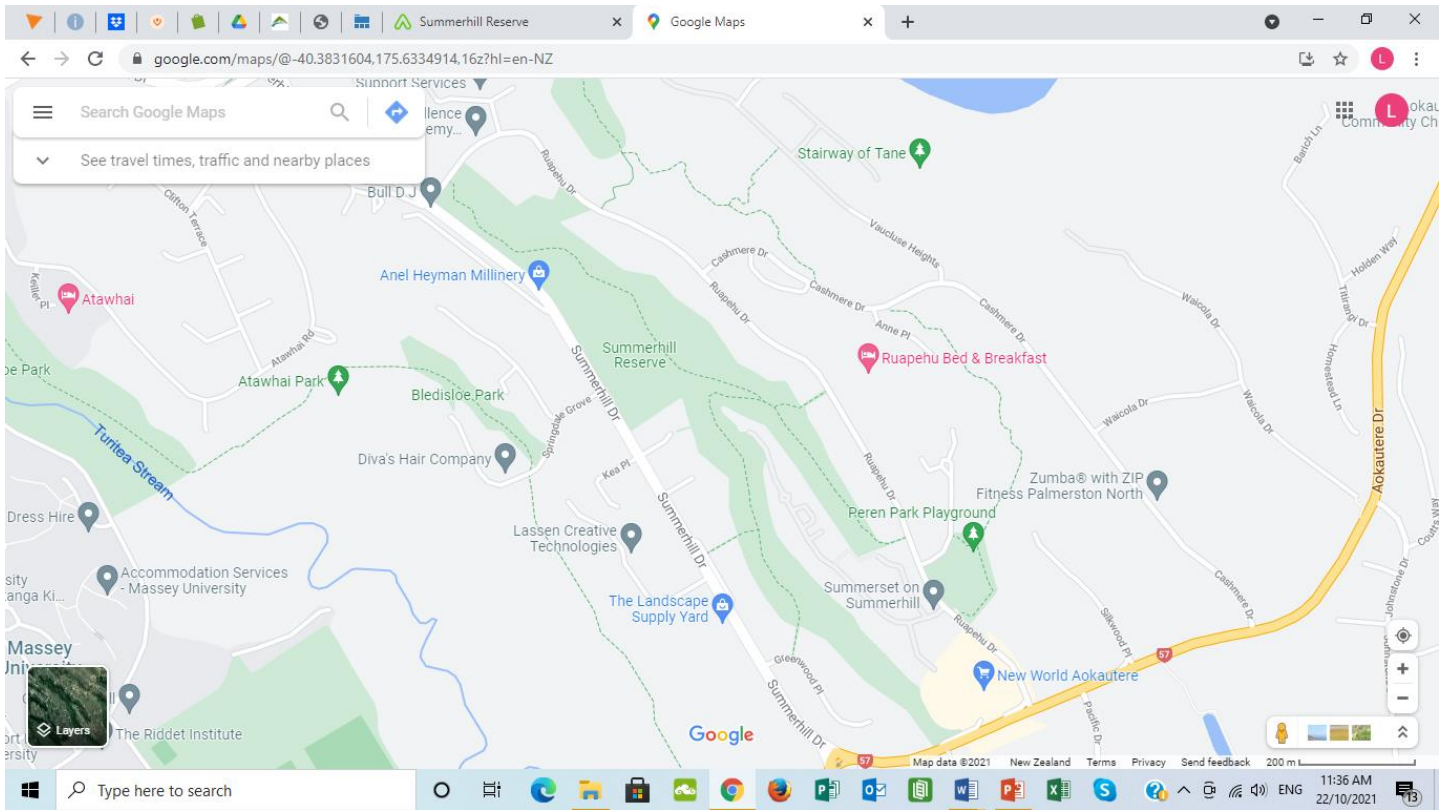
7.30 pm Tuesday 7 December, 2021: Walk and Dinner

Meeting at 6.00pm at Summerhill Car Park. Dinner at the Mekong Restaurant at 7.15pm.

Starting from the track near the car park we will enter Summerhill Reserve and walk down through the reserve to Ruapehu Drive. We will turn right and walk along Ruapehu Drive to reconnect with the track that will take us to Cashmere Drive and along to Peren Park Playground before coming back out onto Ruapehu Drive not far from the car park. (See map over page.)

After our walk we will head to the Mekong Restaurant, 194/200 Ruapehu Drive, Summer Hill Shopping Centre.

Why not get a group of your fellow trampers together and either walk and have dinner or just join us for dinner? All welcome. So that she can book for everyone, please let Linda know on or before Tuesday 23 November if you will be joining us for dinner. Phone/text 027 333 4493 or email lindammc@xtra.co.nz



7.30 pm Tuesday 1 February, 2022: Summer Snippets

Time to share some of those summer adventures. Please let Linda know if you are happy to share some of the fun things you did over the summer. lindammc@xtra.co.nz or 027 333 4493.



7.30 pm Tuesday 1 March, 2022: South Island Skiers



A group of club members had a wonderful trip to the South Island in September 2021. They will share some of their amazing photos and take you to places you may never get to yourself. If you are a skier they will inspire you to start thinking about the 2022 ski season and the possibilities for ski adventures.

7.30 pm Tuesday 5 April, 2022: Interclub Quiz

In 2021, thanks to Covid, we had to now hosting the Interclub quiz night at our April 2022 club night. Tim and Linda will have many club teams of 4-6 people as possible. There will be sweet treats for all, especially



postpone our Interclub Quiz Night. We are now hosting the evening at our usual (Rose City Aquatic) clubrooms at our April 2022 club night. There will be eight lots of twenty questions. We would love to see as many winners and tailenders!

And More for your Diary:

- 7.30 pm Tuesday 3 May, 2022: River Safety
- 7.30 pm Tuesday 7 June, 2022: Outdoor First Aid
- 7.30 pm Tuesday 5 July, 2022: South Island Adventures



*Photo by John Brock
14 October, 2021*

REPORTS AND NOTICES

MTSC President: Tim Swale

president@mtsc.org.nz

The last month seems to have dealt up both wild weather and continued concern around the Covid pandemic. Despite this, I am pleased to report that trips into the outdoors have still gone ahead, albeit with a certain amount of caution. Mask wearing on the minibus and at club nights has been well established and, from conversations with members, it seems that the majority of us have been double vaccinated. However, I have heard rumblings from members about their concerns in sharing the same indoor space with unvaccinated people. At its last meeting, the committee discussed the possibility that, as well as mask wearing and scanning (QR codes are in the minibus, clubroom and at the lodge), members should be asked to avoid traveling in the minibus, attending club-nights or using the lodge unless they are vaccinated. No decision was made since vaccine certificates are not yet available but it was agreed that we should encourage all club members to get vaccinated.

On a lighter note, it was pleasing to see a good turn-out for the recent club-night discussing packs and what needs to be carried in them. As always, everyone will have their own views on what they need to carry, but I have certainly enjoyed multi-day trips so much more since reducing the weight of my pack to around 12 kg. Some useful tips are:

- Get a pack that fits you well – most weight should be carried on your hips.
- Try to limit weight carried to about 20% of your body weight e.g. 70kg person = 14kg.
- Carry enough gear to keep you safe in case you have an unexpected night out.
- Use dry bags or a pack liner to keep gear dry. Your pack is then a lifejacket as well if you end up swimming during a river crossing.
- Avoid having gear hanging off your pack.

I was asked if I could include my packing list in the newsletter, so have added my version over the page. We have recently been working on an information sheet for our tramping groups that is in printed form and will be available on the minibus. It gives a lot of information that used to be on the old trip cards and should be a handy reference source especially for new members. Gear lists for both day and overnight trips are included. Finally, if you have not seen it, you may be interested to try an app called “Windy”. Bev brought it to our attention after Linda and I had been trapped by ferocious weather at Longview Hut with a group of young people trying to do their Duke of Edinburgh’s Award expedition. Although we had a cell-phone signal, there was nothing that gave an accurate indication of wind speed in this part of the Ruahines. This free app seems to be pretty good and well worth a look.

With a bit of luck the weather will start to settle down now as we head towards summer. I wish you all happy and safe tramping and look forward to catching up with many of you in the hills over the coming weeks.

Pocket Maps App Review

Knowing where we have legal access is a good start to heading into the outdoors and the Pocket Maps app shows this. A mention in Wilderness Magazine brought it to my attention. It does show public access areas, similar to the [WAMS website](#). However, each of the map areas is large (Manawatu is 172MB) and it isn't possible to download it my phone’s SD card, only to internal storage. Also, there are several useless grid options e.g. Military Grid Reference System, but no ability to select NZTM2000 which is what Topo50 maps use.

In short Pocket Maps is disappointing and I have uninstalled it. I will continue to use the online WAMS website for planning trips.

Ken Mercer

We welcome the following to the club: Carolyn McCarthy, Chloe Deaker and family, Darren Fisher and family, and Norma Nuthall.

TRAMPING CHECKLIST

DAY TRIP

Daypack
Boots
Socks
Gaiters*
Shorts
Shirt
Thermal Top
Long Johns
Fleece Jumper
Warm hat
Sun hat
Sunscreen
Waterproof jacket
Overtrousers
Gloves
Overmitts*
Emergency shelter
Extra warm layer or puffer jacket
Whistle
Map
Compass
Glasses*
Cellphone
GPS*
PLB*
Pen /notebook
Head torch
Spare batteries
Pocket knife
First aid kit
Toilet paper (in ziplock bag)
Matches
Water container
Snacks
Lunch
Walking poles*
Seat pad

OVERNIGHT TRIP

Day trip items plus the following:

Pack
Pack liner or dry bags
Tent or tarp
Sleeping mat
Sleeping bag & sleeping sheet*
Sleeping gear - thermals, fleece jumper
Spare undies and socks
Ear plugs*
Hut shoes if using hut
Stove
Fuel
Billy
Spoon
Plate
Cup
Dish sponge/scrubber
Detergent
Food: Lunches
Evening meals
Breakfasts
Snacks
Drinks
An extra day's food in case of delay
Rubbish bag
Microfibre face cloth, soap
Tooth brush and paste
Hut tickets / pass

*Optional items

Avoid cotton clothing - it makes you feel cold when it is wet

See the latest [Tararua Aorangi Remutaka Hut Committee newsletter](#).

Track Closure

A short section of the Wharite Peak Track is closed while repairs take place to the telecommunications tower. The section is at the top of the track near the tower. This closure means that there is no access from:

- Wharite road end onto Wharite Peak Track, or
- Coppermine Road to the Wharite road end using the Wharite Peak Track.

You can still access earlier sections of the Wharite Peak Track from Coppermine Road – it is just the first section of track at the Wharite road end that is closed.

Tower repairs are expected to take 2-5 months. We are also looking into alternatives. For updates please refer to the DOC website or contact dlow@doc.govt.nz

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/manawatu-whanganui/places/ruahine-forest-park/things-to-do/tracks/coppermine-road-end-tramping-tracks/>



November Wednesday Tramps			November Thursday Tramps		
03	Christine Finnigan	06 329 7822	04	Audrey Shepherd / Syd Easton	D 06 356 7462
10	Rod McKenzie	06 357 0136	11	Carol Exton	022 4047100
17	Leonie Lowndes	06 359 5005	18	Judith Tonson	06 356 4191
24	Anne West	06 357 5716	25	Garry Grayson	027 2695934
November Weekend Tramps					
4-7	Linda Campbell	Taranaki		027 333 4493	Medium

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

4th-7th November, 2021

Taranaki

Linda Campbell 027 333 4493 or lindamc@xtra.co.nz

Medium

THURSDAY 4 November: KAPUNI LODGE (Private) \$25

Travel to Taranaki and walk up to Kapuni Lodge: Leave from Feilding at 10.00am; lunch at Kaponga; walk to Kapuni Lodge.

PTO

FRIDAY 5 NOVEMBER: WAINGONGORO HUT (Serviced DOC hut) \$15 or annual hut pass

Kapuni Lodge – Lake Dive – Dawson Falls – Waingongoro Hut: Walk up to toward Syme Hut to the track turn off; across and down to Lake Dive; lower track to Dawson Falls and on to Waingongoro Hut.

SATURDAY 6 NOVEMBER: MAKETAWA HUT (Serviced DOC hut) \$15 or annual hut pass

Waingongoro Hut – Maketawa hut; Waingongoro Track to Stratford Mountain House; onto the Curtis Falls Track to Maketawa Hut

SUNDAY 7 NOVEMBER: HOME

Maketawa Hut up onto the Puffer; Tahurangi Lodge – Manganui Lodge (Ski Field); Stratford Plateau- Ridge Track- Dawson Falls and homeward bound.



Wednesday 22nd September, 2021: Deadman's Loop, Plus or Minus

Trip Leader and Reporter: Carolyn Brodie

Photographer: Helen Peek

Twenty one of us were lucky with the weather and did not have to depend on Rangiwahia Hut for a cosy lunch destination. Thanks to the wonderful asset of five radios we were able to have at least four different groups with the leader able to communicate with everyone and inform them if other people were joining their group. Three people went to Rangiwahia Hut, one person + radio took a leisurely pace up Deadman's track to the cairns; he was later joined by people who returned early from the faster groups. Having expended a lot of energy organising(!) the trip, I was happy to stay at the back of the middle group with my planned destination being the Tarn(s). A really motivated group took off at a cracking pace, determined to do the whole circuit. Quite doable with very little snow around, just a cold wind that one could shelter from. On the way up we stopped at the hidden lake (70? m long) that Marion calls the wallow, which a lot of people had not seen before. Nice photos there. A number of the middle group were keen to join the allrounders so, thanks to the radios, the groups were able to reform. After lunch at least four different places on this beautiful circuit, with so many interesting features, we all returned to the carpark within about 15 minutes of each other.



It felt like a great day, a blessing during our wild spring and Covid times. Thankyou everyone for your company and thankyou drivers, Robbie and Marion.

Thursday 23rd September, 2021: Sunrise Hut

Trip Leader and Reporter: Syd Easton

Fifteen of us headed to Sunrise Hut. The weather forecast which had offered some hope a week earlier had turned gloomy, but we consoled ourselves with the thought of good shelter for lunch.

The first surprise was ewes with very young lambs in the paddocks we crossed as we approached the car park. Farmers usually either close access for lambing, or have the ewes elsewhere on the farm for the critical weeks. We had a close-up view of lots of twins.

Like the tracks we'd seen in the Tararua Range in the last couple of weeks, the track to Sunrise Hut showed lots of evidence of wind damage, with branches wrenched out of trees, and some trees blown right over. The very recent rain had dealt to any snow there might have been and the track was a bit soggy in places. However, we made good time to the top. On the way up we passed two pairs of trampers walking out.

The rain had been only very light spasmodic drizzle as we walked, and at the top there was no wind. The forecast had been much more dire, so the relatively pleasant conditions were another surprise. However, there was no



Nicki on Mangahuia 22.09.2021
by Linda Campbell

view out to the Hawkes Bay Coast, and only a very hazy view to the higher country behind and to the right of the hut.

We enjoyed lunch in the hut; some stayed outside for a while but eventually came in seeking warmth. We took our time, then packed up and walked out. We'd had a good day, but as we drove out toward Highway 50 we could see the tops clearing. We had been in there 3 hours too early.

We enjoyed a coffee at the Ongaonga General Store before driving home.

Wednesday 29th September, 2021: Toka Adventures in the Snow

Trip leader and Reporter: Carole Kennerley

Photographers: Lucie Marychurch & Kevin Crawford

A large group of 33 trampers headed into the Ruahine ranges to enjoy the range of experiences offered by the various tracks that head towards the Toka Trig point.

The Deerford Bum Slide Luge.... By Bob Hodgson

Seven trampers chose to tramp the Deerford Loop under the delusion that it would be an easy ramble. In the event, we found the track to be in poor condition in places with several large fallen trees to navigate and a very demanding descent. In one section a group of trees had been taken down by a slip and had to be scrambled over. We started our loop from the Knights Track and all enjoyed the open beech forest of the ascent. Until we came to the junction where the Shorts Track heads for the tops, we had met only patchy snow but that soon changed. From the junction the track is a steep, grassy zig zag. This section has tight contours with a descent of 279m in 1.1 km. It was also coated with snow to a depth of 3 to 4 cm making it almost impossible to stand upright. So our merry and inventive band did a series of more or less controlled bum slides down through the tight contours. Surprisingly, for one of us it was her first ever encounter with alpine snow! The rest of the descent was uneventful except that one of us slipped over in the stream for the second time. (His comments are not reported....)



Slip Sliding Away.... By Carole Kennerley



The remaining 26 trampers headed up on Knights Track where we were quickly into the snowline, which added a sense of wonder and fun to our day. For some it was a 'first' to be tramping in the snow; for others it was a playground as snowballs were thrown, and branches gently caressed so that they released the snow they were holding down onto the unsuspecting persons below. As we gained height we lost vision with low cloud and later rain/sleet influenced the decisions of the various groups as to when to turn around and head back down. It was not the day to get to the tops... It was slippery underfoot with many a muddy encounter especially on the downhill and ending with a successful shoe rescue from the river. With 33 trampers safely back at the carpark, being out earlier than expected we were able to grab a coffee and cake at the café in Kimbolton. My thanks to Margaret for driving the van and the other volunteer car drivers today.

Thursday 30th September, 2021: Pukerua Bay to Plimmerton and back via an Inland Route

Trip Leader and Reporter: Wayne Lincoln

Photographer: Garry Grayson

For one not fond of rain, cold and misery picking the weather for a

tramp can be a challenge in the fickle New Zealand climate. It is much different when hiking in Washington or Oregon. There you are very likely to get two months of dry summer weather. You might have to put up with some smoke but the summer weather there is settled and dry. The humidity is also low. You sweat but it quickly evaporates. In New Zealand you sweat and it stays with you.

After looking at weather reports I decided that the Ruahine Range would be wet and surprisingly the Tararua Range would be dry or

close to dry. Not wanting to slog up a steep ridge I chose the Escarpment track. A nicely formed track complete with steps, walk to Plimmerton and back on the train. Nice uninterrupted views. What could possibly go wrong? Having made my choice and sent out the invitation I got an email. The track is closed due to a slip. Sure enough I did find a notice on line saying that The Escarpment Track was closed due to a slip but it took some finding. On to Plan B. Pukerua Bay along the coast to Plimmerton, north on the Taua Tapu Track and the Ara Harakeke Walkway back to Pukerua Bay: a mere 17 km.

The walk around the coast needs to be coordinated with the tide and we were in luck with a low tide at 10.39 am. The walk begins with a "track" from the car park at Pukerua Bay and quickly you are onto the beach and trudging through loose stones until the quarry, about half way along the coast, where you are able to walk on a "road" or wide track.



Along the way we spotted a young seal who looked warily at us. Some goats meandered above us on the steep slopes. The weather was dry, although the southerly wind was brisk at times. Lunch was in a sheltered spot in



Plimmerton.

Then it was up the Taua Tapu track through the Karehana Bay Reserve in a seemingly endless climb of 268 steps. On to the Ara Harakeke Walkway (which is part of the Te Araroa Trail) and back to Pukerua Bay and ice cream.

There were some spots of rain on the drive back to Palmerston North and just as I arrived home it bucketed down.

Thanks to Ken Mercer for driving the van.

Wednesday, October 6 2021: Herepai Hut

Trip Leader: Bev Akers & Rod McKenzie

Reporter: Nicki Fielder

Photographers: Pam Menzies & Kevin Crawford

Twenty one trampers made their way to the Putara Road end ready to tackle the challenge of reaching Herepai Hut ... and hopefully beyond for a view. Spirits were high and the weather overcast with no wind. It was wonderful to have two of Christine's grandchildren join us for the day.

As has become a strength of the Wednesday Group, the group naturally divided into smaller groups meaning everyone was supported and could enjoy the pace, bush and terrain. This is a 'there and back' tramp with a couple of stream crossings and two single file swing bridges. The first section crossed a meandering stream and the first swing bridge, with the gentle trail loosely following the

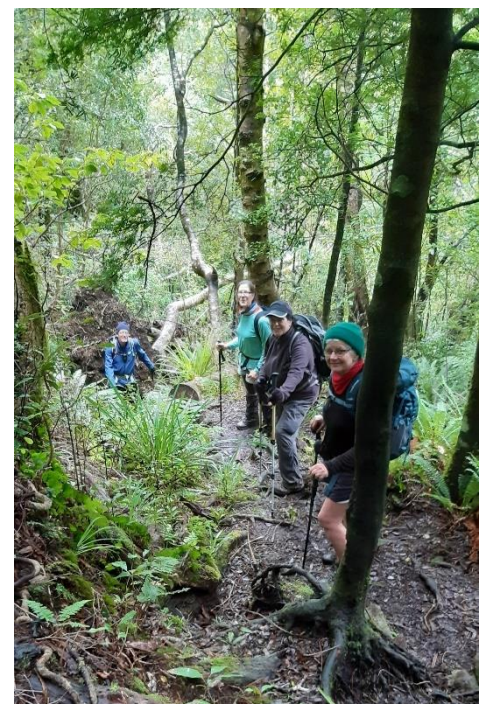


river. After crossing the second swing bridge we started a rather muddy and steep but steady climb, based largely on tree root steps, to the junction left to Roaring Stag Hut and right to continue to Herepai Hut. For some this was their lunch stop and destination. Many commented that heading to Roaring Stag Hut would make a fabulous summer tramp. From the junction we continued the steady climb to Herepai Hut.

Moisture in the air and moss-covered trees made the bush look and feel lush and vibrant. A little track

maintenance as we walked and carrying of wood for the hut supplies was the order of the day for some. Mist had settled in giving that 'otherworldly' feel and panoramic views could only be imagined so everyone settled cosily into the hut for lunch before the walk back down. Of the twenty one trampers, thirteen made it to the hut, four walked to the bottom of the hill below the hut, one had lunch at the junction with the Roaring Stag Hut and three (Christine and her two grandchildren) had a picnic by the river before the second swing bridge.

All seemed to enjoy the day, returning safe and sound to the carpark by 3pm. Too late for a coffee stop this time! Many thanks to Bev for organising the tramp and to Rod for being trip leader on the day. Our thoughts are all with Bev and Gary. Thanks to Robbie for driving the van and Pam, Christine and Ken for driving vehicles!



Wednesday 6th October, 2021: Alternative Tramp - Awaikopiko Reserve and Gorge Loop Walk

Trip Leader: Bob Hargreaves

Photographer: Carolyn McCarthy

Sixteen Wednesday trampers visited the Awaikopiko Reserve on Druce Road, Kumeroa. Thanks to the vision of the Druce family this attractive 28 hectares of native bush is now part of the QE2 National Trust. We took the 2.1 km Druce track circumnavigating the reserve. Marion had warned it was "steepish" and so it proved to be. Our group managed well but there was an occasional muddy backside by lunch time, taken at a picnic area near the car park. The bush is predominantly Tawa Forest, a remnant of the original Forty Mile Bush. The Druce family have enhanced the planting over the last 30 years with flax and planted seed collected locally.

We then drove to the Balance entrance to the Manawatu Gorge track and enjoyed the good state of the track. We turned right onto the Upper Gorge (Klein) track and made rapid progress down to the old gorge highway



and back to the cars via the Balance Bridge. Then it was a scramble to get changed and head for coffee at Woodville before the Cafes starting closing.

All in all an enjoyable day. Thanks to Bob Hodgson for planning the excursion and to drivers, Lucy, Chris, Jenny, Robyn and Charles.

Now that alternative Wednesday tramps are becoming a popular and more regular event perhaps we need to give

some consideration to making sure we have radios and PLBs as part of our kit.

MTSC Members Join Burttons Track Working Party

On Sunday 10th October four MTSC members rolled up their sleeves and joined a working party organised by the Te Araroa Manawatu Trust (TAMT). They were Carole Kennerley, John Salisbury, Robbie Green and Alistair Hall.

To quote from a message from the TAMT Chairman: "What a great day!! We achieved all I had hoped and more - old man gorse clearance and stump painting completed now all the way to Burttons clearing; seedling and regrowth gorse sprayed, the two big slips tracked, and water tables opened along the old road section. So, on behalf of Te Araroa Manawatu Trust, thanks all for a magnificent effort, and hopefully you don't feel too whacked.

P.S. We will be looking to do a similar effort on the Levin end of Makahika track in 2-3 weeks."



*Far Slip Team: Carole, Robbie Alistair
(John not shown)*

Thursday 7th October, 2021: Aruwaru from NaeNae Road

Trip Leader and Reporter: Alistair Hall

Photographers: William Laing and Pam Dransfield

Fifteen of us set off on a rather wet morning to climb Aruwaru from NaeNae road. We were met at the road end by Ian Argyle, who has led the development of this access track which follows the path of an old “paper road” up to connect with the Otangane Loop. Ian brought with him various rails, pegs etc. to be carried part way up the track to assist with further planned improvements. After volunteers had collected this material to carry up, we crossed the Otangane stream, and those of us who had brought alternative footwear for the crossing changed into our boots



before starting off. Unfortunately, some of the material was dropped off a bit short of where it was wanted, so there was a bit of a wait in the wet for some as material was relocated by those at the tail of the group: A good reminder that we need to wait for a full briefing at the start of a tramp, however well we know the track!

After a steep and rather muddy climb, we all connected up again

and made our way together up to the Aruwaru trig. Visibility was good so we could look down at the mist below us on the Wairarapa side and, as we started back down, there were good views towards Puke NaeNae and the hills and valleys around us. The light rain eased while we were eating our lunch back where the track to Aruwaru and the Otangane loop meet, but, as we were rather wet at that stage, we chose to take the more direct route down past Puke NaeNae instead of taking the longer route around the loop. We then made good time to be back at the road end by 2 pm. An enjoyable if rather wet and muddy outing!



Sunday 10th October, 2021: Gorging Ourselves

Trip leaders: Ken and Mary Mercer

Reporter and Photographer: Hazel Phillips

Tramping the disused Manawatū Gorge Road is kind of like shark diving. It seems dangerous, but then you find out that they basically pat the sharks after they feed them their morning snacks. Such activities are often low risk, but potentially high consequence. Such activities also tend to be a lot of fun.



The weather promised us no rain for our trip, but it did not deliver, and instead, we were treated to a cold and windy shower of rain on the way over the hill from the Ashhurst end along the Manawatū Gorge track. Mercifully, the weather gods were kind enough to hold off until after we'd stopped at the lookout for morning tea, at which point Ken and Mary modelled their new rain skirts for us. There was much envy.

As the rain eased off, we took the shortcut direct down to the bridge, taking us straight onto the disused road to return to the cars. Ken warned us of several slips, which loomed large in our minds, but – somewhat like the threat of hungry sharks nipping at human legs – their bark was worse than their bite. (How's that for a mixed metaphor?!) The slips were easily navigated and the sharks of the Manawatū Gorge went hungry for yet another day.

The road, closed and deemed impassable after what NZTA described as a "major slip" in April 2017 (which was largely cleared before being declared unstable), stands to become a spectacularly shattered landscape in years to come. Meanwhile, in places walkers and bikers can see the work happening on the new road, Te Ahu a Turanga, the Manawatū Tararua Highway, which will snake over the Ruahine Ranges to bridge the main divide.

For now, in a few places the road is covered by earth from small slips but for the most part it is easily walkable or



bikeable. Green shoots, aspiring to become full-blown trees, are poking up from the road and wildflowers wave enthusiastically from the gravelly edges. Tarseal, no longer worn away by speedy tyres, is bubbling up through the road surface itself.

Those interested in the gorge road trip should read local trumper Anthony Behren's piece on the FMC blog here: <https://wilderlife.nz/2018/01/a-brush-with-death/>.

Those particularly interested in derelict landscapes, or 'urban exploring', would do well to walk the gorge road yearly, to measure its progress in a fascinating project of entropy.

We were: Ken and Mary Mercer, Jill Stewart, Karen Tutt, Dion Cruse, and Hazel Phillips.

Wednesday 13th October, 2021: Mangaone Walkway

Trip Leader, Reporter and Photographer: Kevin Crawford

Our group of 26 trampers gathered at the Mangaone walkway carpark and started out just after 9 am in quite cold but dry conditions. The walkway is a well-formed track of moderate difficulty through some spectacular bush, following the Waikanae River. After crossing the impressive swing bridge at the beginning of the walk, we found the track to be quite wet and muddy underfoot in places, but in reasonable condition considering the recent weather. Light rain started to fall just before 10 am





and the front group had a quick morning tea taking shelter by a belt of trees, with the second group being not far behind. As we progressed, the rain settled in although the wind mercifully stayed away so that conditions weren't too unpleasant.

The walkway was made interesting by water crossings, log obstacles and bridges. The first group reached the logging road just before 11 am and the call was made to turn around and head back instead of following the road as the rain was persistent and there was no sign of it letting up. Three of the team did carry on for a further 20 minutes before heading back. The second group had made the call to turn around when faced with the biggest water crossing along the walkway.

Everyone arrived back at the cars about 12.30 pm having made the call not to stop on the return walk and, instead, have lunch in the comfort of cars and van after changing out of our wet gear. (It was still raining). We then all headed off to the Joe & Joy Cafe in Waikanae where we were well looked after. The day proved to be a very relaxed and enjoyable walk through some beautiful bush land. Thanks to Rod for his support and for suggesting the walkway, Margaret for driving the van, the car drivers Ewen, Ken, Bernard and Jenny plus everyone who came along and made the most of the day in spite of the elements.

Thursday 14th October, 2021: Remutaka Rail Trail

Trip Leader and Reporter: Norman Cooper

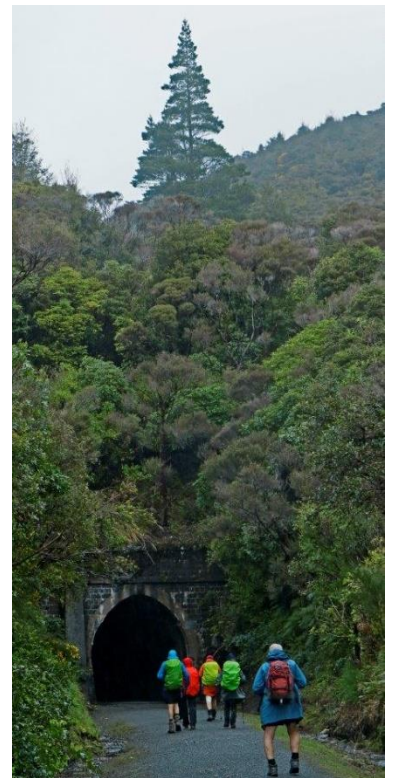
Photographer: John Brock

Siting in the front seat of the van with Greytown coming up, no wind, sun, and a bit of cloud I was looking and feeling great. A tramper by the name of Judy: I went to primary school in Featherston and Featherston has strong wind and some rain most of the time. We went through Featherston, black in the hills but no rain yet. Those that know me (or have heard rumours) know I have a cotton shirt on. Tony came to a stop in the carpark and I jumped out. Cold strong wind and a shower just starting. Instant goose bumps. Merino, no sleeve top went on plus raincoat. Neither came off although the zip on the coat was undone after lunch. Showered lightly most of the day but did not hinder our enjoyment of the day.

Tramped in the 2km to where the Fell trains started from for morning tea. Headed off on the trail, 15 feet forward 1 foot up for the next 5 km. Even though



there were showers, the cloud was high, and we



could see good distances. The interpretation panels are always good reads on how life was in the days when the fell trains operated, from 1878 until the line was discontinued in 1955.

My two high lights were the Siberia swing bridge with its multiple thick wire ropes, for high wind plus the summit, where families lived very remotely. Probably not a tramp for every year, but as it had rained for four previous Thursdays in a row, all thought it was excellent choice on the day.

Wednesday 20th October, 2021: Whareroa Farm / Orange Hut

Trip Leader and Reporter: Bob Hargreaves

Photographers: Raewyn Brookie and Robyn Laing

Sixteen Wednesday trampers encountered a fine sunny day when they arrived at the Whareroa Farm car park. There were a number of quite distinct vegetative zones on this walk. They ranged from grass cover on the farm, cutover pine forest, indigenous trees in the Akatarawa forest and, back on the farm, regenerating second growth indigenous forest.

A flattish walk along the farm race soon gave way to a steep climb up the Catchment View grassed track to Campbell Mill Road. Looking back we had great views of Kapiti Island and the Kapiti Coast. Morning tea was taken in a sheltered hollow. Then we were onto Campbell Mill Road leading to a section of logged production forest before entering the Akatarawa forest. The trash left from the



logging operation was not a pretty sight!

We took Hydro Valley Road into the Akatarawa forest. By this time the trampers had become quite spread out. The lead group decided they were going to get to Orange hut while the balance of the team turned for lunch around 12:15 pm. Seven trampers made it to Orange Hut (about 17 km return). With plenty of time available some of the slower group decided to return via the longer northern route, taking in the gentle downhill link track on Whareroa farm. Much easier on the knees!

Whareroa farm is operated by DOC and is no longer "farmed" in the traditional way. It was

pleasing to see how well the indigenous forest is regenerating on the steep hills. Gorse is still a problem weed along some of the tracks. However, gorse is increasingly being suppressed by the forest cover.

Everyone had returned to the parking area by 3 pm and we then headed for the Cafe at Harrison's Garden Centre on Pekapeka road that closes at 4.00pm. Some of the keen tramper/gardeners would have liked to spend time browsing in the extensive garden centre, but this will have to wait for another time.

Thanks to Margaret for driving the van and car drivers Robyn and Jenny.

Thursday 21st -22nd October, 2021: Tutuwai Hut

Trip Leader and Reporter: Judy Swainson

Photographers: William Laing, Judy Swainson

Seventeen of us set off from Waiohine Gorge Rd end and, typical of the Tararua Ranges, began with a steady rise followed by a descent to Cone Hut. Over morning tea we were entertained by Adam flexing his muscles to chop some huge circular logs found in the wood shed. The lowland track followed the Tauherenikau River and interspersed green spaces provided some beautiful views of river and adjoining bush.

We enjoyed a special evening of great camaraderie, sharing nibbles and celebrating significant birthdays. The next day



was cloudy but warm and, after ascending the, initially, very steep track to Mt Reeves, we enjoyed stunning views looking over to Wairarapa.

The trip was memorable for the varying flora, ranging from beautiful trees through to lowland and subalpine plants. Thanks to you all who accompanied me on this trip and a special thanks to drivers, Tony and Robbie.



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. Also available for cash sales at Bivouac Palmerston North and, possibly, at MTSC club nights. Get in quickly for early Xmas – numbers are limited.



Remutaka Incline by John Brock



Contact Details

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Committee 2021 - 2022

President	Tim Swale	president@mtsc.org.nz	022 134 8384
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General Committee: Bev Akers, Linda Campbell, Richard Lander, Blair Petersen, Rob Pringle, Peter Rawlins

Appointees

Lodge Bookings	Hugh & Liz Wilde	lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz	021 054 2560
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Ski Captain	Peter Rawlins	ski@mtsc.org.nz	027 678 0747
Social Convenor	Linda Campbell	social@mtsc.org.nz	027 333 4493
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Thursday Trips	Syd Easton	eastonps@inspire.net.nz	06 356 7462
Facebook	Ivan Rienks, Rob Pringle, Karen Tutt, Howard Nicholson facebook@mtsc.org.nz		

New Members

Prospective members must be nominated by a Proposer and a Seconder 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

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

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

Accommodation at the MTSC lodge on Mount Ruapehu

The lodge is close to Iwikau Village, has power, heating, hot showers and is stocked with food. Members and their guests are welcome. For Lodge bookings email Liz and Hugh Wilde lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz or phone 021 054 2560. To confirm your booking, payment must be made by internet payment (please email to confirm before depositing) Westpac account number 03 1521 022035300 or by cash to 179 Cook St Palmerston North 4410 in person.

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

Booking the MTSC Van: For bookings: Contact Ken Mercer 027 364 6475. Cancellations should be made as soon as practicable to accommodate other potential users. A tent fly (in the passenger door) and a Personal Locator Beacon (in the glove box) are available for use free of charge on trips.