

beechleaves

Newsletter of the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club



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

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.



1st October (Tuesday at 7:30pm): Interclub Photo Competition

MTSC is hosting the annual Interclub Photo competition between Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club, Massey University Alpine Club, and MTSC this year. The best photos from the individual club competitions go head to head, a great chance to see some of the best recreational outdoor photos taken in the last year. Categories are Natural History, Above the Bushline, Below the Bushline, Landscape, Topical and Overseas.



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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.



MTSC President: Linda Campbell

president@mtsc.org.nz

We want your ideas!! At present the committee is doing some forward planning. We have brain stormed about where we would like the club to be in five years time and are now at the stage of prioritising ideas in order to develop an action plan.

Ideas put forward so far include: Financial stability, Advertising plan, Family activities, Wi-fi connection at the Lodge, Mid-winter club dinner, Internet bookings for Lodge, Trip leadership training, Club walkie-talkie radios, More PLBs, Encourage people to join SAR, Club courses aimed at youth, Risk management course, Younger membership, No SAR call-outs, Rock climbing, Members get value out of the club, Better relationships with DOC, Trip leader guidelines review, Social activities, General update of amenities, Club clothing (hat, T-shirt or fleece), Map reading + navigation, Mountain biking using the lodge as a base, Lodge used regularly during summer, Mid-week trips – Tues, Wed and Thursday, Embrace the fact that we are a mature club, Be a trip provider (income from each trip, not annual sub), Commercial relationships to help cover costs of lodge – e.g. organised trips

It would be very helpful if you could email me your thoughts. What is important to you? What can we do differently? What would you like that we do not have at present? Prioritise the suggestions already made - high, mid, low priority. It is your club, your contribution is appreciated. Please help ensure we are the best club we can be.



MTSC Chief Guide: Ken Mercer

chief.guide@mtsc.org.nz

Our Wednesday group has grown so much that, in response to a suggestion, the club is buying a second PLB for the minibus. It will be particularly handy when two independent trips run on the same day and useful too if the trip splits into fast and not so fast groups.

A PLB featured in a search in July near Toka (see trip report). The position recorded by successive satellite passes was unreliable and jumping from one side of the Ruahines to the other. Due to the uncertainty of location and poor weather a foot search was necessary. They were eventually located with a portable radio direction finder which tracked the PLB signal.

My primary message is to not rely on a PLB for immediate rescue. If the sky to the north is visible your position should be received within minutes but it could take several hours for a low satellite to pass and get the signal. Also, the PLB's GPS may be unable to get a position to transmit if you are under trees on in a deep valley. The system falls back to Doppler positioning which, although much less accurate, is still far better than nothing.

NOTICES and INFORMATION

9th September Interclub Quiz Night

MUAC will host the interclub quiz night: The vet tower on Massey Campus at 7 pm.

DOC Manawatu Rangitikei Area July newsletter available online

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/about-doc/news/newsletters/keep-tracking-on-with-doc-manawatu-rangitikei/july-2013/>

MTSC Photo Competition Results

Landscape

- 1st Jean Garman – Boulder lake
- 2nd Jean Garman - Pukematawai
- 3rd Jean Garman - Tararua Peaks

Topical

- 1st Jean Garman - Tararua Peaks ladder
- 2nd Ken Mercer - Skiing Mt Olympus
- 3rd Jean Garman – Janet, Dragon's Teeth

Natural history

- 1st Jean Garman - Drosera (Sundew)
- 2nd Ken Mercer - Oyster Catcher
- 3rd Alla Seleznyova - Kiwi Footprints

Below the bushline

- 1st Jean Garman - Wharariki Beach
- 2nd Alla Seleznyova - Mason Bay
- 3rd Jean Garman - Hikurangi Stream

Above the bushline

- 1st Jean Garman - Kawekas
- 2nd Ken Mercer - Te Heu Heu
- 3rd Ken Mercer - Snake Ridge

Overseas

- 1st Royce Mills - Spanish Pyrenees camp
- 2nd Royce Mills - Ibons d'Anayet, Spain
- 3rd Alla Seleznyova - Costa Brava garden

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.

September Wednesday Tramps		
Date	Leader	Phone
4	Jerry Tanguay	346 9973
11	Evan & Coralie Davies	357 6288
18	Patsy Inkpen	323 8030
25	Andrew Brodie	358 6576

September Thursday Tramps		
Date	Leader	Phone
5	John & Gillian Thomley	356 9681
12	Brian & Ruth Evans	323 7614
19	Russell Watts	353 6367
26	Syd Easton	356 7462

September Weekend Trips				
Date	Trip	Grade	Leader	Phone
1	Mountain House loop	Easy	Tim Swale	06 376 6556
7-8	A Weekend in the Snow	Lodge	John Lyttle	027 433 6307
7-8	Parks Peak	Easy	Bev Akers	325 8879
21-22	A Weekend in the Snow	Lodge	Ken Mercer	356 7497
22	North Mangahao Biv	M/F	David Harrington	06 839 5766
28-29	Renekapa 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.



A Weekend in the Snow: 7-8th September

Lodge

John Lyttle 027 433 6307

buildingsurveyornz@gmail.com

These weekends have been established by your committee and committed members, me in this instance, to enable access to the lodge for your non-member family and friends at member rates. I will be acting as a guide showing them how to access the lodge from the car park, the lodge's facilities and where they can go for various activities. Members are also welcome and this weekend is not just for snow users but also people who just want to spend a weekend in the snow either admiring it or having a bit of fun with it. Presently, I have 17 people travelling from Wellington, Taraunga and Auckland and there's still plenty of room for the rest of you.

Parks Peak: 7-8th September

Easy/Medium

Bev Akers 325 8879

Hoping to climb up via Sentry Box. It is a bit of a grunt, taking about 2½ hrs to the junction at the top of the ridge. If we have good weather we'll hang a right and walk along for 15 mins to the high point Pohatuhaha (1,368 m). There are great views to be had from up there. Back to the junction; it's an easy 40 mins travel along to the 6 bunk hut. If people want to go the other way, from Makarora river, they will have wet feet and it takes 4 hrs. We can discuss ideas. Please phone by the Wednesday night before.

North Mangahao Biv: 22nd September

Medium/Fit

David Harrington 06 839 5766

This trip replaces the Rae-Ridge Tragear Spur overnighter advertised in the trip card.

Providing we can get permission to cross the farmer's property we will start from Kopikopiko Road (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? We may do this trip in the reverse as an option.

Rerekapa Hut: 28-29th September

Easy/Medium

Mark Learmonth 355 9143

Nice and early spring trip to a remote north Taranaki destination. Rerekapa hut, also known as Boys Brigade hut, is in the Moki Conservation Area. Points of interest on the trail include viewing the headwaters of the Waitara River, the 10 metre high Rerekapa falls, and travelling through some undisturbed Tawa and Kamahi forest.

N/W Ruahines: Labour Weekend

Medium

Mark Learmonth 355 9143

Labour weekend is fast approaching: time to consider coming on this year's tramp into the N/W Ruahines. It's been a long time since the club tramped in this area, so DON'T MISS this opportunity. **Day 1:** From the road end directly to Ironbark hut by sidling the north face of the Mokai Patea Peak, then through to Colenso Hut for the night. **Day 2:** Loop south around to Otukota hut for the night. **Day 3:** Back through Ironbark hut. This will be solid MEDIUM tramp.

TRIP REPORTS

7-8th July: Ruahine Search and Rescue Operation

Jean Garman

MTSC members are active in local Search and Rescue, and so a recent SAR callout for a beacon activation in the Ruahine ranges saw Peter Rawlins in management, a first response group that was mostly (6/7) MTSC people and several more MTSC people involved in the second response wave. I was in the first wave so this is an account of what team 1 (Brian Webster, Ivan Rienks and Jean Garman) got up to.

Situation: A PLB was activated on Sunday morning but initially was giving location points that varied by kilometres on both sides of the range. It was a New Plymouth Tramping Club party of five who were planning to walk into Ngamoko hut via the Shorts track and out the same way with the extension of carrying on to Toka and down the Knights track. The RCC gave permission for a search to be launched on Sunday afternoon.

When we left the police station to drive up to the Limestone road end there were squalls of heavy rain, some impressive lightning and thunder and the odd burst of hail. We opted to make use of the porch at Sixtus Lodge to get



Ivan and Brian 'enjoying' the Piripiri headwaters
Jean Garman

fully kitted out in our wet weather gear rather than getting soaked at the road end. As it turned out, when we got to the road end the rain had stopped. It was decided to just send in one team to try and walk into Ngamoko Hut that night and the rest returned to stay the night at the Apiti fire station for quick deployment the following day.

We set off at 6 p.m., under torch light, and before long were quite warm from all our layers and the exertion of carrying pretty heavy packs. A few layers were removed but we were careful to keep on the over trousers and raincoats to keep as dry as possible. As we climbed it cooled off so the extra layers went back on but luckily while it was misty there was very little rain. Up in the leatherwood zone there were some old patches of snow which showed a few foot prints that were very washed out. Higher up there was a reasonable layer of fresh hail on the ground and almost all of the snow had washed away so there was very little sign left. Visibility was pretty limited but the wind wasn't bad all the way to the top of Shorts track. However, when we turned off the track heading south towards the track down to Ngamoko Hut we were suddenly blasted by the wind. It was very unpleasant but might have been manageable if there was a track to follow. Unfortunately there is no track along this part of the range, the faint ground trail was not visible at night and the ridge is sometimes broad and has many twists and turns. We could not navigate effectively in the limited visibility and

strong wind so we headed back down Shorts track, dropping about 160 m in height before we found a flat sheltered spot in the track where we put up our tents. There were some patches of snow nearby to top up our water supplies and we were all tucked up in bed by 10:30 p.m.

Up at 6 a.m. the next morning and heading off at day break, not long after 7 a.m. The weather hadn't changed so we were still kitted out in full storm gear but with daylight it was possible to navigate along the ridge line. We had a direction finder that picks up the 121.5 MHz signal emitted by the PLB and we tried that at various points but it wasn't till we got to the top of Whaingapuna that we picked up a signal down in the Piripiri stream. With having a clear signal to follow we didn't have to try tracking where the lost party had gone and could just make our way down the path of least resistance checking with the direction finder that we were still on target at regular intervals. As we descended into the leatherwood it wasn't too bad to begin with, low leatherwood with a sprinkling of tussock patches along the ridge line. As we got further down the leatherwood got bigger and denser making for slower and slower travel. Further down the ridgeline became undefined and we had the choice of going to the left, right or down the middle. At the time the right hand option looked the best but it soon got very steep and quite nasty in places. We gave a few



Ivan up-close and personal with a helo crewman
Jean Garman

whistles in case we were within earshot of the missing group but nothing was heard. Eventually we dropped into the stream which unfortunately was even worse travel, being very narrow with a couple of waterfalls requiring more thrashing in the leatherwood to get around = even slower travel. At the junction of the two headwater streams off Whaingapuna the lost party was still down stream of us and the travel was easier. We carried on down spotting a few foot prints and walking stick holes so we gave a whistle about this point, got a response and soon found them set up against a bank with a fly and a survival poncho for shelter a bit before midday. No one was hurt and all seemed in pretty good condition. After a navigational boo boo on Whaingapuna which dropped them down towards the Piripiri stream they had decided to try and follow the stream out to farmland but had got to a point where there were waterfalls up-stream, waterfalls down-stream and long steep climbs through dense leatherwood in every other direction. After a night out they did not feel capable of tackling these obstacles that could easily have led to an accident and/or getting stuck in a far worse situation than they were already in so stayed put and activated a PLB. Our next task was to let base know, unfortunately being down in a steep sided stream we had issues with comms so it was out with the big HF radio along with climbing up slips to try and get reception on the UHF radio. We eventually got through that we had found them and they were all OK. Time to wind up the search and arrange extraction for everyone, luckily the cloud started to lift and eventually the Iroquois was able to come and winch us out that afternoon - we were quite prepared to wait for as long as it took for the weather to get good enough for a helo extraction. As none of the lost party had been winched before we were all winched along with a crewman, this is quite an up-close and personal experience. Before long we were heading home to wash and dry all our filthy wet gear.

13-14th July: Snowcraft 2013 – A Participant’s view

John Lyttle



Tomas, John and Isaak compacting the snow on their shelter

Ken Mercer

This course was all about gaining survival skills in the snow and learning technique in the use of an ice axe and crampons. For those of you who didn't know this is one of the many courses that the club runs free of charge and Howard Nicholson, a long time participating member of the club was good enough to give up his time for this course to happen.

For me to take this kind of course with two of my boys was certainly a little out of the norm for us. I've been a downhill skier for 34 years and the thought of walking through the snow for fun and just cause you can was worlds away from catching a lift up so that you could ski down. You may wonder then why the heck would I bother. I had a number of reasons with the main one being a selfish need to learn how to use an ice axe and crampons so that I

could join the club trip on the 24 August that will be walking to the top of Ngauruhoe and skiing down it. Apparently a 6-hour walk where the use of crampons and an ice axe are essential requirements. The other reason was to give myself, and two of our four boys, skills to manage a survival situation in the snow.

So we started the Saturday with 5 layers of clothing, to handle the white out conditions with strong winds and light snow falling, with ice axes in hand. The first part was walking through fresh snow that got well over knee deep in places. I had always wondered when watching those mountaineering docs why they took such small and intentional steps. The idea is that you take turns in leading as it takes a great deal of energy to cut a trail through fresh deep snow and so much easier if you follow someone heavier than you. Tomas and Isaak, 16 and 12 years old were two busy just having fun so there wasn't a lot of intentionality in their method as they just enjoyed the novelty of being out in it. I for once enjoyed following in the steps of others especially when the snow was knee deep. The main point of this morning's outing was efficient use of the ice axe and throwing oneself down a slope and using our ice axes to do a self-arrest (stop ourselves from sliding to our deaths) without impaling yourself. Not complex but I could see that knowing you are going to fall and stopping yourself is a lot different than how it would play out in reality on a very steep icy slope. What I took from this is the self-arrest can be done with a ski pole or even body parts if the snow is soft enough.

So after lunch and a dry set of clothes Howard showed us how to build a snow cave. This involved piling snow on top of our back packs and digging a tunnel into the packs. Our shelter ended out being around 4 metres in diameter and we reckon that it would have slept at least 8 people. We were considering adding it as part of the lodge sleeping quarters as it was surprisingly warm inside at zero degrees when outside was at least minus ten in a strong wind. We did have snow shovels to assist and very good soft snow enabled us to complete this project in less than two hours. We all slept well that night in the comfort of the lodge.



John, Howie, Isaak and Tomas - Cosy.....

Ken Mercer

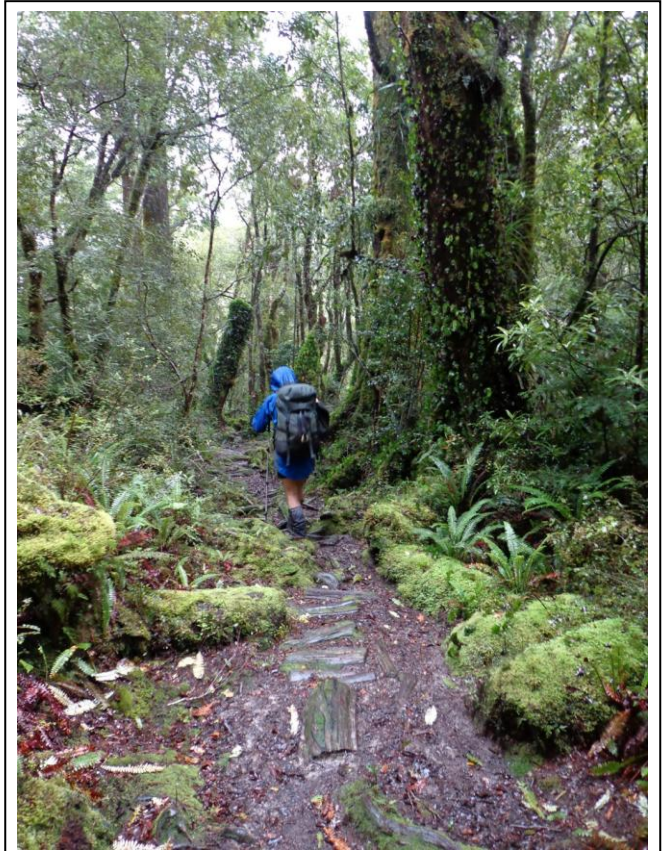
Sunday brought with it even stronger winds than the day before and this was crampon day. The point of the exercise was not to stab one self and as Howard put it (for us older set) we needed to walk like John Wayne. The crampons gave us a further boost of confidence but required a technique of keeping as many spikes on the snow at once which allowed us to walk on solid ice and ascend very steep slopes. A combination of ice axe and the technique taught by Howard enabled us to go up or down virtually any snowy/icy slope with confidence. The afternoon was spent in the shelter of the lodge learning how to tie up to each other when walking in a group on glaciers. The emphasis on safety impressed us all and I watched in amazement as the boys mastered the knots while I was totally knotted by it all; never was a good boy scout.

So what did we get, knowledge and confidence to be able to manage ourselves in the snow. For me, the hotel user, I now see how easy it is and now have a real desire to get out into the outdoors and have booked a trip in the Tararuas with an old mate this summer. I'm also looking forward to skiing down Ngauruhoe later this month. Thanks Howard for sharing your skills and giving up your time.

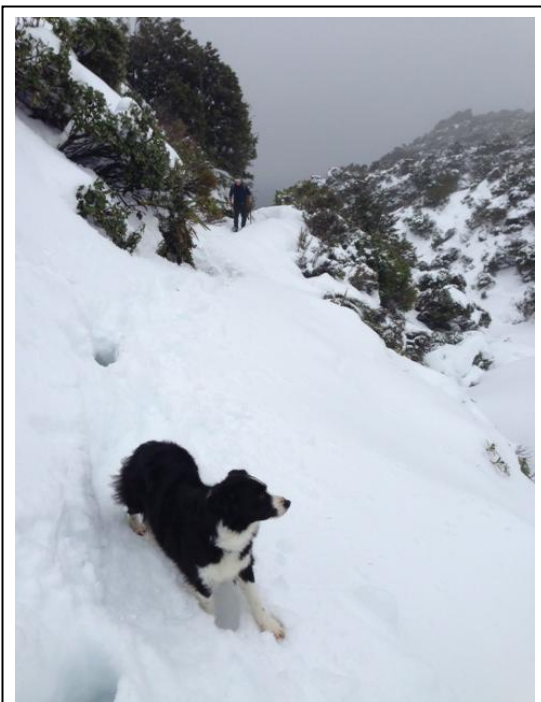
13-14th July: Kawekas Waitewaewae Hut

Jean Garman

Another terrible forecast meant we didn't feel like going all the way to the Kawekas for a wet tramp in the bush. We still felt we needed some exercise and consequently decided to do something closer to home. The weather looked marginally better in the west so we opted for a no tops, no un-bridged rivers, and easy overnighter to Waitewaewae hut. This included a civilised departure time of 10:30 a.m., a visit to a bakery, a quite pleasant walk with intermittent light rain, a good warm fire, and a nice long sleep. On the way out we thought we would try for a little variety and follow Saddle Creek down into Waitatapia Stm, and on down to the main river at Otaki Forks. This turned out to be a not-quite-so pleasant walk, but still with intermittent light rain. Once we were past the bottom of the big slip that drains into Waitatapia Stm, the water started to get murky and we felt that crossing at Otaki Forks might be a bit too adventurous. So we did a 30 min scramble up a side-stream to the main track and made our way back to the car as the increasingly cold southerly was starting to make itself felt. As a compensation for our failed adventure we shopped at the retail outlets and fruit and vege places, to be back home mid-afternoon. We were Adam Matich and Jean Garman.



Adam heading across The Plateau towards YTTY Hut
Jean Garman



4 paw drive

17th July: Rangiwahia Hut

Leonie Lowndes

Recently the Wednesday tramping group, led by Leonie Lowndes on her first trip as tramp leader, undertook a challenging tramp to Rangihut.

The team of twenty five members started off in mild conditions into an area that had had significant recent snow falls, down to car park level. The group split into groups, based on ability although it was thought that all groups would make it all the way. This was based on the expectation that we would be able to use the new Zig Zag track that DOC had advised would be possible to use. Unfortunately when we got to the top, half way along the Zig Zag track, it had a divert sign up and had been blocked off meaning we had to come down the second half of the old slip track. This was very challenging due to the heavy snow conditions and meant that not everyone was able to continue on to the hut after reaching the bridge. The group that were unable to carry on to the hut turned back at the bridge and made their way back to the car park.



The Wednesday Trampers have either all grown taller or Rangiwahia hut has shrunk.....

Those remaining continued on to the hut with the snow getting increasingly deeper. When we reached the waterfall, the depth of the snow made climbing up from their relatively hard and teamwork was required for some. We all reached the hut in two to two and a half hours and found that snow was up to three feet deep in places. We found tramping in these conditions exhilarating and quite an adventure. The return walk was completed easily in about one and a half hours. After changing into dry warm clothes the whole group stopped at Ian Ritchie's house for a very pleasant homemade afternoon tea which was a most welcome conclusion to the day. Thank you on behalf of everyone to Ian.

20-21st July: All you can eat at Mangaehuehu Hut

Adam Matich



Mt Ruapehu and Mangaehuehu Hut

Adam Matich

We started off on the Round the Mountain Track at 10:45, and fortunately someone had thought to clear the snow from Blyth car park before we got there. At this altitude (1200 m ASL) there were several inches of snow and waiting for Mark to shovel a parking space for the car would have put a dent in our day. The snow was soft and slushy so our footing was pretty good, although snow on the steeps climbing out of Waitonga Stream, to the Blyth intersection, was compacted by previous traffic and we guessed that it would be precariously slippery on the way back. After the Blyth Hut intersection the prints in the snow ran out and so we had to make our own. Not a problem in the forest, but in the more open areas there is extensive board-walking, which is quite narrow and was piled up with snow. It wasn't always easy to tell where the edges of the board-walk were, and so both of us suffered a few



Mark crossing a 'snow bridge'

Adam Matich

spills, falling 2-3 feet to end up cast in the snow below the board-walk. It was slow going. Once we were fully out into the open the board-walk was completely covered and all we could do was wander from one marker pole to the next, occasionally noticing that there was board-walk beneath the mid-calf deep snow, and occasionally treading knee deep in the snow when we were definitely not on the board walk. We had to break the trail all the way to the hut, with the gully crossings having the deeper snow that sometimes hid the water flowing underneath.

The big compensation for all this toil and hardship was the perfect weather; it was mild, sunny and still and we had excellent views of the mountain. The snow conditions made the 3 hr rated journey a 4½ hr slog, and so we were glad to get to the hut just slightly late for afternoon tea. Mangaehuehu Hut, while being old and tired, is clean and tidy, has uninterrupted views of the mountain and the plebs on the plains below, has a very good wood burner and more fire wood than you could shake a stick at. We soon had the hut nice and warm, and then too hot so some windows had to be opened. Mulled wine, afternoon tea, and extended complaints about the poor quality of the newspaper we had bought along to read kept us going until dinner time, so our mouths were in constant use until bed-time. It was a clear mild evening (the snow on the roof never stopped melting) and we could see the snow-groomers working away on the ski field well into the night.

We had an extended breakfast and started back to the car at the leisurely hour of 8:45 a.m. As we had broken trail the day before our return trip was somewhat easier (3¾ hr day). There were quite a few people around Waitonga Falls and because of all the traffic between the falls and the car park the snow was compacted and icy, the steps being particularly treacherous. It was another calm sunny day and it got a bit too hot while crossing Rotokawa swamp. Not to worry though because as once we drove down into Ohakune the cloud and the rain there gave us respite from the harsh sun we had left behind on the mountain. We were Mark Learmonth and Adam Matich.

3rd August: Mangaone – Kapakapanui Exploration

Jean Garman

Once again the weekend forecast was not the best so after a careful study of all the weather websites (have you seen this new page on the met service site <http://www.metservice.com/mountain/tararua-forest-park>) we opted for a day trip down Waikanae way. Starting from the Mangaone road end we headed up the Te Araroa walkway, initially having to clamber over/around many skittled pine trees indicating recent strong winds. Once we finished the steep part of the climb towards Pukeatua at around 730 m and just beyond a large orange triangle there was a vaguely



Jean and Ivan descending from the trig
Adam Matich

marked route (occasional permatat, bits of bailing twine, faded spray paint) that led along the ridge towards the Kapakapanui loop. The trail was mostly indistinct but after the first couple of hundred meters the ridge was clearly defined and the bush easy to walk through so the now you see it now you don't trail did not hinder navigation.

We popped out onto the Kapakapanui track in time for lunch then headed up to the trig on the high point before retracing our steps and continuing on down to the hut. From there we carried on along the track until there was another large orange triangle pointing away from the ridge line we wanted to take. There had been a notice mentioning that there was private land so you should only follow the marked track. Well there was a track marked on our maps and a

reasonable trail down the spur that was well marked with pink spray paint. We popped out onto a logging road around pt374 which we followed back to the Mangaone car park. The weather had stayed calm and sunny all day while the Tararuas were constantly covered in rain laden cloud.



Ivan, Brian and Jean admiring the view from Kapakapanui

Adam Matich

On later examination of the

WAMS website http://wams.org.nz/wams_desktop/index.aspx we found we had in fact been trespassing on private land, whoops. We were Brian Webster, Adam Matich, Ivan Rienks and Jean Garman.

7th August: Orange Hut / Whareroa Farm Park (exit at MacKays Crossing)

Anne Rush

On a very hot day in May five of us did a reconnaissance of Whareroa Farm Park to find a way to Orange Hut. Instead of turning right to the cairn lookout we turned left and tramped up the right hand side of the valley, at times following a farm track, and at the top crossed to the left hand ridge and followed up to the forest line, veered left again and climbed over a locked gate into the Akatarawa Forest Park. We then tramped down a four wheel track to Orange hut being careful to consult our map and GPS as there are quite a few forest roads branching off. There are also two streams to cross. The return journey was back to the locked gate then following Campbell Hill Road (which is through private land) branching off to the right for 15 minutes to reach MacKay Trig then returning back to the road carrying on down to the several biking tracks. We chose to go down to the car park via the Horse Track. Because of the stops to consult our maps and the leisurely walk down Campbell Hill Road the trip took six hours.

Last Wednesday the group was split into two with 15 in each. Because of lambing we were unable to cross the farm. The fast group tramped up through the cycle tracks to Campbell Hill Road and on to Orange Hut. Their trip took 5 ½ hours. The slower group also went up the cycle tracks and over the locked gate to take shelter in the forest for lunch then returned via MacKay Trig to the car park. Their time was four hours. Within the farm park the tracks are well sign posted and there are quite a few options. Parking and toilet facilities are excellent. It is essential to check with the farm manager for permission, especially as there is a "bastard of a black bull" which should not be confronted! Special thanks go to Suzanne Clarke, who volunteered to take the fast group to Orange Hut, our van driver Evan Davies, and the four car owners.



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
Newsletter Editor	Jean Garman	editor@mtsc.org.nz	06 354 3536
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
Social Convenor	Bob Hodgson	social@mtsc.org.nz	06 356 2915
Day Trip Convenor	Bev Akers		06 325 8879