



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

1 March 2011 | 5 April 2011

New Members

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 would 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.

The deadline for newsletter contributions is the end of the 1st week 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.

WINTER TRIPCARD MEETING

For all those interested in taking a trip from April – there shall be a meeting to put the new tripcard together on Tuesday 15th March 7pm at the Rose and Crown. Kim would like to have the card passed around as best as possible between now & then so people can see/ add trips to it between now & the 15th. Kim understands it may be hard to get the tripcard to everyone, so please get your ideas to her in any way possible so she can ensure it is added to the calendar. At the tripcard meeting we can add/ change trips etc. Three things Kim would like to achieve in the new card: **1)** have trips of every grade every month, **2)** to have easy weekend or Sunday trips following the club night & **3)** double up transport & maybe get trips of multiple grades going to the same area. This will require communication & planning but we can do it!! Any problems/questions let her know ph: 06 355 5496 (or email) - skiers & mountain bikers: we also need your trips.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Thanks to the Police & LandSAR I recently participated in a river crossing course & discovered that a lot has changed since my 1983 copy of "Bushcraft" was written (so we've just bought a new one!) The book devotes 20 something pages to the topic so I'm not going to attempt to condense it into a few words here.

However, I thought highlighting several changes would be useful. The most significant is that the pack's hipbelt should be left fastened. I'd never been comfortable with the old philosophy which was based on a quick jettison but it is considered much more important to keep the pack, with its attendant buoyancy, firmly attached to one's back. The chest strap should be undone & shoulder straps loosened though.

If it all turns to custard I was surprised to learn that floating headfirst on one's back downstream is recommended. In the past I've swum significant rapids when my kayaking skills let me down, so head first seemed all wrong but it is much safer from the leg entrapment point of view & one's pack provides good head & back protection.

Mutual support with a pole or a log is now discouraged as there have been accidents where the pole has broken & people are very dependent on their own strength to keep with the group. In the Otaki River we practiced crossing with linked arms as well as floating as a group, still linked.

Rivers at normal flow have a sequence of rapids separated by calm pools so getting swept down into a pool might be survivable. Inevitable it is when flooded that the decision to cross becomes important & more difficult. Last summer, on the bank of the Hopeless River, in Nelson Lakes, I was pleased to be carrying a tent so the decision was easy. We camped!

Social Convenor Reminder:

Tony Gates is a self confessed old Tararua/ Ruahine bushman, with a long history of exploring some of those secret and hidden scenic gems of the Tararuas and Ruahines. Some of these places are closer to the road end or the hut than you might think. He would like to share with you a few tales of tramping (and grovelling) around some of these favourite places.

"Umm, the ski season is still closed right now" – ed. Handy hint: season ticket sales will be commencing in April for Ruapehu & South Island fields. Rob probably knows all about this if you are interested.

CHIEF GUIDE'S REPORT

OK so our new newsletter Hitler guilt tripped me into actually doing a chief guide report. I hope everyone had a safe & tramping filled Christmas & New Years and Santa delivered plenty of toys to play with in the hills (yes I'm aware that everyone got over Christmas long ago but unfortunately this year has gone so fast I'm sure Christmas was only last week). So anyway it's back to the grindstone & yes its trip card time again. This year we're trying something slightly different & I've reserved the weekends after the clubnight for easy trips & we NEED leaders please, & that goes for all other grade trips as well. We need trips of all grades & activities every month and if someone has a great idea for a non tramping activity that the club may be interested in then put it on the card!! Trip card meeting is on the 15th March at the Rose and Crown, meet slightly earlier for dinner. Everyone welcome. It would be great to get as many ideas for trips (& trips) before this date so we can arrange the tripcard or dream up more trips so come along even if you don't wish to run a trip, ideas are most welcome & remember this is your club & without your ideas it can't be awesome!!! Ed: "must get a 'tache" ;-)





CLUB NIGHTS & NOTICES

Roaring Stag/Cattle Ridge, 4-6 March Easy/Medium

The plan is to walk in to Roaring Stag hut on Friday evening. On Saturday we will take lighter packs up to Cattle Ridge hut and explore the ridge. Those that just want to relax at Roaring Stag hut on Saturday can do so. We will walk out on Sunday morning so will be home early. Royce Mills 355 8556 or 021 055 2527

Did you know...?

A longstanding member of the club who is VERY familiar with the Manawatu Gorge is Dave Newstead. He has indicated that he is happy to go along with others who can't make a full day of things or just want a few hours walk. He can be contacted via a committee member.

Limited edition, "soon to be retro" FMC Pack Liners available:

When this opportunity came up, we couldn't help ourselves. Pack liners cheaper than the PNCC sells rubbish bags for!!! Editor Tim Tyler has jumped in on behalf of the club to secure a batch from the FMC. For MTSC members, they are a storming 50 cents a pop, non-members will need to stump up two dollars, with the difference going to buy peanut butter for the mustelids of the Oroua Valley... lucky little devils!

Given the day spent by a number of us with LandSAR practising the new river crossing techniques, these puppies would have come in handy. But it isn't too late to assure dry kit at the end of a winter's day tramping for a fraction of the cost of a latte! Email Tim now to arrange your deal.

BE PREPARED - PACK A TORCH – by Tim Swale

At the risk of stating the obvious for the many Club members who have been tramping for years & always take a torch even on day trips, I thought it would be worth recounting the events of a busy night for the local Search & Rescue group in early January.

On 3rd January a call went out to assist a lone trumper who had gone up the Sledge Track to the Platinum mines & phoned in to say he had lost his way. A helicopter had been put up while it was still light but could not locate him because of low cloud. Ground teams were then deployed, some walking up the Sledge Track & others converging on the Platinum Mines area from Greens Road at the top of the Tararuas. Unfortunately our lost trumper was not prepared for a night out & did not have a torch. His phone also stopped working. Searchers were therefore relying on sound to locate him in the thick bush & low cloud. Continued on page 5.

Coppermine-Wharite ridge view. T.Tyler

A familiar vista of clouds all but covering the peaks of the Ruahines last December - you never know when it will clag in & rain – therefore necessitating a cool green 50c retro FMC pack liner...



The Animal Health Board advises that there will be aerial TB operations in the Western Tararuas from 1 May 2011.



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.

2 (Wed) Linda Darbyshire	354 6171
3 (Thu) Gordon Clark	359 2500
5-6 Atiwhakatu Strm-Mitre Flats – Waingawa Loop Adam Matich	Med/Fit 359 2796
5-6 Roaring Stag/Cattle Ridge Royce Mills - preview on pg10	Easy/Med 355 8556
9 (Wed) Mike Oliver	355 5320
10 (Thu) Ann Green	(06)374 5208
12-13 Snowy River Kim Fraser	Fit 355 5496
12-13 Herepai Hut John Doolan	Easy/Med 027 468 740
16 (Wed) Pam Wilson	357 6247
17 (Thu) Merv Matthews	357 2858

19-20 Purity Hut Dave Newstead	Medium 027 457 6175
23 (Wed) Dave Pollard	329 6051
24 (Thu) Carolyn Brodie	358 6576
26-27 Irongates/Longview loop Dave Mitchell	Med 329 2803
27 (Sun only) Sunrise & Beyond Dave Newstead - preview on pg10	Easy/Med 027 457 6175
30 (Wed) Pauline Hall	329 7707
31 (Thu) Graham Pritchard	357 1393

Seaweek is running from February 26th to 6 March, DoC, Forest & Bird and PN City Library are holding events to mark it, so check them out.

Please note – leaders depend on having accurate knowledge of the capability of and any special needs of trip participants. Please ensure you prepare accordingly to minimize any potential risk to yourself or others.



...cont from pg 3. In the meantime, at about 10pm another request for help came in from a family group who were walking from the Burton's Track & coming down the Tokomaru River. They had set out in the morning & the walk had taken much longer than they had expected. Nobody had a torch, the children were exhausted & it was looking as though they were going to be stuck out all night without any shelter. In failing light the father decided to leave his wife & three children on the river bank & travel as fast as he could & try to get help. With the Platinum Mine search in full swing & many SAR members away on holiday, there were not that many people available. However, Nicole Brooke, Kim Blanchard & I went up to Horseshoe Bend near Tokomaru & walked up the river looking for the stranded family. Fortunately it turned out to be a quick & easy task & despite having to wade through & scramble around many deep pools, in little over an hour we had made contact with our lost party. With plenty of light we were able to walk them back out to the road end by 2-30am. They were a lovely family & we were all very happy to help them out. However, if they had had torches, there would not have been a problem.

On the way back to Palmy we were told that the cloud had cleared & that a helicopter was to be put up to do an air search for our missing trumper. Would we go to the helicopter hanger & help as observers ? Still dripping wet from our trip up the river we were strapped in to the helicopter & were soon circling over the Tararuas. With four ground teams combing the area, there were little lights everywhere. A radio request for the search teams to turn off their lights left just one light down there in the bush. The helicopter closed in & pinpointed someone with the "Night-sun" lamp. He sat under a tree for a while then took off down a spur & along a creek at great speed. Not sure what he was doing but obviously not our man. Our lost party would surely have been watching the helicopter go round. If he had had a torch he could have signalled to us, we would have fixed his position with the GPS & had a ground team with him in a very short time. We returned to base as it was coming light & the ground search went on. At about 5pm a phone call came in from Marima near Pahiatua – our trumper had made it out to farm & on the other side of the Ranges.

So the moral of the story is, don't assume that your easy day walk will always go according to plan. Take a bit of extra gear – just in case. A tent fly or tarp, warm clothes & some extra food all help. Modern LED torches are cheap, weigh virtually nothing & can make the difference between being a bit late back & having to spend a cold night in the bush.

TRIP REPORTS

Heritage Hut/Oroua Flats & Iron Gate Track, Wednesday 2nd February, by John Ridge

Twenty-one members signed up for February's first Wednesday tramp. We left PN with low cloud threatening & with drizzle in the air, not at all promising, however by the time we passed through Kimbolton we had left the doubtful weather behind. From the car park at the start of our tramp we had a clear view of Ruapehu. The Heritage Hut track is quite an easy walk passing through farmland & enters the bush after crossing a fantastically curved bridge. There are some steady climbs but nothing steep or too challenging. We re-grouped at the hut & had a short break for morning tea.

Ten to fifteen minutes later we set off towards Iron Gate Hut & soon found more difficult terrain; however climbing the steep hills was in itself enjoyable & we were rewarded by some easy walking through beautiful forest glades & fantastic views of the river below. After roughly two hours since morning tea we reached & crossed Tunupo Stream (the cool water was very refreshing) & shortly after we took a break for lunch. After lunch we made the return journey. Some of our party had taken an early lunch in order to fit in a trip from Heritage Hut down to the Oroua Flats Campsite. This side trip is definitely worth it and you are rewarded with a gorgeous spot right on the edge of the river. Iron Gate Gorge can be reached from here & we may attempt that circular walk in the future. The weather was perfect all day except the strong wind, on more than one occasion a hat was blown off. On our drive home we stopped at Cheltenham Dairy for a well earned ice cream. A worthwhile outing enjoyed by all, thanks to Kelvin our driver, & Patsy & Arthur for taking their cars.

Trip Report: Pisa Range, Central Otago, 22-24 January 2011. By Dave Newstead

This was a trip I'd been dreaming of for so long that I figured that, if I made it a club trip, I couldn't put it off again. So it was that son Peter & his wife, Sonya, took me to the assembly point, a motel in Cromwell on Friday 21st. Chris (Saunders) & Richard Lockett (of PNTMC), who had been poking about Aspiring way arrived half an hour later. Next morning my niece.

Pippa, her man, Brent, & his son, Caleb (15) arrived dead on the appointed time at 07:00. We all piled into Peter's minibus & were at the Queensbury access point to the Pisa DoC lands (about 10 km before Luggate) & on the track by 09:30. (Peter & Sonya then took off to explore the Cromwell & Bannockburn wine country.) We had a 1,200 m climb over 13.5 km of vehicle tracks ahead of us. We started off in grass country, what little the rabbits had left, that is; the place was swarming with them. It was like stories I'd heard of the plagues of the 1920s & 30s. Looking up ahead towards the top of the range the whole landscape was under a yellow-green haze, not the usual distant blue! We were now entering Spaniard country, & found ourselves walking through a sea of the bright yellow, dandelion-like tussock hawkweed (*Hieracium lepidulum*), the source of the yellow green haze. It stretched for miles over the hills (Wordsworth's Windermere daffodils had nothing on this lot).



First drink stop with Spaniard and Hawkweeds . Looking NE over the upper Clutha valley, below Lake Hawea. L to R: Brent, Caleb, Richard, obscuring Pippa, and Chris. Photo D.Newstead.



Camping at Lake McKay by D.Newstead.

No rabbits up here, but lots of moths, of a species (?) DoC say is unique to this area. Then as we reach the 1,444m mark (there is an old trig, "P2" on the 260-series map) we came across some new wild-life – a mountain bike race; must have been over 100 of them, all shapes & ages. We stopped for lunch as they rode by. They'd started from the Snow Farm down in the Cardrona & branched off our route at that point down towards Luggate (a 40 km ride). We were now faced with the steeper part of the climb & behind us were views toward the Lindis & over the upper Clutha valley towards Tarras. We soon passed the last mountain bikers & were on our own, just us, the lizards and the grasshoppers (some of the latter up to 4 cm). We were now on gentler slopes near the top of the range, too

high for Spaniards. Here was sparse tussock and the arid high tundra dotted with clusters of snow gentians (*Gentiana corymbifera*). Then coming over a low tussocky ridge & we arrived in the amphitheatre of rocky bluffs backing Lake McKay (1,700m). It was 16:00. By 17:00 we were comfortably camped on a tussocky, marshy meadow on the shore of the lake. The lake is 200 - 300 m across fed by seepage & a little waterfall behind our camp. The outlet was on the far, side over the rim to the North down into Alice Burn, running down to Luggate. From the camp the view across the lake is due magnetic North, across Lake Hawea & its surrounding mountains, to Mts Giles (2,289m), Strauchon (2,391m) & Huxley (2,505m) half obscured in cloud in the far, far distance. Continued on p7...

...continued from p6. The weather was true to forecast, partly cloudy, calm to light SW breeze, day temperature at that height about 20°C: this held for the three days. Nights were clear, calm & of course, near zero by dawn. At dinner while Richard, Chris & I consumed our yummy Back Country rations (*"is that a plug?"* Ed) Pippa & family astonished us dining on camembert, smoked salmon, & the luxuries of home, no dried food, & Pippa, who travels for a medical supplies firm seemed to have all the first aid gear you could, within reason, possibly want (we didn't need any of it, thank goodness), yet they still seemed to travel light, lighter than me at any rate.



The top of the range. Mt Pisa (1,964 m), centre skyline, Pippa, Chris, Richard. Photo by D.Newstead.

On Sunday, as soon as the sun had dried the dew off the tents we were on the road, now only a 200m climb to Mt Pisa, 3.3km further on. There we (i.e. I) nearly missed our way, but Richard, having diverted a bit to the actual top of Mt Pisa (at 1,964 m, 30m above the road) from where he could see ahead, soon had us on the right way.

The top of the range is a long NE – SW plateau with a sharp escarpment on the SE side above the Clutha Valley, & to the NW gentle ridges & gullies leading down into the Cardrona. Here & there the skyline is broken by great outcrops of schist rocks, as Mt Pisa itself, & on another 4km the Column



Steppe land with rocks, D. Newstead

Rocks(1,901m) was lunchstop that day. From here the landscape broadens, for all the world like a scaled-down version of the Central Asian Steppes, with the barrier of the Remarkables brooding under cloud shadow on the distant horizon. Sometime later found us on the SE edge with a view across to the Southern end of the Dunstan Range & down on the vineyards of Northburn Station & Cromwell town, nestling on the shore of Lake Dunstan. The next crest has us looking down onto a startling green meadow across the shallow saddle which rises up to Mt Dottrel (1,690m). This meadow is the head of the watershed feeding Mitre Creek on the Cardrona side & Low Burn on the Clutha side. The flora here is a rich mix of alpine/sub-alpine plants from short grasses & various scab weeds to the large-flowered mat daisy (*Raoulia grandiflora*) & N.Z. blue bells (*Wahlenbergia sp.*). Round Mt Dottrel we encountered a group of red-billed pied stilts ("oyster catchers"), common residents there, I think. That night we camped snuggled down in the gully beside Mitre Creek (1,480m), arriving there at 16:30 after a 13km march.

Monday morning dawned mildly frosty. The dew-wet tents were packed up & we were on the way at 07:35. Passing the Mitre Rocks (1,454m) we were well on the path down into Spaniard country: so dense were they we were well glad to be on a motor track & not having to pick our way between them. The vineyards of Bannockburn were now in view ahead of us, & the back of the Remarkables & mountains round Wakatipu towards the right, as we intersected the Cardrona – Cromwell Pack Track. Shortly we turned off to the left to descend through the morning mist down the tortuously winding Pack Saddle Spur road Suddenly below the mist, we found ourselves passing lush green grassy slopes, right out of season for this part of the country. They had been freshened by the December rainstorms, the Lowburn Station holder told us later. Another 1.5 hours plod & we emerged on to Swann Road at Lowburn Station, where Sonya & Peter are waiting with the bus. It was 11:30 & the Central Otago summer temperature, ~27° we found rather oppressive after the highlands. So, at last, the dream held since I was Caleb's age, over 50 years ago, realized!



Wednesday trampers at ANMHL in the Oroua Vly. J. Ridge



Shameless poser in Kahurangi N.P.
T.Tyler

Atene Skyline 23rd January by A.Matich

The weather forecast for the weekend was biblical (Genesis, 6-9), so it was thought that Atene Skyline might be best, and ten of us made the 2-hour drive up to the road end on the Wanganui River Road. It was raining before we go to the road and it was still raining when we got back to it again after our tramp. There was surface flooding etc, etc on our drive home, but as per usual the devil looked after his creatures and we didn't have any trouble. Even though it was endlessly wet it was neither cold nor windy, so we managed to avoid being miserable. Our stops at the view points were brief, because the low cloud left the views to our imaginations, which were not very fertile. The shelter was reached in 2-2½ hours and the fast group had a quick lunch and headed off again so as to have time for the 2 km walk along the road to retrieve the van. The second half of the trip took 2-3 hours, so the fast group had plenty of time to sort out the transport. Those of us with aged rain coats (>5 years) were soaked by then, but the prospect of being warm and dry later made it of no account. We were Brian Webster, Gary Bevins, Kim Fraser, Bev Akers, Pam Dransfield, Jean Garman, Ivan Rienks, Janet and Dave Allan, and Adam Matich.



Tim Swale taking photos of Mt.Tiraha, Sawtooth ridge in background. A.Matich



Mt Dagg Loop 6th February

It was raining in the northern Wairarapa, but a little bit north of Mt Bruce we crossed over the Woodville-bad-weather-boundary into a bright sunny day. It was windy at the Mikimiki Rd end, but given how hot it was, more wind would have been better. The cicadas were deafening as we made our way past the old tree nursery site to reach the new bridge DoC have built across a side stream. After the second bridge crossing we turned left onto the old logging track that follows SW along the stream. Some care is necessary in order to find the first stream confluence. The unobservant may take the wrong fork & head NE, along the wrong logging trail, up towards Blue Range. Near the forks we crossed over onto the true right and continued SSW along the remnant logging track. Only one other stream intersection is shown on the map, but there are others. We turned left every time and made some effort to stay either on the track or in the stream. Eventually the track faded and we stayed with the stream until somewhere around 500 m we got a little bored and decided to climb directly east up a forested slope, in the hope of some entertainment. It was not challenging and so we had a solid but unencumbered climb onto the spur at around 640m. Unfortunately, we were sheltered from the wind and so it was stinking hot. We followed this spur south, along a reasonably modern fence-line to end up on an open high point just west of Dagg. After climbing over the "live", and playful boundary fence we followed the bulldozed track up and around to the site of Dagg Hut. It was an excellent shady spot, for lunch, with views of the Wairarapa and the thick forest behind sheltered us from the strong westerly winds. From then on, we headed down the bulldozed tracks in a northerly direction. Some attention was necessary in order to find the sharp left hand turn that leads down to the two stream crossings, before the very hot climb up to just beyond bump 600. The after lunch section of the route could have been dire, as in places there has been quite a lot of re-growth. Fortunately, someone is keeping the route open. This is particularly important with the descent north off 600, as this face has quite a lot of blackberry. Given how hot the day had been, we were glad that it was only 4 ½ hours long.

We were Jean Garman and Adam Matich



Jean making sure we are still headed for Mt Dagg. A.Matich



Kim heading down Waitatapia Stm. A.Matich



Tim Swale, Greg & Ken dropping off Ohuinga. A.Matich



Waitatapia Stream 30th January

After a fruitless search for the geo cache, at the bridge across the Waiotauru River, we headed along the Waitewaewae track to be delayed by another fruitless geo cache search at the NE end of the Otaki River Bridge. Not a good start! Fortunately, we weren't aware of any other time wasters along this route and so headed on our way to lunch at the boiler (1½ hr). The big slip that the track climbs around has maintained its ambitions and is imperiling the track yet again. Five minutes after the boiler we dropped into Saddle Creek, but headed down-stream instead of the conventional upstream route. Ten minutes of uncertain rock-hopping saw us in Waitatapia Stream, a rather friendly water course. Travel was easy and after about 90 minutes of downstream travel we dropped into the Otaki River. Our one crossing of the river, just below Otaki Forks, required some care, but from then on we had an easy walk up the less serious Waiotauru River to the road end (4 hr day), where we finally managed to score a geo cache in the overnight car park. Yippee!



Tim Swale & Murray at N end of Sawtooth on Ohuinga.

Trip Preview: Sunrise Hut, Sunday 27 March, Family Easy David Newstead: phone 027 4576175

The original Trip Card listing for this trip had it as, "Sunrise and beyond", a two day, led by Linda Campbell. Linda will not be able to take it now, so I shall take a one-day, on Sunday 27th March, in its place. Sunrise is in the Eastern Ruahines; it's a good track, not a long route, and makes a good trip for beginners and families. I would aim to leave from the Palmerston North police station (Church St) at 08:00.

Roaring Stag/Cattle Ridge 4-6 March Easy/Medium

The plan is to walk in to Roaring Stag hut on Friday evening. On Saturday we will take lighter packs up to Cattle Ridge hut & explore the ridge. Those that just want to relax at Roaring Stag hut on Saturday can do so. We will walk out on Sunday morning so will be home early.

Royce Mills 355 8556 or 021 055 2527

CHINA AND TIGER LEAPING GORGE talk preview

Tim Swale recently spent some time in China. As part of his trip he visited the beautiful Tiger Leaping Gorge which is a canyon on the Yangtze River located 60 km north of Lijiang City, Yunnan in southwestern China. It is said to be one of the deepest gorges in the world & one of the finest treks through some of the most naturally beautiful and diverse landscapes China has to offer. The walking trail runs high on the northern side of the gorge passing through quiet villages, shady forest, blustery precipice & verdant terraced farmland. The snow covered peaks of Jade Dragon Snow Mountain (5596m) and Snow Mountain (5396m) shadow either side of the gorge. Tim has beautiful photos & great stories of that area of China to share.



Arty Hidden Lake Edge & a Brown Trout (location reference deleted!) by T.Tyler, who was remonstrated with for being too shy to include his own photos by a recent trip leader. Fair 'nuff, I'm pleased to share them.



Wednesday trampers on Hapuawhenua Viaduct, Old Coach Rd, Ohakune



Bush edge on Mt Arthur
Tablelands, T.Tyler.



A view from Mt Dagg: cloud-encroached Mitre & the peaks south of it over the top of the Forested Blue Range. By A.Match



1st correct guess wins a packliner!

Email the editor with the hut name.



CLUB INFORMATION

Annual Hut Passes

Buy your Annual Hut Pass through DoC. The full price of an Annual Hut Pass is now \$122.60 but is reduced to \$85.60 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	\$26	\$39
Secondary School	\$23	\$36
Primary School	\$20	\$31
Pre-school (3-5 yo)	\$11	\$11

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.

A final note – congratulations to Paul Carroll who was married in January, he continues to enjoy Thursday walks & can share some great photos of the occasion.

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.

MTSC 2010-11 Committee

President	Ken Mercer	06 356 7497 president@mtsc.org.nz
Secretary	Tim Swale	06 376 6556
Treasurer	Christine Scott	06 354 0510 treasurer@mtsc.org.nz
Chief Guide	Kim Fraser	06 355 5496
Day Trip Convenor	Bev Akers	06 325 8879
Membership Sec.	Jenny McCarthy	06 376 8838 membership@mtsc.org.nz
Newsletter Editor	Tim Tyler	06 356 6008 editor@mtsc.org.nz
Social Convenor	Lynda Campbell	06 323 3836
Ski Captain	Rob Pringle	06 354 0218
Lodge Manager	Ryan Badger	027445 997
Lodge Bookings	Hugh & Liz Wilde	06 356 9450
Mini-Bus Custodian	Adam Matich	06 359 2796
General Committee	David Newstead	0274576175
	Hillary Hurst	021343451
	Howard Nicholson	06 357 6325