

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 03. April, 2023

CLUB MEETINGS

Club meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of the month at the Rose City Aquatic Club Rooms, 50 Park Street, Palmerston North (next to the Lido). Meetings begin at 7.30pm.

7.30pm Tuesday 4 April 2023: Seven Days in the Wilderness

by Ken Mercer, Howard Nicholson and Peter Bowker

The southern part of Nelson Lakes National Park is one of the more remote areas of New Zealand. Howie Nicholson, Peter Bowker and Ken Mercer will report on a recent trip which included four alpine passes, snow, bush bashing and few tracks.

7.30 pm Tuesday 2 May, 2023: What Happens When You Activate Your PLB?

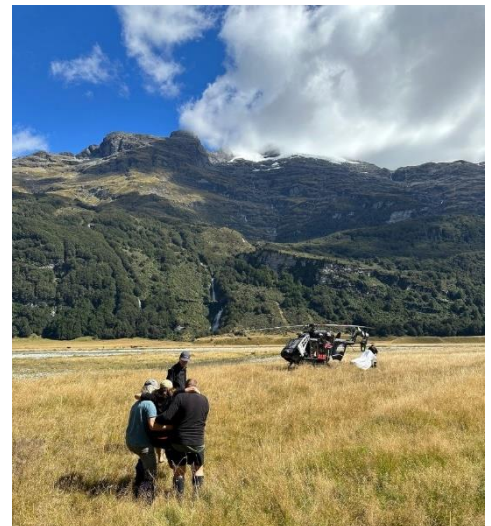
“ So, you have a PLB but what happens when you activate it? Who responds and what do they do?

Chris Wilson, from the Rescue Coordination Centre, will speak at our May club night. Chris is travelling from the Wairarapa for this so please make sure you come along and support this session.

Chris's talk will include Search and Rescue (SAR) coordination in New Zealand

- How distress beacons work
- Personal locator beacons (and other satellite emergency notification devices) in the back country, and what happens when you need to activate one
- and any questions you may have

If you would like a ride over from Feilding please contact Linda on 027 333 4493



31 March – 1 April, 2023: Rangatira Alpine Sports Club Crater/Tama Lakes Walk

In support of everything that is going down at Mt Ruapehu this summer, Rangatira Alpine Sports Club have planned a Crater/Tama Lakes tramping weekend on 31 March - 1 April 2023. It would be great if we could get a decent size group of people walking up to the Mt Ruapehu Crater Lake in support of our ski fields. So we would like to invite your club members, families and friends along to join us. We could even do some socialising together afterwards.

Please don't hesitate to contact Trish Oosterbaan, RASC Club Captain, trishoosterbaan@gmail.com if you have any questions.

REPORTS AND NOTICES

MTSC President: Tim Swale

president@mtsc.org.nz

I recently had the pleasure of attending a farewell gathering for long term club members, Jean Garman and Ivan Rienks, who are relocating to Lake Hawea near Wanaka. Their service to the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club and the outdoor community in this area has been massive and they will be greatly missed. Jean, who was made a life member for services to the club in 2005, tells me that their association with the club goes back over thirty years. In that time they have been extremely active members, organising and leading tramps, often to some of the remotest areas of the Tararuas and Ruahines, making their knowledge of the mountains invaluable. This has led to them being called



on frequently to assist with Search and Rescue operations, sometimes in the worst of weather and, in many



cases, saving lives that would have otherwise been lost. Jean's long-term work as our representative on the Tararua, Aorangi, Remutaka Huts Committee (now the Greater Wellington Backcountry Network) has benefitted the greater outdoor community. Both Jean and Ivan have spent countless hours over many years working on huts and tracks such as Harris Creek, South Ohau and particularly Mangahao Flats and Te Matawai for which our club has had a maintenance agreement with DOC. They have also spent vast amounts

of time helping with working bees at our club lodge on Mount Ruapehu, where Ivan's skills as a qualified electrician have made a huge difference to the ability of the club to manage and run this asset. Jean was also our newsletter editor for a number of years, and both have been involved with cave SAR and predator trapping over a long period of time. Their quiet and unassuming natures has often meant that others have often not known about the vast amount of service that they have contributed, so I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank them for everything that they have done for our Club and to wish them all the best for their new life on the South Island.

Lodge Work Party 1-2 April, 2023: All Hands on Deck!

We are coming to the end of the toilet renovation and need all hands on deck to do a final clean and remove demolition and building rubbish. No skills needed.

If numbers are sufficient, we will run the club van up on Friday 31 March and the van and the weekend is free to all helpers.

Please let me know if you can help or have any questions.

John Lyttle – Lodge Manager 027 433 6307; email john@bcsltd.co.nz or lodge.manager@mtsc.org.nz



April Wednesday Tramps			April Thursday Tramps		
05	Catherine Henderson	021 939 604	06	Suzanne Clark	021 173 5373
12	Anja Scholz	027 749 5811	13	Royce Mills	021 055 2527
19	Bill Milham	027 443 3324	20	Darlene Westrupp	021 167 8815
26	Lyn Lewis	027 431 3836	27	Nicki Fielder	022 515 3807
April Weekend Biking					
15	Bike Ride: Kimbolten	Royce Mills	021 055 2527 <i>More over page</i>		
23	Ohingaiti Boulders	Linda Campbell	027 333 4493 <i>More over page</i>		
Midwinter Potluck Dinner – Save the Weekend!					
17-18 June	Nicki Fielder	022 515 3807	nickifielder@gmail.com <i>More over page</i>		

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.



Wharite 15 March by Angela Cameron

Saturday 15 April, 2023: Bike Ride: Kimbolten -London's Ford - Ridge Rd - Apiti - Kimbolten

Royce Mills roycemills@icloud.com or Owen Mills 021 040 4587

Please note changes to both the date and the location.

The scheduled date was during Easter so we have moved the bike ride to Saturday 15 April. We were planning to explore the Tukituki trails starting at Waipukurau but it is likely that the stop bank trails have been damaged so we will leave those trails for another day.

This 40km circuit starting and finishing in Kimbolton is a spectacular and scenic ride. It has some steep hills and is more suited to e-bikes. However pedal cyclists are welcome to join us. It is a mixture of quiet sealed country roads and gravel. We will stop for lunch at Apiti Tavern where good food and drinks can be enjoyed. However, it is a bit pricey so, if you prefer to bring your own lunch, you can eat it nearby in the village.

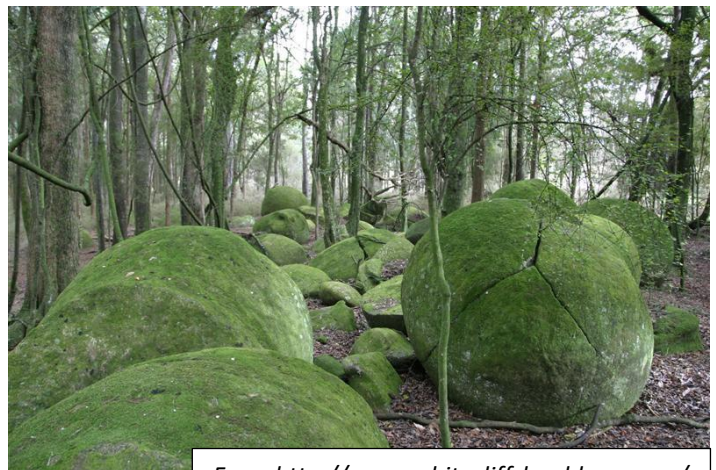
Please meet at Kimbolton at 10.30 am. Driving time from Palmerston North is about an hour. Biking time on e-bikes, excluding lunch, is about 3 hours. We hope you can join us. Names please to Royce or Owen Mills. Please let us know if you would like to have lunch at Apiti tavern and we will book a table if necessary.

Sunday 23 April, 2023: Ohingaiti Boulders

Linda Campbell 027 333 4493 or lindamc@xtra.co.nz

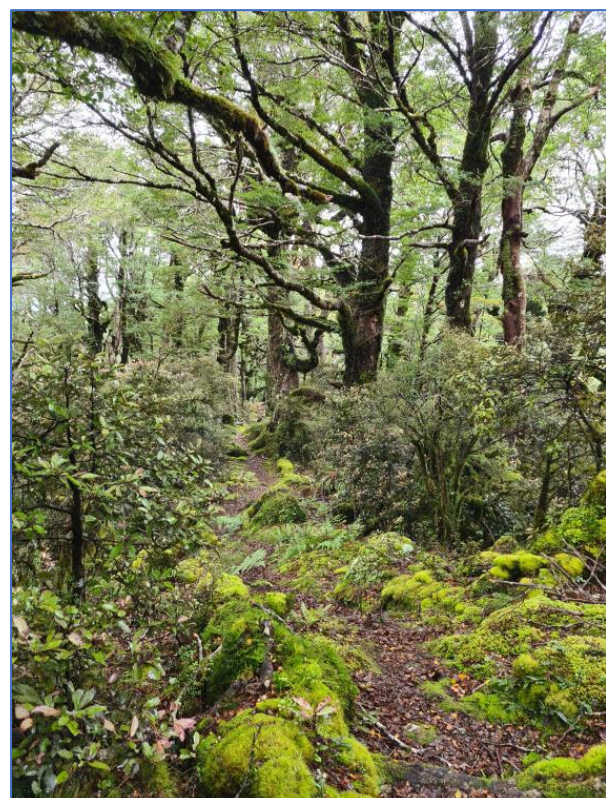
I have never seen them but I have often heard how amazing the boulders are. Both the boulder walk (\$5 per person and children under 12 free) and the boulder hike (\$10 per person and children under 12 free) are self-guided short walks that include amazing views.

The boulders, known as spherical ball concretions, are made from mudstone. Some are really big. It is believed that millions of years ago rivers carried sediment from eroding land out to sea. Shells and trees were also carried out to sea and were trapped in the sediment. The sea water contained dissolved chemicals and formed a cement around what was left of the buried shells and plant material. The



From <http://www.whitecliffsboulders.co.nz/>

cement in this case is calcium carbonate.



17-18 June, 2023: Midwinter Potluck Dinner

Nicki Fielder 022 515 3807 or nickifielder@gmail.com

A midwinter weekend get-together plus a shared potluck dinner on the night of Saturday **17 June, 2023** at the MTSC Lodge on Mt Ruapehu. (*Note change of date.*) All club members and their partners welcome. Tramping options will be planned for Saturday and Sunday. More details to come.

Tunupo 22 March by Cheryl Dawson

TRIP REPORTS

21-23 January, 2023: Mangahao Flats Hut

Trip Leader, Photographer and Reporter: Tim Swale

Our club has had a long-standing arrangement with the Department of Conservation for the ongoing maintenance of Mangahao Flats hut. We have been extremely fortunate for many years to have Jean Garman and a band of willing helpers who have tramped in on a regular basis to clean, paint and repair the hut as required. Sadly with Jean and Ivan soon to move to the South Island it needs somebody else to manage these work parties. (Brett Gillies, an MTSC club member now on the committee of the Greater Wellington Backcountry Network, has a real interest in continuing this good work but will need continued support from the club). The location of this hut, approximately 6 hours of fairly rugged walking from the top Mangahao dam, means that any work party needs a three day window to do the work required. On the credit side, it is a superb hut in a beautiful location that only gets light use, which means it stays in pretty good condition.



Over the weekend we had eleven trampers head into the hut to do a range of jobs including, clearing and marking the track, cleaning the hut interior, spraying to remove algae, clearing vegetation around the hut and helipad, re-stocking the woodshed and cleaning the toilet. With many hands making light work there was also time for some exploration further up the valley.

As it was a long weekend we were able to walk out on Monday. Most headed down the track whilst Jean walked and swam down the river. Because the water level in the dam was

so low it was possible to shorten our trip by taking the river from the Mangahao swing bridge meaning that we all got back to the van at more or less the same time.

A big thank you to all who came along and helped and were such good company over the weekend.

We were Jean Garman, Ivan Rienks, Brett Gillies, Andrew Carman, Malcolm Thomas, Jenny McCarthy, Adam Matich, Linda Campbell, Geoff McKay, Dave Mitchell and Tim Swale.



Thursday 16 February, 2023: Rangiwahia Hut

Trip leader, Reporter and Photographer: Alistair Hall

At the tail end of Cyclone Gabrielle a group of nine of us set off for Rangiwahia Hut. On the way there, our van driver Tony had to deal with heavy fog in places, as well as a multitude of slips partially blocking the road (up near the carpark there was one we just managed to get through). The track itself was in good condition despite a



lot of surface water and fog or drizzle persisting throughout the day. The “small” waterfall up near Rangiwahia Hut was in fine form. Over a relaxed (and dry) morning tea / early lunch at the hut we



discussed whether any of us wanted to continue around the Deadmans Loop, but given the grey skies, the wet ground, and the ongoing drizzle it was an easy decision for us to all return the way we'd come. We were all back at the van a little before 1pm, wet but happy to have had a day in the hills.



We set off homewards, planning to stop at the café in Kimbolton, but just past Rangiwahia we found that the road had been closed since we came through in the morning, so a large detour was needed. The safest (and sealed) route was to head back and go through Mangaweka, but once again our driver Tony found plenty of rocks and slips to avoid. No luck in Mangaweka – the café there was closed, so we just had a quick bite from our own supplies then headed home (uneventfully) to Palmerston North. A wet, but memorable and enjoyable trip.

Wednesday 22 February, 2023: A Frame Hut

Trip leader and Reporter: Bill Milham

Photographer: Royce Mills

Our tramp today divided into two groups with five deciding to go directly up to A Frame Hut and seven choosing the more arduous route up the Rimu track and back along Takapari Road.

The ‘direct to A Frame’ group managed to be back at the cars earlier than us and were well on the way home before we returned. Cheryl reported they had a good walk with just a little rain on the way down.



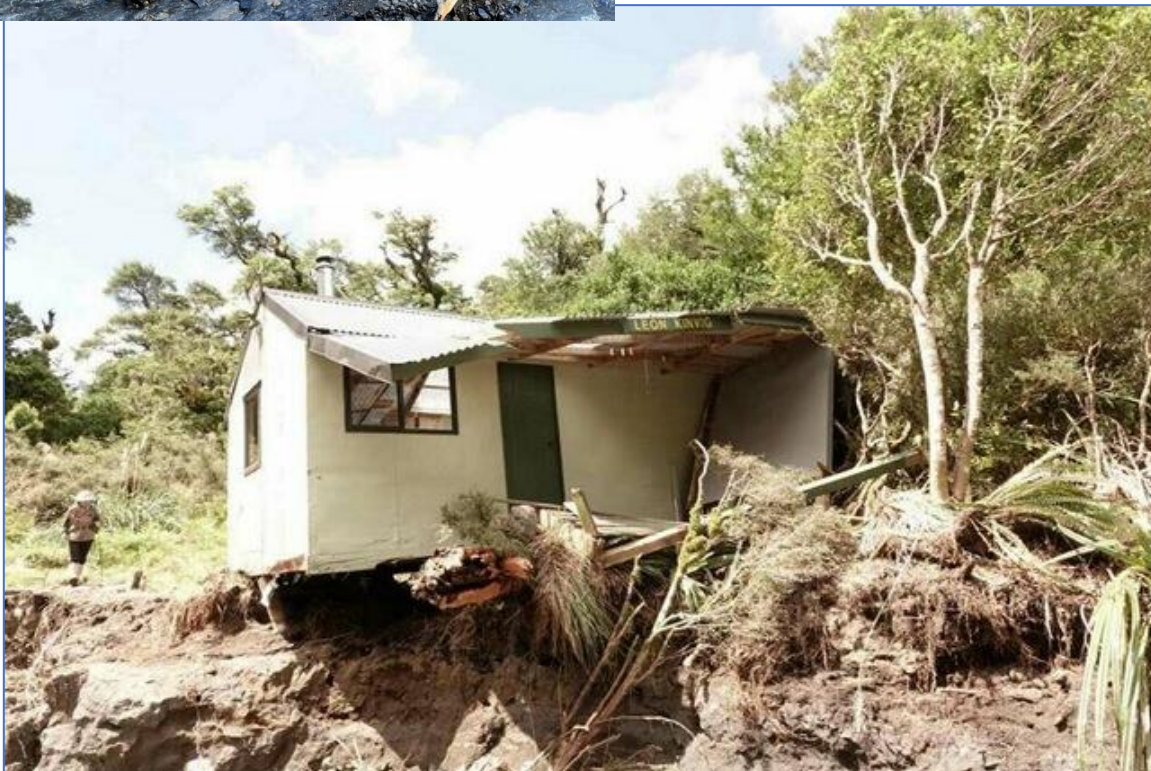
The second group, which included three usual Thursday trampers, headed up Holmes Ridge before dropping down and making their way across the silt-laden stream where the ravages of last week's storm were clearly evident. After we crossed the river, we unfortunately bypassed the best of the Rimu track, much to Leonie's disappointment.

Undeterred by the sign that warned "this track is closed and overgrown" we proceeded uphill. As we ventured higher it was obvious that the warning sign was genuine as the track was very overgrown from lack of maintenance. However, with Royce's tracker guiding us, we finally reached the leatherwood as the rain and wind came in. We proceeded to the top then made our way along Takapari Road to



the hut for some welcome respite from the wind and showers; after a short stop for some sustenance we headed down. As usual the first part of the track was brutal however it improved the lower we got and we soon arrived back at the van to change into dry clothes and have a brew.

Although it was a long day for our group (7.5hrs) we all enjoyed the walk and were back in Palmerston in no time at all. Thanks to those who drove cars or took photos and to all who participated as it was a great day in the bush.



Leon Kunvig Hut showing the damage wrought by the recent storm. Photo by Gordon Groube, PNTMC

Thursday 23 February, 2023: Blue Range Hut

Trip Leader, Reporter and Photographer: Tony Evans

With limited options because of road and track closures in the aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle and a wet weather forecast, Blue Range Hut became the destination this Thursday.



Arriving at the Kiriwhakapapa Road carpark we donned raincoats and walked up to the hut for lunch. Blue Range Hut is a lovely small hut, only four bunks, but with only seven in our group we had plenty of room. With light rain falling and still no views we headed back to the road end and home earlier than usual for a Thursday. With good company it was a pleasant day out, much better than sitting at home watching the rain out the window.

Monday 27 February, 2023: Flood Clean Up

Trip Leader, Reporter and Photographer: Christine Finnigan

I want to extend my thanks to the 25 kind people who spent a good 3-4 hours on the Carroll property on Monday (and also to those people who wanted to help but were elsewhere). That equates to 80-100 man hours! I know that both the Manager and Farm Owners were blown away by our gesture and the timing worked well with Autumn calving only 2 weeks away.

We emptied troughs, cleared fence lines of debris, turnips, and fodder beet, and pulled up buried fence wire so paddocks could be worked up for re-grassing. For a bunch of "oldies" I think you would



As a Farmer, thank you again. Your act of kindness was fantastic!

show a lot of "youngies" up with your teamwork, determination, persistence and what you achieved.



More about Wurzells than you ever wanted to know...

Recently under the leadership of Christine Finnegan 25 trampers and friends converged on a local farm to assist by removing flood debris from electric fence lines. This was by way of a thank-you for access to the tracks up to Ross Peak. The paddocks and fence lines were littered with a fodder beet that, in the UK is referred to as wurzels, not to be confused with turnips. The name is usually written in full as mangel-wurzel; it is not a relative of the turnip but a large variety of beet, closely related to the sugar beet and the beetroot or red beet. There has been a long-time confusion with turnips. It grows readily but is susceptible to frost. [The food shortages in Europe after World War I](#) caused cases of mangel-wurzel disease, as relief workers called it. It was a consequence of eating only beets (Urgh!).

The Wurzells were formed in 1966^[6] as a backing group for, and by, singer/songwriter Adge Cutler.^[7] The first recordings were made live in the 'Royal Oak Inn', [Nailsea](#), Somerset in December 1966. The release of the single "Drink Up Thy Zider" in 1966 led to national fame: the B side "Twice Daily" was banned by the BBC for being too raunchy!

Finally in an early article in *The Lancet*, Thompson A and Minx M cite Mangelwurzel seeds as an effective relief for constipation when taken *per anum* (through the anus) after first scoring the husk. (I did not make this up!)

Thanks to Wikipedia. Bob Hodgson



Adge Cutler and The Wurzells

Wednesday 1 March, 2023: Atiwhakatu Hut

Trip Leader: Evan Davies

Photographer: Geoff McKay



Thursday 2 March, 2023: Tackling the 'Flat White Bowl' (in Kapiti Coast lore also known as

Cuppa Cuppa Nui)

Trip Leader and Reporter: Anja Scholz

Photographer: William Laing

As we did NOT stop for the cuppa, and flat would be the understatement of the year, I will stick with the official name: **Kapakapanui Circuit** (the only info re the name that I found is as follows: The maunga was named after the [waka, of the same name](#), which travelled to our area (i.e. Kapiti Coast) in ancient times. As

“kapa” means as much as “team” or “group” (such as in “Kapa Haka” - “Group that's doing the Haka”), kapakapanui COULD mean a very large group of people, but that's only guessing.)

Alas, some money had been spent on the sun-o-meter, but when the forecast started looking pretty darn good, I decided to spend the last metre money on beer and chips instead. Mistake. The forecast turned to 'localized afternoon drizzle'. The tops of the Tararuas were covered in cloud as The Magnificent Seven approached Ngatiawa Road End, but perfect climbing temperature and high spirits propelled us forward through four river crossings. Some of us were a bit wussy, crossing in sandals or sneakers, so we could then slip into some warm dry boots for most of the rest of the day. As most of us remembered, the start of the climb is a tad steep. I have, over the years, fully embraced the British art of understatement – but this time it felt so much flatter and easier – YEAH, RIGHT! So, for the next 2 ½ hours it was Seven Up, and at about 700m altitude, at about 10:30 am, we hit the cloud and the 'localized drizzle' – I suppose the forecast meant it was afternoon somewhere.

Our daypacks were only roughly Seven Pounds so we made good progress and had lunch just before we hit the open tops with our Kapa Iti ('small group of people') – it had taken us a bit longer than 7 seconds, though. We put on more clothes and the 'this-is-the-one-I-bring-on-a-tramp-when-it-is-not-supposed-to-rain' rain jackets, and then the Seven Psychopaths ventured out into the Long White Cloud that features so prominently in Tararua Tramping Trip reports.

Jean: “Views are overrated anyway.”

Tony: “Amazing! You get those same views from every mountain in the Tararuas and the Ruahines!”

Despite, or because of, the mist, the light winds, the mud underfoot and views for metres, we Seven Beauties were in Seventh Heaven, one heaven for each of us! Slashing some foliage that grew over the track with our tramping poles we felt like the Seven Samurai following the short path across the open tops. Soon we were descending back into the forest, where the trees were covered in mosses and lichen, and plenty of Prince of Wales Feathers ferns made for a soft forest floor. The sight of those filmy ferns which, when wet, look like they're made of soft green plastic, always lifts my heart – I know that in the unforgiving New Zealand outdoors, where many calamities might befall the trumper, there is at least scant chance of dying of dehydration. Hypothermia, by all means. Drowning, possibly. Breaking a leg in steep descents, for sure. But there will be moisture aplenty in such a forest, forecast be damned.

Soon we spotted The Seventh Sign, announcing the K-hill Hut, and it was time for another short break to steady ourselves for the final descent. After much meandering, and not a lot of altitude loss, Tony informed us that we were at roughly 370m. That seemed wrong, and he quickly added that his altitude watch had been out of sync with reality for some time. Alistair remarked that going by that watch we would eventually end up underground. Sticking with the theme that would have been nothing new for (Snowblind and) us Seven Dwarfs (resp. five Dwarfs and two Dwarfettes).

The final 300m descent seemed never ending, and the words 'sheer drop' spring to mind – making me feel like The Seventh Victim. But every mountain must come to the flats, and we finally splashed along the stream with three plus seven crossings back to the van. This no-views-but-who-needs-them-when-you-have-Se7en-great-trampers-in-the-Kapa trip was most enjoyable, and it took us, you guessed it, seven hours.

We were (L to R) Alistair Hall, Jeff Baldwin, Jean Garman, Tony Evans, Malcolm Thomas, trip leader, Anja Scholz and photographer, William Laing.



Wednesday 8 March, 2023: Rangiwahia and Deadman's Loop

Trip Leader and Reporter: Margaret McKenzie

Photographer: Robyn Laing

Our lovely group of 20 trampers (3 guys and 17 girls) set off to Rangiwahia Hut and Deadmans Loop tracks which was our plan C after Cyclone Gabrielle had messed up our plans A and B. Alerts on the DoC site for Tunupo and Deerford tracks meant that we were not legally able to go there.

As we got going we broke into groups and everyone achieved what they hoped for on the day with eight doing the complete Deadmans loop in good time in spite of heavy clag and rain at the top. Some of us enjoyed finding the tiny carnivorous plants (*Drosera* species also known as sun dews) near the bridge and waterfall which is one of only a couple of locations of the plant in the Manawatu. They were mixed in with numerous other tiny alpine flora.



Thank you all for the good company and to car drivers, Cheryl and Marion.

Thursday 9 March, 2023: Herepai Hut and Beyond

Trip Leader and Reporter: William Laing

Photographer: Alistair Hall

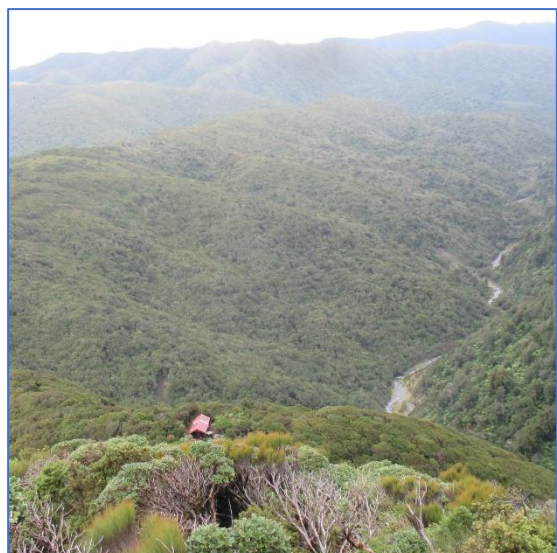
On an overcast day with a few spits of rain, nine of us and a dog, Tui, set off for Herepai. My spell checker had changed Herepai to Hernia, but the hill climb is not as bad as all that. The slight drizzle went as we walked into the bush and, as we progressed along the river track, we first came to a slip to scramble over, then a large fallen tree to climb around and lastly another slip besides the river that seemed to be most recent. The track does need maintenance but it is not impassable.



As usual, the climb up from the second bridge was challenging but at least reasonably dry and the large steps gives a sense of vertical progress. It is about a 350 m climb becoming more gentle towards the top. At the ridge top, the track was muddy and wet and gently

sloping downwards until it gets to the last 50 vertical metres to the hut. We had lunch at the hut (morning tea at the second bridge) and a couple of us went up another 100 vertical metres to admire the view: cloudy but you could see the farmland below.

The photo shows the hut and what the map calls the Ruapae Stream, (which then flows past Roaring Stag hut to join the Ruamahanga River which flows out south of Mt Bruce to



Masterton) but that stream does not connect to the stream that has the Ruapae Falls, which flows out to join the Mangatainoka River.

We made our way back to the van by 3:30pm in time for ice creams at the always open Eketahuna 4 square. Thanks to Tony for driving the van, and Alistair for the photos.

Saturday 11 March, 2023: Mountain Biking in Arapuke Bike Park

Trip Leader: Alan Hawkins

Trip Reporter and Photographer: Royce Mills

Five bikers and two trampers arrived at the Kahuterawa car park on a cool misty morning but it was obvious it was going to burn off very quickly. After a good chat with the Heretaunga Tramping Club members, we wound our way up the Back track to Scotts Road car park and the start of the Arapuke Forest Mountain Bike Park. The Back track was in very good condition so no one had any problems crossing the numerous streams. After studying the Arapuke Bike Park maps, we set off on grade two tracks - the Icebreaker, Riff Raff and Swamp Monster. All fun and easy going.

From there we biked up Arapuke fire road to just before the shelter and the start of our next track. I think it was called Te Ara Kaikohi, a grade three track. After a steep climb to the top, two younger riders showed us how to start the descent. The first, did a big jump and was gone. The second one misjudged it and went over the handlebars and flat on her face....."Not like that", she said. She was OK. We took it easy on that part of the track. The rest of the track wound its way steadily downhill until we made our way back to the top car park. Fun but a bit more challenging. From the car park we had two choices: Mr Twister or back down the Back Track. The day was hot by then so we decided on a gentle ride through the bush and down the Back Track to the Kahuterawa car park. Then something to eat and drink at Sunys Cafe and home.

11 March, 2023: Ruapehu Trail Festival

Reporter: Ken Mercer

While wandering the canyons of Nelson's Warehouse searching for gas bottles Tim, with me in tow, received a "please help" call from the organizer of a set of races in the vicinity of the mountain. Could the MTSC provide some marshals to ensure the safety of the crazy competitors who, starting at 4 am, would be running the 5 day track? And yes, it was short notice.

We were allocated three locations on the way to and including Mangaehuehu hut, each about an hour apart. Energised with sticky buns from Ohakune we walked into the hut on Friday afternoon to find we had it to ourselves. That didn't last as, just after I'd fallen asleep(!), Mike and Kat from Waikato Tramping Club quietly came in and went to bed. They had the next marshal point, towards Rangipo.

In the morning I had to walk back the furthest to my marshalling location. In the misty dark, I lost the track briefly but arrived at point Bravo by my allocated time of 6:30am. By then I was hungry and managed to set up my hammock and boil water for breakfast before the first runners came through. The hammock was comfortable, my sleeping bag warm, and all the runners polite and grateful. We all had radios so could follow the other marshals getting into position and then, as the tail end people followed the racers, walking out. Mary and Linda found their services were needed too when a competitor required evacuation by a Rescue Helicopter.



That delayed us a little so we arrived at Blyth hut (which is closer to the road) a little before dark where we enjoyed a second night in the bush. We were Linda, Mary, Tim, Brett and Ken.

Wednesday 15 March, 2023: From Wharite

Trip Leader and Reporter: Anne West

Photographers: Angela Cameron and Jenny McCarthy

To walk among the leatherwood in the Ruahine range, one would normally have to first climb uphill for an hour or two. Instead, we drove to the top of Wharite and set off from this high point to traverse the ridges. The day was clear with the lightest of breezes; there were stunning views in all directions. The first part of track had patches of deep bog. After the turn-off to Coppermine Creek the orange track markers



disappeared, but there was an obvious trail through the horopito forest. This led to a grassy knob which was a perfect spot to rest and enjoy the views. For some of us this was far enough; one

group of trampers stopped there for a leisurely lunch, then retraced their steps while three groups went on beyond this point. The trail was overgrown in places and harder to follow as we made our way towards peak 967. Our leading party of seven trampers reached the vicinity of 967, otherwise known as 'Pretender', but the density of the leatherwood denied access to the actual high point. Two other groups stopped short of this point and, after lunch, all 23 trampers turned back towards Wharite.

The radios enabled groups to communicate, which was most reassuring for the trip leader. It was pleasing to find trampers waiting at junctions and high points, and looking out to help each other. Thank you everyone. Special thanks to those who drove us up the hill, and all who helped guide along the way.



Wednesday 15 March, 2023: Branch Road Walkway Tramp and Parking (over page)

Trip Leader and Reporter: Bob Hodgson

As the regular Wednesday Trampers made their majestic way on the track from Wharite Peak, an alternative tramp by five of us went up the Branch Road Walkway. Apart from being overgrown in places, the track was, considering recent weather events in the Pohangina, in surprisingly good condition. We had memorable day enhanced by a multitude of birds and the extended performance we witnessed from a bell bird close to the track.

On our arrival we were asked not to park at the usual place on Kuku Road and instead to park on the car park at the picnic place about 50 m on the right on the Pohangina Road before the Kuku Road turnoff. It was explained to us that Walkway access depended on the continuing goodwill of six farmers and considerate parking would be helpful.

Thursday 16 March, 2023: Castle Rock

Trip Leader and Reporter: Carolyn Brodie
Photographer: Royce Mills

Six of us took off in the club van hoping that the weather would make the long drive, 20 minutes past Waiouru, worthwhile. The 2+ hours tramp to the interesting sedimentary rock formation in the middle of alpine tussock goes up and down through varied terrain including mountain beech which looked particularly stunning. Lots of pretty little creeping plants with berries around the rocks. Plenty of time for a relaxed lunch and photo stops.

Thanks to Tony for the excellent driving and thanks all for great company. (L to R below) Tony (sitting), Geoff, Carolyn, Ian and William plus, photographer, Royce.



Wednesday 22 March, 2023: Tunupo

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

Arriving at the carpark to the Tunupo track we were greeted with a cold, drizzly morning (6°C). After getting out the wet weather gear, 17 of us headed off about 9 am with decisions on how far we would go to be determined further up the track. Wet weather gear soon came off as the rain cleared and we split into four groups. Contact was maintained by club radios. The lead group ventured out into the tussock but headed back into the bush, out of the cold breeze, to have their lunch.

This is a beautiful track although a little slippery in places on the day but no major issues. All who went had a lovely day; the last of us arrived back at the van by 3.30pm in time to join everyone for a most welcome cup of tea or coffee before heading home.

Thank you all for making this a very enjoyable day, to Margaret for driving the van and Bernard and Marilyn for taking cars.



Ode on the Return of Borrowed Ski Boots *Anonymous from Beechleaves, December, 1958*

The boots were good
I knew they would
Be good.
The boots were grouse
They'd make a louse
Feel grouse.
The boots on me
Were good to see
Luckyly.

Gone is the snow
So
No
More can I ski –
Therefore these boots
I now return to thee.



Taken in 2008 but where?



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	William Laing		022 099 7988
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.