

# 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 01. February, 2023



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.

## 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 (just 4-5 minutes) 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.

## 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.

## Lodge Work Parties: Contact John Lyttle 027 433 6307; email <lodge.manager@mtsc.org.nz>

Last year we secured funding to purchase the materials to upgrade the toilets that are now at the lodge and we'll install these in February 2023. We need help to do the work, clean up and cater for the workers; you don't need to have a trade background. 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.

# REPORTS AND NOTICES

**MTSC President: Tim Swale**

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

I hope that you all had a wonderful Christmas and that the New Year brings plenty of adventures and enjoyment of our great outdoors. It is good to see that, despite having a break from the regular programme of tramps and activities, the emails and intentions making their way to my inbox show that there has been plenty going on in the last few weeks with day and overnight trips plus bike rides, an area that is growing in popularity.

As you will have heard in previous newsletters, our lodge on Mount Ruapehu has had its finances severely tested by Covid, a couple of poor ski seasons and skyrocketing insurance premiums. It is such a wonderful resource in the very heart of the National Park, but traditionally it has only been heavily used during the ski season. School groups, where the lodge has been booked out for field trips and the occasional MTSC trip organised during the summer have certainly helped. However, with the possibility of climate change bringing us less reliable ski seasons in the future, it is time to pivot in the way that we use the lodge to give more emphasis to its use in the summer months. After all, it is an amazing place to visit with a plethora of activities in the area that make for a wonderful short break or even a longer holiday. This year we are trying a scheme to incentivise members to get together a group of ten or more people: family, friends, colleagues, etc and all stay at members rates out of the ski season. So do consider our own lodge instead of an AirBnB for your next re-union or family gathering. It really is a lovely, peaceful and relaxing place to stay.

Linda as Social Secretary has already got the early part of this year's club-night programme organised. However, if you have any suggestions for speakers, topics or have done an interesting trip that you would be prepared to talk about, please contact her. In the meantime, enjoy the summer weather and stay safe in the hills.



## Goat Control

The Department of Conservation is planning to undertake aerial control of goats in both the north-eastern Ruahine Forest Park and the Kawhatau River area within the Ruahine Forest Park anytime from 17 February 2023. Please check with DOC if you are planning a trip in this area.

*We welcome new members Lyn Lewis and Fabienne, Lisa, Tim and Sammy Ussher to the club.*



February Wednesday Tramps			February Thursday Tramps		
01	Ewen Cameron	022 034 1180	02	Jinnie Andersen	021 0220 9874
08	Wendy Williams	027 240 2727	09	Margaret Horne	022 090 7686
15	Christine Finnigan	027 230 5032	16	Alistair Hall	06 357 1832
22	John Salisbury	021 160 2869	23	Tony Evans	027 829 3069
February Weekend Tramp					
11	MTB Pohangina	Medium	Chris Brunskill (Details below)		
March 25-26	A different area on Mt Taranaki from the last few years; exactly where to be confirmed		Linda Campbell <a href="mailto:lindammc@xtra.co.nz">lindammc@xtra.co.nz</a>		

**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.

## Saturday 11 February, 2023: Mountain Biking Pohangina

Chris Brunskill      Ph 06 354 2511 or phone or text 021 0267 4246

Meeting at Ashhurst Village Centre on Cambridge Avenue at 10 am

The ride consists of four options. All options go up Colyton Rd and turn right into Watershed Rd. You can then return to Ashhurst by taking Ulysses Rd (13km), Spur Rd (21km), Valley Rd (35 km) or ride on to Pohangina (45 km return). Each of the options brings you back on to the Main Rd from Pohangina to Ashhurst. The ride is on road all the way with 50% metal. There are up hills and down hills that I believe are doable by all.

There is a fifth option, namely riding down to the Ashhurst Bridge and following the river trail, returning to Ashhurst in time for coffee with the rest of the team.

Please tell Chris if you wish to come.

## End of 2022 Celebrations



*Tuesday 6 December, Summerhill*



*Wednesday 14 December, Kahuterawa Road end. A sunny morning: 20 trampers walked along the Sledge track while 5 chose the Back Track. Another 9 joined us for lunch.*



# TRIP REPORTS



## 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> November, 2022: Orongorongo Valley

Trip Leader and Reporter: Linda Campbell

Photographer: Tim Swale

We assembled at the Catchpool Campground in the Orongorongo Valley on the Saturday morning, some of us to stay in tents and some in camper vans. The weather was good to us but we knew rain was coming on the Sunday.

After a leisurely morning tea, we set off at a comfortable pace through some lovely bush to the Turere Bridge which took about two hours. There are toilets down close to the river so it was decided, after a short stop there, we would walk up river a wee way for lunch. From there we walked back up to the track and carried on to Turere Hut, which is a large DoC Hut that Blair could add to his hut bagging venture. This whole area is special as it is a kiwi zone.

We stopped again at Manuka Hut which is a private hut and were interested to note that there were chew cards attached to trees. By the state of them, they had been there quite some time but had not been chewed. Surely this is a testament to the work volunteers are doing to eradicate pests. We also met some people along this part of the track that were clearing and rebaiting DoC 200 traps.

Not far on we came to Haurangi Hut where we found a large tree across the track just in front of the hut. Some of us climbed over it and others went around, where others had obviously trodden before. Another hut for Blair to add to his list. It was decision time here and the options were put to the group. The majority chose to walk down the surprisingly low river back to the bridge where another decision was made. It was quite warm by this stage and the wind had dropped a bit so it was rather pleasant travel.

Back near the bridge the group divided, with some continuing with the original first option which was to cross the Orongorongo River and go up to check out three privately owned huts, Waerenga, Raukawa and Boar Inn. From there this group went back across the river and up the very steep Browns Track, through beautiful bush up onto the Orongorongo track to the camp. The other group climbed back up to the Orongorongo Track and walked to camp to enjoy nibbles and liquid refreshments before dinner.



The decision of what to do on the Sunday was relatively easy. It was pouring! The planned trip was not worth doing as there would be no views. Those in campers went off to do other things and those of us in the club minibus stopped at Otaki for a very long and relaxing morning tea before heading back to Palmerton North.

A wonderful weekend in a beautiful area with wonderful friendly positive people: Thanks to (L to R) Ken Mercer, Wendy Williams, Linda Campbell, Monika Coles, Blair Peterson, Mary Mercer, Helen Peek, Karen Tutt, plus Alan Hawkins, Ben Swale and Tim Swale for their great company.

## Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2022 Rimu Valley

Trip Leader and Reporter: Mary Mercer

Photographer: Alan Hawkins

Twenty trampers arrived at the Lewis Farm bridge over the Makahika Stream/Ohau River on Gladstone Road, east of Levin, about 9 am on an overcast but still morning. We were met by the Farm Manager, John, who very kindly unlocked the gate for us.

The start of the Fern Ridge track lay up the farm road, across a paddock and up a hill. There is a bit of blackberry at the edge of the bush but as we progressed up the ridge the native plants began to dominate.

Tim led the way and we all stayed together because there are tracks and tape markers all over this area so it's an easy place to get "geographically embarrassed" if not careful. Our morning tea stop was at the camp site near Waterfall Creek. Then we made our way onto the B/Eyeles track which meanders near, beside and through the lovely Tramway Creek. The track has some wider, flatter sections here, remnants from early logging days when trams were used to haul out the timber. We stopped for lunch along the way but still arrived back at a farm paddock about



1.30 pm. It took almost half an hour to walk back to the club van so about four and a half hours to cover nearly 8 km. All agreed this was a very pleasant walk through some quite beautiful bush and, luckily for us, the forecast rain never eventuated. Thanks to Cam Lewis who allowed us to walk across his farm and John, the Farm Manager, who refrained from letting cattle into the paddock we walked through until we returned after lunch.

## Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2022: Parawai Hut, Otaki Forks



Trip Leader and Reporter: Judy Swainson

Photographer: Alistair Hall

We were a party of five: Adam, Jenny, Judy, Suzanne and Alistair. This was the first Thursday tramp to Field Hut since the slip closed the road access. It took 40mins to reach Parawai Hut from the road end. It was disappointing to see how unkept the picnic area at Otaki Forks by the bridge is now.



A pleasant afternoon was spent watching Jen make a pineapple cheesecake which was enjoyed by all, including a couple of TA walkers who joined us in the hut. The track to Field Hut was in good condition as was the hut itself. It was interesting to note the trampers who have passed through this hut since the road has been closed due to slip.

Great weather and tramp enjoyed by all.

## Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2022: Iron Gate Hut

Trip Leader: Ewen Cameron

Trip Reporter: Carole Kennerley

Photographers: Denise Shailer(1 & 2), Ewen Cameron (3)



Thanks to Ewen for leading a fabulous overnight tramping adventure to the “hut with no name”, more commonly known as Iron Gate Hut (a hut which sadly lacks a name plate). Eight of us met at the Apiti Pub before travelling in convoy to the car park. Seeing two cars already at the car park led us to wonder how many trampers/hunters could possibly be at the hut already; however remaining hopeful, we set off in cloudy but dry conditions and, as we neared the Alice Nash Hut, we could see evidence (beers in the cold water fridge) that people were staying at this hut.

After a quick break and snack we carried on towards Iron Gate. This track is definitely not an easy walk along the river; rather, it has quite

a few steep downhill/uphill sections in and out of the many stream and river crossings. We mostly managed to keep our feet dry as we crossed the Cumberland stream, but we all got wet crossing the bigger Tunupo stream. With no significant rain in the forecast we were pretty confident that we would be able to get back across the streams the following day. A muddy section led to some careful balancing on logs and tree roots, and we arrived at the hut in approximately 5hrs 15 mins. Many photos were taken along the way, wildlife observed (of note - a native falcon – the kārearea), potential future Lord of



the Rings movie sets discovered,

and the amazing natural environment captured us all. However, the ever- elusive who remained out of sight and sound.

Oh the joy: we had the hut to ourselves, so five of us claimed bunks and three set up their tents in the adjacent camp site. A fun evening of interesting discussions and games of cards was had before we hit the sack as the daylight

faded. The following morning we packed up and started the return journey. Along the way we passed the Wednesday tramping group on their day excursion. Making good time we got back to Alice Nash Hut safe and sound. Then it only left the final hill climb to our vehicles. Coffee in Kimbolton was a lovely way to end the tramp.

Thanks to Ewen our trip leader/driver, and to the others who provided transport.

## Wednesday 7 December, 2022: Iron Gate Track

Trip Leader, Photographer & Reporter: Christine Finnigan

“It’s just a gentle walk along the Oroua river with a few ups and downs.” Yeah right!



With a group of Wednesday trampers doing an overnighter to Iron gate hut on Tuesday, ten of us ventured



forth on Wednesday. The Iron Gate Hut track begins at the same place as the Tunupo track but rather than heading up the hill, we walked in past Heritage Lodge and followed the Oroua River. We crossed two significant headlands with steep ascents and descents back down to the Cumberfield stream and then the Tunupo stream. This was a lovely spot for lunch. It's a great track, a little challenging but generally well marked and, as always, beautiful Ruahine bush. (Just watch for the orange triangle upstream on Cumberfield stream.)

There are a few slips, old and new, and it would be a tricky track for primary age kids.

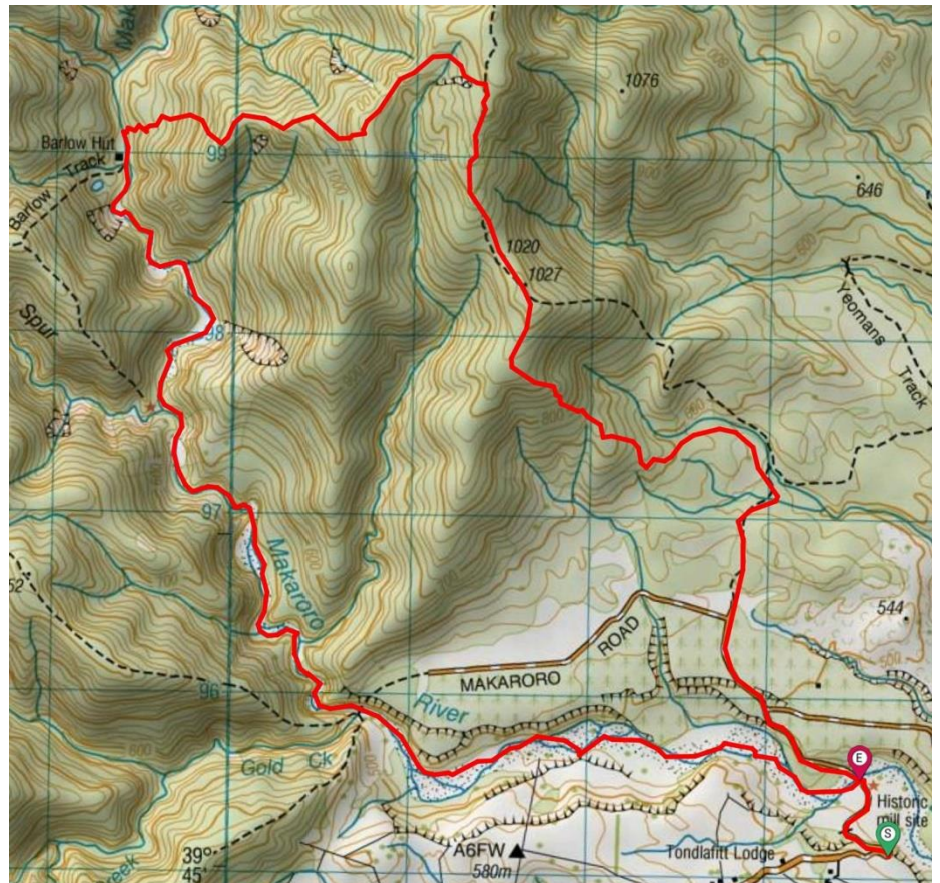
We enjoyed a chat with the overnighters on their way out.

Thanks to car drivers and everyone for a great day out. Also thanks to Ewen who did all the organising.

## Wednesday 28 December, 2022: Barlow Hut

Trip Leader, Reporter and Photographer: Adam Matich

I hadn't been to Barlow Hut for years, and Jenny had never been there, so we decided to do a day trip loop; going there and back can be boring. The road end for this tramp has changed from what it was all those decades ago. The unwashed are no longer allowed to drive down and park at the Mill Site next to the Makaroro river; they have to park on the upper terrace, which is sign-posted, and walk down the road (private land) to the river. It only takes 10 minutes, so it is not exactly a hardship. After crossing the river we headed off towards the Park's Peak track and were talking so much we ignored the turn onto the track, instead heading off onto Makaroro Road. That cost us 45 minutes!



Once we got our track following sorted out, we headed up the hill towards the tops through the pleasant forest on what, up to around 700 m ASL, appeared to be a logging track. From thereon it got steeper and became a proper tramping track. At around 1215 m ASL we encountered a modern DoC sign that points left to Barlow Hut. This is the beginning of a long-neglected track down to Barlow Hut, but which has since been remarked, although not really maintained. The track (or route) is not on the current map and, according to our GPS trace is, in places, marked incorrectly on old printings of the topo maps. A section of the track up to Parks Peak is also incorrect on the current topo map.



So we headed off on our little adventure to Barlow Hut, which crossed the little slip to the west of our 1215 m track junction and headed back into the forest. Most of the trail heading "westerly" across the tops was reasonable travel with the occasional windfall to negotiate, and the track marking (modern DoC markers) was mostly sufficient; we did have to pay attention to where we were going at times. Dropping off the high point ENE of Barlow Hut was slightly uncertain, and the descent of the face to the hut had a few spots where we had to cast about to regain the route. The trail is mostly well-defined, but occasionally we would lose it, sometimes because of insufficient track markers or markers that were on the ground instead of on the trees where they belonged.



We dropped into the river 100 m up-river of the hut and arrived at the hut 5.75 hours from the car. Barlow Hut is in a tidy state and was occupied by a



couple who had arrived, via the same route, about 30 minutes before us. They were less than impressed with the state of the "route". After a rest at the hut we made our way down the river to our starting point in about 2.5 hours. We passed a party who had driven up the river and were camping at the Gold Creek confluence. The river is reasonably friendly at the moment, but shorter people wouldn't want it to be any deeper than it is.

## Monday 2 January, 2023: Things You Should Do Before You Die – Mangaturuturu Hut Loop

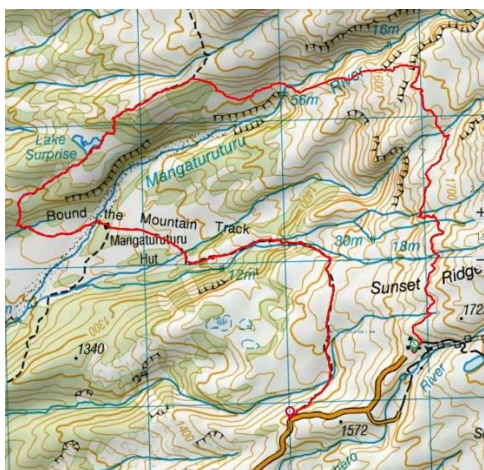
Trip Leader and Reporter: Adam Matich

Photographers: Adam Matich and Helen Peek

We headed north across Sunset Ridge from the Turoa Ski Field car park, maintaining an altitude of between 1630 and 1680 m. This kept us more-or-less in a bluffless sweet spot that involved climbing in and out of little gullies and crossing small streams, so there was no lack of water. Looking up from the valley floor below, this area looks nasty, but we were well above the big fall-to-your-death bluffs. There was some nice vegetation to ogle and we took a very relaxed 3.5 hours to reach Lake Surprise, where a couple of day-trippers forced us to eat some nice big juicy cherries.



We then ambled on down to Mangaturuturu Hut from where I went on



ahead with our cherry supplier who gave me a lift up to the car park to collect the car. Helen, Judy and Anja followed along at a more leisurely pace and I was able to return with the car before they turned up. Calm cloudy weather helped make the day more enjoyable than it might otherwise have been. This route can also be done in winter, with crampons on, and with a heavy snow cover the footing is easier. After dinner in Ohakune we drove around to the Mangahua Campsite (you have to book on-line) for the night. It is a nice campsite and if you are desperate for a wash there is a nice swimming hole 20 s walk from your tent.

### Tuesday 3 January, 2023: Things You Should Do Before You Die – Tihia Peak

This peak is on the northern side of highway 47 not far before Turangi. The track starts just north of Papanetu Stream where there is room to park the car off the road. The track starts as a logging road and, where it branches, we took the left fork which had obviously suffered a lot of foot traffic and had triangular track markers for the stoat traps. Higher up we had to make do with flagging tape markers, which were very useful up in the scrub belt which is about the last 100 m of the 500 m climb (2 hr). The lower section is in good quality forest, but eventually transitions through to the scrub which crowds the track. Long sleeves, and maybe long-johns, would reduce the scratch count.



*Judy, Anja and Adam on Tihia with Kakaramea in the distance*

Even though we were following a GPS trace, we came slightly adrift on the climb; on the way back down we had no trouble and couldn't work out what we had done wrong. We were up on top for a snack and 360 degree views. There is another track that heads south of the peak back down to the highway, but we were too lazy to walk the 2.5 km back to the car along the road so returned the way we came. Anja spotted some Green Hooded and Sun orchids; the rest of us had been oblivious.

We made it to Turangi for lunch, so all the boxes were ticked.





**Friday 13 January, 2023:** Bill Milham and Ken Mercer on the Otangane Loop track, approached from the Naenae Road end, where they pruned lots of Bush Lawyer & OngaOnga and removed windfall from the track.



*Iron Gate Hut 6-7 Dec, 2022 by Helen Peek*

## Saturday 14 January, 2023: Mountain Biking Foxton Beach

Trip leaders and reporters: Lynda Hunt and Carolyn Brodie

Photograph: Lynda Hunt

Eighteen bike riders met at the Cousins Street Reserve car park in sunny and warm conditions. Four headed off to ride the Foxton Beach loop track. Special thanks go to Carolyn Brodie for leading this group and writing the following report:

Armed with a useful map of Foxton Beach in “your guide to Horowhenua” we set off towards Foxton on Palmer Road cycle way. The map shows all the shared pathways and links. Turning right at Foxton Beach road we found our way to the estuary: low tide so no birds to see. We passed lots of lovely holiday homes. Quick trip on the sand towards the river mouth then through another reserve to the surf beach where two of us had a lovely sprint on the firm, low tide beach. Then back to Cousins Reserve where we had time to explore an easy track through the pine forest before settling down for a snack while waiting for the others. A very pleasant morning.

The remaining fourteen of us headed into the pine forest in the reserve and onto the single track. The track had been recently cleared and raked and we made good progress. Luckily Peter (who was in front) found an extra loop that was not as well formed to provide us with more of a challenge. It was slower going and there were a few falls on the softer sand and rougher track but soon we were all back on the usual route, not too much worse for wear. The trip took us about one and a half hours all up with several stops to ensure our group stayed together.

After the ride most of us headed to the Little White Rabbit beach café for a welcome coffee, a bite to eat and time to catch up.

We were: (Left below from L to R) Peter Rawlins, Alan Hawkins, Royce and Owen Mills, John Corkery, Nicki Fielder, (Right from L to R) Graham Baker, Mary and Ken Mercer, Chris Brunskill, Geraldine Fovakis, Evan Davies, Carolyn Brodie, Dan Lynch, plus Nicky Stone, Sharon Te Wahtu, Tara Todd, and Lynda Hunt. Thanks everyone for a most enjoyable ride.



## Howlett's Hut Work Party: Labour Weekend, 1955

in Beechleaves: March, 1956

### REST AFTER LABOUR (or Never Again)

Howlett's hut's a lovely place  
It's perched up in the sky,  
And you can gaze out into space  
And watch the clouds go by.

Four thousand feet's the altitude.  
The hut is made of tin.  
The shelter's only rough and rude  
And rats walk out and in.

It measures fourteen feet by ten;  
Has bunks that number three.  
There isn't room for twenty men,  
But three would cosy be.

Three cullers had arrived there first  
And made a brew of tea.  
When we came in I bet they cursed  
And loathed our company.

The fire bought forth thick clouds of smoke  
Each time we closed the door.  
The atmosphere would make you choke  
And make your throat feel sore.

Bedtime bought shrieks of girlish glee  
As each one found a spot.  
"Who is going to sleep with me?"  
"Or rather, who is not?"

Two in a bunk that's two feet wide.  
No room for any more.  
Like sardines laid out side by side  
On a piece of two by four.

The floor was only made of earth  
And far from being clean.  
In very little time a dearth  
Of spaces could be seen.

Ten men down: three more to go.  
"Move over some of you."  
There's room down there for twelve or so.  
"Not quite so close – you two."

"Your smelly foot is in my face."  
"Your knee is in my back."  
"Where, oh where, can I find a place?"  
"Why not in your pack?"

The hut was strewn with whitish fur.  
We wondered whence it came.  
The cullers had a mangy cur  
To help in finding game.

There was no room for him inside.  
Without he had to go.  
His only warmth his bitten hide.  
He lay down in the snow.

As night drew on the wind increased  
And soon became a gale.  
The talking in the hut soon ceased.  
The dog began to wail.

So drear and dismal was the noise  
Hearts melted at the sound.  
"Bring him in" exclaimed the boys  
And inside came the hound.

"He's got no fleas. There's only ticks."  
He bounded in with glee.  
"My face is what he always licks  
When ere he sleeps with me."

Although so tired and weary,  
Sleep seemed to never come.  
The night was long and dreary  
And we were sore and numb.

The night did pass, as all things do.  
We welcomed dawn again.  
Not for the sun and sky so blue,  
But day did end our pain.

We must be really very mad  
The way we spend our leisure.  
But if this rhyme has made you sad,  
Remember – ski for pleasure.

*Note: Mr Howlett, a retired school-master and Botanist, originally had a hut built on the site in 1893. It was opened to trampers in November, 1940 after the Ruahine Tramping Club initiated a re-build assisted by Manawatu and Heretaunga Tramping Club members (Beechleaves, August, 1955). The current hut was built in 1958 by the Heretaunga and Ruahine Tramping Clubs and is owned by the Heretaunga Tramping Club ([DoC](#)).*



## 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
Membership	Sue Nicholson	<a href="mailto:membership@mtsc.org.nz">membership@mtsc.org.nz</a>	
Newsletter Editor	Mary Mercer	<a href="mailto:editor@mtsc.org.nz">editor@mtsc.org.nz</a>	027 372 5375
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.