

Newsletter of the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club

MAIL: MTSC, P.O. Box 245, Palmerston North | WEB: www.mtsc.org.nz

UPCOMING CLUBNIGHTS

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

4 SEPTEMBER 2012 | 2 OCTOBER 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 Seconder 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.

October 2 — Interclub Quiz is hosted by our club this year and we are looking to our members to come along and give a good account with the competition likely to be stiff from the young upstarts and purists... it should be a good night, so keep the date free.

September 4 – Photo competition. Last year Richard Lander won 5 out of 6 categories – this year the heat is on with several members having travelled overseas and other categories having a good chance of being hotly contested. Submit entries to Howard Nicholson, check the website first.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT LINDA CAMPBELL

president@mtsc.org.nz PHONE (06) 323 3836



There is change in the air. The Department of Conservation favourably. Suggested hut categories that could be has to cut back and some of the tracks and huts we have considered as groups prioritise include historic huts, huts taken for granted in the Ruahine and the Wairarapa area that have some importance, huts that could may not be maintained for much longer. There are a few not locked/booked, huts that could be moved to a minimal so well used tracks that have been earmarked for closure in maintenance programme, huts already on minimal the Wairarapa area from November this year as they are maintenance & huts that already are part of an agreement becoming difficult to maintain. Our understanding is that the to be maintained by community groups/clubs. Our club track markers will remain in place but any structures will be already has an agreement with the Department of removed. There is also the issue of removal of gas cookers Conservation to look after both Te Matawai and Mangahao from some huts which means our members will need to be Flats huts & a wonderful group of keen people have been self sufficient when venturing into the back country. The doing this. If you have any thoughts please forward them consultation process is in place for the

Ruahines & clubs & interested groups have been invited to prioritise huts and tracks. A group of keen knowledgeable people from our club met recently to start working on a list to be suggested to DOC. Of course different groups have different priorities but we hope suggestions made on behalf of Manawatu Tramping & Skiing Club are considered

Facility changes being made in the Wairarapa region: summary from a DOC letter...

National Visitor Booking System at Powell and Jumbo huts.

From August 1st 2012 Powell and Jumbo hut will be made available for bookings between October 1st 2012 and April 30th 2013. Bookings can be made via the Department Of Conservation (DOC) website (www.doc.govt.nz).Be sure to book early - a Warden will be in attendance at Powell and Jumbo to assist over summer.

Gas removal at Tutuwai, Totara Flats and Mitre Flats huts

Due to health and safety reasons the gas cooking facilities at Tutuwai, Totara Flats and Mitre Flats huts will be permanently removed between the 20th and 31st August.2012.. These facilities are becoming unsafe due to their age and are expensive to maintain. The Department of Conservation will continue to supply firewood to these huts, which will provide heating and a cooking source via the woodstoves available. (Bold emphasis by newsletter editor)

Closure of Tracks in the Wairarapa Area

After November 1st 2012 four tracks in the Wairarapa will no longer be maintained by DOC.

The four tracks are becoming increasingly difficult to maintain to the standard required and the number of people using these tracks is not high enough to justify the continuing maintenance costs. The tracks will have their markers and structures (eg: bridges), removed and will no longer be maintained by DOC after November 2012. The department is open to any expressions of interest from any tramping clubs or community organisations who wish to become involved in the management of these tracks.

For further details talk to a committee member or contact DoC.

CLUB NIGHTS & NOTICES

Photo Competition - Tuesday 4 September 2012 - 7:30pm

It's time once more for the annual photo competition. Winners of our competition go on to the interclub competition in October. There will be some prizes as always - a bag of lollies, or maybe some fantastic tramping gear as in past years. The categories are:

Landscapes (NZ) - Pictorial interest in NZ, no people.

Above Bushline (NZ) - Predominantly alpine scenery in NZ, above bushline, e.g. rock and snow, tussock, etc., may include people.

Below Bushline (NZ) - Predominantly bush, scrub, lowland to sub-alpine areas, may include people.

Natural History (NZ) - NZ flora and fauna or detail, e.g. geology, ice formations, animals, plants etc.

Topical (NZ) - People or detail related to tramping, climbing, skiing etc. in NZ.

Overseas - Photos taken overseas - open category: e.g. landscape, people, natural history, etc.

Further details, including an email address for sending your entries, can be found on the club web site.

UPCOMING TRIPS

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.

The trip list

29 Aug (Wed) Alison Jeffries	358 4895
30 Aug (Thu) David Grant	357 8269
01-02 Sep Ski Ngauruhoe Peter Rawlins	Technical 356 7443
02 Sep (Sun) Atiwhakatu Hut Linda Campbell	Family 06 333 4493
05 Sep (Wed) Bernard Cobb	328 8088
06 Sep (Thu) Judy Swainson	358 4082
8-9 Sep Roaring Stag Lodge Gary Bevins	Easy/Medium 06 325 8879
12 Sep (Wed) Robert Bruce	329 7858
13 Sep (Thu) Geraldine Fovakis	356 4327
15 Sep (Sat) Kapiti Island Mark Learmonth	Family 027 200 4960
15-16 Sep Snowcaving at Whakapapa Ken Mercer	Technical 359 7497
19 Sep (Wed) Patsy Inkpen	323 8030
20 Sep (Thu) Graham Pritchard	357 1393
22-23 Sep Mangahao Flats Hut Bev Akers	Easy/Med 06 325 8879
22-23 Sep Mangahao Flats Hut Work Party Jean Garman 354 353	

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	
FII	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.

Kapiti Island Preview, September 15

Mark Learmonth 027-2004960

We will leave PN to arrive at the Kapiti Boating Club Paraparaumu Beach by 9am to catch a charter ferry across to Rangatira Point. On landing we will receive an introductory talk, after that it's over to you. You can walk up the trig track to Tuteremoana (Kapiti summit) & return via the Wilkinson Track or stay below below the 200m level to view the birds and the beauty of this island, it's up to you. The ferry returns between 15:15 -16:15. Ferry & Permit fee \$71.20 pp. On return it's our intention to head down to Paekakariki for drinks and an evening meal at Fisherman's Table Restaurant before returning to Palm Nth. Please note this is a SATURDAY trip. PLEASE ADVISE MARK OF YOUR INTEREST A.S.A.P so bookings can be confirmed. msanddilearmonth@inspire.net.nz Ph 027-2004960

26 Sep (Wed) Andrew Brodie	358 6576
27 Sep (Thu) Merv Matthews	357 2858
29 Sep Middle Spur Tararua FP	Fit
Dave Harrington	06 839 5766
03 Oct (Wed) Ian Alve	356 3123
04 Oct (Thu) Paul Carroll	021 02586052
6-7 Oct Snow Camping	356 7443

TRIP REPORTS



Malcolm at Cow Creek Hut. Image A.Matich

18-19th August Waihohonu Hut

The Wednesday tampers had informed us that the new Waihohonu Hut was a rather flash affair and so we decided on a winter's visit (it costs

\$32 in summer if you book, \$64 if you don't). We headed off from the Chateau under overcast skies (rain was expected) towards Tama lakes on the now girlie-grade track on which it looks like DoC has spent a lot of money in recent years. At the Tama lakes intersection we held a vote and decided that Jenny would take the direct route to Waihohonu hut so that when the rest of us arrived, by a more circuitous route, she would have the fire alight. The rest of us headed to Upper Tama lake, where it started lightly raining and hailing, dropped onto the western shore of the lake and circled around to climb up to the little saddle above the NE shore of said lake. This saddle led us up to the headwaters of Waihohonu Stm, the whole area being under a little bit of snow. We headed a short way down Waihohonu Stm before sidling from the true right up onto "Waihohonu Ridge". We didn't stay up on the ridge for long, however, because we saw a very inviting course-sand fan that drains into the valley that leads directly down to Waihohonu Hut. We followed this valley all the way down, crossing the streams as we went until the last major stream in which Jean got her feet wet as it was a bit deep. We climbed out onto the track somewhere between Old Waihohonu and New Waihohonu huts it then being a hop, skip, and a jump to "The Palace" (5 ¼ hr day). Jenny had the fire well alight and it was toasty warm. This new Great-Walk hut is rather lavishly appointed. It sleeps 28 in two separate bunk rooms and there are separate decks outside with picnic tables, presumably to prevent flare-ups between warring nationalities. There is running hot water heated by solar panels and a wet-back in the wood burner, gas cooking in

summer and electric lights in the living area which has large picture windows facing the volcanoes.

The wood shed is two stories high! I could comfortably swap it for my house! Dinner was a disaster, but otherwise our stay was pleasant.

The next morning there was a good frost; it started out calm and clear. We started back on the Whakapapa-Waihohonu Track, but abandoned Jenny again, when we were around due south of Upper Tama lake, to head SW up onto the plateau just west of Saddle Cone. On the Plateau there was a whole flock of seagulls flying around squawking at us and we saw what we thought was a bird's nest. Dave even saw a dead seagull in the snow, but kept it to himself until later so we missed out on the opportunity to poke it with our Leki Sticks and take tasteless photos. It was a bit murky up there and our sense of direction poor, so we had to navigate our way into Wairere Stm at 1380m ASL.



New hut interior. Image R.Wong

Fortunately, we were no higher as it looked a bit ugly further up, with waterfalls and smooth rock faces. Our down-stream travel was quite fast and not challenging, so it didn't take us too long to reach the bridge above Taranaki Falls where we were met with some disquieting news. Jenny was supposed to have put a rock on the bridge to tell us she was in front, but it wasn't there. Jenny, had the car keys so it could have been awkward if she didn't turn up with them. As it turned out, Jenny was waiting in the car for us and we weren't stranded after all (5 hr day). Some pesky tourist had removed her signal rock. We were Dave Mitchell, Jean Garman, Jenny McCarthy, and Adam Matich

By the way, if you want a cushy hut to visit in winter, Waihohonu is the one for you! You might as well get some value out of your taxes, as the tourists certainly are!

Tramping with Amazons, by Bob Hodgson

On July 11th Bev Akers took 25 the Wednesday Trampers to the Mount Holdsworth area. In winter sunshine we all made our way up to the Rocky Lookout for morning tea. Then most of the fit and fast led by Chris Brunskill and Dennis Jenson, tramped in and out to the Totara Flats Hut in conditions best described as winter/greasy. The remaining day trampers made their way up to Mountain House. One of the regulars, however, tagged onto a non-MTSC party and made his way to Powell Hut. He returned safely and in time but caused some anxiety to the trip leaders who were unaware of his intentions and for a time, his whereabouts. Trampers please make sure the trip leaders are kept informed.

A third party led by Bev made its way to the Totara Flats Hut to stay overnight and then to tramp out to the Waiohine Gorge swing bridge and park entrance.



Totara Flats Hut with {Lto R}: Margaret Gillingham, Suzanne Clark, Gary Bevins[bending], Margaret Foot, Bob Hodgson at rear-note pack dogs.

As we were doing this, Gary Bevins drove a vehicle from the Holdsworth entrance to the Gorge then, in the company of three dogs, the younger two carrying back packs, he tramped into the Totara Flats Hut. The six of us who tramped in to meet Bruce were Bev Akers, Margarets Foot & Gillingham, Suzanne Clark, Jill Ussher and myself, Bob Hodgson. On my first overnight in 35 years, I was the tramper who set the slow pace. In the vicinity of the river crossing there was plenty of evidence of the impact a localized weather bomb with many slips and in one place about three meters of the root mat of a substantial tree exposed horizontally about four meters above a slip on the track. A few minor injuries were sustained but otherwise we arrived safely at the hut to be welcomed by Bruce and a warm fire not to mention the three dogs. My GPS tells me that the walk was about 9.5k and involved a descent of about 430m. We were disappointed to find the Hut lacking in TLC and that there was almost no wood for the fire.

Fortunately the gas supply for cooking has not yet been removed from the hut as is the intention of DOC.

The following day was fine and after a scenically frosty start, we tramped the approximately 10k and 80m rise to the Waiohine Gorge swing-bridge and the waiting vehicle. Thanks to Bev and Gary, for their good organisation and transport, and to the Amazons* for tolerating my slow pace.

*{The warrior women known to ancient Greek authors as Amazons were long thought to be creatures of myth.....}.



Margaret Foot handing out chocolates on the Branch Rd walkway. Image J.Hunt

Hell's Gate walk:

The headland section of Noosa National Park on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland is an important habitat for flora and fauna, featuring coastal forest remnants and exposed rocky headlands. Inclement weather had kept us inside on holiday so we were keen for a leg stretch after 5 days & headed off out to explore. Our initial plan was to head for a blowhole/cleft called Hell's Gate then to Sunshine Beach by Alexandria Bay & back overland to Noosa Heads. Residual swells had attracted quite a few surfers so for the first 20 minutes we were passing & being passed by neoprene clad board carriers. By Winch Cove, (the 2nd bay out), numbers had thinned considerably & the swell was noticeably larger. More importantly for us, the mizzle had by then become fitful & finally nearing Hell's Gate we had a couple of bursts of sun. Looking out over Alexandria Bay, walking along it to pick up the track at the far end did not look fun, so we retraced our steps, managing to see a wild koala in a tree near the roadend carpark at the end. The park has 5 main tracks, all doable in a full day of walking. Plentiful accommodation options nearby with excellent beaches may slow the pace of exploration down though. Queensland State Government (over in Australia there is an extra layer of bureaucracy) does some excellent PDF overview maps - if you can dig deep enough to find them. We were Tim and Karen Tyler.

11-12 August Lower Matakuhia Hut (a Mark Learmonth Special)

This somewhat cursed trip (our second ever failure to reach destination) was in the Waipunga Conservation Area, accessed from the Napier-Taupo road a bit west of Tarawera. A 4WD or good ground-clearance 2WD vehicle is necessary as the road is a bit untidy, including a washout. Some bad advice from a mischievous hunter suggested we should head to the old Opureke Hut site and pick up the disused section of the Opureke Track to make our way around the western face of Opureke peak to Opureke saddle. This track is more than disused, it is non-existent, there being no track markers and the track indistinguishable from all the pig-trails that wander through the forest.



Somewhere near the no longer existing section of the Opureke Track. Image A.Matich

As we couldn't find the beginning of the track, we headed up a stream that it crossed, relying on the GPS (desperation) to tell us when, and then headed off into the bush. The travel was slow, but not especially difficult, and we didn't definitely find the old track until it started climbing to Opureke Peak, which was not where we wanted to be. However, we never did see the track heading off towards the saddle. So once on Opureke Peak, we took a compass bearing down into the saddle (2 ½ hrs), again not too difficult, where we finally discovered the distinct, well-marked DoC track.

All the way from the saddle down to the track junction in Matakuhia Stream the track was well marked, although not well maintained (minimal maintenance area) and so it was a bit overgrown, wind-falled, and there were two difficult, time-consuming stream crossings. In its day though, it was a very good track. It is so gently benched that it might well have been cut for a tramway! Because of the gentle grade, we travelled a long way to go a short distance and didn't arrive down at the track intersection in Matakuhia Stm until 5 p.m (4 hrs from the saddle).

Trip leader's informants had told him we had a further 3 hours down-stream to Lower Matakuhia Hut & it was already getting dim in the forest so we decided to dejectedly accept defeat & camp where we were for the night. The rain didn't start until 3:30 Sunday morning & it wasn't as heavy as the forecast suggested, so we had a comfortable night.



Mark preparing dinner at the campsite next to Matakuhia stream. Image A.Matich

The next morning we retraced our steps back to Opuheke Saddle in good time (3 ¼ hrs) and continued on down to the correct road end on what was a well marked, well defined track, it only taking us 45 min to reach the end of the track (BH38 062 866) which was 500 m up a 4WD track a bit over 1 km north, on Waipunga Road (BH38 058 869), of the Opureke Hut track. This was a situation in which we shouldn't have taken external advice, and relied upon the map and strangely enough, on DoC. The latter is a sad admission to make! We will have to go back now that we know the correct route. As an aside, it is probably best to use the Topo50 map as it correctly shows the track intersection in the Matakuhia Stm (where we camped, BH38 103 863) as being on the true left. The 260 series map shows it on the true right.

Don't get too smug though LINZ, because on the Topo50 map the start of the correct track is shown to be 500 m away from the road. It is in fact roughly as indicated but on a 4WD track which is not shown on the map.

We were Gary Bevins, Adam Matich and Mark Learmonth.



Gary on the track from Opuheke saddle to Matakuhia Stream. Image A.Matich

ISSUE 7, September 2012



Looking toward the table ridge tops from the Blue Range Cow Creek track. Image A.Matich

Thursday tramp 9 August 2012 Hemi Matenga - by Royce Mills

We started from the reservoir entrance at the south end of the track and soon reached a lookout to enjoy misty views of Waikanae and Kapiti Island. A second stop was made at the next lookout for morning tea - using the small but convenient table here (or is it a very high seat?). We continued northwards past the Huia Street track turnoff and reached the northern end of the ridge in time for lunch. This brought us out of the bush but unfortunately the mist below us meant that there were no views of the coast looking north The drizzle started to set in, lunch was hastily finished, and it was back in to the shelter of the bush. We retraced our steps, apart from two in the group choosing to make a circuit and go down the Huia St track and walk back to the van along the streets of Waikanae. The sun began to shine as we walked out. This was a tramp with a difference a 5 1/2 hour walk in very pleasant bush never far at all from SH1. There were 18 in our group.

Ruamahunga Track 27th June (Wednesday tramp)

Roll call at Eketahuna with all 25 people with 3 cars & the minibus. We continued on past Mt Bruce to the turn off on our right just over the Ruamahanga River. Good easy parking beside the farmer track to the woolshed. Off over paddocks following a good farm track most of the way. Unfortunately there's a bit of a steep hill to climb and descend but its okay. Nice easy walk over flats past the sheep yards till we get to Reef Hill Hut (private and locked) for our smoko.

The track heads into bush following the river at altitude, thank goodness, as it becomes a bit gorgy below. Everyone found the track good and interesting, but some areas damaged by pigs. A really good walk until we reached a side stream. Has a rather nasty decent & scramble up the other side (cliff face really). About 12 just got on & did it while the rest sat down where there is a lovely campsite and had an early lunch.

Two of us didn't want this gorgy bit to stop us so we headed back up to the track (2mins) before it dropped down to the campsite. From there we continue along gaining a little altitude till we got round the corner where it opens out to an easy crossing of the stream. But a bit of a scramble up the other side then head back towards the main track.

Sort of following a trail I guess hunters have made. It's a lot easier than trying the gorgy waterfall area down steam. All good, we headed back out with everyone talking about a good tramp and would like to do it in the summer. You can drop down to the river to miss out the steep farm hill climb.

N.B. The club has just received a notice from Doc saying that they are going to remove the markers off this particular track and no longer maintain it. Shock horrors!!



Gary & Jenny at the Holdsworth Trig. Image A.Matich



Gary and Jenny heading across the tops from Jumbo to

Holdsworth. Image A.Matich

CLUB INFORMATION

Annual Hut Passes

Buy your Annual Hut Pass through DoC. The full price of We have two personal locator beacons (PLB), packs, 2 and 3 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



The original Waihohonu hut is a listed building.

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

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 2012-13 Committee

MISC 2012-13 Committee		
President Linda Campbell	06 323 3836	
presid	ent@mtsc.org.nz	
Secretary Tim Swale	06 376 6556	
Treasurer Arthur Flint	06 356 7654	
<u>treasu</u>	rer@mtsc.org.nz	
Chief Guide Ken Mercer	06 356 7497	
Day Trip Convenor Bev Akers	06 325 8879	
Membership Judy Swainson		
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Newsletter Editor Tim Tyler <u>ed</u>	itor@mtsc.org.nz	
Social Convenor Bob Hodgson		
Ski Captain Howard Nicholson	06 357 6325	
Lodge Manager John Lyttle		
Lodge Bookings Hugh & Liz Wilde	06 356 9450	
Mini-Bus Manager Bev Akers	06 325 8879	
General Committee		

Royce Mills, Bev Akers, Ryan Badger