beechleaves

Newsletter of the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club



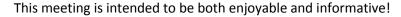
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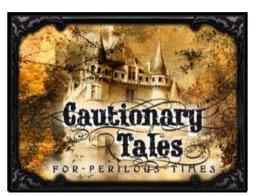
CLUB NIGHTS

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

5th November: Safety, Cautionary Tales, and a Quiz.

This meeting will focus on matters of safety. Overall the club has a good safety record but as the average age of members continues to climb and the mid-week trips continue to attract increasing numbers (35+ at times), the club faces challenges. After a brief presentation about trip preparation and trip leadership from the Chief Guide, Ken Mercer, we will have a series of short accounts of trips that got into trouble and what can be learned from them. There will then be a short quiz on first aid and safety.





3rd December: Visit to HELiPRO Hanger and End of Year BBQ

Meet at 7pm at the HELiPRO Hanger, Airport Drive (Between Massey School of Aviation and the Airport entrance).

The visit will allow club members to have a look round the facilities, to be given a helicopter safety briefing, and for LandSAR to make an associated presentation. Following the safety theme of the November meeting, these activities are prudent preparation for the possibility of a helicopter rescue. Travis Chambers, Pilot/Senior Crewman with HELiPRO in Palmerston North will also talk about the possibility of organising tramps using helicopters for drop off (HELiPRO has a DOC concession). Finally, the plan is to have an end of year "Bring & Share" BBQ at the hanger.



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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 $\underline{\text{the 1}^{\text{st}} \text{ week of the month}}$. Photos are welcome and will be included where possible – remember to include an appropriate caption.





MTSC President: Linda Campbell

president@mtsc.org.nz

We are moving forward. The committee has considered all the ideas given for our forward-planning and have completed the prioritisation of all the suggestions. The top priorities are: an advertising plan (including one specifically for the lodge), a review of the trip leader guidelines, trip leadership training, the safety of club members, more PLBs, Club walkie-talkie radios and navigation training. Also in the

top priority list are financial stability, internet bookings for the Lodge and the Lodge being used regularly during summer. As a committee our next step is to develop an action plan to work to, to ensure these items remain our focus. If there is anything you would like to see included in the action plan around any of these items please let us know before the next committee meeting which will be held the second Tuesday in November. Since we started on this process, we have purchased a third PLB and a brochure advertising the Lodge has been developed for schools.

With spring weather, trampers can look forward to longer days while skiers store skis and remember the fun they had on the slopes.

Enjoy yourselves in the hills but take care out there.

Linda

NOTICES and INFORMATION



MTSC on Facebook

For all the luddites out there, like me, who have purposefully ignored Facebook, did you know you can still look at the MTSC Facebook page without being a member of Facebook? Why would you want to check out the MTSC Facebook page? Well, the page is updated regularly with interesting information relevant to the club and photos and reports from recent trips. All you need to do is go to the link above to have a look. Of course if you are already

https://www.facebook.com/MTandSC

The Manawatu Walking Festival 2014

Facebook savvy, feel free to like us and receive updates.

www.mwf.org.nz

Following on the idea of some walking highly successful walking festivals around Auckland, there is to be a Walking Festival here on the weekend of Friday 28th February- 1/2nd March 2014. There is a selection of walks, ranging from evening city walks to a variety of popular forest and beach areas. Naturally the Manawatu Gorge features. Walks take between 2 and 8 hours. There is a fee for each walk, and bus transport is provided. Sponsors of this event include DOC, Manawatu Forest and Bird, Sport Manawatu, Walking New Zealand, and Te Manawa.

Atiwhakatu Hut extension The hut has been enormously popular for both day and overnight trips. The extension, which will sleep 30 people and create more living area, is due to be completed early November.





Photos by Tony Macklin

Account of an Accident in the hills

http://alpineteam.co.nz/2013/reflections-tramping-accident?destination=node/57



The 4 fractures in Rose Pearson's pelvis which resulted from a tramping fall.

Created by Rose Pearson

This is well worth a read – a very honest and frank account by Rose Pearson of what happened when she and her brother Nelson slipped on icy snow while descending from Zit Saddle on the 30th August 2013, along with her analysis of what went wrong. Rose is an experienced outdoors woman and this is a classic example of how things can go wrong even for experienced people when a series of misjudgements and circumstances align in a bad way. In outdoor risk management they often talk of all the lemons stacking up, which is likening an outdoor accident to playing a slot machine. If one or two lemons come up nothing happens but if you get a whole line of lemons you hit the jackpot and have an accident. In this case, if anyone of a number of things had been different or different decisions had been made, the accident may not have happened, or they may have been

rescued more quickly. Also worth noting is that they did an excellent job of surviving.

Christchurch Tramping Club Hut in Arthurs Pass available for hire

The Christchurch Tramping Club owns a hut in Arthurs Pass village. They invite members of other FMC and Tramping Clubs from around the country to make use of the hut.

Arthurs Pass village is an excellent base for a wide range of tramping, climbing and travelling activities. Alpine climbing and above the bushline tramping trips range from beginner to experienced. There are endless easy, moderate and hard, day, overnight or multi-day tramping trips.

The hut is well insulated and double glazed with a heater and potbelly stove. It sleeps 13 in 3 bunk rooms with indoor showers and toilets. Full kitchen facilities include: oven, microwave, toasters, fridge with small icebox, pots, pans, plates, cutlery, etc. There is a small library of books and magazines. You need to take your own



sleeping bags or bedding: there are mattresses and pillows but please take your own pillow case. BYO toilet paper. Users to clean hut at departure.

Hut fees are, \$20 per night, \$5 for children under 12. Hut bookings are run on a "first in" basis, no exclusive use unless all 13 beds are booked. For enquiries and bookings contact Bernhard Parawa, 027 212-7498 or bernhard.parawa@cdhb.govt.nz. Alternatively contact Rex Vink, (03) 352 5329 or Steve Bruerton, (03) 322 6196 or steve.ngaire@xtra.co.nz.

Bequest from Trevor Hoskings

Trevor Hosking was a member of the Manawatu Tramping Club during the 40's and 50's and supervised the construction of the ski lodge in 1953. He died on the 20^{th} April 2013, in Te Puke, and generously left the MTSC \$15,000 to use as we see fit and \$1,000 to meet costs members incur in scattering his ashes. It is planned to use the \$15,000 for a specific project on the Lodge and to use the \$1,000 to cover family member's costs for a weekend at the Lodge and a memorial tramp on 30^{th} November -1^{st} December (see trip previews).



Raising the framework of the MTSC Lodge, 1950.

A Museum Underfoot by Alison Harrington

Interclub Photo Competition Results

catagory		1st		2nd		3rd	
category	club	photographer	club	photographer	club	photographer	
Above the Bushline	PNTMC	Chris Tuffley	PNTMC	Chris Tuffley	MTSC	Ken Mercer	
Below the Bushline	PNTMC	Chris Tuffloy	MTSC	Jean Garman	MUAC	??	
Below the Bushline	PINTIVIC	Chris Tuffley	IVITSC	Jean Garman	PNTMC	Chris Tuffley	
Natural History	PNTMC	Chris Tuffley	MUAC	??	MTSC	Jean Garman	
Landscape	PNTMC	Chris Tuffley	MTSC	Jean Garman	MTSC	Jean Garman	
Overseas	PNTMC	Dave Grant	PNTMC	Chris Tuffley	MTSC	Royce Mills	
Topical	MTSC	Jean Garman	PNTMC	Terry Crippen	PNTMC	Woody Lee	
Overall	PNTMC	Chris Tuffley	PNTMC	Chris Tuffley	MTSC	Jean Garman	



The overall winning photo by Chris Tuffley, PNTMC. "On the Ruahine Main Range"

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.



	November Wednesday Tra	amps
Date	Leader	Phone
6	Margaret Foot	357 8003
13	Lynn Robinson	329 8759
20	Rita & Arthur Hodson	323 5491
27	Pauline Hall	329 7707

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.

	November Thursday Tramps		
Date	Leader	Phone	
7	John & Gillian Thornley	356 9681	
14	Brian & Ruth Evans	323 7614	
21	Chris Mercer	356 2635	
28	Syd Easton	356 7462	

	November \	Neekend	Trips	
Date	Trip	Grade	Leader	Phone
1-3	Pureora Mountain biking	E/M	Royce Mills	355 8556
9-10	Sunrise Hut	E	Alla Seleznyova	355 0862
16-17	Herepai Crossing	M/F	Adam Matich	022 358 8062
24	Blackwater Stream	M/F	Adam Matich	022 358 8062
30-1	Mangahao Flats Work Party	M/F	Jean Garman	021 176 0209
30-1	Trevor Hosking Memorial Trip	М	Ken Mercer	356 7497
	– Tongariro National Park			

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



1-3rd November Mountain biking the Timber Trail, Pureora forest E/M Royce Mills 3558556

The plan is to travel from Palmerston North on Friday afternoon/evening in the club van, with a bike trailer. We may travel just as far as Taumarunui and stay at the local camping ground.

On Saturday we will start our MTB ride at the northern end of Pureora forest at the Information Centre and ride to the Piropiro Flats camp site. This is a 40 km ride graded as easy / intermediate and is expected to take 5 hours. A driver has been arranged to bring the van and our camping gear around to our camp site. After camping overnight there is a relatively short, easy, mostly downhill, ride out to Ongarue (45km 2-3 hours).

Some people have already signed up with the plan of driving themselves to the Piropiro camp site and basing themselves there. They will do some there-and-back rides each day instead. You are welcome to do the same. Places in the van are limited so if you want to join us for a ride with spectacular suspension bridges, history and majestic forest please contact Royce sooner, rather than later, at 355 8556.

2-3rd November Cattle Creek Hut E/M Bev Akers 3258879

We take an easy walk to Stanfield Hut, along the Holmes Ridge. Hopefully keeping dry feet with the small amount of river crossings. After a break at Stanfield hut, we have a small climb, then follow along a ridge till we reach the track turnoff to Cattle Creek Hut. The hut is beside a small creek (hence the name), but we have a short but steep dropeasy 4hrs total. Lovely spot for a hut, but I haven't been there for years. Rest of the day we relax or explore. Sunday we retrace our steps. Be good to have you along.

24th November Blackwater Stream M/F Adam Matich 022 3588062

adam.j.matich@gmail.com

Blackwater Stream runs between Waiopehu and Gable End Ridges and is to be approached from Blackwater Bridge just before the Ohau Shelter site. According to the TTC, one follows a trail for 100 m up the TL before dropping into the stm. Two hours should put us in a small stm east of Bush Corner (Waiopehu Track), which is then followed a few minutes up past a small waterfall before climbing up a steep re-vegetating slip on the TL, and then the bushy spur to gain the ridge a bit bellow the old hut site (4-5 hrs). It is probably a couple of hours back down and out.

16-17th November Herepai Crossing/Track Cutting M/F Adam Matich 022 3588062

adam.j.matich@gmail.com

This one is up in the air, as what happens depends upon transport and the number of people that turn up. Our route will between Herepai Hut and the top Mangahao dam, with most of the work happening on the Saturday. We will be track-cutting on and around Ngapuketurua peak, which boasts some healthy leatherwood. If you are below your November public service quota come along with your pruning saw.

30th November – 1st December Mangahao Flats Hut workparty M/F Jean Garman 021 1760209 jean.garman@fonterra.com

It is time for our annual work party to Mangahao Flats. Many options are available – those intent on working will be tramping into the hut at a relatively quick pace, but if that is not your kettle of fish feel free to come along and take a more leisurely pace in, or any alternative route that tickles your fancy. You can work as much or as little as you like. Saturday night will be marked with good food, a few drinks and good company. On Sunday some of us will come out down the river, which will involving a bit of swimming, but again this is not compulsory.

30th November – 1st December Trevor Hosking Memorial Trip – Tongariro National Park

M

Ken Mercer 356 7497

The Trevor Hosking bequest gave money towards the spreading of his ashes. This is not permitted in the National Park, so instead we have invited family members to stay at the lodge and climb to Red Crater (also possibly the Crater Lake) with their costs covered by his donation. This is also a club trip so you are welcome to join us (room for up to 10 members). We'll travel up Friday evening and plan to do the walk with Trevor's family on Sunday 1st December, weather permitting. If the weather doesn't cooperate we'll delay the trip until the following weekend.

TRIP REPORTS

Thursday 12th September: Rangiwahia hut

Royce Mills

Twenty of us set off up to Rangiwahia hut in misty conditions. We were delighted to find that the new track above the slip was now open for use and it made for an easy walk up to the hut in 1 hour 20 minutes at a relaxed pace. We were impressed with the quality of the track which will now make the hut more accessible to families and recreational walkers. The track seems more open too with many good views. Finishing touches are still being worked on in places and wheelbarrows, tools, timber and other workers' equipment are still lying around. We took a morning tea stop at the hut and Hugh Wilde managed to share out his yummy chocolate birthday cake and chocolates amongst twenty of us - thanks Hugh! A few of our group headed higher above the hut into the mist and snow and were rewarded with good views when the sun broke through. The rest of us relaxed at the hut and wandered back down the track. As most of us were out by 1pm our leaders Ruth and Brian Evans decided to take a stop at the Rangiwahia reserve on the way home. We walked a 3km loop in this large reserve with several stops. It was good to have Graham Pritchard with us to enlighten us about the many varieties of large trees and tree ferns in this reserve. Thanks to our leaders for a good day out.



Ruth Evans and Graham Pritchard on the new Rangiwahia track near the arched bridge Royce Mills

Wednesday 18th September: Hihitahi Forest Sanctuary & Zeke's Hut

Bob Hodgson

After a frosty 7.30am start, a party of 17 enjoyed a perfect, sunny, spring day. As a consequence of the unusually good visibility, the drive to the get-in-point was a special pleasure. We left the car park at 9.20am, made our way across the paddock to the swing bridge and assembled for a briefing on the far side. The faster group was asked to stay in contact with the main party until the morning tea stop at the top of the cliff. The paddocks on the walk-in and the series of bogs along the track at the entrance to the sanctuary were unusually dry and benign so we all made it without any close encounters with mud. The steep cliff-section of the track was also unusually dry so we did not need to rig a hand rope as we have done on past trips. By assembling atop of the cliff like Americas Cup spectators,

the faster group turned tramping into a spectator sport but, they were denied any spectacle, as the party all made it to the top safely (if not gracefully!). After a brief morning tea stop, the party split and we all enjoyed the track memorable for the red and mountain beech trees and the battered state of the bush following recent high winds and snow. Two thirds of the party tramped into the hut and enjoyed a sunny lunch there and the others enjoyed the sun and the views of the icing sugar like mountain. We all made it out safely and without incident and after excellent coffee at Le Café, Telephonique in Taihape, the van returned to the Rose and Crown car park by 5.15pm. Thanks to Chris Brunskill for driving the van and Marion Beadle for driving most of the Fielding contingent.



PS I have since found out that Hihitahi means lone stitchbird an ironic name for a bird sanctuary.

Thursday 19th September: Te Mara trig

Chris Mercer

This area has always intrigued me with its evidence of tramlines. On this trip we walked up the Mikimiki Tramline



Chris Mercer

south from the Kiriwhakapapa shelter and carpark. The track follows the stream on an easy gradient and after about an hour we reached the tramline's high point at 9.45 am where we stopped for our morning tea. From there, we left the track and took the ridge to the north, the unmarked track was just discernable. A recent storm had dropped huge quantities of debris and we often had to move branches. We reached the Te Mara trig, which is 1,104 m asl, at noon - don't be confused, there is no wooden structure, just a pipe in the ground. The conditions were too cold and windy for lunch on top so we angled down to the track which goes to the Blue Range hut and snuggled down for a bite. A few of the party walked up to the hut for a quick look and the

rest of us finished lunch and walked down to the valley with its spectacular redwoods and that wonderful rata slowly strangling its host. We arrived at the van at about 2.30pm.

Wednesday 25th September: Not an option to go to Sunrise Hut



The Sunrise ford in flood

Evan Davies

28-29th September: Rerekaka (Boys Brigade) Hut

Adam Matich

We found the road end (Mangapapa Rd) some 4½ hours drive away, between Whangamomona and Taumaranui. This easy tramp across decaying former farmland was rated at around three hours, but Mark had the

embarrassment of it taking us only 90 minutes. So after dropping off our packs we headed towards the western end of the track. This section was in unspoiled natural forest and was a bit more tramping-track like. 45 minutes saw us up and over the saddle and down to the edge of the farmland on the other side, and slightly less to get back. Rerekapa Hut is quite a large hut, given how few people stay there, and is in a clean, tidy state which reflects its recent (2009) renovation. The woodburner warmed it up nicely and there was a good supply of firewood.



Rerekaka Falls

Adam Matich

Next day we headed back the way we came, looking for the non-existent derelict homestead near Rerekapa Falls. A bit closer to the road end a DOC worker and the farm owner both said "what homestead?". Oh well! We stopped in Whangamomona for brunch and fortunately weren't asked for our passports.....very casual. We were told however

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Mark looking across the Waitara River at Rerekaka hut

Adam Matich

about some local attractions; the golf cart trip on the now mothballed Stratford to Taumaranui railway line, of which the Whangamomona to Taumaranui section (70 km) is the most interesting because it passes through 20 tunnels, some up to 1.5 km long; it is also possible to do a 4 hour tramp along the railway line, beneath Whangamomona saddle and back into the township, as well as a ridge walk track from the town up to the saddle. So we are going back. We were Mark Learmonth and Adam Matich.

Thursday 3rd October: Sledge Track

Chris Mercer

I haven't been past the swimming pools in the Kahuterawa Stream so I was keen to walk up to the platinum mine shafts. The bush was fresh after recent rain but there was no track damage - the landowner, PNCC, is constantly improving the track. At Red Rock Knob, half of us took the loop track to see the platinum mine shafts. Prospecting for platinum started in the Kahuterawa area c1875 and a German geologist, Menesdorffer had 50 ha of claims but the yields of the metal were not economic. Two of these shafts are horizontal and easy to walk into and four are vertical, three with ladders allowing safe descent for fun photograhs. As I didn't have a torch, I just took a photo of a

side shaft at the bottom of one ladder and was surprised to see later on my computer that the 'cave' was populated by a large number of cave weta! Red Rock gave us views to the south of the Gordon Kear forest- where we had recently tramped to the Punga Hut, and north to South Range Road. The return from Red Rock passes through the Toe Toe Flat comprising regenerating from scrub clearance about 100 years ago with a few old trees penetrating high up. The mikimikishrub grows well there supporting both flowering clematis, nice, and spiky bush lawyer, ouch! We got back to the van about 3pm.



Cave weta resting through the day before feeding on plant material at night

Chris Mercer

13th October: Nowhere near "up and over Ruapehu"

Jean Garman

Some trips really need good weather and when the forecast is for anything but it is time to change plans. With

Saturday looking pretty miserable for most of the country a Sunday daytrip seemed a good option. Since mountain climbing was off the cards a good loooong daytrip was planned. Adam, Chris and I left town around 6.30am and headed for the Ruamahanga road end to start walking at 7.30am. The weather was calm and sunny with stunning views of the ranges. headed off over the farm land to the now no longer maintained track beside Ruamahanga River. The track is still in very good condition although there is a lot of pig rooting early on. In a little over 2 hours we reached the stream that used to have a wire across it; on the other side was the toe of the spur we intended to climb. This spur is untracked but it was open, easy bush with a



Chris and Adam and the very Blue Range Hut

Jean Garman

reasonable ground trail in places. The only wild life spotted was a rat. We made it up to the track between Blue Range and Cow Creek for lunch, where it was still sunny but the wind had picked up and out of the sun it was quite chilly. We followed the track to Blue Range Hut, from where we had two options for a route out. Either along the ridge that Howard's group had an unplanned night out on or down the stream below the hut. We opted for the stream. It was a steep descent straight down from the hut but a few snipped bits of vegetation told us we weren't



Jean and Chris heading down the stream

Adam Matich

the first people who had come this way. At the bottom of the spur it was marked with a cairn which we took as a maker for people coming up the stream to find the right spur up to Blue Range hut which hopefully meant the stream was good travel. It was, although Chris's walking stick still came to grief in a root tangle. Some quite big gusts of wind now and a few spots of rain but never enough to consider a rain coat. Back at the Ruamahanga sidle track it was 4.45pm, a mere 7 hours since we were last there. We were all feeling a little jaded but from there it was just an easy track all the way out so just a matter of

putting one foot in front of the other. We were back at the car just after 7pm – not quite a 12 hour day. We were Adam Matich, Chris Mercer and Jean Garman.

CLUB INFORMATION

New Members

Prospective members must be nominated by a Proposer and a Seconder who are current MTSC members and have been so for at least one year. New memberships are 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 see the club website.

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 three personal locator beacons (PLB) for which there is no charge. Contact the Gear Custodian: Peter Rawlins on (06) 356 7443.

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.

Facebook https://www.facebook.com/MTandSC

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.
- Cancelations 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.

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mmittee 2013 - 2014			
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