

beechleaves

Newsletter of the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club



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

Issue 10. November, 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 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 pm Tuesday 6 December, 2022: Walk and Dinner

Meet at 6.00pm at Summerhill Car Park.

Dinner at the Indian Summer Restaurant at 7.15pm.

This is the same walk that was planned for 2021. While it did go ahead only a few hardy souls did the walk due to weather conditions so we will try again this year and hope for better weather.

We will meet at 6.00pm at Summerhill Car Park. Dinner at the Indian Summer Restaurant at 7.15pm. Starting from the track near the car park we will enter Summerhill Reserve and walk down through the reserve to Ruapehu Drive. We will turn right and walk along Ruapehu Drive to reconnect with the track that will take us to Cashmere Drive and along to Peren Park Playground before coming back out onto Ruapehu Drive not far from the car park. After our walk we will head to the Indian Summer Restaurant, 194/200 Ruapehu Drive, Summerhill Shopping Centre.

Why not get a group of your tramping friends and partners together and either walk and have dinner or just join us for dinner? All welcome. So that she can book for everyone, please let Linda know on or before Wednesday 23 November if you will be joining us for dinner. Text her on 027 333 4493 or email lindamc@xtra.co.nz



Eyebrights by David Harrington

7.30 pm Tuesday 7 February, 2022: Show and Tell

This is a bit of a social occasion and the opportunity to catch up after the summer break. It is a chance for any club member to share their fun summer trips / activities. It does not have to be a long presentation – just a few slides and a short talk on what you have been up to. Peter Rawlins will organise the programme of speakers. Please contact him at <rawlins.hunt@gmail.com> if you are willing to share your summer trips.

REPORTS AND NOTICES

MTSC President: Tim Swale

president@mtsc.org.nz

I think it is fair to say that this winter has been pretty disastrous for the skiers within our club hoping to ski on Mt Ruapehu. The snow was late arriving and then, just when it looked like the ski season was about to get into full swing, warm rains came and washed away all the hard work that RAL had put in to preparing the pistes. Those of you who have been watching the media may well have seen that this has left Ruapehu Alpine Lifts (RAL) in an impossible financial state with huge expenses and little income over the last three seasons resulting in 'voluntary administrators' being appointed to maximize the returns to the creditors. We wait eagerly to see what decisions are made on the future of skiing on Mount Ruapehu.

The fate of RAL is of course closely tied to our own lodge. Without income from skiing, and we have had very little this year, we are also finding it difficult to pay the ever-increasing costs associated with running the lodge. However, through the hard work of our Lodge manager, John Lyttle, we have managed to secure a \$24,000 grant from Pub Charities which covers this year's insurance costs and gets us out of trouble for the time being. We are not alone in struggling to pay



insurance premiums which have doubled in the last couple of years. Ruapehu Mountain Clubs Association (RMCA) are in discussions with DOC about the possibility of running a group self-insurance scheme that would be much cheaper but only provide us with the mandatory demolition costs insurance.

We have excellent support from several local schools, who use our lodge for fieldwork trips, and from the New Zealand Alpine Club, but I would ask all members to consider using the lodge for a mountain stay during the year. It is a wonderful base for many activities within the Ruapehu District whether it be tramping, mountain biking or just hanging out with family and friends. Global warming is undoubtedly upon us but it does not mean that we need to lose our lodge.



MTSC members who took part in the SAREX (Search & Rescue Exercise) over the weekend of 15-16 Oct: (L) Jean & Ivan in an NH90 helicopter. (Above) Ken et al; (R) SAREX participants beside the Otaki River. Other club members involved were Tim (photographer), Hugh, Howie, Peter, Andy Brooke.

Lodge Work Parties

Last year we secured funding to purchase the materials to upgrade the toilets that are now at the lodge and this coming Feb 2023 we will be starting the work. We need help and you don't need to have a trade background as we just need help to do the work, clean up and cater for the workers.

Weekends are free and if there are enough people coming from Palmerston North then we will run the club van for helpers. Please let me know if you can make it and whether you have a trade that you can assist with, in particular, building, plumbing, electrical, plastering, painting and of course cooking.

Work parties will run over 2-5 days on an extended weekend and come for all or one day.

The dates are:

1st weekend: 17 Feb to 20 Feb – strip out frame up and complete plumbing install and window install, if numbers allow.

2nd weekend: 3 – 5 March– install gib and cavity slider and plaster and paint (spray gun).

3rd weekend: 17 – 19 March – install panels between toilets and trim and fit out electrical and plumbing minus toilets.

Lino laid on floor by separate contractor.

4th weekend: 1-2 April - Final trip to install toilets and complete any minor items.

Contact – John Lyttle – Lodge Manager 0274336307 email <lodge.manager@mtsc.org.nz>

MTSC, PNTMC, MUAC Interclub Annual Photo Competition 2022 Results

ABOVE BUSHLINE WITH NO HUMAN ELEMENT

1. Kepler Track Kea in Flight David Soong PNTMC
2. Howletts Hut Sunset Monika Coles PNTMC
3. Ngamoko David Harrington MTSC (below)



ABOVE BUSHLINE WITH A HUMAN ELEMENT

1. Walking the Shark's Tooth – Taranaki Crater Kristina Gee MUAC
2. Powell Hut above the clouds Hazel Phillips MTSC
3. Dundas Elly Arnst PNTMC

BELOW BUSHLINE WITH NO HUMAN ELEMENT

1. Mountains & Plains Louise Lahmert MTSC
- 2=. Trees in Standing Water – Foxton Monika Coles PNTMC
- 2=. Reflection Perfection at Peter's Pool Hazel Phillips MTSC

BELOW BUSHLINE WITH A HUMAN ELEMENT

- 1. No Doubt That Doubtful Sound is Beautiful Kristina Gee MUAC
- 2. Tramer’s Life Maria Lombard MTSC (See p10)
- 3. Tokomaru Farm Walk Royce Mills MTSC

HISTORIC

- 1. Climbing Syme Hut in 1999 MUAC Archives MUAC
- 2. Harris Ck Hut Demolitioners 2003 Howard Nicholson MTSC (See p9)
- 3. Roaring Stag Lodge 2003 Howard Nicholson MTSC

NZ NATIVE FLORA & FAUNA

- 1. Tree David Soong PNTMC
- 2. Dewdrops on Koru Richard Lander MTSC (Right)
- 3. Under Ice Elly Arnst PNTMC

LONG EXPOSURE

- 1. Night Drive to Whakapapa Davide Conti MTSC
- 2. Aoraki Milky Way Richard Lander MTSC
- 3. Sunrise Hut With the Stars, Awaiting the Dawn Kristina Gee MUAC



2023 MTSC Calendars For Sale



REFLECTION PERFECTION AT PETERS POOL – Hazel Phillips

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
New Year's Day	New Year Holiday	New Year's Day observed	11	12	13	14
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 Labour Day	31			DECEMBER 2022 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	JANUARY 2023 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

THE MANAWATU TRAMPING & SKIING CLUB INC. www.MTSC.nz

\$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 at <r.lander@xtra.co.nz>

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.

NZ Mountain Safety Council (MSC)

[The MSC website](http://www.msc.org.nz) has useful information/advice on “Refreshing Yourself on the Basics”, gear, etc and is well worth a look.

UPCOMING TRIPS

November Wednesday Tramps			November Thursday Tramps		
02	Harold Petterson	021 047 2055	03	Nicki Fielder	022 515 3807
09	Leonie Lowndes	027 359 5015	10	Suzanne Clark	06 356 8322
16	Margaret McKenzie	06 358 2535	17	Royce Mills	021 055 2527
23	Rod McKenzie	06 357 0136	24	Audrey Shepherd/ Syd Easton	06 356 7462
30	Mary Mercer	027 372 5375	01 Dec	Judy Swainson	06 358 4082
November Weekend Trips					
19	MTB Waitare Beach & Forest	Royce Mills	Mountain Biking	Easy	021 055 2527
26-27	Orongorongo Track	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.

19 November, 2022: Waitare Forest and Beach

Royce Mills Mountain Biking Ph 021 0552527

Meet at Surf Club car park 10 am.

We will ride forest roads and trails through the southern section of the forest to the boundary at the Hokiend. If the tide and weather permit, we will then bike northwards back along the beach with a stop to look at the remains of the wreck of the Hydrabad. If the beach alternative is not suitable, we will complete a circuit back through the forest roads and trails.

This is an easy ride and is suitable for e-bikes, but expect some single track and occasional obstacles such as fallen trees and soft sand. Cafe and ice creams available afterwards!

Distance: 15-20 km Time: About 2 hours

26-27 November, 2022: Orongorongo Track

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.

TRIP REPORTS

24th- 25th September, 2022: Cow Creek Hut

Trip Leader, Reporter & Photographer: Tim Swale

Our group of four, Wendy, Helen, Blair and myself, set off from the Kiriwhakapapa road end on Saturday morning with cool and cloudy conditions. It was a grunty 700 m climb with overnight packs up to the Blue Range turn-off where we headed out towards Te Mara and found a sheltered spot for our lunch break. Once on the ridge, the track is mostly flat or downhill and leads into a steep descent to the Waingawa River. The last kilometre towards Cow Creel Hut crosses small creeks, an active slip and a boggy area with slippery logs to catch out the unwary! Fortunately, the Back Country Trust has recently funded some track work here so Dave Eaton and his team had been in with scrub cutter and chainsaw to ease the passage.



After being on the go for about seven hours, it was good to get to the bridge and see the hut on the other side of the river. Cow Creek hut is a well-maintained ex Forest Service hut with 6 bunks and a lovely warm wood-burning stove. There is no water tank, but water was fetched in a bucket from the river. This is a beautiful spot with a plenty of room for camping as well but, with cool temperatures and a bit of rain overnight, we were happy to be inside. We shared the hut with a father and his two young sons so, with seven in a six bunk hut, I was glad to have my airbed to sleep on the floor. The next day was again cloudy and cool but no need for raincoats. We retraced our steps and seemed to find it easier going back, taking just over six hours to the road-end.

28-29 September, 2022: Totara Flats Hut

Trip Leader: Anne West and Bev Akers

Reporters: Ewen Cameron and Anne West

Photographer: Bill Milham

Eleven "Wednesday" trampers visited Totara Flats hut, some for the first time and some for the first time after a very wet visit 18 months ago. We all enjoyed a good chat with one another and with a couple of

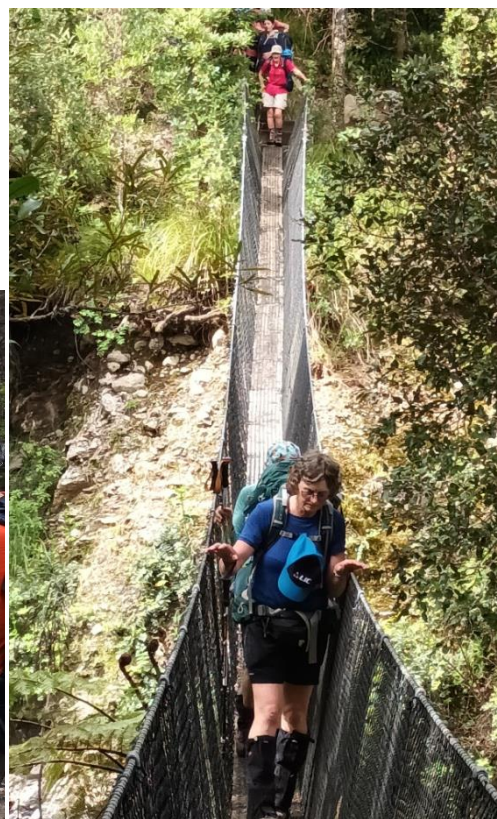


people on their way out as we tramped in. We think we heard our first long tailed cuckoo of the year amidst grey warbler, tui and, once we were at the hut, a ruru.

The fabled bridge just before the hut from the Pig Flat end has been replaced with a very sturdy structure, that accommodates five people at once and looks rather less likely to suffer from the windage problems of its predecessor. Much to the relief of at least one of us, the hut had just two occupants when we arrived: sleeping on the floor was not going to be required.

The warm evening and start of daylight saving was celebrated by almost everyone being abed by 8:30 pm although a few card players used their solar powered LED lights to enjoy a few hands of Rummy and to chat before turning in for a long and very warm night.

On Thursday morning we awoke early to light rain, which was forecast, before heading back out in clearing weather...not forecast.



We'd enjoyed: a nice walk in and out and each other's company. Full credit to all in the group; we stayed together and walked as a team.

Sadly we couldn't record our thoughts in the hut book as it was full.

A big thank you to Carole who organised this tramp; we were very disappointed that she was unable to come with us.

Wednesday 28 September, 2022: Atiwhakatu Hut

Trip Leader and Reporter: Rod McKenzie (leader for the day)

The club van load of day walkers arrived at the Holdsworth road end to ideal weather conditions, partly cloudy and no wind, just in time to farewell the overnight group on their journey. We were joined by two who had driven directly from Dannevirke. Our goal for the day was Atiwhakatu hut and return.

In a single group we left the carpark towards the bridge and noted a large pile of shingle and some stacked timber outside the lodge. Obviously, some work was going on somewhere. Across the bridge on the track to Donnelly Flat we could see that a tracked vehicle had been up and back several times leaving deep ruts in the wet muddy soil, making it difficult for foot placement when walking in a group. Arriving at Donnelly Flat we could see where the shingle was being piled up. Past the camping area and on to where the main track meets the loop track, we found out what the work was. The Ranger informed us that the condition of the loop track was being raised to wheelchair standard which means lower gradients and better surface. I'm sure it will be a good standard when finished. We left them to their work.

The remainder of the track to the hut was in good condition apart from a small area across an old slip which has become somewhat overgrown, requiring some maintenance. Lunch at the hut gave us a good break around the picnic table outside with lots of discussion.

The return to the carpark was a steady group walk, stepping to the side when meeting a tipper of gravel near Donnelly Flat. Another load for the day; still many more to come. We arrived back around 3pm in time to boil the billy and continue the chatting. It was a great day's exercise with excellent company. Thanks to all, particularly to Margaret for driving the van.

Thursday 29 September, 2022: Waitahinga Dam

Trip Leader, Reporter and Photographer: Jinny Andersen

Waitahinga Dam was the destination for the Thursday trampers this week. The Waitahinga Trails are a collection of walks on the no longer used Whanganui Water Catchment Reserve. The dam was built in 1904 and decommissioned in the 1990s. The Whanganui Council still owns the land and the trails are maintained and supported by the Wanganui Tramping Club.

The weather forecast was for rain but instead we had perfect tramping conditions with a mix of sunshine and cloud. Fourteen of us met at Memorial Park at 7.30 am and headed towards Whanganui for a brief toilet stop at Virginia Lake. Motoring on for a further 40 minutes we arrived at the Quarry Carpark to begin our walk.

The enthusiastic bunch of trampers set off and various speeds in the direction of Okehu Ridge to Croppers Clearing, a grassy sheltered spot in the middle of the forest, where we sat and had morning tea. From here



we followed the markers along Tom's Ridge, skirting the tangled vines and stopping to admire the tallest of trees and Jew's Ear fungi. The group had split in two and we all met for a leisurely lunch at the dam. The sun was shining and the dam with the surrounding bush was quite picturesque and many cameras were clicking.

The loop track back to the carpark took us along Harry's Ridge. Along the way some had a discussion on the most suitable track marker colours – orange tags proving not good for the colour blind. I am sure most had their photos taken with arms wrapped around the huge Rimu "Hug Tree". We eventually ended back on the Okehu Ridge and, at the Pines Junction, half the group decided to extend the walk to include The Chicken Run, taking in the views at the Ruapehu and Taranaki lookouts. The rest of us sat under the pine trees and enjoyed the surroundings before the final walk to the car park. Most of the well-marked walk was under native forest canopy. Another stop in Whanganui for ice cream on the way home. Thank you to Helen for her help and to Tony for driving the van and Adam for taking his car.



Wednesday 5 October, 2022: Himatangi Beach

Trip Leader and Reporter: Lorraine Barr

Photographer: Kevin Cawsey

On an extremely windy day, 19 people were joined by an extra two people on the day to walk from Foxton Beach to Himatangi return, approximately 18 km. Due to it being a return walk, people could go as far as



they wished. Everyone dressed up warmly. The surf was impressive beneath the speedily changing sky. There were a large number of deceased blue bottle jellyfish along the beach. It didn't take long before the group spread out. After an hour, three decided to return while others continued. Morning tea was a case of turning your back to the wind. The more you drank, the more sand you consumed. It reminded me of finding and cooking pipis at Foxton years ago – the more you ate, the more sand you consumed.

On reaching the first stream at the 7 km point, people decided that they didn't wish to get wet feet. Normally you don't even notice this stream but it was wide and quite deep due to recent rain. This proved to be a wise decision as on the walk back, the temperature dropped dramatically and the light rain stung exposed flesh. It was fascinating to watch the rapidly moving showers and changing sky colours. Even though it was only midday, we got off the beach just in time to avoid heavy showers. The day was concluded with lunch and coffee at Café de Molen (The Dutch Oven) and enjoying talking to people OUT OF THE WIND.



*MTSC Photo Comp
2nd in Historic section:
Harris Creek Hut
Demolitioners 2003
by Howard Nicholson*

Thursday 6 October, 2022: Towards Roaring Stag Hut

Trip Leader & Reporter: William Laing

Photographers: William Laing & Bill Milham

Only five of us set out to Roaring Stag hut on the coldest day in October for many years. We did start off with more which raised the question of transport. How did 7 people fit in a car or two cars? But one had sensibly dropped out because of a cold and another also pulled out, so 5 people comfortably fitted in Bill's SUV.

While it was cold it at least wasn't raining but the underfoot was wet and muddy. The trip along the river between the two swing bridges was blocked by a slip at one point (reasonably easy to cross with



scrambling) and a large fallen tree later on. The fallen tree required a small diversion above it on the way in, although on the way out I could straddle the trunk and climb over; Bill was sure I was going to either slip off the path or travel with the log down to the river, but no mishaps occurred!

We then climbed the steep track to the cross roads with morning tea on the way up. I always enjoy this climb and as time goes on, I even enjoy the descent through the bush with the large steps and slippery slopes. As you get closer to the bottom, the river gets louder and louder, signalling the approach to the swing bridge.

From the sign post at the top, we turned left towards Roaring Stag and made our way down the gentler slope. Here the track was particularly muddy and wet, with potential for total boot immersion! According to our devices we were only 1 km from the hut when we stopped for lunch and then turned back although, by the map, it looked further away. On the tops we had wonderful snow, which melted soon after it hit the ground but stayed longer on the plants. After lunch we retreated and made our way safely, but muddily, back to the car park. Thanks to Bill for driving.



Adam and Jenny led an alternative tramp to Roaring Stag hut the next day (Friday) staying the night there and making their way up to the Cattle Ridge hut the next morning, back to Roaring Stag for lunch then out for a 9.5 hour day on Saturday. The hut was full on Friday night and three slept on the veranda. Judy reported no snow but lovely weather. (L) Cattle Ridge Hut; see report over.

7th-8th October, 2022: Roaring Stag and Cattle Ridge Huts

Trip Leaders: Adam Matich and Jenny McCarthy

Trip Reporter and Photographer: Helen Peek

It was a chatty carful of five trampers that headed off to Roaring Stag hut on Friday with the expectation of getting into snow on Saturday for our morning tea stop at Cattle Ridge hut, but it soon became obvious that the dump of snow the day before had already melted.

Nevermind; the weather was mainly sunny and clear if somewhat cold for a pleasant walk on Friday afternoon. After spending time collecting some small pieces of firewood and, as seems usual, discovering that none of the cutting equipment at the hut cut anything, we had a lovely feed with special yummy treats contributed by all and a convivial evening spent with the seven other hut occupants, including a family with two young, lovely and considerate children who had spent the previous night at Herepai; the fire was only needed on for a short period.

Saturday was warmer - sunny and clear with only the odd bit of cold wind. - We were up early and off to Cattle Ridge hut which, having been revamped in recent years, was looking very good except for the outside glass door that appeared to have had a hammer taken to it. This was duly reported.

After eating we headed back down to Roaring Stag for a quick lunch and found the crowds starting to gather, or passing through; we knew of at least seven heading to Cattle Ridge for that night. As it was the mid-weekend of the school holidays with good weather it appeared many were taking advantage of the opportunity to be "out there doing it". Judging by the number of people still heading in during the afternoon while we were walking out, and the number of cars in the car park when we left, we estimate there could have been up to 50 people in the area.

So, after a long day, we happily headed off to Ekehatuna for an ice cream stop before heading home having had a great time in spite of the absence of snow. Many thanks for the great experience and company. We were Adam, Jenny, Malcom, Judy and Helen.



Oldies out tramping!

Wednesday 12 October, 2022: Kohitere Forest

Trip Leader and Reporter: Dan Lynch

First off, hats off to the more experienced trampers in our Wednesday group keeping everyone together and leading when we broke into two groups. There was even less wait time for our coffee stop because of the two groups: 31 trampers, so well done. As to other aspects, longest wait on the first half of the dipper, not so good. All thanks to Bill and Ken coming back to check on Bob and myself. Other meet ups worked like clockwork.

Thanks to all those who offered transport and helped with the planning and pre trip reccies. More tramps in this area will be enjoyable.



More MTSC Photo Competition winners - 1st & 2nd in BBwHE: (L) Trampers' Life by Maria Lombard; also 2nd in Interclub Comp p4 & (R) Come with Me by Louise Lahmert



Thursday 13 October 2022: Mangahao Road to Horowhenua Lookout

Trip Leader and Reporter: Alistair Hall

Photographers: William Laing and Carolyn Brodie

I hadn't done this section of the Te Araroa Trail before, despite having been to the Horowhenua lookout more than once from the Levin / Gladstone Road end. We got away smartly in the van on a rather drizzly morning, five of us from Memorial Park, four picked up from Summerhill New World, and one picked up at



the Mangaore Hall near the Mangahao Power Station. One other person travelled independently, making it 11 of us on the walk. It was good to be able to use Mangahao Road access again. The weather was a bit variable – while we probably only had 2-3 mm rain fall on us during the day, and there were even some glimpses of sun, most of the rain seemed to come down when we were stopped for morning tea or lunch (see photo of two hobbits sheltering in their hobbit hole for morning tea).

The bush looked lovely in the variable light, but it was all a bit muddy underfoot.

The view from the Horowhenua lookout was a “study in grey”. Total time back to the van including breaks was just under 6 hours. Many thanks to Tony for driving the van, including turning the van around safely on the narrow road!



Saturday 15 October, 2022: Exploring the Back Country Around Woodville

Trip Leader: Judy Swainson

Trip Reporter: Nicki Fielder

Photographers: Nicki Fielder & Kevin Cawsey

Once upon a time there were 16 riders who set off from Woodville, excited at the prospect of 45 km of undulated back country roads. They weren't disappointed. The route entailed a tar sealed road along Pinfold Road then into Topgrass Road. All the way we were treated to the backdrop of the Ruahine Ranges.



Although clagged in at the top, the sweeping hillside preceding was lush and green. Heretaunga Road, followed by Gainsford Road led to the main highway to Dannevirke. We crossed this directly on to Jackson Road. From there it was a steady ride with many interesting farm homes and barns lining the roads along with cows and sheep. We followed the Manawatu River for quite a while where Geraldine eyed up some good trout fishing spots. We had a light, annoying shower as we approached Woodville. It was a steady undulating ride but we all took pleasure in having time to enjoy a rural landscape we normally rush past in a car.

Nicki had reserved tables at Cafe 88 where the service and friendliness was exemplary. The group expressed appreciation for the enjoyable ride, good company and nice lunch. Thanks Nicki, event manager extraordinaire.



Our next bike adventure is on 19th November. We will be exploring the Waitarere Forest and Beach.

Wednesday 19 October, 2022: Waihohonu Hut

Trip Leader and Reporter: Robyn Laing

Photographers: Cheryl Dawson (1 & 3), Anja Scholz, Robyn Laing & Nicki Fielder

It is always risky organising at tramp in late spring up on the Central Plateau. I told folks that I would be metaphorically burning incense candles and chicken feathers as offerings to the weather gods. It worked! It was overcast when we left Memorial Park but, after a rather chilly stop in Taihape, things looked up. So, by the time we got to the entrance to the Waihohonu track, there were fluffy white clouds decorating the tops of Ruapehu, Ngauruhoe and Tongariro. There was hardly any wind, other than a slightly snowy breeze coming off the nga Maunga.

Anja, our “one time Hut Warden” of the glamorous Waihohonu tramping hut, suggested that there was an interesting ridge to climb close to the Hut/aka Hilton hotel and a group of 15 set off after their morning tea sitting in the sun at the hut. The remaining 13 of us decided that we would



amble over to the ‘Historic Hut’ and have an early-ish lunch on the lawn in front of the old hut. As it turned out, because of the longer than usual drive to our starting point, the lunch hour was only 10 minutes earlier than usual. As we walked from the new hut to the old hut, we could see Anja’s party crossing the face of



the hill looking like a trail of ants. They reported they could see us also looking like a little train of ants crossing from the “Hilton” to the Historic hut. Anja’s party dropped below the ridge (to avoid the ‘snowy breeze’) and enjoyed their lunch with panoramic views while we sunbathed in the sheltered area.

After lunch the party of 13 set off to view the crystal-clear waters of the Ohinepango Springs. It has the well



deserved reputation of being one of the most beautiful spots in Tongariro park. I have to say that it was the highlight of the day’s tramp for me, along with the beautiful colours of the vegetation. I wanted to get my paint brushes out then & there.



We were all back at our transport hub by 3.30 pm and home in time for an evening meal by just after 6.00. It was a long day’s drive for our transport providers. Many thanks to Ken Mercer (van driver), Bill Milham, Trevor Bain, Jenny Williamson and our last-minute driver substitute, Graham Irvine. We were sorry you couldn’t come Wendy and we are wishing you a speedy recovery from Covid.

Thursday 20 October, 2022: Zekes Hut

Trip Leader and Reporter: Tony Evans

Photographer: William Laing

Using the leader's privilege to choose, I took us on one of my favourite tramps, Zekes Hut in the Hihitahi Forest Sanctuary off SH1 between Taihape and Waiouru. Setting off we climbed the locked gate and went across the farmland and swing bridge into the bush. After an hour's walk, with the steepest part of the morning behind us, we stopped for morning tea.

Then on to the trig, where the views were hidden; the promised light rain was not enough to get trampers wet but did spoil the views. Then along and down the old (steepish) slip and on down, past the site of the original Zekes Hut in the trees and out to the lovely new(ish) hut. With lunch inside the hut to keep dry, the nine of us



made for a full hut.

As the only member of the group to remember the original hut I pointed out where it used to be; the only evidence of its existence I could find was a scrap of mesh and 3 pieces of sawn boards, probably from the old meat safe. When I got home I used Google to learn the history of the hut and answer the question: "who was Zeke?" The original hut was built in the early 1960s from locally split totara slabs and corrugated iron and named

after a Turangi hunter, Zeke Martin. There was a Zekes Hut #2 built in the early 1990s. I was unaware of this and don't know where it was. I assume both huts were removed at the same time when Zekes Hut #3 was built in 2007.

Retracing our footsteps we headed back to the carpark after a good days walk and a new destination for three of our group; then back to Palmy with the usual Taihape Wild Bean stop on the way.





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.