

# beechleaves

Newsletter of the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club



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

Issue 6 August 2019



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.

## Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August: Club Photo Competition



Entries need to be submitted by 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2019

### Categories

This year, we are trialling a new category, long exposure, and introducing the concept of an annual theme (FMC's Forgotten Lands, see over). The best three images in each category will be entered into the interclub and FMC competitions.

**ABN ABOVE BUSHLINE** With no Human Element, i.e. Alpine scenery with no people or man-made objects

**ABW ABOVE BUSHLINE** With a Human Element i.e. may include people or man-made objects

**BBN BELOW BUSHLINE** With no Human Element i.e. Bush/lowland/subalpine and no people or man-made objects

**BBW BELOW BUSHLINE** With a Human Element

**HIS HISTORIC** Photographs taken prior to 1 January 2016

**NFF NZ NATIVE FLORA & FAUNA**

**LE LONG EXPOSURE** (Trial category for 2019, explained in rule #4 on web)

You can enter up to 3 photographs in any category and up to 21 images in total. Further information and the rules are available on the MTSC web site at <http://www.mtsc.nz/photocomp2019.pdf>

## Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September: South Island Ski Trip

## Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October: Interclub Photo Competition

7.30 pm at Rose City Aquatic Clubrooms (next to the Lido), 50 Park Road, Palmerston North

Hosted by MTSC. Enjoy tea and biscuits while viewing this year's best images from the MTSC, PNTMC and MUAC competitions. An invited judge will comment on the images and choose the prize-winning entries. Prizes have been provided by Hunting & Fishing NZ, Bivouac, Macpac, Bruce Watt Photography and New World Summerhill.

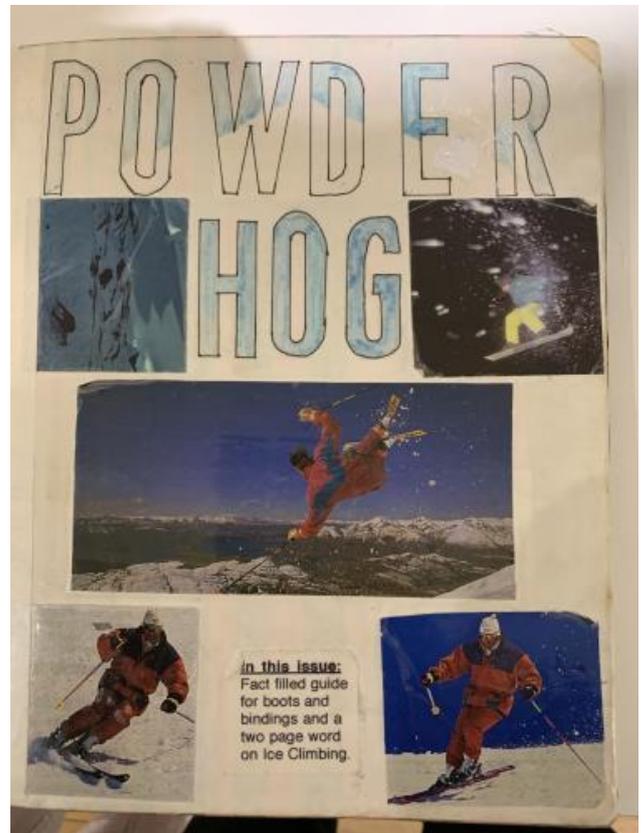
# REPORTS AND NOTICES

## MTSC President: Rob Pringle

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



Snow has been falling at Ruapehu and winter is truly upon us. For many of us, this brings a season of great joy, as we get back into skiing and climbing. And for those of us snow addicts, it runs deep in our blood. I was reminded recently of how far back my love of skiing and adventuring goes, and how some things simply don't change over time. While going through some old papers I came across Powder Hog – a magazine I made in Form Two in 1995 for a school project. Powder Hog was full of skiing pics, an ice climbing feature, mountain biking advice, and gear mentions. My interests haven't changed at all.



What also hasn't changed over time is how I feel about snowboarding. Powder Hog featured an 'agony aunt' column, with the top problem about a teenage daughter who won't listen, and who is disobeying her parents by getting a snowboard even though she's already got skis. "I think that you should hire your daughter a snowboard, even though you fear for her safety," I wrote in reply. "Remember that she is getting older and you should begin to let her go, because she is not the little girl you used to know."

My elder son Xander, now 10, has recently decided snowboarding is way cooler than skiing and wants a snowboard this season. Committed skiers at the MTSC lodge will know how distressing I find this. However, upon reading my own advice from the wisdom of the first and only issue of Powder Hog, 1995, I've decided I need to encourage all forms of winter exploration. (The next complaint to the agony aunt involves a 13-year-old daughter coming home with a gang member with a criminal record – let's hope that the parallels to my family life end with the snowboarding problem.)

In other mountain news, the new Sky Waka gondola is running but at time of writing is open for customers of the café but not the ski field (since there is so little snow!) Traveling at an impressive six metres per second, it promises to have us up the hill before you can say 'Ready After Lunch'. We all hope it will be the bright success RAL has been promising.

Lodge renovations are going well and I want to thank everyone again who has been involved in making the working bees (and the recent food carry) the brilliant success it has been.

Rob

## MTSC Awards 2019-20

Congratulations to the well deserved recipients of the Club awards, announced at the recent AGM:

Most Spirited Trampler: Bev Akers  
Gregory Fischer Trust Award,  
for most improved tramper: Robbie Green  
Beech Leaf,  
for service to the club: Arthur Flint

## First Tracks

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

Let's see... Gondola and learner facilities running? Check! Lodge stocked, clean and ready to be used? Check! Plenty of willing mountain users? Check! Snow on the upper mountain? Uh oh... The snow is finally falling after a warm start to July, which may be a little late for the school holidays, but at least it is now accumulating. Hope to see you all up there shortly!

Howie



August Wednesday Tramps			August Thursday Tramps		
			01	Pak Lam Yu	021 139 2726
07	Bob Hargreaves	357 0734	08	John Brock	329 4834
14	Rod McKenzie	357 0136	15	Carolyn Brodie	358 6576
21	William Laing	358 4876	22	Bryce & Raewyn Buddle	353 5163
28	Bill Milham	356 8136	29	Judy Callesen	357 0192
August Weekend Trips					
4 Sun)	Klein Track Navigation & GP	Easy	Tim Swale	022 134 8384	
11 (Sun)	Erua: Tupapakuraa Falls- Te Waro	Med/Fit	David Harrington	021 240 9056	
24-25	Neill Fork Hut	Med/Fit	Jenny McCarthy	021 215 2197	
25 (Sun)	Sunrise Hut	Easy	Ewen Cameron	022 034 1180	
<del>31-1</del>	<del>Crater Lake: ski/board/walk</del> Cancelled but opportunities for excursions from the lodge on future weekends	Easy	John Lyttle	027 433 6307	

**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.

## Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2019: Klein Track Navigation & GPS Activity

**Tim Swale      Easy                      022 134 8384**

This is an opportunity to brush up those navigation skills combined with an easy walk around the Manawatu Gorge / Klein Track loop. We will meet at the shelter at the Woodville Ferry Domain. I will have maps, compasses and GPS devices available but, if possible, bring your own as it is always best to practise on your own device. You might also like to bring a stove so that we can make hot drinks at the new shelter afterwards

## **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2019: Erua: Tupapakuraa Falls - Te Waro**

**David Harrington                  Medium/Fit                  021 240 9056**

This trip will start from behind National Park from Fisher Rd. We'll follow the track to the Tupapakuraa Falls then continue on down stream sidling (to keep dry feet!) for approx. 2 km to another track. This we'll follow south to the Te Waro trig and continue on along the track / road to Cuff Rd/Erua Rd where we'll have left another vehicle. This is a new area to me so I'm still planning it; therefore there may be a slight change to the final arrangements.

## **24<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2019: Neill Forks Hut**

**Jenny McCarthy                  Medium/Fit                  021 215 2197**

Neil Forks is a six bunk forest service hut in the Tararua Ranges. This will be a medium fit trip taking about seven hours to reach the hut. The route will be finalised at a later date so please ring me on 021 215 2197 if you are interested in visiting this hut.

## **25<sup>th</sup> August, 2019: Sunrise Hut**

**Ewen Cameron                  Easy                  022 034 1180**

OK it's an uphill effort before lunch to [Sunrise Hut](#) but if the weather is fine there are great views to be had. This is a tramp to suit beginners or those of you after a Sunday outing. The travel cost is about \$23. If you are keen, contact Ewen Cameron [ewenacameron37@gmail.com](mailto:ewenacameron37@gmail.com) or on his cell phone number above.

## **26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2019: Wanganui River Kayak Trip**

**Carol Exton                  [carolxx48@gmail.com](mailto:carolxx48@gmail.com)**

I am organising a three day paddle down the Wanganui River using sea kayaks, for a maximum of ten people in September. This is the last weekend before the trip becomes a Great Walk. The get in will either be Manunui or, if the river's too low, then 5km down stream at Cherry Grove. First night Whakahoro, second night Tieke Kianga Marae, out third day 28 Sep Pipiriki. I have arranged accom at the Taumarunui Holiday Park the night before 25 Sept, and a shuttle to get us and our gear back to our cars. Four people will cost about \$150 each but it will reduce if more people participate. It is a straight forward trip, with some G2 rapids and many scenic and historical areas along the way - 150km in total. Participants must be comfortable paddling over 60km for the first two days, and under 30km on the last day. Six or more have already booked so contact Carol by e-mail for further details soon if you are interested.

## **Iron Gate Closure Delay**

Iron Gate Hut replacement has been delayed. NZ Defence Force now plan to commence work in September. In the meantime the hut is open for use.

Sue Moore

Senior Ranger (Biodiversity)- Kaitiaki Matua (Kanorau Koiora). DoC-Te Papa Atawhai Te Papaioea / Palmerston North Office

28 North Street or Private Bag 11010, Palmerston North 4440.

DDI: +64 6 350 9675 | VPN: 6985 | 027 539 5466

[www.doc.govt.nz](http://www.doc.govt.nz)<<http://www.doc.govt.nz/>>

## Obituary: Trevor J Reynolds 1935 – 2019

Trevor Reynolds, a long-time member of the MTSC, died in early July after a long illness. Trevor joined the club with his family during the 1960s and held several positions on the committee over the following years. He was President from 1973 until 1976 and he and Christine were the Ruapehu Lodge Booking Officers from 1978 until the late 1990s when John and Wyn Rockell took over. Trevor became a life member of the club in 1977.

Trevor was a club stalwart who had wide outdoor interests. He tramped, skied, and also led canoe trips down the Wanganui River. I remember tramping trips to Mt Ruapehu as well as local mountains, and also to more exotic places such as Mt Azim Gorge which is east of the Waiouru army training area. His son, Simon, a past Chief Guide of the club, who was in the army, facilitated access across the army land for Trevor's trips there. I also recall sailing with Trevor and Christine, plus one or two others, in their Trailer Sailor out to Kapiti Island and also on Lake Taupo during inclement weather. Trevor also had a heavy involvement with Search and Rescue when Bob Vernon, also a former club member, was the local SAR Sergeant. Trevor had, on occasions, been the Search Controller in the time before NZ Land SAR was set up and before the Police took a more intensive involvement in SAR.

Trevor and Christine left Palmerston North in the late 1990s to live just north of Turangi, at Waitetoko above Mission Bay. Whilst there they joined the Taupo Tramping Club and Trevor took part in tramping trips around the Central North Island and further afield, also leading trips with the Taupo club including to the Mt Ruapehu ski fields. Only a few years ago Trevor and Christine moved to a retirement village in Taupo where he continued his walking with the Taupo club although now along more sedate tracks and paths near and around the lake. Sadly, and quite recently, Trevor took a fall which ended his walking activities.

Trevor is survived by his wife, Christine, son Simon, and daughters, Caroline and Louise, and grandchildren. Our sympathies go out to all the family.

Hugh Wilde



### Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2019: Bruces Hill

Trip Leader and Reporter: Marion Beadle

Photos: Maureen & Judith

A perfect clear sunny winter's day, apart from a blanket of fog over Woodville/Pahiatua area. Arrangements had been made to approach Bruces Hill from Mt Munro Road on the eastern side. A larger than usual 'winter group' assembled near the stables. A small creek to jump across and an old paper road to follow up farmland to the bush line. The track in the bush is clear and well marked. This is not a strenuous trip and all of the group reached the Trig point but, fortunately, not at the same time as it is a rather small space in scrub with no view. There is a large open area on the tops with space for all to sit in the sun, enjoy the grand view of the Tararua Ranges and practise peak identification.





We were out in good time for coffee in Eketahuna. The Woodville fog never cleared all day. Thanks to the drivers and provider of access info.

### Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2019: Blue Range Hut

Trip Leader and Reporter: John Thornley

Photo: John Brock

Good weather was appreciated. There were 11 of us. **Seven** of us climbed to the Hut, while **five** took the easier walk up the Mihimihi valley, getting as far as road end and lunch at the stile. Those attending: John



Brock, Judith Tonson, Chris Mercer, Suzanne Clark, Allan Hardacre, Judy Swainson, and Pak lam Yu took the high road, and John Thornley, Norman Cooper, Darlene Westrupp, Wayne Lincoln, and John Doolan took the low road. Sounds like an Enid Blyton adventure tale! Thanks for Chris for driving the van.

## 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> July, 2019: Powell Hut

Trip leader & Reporter: Linda Campbell

Photos: Helen & Mary

The forecast was overcast for the Saturday and gale force winds and rain were predicted for the Sunday. The forecast was 100% right! We left the car park at about 10.40am and made our way steadily up Gentle Annie, stopping at Rocky Lookout for a short time for morning tea, before a lunch break at the Mountain House Shelter. Then the steps. I am sure they get bigger all the time! Some of them are quite a stretch for us shorter ones and there are lots of them! Near the top we stopped and donned on our rain gear as there was the first hint of the rain to come. Before long the new Powell Hut came into view. It is beautiful! It is warm. It is spacious. It is clean. It has four bunk rooms, two sleep ten and two sleep six. Each room has open fronted lockers. The hut also has gas cookers, a wood fire, a great deck, a covered wood storage area with a wash tub at the end, and from the end of the deck it is not far to the toilets.

It was lovely to be welcomed by hut warden Brett Gillies. Tim, Helen and I had met Brett last time we were up at the old hut. He has a great memory and remembered us. We were soon settled in. Three of our group set off in search of snow and soon found patches not far from the hut. The cloud was low and the wind picking up but they enjoyed the experience. Our club secretary had a significant birthday coming up in the next few days so, to add to the celebrations of being the first group to use the new hut, we had birthday cake supplied by his son Ben.



*Solar panels behind hut to power the LEDS*

The on-line booking system showed all thirty two beds were booked but the reality of the night was that there were about twenty of us there. As the weather forecast predicted, the wind got stronger and stronger and we were all awake at times during the night as hut shook. We were reassured by the strength of the hut. I congratulate DOC and McIntyre Construction on the build. The bush looked lovely as we made our way back down on Sunday and the wind wasn't as bad as we had expected. Most of the track had become a creek and we were walking in water almost all the way back. After a short stop at the Mountain house it was straight out to the car park. After

getting changed into dry warm clothes we all headed for a hot drink at Mt Bruce, except for Ben who was going back to Wellington.



The first group to enjoy an overnight at the new Powell Hut were (from left then top) Craig Lahmert, Louise Lahmert, Tim Swale, Ewen Cameron, [Brett Gillies: Hut warden], Linda Campbell, Ben Swale, Wendy Williams, Helen Peek (behind camera), Alan Hawkins, Mary Mercer, plus Sam Lahmert, Brock Gredhill.



*Approaching Powell Hut*

## Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2019: Bushy Park & Homestead & Aramoho Walkway

Trip Leader & Reporter: Rita Hodgson

Captions: Bob

Photos: Maureen

The forecast for the days tramp wasn't as good as you would hope when taking a tramp but 26 hardy trampers set off in the cold and showers for Bushy Park and Aramoho walkway. Bushy Park is a 98 hectare remnant of NZ's finest lowland rainforest. 5km of pest proof fencing and dedicated volunteers have seen most of the pests eradicated in the forest.

Starting our walk from the car park down to Festival track we made our way on tracks and bait lines around the park taking in the beautiful bush listening to the bird life the saddlebacks seen and heard calling all around us. On the farmland we had good views of the surrounding area, coast and "long drop". We had morning tea by Ratanui, the largest Rata in NZ and thought to be a 1000 years old. Finishing on the western side of the forest we made our way to the beautifully restored Homestead for a look around the rooms inside and our Devonshire Tea.

Tramping gear (boots off) didn't seem quite the attire for the elegance of the dining room with silver service. Dale, who has been the manager at Bushy Park for 12 months and doing an excellent job, gave us an interesting talk on the history of the Homestead and park.



*Richard tries the ancient long drop  
(for sighs!)*



*Bridge in paddock*

The hardy (!) trampers then had to leave the warmth and comfort of the homestead and go back out into the cold to finish the rest of the tracks mainly the wetland area where a lot of Kereru were seen in the tree lucerne. Some HiHi also seen at their feeding stations.

Between showers we left Bushy Park to Aramoho walkway to do the 4km of new track to be part of the Mountain to Sea trail once the bridge waiting already built gets the go ahead to to

put across the Wanganui River. The drivers dropped their trampers off and drove to the end of the 4km. However there was a hail storm shortly after and the drivers returned feeling sorry for the walkers but offers to get back in cars were waved aside as the hail had stopped by then and the walkers finished the 4 km.

The warmth at Caroline's Boat Shed for coffee was a good way to finish the the day of 12k of tramping.

A big thank you to drivers Evan, Jenny, Carol, Coralie, and Rita.



## Contact Details

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

### Committee 2019 - 2020

President	Rob Pringle	<a href="mailto:president@mtsc.org.nz">president@mtsc.org.nz</a>	027 426 2176
Secretary	Tim Swale	<a href="mailto:secretary@mtsc.org.nz">secretary@mtsc.org.nz</a>	06 376 6556
Treasurer	Ewen Cameron	<a href="mailto:treasurer@mtsc.org.nz">treasurer@mtsc.org.nz</a>	0220341180
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>	06 357 6325
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:** John Beech, William Laing, Richard Lander, Howard Nicholson, 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	Peter Rawlins	<a href="mailto:gear@mtsc.org.nz">gear@mtsc.org.nz</a>	06 356 7443
Ski Captain	Howard Nicholson	<a href="mailto:ski@mtsc.org.nz">ski@mtsc.org.nz</a>	06 357 6325
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>	06 325 8879
Thursday Trips	Merv Matthews	<a href="mailto:merv6817@gmail.com">merv6817@gmail.com</a>	06 357 2858
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, food dehydrator and two bivvy bags. Ice axes, crampons, and helmets are also available. We have two personal locator beacons (PLB) for which there is no charge. Contact the Gear Custodian: Peter Rawlins on (06) 356 7443.

### Website [www.mtsc.org.nz](http://www.mtsc.org.nz)

This contains club information, photos, contact details and back issues of this newsletter, Beechleaves. The club website is maintained by Howard Nicholson (06) 357 6325 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 cash to 179 Cook St Palmerston North 4410 in person or internet payment (please email to confirm before depositing) Westpac account number 03 1521 022035300.

	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.