

UPCOMING CLUB NIGHTS – DETAILS ON PAGES 2 & 3

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

03 MAY 2011 | 06 JUNE 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 1st week of the month. Please include a date with trip reports & images. Photos are appreciated, and will be included where possible – remember to include an appropriate caption for the photo, including names of people.



Jenny and Jean on Marquee with the inhospitable Camelhead in the centre distance.



Manawatu Gorge mushrooms

COMMITTEE REPORTS


PRESIDENT'S REPORT
KEN MERCER
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SKI CAPTAIN
ROB PRINGLE
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President Ken's column has sadly disappeared this issue – I am not sure why, but I hope he isn't in the Middle East on a re-election fact finding mission. This brings to mind that an upcoming AGM (& election) can't be too far off...**17 May** in fact...

Anyway, with the weather turning, it is time to have a rustle down the back of the wardrobe for the polypro/fleece/woolies/silk, check the weather forecast more carefully & make sure you keep your kit dry with a funky retro green FMC pack liner or 2 – available from the Editor...

Chief Guide's Report:

The winter trip card is done & will be in your hands very soon. A big thank you to all those people volunteering to take trips. Hopefully we all have a perfect tramping winter. Remember winter means that the weather can be just as changeable if not worse than the rest of the year, so make sure you plan your trips thoroughly. Check the weather & make a backup plan in case things go pear shaped. Enjoy!! Kim.

Greetings to all, the ski season is nearly upon us for another year, as was pointed out to me by a couple of weather watchers who receive the same weather forecasts & subscribe to the theory of the southern hemisphere snow following the northern. They were quite traumatised by my omission to mention the record snow falls received by our counterparts, so to those who brought it to my attention, it has been mentioned & hopefully our season shall follow suit. As part of our pre season warm-ups, the food carry will be undertaken on the weekend of the 10/ 11 June with the pre season feast being held on that Saturday night, interest has already been registered so if you're keen, get in early. The weekend involves carrying the bulk of the lodge food stores for winter from the car park at the top of the Bruce. There are also some minor maintenance works to be done around the lodge as well to make sure we're ready for the coming winter. By the time this goes to print, pre-season-pass sales will have been completed, it is however worth noting that all those still with an interest in obtaining a life pass, these are still for sale, just not advertised publicly, please contact RAL direct for up to date pricing on these. Works to the new café have largely been completed as well as some significant landscaping to the terrain around it, can't wait to get up & see it! Will see you all up there in due course.

CLUB NIGHTS & NOTICES

May 3 - Forever Wild? Our Conservation Lands in the 21st century.

Richard Davies, President of the Federated Mountain Clubs will speak about the big issues facing our conservation lands, and our ability to keep enjoying them. The talk will be illustrated with photos from Richard's trips around New Zealand.

Richard has been on the FMC Executive since 2008 & President since 2010. He is also an active trumper with the VUWTC & friends from his university days. He has been charging around the hills for the last 12 or so years, & also writes a few articles for Wilderness magazine.

Wilderness Back Issue Collection - free to

good home: Kim has an extensive back issue collection available to a good home willing to collect the lot as she is moving & has to make the space. Please contact our generous Chief Guide directly.



Jean, David & Jenny heading toward Camelhead. A Match



Mystery fungi on Tunupo track. Image A.Brodie

The first person to email the Editor with the name of this beast on Mt Tunupo will earn themselves a limited edition green FMC pack liner & kudos in the next issue!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Tuesday 17 MAY

It is that time of the year again – the Annual General Meeting will be held on 17 May. A booklet of our reports & a financial statement is currently being prepared & will be available in early May for current financial members.

Welcome to New Member Jill Ussher

Jill recently took the plunge & “joined up”. Please join me in welcoming her to the club – I am certain she will enjoy the opportunities now presented! Jenny the Membership supremo & Tim the Editor.

Easter weather helps forthcoming sales of retro green FMC pack liners???

Tim Tyler, the Editor, is on a mission to help keep kit dry... he will be at the next meeting with these.

JUNE CLUB NIGHT - NEPAL & EVEREST BASE CAMP

Darlene Westrupp and Ann Young

In late September last year Ann Young, owner of the company "Trekking for Women", and long time member of MTSC, led a trip to Nepal and Everest Base Camp. Darlene Westrupp was one of the group of five women who made the journey. Darlene is looking forward to sharing her experiences and photos of the trip with you.

Latest issue of the quarterly FMC newsletter available:

Of particular interest to our members is the note in it containing detail on updated Ruahine Ranges maps. Anyone thinking of or about to buy the ones affected will no doubt be keen to find out more, as perhaps will several members who have, um, contributed on National Radio to hasten the updating perchanche!?!

<http://www.fmc.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/Newsletter/Club1104.pdf>

If you are reading the electronic version, press Ctrl+Click to follow the link above, otherwise you can type in the address using your digital interface tools (ie; fingers).

UPCOMING TRIPS

Ratapu Preview: 29 May (fit).

From Mangaroa Rd cross farmland & up a good bush spur to spot 669. SW along ridge to Ratapu (bit of leatherwood here) & continue on down to shallow saddle. Will follow track down spur & back to road. If time allows may check out a track down to the Ngapuketuru Stream. Contact Dave Harrington.

Midweek trips:

The list of midweek trip leaders usually included is missing from this issue but will be back in the June one. In the meantime, please contact the midweek trip convenor, Bev Akers (or one of the usual suspects). At the time of going to press, the usual departure times for each have not changed – Wednesday 0800, Thursday 0730 from outside the Rose & Crown, Terrace End.

PREVIEW	Carrington	Ridge	Loop
Medium	Adam Matich	359-2796	

This not very long day trip will start from the Holdsworth road end from where we will head up the Mt Holdsworth track to the Totara Flats track junction. We will leave the main track & back-track along the old track to the top of Carrington Ridge. We will follow the well-marked trail down Carrington Ridge to 640 m ASL, where there is a track junction & we will hook a left to drop into Gentle Annie Saddle for lunch (2 ½ hours). Normally, what would happen after lunch is that we would climb out the other side of the saddle to 670 & out through the Forest Lookout, & people are welcome to do so if they wish. What I intend to do is take the briefer, & new route (for me anyway) out by dropping directly from the saddle into Gentle Annie Creek & following it out, if indeed that is possible. I would expect it to take only an hour or so!

Rangiwahia Hut & Beyond Preview

May 7/8 – Easy

Exactly where we go will be weather dependent but the general plan is to wander up to Rangiwahia Hut on Saturday (2-3 hours). Part way along there is a short, steepish 30-40 minute detour around an active slip. The detour comes out just before the beautiful arched wooden bridge crossing the Mangahua Stream. The track then heads to Rangiwahia Hut.

On Sunday we will head, weather permitting, along Deadmans Track by following the track up the tussock ridge on to the tops of the Whanahua Range. We will then head south to the Mangahua Trig on the return trip to the car park. (5-6 hours). Leader is Linda Campbell.



Some of the Thursday crew at Zeke's Hut, Hihitahi Reserve. Report was in the April edition.

Weekend Trips in May:

1(Sun)Carrington Ridge Loop M	Adam Matich	3592796
7-8 Rangiwahia Hut E	Linda Campbell	027 3334493
14-15 Smith Stream/Hinerua	M/F Kim Fraser	3555496
14-15 Waipawa Hut E	Dave Newstead	027 4576175
21-22 Neil Forks Hut M/F	Jenny McCarthy	3768838
28-29 Roaring Stag Hut E	Tim Swale	3766556
29(Sun) Ratapu/Kapakapanui M/F		
	Dave Harrington	06 8395766
	Hugh Wilde	3569450

TRIP REPORTS

Wednesday 30 March 2011

Branch Road Pohangina by Pauline Hall

On a lovely summer day 26 trampers met at Terrace End. It took a bit of manoeuvring transport with a full bus & 3 cars. Thanks to the kind volunteers who offered their vehicles. We met another 4 trampers from Feilding at Branch Rd, making a total of 30.

In perfect conditions we trudged up the hill (or was that me) some actually had the energy to talk. We stopped at the bird viewing seat & had a bite to eat. After mother hen counted her chickens we were on our way. There were lovely lookouts over the surrounding countryside & to the Ruahine Ranges. The track followed farmland most of the way. Some chicks went astray but thanks to Dave, John, Sue & Arthur who managed to rein them in. Sue went into "rescue mode" & it was comforting to see her in action.

At the top of the track which was 340m above sea level, we had lunch. We were entertained by a helicopter spraying, thank goodness not on a rescue mission. On our way home we called a "Fusion" in Ashhurst for refreshments. They coped admirably with 30 orders. Thanks to Mike for driving the van, Bev for steering mid-field & Linda for cellphone communications. A great day was had by all & we were home early.



It is mushroom season right now. Image K.McNicoll.

Wednesday trampers, 23 March

Eight of us drove up Takapari Rd to the start of the road to the A Frame hut just above the landing strip. Prior to crossing the fence we pushed the van off damp grass onto the road to ensure we could get back out if we had run out of puff by that time!

Although the road has been somewhat upgraded since the last time I was there, (it was a deeply rutted mess) it's still quite a steep climb for the first hour or so. We stopped at the top - or so we thought - for a cuppa & then continued on, ever upwards.

The intention for the day was to get to the hut, weather permitting. However, after about two & a half hours we reached the lookout over the lower Hawke's Bay, only by then the weather had clagged in & all we could see for the cloud was each other. & it had also started to drizzle in an almost horizontal easterly direction, so a decision was made that there was nothing to be gained in going on to the hut, other than maybe learning to battle the elements. So it was lunch by the side of the road.

What a change of weather on the return journey. Within 20 minutes we had left the easterly behind on the ridge & were starting to strip off coats & gloves etc. & as you can imagine we were loping along at a great pace, particularly when we got to the downhill, which is about half the walk.

All in all, a good fitness walk. & I must compliment all who took part on their fitness & stamina. I was most impressed. Then of course we had to go for the compulsory cup of coffee on the way home; made it all worthwhile. Cheers, Mike Oliver



Andrew Bruce, John Ridge & Andrew Brodie on Armstrong Saddle. Image L.Darbyshire.

Purity Hut, 20 March, Dave Newstead

A fine, calm late-summer day – 4 of us set out for a not very energetic stroll in the hills. Ken & Mary, with Woody already aboard, collected me (at 8:00) on the way out of town. We decided that the easiest way was up the main road, via Mangaweka, & were on the track at the Mangakokeke Rd end about 10:00. We set out at an unhurried, “chatty” pace, over the farm land, across the stream, by the fence-line up the steep spur end, & on up the forest path, still wet from the night mist & drizzle, to find ourselves at the hut only a little after midday. (makes a difference with only a light day-pack!)

After dawdling about an hour over lunch in the sun, with barely a breeze, we ambled on to view the prospect from higher ground. There were still a few alpine flowers about & noticeable growth since spring. Then having sorted out the skyline, Mangaweka, Wooden Peg etc, & established that Ken’s GPS, my compass, & the map all seemed to agree, we made our leisurely way back the way we had come, to arrive home in Palmerston North shortly before six o’clock. A very pleasant day in congenial company. (I seem to recall that we made a bit of progress at rearranging world affairs, but I forget what we decided.) Thanks to Ken, Mary & Woody.



View from SH3 on a good day from north of Stratford.

Waingongoro Hut 30 March by Tim Tyler.

While in Hawera for work recently I took the chance to have a saunter through the Enchanted Forest. Looking north on the day, Mt Taranaki was clear, so off I went. Leaving the car at Mountain House, I followed the track to Waingongoro hut for the night.

It is an easy sidle through moss clad bush with 3 dips into streambeds before turning to follow the Waingongoro gorge for 1/4 hour up to a cable bridge, after which the hut is 5 minutes downstream opposite. The track is a green feast upon the senses, with the trees slightly lopsided due to winter mountain gales.

The hut has a fine view from both the deck & fibreglass longdrop of Mt Taranaki. The bunkrooms are spacious with mezzanines - a great spot to stay only an hour or so in from either Mountain House or Dawson Falls.



Pembroke Rd. Mt Taranaki.

Images by T.Tyler



Enchanted Forest at Mtn House.

Verdant moss & ferns owe their existence to high rain levels & wind.



Deck view from Waingongoro Hut.



Manawatu Gorge, a.k.a Sunrise Hut.

The trip was billed as “Sunrise Hut”, but after an apprehensive few days checking developing weather forecasts, on the day I opted for “showers” with no wind, rather than “rain & gale NW” on the tops. So, with prospective club members Brenda (Fredrickson) and son Ruben (11) we collected Jenny (McCarthy) from Woodville & with the party in agreement, headed for the Manawatu Gorge Track. As Brenda & Ruben had not been there before, we started at the Ashhurst end, because I think it is a more exciting introduction that way. You walk along by the highway (*Where are we going?*) then under the bridge = “Wardrobe” to find yourself, magically, in another world, in the green gloom of the Dam Creek Canyon. We did not, however, encounter “Lions” or “Witches”, but there is more bird-song than there used to be. DoC’s trapping really is working its magic. (Yes, real magic is hard work.) What a great atmosphere that day – misty gloom among the trees, all the spiders’ webs shimmering with tiny drops of mist, the air, still and warm, glimpses of Giant Windmills towering in the mist, and lots of suspicious mushrooms & toadstools. There was even a good shower for half an hour or so, to remind us that this is, indeed, a rain-forest. A welcome lunch at Beyond-the-Bridge Café and home again. Thanks to Leslie (my wife) for return transport. Dave Newstead, 27 March 2011.

16th March Sunrise Hut By Pam Wilson

Eighteen trampers left home on a lovely morning, but the best was yet to come. It was one of those perfect days, not a cloud in the sky, to walk to the hut and on to Armstrong Saddle for those who chose to.

This was a trip in which it would have been great to introduce the uninitiated into the rewards of getting outdoors. Right day, right place is not always guaranteed!

The drivers had endless roadworks necessitating speed limits of 30KM. This was managed cheerfully. Special thanks to Bev, Linda & Liz.

Ed: unsure if this is in April’s issue, but too bad if it is!



Flowering rata on the recent Thursday Waiopahu daytrip, by David Grant.



A moody Manawatu Gorge. Image T.Tyler

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



A group heading into Salisbury Lodge, Kahurangi N.P.

Booking & 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.

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
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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
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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
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