

UPCOMING CLUBNIGHTS

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

6 DECEMBER 2011 | 7 FEBRUARY 2012

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.

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.

Manawatu Gorge Track update: it is still open! Despite the slip closing the road. The track needs to be used to retain funding (a bit like other amenities, really!) so if you have a couple of hours to enjoy a well graded track with plenty of parking space at the west end carpark (still open), why not have a wander along part or all of it's length to find the pressure sensors that count the volume of foot traffic (I'm told there are at least 3).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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



The MTSC pays an annual subscription of (currently) \$10 per membership to our national body, the Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ. In addition to publishing the quarterly Bulletin FMC provides the tramping clubs of NZ with a national voice and is a powerful advocate on our behalf as well as a source of advice. We've recently received a letter from the FMC regarding the new health and safety regulations which came into effect in November and requires operators of adventure activities to be accredited and audited. Whilst our club activities fall within the scope of the regulations we are exempted, providing the activities are for our club members or, with a limit on the number of trips, for encouraging membership. This is good news for NZ clubs and eminently sensible as belonging to a tramping club exposes individuals to a large pool of collective experience with clear safety benefits. Requiring trip leaders to be "certified" would, I expect, have a clear negative effect – no trips! In conclusion we can continue much as we always have. Encourage your friends to come along and try out tramping but, after a few trips, they should sign up and join.

us, & with the longer days we all have more opportunity to enjoy outdoor recreation for longer. This is the last issue for the year, & still the fantastic images & engaging stories keep coming. Next year I hope that they will continue, demonstrating what an affirming and enjoyable choice it is to be a member of such an active club with so many varied facets. I personally will miss the End of Year dinner, but I reckon it will be fun - and you are invited!



SKI CAPTAIN
Howard (tom between
two loves) Nicholson.

Have you had a good ski season? I managed to get to the slopes for a few days more than last year, but still I did not find the time for mid-week skiing (school holidays don't count). There is always next year, which may be your only option unless you are heading a long way north for the summer.

So, what's coming up? The lodge is still a great place to go to - even with no snow there is plenty of tramping, mountain biking and climbing in the vicinity. Keep an eye out for any upcoming work parties, as the lodge needs plenty of TLC to keep it in shape for our harsh winters. Without you, the work does not get done.

Time to put the "summer" wax on the skis and boards, and start planning next year's adventures. If you are heading away for Christmas, then I "wünschen Ihnen eine gute Fahrt". Howie.

Editorial

I thought I would note a few important things that are happening about now. The dust is settling from the recent election, the grand official opening of Te Araroa is upon

CLUB NIGHTS & NOTICES

Seventeen years in the making... one of New Zealand's most ambitious ever voluntary projects... and now, the grand opening celebration...

The world's newest, one of the longest, & one of its most spectacular walking trails, opens on Saturday, December 3, in Wellington. That's the mid-point of our Cape Reinga to Bluff, Te Araroa walking trail. From the far north to the deep south, Te Araroa - which means The Long Pathway - links New Zealand's most spiritual, historic and scenic locations.

For Kiwis & tourists alike, it opens up a 3000km hike through some of the world's most spectacular scenery. The December 3 opening is a celebration of the success of those 17 years of voluntary effort from many hundreds of New Zealanders up and down the country.

Both in breadth and dedication, Te Araroa is one of New Zealand's most ambitious voluntary projects, and we'd very much like you to be at the opening of the trail on December 3 with us.

We have attached the invitation and would appreciate an RSVP to rmackenz@xtra.co.nz

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.

FMC Bulletin online. Our November Newsletter is now available on the FMC website at: www.fmc.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/Newsletter/Club1111.pdf.



Harkness TePukeohikarua Stream. Image A.Matich



Pinks Hut, on the road into TePuia Lodge roadend. Image, A.Matich

UPCOMING TRIPS

17-18th December Toka to Ngamoko Hut, Medium Fit Adam Matich 3592696.

This trip starts in the western Ruahines at Umutoi North road from where we climb 900m up Knight's track to Toka Peak then drop 750 m down to Leon Kinvig hut. We then travel 4 ½ km down river to Ngamoko Hut for the night. It will be quite a long day, 8-9 hours & the river travel will be wet. The next day we climb 750m up to the tops behind Ngamoko Hut, NNE along the range to 1380, and turn left to head back down to the road end via the Short's track. I wouldn't expect day two to exceed around six hours.

Trip Preview February 4/5 Southern Ruahines- Medium, Leader Dave Mitchell

In February the weather should be warmer & dryer hopefully. There are two options for the weekend depending on trip numbers. We walk in from the Heritage lodge roadend, to Iron Gate hut. Above the hut there is a sidle track which goes up before dropping back into the river again. So after about 7 or 8 hours we reach Triangle hut.

The second option is to walk in via Rangiwahia hut, up to Mangahuaia, sidle along the main ridge, then take the spur ridge down to Triangle hut. On Sunday we would walk down to Iron Gates hut for lunch & then out to Alice Nash Memorial Lodge.

14-15th January Waitewaewae peak – Oriwa Biv site – Waiopehu Hut Medium Fit, leader Adam Matich 3592696.

This trip in the western Tararuas will start from North Manakau Road, from where we climb 740 m up to YTY peak and then navigate in a roughly easterly direction over 969, 874, 955 and on to the site of Oriwa Biv. I expect that the day will be long enough that we will need to camp at the camp site in the trees so you will need to bring some shelter. Next day, the intention is to head north to Waiopehu and Waiopehu hut, followed by down the Waiopehu ridge to Poads road.



Mangahao Flats work party supper. By T.Swale.



The Festive trip list

30 Nov (Wed) Bev Akers	06 325 8879
1 Dec (Thu) Graham Pritchard	357 1393
3-4 Tawarau Forest Mark Learmonth	Easy/Medium 355 9143
4 Dec (Sun) Cumberland Creek David Harrington	Fit 06 839 5766
7 Dec (Wed) Rita Hodson	323 5491
8 Dec (Thu) Merv Matthews	357 2858
10-11 Dec Dorset Hut Dave Mitchell	Med/Fit 329 2803
10-11 Dec Full Moon Explorer Kim Fraser	Easy 328 8533
14 Dec (Wed) Anne Rush	357 2529
17-18 Dec Toka to Ngamoko Hut Adam Matich	Med/Fit 359 2796
18 Dec (Sun) North Range Road MTB Tim Swale	Medium 06 376 6556
14-15 Jan YTTY Peak – Oriwa Biv-Waiopehu Adam Matich	Med/Fit 359 2796
21-23 Jan Tauherenikau headwaters Jean Garman	Fit 354 3536
25 Jan (Wed) Sue Pither	357 3033
28-29 Jan South Ohau Loop Jenny McCarthy	Medium 06 376 8838
1 Feb (Wed) John Ridge	357 3744
2 Feb (Thu) Carolyn Brodie	358 6576
4-5 Feb Southern Ruahines Dave Mitchell	Medium 06 329 2803
8 Feb (Wed) Margaret Gillingham	356 8812
9 Feb (Thu) Stuart Malcolm	358 3409
11-12 Feb Tregear Creek Jean Garman	Fit 354 3536
12 Feb (Sun) River Safety Course Tim Swale	Technical 06 376 6556
15 Feb (Wed) Andrew Brodie	358 6576
16 Feb (Thu) John McLeod	323 5785
18-19 Feb Cattle Creek Hut Linda Campbell	Easy 027 333 4493
22 Feb (Wed) Chris Brunskill	354 2511
23 Feb (Thu) John THornley	356 9681

Trip Preview - Tawarau Forest. Easy/Medium, Dec 3.

Leader Mark Learmonth.

The Forest is located @36km west of Waitomo Caves. It 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.**

Trip Preview - Dorset Hut. Medium Fit. Dec 10/11

Leader :- Dave Mitchell, 3292803

I would like to leave on Friday night & walk into Mitre Flats hut, which is about 3.5 hours. On Saturday there is reasonable climb up the Mitre track to Peggys Peak (1545m), then Mitre (1571m), Brockett (1546m) & Girdlestone (1538m). From there we head along tarn ridge. Before Tarn hut we turn left & follow a broad ridge down to Dorset hut which just above the bush line. It will be a full days tramping. On Sunday we could go out via the Three Kings but will likely just come back via Mitre again. If the weather is bad on Saturday an alternative is to tramp up the Waingawa river to Cow Creek hut. If the weather is fine the views from Mitre will make the climb worth it, plus the opportunity to visit Dorset hut, which we rarely do.

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

Mangahao Flats Work Party 5/6 November 2011 Jean Garman. Eight people & a little dog took a drive in the club mini bus to the top Mangahao dam. It is still a slow drive although the potholes up to the last few kms had been filled in making it less bumpy. The forecast was for showers clearing but there was no sign of showers & even the odd bit of sunshine. The top dam was full so we headed up the track cutting out windfalls where we could & clarifying where the track goes in a few places. Just before the swing bridge across the Mangahao, Dave had to back track to encourage Fred to desist the possum slaughter & keep up with the group. The DOC track cutters had been through since our last work party & the track alongside the river just before the Harris Creek Bridge remained passable but still in danger of being lost into the river in the future. With that in mind we scouted out an alternative route on the next terrace up & marked it with tape. We will probably cut this track in over the next couple of years so if/when the river claims the low track it will be easy to bring in the new section. Not much track work was required above Harris Creek except where the 'inland route' crosses the big slip. We had moved the access onto the slip up a little last year as the original had been lost by an active part. Now the active slip has moved higher again so again we moved up, though it is getting to be a bit of a steep drop onto the slip. At the hut the toilet was cleaned, gutters cleared, firewood gathered, cut & stacked & vegetation cleared from the helipad. Three people went back to the slip to see if there was a better access point & came to the conclusion there were no alternatives. Any further movement of the slip would leave the river as the only marked option. Since when the river is up it is not viable, we remarked the old route right around the top of the slip as a safe alternative if the across the slip route is lost. This alternative leaves the across the across the slip route 5-10m from the slip access at either side. Back at the hut and there were nibbles, drinkies & conversation followed by a light dinner of smoked chicken salad & a pavlova with strawberries for desert. As darkness fell we popped outside for a few fireworks (it was Guy Fawkes after all). A nice long sleep later we awoke to a drizzly morning. The hut was given a thorough cleaning including the windows & mattresses. The now flushed guttering was reconnected to the water tank just before we left around 10am. Unfortunately rain persisted all the way out so not much stopping happened apart from a quick realignment of the track over about 5m where it was getting eroded by the river. It was just after 2pm when we were all back at the van & changed into dry clothes. An obligatory icecream/pie/chippie stop was held in Shannon. Many thanks to all the people who came along and worked so hard. The more the merrier! We were Doug McNeur, Tim Swale, Jenny McCarthy, Brian Webster, Dave Mitchell (+ Fred), David Harrington, Ivan Rienks and Jean Garman.

Pukerua Bay - Plimmerton circuit 30 October 2011

Nine of us set off from the Pukerua Bay shops at 10 am. We headed down lots of steps to the beach below. It was a pleasant morning and it became increasingly fine and sunny during the day, with just a light northerly breeze at our backs along the beach. The spectacular coastal scenery was enjoyed by all. At one point four of us decided to go for a geocache situated high in the very steep slopes above the beach. Two of us were geocachers, the other two went along for the adventure - and it was! We re-grouped and continued along the gravelly beach for a lunch stop when we found a convenient picnic table beside the beach. There looked to be signs of a beachcomber's shack here. A four wheel drive track then led us along the coast to Plimmerton. We found our way through the streets to the Taua Tapu track. This started with a climb up many wooden steps through cool, shady bush until we came out on the open tops to enjoy panoramic views of Porirua harbour and Paremata. The track continued along the open, farmed hill tops - now we were parallel to the SH1 motorway. Our walk was occasionally interspersed with stops for more geocaching finds - the non-geocachers were both patient and helpful! Half way back to Pukerua Bay we joined the Ara Harakeke cycle path/walkway which is just beside the motorway. At this point we were met by Tim's sister Sue who drove five of the walkers back in Tim's van to the Pukerua Bay shops. The rest of us continued the remaining 2km walk (gently uphill) back to our start point. We had walked 17 km in just over 5 1/2 hours (including many stops). We were certainly looking forward to an ice cream back at the shops where we were parked.

Thanks to Tim's sister Sue for driving a back-up vehicle. We were Tim and Ben Swale, Linda Campbell, Kathy Corner, John Thornley, Ian Algie, Natalia Martin, Grant Rudman and Royce Mills.



Mangahao flats track work. Tim Swale.



Leaving Friday night to stay the night at the East Kaweka helicopter's hanger – which turned out to have a nice dorm room attached. We aimed to get going with the helicopter early on Saturday morning and it all looked good for nice weather but Saturday morning was clouded over to tree height so the decision was taken to reverse the tramp, to be picked up on Monday morning at Ngaawapurua Hut.

Therefore, we drove the minibus to the Makahu Road end and walked in from there. The first leg from the minibus to the Makino hut for lunch, via the Makino Biv., took about 2.5 hours with few views but a nice forest tramp. Following lunch, the second leg of the day took us from Makino hut to Mangaturuturu Hut, via the 3-wire bridge across the Makino River. The path down to the Makino River (2 hr) was well marked but steep and 'interesting' in places but makes good time to the river. On crossing the river, using one of the few remaining walk-wire bridges in the park, the track to the Mangaturuturu hut is a slog up hill for at least 3 hours but is rewarded with a nice place for the night for which the only complaint can be the lack of wood burner, instead having to make do with an open fire.

Day two started bright and early as we were out of the hut for 0700 with the cloud lifting above the hills and the views we missed the previous day presenting themselves. From the Mangaturuturu hut the track to Te Pukeohikarua hut starts on the open tops with panoramic views before heading in and out of the bush and going over the tops again to where Te Pukeohikarua hut can be seen in the distance. It took about 3 hours from Mangaturuturu hut to Te Pukeohikarua hut. Following an extended and early lunch break we headed to Harkness hut, a 1.5 hour wander down through the bush where a tributary of the Ngaawapurua Stream needs crossing (and feet wetting) before finding the hut. Harkness hut is well situated with nice views and a lovely effective wood burner.

The helicopter was arranged to pick us up at 1100 so it was up & going for 0700 for the 2.5 hour walk to Ngaawapurua Hut. The track follows the Ngaawapurua Stream, crossing numerous times & wet feet are certainly guaranteed for this one. The track heads up hill away from the river for a 2km section before returning to the river just along from the hut. While away from the river the track, although clear, is little used & has some 'interesting' sections but that are all easily passable. We were Pete Bunting (report author), Mark Learmonth, Dave Mitchell, Gary Bevins, and Adam Matich.



KELLY KNIGHT HUT 2 NOVEMBER 2011, Pam Wilson

Twenty-five of us were really enthusiastic about this trip, although only five reached the hut, taking 1.5 hours to do so. After a steep descent the hut is reached via a swing bridge. The sunny day coloured the scene as we made our ways along the fairly rough track, a track which follows the Pourangaki River. Permission to access this track must be given by the manager of the Kohunui Station as there is a 20 minute walk across station farmland before entering Ruahine Forest Park.

Wakelings Hut Dec 4-5, 2010!!! (lost but retrieved)

They made me do IT. The others, that is, they made me do IT. The trouble is I haven't done IT for so long I've forgotten how. I thought procrastination may work but I got a text last night "Don't forget to do IT". So using the Nike approach, here goes.

We went tramping. HOW's THAT! You want more? m.....

Three of us went tramping in early December from Kawhatau Base to Waipawa River road end via Colenso, Rongotea, Wakelings Hut, Waikamaka River, Waikamaka Hut, Waipawa Saddle and Waipawa River. Kim kindly drove us up to the start and accompanied us very nearly as far as the Crow Hut track. We spent the night at Wakelings Hut on the Waikamaka river, a superb spot with five swimming holes nearby. Goldilocks weather all the way and on the eastern side met Bev and Gary, Emma and a possie of dogs, who had just enough room for a ride home. Thanks very much to the transport providers and my crossing companions Jenny McCarthy, Adam Matich and Brian Webster (the author & loser/finder).

Arawaru Trig 27th November by Adam Matich.

We headed up-stream on the Sledge Track from the end of Kahuterawa Road, crossed over Ross Creek and sailed along past the sign "Experienced Trampers Only" to reach the Quartz Creek-Kahuterawa stream confluence. We crossed over Quartz Creek and headed 30 m further up the Kahuterawa before climbing out onto the base of the spur. Once on the spine of said spur we discovered that it sported a cut track with lots of orange triangles and bait stations. We also discovered that we should have gone 30 m up Quartz Creek to pick up the start of the track. It took around 2½ hours to reach peak 624 from the road end, partly because at one spot we lost the very well marked track and ended up in messy scrub. Our pace picked up again once we decided that it might be best back in the forest, where not long after, we found the track again. Peak 624 is a small open tussocky top with views all around and 200 metres beyond it, in a shallow saddle, the cut track and orange triangles stopped. Hmm! Fortunately, there was still a faint ground trail, in places, and pink tape markers so we didn't have too much trouble making our way to the intersection with the track that comes in from bump 600 (1 km off to the west). The climb up to Arawaru (3½ hours from the road end) was on a sparsely spray-paint marked track and fortunately the track through the leather woodbelt is still comfortably open, so there were no tears. Our return journey was quite a bit quicker (2½ hours) as we now knew the way and it was pretty well all down hill through mostly gentle forest. It was only steep for the bottom 100 metres of the descent. We were Howard Nicholson, Jenny McCarthy and Adam Matich.



Thursday trampers on Mokai Station. Image R.Mills

Mokai Station 20 October 2011, by Royce Mills.

First of all, thanks go to John Hunt and Bernard Cobb for accompanying me on a reconnoitre trip a few days beforehand so that I wouldn't lead the Thursday trampers astray on the day (it's been known to happen

before). There were 16 of us in the Thursday group. The drive in through Torere Road and Mokai Road is very scenic - spectacular cliffs of the Rangitikei River and kowhai trees in full flower. From the car park in Mokai Station we set off and after about 45 minutes we found ourselves at the foot of a particularly steep, long climb up through open farmland. To their credit I did not hear a murmur of complaint from the group and off they set, upwards and upwards - a 600m climb from the car park reaching a high point of 1100m. It was misty to start with, but cleared as we got higher to reveal photogenic views of the northern Ruahines. Most of the group reached the bush edge where we had lunch by the Iron Bark hut track sign. The track further in looked inviting - through beautiful forest but not this time ... On the drive home we stopped to look at Gravity Canyon but no-one was prepared to reach for their credit card for a bungy jump or flying fox. Another stop was taken to look at the stream below the bridge where Torere road joins State Highway 1 near Utiku - an awesome gorge! The traditional ice cream stop was had at Hunterville to break our journey home. Appreciative thanks to Nigel our driver.



R. Adm Newstead & Les Femmes, Field Hutte, Wednesday 5 October . R. Bruce

Otaki Forks, Wednesday 5 October. By Robert Bruce

Fickle weather was forecast when 21 decrepitude – defying damsels & dudes aka the Wednesday trampers departed for the Otaki Forks. After interacting with a lone duckling, the party split in two. Under the benign tutelage of Guido Roberto and his Austrian axe, 13 puffed up the classic bush track to the Field Hut. This heritage hut was reached just after midday in superb weather. An accelerated group then puffed on further to eat their munchies on Table Top & take in the magnificent views. Meanwhile, Pauline had trotted off with her seven souls along the Arcus track stopping for smoko in the Paraval Lodge. At "pensioner pace" they then sloped along the Fenceline Track and part of the Waitewaewae Track. They found the tracks to be in very good condition having had recent attention from DOC.

South Miramar Peninsula, 28 September 2011. By Dave Newstead.

One morning in September 2002 my wife and I boarded the Calais-Paris train. We found we were sharing the carriage with a happily animated party of middle-aged to brisk-elderly folk, about 12 of them; evidently off for a day's outing. They left the train at a little station called Beck sur Mer, about 80 km from Calais. From the map we ascertained that the station was about 10 km from the seaside village of Beck itself and speculated on their day: a pleasant stroll through the coastal hills, a leisurely lunch a village café and back to catch the evening train. How jolly, and civilized, we thought. That was the seed for today's trip.

We, there were 13 of us, had an earlier start than the Calais 'Strollers', leaving at about daybreak. Very pleasant spring weather, with the light cloud clearing as we neared Wellington and the predicted SW breeze very light, so the day turned out to be warm. Some banter about coffee-fix on the way south, so breakfast (with coffee) at the station café in plenty of time to catch the (after 9:00) No.11 bus to Seatoun. We disembark after the Seatoun Tunnel and follow the streets skirting the base of the hill to the Pass of Branda (between Seatoun and Breaker Bay). By 10:00 we are mounting the 80 or so steps on the path to the top of the peninsular (the anticipation of coffee again to the fore). Then South, undulating through native (and other) shrubs along the eastern side and past the back of the suburbs towards Palmer Head. Fine views to SE to Pencarrow and Baring Heads, passing ships, and to the South and SW to the newly covered snowy ranges, from the Seaward Kaikouras to perhaps as far West as the Marino Range above the Buller. A rest-stop at the Atatürk Memorial at the end of the Head gives us a chance to view the coastal seascape from there. Some of us had not been to the memorial before. I find it quite moving. Down to the sea, pausing by the old Pa sites (remnants of Ngati Ira before their displacement by Te Atiawa, I think) to coastal flat and Wahine Park with the Wahine Memorial comprising a detached bow thruster unit and a plaque. Now we follow the shore round back North along the beach and Breaker Bay Rd. Passing the most southerly house (it is a very fine, a tastefully plain, modern house right on the road nestling under the hill) we exchange waves with the artist at work in his upper window. Eventually we manage to head off the leaders before they cross back over the Pass of Branda and we all head down onto the beach and up onto Point Dorset. Another snack break, sitting in the sun watching the ships passing by Barrett's. Down again, to Seatoun beach and now Churchill Park where we inspect the other Wahine memorial, the ships anchor and cable in a suitable setting within sight of the fateful Steeple Rock which is not far off the shore. Then direct to the Seatoun Café and Bar for COFFEE, and a congenial and leisurely lunch in the garden. Eventually, "When's the next bus?", I check my timetable, "In four minuets.". We depart unhurriedly; the bus stop is outside the door. We get off near Te Papa, arrange to meet on the train at five to five, and drift along the waterfront gradually dispersing, each to his own. Bob and I take our way to Capital Books, via the Astoria Café. We are last to the train, all present and correct. Quarter of an hour later as the train pulls out, I look around me, we are a happy jolly bunch. Recalling the Calais 'Strollers' – "There is something familiar about this". The train pulls into Palmerston North with the setting of the sun (as arranged). Editor's note – there would have been images to go with this report, but sadly he has misplaced them at this time.



Gary crossing a 3-wire over the Makion River. Image A.Match



Transport out from Ngaawapurua Hut. Image A.Match.



On a tree on the Harkness to Ngaawapurua track. Image A.Match.

Syme Hut – September 10/11, 2011. By Brian Webster.

This report is late but that is in keeping with the whole trip. Important note to all trip leaders: If you are having trouble getting people to volunteer for writing trip reports plan an early start and then show up half an hour late. That's what I did and everyone else eagerly wanted to write this trip report! So anyway after a not so early, early start 5 of us headed up to Taranaki's Dawson Falls carpark. The early bit was to give us time to get to Syme Hut and carry on up to the top, if all was going well, as Sunday's forecast was for poor weather. And things did go well - up to the hut for lunch – and 3 of us who were keen got up to the crater (where a cloud cap and strong breeze encouraged only a short stay) and back to the hut in time for tea. Then a long stay in the sack. When my bladder finally kicked me out, the wind battering the hut warned that a trip to the loo would require full storm gear and ice axe. Thus equipped I headed out into a white out and gale force winds. Flattened once on the way out and struggling to make it back against the wind (its all of 25 metres) I warned the others to take their ice axe, and started to consider the possibility that we were stuck. Others went out and came back with comments like "it's a bit rough" until Jean returned and stated "we're not going down in that. I've just crawled all the way back from the loo!" Decision made we whiled away the morning playing cards, chatting, getting re acquainted with our sleeping bags and getting weather reports via txt. The wind moderated early afternoon (as predicted) and while it was still strong it wasn't knocking us over. We made ready (lots of clothes on) and headed out. You have a picture in your mind sometimes – this time it was out the door, onto the compass bearing, over the side, we are out of here. The picture went fuzzy at the first hurdle – we couldn't close the damned door. It probably only look us 5 minutes to sort but it wasn't a good time or place to be hanging around. After that we made really good time as we made our way down out of the white out and off the snow slopes onto the bush track. We were Jean Garman, Ivan Reinks, Adam Matich, Katrin Jones-Stoppel and Brian Webster.



A nice little camping spot Herepai off track. By T. Swale.



The Bottles track marker. By T. Swale.

Herepai off track loop 20th November – by Tim Swale

On previous trips to Herepai Hut in the NE Tararuas, I had noticed the old metal sign for the "Bottles Track" and often wondered what was down there. So with 9 keen trampers braving the windy weather we left the Putara road end to take a look. Adam and Jenny had done the direct route to Herepai before so knew the spot to leave the riverside track (@2 minutes after the first swing bridge. The forest here is relatively open and made for easy travel up to spot height 655 where we had a break

for morning tea. From there it was a gentle descent following pink trail markers to a delightful stream side camping spot in the saddle at 139 933.

Splashing our way downstream we picked up the bottom of the Bottles Track a few metres up a side stream at 138 930. It is marked by a blue plastic bag tied to a tree but is not that easy to spot. Adam had brought some pink marking tape so proceeded to make things much clearer, right up to the top of this lightly used track. The old permolat markers are there, but again, not that easy to spot. With pruning saws and secateurs we moved up the track clearing windfalls to make it a little easier to follow. Very soon we were back on the main track, from where it was only another twenty minutes up to Herepai Hut for lunch and a welcome break out of the wind.

Our return was down the normal DOC track to the Roaring Stag junction before dropping steeply to the big swing-bridge and back along the Mangatainoka river to the road end. Away from the shelter of the bush, the wind continued unabated. We were: Linda Campbell, Jenny McCarthy, Beau Welch, Josh Old, Ian Algie, Adam Matich, Glen Pendergrast and Tim Swale.

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



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 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 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