

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 7. August, 2022

CLUB MEETINGS

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 2nd August 2022: MTSC Annual Photo 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

7 pm Tuesday 16 August, 2022: Interclub Quiz Night

Do come along to support the club at this event, hosted by MUAC this year, in the MUSA (Massey University Students' Association) Lounge (opposite the Library on the concourse). Make up a team with fellow trampers for a fun night out.

7.30 pm Tuesday 6 September, 2022: Volunteer Work in the Tararuas and Ruahines

by Jean Garman

One of the joys of retirement is to have the time to volunteer. My passion is for the hills so my volunteer work focusses on huts, tracks and predator trapping. This talk will cover some of the projects I have been involved in over the last couple of years.

7.30 pm Tuesday 4 October, 2022: Interclub Photo Competition

Mountain Film Festival

Possibly 18 October; date to be confirmed by MUAC



ToeToe Loop track by Alistair Hall

REPORTS AND NOTICES

MTSC President: Tim Swale

president@mtsc.org.nz

It was with great sadness that I learned of the passing of Ian Argyle QSM on 10th July, aged 88. Ian has done so much for the outdoor community over the years in opening up a multitude of tramping opportunities in the area. He was probably best known for masterminding the construction of the Sledge Track, but he also did much to open up the Hardings Park area, with the Toetoe and Otangane loop tracks. Most recently he devoted his efforts to pushing through the Naenae Road access on the eastern side of the ranges. This was a mammoth task in itself but made more difficult by access issues over the legal unformed road. Ian's dogged determination and motivational skills enabled him to get others on board and eventually see this route established. These tracks will be a lasting legacy to Ian and I am sure that our club members will appreciate his efforts as we walk these tracks in the years to come. My condolences go to his wife Shirley and his wider family.

At the July MTSC committee meeting, we spent quite some time discussing a very detailed letter from one of our members regarding the setting of recommended costs for travel on club trips. The minibus charge of 10c per kilometre per person was set earlier in the year due to rising costs of fuel. The minibus is used solely for club activities and we need to replace it every few years. Therefore all costs have to be covered by this fee including servicing, repairs, tyres, insurance, depreciation, registration, Certificate of Fitness and Road User Charge, as well as fuel. At this point in time the committee feel that the 10c per kilometre cover these costs adequately providing most seats are filled. The letter (published below) was more concerned with setting a recommended charge when private vehicles are used. Currently we suggest 10c per kilometre, the same as the minibus. However it was pointed out that this may not cover costs actually incurred and that the car owner is therefore in some cases subsidising the passengers. This would certainly be the case where only two or three people travel in a car that is not very fuel efficient. We are keen to get member's views on this, so please speak to or email a committee member with your thoughts. In the meantime, and with a view to reducing our carbon footprint, as well as our costs, it may be worth considering putting at least four people in a car, using more fuel-efficient vehicles where possible and doing local trips more often. Certainly some food for thought!



Photo by John Brock: Waitarere Beach

Car Travel Costs

Author Anonymous; views not necessarily endorsed by the Committee

When I refill my car after taking it for a tramp and suffer "car owner virus" as I cringe at the cost of refuelling, I wonder if the 10c/km I charge people, based on what passengers in the minibus pay, is covering my costs. The 10c/km cost for at least six people in the minibus means that the club covers the costs of running the minibus including costs related to how far it goes such as, diesel; fixed costs that occur regardless of how far we drive it, such as insurance and finally a contribution to replacement of the minibus (as depreciation). Each trip, while there are six or more people using the minibus, the club can keep using it and can expect to buy a new one using money if the minimum of 60c/km charged. (*Editor's note: An additional \$10,000 donation from The Lion Foundation supplemented the club funds used to purchase the current minibus.*) If I have four people in my car, does the 40c/km cover the same costs? Some might also question why I, as someone bringing my car to help with a club trip, have to pay at all. Should the costs of travel be shared across just the costs of people I give a ride to? If I work out the costs of running my car on the same basis as the club uses to run the minibus, then I can see where I stand. So here goes.

Starting at the upfront running costs: My car is a mid-sized SUV and I get about 9.5L/100km of petrol which is \$3.15 a litre, or roughly 30c/km or about 7c/km per person if there are four of us in my car. If I continue in this way with all the costs for my car, I come up with the information in Table 1.

Table 1: Car costs in cents per km

Item	Cost for the car (c/km)	Cost/ person with 4 people in the car (c/km)	Cost/ person with 3 people paying for the car (c/km)
Petrol	29.9	7.5	9.9
Oil & R&M	1.6	0.4	0.5
Tyres ⁱ	2.9	0.7	0.9
Fixed costs (WoF, Rego, Insurance) ⁱⁱ	6.6	1.7	2.2
Share of value of car ⁱⁱⁱ	15.0	3.7	5.0
Total	56	14.0	18.7

ⁱBased on a new set of tyres worth \$1,200 in 40,000km

ⁱⁱBased on travelling 12,000 km over a year

ⁱⁱⁱBased on depreciation of \$1,800 a year over 12,000 km

Overall, my car costs about 56c/km to run and the minibus about 60c/km (based on six people paying 10c/km each). The issue is that the costs of running the minibus are covered by at least 6 and often up to 11 people paying 10 cents per km. I usually have four people in my car so am about 26 cents short for every kilometre I travel if I charge my three passengers just 10c/km. If I expected not to pay but to charge the three passengers in my car I would need to charge them 19c/km, nearly double the 10c/km I charge now.

I also wonder how much difference the rising cost of petrol makes to the c/km cost in my car with four people in it. The answer to what happens when petrol charges rise, is Table 2, below. There is a slight rise in the cost for each person. (But let's hope we are not paying \$3.45/L for petrol any time soon!)

Table 2: Cost per person in cents/km to cover just fuel with 4 paying people in my car with differing fuel prices.

	Fuel price (\$/L)					
	3	3.05	3.15	3.25	3.35	3.45
4 passengers	7.1	7.3	7.5	7.7	8.0	8.2

All this has been worked out on an average fuel consumption of 9.5L/100km. If I drive more carefully on open roads, I can improve my petrol consumption to about 8.5L/100km. The overall cost drops to roughly 27c/km but because of rounding, this is still 7c/km per person! Of course, if the roads are windy, gravel and perhaps I need 4-WD, then petrol consumption goes up, with rounding to 8c/km. Table 3 shows the difference fuel "economy" makes. Note this is a calculated result not something I have measured; for interest, I have calculated the cost per person for fuel economies which are better than my car can achieve.

Table 3: Cost per person (c/km) to cover just petrol (\$3.15/L) at different fuel economies.

	Fuel "economy" in litres/100km								
	6.5	7.0	7.5	8.0	8.5	9	9.5	10	10.5
4 paying passengers	5.1	5.5	5.9	6.3	6.7	7.1	7.5	7.9	8.3

For my car, although the per person difference is small from different fuel economies (between 6.7c/km and 8.3c/km), it is greater than the differences related to petrol price (with the range of petrol priced I have used).

So what?

- 1 If I have 3 paying people in my car and I only charge 10c/km, I am contributing roughly 9c/person/km, that's 27c/km for my car for the trip.
- 2 If I have 4 people in my car and I charge 10c/km each, I now know that I am not covering all the costs of taking my car on a tramp. I am contributing about 4c/km per person for their tramp, that's 16c/km for my car.
- 3 I don't mind that it's costing me to take people to tramps in my car because I enjoy their company while we are out exploring and looking at the bush. But if I do take my car, I'd like it to be full because the per person costs of taking my car rise quickly with fewer people to split the costs for the car.
- 4 When I travel in the minibus and don't have to take my car, I am incredibly grateful to the minibus drivers who not only get me there and back safely (and who then refuel and clean-up after me). But they and the club save me the cost of taking my car. It's cheaper per km I travel than taking my car
- 5 I like the independence from taking my own car, but that independence does not come free.
- 6 My next car for tramping trips will be a people mover with more seats than a standard car.

Mt Ruapehu Medical Services Winter 2022

We have two medical centres, one at the base of Tūroa and one in the plaza area of the Whakapapa Ski Field, which are open every day the ski field is open from 8:30 to 16:30. Our clinics are staffed with a Doctor, Nurse, Radiographer, and we have x-ray onsite. We are not only here to look after the staff and guests on Mt Ruapehu, but also available to the wider community. From the injuries we see on the ski fields, only around 6% of our patients need to be transferred to hospital. We pride our clinics in being able to save patients a trip to hospital and this is because we offer very similar services to some of the local hospitals. We see patients for ACC consults, injury management, medical issues, prescriptions, and also offer a range of medical products such as inhalers, pain relief, cold and flu tablets, and strapping tape.

We are a private clinic, so there are charges; however we have subsidised care through ACC and discounts for locals and community service cards. If you are referring patients to us, please ask them to ring ahead on the numbers below. In cases of emergency please use 111.

Whakapapa Medical Centre - 027 268 3428
Tūroa Medical Centre - 027 273 0791



Maharahara tramp, June 2022 by John Brock

UPCOMING TRIPS

August Wednesday Tramps			August Thursday Tramps		
03	Evan Davies	06 357 6288	04	Judy Swainson	06 358 4082
10	Jenny Williamson	06 328 6857	11	Wayne Lincoln	021 0680 5237
17	Bill Milham	06 356 8136	18	Nicki Fielder	022 515 3807
24	Wendy Williams	06 329 6829	25	Bryce & Raewyn Buddle	06 353 5163
31	Catherine Henderson	021 939 604	01 Sep	Janny McCarthy	027 3551014
August Weekend Tramps					
Sat 20	Snow Skills at Lodge; preliminary meeting on Monday 15 August. Trip Leaders Howard Nicholson (027 2941 941) & Ken Mercer (027 364 6475). Technical				
Sun 28	Gorge Walk	Easy	Linda Campbell	027 333 4493	

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.

15 & 20 August, 2022: Snow Skills 2022

Howie Nicholson 027 294 1941 and Ken Mercer 027 364 6475 Technical

We all encounter snow from time to time, particularly above the bush line in winter. When is it safe to walk on? How to walk safely? When and how to use an ice axe? And what about crampons? This introductory course is for trampers who might encounter frozen stuff and want to keep as safe as possible. It is an opportunity to refresh skills you might already have or learn from scratch. We will have a preliminary session on the preceding Monday (15th) evening where we'll also fit crampons to your boots (Venue to be advised). The practical session will be based at our Whakapapa lodge on Saturday August 20.

Sunday 28 August, 2022: Gorge walk

Linda Campbell Easy Ph 027 333 4493 or lindammc@xtra.co.nz

This is always a popular walk being close to home and beautiful with lots of little side trips offering views of the river and the opportunity to get fairly close to a windmill. The bush is lovely and the nikau are looking more and more impressive. There are options for distances walked. Definitely one to suit all ages and fitness levels.

Sunday 30 October, 2022: Deadmans Circuit

Linda Campbell Medium Ph 027 333 4493 or lindammc@xtra.co.nz

This trip starts with a walk up to Rangiwahia Hut from Renfrew Road near Rangiwahia. We will stop at the hut for morning tea and to admire the beautiful art works on the out buildings. From there we will follow

the track up the tussock covered ridge to the tops of the Whanahuia Range and head east to the Mangahuia Trig before following the poles south east up and down through tussock, leatherwood and red beech back to the car park. It is a wonderful circuit with great views on a good day.

November 26-27, 2022: Orongorongo

Linda Campbell Easy / Medium Ph 027 333 4493 or lindamc@xtra.co.nz

As there is no hut available, we will need to camp at the Catchpool Valley Campground. The area is extremely popular so please let me know ASAP if you are keen to come. There are many walks in the area, several of which are classified as easy. Exactly which walks we will do will be decided when I know who is keen to come.



Thursday 16 June, 2022: Herepai Hut

Trip Leader and Reporter: Syd Easton

Eleven of us went to Herepai. The weather had recently been wet, and further rain was possible, but tramping conditions were good. We split into two parties, one taking the usual route, crossing two bridges in the river valley before climbing to the fork between the tracks to Herepai and Roaring Stag Huts, then going onto Herepai. From there, one intrepid person got up to the cross and brief views before the weather clagged in and it got wet.

Others of us went up the Bottles Track. This was easy going, and it was possible to accomplish the very pleasant section following downstream without getting wet feet. It was good to see the forest well-watered and looking fresh. We arrived at the hut 30-40 minutes after the other party. We were impressed by the renovations to Herepai Hut, which is now an attractive destination to be factored into future plans.

After lunch, we all returned down the main track. Those of us who had gone up the Bottles Track noted that, while it did involve significant loss of height, to be regained, it was better underfoot than the main track.

Special thanks to Tim and others who proposed, and guided, the Bottles Track option.

Wednesday 22 June, 2022: Kohitere Forest

Trip Leader & Reporter: Anne West

Photographers: Rod McKenzie & Anne West

Kohitere Forest was our destination where 30 trampers set out to explore the mountain bike trails. We

started at the 'Gardener' trail, a gentle warm-up alongside a stream in native bush, then a climb through pine forest and along a road. From here the 'Top' trail took us to the Trig, with views of the snow-capped Tararuas. After a morning tea break most of our team headed down the other side of the hill to the 'Double Dipper' trail. Yes, there are two dips as this trail traverses two valleys and the ridge between, the second 'up' seemed rather longer than the first,



but finally we came out on the road leading up from Makahika. Following this road to the left took us to a clearing near the Y junction. This was our designated lunch spot.

The lead trampers were surprised to see the tail-end group had arrived before them. In fact, this group of eight had taken a leisurely approach to the day. After a slow climb to the trig, they had agreed to miss the 'Double Dipper' and had followed the road directly to the lunch spot. It was good to be reunited with the



full group, and in fine calm sunny conditions we could relax and chat. After lunch a few chose to return down the road to the cars; most of the group continued on to the 'Goat' trail. This took us down into another valley and up the other side, to return along the road to the Arapaepae lookout. Some continued on the road but most took 'Kurt's' trail to zigzag downhill. There have been two slips on this trail but trampers had little difficulty crossing these. All were back to the vehicles by 3.00 p.m., delighted to find that the early birds had boiled the billy for us: a big thank you to Ken who has set up the 'BillyBox' for us. Many of us were prepared with coffee or soup sachets; it was a treat to enjoy a hot drink.

Everyone seemed happy with their day. Kohitere forest offers a variety of tracks and trails, through native and plantation forest, with nice views from the tops. Conditions underfoot were good; there was little mud and the pine needles were nice to walk on. We were careful when crossing the occasional wooden plank because these can be very slippery when wet. It is always pleasing to complete a circuit and the route we had planned allowed a shorter circuit for the slower group. The trails are not well marked; we were fortunate to have Rod and Ewen guide us, and others played their part by staying in their groups. The weather was perfect for a winter tramp.

Thursday 23 June, 2022: Waitarere - Hokio

Trip Leader, Reporter and Photographer: Bill Milham

After a quick briefing at Waitarere, we headed off down Rua St to the entrance to the forest where Royce guided us to the Fairy Garden and Middle Earth playground, both of which have been created by locals for young folk to enjoy in a forest setting: a special place to visit with grandchildren. Out of the sun now and in the cool forest we continued on south on a variety of tracks, including a cross country fun navigation exercise to find a track previously travelled - to no avail. - However we did end up on a formed track and eventually came upon the southern exit on to the beach.

On the beach and heading south again we eventually reached the fringe of the estuary and stopped for lunch at a small streamside park area with ample seating for us all. After a leisurely lunch we started on our way north and it was decided to take a circuitous route back to the beach. Again guided by Royce and Jenny with their navigation skills we eventually exited the forest, where we had been previously, and set out up the beach.

What an amazing jaunt this turned out to be. The weather was out of the box with no wind, a blue sky and the crisp clear air enabled us to sight both Mt Ruapehu to the north and Mt Taranaki on the horizon. It was a couple of hours after low tide so there was this expansive sandy area out to the sea which was immensely

enjoyed by Tui, Judith's Labrador-cross canine charge for the day. Off the leash she bounded endlessly all over the place, enjoying her freedom and was reluctantly brought to heel after a time, still with energy to burn.

At the high tide mark along the beach the significant piles of debris reminded us of how nature, after a storm, can impact the landscape. Our stop off to venture in to the sandhills to visit the site of the wreck of the Hydrabad drew much discussion as many among us had visited the wreck many decades ago when it was clearly sighted on the beach. Now just a few rusting remains are barely visible in the deep sand.



On arriving back at our starting point and, as the café was closed, ice creams were enjoyed while sitting in the warm afternoon sun. An enjoyable day was had by all. William indicated we had climbed a total of 49 metres on the day- not a challenging exercise, but enjoyable just the same.

Matariki Weekend 24-26 June, 2022: Wellington Walks

Trip Leader, Reporter and Photographer: Linda Campbell

It was rather lovely to have another long weekend and the thought of walks with like-minded people and a chance to see the Matariki Fireworks in Wellington were a real draw card. Tim, Jinny and I left Palmerston North around 8.00am on the Friday morning and met Mary, Ken, Ben, Shijia, Eva, Ollie and William at the Broken Hill car park, south west of Porirua City. This turned out to be a popular start point for walkers and bikers alike. Initially there was a bit of uncertainty regarding which track to take but it soon became clear



and we were off upward. There is a bit of a steep uphill climb through some lovely bush to reach the summit of Colonial Knob / Rangituhi at 468 metres. Once above the bush there were fabulous views to the Inland Kaikoura and Tapuae-o-Uenuku (2,885m) in the south and to Mt Taranaki (2518m) in the north-west. Some thought we could see Mt Ruapehu as well! From the summit the track took us through farm land and eventually back to the road end. This is not a long walk (3-4 hours) so the group visited the café at Mitre 10 for a late lunch before heading to our accommodation for the night. The fireworks over Wellington were visible

from the lounge and made a great show.

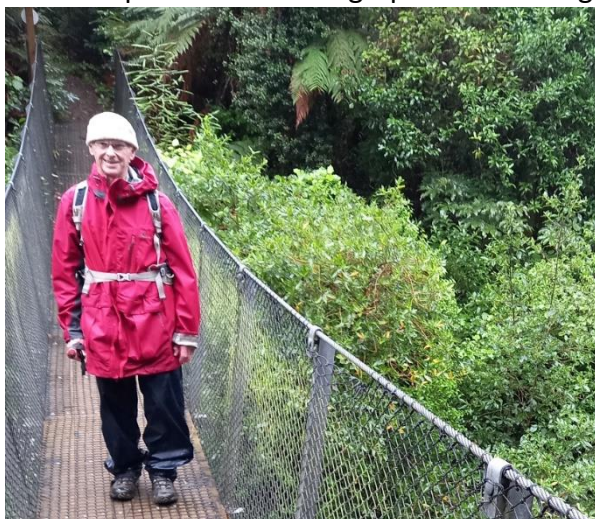
On the Saturday morning Mary, Ken, Tim, Shijia, Eva, Jinny and I set off from Courtenay Place to walk the Southern Walkway. This is the final section of the North Island Te Araroa Trail. The start, which is well

marked, begins near the intersection of Oriental Parade and Carlton Gore Road. From here the track zig zags onto the slopes of Mt. Victoria providing great views across Oriental Bay and the city in many places along the way. We decided not to take the side trip to the summit of Mt Victoria as we had all been there many times in the past but instead enjoyed a long morning tea in the sun. The track then follows Alexandra Road down until it meets Crawford Road. After crossing Crawford Road a short uphill took us up to Paeroa Street, then onto Colville Street and around to where I grew up, Coromandel Street. The path zig zags up the upper part of Coromandel Street to the pine forest and through the Truby King Historic Park. Further on we reached Melrose Park and part of the boundary fence of Wellington Zoo. We stopped for a look but saw no animals other than a group of humans looking at something in one of the enclosures. From there we zig zagged up on to Mt Albert. The views were fantastic and included the approaching rain. After a quick lunch it was rain coats on for a short section of road walking. The track then took us down through Sinclair Park and Buckley Reserve to Houghton Bay. This was followed by a walk of about 1 km along the coast to Shorland Park, Island Bay which is the southern point of the Te Araroa North Island section. From there we walked up to the movie theatre in Island Bay for coffee and cake. The whole walk took approximately 4 hours including our stops and the additional walks along from Courtney Place and from Shorland Park to the theatre. The beauty of the walks through the forest, over the hills and at times on the road may well surprise some people. I would truly recommend this Wellington Walk.

Wednesday 29 June, 2022: Kahuterawa/Arapuki Loop

Trip Leader: Margaret McKenzie

Reporter and Photographer: Bob Hodgson



After doing a reconnaissance, Trip Leader Margaret wisely decided that her original "Plan A" tramp was likely to be too muddy and too demanding in the midwinter weather. She opted instead for a guaranteed do-able tramp. The new plan became: walk up the Back Track, at the end of Kahuterawa Road, to the Te Araroa shelter at top of Scotts Road, then walk across the top of the Arapuki Mountain Bike Park to the track going down to Arapuki bridge, finally to return on the Sledge Track back to the carpark.

So, with an 8 am rendezvous, about twenty five trampers assembled on a day with a forecast for persistent light rain and poor visibility, in conditions of persistent light rain and poor visibility. We were under way by ~8.40 making our way up the Back Track to the open shelter for morning tea.

The conditions demanded rain coats but the lack of wind chill meant that the external precipitation was soon matched by internal perspiration, warm and fine while tramping but soon chilling when we stopped and refreshed at the morning tea stop.

Most of the regular Wednesday trampers were with us plus: Anja, recently returned from a trip to Germany, Carole from becoming a Grandma (congratulations!), Glen sometime long distance trail trumper and physiotherapist and a very welcome return of Allan from a period of illness. We were a happy conversational throng. Two chose a slow return along the Back Track and we all arrived at the car park, damp but exercised by about 12.30.

Thanks to Trip leader Margaret, considerate Tail-End Charlie, John, and to our drivers, especially Margaret who also drove the Club Minibus.

Thursday 30 June, 2022: Rangiwahia-Deadman's Loop and Hidden Lake

Trip Leader, Photographer & Reporter: Carolyn Brody

Ten of us left Palmerston North at 7.30 am in overcast conditions. A light shower on the way and misty conditions initially but, at the second gate, a patch of blue sky was spotted and a miracle occurred at the lower carpark when the sun appeared as a big white ball low in the sky. A little bit higher and we were in

clear, but cold, conditions looking across a sea of mist stretching all the way to Ruapehu. I'd never been to Rangī in these conditions before. It was stunningly beautiful and lots of photos were taken.

Morning tea at the hut, still with the sea of cloud below us and eight of us decided to take on the circuit. Although cold, there were very only a few small patches of snow near the top, enough for a very brief interchange of snowballs. We could see snow on Ruapehu, Tongariro and Taranaki. Lunch was off the side



of Mangahuaia, keeping low to avoid the very cold wind at the top. A steep descent followed with the odd bit of deep mud, tarns partly frozen, tussock, mountain cedar, pink pine and, eventually, no wind. The more experienced photographers commented on the beautiful lighting.

We located the hidden lake about 50 metres off the track at a sharp right turn with a clearing to the left. It's through some trees at the end of the clearing. It is long and

narrow, surrounded by trees and had more water than I have seen in it for a while.



Back to the van after 14.4 km for the circuiters. We all felt particularly fortunate to have enjoyed such a unique and beautiful day in the middle of the winter. The day felt relaxed to me with plenty of time for taking in the views and looking at the beautiful trees.

Thanks heaps to Tony Evans for driving. We were Jenny, Ginny, Audrey, Syd, Chris, William, Ian A, Alistair, Tony and Carolyn.

Wednesday 6 July, 2022: Papakirae

Trip Leader & Reporter: Ewen Cameron

Photographer: Cheryl Dawson

Following the postponement of our first trip to Papakirae scheduled for early June but deferred because of appalling weather, our second attempt was made in bright sunshine. Twenty-one Wednesday trampers met at the Barry Hadfield Nikau Reserve before heading to the Department of Conservation carpark on Maui Pomare Road to leave our vehicles while we went on our tramp to near the summit of Papakirae (353 m; only "near" because we did not cross private land to the trig some 5 or 6 m from the fence line). The floor of "the other transmission gully" which follows the course of the Muaupoko Stream, was wet and muddy from rain and the boots of other walkers. Before we began our ascent, we enjoyed morning tea at the northern end of the valley on a patch of grass where we could see the summit that was our objective. From there we headed up trapline C1 to the ridge at the top, through freshly washed Nikau and broadleaf forest. Unusually, the birds in the bush seemed to raise the volume of their chorus as group members chatted as we progressed upwards. Once we reached the farmland at the top of the ridge, we walked along the fence line to a high grass knoll which afforded great views of the Kapiti Coast. Although this was to be our lunch spot, it was still well before noon, so many of us continued to follow the fence line up to

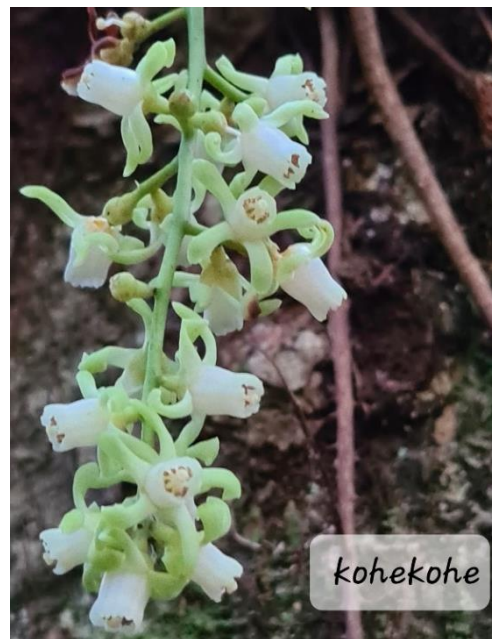


near the summit of Papakirae. Although the fence line track to the summit is very steep in places, we made it up (and down) without mishaps. The view was a little better than that from our lunch spot but the southerly wind was rather chilly so we didn't remain there long.

A warmly clad group enjoyed a leisurely lunch before heading back



to the ridge and then down a steepish shortcut to trapline C3 and so on, back down to the valley floor. (With the benefit of hindsight, the trip leader now thinks going up C3 and down C1 might have been the easier option). We got back to our cars by 1:45pm and came in convoy back to the Nikau Reserve, which we agreed is an amazing place, to either relax with a short walk or climb up the many steps to the end on Anlaby road and then return for our end of tramp brew. Thanks to:



kohekohe

Anne and Rod for helping keep the group on track, our drivers, Ken, Marion & Ewen plus Anne and Rod and Christine, Suzanne and Lorraine for coming on the explores with Ewen.

Wednesday 6 July, 2022: Linton

Trip Leader & Reporter: Ian Brookes

For those of us deterred by Ewen's description from attempting to ascend Papakirae, an alternative tramp was organised. Eight of us (a.k.a The Enthusiastic Eight – Maurice M, Bob Hargreaves, Margaret F, Coralie D, Dan L, Robbie G, Gay J & Ian B) assembled at 8.30am at the Miniature Railway carpark in the Esplanade. It was good to welcome back Robbie, Margaret and Coralie, who can only make sporadic Wednesday tramps. We set off over the He Ara Kotahi bridge where a display board informed us it was a 5.6 km walk to Linton. After about 1 km, we reached the Urban Eels site, where a viewing platform overlooks the Turitea Stream. Throwing pieces of raw meat into the stream did not entice any eels, but two were spotted from the other side of the bridge. Also noted were a pair of Paradise ducks perched on top of two dead trees.

The track then winds uphill over a metal bridge/walkway to the new Turitea Pā lookout tower, which gives an extensive view of the Manawatu River towards the city.

We continued on the pathway up to open country, which gave good views of the Massey sheep farms and the far side of the Manawatu River. There were two noticeable slips which have recently been cleared to enable the track to re-open. Eventually, we crossed the Kahuterawa Stream via a swing bridge (max. 20 people) and reached the Linton end after about two hours walking. There is a toilet available, but unfortunately no table or seats at which to have morning tea.

The return journey was made in separate groups, the last of which reached the cars by 12.30pm. This was a short, but satisfying, tramp in beautiful weather. The track is an undoubted asset for the local populace, albeit at an estimated cost (including the He Ara Kotahi bridge) of close to \$15 million.

Thursday 7 July, 2022: Kohitere Forest

Trip Leader & Reporter: Christine Scott

Photographer: Jinny Andersen

Following GPS coordinates to decide which track was the correct one to follow made a very novel tramp. We decided to repeat a previous Wednesday tramp following the mountain bike tracks in Kohitere Forest behind Levin. Thanks to Royce, we were provided with a very nice track to follow on a GPS but, because tracks went off in a multitude of directions from the main track, it was not always clear if we were on the correct track until we had gone about 20m – and then there would be a voice from Suzanne –

“Christine I

don't think we go that way!!”

Finding the trig (337m) proved interesting for a few who decided that they would rather follow the main road instead of the track indicated on the GPS which appeared to lead down hill away from the trig. However they were soon reunited for a morning tea break after a bit of calling and re-directing.

From there it was onto “Double Dipper” followed by lunch, the “Goat” track and then back to base via “Kurts track”.

A very pleasant day out walking in sunshine with pine needle covered tracks and good views from the two look outs.



Wednesday 13 July, 2022: Gorge Walk (not Awatere Hut)

Trip Leader and Reporter: Ewen Cameron

Photographer: Bob Hodgson

Having postponed a tramp early in June “which was the right thing to do” because the various unpleasant weather forecasts I use proved to be correct, I had a feeling of deja vu over the days before the tramp I had agreed to lead to Awatere Hut and vicinity. This time, however, there were differences between the various forecasts. One promised rain, while another suggested that the rain would be replaced by gale force winds. The lack of any forecast for the Eastern Ruahines from the MetService meant that a Waipukurau forecast was best. My understanding that, when it is windy on the ridge to Awatere Hut, it is really windy, meant I erred on being conservative and again postponed the tramp. Two postponements in 5 weeks; not a good record! So it was that this tramp was to the Manawatu Gorge, our haven in bad weather.

To maintain flexibility, we met at the carpark overlooking the bridge works that are part of the new highway over the Southern Ruahines to Woodville. Evidence of heavy rain to the east was provided by the Manawatu River being almost over the caissons for the new bridge pylons. Most of us could see dark rain clouds coming our way, so headed off along the old highway and up the gully to the Tawa Loop path. Under the bush the rain's effects were minimal and there was little wind.

A big group who planned to go on towards the table and toilets, and perhaps further, split off the front while a slower group followed on behind. Of the front group, six people made it to the Upper Gorge Bridge track and headed down to “enjoy” lunch under the old SH2 upper Manawatu River bridge and then



Basket Fungus – *Ileodityon cibarus*

About the size of a bowling ball!

return via the track (rather than the old road, because the road was perceived to be too exposed to wind, likely to be susceptible to rock falls and thus not safe). Other trampers turned back at different places through the Gorge to suit their timetables. The theme of the day seemed to be happiness that we have such a wonderful piece of bush to visit when the weather elsewhere doesn't suit enjoyable tramping.

Thursday 14 July, 2022: Toetoe Loop

Trip Leader & Reporter: Suzanne Clark

Reporter, part 2: Royce Mills

Photographers: William Laing, Alistair Hall & Jean Garman

Nine hardy trampers gathered at the Sledge Track car park at 8.30am ready to tackle the Toetoe loop. This was actually plan B as plan A - to Atiwhakatu Hut - was not a goer due to the Pahiatua track being closed by a slip. (Thanks to Jenny for letting me know.) The walk up the Sledge track was very beautiful with all the side creeks becoming waterfalls. Crossing Ross Creek proved a challenge for some, this author included, but thanks to Jean we all crossed safely. The track around the Toetoe loop was not too muddy. The big patch of *Dawsonia* moss was still where I remembered it. Back to the Hardings Park seat for lunch where the sun actually shone for 5 minutes. A good day was had by all and, while we tramped up in thick mist, it never



New shelter at Kahuterawa Road car park

actually rained, was not cold and there was no wind. A good option for winter.

...But not the end of the story:

After our end of tramp photo shoot, we set off from the Kahuterawa car park,

four cars, more or less one after the other. Travelling in the third car of four, Christine Scott and her passengers were shocked to find a fallen tree blocking the road. Incredibly the front two cars, driven by Tony and Alistair, had passed through before it came down. Lucky timing! Soon Carolyn arrived at the scene in her car.

It was not possible to clear the way without a chainsaw and phone signal was very weak. After a few tries we were fortunately able to phone Alistair who soon arrived with a chainsaw and tidied up the mess allowing us to drive through safely. All up a delay of about half an hour getting home. Thanks also to Pam Dransfield who drove in to help but saw us coming out safely.

All the recent rain certainly had affected Kahuterawa road; along the way there were



Alistair at work

patches of water across the road, small rock falls and slips. A road team with a digger was working on some slips nearer the main road.

Saturday 16 July, 2022: Native Tree Planting

Leader & Reporter: Ewen Cameron

Eleven mid-week trampers went outdoors on a beautiful sunny afternoon to plant native plants into recently established riparian strips at Hamish Raleigh’s farm. During the week, as the winds howled and the rain poured down, we all wondered what Saturday would bring. Fortunately, the day proved to be “one out of the bag:” sunny and still; the cold wind, promised on some weather forecasts, failed to eventuate. Following some instruction from Christine, we were soon working together to get various native plants into the locations chosen for them. Mostly digging was pretty easy but occasionally rocks, just where the hole was supposed to be, provided some amusement. By 3:15pm we had finished our job and went back to Hamish’s very nice shed for a cuppa and cakes prepared by Christine. Everyone really enjoyed the time working together in the sunshine, giving something back. If only we could get this weather for our tramps!



Thanks Christine and Hamish for the opportunity and thanks to Marion B, Jenny W, John S, Bill M, Dan L, Sue P, Mary M, Carolyn B and Rod M for your efforts.



Tunupo Tramp, May 2022 by John Brock



Contact Details

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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.