

UPCOMING CLUBNIGHTS

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

1 NOVEMBER 2011 | 6 DECEMBER 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. For 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 welcome and will be included where possible - remember to include an appropriate caption for the photo, including names of people.

NOVEMBER 1: Hugh Wilde and Royce Mills will be running a navigation skill building night - bring along a headlamp or torch, expect to head down to the Esplanade for some of the evening. If you have a GPS please bring it along too.

DECEMBER 6: The pot luck tea and Annual prize giving ceremony will begin **at the earlier than usual time of 7pm** at the Rose City Aquatic Club Rooms, 50 Park Road, Palmerston North.
Contact Linda Campbell the Social Convenor for more detail regarding the dinner. 06 323 3836

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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



Last Tuesday we held an extra club night at Bivouac. Although extra discount was the bait it was also a chance to look at gear with lots of staff and club members on hand offering advice. The evening went well and I expect Bivouac were pleased! I finished by perusing gas bottles, thinking about cookers and the many options. It isn't as if we don't have enough already. We have three which run on white spirits, one simmers really well and another is lighter. The third is self pressurized and less predictable. We have an old gas cooker which takes the blue butane bottles. These are hopeless in the cold and I'm sure I'm not the only one with memories of stacking cookers – one to heat the food while a second heats the first! Our newest cooker uses a propane/butane mixture which works much better. It's light, compact, and quick to light so I put it to the test in a snowcave above the Whakapapa skifield a couple of weekends ago. In combination with my billy which has fins on its base it was great with a good flame, melting snow very quickly. But it was a relatively warm night, only a few degrees below zero. So I've just run another trial by leaving it in the freezer overnight then lighting it and what a dismal result. It did light but even turned up high only had a small flame. I also expect it would cool further as it evaporated gas so I'll be sticking to liquid fuels if it's ever going to be very cold. In the meantime the summer is coming. Enjoy the outdoors!



SKI CAPTAIN
 Howard (tom between
 two loves) Nicholson.

Just a short one for this issue - winter is now a pleasant memory & the summer is beckoning. The Lodge is pretty handy in summer for those trips up or around the mountains, so don't forget to take advantage of the low cost - cheaper than the Waihoonu Hut!



Jean, Dave & Jenny – we didn't need to bridge to cross the Whangaehu. Image A.Match.

Editorial

So the season is changing - with a new trip card due out extremely soon it is time to think about storing the ski kit securely for the summer & whip out the tramping kit for a dust down and check out.

Some fantastic snow conditions after a late start have helped 2011 to be a pretty good year so far for those snow bunnies amongst us & there are still 2 months left. Whether it is a half hour valley walk or a multiday trip, the benefits of club membership remain strong. A structured support mechanism & likeminded souls with the Manawatu being spoilt for choice in every direction (pity those stuck in places like Auckland or Wellington facing hours of commuting to get anywhere) help.

Take advantage of the trip card to plan your excursion itinerary & help to maintain your quality of life. Those of us suffering from severe bouts of "dayjobbus tramping interferus" really envy the opportunity that you have.

In the meantime, help others to live vicariously through your exploits & adventures – keep the reports & images coming.



President Mercer at home. Editor wondering where that new down jacket is...

CLUB NIGHTS & NOTICES

HUTS.

You may have noticed a lot of images found in these pages relate to backcountry huts.

We benefit enormously from the provision & maintenance of this network; the most developed in the southern hemisphere and a source of great pride to all New Zealanders. Recently, the Club has engaged with the Department of Conservation to move towards a more formal stance on supporting Te Matawai and Mangahao hut maintenance.

The club has a long history of supporting this programme (a nod to longstanding member Jean Garman here) & in the current climate of budget pressure on a tightly stretched Department, this helps ensure the network does not deteriorate.

We already have a popular Lodge on Mt. Ruapehu, but with the agreeing of a Memorandum of Understanding, club members will be able to lay claim to having a network of our own. And if you contact Hut Work Party Trip organisers (not always Jean apparently...) & help on a trip, there are fringe benefits... Tim Tyler.



Thursday trampers lunch at Iron Gate Hut, 13 October. Image K.Fisher. Report on pg 6.

End of year dinner, 6 December 2011, 7pm

The pot luck tea and Annual prize giving ceremony will be held from the earlier time of 7pm at the Rose City Aquatic Club Rooms, 50 Park Road, Palmerston North.

This is a chance to get together, enjoy great food, discuss trips from the past and plans for trips over the summer. We look forward to seeing you there.



In late August avalanches were more likely. Image A.Match

FMC Newsletter - The October Newsletter is now available on the FMC website.

You can download it as a pdf file from:
www.fmc.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/Newsletter/Club1110.pdf



Royce Mills slips under the obstacles on Burttons Track, 21 Sep. Image J.Hunt.



The view from the far side – Burtton's Track, 21 Sep. Image R.Mills



UPCOMING TRIPS

Wednesday & Thursday trips are not listed - leader detail is on the tripcard out soon.

Weekend trips

5-6 November Mangahao Flats Hut work party	M/Fit
Jean Garman	354 3536
5-6 Nov Mangahao Flats Hut work party	Easy/Med
Jenny McCarthy	06 376 8838
12-13 Nov Happi Daze St-Makaretu-Awatere	Med/Fit
Adam Matich	359 2796
13(Sun) Nov LandSAR round robin training	Technical
Hugh Wilde	356 9450
20(Sun) Nov Herepai off track loop	Medium
Tim Swale	356 9450
26-27 Nov Climb & Ski Mt Ruapehu	Technical
Ken Mercer	356 7497
27(Sun) Nov Arawaru Trig	Medium
Adam Matich	359 2796
3-4 Dec Gold Creek Hut	Easy
Mark Learmonth	355 9143
4 Dec(Sun)Cumberland Creek	Fit
David Harrington	06 839 5766
10-11 Dec Dorset Hut	Med/Fit
Dave Mitchell	329 2803
10-11 Dec Full Moon Explorer	Easy
Kim Fraser	328 8533
17-18 Dec Toka to Ngamoko Hut	Med/Fit
Adam Matich	359 2796
18 Dec(Sun) North Range Road MTB	Medium
Tim Swale	06 376 6556
14-15 Jan YTYT Peak – Oriwa Biv-Waiopahu	Med/Fit
Adam Matich	359 2796
21-23 Jan Tauherenikau headwaters	Fit
Jean Garman	354 3536
28-29 Jan South Ohau Loop	Medium
Jenny McCarthy	06 376 8838

Note with the upcoming festive season a number of private trips will be happening – keep in contact with fellow members to take advantage of some unlikely opportunities.

Tawarua Forest - Easy/Medium, trip Leader Mark Learmonth.

The Forest is located 34-38Km west of Waitomo Caves. This Forest I believe is one of the best remaining examples of virgin forest growing in a Karst (Limestone) Landscape. Amazing Limestone Bluffs, Waterfalls, Beautiful Ferns, a stream that disappears underground between two falls along the tracks is a taste of what we shall view. We will spend the night camping at what's called Blackberry Flat. At this stage the intention is to leave Palm Nth early Saturday before starting our little adventure at the Appletree road end entrance to the park. If the weather is not conducive to camping however an alternative trip will be arranged. This trip is a chance to spend a weekend in a forest very few of you would have ever herald of or visited. The hotline phone number to book your place on this trip is Mark on 3559143.

Arawaru Peak 27th November, Medium. Adam Matich 359 2796.

Ten years ago there was a track up to Arawaru peak (& trig) from the north. My intention is to see if it is still there. We will start along the sledge track, cross over Ross Creek & instead of climbing out of the Kahuterawa soon after, head to the junction of the Kahuterawa & Quartz Creek where we will head SE to cross over the waterway onto the base of a spur that leads up to point 624. From there we will make our way up to Arawaru. I expect we will return the same route.

Trip Grading

The times listed below include tramping, rest & stops. In assessing the trip times & guides, terrain, weather & party fitness (which is as fast as the slowest member) must be considered. Consult the trip leader if you are unsure about the trip grading for a particular trip.

FAMILY	All welcome, casual pace, any age
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 Med/Fit
TECHNICAL	Qualifying requirements to be announced by the trip organiser

Weekday trips generally range between Easy & Medium/Fit, so call the leader for details on these to plan a daytrip to suit your preference & ability.

TRIP REPORTS

Ruahine Ramble 1-2 October 2011, A.Matich

While this was down to be a MF trip, the two interested parties were a bit under the weather so an easier option was chosen. We departed the Kashmir Road end on a calm warm high overcast day & followed the track towards Awatere. On reaching the point where the track heads down to the river we turned left & climbed up onto the bare range to the east, an interesting spot with lovely views back into the Ruahine ranges. We travelled along the ridge until a steepish descent was required & had a morning tea break while sussing out the line of least resistance down into the stream below us. We opted to go straight off the end then a little to the left before dropping into the stream. This looked like we could get most of the way down in the open with only a short band of scrubby stuff before proper trees began. It also put us a reasonable way down the stream hopefully past most of the 'tight' stretch where the stream appeared to be squeezed between steep sided pointy hillocks. Everything went according to plan, although rather a steep scramble into the stream & a short stretch of tight stream bed before it opened out & was lovely travel. Before long we hit the Makaretu river & headed upstream finding a likely spot to climb up to visit Happy Daze hut. We found its bright orangeness in a sunny clearing then opted to head back to the river for lunch. Following a hunch that the track behind the hut would lead down to the forks of the Makaretu river branches we followed it & that is exactly what it did. After a late lunch in the sun we headed up the south Mararetu which was more open than I remembered it but still had slippery rocks so we had to pay attention to where we put our feet. Arriving at the hut at afternoon tea time we had a brew then Jenny & Adam set about getting firewood while I wandered around taking photos. Dinner had a couple of courses & was slowly consumed. A bit of a chill was felt so Jenny lit the fire & soon had it roaring away pumping out heat, so much so we had to open the door. At least it gave us the chance to burn the rubbish left in the hut. Rod turned up just as we were finishing up dinner so the evening was spent chatting & eating chocolate. Sunday morning was still calm with high overcast & no sign of the rain predicted to turn up during the day. We all headed off together back down the South branch then up the North branch of the Makaretu, a very beautiful easy river to walk up. We visited Black Stag Hut & had morning tea in the sun outside Awatere hut before climbing back up to the vehicles. We were out by about lunch time which left plenty of the afternoon for all those little weekend jobs. We were Jenny McCarthy, Adam Matich & Jean Garman joined by Rod Knight for Saturday evening & Sunday.



Approaching Happy Daze Hut. Image J. Garman.



Makaretu Hut in the South Branch of the Makaretu Valley. Image A.Matich.

Wednesday 5th October - Field Hut & Otaki Forks.

Report by Pauline Hall.

Twenty members took part in this tramp. Robert took 12 to the Field Hut (a separate report and photos). I took 8 trampers on the lower reaches - you had to be a pensioner to qualify for this option.

After a gloomy weather forecast we were pleasantly surprised when the sun came out. We did the Arcus Track and had morning tea in the Paraval Lodge. We then did the Fenceline Track and part of Waitewaewae Track. The tracks were in good condition the fenceline track had had recent DOC work on it. This could be because it joins the National Walkways over to the Mangaone Track. The facilities are A1 at Otaki Forks with flush toilets.



Jenny & Jean heading south off the tops to Happy Daze Hut. Image A.Matich.



Arriving at Rangipo Hut on the winter feast trip - 25 August. A.Match.



Giant on the track just upriver from Happy Daze Hut. Image A.Match.

Makairo road – Waewaera Reserve, Wed 24 August 2011. Patsy Inkpen

24 trampers enjoyed this day out, in a misty, cool wind. Some went to the woolshed tree shelter belt just past the quarry for lunch. Most sought shelter out of the wind at the top. Some snow damage had littered the track with enough snow left to have a snowball fight. A welcome hot drink was indulged at the Tui Brewery Café/Bar afterwards. Thanks to the drivers : Chris, Bev, John and Bernard. We had to travel over the Pahiatua Track as the gorge was closed by a large slip. On the way back we went via Centre Road at Balance to the start of the Pahiatua Track. A gravel road, good surface, scenic which most have not been on or knew of its existence.



Thursday trampers – lunch at Powell Hut, 15 Sep. Image K.Fisher.

Iron Gate Hut, Thursday 13 October. Keith Fisher.

Sixteen Thursday Trampers left Palmerston North under damp conditions. By the time we reached the redesigned road end (now good parking & toilet) near Heritage Lodge the rain had stopped & we headed off for the Iron Gate Hut under improving weather conditions. We crossed Tunupo Creek without incident thanks to a ponga trunk bridge. Engineers Dave & Merv then improved the design so that it was a 2 lane (trunk) bridge for the return trip.

& we kept our feet dry. The last trumper reached the Hut at 12.30 pm so it was about a 3 hour 30 minute tramp in. After lunch at the Hut, which is at a very pleasant spot – grassy area with good river, bush & waterfall views - we headed back. It was grind back for most of us with the rain returning late in the day. A long (7 hours or so) hard but enjoyable day. Photo on pg 3.



Thursday trampers - lunch at Blue Range Hut, 6 Oct. Image K.Fisher.

Top Maropea Hut, October 8-9. Linda Campbell

Snow! We didn't expect snow but snow we got. The first flurry was just past Armstrong Saddle. From there we had drizzle pretty much until we reached Top Maropea Hut. This is an interesting old hut built for the forest service probably in the sixties. It is a bright orange, four bunked hut with a large open fire. Silver paper remains over most of the inside of the roof and there is an interesting gap around the door. Shortly after we arrived the snow started in earnest and it became very cold. Tim had the fire going before too long but there were only small bits of wood dry enough to burn. As the afternoon became evening we got closer and closer to the fire until it was not possible to get any closer but with the snow falling and the wind getting up we never really warmed up and we could always see the breath of whoever was talking. During the night everything froze and then there was more snow and then it froze some more. The snow was wonderful and everything looked very pretty in the morning. We headed back up toward Armstrong Saddle and Sunrise Hut admiring the frost laden plants and their ability to survive in such harsh conditions. This trip would easily been done as a day trip but the overnight experience in an 'historical hut' was great if not a little cool. Thank you to Alex Glass, Beau Welch and Tim Swale for their great company.



Alex Glass & Beau Welch. Image L.Campbell.

Burton's Track, Wednesday 21 Sep. John Hunt

18 of us met at Shannon, and our convoy drove East past the Mangahau Power Station, up the recently graded, winding gravel road, (where occasionally some bigger bits of rock had to be "straddled") on over the top then a sharp left branch down Tokomaru Valley Rd. Happily the former gate had been removed & we were able to drive right up to the start of Burton's Track by 9.15 am. (Note:- Black mark to the leader who, assuming that the drivers knew the way, did not wait for them at the branch!).

In perfect weather, after ½ hr. of gently downhill 4wd track, (which is beginning to get overgrown with gorse & toitoi in places, and after clambering under/over several large fallen pine trees & slips resulting from recent logging operations) we paused for a "cuppa" past the stile before proceeding along the pleasant benched walking track through beautiful bush & fern glades. Crossing several small side streams, the South branch of the Tokomaru Stream ran below us with it's green banks & sparkling waters providing some great photo opportunities.

About an hour later the track emerged onto open grassy areas & soon after, we arrived at the "shelter" (actually just a long narrow corrugated iron "chute", with a door at one end – which had been used for trapping deer - but it would have served as limited shelter for lunch, had it been wet).

Some of the party remained there to enjoy the sun & beauty of the area while the others went about a km. down river, (where we almost lost the track because of quite thick gorse growth & absence of markers at one critical point) before returning to the shelter for lunch in the sun.

It was a pleasantly easy walk back to the cars (apart from the "obstacles") by @2.30pm, followed by enjoyable camaraderie over coffee at the "Horseman" in Shannon.

My thanks to Mike for driving the bus & for the happy company of the group. John Hunt, trip leader and scribe.

Footnote: It was disappointing to find that this well publicised part of the Te Araroa Walkway (which had involved so much voluntary work after 2004 in re-establishing foot access along the original 3mile x 6ft wide "dray-track" which began 2 miles along Tokomaru Valley Rd from the junction with Mangahau Road, blasted and hewn out of the rock by James Burtton over the period 1909 – 1915 to gain access to his farm) has been allowed to deteriorate so quickly since its reopening in 2006. This has already been referred to the Horowhenua District Council in the hope that some maintenance ensues.

For more information see 23 page booklet "Burtton's Track" by Ian H.Argyle. (2006)



Wednesday trampers outside The Chute on Burton's Track. Image R.Mills.

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 call (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 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



**Sastrugi covered Syme Hut in front of Taranaki.
Image B.Webster or A.Match**

Booking and use of the MTSC 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 Match 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 trips. 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. Back issues of Beechleaves can be found on the site and it is updated regularly with new information.

The club webpage is maintained by Howard Nicholson and is kindly hosted by **InSPire Net**, a locally based company.

People to Contact

If you would like to contact the club with general inquiries, please write to MTSC, P.O. Box 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.

Alternatively an email to the below addresses will suffice.

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	06 328 8533
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	Linda Campbell	06 323 3836
Ski Captain	Howard Nicholson	06 357 6325
Lodge Manager	Ryan Badger	027 445 997
Lodge Bookings	Hugh & Liz Wilde	06 356 9450
Mini-Bus Manager	Bev Akers	06 325 8879
General Committee	Liz Flint Bob Hodgson	06 356 7654