

UPCOMING CLUBNIGHTS

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

3 APRIL 2012 | 1 MAY 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.

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'.

MAY 1 - Christine Scott - LandSAR search dogs. It is coming up 3 years since I first involved myself with search dogs. Share with me the fun, the hard work, the rewards and the continually putting yourself outside your comfort zone while training a search dog.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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



Somehow, in various software conversions and the transition from Australia to NZ, a couple of words were truncated from my last month's column. Most of the meaning was still clear but my request for volunteers for some key committee positions was lost. So what's involved?

The committee meets on the second Tuesday of each month (the week after the club-night) at 7.30pm. For the last several years we have circulated between member's homes and the host invariably manages to produce coffee and a passable(!) cake.

The task is not onerous. Although the club's major assets; the lodge and van, do take up time, the occasional late night is more likely caused by, for example, deciding a response to DOC removing the Mid Pohangina swing bridge. Altogether we have a pleasant blend of socializing & getting the work done.



Mary Mercer and "The Lost Track", Cattle Creek. K. Mercer

We particularly need a treasurer, a membership secretary, a minibus custodian, and a new president but, naturally, all positions are up for renewal.

So, if you can spare one evening each month please put your name forward at the AGM. As a reminder, it will be on May 15, at our usual club-night venue.

CLUB NIGHTS & NOTICES

The **Annual General Meeting** will be held at the Rose City Aquatic Club Rooms, 50 Park Road, Palmerston North (next to Lido Aquatic Centre), Tuesday 15 May 2012 from 7:30pm. All welcome.

Annual reports and a financial statement is expected to be sent out with the May newsletter and will also be available on the club web site.

Trip Intentions:

The club has an email address for leaving trip intentions: intentions@mtsc.org.nz

Intentions sent to this address will not be acted upon UNLESS a party is reported overdue (e.g. by a family member, flatmate, friend, etc.)

The email should include: a list of participants and their contact details (e.g. mobile, contact person phone number); a brief description of the intended route/destination; starting point (e.g. name of road end); start date; date/time due out; vehicle rego; and any other relevant details.

The email is sent to several MTSC members. This information will be provided to LandSAR only if the party is reported overdue.



Christine Scott & Shilah.

Kelly Knight Hut – Dave Harrington kindly advised that the hut was named for a local hunter.

Correction: Jenny McCarthy is the incumbent membership secretary who is vacating the office, not Jean Garman as stated in the March issue. The Editor would like to extend his apologies to Jenny!



UPCOMING TRIPS

The trip list

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
7-8 Navigation weekend Hugh Wilde	Technical 356 9450
6-9 Apr(Easter) Kayak & Tramp Waikaremoana Ken Mercer	Easy 356 7497
11 Apr (Wed) Rosemary Hall	356 8538
12 Apr (Thu) Gordon Clark	359 2500
14-15 Apr Hikurangi Range Kim Fraser	Med/Fit 328 8533
14-15 Apr Hikurangi Stream David Harrington	Fit 06 389 5766
15 Apr (Sun)Burtton Track Bev Akers	Easy/Med 325 8879
18 Apr (Wed) Terry Knight	354 1530
19 Apr (Thu) Hugh Wilde	356 9450
22 Apr (Sun) Gorge walk Ken Mercer	Easy 356 7497
22 Apr (Sun) Lwr Carrington Ridge Loop Adam Matich	Medium 359 2796
25 Apr (Wed) Dave Pollard	329 6051
26 Apr (Thu) David Grant	357 8269
28-29 Apr Gold Creek Hut Mark Learmonth	Easy 355 9143
29 Apr (Sun) SAR Hugh Wilde	Technical 356 9450

TRIP PREVIEW: At this stage I am planning to take a trip to do a Tongariro Loop the weekend of May 5/6. There will be more details for the May newsletter. Contact Linda Campbell on 06 323 3836

Trip Preview, April 6-9 (Easter). Kayak and tramp Lake Waikaremoana.

Tramping around Lake Waikaremoana may be one of New Zealand's great walks but there are other options besides staying in large huts with heaps of people. We plan to travel up on Friday and spend three days on the lake staying in tents. Walking around the lake might suit some or tramping another nearby circuit, or even just relaxing at the motor camp! Kayakers will need a proper sea kayak and trampers using the lake circuit will need to book hut or tent spaces. Phone Ken Mercer, 356 7497.

Trip Preview April 28/29 Gold Creek Hut, Mark Learmonth

Gold Creek Hut is in the Ruahine Forest Park in the Gwavas Forest Area. A cosy 4 bunk Forest Service style hut located in a gully beside Gold Creek. We will tramp in via the ridge track unless the weather is beautiful & warm in which case we may travel up Gold Creek stream bed. Recently a number of you have said to me, I haven't been there for years, never been there, or would like to go there sometime. Well it's time to change all that, don't just stew on it, give me a call.on 3559143.

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

December 3-4, 2011 Tawarau Forest. By Mark Learmonth.

Only two participants, Adam Matich and myself. Sadly we would not share with others, what turned out to be a real gem of a weekend. We left Adam's place early on Saturday not really realizing what was in store for us in this relatively small forest. Stopping for breakfast in Waiouru, Saturday's weather was kind most of the time (ideal tramping conditions). We started out at the Appletree Road end following the Tawarau Falls loop track section, which follows the Tawarau River. No sooner had we entered the bush we were greeted with a chorus of native birds singing their little hearts out. The chorus of singing continued along the entire length of this track. What a treat to hear so many native birds at once; you wonder what the forests must have sounded like back in the 1800s. This section starts by following the banks of the Tawarau River (the river is narrow and quite enclosed) before zigzagging downstream. What a truly wonderful area. The river was very clear and made spotting of young trout very easy. We spotted them in a number of places and shot a few photos of them swimming around. With the river being narrow & enclosed I was surprised when we disturbed a shag looking for a meal. Our cameras were kept busy all morning. One particular area was lush with Prince of Wales feathers - the Limestone Bluffs, beautiful ferns, small falls of water, areas where the river flows under the surface you are walking on makes this track a truly memorable experience. Closing in towards the head of the falls we climbed high above the river before descending quite steeply down to the base of both falls. Part way down is a wire rope to help you. The falls were more than worth the effort to view, really interesting. This was a very slow tramp to this point as there was just so much to take in & view. After taking more photos & with time getting on we set off along the Bull Ring Route to the Gorge track & Blackberry Flat to camp for the night. Blackberry flat as the name suggests was full of Blackberry vines with only a few places to camp. The nicest spot we found was under some large trees to the side of the Flat, which other trampers had used frequently. Our only concern was a large rat we spotted in the vines. Fortunately it behaved itself and stayed away. Soon after darkness fell four trampers came crashing through the bush looking for somewhere to camp for the night. They choose to camp closer to the river. After they set up camp & I assume they had something to eat they burst out singing for some considerable time. I could not clearly hear the words but I think they were religious songs. The night was warm and still with a skyline full of stars. Sunday was a late start we did not seem to want to move in a hurry. On getting up I realized I had aggravated a lower back and groin muscle problem which has kept me out of tramping since November 2010. Eventually we consumed breakfast & packed up. Sunday morning's tramp was down the Gorge Track heading towards the Were Road entrance. Shortly after setting off we dropped our packs at the Double falls/Bull Ring intersection. Gingerly trudging along behind Adam in some discomfort, after about half an hour light rain started to fall. This was of no concern as the track had a good canopy of bush. We stopped walking close to an hour & a half later as the rain was getting heavy, retracing our steps back to our packs. This track has plenty going for it from high limestone bluffs; rock faces to interesting river scenes. The track is very wide and may have years ago been used as a horse & carriage route as it was once known as the Kawhia to Mahoenui highway. From this point it was back up the Bull Ring to the loop track & out to our vehicle.



Fly Camp at Blackberry Flat. Image M.Learmonth

Wednesday 15 February, Hemi Matenga

Leader: Anne Rush

Settled weather with only one light shower and for the most part a sunny day. This trip had variety with firstly a walk through the streets and lifestyle blocks then a very steep climb through some very attractive bush to the top of the ridge. Lunch was at the lookout with some great views of the coastline and Kapiti. The group travelled at great speed. Are they getting fitter or was it the lure of an ice-cream or cake and coffee at the Museum Cafe? Nineteen people participated. Thanks to Chris Brunskill our driver



Five go mad in Dorset, mid Dec 2011. Leader: Dave Mitchell

Well there were only four of us in the end because Fred was left at home. I then had to jump start my vehicle but in the end we made it to Jenny's in Pahiatua by 6-15pm. While Ivan drove I ate my warm fush and chips, looking at the cloud bank and wondering if it was going to clear after Mt Bruce. We parked up at the Holdsworth road end then hit the track; Jean was tinny and found \$5 just past the gate. Our intention of getting to Atiwhakatu hut before requiring torches was easily achieved. The track is metalled all the way with swing bridges and boardwalks. By the time we arrived at the hut we were well and truly warmed up. There were three people inside with the fire roaring away nicely, and when we suggested opening the windows, these people moaned they were cold. Ten minutes later 3 more Wellington trampers arrived; they marched in and opened all the windows, so that fixed the moaners. We did manage to sleep alright without suffocating in the heat.

On Saturday we were away by 7am and made it straight up to Jumbo hut by about 815 am. The log book revealed the week before about 70 people spent the night there, although I learned later most of them camped outside. From Jumbo we continued up and make our way along to Angle Knob. The cloud was coming and going but we did get some views occasionally. While having a break on McGregor the decision was made to carry on along the range to Girdlestone. There are several other ways of getting to Dorset hut, which is quite visible, from there. The Broken Axe Pinnacles are quite tricky in some places which is why there is a sidle track around them. We decided to climb over the sharp bits. Next set of high points to clamber over are the Three Kings, we passed the 3 WTMC people having lunch, they had come via Baldy. We had our lunch on Mid King and after that the track takes a sharp left then it's a northerly direction all the way to Adkin then a climb onto Girdlestone. This has a trig on it, we could see that much. The track sidles Girdlestone and there is some up and down as it joins Tarn ridge. Somewhere along the ridge is a cairn with a stick in it. This is where we turn off onto Dorset ridge; it's probably quite obvious in clear weather.

Dorset ridge is broad with more up and downs as you head along it. About where you expect to drop down to the hut is a big cairn but this is wrong as we found out. Jean quite rightfully said it doesn't seem right. We needed to carry on along the ridge until an old wooden sign indicated the correct direction. As we picked our way down an indistinct track, surprise, a hut emerged from the cloud. It is obvious the hut has been extended. There is a large enclosed porch which has left the original hut quite dark inside. The hut although old is in good condition now with a new fireplace as well. As we arrived about 4 or 5 pm it still allowed a few hours to laze around before cooking. Sunday we decided to drop straight into the Dorset creek via a ridge track. This is intermittently marked all the way down to the creek.

A little bit upstream we started climbing again and followed an old track through the bush, then into the open up towards South King. Once we gained the main ridge we headed along towards Sth King again, just before starting to climb that we drop down towards Baldy. This is the bad weather route which is used to get down into the Atiwhakatu river. It was still cloudy as we made our way down, as luck would have it the weather started clearing. The track down is quite steep, it eventually joins the track over to Mitre Flats hut. Atiwhakatu hut is another hour downstream. We had lunch at Atiwhakatu hut and then ambled out to the car park. At Donnelly's flat we heard the helicopter fly over us, it had picked up some some trampers that lost their way on Saturday, up on Mitre. Due to our insanely early start on Sunday we got home early, but not without stopping in Masterton for some super thick shakes. It was pleasing to visit Dorset hut as I hadn't been there before. We were Dave, Jenny, Jean and Ivan.



Dorset hut, with extension. Image D.Harrington

Waipawa Saddle 9th February by Keith Fisher.

16 Thursday trampers had a 7am start from Palmerston North & we left the van by 9:20am. The Saddle Road certainly slows down your travel times. The weather was fine. Our route up took us up the Sunrise Track & then we dropped down to the river. There was still a reasonable amount of water in the river so this slowed down the climb up to the saddle. On the descent we checked out the times for the various routes down from the Waipawa Forks Hut. Via the river and then across farmland to the car park was 1 hour and it was 10-15 minutes longer via Sunrise Track. The road down from the car park to the river was in good condition so we could have driven there to commence our tramp and saved an extra climb & a bit of time. So much for being wise after the event. It was @7 hour tramp and the group was generally tired but enjoyed the walk & weather.



Holdsworth, Powell Hut/Atiwhakatu Hut. 29th February. By John Ridge.

The weather was perfect for our trip to Holdsworth. We passed through dense mist as we drove over the Pahiatua Track but left this behind as we headed south. Mini bus plus 2 cars – thanks to Coraline and Brendon.

Two hours after leaving PN we were all set to start our tramp, 19 trampers in all. We divided into two groups, Group "A" – 13 in number and Group "B" - 6. We set off as one group, separating at the junction soon after crossing the river on the footbridge, the former taking the Gentle Annie Track heading for Powell Hut; the other following the Atiwhakatu valley to their destination.

We met several other parties including school groups supervised by teachers, parents and OPC instructors. It was obviously "school camp" season.

After a 50 min. stroll we arrived at Rocky Lookout. We paused here to re-group and have morning tea. The views were amazing even at this level. I believe we could see Powell Hut in the distance further up the mountain. We were determined to reach our destination. To the east the Wairarapa Plain stretched out before us with Totara River Flats to the south; the northerly aspect looks over the Atiwhakatu valley.



Wednesday trampers enjoying morning tea at Rocky Lookout. Image J.Ridge.

The track is well graded with steps in places and board walks to make things easier. We continued on the Mt. Holdsworth Track past Pig Flats and on towards Mountain House Shelter - a good place for a break before the steep climb to Powell Hut. The scenery throughout our trip was amazing and there was plenty of bird life around to enjoy in the forest.

We reached the Hut in time for a well deserved lunch break – the verandah an ideal resting place.

After lunch we retraced our steps, taking care on the rocky parts. We did not want casualties to spoil a great day.

Group "B" also reported having an excellent day. Their chosen path taking them by one of the most attractive rivers in the Tararua Range which is never far from sight or sound along the Atiwhakatu track.

We stopped on the way home for coffee and cake, for some ice cream, at Eketehuna. This is an excellent tradition for the Wednesday Trampers.

CATTLE CREEK, FEBRUARY 18/19. by Linda Campbell.

Five keen people headed for Cattle Creek Hut on the weekend of February 18/19. After skipping across the creek we made our way up Holmes Ridge arriving at Stanfield Hut in time for lunch. We then followed the stream up for ten minutes before climbing steeply to the low saddle below Takapari. Instead of turning right and taking the ridge track toward Cattle Creek Hut, we took the more adventurous route directly into Cattle Creek. The tree to the right of the track opposite the turn off has two very old white markers that cannot be seen from the track. This is the entrance to what is now a very overgrown, unused track that leads down to the creek. A fair amount of bush bashing was required and it was quite a struggle in places due to the height and density of the vegetation – nothing like the last time Tim and I went that way in 2010! Navigation skills were crucial for this part of the trip and we were pleased to see the odd marker that remains from days gone by. There was some relief when we found the old "The Lost Track Takapari" sign attached to a tree. More bush bashing was required before we finally arrived at the creek. From there, it was a watery obstacle course of fallen trees down to Cattle Creek Hut just over 2km away.

This hut is starting to show signs of deterioration but it is still a great place to go. There are wonderful views up the valley from the 'kitchen' windows. A very pleasant evening followed and in spite of the roar of the wind we were all asleep before long.

Sunday saw a fine but windy start as we climbed steeply for 20 minutes before gaining the ridge and heading south on the marked track back towards Stanfield Hut. This track is becoming a little overgrown in places and not always so easy to see. Our feet were well and truly wet from the previous day, with one exception, so we all agreed we would head back down Tamiki stream to the road-end. It was another great weekend thanks to Lynn Davies (Napier), Ken and Mary Mercer and Tim Swale.

25-26th February, Mangaiti & Mangaturuturu Huts by Adam Matich.

Mangaiti Hut was built by the Tongariro tramping Club in 1939-40 and because it was before the advent of the full-length Ohakune Mountain Road, it was accessed from Horopito. That is not so much the case these days as it is now 750 m directly west of the Ohakune Mountain road at the Blyth-Hut/Round-the-Mountain-Circuit car park. It is hidden in the trees just next to one of the big tussocky clearings (5643681N, 1814400E, Topo50), so you either need to be in the know or be observant. Fortunately, we were both...of course. We found that the track began 20 paces down-hill from the round-the-mountain track sign in the Blyth hut car park and directly across the road. It didn't leap out at us, but once we were on it we knew we were. It is well padded and has quite a few old track markers. In the open sections there are a few sticks with markers on and a ground trail to follow. It took us 30 minutes to get to Mangaiti Hut, which is a unique and picturesque building two stories high, but with a very small foot-print. It is locked so we had to make do with gazing longingly through the window at its tidy interior. The porch door is, however, unlocked so there is somewhere to shelter if the weather is being excessive. After our hut stop we headed NNW through the big clearing until we arrived at its western edge. We then headed NW through $\frac{1}{2}$ km of forest, which wasn't pretty. It was quite messy in there, not flat, difficult to maintain a compass bearing, and the GPS kept losing signal. Eventually, we broke out into the next little clearing and thereafter it wasn't too bad. We had another section of forest to traverse, with the crossing of a little stream, the open scrub-land just above the headwaters of Waipara Stm and then an easy descent into the Makotuku River for lunch. From thereon, we managed to follow the compass through some more scrub and across another stream to finally reach the Horopito track. It took as $2\frac{1}{4}$ hr to travel 2 km there from Mangaiti Hut. Shamefully slow really, but we were in no hurry. $1\frac{1}{4}$ hours up the track saw us at Mangaturuturu Hut for the night ($4\frac{1}{2}$ hr day) which is as tidy as ever and undergoing the installation of electric lighting. There was a Wanganui TC member at the hut for a couple weeks of heather poisoning, and rather later in the day a father and son turned up from Rangipo Hut. The weather had been rather kind to us during the day, with only a few short periods of misty rain. It got better overnight, and so on Sunday morning we had warm sunshine for our climb up the waterfall face and subsequent $3\frac{1}{2}$ km walk down the road to the car ($2\frac{1}{2}$ hr day) which was neither vandalised nor stolen from. So the weekend remained a positive experience! We were Mark Learmonth and Adam Matich.



Mark Learmonth climbing the waterfall on the way out from Mangaiti Hut. Image A.Matich



Mangaiti Hut plaque. Image A.Matich



Mangaiti Hut. Image A.Matich

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



Mangaturuturu Hut. Image 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. 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