

# beechleaves

Newsletter of the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club



ISSUE 3, April 2014

MAIL: MTSC, P.O. Box 245, Palmerston North 4440 | WEB: [www.mtsc.org.nz](http://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

### April 1<sup>st</sup>: Ken Mercer and Friends give an account of cycling the Timber Trail

The 85 km Timber Trail boasts some of the highest, longest, and most beautiful suspension bridges in New Zealand. It weaves its way through ancient forest, across ancestral lands of local Maori Tribes, and along part of the historic Ongarue Tramway. The Timber Trail is nestled in Pureora Forest, between Lake Taupo and Te Kuiti, in the Central North Island.



### May 6<sup>th</sup>: Physiotherapist and MTSC trumper Glen Pendergrast

Glen will talk about preparing and recovering from tramping, the use of poles and the protection and care of feet.

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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](mailto:editor@mtsc.org.nz) and [membership@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:membership@mtsc.org.nz).

The deadline for newsletter contributions is **the 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:president@mtsc.org.nz)

Last year the committee compiled a list of things we would like to achieve over the next five years. We have been working away at the items on the list and we are now reviewing our trip leaders' guidelines and how and where we leave our trip intentions. There has been a lot of discussion as we want the guidelines to be thorough but also easy to read and use and we want to ensure the trip intentions are user friendly. Hopefully after our next committee meeting in April we will have finalised both documents and they will be available on the website. We are fortunate that all committee members have been committed, dedicated people who want the best for our club.

It is time to start thinking about the AGM again! Many of the current members are keen to continue on the committee but all positions are up for grabs. If you are interested in becoming a committee member please talk to one of us. A number of club members are also appointed to specific positions such as Minibus Custodian, Gear Custodian, Day Trip Convener, Tararua Huts Representative, Website Manager and Archivist. We will be presenting club awards at the AGM so we are looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible on at the AGM on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May.

Enjoy yourselves in the hills but take care out there.

*Linda*



**MTSC Chief Guide: Ken Mercer**

[chief\\_guide@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:chief_guide@mtsc.org.nz)

Daylight saving has been running for so long that you'd think there'd be plenty left but we're now switching on our lights in the mornings. Evening darkness is encroaching which highlights the importance of trampers always carrying some form of illumination in case of getting benighted. A headlamp isn't strictly necessary but more convenient than a hand held torch. Good ones use electronics to boost the battery voltage from one, two or three batteries for the LEDs. Also, they generally have several brightness settings. Inferior headlamps use a resistor to control the LED current which wastes power. They always have 3 batteries to ensure there is at least 3.5V available and usually are just on or off. If the batteries are at the front with the LEDs the strap is bare and easy to tuck away in a pack. Unfortunately some are heavy or protrude forward and bob up and down on your forehead with each step. Give your head a nod when trying different models or get one with batteries at the back. A headlamp which uses coin cells will be very light but they are expensive and don't last long. Most headlamps now use two or three AAA cells which, although costlier to run than AAs, still operate for a long time. Always carry a spare set as there is little warning before they go totally flat. I wrap my spares together with plastic film to prevent them inadvertently shorting on something metallic. Eyes adjust in the dark and a powerful headlamp is generally unnecessary, particularly when following a trail. Although mine isn't bright I usually use it on the dim setting. Some headlamps have adjustable lenses which are an attractive feature until it rains heaps and the electronics drown. For a bright light and as a spare I carry a [small hand torch](#) which takes one AA battery. I have two gripes with my headlamp. Firstly, while it's in my pack, the button can be bumped for long enough to switch it on. I now clip a piece of plastic over the button for safety. Secondly, in misty conditions, glare appears directly in front of my eyes. Consequently I sometimes carry it in my hand which is a pain. Perhaps one day I'll figure how to fix it to my chest strap. Lastly, if something has gone really wrong, wave your torch at the tree tops or the incoming helicopter to attract attention. The searchers will be delighted to see it!

## NOTICES and INFORMATION

**Cattle Ridge hut to be upgraded:** As soon as there is an alignment between the builder, the helicopter and the weather work will start on upgrading Cattle Ridge hut.

**Maropea Forks Hut – NZ Army and DOC join forces**

NZ Army engineers and builders are constructing a new hut at Maropea Forks in the Ruahine Forest Park. Maropea Forks is a location enjoyed by trampers, hunters and fishers and is also a territory of the native whio (blue duck). The current hut is part of the core network of visitor assets in the Park and is being replaced as it is suffering from disrepair and, due to changes in the river channel, is positioned precariously close to the river. Supplies for the build are being provided by DOC and DOC’s other valued partners, including Dulux.

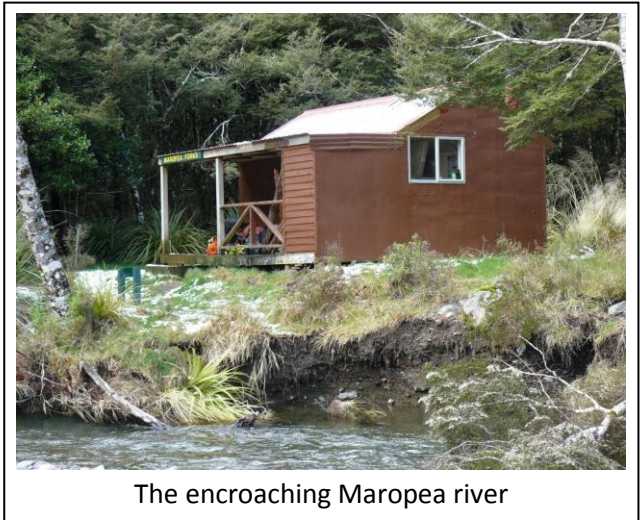
DOC Conservation Partnerships Manager, Chris Lester, states “Projects such as this benefit both agencies; it allows DOC to stretch our resources further and undertake more projects that might not otherwise secure funding, at the same time providing an excellent opportunity for the skilled builders and other trade personnel of NZDF to work in a different environment.”

NZDF builders and medical staff from 1 NZ Brigade at Linton will stay on site in the existing hut for periods of up to 12 days. “The NZDF engineers and medics are capable of working in adverse environments and this makes them the perfect choice for building a hut in an isolated location,” says 1 NZ Brigade commander Col Nick Gillard.

The original hut is now closed for public use except in emergency situations and will stay closed until the new hut is completed and old hut dismantled, which is expected to be late April.

Information on Maropea Forks Hut is available at: <http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-stay/backcountry-huts-by-region/manawatu-whanganui/manawatu/maropea-forks-hut/>

**Kime hut – still closed.....** The new Kime hut is yet to be officially opened as it has not obtained a certificate of compliance. Negotiations are ongoing..... It may take months..... After initially indicating that the hut would be locked to stop public access DOC have seen sense and while the hut is officially closed it will not be locked so you may choose to use it at your own risk.



The encroaching Maropea river



Heading up Black Ridge on the Rosvalls – Smith Stream tramp

Adam Match



## UPCOMING TRIPS

### Trip Intentions

The email address for leaving trip intentions is [intentions@mtsc.org.nz](mailto: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.

<b>FAMILY</b>	All welcome, casual pace, any age
<b>EASY</b>	4 hours per day, pace slower than Easy/Med. Does not relate to terrain
<b>EASY/MEDIUM</b>	5 hours per day at a pace slower than Medium
<b>MEDIUM</b>	7 hours per day at a standard walking pace
<b>MEDIUM/FIT</b>	8 hours per day at a pace faster than Medium
<b>FIT</b>	Over 8 hours per day at a pace faster than Med/Fit
<b>TECHNICAL</b>	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.

April Wednesday Tramps		
Date	Leader	Phone
2	Evan & Coralie Davies	357 6288
9	Ann Rush	357 2529
16	Marion Beadle	323 3246
23	Chris Brunskill	354 2511
30	Liz & Arthur Flint	356 7654

April Thursday Tramps		
Date	Leader	Phone
3	Richard Ellis	357 6410
10	Nigel & Jill Spencer	329 8738
17	Keith Fisher	357 1724
24	Royce Mills	355 8556

April Weekend Trips				
Date	Trip	Grade	Leader	Phone
6	Atiwhakatu Hut	Easy	Alla Seleznyova	355 0862
12-13	Lodge Workparty	<b>CANCELLED</b>		
18-21 (Easter)	Lake Waikaremoana Tramp/Kayak	E/M	Ken Mercer	356 7497

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



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**6<sup>th</sup> April: Atiwhakatu Hut**

Easy

Alla Seleznyova

[alla.seleznyova@iCloud.com](mailto:alla.seleznyova@iCloud.com)

The Atiwhakatu Hut track is a pleasant, easy walk along the Atiwhakatu stream in the Mt Holdsworth area. The return trip to the hut is about 14 km and it takes 5-6 hours. I like this track because of the native Easter orchids (*Earina autumnalis*) that can be found in many places along the track. If you would like to come on this trip please contact me by email [alla.seleznyova@iCloud.com](mailto:alla.seleznyova@iCloud.com) ; I will be overseas until Friday 4 April.

**12-13<sup>th</sup> April: Lodge Work Party**

CANCELLED

All work is expected to be completed in the March work party.

**18<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> April, Easter: Lake Waikaremoana**

E/M

Ken Mercer

356 7497

Lake Waikaremoana was formed following an earthquake 2200 years ago and is NZs deepest lake. There is potential for two trips, one kayaking its bays and the other doing the Great Walk. The kayaking will be weather dependent.



Te Matawai Work Party workers working

Jean Garman

**TRIP REPORTS**

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February: Skyline Track - Walkway** Guido Roberto

Our Wednesday mob of 23 bucolic souls (10 blokes, 13 blokesses) drove to the Wellington hill kingdom of Khandallahisthan and parked at the Woodmancote Road entrance to the Khandallah Reserve (est. 1909). Our objective was to walk, tramp, crab along and/or get blown off the Skyline Track that stretches from Mount Kaukau (a corrupt form of 'kaka') and 446 m ASL, across to Karoriville a distance of ~12 km.

Heading off at 10.00am through the beautiful Khandallah bush, we sloped up to the Kaukau trig circumventing the 122 m high television tower plonked near the top. "On a clear day you can see forever". However, it wasn't a clear day and in the clouds and clag we couldn't see the magnificent views of Wellington Harbour and the city ("*Suprema a Situ*"), the Rimutaka and Tararua ranges, Ohariu, Makara, Mainland electricity and across Cook Strait to Mount Tapuaenuku (2885 m).



Everywhere something beautiful

Maureen Naylor



Faced with choices and adversity or worse, we conferred. Should we soldier on (“persevere doggedly”) or quit and head back down for some strength-sapping lawn bowls, croquet, petanque, a feed in Café du Parc or a free (!) swim in the non-tepid Khandallah Baths? As no one had brought togs and being made of sturdy Manawatu stuff, we spun around, zipped up our windbreakers, angled forwards and plodded south along the exposed clay ridge track assisted by convivial Cook Strait westerlies.



“On a clear day you can see for forever”

Maureen Naylor

When we halted for some scran at 12:20 pm in the lee of a sheep bank, the curtain of cloud lifted and *voilà*, below was a panorama of Wellington suburbia with a “toy train” crawling along. We were high above Crofton Downs. Then Otari – Wilton’s Bush emerged and a view of our objective being Johnson’s Hill above Karori. Some sign posts indicated Johnston’s Hill. This mild confusion reminded me of my first meal in Calcutta, India in 1973. I was in Johnson’s Restaurant and ordered Johnson’s Soup. I couldn’t tell what was in it and I doubt Johnson could either.

Above Wellington, an uplifting sight was the regenerating native bush creeping upwards in the gullies below. Signs warned us to be careful around ruminating Angus cows and their calves but no problem for I think they’d seen funnier apparitions on the skyline. We dodged their dung pats but in approaching Karori, we missed the turning off to Johnson’s Hill. A peripatetic circuit of some goat tracks had Bev concerned – “I think we’re going around in circles!” “No worries” I replied. “We’re on - course for Island Bay via Johnston’s Hill OK!”

As it happened, we emerged at Karori Park where for \$5.00/hd and the trams having

departed long ago, we jumped aboard a fancy, lengthy, black and gold charabanc that took us through some posh suburbia to dismount at Lambton Quay. “Crikey, there’s The Beehive,” said someone. Being draped in scaffolding and plastic, Ian opined that it looked like a leaky building. However, the busiest bees seen were not those around The Beehive but the winged, workers sucking up nectar from the magnificent display of summer flowering gums in the grounds of the historic, wooden Government Buildings (built 1876).

For another \$5.00/hd, we hopped on the slick electric train to Johnsonville. Fortunately, we were ahead of the tsunami of civilised servants heading back to their suburban bunkers and an eclectic evening of brain-rotting television. Hopping off at Khandallah, we strolled back up to our chariots at the Khandallah Reserve. At 4:30 pm the Café du Parc had closed for the day - too late for a latte. Saddling up, we cantered northwards happy and contented after 13.5 km of energetics but it was just a bit too bad about missing more of the splendid 360-degree views that we’ll hope to catch next time.



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

*Tim Swale*

What a difference a day makes. It rained most of the day on Friday pushing the Horizons Regional Council river level gauge on the Mangatainoka River to more than three times its normal height. However, by Saturday morning the rain had stopped, the sun had come out and the Mangatainoka had gone down almost as fast as it had gone up. Our group of four, Alla (trip leader) Linda, Ken and I set off from Putara Road end to spend the night at Roaring Stag Lodge. Rather than take the direct route up the riverside track we cut off about 200 m past the first swingbridge and headed steeply uphill on a compass bearing to high point 665 m. Before long we picked up a faint track with pink flagging tape markers that we followed to a delightful grassy clearing high on the Mangatainoka river near to Ruapae Falls. We had lunch in the sun before following the stream down to the start of the Bottles Track. This old track is marked with permolat markers and some flagging tape but still requires a bit of careful observation to navigate to the top of the hill where it joins the Herepai to Roaring Stag track.

Back on the main track we made quick progress towards Roaring Stag Lodge. From footprints in the mud, we deduced that there were only two other people that had come this way since the rain on Friday so guessed there would be plenty of room at the hut. This proved to be the case, so after introductions to our hut companions, Alla and Linda talked themselves (but nobody else) into going for a swim in the river. It was the shortest swim ever with some very entertaining facial expressions! After they had recovered from their dunking, we relaxed on the deck as the sun sank behind Cattle Ridge with a nibbles and wine. It was then time for dinner, a few games of “tumbleword” before heading off to bed.



Alla, Linda and Ken making their way down the headwaters of the Mangatainoka River.

*Tim Swale*

Sunday morning was another cracker, with crystal clear views of the tops and not a breath of wind. The forest was stunning in the rich morning light and we were treated to a rare cacophony of birdsong as we made our way back up the ridge. Even a greedy keruru could not be distracted from its feed of orange berries as we passed by. Soon we were over the top of the hill and descending back towards the long swing-bridge that crosses high above the Mangatainoka river. Following the river back to the road end was quite hot so Alla and Linda decided that another dip was in order. Surprisingly the water was still just as cold as the day before. Ken and I decided we lacked the fat reserves needed to ward off hypothermia, so instead boiled the billy to make hot soup for the girls. After a long lunch by the river we ambled back to the car and headed home. A wonderful weekend.

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

*Adam Matich*

On Friday evening we headed 1 hour up the Tukituki River to camp in the trees near the base of Rosvalls Track. We wanted an early start the next morning as we expected Saturday to be a long haul (1700 m of climbing up and 1300 m of climbing down). It was a hot climb onto Black Ridge but the cool breeze up on top prevented heat exhaustion. After morning tea in the sun at Tarn Biv, we carried on up Black Ridge to Ohuinga for first-lunch, with a short break before the final climb to chat to a passing hunter. After first-lunch we headed NE to Broken Ridge, NW along said ridge to Paemutu, and then NE down, through the slightly difficult saddle, and up to pt 1715 m for our second lunch/afternoon tea. This last climb was the last of the day, and party members were glad as some ran out of steam

on the way up. After our break we had a long descent to Smith Stream Hut for the night (9 ¼ hour day), after an excellent day of tops travel that was not as long or traumatic as expected. Smith Stream hut is in good condition, but the track ca. 50 m in altitude above it is in danger. There is a slip into the side stream which is taking a part of the



Sitting on Paemutu looking at pt 1715m and ridge to Smith stream *Adam Matich*

hill-side with it. Thus there is a section of the track that has deep cracks running along it and given a solid rain event, it is probable that the slip will take out this section of the track and the track that heads north into the side stream.

Next morning we headed around 1 km downstream to pick up the route + track to

Hinerua Hut. The first half is a 160 m climb up the stream with lots of crossings. It wasn't enjoyable, and the point at which one climbs out of the stream (ca 910 m ASL, just below the slip) was not obvious. However, once we climbed out into the forest we were again on a respectable track to Hinerua Hut. The well travelled section of the track out to the Mill Road from Hinerua hut, via the Hinerua Ridge, was fine as per usual, and we were pleased to discover that the 'official' route across farmland, down to the river from the ridge, is now marked with orange triangles almost all the way to the bottom. A little bit of care is still necessary to find some of the triangles, though. By midday we were back at the car where it was a balmy 22 °C, but by the time we reached PN it was around 28 °C which made us very grateful for the refreshing breeze the previous day. We were Dave Mitchell, Jean Garman and Adam Matich.

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

*Jean Garman*

David set off a day early to do some 'exploring' in the Te Matawai/Otaki area. Dave and Fred got an early start so Fred could have a more leisurely trip up the river (mostly carried by Dave). The rest of us rolled up to the road end in the minibus and headed off across the paddocks on a warm if not sunny day. It was nice to get into the river but the day became increasingly grey as we splashed our way up to South Ohau for lunch. As we climbed the hill the few spits of rain grew more persistent and consistent although it was so warm that some us preferred 'wet by rain' to 'wet by sweat' and didn't bother with raincoats. Either way pretty much everyone had to change into dry clothes at the hut. There was an American chappy, Sean, at the hut who was contemplating



Clearing windfalls *Jean Garman*





carrying on but after spending a little time with us figured that we were much more fun than the rain and he would help with our work party instead. DOC had been to the hut before us and started with some painting they hoped we could finish. Unfortunately due to the rain that was not to be although we had many other jobs to keep us busy. David popped out next to the hut having taken a rather direct line up from the Otaki after finishing off a bit of route marking on the existing route from between Butchers Saddle and Te Matawai down to the Otaki. With most of the inside work finished there were the occasional breaks in the rain where some outside work could be done, but around knock off time a heavy shower sent us scuttling inside to start the drinkies and nibbles. PNTMC turned up to help us with the party aspect of the work party. We shared nibbles and drinkies and still managed to almost finish all the dinner food before a round of rum and raisin, apricot and mocha truffles for afters. Everyone found a quiet corner, veranda, fly to sleep in/on/under. Sunday brought more intermittent showers with an occasional glimpse of a view. PNTMC headed off to bag some more peaks. We worked some more before abandoning ship at 10 am. Sean headed onwards and upwards for the rest of his multiday tramp and the rest of us headed down, clearing a few windfalls on the way back to South Ohau where, again, we had lunch. It stopped raining. We opted to take the escape route up onto Gable End on the way out. Other people have added more tape to the route and we started installing venetian blind markers on the lower portion (more to go in next trip). A bit of a climb but some good views from the open patch and then it was downhill into an increasingly warm day which saw just about everyone opting to have afternoon tea in the shade at the old Ohau Shelter side. Many thanks for all the hard work to David Harrington, Dave Mitchell (and Fred), Malcolm Thomas, Jenny McCarthy, Brian Webster, Adam Match, Ivan Rienks, Sean (the passing American) and to Woody, Warren and Nicola for their company.



Taking a break at the top of the escape route to Gable End  
*Jean Garman*

### Mocha Truffle Recipe

**Ingredients:** ½ Tbsp instant coffee, ½ tsp boiling water, 200 g dark chocolate, ½ cup (80 ml) cream, Cocoa powder for dusting.

**Process:** Combine coffee and boiling water in a cup and stir until the coffee is dissolved. Place the coffee mixture, chocolate and cream in a saucepan over low heat and stir until the chocolate melts and mixture is smooth. Line an approx. 10 x 15 cm container with baking paper, pour in the chocolate mixture and refrigerate for 2-3 hours or until set. Let warm slightly before cutting or it cracks. Cut into squares and dust with cocoa.

### Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March: Awararu Loop Track

*Merv Matthews*

Members of our tramping group have for many years talked about finding a route to Awararu trig from the Sledge track, since access by other routes required permission from adjacent landowners. It became more of a possibility with the recent creation of bait-line tracks in the area. However, we still needed a branch track off the H4 bait-line. A search by three energetic members turned up an animal trail which headed in the right direction, but they were stopped just 140 metres from their destination by solid leatherwood. A subsequent approach to DOC resulted in permission to cut a single file route through the leatherwood provided there was minimal disturbance of the vegetation and only hand tools were used. This was accomplished in one day and it became apparent that a loop

track would be possible if a trail along the Quartz ridge could be added to the trip.



The H4 Highway

Merv Matthews

Accordingly, this loop became the second of two recently formed loops which now give access to a stunning vista of bush in the northern Tararuas. The first loop which reaches almost to Nae Nae Road on the Wairarapa side of the ranges was tried out last December. The Arawaru Loop also starts with the Sledge track and then climbs steeply to the track junction at spot height 550. What used to be an overgrown hunters' trail heading south from this junction was cleared some time ago for use as a bait-line track (H4) within Hardings Park. Later it was vigorously attacked with chainsaws to make, in many places, a vehicle-width highway, much to the anguish of our group. The destruction of this beautiful bush was a senseless act, and apparently it prompted a

letter of complaint to the City Council from some unknown person which resulted in an inspection by Council staff. I'm sure we would have added our signatures to the letter if we had known about it.

We continued south along this 'highway' until we crossed the boundary of Hardings Park and entered DOC land where the track became narrow again with, thankfully, only minimal trimming done so far. Soon we reached the new side track leading to Arawaru trig. At present this is just a route marked with tapes, so it will require further light trimming to provide an acceptable access for future tramps.

After lunch at the trig, the return journey included part of the original hunters' trail which heads west and north from the trig, then we branched off to the north-east through another overgrown route to a rocky viewpoint at spot height 624. We spent some time admiring the panoramic view, then carried on down a nicely cleared bait-line track which is well marked with triangles all the way down the Quartz Ridge. At the end it dropped steeply to Quartz Creek. Then it was just a short walk along the track to the junction with the Sledge track, followed by the return to the car park.

Total trip time including lunch and various stops along the way - 7¾ hours. We were 11 Thursday Trampers.

### 8 - 9<sup>th</sup> March: McKinnon Hut

*Jean Garman*

As it is no longer possible to access the Kawhatau Base we parked between the two adjacent road bridges in the Kawhatau Valley to head up the Hikurangi stream. It takes about 2 hours of easy pleasant travel up the Hikurangi stream to reach the park boundary. Once inside the park we had a selection of three routes to get onto the tops to access McKinnon Hut. We discarded the culler's route before we left the car as being a bit long since Adam was feeling a bit off colour, which left a spur onto the ridge to the west of McKinnon hut or a slip up onto the same ridge. In the interests of looking for an alternative route to McKinnon we thought the spur would be the best option so decided to check it out. At the park edge Adam decided that he was feeling too unwell to carry on so went back to the car and home for the night, promising to come back and get us the next day. Brian and I headed up the spur. The first bit was reasonably steep and had a lot of the tall hard scratchy fern on it but when we crested the spine of the spur it was easier travel for a while until we went over a little bump then it was up another face of dense fern. In places there were deer trails which made movement easier but they didn't always go where we wanted to so often



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we were just swimming uphill through the fern. When we finally found a small patch of clear ground it was time for lunch. After lunch it got worse. What is worse than tall scratchy fern? Tall scratchy fern with windfalls through it. What's worse than tall scratchy fern with windfalls through it? Tall scratchy fern with windfalls and bush lawyer. Having seen no sign of people coming up this way suddenly at around 1250 m there was a muesli bar wrapper and we started spotting blazes. Shortly after that we passed a campsite in the kaikawaka. Luckily for us all through the scrub zone there was a well cut track which popped us out into tussock next to a large, pretty tarn. Above the bush line the tussock started off quite tall (about 1 m) and again the occasional deer trail heading in the right direct eased travel. As we got higher the tussock got shorter and it was a really nice ridge to walk along with great views of the surrounding ridgelines. Up at the sign marking the turn off to McKinnon hut we met up with a hunter and chatted to him for quite a while. We left him to keep looking for deer before bivvying out somewhere on the tops or by the bush edge and headed down to the hut. It was disturbing to see the dramatic drop



Brian approaching the large, pretty tarn on the bush edge

*Jean Garman*

in usage since access to Kawhatau Base was closed. With the absence of Adam we had a very big dinner and desert. Sunday morning dawned clear and again there was not a breath of wind at the hut or as we headed down the track to the river. The track was mostly in good condition despite the lack of use and we cleared most of the fallen vegetation that was there. The Kawhatau river was equally pleasant so a nice wade down to Crow hut, which was basking in the sunshine. Unfortunately, another lovely, tidy hut getting very little use due to the loss of easy access.



Brian walking down the Kawhatau river

*Jean Garman*

We carried on down the river which was rather deeper and more scrubby that I remembered (most likely a faulty memory) so took a bit longer than expected to reach the track up to the Kawhatau Base. From here the river was again easy travel and took us a little under 2 hours from the cableway to the road bridge where Adam was waiting (patiently for a couple of hours) to take us home. We were Adam Matich (for a little while), Brian Webster and Jean Garman.



## 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 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](http://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](mailto: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	<a href="mailto:president@mtsc.org.nz">president@mtsc.org.nz</a>	06 323 3836
Secretary	Tim Swale	<a href="mailto:secretary@mtsc.org.nz">secretary@mtsc.org.nz</a>	06 376 6556
Treasurer	Arthur Flint	<a href="mailto:treasurer@mtsc.org.nz">treasurer@mtsc.org.nz</a>	06 356 7654
Chief Guide	Ken Mercer	<a href="mailto:chief.guide@mtsc.org.nz">chief.guide@mtsc.org.nz</a>	06 356 7497
Membership	Judy Swainson	<a href="mailto:membership@mtsc.org.nz">membership@mtsc.org.nz</a>	06 358 4082
Newsletter Editor	Jean Garman	<a href="mailto:editor@mtsc.org.nz">editor@mtsc.org.nz</a>	021 1760209
Lodge Manager	John Lyttle	<a href="mailto:lodge.manager@mtsc.org.nz">lodge.manager@mtsc.org.nz</a>	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	<a href="mailto:lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz">lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz</a>	06 356 9450
Gear Custodian	Peter Rawlins	<a href="mailto:gear@mtsc.org.nz">gear@mtsc.org.nz</a>	06 356 7443
Ski Captain	Howard Nicholson	<a href="mailto:ski@mtsc.org.nz">ski@mtsc.org.nz</a>	06 357 6325
Social Convenor	Bob Hodgson	<a href="mailto:social@mtsc.org.nz">social@mtsc.org.nz</a>	06 356 2915
Day Trip Convenor	Bev Akers		06 325 8879