

## **Masterton Tramping Club (Inc.)**

[www.mastertontc.org.nz](http://www.mastertontc.org.nz)

[www.facebook.com/mastertontc](https://www.facebook.com/mastertontc)

Email: [mastertontc@gmail.com](mailto:mastertontc@gmail.com)



41 Perry St, Masterton

## **Newsletter October 2022**

### **Club Nights**

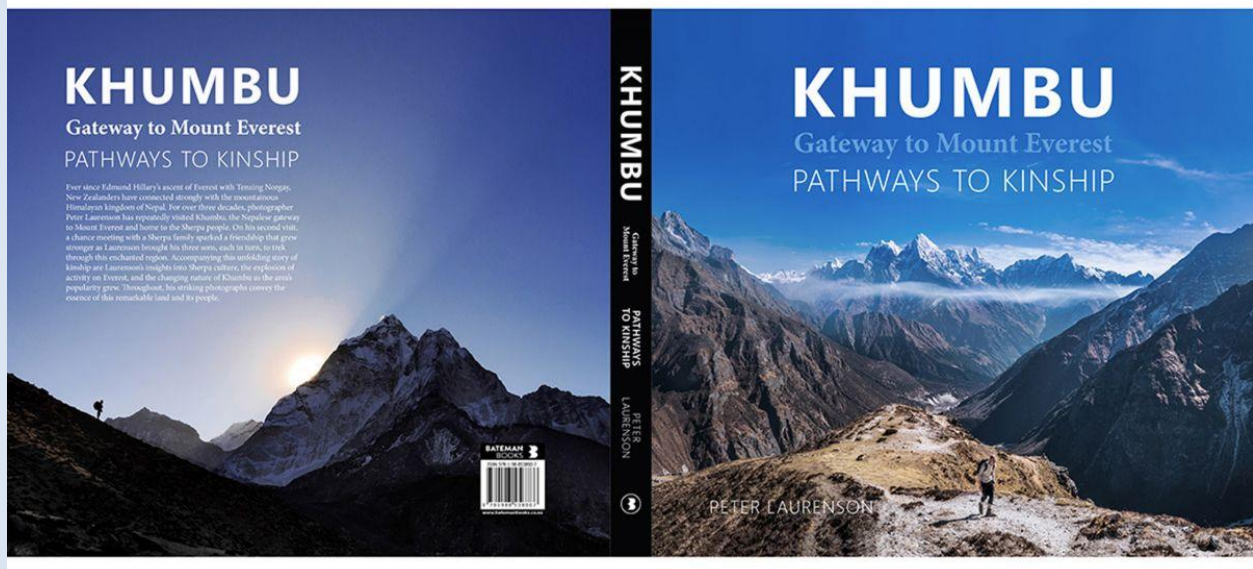
Club nights are held at the Masterton Community Centre, 41 Perry Street on the first Wednesday night of each month except January. Meetings start at 7.30pm and visitors are welcome to attend.

**Welcome** to this month's newsletter. A large turnout on club night with several new faces in the audience on what was a very wet and miserable night. Everyone was well rugged up and the heater was working overtime for sure.

### **Guest Speaker**

Peter Laurenson braved the travel over the Remutaka Hill to bring along his Tararua calendar for those who had pre-ordered it, and also gave a presentation on his recent book Khumbu: Gateway to Everest, Pathways to Kinship. Some fantastic photography and very interesting stories in the book regarding his travels in the region and people / families he has met and built longstanding relationships with.

For anyone interested in purchasing Peter's book, he advised that FMC members get a 20% discount when ordering on-line.



Unfortunately due to a snow fall warning that night on the Remutaka Hill, Peter couldn't stay with us for a cuppa and had to leave us following his presentation to ensure he got back to Wellington safely.

## **General**

Next up Gail presented us with “3 Good Things” being Bring Something, Do Something, Take Something. A very good lesson in hut etiquette and the little things we all can do when visiting huts and leaving them in a better state than when we found them. Simple ideas such as leave a clean dish cloth and take the old ranky one out with you when leaving the last hut you are visiting, clean out the candle holders and leave a candle in its place, take out rubbish with you (and don't fill the fireplace up with beer cans!). Thanks again to Gail for being volunteered by Conrad or should that be “voluntold”.

Some good news, the Club entered the members winning photos from last month's photo competition to FMC's annual photo competition. While it will be a month or two before overall winners will be announced, the Club has won \$400 for participating in the competition. Who knew there was even a category for this! We have advised FMC that we will put the funds towards the new PLB that the Club has recently purchased and we suspect this will be included in future Backcountry magazine announcements regarding the photo comp. Big thanks to Sandra for organising this and getting our entries submitted prior to closure.

The Wairarapa Walking Festival starts in early November with over 40 walks planned, some of which are already sold out. MTC is taking one of the trips up to Rocky Lookout on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November and volunteers are sought to assist. Trip should take about 3 hours and volunteers are asked to help with being the tail end charlie to help account for everyone, someone with a first aid certificate (just in case) and also just to have a chat to attendees and hopefully entice some to come along to a club night and maybe join up.

For more details on the various walks available and also the Rocky Lookout excursion please refer to <https://www.cartertonec.co.nz/walking>

If you are able to volunteer your time to assist with this walk please email the club or contact a committee member for further details.

### **Trips Done**

#### **11 September**

Atiwhakatu track and Hut. Led by Conrad

An early afternoon departure was scheduled at the discretion of the trip leader, based on improving weather forecast, and the absence of any other participants on the trip! Leaving at 1.30 pm, in warm and slightly humid conditions the trip into Atiwhakatu was made at a reasonable pace.

Recent windfall on the track has been cleared, although a new dropped tree has destroyed some of the boardwalk about 5 minutes south of the hut.

The hut was empty, but clean and tidy, following its occupation by 16 scouts from Upper Hutt on Saturday night- Thanks to scouts for a great tidy up!

A quick photo for the album and a mouthful of cake, then it was the return journey to the road end.

Total time 2.5 hours

Party Members;

Conrad (leader) and Boots the pooch.



## 18 September

Holdsworth pest trapping line. Led by Nigel

Six of us joined at a busy car park at Holdsworth, another sunny day forecast. We were not planning to go far, or fast, and started with a wander along the track to where the Donnelly Flat Loop track meets the Gentle Annie. (A piece of history, the Gentle Annie originally referred to the short track going up to High Point 412, on what later became the longer 'Old' Gentle Annie).

Just 20m along the loop track we started our climb up trap Line 10c, stopping at some of the traps to check the kills recorded on the Goodnature Chirps. Past halfway on the climb and some called for a rest, it was quite steep, and it was also past 10am, so overdue for a "smoko" break. Shortly after we joined on to trap Line 10, crossed over the 'new' Gentle Annie track and on upwards to the junction of Line 10 and the 'old' Gentle Annie. Part of the 'old' Gentle Annie is also trap Line 5, so we headed down Line 5, checking the traps that had recently been rebaited, but no dead rats to be seen. A few birds were to be heard, mostly grey warblers, maybe we were just too late for the dawn chorus!

At the bottom of the Gentle Annie, on the main track to Donnelly Flat, we turned left and had lunch at the SWTC picnic table at Donnelly Flat. Rather than taking the main track back to the car park we took trap line E, for our Thursday trapping group, re-emerging on the main track just before the bridge over to the Lodge.



## 25 September

Escarpment Track walk. Led by Denise

It's always dangerous to make arrangements on the morning of the move to daylight saving, but it does herald the beginning of summer. All 4 managed to make the designated pickup times with trepidation because a cold southerly was still blowing.



In the back of our minds was what the conditions were going to be like for the objective was a windswept coastal walk. The crossing of the Remutuka pass in heavy rain just added to our weather concerns.

Our greatest navigation issue was the new Transmission Gully motorway, an unfamiliar obstacle for us east coast provincial trampers for it didn't appear on our Topo maps! Finding the correct exit required an unplanned diversion.

With the car safely parked near the Paekakariki rail station our on foot journey begun from the north. Fortunately, the rain had stopped by this point and there were hints of blue sky. We followed the pavement briefly before picking up a small track squeezed between the road and the railway line. Using the underside of a bridge (us trampers are generally use to the top of bridges to make crossings) took us to the hillside into the wooded area. It was interesting to see many unfamiliar species there were. There was a lot of restoration plantings being done.

After crossing a small stream the track climbs abruptly up countless, and soon to be despised, steps. There are claims that there are 1500 steps on the track. I did not dare try to substantiate this. The first 100ms of climb forced us to shed a layer of clothing but the stop did give us time to admire the remains of some Maori terraced gardens. They must have been keen, as the soil did not look that good. Another 100ms of climb saw us at our high point (220ms) and a brief lunch stop.

The Escarpment track is a very contrived route (apart for the section to the Maori gardens) which was built in 2016 for \$1.4m. It forms part of the Te Araroa trail network. Most noticeable about the track is the steep ground that it covers which is generally 30 degrees (at times 45 degrees) in angle. You look down onto the Centennial Highway (circa 1939) and the main trunk railway line. It does give you good views of Kapiti Island and the northern aspects of the Marlborough Sounds.

The next part of the route took us down the flight of stairs known as the "Stairway to Heaven" to the first of two swing bridges spanning two side creeks. The bridges gives us a chance to admire the wind sculptured vegetation canopies. This vegetation graphically depicts the struggle for existence against the prevailing and accelerating coastal winds. The tracks middle section saw us pass through pockets of mature trees, or regrowth. Generally, the track is on relatively open ground.

The track had been closed just prior to our trip due to slips during recent rain. The evidence indicated that these "slips" were relatively minor. There is one slip (circa 2020) where one must navigate a substantial (formed) detour. Remedial work is slowly being carried out because it forms a threat to the railway line and road below.

Finally the altitude was lost and we entered the easier ground of Pukerua Bay. A few back streets saw us at the railway station. After a few minutes we were on the train for the return journey to our car at Paekakariki.

On the trip was Don, Denise, Sue and Lorelei.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> October

### Sayers Hut.

Unfortunately wet weather put paid to this trip. We will look to reschedule this trip at a later date.

In lieu of our trip, attached are a couple of before, during and after pics of recent upgrade work undertaken by 4 generations of the Sayer clan. Still some more work scheduled to be undertaken in coming weeks by Wairarapa NZDA and others to complete this upgrade.



## Upcoming Trips

### Trip Grades

Grades allocated to each trip, Easy / Easy + / Average etc, depend on several factors including weather, terrain, your own fitness and experience. An averagely fit person could expect to do the below trips as per the following times;

**Easy**                3-6 hours, little climbing, suitable for beginners to help them assess their fitness

**Easy +**             3-6 hours, probably some short hills

<b>Average</b>	5-8 hours, some experience required, fewer rest stops, almost certainly some hill work
<b>Fit</b>	6+ hours, Good fitness required, may go off track. Stops for lunch and smoko. Suitable for experienced trampers.

Trips coming up include (but as always, subject to change at short notice for a variety of reasons so check the below website for up to date information);  
 Kiriwhakapapa Loop Track (day trip), White Rock Trapping (overnighter), Neill  
 Winchcombe – Alpha trip (multi day), Cow Creek (overnighter)

For full details of trips scheduled refer the Clubs website link  
<https://www.mastertontc.org.nz/#upcoming-trips>

### **Search and Rescue Report**

Nigel advised that there was one recent rescue involving two people overdue from Totara Flats Hut. SAR made their way to the hut arriving at 3am to find both parties safe and sound. Sounds like they may have been a little less experienced than they thought they were and not so confident as to their ability to walk back out the way they had come via Holdsworth road end. Apparently they were very happy to see the SAR team who walked them out to Walls Whare where they were taken back to their vehicle at Holdsworth. All's well that ends well though.

### **Xmas Function**

It has been decided that we will stick to a mid-year Xmas function again in June or July next year in lieu of a formal December dinner out. With the usual mad rush leading up to Xmas and people either having their own work functions or the Club competing with work places trying to have their own staff Xmas dinners it is easier, and more relaxed, to have our Xmas get-together in the mid-year as we did this year. More details to come in the New Year.

We will however put on some Xmas nibbles at the December Club night. Feel free to bring along some Xmas baking to share with your colleagues if you wish. Maybe Conrad can whip up another batch of award winning Tararua biscuits for us!  
 (I am aware that one restaurant in Masterton held three Xmas functions on the same night on the first weekend in October – now that is early!).

**Coming up** in next month's Club night meeting.

The next club night is Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, same place, same time. Feel free to bring a friend along. We look forward to seeing everyone including friends and visitors on the night.

November's club night will include TOPS Photos by Glenys Robertson and also a repeat of last year's Back Country Quiz which was very popular on the night.



Tony Spittal  
President  
Masterton Tramping Club

Sandra Burles  
Club Captain  
Masterton Tramping Club