

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 3. April, 2022



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 5 April, 2022: Interclub Quiz

In 2021, thanks to Covid, we had to postpone our Interclub Quiz Night. We are now hosting the Interclub quiz night at our usual (Rose City Aquatic) clubrooms at our April 2022 club night. 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 eight lots of twenty questions. There will be sweet treats for all, especially winners and tailenders!



7.30 pm 3 May, 2022- River Safety by Tim Swale

Drowning and hypothermia are the two major causes of tramping deaths in New Zealand. Our streams and rivers can rise quickly so it is important to know what to do and to use correct technique to cross to ensure the safety of all party members.

Tim will share an educational video used for both Search and Rescue training and Outdoor Training New Zealand. He will cover the questions: Do we need to cross? Where do we cross and how do we cross?

A must for everyone who ventures into the outdoors.

7.30 pm Tuesday 17 May, 2022: AGM

Annual General Meeting

7.30 pm 7 June, 2022: South Island Ski Touring

7.30 pm 5 July, 2022: South Island Adventures

7.30 pm Tuesday 2nd August 2022: MTSC Annual Photo Competition

Time to dust off your camera, troll through your photos and enter this year's competition. This year the best three images in each category will be chosen by an

independent judging panel and the best image in each category will be chosen by popular vote on the night. There will be a prize for every photographer who enters an image as well as prizes for the best image in each category and the best image overall. Entries need to be in by Friday 22 July.



Ruapae Falls 3.03.22 by John Brock

REPORTS AND NOTICES

MTSC President: Tim Swale

president@mtsc.org.nz

With the Covid Omicron outbreak that has swept through the country over the last month or so now starting to track downwards, there is some hope that we are over the worst and that we will soon be back to a more normal state of affairs for our club activities. A big thank you to all of our members who have gone along with the measures that have been put in place to minimise the spread of this virus. It is good to see that, despite the inconvenience and disruption, Covid has brought, that our members have still been getting out and enjoying trips into the hills. Here's hoping that it's all over by winter and that we can enjoy a great ski season without disruption.

A knock-on effect from the Covid restrictions is that the lodge development work to refurbish the toilets has been put on hold for the time being so we may have to wait a little longer for this upgrade. A big thank you to John Lyttle for getting all the materials ordered and delivered, and also to the team that went up to get these materials tidied away so that the lodge can still be used. Howard Nicholson has been working with others in the club, to develop a lodge booking system which will soon undergo testing to see if it is going to work prior to this winter's ski season.

Others have also been hard at work behind the scenes, advocating for access and back country facilities, liaising with DOC and ensuring that our local section of Te Araroa remains up to a good standard. I would particularly like to mention Alistair Hall for his work on the eastern access to the Otangane Loop and his lobbying of Tararua District Council. Also, Jean Garman for her continued efforts in representing us in negotiations with DOC regarding the maintenance of Mangahao Flats Hut. On a National level, John Beech continues to represent us on the Federated Mountain Clubs Executive. This organisation (to which a portion of your membership fee goes) represents all outdoor users in advocating for recreational facilities from which we all benefit. Finally, a big thank you to all of our committee members and post holders who put in so much effort over the year to keep our club running efficiently. We are always keen to have new input, so with the AGM coming up in May, if you feel that you are able to contribute, please let me know.

Lodge insurance

As a condition of operating our lodge on Mount Ruapehu we are required by DOC to have a minimum of \$250,000 insurance cover so that, in the event of a catastrophic event, we would have the ability to remove the debris and reinstate the site to its natural state. As a matter of course we have always insured the lodge for its full replacement value so that it could be rebuilt if disaster struck. However, insurance premiums have been climbing steadily over recent years; last year we were stung with a massive increase that is unsustainable going forward. We have, so far, been unable to find an insurer that will provide suitable cover at an affordable price. As a temporary measure we have accepted a much higher excess than previously to get the premium down a little but we are concerned about the cost outstripping income in the not too distant future. If any of our members have contacts in the insurance industry that may be able to offer some alternatives, we would be very keen to hear from them.

Auckland University Field Club Centenary

Calling anyone who was a member of the Auckland University Field Club at some time. The club's centenary is coming up this year, and the organisers are wanting to contact ex-members to keep them informed. Please send an email to Bruce Hayward at bw.hayward1@gmail.com, expressing your interest.

We welcome Geoff Jamieson to the club.



Photo by John Brock

Crackers

At the Barker's NZ web site (<https://barkers.co.nz/recipe/briggittes-crackers>) there is a recipe for crackers which Robert and William say is delicious.

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup Wholegrain oats
- 1/2 cup Sesame seeds
- 1/2 cup Linseed
- 1/2 cup Sunflower seeds
- 1/2 cup Pumpkin seeds
- 1 3/4 cups Flour
- 1 tsp Baking powder
- 2 tsp Salt
- 1 cup Water
- 1/2 cup Olive oil
-

Extra advice from William: stir the dry ingredients before adding the liquid and to 'roll them thin'.

Method

1. Mix all ingredients in a bowl. It makes for quite a wet mix!
2. Divide into approximately 3 parts (depending on the size of your baking tray) and roll each part out thinly between two sheets of baking paper.
3. Remove the upper sheet and using a big knife press down into the dough to mark where you will later break it into pieces.
4. Bake at 200°C for 15-20 minutes until golden.
5. Cool then break into pieces and top with your favourite cheese and Barker's relish combination!



April Wednesday Tramps			April Thursday Tramps		
06	Cheryl D & Marilyn H	021 374 882	07	William Laing	022 099 7988
13	Jenny Williamson	06 328 6857	14	Christine Scott	021 724 098
20	Rod McKenzie	027 246 8156	21	Jenny McCarthy	021 215 2197
27	Marion Beadle	06 323 3246	28	Ken & Mary Mercer	027 372 5375
April Weekend Trip					
10	Rangiwahia Hut	Linda Campbell	027 333 4493	Easy / family	

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

Sunday 10th April, 2022: Rangiwahia Hut

Linda Campbell 027 333 4493 Easy – family walk

This trip is suitable for families, for beginners and anyone who would like an easy trip. The track to the hut, which is accessed from Renfrew Road, Rangiwahia, is well defined and steadily zig zags up through the beech forest, past a lovely waterfall to tussock covered open tops. It should take 2-3 hours to reach the hut. On a good day the views are stunning.

TRIP REPORTS

Thursday 17 February, 2022: Arawaru via Quartz Creek

Trip Leader and Reporter: Garry Grayson

Photographer: William Laing

A small but enthusiastic team of nine set off from Kahuterawa Rd carpark along the Sledge Track to a point just beyond the swing bridge leading from Arapuke Bike Park, where the Quartz Creek route departs the main track up to Hardings Park. Kahuterawa Stream is followed on the true right for a short distance before crossing a tributary via a plank boardwalk and beginning a climb to point 624. This bait line route is very well marked but not maintained by regular cutting; however, a generally obvious foot trail exists in most places, although not shown on topo maps.



Point 624 was reached in about 2.5hrs where a smoko stop with some great views of the surrounding area were had, including 'scars' from excavations on the final stage of windfarm site prep' above Kahuterawa/Greens Rd. Hopefully re-grassing will tone down the acres of bare soil currently exposed.

The Trig on Aruwaru was now in sight as well but a further stint of bait line trail finding was needed before stepping out on to a well-cut route through leatherwood to the summit of Aruwaru; time for a photo shoot.



As it was just an hour since smoko we decided to push on for a lunch stop just before the Otangane Loop track junction where we again enjoyed magnificent views down over Wairarapa farmland, while huddled under shade where possible.

From here its 'plain sailing' around the remainder of Otangane Loop past Toe Toe Loop entrance/exits and down the hill to meet Sledge Track once again.

It turned out on average to be a 7hr tramp, with about 30mins between frontrunners and tail-end finishers.

Alistair had very kindly invited all back to his place for snacks and refreshments which was greatly

appreciated by all, especially Judy, who managed her traditional 'post tramp' swim in a lovely pool near Alistair's property.

Wednesday 23 February, 2022: Atiwhakatu Hut

Trip Leader and Reporter: Harold Pettersson

Eighteen trampers set off for Atiwhakatu Hut. This scenic walk was enhanced by some misty drizzle on the trees. The river was running quite fast with rapids and waterfalls: a nature trail. However, it was a tramp with the 15 km taking 4/5 hours, including leisurely morning tea and lunch breaks. Following discussions the previous Wednesday, the intention was to set off from the carpark in groups of six to cover any mishaps. There were no mishaps and no one walked alone. The early start (7.30am) was to avoid closures on the Pahiatua Track. I expected extensive roadworks. Just past Aokautere, there was about 50 metres of work

closing one lane. However, there was little delay. On the return there was no sign of any activity at the site though the road was due to close about 20 minutes later. Even so, it is better to stay with stated closure times rather than have extra detours. Some people stopped for ice creams as cafes were probably closed after our departure from the carpark at 3pm.

Thursday 24 February, 2022: Blue Range Hut

Photographer: John Brock



Wednesday 2 March, 2022: Trampers in the Mist

Trip Leader and Reporter 1: Robbie Green

Reporter 2: Robyn Laing

Reporter 3 and Photographer: Ewen Cameron

1. Starting at Kiriwhakapapa Road end, 23 people went into the bush and 23 came back out. A big thank you to Ewen and Bill for leading their groups and also a big thank you to all the drivers Richard, Robyn, Ewen, Marion and Helen who made the day's tramp possible.

2. Bill was the very considerate leader for the five who decided we were up for the 700 meter climb up to the Blue Range Hut. We stayed in a group which was like a sandwich - Bill at the front and Robert at the back with myself, Jill and Catherine climbing at different paces. A couple of us had forgotten, conveniently, just how much climbing we had signed on for. Luckily, in the misty rain, the trees and foliage were particularly beautiful. The trip down seemed to go more quickly than the one up.....I wonder why. Thanks for your patience Bill and Robert.

3. Our group of eager trampers headed off into the mist from the saddle on the Mikimiki track up the ridge towards Te Mara. Our initial track marker, found near the start of the route, was a discarded raisin packet; perhaps there'd be a trail of litter to follow to the top? Legitimate markers were scarce initially and then non-existent towards the top, but the ridge is hard to lose so we made steady progress upwards. The biggest constraint was the bitterly cold South-Easterly wind and the dampness from either light rain or mist.....we were in the clouds for most of the day until the last half hour when the sun tried to shine.

Lunch was "enjoyed" before the summit in an area with plenty of mossy mounds to provide shelter. From there we had a steep climb up a knob and then skirted another before making it to the unspectacular top, marked with a pipe and small label. (Even if there was a view, we wouldn't have seen it because the cloud was fairly dense). We didn't linger long before heading back down. Rod saved us a bit of time by remembering the sharp right turn we needed to make to get us down to the Cow Creek Hut track just above the junction with the Blue Range Hut. As with our ascent, keeping to the route was a team effort as markers were sparse on the way down. As usual, Anne, Marion, Rod and Ewen tracked progress with their phones.



Easter orchids by John Bock



We reached the Cow Creek track right by the tree with the metal Te Mara arrow.

From there we simply went down the Blue Range Hut track to the car park at the end of Kiriwhakapapa road. It did seem to be a long way down. We all enjoyed a day looking at the plant-life, watching out for track markers and working together to ensure we were on the right path to find the summit some had vague memories of visiting in the past.

Thanks to Robbie, the Trip Leader, who allowed us to take off on this side trip and the people who waited for our return.

Thursday 3 March, 2022: Ruapae Falls

Trip Leader and Reporter: Suzanne Clark

Photographer: John Brock

Thirteen keen trampers set off from the Putara road end to walk towards the Ruapae Falls. Several years ago some of us did make the Falls thanks to a huge log that allowed us to get across a tricky place. The day was perfect for a walk up the Ruapae stream but, unfortunately, the log had gone. However, Adam was prepared with a rope and he and three others did make the Falls. A very pleasant lunch break was had by the stream before we climbed back into the bush. Icecreams at Eketahuna were the order of the day. Thanks to drivers Adam, Syd, and Ian.



Wednesday 9 March, 2022: Pinnacle Ridge

Trip Leader, Photographer and Reporter: John Salisbury



We had a beautiful day to do the rather challenging Pinnacle Ridge tramp. Seven of us had a go at the ridge; myself, Roswitha, Bill, Robyn L, Maurice, Rob and Jill; Bernard, Robyn S and Harold tramped up to Mountain Lodge and back, Gay gamely did her own thing whilst nursing a sore leg.

Our tramp led us along the true left of the river with some wonderful views of the valley, until we hit the steep climb, which we interrupted with morning tea. We finally managed to hit the open ridge where we could see the extent of the rigours to come and had lunch further along before finding the first of the track junctions, well marked with orange tin lids.

Now we were on the descending part of the day; the second junction came in good order with French and another flag markers instead of the usual orange triangles. The descent seemed to go on forever until we got to the very narrow ridge above the river and had a selection of frayed lines to lower ourselves down. The river was low but still over boot tops. Then a concerted effort saw us all up the rope on the much steeper scramble to get to the main Atiwhakatu track and the easier ramble back to the bridge and cars.



Thursday 10 March, 2022: Deadmans-Rangi Loop

Trip Leader and Reporter: Judy Swainson

Photographer: John Brock



The original Mania loop was changed to the loop ascending Deadmans track first of all. The weather had been very warm but, as we reached the tops, a cool breeze made the traverse very pleasant. The weather enabled us to enjoy magnificent views as this tramp never fails to deliver on a clear day. After a brief stop at Rangiwahia Hut we descended to road end where the day was at its hottest so we were pleased to enjoy icecreams at the Cheltenham store. A very enjoyable crossing was done despite fears of the day being too hot.

Wednesday 16 March, 2022: Escarpment Walk

Trip Leader: Evan Davies

Trip Reporter: Mary Mercer

Photographer: Catherine Henderson

Twenty people in five cars met at the Paekakariki Railway Station carpark. After Evan's talk about the day's plan then a trek by some to the only open toilet back on Beach Road, all caught the 9.20 am train to Pukerua Bay. From there we began a steady climb, initially alongside the railway line, up the Escarpment. The day was overcast and there was the occasional drop of rain but it was a nice temperature for tramping and we had good views of the South Island, Kapiti Island and the lovely clear sea way below.

After an hour or so we stopped near the first bridge for morning tea. Further on, we could see a slip below and men nearby, drilling into the side of the hill, presumably to make the track secure. The track itself has quite a large diversion around this section which resembles a fairly typical, steep tramping track. Fortunately, there were ropes attached to stakes driven into the side of the hill as handholds. After we re-joined the 'proper' track there were a series of metre-wide slips to negotiate, none too difficult as long as you didn't look down! From there



the track returned to a fairly well manicured state with lots of flights of stairs to climb up to a very pleasant lunch spot with plenty of seats for people admiring the views.

From the lunch stop the track descends, mostly, back to railway track level, after which there are a few ups and downs til it comes out at the highway, beside a bridge over the railway line. Here the group spilt, some opting to cross the bridge while others walked along side SH59 briefly and into Paekakariki roughly four hours after we began our tramp. There people enjoyed icecreams or coffees before returning to the cars at the Railway station and home. All in all, a very pleasant outing. Thanks to our trip leader, Evan, and our five drivers.



*Ruapae Falls
by John Brock*



Contact Details

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

Committee 2021 - 2022

President	Tim Swale	president@mtsc.org.nz	022 134 8384
Wednesday 2 nd March, 2022: Kiriwhakapapa Road	Secretary	Howard	Nicholson
secretary@mtsc.org.nz	027 294 1941		
Treasurer	William Laing	treasurer@mtsc.org.nz	022 099 7988
Chief Guide	Ken Mercer	chief.guide@mtsc.org.nz	027 364 6475
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Newsletter Editor	Mary Mercer	editor@mtsc.org.nz	027 372 5375
Lodge Manager	John Lyttle	lodge.manager@mtsc.org.nz	027 433 6307
Mini-Bus Manager	Ken Mercer	minibus@mtsc.org.nz	027 364 6475

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

Appointees

Lodge Bookings	Hugh & Liz Wilde	lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz	021 054 2560
Gear Custodian	Rob Pringle	gear@mtsc.org.nz	020 426 2176
Ski Captain	Peter Rawlins	ski@mtsc.org.nz	027 678 0747
Social Convenor	Linda Campbell	social@mtsc.org.nz	027 333 4493
Wednesday Trips	Bev Akers	bevakers@xtra.co.nz	027 274 6265
Thursday Trips	Syd Easton	eastonps@inspire.net.nz	06 356 7462
Facebook	Ivan Rienks, Rob Pringle, Karen Tutt, Howard Nicholson	facebook@mtsc.org.nz	

New Members

Prospective members must be nominated by a Proposer and a 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 <https://www.mtsc.nz/>

This contains club information, photos, contact details and back issues of this newsletter, Beechleaves. The club website is maintained by Howard Nicholson 027 294 1941 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.