

UPCOMING CLUBNIGHTS

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

5 JUNE 2012 | 3 JULY 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.

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.

Editor: "I'm sure something is happening in July at the Club night, but crikey I'll be darned if I can find the confounded email that tells me what to put in this spot – soooo.... it is **MYSTERY NIGHT on Tuesday 3 July!!!**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT **LINDA CAMPBELL**

president@mtsc.org.nz

PHONE (06) 323 3836



Club president is not a role I ever expected to hold or even aspired to but I am honoured to accept this position in such a welcoming, friendly club.

The past committee worked hard to ensure our club members, finances and assets were cared for and maintained. I thank and acknowledge the work that Ken Mercer, immediate past president and newly elected club captain has done over the last three years. Ken is knowledgeable, has worked hard for our club and has always been able to think outside the square.

We thank and acknowledge Christine Scott for the sterling job she did as treasurer of our club. Christine always knew exactly what the club's financial position was and could answer any questions the committee had.

She is having a break from the committee after many years of service, as is Jenny McCarthy who has been our membership secretary for several years. Thanks must go to Jenny for maintaining our club membership records & ensuring the accounts for club fees were sent out on time. We also acknowledge the work that Kim Fraser did to ensure our trip card was prepared and a range of trips was offered. Other members of the previous committee were re-elected. We welcome our new treasurer Arthur Flint, our new lodge manager John Lyttle, our new membership secretary Judy Swainson and committee member Royce Mills.

Our club is in good heart and at the AGM the incoming committee was challenged to plan strategically to ensure the continued positive future of our club. Many ideas were raised for the committee to consider. We ask that if you have any ideas please share them with us. Your thoughts may be emailed to me at president@mtsc.org.nz Linda.

CLUB NIGHTS & NOTICES

NEW MEMBERS:

Please note the new members who have joined over the last few months – some of them are already quite active in the club and it is a pleasure to have them on board.

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

Be AdventureSmart in the outdoors

A new website has been launched to promote outdoor safety information to the thousands of people who enjoy the New Zealand outdoors every year. AdventureSmart

(www.adventuresmart.org.nz) provides Kiwis & overseas visitors with one online location for safety information & planning support to help them enjoy safe land, snow, water, boating and air activities.

UPCOMING TRIPS

E/M Adam Matich 359-2796 This is our annual trampers eating trip at an easy-to-access hut. We will head east from the Ohakune Mountain Road, on the around-the-mountain track, for a period of around 45 minutes, passing Waitonga Falls along the way, to reach the Lupton/Blyth hut track intersection. This track heads off uphill through the forest to Lupton & then Blyth Hut which is around 60 min from the intersection. Hopefully we will get there early to mid afternoon so we have time for an extended afternoon tea, wood chopping, & fire-lighting (should that be necessary). We might also try mulling something to help keep the cold out until we are re-warmed by dinner. Basically, it will be an afternoon of sloth & eating, so you might want a book or a pack of cards, or bring along your list of contentious issues for people to get angry about. Or you could just have a nice afternoon nana-nap. Next day, weather permitting, we will head uphill from the hut & then traverse NW across the open terrain to pick up the Ohakune Mountain Road somewhere near Makotuku Flat, & then follow the road back down to our transport, taking care to obstruct as much traffic as possible along the way!

The trip list

2-4 June Matemateonga Track Mark Learmonth	Easy/Medium 355 9143
6 June (Wed), Bev Akers	06 3258879
7 June (Thu), Carolyn Brodie	3586576
9-10 June NW Ruahines Jean Garman	Medium/Fit 06 3543536
13 June (Wed), Bernard Cobb	3288088
14 June (Thu), Stuart Malcolm	3583409
16-17 June Lodge Food Carry Howard Nicholson	All 3567497
20 June (Wed), Mona Webb	3234212
21 June (Thu), John McLeod	3235785
23-24 June Eating Trip (Blyth Hut) Adam Matich	Easy/Medium 3592796
27 June (Wed) Margaret Foot	3578003
28 June (Thu) John & Gillian Thornley	3569681
1 July (Sun), Otaki Forks David Harrington	Medium/Fit 06 8395766
4 July (Wed), Jill Usher	3536913
5 July (Thu), Brian & Ruth Evans	3237614

Hemi Matenga - Sunday 17th June has been shifted to Sunday 15th July

This is the hill you look at behind Waikanae & have always wondered what the views would be like – now is your chance. It's easyish because it's fairly short but there's a bit of a grunt up to the top. We park at the southern end & head through the streets to the northern end. It's all up (time to puff) till we reach the top, then work along the ridge. There's a wonderful view point with seating for lunch. Downhill to the vehicle - club bus of course, as you're all keen. (about 4 ½ hrs) Bev Akers 3258879.

From the may issue of Keep Tracking On from DOC Manawatu-Rangitikei:

"If you have visited a DOC-managed place recently, let us know what you thought of it! Tell us if work needs to be done, you have ideas for improvements or you just want to let us know how much you love the place. You can do this anonymously on our website by completing an [online feedback form](#). Or, you can call us on 06-3509700, email wellingtenco@doc.govt.nz, or call in to see us at 717 Tremaine Avenue, Palmerston North.

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.

August 4-5 Medium Lower Matakuhia Hut Mark Learmonth 3559143

Lower Matakuhia Hut is an old six bunk hut in the Waipunga Conservation Area accessed from Sh5. the track starts off from the forestry road Waipunga following the Opureke track through pine plantation to the bush edge. The route then continues up to and follows the ridge to a point where it overlooks the Matakuhia Stream. It then descends to and crosses the stream, where it intersects with the track to Upper Matakuhia hut. From here you carry on down the true right of the stream to the hut. This area can experience snow in winter. Route time approximately six hours.



Quoin Ridgeby D.Harrington

TRIP REPORTS

Tongariro Trip, 5-6 May. By Linda Campbell

Leaving on a Friday night for a weekend trip can be a bit of a rush but as always it was absolutely worth it. We had an uneventful drive in clear weather to the lodge with a short stop at Subway for dinner. Carolyne B had driven down from Hamilton and was waiting in the car park opposite the Chateau. We collected her and it wasn't long before we were settled into the lodge with a hot drink in hand.

Saturday morning dawned fine and clear with a bit of frost to remind us winter is on the way. There was hardly a breath of wind. We drove down to the start of the Tongariro Crossing, meeting several shuttles that were on their way out after

dropping people off. It was obviously going to be a busy day on the crossing. We had a short stop at Mangatepopo Hut to take a few photos and have a drink before starting our climb. Our route took us down to the stream behind the hut and up onto hill opposite. There were great views of the area as we climbed and looked down on the people snaking their way along the crossing. Morning tea was enjoyed at the 1409 point before setting off again up Hardman's Ridge to the top of Tongariro where we sat in the sun to eat our lunch. There is a fairly obvious track most of the way so the GPSs did not get as much use as expected. From there we decided to go that bit further and made our way to Red Crater to look down on the lakes. Once again the views were fantastic. We had an enjoyable walk back to the car wondering at the number of people who had obviously started walking the track rather late in the day, although some we met were late as they had attempted to climb Ngauruhoe. At one point we were stopped by a group of three who had run out of water and were very thirsty. As they had a long way to go and we were only a couple of hours from the car the decision was made to share our water. We came away concerned that so many unprepared people were attempting the crossing so late in the day. Sunday was also a beautiful clear day with a bit of a frost. There was quite some discussion about what we would do and finally we decided to walk around the ski fields. After a good clean up we set off uphill from just



Thursday trampers below Wooden Peg - Kelly Knight access track. Image R.Mills

behind the lodge. Unfortunately Carolyne B took ill and Linda escorted her back while the rest of the team carried on up for lunch. They arrived at the Top of the Bruce around 2.00pm. An ice cream at Taihape was needed as 'every good tramp deserves an ice cream'. On our return to the van we were surprised to meet Howard and family who were on their way back from a weekend in Rotorua.

It was a fantastic weekend with pretty near perfect weather. We couldn't have asked for better. The wonderful company added to the weekend and I thank Andrew Campbell, Tim Swale, Carolyne Barkla, Ken and Mary Mercer, Carolyn Nixon, Nigel and Paul Grigg and Chris Mercer for their wonderful company.



Jenny arriving at Poutaki Hut. Image A.Matich

Eastern Hutt River, March 2012. By Jean Garman

It was a calm warm sunny day when we left the ute at the Kaitoke regional park and sweated our way up over the 4WD track that gives access to the Hutt forks. An hour and half later we were on to bush track, using the bridge to cross the Eastern Hutt river to keep our feet dry before heading down to the forks for an early lunch. After lunch it was straight up the base of the Quoin Ridge on a very steep but marked track. Further up the ridge becomes gentler and the markers go away for a while only to reappear for a short stretch to stop you wandering off track over the fragile vegetation. When we finally left the bush for good a cool breeze was blowing which was nice as some of us had run out of water. Luckily on top of Quoin there were a number of tarns so we managed to top up before continuing on up the ridge. It was a bit breezy for camping on the tops especially as the forecast was for wind speeds to increase during the night so we dropped down to alpha hut. There were only seven people there so we decided to camp out on the veranda. We were all tucked up in bed before it got dark and a few stars were spotted in the night before the cloud came in and the wind picked up as predicted. Wind gusts harried us through the night and Sunday morning dawned pretty murky so we were glad to not be going back onto the tops. We followed the track along to Hells Gate then dove off to the southern side. It was quite a steep descent down spur fragments and slips with a bit of deer trail to guide the way on occasion till we got into the stream. Initial travel in the stream was pretty good but then it narrowed down and started to look a bit ominous so we opted for a left hand side which was pretty cruisey and took us above a gorgy waterfall section. An alternative route from Alpha hut takes a spur down from near the helipad which would miss this section but wouldn't be as poetic as starting from the source. Back in the river and travel got easier and easier as the gradient levelled out and the river bed widened. The sun was poking through the cloud on a regular basis but it was still pretty windy so we retreated into the bush for lunch before carrying on down to the hut to check it out – very tidy. The river from here on was very easy travel either in the river bed or on bush terraces alongside and before we knew it we had passed the up and over track and were looking at the start of the gorge. The start involved climbing round a bit of rock and 'gently' dropping into the water for a bit of a pack float. It was Monique's first pack float so after some instruction and a demonstration she splashed on in and seemed to enjoy it. Trying to come up the gorge would be very difficult but going with the flow was very pleasant.



Monique getting ready for her first pack float.

Image J.Garman

After the initial swim it was possible to keep your feet on the ground for the subsequent pools that went on for quite a while before one final swim near the end of the gorge. The sun was now shining all the time, the wind had dropped and it was pleasantly warm so getting soaking wet was no hardship. The river was more open but without much in the way of riverbanks so a lot of the travel was walking in the water until we reached the get out point and headed back up the 4WD track. At the top there was an alternative. The "Norbert track" that brought us out a couple of km's along away from the ute so rather than pummel our wet travel weary feet on a hard road descent we took this option. It was very steep most of the way but still nicer than walking on a road surface. About half way back along the road to the ute a car stopped and offered our driver a ride which he was firmly encouraged to take and we were on our way home a good couple of hours before the park gates were closed. A couple of longish days especially for the Hawkes Bay participants but the weather was close to perfect for once this summer. We were David Harrington, Monique, Brian Webster and Jean Garman.



Garry & Carolyn at the start of the climb up onto the Wakarara Range. Image A Matich

Hihitahi Forest Sanctuary –Zekes Hut,

May 2, 2012-Wednesday Trampers. By Bob Hodgson.

The title page of “Pilgrims Progress “ by John Bunyan contains the following statement. “Wherein it is discovered the nature of his dangerous journey and fate, from Hometown, to the Celestial City atop Mount Zion”. We did not find a celestial city, merely a trampers hut and a trig point atop Hihitahi but we did encounter some challenges similar to those encountered by Christian {Bunyan’s Pilgrim} and, in addition, we found some earthly treasure in the form of a long lost key set. So here is an account of our group trials and tribulations. Twenty souls mustered at Mangaweka where the temperature was a brisk 3C. It was a three-or-four layer day for most and gloves were popular. We held our briefing and donned packs at about 9-30am then formed a crocodile across the two access paddocks leading to the swing bridge. By the time the last of the party was across the bridge the snout of our crocodile was climbing through the fence to the start of the track. {Memo to self-next time, hold the briefing on the far side of the bridge.} Soon after starting on the track, we encountered a series of muddy challenges akin to Bunyan’s Slough of Despond. At the slough Christian was abandoned by his companions, Obstinate and Pliable but we Wednesday Trampers are of sterner stuff {sic} and we ploughed on. {In the book Christian is pulled out of the bog by a character called Help!}.

After the Slough of Despond came our Hill of Difficulty with its 1 in 4 gradient over about 700M. On the day it was very slippery and needed special care. Chris Brunskill played the role of Help by roping a particularly demanding section to assist the less agile. Once clear of the Hill of Difficulty, the track becomes progressively more benign and so by noon all of the party reached the trig point, our agreed lunch stop. Nine of the party led by Chris Brunskill, then made their way to Zekes Hut without incident. While eating her lunch at the trig point, Rita Hodgson found a set of keys, which subsequently proved to be those lost by Carolyn Brodie over a year ago on the last Wednesday tramp to visit Hihitahi! The remote possibility of recovering the lost keys had been discussed on the outward journey but nobody had thought it to be at all likely!

Unfortunately, on the day, the cloud ceiling was low so the anticipated splendid views of Ruapehu and the Central Plateau were denied to us. At the trig point, snow flurries driven by a cold southerly dictated a brief lunch stop. The cool weather did not detract from the beauty of the bush which included many mature mountain cedar and beech trees as well as abundant ferns around the track. Bird life included numerous Tui, and Keruru as well as Fantails.

The return tramp claimed a few extravagantly muddy bums but nothing worse and so, by about three thirty, we departed the car park. We then headed for a cheery rendezvous in the welcoming warmth of the le Café Telephonique on Huia Street in Taihape -the Celestial City perhaps? Thanks to Chris Brunskill for driving the Club Bus and for his rope-work and to my fellow cheerful pilgrims for their fortitude.

Kelly Knight, Thursday 3rd May. By Judy Swainson.

An excellent 6 hour tramp to Kelly Knight with 20 of us leaving Palmerston North in brilliant sunshine. After gaining permission to drive through private farmland the group set off across farmland and then onto the track toward Kelly Knight Hut. The track is easy walking except for a recent slip which required careful navigation. At the turn off to Kelly Knight hut the group split with a few ascending to the hut and the remainder of the 20 trampers heading off on the track which leads to Wooden Peg and then onto Purity Hut. As we approached the tree line much to our delight we struck fresh snow a few cm deep but lovely and crunchy. We traversed the tussock for an hour and found lovely spot with views of fresh snow on surrounding ranges. Great views also looking back down towards the Kawhatau Valley. A very enjoyable day with perfect weather great views and 20 happy trampers.

Statistic of the month - ∞ .

This is the goodwill generated by Meridian Energy’s recent change of heart regarding a proposed hydroelectric dam on the Mokihinui River in the West Coast.



Greg Dobson, Mark Learmonth & Peter McLeod in Gold Creek. Image A.Matich.

Gold Creek Hut 28-29 April

Four troopers: Adam, Peter, Mark & Greg. The route we choose started at the Ford on Wakarara Road. Crossing the river (Makaroro) we headed upriver to the junction with Gold Stream & Ridge routes. 30 minutes of easy shingle bed flats with some river crossings mixed in. No sooner had we started light wetting rain started to fall & continued all day. On reaching the junction Peter had had quite enough of river crossings for one day. So the group decided to take the ridge track to the hut & return via the stream. The first km of this track is spent climbing on the farm land side of the bounty fence separating farmland from forest. It's steep & scrubby and coupled with the rain was extremely slippery. Right little pig of a section. With relief we reached the gate leading into the Forest. From the time you pass through the gate you are in a predominately Black Beech Forest with a floor covering of low native Flora, with flax / like plants like Dianella Nigra. These plants were intriguing as the long stalks growing out of the clumps were bearing bright Blue Berries, which I had never seen before. In summer these stalks are covered in tiny white flowers. As you continue further up the ridge like a line was drawn in the sand the forest dramatically changed. How silver beech with Totara & other species mixed in with thick Fern flora. Around the 980m height a Cairn is reached marking the point where the track turns sharp right heading straight down to the hut. For a lightly used track its in marvellous order with only a couple of wind falls to negotiate. The old four-bunk hut painted in Ruahine orange is perched beside Gold Creek. Reaching the hut was a welcome relief from the rain. Overnight the rain cleared away and with the morning temperature being rather cool we set sale off down Gold Creek, which we found has little, going for it, messy & cold as it sees little sun. Dead trees lying across or beside the stream were slimy to treacherous to stand on. At one point it was cold enough for my teeth to have a little chatter to themselves. Good case here to the rename the stream Cold Stream. Altogether an enjoyable round trip of 14.5 km, but not one you would do time & time again.



Greg Dobson & Mark Learmonth arriving at Gold Creek Hut. Image A. Matich



Rita Hodson & Ian Brooks descending. Image B. Hodgson.

Poutaki Hut 20th May

We headed off down the Makaroro River from the Wakarara Road carpark, crossing it three times before we reached Dutch Creek. There were complaints as it was possible to make only one crossing. We picked up a well trodden track that headed up the true right of Dutch Creek and followed it to its crossing to the true left, on which side we climbed up through the native bush, then the pine forest and emerged on the logging track section of Wakarara Road. Another 2 ½ km saw us at Leatherwood road up which we travelled 500 metres to reach the beginning of the track to Poutaki Hut (1 hr). The track dropped steeply into and crossed a small creek and then we had a sometimes steep 350 metre climb up the spur to the top of the Wakarara Range (1 hr). Some of this spur is quite rocky and the top end of it is covered in pine trees. The track veered left to head north along the tops, from which we had some good views of the Parks Peak Ridge in the Ruahines. Twenty minutes of travel along the tops saw us at Poutaki Peak, with its radio mast, and then ten minutes later we had dropped 50 m down to Poutaki Hut, which is in a steep grassy clearing facing east. There was a bit of deer and pig sign in said clearing. Because the hut is not insulated, the sun had warmed it up nicely, so lunch was reasonably comfortable. The log book and the wear and tear on the track indicated that quite a few more people have been visiting this hut in recent years. Ten years ago we went up the wrong spur because the track was poorly marked. Little chance of that these days! After lunch we returned by the same route, but quicker as it was downhill. We had experienced yet another of the fine autumn days that have been around lately. We were Carolyn Nixon, Jenny McCarthy, Garry Grayson, and Adam 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	Linda Campbell	06 323 3836 president@mtsc.org.nz
Secretary	Tim Swale	06 376 6556
Treasurer	Christine Scott	06 354 0510 treasurer@mtsc.org.nz
Chief Guide	Ken Mercer	06 356 7497
Day Trip Convenor	Bev Akers	06 325 8879
Membership Sec.		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 Bob Hodgson	06 356 7654