# beechleaves

Newsletter of the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club



MAIL: MTSC, P.O. Box 245, Palmerston North 4440 | WEB: www.mtsc.org.nz | FACEBOOK https://www.facebook.com/MTandSC

#### **CLUB NIGHTS**

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

#### 4th February: BBQ and Bush Craft evening

Discussion will follow viewing the video:

"It was only a Tramp in the Bush."

Then we will look at what you put in your pack when you go tramping:

- Bev will reveal the contents of her day pack
- Tim Swale and Linda Campbell will unpack their overnight packs

#### 4<sup>th</sup> March: DOC Structure and Policy

Rod Smile, the new DOC Conservation Services Manager, will explain and discuss the new DOC structure and current policies and their impact on our club. It would be good to have a full and representative turnout from MTSC Club members: whatever your interests and activities with the club this talk will be of interest.



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The deadline for newsletter contributions is  $\underline{\text{the 1}^{\text{st}}}$  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

At the time of writing it is the end of the first week of January. I know that a lot of club members have been enjoying the summer and have been out tramping, biking and paddling. I am in Scotland and of course it is winter here so while I have been out walking I have not done any tramping. So far there has been no snow but it has rained and there is plenty of mud and in some places evidence of the huge

wind storms that have passed through. One of our walks was an interesting afternoon walk in the woods at Smithton near Inverness. There are trails all through this wood and they seem to be hugely popular for walkers and bikers. The trail we chose has two historical sites which are well marked and add interest to the walk. The last few days we have been walking near Duns in the Borders. I was keen to walk on the Southern Upland Way but being winter it was not the wisest idea, however as the trail passes through my friends farm so I have walked a wee way along it. Another afternoon walk took us along a 'footpath', along a road, through a wood and back onto my friends' farm. Other than the mud it is very different to walking in our bush.

While we are out enjoying summer our thoughts go to the family of Tony Gates, a very experienced, passionate outdoorsman, writer and speaker who passed away in December. He will be missed by many.

Keep safe in the hills, Linda



#### MTSC Chief Guide: Ken Mercer

Some native plants flower sporadically but under certain conditions (possibly a drought in a previous year) many of them will flower prolifically all at once, aka mast flowering. We seem to be having a pretty good mast

flowering this summer, it is worth a trip onto the tops to see the leatherwood and spaniards in full bloom while lower down the beech trees are also putting on a show, although more careful inspection is needed to appreciate this.

chief.guide@mtsc.org.nz



#### **NOTICES and INFORMATION**

#### **Club Nights This Year**

If you have any suggestions and requests for speakers and meeting themes for next year's (2014) club nights then send them to the Social Convener Bob Hodgson at <a href="mailto:social@mtsc.org.nz">social@mtsc.org.nz</a>.



The Manawatu Walking Festival runs over the weekend 28<sup>th</sup> Feb.-2<sup>nd</sup> March 2014 and is focused on bringing together walkers from around New Zealand to experience the variety of great walks in the Manawatu. There are walks for all ages and fitness levels, including the iconic Manawatu Gorge Track through native bush, a twilight beach walk, an urban art and sculpture walk, a

vineyard tour with tasting, and a farm walk. Hosting this festival is a range of experts including tramping guides, historians, storytellers, nature experts, experienced walkers, and photographers. Take a look through the options at <a href="http://www.mwf.org.nz/">http://www.mwf.org.nz/</a> and book your place today. If you are interested in volunteering as a guide/host please register your interest on the website. Those who register their interest as hosts will be contacted by email/phone to discuss their potential involvement.

#### **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.



February Wednesday Tramps			
Date	Leader	Phone	
5	Patsy Inkpen	323 8030	
12	Robert Bruce	329 7858	
19	Bev Akers	325 8879	
26	Bob Hodgson	356 2915	

#### **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.

February Thursday Tramps			
Date	Leader	Phone	
6	Graham Pritchard	357 1393	
13	Merv Matthews	357 2858	
20	John McLeod	323 5785	
27	John and Gillian Thornley	356 9681	

February Weekend Trips				
Date	Trip	Grade	Leader	Phone
1-2	Penn Creek Float/Swim	M/F	Jean Garman	021 176 0209
2	Awatere Hut	Е	Linda Campbell	027 333 4493
8-9	Tongariro Crossing &	M/F	Tim Swale	022 134 8384
	Ngauruhoe			06 376 6556
15-16	Roaring Stag	М	Alla Seleznyova	355 0862
15-16	Rosvalls to Smiths Stream	F	Adam Matich	022 358 8062
22-23	Te Matawai Work Party	M/F	Jean Garman	021 176 0209

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



1-2<sup>nd</sup> February: Penn Creek Swim/Float

M/F Jean Garman

jean.garman@fonterra.com

Saturday can be either a relatively leisurely walk into Penn Creek hut via Fields and Table Top or an adventurous attempt to try and follow the line of the old track (overgrown, poorly marked with numerous tricky slips and gullies). On Sunday we will splash/swim/float our way down Penn Creek and the Otaki River back to Otaki Forks. There are some long deep pools which are possible to pack float or you can bring a flotation device of your choice.

2<sup>nd</sup> February: Awatere Hut

E Linda Campbell

06 323 3836 027 333 4493

021 176 0209

This is an easy walk in the Ruahines, so we won't need to start too early. The hut is accessed from Kashmir Road end so we will meet in Woodville. Awatere Hut was built in 1960 and is situated in beech forest at an altitude of about 600 m. Being only about 1.5 hours walk it is ideal for those new to tramping.

8-9<sup>th</sup> February: Tongariro Crossing & Ngauruhoe

M Tim Swale

06 376 6556

022 134 8384

We intend to travel to the lodge on Friday evening to be ready for an early start on Saturday morning. We intend to climb to the south crater from the Mangatepopo road end and then those who want to can climb Ngauruhoe. This takes an extra one and a half hours up and half an hour down. We will then carry on to Ketetahi to finish the crossing. Please ensure you have suitable clothing for this high altitude and exposed trip. Total time is about 6 to 7 hours for the crossing plus an extra 2 hours for the summit trip. On the Sunday we will do a shorter walk around the lodge before returning home.

#### 15-16<sup>th</sup> February: Roaring Stag

М

Alla Seleznyova

355 0862

Roaring Stag Lodge is a relatively new hut in Tararuas located next to the Ruamahanga River. From Putara road end (360 m ASL), the track to the hut follows the Mangatainoka River till it reaches a long swing bridge. After crossing the bridge the track climbs up a steep spur until it reaches a T-junction at the top (760 m ASL). The left branch gradually descends to the hut (440 m ASL). The tramp to the hut takes about 4 hours. This is a standard hut (1 hut ticket) with mattresses, water and heating, but no cooking facilities. The hut's deck catches the afternoon sun; a good place to relax after a refreshing swim (take your togs). There is a hidden lake up river from the hut. Last time I was there, I wanted to find the lake but my companions were not keen so maybe this time if the river is not too high.

15-16<sup>th</sup> February: Rosvalls to Smiths Stream

F

**Adam Matich** 

022 358 8062

Because of the substantial distance we have to travel to get to Smith's Stream Hut by my chosen route, we are going to go to the base of Rosvall's track (from the end of Mill Road) and camp on Friday night. On Saturday we will head up through Tarn Bivouac, along through Ohuinga, Paemutu, and 1715 before dropping down to the hut. Could be a nine hour (or more) day. On Sunday we will climb up to Hinerua Hut and then south back down to the Mill road end.

22-23<sup>rd</sup> February: Te Matawai Work Party

M/F

Jean Garman

021 176 0209

jean.garman@fonterra.com

adam.j.matich@gmail.com

The plan is for a quick trip to Te Matawai for the usual cleaning/veg clearance/firewood activities; we may remark the route into the upper Otaki River. The evening will be very sociable as PNTMC also have a trip to Te Matawai - if you wanted a more leisurely walk in going with the PNTMC group would be a good option. On Sunday we will head back down to Sth Ohau for a quick clean then follow/mark the 'escape' route up onto Gable End ridge and out.

1-2<sup>nd</sup> March: Cow Creek to Mitre Flats

M

Jenny McCarthy

06 3768 838

The focus of this trip is to travel the track between Cow Creek and Mitre Flats. There are several ways of doing this and I am open to suggestions from interested people. The transport will need to be taken into account as leaving from the Pines and returning to the Kiriwhakapapa Road end staying overnight at Cow Creek is one possibility.

#### **TRIP REPORTS**

#### 16-17<sup>th</sup> November: Herepai Crossing/Track Cutting

Adam Matich

The

We headed south along the 2 km ridge towards Ngapuketurua peak and suffered the happy discovery that someone had been there before us. There was no cutting for us to do as pretty well all the predatory leatherwood had been cut and the route marked; necessarily so in

places given the poor visibility.

leatherwood was cut all the way up onto Ngapuketurua and it was just as well as the weather was rubbish; totally unsuitable for track cutting. What is really needed up there now is some serious weed-eating almost all the

way to Ruapae Peak. The rampant flax and

Ivan wasn't sad about not coming with us when he dropped us off at number one dam. It was raining; but at least it was forecast to not-be-windy. We crossed the dam wall and made our way to Baber Forks, the base of the long-neglected Puketurua track. Our 500 m climb took around 2 hours and was pretty easygoing. The bottom 70 m of the track was steep, but the rest of the way up had some quite gentle sections and the track was still in good condition. Up on the ridge, however, things were not so benign. The forecast lack of wind did not eventuate and it was still raining, so we had to don suitable Tararua-grade clothing.



Improving the Herepai firewood supply

Jean Garman

tussock has made the footing rather difficult.

Four hours saw us on Ngapuketurua, and heading towards Massey Knob, Hines, Kaireti and Raupae before the welcome descent down to Herepai Hut for the night (8 hrs). Travel along these tops was not enjoyable as we were constantly battling the wind. The final climb up Ruapae was really slow as everyone was staggering along like old

drunks and we weaselled out of the last 20 metres, opting to sidle around to the trail heading down to the hut. Suddenly everything was alright again as the weather was behind us and it was all down-hill.

Next morning we finally got to use our loppers and saws by fire-wooding the tree that had blocked the track to the dunny, so carrying them had not been a waste. Not quite! We were Dave Mitchell, Jenny McCarthy, Jean Garman, and Adam Matich.



Heading for home

Jean Garman

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#### Sunday 24th November: Blackwater Stream

Jean Garman

The Blackwater stream is a route that was used to access Waiopehu hut; it is described in Tararua Footprints <a href="http://ttc.org.nz/pmwiki/pmwiki.php/TararuaFootprints/HomePage">http://ttc.org.nz/pmwiki/pmwiki.php/TararuaFootprints/HomePage</a> so we thought it was worth a look. We set off from Poads Road and even though it was early in the morning it was hot already and we were pleased to get into the shade of the bush. Just before the bridge across the Blackwater Stream we followed and indistinct trail down into



Adam and Jenny head into the toitoi infested side stream Jen

Jean Garman

the stream. The stream was fairly easy going and there is a nice camping spot just a bit upstream from the bridge. All the way up the stream it was never difficult to travel but it wasn't idyllic either. A lot of time was spent crossing back and forth and for a while there were a number of fallen trees to scramble over/through. At one point Adam squealed at the prospect of getting his shorts wet and a local inhabitant promptly flashed it's bum at us as it bounced off through the trees. After a while the stream became more open and about 2 hours after the bridge we reached the required side

stream as indicated by the guide. Apart from a fire ring near the bridge there was no sign of people movement in the Blackwater. I had thought the side stream might be indicated with a cairn but there was no sign of one; it would

appear that this route is not used much anymore. The first part of the side stream was toitoi infested but this didn't last long and then it was pretty easy going through pungas on the stream banks. At the first confluence we picked the stream that seems to tie in best with the route description then at the next confluence we headed up the branch that isn't marked as a stream on the map. At about the right height for the mentioned waterfall we found another confluence and a waterfall. We failed to scramble up the waterfall as recommended by the guide as it lacked a crucial handhold near the top and instead scrambled up from a bit further back and sidled the waterfall. After the waterfall there was supposed to be a slip on the true left, instead we found another confluence which had a bit of a slip near the toe of the spur between the streamlets. As we weren't quite sure that we had followed the instructions as intended we figured this was probably our best bet so headed up this spur gaining the track on Bushy Knob. We were probably about 30 min below the hut and had taken 5 relatively leisurely hours to get there. With no real desire to add an extra hour to the day to visit the hut we headed down the track to the road end. Luckily by the time we were out on the farmland the pine trees provided shade for part of the walk back to



Jean and Jenny approaching the awkward waterfall Adam Matich

We were Jenny McCarthy, Adam Matich and Jean Garman

the car.

#### 30<sup>th</sup> November/1<sup>st</sup> December: Mangahao Flats Work Party

Jean Garman

All week DOC waited for a break in the weather to fly a fadge of gear into the hut for our work party; in the end JD squeaked in with the load on Friday morning much to our relief as the backup plan was to carry most of it. The forecast for the weekend wasn't good either - anticipating a walk in the rain, an afternoon of rain, evening showers and probable showers on Sunday we were pleasantly surprised to arrive at the car park on Saturday Morning to find it wasn't raining. We got to the new swing bridge across the Mangahao, still no rain. We split into several groups so everyone could go at their own pace. Harris Creek was passed and still no rain, the Barra Stream was crossed and still no rain. When the front runners were 15 min from the hut the rain started, everyone else sloshed in over the





Firewood supervisors/cutters leave a reasonable pile of burnables in the woodshed

next 45 min or so. There was a big list of jobs to do so we started on the inside ones with the exception of brave Brian who tackled the gutter cleaning in the rain.

Someone had taken the axe to the locked cupboard smashing in the cladding by the door and

breaking the axe. They must have been very disappointed to find such exciting stuff as rat bait, nails and track markers. After the destruction a rat had taken the opportunity to nip inside, help itself to the bait and die on the deck. Using one of the shelves we patched the damage and make the cupboard (four legged) rat proof once more.

We had a lavish afternoon tea during which the rain subsided so we headed outside for an hour or two of vegetation wrangling. This was followed by more snacking, drinking, eating and merry making before an early night was had. The next day dawned fine and we carried on with the outside activities cutting firewood, clearing scrub from the

clearing below the hut, scrubbing the deck rails followed by "spray and walk away". We headed out in dribs and drabs as we would meet up along the way clearing some of the minor windfalls. Lunch was had at the Harris Creek picnic table





Doug and Adam track clear while Jenny supervises

Malcolm Thomas

and we continued clearing and track marking where required back to the new swing bridge, then down the river back to the dam. Many thanks to Brian Webster, Jenny McCarthy, Doug McNeur, Malcolm Thomas, Dave Mitchell and Fred, Adam Matich and Ivan Rienks for all the hard work and companionship.

#### Wednesday 4th December: Herepai Hut/Roaring Stag Hut

John Ridge

"The Journey is the Destination". It would be true to say that the majority of trampers do enjoy the whole experience of being out there in the bush and open spaces. The journey towards both Herepai Hut and Roaring Stag Hut gave us much to appreciate.



Relaxing outside Herepai hut

John Ridge

Roaring Stag Hut. The larger group had paused for morning tea before arriving at the T junction. It was very pleasant to relax, listen to the birds whilst trying to identify them and generally enjoy a break mid-climb.

At the T junction a signpost indicates Herepai Hut to the right and Roaring Stag Hut to the left. The undulating ridge-top track to Herepai Hut is quite easy going and took us about forty-five minutes. The majority had lunch at the hut and a few chose to head higher towards the Peak.

Returning to the car park was easy going and groups took their time to enjoy what proved to be a most enjoyable day of tramping.

We stopped at Eketahuna on the way home. It must have been the hot weather as ice cream was the choice refreshment for most but a good cup of coffee went down well with the van driver and a couple of others. Thanks to car drivers Barbara, Bernard, and Andrew

Our party consisted of 31 trampers. We set out with warm, humid conditions and it remained so for most of the day. The first forty-five minutes is an easy grade on a good track which follows up the Mangatainoka Valley across a wire swing bridge through pleasant stands of beech forest and native clematis. After the second swing bridge, the middle stage of our walk, the track climbs very steeply for 350 metres through dense bush to reach the junction in mountain scrub on the ridge top.

At this point Dennis and three others headed to



Looking down on Herepai hut

John Ridge

#### 7-8<sup>th</sup> December: Lower Matakuhia Hut (Waipunga Conservation Area)

Mark Learmonth

Failing miserably to reach this hut two years ago, second time round was a piece of cake; no problem at all. The first stage requires following the Opureke Track to Matakuhia Stream. Knowing exactly where the start of this track is the key. This track starts off an inconspicuous four-wheel drive track off Waipuna road shortly after the Waipuna River wash out crossing. At the end of the four-wheel drive track you can see off to the left an orange marker indicating the start. Pigs in recent weeks have had a field day in this area. Forty minutes later we were at the Opureke saddle. Excellent track up to this stage, you hardly noticed you had gained 300 meters in height. The next

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hour, crossing the tops & after the saddle is not too bad either, just some sections needing the grasses & ferns



Mark on a good bit of the track

Adam Matich

cutting back. The last hour to the track junction at Matakuhia Stream is rather messy with numerous wind falls plus three snarly steep rocky sections to negotiate. The first of these short steep up & down rock sections seemed to be a bit easier to negotiate this time round. The following section a bank, rock faces, and a washout required you to climb up a large fallen tree to cross above & over to the track. The tree was wet & very slippery. Adam was up and over no problem at all. I took a very undignified way to the top. No sooner was I climbing up following Adam, clumsy old me was over the side crash landing down below on a smaller fallen tree, to my good fortune. I would have been in a spot of bother if it had not been there. Luckily, no injuries.

From here we set off to the worst steep gorgy bank crossing, where we managed to scramble across last time, this horrible section was not safe to do this time round. Fortunately we found a safer option a little further down from where the track would normally have crossed. Now not far from the Lower/Upper Matakuhia Hut intersection the windfalls made track finding rather interesting; continual searching for the

track & markers really slowed us down. Finally, we hit the steep track descent leading down to meet the Matakuhia Steam & our campsite of two years ago. Crossing the stream we climbed up the bank to reach the junction sign (not so nice a climb) from this point the traveling south high above the stream is not nice at all. It is very slow going with the track wandering all over the place. Where we crossed the stream we had initial thoughts of following the bed to the hut. Unfortunately close to the crossing there is a gorge to be negotiated, with the volume & height of the

stream we choose to stick to the much slower but safer option. Once past this gorge we dropped down onto the streambed crossing back & forth nearly all the way to the hut. Shortly before the hut there is another small gorge which has a reasonably good track which climbs & bypasses it on the true left. On sighting the hut from a distance we were not overly impressed to say the least, but as it turned out a pleasant spot & hut to stay at. The hut's floor is not what you would call flat but did have carpet covering the floor & the bunks were comfortable. We clocked our journey time at 5¾ hours. Sunday was really ideal for tramping. Overnight the stream had



Mark making his way around the gorge

Adam Matich

dropped significantly so retracing our steeps back up the streambed was much quicker. With less volume flowing in the stream we decided to clamber along the rocky true right side of the gorge near the junction. We were Mark Learmonth and Adam Matich.

#### 14-15<sup>th</sup> December: YTYY-Oriwa Biv-PanaTYY

Jean Garman

This trip involved minimal official tracks, lots of bushy ridge lines and had the added bonus of visiting an old plane wreck, and the old Oriwa Biv site. When we (David, Monique, Adam and Jean) left the North Manakau road end it was calm and warm but also somewhere between mist and drizzle which lasted for most of the day. After we crossed the Panatewaewae Stream (mostly sans boots in an attempt to keep our feet dry), Adam momentarily tried to lead us astray up one of the streams but we were having none of that and quickly located the route to



Investigating the wreckage

Jean Garman

Waitewaewae Peak. The unofficial track was easy to follow and we were on the high point in time for lunch. From here we continued to follow the ridge line; the track became increasingly less marked and the foot trail increasingly less evident. There was a flurry of marking around high point 955 leading to the plane wreckage, a little to the north along the ridge then dropping off towards the west. Scrambling down less than 30 m we came across the first pieces of wreckage from the Airspeed Oxford 1302 that crashed on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 1941 and the cross marking the pilot Selwyn Sinclair's grave. It took us about 5 hours to get there at a relatively gentle pace. From the grave site we sidled around the hill, taking note of pieces of

wreckage smeared across more than 30 m in a pretty much horizontal line. The wreckage was well overgrown but many bits were still easily identifiable. We found out later that quite a bit of the wreckage had been removed when the crash site was eventually located by hunters in 1980. <a href="http://www.parawaitc.org.nz/Other/Oxford1302.pdf">http://www.parawaitc.org.nz/Other/Oxford1302.pdf</a> gives a good overview. Carrying on along the ridgeline the track faded to nothing not long after the intersection with the ridge to Panatewaewae and we navigated our way through the saddle and up onto the Oriwa Ridge. The clearing were Oriwa Biv used to be houses a solar powered rain gauge and a little roof to collect water into a tank on the old biv site. The clouds started to break and we were treated to late afternoon/evening sunshine which we basked in like lizards. We hung out on the only dry piece of ground in the open, the helipad, till the sun started to set cooking/eating dinner, chatting and drying our damp clothing. The next day we back tracked for an hour or two then headed further along the ridgeline to Panetewaewae getting there in time for lunch. The track from here was well marked and quickly morphed into old logging roads. It got a little confusing around where we needed to pick up the track down to the road end, due to the start being a little obliterated with windfall. We detoured around and eventually landed on the right logging road (also promoted as a mountain bike track) and plodded on back to the road and car park.

More photos at https://www.facebook.com/MTandSC?sk=photos\_albums

#### 11-12<sup>th</sup> January: Piripiri headwater explorer

Jean Garman

After a SAR op in the area in 2013 we were inspired to return to further explore the headwaters of the Piripiri Stream. The lower Piripiri is a big boulder scramble with a chain to help climb one rock just before the junction of the two major branches of the stream. The biv is up the branch on the true left but on this trip we headed up the true right. At about 720 m ASL the first big waterfall was encountered. No hope to get around it on the true right so we tried the true left. After a while we got bluffed so came back down and tried again a bit further back. This time we got past the waterfall and proceeded to drop back into the stream. This didn't work so it was back up again for a

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bit more sidling before we successfully managed to get back into the stream. About one hour to get round one waterfall. The stream carried on much as before but slowly became gentler and more open giving good travel all the way up to the next big waterfall at about 1050 m ASL. This waterfall had stopped the "lost party" from carrying on downstream. From below it was easy to spot a possible route around and we headed up a little side stream on the true right then up a small slip onto the ridgeline. We sidled out of the head of the slip for a few meters then headed

straight down back into the Piripiri. This was a relatively easy detour but would not have been easy to pick coming from the other direction. At the headwater forks, at about 1060m ASL, we headed up the true left branch hoping to get to the base of a large slip that cut through most of the leatherwood band. Unfortunately we hadn't got far before another large waterfall stopped progress. headed up a gut on the true right with the intention of sidling and dropping back into the stream but as we got higher it became apparent that this would not be easy and there might well be more waterfalls between us and the slip. So instead we just carried on up through the leatherwood, Brian did a sterling job of leading the way while I flailed along in his



Brian in the lower Piripiri

Jean Garman

wake. Initially, it was steep and we both got leg cramps from the awkward manoeuvres required but then the gradient eased and there were a few tussock patches where the leatherwood had died off which were quicker but dead leatherwood is very good at goring you as you struggle past. Surprisingly it only took 2 (slightly painful) hours to get to Whaingapuna.

From here the travel was easy and we skipped round the tops to the broad flat area beyond pt 1350 where we found water and set up camp in light winds with lovely views to the east and west. About 7.30 pm the cloud came in, about 11 pm the wind picked up, about 1 am I got up to tighten the fly lines, about 4 am I got up to take the fly



Brian heading south along the tops

Jean Garman

More photos at <a href="https://www.facebook.com/MTandSC">https://www.facebook.com/MTandSC</a>

down, about 5.30 am it got light and we hurriedly packed up and headed south following the poled route down into the leatherwood. The track was quite overgrown but still mostly followable. At around 1180 m ASL we passed a big tarn which would have been a much better place to camp. The track took us into the saddle and down into the other headwaters of the Piripiri Stream. The stream was not pleasant travel but shortly after we got a loud and prolonged telling off from a deer we spotted the track up to the biv. We scrambled up to the biv for a 2<sup>nd</sup> breakfast, hot drink and a bit of a repack before carrying on back down the stream to the car. Bruised, bloody and tired we were keen to depart the area but only a day later the trip suddenly seemed а lot more

#### **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 two 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 lwikau 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.

#### **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 Arthur Flint Treasurer 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 021 1760209 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** Hugh & Liz Wilde **Lodge Bookings** lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz 06 356 9450 **Gear Custodian Peter Rawlins** gear@mtsc.org.nz 06 356 7443 **Howard Nicholson** Ski Captain 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