



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

CLUB NIGHTS

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

6th August Annual Photo Competition

There will be some stunning images displayed with the three best images from each category going through to the interclub competition. Come along for an evening of exceptional outdoor photography.

CATEGORIES 1. **NZ Landscapes** - no people; 2. **Above Bush line** - predominantly alpine NZ scenery (e.g. rock, snow, tussock, etc), but may include people; 3. **Below Bush line** - predominantly NZ bush (lowland to sub-alpine areas), but may include people; 4. **NZ Natural History** - NZ flora (plants), fauna (animals), or detail (geology, ice formations, etc); 5. **Topical** - people or detail related to tramping, climbing, skiing etc. in NZ; 6. **Overseas** - photos taken overseas, open category: e.g. landscape, people, natural history.

Entries need to be submitted by Wednesday 31 July 2013. Email your entries to Howard, photocomp@mtsc.org.nz or call 06 357 6325 for details about dropping off a CD/DVD.

Unless you notify us otherwise by entering this competition you grant MTSC the right to: use submitted images for MTSC publicity purposes; submit your entries into the local Interclub competition; submit your entries into the Federated Mountain Clubs photo competition.

3rd September "Tramping with a Teddy bear in the Spanish Pyrenees" (All BYO Teddy Bear?)

In August and September 2012 Royce spent 19 days in Spain tramping with two friends and a teddy bear along part of the "GR11". This is a long distance trail which traverses the Pyrenees on the Spanish side... scenery, sunshine, steep climbs and sangria.



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To receive your newsletter as a colour pdf (instead of by post), or if your phone, address or email change, please notify editor@mtsc.org.nz and membership@mtsc.org.nz.

The deadline for newsletter contributions is **the 1st week of the month**. Photos are welcome and will be included where possible – remember to include an appropriate caption.



COMMITTEE REPORTS



MTSC President: Linda Campbell

president@mtsc.org.nz

Things don't always turn out as you expect. A lovely day or two in the bush or in the mountains does not always end so lovely. We all know that it is not wise to tramp alone but I am pretty sure many readers will have. I am certainly guilty. I have gone out alone, strolled ahead or got well behind. And yes there have been times when I have been in a group that has been "geographically challenged" but thankfully never when I have been alone. The reality is that even the most experienced amongst us is at sometime not sure of where they are but they have the skill to relocate themselves. So what is meant by lost? I understand that a lost person is "spatially disoriented and has no effective means of reorientation". Not a situation anyone wants to be in! In a group, people can discuss their situation, alone they cannot. Let's keep safe. Let's always ensure we take enough gear just in case, even on a day trip. Absolutely necessary are a good torch, a whistle, warm clothing in addition to what is being worn, wet weather gear, the correct Topo map and compass. A GPS, cell phone, PLB and perhaps a mountain radio will ensure you have the very best chance of dealing with every situation that may arise. If you are not sure about using maps and compasses there are many club members who have the skills and are willing to help out. Above all, we should look out for each other, stay together as much as possible and not wander too far away from the rest of the party. Enjoy yourselves in the hills but take care out there.

Linda.



MTSC Chief Guide: Ken Mercer

chief.guide@mtsc.org.nz

There is little more terrifying for a tramping club than to be responsible for a Search and Rescue callout for a Lost Party. After all, that's what happens to ill-equipped members of the public whom we decry with satisfaction when a SAR makes the news. "Join a club, learn how to do it properly" is the club response. But it happened, as described in Keith's report, and we're all searching our souls (or soles?). In common with all 'accidents' it was caused by a chain of events, each individually insignificant but collectively serious, (of course, many good decisions were made too so disaster was avoided.) As a club we must strive to avoid all incidents. Avoiding those means knowing what everyone is doing, everyone having the skills and equipment to get un-lost and each individual carrying enough safety gear to manage being lost (or sick or injured).

The trip leader has responsibilities above simply sorting out participants and transport and guidelines are on the club website [club website under trips](#). The group also has a collective responsibility: we rely on others for our safety otherwise we'd tramp alone. It is the leader's job to make everyone feel they are part of a team. "...sometimes with larger groups the team breaks down into smaller groups. This can be fine but remember that there are some common sense considerations to ensuring everybody's safety and enjoyment."

Navigation is a topic for another newsletter but it is a habit which everyone should practice, even when on a good track and following others.

Ken Mercer

NOTICES and INFORMATION

31st of July (from 6:30PM onwards) Club and Movie night at Bivouac Outdoor

Where: 99 The Square - Special **Club deals** will be available - **Snacks and drinks** will be provided.

The Owner of Bivouac, Wayne Martin, is doing a short talk.

9th September Interclub Quiz Night

MUAC will hold the quiz night at their normal venue: The vet tower at Massey Campus at 7 pm. So raise yourselves a team and go along a show *the other clubs* just how ignorant they are!



3rd October (Monday at 7:30pm) Interclub Photo Competition

MTSC hosts the Interclub competition between Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club, Massey University Alpine Club, and MTSC this year. The categories are the same as the MTSC competition.

First Tracks: Howard Nicholson, Ski Captain ski@mtsc.org.nz

The big white still has a few brown pimples showing through as I write this, but soon it will be all on at the Mountain Don't be put off by the school holidays either – in my experience the last couple of seasons have seen remarkably few people on the mountain during the holidays, particularly on the last weekend. I hear there are still a few places left in the lodge. If you are interested in competition skiing or boarding then please let me know. The club receives several invitations each year for ski races and the like, and I am happy to forward these on to you.

See you soon - Howie

The latest Mt Ruapehu News from the Ruapehu Mountain Club Association

Friday Night Road Restrictions: if we think there will be any impending Bruce Road problems of significance on a Friday night we will make a point of putting added info on our report, Face Book, & Twitter pages by 12 p.m. on the day. If there is a road restriction then we will generally have a road clearer on plus someone manning the barrier up until 10 to 12 p.m. depending on how busy the night is. We would ask that all members be made aware of possible road restrictions at all times as it surprises me every season at the lack of info that is given to a lot of visitors.

We have had a great start with snow: The big storm 2 Fridays ago didn't quite leave behind what we had hoped but it helped to get Happy Valley and the Lower Mountain open. On top of this we have pumped about 16 million litres of water through the snowmaking onto the Express, Rock Garden and HV. We are 4 good snowmaking nights away to have access up the Express or another 30 cm dump down low. We have been able to push snow in the Valley all week and are almost there with a t-line, the Pinnacle Valley side is looking good, the Highway side not so. Even another 20-30cm storm will top this off and also enable us to then start pushing on the Knoll and Waterfall T's. This storm that will hit 13th/14th seems to be gathering momentum nicely so keep the fingers crossed.

DOC Notices:

Major work carried out in the PN area 2012/2013

New bridges have been installed in the **Iron Bark** area. **Sunrise Hut:** installed double glazed windows with drains, fixed leaks, added insulation and vents, lowered the ceiling and replaced the gas heating with a wood burner, lots of positive feedback on the improved warmth and dryness of the hut. **Rangiwahia Hut:** new toilets installed, track work will be finished in July, the car park work will also finish soon and the road has been improved. Many thanks go to the farmer who donated extra land for the car park. The **Gorge Walk:** In the previous 12 months the track counter recorded 25000 passes. With the new Tawa loop up and running there were 21000 passes over the same track counter in the first 3 months. DOC are planning to put an additional toilet somewhere along the gorge walkway.

Plans for major work in the PN area 2013/2014

Oroua catchment: Bridges to be built across Cumberfield and Tunupo Creeks, and across the Oroua just above Iron Gate hut. DOC will cut an official track along the route from the top of the up and over track up to Mangahua.

Maropea forks hut: The budget is currently approved and the army are still keen to build the new hut. The plan is to prefab the hut in December and assemble on-site in January. **Short mountain bike track in the gorge:** DOC currently has insufficient funds to make a mountain bike track all the way through. The plan is for an interim loop from the car park near the Bridge Café up Hall Block road for 4km then back down a yet to be constructed track through the reserve for 3½ km. Hope to extend this to a track all the way through at a later date.

Permits to selected Mountain Bike tracks

It is legal to mountain bike on the formed roads within the Ruahine Forest Park: Yeomans, Takapari Road and Holmes Ridge. DOC is currently trialling a permit system (available through the Manawatu Mountain Biking Club website) to mountain bike on selected suitable tracks – Kahikatea walk, Coppermine, Deerford, into Heritage Lodge and down to the river, Bruce Park reserve. The trial started at the beginning of May with 20 permits issued so far.

<http://www.russells.net.nz/home/doc-ruahine-mtb-permits>.



UPCOMING TRIPS

Trip Intentions

The email address for leaving trip intentions is 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 is sent to several MTSC members. This information will be provided to LandSAR only if the party is reported overdue.

The email should include: a list of participants and their contact details; a brief description of the intended route and possible alternative routes; starting point; start date; date/time due out; vehicle registration; and any other relevant details.



Trip Grading

The times listed below include tramping, meal and rest stops. In assessing the trip grading, terrain, weather and party fitness (which is as fast as the slowest member) are considered. Consult the trip leader if you are unsure about your suitability for a particular trip.

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

Weekday trips generally range between Easy and Medium/ Fit. Call the leader for details on the destination and trip grade.

August Wednesday Tramps		
Date	Leader	Phone
7	Anne Rush	357 2529
14	John Ridge	357 3744
21	Bev Charlton	356 0094
28	Dennis Jensen	329 3229

August Thursday Tramps		
Date	Leader	Phone
1	Graham Pritchard	357 1393
8	Merv Matthews	357 2858
15	Paul Carroll	021 0258 6052
22	Carolyn Brodie	358 6576
29	John McLeod	323 5785

August Weekend Trips				
Date	Trip	Grade	Leader	Phone
3-4	A Weekend in the Snow	Lodge	John Lyttle	027 433 6307
4 (Sun)	North Mangahao Biv	M/F	David Harrington	06 839 5766
10-11	Mangatainoka Hot Springs	Easy	Tim Swale	06 376 6556
17-18	Snow Caving - Whakapapa	Tech.	Ken Mercer	356 7497
18 (Sun)	Tawa Walk	Family	Linda Campbell	027 333 4493
24-25	A Weekend in the Snow	Lodge	Carl Pester	06 376 8002
24-25	Ski Ngauruhoe	Tech.	Peter Rawlins	356 7443
24-25	Kiwi Saddle Hut	E/M	Mark Learmonth	355 9143

For weekend trips, unless otherwise specified, contact the trip leader by Wednesday night for overnights or Friday night for day trips.



North Mangahao Biv: 4th (Sun) August

Medium/Fit

David Harrington 06 839 5766

Providing we can get permission to cross the farmer's property we will start from Kopikopiko Rd (on the eastern side) and follow the cut route up the spur to the Biv for a look-see around the general area. May return via the bush spur to the SE past spot 531 to the Mangahao River and back along beside the river? We may do the trip in reverse as an option.

Mangatainoka Hot Springs: 10-11th August

Easy

Tim Swale 06 376 6556

We will have a long drive up to the Kawekas (about 3 ½ hours), but a wonderful winter walk with hot pools to end the day. The intention is to leave vehicles at the Mangatutu Hot Springs and walk about 2 ½ hours to Te Puia Lodge. We can drop off overnight gear and head on up to the Mangatainoka Hot Springs, about 45 min upstream, for a soak. A torch will be needed for the walk back to the hut in the dark. On Sunday we will retrace our steps back along the Mohaka to the road end and a final dip in the Mangatutu hot pool before leaving for home. Phone me on 06 376 6556 or email theswales@xtra.co.nz if interested.

Manawatu Gorge Tawa Loop: 18th (Sun) August

Family Walk

Linda Campbell 027 333 4493

This is a lovely short walk suitable for people of all ages. It is a great opportunity for parents and /or grandparents to take their young ones on a walk in our beautiful Manawatu Gorge. Take a rest at the seat and admire the view before continuing the loop. Those who feel energetic may like to go that wee bit further and walk down to the viewing area at the top of the slip. There is a picnic table part way down for those who don't want to walk the distance to see the views. Take this great opportunity to take your children for an enjoyable walk not far from Palmerston North.

DATE CHANGED

Kiwi Saddle Hut: 31st August -1st September

Easy/Medium

Mark Learmonth 355 9143

The hut is in an exposed area of the southern Kaweka's positioned at 1170 meters in a high altitude saddle tucked into beach forest for protection. It should take roughly 4 to 4½ hours to reach the hut, depending on conditions. There is a steepish climb to begin with up to Mt Kuripapango trig at 1250 meters & a further 100 to the high point on the track. If the weather turns out not to be suitable for this trip we will just head elsewhere. I can be contacted on 3559143 or 027 2004960.

TRIP REPORTS

18-19th May: Blue Range Loop

Howard Nicholson

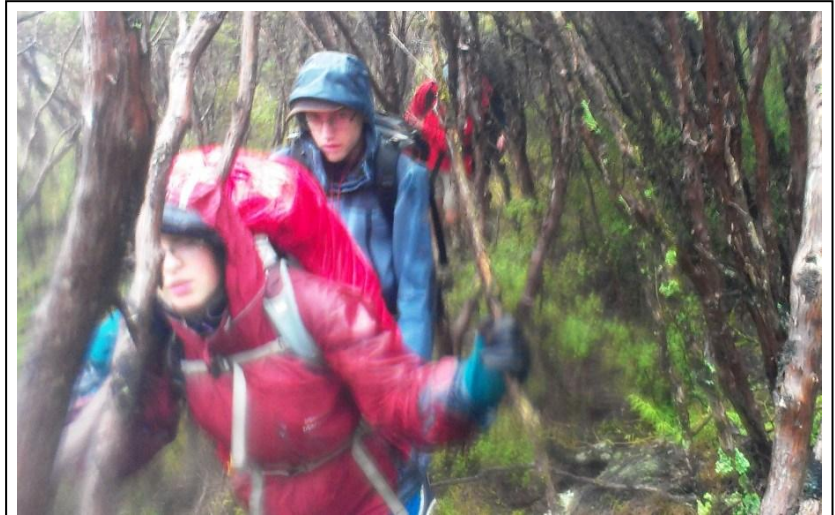
"It's getting dark, it's raining, there is no track and we are still many hours away from the hut... we need to find a campsite." Just 24 hours earlier, I was debating what gear to pack for this trip. The marshmallows were a given; the debate was whether to take two tent flies, or a fly and a full tent? We were five trampers heading for Blue Range Hut, albeit by a cunning and devious route, on an all-weather tramp in May. The small hut would be full with just our party, so space could be a problem should anyone else turn up. We met Tim and Linda on Saturday morning at the Reef Hill Farm car park, near the Ruamahanga River bridge just south of the Mount Bruce summit. Although warm for May, the drizzle threatened to put a dampener on our plans. We were looking for a likely route onto the northern end of Blue Range, and soon after crossing a major stream we gained the toe of a spur to find some pink tape marking the bottom of a trapping line.

The taped route would at least get us started in the right direction. We bashed our way through easy Manuka scrub, stopping at about the 600m elevation for a spot of lunch. Sunshine would have been nice but we settled for a break in the rain, which meant that our sandwiches did not get too soggy on their way to our mouths. Tim and Linda turned tail after lunch, as this was a day trip for them and they would shift our car to the Kiriwhakapapa road end on their way home. We continued up the ridge, but soon our trap line ended. What followed was some very dense scrub that had my two offspring making plans for how they would avoid tramping ever again, Sue dreaming about how



wonderful life could've been if only she had married a bookseller instead of a trumper, and Jill wondering how her flash new raincoat could possibly survive the full "Tararua experience". It took longer than we hoped, but eventually the scrub gave way to real bush and we were free of our Manuka maze. I hoped we were past the worst, but days in May are short and it was already mid afternoon. We pushed on, up to the top of the spur and on to the high point called Harris on older maps.

I recalled an earlier day trip where Brian Webster and I tramped from the Kiriwhakapapa car park up to Te Mara, splashed down the length of Blue Stream, bounced up a spur to this very same point, trotted gleefully along the untracked yet easily navigable ridge line towards the hut and then bounded down to the car once more; in the afternoon we had probably biked back to Palmy or some such thing after having had such an easy morning stroll. Today, somehow, it was different. The dank, dripping forest was gloomy as the sun sought a beach to make sunny somewhere else, and the undergrowth had obviously had a growth spurt since my last visit, was lonely, and very keen that we stayed a while. By the time we reached Point 895m it was getting dark, it was raining, and with no track we were still many hours away from the hut. The last 700m of ridge had taken well over an hour to traverse, and the prospect of night time navigation in these conditions did not appeal to anyone. We found a flat area large enough for the tent and converted it into a camp site.



These teenagers look like they are really having fun – Thanks Dad!

Now here is a shameless plug: the club has lots of gear for hire or use on club trips. In this case, I chose to take the large, 3-person tent and a 2-person fly, even though we had intended to sleep in a hut that night. We also had two lightweight pruning saws, which proved invaluable as we would not have been able to pitch the tents without clearing some undergrowth first. As a party, we were fully self-sufficient with sleeping mats, a stove and billies. We had everything we needed for a comfortable night, in spite of the conditions and our original intentions. Dinner was prepared and hastily consumed, and soon we were tucked up warm and dry in our sleeping bags. The cloud wandered as lonely as a crowd through the fly, but with a good sleeping bag this was not a problem. The tent provided a cosy nest for four.

By morning it had stopped raining, but still the bush dripped for hours. After a light breakfast, constrained by the limited amount of water gathered overnight, we set off for the hut once more. Navigation was straightforward but the undergrowth tested our patience and ensured that we had hearty appetites when we finally arrived at the hut for second breakfast at around 2:00pm. After a welcome change into dry clothes, soup, Milo and copious crackers





were consumed before we headed out to the recently renamed “Papa a Huge KidiBreeder” (see photo). We were all surprised by the speed of travel – downhill on a track – arriving at the car just as evening’s curtain was drawn.

I noted several lessons on this trip:

- Years of carrying shelter for all of the party, even when staying in huts, had been justified.
- Travel through untracked bush can be very slow going indeed, especially for people who have little experience of travel over rough terrain.
- A small, lightweight saw is invaluable in the bush.
- Your children will eventually forgive you for taking them on adventures (well, I’m hoping so, anyway...)
- Memories improve as time goes on; in fact, I remember an awesome trip where it was getting dark, raining, there was no track and we were still hours away from the hut...

Thank you Linda Campbell and Tim Swale for your company and for doing the car shuffle on Saturday. Thank you Jill Faulkner, and Tara, Hugh, Sue Nicholson for a memorable trip that just keeps getting better.

13th June: Waitahinga Dam

Royce Mills

Our Thursday tramping group walked in to Waitahinga dam which is past Bushy Park near Whanganui. This dam was built in 1904 for water supply to Whanganui. It was further increased in height in 1926. It was a five hour round trip including stops along the way. Some of the front-runners also walked (or raced?) around "The Chicken Run" where the best views are to be had on a good day. There were nineteen in the group. It was great to have Basil (Bazza) Hooper from the Whanganui tramping club join us for the day. He was the driving force behind developing this track and he was a wonderful guide. The sign-posting is superbly done, with named stops along the way that each have a story to tell, such as Cropper's Clearing, the Nail Tree and Spaghetti flat.

We had some fun setting up a replica of a photo taken over 100 years earlier - our dress code was not so elegant though. Thanks to the Wednesday trampers for discovering this walk and passing on very helpful information. See the excellent Waitahinga trails website for more details, photos and maps. <http://www.waitotara.co.nz/waitahinga.htm> Unfortunately this track is now closed until September because of issues with hunting. If you plan to do this walk in the future please contact the Wanganui Tramping club first via their website to check that it is open.



Okehu / Waitahinga dam built in 1904 for water supply to Wanganui. *Royce Mills*



Thursday trampers over 100 years later *Royce Mills*

15-16th June: Lodge Food Carry and Work Party

Howard Nicholson

Lots of people eat lots of food. This is a good thing; lots of food was carried over to Manawatu Lodge during the recent food carry, and now we need lots of people, just like you, to visit the lodge and eat it. In fact, we took less food and sundry items over to the lodge this year than in the previous few years, judging by the fewer number of trips made by our load bearers. Even so, over half a tonne of “stuff” was hoisted onto backs and transferred from the road to the lodge, and all before morning smoko. We were rewarded with delicious caramel pinwheel scones, cooked by the club’s “hottest home bakers” - you know who you are... So, job done, it was time to crack open the ginger beer.

Well, almost. The lodge management team is on a bit of a roll at present and they were not content with the fantastic outside paint job completed by many over the summer. They decided that a “detox” of the downstairs boot room was in order, and so several years of accumulated crud was removed and taken over to the car park. A thorough cleansing of the lodge, some maintenance tasks and more painting were done to prepare the lodge for Winter. Our special treats for the trip included delicious beef wellington for dinner followed by aerial entertainment on the beam traverse.



Beam-Traversing in the Lodge

John Lyttle



Xander and William enjoying the snow at the lodge

Rob Pringle

The next day dawned but it was hard to tell. Even so, while some bravely stayed inside to continue with the work or to contemplate making more scones, several people took the antidote to work and headed out for a stroll in the park. Standing on the wrong side of a sheer gorge, in the rain and with a cold breeze in our faces, we aborted our mission just shy of the Stanton Memorial and headed back to the lodge, following the rocky and unrecognisable Home Run ski route. After what seemed like several “final” clean-ups we headed back to our homes in Auckland, the Hawkes Bay,

Wellington, and Palmerston North. All of the people that were involved – before, during and after the trip - deserve a big pat on the back. Thank you!



At the lodge were John, John-Luc, Isaac and Sebastian Lyttle, Ken and Mary Mercer, Ivan Rienks, Jess Thomas and Rob and Isak Pringle, Doug Pringle, Bruce Taylor, Peter Rawlins, Peter Bowker, Anne Henderson, Robin Lane, Matt Lake, and Tara, Hugh, Sue and Howard Nicholson. Ryan Badger organised the use of a trailer. (Please excuse any misspelt names).

26th June: Atiwhakatu & Carrington Loop (Wednesday trampers)

Bev Akers

The hardest job is organising vehicles for 35 trampers. I was determined to get everyone sorted into vehicles, leaving from various homes, and avoiding our usual meeting place. After 3 cancelled out due to poor health, we were sorted: Five vehicles plus a full bus headed to Holdsworth car park, driving on a very frosty road (-2 °C). Most impressed with our bus driver, Evan, who took care of his precious cargo. It took awhile to sort out our groups amongst all the chatter!! Fourteen headed to Atiwhakatu Hut. They were entertained by the helicopter & workers fixing up the track and replacing a bridge that had been washed away. One lone trumper just had to go up to the snow at Powell hut



Wednesday Trampers on Carrington Ridge



Norman Orange

and came home on a real buzz. That left me with seventeen, and so off we toddled up the Lookout track, stopping to view the snow covered peaks, and using the sun dial (but you need to be tall to use it). We followed a well marked trail, basically all the way to Gentle Annie Saddle where we had an early lunch. Then we

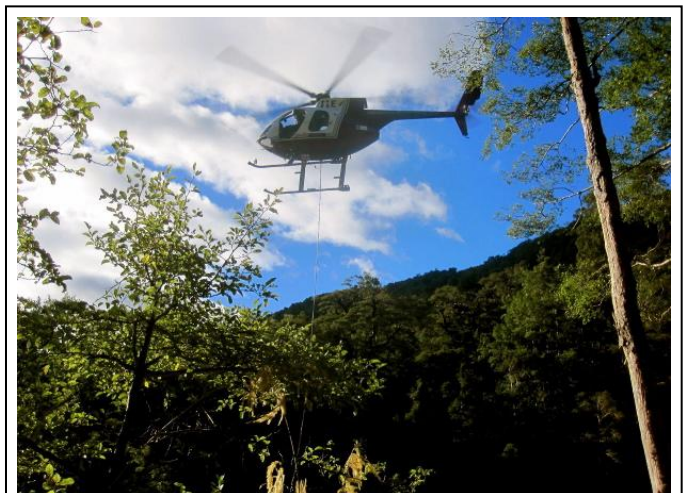
climbed up to Carrington Ridge, ending up at the old Mt Holdsworth sign post. Second lunch stop (we are a relaxed group). We continued out via the old track, bringing us out just short of Rocky lookout, where we rested again, but this time in the sun. We ended up having a 5¼ hr day.

- Thanks guys – Bev

27th June: Atiwhakatu Hut (Thursday Trampers)

Fifteen Thursday Trampers set off for the Atiwhakatu Hut in cold dull weather. Fortunately that was as bad as it got. Our last trip there was in August 2012 just after a severe storm had wreaked havoc on some of the bridges and sections of the track. It was a rather sobering sight to see again the rock, boulder and tree debris that was moved round in the river and side streams at that time. On this visit the track was in good condition with further work in progress while we were there. In fact we were able to stop and watch a helicopter servicing the track workers on our return trip. We lunched at the hut with some of the party tramping above the hut before returning for lunch. It was a pleasant and not too arduous day.

Keith Fisher



Helicopter doing bridge and track maintenance in the Atiwhakatu Valley *Andrew & Carolyn Brodie*



29th June: Night-time Rangiwahia Loop

Jean Garman

The weekend before this attempt at a night-time day-trip around the Rangiwahia loop had a big dump of snow. On the morning of our trip I could see that the snow came down to well below the tree line, but would it be soft and deep or hard and icy, or some combination of the two? No way to know until we were up there, so crampons were on the compulsory equipment list along with other such necessities as spare batteries, lots of warm clothes, and survival gear.

Saturday was mostly overcast with high cloud; it was only an hour or so before our departure that the cloud came down obscuring Deadman's Ridge. When we met up I gave the other two the option to back out as it had started to rain, but we unanimously decided we would give it a crack anyway. We started walking at 6 p.m., when it wasn't raining but the cloud was very low and we'd hardly gone any distance before we encountered snow. There were some footprints heading up the Deadman's track but these didn't keep going for long – I expect they didn't like having to push through and/or scramble around the numerous pieces of snow broken vegetation that blocked the track. After a while it started to drizzle so it was on with the raincoats. A bit further up we were into the kaikawaka and horopito and there were no more snow broken vegetative obstacles in the way. The snow however was soft and getting progressively deeper with feet often dropping through further than expected. Further up amongst the leatherwood we were walking sometimes on top of the snow and sometimes dropping into holes of powder so it was time to put on our over-trousers to keep our legs dry.



Deadman's Track in the snow – Where are we?

Adam Matich

Above the leatherwood there was a cool wind, we were breaking through the snow surface increasingly frequently, and the visibility was minimal as it alternated between damp mistiness and snowing. By 10 p.m. we were hoping we were on top of Mangahuaia but in reality we were only on the bump to the south of it. The going had been slow with increasingly frequent flounders into the thigh-deep holes of soft snow. It had started snowing more heavily, restricting visibility further and even making judging the steepness of slopes difficult. Our coats, over-trousers, and packs were all crusted with ice and it was pretty darn cold. After a bit of indecision we made the eminently sensible decision and turned round to follow our tracks back down the way we had come. It was a lot easier going down and the falling snow turned to sleet, and then to drizzle as we descended. Back in the shelter of the leatherwood we stopped for some hot soup and were back at the car by midnight.

Lessons learnt:

- a night time day trip can be fun but you really, really, really do want nice weather, especially on the tops in snow
- it is a lot harder to get your brain to function late at night - if you take some things as fact e.g. that you have already passed a certain point or that the altimeters are correct it can make you think you are further along than you really are even in the face of lots of other evidence to the contrary
- the option to turn round and go back the way you came is always a good option and not unsurprisingly one that many people requiring search and rescue don't take

Would we do a night-time day-trip again? Definitely just would be a bit more circumspect about staying home if the weather wasn't ideal. We were Brian Webster, Adam Matich and Jean Garman.



A Trumper Reports after Losing the Track

Keith Fisher

I left the Kiritaki Hut ahead of the main group and took a wrong turning. No longer hearing the voices of the trampers behind me I realised my mistake and returned to the main track. I was then behind the rest of the group. Although I saw them on a number of occasions I could not catch them up. I did call out but no contact was made. At some point I lost the main track. About 3.30pm I decided to head for the farm land and river. The going was very slow because of the supple jack. Once it started to get late I knew a search would get under way so I looked for a clearing. The clearing was on sloping ground which then dropped steeply down to the Oruakeretaki Stream. I climbed into my Mountain Safety Council survival bag (a large thick plastic bag) and waited. I had five layers of clothing around my top, plus shorts, boots, socks and gaiters. I was not cold at any stage though cool around my knees as no clothing covered that area. Later there was some condensation in the bag. I was of course very lucky as the weather was good. If the weather had been lousy then that would have been another story. I still had food but was low on water.

After a while I heard a helicopter and waived my torch back and forth. A search light moved round and found me and then the helicopter flew away. I stayed where I was. Sometime later the helicopter returned and flew more or less straight to me and as a result I knew they had established my position. After it left I waited in my bag and it did not seem long before someone called out my name. I blew my whistle and two Police Officers joined me. They gave me a drink and then walked me down through a jungle of supple jack to meet another search party in the stream below. We then walked down the stream to the farm land. A local farmer was with us to show us the shortcuts along the side of the stream. After a drink at the farm house it was back to PN and I was home by 4.00 a.m.

The SAR operation was impressive. The efforts of fellow trampers were much appreciated. Apart from leaving the track what else did I do wrong? I went ahead on my own. I should have made more effort to attract the attention of the trampers in front of me by shouting and blowing the whistle. At the start I could have made an attempt to move on to the top of the ridge to see if could find the track. My cell phone was back in the van. Cell phone contact might have been possible. There will be other things I did wrong. I was very lucky with both the weather and the fact that they found me quickly.



Wednesday Trampers at Atiwhakatu Hut

Andrew & Carolyn Brodie



CLUB INFORMATION

New Members

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.

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.

For further information or an application form please visit:

www.mtsc.org.nz

Club Equipment

Hire equipment: we have packs, 2 and 3 person tents, tent flies (small and large), snow mats, gas cookers, size 8 and 9 boots, billies, food dehydrator and two bivvy bags. Ice axes, crampons, and helmets are also available. We have two personal locator beacons (PLB) for which there is no charge.

Contact the Gear Custodian: Peter Rawlins on (06) 356 7443.

Club website | www.mtsc.org.nz

This contains club information, photos, contact details and back issues of this newsletter, Beechleaves.

The club website is maintained by Howard Nicholson (06) 357 6325 and is kindly hosted by **InSPire Net**, a locally based company.

Accommodation at the MTSC lodge on Mount Ruapehu

The lodge is close to Iwikau Village, has power, heating, hot showers and is well stocked with food. Members and their guests are welcome.

For Lodge bookings email Liz and Hugh Wilde lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz. If you cannot email then phone (06) 356 9450. To confirm your booking payment must be made in advance by cheque to 179 Cook St Palmerston North 4410 or by cash in person. Internet payment is not available for lodge fees.

	Members	Guests
Adult	\$30	\$45
Secondary School	\$25	\$40
Primary School	\$20	\$35
Pre-school (3-5 yo)	\$10	\$10

The Lodge phone number is (07) 892 3860.

Booking the MTSC Van

For bookings:

- Contact Ken Mercer (06) 356 7497.
- Cancellations should be made as soon as practicable to accommodate other potential users.

A fly (in the passenger door) and a Personal Locator Beacon (in the glove box) are available for use free of charge on trips.

Contact Details

Postal Address: MTSC, P.O. Box 245, Palmerston North

Committee 2013 - 2014

President	Linda Campbell	president@mtsc.org.nz	06 323 3836
Secretary	Tim Swale	secretary@mtsc.org.nz	06 376 6556
Treasurer	Arthur Flint	treasurer@mtsc.org.nz	06 356 7654
Chief Guide	Ken Mercer	chief_guide@mtsc.org.nz	06 356 7497
Membership	Judy Swainson	membership@mtsc.org.nz	06 358 4082
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Lodge Manager	John Lyttle	lodge.manager@mtsc.org.nz	027 4336307
Mini-Bus Manager	Ken Mercer		06 356 7497

General Committee

Bev Akers, Ryan Badger, Bob Hodgson, Howard Nicholson, Rob Pringle

Appointees

Lodge Bookings	Hugh & Liz Wilde	lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz	06 356 9450
Gear Custodian	Peter Rawlins	gear@mtsc.org.nz	06 356 7443
Ski Captain	Howard Nicholson	ski@mtsc.org.nz	06 357 6325
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