

UPCOMING CLUBNIGHTS

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

5 MARCH 2013

2 APRIL 2013

March Clubnight talk by Robyn Anderson on: 'The Camino', 'The Way', 'Pilgrimage to Camino de Santiago' or 'The Way of StJames'.

"Affectionately known by each of these names, for some it is a religious or spiritual pilgrimage while for others it is a great walk across northern Spain and a wonderful holiday. I had researched for a long time how to put this trip together and we now have all the information you will need to put this trip on your itinerary! You may have seen the movie 'The Way'? Most of our friends were badgered into seeing it! The movie came out just before we left. Our journey during May /June 2012 followed the paths of ancient pilgrims & gave us the experience of a lifetime"- Robyn

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The April talk will feature Jill Faulkner who will be covering Yoga for trampers and skiers. This should be a relatively painless topic...

Anthony Rowberry is our most recent member. We hope you enjoy your club outings, make plenty of friends and get full value from your FMC membership in terms of representation to protect our natural environment for the use and enjoyment of all.



Mark Jenny & Jean at the intersection on the Kaweka Range north of Kaweka J (shown to the right). Image A.Match

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT LINDA CAMPBELL

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



In the last few weeks I have attended two social events organised by club members for club members. The first late in January was an outdoor bowls evening at the Himatangi Bowling Club. The bowling club members were very welcoming and very willing to give a few lessons as needed. Many of us had never played before so their help and guidance were much appreciated. Most of us learnt something, had a few laughs and I believe everyone their enjoyed themselves.

To finish the night we all had a fish & chip meal. It was a great opportunity to meet weekday trampers and to catch up with weekend trampers. Thanks to Mark Learmonth for organising a fun evening.

The first club night of the year was an informal affair held at the club rooms. A BBQ was planned and the weather was kind to us. Club members arrived at different times during the evening and it was a good opportunity to enjoy great food and catch up with both weekday and weekend trampers. There were a few slides running but people mostly took the opportunity to talk with fellow club members about their summer. Thanks to Bob Hodgson for organising an enjoyable evening & to everyone who came along. Enjoy yourselves in the hills but take care out there.

CLUB NOTICES

Club Fees

Please note that Club Annual Membership Subscriptions will change as of 1 April this year to: Single \$40, Family \$55.

There is a \$5 discount if you receive your newsletter by email only. You will need to advise your preference to the membership secretary when renewing your subscription.

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 only. Contact the Membership secretary.

> 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.

AGM

Our club AGM will be held in mid May. At present the committee consists of

President
Secretary
Treasurer
Membership Secretary
Newsletter Editor
Chief Guide
Daytrip convener
Minibus Manager
Social Convener
Ski Captain
Gear Custodian
Lodge Manager
Lodge Bookings
General committee- three members

Please give some thought as to who you would like to see in these positions. If you would like to know about what any position involves please contact one of the present committee.

UPCOMING TRIPS

Trip List

27 Feb (Wed) Suzanne Clark	356 8322
28 Feb (Thu) Judy Swainson	358 4082
2-3 Mar SAREX	
6 Mar (Wed) Brendon Donald	06 372 7772
7 Mar (Thu) Geraldine Fovakis	356 4327
9 Mar (Sat) Whangaehu hut	Med/Fit
Adam Matich	359 2796
13 Mar (Wed) Linda Darbyshire	354 6171
14 Mar (Thu) John McLeod	323 5785
16-17 Mar Hikurangi stream	Fit
David Harrington	
17 Mar (Sun) Zeke's hut	Medium
Hugh Wilde	356 9450
20 Mar (Wed) Andrew Brodie	358 6576
21 Mar (Thu) Merv Matthews	357 2858
23-24 Mar Bushcraft: Ruapae Falls	Easy
Tim Swale	06 3766556
27 Mar (Wed) Mike Olive	355 5320
28 Mar (Thu) Paul Carroll	021 02586052
29 Mar – 1 Apr (Easter) Kayak Kenepuru Sound	
Technical Ken Mercer	356 7497
3 Apr (Wed) Liz/Arthur Flint	356 7654
4 Apr (Thu) Carolyn Brodie	358 6576
6-7 April SAR Navigation weekend	
10 Apr (Wed) Margaret Gillingham	356 8812

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.

Change to trip Leader for Thursday trip.

John McLeod is now leading the Thursday trip for 14 March – please note the change from the trip card.



Tony pussy-footing over crossing Oturere Stream. Report on pg 4. Image A.Matich

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 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 REPORTS

Nydia Bay with a 9 week old. By Karen McNicoll

Started off Friday morning with Mum, Tim, Sophie & I driving over to Havelock to catch the 9.30am Mail Boat to Nydia Bay. Sophie slept quite a bit of that trip, & the transition to the 'On the Track Lodge' boat, then all the way until the last few minutes of the walk to the lodge - pretty deep sleep I guess! We got there about 11.30 then had coffee & pinwheels. NICE!

I checked out the chalets & railway wagon & decided on the wagon – it was perfect because it had everything you'd expect in a hotel (incl. ensuite) & somewhere to change Sophie, which was a step up from the chalets.

In a previous life the wagon had been on a property off the Pahiatua Track – then trucked & barged to the present location 4 hours from the nearest road in the Marlborough Sounds. Very comfortable & highly recommended. The owners were incredibly hospitable. Then Sophie & I had a nap.

Dad, our 7yr old nephew George, Tim, Les & Josh (a friend of Dads & his 9yr old grandson) arrived about 4.30pm, taking about 5hrs to walk in from Duncan bay. They didn't have too much to carry as we took it on the boat.

No one had heard Sophie in the night which was great, & after a big breakfast Tim carried all the gear out whilst I carried Sophie & we did very well. Sophie dozed plenty on the way out - possibly too jiggly to get a good sleep & there were some sandflies being a bit pesky which she got red sores from. Was just the last 30min when she decided she'd had enough & I tried feeding her again, but she wasn't really having any of it - 5hrs was sufficient thank you! We all went to sleep in the car on the drive back to Nelson (except Tim who was driving) & were pleased to be back home. Gave Sophie her first shower which seemed to go down ok & we've had another couple since. Have to hang on to her - they get pretty slippery!

So, having survived that trip, I am feeling more up for another one.



Lunch stop on Nydia Track. Image T. Tyler

Oturere Hut 26-27th Jan by Adam Matich

We started off from the road bridge on the desert road, @11am to head up Oturere Stream which wasn't quite as we had envisaged. Although the stream wasn't overly bouldery, it was very slippery & we made a lot of crossings. The forest & stream were both very untidy (DoC should be ashamed), the frequent windfalls meaning we had to regularly pass between the two. It took us 3½ hours to reach the second stream intersection (4 km), which was not very obvious. Oturere Stream then got steeper and more difficult. As did the forest. This all presaged our sighting an impassable waterfall that was at least ten metres high and was bounded on both sides by rock bluffs. All present glared accusingly at Jenny, who had promised a metaphorical "walk in the park" whereas it was looking more like tears before bed time.

Without too much difficulty we found a gap in the bluffs on the true-left & climbed 100m up onto the ridge & for a while the travel through the forest was pretty good. It didn't last though, as the forest soon ran out and we were in manuka scrub. Everyone got scratched and bloodied, but it was only 30 minutes before we broke out into open scrub in which we were able to follow the deer trails. A short time later (4 p.m.) we were on the friendly rocky open tops that the park is better known for. Eventually, as we climbed up the spur, we spotted the Oturere waterfall, and so knew our day was nearly over. We crossed Oturere Stream below the waterfall and climbed the steep slope up to the hut (5:15 p.m.).

Oturere Hut was busy & got busier as the evening wore on. Surprisingly there was no hut warden & only the warden's quarters water tank had water in it. We had to take the lid off & dip our containers in to fill them as there was no external tap. In order to maintain our self-righteousness, we used our own cooker to cook dinner & then wandered off into the Oturere valley to camp for the night. We had a calm full-moon lit night, with a light frost in the morning.

Next day we crossed back over Oturere Stream at the top of the waterfall and headed down the spur we had come off the previous afternoon, and eventually back into the frustrating manuka and kanuka thicket. Eventually we learnt our lesson and headed into the forest on the Southern side of the ridge. Just inside the tree line travel was pretty good travel, although in places the kanuka pushed us down off the ridge, and in one case started us off down a side spur. We found it best not to sidle too far down the side of the spur, as there were a number of unpleasant gullies best avoided. All this navigation took time, but following the kanuka/tree boundary we were eventually led down to the stream crossing only 50 m from where the car was waiting for us (5 hours). Even though this was probably a once a lifetime trip, the modest day lengths prevented us suffering too much trauma! We were Tony Evans, Adam Matich, and Jenny McCarthy.

Wednesday Trampers' Christmas Trip by Pam Wilson

Ngawi fishing Village, December 12

Thirty-two trampers visited Ngawi, five kilometres from Cape Palliser lighthouse. The final few kilometres before entering the fishing village made for a beautiful start to the day, with the glassy blue ocean to one side and cliffs towering above us on the other. Morning tea was eaten sitting on the rocks watching the seals, after which we drove a very short distance to the lighthouse. Climbing the steps here was the most strenuous activity for the day. (see inserted photographs).

Next, was a short drive and a short walk to a very attractive area of rocks and waterfalls known as the stone wall. A Christmas lunch was shared on the grassy foreshore in the village, after which it was time to make the return journey of two and a half to three hours with a stop at Martinborough for refreshments.

Thank you to John Ridge who drove the van and the other drivers who willingly took their cars...Bev Akers, Kelvin McKinnon, Dave Pollard and Bernard Cobb. Bev's local knowledge ensured we explored all the sights in the area.....a thoroughly enjoyable end of year outing on a perfect summer's day.



Wednesday trampers on Cape Palliser lighthouse steps. Image A.Brodie



Wednesday trampers near Cape Palliser on the Christmas trip. Image A.Brodie

Top Gorge 8/9 December 2012, by Jean Garman

Three of us set off with good intentions to do a bit of track and hut tidying for a minimal maintenance area in the Ruahines. After we had bounced our way up the moguls on the Kashmir road in the car we then tried out the new (not completed yet) zigzag track that heads up towards Longview. While it does meander around a bit and is therefore a bit longer it is a much more gentle way to start the climb. On the way up we counted the number of different plants that were flowering and reached a grand total of 13 varieties. Definitely a good time of year to indulge in flower spotting which is also a welcome distraction from the puffing. We popped into Longview hut for morning tea then tried to find a route I had been shown down into the Pohangina river that drops in just below the waterfalls. Alas my memory failed me so despite poking our noses down in several places we gave up and took the poled route instead. This wasn't too bad, rather than dropping in to the river upstream of the first little waterfall we took the scree slope and came in below it and while the get around track for the second waterfall required quite a big step up to get onto and an even bigger step down to get off of it was quite serviceable. Lunch was had just below the waterfall before we carried on down what is a delightful piece of river on a lovely sunny afternoon. On reaching the hut we spent what was left of the afternoon cutting the long grasses on the track to the toilet and gathering/cutting firewood which was stacked into a reorganised woodshed.



Top Gorge hut. Image J.Garman

Unfortunately I had forgotten to bring anything to scrub the mould off the mattresses with so they are still looking a bit black. After a multi coursed diner and a big long sleep we gave the hut a much more thorough sweep out than it has had in a jolly long time, then skipped across the river and tried to figure out where the track went. After a false start we had it sorted and did our best to mark it more clearly. This was not easy as there weren't any trees of enough size to attach markers too. We used pink flagging tape and cut a few windfalls and were starting to wander how long it was going

to take us get up the ridge if the track was this bad all the way up. In hindsight we could have spent more time on the difficult first couple of hundred meters as when we gained the top of the spur the rest of the track was in good condition all the way to the tussock. Brian blasted on up to the top of the Ngamoko range then had to sit around and wait for quite a while as Adam and I diligently did our best to make the track more obvious by cutting back the low encroaching leather wood and building a few cairns. While the spur line is very obvious in the lovely blue sky weather that we had, in the murk it would not be so obvious at least until you reach the bush edge. Once we were all on top of the ridge it was just a pleasant wander around the tops meeting up with the Sunday daytrippers along the way before we had lunch at the top of the decent to the car park. It is a lovely area and there is still a bit more work to be done on both hut and track so we may head back from another direction for another go at some point in time. We were Brian Webster, Adam Match and Jean Garman

Upstream to Herepai Hut 6th February by Adam Match

Only the two of us could be bothered getting out of bed on Waitangi day morning and so transport to the Putara road end was simple. A couple of minutes after crossing the first swing bridge we turned right off the track to head up into the forest, up and over bump 655 and NW to the saddle. We did some track-marking on the lower section of this route as people coming in the opposite direction have previously lost their way. Ninety minutes saw us in Bottles Stream at the base of the Bottles track. Instead of taking the track we continued on up the stream, hoping to climb 300 m up the gully to Herepai hut. A few minutes up the stream we startled a stag in velvet.....the things you see when you don't have a rifle! The stream was reasonably easy going, but with the occasional windfall and overgrown section. Unfortunately, at around 670 m ASL we encountered a series of waterfalls. We were able to climb around the first, and largest, with some difficulty and back on into a nice gentle section of stream bed. However, just around the corner were another two and even though they weren't as high, they looked impassable. So we gave up and climbed up into the friendly forest on the true right, while it was still possible to do so. We only had a 130 m climb through the open forest to reach the Herepai hut track a couple of minutes below the hut (3 1/4 hr). Our return journey was by the conventional route (5 1/2 hour day). We were Tony Evans and Adam Match

Te Atuaoparapara Loop 25th November

We started off on the swamp track, it being closer to the river that we would climb out of that afternoon. Because of the gentle, easy nature of the Swamp track we didn't think it took any longer to make our way up to Sunrise Hut (under 2 hours). The hut was in use, including a guy who had cycled up there in slightly longer a time than it took us to walk the route. Fortunately, there was some wind on the tops, so we didn't keel over from heat exhaustion, on what was a really sunny day. It took us another two hours to travel through Armstrong Saddle, past the Top Maropea hut turnoff, through the Te Atua saddle and up onto Te Atuaoparapara Peak.



Kim & Brian on Te Atuaoparapara peak. Image A.Match

Part-way through the final climb Brian abandoned us to go play in a patch of snow. It was a bit windy up top, but comfortable enough on the lee side. Dropping off the peak down the scree slope was a little difficult, as in places the shingle is a bit thin. Once on the broad, lower peak we made our way almost to its South-West limit at 1600 m (there were cairns) before dropping SSW down towards Waipawa Saddle, which as per usual, was uncomfortably windy. So we didn't hang around, but headed off down the Waipawa River and back to the car, 3 ¼ hours from the top of Te Atuaoparapara peak (7 ½ hr day). Some of us were a bit dehydrated and sun-burned. We were Brian Webster, Jenny McCarthy, Kim Fraser, and Adam Matich.



Jenny & Kim dropping down to Waipawa Saddle. Image A.Match

Cumberfield Creek, 27 January 2013

This trip was originally scheduled for last summer but the weather last summer was not the best so it ended up being postponed. No issue with the weather this year apart from trying not to get sun burnt. David and I left the Irongate car park at 8.30am and headed for the Orua River. From there it was a little way up the river before reaching the first major side stream on the true left, Cumberfield Creek. The start didn't look very auspicious – there was a large pool where it came in and the creek looked pretty tight. We crossed above the pool and started to head up the creek. It was quite tight with a couple of waterfalls that required very steep, very high sidles to get around making travel pretty slow. After about 45min we reached the point where the side track to Irongates crosses the creek and from here on up the travel got progressively better till it was in fact a delightful stream. In the full knowledge this wouldn't last we had lunch while it was still pleasant. There was one more waterfall although not too difficult to get around and then we reached the leatherwood. The going still wasn't too bad until we approached the major fork in the headwaters. The first view we got was of a rocky wall and as we got closer it was apparent that one fork came down this face as a waterfall, the other fork was just round the corner and this was an even bigger waterfall. While in theory it may have been possible to bash/grovel up through some dense leatherwood on the true left to get around the true left waterfall we figured this was more pain than it was worth. Instead we opted to head back downstream aiming to climb out onto the Tunapo track at a point where we would meet the track below the bush/leatherwood line. Turns out that the map lied as the bush ended and the leather wood began a while before we eventually fell onto the track at @1200m. Quite a physical and scratchy experience! From there it was a pleasant wander down the track past a particularly large and attractive fungus which required a photo stop. We were back to the car park just after 5pm. We were David Harrington & Jean Garman



Photogenic Cumberfield fungus. Image J.Garman



Te Matawai 12/13 January 2013

Without a lot of work to do for the work party at Te Matawai we opted for more of a tramping trip with a bit of hut work thrown in on top. An hour after leaving the car park we reached the Ohau River then headed upriver to the junction of the North and South Ohau where we filled our water bottles and headed up Deception Spur. The first bit is a quite scrubby, lots of rata and keikei to push through with only a faint trail to follow. Once past this scrubby stuff a very good trail leads all the way up Deception Spur until it becomes a little vague at the very top where it joins the ridge line. On the ridge a pretty good trail carries on along towards Girdlestone Saddle until a windfall is reached and then it seems to end. We hunted around for a while at this point before coming to the realisation that there was actually no more trail to follow so the map and compass came out to navigate the rest of the way through to the saddle. Back on a proper track it was a relatively gentle climb then a short descent to the hut with lovely views of the Mangahao valley and the tops along the way. David and Debbie who had come in on Friday were off on a day trip, we had arranged to meet up with them for Saturday night. Thanks to Debbie the toilet was already clean so we set to and cleaned the windows, window frames, walls, doors and all the mattresses that needed it got a good scrub too (another resident at the hut even helped). Some firewood was also cut and the woodshed tidied up. Before evening David and Debbie along with one pair and two singles doing the Te Araroa walkway arrived. Did we feel bad eating our lovely fresh food including pavlova with cream, yoghurt and strawberries while the Te Araroans were eating instant mashed spud with a bi of cheese? No we didn't. Although it was calm at our level higher up clouds were whipping in from the west. The cloud was higher than the highest peaks and formed very interesting shapes and patterns as it blasted past.



Saturday evening cloud formations. Image J.Garman

This didn't bode well for continued good weather. It started to rain in the night, only lightly but with a degree of consistency. It was still raining on Sunday morning which gave a good opportunity for digging out the drainage around the hut as it was now possible to see where things were backing

up. David had a sore foot so they opted to head out via Gable End while the rest of us headed down to South Ohau with thoughts of giving it a quick clean before heading up the escape route onto Gable End. When we got down to the hut it was still raining and there was a couple with a Labrador in residence. The hut was pretty tidy and the river was looking pretty unpleasant so we didn't want to stop for too long in case Butchers Creek became uncrossable. Making use of the shelter of the hut we had a very early lunch as eating in the rain isn't fun and the couple decided that they would like to try our short cut escape route rather than head all the way round the Yeates 500 and Butchers Saddle to Gable End ridge. We all left together and Butchers Creek was looking pretty daunting although after a few tries in a couple of places we found somewhere we could get across. The dog didn't fair quite so well and went for a swim downstream, it ended up being carried across while the carrier was supported by other people. The route up was still easy enough to follow although we added a bit more pink flagging tape in places. When we reached the main track on the ridge line the rain had almost stopped and by the time we reached the bottom of the very muddy Gable End ridge we could take out coats off. The last hour out was also quite muddy but it was very nice to be out of raincoats to dry off a little. Many thanks to the willing workers David and Deb Harrington, Jenny McCarthy, Adam Matich, Ivan Rienks and Jean Garman.



Titirapunga viewed from the south. Image A.Matich



Mark admiring the obelisk denoting the geographic centre of the North Island. Image A.Matich

Wellington Anniversary Weekend - Rocks Ahead Loop (Kaweka Forest Park)

We drove up to Makahu Saddle hut (3-hr drive) on Friday Night so we could start nice and early on Saturday Morning. In the morning the climb up Makahu Spur took less than 2 hours, it being cold and windy. At the top of the spur, just north of Kaweka J, we found our first snow for the year and Jean threw some celebratory snow-balls and built herself a miniature snow man. We then headed less than 1 km north to pick up the north-ridge track (sign-posted) down to Back Ridge Hut, 3 hours from the road end. This hut is next to a stream in a sheltered little valley, and like pretty well all Kaweka huts, was very clean and tidy. After a good long morning tea we headed off through Stern's Saddle and over Maminga peak (200 m climb) to Back Ridge Bivouac (90 min) for a relaxed lunch. This well-appointed bivouac is in a sheltered gully just on the tree-line. It took us another two hours to make our way down to Rocks Ahead Hut, which unfortunately was all but full. Jean got to stay in the hut with the hunters, who plied her with liquor, while the rest of us took the cable-way across the Ngaruroro river to stay in Rocks Ahead Biv for the night. The promised rain never arrived so we could have camped out had we known. On Sunday we had another early start as it was forecast to be hot and we had an 800 m climb up to Tira Lodge (2 ½ hours). Once we broke out of the friendly forest onto Venison Tops, we had great views of the range and across the west to Ruapehu and Ngauruhoe. We stayed a couple of hours at the newly painted Tira Lodge, working on our tans, and so had time for morning tea, first, and second lunch, before leaving for the two-hour tramp to Ballard Hut. The first section of this (75 min) was in forest, which we eventually exited at around 1500 m onto the tussocky tops and from 1600 m we had a steep 200 m drop down to Ballard Hut where we had a long lazy afternoon rehydrating under the trees next to the hut. For most of the afternoon and on into the evening we could hear explosions to the west. Presumably the army shelling Kaimanawa horses. Monday morning was another calm, cloudless day and so we were glad we weren't going to spend too long on the open tops. After the 200 m climb out of Ballard we headed east to the Kaweka Range and then south along it to pick up the top of Dick's Spur, a couple of km away. Some parts of Dicks spur look nasty, and in places it is steep, but it is not a particularly dangerous route and we picked our way down it without mishap to land on the track through the scrub to Kaweka Flats Bivouac (3 ½ hrs). We had an early lunch at the biv and chatted to the hunter who turned up not long after us. From thereon we had an hour's tramp back to the car, fortunately mostly in quality forest. We did this as a three-day trip, but we could well have managed it in two days, spending one night at Tira Lodge. Alternately, on day two we could have easily continued on past Ballard and down Camp Spur to Middle Hill Hut for the night. Guess we are just lazy. Although not as lazy as all of the people who didn't go tramping on the weekend!



Mark & Jenny – morning tea at Back Ridge hut. Image A.Matich



Looking east from Dominie Bivouac.
Image A.Matich

CLUB INFORMATION

Annual Hut Passes with FMC discount

An Annual Hut Pass is only \$85 with your Federated Mountain Club (FMC) discount, a bargain if staying at serviced huts for more than a few nights. Buy through DoC.

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



Tony emerging from overgrown section of Bottles stream, Herepai. Report on pg6 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
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