

## UPCOMING CLUBNIGHTS

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

**5 FEBRUARY 2013**

**5 MARCH 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](http://www.mtsc.org.nz)



### 5 February 2013 – Year Opening Barbecue

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

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Jenny & Jean on the helipad at Te Matawai hut. Image A.Match

If you think the above image looks great in print, you should see it in PDF format, as emailed to many members already. If you elect to receive only electronic newsletters, this not only saves cost and effort, your subscription is lower as well. Contact our friendly membership secretary for details.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT LINDA CAMPBELL

[president@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:president@mtsc.org.nz)  
PHONE (06) 323 3836



Summer is great. It is a time when we can get out with family and friends to enjoy the great outdoors. As well as the fun exciting walks/ bike rides there are lots of easy walks and bike rides for those with young children and grandchildren so it is a great time to share your passion with young people. The way the Department of Conservation works is changing as are their budgets so they are keen to further develop partnerships with the outdoor community. Clubs and some individuals are becoming more involved in the cleaning and maintenance of back country huts and at present the

Manawatu Tramping and skiing Club has management agreements (a Memorandum of Understanding) for Te Matawai and Mangahao Flats huts. MTSC do light track clearance and a thorough cleaning of each hut once a year. Please let DOC know if you have done any track work on marked DOC tracks as you venture out so this can be noted on their database. Individual members also volunteer for LandSAR and at the time of writing members have given their time this holiday season to search for a missing father and son at Totara Park in the Pohangina Valley near Palmerston North just before Christmas and also for the runner who was missing in the Tararua just before New Year. Our club members not only look after the environment they also look out for the welfare of others. Enjoy yourselves in the hills but take care out there.

## CLUB NOTICES

### 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](mailto:editor@mtsc.org.nz).

> For change of contact details please email [membership@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:membership@mtsc.org.nz) and copy the message to [editor@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:editor@mtsc.org.nz).

> The deadline for newsletter contributions is @ the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 to do so.

### Kime Hut to be replaced

The contract to replace Kime Hut has been let to Allan Berntsen of Walkway Solutions Ltd, with construction starting on the 21st January 2013. From this date the current Kime Hut will be available to the public at a reduced capacity of 10 bunks as the remaining space will be used by the contractors. When the new hut is closed in and weather tight the contractors will move into the new hut and the current hut will be dismantled. From this time there will be

### Latest issue of FMC Newsletter available now:

On the FMC website: Download December 2012 Newsletter PDF

The newsletter link:

[FMC December Newsletter](#)

### “Keep Tracking On” newsletter

For those wanting to keep abreast of what is happening locally with the Department of Conservation, a newsletter is periodically issued with some interesting topics covered. The link is [www.doc.govt.nz/about-doc/news/newsletters/keep-tracking-on-with-doc-manawatu-rangitikei](http://www.doc.govt.nz/about-doc/news/newsletters/keep-tracking-on-with-doc-manawatu-rangitikei) then select the issue you are interested in.

### Club supports RAL proposal for Whakapapa lift upgrade.

Ken Mercer on behalf of the MTSC issued a submission for consultation regarding the proposed lift upgrade on Mt. Ruapehu. Further information about the proposal can be found on the RAL website. MTSC members decided after reviewing the proposal that it would be of benefit to members. The club submission was in support of the proposal.

### Wilderness Magazine

This popular magazine is seeking “Wild Trip” reports and also trip previews to feature in upcoming issues. Trip Leaders please consider the opportunity to leaven your usual tramping suspects (and a great bunch they are too!) with a dash of exotic new ones... contact Beechleaves Editor Tim for more information.



## UPCOMING TRIPS

### Trip List

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	
<b>7 Feb (Thu) Gordon Clark</b>	<b>359 2500</b>	
13 Feb (Wed) Bob Hodgson	356 2915	
<b>14 Feb (Thu) Hugh Wilde</b>	<b>356 9450</b>	
15 Feb (Fri) Bowling at Himatangi	Fun	
Mark Learmonth	355 9143	
16-17 Feb Lodge Painting	All	
John Lyttle	0274 336 307	
16-17 Feb Ngamoko Loop	Med/Fit	
Adam Matich	359 2796	
20 Feb (Wed) Pam Wilson	357 6247	
<b>21 Feb (Thu) David Grant</b>	<b>357 2692</b>	
23-24 Feb Irongate/Tunupo stoat line	Medium	
Ken Mercer	356 7497	
27 Feb (Wed) Suzanne Clark	356 8322	
<b>28 Feb (Thu) Judy Swainson</b>	<b>358 4082</b>	
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](mailto: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.

<b>FAMILY</b>	All welcome, casual pace, any age
<b>EASY</b>	4 hours per day, pace slower than Easy/Med. Does not relate to terrain
<b>EASY/MEDIUM</b>	5 hours per day at a pace slower than Medium
<b>MEDIUM</b>	7 hours per day at a standard walking pace
<b>MEDIUM/FIT</b>	8 hours per day at a pace faster than Medium
<b>FIT</b>	Over 8 hours per day at a pace faster than Med/Fit
<b>TECHNICAL</b>	Qualifying requirements to be announced by the trip organiser

**Trip Preview: Ngamoko Loop, 16-17 Feb.** Medium Fit Adam Matich 3592796 (moved from the weekend of 9-10th Feb) We will head from Limestone Rd up Knights Track to Toka Peak (900m climb) then drop down to Leon Kinvig Hut. We will then rock-hop & wade down-river to Ngamoko Hut for the night (8-9 hr day). Next day we will climb up onto the Ngamoko Range directly behind Ngamoko Hut & head northerly across the tops to pick up the Shorts track 2km short of Toka Peak to take us back down to the car

### Trip Preview: Whangaehu Hut, 9th March (Sat).

Medium Fit Adam Matich 3592796 This hut is reached from the Tukino Ski field (Desert Road). Given that here is a locked gate on the ski-field road we may have 90 minutes of road walking to get to Tukino Village from the vehicle. Thereafter, we will climb up the ski-field to reach this NZ Alpine Club hut (2-2 ½ hrs) which is at an altitude of 2000 m, a 600 m climb from where we may have to leave the vehicle. Whangaehu Hut is situated on a bluff (rather close to the edge) above the Whangaehu River, and has rather spectacular and unnerving views.

### Trip Intentions:

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



**Trip Preview: Upstream to Herepai Hut 6 Feb.** Medium Fit Adam Matich 3592796. A cross-country route (over point 655) will take us from Putara Road to the bottom of the Bottles track. Instead of climbing said track we will continue on up the stream all the way to the Hut, if it is possible (if not then we will die in the attempt). We will probably take the conventional route back to the car. park. If everything turns out for the best it may be a six-hour day.

## TRIP REPORTS

### **Longview Hut, Sunday 9 December 2012, by Nicola Wallace**

We arrived at Kashmir Road end in two vehicles on a gorgeous sunny day. The big surprise was the five or so cars in the park, as the road was in the worst condition I'd ever seen it – massive potholes & the notorious "hill" was worse than ever.

The beauty of this trip is that we all went up the hill to the hut at our own pace & were free to decide what we wanted to do individually once we got there. The bottom third of the hill track has been "benched" since I was last up there & going up, there seemed to be tracks everywhere. It seemed a bit pointless doing up the track, as the tricky bit past the big rock, further up is still there.

Gary & Dennis arrived at the hut first, followed by yours truly. Two hunters were already in residence. We chatted to them & sat in the sun till everyone had arrived. There was not a cloud in the sky although it was quite breezy.

Initially I opted to go along to Rocky Knob, but changed my mind & a few of us headed up to Otumore. It was a bit boggy going across Pohangina Saddle & not long after we met Jean & Adam descending the hill. A bit later, Dennis & I reached Otumore together & were soon joined by Suzanne.

It was lovely lunching in the sun, looking out over Hawkes Bay. We could see Bev & Gary having their lunch a way down the hill. Unusually, the wind was less strong than it had been at Longview Hut. Too soon it was time to head down. The others in the group had chosen to explore areas closer to the hut & everyone had enjoyed their Ruahine time.

We headed off & stopped in Woodville for refreshments. When we entered the Gorge, a policeman turned us around at the Ballance Road turnoff. Apparently there had been a fire in the Gorge. Because Suzanne's car was left in Ashhurst, we had to go back over the Saddle. Just like old times, but not as busy.

Thanks to the drivers, our leaders Bev & Gary & everyone for a great day in perfect weather. We were: Bev Akers, Gary Bevins, Ann Green, Linda Darragh, Dennis Jensen, Suzanne Clark & Nicola Wallace.



### **Two Wednesday trampers making the top of Otumori. Skyline walkway, 13 December**

Our final Thursday tramp for 2012 was something different. Our destination was the Skyline walkway in Wellington. We took the van & two cars to Waikanae & caught the 9am train to Porirua. Most of us are gold card holders so it was a free trip, as was the bus trip next to Johnsonville station. The bus route was rather circuitous, taking us past places in Porirua city that most of us had never been before. Upon reaching Johnsonville station at 10.40am it was time to start a short uphill walk through residential streets to the entrance to the Skyline walkway. In about an hour we were at the highest point, Mt Kaukau. It was a perfect day - blue sky & sunshine. Here we stopped for lunch enjoying superb views of Wellington harbour & the city as well as looking across the Makara wind turbines to the South Island.

The afternoon was spent walking along the undulating open ridge-top track, enjoying changing views of the city. It was breezy, but there was warmth in the sun. By 3pm we were close to Karori & the track dropped down through shady trees to Karori Park. We had completed the 15km walk in about 5 hours with many stops to enjoy the views & take photographs. We made the most of a modern toilet block at the park to tidy up for our travel on public transport & caught a No. 3 bus back to Wellington station. Here, after buying our tickets for an express train to Waikanae everyone scattered to buy cold drinks & snacks. Although it was only 4.35 the train was already very full of commuters so our group became quite scattered over more than one carriage. The conductor cheerfully coped with the fact that we were sharing group tickets & weren't exactly sure where everyone was. Our fellow passengers were bristling with iPads & iPhones, in fact the only people actually having conversations on the train were Thursday trampers.

We arrived back in Waikanae at 5.30pm, to the leader's relief 17 Thursday trampers got off the train & we returned home in our respective vehicles feeling quite sunburnt & reflecting on a good day out.

### Makino River, 15-16th December

We had a 2 hour climb up to Makino Hut from the saddle 2km short of the end of Makahu Road. The hot summer's day meant that it wasn't an entirely pleasant climb, although we were mostly in the shade. Makino Hut was empty, but the hut book told us that the previous week a juvenile kiwi had been released there. This was its lucky day, on two counts. We were going to be down in the river for dinner that night and didn't have time to go hunting for a feed of NZ chicken, and it wouldn't have been as tasty as the smoked chicken we were already carrying. So we continued on for an hour to the intersection and then 90 min down the steep spur-track into the Makino River. Five minutes down-river from the track intersection saw us at the very good campsite we stayed at (5-hr day), but our real interest was in finding Brook-Well Hut, a private hut presumably built by hunters, but since taken over by kiwi worriers. This hut is on the second terrace above the river just past the first stream on the true right (ca. BJ37 917559).

Unfortunately, it wasn't quite that simple and for a time it looked like there might be tears before bed-time. There was a very small stream immediately down-river of our camp-site, which we didn't believe was our stream crossing, and then a few minutes later a second small stream, which we also didn't believe was the stream shown on the map. Another 15 minutes saw us at Waimatai Stm (on the true left), so we knew we had definitely passed the hut. We backtracked to just below the second stream and headed away from the river up into the forest to do some purposeful wandering. After only 5-10 minutes we found a faint trail, which we followed down-river for maybe 5 minutes and which climbed up onto the next terrace, before we finally spotted the hut. It is situated on a large terrace in the open forest under large trees - not in a clearing at all. The hut is clad and floored with black plastic, sleeps four, and is very clean and tidy. It is necessary to walk all the way back down to the stream or the river to get water so we elected to camp for the night at the riverside camp-site 10 min back up river. The hut book mentioned that the beginning of the trail to said hut has been covered with tree branches so that only people in the know can find it.



Jean inspecting Brookwell Hut interior. Image A.Matich

Next morning it took us about 90 minutes to make our way down river (the sign says 2 hours) to Te Puia Lodge. The easy-grade track zigzags through forest for most of the way, but with several crossings so it would not be doable during high flows. Quite a few of the pools were inhabited by trout. The track runs onto the Mangatainoka Hot Springs track a couple of hundred metres west of the bridge over the Makino River. This track junction is not marked so if you want to head up the Makino River, you really have to know where to look for the track. We tried going down the Mohaka River from Te Puia Lodge, but only made it to the bottom end of the island before we decided we really didn't know enough about what lied below us to continue on. So we climbed back onto the track and made our way back the car by conventional means (4 1/2 hr day). This is a nice easy summer trip and a fit person, starting off early in the morning could manage it as a day trip. We were Jean Garman and Adam Matich



Jean heading down the Makino River. Image A.Matich

### Beehive Creek, Dec 16 2012. By Linda Campbell

What a great day for a walk down the creek. Not too hot & not too cold with hardly a breath of wind. Six of us met at the Waterford Cafe up the Pohangina Valley & left a car there. Another car was left at the exit point & the 3rd at our start point. Travel is across farmland to start before reaching the creek. From there it is all down through shallow water to the end. A geocache was located as we went along without too much of a search. It is an easy walk in a lovely environment & it was completed with a lovely lunch sitting out in the sun at the cafe. Thanks to Ken and Mary Mercer & Tim, Dan & Lisa Swale for their company. Remember these easy walks are suitable for young children so parents & grandparents please do introduce a young person or two to the great outdoors. Just ring when we have easy walks on the trip card & let us know you are interested.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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



Campsite by the Makino River. 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](http://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
	<a href="mailto:president@mtsc.org.nz">president@mtsc.org.nz</a>
Secretary Tim Swale	06 376 6556
Treasurer Arthur Flint	06 356 7654
	<a href="mailto:treasurer@mtsc.org.nz">treasurer@mtsc.org.nz</a>
Chief Guide Ken Mercer	06 356 7497
Day Trip Convenor Bev Akers	06 325 8879
Membership Judy Swainson	
	<a href="mailto:membership@mtsc.org.nz">membership@mtsc.org.nz</a>
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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	