

# 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 3. April, 2021

## CLUB MEETINGS

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

### 7.30 pm Tuesday 6 April, 2021: South Island Tramps

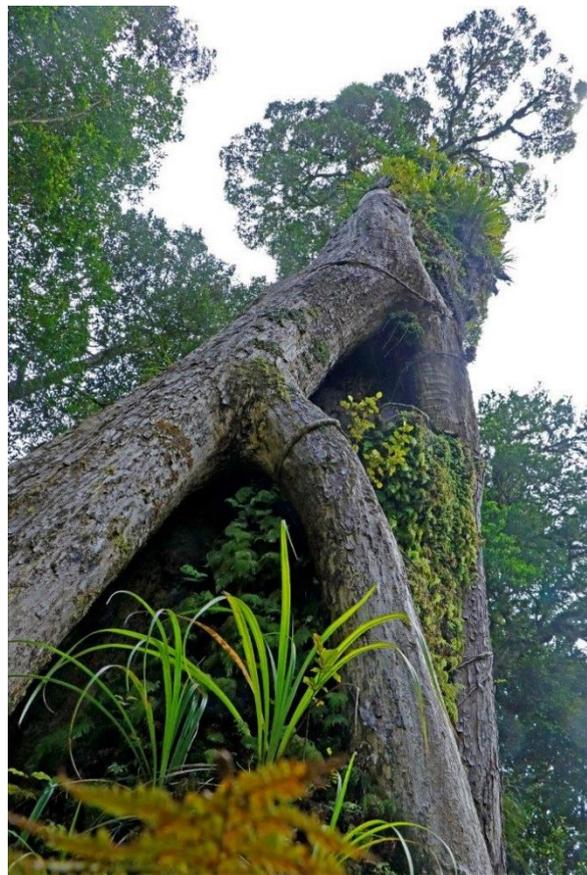
In February, Ken, Mary, Tim and Linda walked a number of South Island tracks and cycled some trails. They will share their adventures with you at our April club night.

### 7.30 pm Tuesday 4 May, 2021: Great Barrier Island by Christine and Barry Scott

Barry will talk about land conservation and Christine will cover walks and things to do.

### 7.30 pm Tuesday 18 May, 2021: Annual General Meeting

This is your chance to have your say about the running of the club and even contribute it by standing for the committee. All positions are up for election: President, Secretary, Treasurer, Chief Guide, Newsletter Editor, Membership Secretary, Lodge Manager, Minibus Manager and five General Committee members. Do come along.



*Sayer's Hut Trip Photo by John Brock*



*Adam, track clearing on Mangahao Flats Work Party*

7.30 pm Tuesday 3 August, 2021: Photo competition organised by Richard Lander

# REPORTS AND NOTICES

**MTSC President: Rob Pringle**

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

Well, this is the second to last time I get to go into print prior to the upcoming AGM. I trust that in the past month you have all had a good chance to think about any contributions that your skills and availability lend themselves to as the club moves towards a new year of governance. Keep the date of the 18<sup>th</sup> May free, come along, listen in to how the club has gone over the previous year; have your say on any matters you wish to have considered, and put your hand up to serve on the committee alongside some amazing people.

In preparation for ski season, we have some work to complete on the lodge, so over the coming months John's spear-heading a team of willing victims / volunteers, to complete a few bits and pieces adjacent to the new lounge – this will result in a reconfiguration of the upstairs entrance way, relocating the entrance door from its current location – to the face of the old locker room wall, as well as creating some additional space in the bunk rooms. If you're able to lend a hand on any of these weekends, feel free to get in touch with John Lyttle, and let him know that you're keen – all hands are welcomed and there's a range of tasks to be undertaken at the lodge –



from building and carpentry works, through to spring clean – stock take for the coming winter. It would be great to see the community back up and improving the great asset that we have in the lodge.

For those who have not yet completed any purchasing for the coming ski season, there are still some passes on sale. Keep in mind the reduced number on offer this year, in an effort to better control numbers frequenting the mountain, so here's hoping there may be a shift in the queues we've seen in previous years. There has also been a shift to sell midweek season passes – again to shift the demand that we have seen placed on weekend use of the mountain. If all else fails, get yourself some touring gear. Remember it's fun for all ages, and a great way to keep fit and explore the less frequented areas of the mountain. There's some great terrain, and even better people out there exploring the side and backcountry. Make this year the year you embrace it, get out and enjoy it.

Till next month,

Rob

**Lodge Manager: John Lyttle**

[lodge.manager@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:lodge.manager@mtsc.org.nz)

Lodge work parties will be on the following dates:

26-29 March, 2021

9-12 April, 2021

30 Apr to 3 May, 2021

I will be making a long weekend of it by staying the Monday but this is not compulsory so just come for the time that works for you. Weekends are free for workers, cleaners, cooks, etc and, if there are enough people, we may use the club van for transport.

Please let me know if you can attend so that we can manage numbers.

Cheers

John Cell – 027 4336307; e-mail above.

**Sunrise Hut Track Closure**

Sunrise hut and Track will be closed from 8<sup>th</sup> February to 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2021 due to a major track upgrade. Surrounding huts in the area will remain open but access will be closed via the Sunrise track.

*Message from Ed, Ruahine Users Group*



# UPCOMING TRIPS

April Wednesday Tramps			April Thursday Tramps		
			01	Margarert Mathieson	06 354 4977
07	Bev Akers	06 325 8879	08	Tony Evans	027 829 3069
14	Jill Faulkner	06 323 6094	15	John Doolan	027 446 8740
21	Jenny Williamson	06 328 6857	22	Christine Scott	06 354 0510
28	Marion Beadle	06 323 3246	29	Royce Mills	021 055 2527
April Weekend Trip					
2-5	Dundas Hut Circuit	Medium-Fit	Ken Mercer	027 364 6475	
2-5	Taupo Mountain Biking	Various	Peter Rawlins & Lynda Hunt	027 678 0747	
17-18	Wellington Walks	Easy	Linda Campbell	027 333 4493	
30-3 May	Lodge Work Party	All Welcome	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.

## 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> April, 2021: Taupo Mountain Biking

**Peter Rawlins and Lynda Hunt      Various**

We are going to travel to Taupo and stay at the Great Lakes Holiday park in Acacia Bay. People will need to book themselves in. We plan to do some of the grade 2 to 3 tracks as part of the Great Lakes trails. <https://www.lovetapu.com/en/discover/highlights/great-lake-trails/>

## 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> April, 2021: Wellington Walks      Easy

**Linda Campbell      027 333 4493**

The plan is to do the lovely City to Sea Walkway. This walk, which is approximately 14.4km long, starts near Parliament and ends in Island Bay. Along the way you will pass through the Botanical Gardens, two historic cemeteries, part of Aro Valley, fourteen parks and reserves, the Berhampore golf course and walk along the Town Belt tracks, exposed ridge tops and both native and exotic vegetation.

The walk which takes approx. 6-7 hours has wonderful views of the city and several suburbs. There is a bus service from Island Bay back into the City.

We will leave early on Saturday morning and perhaps do a shorter Wellington walk on the second day before heading home. Accommodation will be discussed once I know who is keen to come.

# TRIP REPORTS

## Mangahao Flats Work Party

Trip Leader: Jean Garman

Photographers: Jean, Adam, Malcolm

At the annual work party in February, 2020 it was noted that the hut was starting to look a little shabby - no wonder since it was at least 17 years since we had last stained and painted it. - So over the next year funds were sought (thanks MTSC and TARHC i.e. Tararua Aorangi Rimutaka Huts Committee) and I got my head around the fact that we would be painting rather than re-staining the cladding. As the stained cladding was quite prone to



*Painting sink (Above) and Bunk (Below R) areas*

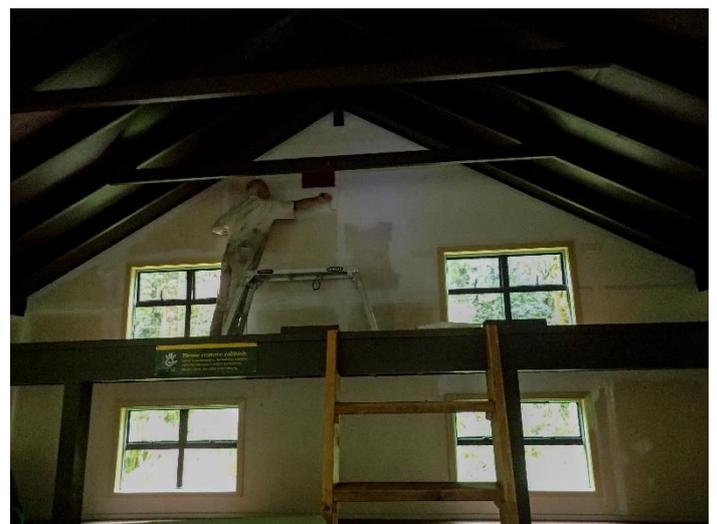
growing green algae where it was a bit damp it needed to be sprayed with '30 seconds' 6 weeks prior to painting, so Ivan and I tootled in and did this while taking a bit of a stock take and a measure up for bits that needed replacing (due to bastards breaking bits off and burning them). While there, it was apparent that the clear area below the hut had become much larger and clearer and the only thought we had as to why this might be was that maybe the air force might like to use it for training. Turns out we were right and they even kindly agreed to fly in the ladders and the paint for us. Unfortunately this was to happen while Ivan and I were in the South Island but Malcolm and Howie managed between them to get everything together

and then out to Ohakea. The paint was kindly supplied by Dulux in the DOC standard colours of the very apt 'DOC Green', 'Pioneer Red' and 'Sandfly Point'.

With everything in place it was time for the work party to begin. Unfortunately, the forecast was not great for Saturday and Sunday - wetness and wind so no chance of flying the remaining gear, food and people in. - Rather than waste precious time Jean, Jenny and Dave walked in on Saturday, getting to the hut only a little while after the rain started. The ladders and paint were brought up to the hut; then we realised that no-one had thought to bring a screwdriver to take off the ever-growing number of signs decorating the interior of the hut.



*Jean getting ready to fly*



Luckily Jenny had one on her pocket knife - it was a slow process but we got almost all of them off. The walls were washed with sugar soap, then sanded and that was enough for the day. Sunday it continued to rain so the sanding and masking off were finished and the painting of the interior walls and trim began. It wasn't

overly warm so when the walls were pretty much finished the fire was lit to help the paint dry.

Monday dawned fine and we quickly applied the 2nd coat to the walls so that would be all done before Ivan, Malcolm and Adam flew in around mid morning. Luckily, they did turn up as I didn't have anything in the way of spare food if they hadn't! Even more luckily for Dave, they turned up just as he was about to leave to walk out so he got a ride back to the dam. Now it was time to rip into the outside. Ivan prepped the roof, Adam worked on the barge boards and soffit and the rest of us focused on scrubbing the shadow clad. Quite an alarming amount of dust, colour and debris came off with a good hard scrub and, when it came to painting the surface, it really sucked up the paint - hope we have enough! - Tuesday was also a lovely day with more prepping and painting happening on the outside. Not long after morning tea Brian wandered in and initially helped Ivan with the roof and then helped with ensuring all the walls had one coat of paint on them. Achieving this was a very close thing, with only a little paint on an edging board not hardening off before the rain started that night.

Wednesday was showering so some painting happened under the veranda and another coat on the interior trim, the dwangs (stolen to be burnt) were replaced in the wood shed, the small bench was resurrected (legs stolen to be burnt), wood was carried up from the flat below the hut and cut. Brian left mid-morning; although he couldn't stay for long his help came when it was really needed. In the afternoon there was a round of pikelets with jam and cream and a jigsaw puzzle was started with a few dedicated people staying up until it was finished. Thursday was expected to be an easy day with rain all day but, instead, it started off with a few showers that then went away. More firewood collection was done along with thistle pulling and then it was back into painting. We got enough done that we didn't have to worry about running ourselves ragged the next day.

Friday was another lovely day and the second coat on all the external walls, barge boards, soffits and roof was completed. Saturday was yet another lovely day and, with the helicopter expected at midday, there was a fair bit of sorting out and packing up to do, but some other jobs like the path to the toilet getting more stones on it were also completed and, before we knew it, it was time for Jean and Jenny to fly back to the dams with the ladders, rubbish and any other unwanted gear. The others stayed and worked on the baseboards, unfortunately running out of paint before the ones round the back could be completed so left for another day..... Sunday was also a lovely day and the guys packed up, cleaned up, took the final photos and walked out cutting a few windfalls along the way.



Getting ready to fly

All in all a great result only made possible by the help of many people and organisations. Special thanks to Ivan Rienks, Jenny McCarthy, Adam Matich, Malcolm Thomas, Dave Mitchell, Brian Webster and Jean Garman.

### **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2021: Makairo Track**

Trip Leader and Reporter: Ian Brooks

Trampers set out from Palmerston North, Feilding and Dannevirke to rendezvous opposite the Tui Brewery in Mangatainoka and then travel in convoy to the start of the Makairo Track. The group has not done this track since 2018, but some had fond memories of previous tramps. As we were in Covid Alert Level 2, those travelling in the van were requested to wear face masks. This did not prevent an animated discussion as to the best route to reach Mangatainoka. The driver was persuaded to go over the Pahiatua Track rather than his preference of the Saddle Road. This proved to be the wrong decision, as we were stuck behind a truck with an oversized load all the way to Pahiatua and then encountered a lengthy delay at road works just before Mangatainoka. Nevertheless, all vehicles had assembled by just after 9am. A new tramper – Nicki – had invited her sister Kim, who lives at Pahiatua, to join us and this brought our total number to 28. The final section of the route to the start of the track consists of a winding gravel road, with steep drop-offs in places, but all negotiated this safely,

despite raising clouds of dust. Parking is somewhat limited but the six vehicles managed to squeeze in and we started tramping around 9.30am in warm but overcast conditions.

The track winds gently upwards through the Waewaepa Reserve with steep drops on the right hand side. It was once a through road but has fallen into disuse, due to a collapsed bridge, so now is only frequented by trampers and mountain bikers. It is rather overgrown and trampers in shorts need to be aware of the presence of Onga Onga (stinging nettle) in order to avoid a painful experience (See report on OngaOnga towards the end of this newsletter). Despite the recent dry weather, the track is wet in places, due to water running down the banks on the left, although mud encountered in previous years was thankfully absent. Various open clearings appear now and again, and afford good views of the valley below and the more distant country to the west.

The faster group reached the saddle, from where the track veers to the right, with a descent to an old quarry to the left. As it was only around 11.30am, they decided to continue on upwards. Attempts to relay their intentions to the rest of the party, via the two-way radio, were only partially successful, due to crackles from the blustery wind mostly drowning out the speaker. When the majority finally made it to the saddle, the consensus was that the wind was too strong and cold to find a sheltered spot for lunch, before returning downhill. Lunch was at the same spot as chosen on the 2018 tramp, although this time, there were not any accompanying rainy squalls. Everyone made it safely back to the start within a couple of hours, and it was decided to bypass the descent to the hidden bivvy discovered last time.

After changing clothes, we returned to the Tui Brewery for afternoon refreshments, which for a few of us (not the drivers!) comprised something stronger than the normal coffee or tea. All were now in agreement to return via the Saddle Road. This had been a pleasant day out on a relatively easy, albeit somewhat monotonous, track with some good views of the surrounding country. It would be nice to be able to predict when there might not be such strong wind at the top, but this seems to be a regular occurrence. Unfortunately, our regular photographers were not present, so there are no pictures to accompany this report.

Thanks go to Evan, our van driver, and those that provided cars – Rod, Richard, Jenny, Carolyn and Marilyn.

## Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2021: Atene Skyline Track

Trip Leader and Reporter: Tony Evans

Photographer: Royce Mills

Thirteen was not an unlucky number for us. No rain while we 13 trampers assembled but, as soon as we started traveling down it came, heavy all the way to Wanganui but, by the time we got to the carpark at the north end of the track, it had stopped. The first of our group got to the lookout just in time to see the clouds lift so we could all enjoy the views and morning tea. The easy walking continues along an old road with views of the old riverbed then comes a track with some ups and downs before reaching the campsite where we regrouped and had lunch.

Then on around and over the high point at 572m before descending to the road at the south end of the track where the cars were waiting for us slower walkers, thanks to the faster ones completing the car shuttle. A beautiful and slightly unusual track, warm weather but not too hot, no wind and no raincoats required today.



We do know how lucky we are!

## Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2021: Gold Creek Hut

Trip Leaders and Reporter: Cheryl Dawson and Marilyn Hewitt

Photographers: Carolyn Brodie, Bev Akers (map), Cheryl Dawson

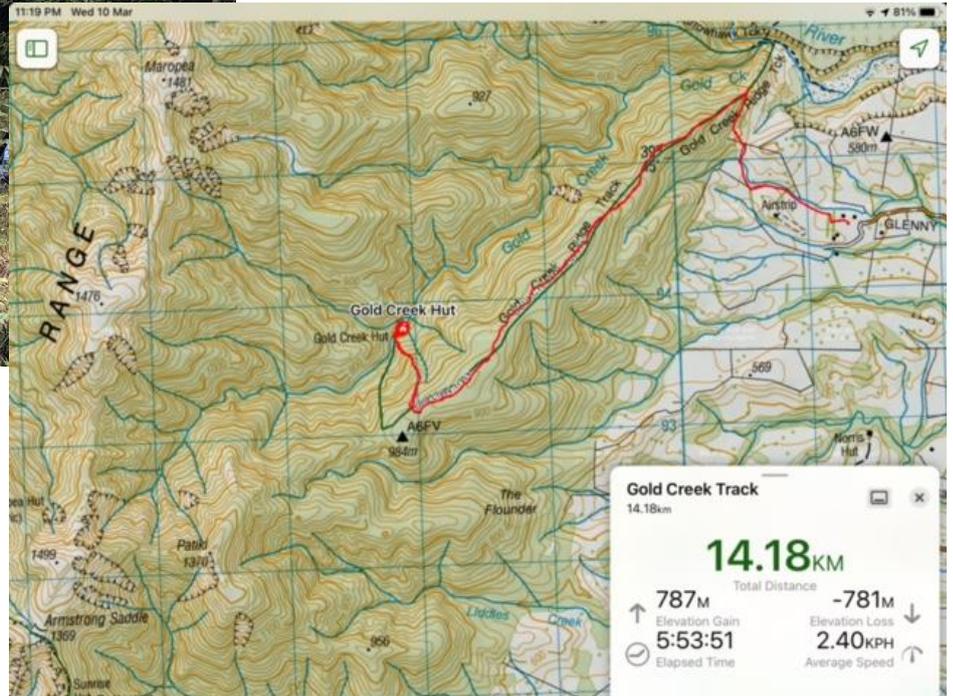
Wednesday dawned a lovely day; all vehicles met at Mangetera, at the northern end of Dannevirke and drove up Highway 50 where we regrouped at Wakarara road, then continued on to Glenny Rd, having to negotiate a herd of cattle along the way. Finally we arrived at the woolshed of the Halls, who had very generously allowed us to gain access to the forest park. Marion had a quick trip on the side-by-side as Michael showed her the way



across the farm so she was able to lead us to the park boundary.

With a brisk, cool breeze blowing, the 32 keen trampers set off across the farm to the park boundary where we proceeded to climb up the ridge through

the beautiful beech forest, stopping for a morning tea break before continuing onto the cairn which marks the steep down-hill to the hut, 30 minutes below, across the creek. Fourteen of the group had lunch on the grass by the creek outside the very orange Gold Creek hut. It was



one of the first forestry service huts to be built in the Ruahines in 1958, a four-bunk hut which was very clean and tidy with a good supply of firewood. Gold creek has limited hunting and is out of the way of the more popular Ruahine tramping tracks. The rest of us settled, just back from the cairn, out of the cool wind, to have our lunch before heading back down to the wool shed, all arriving back at 4.00pm then heading to Onga Onga for a well deserved ice-cream before the drive home.

A special thank you to Robbie for driving the van even though he was not walking. Very much appreciated Robbie. Also it was a privilege to be able to cross the Hall's farm which was acknowledged with a small gift. And last but not least thanks to you all for making it such a great day.



## Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2021: Paekakariki Escarpment

Trip Leader and Reporter: Judy Swainson

Photographer:

The planned trip to Sayer Hut did not eventuate, due to heavy rainfall in the Tararua Ranges both on Wednesday night and Thursday morning. Instead, after careful study of weather projections (thanks Royce for your input), it was decided to walk the Paekakariki Escarpment- a good choice as we left PN in heavy rain. The cars were parked in Paekakariki and, with our Gold Cards on board, we travelled by train to Pukerua Bay and walked from South to North. Excellent weather conditions prevailed and an enjoyable outing culminated with a coffee at a cafe in Paekakariki.

Thanks for assistance by Royce and to Syd for driving.



## Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2021: Motorimu Shelter

Trip Leader and Reporter: Rod McKenzie

Photographer: Cheryl Dawson

A party of fifteen left Memorial Park at 8am and arrived at Kahuterawa Road end about half an hour later to a 'blue dome day' with a cool easterly breeze blowing. After a short briefing covering details for the tramp, we crossed Black Bridge and headed up the Back Track (which is also the Te Araroa trail at that point). The climb is easy as it follows an old road that used to join Kahuterawa and Scotts Roads. After around an hour we reached the top car park for the Arapuke Mountain Bike Park and utilized the shelter and tables for a morning tea stop. We noted that, because of the sunny day, there was a great view back down the valley to the city.

From the car park we walked down Scotts Road for thirty minutes to a road leading to the left and crossing a bridge over the Kahuterawa Stream into the Gordon Kear forest. Following Centre Road for a further thirty minutes we reached Te Whare o Moturimu, an open-fronted whare built by PNCC to provide a sleeping place for hikers on the Te Araroa trail. The shelter is a day's hike (30km) from Palmerston North with sleeping space

for about eight people. There is a toilet and picnic table nearby. At our visit, the shelter was in a neat and tidy condition.



After lunch on the grass in front of the shelter, we retraced our steps to Scotts Road and back to the top car park. At this point different options are available for the return to the Kahuterawa car park. Five members of the party chose to walk across the top of the mountain bike park and down to the Sledge Track and out that way. The balance of the group walked down the centre of the mountain bike park using Zig Zag Road to exit at Black Bridge. There was a short wait in the car park for the Sledge Track walkers to come out, and all returned without any incidents. We then headed off for coffee and were back to town around 3pm having spent a great day in the open country in calm and warm conditions. Thanks to car drivers Bob, Marilyn, Kevin.



*Gold Creek trip: The front coming in at day's end. Photo by Claire Lynch*

## Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2021: Sayers Hut

Trip Leader and Reporter:

Photographer: William Laing



## Onga Onga



Ongaonga or tree nettle is covered in needle-like stinging hairs that give off a poison when brushed against. The sting is quite painful and the area around it may go numb for a short period. People have become sick or have died after blundering into a patch of tree nettle. The plant is common on bush margins and in regenerating scrub.

## **An account of tree-nettle poisoning**

**From the New Zealand Medical Journal 106, no. 957 (9 June 1993): 234 Tree nettle (*Urtica ferox*) poisoning**

On April 28, a stoical, experienced 60 year old hunter, was on a three day trip deerstalking with two friends in the Kaweka Ranges on the southern side of the remote Mangatainoka River. They were to be collected by helicopter at a prearranged time, and carried no means of emergency communication. At around 9am, while descending into a small clearing, he slipped on wet grass, and fell into a tree nettle known as ongaonga, *Urtica ferox*. He was scratched about the legs, face and hands. Within the first 15–20 minutes he began to experience severe abdominal cramps, and thereafter a terrible burning sensation in his feet, and visual blurring. By the time he reached camp at 10.30am, he was weak, confused and pale, sweating profusely, salivating, and beginning to struggle for breath. His companions report his ability to hold a cup was grossly impaired by shaking. He was writhing in agony from cramps. He became hypothermic despite multiple layers of woollen clothing, a mountain-down sleeping bag, and fires being lit in an attempt to warm him. He was unable to speak clearly, but denied hallucinations or loss of consciousness. He did not sleep until midnight, when he began to feel a little warmer. Before dawn he attempted to leave the tent to pass urine, but was unable to stand or control his lower limbs, falling repeatedly. His companions came to his rescue, and replaced him in his bag. He was now freezing cold after exposure to the -5° C temperatures, and again experienced extreme difficulty breathing. Twenty-four hours after the encounter with *Urtica ferox* he was able to walk stiff-legged around the clearing with the assistance of his friends. The helicopter arrived in the afternoon and he returned home late that evening.

On presentation the next day, his gait remained stiff, and he complained of residual tingling in fingers and tongue, muscular stiffness and soreness in his shoulders and limbs, and a foul taste in association with some flavours. He was orientated and appropriate in behaviour, and able to give a good account of events.

**Examination revealed increased muscle tone in lower limbs**, and grip strength bilaterally reduced, but little else of note. This was a severe response to the well documented but poorly publicised poisonous tree nettle, which has claimed at least one human and many animal lives in the past. The National Poison Centre was able to provide good information regarding the components of the sting which include histamine, 5-hydroxytryptamine and acetylcholine, and other substances not yet identified. An anaphylaxis kit has been prepared and its use taught to the patient and one of his companions. It is my concern that non-career hunters, fishers and trampers, as well as many tourists now exploring our reputedly 'benign' bush may be unwittingly at risk from this plant's unpleasant and potentially fatal effects. It is found over a wide geographical area throughout the North Island and west of the main divide in the South Island, between sea level and 600m growing on the fringes of forested areas, in scrublands, and frequently forming thickets with individual specimens reaching 3m high. Resource material is listed below, providing drawings, photographs and clear identifying information, Auckland Faye P. Clark. (Provided by Bob Hodgson).

## **Tickets for Sale**

Hut tickets can be purchased from Howard Nicholson at club nights. \$5/ticket for adults and \$2.50 for youth (11-17 years). Information about Back Country Passes, valid for 6 or 12 months, as well as the use of hut tickets is available on the [DOC web site](#).



**Contact Details**

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

**Committee 2020 - 2021**

President	Rob Pringle	<a href="mailto:president@mtsc.org.nz">president@mtsc.org.nz</a>	020 426 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>	022 0341180
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:** 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>	027 678 0747
Ski Captain	Howard Nicholson	<a href="mailto:ski@mtsc.org.nz">ski@mtsc.org.nz</a>	027 294 1941
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	Syd Easton	<a href="mailto:eastonps@inspire.net.nz">eastonps@inspire.net.nz</a>	06 356 7462
Facebook	Ivan Rienks, Rob Pringle, Karen Tutt, Howard Nicholson <a href="mailto:facebook@mtsc.org.nz">facebook@mtsc.org.nz</a>		

**New Members**

Prospective members must be nominated by a Proposer and a 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: 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 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>Adult</b>	<b>\$40</b>	<b>\$58</b>	
<b>Secondary School</b>	<b>\$32</b>	<b>\$48</b>	
<b>Primary School</b>	<b>\$26</b>	<b>\$42</b>	
<b>Pre-school (3-5 yo)</b>	<b>\$13</b>	<b>\$13</b>	

**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.