

# 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 07 August, 2023



*Note the change of start time for club nights.*

## **7 pm Tuesday 1 August, 2023: MTSC Photo Competition**

The best 3 images in each category will be chosen by an independent judging panel and the best image in each category will be chosen by popular vote on the night. Categories will include:

- Alpine scenery with **no** people or man-made objects
- Alpine scenery **including** people or man-made objects
- Bush/lowland/subalpine and **no** people or man-made objects
- Bush/lowland/subalpine **with** a human element
- Historic Photographs (Before 1 January 2020)
- New Zealand native flora & fauna
- Long exposure

There will be a prize for every photographer who enters an image as well as prizes for the best image in each category and the best image overall. The competition rules are [on the club website](#). Entries need to be sent to Richard Lander by Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July via email to [photocomp@mtsc.nz](mailto:photocomp@mtsc.nz). *Note: Voting for your favourite image will be electronic so please bring along a smart device with a QR code reader "on".*



*Photo by Royce Mills on Powell Hut Trip 29 June*

## **7.30 pm 10 August, 2023: Interclub Quiz night**

Do come along to support the club at this event, hosted by PNTMC this year at the Society of Friends Hall, 227 College Street, Palmerston North. Make up a team with fellow trampers for a fun night out.

## **7 pm Tuesday 5 September, 2023: Sensational Snow Sports**

Snow sports featuring lift-accessed terrain nearly wasn't 'a thing' at Ruapehu this year, but thankfully, it is! This show and tell will include interesting 'stuff' from all over the place. That is to say, we have a lot of places to show, from yonks ago to just the other day, and we will filter the content to ensure there is something to whet everyone's interest.

**Tuesday 19 September, 2023: Mountain Film Festival** run by MUAC (Massey University Alpine Club)

**Monday 2 October, 2023: Interclub Photo Competition** organised by PNTMC

**7 pm Tuesday 3 October, 2023: Manawatu Geopark** by E. Professor Vince Neall (see over)

Moves are afoot to create a Manawatu Geopark centred upon Te Apiti, the Manawatu Gorge and its surrounding environs. There is a wealth of geological and geomorphological opportunities for designated geosites which help explain the evolution of the region, both from a neotectonic but also past climate history standpoint. In this talk I will explain the basis for a number of these sites and what you can see and understand about the geological history above a convergent plate boundary.

### 7 pm 7 November, 2023: Penguins: Antarctic field work and little penguin conservation

John is a penguin biologist who has worked with Adelie and emperor penguins in Antarctica, and with hoiho (yellow-eyed penguins) and kororā (little penguins) in New Zealand. He will talk about field work with penguins in Antarctica, including trips around Ross Island and camping on sea ice to work with emperor penguins. The second part of the talk will cover conservation studies of kororā at Napier Port, Mana Island and other North and South Island sites, work with community groups, and advocacy for kororā that face threats such as marina building and sand mining off the coast of Taranaki.



### MTSC President: Tim Swale

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

One of the issues identified at a recent tramping sub-committee/discussion group meeting was that of inclusiveness. As a club we have an aging membership, many of whom are finding some of the regular Wednesday and Thursday offerings a bit too demanding in both duration and terrain. With this in mind, Bob Hodgson has led the charge in setting up the “Cruisy Tuesday” group where trips will be planned that are much more leisurely in nature but are still fully supported by having the club van, radios and safety gear available. It was heartening to have such a good attendance on our first trip (see Bob’s article on p11). It is also a great way for those new to tramping to come along and get started on easier tramps and also for any members keen for a sociable amble with friends whilst exploring new places. We hope to continue with this group on a regular basis.

Other topics discussed were the use of our club radios and protocols around the use of PLBs. See pp 3 & 4. On the skiing front, it is pleasing to report that RAL have been thrown a financial lifeline by the government that has enabled them to open up the ski field this winter. The snow has come, and at the time of writing, all is going well. Not surprisingly, mid-week skiing gives you the best chance of great skiing with very little queuing. Irrespective of whether you are tramping or skiing, I hope you all have a wonderful winter.

### 2023 Expedition Scholarships

Applications for the 2023 FMC Expedition Scholarships are now open.

Two types of scholarships are available:

- Youth Expedition Scholarships – for applicants under the age of 30
- Simon Bell Memorial Scholarship (no age restrictions)

Applications close by the end of the day on Friday 15 September 2023; eligibility criteria and application forms are available online at

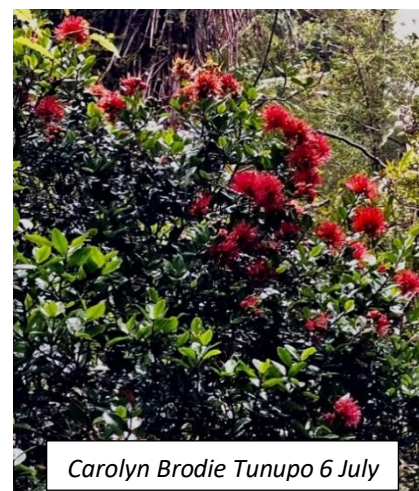
<https://www.fmc.org.nz/scholarship/>

A [poster to promote the scholarships](#) can be downloaded from the FMC website.

Also, for the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, we are offering training grants to support FMC clubs by making training opportunities more accessible.

<https://fmc.org.nz/members-area/fmc-training-grant/>

Closing date for applications is *Friday 15 September 2023*. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Danilo Hegg, FMC Executive Officer at [eo@fmc.org.nz](mailto:eo@fmc.org.nz)



Carolyn Brodie Tunupo 6 July

*We welcome the following new members to the club: Jo Arnott, Ros Arnott, Rong (Alice) Cheng, her husband Aijun (Donald) Tang and their daughter, Ellite Tang, Jan Eyre, Gabi Gubser, Michael Hills, Lilly Holding, Quest Holding, and Lesley Warburton.*

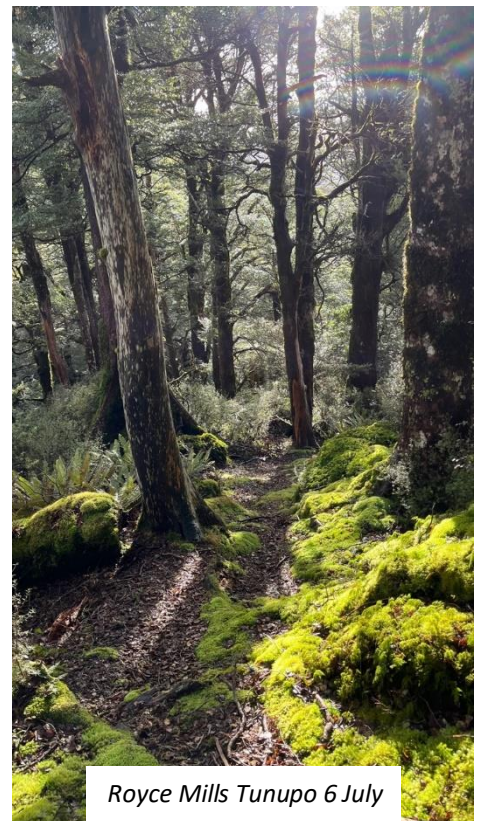
## **Obtaining Help in an Emergency**

A Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) is the most reliable way of obtaining help when something goes wrong on a tramp. Any activation will transmit your location to the Rescue Co-ordination Centre (RCC) in Wellington who will then alert Search and Rescue. It's a good idea to familiarise yourself with the operation of your PLB (or a club PLB) before it is required. These instructions are usually printed on the PLB itself and in the manufacturers' manuals.

If it is deemed necessary by a trip leader (or an experienced member of the group in the absence of a leader) to operate a beacon, set it off immediately and in the vicinity of the casualty. It is standard practice to keep the beacon and casualty together and stationary unless they have to be moved for safety reasons e.g. a rising river level. Ensure the casualty is kept sheltered and warm (put up a fly, insulate from the ground and put on warm clothes). It is a judgement call as to whether the whole group stays with the casualty, bearing in mind the safety of all, but as a minimum, keep two people and a radio with them.

Some points from the recent club-night talk by Chris Wilson of the NZ Rescue Co-ordination Centre (RCC) are worth noting :

- The battery on your PLB will transmit for at least 24 hours after you activate it – even up to the expiry date.
- Keep your PLB on your person.
- Register your PLB with RCC and ensure your emergency contact details are up to date.
- It is a good idea to register your trip intentions at [intentions@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:intentions@mtsc.org.nz) in case you have to activate your beacon. Our club SAR reps will then be able to provide valuable information to Police and searchers.
- Check that your PLB is working by using the test function periodically – but not too often as it uses battery power.
- The PLB works best with a clear view of the sky. There are more satellites available if you have a view to the north.
- In-Reach devices are another option. Due to their tracking and communication functions, when used as an SOS device they may not have much battery left and can take a long time to send a message without a clear view of the sky. Your location goes to a US site which will contact NZ RCC who will then treat it the same as a PLB activation. An In-Reach gives your GPS co-ordinates but does not transmit on 121.5 Mhz so cannot be found with a direction finding aerial, which is standard on all rescue choppers. However, they have the great advantage of giving you two way communication via text (which can be blue-toothed to your phone.)
- If you activate your PLB stay put if safe to do so and keep it on.
- Only one PLB should be set off, but if you have an in-Reach, use that as well as you then have 2 way comms.
- If you are not in imminent danger but will need a SAR response to get out, ideally use your PLB first thing in the morning rather than at night when flying is more dangerous. A bit of a judgement call here although sooner rather than later is preferable.
- If you accidentally set off your PLB try to phone RCC or the Police to cancel, or else leave it on as they will have to respond.
- When disposing of a PLB, remove the battery if it is going to landfill.



Royce Mills Tunupo 6 July

## Using our Club Radios

MTSC provides UHF radios for club trips which makes communication within each group and between groups much easier. They are kept on-charge in the minibus but can be borrowed for club trips where the minibus is not being used. Being 5w radios they have a very good range, even through thick vegetation, but will only work with line of sight, not where there is a ridge or hill between radios. They are all set to the same channel so will communicate with each other as soon as they are turned on. Be aware that farmers, contractors, etc may be using the same channel so it is not uncommon to hear other people talking. They will also hear you! They are waterproof and pretty durable but please use the lanyard as well as the spring clip so that the radio does not fall on the ground.

Some protocols for using club radios are given below:

- Give a radio to the leader and tail-end Charlie in each sub-group.
- Switch on radios.
- Carry out a radio check to make sure they are working, before you start your tramp.
- When sending, press the PTT (Push To Talk) button on the side of the unit and call up the person you want to talk to e.g. "MTSC all groups" or "MTSC Fred" (two times), then identify yourself, "This is MTSC John / over".
- When you get a reply send your message slowly and clearly.
- Clear communication is the aim. Don't stress over jargon but if you want to use the standard terminology, see the table below.
- At the end of the tramp when all are back safely, turn off your radio and put it on charge in the radio locker in the van.

<b>Go ahead</b>	-	Resume transmission
<b>Say again</b>	-	Re-transmit your message
<b>Stand-by</b>	-	Transmission has been acknowledged but I am unable to respond
<b>Roger/Roger that</b>	-	Message received and understood
<b>Affirmative</b>	-	Yes (avoid yeah, yup, etc.)
<b>Negative</b>	-	No (avoid nah, nope, etc.)
<b>Over</b>	-	Transmission finished/awaiting reply
<b>Out</b>	-	Communication is over and the channel is available for others



Photo by Brian Way Holdsworth Trip 29 June



Carolyn Brodie Tunupo Trip 6 July



# UPCOMING TRIPS

August Wednesday Tramps			August Thursday Tramps		
02	Anne West	021 0266 6860	03	Nicki Fielder	021 215 2197
09	Geoff McKay	027 498 8376	10	Tim Swale	022 134 8384
16	Cheryl D & Marilyn H	021 374 882	17	Wayne Lincoln	021 068 5237
23	Alan Hawkins	021 062 4106	24	Audrey Shepherd	027 819 0155
30	Margaret McKenzie	022 473 1096	31	Jenny McCarthy	021 215 2197
August Weekend					
12	Royce Mills	<a href="mailto:roycemills@icloud.com">roycemills@icloud.com</a> or Owen 021 040 4587	MTSC Bike Ride: Pekapeka to Otaki. See below		

**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.

## 12 August, 2023: MTSC Bike Ride: Pekapeka to Otaki

Trip Leaders: Royce and Owen Mills [roycemills@icloud.com](mailto:roycemills@icloud.com) or Owen 021 040 4587

This will be an easy, non-technical, flat and scenic bike ride along the bike trail beside the Pekapeka to Otaki expressway. It will include “extras” exploring trails on both the inland and coastal sides of the trail.

The route will be on designated bike paths, walkways, stop banks and quiet country roads. At one point we will need to bike across the Old State Highway One bridge on the south side of Otaki town. There is a bike / walking path over the bridge. This can be safely walked if anyone prefers not to bike this rather narrow bridge path.

Estimated distance: 30km. Time, including stops, 2 1/2 hours.

**Meet at car parking beside Harrisons Garden Centre, Pekapeka - 9.30 am for coffee at the garden centre cafe beforehand if you wish. Be ready to start biking 10 am.**

Driving time from Palmerston North is about 1 hour 10 minutes (depending traffic and road works!)

Approaching Pekapeka on the Expressway, take the Waikanae turnoff, then a short distance later, a right turn to Pekapeka. This will take you on an overbridge back over the expressway and you will double back towards Pekapeka. It is clearly signposted!

Bring some snacks for a stop along the way.

We will book a table for lunch at Harrisons Cafe 12.30 pm.

Please sign up by email or phone and let us know if you would like to stay for lunch.

We look forward to you joining us!

# TRIP REPORTS

## Wednesday 28 June, 2023: Kai Iwi Beach and Bason Botanic Gardens

Trip Leader: Marion Beadle

Reporter: Mary Mercer

Photographers: Alan Hawkins & Denise Shailer

Some 43 trampers gathered at the Kai Iwi beach car park in sunshine, despite the rain showers as we dove past Whanganui and along Rapanui Road! Marion had checked that the tide was out so a good pace was set along the beach. The first stream is bridged and the second looked deceptively shallow. Nonetheless some chose to turn back, probably a wise decision since the majority who crossed ended up with wet feet! After a morning tea break there we walked a bit further before turning back to ensure we made



the 12 noon deadline for departure to Bason Botanic Gardens' Rotunda. All sorts of delicious food was soon laid out for everyone to share. This was a celebration of the 80<sup>th</sup> birthdays this year of six Wednesday trampers: Anne Rush, Judy Gerke, Ian Brookes, Evan Davies, Rod McKenzie, and Alan Rae, as well as Maurice McDonald's 91<sup>st</sup> birthday. Many then took the opportunity to explore the beautiful gardens, orchid and fern houses donated to Whanganui City Council by the dairy farmers, Stanley and Blanche Bason in 1966.

## Thursday 29 June, 2023: Powell Hut

Trip Leader & Reporter: Jenny McCarthy

Photographer: Royce Mills

Ten of us set off for Powell Hut and three went to Atiwhakatu Hut. The weather was kind and the journey to Powell was uneventful. We were pleased to see that the steps were being extended at the bottom, making the first step an easier reach. We had



lunch at the hut; thanks to Malcolm for boiling the billy. A little bit of drizzle as we left the hut didn't last long. On our way down to the car park we received a message from Chris, Judith and Bryce to say they had made it to Atiwhakatu for lunch and were heading home. Thanks to Tony for driving the van and Chris for bringing a car. We were Alistair, Royce, Brian, Roswitha, Malcolm, Jeff, Tony, Anja, Carolyn and Jenny.



## 1-2 July, 2023: Lodge Food Carry

Trip Leader: Howard Nicholson

Reporter: Mary Mercer

Photographers: Roger Athersuch and Alan Hawkins

After months of uncertainty about the future of the ski fields on Mt Ruapehu, the debate on the Friday focussed on the weather. The good news was that snow was finally falling but would the road stay open??? Howard gave the go ahead early on Friday afternoon for a 5 pm departure for the minibus and food trailer since the forecast wind was “only gale and not severe gale”. Consequently Ken and I collected the frozen meat from the Mad Butcher at 2.30 pm. Then Ken got an email from Whaka Kotahi saying that the Bruce Road was closed. After another flurry of texts and emails we took the meat back to the Mad Butcher whose staff kindly agreed to store it in their freezer for a bit longer. Meantime Howard was busy informing club members driving towards the mountain from Thames, Ohope, Hamilton, Hastings and also Palmerston North. Some turned back but others chose to stay the night in Whakapapa Village or National Park. The minibus departure time was rescheduled to 8 am Saturday morning.

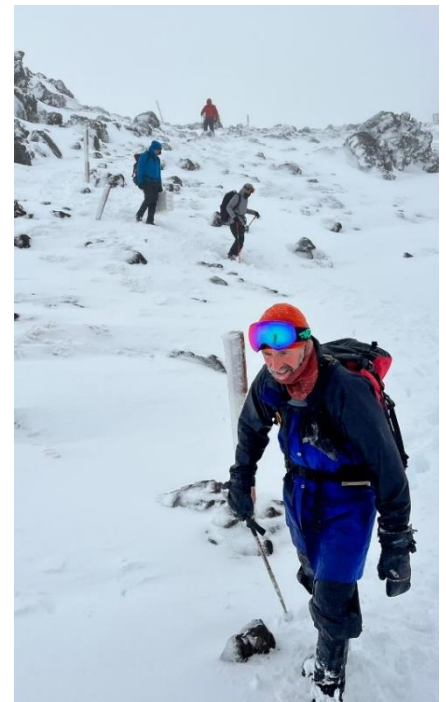
While we were packing and unpacking the meat boxes, Ken noticed that the back seat of the minibus can be released by pulling a couple of handles so, early on Saturday morning, we removed the back seat in two halves. That left just enough room to repack all the food in the trailer into the van, along with the meat we collected once more from the Mad Butcher, plus the other three passengers, Howard, John S and Alan H, and all our gear. The trip up was uneventful but, as we approached Whakapapa Village, the rain turned to sleet and then snow and the wind increased. Luckily the Bruce Road had opened but only to vehicles with four-wheel drive or chains. We stopped at the shelter to don all our wet weather gear and Ken and Howard put the chains on the back wheels assisted by John and Alan. Then we clanked our way up the mountain very slowly on the icy road and got to the overnight park at the Top O the Bruce around 11.20 am.

There we were met by Peter R, Peter B, Tahu, Robin W, Rob, Isaac and Nicki who had driven up soon after the road opened at 10 am. They were keen to get their packs loaded up and start the Food Carry because the wind was predicted to increase later in the day. Parked near us were new club members, Alice, Donald and their daughter, Ellite, who had bought snow covers for the front wheels of their vehicle in Ohakune specially for their first ever drive in icy conditions.

Soft snow covered everything which made the walk in to the lodge a very different experience from just two weeks earlier when all the rocks were bare. However, the rest of the food carry proceeded much as usual: the carriers slogged back and forth multiple times with heavy packs while those of us in the lodge marked the food off and packed it away. Despite our late start, the actual food carry was finished by 2.30 pm. By that time there were some rather hungry people ready to enjoy the toasties Rachel had assembled for us.

The rest of the afternoon was taken up with finishing the food stacking and also giving the lodge a thorough clean ready for what we hope is going to be a successful ski season. Indeed young Ike and Isaac tossed a few snow balls and Ike made the most of his boogie board. Our evening meal was prepared by Marcel, a qualified chef, ably assisted by his wife, Rachel so, not surprisingly, it was delicious!

The next day dawned with more rain/sleet/snow falling and wind blowing which dampened most people’s enthusiasm for much in the way of outdoor undertakings though one group did a short walk. Unfortunately, the Bruce Road was closed again and still not open by 10 am. Not long after that Rachel and Ike walked out to their ute and Rachel took the opportunity to charm the road workers into agreeing to escort us off





the mountain at 12.30 pm. With that news there was a mad rush to finish off all the food, clean up, pack up and leave. Five of the six vehicles left in the car park belonged to club members. Fortunately they all started without too much difficulty but there was more ‘fun’ scraping all the ice and snow off windscreens and shovelling the snow away from the wheels. (Thanks Peter R for doing a fantastic job on the minibus with your windscreen scrapers!) Then we all headed off in a convoy very slowly and cautiously, rather a long way behind the snow grader and Marcel, Rachel and Ike. Luckily everyone stayed on the road and, by the time we reached Scoria Flats the ice had turned to slush so we stopped to remove the chains. As we approached Whakapapa Village we passed lots of families walking up the (notionally) closed road to enjoy the snow.

Thanks to Howie for organising the Food Carry and coping so graciously with all the ‘snow’ balls thrown his way and thanks to all the other participants who worked so hard to make the weekend, potentially a total disaster, a great success: Rob, Isaac



*Howie and Robin removing chains*

and Charlotte Pringle, Nicki Fielder, Peter Rawlins, Lynda Hunt, Roger Athersuch, Peter Bowker, Tahu Taylor-Koolen, Marcel Vroege, Rachel Railey and son, Ike, Robin Lane, Alice Cheng, Ronald Tang, Ellite Tang, John Salisbury, Alan Hawkins and Ken and Mary Mercer.

**Wednesday 5 July, 2023: Rangī Hut**

Trip Leader: Ken Mercer  
Animals removed: 3 rats from ~30 traps

**Thursday 6 July, 2023: Tunupo**

Trip Leader and Reporter: Carolyn Brodie  
Photographers: Royce Mills

Eight of us travelled in two cars. The goal for Royce was to find a geocache at the top of Tunupo. The bush was truly beautiful to climb up through but conditions were cold above the leatherwood with little shelter from the wind. Small patches of snow became larger further up. Luckily for Royce, Jeff was also keen to reach the top so the two of them found the geocache before beating a hasty retreat back to shelter in the shrubs for a late lunch.

The rest of us turned round at different heights. It was cloudy at the top but, coming down, there were glimpses of snow on the ranges to the north. Chris was pleased to find some very small Kamahi seedlings. Sounds a bit miserable but actually there were lots of beautiful things to see, we didn’t get wet, and the company was great.

We were Wayne, Chris, Jeff, Royce, Anja, Margaret, Ginny and Carolyn.





## 8 July, 2023: Riparian Planting

Trip Leader: Ewen Cameron

Trip Reporter: Mary Mercer

Photographers: Terry Carkeek and Christine Finnigan

Eleven trampers turned up at Hamish Raleigh's farm, despite the rain and wind, eager to plant more natives upstream of last year's planting. After the plants were loaded onto the two trailers and Suzuki truck bed we procrastinated a bit longer to enjoy hot drinks and the delicious cakes



Christine, Ewen and Leonie had baked. The logic was that the rain was predicted to ease off as the day progressed but, as it turned out, this was inaccurate. Still, it gave us a chance to check out how waterproof (or not) our raincoats, overtrousers and hats were!

The two quad bikes pulling the trailers were expertly driven across the farm by Christine and Bill and the Suzuki truck by Ken. However the load proved too much for Bill's bike on a particularly slippery hill so, after it had slithered from side to side, Bill's five trailer passengers had to disembark and walk up that section.

Christine had prepared for the day by spot spraying the grass in the places we were to plant the mixture of kowhai, coprosma, manuka, kanuka, griselinia, cordyline (cabbage tree), ribbonwood, makomako (wineberry), olearia, and akeake. Once at our destination the team sprang into action off-loading all the plants. Then some distributed the seedlings to the "dead grass" spots while others dug holes in the (generally) lovely loamy soil and buried the roots. All 300 plants were in place in a surprisingly short time so, after about two hours we were driven back to the shed for a quick wash down to remove the worst of the mud then hot soup and more cake for lunch and home.

Fingers crossed this batch of plants do as well as the last lot which were planted on a lovely sunny, still August 2022 day. Thanks to Christine for being such a great hostess and to Ewen Cameron for organising this outing. The rest of the team were Marion Beadle, Terry Carkeek, Bob Hodgson, Leonie Lowndes, Geoff McKay, Ken and Mary Mercer, Bill Milham, John Salisbury, Sue Pither, Jenny Williamson.

## 8-9 July, 2023: Wellington Bike Rides

Trip Leader, Photographer & Reporter: Tim Swale

The MTSC biking group had the opportunity to try a couple of very different rides in the Wellington area over this weekend. A rather sub-optimal weather forecast may have put a few people off but for those



hardy souls prepared to take on the rain we had some excellent riding and a lot of fun. Saturday morning started at the Karori Park café where we juiced up on caffeine to aid our concentration in dealing with the twists and turn of the Makara Peak Mountain Bike Park! With old fashioned pedal power leading the way it was slow but steady progress up the 400 vertical metres of single track to the summit where we had a panoramic view over Wellington. The ride down started with the grade 3 “Peak Flow” and required a bit of care over a few rocky sections. However, our group of nine soon settled into the groove and did a magnificent job of staying on the bikes, with everyone ending up at the bottom car park unscathed. You might like to watch a short video of the trip which was put together by Roger Athersuch. <https://youtube.com/watch?v=k9OStLQBfsI&feature=share>

Sunday was a flat coastal ride from Eastbourne through to Baring Head and back, a distance of about 28km. Despite the wet forecast, six of us set off in only slightly damp conditions towards Pencarrow lighthouse and then the wreck of the Paiaka. It’s a great track with no cars, lovely views and, best of all, no wind. Baring Head is currently undergoing a bit of a transformation with the lighthouse keeper’s cottage being turned into a shelter and information hub about the area and its history. The rain, however, got started in earnest so, despite a fast ride back, we were all pretty wet by the time we reached the cars. A quick change and a visit to the café at Day’s Bay finished off the weekend well.

**Wednesday 12 July, 2023:**  
**Hemi Matenga**  
Trip Leader: Wendy Williams  
Photographer: Robyn Laing



**Thursday 13 July, 2023: Burttons Track – Travelling South**  
Trip Leader and Reporter: Bill Milham  
Photographer: Royce Mills

The sky was clear and looked to be staying fine as we gathered at the Moturimu Shelter near the start of our walk and, with Jeff, leading we progressed by vehicle along the forest road to a junction that enabled us to park safely off the roadway and, after a shorter road walk, enter the track proper.

Alas at around 10.30 am the weather gods let us down and it began to rain. The rain persisted for the rest



of the day; however we continued, undaunted by the slippery and muddy conditions. We reached the Tokomaru river and, after progressing further for a while, decided to return to a sheltered area beside a stream we had crossed earlier to have lunch. Alistair and Jeff decided to continue at that time and reached the Burton Whare site

before returning. A good effort.

This part of the Te Araroa track is well marked; the surrounding bush is a joy to walk through even though



the conditions were perhaps not ideal. Arriving back in the rain we called in to the shelter where all changed into dry clothes.

Many thanks to Royce for organising a key to allow us vehicle access to the forestry road. (saving approx. 4 km of walking). Also thanks to Jeff for picking up the radios and returning them to the van; thanks too to our drivers Alistair, Jeff and Ian. A good team effort and a very enjoyable day.

## Inaugural Cruisy Tuesday 18 July, 2023: Rewanui Forest Park Social Tramp

Trip Leader and Reporter: Bob Hodgson

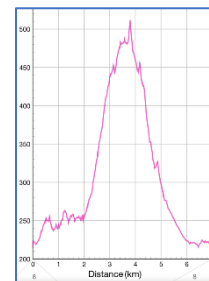
Photographer: Nicki Fielder

Plotter: William Laing

This tramp was an outcome of discussion by MTSCITC, that is *the MTSC Informal Tramping Committee (!)* on how to ensure that the Club program was inclusive to members of all abilities and stages.

Eighteen excited trampers gathered at the service station car park at the turn off for the Castlepoint road, to travel together the 20 km to the entrance of the Rewanui Forest Park.\* Spirits were high as we set out to explore tracks in the area. This was new ground to everybody. We decided first to tramp the Totara Loop, described as ‘¾ hour moderate’, and then have morning tea as a group. The loop enclosed a few large, labelled specimen trees, mainly totara and matai, with quite a dense understory. The track was quite slippery in places so, as a large group, we took about an hour to complete the loop.

After morning tea, we split into two groups. One group was intent on tramping the Mt. Clyde track to visit the trig point at 502m via open country with good views. This was described as ‘2 hours exposed moderate’. See right for William’s plot.

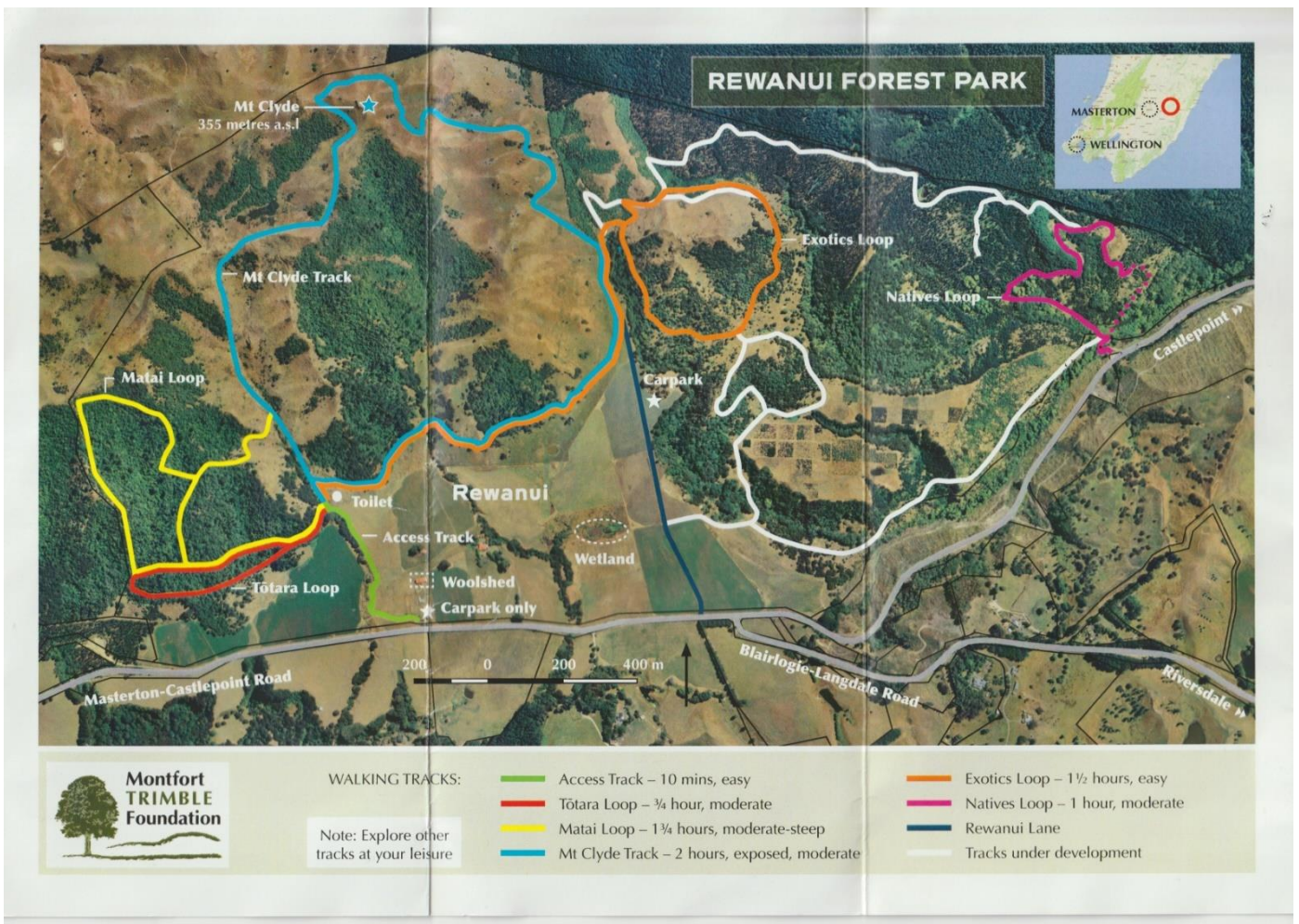


The second group set off to explore the Exotics Loop Track described as a ‘one and a half hours easy’. It proved to be famously muddy with one vastly experienced trumper shedding a boot and the trip leader calling on assistance to escape with his boots on! We did, however, attain a fine view point for lunch! See left.

The layout of the tracks allowed those who had enough for the day to safely return via a sealed track and the main road. By 2pm we were all tidied up and in high spirits as we set out for The Lazy Graze in Eketahuma where we were made welcome for afternoon tea.

Conclusion: It was a successful day and a worthwhile destination but probably best visited in the summer. Thanks to Tim for driving the van and to Robyn and Nicki for driving cars.

\***The Rewanui Forest Park** is owned by the Montfort Trimble Foundation, a Masterton based charity, “dedicated to growing trees for public benefit.” Dr Montfort Trimble of Masterton died in 1940 and left money to promote public afforestation. His trustees appointed the Masterton County Council to act on their



behalf; the Council used the money to buy 127 ha of land 17 km north of Masterton and planted it in *Pinus radiata*. Two crops of pines have been harvested from the land and the Trimble Foundation has used part of the money from the sale of trees to purchase Rewanui, with its areas of native bush that the Foundation wishes to protect and enhance.

For more details of the park and foundation see <https://trimblefoundation.org.nz>

### Wednesday 19 July, 2023: Pukerua Bay to Plimmerton and back via the coast

Trip Leader and Reporter: Bill Milham

Photographers: Bill Milham and Denise Shailer

We arrived in Pukerua Bay to clearing sky and proceeded up the Goat Track stairway from the carpark; we



then made our way through the residential area along Rawhiti Road and met up with the Ara Harakeke shared pathway traveling south beside the old Main Highway.

We made good time and after several kilometres met up with Airlie Road. Then it was onto the mostly grassy Taua Tapu Track. After morning tea we headed up an easy hill climb which eventually provided us with panoramic views over Plimmerton and Porirua Harbour.

We spotted the entrance to the Karehana Scenic Reserve and found that it was closed off for maintenance.

However the sign said report to the site office for more info so we walked around the barrier and proceeded down the steep stairway, around some obstacles where we found no site office, idle machinery and no workers so carried on out onto the street and down to the shoreline by the Boating Club. After a brief pause we headed off into a stiff breeze, past the Hongoeka Marae, and entered the Pukerua Wairaka Walkway in search of a sheltered spot to have lunch.

Starting off as a rough vehicle track, the walkway proceeds around the rugged coastline which is mostly shingle beaches and strewn with rocks to clamber over. Up on the steep slopes above us we saw many feral goats (I counted 23 in one mob) enjoying this isolated area, obviously an ideal environment for them to enjoy.

Arriving back at the Van we boiled the billy for coffee and tea while enjoying the sunny spot for a rest. Although rain was predicted for the afternoon the day stayed clear and was perfect for a winter walk with the bonus of no mud and no wet feet. The walk was approximately 20 km and, although challenging for some, the day was enjoyed by all and we headed off home in good spirits.

Thanks to Marion for transport of the Feilding group and to all for participating in a walk which the club had not been on for some time.

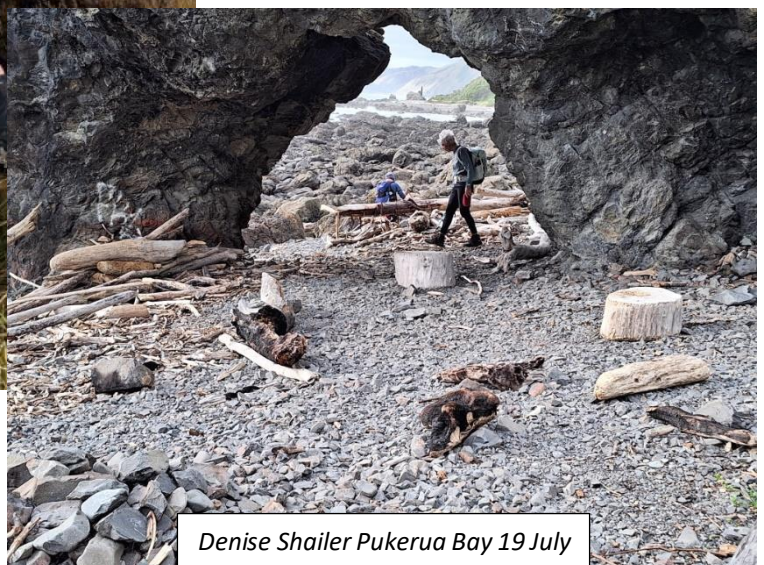


**Thursday 20 July, 2023: Kaiparoro**

Trip Leader: Ken Mercer

Comments & Photograph: Royce Mills

For most of us it has been a long time since visiting the trig and plane crash site, and for some it was a first. It was a good choice for a winter tramp, and in fact the weather was perfect! Thanks Ken for a very interesting tramp.



*Denise Shailer Pukerua Bay 19 July*



**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
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Treasurer	William Laing	<a href="mailto:treasurer@mtsc.org.nz">treasurer@mtsc.org.nz</a>	022 099 7988
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Mini-Bus Manager	Ken Mercer	<a href="mailto:minibus@mtsc.org.nz">minibus@mtsc.org.nz</a>	027 364 6475

**General Committee:** Nicki Fielder, Howard Nicholson, Blair Petersen, Rob Pringle, John Salisbury

**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>	020 678 0747
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Thursday Trips	William Laing		022 099 7988
Biking Trips	Nicki Fielder		022 515 3807
Website Administration	Howard Nicholson		027 294 1941
Lodge Food Coordinator	Howard Nicholson		027 294 1941
Facebook	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 Secunder 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.

	<b>Members</b>	<b>Guests</b>	<b>The lodge phone number is (07) 892 3860.</b>
<b>19+ yrs (Adult)</b>	<b>\$50</b>	<b>\$75</b>	
<b>12-18 yrs (Youth)</b>	<b>\$40</b>	<b>\$60</b>	
<b>5-11 yrs (Child)</b>	<b>\$32</b>	<b>\$52</b>	
<b>0-4 yrs (Pres-school)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	