

UPCOMING CLUBNIGHTS

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

6 MARCH 2012 | 3 APRIL 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

Contents

Committee Reports	page 2	Trip Reports	pages 4-7
Club Nights & Notices	page 2-3	Club Information	page 8
Upcoming Trips	page 3		.

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.

In September 2011 Kathy Corner and 10 other Kiwis cycled across the 'Roof of the World' from Lhasa to Kathmandu. They cycled through some spectacular scenery, over 5000m passes and visited some amazing monasteries en route. Come along and hear about this trip of a life time. The oldest person on the trip was 71 so don't ever say you are too old to do something! We look forward to seeing you on March 6.

APRIL 3 - ANOTHER NOT TO BE MISSED CLUB NIGHT FOR EVERYONE WHO VENTURES INTO THE OUTDOORS. The weather is dear to all our hearts as we plan our outdoor trips and a major consideration for our risk management. Here is the chance to come along and hear Ohakea based weather expert Greg Reeve from Metservice speak about 'Reading the weather signs, old wives tales and other weather sayings'.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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



"The largest increase in funding for outdoor recreation facilities on the conservation estate agreed by any Government has been announced. The additional funding effectively doubles the Department of Conservation's budget for maintaining huts, tracks and other facilities over the next 10 years."

Unfortunately that was the 2002 budget and DOC is now in a less enviable position with the local area office struggling to manage its responsibilities. The three main costs of the backcountry network are huts, tracks and bridges. It is likely that many huts will be taken off the books saving both maintenance and depreciation.

Some tracks will no longer be cut and bridges will be removed, starting with the Mid Pohangina bridge which is in need of replacement.

Clearly, there are safety concerns raised by these changes. DOC is asking the outdoor community for input to these decisions and a small group of MTSC and PNTMC representatives have met twice with DOC. As yet we have had no input from the most active part of our club, the midweek groups

If our club is to have any influence at all on the backcountry assets in our region, then we need our members to actively take part in any upcoming discussions and consultation processes. We are at risk of losing some tracks and huts that are important to us if we do not get involved. Please phone or email me if you are able to contribute.

Lastly, the AGM will be held on May 15 and the constitution forces me to step down this year. Our membership secretary, Jenny, will be overseas later in the year and is not continuing and Christine would also like to step back from the Treasurer's position. Of course, all positions are up for

CLUB NIGHTS & NOTICES

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).

Transit van custodian.

The Transit van is currently located at Ken and Mary Mercer's. Adam Matich had been the custodian for some time but is no longer in a position to continue. The club is grateful for his service to members in this respect.

In the meantime, if you have space for a vehicle and are willing to contribute, please contact Ken on 06 356 7497.

van Treasurer.

Christine Scott will be relinquishing the position of treasurer at this year's AGM, and the club would like to flag this to members who may be interested in putting their name forward. It is important to the club that the role is transferred seamlessly given the large number of members and assets, hence the early notice. Christine's service is much appreciated.



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

Membership.

Completing a trifecta, Jean Garman is unable to continue as membership secretary and a third office of the club is therefore becoming vacant. Again, the club would like to extend appreciation for the service given and will be inviting interested members to take on the mantle in due course. Maybe there is someone out there with a spare carpark, a flair for numbers and an interest in club administration!?!



FMC Bulletin online. Our February Newsletter is now available on the FMC website at: <http://www.fmc.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/Newsletter/Club1202.pdf>

Intentions@mtsc.org.nz: Adam Matich has contributed enormously to the MTSC over many years including, for the last seven, looking after the club's minibus. He has recently relinquished this task and, for the moment, Mary and I have the van at 9 Eton Place, Ph 356 7497. A better solution would be for one of the regular users to take over the job so please get in touch if you can manage it.

UPCOMING TRIPS

The trip list

29 Feb (Wed) Suzanne Clark	356 8322
1 Mar (Thu) Brian & Ruth Evans	323 7614
3-4 Mar Sarex Hugh Wilde	Technical 356 9450
7 Mar (Wed) Brendon Donald	06 362 7772
8 Mar (Thu) Alan Cameron	358 3848
10-11 Mar Bushcraft/camping Otaki Forks Tim Swale	Easy 06 376 6556
14 Mar (Wed) Linda Darbyshire	354 6171
15 Mar (Thu) Richard Ellis	357 6410
17-18 Mar Taranaki tour Howard Nicholson	Medium 357 6325
17-18 Mar Eastern Hutt River David Harrington	Fit 06 839 5766
18 (Sun) Mar Crashed Aircraft Tongariro NP Hugh Wilde	Med 356 9450
21 Mar (Wed) Pam Wilson	357 6247
22 Mar (Thu) Nigel & Jill Spencer	329 8738
28 Mar (Wed) Mike Oliver	355 5320
29 Mar (Thu) Keith Fisher	357 1724
31-1 Apr Te Matawai (our hut!) work party Jean Garman	Med/Fit 354 3536
4 Apr (Wed) Liz Flint	356 7654
5 Apr (Thu) Royce Mills	355 8556
6-9 Apr (Easter) Kayak & Tramp Waikaremoana Ken Mercer	Easy 356 7497

Tim Tyler advises: The Parks Peak Hut trip on 24 – 25 March is cancelled due to work commitments. Buzzer!

Jenny McCarthy advises: The Oturere Trip planned for 3-4 March has had to be cancelled, but will be put on the trip card again next summer.

Dave Harrington advises: "Due to the PN Sarex I have changed the date of the Eastern Hutt River trip to the 17-18 March. This trip is up Quoin Ridge to Alpha, Hells Gate and down full length of Eastern Hutt River." Different weekend – still sounds fun!

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

Peak 17/9/2011, by Jean Garman. On an overcast Saturday morning David & I set off from the Mangahao No 2 dam in search of the peak called Peak. We followed the track towards Burn hut then turned off just before the arched bridge & headed up the ridge. It was a little messy to start with then we got up to where the deer hang out and it was nice & open. Further up the ridge we popped out into a grassy patch & though there was a cool wind blowing the cloud was lifting & breaking and we had great views. Further along we reached the first leatherwood but as it never became solid leatherwood it was bearable, in places we could drop just off the side & be in trees & there was the odd deer trail to follow. Further up we could see tussock & a few more open rocky bits were encountered. At about midday when there was no more up we were on Peak. We found the bit of pipe marking the high point, mission accomplished, so we had lunch in the sun with lovely views along the snow dusted Tatarua range to the south of us. We could also see the ridge we planned to travel along which didn't lose a lot of height & showed mixed leatherwood scrub almost as far as the eye could see. Sometimes we had to crawl, but never for long, other bits were relatively open & easy & slowly but surely we reached the next high point & found not only the bit of pipe but pieces of a wooden trig. This peak, however, was not blessed with a name. The ridge carried on & while progress was consistent it wasn't fast. Eventually the descent to the Mangahao No 1 dam began & we dropped back into trees. With some excellent navigation by David we landed about 20m up from the dam. We weren't looking forward to the walk back along the road but didn't hold out much hope for a ride as there was only 1 car & 1 hunters ute by the dam. Luck was on our side & about 15min later the ute came along (very tasty looking ginger piggy on the back) & offered us a lift. Not only were they kind enough to give a couple of smelly trampers a lift but every time they spied a bottle by the road side they stopped & picked it up. An interesting little wander, not a big distance but took a bit of work & time & David can cross another two trig points off his list. We were David Harrington & Jean Garman.

Sledge Track + H1 & H2 Thursday

Trampers (17) 1 December by Merv Matthews.

Work has continued in Hardings Park laying a network of bait station lines in an effort to reduce rat & possum populations in the Park. In order to make a change from our usual Sledge Track route we made use of lines H1 and H2 which gave us a 6½-hour round trip through some excellent bush. These two tracks were originally hunters' trails, but they are now well marked & easy to follow. The new route also avoided the exposed & often windy roadway section when following the "short spur" route as we have often done in the past

One of several little streams we crossed on the H1 and H2 tracks. Photo by Richard Ellis



Dave Barker at the Lions Head, with the OSU Mountaineering Club; descending from Mt Washington (6288 ft, 1917 m) in the background. Image D.Barker



Dave Harrington bags a trig. Image J.Garman



The Journey Along the Final Ridge. R.M. {Bob} Hodgson.

I am a born again trumper. As a young adult I hiked and rambled in the UK and soon after my arrival in New Zealand in 1975, I took up distance running and then, river and surf kayaking. These were my sports for most of my adult-life. A single expedition into snow and a high country hut overnight in the Arthur's Pass Region was the limit of my "real" New Zealand tramping until, almost 22 years later; I joined the MTSC Wednesday trampers. Since then I have derived great satisfaction from the tramps undertaken and the good humour and mutual support of the regulars. Given the skill and experience of many in the group, I sometimes reflect that starting at 65 was presumptive. My speed going downhill is a cause of wonder. {How can he be so slow?}

Almost coincident with my taking up tramping I have moved into the phase of life where funerals and the loss of friends and relatives have become commonplace. In the last two years my losses include my father, a close friend of my age and my sister's long-term partner, who was (even) younger than I am. For most of us as young adults, deaths are rare events and we often think and behave as if we are immortal. I have reflected deeply on my recent losses and as a bibliophile, I have sought solace in printed material. The reason for this slight contribution to "Beach Leaves" is to record my thanks to my new found tramping friends and to recommend a very special book that uses the metaphor of a conventional journey for life's journey to its inevitable end. The book that I would like to recommend as having a special relevance to trampers is "Snapshots on the Journey" by Rod MacLeod. * It is an anthology of poems selected and introduced by the author. Rod MacLeod is a medical practitioner with 25 years experience in rural practice and more recently in palliative care. Let me finish with a quotation from the author's introduction.

"Over recent years I have found it helpful to use the metaphor of a journey to illustrate what is happening as someone approaches death. In New Zealand it is easy to imagine the journey as being in the mountains and valleys of this volcanic land. It is as though we are travelling along a mountain ridge. In the distance we can see the end of the track marked by a gate. The only part of the journey that the person who is dying, has to make on their own is to go through the gate at the end.

.....*At times we need to stop for a while to gather strength and to make sure that we are going in the right direction. We can admire the view, see the sky, the trees, the flowers and the hills; reflect on the journey so far and talk about where we are going. We can tell each other how we are feeling.*"

*Published by Steele Roberts. Aotearoa New Zealand. 2002.

Trip report - a kiwi escaped in New Hampshire. By Dave Barker.

I recently returned from a winter climb of Mt Washington with the Ohio State University Mountaineers Club. As Advisor to the Club, I've made this trip seven times during the last nine years. During a three-day weekend, we drove through the night from Columbus, Ohio to North Conway, New Hampshire. After a quick stop to hire crampons, our climb began at the Pinkham Notch Visitor Center (2032 ft, 619m). We climbed the easy trail for about two miles (3 km) to camp at Hermit Lake (4050 ft, 1234 m). Hermit Lake has three-sided shelters with wooden sleeping platforms, ideal for a bivy. Luckily it didn't blow too much that night; spin-drift had buried us in previous years!! That night was my coldest ever winter camp, at -16oF (-27oC). We made an alpine start at 6am and since it was so cold, we ate a hasty breakfast and set-out equipped with crampons and ice-axes. Dawn broke at 7am just as we reached the bush-line. By 8am we'd reached the half-way point of the climb, a distinctive rock buttress called Lions Head. This is where we hit the full strength of the wind; a steady 40 mph (65 km/h) with gusts to 60 mph (100 km/h). We divided our party of 16 into a fast and slower group; I finally summited with the slower group around 10 am. The temperature had warmed to -6oF (-21oC) but the wind chill was -50oF (-45oC); conditions in which exposed skin could freeze within 2-3 minutes!! Five of us had done the trip in 2011, but for 11 students was their first winter climb and mountaineering experience; we are all very thrilled. The descent was fairly uneventful, and we were all back at the trail head by 3pm. The climb has some similarities to a winter ascent of Mt Hector in the Tararuas. The total distance and elevation gained are similar. The trail starts in forest, with the bush-line at about 5'000 ft. There's also a cross to mark the both summits. The main differences are colder weather on Mt Washington (making for deeper snow), and the absence of huts in USA.

Quick facts

- Friday-Monday, 13-16 January 2012 (Martin Luther King Weekend)
- Mt Washington is the tallest peak in eastern USA (6288 ft, 1917 m) & a popular climb in the Presidential Range
- Mt Washington has a permanent weather recording station at the summit, where the highest land wind speed of 231 mph (372 km/h) was recorded in 1934.
- 34 hrs driving, 27 hrs climbing, 5 hrs eating/organizing/relaxing
- Club details at www.osumontaineers.com

Photos from the Arawaru trig trip, by A.Match



Start of the leatherwood belt on Arawaru.



Heading through dense leatherwood to Arawaru trig.



Quartz Creek.



Arawaru trig.

Thursday tramp: Kiritaki Hut 17 November 2011. By Hugh Wilde

The weather was supposed to be good in Southern Hawkes Bay with strong NW gales in the afternoon. As it happened, the gales arrived early in the day & the weather gave us some low cloud & drizzle in the Ruahines, but otherwise the forecast was correct particularly on the plains.

Thirteen of us departed Palmerston North picking up the 'Pahiatua Boys' at Woodville. The Saddle Road route was slow with the heavy traffic, both ways as turned out.

We began walking at 8.40 am & reached the top about 2 hours later; after another hour along the "Leatherwood Ridge" with an additional 1/2 hour on the DoC track, reached Kiritaki Hut. At times the hut was completely shrouded in mist but earlier in the morning we got some good views of it during the climb up from the farm to the top. Eleven made it to the hut with the remainder lingering at various points along the track.

The wind died down a bit for the return trip. As the stream was up (there had been close to 30mm of rain during the previous 48 hours) we opted to return the way we had come. It took only an hour to return to the 724m high point above the farm & another 1.5 hours or so back to the van, faster travelling without the wind. The track was in pretty good shape although a bit overgrown in places with some tree-fall across the track.

KELLY KNIGHT HUT 2 NOV 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 the Ruahine Forest Park.

And before this, there is a lengthy drive across the station itself from the public car park. (Public toilet here)

Thank you Mike for the driving the van along the windy gravel road and thanks to our car drivers, Bernard, Bev and John who all contributed to giving us a great day out.

Who was Kelly Knight? I cannot find the answer on the web.

Ok, this particular editor is quite interested in the answer, so if any venerable or knowledgeable folk are out there with the answer to who Kelly Knight was or is...drop me a line on editor@mtsc.org.nz, thanks!



Jean in an open part of the stream looking toward Wharite. Image D. Harrington

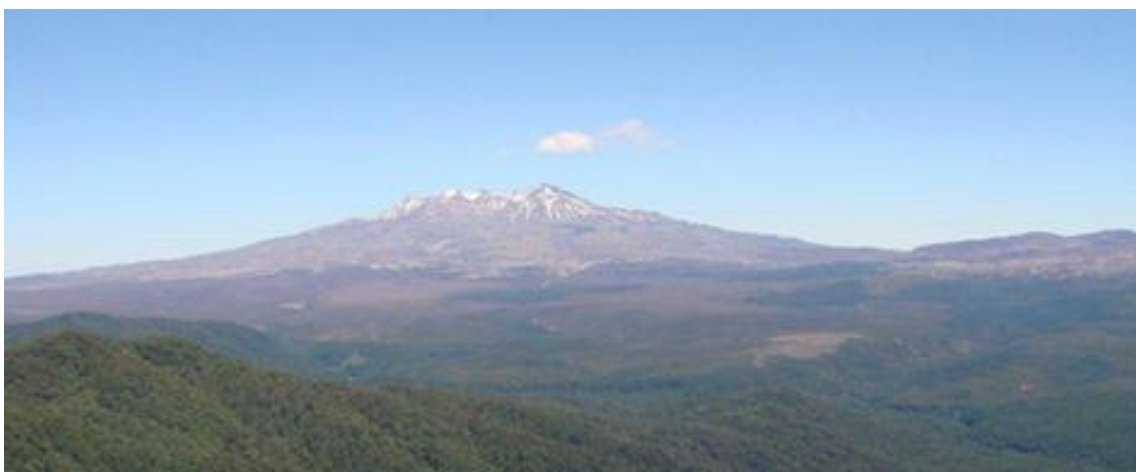
Whareroa Stream 4 December 2011 The original plan was to tramp up Cumberland Creek but the Metservice was predicting heavy rain in the afternoon which would have coincided with the leatherwood zone making things very unpleasant. Instead David suggested a 4 hour walk up the Whareroa stream which we could probably achieve before the rain came. Brian and I met up with David in Woodville on a calm warm Sunday morning and we headed up to Wharite. Hoping out of the ute was a shock to the system as it was no longer calm or warm. We headed along the track towards Coppermine creek then took the branch that heads towards the west and down a spur to the farmland. Here we dropped down into the stream and headed back up towards

Wharite. After a few scrambles around various pools Brian decided that a more direct approach was required and we started wading through the pools (mostly only waist deep) and climbing the cascades. This worked most of the time but occasionally it was more of a waterfall than a cascade and a grovelly

steep faced sidle was required. Further up it was more open country so easier travel and a pair of goats were spotted on a slip face. They didn't seem too worried about us so I assume rifles don't tend to make it into that part of the stream very often. The stream became less open again with scrubby shrubby vegetation which had to be pushed, struggled, climbed through. Lunch was had in a small clear spot then more scrambling about before we gained a little height up a slip and surveyed the route ahead. It was only about 250m to regain the ridgeline and the last 50m looked OK however the intervening 200m looked to be painful, frustrating and time consuming so we opted to carry on up the slip then bash up a spur to rejoin the track. Although there was leatherwood present there was also horopito and other vegetation so this proved to not be too difficult. Once back on the track it was a quick skip back to the ute, all up only 5½ hours. Although we could see showers passing by out on the plains the forecast heavy rain didn't end up coming till after dark. An interesting little trip..... We were David Harrington, Brian Webster and Jean Garman.



Jean wading a pool before climbing the cascade. Image D. Harrington



In the next issue, Five go mad in Dorset! Plus other stories not quite fitted into this issue. Maybe even a nice photo or two like this one of Ruapehu taken by Robert Bruce from the Kaimanawa Ranges.

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	\$30	\$45
Secondary School	\$25	\$40
Primary School	\$20	\$35
Pre-school (3-5 yo)	\$10	\$10



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. Ken and Mary Mercer are interim minibus custodians and can be contacted at (06) 356 7497.

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 2011-12 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