

beechleaves

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 DECEMBER 2012 | 5 FEBRUARY 2013

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



Wednesday trampers at the boiler on Waitewaewae track, Otaki Forks, 10 October. Image R.Bruce.



5 February 2013 – Year Opening Barbecue

To be held at the Rose City Aquatic Club Rooms, 50 Park Road, Palmerston North from 7:30pm. Contact Bob Hodgson

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Calling all social climbers... end of year social and prize-giving night: 4 December

Bring a plate along and enjoy some festive cheer as recognition is made of the contribution of some of the volunteers that help run the club. Organised this year by Ken Mercer 06 3567497 and Tim Swale 06 3766556.

The Clubnight after the committee meeting will be a pizza evening and slideshow. \$5 per head plus BYO drinks. Bring images on a memory stick if have any you would like to share.

Got the end-of-year-nobody-wants-to-go-tramping blues?

Call one of the daytrip regulars or the daytrip convenor – between early December & the end of January trips are informal.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT **LINDA CAMPBELL**

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



It is time to think about the wonderful things in our lives. Spring tends to make many people feel more energetic. The longer days and warmer weather inspires many of us to get out and enjoy the outdoors. It is good to hear that many of our recently ill or injured club members are better or on the mend. It is great to be able to congratulate our newsletter editor, Tim Tyler, and his wife Karen on the safe arrival of their daughter. It is also time to reflect on the club's wonderful asset on Mt Ruapehu. Our club lodge which is very comfortable, spacious and warm is for all club members. It is well used in winter but you do not

need to be a skier to go there. I am not a skier and probably never will be but in the last few years I have spend several enjoyable weekends at our lodge meeting new people and enjoying the alpine environment. Many people may not be aware that the lodge is available in all seasons and can be used by both weekday and weekend trampers. If you are planning a trip to the area please talk to our lodge booking officers about staying there. After several months as president and gaining a more thorough understanding of what people do in our club I want to thank members and particularly all the committee members for the hard work they put into our club. A lot of work is done behind the scenes and is often unrecognised publically. It is always valued by many. Remember our club lodge. It is there to be used all year. Wishing you good health and a safe and happy holiday season.

Enjoy yourselves in the hills but take care out there. Linda.

CLUB NOTICES

The club was sorry to hear of the recent death of Harry Allardice, a long-standing member of the Thursday tramping group until a few years ago. We pass on our sympathy to Christine and her family.

Newsletter notes

- > If you would like to receive your newsletter by email as a pdf in full colour and earlier than by post then please send an email request to editor@mtsc.org.nz.
- > For change of contact details please email membership@mtsc.org.nz and copy 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.
- > Renewing Club membership is cheaper if you get an electronic copy. Contact Membership secretary for details.
- > Articles and images submitted may not be included in the next issue for editorial and space reasons, although every effort is made.

Keep Tracking On newsletter from DoC

The November issue of the Department of Conservation Manawatu Rangitikei area newsletter, 'Keep Tracking On with DOC' available via the Department website, or you can contact editor@mtsc.org.nz

Running through the Tararuas

English ultra-marathon runner Richard Bowles ran through the Tararuas on 14 & 15 November 2012. He is hoping to be the first to run the length of the Te Araroa Trail. He has run from Cape Reinga south through the North Island, through Feilding & Palmerston North. Then it was up into the Tararua foothills along tracks that many of us know well. I was lucky enough to meet him on the pleasant trails around Massey University, then at Otaki Forks on 15 November after he completed the gruelling Tararua section of the trail. He had splashed through mud & mist over Pukematawai-Dracophyllum Knob - Crawford in a fast time & in typically poor Tararua weather, then out past YTYT hut without getting lost (it was his first Tararua experience). It took Richard 12 hours to run from Te Matawai Hut, along this route out to Otaki Forks, arriving looking remarkably refreshed. You can track him from his SPOT GPS on his website, and see how fast he is moving through the South Island to Bluff. Richard is a real inspiration. Look at www.richardbowles.com.au <https://www.facebook.com/UltraRunnerRich>



Richard Bowles at Otaki Forks. Image T.Gates

UPCOMING TRIPS

Trip List

1-2 Dec Pureora Forest Waihaha/Mt Titiraupenga	Medium	Mark Learmonth	355 9143
2 Dec (Sun) Kiriwhakapapa	Medium	Tim Swale	06 376 6556
5 Dec (Wed) Rita & Arthur Hodson			323 5491
6 Dec (Thu) Alan Cameron			358 3848
8-9 Dec Top Gorge	Medium/Fit	Jean Garman	354 3536
12 Dec (Wed) Pam Wilson			357 6247
13 Dec (Thu) Royce Mills			355 8556
14 Dec The Thursday Group Barbecue			
15-16 Dec Makino River	Med/Fit	Adam Matich	359 2796
16 Dec (Sun) Beehive Creek	Easy	Linda Campbell	323 3836
12-13 Jan Te Matawai	Med/Fit	Jean Garman	354 3536
19-21 Jan (Wgtn Ann w/e) Rocks Ahead	Med/Fit	Adam Matich	359 2796
25 Jan (Fri) Bowling at Himatangi	Fun	Mark Learmonth	355 9143
26-27 Jan Oturere strm camping	Med/Fit	Jenny McCarthy	06 376 8838
27 Jan (Sun) Cumberland Crk	Fit	David Harrington	
30 Jan (Wed) Sue Pither			357 3033
2-3 Feb Tregear Crk	Fit	Jean Garman	354 3536
6 Feb (Wed) John Ridge			357 3744
6 Feb (Wed) Upstream to Herepai Hut	Med/Fit	Adam Matich	359 2796
7 Feb (Thu) Gordon Clark			359 2500
9-10 Feb Ngamoko Loop	Med/Fit	Adam Matich	359 2796
13 Feb (Wed) Bob Hodgson			356 2915
14 Feb (Thu) Hugh Wilde			356 9450
15 Feb (Fri) Bowling at Himatangi	Fun	Mark Learmonth	355 9143
16-17 Feb Lodge Painting	All	John Lyttle	0274 336 307
20 Feb (Wed) Pam Wilson			357 6247
21 Feb (Thu) David Grant			357 8269

23-24 Feb Irongate/Tunupo stoat line	Medium	Ken Mercer	356 7497
27 Feb (Wed) Suzanne Clark			356 8322
28 Feb (Thu) Judy Swainson			358 4082
6 Mar (Wed) Brendon Donald			06 372 7772

Trip Preview: Lodge Painting Weekend:

John Lyttle is planning a work party to complete this task and would appreciate you emailing your interest in attending on **16-17 February 2013**. Painting is weather dependent so if the weather is bad it will be postponed to the next weekend. Painting skills an advantage but we would appreciate anybody willing to help out. John can be contacted on johnmiltonlyttle@gmail.com

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

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 & will be provided to LandSAR if the party is reported overdue.

Kawhatau Warning:

Previously there has been vehicle access to Kawhatau Base through private land but this access is no longer available. Access is now by walking up the Kawhatau River from Rangitane road bridge across the Kawhatau River. Note this route may not be accessible during times of high river flow.

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-stay/lodges-cabins-and-cottages-by-region/manawatu-whanganui/kawhatau-base/>

Trip Preview: Friday 25th January Bowling at Himatangi Beach

Join us for a fun evening of outdoor bowls at the Himatangi Beach Bowling Club. The intention is to leave PN shortly after five. Play outdoor bowls (bowls provided) for 1.5hrs followed by fish & chips/drinks & some light entertainment. Small charge with bowls instruction provided by bowling club members. What would be really great is if we could get a cross section of club & associate members to join in with the fun EG: Thursday/Wednesday trampers, weekend, non trampers (other halves), retired members or Ski club members. Let's really make a night of this. Interested, phone the organizer Mark Learmonth 06 3559143 or mobile 027 2004960.

Trip Preview: Beehive Creek Walkway Sunday 16 December

School will be finished or nearly finished so it is a great time to take kids or grand kids on a very pleasant 2-3 hour family walk. The walk follows Beehive Creek through both native & exotic bush. You will get your feet wet as you cross the shallow, gently flowing stream several times along the way. There are good views of the Pohangina Valley and the Ruahine Ranges and you may see a variety of bird life e.g tui, kereru, fantail, bellbird and kingfisher if you are lucky. It is not a loop track so a car shuttle may be required. Beehive Creek is just 33km north of Palmerston North just past Pohangina.



The Lodge. Image C Barkla.

TRIP REPORTS

MTB – Café ride – Kumeroa 25 November. By Tim Swale

With appalling weather the previous weekend making biking a most unappealing proposition, it was decided to have another go at this pleasant little circuit a week later than planned. This time the weather obliged & seven cyclists parked at the now closed Kohinui School & headed off up towards the Makairo Track. Tarseal soon turned to gravel as we cycled along Waituna Road past old farm cottages & over a low saddle on the way to Pahaheke Road. Ken & Mary decided to do the longer loop on a paper road that descends into Kumeroa whilst the rest of us including 9 year old Chantelle, meandered our way through the hills down to the Manawatu River. The return journey along River Road & Thompson's Road to Kohinui is sealed was pleasant in the bright sunshine. We must have been talking too much as despite Ken & Mary putting in an extra 10km they soon caught us up. Back at Kohinui we loaded the bikes & headed off to the nearby Lavender Café at Mangatainoka for a leisurely lunch in the sun.

Purity Hut, Thursday 15 November. By Keith Fisher

With permission now required to cross farmland on the way to Purity Hut the farmer Richard Gorringer (ph 063825856) was contacted & permission granted. 12 trampers set off with a weather forecast that was for some showers & rain later. As it turned out the weather was fine & warm with only a shower when we arrived back at the van. We all lunched at the Hut & 5 of the party then went on to Wooden Peg. The views were great thanks to the weather & there was still some snow on the tops.



A break on the way to Purity Hut. Image by the Fishers.



Middle Spur (~~29/30 September~~ 10/11 November)

The one absolute requirement for this trip was for the Waiohine River to not be up on Sunday morning. Rain at the wrong time would have involved an awful lot more walking & probably not getting out of the hills till some time on Monday. David & I carefully watched the forecast in the preceding week to make a call on Thursday as to whether the weather was playing ball. Unfortunately it looked dodgy so we postponed to 10/11 November. This time the forecast looked ok & Ivan decided he would join us so we met on Friday afternoon in Pahiatua & headed for the Holdsworth road end. It was a warm day so we sweated our way up the track towards mountain house. While having a break at the Totara Flats turn off 2 guys came charging past heading all the way into Neill Forks that night. Far too strenuous for us. We dropped down to Totara creek & had a cold dinner before continuing on to the hut. We were surprised by the number of people there, then another 2 turned up, then another 3 with two dogs! All up there must have been 20 people at the hut for a Friday night. We, along with many others, chose to sleep on the veranda as it was a lovely night. It got light not long after 5am & some people started getting up then, so we gave up trying to sleep & got ready for what promised to be a long day. Away from the hut at 6.30am, first up was a 700m climb onto Cone Ridge, followed by a 600m descent to Neill Forks hut for morning tea. The two guys we saw on Friday night were just leaving the hut as we started to arrive. We had a substantial morning tea to prepare us for the next big climb, 800m onto Concertina Knob. That was hot sweaty work but a very efficient way of gaining height. A 100m drop was followed by a 350m climb to Mangahuka. We passed the other two on the bush edge (one of them was having knee problems); above the bush line it was blue skies with a stiff breeze so over heating was no longer such an issue. We made Mangahuka hut for a late lunch after over 1800m of climbing that morning! Needless to say it was quite a long lunch including a hot drink to recuperate & steel ourselves for the next section. We carried on north along the ridge line with what was now quite a strong cool wind & cloud forming over the higher peaks. We hung a right from the top of Wright & headed down Middle Spur. Virtually no leatherwood was encountered before we were in the bush & the spur was mostly straight forward apart from a couple of undefined sections where careful compass work by David

was required to stop us dropping off in the wrong direction. From careful study of the map & google earth we chose to head down the northern end of the spur as a slip on the other side of the river made it look considerably more crossable at that point than other alternatives (gorges). We were pleased to see some small vaguely flattish pieces of ground under the trees just before we popped out on the river bank so we had a couple of acceptable fly sites that were sheltered from the wind with enough cover to keep extremely light drizzle that had developed at bay. After 11 hours on the move & 2000m+ of climbing along with 2000m of descent in one day we were off to bed & sound asleep before it got dark. A slightly later get up time on Sunday of 6am saw us on the go by 7am to cross the river. If done carefully it was possible to pick a way across without getting wet shorts. The alternative was to take them off & wade through an easy section that was about crutch deep. It wouldn't take much rain at all to make the river uncrossable here & there is no hope either up or down stream as deep gorgy pools exist in both directions. We picked our way up onto High Ridge from the downstream end of the slip just past a little stream. The going was slow to start with as a short section with supple jack had to be negotiated. This was followed by some fairly steep climbing then as we got higher the going got a little easier. It was also getting wetter & colder. On the way up I required extra clothing despite the exertion & we all resorted to raincoats & gloves before we reached Flaxy Knob. From here we carried on up High Ridge which was marked with big orange discs for the first section, then had a couple of confusing little bits before we got onto a well-padded foot trail & orange tape helped mark the way for the last stretch in the bush. It was getting progressively colder & even more clothes were required quite a while before we left the bush. Above the bush it was driving rain, the sort that blows up under your coat, stings your face & makes your leg muscles slow & unresponsive as they are rapidly chilled. Luckily it is not too far up to join the main Holdsworth track & then down to Powell hut in time for lunch & a hot drink. Now on a well formed track it didn't take long to descend from Powell & the further down we got the better the weather got. Around Rocky Lookout we started seeing runners & dog walkers so even with less than brilliant weather there were still plenty of people out & about. Overall a tiring, but satisfying weekend. We were David Harrington, Ivan Rienks & Jean Garman the author.



Looking north from Mangahuka. Image J.Garman

Rangiwahia Hut November 4. By Linda Campbell.

It was cold! Much colder than we had expected & the closer we got to Rangiwahia Hut the colder it became. Tiny beads of hail stung any exposed skin but what a lovely walk it was. Every time I have been there in the past I have seen nothing of the famed views as I always seem to have picked days when it has been raining & sleeting but this time as we sat inside eating lunch the cloud cleared a little. It was just enough to offer hints of a beautiful area. With lunch eaten & the four of us warmed a little from what was left from the heat of an overnight fire we set off for a short walk along the track to Mangahuia High Point. The dull light & low cloud gave the tussock an eerie alpine look & it was even colder than before. Talk of going back along Deadmans Track to the car park changed to let's go back the way we came. There is a bit of a climb around the slip which makes the walk a bit more interesting but it is an easy day walk I recommend. To finish the day we enjoyed a hot drink at Hansen's Cafe in Kimbolton. Thanks to Linda Darragh, Kim Fraser & Tim Swale for being such good company.

Rimutaka Summit Track 10 November. By Adam Matich.

We left a car at the end of Bucks Road (Featherston) before heading to our starting point, the summit of the Rimutaka Hill Road. Initially, the track headed north, but our average heading for the day was NE. The first 55min of the track was in the open terrain (low scrub) with views down the Hutt Valley & of the Hill Road. Thereafter, we were in open forest until the electricity pylon was reached 15min later. ENE from the pylon, the route was a 4WD road along the ridge for the next 2.5km (1hr) & which then departed from said road when the road headed off south down a spur. From here on we were back on a tramping track that descended through the forest for 15min before landing on a long flat section of the spur, which was sparsely covered with low vegetation. We enjoyed good views down to lake Wairarapa. The steep descent from Mt Frith was back in the forest again, but degenerated to high scrub in the saddle & after Mt Finis (2 hr) we were on the remains of a vehicle track passing through tall, unattractive scrub ameliorated by the flowering gorse & rangiora. We passed a few tracks that head down to the east, so there was plenty of opportunity to escape the heat on the tops. But despite running out of water we bravely continued on and eventually made our way down to the end of Bucks Rd for a slightly less than 6-hour day. The route is generally well-marked & easy to follow, the only section where a little care was necessary was in the sparse, open scrub approaching Mt Frith as the blue plastic route markers seem to have the misfortune of breaking off near ground level; there must be some strong winds up there at times. We were Kim Fraser, Mark Learmonth, Brian Webster, and Adam Matich.



Mark, Kim & Brian looking towards Lake Wairarapa.

Maharahara to Keretaki Hut 14th October.

The weather being inclement, we decided not to do the Rimutaka Summit day trip & took the long route to Keretaki Hut instead. As nasty weather was coming from the west, there hadn't been much rain in the eastern Ruahines so a rock-hop up Mangapuaka Stm from Kumeti Rd left the more experienced rock-hoppers with dry socks. At the moment, the beginning of the Maharahara Crossing is obscured by fallen trees & it would be easy to miss the sign if you don't stay in the watercourse. We nearly did! Around 2½ hours climbing saw us at the intersection in the snow-covered leatherwood corridor with more snow falling. We didn't stay around too long before heading south down the very steep track into Oruakeretaki Stm (1½ hr). Below about 900m the snow faded away & it got a bit warmer. The 260 series map lies (the Topo50 series is correct) as it shows the track up to Keretaki Hut is immediately across the stream. In fact the track is 100m of boulder-hopping down-stream. Twenty minutes climb up the track saw us at the hut for a late lunch, 4½ hours from the road end. After lunch we took the hunter's (SeaMac) track back down into Oruakeretaki Stm which we followed back to our other vehicle (6½ hr day). I felt the stream wasn't as friendly or easy as it had been in previous years...at least it wasn't in flood. We were Robert Simpson, Mark Learmonth and Adam Matich the author.



Robert & Adam on the Maharahara Crossing. Image M.Learmonth.



Herepai Hut, Thursday 18 October. By Hugh Wilde

Our original intention was to travel up the Desert Road & visit the new Waihohonu Hut but forecast weather around the volcanic plateau encouraged us to find an alternative destination. Though heavy rain was forecast for the Tararua on Wednesday, the Wairarapa side had reasonable weather predicted for Thursday so that became our choice. Eleven of us set out for the Putara roadend for a day in the bush. Approaching Putara we had a brief distraction where the road was blocked by a large boulder weighing no less than 200kg. We managed to skid and roll it to the roadside and resume our trip. The river & streams were running high from the previous night's heavy rain & likewise - much of the track up to the ridge was still receiving a good sluicing from the runoff. Little wonder the track is eroding. Despite the inclement weather it didn't rain while we were on the track, except for those who ventured above the hut after lunch who got a quick shower. The day was uneventful & we returned to the roadend mid afternoon & were home @5pm after a stop in Eketahuna to sample the ice cream & coffee there.

Kaimai Range, 20 to 22 October. By Adam Matich

Mark Learmonth & I started from Upland Road (10km south of Katikati) for the gentle 2km, 120m climb up to the North-South track, which took <1 hour, then headed northerly on said track which sidles round the base of the Ngatamahinerua Plateau, crossing 2 streams before sidling into Kauritatahi stream which we had to criss-cross up-stream for 100m or so. There was a wooden ladder to descend in this section. After our final crossing to the true-left, we climbed a steep spur for a couple of hundred metres before stopping for lunch. The steep sections of the track in this park are interesting. Instead of building formal steps, half-rounds are strung together with number eight wire and draped down the steep section of the track, much like a chain ladder. After lunch we continued on to the sharp bend in the North-South Track, immediately north of Ngatamahinerua Peak where the track intersects (properly sign-posted) with the Kauritatahi Track, a still entirely viable & well-marked track not shown on the latest map series. We headed south up this track & sidled around the eastern face of Ngatamahinerua Peak to eventually reach the plateau & Kauritatahi Hut, 1½hrs from the track intersection, & 5½ hours from the road end. The track is muddy up on the plateau. In fact, the North-South track used to traverse this plateau until DoC decided it was too muddy & moved it east down off the plateau. As a result of this, Kauritatahi hut has become somewhat marginalised & is now looked after by one of the local NZDA's, bless them. This hut is very basic, but in pretty good condition, & it protected us from the overnight wind & rain. It is said to be a four-bunker, but not really. The fourth bunk is a hammock-like affair & so the 4th person is better off on the floor. There were 4 of us in the hut & 2 outside in a tent. A rare event these days. The next day we headed 2hrs north to where the track crossed the

Thompson Track, an in-use 4WD track that crosses the range. The map is a bit misleading at this point as it does not show all the 4WD tracks in the area, there being spur tracks off the Thompsons. The north-South Track drops onto one of these & follows it north before Thompsons Track is crossed. The exit off the 4WD spur track back onto the North-South track is not marked & at first appears to be another spur track. Once we resolved this confusion we headed north across open grassy tops then back into forest, passing through the Mt Eliza Track intersection & on to Motutapere Hut for lunch(¼ hr). This is an excellent hut upon which someone has expended some effort. It is old but very clean & tidy, lined, 4-bunker with a new water tank & helipad not far away. Like the previous hut it only has an open fire so it is probably more effective to keep yourself warm by engaging in a prolonged & pointless heated argument. Thus far, travel-times given by DoC had been generous, but from here north that was not so & our afternoon was longer than advertised. The section north of Motutapere Hut, up & over Kakarahi Peak is considered the most rugged in the Park. There are rock faces, pillars & ladders, one being a 9 metre steel construction. This is true enough, but the track is entirely sensible & we didn't find it challenging. What was unfortunate was the weather was foul, high winds & driving rain so we didn't get full benefit of the views of the ruggedness, nor of the plebs on the lowlands to the east west of the range. Despite this the track was still pretty safe travel. Once off Kakarahi Peak & past the Tuahu track intersection we had a more-or-less gentle climb, 1st to the intersection (sign-posted) with the now un-maintained Wahine Rock Track, 2nd to the intersection with the Te Rereatukaiha Track & finally Te Rereatukaiha Hut our destination for the night. This tidy 12-bunker was built in 1978, has no heating & a packed lunch is required if you want to use the long-drop (all the dunnies encountered were above par) & it was all ours for the night. Next day we had intended to head north to Cashmore Clearing via the un-maintained track & out to Lindemann Road, but given the weather had wandered round to a southerly and was still nasty, we took the Te Rereatukaiha Track(2 hrs) out to Hot Springs Road where Delwyn was waiting to pick us up. This track passed through a rare Kauri Grove. A lot of our travel had been through re-growth & sections of the track around Motutapere hut & between the Tuahu track crossing & Te Rereatukaiha Hut(on the actual spine of the range) followed old fence-line. Given the forested nature of this range & how well-marked tracks are, the section of the range we travelled would appear to be safe to travel in even the worst of weathers. It is narrow, not very high, & the water catchments are small, so it is possible to do day trips or overnights to most huts. Transport issues aside, a day-trip crossing is well within the realms of possibility.



Mark Learmonth climbing the Kaimai half-round steps. Image A.Match



Kauritatahi Hut by night. Image A.Match

An end of year – photo montage of recent image submitted. All of them cannot be included, but maybe members could post some interesting ones on the club Facebook Wall. Note many of these huts are not nearly as nice as our Lodge in Tongariro National Park. It is available year-round.



Mark, Brian & Kim looking down on the Rimutaka road. Image A.Match

In the Nov issue the final paragraph of the "Mitre Flats Hut" review was omitted. Thanks to John Hunt who shared his resources & knowledge & the people who drove us.



Mangahuka Hut. Image J.Garman



Rangiwahia Hut. Image T.Swale

Wakarara/Sunrise Hutte (plan change from Moorcock Valley), Wednesday 12 September 2012. By RAB.

Seventeen sturdy souls headed north in the direction of Moorcock Valley in the midst of a prolonged period of problematical weather. Snow was on the highway at Norsewood while in the ranges west of Ashley Clinton the snowy showers were swirling around our Longview Hutte objective. I contemplated the wisdom of the Chinese proverb "If you do not change direction, you will end up where you are going!" When we reached SH50, it was decided to detour from exposed Moorcock Valley and head up instead to the Wakarara and Sunrise Hutte. For a largish party of assorted fitness, experience and gear, this made sense. After all, it wasn't the intention to get our names in the papers for the wrong reasons. We discovered the bush track to Sunrise to be sheltered and in superb shape with a covering of a good 20cm of virgin snow higher up. After some lunch – time tucker, "snowflakes were falling on our heads" as we descended in quick time. Back on the sunny sheep slopes we observed the marvellous maternally – driven ewes relaxing with their newborn lambs – no worries apparently, about the weather or paid parental leave, elective caesareans, crèches, custody crises and other human stridencies. In late (latte?) afternoon, we dropped into the Norsewood Café for coffee, cake and chatter before departing the village and its perky trolls for a big soak in the hot tubs back home. Guido Roberto - Robert Bruce, 2 Octobre 2012

Deadmans Track. Wed 3 October. By Andrew Brodie

The weather forecast did not look good but this did not stop 26 intrepid trampers assembling at the start of Deadmans Track. Keeping so many trampers of varying age, fitness and experience happy can be a bit of a mission, especially when one of them leaves his pack outside the Rose and Crown! No prize for guessing who that was. The plan for the day was for one small group to do the loop over the tops and back down via Rangi Hut, however, they took one look at the weather and decided to do the trip in reverse hoping that the weather might improve later in the day. The remaining 21 of us set off up Deadmans Track – this group ranged in age from 12 years old up to over 80. Our plan was for the fastest and fittest to reach the tarns and return with the rest going as far as they wished. Further up the track we came across quite a bit of snow and once out of the shelter of the leatherwoods the wind was bitterly cold. Needless to say no one got as far as planned. On the way down a small group helped trip leader locate a geocache by the secret tarn in the bush. This cache was placed by a regular Thursday trumper in July and has only been found twice so far. The group that went up the Rangi Track got as far as the hut, lit the fire to keep warm and ate lunch. Because of the sleety conditions they decided not to carry on. We all got back to the van & cars more or less together & headed off for hot drinks at the

Cross Hills Café – probably doubling their profits for the day. Van driver thought he was driving a car but when the van looked as if was going to demolish a sign sticking out from the café entrance we decided the van must be a bus & reversed to change lanes. Everyone enjoyed the day in spite of the weather – for some this was the first time they had been up this track. Thanks to John Ridge for driving the van & the other drivers – Jerry Tanguay, John Hunt & the Flints for driving their cars.



Ann Shipman, Patsy Inkpen, Marie Inkpen, John Hunt and Andrew Brodie on Deadmans Track. Image B. Hodgson

Kapiti Island 15th September. By Mark Learmonth

All week leading to this trip sceptics told me the weekend weather was looking very dodgy; however on the day it wasn't bad at all. Eleven of us made the visit, our group made up of Wednesday & weekend trampers. Shortly after 9am following a bio-security check we were loaded onto the charter boat for the ride across to the island. After a brief introductory talk on arrival at Rangatira Point it was exploring/bird watching time. Some set off up the Trig track while the rest of us meandered our way up the Wilkinson track viewing & photographing the birds stopping at the Hihi feeding station for smoko. There we were met by a mischievous Kaka. The bird was a real scream jumping from one head/shoulder to another trying to pinch food. What a laugh the bird really made our day. Lunch was had at the trig on Tuteremoana. We returned the same way hoping for a little more entertainment with the Kaka. The bird obliged, plus it managed to nick off with one of Gary's muesli bars when he wasn't paying enough attention. The range of birds spotted included Bellbird, Tui, Saddleback, Kereru, Weka, Kaka, North Island Robin, Takahe & Fantail. Back at Paraparaumu beach we headed off to Fisherman's Table Restaurant for a few hours of relaxation before heading home. Was really nice mixing with club members who would not normally participate on weekend trips coming along.

CLUB INFORMATION

Annual Hut Passes with FMC discount

An Annual Hut Pass 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



Clematis in flower. 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 2012-13 Committee

President Linda Campbell	06 323 3836
	president@mtsc.org.nz
Secretary Tim Swale	06 376 6556
Treasurer Arthur Flint	06 356 7654
	treasurer@mtsc.org.nz
Chief Guide Ken Mercer	06 356 7497
Day Trip Convenor Bev Akers	06 325 8879
Membership Judy Swainson	
	membership@mtsc.org.nz
Newsletter Editor Tim Tyler	editor@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	