



MAIL: MTSC, P.O. Box 245, Palmerston North | WEB: www.mtsc.org.nz

Upcoming club nights - Details on page 2

7.30 pm, 1st Tue of the month | Rose City Aquatic Club Room, 50 Park Road, Palmerston North

Tuesday 5 October 2010 | Interclub Photo Competition

Tuesday 2 November 2010 | To be confirmed

New Members

Shalini & Mohan Udyawer Palmerston North

Regan Jessica Woodmass & family Palmerston North

All prospective members are encouraged to go on a club trip or attend a club night before joining. This is a great way to meet current members who can nominate you. 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 usually confirmed at the next monthly committee meeting.

For further information or an application form please visit: www.mtsc.org.nz



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If you'd like to receive your newsletter by email as a pdf in full colour rather than by post then please send an email request to editor@mtsc.org.nz. Change of contact details please email the club membership secretary at membership@mtsc.org.nz as well as copying the message to editor@mtsc.org.nz.

Items for the newsletter: The deadline for newsletter items is the end of the month. Please include a date with trip reports. Photos are appreciated, any number of images at 1024x768 pixels or greater if possible. For example a 2 megapixel image is 1600 x 1200 pixels. Please include the date and an appropriate caption for the photo, including names of people.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT
KEN MERCER
president@mtsc.org.nz
PHONE (06) 356 7497 or (027) 364 6475



SKI CAPTAIN
ROB PRINGLE
rob.kate.pringle@gmail.com
PHONE 06 354 0218

Saturday morning. There's only a handful in the lodge. Flat cloud is overhead but the top of the mountain's visible and the snow isn't blowing off it. Considering the forecast these are all good signs. As I walk across the moonscape textured with scoria to the road I hear – music! Further up salt ridge a woman is also heading to the car park and singing at the top of her voice. She wasn't Julie Andrews but it was delightful all the same.

Later that day in a lift queue (which wasn't very big) I wondered to myself what all these people have in common. The answer was happiness. It is terrific to participate in something which makes people happy. Spread the word and be happy!

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Kate needs a break! She has done a sterling job editing the last few issues of the newsletter and looking after a small child and working but – we'd like someone to take over as newsletter editor.

What is required? The most important thing is to be able to shuffle emailed articles and pictures into appropriate locations to give something resembling the newsletter. Emailing out requests and reminders for reports is also important. When everything is finished a PDF is emailed to the Massey Printery and those who receive the newsletter electronically. Help is available getting these technical details sorted.

So, if you think you might have the time and the talent please have a chat with a member of the committee or me.

Thanks so much,
Ken Mercer, 356 7497

As the weeks have snuck by, so the end of the ski season is fast approaching. Thanks to some late storms in September, snow base was increased just in time for the school holidays, along with 'a storm the size of australia'. During my many trips up and down the country, it is always exciting to see snow falling on the desert road, and often a careful reminder that we should be prepared for any conditions when in the vicinity of the mountain. Especially as spring is upon us, don't forget the volatility being in the hills can bring, conditions can change very fast and we need to be constantly prepared for whatever we may encounter. Hopefully there has been many enjoyable, fine days had upon the hill, and that even though the snow base has not been huge, it has brought enjoyment to all those that ventured upon it. Till next month....



ADAM MATICH | TEMPLE COL, ARTHUR'S PASS NATIONAL PARK
2ND PLACE | MTSC Photo Comp | Above Bushline

INTERCLUB PHOTO COMP

Hosted by MTSC

7.30pm, Tuesday 5 October

Rose City Aquatic Club Room
50 Park Road, Palmerston North

Winners in recent MUAC, MTSC and PNTMC Photo Competitions will be showcased to club members and judged with some awesome prizes up for grabs.

JUDGE: Keith Dobson



MTSC PHOTO COMPETITION RESULTS 2010

The photo competition continues to grow, and this year we had fewer entries per person but more people entering, which worked well. The audience-turned-judges were treated to a visual feast of outdoors photography, and each of the winners can claim title to the "People's choice" award. In some categories it was a close-run competition, and I can safely say that there were no bad images in there.

We were fortunate to have some great sponsorship from Macpac, who had donated several day packs and beanies for this and the upcoming Interclub competitions. Anyone who has been around the outdoors will know the quality and good design of the Macpac gear, and I hope you will take the opportunity to drop into their shop on The Square and take a look around. Bivouac Outdoors contributed a cooker and cookware from their wide range of gear. An historical photograph taken by Andrew Fuller in the 1930's won a prize in the recent Federated Mountain Clubs competition, and this prize became the unofficial "Fuller Memorial Prize" for our own competition.

So who won? We may have found our judge for next year, given the results!

<i>Section</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Taken by</i>
Landscape	1 st	Richard Lander
	2 nd	Ken Mercer
	3 rd	Ken Mercer
Above Bushline	1 st	Richard Lander
	2 nd	Adam Matich
	3 rd	Sam Johnson
Below Bushline	1 st	Andrew Brodie
	2 nd	Richard Lander
	3 rd	Howard Nicholson
Natural History	1 st	Richard Lander
	2 nd equal	Ken Mercer Richard Lander
Overseas	1 st	Richard Lander
	2 nd	Richard Lander
	3 rd	Christine Scott
Topical	1 st	Richard Lander
	2 nd	Tim Swale
	3 rd equal	Ken Mercer Richard Lander (x2)



RICHARD LANDER | ZODIAC CRUISING, ANTARCTICA
1ST PLACE | MTSC Photo Comp | Overseas



UPCOMING TRIPS

TRIP GRADING

The times listed below include tramping, rest and meal stops. In assessing the trip times and grades, terrain, weather and party fitness (a party is as fast as its slowest member) must be considered. As these factors will never repeat themselves, times are only estimates. Contact the trip leader if you are unsure about trip grading for a specific trip.

ALL	All welcome
EASY	4 hours per day, pace slower than Easy/Med. Does not relate to terrain.
EASY/MEDIUM	5 hours per day at a pace slower than medium.
MEDIUM	7 hours per day at a standard walking pace.
MEDIUM/FIT	8 hours per day at a pace faster than medium.
FIT	Over 8 hours per day at a pace faster than medium/fit.
TECHNICAL	Qualifying requirements to be announced by the trip organiser.

TRIP SAFETY

Trip leaders are reminded that trip intentions can be emailed to intentions@mtsc.org.nz, although this is not a substitute for leaving full written details with the designated contacts within the club. If you require further information on this please contact the Chief Guide. The club also has tent flies and personal locator beacons available free of charge, the club transit van will always have these so there isn't any reason not to take these on a trip short or long, they way next to nothing.

Manawatu Gorge Track

Standing Invitation

David Newstead

Easy
027 4576175

I walk the Gorge Track (W to E) most Sunday mornings. This is a reminder that the invitation to join me still stands.

Starting time is usually 8:00 to 9:00 (flexible). I walk over and meet my wife at Beyond-the-Bridge Cafe, for morning tea / lunch, as appropriate, and she drives us back to the Western car park. So if you feel like a Sunday morning walk (vigorous or ambling, your choice) give me a call. Families, young children, everyone welcome.

Tarn Ridge

2-3 October

Jean Garman

Fit
06 354 3536

Please call for more details.

Toitoe Loop/Sledge Track

3 October (Sun)

Christine Scott

Easy
06 354 0510

Please call for more details

Wednesday Trampers

6 October

Chris Brunskill

Easy/Medium
06 324 2511

Please call for more details.

Thursday Trampers

7 October

Carolyn Brodie

Medium
06 358 6576

Please call for more details

Te Hiwiokaituri Ridge

9-10 October

David Harrington

Fit
06 839 5766

From the Urchin campsite we will follow the track up and over the Urchin to the Waipakihi River. Up river to the Thunderbolt Stream confluence then climb spur east to spot 1600. Travel NE along the open tops of Te Hiwiokaituri Ridge then N down a new track to Waipakihi Hut. Back out via Umukarikari Range and the new ridge track to the Urchin. Two long days in both distance and time. May camp out.

Wednesday Trampers

13 October

Patsy Inkpen

Easy/Medium
06 323 8030

Please call for more details.

Thursday Trampers

14 October

Ann Green

Medium
06 374 5208

Please call for more details

Mitre Flat

16-17 October

Linda Campbell

Easy
06 323 3836 or 027 333 4493

At this stage I am not sure if we will go in from Mt Holdsworth Road or from Upper Waingawa Road. I believe it is about a four hour walk either way so there will definitely be a stop for coffee and cake if not an early lunch before we start walking. Please call for more details.



UPCOMING TRIPS

Wednesday Trampers

20 October

Andrew Brodie

Please call for more details.

Easy/Medium
06 358 6576

Thursday Trampers

21 October

Stuart Malcolm

Please call for more details

Medium
06 358 3409

Pelorus River

23-25 October

Adam Matich

Please call for more details.

Medium/Fit
06 359 2796

Hikurangi Range

24 October (Sun)

Brian Webster

Please call for more details.

Fit
06 357 0189

Wednesday Trampers

27 October

Pam Wilson

Please call for more details.

Easy/Medium
06 357 6247

Thursday Trampers

28 October

John McLeod

Please call for more details

Medium
06 323 5785

Te Matawai Hut

30-31 October

Hugh Wilde

Please call for more details.

Medium
06 356 9450

Sheradon Creek

31 October (Sun)

Adam Matich

Please call for more details.

Medium/Fit
06 359 2796



DAVID HARRINGTON | Deb in Leatherwood on Pohehe

McKinnon Hut

27-28 November

David Newstead

McKinnon Hut is just under the Eastern side of the Hikurangi Range, to the West of the main Ruahine Range. We can get to it from either the Kawhatau Base (Rangitane Road end) which would make it an 'easy-medium', or even 'easy' trip, or from the Mangakokeke Road end via Purity Hut and the Hikurangi Range (Wooden Peg, Mangaweka, Hikurangi), a comfortable full day in good weather.

Which route we take will depend on, first, the weather and, second, the preferences of the party. If there were enough people wanting each route, there would be no problem in making it two coinciding trips.

E-mail: Newstead@clear.net.nz

Medium

027 4576175

Pisa Range, Central Otago

"Christmas" Trip (actually end January)

22,23,24 January 2011

David Newstead

Medium/Fit

027 4576175

The reason for running this trip in late January, rather than Christmas, is the reliability of the weather at 6,000 feet (1,900 m) uncertain at the best of times.

This will be a joint trip with the Christchurch 'Over 40s' Tramping Club. The three days (Wellington anniversary weekend) is the actual tramping trip, getting there and back (own arrangements) is extra. The going will be easy-medium, but for 30 miles, up to 6,000 feet with heavy packs.

The trip entails a "traverse" of most of the Pisa Range, among the schist outcrops, from about Luggate, near the head of Lake Dunstan, to Lowburn, near Cromwell. This will be mostly on farm roads. The top of the Pisa Range is pretty well flat, with first and second night's camps at around 6,000 feet (third night will be at Lowburn/Cromwell).

If the weather forecast at the time is unfavourable, an alternative lowland route, of about the same distance is planned, (also out of Luggate). This will be the old gold coach road, Thompson Gorge Rd, from Bendigo Station through to the Matakanui gold fields, and back, probably by a different route over the Dunstan Mountains; details again dependant on the weather.

Please let us know of interest as early as you can. I need to arrange transport between the assembly/dispersal point(s) (Luggate and Cromwell) and start/finish points; and also to give the run-holders an idea of how many we will be.

Contacts: Palmerston North, (MTSC) David Newstead, phone 027 4576175

Christchurch, (Over 40sTC) Robin Palmer, phone, home 03 3571143, work (dd) 03 3602477.

Tararua Mini Sarex
Sunday 8th August
By Hugh Wilde

Seven of us (including Christine’s search dog, Shilah) attended this exercise in the Balance Bridge area close to the Gorge Track. The scenario was two missing members of an engagement party at the local café who had gone AWOL the previous night. Poor weather was promised, but actually the weather turned out OK, and not once did we need to resort to raincoats.

There were six search parties in all and the MTSC team of four, and Tim’s team of three locals was allocated the area between the Balance Bridge and the café, from the road to the river. Christine and Shilah formed their own team and moved around hoping to detect the scent of the lost party. The area was familiar to some of us who a few years ago had successfully searched for a missing woman in this same area. There is much undergrowth and clumps of dense scrubby bush along the river, and the thick ground cover of Tradescantia (Wandering Jew) shows any tracks through it easy to see. One of the other search parties adjacent to our area found a small crop of vegetation of interest to the police. It’s unknown whether the search team carried out any sampling.

About lunchtime after we had been following some tracks along the river terrace one of our team spotted the missing woman sitting in the bush on the terrace edge and while she was getting first aid and being prepared for stretchering up to the road, the missing male called out (it was after midday and he had been instructed to stay “asleep” during the morning) so he was located and escorted out of the area along with his “injured” companion on the stretcher. So the MTSC team were in the thick of it! The exercise was designed to end mid afternoon, so teams from Ruapehu and Wellington had time to get home at a reasonable hour.

After the regulation debrief, and afterwards BBQ’d venison (shot by Dave, the policeman from Pongaroa washed down by beer supplied by Tui) we all dispersed home mid afternoon, to tackle lawns etc – or sleep. Good day out and most of our people learned something from the exercise.

Participants: Tim Swale, Kim Fraser, Emma Williams, Maren Domke, Christine Scott and Shilah, and Hugh Wilde

The Back Breaker
By Robin Lane

The run out from the Valley has claimed another victim. Club member Robin Lane was at the end of a great 5 days up at the lodge, with 3 days skiing at the beginning of the season, when he fell foul of the Back Breaker. The day (7th July) was truly awful, with gale force gusts and constant talk from the lifties of closing the field. There were many

snow flurries and full on whiteouts racing across the face of the mountain. Robin had decided that enough was enough at 2.30pm after getting blown sideways going up the Valley T, and went for the run-out.

Having committed to some speed to get up the slope to the cafe, along came a complete whiteout just as he reached the bottom, leading to him missing the chicane and going up the cliff face on the left. Turning quickly on the ice to avoid the rocks he came back down onto the track, skis first and body following. The skis, legs and backside stopped rather abruptly, but the body kept going, crushing the front of his T12 vertebra and severely wrenching his Lumbar muscles. (T12 is at the last rib, the lowest vertebra that doesn't bend forward, therefore the most likely one to break in a forward crunch).

Robin was on the ice for nearly an hour before the ski patrol were able to get him strapped onto a board and into a banana boat, as they were fearful of a neck injury, and took great pains to avoid further injury. A painful ride down to the medical centre was followed by triage and an hour thawing out. He spent the night in Taumaranui Hospital and made his way home to Auckland, slowly and carefully.

7 weeks later he is recovering well in a plastic back brace, but has another month at home on ACC before being allowed back to work. There's always a silver lining!



RICHARD LANDER | Central Plateau, Ruapehu
 1ST PLACE | MTSC Photo Comp | Above Bushline



RICHARD LANDER | Enjoying the Sun Rakiura
 1ST PLACE | MTSC Photo Comp | Topical



Makino Hut, North-East Kawekas

21-22 August

By Wei-Hang Chua

For transportation we combined with Tim's overnighter to Mangatnoka Hot Springs.

Leaving PN at the leisurely time of 8am we stopped for breakfast in Taradale before arriving at the Makahu road end around 1pm. My group of four headed off first in light drizzle on the track that leads up the true right of the Mohaka river to Te Puia Lodge stopping for lunch on one of the high sides with views down below of the river, before arriving at the lodge around 3.

After a short chat with three young hunters staying at the lodge we traveled another few minutes before grunting up a steep manuka covered spur leading to Makino hut. Once finally on top we passed through beach forest before descending for fifteen minutes down to Makino hut which is in a clearing in the bush. Although the hut has no views it was pleasant staying there all the same, a clean & tidy 6 bunk hut.

Sunday was a short day, a little over 2 hours to Makaka road.

The tramping condition's were ideal passing Makino Bivouac along the way. You would have to be desperate to stay there, a A frame of Iron setting on the ground with roughly laid out black polythene for a floor to sleep on. Closer to the road end we spotted some native bird life and there were views of the surrounding Mohaka Valley.

Our small party consisted of Jenny, Peter, Adam & Mark

Mangatainoka Hot Springs

22-23 August

By Tim Swale

This multi-faceted trip involving MTSC and students from Tararua College and Dannevirke High School saw 17 people in two minibuses heading into the Kawekas.

After a very long drive, punctuated by a morning tea stop at Heavens Bakery in Taradale, we eventually reached the road end at the Mangatutu Hot springs. Despite having quite a crowd at the start, different factions quickly separated and headed off up the Mohaka valley in their own little groups. Mark led his group of Adam, Jenny and Peter up to Makino Hut for the night. Bev and Garry along with Karen and Tim were off to camp at the Mangatainoka Hot Springs. Linda, Ben and myself were the shadow party for 6 young people doing their Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award expedition.

Light rain meant that most opted to wear their rain jackets for the first hour or so. Our D of E group after consulting maps and a bit of discussion set off up the valley with a two way radio so they could keep in touch with the shadow party.

The river cuts a serpentine course through high hills often with sheer rocky cliffs providing some spectacular views. After a little less than three hours our group reached Te Puia Lodge for a well earned afternoon tea. Dropping off the overnight gear, we headed on upstream across the new bridge to the Mangatainoka Hot Springs. Here DOC have set a couple of fibreglass tubs into a deck area so that they are filled by hot water from the stream. This makes for a very pleasant soak on a winter's evening especially after the exertion of walking up the valley. It was too cloudy to gaze at the stars but glow worms in the bank next to the hot tubs were the next best thing. The journey back to the hut in the dark needed head torches and a bit of care. With the evening meal cooked and eaten it was time to retire to bed as the D of E kids were due for a big day on Sunday.

The morning dawned fine and clear with just a few wisps of cloud on the surrounding peaks. Despite the early night, some found extracting themselves from sleeping bags was a struggle and so it was after 8-30am when the youngsters finally headed off for the big climb up out of the valley towards Makino Hut. By this time Garry and Bev had turned up at the hut but they were going to walk back down the valley with Karen and Tim. Linda, Ben and I hung around chatting for another 20 minutes or so to let the young ones get ahead and do their own thing. From the radio chatter we heard, our D of E group worked well as a team staying together and eventually reaching the summit trig late in the morning after a final steep scramble on bare, rocky slopes. A well earned morning tea, and the realisation that some had drunk far more water coming up the hill that they had expected leaving them a little short for the rest of the journey. It was then on to Makino Biv, which is pretty derelict, for lunch. From there, it was a matter of following the ridge high above the Mohaka Valley through beech forest and manuka scrub until the track dropped steeply down to the gravel Makahu Road.

A couple of kilometres of road walking brought us back to the minibus at the near deserted road end car park and the end of our expedition. Despite a few blisters and aching legs the tramp went well with our party showing, great determination, thorough planning and a good team spirit; exactly what the D of E Award scheme is all about. Finally it was all aboard the minibus ready for the long trip home and of course tea at the Golden Arches in Taradale on the way.



Atiwhakatu Hut

26th August

By Keith Fisher

20 trampers left the van at 9.30 am and reached the hut 2 hours later. There was a group staying at the hut. Possibly a school party – gear all over the place. We tramped up river to find a sunny spot for lunch. Unfortunately they were mainly on the other side of the river. We lunched beside the river and then returned to the road end. The weather was OK. Light misty rain at times with some fine spells.

Kiriwhakapapa-Whakapapa Loop

29 August

Adam Matich

Because no one is going tramping these days, the trip card is a bit light-on for trips, So Jenny and I decided to do an exploration from the Kiriwhakapapa (Blue Range) road end.

We headed south along the Mikimiki tramway for a good hour before climbing up to the high-point of the tram-way, the saddle. From here, we headed south off the track towards bump 615, about 600 m away. The going was easy in the friendly forest and at 615 we discovered a boundary fence and a sometimes overgrown farm track. This was easy to follow east to bump 613, from where we got our first views across to Blue Range to the West and Mt Dagg to the South. Despite the weather forecast, we only needed our rain coats on for pushing through the wet vegetation. From 613 we dropped into the saddle on our way to bump 725. The saddle wasn't quite so nice. We lost sight of the fence a couple of times and the track was overgrown, but the route was still easy to follow. As we started to climb out of the saddle, towards 725, we startled a black pig and the fence-line finally ran out. There were also a lot of Wood Pigeons floundering around in the trees. The climb to 725 was variable, with nice forest, and scrub, with quite a steep shingly section. Most of it was an easy wander through the scrub which on the upper part of the climb looked like the remnants of a farm track. We were on top of 725 for a sunny lunch with views, 90 min from the tram-way saddle, and back on another 4WD-track. This track gave us an easy route through to the sunny Whakapapa peak, from where we headed in a northerly direction and compassed our way back down to the Kiriwhakapapa road end (4 ½ hr day). Some of the descent was a bit scrubby, but it was generally easy going as long as we paid attention to our direction of travel and stayed on the not overly well defined spur. This would be a nice summer's day trip. We were Jenny McCarthy and Adam Matich.

Atiwhakatu

Wednesday 1 September

By Anne Rush

Liz Flint was to lead a two night trip into the southern Tararua's. However, ill health prevented this and instead she organised a walk into Atiwhakatu Hut. Thirteen people participated. It is a most enjoyable place to visit. Excellent tracks which are not too wet with beautiful bush and a roomy pleasant hut to have lunch. Many thanks to our excellent driver, Linda Derbyshire.

Mikimiki Track

2 September

By Keith Fisher

A group of 16 trampers left the van at 9.15 am and we were all back by 2.00 pm – a 4 hour 45 minute tramp. We had not completed this track for some time. The one major stream was crossed without too much trouble. A drizzly day with some muddy patches on the track and we appreciated the upgraded shelter at the Blue Range road end. A very cosy place to change at the end of a wet tramp. This is a good trip when the weather precludes a visit to higher ground.



TIM SWALE | MANGATAINOKA HOT SPRINGS | Duke of Edinburgh Trip



TRIP REPORTS

Panatewaewae Ridge and Environs

8 September

By John Hunt

After a period of exceptionally heavy rain and flooding, we were somewhat apprehensive about the condition of the upper end of North Manakau Road, so we parked the bus and car at the end of the 5km. sealed section, and our party of 13 walked up the winding 2.5km.gravel section which thankfully had not been affected by slips, to the turnaround. (this took about 1/2 hr.)

We then did a 20min. circuit of the pleasant but steep "scenic bush track", before enjoying morning tea in the sun.

After backtracking about 200 m up a rise in the road , we climbed up a small bank to what had been an early logging road, now "softened" by bush and moss growth, and followed a gentle 75 min. climb, with occasional views of the bushed valleys below. Near the top (before a stile) we ignored a track branching north-east(which we had been told led to a very boggy area), and came up onto a sunny, open, grassed area by pt. 527, fringed by pines, with a great view over the Horowhenua countryside. We had lunch there before a leisurely 30 min. wander further along the ridge, passing several former "logging-out areas", and a taranaki gate, before returning to the lunch spot to collect a couple of our sun worshipers, and back down to the roadend.

From there, some of us investigated a track past the alternative access south to Mt. Thompson, and on up the Waikawa River to its junction*with the Panatewaewae Stream. No bridge remains there now, so we will have to await a future trip to find out what lies beyond the crossing. (ie a track leading up a steep ridge then along to pt. 939 (Waetewaewae), and also an old road/track upstream to an abandoned mill or mine site.

Altogether, it was a satisfying 5hr. day.

My thanks to the group for their cheerful company, the back markers for keeping us from getting too far apart, and also to driver Dave who fetched the bus back up to the roadend to save us another 1/2 hr walkout.

Square Knob Exploration

9 September

By Tony Gates

Between terrible weather and mega floods, 16 Thursday trampers grabbed a few sunny Tararua hours exploring the Square Knob area of the Ohau catchment, in from Levin. Despite much of the area being logged many years ago, the regrowth forest was looking good, and provided relatively easy tramping. There were many tracks throughout, and we encountered few obstacles with Royce and Merv on their GPS's, Milo sniffing the ground, and Royce's Orienteering friend Russell Highman (Red Kiwi Orienteering Club) showing us the way. Of course we had to pause here and there to note the tracks (and side tracks), and to check our route. On the summit track of Square Knob, the threat of rain came to nought as we scoffed a quick lunch, then checked out the views. Poor weather from the south east gave us sunshine where we were in the western Tararuas, so we could see much of the Ohau, Mangahao, and upper Otaki valleys. Tawirikohukohu looked tantalisingly close. We all wanted to explore deeper into the Tararuas- that was saved for another day.

Pohehe – Tararua

12 September

By David Harrington

We arrived on Carringtons property, parking a few hundred meters up their cattle race off the Mangaraupia Road as arranged with them. The weather had been raining but now mildly overcast as we set out. We followed the farm track up the Mangaraupia Stream valley, with it being very sodden underfoot, until we reached the old sawmill site. We then climbed NW following cattle tracks through the very scrubby farmland to the bush-edge where, to our delight found a steel stake followed by pink tape heading deeper into the bush in our direction of travel. We followed a good marked and cut track all the way up the leading spur to within 10m below Pohehe from where it swung around to the NW and continued sidling just below the leatherwood covered tops. Unfortunately we weren't planning on going that way so left the track there and popped up into a small clearing on Pohehe itself and were greeted with grand views all around with leatherwood on three sides of us.

We dropped back into the bush and sidled SW just below the leatherwood and although we had a couple of small tongues of leatherwood to scramble and zigzag through the travel was good albeit very wet and slippery underfoot. By the time we arrived at spot 669 for lunch the weather had turned, the mist was closing in and the wind picking up.



ANDREW BRODIE | Waikawa River where it meets the Panetewaewae

It was a quick lunch before the rain started in earnest. Parka's were donned before we started the descent ESE down a leading spur following a reasonably well padded track. It appeared to have been a lightly cut track at some stage but now overgrown and no markers however the travel was good. At contour 500m we took a side spur to the east and down through supplejack to the farmland and back to the farm track. The weather by this stage had cleared with the sun shining by the time we arrived back at the ute. It was an early finish with plenty of daylight to wash all the mud off boots and packs when we got home. We were David and Deb Harrington

Roaring Stag Lodge

16 September

By Hugh Wilde

Twelve of us ventured out this day, to walk to Roaring Stag Lodge. Despite the forecasted rain, we thought the two stream crossings near the hut would be OK, and they were. Enroute, we had had to deviate via Pahiatua owing to a washout on the Mangamaire road, inflating the fare by one dollar. However, there were no other slips or washouts despite the bad weather over the past few days.

It took us about 3 hrs 20 min. to reach the hut although a couple of us opted for Herepai Hut instead. Raincoats went on mid morning and for most, weren't removed until the end of the day. Although the two streams near the hut were running a bit higher than normal they were no trouble to cross and I even managed to keep one dry foot.

After a short lunch stop we began our return trip and reached the signpost at the top of the hill in slightly less than one and one half hours, the same time it took us to walk this stretch earlier. The track from the top down to the bridge, and by now extremely wet, took us 40 minutes. After another half hour we were back at the van and by 5.45 were again back in Palmerston North.

Participants were Carolyn, Gordon, Keith, Ann, John, Graham, Jill & Nigel, Judy, Alan, Paul & Mila, and Hugh.

Blue Range Hut Loop

19 September

By Adam Matich

Kiriwhakapapa road end: We headed through the Redwoods on the Blue Range Hut track and instead of following said track when it seriously headed off up the hill, we continued north along what appeared to be a logging track. Not long thereafter we headed east across Reef Creek and climbed up onto a farm track. The track soon ran out and we continued through the forest up



RUSSEL HIGHAM | Square Knob, Thursday Trampers

towards Rovers Hill. The forest was very friendly and the travel easy-going. Not far below the peak of Rovers Hill old track markers made it obvious that we were on an old track system. From Rovers Hill there were sparsely-marked trails heading NE and also north to bump 810. We headed to 810 and then NW to pick up Blue Range just south of bump 927. From then on, we had a more-or-less straight route SW along Blue Range to drop onto the Blue Range Track about ten minutes away from the hut (4 hr), where we had a late lunch, before heading back out by the conventional route. As per usual the untracked wilderness was not quite so wild and not quite so untracked! We were Jenny McCarthy, Jean Garman, and Adam Matich

Rangiwahia DOC Scenic Reserves

23 September

By Graham Pritchard

The strong chilling southerly winds, frequent squally showers and snow to low levels did not encourage venturing to the Rangiwahia tops so instead we decided to use the opportunity to explore some areas of bush that we always bypass on our way through Rangiwahia Village without realizing just what gems lie hidden not far off the road. These are three DOC scenic reserves, the large 100acre or more Rangiwahia Reserve on the eastern side of the road, the much smaller Kaikawaka Reserve on the western side near the cemetery and Pemberton Reserve about 5 minutes drive after passing the junction where the Renfrew Road leads off to Rangiwahia Track. These are all stands of very old mixed podocarp/broadleaf forest that were set aside as reserves at the time of settlement around 1860 which remained relatively undisturbed since (although we found that some cattle were now straying into the Rangiwahia Reserve despite being fenced). Access into these previously largely untracked stands has been facilitated by the efforts of Ian Ritchie of Cheltenham who has marked trails through all three reserves using the familiar Venetian blind markers. They are routes rather than well-trodden tracks but we had no difficulty in following them. Thank you Ian.

TRIP REPORTS

Twenty one trampers, including a clutch of several geo cache seekers, explored all three reserves. They are well worth a visit. The Rangiwahia Reserve in particular has magnificent stands of very old rimu, some kahikatea, miro and matai as well as old broadleaf species such as many really large hinau and the occasional maire. Prominent in the subcanopy layer were numerous wheki ponga (*Dicksonia fibrosa*) with their thick, fibrous trunks – not something we commonly see on our usual tramps in the ranges. Apart from the very waterlogged access paper road (Mangoira Rd), the condition of the track was surprising good, reflecting the very sparse human traffic. Towards the end of the marked track the route climbs into red beech forest on an exposed ridge – a stark contrast to the lush undergrowth of the podocarp forest. We spent two hours in this reserve and the GPS trace of our route (thanks to Merv Matthews) revealed that we had only traversed about one third of the area. It is not a piece of bush to be hurried through! The much smaller Kaikawaka Reserve (almost opposite the Rangiwahia Reserve) had a different character – more kahikatea and numerous old fuchsia trees. The Pemberton Reserve is different again with more red beech and young regenerating stands of rimu. And the geochachers had a field day finding all three caches. Highly recommended but wait till the access road dries out a bit.

High Ridge to Totara Flats

25-26 September

By Adam Matich

An early start from Holdsworth road end saw us taking a leisurely three-hour climb up to Powell Hut for an early lunch. Above the bush line, the wind was unpleasant but not anywhere near as bad as expected, and so we climbed to the intersection and made our way down onto High Ridge. 45 minutes from Powell Hut saw us in the trees. High Ridge extends for a long distance without losing much altitude and sports some extremely gobliny forest, which provides welcome shelter from the wind. There is for the most part, a ground-trail, but with very few markers at the top end. Fortunately, the upper ridge is well defined and is easy to follow without their aid. On the flatter sections track markers were more numerous, but some attention to the ground-trail, and to locating track markers, was necessary in order for us to avoid a couple of wrong turns. Not far beyond Flaxy Knob, where we had a sharp left turn followed by a little bit of track-finding angst, the track marking improved significantly. In recent years, someone has put in quite a lot of new markers especially for us. The very lowest section of the ridge has given route-finding trouble in the past, but now it is much easier to find the way down to the bridge across the Waiohine River.

We reached Totara Flats Hut 4-hours from Powell Hut. The easy-medium group had arrived 30 minutes before us and saved us some sleeping space, although it was not yet necessary. The number of people in the hut didn't pile up to a maximum of around 35, or so, for at least another hour. Fortunately, the bunk rooms had stout doors that could be closed to keep out the noise and plenty of windows for ventilation, so us oldies were able to go to bed early. The wind seriously waxed during the night and so on our way back up to Pig Flats the next morning, the trees were thrashing around madly. Fortunately, DoC seems to have done some work on the swing-bridge, again for us of course, and so the wind funnelling down the river didn't make the crossing as exciting as it has been in the past. The High Ridge route makes for a good loop through Totara Flats Hut, for those who don't want to go in and out the same way, and who enjoy some proper Taranaki goblin forest. Hopefully, over the coming years, people who are more industrious than us will keep up with the track marking so it remains a viable proposition. We were Jean Garman, Jenny McCarthy and Adam Matich



ADAM MATICH | Left: Jenny & Jean climbing towards High Ridge. Right: entering the Goblin Forest on High Ridge



CLUB INFORMATION

Annual Hut Passes

Buy your Annual Hut Pass through DoC. The full price of an Annual Hut Pass is \$120 but is reduced to \$84 with your Federated Mountain Club (FMC) card discount. For further information or for the forms to complete contact Jean at jeanandivan@value.net.nz or phone (06) 354 3536.

Accommodation at the MTSC lodge on Mount Ruapehu

The lodge is close to Iwikau Village, has mains power, heating, hot showers and is well stocked with food. Members and their guests are welcome. (Lodge phone number is (07) 892 3860).

Lodge bookings should be emailed to Liz and Hugh Wilde lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz. If for some reason you cannot email, please phone 06 356 9450. To confirm your booking, payment must be made in advance by cheque, or cash (in person) to 179 Cook St, Palmerston North 4410. Internet payment is not available for lodge fees.

	Members	Guests
Adult	\$25	\$38
Secondary School	\$22	\$35
Primary School	\$19	\$30
Pre-school (3-5 yo)	\$10	\$10

Club Equipment

We have two personal locator beacons (PLB), packs, 2 and 3 person tents, fly-sheets, snow mats, sleeping bag cover, gas cookers, size 8 and 9 boots, billies, two bivvy bags and two big tent flies. Ice axes, crampons, and helmets are also available. Food Dehydrator: ideal for drying large and small quantities of fruit, vegetables, and meat for tramping rips. Easy to use, works well, and is available for hire from the Gear Custodian. Hire cost for members, \$1 per day (no charge for PLB). Contact the Gear Custodian: Peter Rawlins on (06) 356 7443.

Club website | www.mtsc.org.nz

This includes a list of contact details and a club email address. The club webpage is maintained by Howard Nicholson and is kindly hosted by InSPire Net.

People to Contact

If you would like to contact the club with general inquiries, please drop a line to MTSC, P.O. B ox 245, Palmerston North and it will reach the appropriate person. If you want a particular topic discussed at Committee meetings, this is a good way to go about it.



Booking and use of the MTSC Transit Van

The normal run-of-the-mill things you need to do if using the Transit Van are:

1. Book preferably by Thursday, and certainly no later than 6 pm Friday.
2. Cancel bookings by these times so others needing the van have time to amend travel arrangements.
3. A fly should be carried on every tramp, there is always one in the passenger door of the club van and they are available from the Gear Custodian at no charge. There is a Personal Locator Beacon, in the glove box, for people using the van to take with them.

Trip leaders and those planning trips should use this club asset. Adam Matich is our minibus custodian and he can be contacted at (06) 359 2796 or at work (06) 953 7679.

MTSC 2010-11 Committee

President	Ken Mercer	06 356 7497 president@mtsc.org.nz
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