

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 9. October, 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 4 October, 2022: MTSC, PNTMC & MUAC Annual Interclub Photo Competition – hosted by the MTSC at the Rose City Aquatic Club Rooms, 50 Park Rd, Palmerston North. Come along to see some of the best backcountry images from our local talent. The images will be prejudged by an independent panel from the Manawatu Camera Club and the best images in each category will be chosen by popular vote on the night. Voting will be electronic so bring along your smart device with the QR code reader activated (e.g. settings/camera/Scan QR Codes = on).

7.30 pm Tuesday 1 November, 2022: Outdoor First Aid by Mel Harper

No matter our age or experience there are times when things can and do go wrong. Knowing what to do when a medical event or injury strikes could be the thing that saves someone from further deterioration or increased injury. It could save a life. Obviously you will want as many people as possible to know what to do if you are the injured or unwell person. Mel is an experienced outdoor first aider and will share tips on how to help and look after a person while waiting for help to arrive. This could be in the form of a helicopter but, in poor weather conditions, it may be many hours waiting for SAR personnel to arrive on foot. Please get a group together and attend this important club night.

6.15 pm for 6.45 pm Tuesday 18 October, 2022: NZ Mountain Film Festival

Venue: SSLB1 at Massey University and hosted by MUAC. Doors open 6.15 pm for movie start at 6.45 pm. Total film time is 120 minutes plus a 15 minute break. (Details below.)

Tickets are \$15 and are available to purchase at Bivouac Outdoor, Palmerston North or by emailing socialrep@muac.org.nz



Traversing the Night (40 mins) Director Maddy Whittaker, NZ. With an average age of 22, the four New Zealand Alpine Kids (as they called themselves) set off from Arthur's Pass.

The dream was to traverse the spine of the Southern Alps for the next three months until they reached Fiordland. The mountains are wonderful, beautiful and healing – but they are healing because they make us confront things that get drowned out in regular civilisation. (*Best NZ made Film 2022 MFF*)

Ô'Parizad (36 mins) Director Guillaume Pierrel, France; subtitles. In the 70's, the pioneers explored the most breathtaking mountains in the Alps and Himalayas; 45 years later, the same passion has remained intact and skiers decide to return on the trail of their ancestors. Their goal is to ski an 8,000m Himalayan giant. (*Best Snow Sports Film 2022 MFF*)

We Don't Usually Have Ice Creams (10 mins) Director Paul McCredie, NZ. This isn't your average pensioner walking group. They don't believe in tracks or bridges. They scale untracked ridges, ford or swim rivers, scramble up waterfalls, abseil over bluffs and seldom get home before dark. These men are tough, but the women are tougher. (*Spirit of Adventure Award 2022 MFF*)

House of The Gods (44 mins) Director Matt Pycroft, UK. The great northern prow of Mount Roraima soars from the depths of the Amazon rainforest like the prow of a gigantic ship, shrouded in cloud, drenched by torrential rain and guarded by vertical jungle, deep mud and overhanging cliffs. Follow Leo Houlding and team on their real-world quest through 100km of untracked jungle, into a unique slime forest and up the desperately steep big wall. (*Grand Prize 2022 MFF*)

NZ Mountain Film Festival Charitable Trust Registered Charity #CC49344



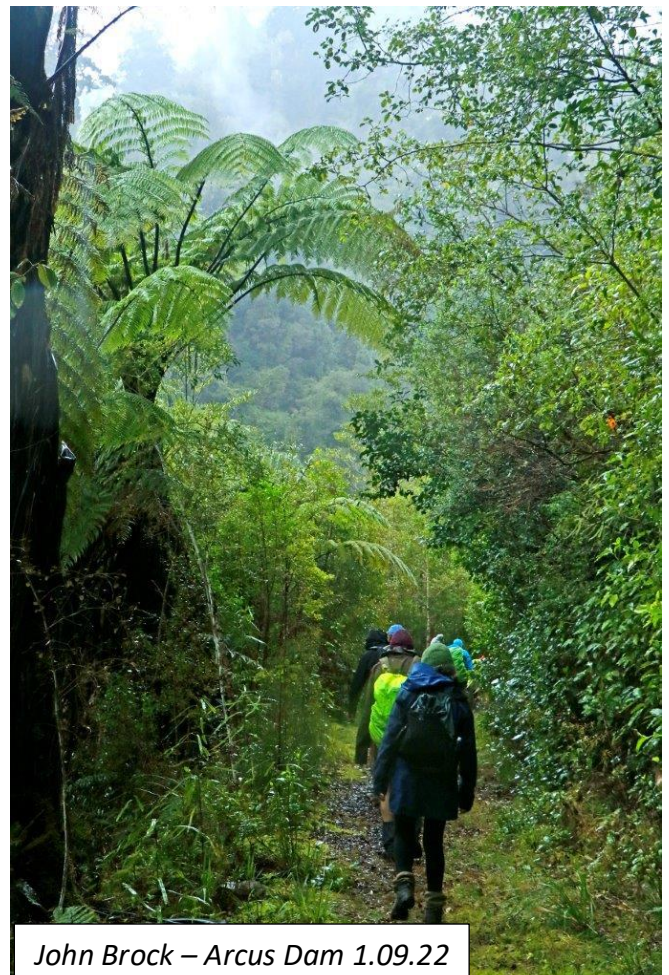
MTSC President: Tim Swale

president@mtsc.org.nz

September's club night was an inspiring event with a number of speakers outlining the work of volunteers in the backcountry. As trampers we derive a great deal of pleasure from trips into the hills. Invariably we benefit from the infrastructure that has been established over the years, from well-maintained tracks and bridges to cosy huts that provide shelter. We frequently walk past traps that are responsible for the returning birdlife in an area. However, judging by the comments in some hut books it is clear that there are people who think that DoC is solely responsible for maintaining facilities and biodiversity. This is far from the truth, as Demelza Low from the Palmerston North Department of Conservation office outlined. She explained some of the things that volunteers do and, in particular, the valuable contribution of some of our cub members like Brett Gillies and Jean Garman.

Brett spoke about his work as a volunteer hut warden. He can often be found at weekends in places like Powell, Totara Flats, Sunrise and Rangiwahia huts welcoming trampers and ensuring that everything runs smoothly. Brett is a real people-person who loves helping others and adding to their experience of the outdoors. He clearly gets a lot of pleasure himself from the work, both in terms of the environment and social interactions and recommends that other club members have a go. If anyone is interested and wants to find out more, have a chat with Brett.

Jean Garman is a life member of our club who has been involved in volunteering for very many years. She has been our representative on the Tararua, Aorangi, Remutaka Huts Committee (soon to be renamed the Greater Wellington Backcountry Network) and has led



John Brock – Arcus Dam 1.09.22

innumerable work parties to spruce up huts such as Te Matawai, Mangahao Flats, South Ohau etc. The work has ranged from track clearance and the clean-up of huts to major refurbishments and repainting. Occasionally there has been support from DoC in terms of flying in materials and equipment, but much of the time it has been Jean's ability to mobilise a group of people, work out the logistics and put in the many hours of hard work that has achieved the results.

Whilst not everyone has the time, skills or inclination to take on such major projects, Jean did point out that we can all help to make the backcountry a better environment for our leisure activities by doing the small things that cumulatively make a difference. Taking a small, folding saw or secateurs to keep tracks clear, carrying out rubbish from huts or volunteering to help with a trap line all have an impact. There are also opportunities within Search and Rescue, outdoor training, shadowing of youth groups on Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions, the Te Araroa Trust and local walking access advocacy, all of which can be extremely rewarding.

Covid Update

At last we seem to be returning to normal after the Covid 19 pandemic that has swept the world. It is wonderful to be able to travel again without restrictions and go about our daily lives without scanning in, wearing masks in public places and going through long periods of isolation. At the September committee meeting we noted the government's policy changes and the removal of the requirement to wear masks on public transport, in cafes, shops etc. Whilst masks are no longer compulsory, the committee recommends that masks are worn in the minibus and that anyone with cold or flu like symptoms avoids being in a confined space with others.

2023 MTSC Calendars For Sale

\$20.00 each

Features winning photographs from this year's photo competition

A4 printed on both sides in colour, saddle stitched and hole punched for hanging

If you would like to purchase a calendar(s) contact Richard Lander, MTSC Committee



Wild Ruahine Calendar 2023

The Ruahine Whio Protection Trust is again selling a beautiful 'Wild Ruahine' calendar for 2023. This has been made possible by whio protector and local designer, Anthony Behrens (Swampthing) who has donated his time and expertise and some of his images. All photos are local in or near the Ruahines. Proceeds from the sale of these calendars goes towards the work of helping protect the Ruahine Whio from predators so they may survive and thrive. Cost is \$20. Contact Janet Wilson (Chair, Ruahine Whio Protection Trust) jwilson@inspire.net.nz to order yours – numbers are limited. Janet will also bring them to the club night on October 4.

UPCOMING TRIPS

October Wednesday Tramps			October Thursday Tramps		
05	Lorraine Barr	06 358 5516	06	William Laing	022 099 7988
12	Dan Lynch	027 227 9751	13	Alistair Hall	06 357 1832
19	Robyn/William Laing	06 358 4876	20	Tony Evans	027 829 3069
26	Cheryl D & Marilyn H	021 374 882	27		
October Weekend Trips					
30	Deadmans Circuit	Linda Campbell	Medium		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.

Sunday 30 October, 2022: Deadmans Circuit

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

We will start by walking up to the lovely Rangiwahia Hut at 1327m for morning tea before carrying on to Mangahuia at 1583m and turning off to head downhill to complete the circuit. In fine weather it is a truly beautiful walk with wonderful views. I expect it will take most of the day if we take time to enjoy the stunning scenery.

November 26-27, 2022: Orongorongo Track

Linda Campbell Easy / Medium Ph 027 333 4493 or lindammc@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.

TRIP REPORTS

Thursday 11 August, 2022: Escarpment Track & Ara Harakeke Walkway

Trip Leader and Reporter: Wayne Lincoln

Photographer: John Brock

One of the problems faced by leaders is where to go and the weather. With the recent rains that seem to be everlasting, I looked at a tramp without a river crossing. Maybe an overnight tramp, such as Powell Hut, or Herepai Hut or Roaring Stag Hut. No such luck, as I found that Powell Hut was closed and the track into

Roaring Stag and Herepai was closed because of a slip 1 km from the trailhead. So, I chose the Escarpment Track (Paekakariki to Pukerua Bay) followed by the Ara Harakeke Track and the Tua Tapu Track to Plimmerton.

Surprisingly the weather cooperated although it initially looked as if it was going to be a wet soggy event. No rain, mostly cloudy and with some sun at times. The Escarpment Track leaves Paekakariki and climbs up



a good number of steps and sidles around before dropping down again with more steps and crossing two gullies with suspension bridges to Pukerua Bay. We enjoyed the views of Pukerua Bay and Kapiti Island. Lunch was at the Pukerua Railway Station. Five decided to return to Paekakariki using the train service. The remainder of us continued on the Ara Harakeke Walkway Track, a sealed track to Plimmerton, and returned to Paekakariki using the train. We abandoned the idea of the Tawa Tapu track as we would not make it to the Station before 3 pm

and we senior citizens do not like paying for the train fare. A great day which was enjoyed by all.

Wednesday 24 August, 2022: Sunrise Hut

Trip Leader and Reporter: Wendy Williams

Good day out really. Seventeen trampers set off at 7.30am and, considering the time of year, the weather was mild with no rain or wind. When we got out of the van, closer to the Ruahine Ranges, the wind was strong so jackets, hats and gloves were readied. Ken very generously rated the weather for me: he said it was a B which I thought was fair, but I would not like to witness a C rating. The wind was against us on the steady climb up to the hut though the bush generally provided good protection. Some of the fastest group were rash enough to venture behind the hut where the wind was blasting up over the ridge. Goodness knows what the wind chill factor was!

Overall, everyone arrived safely back to the vehicles and thanked me for choosing the trip, so that's a promising sign. Thanks to everyone for participating and transportation of vehicles.

Thursday 25 August, 2022: Longview Hut

Trip Leader: Bryce Buddle

Photographers: Alistair Hall & William Laing



Sunday 28 August, 2022: Manawatu Gorge

Trip Leader, Reporter and Photographer: Linda Campbell

There was mud. More mud than expected and it was a tad slippery in places. Fortunately we nearly all managed to stay upright but someone's boot did the unexpected and as a result we understood just how much mud there was. We were just a small group with several potential walkers pulling out right up to the morning of the walk due to ill health and injuries flaring up but we were a great group just strolling along and enjoying a chat and the bush. On reaching the picnic table we stopped for an early lunch before heading on to the lookout further down the track. Once there we checked out plantings done several years ago and were pleased to see it was nearly as successful as that in the picnic table area, in spite of it being on a steep hill side. From there we decided to head on back to the vehicles and it was on the way back that the mud made its presence felt. While there was not as many fungi this trip as there were on my previous two trips we were lucky enough to see a beautiful earthstar fungus. Some of us headed on home at the end of the walk while others enjoyed coffee and cake at a café in Ashurst. Thanks for your company, Angela, Karen and Tim.



Earthstar fungus

Wednesday 31 August, 2022: Longview Hut

Trip Leader and Reporter: Catherine Henderson

What a glorious day we had. The drive to Longview carpark was good with little traffic & Evan navigated the road to the carpark very well.

The climb was as good as I remember, if a little steep in parts. Most people went past the hut, towards the knoll. About six got to the knoll, even with a bit of wind. Others went part of the way and stopped for lunch.



The views were great and everyone enjoyed the sunshine. One tramper had a dicky ankle, so we stopped before the hut to enjoy the view and quiet. It was lovely and peaceful. On the return, there was a sprained ankle but that person was able to make their way back to the carpark.

Thank you to Evan for your great driving of the van. Thank you to Christine and Kevin for taking your vehicles and to John & Kevin for great photos. I appreciate all those who helped in small ways to make the day work really well and all of you for making the day so successful.

Thursday 1 September, 2022: Historic Arcus Dam Track "The Gate"

Trip Leaders & Reporter: Royce Mills

Photographers: William Laing & Chris Mercer

The Arcus Dam Loop track was a new destination for almost all of us. Ewen Cameron, Anne West and Rod

McKenzie discovered it while exploring in the Otaki forks area and took the Wednesday trampers there in March this year. The day was much enjoyed by the group and when Ewen offered to guide the Thursday trampers around this loop track it was an opportunity not to miss.



The loop route involved walking out over the Blue Bluff slip so, leading up to the tramp, there was much studying of weather web-sites and apps. Heavy rain prior to or during the day would have been of concern. The weather forecasts varied considerably but a decision was made to go ahead. Yr.no had forecast the most rain and, in the end, it turned out to be the most correct as the day was showery and raincoats were needed for most of the day.

Driving south, a traffic accident on SH1 near Otaki added at least an extra 30 minutes of travel time to our journey.

Approaching Otaki we were diverted onto Waitohu Valley Road. Just imagine all SH1 traffic, including many large truck and trailers, negotiating this quiet, narrow country road with several one-way bridges. It was gridlock at times, just crawling along. One of our passengers even jumped out of a car and directed north bound traffic to stop at a one-way bridge and give our long, south-bound queue a fair go. It worked!

At last we were driving Otaki Gorge Road, a long time since many of us have driven in here for tramping. From the parking area at Shield Flats the route led us up the official DoC bypass into Otaki Forks. It was a steep climb through cypress trees but we were rewarded at the top with a morning tea stop and misty views of valleys and mountains. Soon after we entered private property, "The Gate", owned by the Deborah Trust. It was a delightful easy bush walk followed by an adventurous descent down a spur. A fixed rope of about 150m or more was helpful and appreciated.

Soon a track junction was reached with a signpost to the dam. Thank you to Ewen for contacting one of the trustees to arrange our visit to the dam. This track is the old access road to the dam and spillway developed during 1993-98. It was a very easy, pleasant flat walk contouring through the bush with many glimpses of the steep valley of Pukeatua stream / Roaring Meg below. Our destination, the spillway and dam, was very spectacular and photogenic. The dam was built by Charlie Arcus in 1995 but his plans for a local power scheme to supply 21 subdivided blocks on the property were dashed when a large slip blocked the stream after heavy rain and then a lake behind it burst, destroying the power house. The dam is intact but out of sight from the track and can only be viewed by crossing the spillway if the water level is safe. Several in the group chose to paddle across, getting wet feet, to have a look and take photos.

On our return walk there were several small weta boxes mounted on trees. Some of the group diligently checked each box, but I'm not sure if any weta were found. To our surprise one box contained a collection of peripatus huddling together (see photo taken by Chris Mercer). After lunch beside a small private hut we continued with a short side trip down the old Otaki Gorge Road to the Roaring Meg bridge. With no vehicle traffic for a long time, nature is taking over and vegetation is encroaching onto this once familiar gravel road.



Our last adventure was crossing the Blue Bluff slip. Wooden steps and a rope made the climb up and down straight forward but there is much evidence of the remains of the road slumping away. Huge cliffs of loose-looking gravel rose above us; this route has a very temporary feeling!

We were back to our cars at 1.45pm. While sorting out our travel costs, a gold coin collection was made to support the track maintenance and pest trapping being done by the Deborah Trust. Although a relatively short day there were many comments from the group about how interesting it had been for its scenery and history. It certainly brought back past memories of tramping in the Otaki forks area.

Thanks very much to Ewen for guiding our group of 17, also to van driver Chris Mercer and Alistair Hall (car).

Wednesday 7 September, 2022: Otaki Forks

Trip Leader and Reporter: Anne West

Photographer: Leonie Lowndes

For the past 2 years visits to the Otaki Forks area have been difficult, if not impossible, since a major slip blocked the road. Access across the slip is now much improved after recent work to install steps, a bridge and rope.

Twenty-five Wednesday trampers were keen to revisit this area. All agreed that the slip face was not difficult to cross. We then walked along the road; with encroaching vegetation it hardly feels like a road anymore. At walking pace we noticed many features that we had missed from a vehicle. There was time to stop and read the information panels. A group of six headed up the hill towards Field Hut. They later split into two groups of three, the leading three reached the hut and reported that the track is in good condition. The other three stopped short of the hut for lunch, then returned to complete the Arcus Loop.

Meanwhile 19 trampers visited Parawai Lodge for morning tea. Six decided to

climb part way up the Field track then return to follow the loop track. That left a group of 13 to take a leisurely tramp around the Arcus Loop. Many of us had never taken this route before. We had plenty of time so, when the leader suggested we explore a side track to the river, all agreed. However, this track turned into a tricky steep descent; there was some grumbling and dissent in the ranks, but all reached the river and found a good spot to pause for lunch. Then it was up and along to the Waitewaewae junction, where most of the group diverted down to the river again. We returned to Parawai Lodge for another snack, before



heading back along the road. The radios were most useful; we had four separate groups so it was good to communicate. All returned to the carpark in good time. Margaret and Wendy arrived first and boiled the billy for us.

It was agreed that Otaki Forks is again a good destination for us. The extra walk in may have added 40 minutes to the time needed to reach Field or Waitewaewae Huts, but there are a variety of tracks available. Thanks go to Margaret for driving the van, to Ewen, Graham and Jenny for bringing their cars, and to all who helped make this tramp a success.

Thursday 8 September, 2022: Arapuke Forest Park

Trip Leader and Reporter: John Thornley

Photographer: Royce Mills

This was a sunny day, with no rain. It was 'Arapuke Park at its best', as Pam Dransfield said in her email to John. Nineteen of us did a brisk valley walk up the Sledge Track to the Swing Bridge where five men, led by Alistair Hall, took the longer route up Quartz Creek to the summit of Mt Aruwaru, where they enjoyed the views of Hawkes Bay. The rest of us climbed up the steep southern valley side, under the pines, to join Arapuke Road, where all appreciated morning refreshments in the sunshine and the 180 degree views. A further division, led by Royce Mills, took ten women and Wayne Lincoln, the sole male, to the top carpark.

From here the way home was via the Back Road, also a small section of the Te Araroa national walkway, with a loop ending back at the main Arapuke carpark. There were side trips to the 'hidden lake' and 'secret' waterfall, new to a few of us. This left four with John as guide – three of us in our eighties – to take the gentle downhill stroll to a pickup area for bikers seeking an easier way uphill, to a large concrete culvert, entrance



Secret Lake, Arapuke Mountain Bike Carpark

to Pupu Rahi, a zigzag track for both walkers and mountain bikers. Halfway down we rested for lunch, just leaving enough room for two bikers climbing up, shifting gears as they passed through us. They were the only bikers we saw on this trip. The highlight of this route is the bush remnant of native trees midst mature nikau palms that you come to just before the trail joins the Back Track. Our timing was excellent, with the two groups joining up for the last minutes to the carpark. We were all home early afternoon. John was relieved to learn, via emails, that those on the longer trip had got home by 4 pm. We should mention the vigour of Judith's dog Tui, who must have given her extra pulling power!

Saturday 10 September, 2022: Exploring the Kimbolton Backcountry

Trip Leader, Reporter and Photographer: Nicki Fielder

Twenty two keen cyclists met on Saturday to explore the back country roads between Kimbolton and Kiwitea. There was a mix of ebikes and analogue bikes, experienced and less experienced cyclists. It was great also to have a number of new people join us for the ride. The 22km route started in the Kimbolton village and followed the Kimbolton-Rangiwhia Rd north before hooking left onto back country gravel roads. These were undulating and in excellent condition for bike riding. Wandering south we were surrounded by farmland, enjoyed the spring lambs and could even spot Kapiti Island. A view of the mountain across the fields eluded us however. The final section wove past paddock upon paddock of spring bulbs before heading back to Kimbolton. The weather for cycling was excellent, with minimal wind and the rain holding off till we had finished. The ride concluded fittingly with most people enjoying lunch and a catch up at the Kimbolton Cafe.

Our next weekend MTSC Ride, on Saturday the 15th October, explores the Woodville Backcountry Roads. This, and other weekend rides and tramps, can be found on the [Weekend Trip Card on our club website](#).



Wednesday 14 September, 2022: Waiterere Beach to Hokio

Trip Leader, Reporter and Photographer: Lucie Marychurch

This tramp was my first, so I planned a beach walk. Those of us in the van were driven out to Waiterere via pastoral back roads by our own local Rangiotu wahine, Wendy Williams. A pleasant change from the main highway! A strong southerly wind fought us all the way along the beach, giving us a great opportunity for some resistance training and to put our woolly hats and jackets back on. Some of us stopped to see the wreck of the Hydrabad, an iron passenger and cargo ship which was wrecked there in 1878. There are only a few rusty ribs left to see.

The sand along the beach was strewn with dead bluebottles (photo below); the sun shone at times; the rain stayed away and we all had such a brisk walk that we arrived at our lunch destination at Hokio Beach by 10.30 am. Oops! That's too early to be halfway through a tramp. After sharing our thoughts we happily decided to walk back to Waiterere Beach along the beach and through the forest as planned. Those who wanted to walk further could go north from there after lunch and



those who didn't could go to the local cafe. The forest walk back was sunny and undulating with no hills! No racing heartbeats from any of us today. Back at Waiterere some of us explored the local fairy garden and adventure playground which were well worth seeing. After a leisurely lunch, at 1.30 pm we decided to call it a day and all go home early. Some had intentions of going to do housework, others a glass of wine and a good book. I wonder what they chose!

Thanks to everyone for coming along. You were all wonderful and made it a great experience for me.

Thursday 15 September, 2022: Ohinepango Springs and Waihohonu Huts

Trip Leader and Reporter: Tony Evans

Photographers: Syd Easton and Tony Evans



With a weather forecast promising partly cloudy (I prefer to think partly sunny), with a little, very light rain and very light winds, we set off from the carpark with some apprehension after driving through a couple of showers of rain on the Desert Road. After a short while light drizzle began to fall which soon turned to snow. We carried on to the Waihohonu Hut and had morning tea on the sheltered deck rather than sit in the open with snow falling on us .

On the way from the hut to the springs we experienced a shower that was neither snow nor hail; what appeared to be hailstones fell

but they were too white and dry to be your usual hail; they fell vertically down but slower than normal hailstones. (Editor's note: This is called graupel or soft hail.) The ground soon turned white and then the shower stopped and the sky lightened. The words of the old song "walking in a winter wonderland " came to mind. Ohinepango Springs are amazing; the stream flows out from under the base of the hill, a large flow of perfectly clear, clean water. It is easy to understand why they are a sacred site for the Māori.

Then back and over to the Historic



Waihohonu Hut. The original hut was built for accommodation as a stage coach stop on the route from Pipiriki to Tokaanu. It has been restored in recent years and has some very good information boards that give a picture of a past era. The two room hut is like a mini museum inside and overnight stays are not permitted. In those days women were not permitted to sleep in the same room as the men so they slept in the small unheated room on the end of the hut while the men slept in the main room which had the fire. After spending some time looking around and imagining stage coaches pulling up and the passengers having a nights rest before continuing their journey or maybe to go skiing the next day, it was back to the main hut and boots off to go inside for a leisurely lunch while it began snowing again outside.

We left the hut in bright sunshine; there had been no wind at all until, after a little way, a light breeze appeared on our backs bringing another snow shower

with it. Back at van the breeze and snow had long gone; a change of clothes and down to Taihape BP for coffee and a muffin.

Wednesday 21 September, 2022: Sledge Track–ToeToe Loop–Platinum Mines

Trip Leader, Photographer and Reporter: Anja Scholz

The forecast kept changing, but the trip leader's efforts at putting money into the sun-o-meter paid off with perfect timing for the tramp; barely a drop of water from above graced our bodies. Though the story of dripping vegetation and squelching mud underfoot was a different one.... After playing 'dodge the potholes' on the access road, 19 of us met up at the Arapuke carpark, and headed up the Sledge Track. We had many of the usual contenders and welcomed ex-Hawkes Bay and Palmy newbie, Lyn, for this trip. With different speeds and goals for the day, we split up the group with radios strategically placed. A couple of folk did a leisurely trip to past the Arapuke Bridge and return (and while waiting for the rest of us had ample time to finish a book; writing one, that is.....as the trip leader had slightly underestimated times and the rest of the group took half an hour longer than anticipated to get back to the van.)

The bulk of the group stomped up the steps, and squished through the mud, up to the picnic bench at the start of the ToeToe Loop, with morning tea about half way up the climb. A very few sprinkles of precipitation turned to ... nothing!... and we only had to contend with cloudy skies and some sunny patches for the rest of the way. One of us decided to sit out the Loop and await the group's return so, armed with comms and clothing, had a good wee rest at that lookout.

Onwards and undulating through the slightly eerie vegetation of the ToeToe Loop, the rest of us wandered on, arriving eventually at the junction of tracks back to the carpark and Platinum Mines. There we had lunch



and looked out over the sobering vista where the latest set of windmills will be erected. A bit of a hard one: in Europe the discussion of energy/ renewable energies is a fundamental one at the moment. – At what point do we choose stunning views over staying warm in winter and being able to boil the kettle.

Alas, while most of the remaining group went around to the mine shafts and clambered in and out of the pits (thanks, assistant trip leader, John), some of us headed back to the ToeToe junction to pick up the lone tramper holding the fort there and started descending. Slithering along the path, the trip leader managed to end up sitting in the mud twice, while ex-figure skater Wendy (surely she must have been one!) did a couple of very graceful saves and stayed upright.

The final undulations of the Sledge (aka Drudge) Track were then stoically endured for their training effect, and at the carpark, Gaye and Jill had started the gas cooker for a well-earned cuppa. The new shelter at Arapuke carpark is commended: it has a huge table and plenty of extra seating for a large group and we made good use of it, especially as we got a good rain shower about 10 minutes after the last of us had arrived! While the vicinity to Palmy always makes this track seem an easy one, the complete loop certainly built some muscles and made caloric space for some extra treats. Thanks everyone for an enjoyable day out on my first trip lead.

Nga mihi, Anja



Contact Details

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

Committee 2022 - 2023

President	Tim Swale	president@mtsc.org.nz	022 134 8384
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
Membership	Sue Nicholson	membership@mtsc.org.nz	
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: Nicki Fielder, Linda Campbell, Richard Lander, Blair Petersen, 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.