

# beechleaves

Newsletter of the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club



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

Issue 11. December, 2022



Club meetings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

## 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 a 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](mailto:lindamc@xtra.co.nz)

## 7.30 pm Tuesday 7 February, 2023: 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.



Otupae Station 12.11.22 by Syd Easton

## 7.30 pm Tuesday 7 March, 2023: 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, postponed from 2022.

# REPORTS AND NOTICES

**MTSC President: Tim Swale**

[president@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:president@mtsc.org.nz)

I hope you are all enjoying the warmer weather and looking forward to a summer of leisurely trips into the outdoors. Over the last month there have been a number of things that have come up and may be worth mentioning.

First of all, after a very poor ski season which has resulted in our lodge on Mount Ruapehu being underused and therefore struggling to remain financially viable, the committee has been contemplating ways of increasing occupancy throughout the year. This is particularly pertinent as global warming is casting uncertainty about the future of the ski-field altogether and we need to adapt to the new normal. In order to get more people up to the lodge and using it we have decided to try to incentivise members to get together a group and use the lodge out of the ski season. The difference between members and non-members rates is significant, so the deal is this: **get a party of ten together under the oversight of a club member and all can stay at member's rates.** No need to go through the process of them joining the club, thus eliminating the paperwork and delay before a stay can be booked. So, if you have a group of family and friends or even a work group who would enjoy a weekend or even a holiday on the mountain, this could be a great opportunity to go somewhere very different at minimal cost. There are certainly many tourist attractions in the Ruapehu District apart from tramping and skiing and our lodge provides a lot more home comforts than the DoC huts in the area that cost a similar amount of money and are invariably crowded.

Secondly, with the COP 27 talks in Egypt making recent news headlines, climate change is very much at the forefront of thinking these days. Looking out from Wharite peak over the Tararua District recently, it was impossible to ignore the huge areas of slips on farmland caused by recent heavy rain events. The Tamaki River West Branch below Stanfield Hut was also vastly changed by last year's flooding and, as you will know, the road to Otaki Forks is unlikely ever to open again. Our enjoyment of the outdoors is certainly being impacted.



*Mountains & Plains by Louise Lahmert  
1<sup>st</sup> in Interclub Comp: Below Bushline with No Human Element*

It is something of a miracle that every week we go into the hills with large groups of trampers and make our way over some really challenging terrain: steep slopes, mud, slippery rocks and endless tripping hazards with relatively few mishaps. However, from time to time we all have a little miss-step and end up on the ground. A few have been highlighted recently in the club's record of near misses / accident reports. Two things that can definitely help are the footwear that we are using and having extra ground contact in the form of walking poles. Over time, boot soles wear down and lose their sharp, grippy edges at which point they may need retiring to be used for easier tracks. In recent years I have become a convert to walking with two trekking poles rather than one. I am convinced that I have considerably fewer falls when using two walking poles and just love the security that they give when doing steep downhills and walking along slippery creek beds.

I hope that you all have a wonderful Christmas and enjoy getting out into our wonderful backcountry with friends and family over the holiday period. Have fun and stay safe.

## 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:

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

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

3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

4<sup>th</sup> 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 Bike Rides

We have had some great club rides this year including the Timber Trail, Kimbolton, Woodville and Pahiatua



back country roads and the Waitarere Forest. A huge thank you to everyone who has contributed ride ideas and led rides to date!!

Over lunch, following our October ride, people indicated that they were keen to continue rides in 2023.

The club goal is that every ride, to the best of our ability, suits everyone and is inclusive, engaging and enjoyable. To ensure this, we would love your feedback as we further develop this 'arm' of MTSC. Rides will be timetabled, where possible, for the **2nd Saturday of each month** and hopefully we can also have some overnight or multi day bike adventures throughout the year. They can be a **mix of gravel, tar and trails** and a **max of approximately 50km per day** unless the trip has been planned and communicated otherwise.

So that everyone gets to hear about what's coming up we are compiling an email list for communication, as we do with the Wednesday and Thursday Tramping Groups.

**Like to be added to the email list, or know someone who would ... just email Nicki ([nickifielder@gmail.com](mailto:nickifielder@gmail.com))**

As with tramping, we all have expertise and rides to share so we will set up a 2023 trip calendar together. Looking forward to 2023 already ... our first bike adventure next year will be on Saturday 14 January. We will be exploring the Foxton Beach Forest. Trip leader is Lynda Hunt (*More details over page.*)

# UPCOMING TRIPS

December Wednesday Tramps			December Thursday Tramps		
30 Nov	Mary Mercer	027 372 5375	1-2	Judy Swainson	06 358 4082
6-7	Ewen Cameron	022 034 1180	08	Wayne Lincoln	021 068 5237
14	Mary Mercer	027 372 5375			
December Weekend Tramp					
17-18	Tim Swale	022 134 8384	MTSC Lodge		
January Trips					
14	Lynda Hunt		Biking in the Foxton Beach Forest		Medium
24-26	Ken Mercer	027 364 6475	MTSC Lodge – Tuesday to Thursday		All welcome

**Trip Intentions:** The email address for leaving trip intentions is [intentions@mtsc.org.nz](mailto: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.

## 17-18 December, 2022: Mt Ruapehu

Tim Swale      Ph 022 134 8384 or [theswales@xtra.co.nz](mailto:theswales@xtra.co.nz)

This trip replaces the Mangahao Flats Hut trip that has been postponed until 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2023. The intention is to drive up the Manawatu Lodge at Iwikau Village on Friday (16<sup>th</sup>) afternoon/evening depending on when people are able to get away. This gives us a whole day to walk on the mountain on Saturday. Options are either - from the lodge, off track up via the NZ Alpine Club Hut and to the café by the Pinnacles or, if anyone is keen and the weather and snow conditions are suitable, a walk up as far as the crater rim. Plenty of social time and fine dining at the lodge on Saturday night. Sunday will be a shorter trip - either Silica Rapids or Taranaki Falls loop - depending on what people want to do before heading home around 3pm. Cost is \$40 per night, which includes evening meal and cooked breakfast plus transport cost of about \$40 in the club van.

## Saturday 14 January, 2022: Mountain Biking Foxton Beach

Lynda Hunt      Ph 027 437 3782 or [rawlins.hunt@gmail.com](mailto:rawlins.hunt@gmail.com)

Our January club mountain biking adventure will take place at the Cousins Avenue Reserve. The reserve contains a network of single tracks through established pine forest. The tracks are undulating with many twists and turns and are suitable for pedal powered and electric mountain bikes. This trip is better suited to bikes with chunky tyres and for those with the confidence to ride single track with a few tree roots. If there is enough interest, we could add an easier trip option. This would be to ride the bike/walking track from Foxton to Foxton Beach and return. This loop is around 12km long on a mix of sealed track and limestone.

We plan to continue the tradition of ending our ride at a café stop. For further information contact Lynda on 027 437 3782. Meet at **10 am in the Cousins Road Reserve car park** on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January.

## **Tuesday 24- Thursday 26 January, 2022: Ruapehu Rambles**

Ken Mercer                      Medium                      Ph 027 364 6475 or [Ken.Mercer.NZ@gmail.com](mailto:Ken.Mercer.NZ@gmail.com)

We'll stay at our lodge for three nights and the first trip, on our way to the lodge, will be Mangaturuturu Hut and Lake Surprise, which are accessed from the Turoa Mountain Road. On the way we'll pass the spectacular Cascades.

On Wednesday, with appropriate weather, we can ascend to Skyline Ridge or even to the rim of the Summit Plateau. Part or all of the Tongariro Crossing would be a good option before returning home on Thursday. It will cost \$80 for the two nights at the lodge and travel could be as much as \$50.

### ***A Short History of the Club written in 1951:***

The Club was formed on 6<sup>th</sup> November, 1928, following a public meeting with the late J. H. Silson as chairman and Mr L. M. Seymour as the first secretary. During that first Christmas a club trip was run to Tongariro National Park and the Western Kaimanawas.

In these early years tramping was, in general, not looked on with much favour by the public at large and the success of the club was in no small part due to the good leadership and high ideals of J.H. Silson and to the advice and guidance from the Tararua Tramping Club (which had been formed in Wellington nine years previously). The Northern Tararua area soon became the chief field of activity of the Club, with some trips further afield, particularly at Christmas and Easter.

The year 1930 saw club parties at the first combined tramping clubs' trip to Kapakapanui, and during the year club members attended the opening of Syme Hut on Mt Egmont, and the opening of Kime Hut.

The first hut building by the Manawatu Club took place in 1932. At Easter a small party led by J. H. Silson selected the site for "Te Matawai" on the "all-weather route" from Levin to the Main Range and the Wairarapa. The first carrying party for the hut, which is 8 hours' tramping from the road end, took place in April, and by the end of June, our builders, Laurie Jackson and Jack Sandman, had finished the job. Also in 1932 the first winter sports trip to Tongariro National Park was run, and since then, apart from a few of the war years, this has been an annual event.

The following year a widely-conducted search took place for four members, lost for 15 days in bad weather during a Northern Tararua Crossing. This showed the need for a search organization, and in 1934 the Tararua Club devised a scheme for co-ordinating all tramping clubs operating in the Tararua area. This has more recently been expanded into a nation-wide organization.

In 1933 the first issue of "Beech leaves" was published, under the editorship of the late A.C. Zohrab.

In February, 1936, the "Great Storm" swept across the centre of the North Island, striking down on to the Western Tararua with devastating intensity. Tragedy struck one party making its way from Te Matawai to Waiopahu, one member dying of exposure and exhaustion. Club members erected a stainless steel memorial trig on Twin Peak that same year. This storm has left its mark on the vegetation of the Western Tararuas for generations to come.

Our second hut, "Matatara" situated at the top Mangahao Dam was purchased in 1936 and in 1938 the Harris Creek Hut was erected in the upper Mangahao Valley. Later this hut had to be moved owing to erosion by the stream.

During the war years the lady members played a big part in holding the Club together, and in 1945 the Club again became active, with a growing membership, which exceeded 100 by the 21<sup>st</sup> year.

By 1949 the idea was suggested that the Club should build a hut on Mt Ruapehu. This was enthusiastically supported, club members and friends raising over £400, and with a grant of £200 from the Department of Internal Affairs the hut was opened debt-free in 1950.

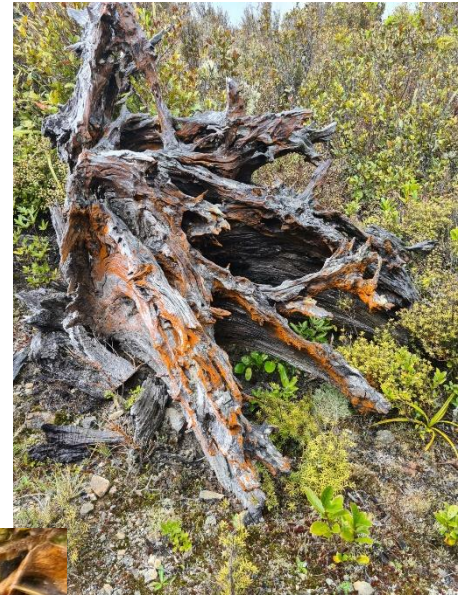
*From a booklet supplied by Andy, son of club member John Carnahan.*

# TRIP REPORTS

## Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2022: Apiti Track

Trip Leaders and Reporters: Marilyn Hewitt and Cheryl Dawson  
 Photographer: Cheryl Dawson

Twenty nine keen trampers head up Apiti track which is accessed at the end of Ngamoko Road, Norsewood. Weather wasn't the best with a light drizzle on and off all day. Not a difficult track but it has a couple of small obstacles along the way which we all managed. The front group got just a little shy of the Makaretu turn off where they had lunch before heading back. The rest of us walked til 12.30 pm, had lunch



Bob were tail end Charlies well as we all arrived back that all the work of the programme is working well



*Ourisia macrophylla*  
 mountain foxglove

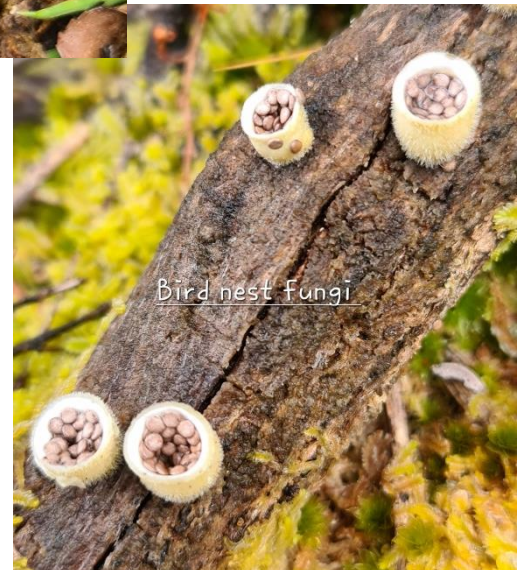
then turned around. Cheryl and for the day. Timing worked out together around 3pm. Good to see Manaaki Ruahine trapping



Ground Beetle  
 "Mecadema"

as we saw rats, stoats and hedgehogs in traps.

Thanks to Margaret for driving the bus and manoeuvring around the tipped-over trailer, still attached to the upright truck, full of smelly stock feed. Also thank you so much for the people who made their cars available for the day.



Bird nest Fungi



*Clematis foetida*  
 "yellow Clematis"

Editor's Note: The bush here is beautiful as illustrated by the biology lesson above from Cheryl.

## Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October, 2022: Mangaehuhu Hut

Trip Leader and Reporter: Carolyn Brodie  
 Photographers: Carolyn Brodie and William Laing

A trip to Mt Ruapehu always involves some tension, anticipation and excitement for me. What will the weather be: cloudy, rainy or clear? Ruapehu often has its own microclimate above the plains below and chose to put on a lovely day for us. The patches of mountain beech, with long thin straight trunks so pretty, and, in the open, the winter colours in the foliage were beautiful. The snowy mountain top finally appeared through the cloud in time for lunch at the hut. The many waterfalls fed by snow melt were spectacular.

Apart from the Waitonga Falls side trip, it is an easy walk (5 or so hours return) on tracks and board walk with a few little river crossings and four single person swing bridges.



There were a few unexpected challenges that the cooperative wisdom and resourcefulness of the group managed to deal with, the main one being the minibus intercooler hose detaching on the journey home, TWICE.



We were (R to L above): Jinny, Suzanne, Jenny, Audrey, Syd, Graham, Tony, Leonie, Anja, and Carolyn, leader (+ photographer, William, & Graham on L).

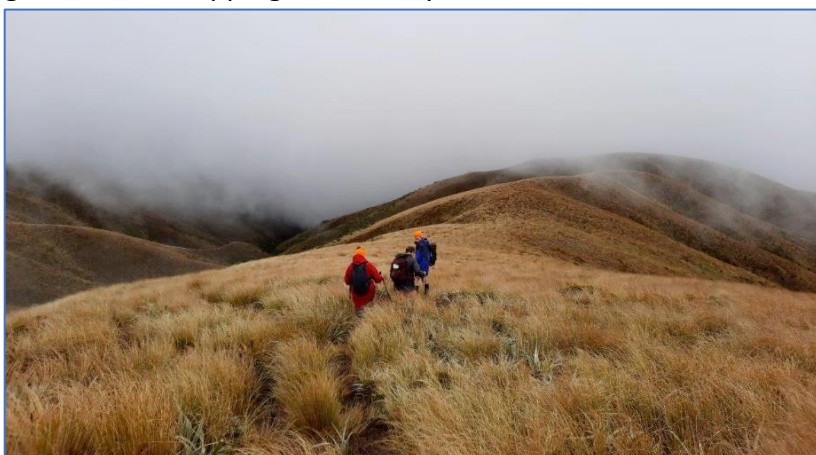
## Sunday 30 October, 2022: Deadmans Loop

Trip Leader and Reporter: Linda Campbell

Photographers: Heather Knox and Tim Swale

I looked at a weather forecast. Rain all day!! I didn't like that one so I tried another. Rain all day!! I didn't like that one either! So, I had one more try with yet another forecast. Yep! Rain all day. Hmmm! Some pulled out but four of us decided to brave it. We would walk up to Rangiwahia Hut and decide whether to go on from there.

Sunday morning came without the forecast rain. It is always great to start a walk in the dry even if it doesn't last! Off we went up to Rangiwahia Hut stopping on the way to chat with a fellow Camino walker of mine who had spent the night at the hut. During a restful morning tea at the hut the decision to continue was made. There was still no rain and only a light breeze but it was fairly cloudy with the cloud clearing at times to offer lovely views out over the tussock, the colours of which, against the grey cloud, were stunning. On the way to Mangahuia we saw several native snails one of which was making its way across the track. It got cooler as we went and a bit of wind started to pick up. After Mangahuia came the mud and a couple of rain showers. It was very slippery in places and this part





of the trip was not without some drama. There was an unexpected stop due to the slipping and sliding and an unanticipated drop off which resulted in some whistle blowing along with some blood, bruising and a missing ear ring. Fortunately, we were prepared for anything. The injuries were minor so, after a bit of first aid, we were off again, still slipping and sliding in places and pushing our way through long wet tussock. The clouds parted at times to reveal beautiful, mood filled views. To finish the day and not too far from the end, the rain arrived so by the time we got back to the vehicle we were rather wet. In spite of that it was a great day and we were all very pleased to have done the walk. Thanks for the great company, Heather Knox, Wendy Williams and Tim Swale.

### Wednesday 2nd November, 2022: Wharite

Trip Leader and Reporter: Harold Pettersson

Photographer: Cheryl Dawson

Twenty nine trampers assembled at the end of Coppermine Road. At 9am seven went on the Coppermine Track (a separate report is below) while twenty two headed for the Wharite Peak tower with different expectations of reaching it. It is some years now since there has been a club tramp to Wharite because DOC closed the route. The track was difficult in places being very steep, muddy and slippery. There were several slips, slides and tumbles but no injuries. The first obstacle was a slip that we chose to cross rather than take the detour which would have meant crossing the creek and getting wet feet. Then it was quite a climb over a rocky track until some grassed stretches were reached. Mud holes in dips were over boots if one wasn't careful (or lucky). As we approached the top the wind increased considerably making it hard to stand in places. Eventually the tower could be seen but it took a while to reach because of the up and down and up and down contours. It was well put by one trampers: "The tower seems to be getting bigger but we are getting no nearer".



New Zealand mountain  
greenhood  
*Pterostylis montana*

Orchid & flowers along the way



*clematis paniculata*



All of the twenty two reached the top in three hours or so. This is a most commendable achievement particularly since some hesitated to choose this climb. Lunch was had at a sheltered place at the top. The view was somewhat hazy but no low cloud. It took three hours to return so quite a demanding tramp but a satisfying venture.



## Wednesday 2nd November, 2022: Coppermine Loop

Trip Reporter: Bob Hodgson

On a pleasant but overcast morning eight trampers choose the Coppermine Loop tramp. With Handsome Bob at the rear and Alan H in the lead, we made good progress until we almost reached the junction with the Wharite track where we met a rough-cut diversion over the edge of a major slip. This needed extra care as it was on soft earth. We then crossed the stream and started our ascent. Conditions were good, unusually dry, but the steepness came as a surprise to the majority of us who had either never tramped it or had only hazy memories of doing it! We clambered on and up and, not too long after the radios told us that the Wharite Trampers were consolidating for morning tea, we also stopped for ours at about 600m, in the vicinity of the clump of tall mountain cedars, (*Libocedrus bidwillii* or pahautea). We tramped on with regular consolidation and conversation stops until we came to the signed junction with the well named Goat Track; as there were no takers we tramped on through the bush. Lunch was taken at the bush edge in sunny conditions at the start of the decent along the fence line. A highlight of the descent to the car park over the paddocks were views of the bush where we had walked in the morning. We all emerged safely, though one of us was unlucky and took an involuntary dip in the very slippery stream just 40 m from the cars!

Unanimous conclusion: this tramp though short, because of the steepness of the ascent (~350m in 1 km), should be graded as easy plus at the very least!

Thanks to our drivers and to trip leaders, Harold and Alan.

## Thursday 3 November, 2022: Tunupo

Trip Leader, Reporter and Photographer: Nicki Fielder

The initial plan for this tramp was to head to Mt Reeves but with the weather forecasts, and our awareness of streams to cross, the trip destination was changed. Eleven trampers were grateful to load into the recently fixed club van and head up toward Apiti with the intention of walking the Tunupo track. As a 'there and back' tramp the brief was simple ... gun it as far as possible or take a more leisurely approach and enjoy the track. Judy had recently had



a birthday so the lure of afternoon tea was also on offer. The weather began well with everyone happy that the rain was holding off. Quickly the group divided, with most opting to get as far as possible. Four decided on the more leisurely approach. But, once reaching the higher areas and into the leatherwood, the decision on a turning point was made for all. Winds were strong and the terrain was

too exposed to go any higher. Tunupo was not to be 'conquered' today.

So we all enjoyed lunch in a sheltered spot just below the bush line before heading back to Alice Nash Hut. Billies were put on to brew and we all enjoyed a cuppa and a piece of Judy's caramel slice.

From here the entire group headed back to the van for an earlyish finish. There was even time for an icecream at the Chelty Dairy on the way past!

Thanks Judy for planning the route and Tony for driving the van.

## Wednesday 9 November, 2022: Stanfield Hut

Trip Leader and Reporter: Leonie Lowndes

Photographer: Denise Shailer

Stanfield hut is in the Ruahine Ranges near Dannevirke. This walk has variety of terrain, including lovey bush, a ridge line, and a river walk to a cosy back country hut. The moderate, but picturesque, nature of this walk makes it ideal for new trampers.

Twenty three of us headed off on a warm but overcast day, wading through the Tamaki river first up. This was followed by a steep climb through lovely bush up to Holmes ridge, where we found a misplaced baby lamb. We decided the best chance of reuniting the lamb with its mother was to put it

back into the farmers paddock which ran alongside the DoC track. As it turned out the mother was also out of the paddock; however the lamb was able to get back through the fence and was reunited with its mother.



After morning tea we carried on along the ridge line, taking in great views across the Tamaki Valley, and then dropped back down into the stream, at which point it was about a 15 minute walk along the river bed to Stanfield Hut, where we had lunch. All but three of the group then made the return trip out the same way as we came in. The other three took the opportunity to walk all the way back along the river, something that has not been attempted by the Wednesday group for some time due it's overgrown state; however, it had improved. It would be nice to all go back this way next time. The tramp took about five hours.

We stopped for afternoon tea in Woodville at the Wind Farm café on the way home. Thank you to all the people who helped me on the day.

## Thursday 10 November, 2022: Mt Holdsworth

Trip Leader: Suzanne Clark

Reporter: Syd Easton

Photographer: William Laing (L) & Syd Easton (R)

Eight of us had a great day at Holdsworth. The weather was much better than we expected.



## Wednesday 16 November, 2022: Raparapawai Stream and Grangers Track

Trip Leader and Reporter: Margaret McKenzie

Photographers: Cheryl Dawson and Helen Peek

Our group of 23 trampers arrived at a track very few of us had been to and yet it is so close to our PN base: less than 50kms away. With the landowners' permission we walked across two large paddocks before reaching the stile into Ruahine Forest Park. We spent about an hour walking an unmarked single file, gnarly bush track which finished where we dropped down in to the Raparapawai Stream. (It's more like a small river through a steep sided gorge, than the implied stream!) With no choice, we crossed to and fro through the river many times, getting sloshy boots, until we reached an open area and junction of streams. Here a DOC sign shows a further 2-3 hrs up the river and climb to Kiritaki Hut.

However, we turned south and climbed up the steep Grangers Track. The track eventually runs out so we stopped for lunch at the highest point near the end of the track. The climb got us up to terrific views of the wonderful bush of the southern Ruahines. Then we carefully negotiated our way back down the track. Unfortunately, one of our group took a nasty tumble on a slippery rock but was soon surrounded by several enthusiastic first aiders. They even managed to retrieve the glasses which had been catapulted down the side of the hill.

On the climb up we encountered lots of tiny Bamboo orchids (*Earina mucronata*) and then another wonder of nature, the flower of the KieKie (*Freycinetia banksii*) along the river on the return trip. Thankyou Cheryl and Marilyn for the photos and the identifications.

It was a day of perfect weather and excellent tramping. We will definitely be returning to this location.

My thanks to Ewen, Anne W and Rod for taking me there in

the first place and enabling me to lead this tramp. Thanks also to van driver Wendy and those other people kindly bringing their cars.



Flower of the Kiekie



*Earina mucronata*

Bamboo orchid



## Thursday 17 November 2022: Te Mara Loop

Trip Leader and Reporter: Jenny McCarthy

Photographer: Jinny Andersen

The weather forecast was not great but there were options at the Kiriwhakapapa Road end. On arrival there was no rain so the Te Mara loop was our trip for the day. Up the tramway to the saddle for morning tea and then up to Te Mara. The trail played a bit of hide and seek at the beginning, then Carolyn took over the lead and the trail led us up to Te Mara for lunch (still no rain). The trail off the high point to the official track was very easy to follow; it was well marked with tape. At the junction some of us went to see Blue Range Hut as two of our group hadn't been there before. The hut was very tidy and a lovely shade of blue (still no rain). Then the long down hill to the car park and it did start to rain a little but, by the time we arrived at the car park, I was the only person still wearing a rain coat. We were (L to R) Ian, Anja, Alistair, Jenny, Carolyn and photographer Jinny.



## Saturday 19 November, 2022: Waitarere Forest and Beach Bike Ride

Trip Leader and Reporter: Royce Mills

Photographers: Kevin Cawsey and Royce Mills

The weather leading up to this ride was very changeable with daily sudden downpours sometimes accompanied by thunder. It was a case of "will we ... won't we?" A decision was made the day before to go ahead and we were rewarded with a perfect sunny, calm morning at Waitarere Beach.

Our sixteen participants dutifully reported to the Surf Club car park at Waitarere Beach and, once organised, off we set at 10.15am. We headed south along Rua Ave to the forest entrance. Riding a single track we passed the "Fairy Garden" and the "Middle Earth Adventure Park"; then into the forest itself. Owen and I had done a recce ride a month earlier and sorted out a route we hoped the group would enjoy. Even then we had to make some changes due to surprisingly large lakes of standing water after so much winter rain. More recent rain meant that there were plenty of puddles on the tracks to splish through. At first, we did our



best to avoid them but increasingly we just rode through (laughing). We biked to the southern boundary of the forest, the Hokio

end, then turned towards the coast. Just before the dunes a huge hole has been dug to keep wheeled vehicles out of the forest. This was safely negotiated and we emerged onto the beach and sunshine. I think all of us had wet bottoms and we were all well spattered with sand and mud. We certainly looked like a group of genuine mountain bikers!

Luckily the tide was low and the sand was hard. The ride back along the beach was pleasant with just a very light head wind. A stop was taken to look at the remains of the wreck of the "Hydrabad" and then on to the car park, arriving right on midday. Our 16 km ride took 1 hour 45 minutes including stops. We were a mixture of e-MTB bikes, and non-e MTBs but we remained very much a group riding together. It was good to get to know other mid-week trampers and bike riders who came out for the day's adventure. Most of the group decided to stop on the way back at Lewis Farm, and what a good choice! There was outdoor seating with sun umbrellas. The real fruit strawberry ice creams were very popular, as were the muffins and coffee. Some of us came away with strawberries and asparagus as well. Highly recommended!

Many thanks to Nicki for arranging all the trip communications and making sure we had an emergency contact list with us.



### **Wednesday 23 November, 2022: Herepai Hut**

Trip Leaders and Reporters: Anne West and Ewen Cameron

Photographers: Helen Peek and Evan Davies

Our trip to Herepai Hut was preceded by heavy rain overnight and early that morning, but with a forecast for clearing skies we set off for Putara Road end. On arrival we decided that the Bottles Track option was not a good idea; the stream crossing could be difficult so all 18 of us would take the main track. It was quite wet underfoot, but no rain fell from above as we headed along the valley. There were two new obstacles along the way, firstly a slip, then a fallen tree. It was not too difficult to clamber past these. A little further



along we were faced with a torrent of water; it seemed that a slip from the other side of the valley had

diverted the Mangatainoka River, which was now flowing along the track at this point. We regrouped, discussed options, and found a detour up and around this section.

The steep hill climb sorted us into groups, and twelve of us reached the hut for lunch. We were impressed by the efforts of the Backcountry trust and their volunteers who have recently renovated this hut; it has a new roof and cladding, a smart door and new deck and woodshed.

A strong wind was developing so no-one was tempted to continue on to Herepai Peak. We headed back, slowly down the hill in the slippery wet conditions, and were pleased to find that the Mangatainoka River level had dropped considerably. It was no longer raging along the track and we could see how deeply it had gouged out the track and surrounds. The side creeks were also much lower and easier to cross.

Everyone was safely back to the vehicles in good time; our feet were wet from all the puddles but it had been a fine and sunny day. Thanks to van driver Wendy, and car drivers Terry and Marion.



Another photo taken by Syd Easton on 12 November, 2022 when a number of Club members joined many others for a tramp on Otupae Station and Range, organised as a fund raiser by Pukeokahu School.



## Contact Details

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

### Committee 2022 - 2023

President	Tim Swale	<a href="mailto:president@mtsc.org.nz">president@mtsc.org.nz</a>	022 134 8384
Secretary	Howard Nicholson	<a href="mailto:secretary@mtsc.org.nz">secretary@mtsc.org.nz</a>	027 294 1941
Treasurer	William Laing	<a href="mailto:treasurer@mtsc.org.nz">treasurer@mtsc.org.nz</a>	022 099 7988
Chief Guide	Ken Mercer	<a href="mailto:chief.guide@mtsc.org.nz">chief.guide@mtsc.org.nz</a>	027 364 6475
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Lodge Manager	John Lyttle	<a href="mailto:lodge.manager@mtsc.org.nz">lodge.manager@mtsc.org.nz</a>	027 433 6307
Mini-Bus Manager	Ken Mercer	<a href="mailto:minibus@mtsc.org.nz">minibus@mtsc.org.nz</a>	027 364 6475

**General Committee:** Nicki Fielder, Linda Campbell, Richard Lander, Blair Petersen, Peter Rawlins

### Appointees

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

### 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](mailto: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.