

UPCOMING CLUBNIGHTS

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

1 MAY 2012 | 5 JUNE 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 Reportspage 2

Club Nights & Noticespage 3

Upcoming Tripspage 3

Trip Reportspages 4-9

Club Informationpage 10

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.

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.

JUNE 5 – Liz Flint will deliver a talk that will encompass a hacienda stay on the Pantanal, an expeditionary cruise up the Negro (the Amazons largest tributary) and tramping in Los Glaciers National Park from Chilton in Argentina to Torres Del Paine tramping the W trail in Chile.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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



Until checking with Wikipedia I thought we were enjoying an Indian summer. No matter, only a few degrees too cool, but the weather's been lovely and we've been making the most of it.

Our most recent trip was through the gorge on Sunday, 22 April. Seven of us including 4 newcomers made a leisurely 10.20am start at the Ashhurst end. Meanwhile Tim and Ian, who had offered to shuttle the van over the

Saddle road, started walking 20 minutes after us from the eastern end. A text to report we were passing the Nikau palms had them worried so they fair steamed up the zig-zags. Together we enjoyed lunch in the sun at the Te Apiti lookout then continued on in our respective directions. The van was spotted crossing the Ballance bridge as we descended and it was great to have it ready for our return home.

It is somewhat surprising the total climbing involved in some of these trips. While the elevation changes by a respectable 370m the total climb is 850m. In the case of the Burton track the numbers are 440m and 1240m – lots of up and down. Google uTrack to compile several reports on where you have taken your GPS.

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.

www.fmc.org.nz/notices-to-trampers

The Federated Mountain Clubs website is a useful source of information, with details on advocacy efforts on the club's behalf – one particular page on the site details Notices to Trampers, a handy spot to check every now and then or if you are planning a trip into an unfamiliar area.

Not about to be outdone by the FMC, the Department of Conservation has some useful pages as well. Wetlands are not often considered to be valuable recreation resources by people who do not possess a shotgun, but the page www.doc.govt.nz/publications/parks-and-recreation/places-to-visit/magical-places-40-wetlands-to-visit-in-new-zealand-brochure lists some spectacular places to visit and enjoy.



A snippet from www.wams.org.nz Plan your access route easily online.



Ken Mercer posing next to an aircraft engine in the Tongariro National Park. How it and Ken got there is in the next issue of Beechleaves. Image



Email address for trip intentions on club trips.

Trip leaders can leave details of who is going on their trips, their contact details and intended route at - intentions@mtsc.org.nz
It will not be actioned unless someone reports an overdue trip.

Committee vacancies at the upcoming AGM.

Membership officer, Treasurer and Van coordinator. Additionally, Ken Mercer will be vacating the role of President. The size of the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club means we have a lot of potential depth, and we need members to step up and have a go. It is a noble calling! See you at the AGM.

Hike for Hearts along the Te Araroa Trail:

Linda Donaldson, a 50-year-old Grannie from Tutukaka Coast, is walking the 3000km length of New Zealand. As a child she was inspired by pioneer length of New Zealand walker A. H. Reed and read his book about his travels. The sudden cardiac arrest and death of her younger brother Lloyd in June 2010 caused Linda to rethink her values and follow her brother's example of having lived without regrets. Linda is dedicating her walk to raise money toward heart-starting defibrillators for use in the community by St John.

She started at Cape Reinga in February and has so far walked hundreds of kilometres to south west of Hamilton. Trampers interested in walking a section of the trail with her can contact her by email at lindafd1@gmail.com or phone 021 56 25 10. If you would like to follow her progress, like her page or donate for life-saving heart-starting defibrillators for the community, go to www.hikeforhearts.co.nz

UPCOMING TRIPS

The winter tripcard is almost upon us – so this issue of Beechleaves holds only the first few of the month. Members will be sent the tripcard and it will also be available online at www.mtsc.org.nz

The trip list

28-29 Apr Gold Creek Hut	Easy
Mark Learmonth	355 9143
29 Apr (Sun) SAR	Technical
Hugh Wilde	356 9450
5-6 May Tongariro loop	Med
Linda Campbell	06 323 3836

Preview: TONGARIRO LOOP MAY 4-6.

The plan is to drive up on Friday evening so we are ready to walk reasonably early on Saturday morning. We will go from the Mangatepopo Road end to Tongariro Summit, Red Crater and back to the Mangatepopo Road end. The ascent onto Tongariro is off track and will involve a stream crossing, navigation and a steep climb. It is expected that the walk, with rest stops and photo opportunities will take approx seven and a half to eight hours. Accommodation will be dependent on how many come along. It will be very helpful if I could know numbers by April 30. Linda Campbell.

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

Sth Ohau loop 28/29 Jan 2012. Jean Garman

At 8.30am on a Saturday morning the Ohau car park was already chocka but a quick read of the log book indicated that no one yet was planning to stay at Sth Ohau that night. We passed a bunch of people camping at the old shelter site & followed several sets of foot prints into the river which was up a bit but not discoloured. A few brief showers had us playing on again off again with the rain coats before clearing up with no more rain for the rest of the weekend.



Walking up the Ohau. J.Garman

Those of us with shorter legs or longer shorts were getting a bit wetter than normal in the river crossings & we met a hunter heading back out as his dog wasn't happy with the increased water levels. We were a little concerned at what the gorge would be like but either the river was still dropping or the Nth Ohau was contributing more than its fair share as the depths were more or less back to normal after we passed the river junction. Tony's boots let go at the toes meaning he had to stop frequently to empty out shingle but South Ohau hut was still reached in time for lunch. Our after lunch activity involved remarking the 'escape route' onto Gable End Ridge. Reading through the log book it didn't look like people were taking this more direct route, a couple of parties coming down from Te Matawai had made it part way down the river before being turned back by high water climbing back up the Yeates track, through Butchers saddle & out down Gable End ridge. The escape route cuts out a reasonable chunk of this & would be accessible in all but the worst flooding as Butchers creek normally remains crossable when the Ohau is no longer manageable. We headed up Butchers Creek about 50m then found a good spot to climb out & start heading up to the ridge. There was a bit of supple jack to start with but with some snips of the secateurs a route through was made & marked with pink tape. The bush is open & easy to travel although quite steep at times. The route basically climbs more or less straight up.

Tony had abandoned his boots; jandals aren't the easiest things to tramp through untracked bush in he so pattered up at his own pace. At 3.30pm we were at about 760m so stopped for afternoon tea then headed back down managing to follow the route all the way back to the creek. Back at the hut hot drinks & a round of nibbles preceded a dinner of fish & vege red thai curry with rice. A reasonably early night was had. Sunday we set off at about 7.30am (the toes of Tony's boots tied together with string) following the pink tape back up the 'escape route' to where we had got to the previous day then carried on marking & cutting. A band of scrub required a fair bit more cutting before it opened out into tall tussock & dracophyllum. There may be good views from this point but every time I have been there it is only the inside of a cloud that is visible. This section would require the most care especially coming down. Any bush along the way that rose above the surrounding vegetation was marked with pink tape although that will bleach out when the sun shines on it. Just about on top of the ridge where it flattens off it was into the leatherwood. I pushed through to the track & then we cut towards each other to ensure as short a line as possible as it is all too easy to wander round in the leatherwood trying to find the easiest way & effectively prolonging the agony. So the escape route between Sth Ohau hut & Point 930 on Gable End Ridge is currently well marked. At the top & bottom are venetian blind markers informing people that this is only a route, in between it is marked with pink tape. The more people who use it (useful for making a loop trip as well as an escape route when the river is high) the clearer the route will become but if you try to follow it & get lost don't blame us it is only a route after all. We had lunch part way down Gable End ridge & were back at the car park not long after 2pm. Still full of vehicles although lots of different ones now. A very popular road end. We were Jenny McCarthy, Adam Matich, Tony Evans & Jean Garman.



Jenny finding out how cold the water was.
J.Garman

19 April 2012 Ruamahanga river track

This walk starts at the Ruamahanga bridge on SH2 just south of Mount Bruce. There is a narrow vehicle entrance just south of the bridge which allows access for tramping and fishing. There is a short drive along what was the old highway to a car park. The first part of the walk is across farmland (permission is not required). Although hilly there are some great views to be had looking towards the Tararua Range. In less than an hour a private hut is reached which makes for a congenial spot to have morning tea on the spacious deck. Generous amounts of cake were passed around to celebrate a couple of special occasions amongst the Thursday trampers. The bush walk starts after this and it is a very pleasant one with glimpses of the Ruamahanga gorge below from time to time. The faster group got close to Cleft Creek before turning back, while a slower group to their time to enjoy the bush and find a few geocaches along the way. We enjoyed calm, overcast weather and there were 16 in the group.

Tunupo, Thursday 29 March by Keith Fisher.

Conditions looked promising for the 14 trampers as they set out for Tunupo. The weather turned out fine below the bush line but the tops remained in misty rain all day. Some of the group climbed as far as the rocky ridge just below Tunupo, but the wind was very strong & made their position somewhat uncomfortable so they lunched lower down. There were no views anyway. The sunny warm spots lower down made the return trip very pleasant.



Thursday Trampers on Tunupo. By K. Fisher

Heritage Lodge Area, 21 March. Pam Wilson

The tentative plans were for some trampers to do Tunupo & some to go to Iron Gate Gorge. However due to the heavy rain for days before & heavy cloud down over Tunupo on the day, we had to abandon both those options. Instead we all headed off towards Iron Gate Hut. Within half an hour the stream torrent made further progress impossible, impassable, so we returned to the lodge for a leisurely lunch. What was there to do?

The cheerful group determined to get the best out of this fine day (we just happened to be in the wrong location) took the only other option & with a one hour return walk, had a look at the campground. From a high point along the track, there was an impressive view of the roaring river. Thanks to all 18 cheerful trampers who turned a non-event into an enjoyable day! Special thanks to John for driving the van, Chris for his car & the Feilding group.

“Alternative Group” Wed 14 March Waiotauru Track by Paul & Linda Darbyshire

While the 9 “keener” lot took off up the Sheridan, 11 of us started up the track along the Western side of the Waiotauru River in perfect tramping conditions. Within 10 mins. we were at the “dreaded slip” where although some work had been done, there was still a nasty bit requiring extra care and balance. (This caused Andrew to decide he would rather go up the Fenceline track and toward Pukeatua.) The rest of us continued along the undulating bush track crossing occasional side creeks and ravines to emerge onto an extensive open grassy area where the remains of a former Seed and O'Brien's saw mill (which had operated up until the early 1940's) were in the process of being “preserved”. (The oily substance had a rather penetrating smell!) We stopped there for a cuppa before crossing the flats and on into the bush, climbing occasionally to small grassy viewpoints, one with a vertical drop below it, then skirting the base of an extensive former slip area (which shows clearly on the map.) By 11.45 we were still about a kilometre from the Waiotauru Forks and agreed it was time to turn back to have lunch in a sunny spot down in the river bed, alongside a beautiful (deep)swimming hole. (no one chose to go in!) By 2pm we were back at the top vehicle park from where we drove the 2 cars and bus down to the Otaki Forks in good time for the other group who were returning later down the field Track. Our group were - Brendon, Coralie & Evan, Ian, Lynn, Margaret G, Mona, Patsy, Kathy, and John (scribe)



Lunch in a sunny spot down in a riverbed.



14th March 2012 - Wednesday trampers. Sheridan Creek - Fields track loop by Paul & Linda Darbyshire.

In planning this trip, the word adventurous was used. In preparing those keen, I advised the trip involved several river crossings so bring a stick. I researched reports from others whom had done the trip, not too many recent & some 4-6 years old, but they all reported that this was a settled weather trip only, a little more difficult than the moderate level & with the track being alongside the creek (mostly), to be prepared for surprises. Also that markers were very easy to miss given a lot of time was spent watching your footing. Research is so beneficial, as a reasonably new trumper, it helped me feel more confident to get a clear picture in my mind of where we were heading. I would have to say that we were blest with the most perfect day with no excuses not to go ahead as planned. Of our group of 20, 9 were clearly adventurous, all 1st timers doing the Sheridan Creek trip & the other 11 prepared to not put themselves under pressure taking an alternative walk to the Waiotauru Forks. We estimated it would take an hour to get to the old log hauler up the creek, 1.5 hours up the spur, then an hour along field track to the car park at Otaki Forks. The only 'not negotiable' rule I voiced was that we all stay together throughout the trip.

10.00am: Getting started should have been the easiest part, however I took instructions a little too literally & led the troops to the car park at the upper camp area instead of crossing the camp area towards the river when you go through the gate. Hence one river crossing became three & by the time we found the flat area & swamp we were half an hour into the trip. It was pleasing to see though that we found frequent markers, some blue & some pink tape on branches all the way to the log hauler.



Quick stop by the heritage log hauler site. Maurice McDonald, Arthur Flint, Alison Jefferies, Linda Darbyshire, Leonie Lowndes, Terry Knight, Bob Hodgson.

The journey up the creek was pretty good. Having been a wet summer, the good water flow in the creek deterred moss on the rocks making the crossings non slippery. For most of us the water level didn't get over our knees.

The track as expected had been washed away in areas, so while in the creek we had to look out for where each marked exit was. After 1.5 hours we decided to stop for morning tea on a beautiful wide riverbed area in full sun. We were pretty pleased with having not taken a wrong turn at this point. The water temperature kept us comfortable on such a warm day.

Venturing on further we crossed a major slip which had stabilized quite well, & were alert for where an old rail track protruded from the bush, as that was where we needed to cross over to avoid the falls on the creek. A large orange marker pointed the way & having crossed the creek came upon a short length of original tramway that had been placed on new sleepers.



John Ridge, Maurice McDonald, Terry Knight & Leonie Lowndes by restored tramway tracks.

From this point we headed down a short steep rock face, to which a rope had been attached. The point where we were directed to the log hauler came clearly marked by another large orange triangle. This track took us slightly inland from the creek. It took 2hrs to reach the steam powered sawmill site, which had operated from 1930 to 1938. Logs were brought down a bush tramway by a rail tractor. The route included the steepest grade (1:5) recorded on a bush tram. The operation closed in 1938 when a flood washed out the bridges. Much has survived & the site is managed as a timber industry heritage site. With time pressing, after a short browse & photo shoot we postponed lunch break & headed back to the creek.

Sheridan's Creek – Fields Track continued.

We had some bush bashing ahead & the group were keen not to delay this!! I knew the spur we were to climb to get to Field track would be visible about 200-300 meters further up the creek approx. We made a couple of stops discussing exactly how far we may have travelled up creek. Finally we agreed it was time to head up bush. Bob had brought along his GPS & viewing this, I considered we were on track. For the group off track bush bashing was a new experience. The bush started out thick with punga & vines. The ground was damp & slippery & the gradient very steep.



Slipface with trampers.

Chris did a great job navigating the route, determining the best direction forward & upward. Many of the punga were weak & rotten which made finding something to help haul yourself up difficult. The vines entangled our legs, arms & backpacks. Alison managed to have her lunch & flask disengaged from her pack, luckily picked up by another member following. Her apple though was probably enjoyed by nature. Regularly we checked on everyone's progress & whereabouts. We were bush bashing single file! After about an hour I again looked at the GPS & happy to announce we were up the correct spur!

The climbing up the steep terrain was taking a toll on our energy levels; we had tramped but also undertaken quite an upper body workout, so it was time to have lunch & refuel the system. At our stop there were beautiful ferns on the bush floor, beech forest about us & the gradient now not so steep. That cuppa and sandwich was welcomed, although there were a few murmurings about saving food in case of emergency! Exactly how far was it to get to Field track? We had been off track for 1.5 hours. On checking the GPS we determined we should be at Field track in the hour. I tried to reassure the group that it was only a matter of time before we hit Field track, as long as we kept climbing we shouldn't miss it. I would have to say the GPS gave peace of mind on this venture. At 3pm Field track was discovered & greeted by 9 very happy trampers. There should have been a hidden camera to take a photo of our faces. We quickly called the rest of the group waiting at the car park, to let them know where we were, and that we wouldn't need help.

Well done, Chris, Maurice, Arthur, Alison, Leonie, Terry, Bob, John and Linda (scribe). I reckon we earned our river crossing, bush bashing, navigation & teamwork and survival badges. Hence to say there was a great sense of accomplishment, & a trip none of us will forget. Total time taken for trip, was five & a half hours.

Monthly statistic: 288 out of 318.

This is the number of submissions against a proposed tourist monorail & mountain bike track through Snowden Forest by Riverstone Holdings in Southland. The final day of hearings was on 24 April. A representative of the Minister of Conservation will make a decision based on hearing submissions, as well as a written response from the proposer. The corridor width for this is 200m with clearance area of 26.35ha. Part of the intended path runs through the World Heritage Area.



Every now & then someone sends in one worth having a decent look at! Central Crater and Emerald Lakes. A.Match

Tauherenikau headwaters 4/5/6 Feb 2012. By Jean Garman

A 3 day weekend was required for this trip although in hindsight 4 days would have been better. The first opportunity was Wellington Anniversary Weekend but a poor forecast made that a no goer so as Waitangi Weekend approached with a mostly sunny with light winds forecast David & I decided to give it a go. Saturday started off with mizzle & we



Tauherenikau bivvy. Image J.Garman

opted not to wear coats as the rate of wetting from sweat would be higher than from rain. We wandered up to Fields Hut for what turned out to be an early lunch & long chat with other groups. Above Fields it got progressively wetter but wasn't cold so we didn't bother with coats until Kime Hut when a breeze was chilling things down. In the murk we followed legions of muddy foot prints across the southern crossing till hitting the poles on top of Atkinson (there to stop people heading down False spur) & headed off down it. There were a few cairns & occasionally a very faint trail but not much sign of people going down this way. On reaching the broad undulating tarn flecked area we were spoilt for choice for tarns but finding some flattish ground that wasn't sopping wet was a bit more difficult. Eventually a spot was chosen, the fly erected & we changed into dry clothes for the night. Next day there was cloud above us, below us & mist coming & going round us, but it wasn't raining. We climbed back up to Atkinson then dropped directly down into the Tauherenikau headwaters & back into the cloud. It was reasonably easy going with only a couple of leatherwood bashes to avoid deep pools. A waterfall around the level of the bush line was easily sidled & the river was mostly quite travelable down the area marked as gorge on the map. A couple of cold swims were required & in one place we used a rope to lower packs then as a hand line to get down a tricky bit. According to the map we were now beyond the gorge & the sides were opening out on the TR at least. The map lies. We were in very steep terrain & the first un-negotiable waterfall was encountered. The TL was a complete no goer so we climbed up the TR side. We knew it would be a high sidle but it was worse than expected, an extremely steep climb directly up with absolutely no opportunity to sidle for over 150m. We stopped for lunch then started to sidle, thinking we had hit a good spur that should lead down to a corner in the river we started down again. It started off ok but got steeper & steeper until we plummeted back into the river. We carried on down but not for long before the next un-negotiable waterfall was found. All up we had spent @2 hours to get 50-100m down river. This time there was no option to climb up the right so we climbed on the left shortly getting a view that indicated again a very high sidle was required & at least 1 other waterfall was ahead. The day was getting on, we had no way of knowing how long the waterfall section would continue & we were on the toe of False spur which we knew had a good campsite further up so we decided the next section of the Tauherenikau would have to wait for another day (preferably with better weather). We headed straight up False spur. While there is no distinct leatherwood band, it intermingles with beech for @ @200m, so some bashing was required till close to the bush edge where deer trails made life easier. Once out in the open we had some views although the tops were still hidden in cloud which we climbed into before heading back to our previous camping spot. The ground was drier this time though a breeze caused the fly to flap a bit. In the night stars were spotted but by morning we were back to drizzle so we were up early to head out. The combination of wet & breeze was quite chilly till we dropped down to Fields for another early lunch. As we completed our trip the sun shone intermittently & it got warm. What we learnt – don't trust the forecast especially this summer, you can't always trust the map & an extra day up your sleeve for a trip like this would be useful. We were David Harrington & Jean Garman.



Tauherenikau tops. Image J.Garman

Page 8 of 10

Te Matawai work party 2012. By Jean Garman

For once the forecast was good; maybe that's what encouraged so many people to come on a work party. Ten people fitted into the minibus & at a very crowded road end we only found a park by blocking our 11th members' car off. We set off across the farmland & along the track to the Ohau river where Dave & Fred were waiting for us, then carried on each at our own pace. The river level was low due to all the lovely fine weather we have been having but the river bed is getting deeper so the bottoms (or slightly higher in some cases) of the shorts were getting wet. Easter eggs were strategically (out of the dogs reach) placed along the way to keep people focused. David, Debs & Adam deviated up deception spur while the rest of us regrouped at South Ohau where we had lunch, did a spot of cleaning & split some firewood rings that had been cut from a nearby windfall. With no more excuses it was time to sweat our way up to Te Matawai. Many trees had been knocked over but luckily the track had been recut since then so they didn't impede our progress. On arrival we found that there were five people in residence & learned why there were so many vehicles in the carpark but very few intentions in the road end log book. The Horowhenua Hunting Club had had a big fly in with a few members dropped into each hut. While there was only one hunter at Te Matawai, four trampers had taken the option of the shared costs & flown in too. More cleaning & retrieval of firewood rounds cut from a windfall on the far side of the helipad along with a bit of wood splitting filled in what was left of the day. The splitting was a little difficult as someone had managed to bend the axehead ??? It was time to knock off at about 5.30pm & drinks & nibbles were brought to the table for some very social time. A light dinner of nachos followed along with dessert which left us all stuffed to the gills & ready for bed. It was a fabulous night, clear as a bell, stars everywhere & not a breath of wind. Three opted to sleep on the helipad for the full surround of night time viewing, another two camped in the trees, Dave kept Fred company on the deck while the rest competed in the snore Olympics in the hut.

Sunday was a stunning day & once all the little jobs were finished off & the group photo taken we all headed towards Girdlestone saddle. There were a few windfalls along the way so we tidied those up as we went, all except the last one which had people running in all directions as a wasp's nest was disturbed. Poor Doug took the most hits but luckily did not seem to react much. From the saddle we carried on along the ridge line, sometimes on a bit of a trail sometimes not. Passing several wallows some of which were well churned, this along with a fair bit of roaring (most likely a mixture of deer & hunters) & some shots from the direction of the Mangahao left us in no doubt that the roar was underway. We had lunch at the top of the spur down to North Ohau & then headed down.



TeMat work party, by J.Garman

The route was marked with tape so while steep it was not hard to follow. Not much to do at North Ohau hut except enjoy the sunshine, have a chat with the resident hunter & quickly clean the windows before heading off down the river & back to the road end. A reasonably long day so having the extra hour from the change in daylight savings was a great bonus. We were Brian Webster, Jenny McCarthy, Doug McNeur, Malcolm Thomas, David & Deb Harrington, Adam Matich, Howie Nicholson, Dave Mitchell & Fred, Ivan Rienks & Jean Garman.



Jean & Ivan descending Girdlestone Saddle. 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



Jenny, Doug, Malcolm & David in North Ohau. A.Matich

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 lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz
Mini-Bus Manager	Bev Akers	06 325 8879
General Committee	Liz Flint	06 356 7654
	Bob Hodgson	