

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 p.m., 1st Tue of the month, Rose City Aquatic Club Rooms, 50 Park Road, Palmerston North



May 6th: Physiotherapist and MTSC tramper Glen Pendergrast

Glenn will talk on foot and knee pain in trampers. Other topics touched on will be use of poles and preparing and recovering from tramps. There will be an open question time at the end.

June 3rd: John Beech - Encouraging young people to get involved

John Beech - teacher, outdoor enthusiast, and long-time MTSCer - will shed some light on engaging and recruiting younger trampers.



Contents

Reports, Notices and Information.....	pages 2-3
Upcoming Trips	pages 4-6
Trip Reports	pages 6-9
Club Information	page 10

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

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



MTSC President: Linda Campbell

president@mtsc.org.nz

What a great autumn it has been. It has been just perfect for getting into the outdoors and enjoying a good walk in the hills. Long days that are not too hot and not too cold along with very little wind and of course no rain make for great trips. I hope that you all have been able to make the most of the weather.

Unfortunately I am sitting at home sulking because I haven't been able to get out and enjoy a walk thanks to other commitments and autumn health woes. You have probably noticed that each year it takes just a little bit longer to regain any fitness lost when you have periods when you can't get out and exercise. The new trip card will be out soon and I know there are lots of great trips offered for all fitness levels.

At the point of writing I am counting down to Easter and holiday time. I am sure many of you will have taken the opportunity to enjoy a few days in the outdoors over Easter if the weather was good. Day light saving has finished, of course and winter is on the horizon. Hopefully the snow will be good this year and the skiers amongst us will have a great year on the slopes. The recent work party at the lodge means that everything is spic and span, and the food carry is being planned so the lodge will be ready for the winter influx of keen skiers.

Enjoy yourselves in the hills but take care out there.

Linda



MTSC Chief Guide: Ken Mercer

chief.guide@mtsc.org.nz

The days are getting shorter so its even more important to carry a torch. The temperatures are dropping too and batteries suffer badly from cold. Some are worse than others although I have had difficulty finding comparable data. Definitely at the bottom of the scale are the old carbon zinc ones often coloured black or red. In addition to a tendency to leak and corrode when flat they hold little charge at the best of times and should be avoided completely.

For many applications alkaline batteries are a much better choice with several times the life of carbon zinc but, like them, they cannot deliver a high current so are not suitable for cameras. I usually buy a box of 40 AA cells when they are priced at 40c each. Stored in the fridge they last indefinitely.

I've never bought lithium batteries as I haven't found a bulk source. Unfortunately they cost about \$9 each. However they do hold the most charge, can deliver the highest currents and are not greatly affected by cold. They also have a long shelf life. Although I have yet to disassemble a PLB, lithium batteries will power ours.

No matter the battery technology if you can keep it warm it will last longer. That's another plus for a head torch with batteries at the back of the strap and a reason to carry your phone in an inner pocket

Ken

NOTICES and INFORMATION

2014 Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday 20th May 2014 at the Rose City Aquatic Club Rooms, 50 Park Road ([location map](#)), Palmerston North (next to the Lido Aquatic Centre). Contact details for the committee are available [here](#). If you want to find out what is happening, have your say, get voted into a committee position, or nominate and vote someone else in then come along.



Federated Mountain Clubs Newsletter (*Excerpts*)

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIPS FUND

The Minister of Conservation has announced a fund to assist community groups with projects involving the conservation estate. DoC has been talking to FMC along with NZ Deerstalkers and Trail Fund NZ about how to best bid into this fund covering projects in the area of huts and tracks (or visitor facilities). The three groups (FMC, the NZDA, and the TrailsTrust) will probably establish a consortium to prepare a substantial bid that would bundle smaller projects submitted by clubs and other outdoor groups from across the country. The funding proposal needs to be submitted by FMC by 1st May.

Within scope of the fund are:

- Projects on the public conservation estate
- Maintenance and repair
- Some new facilities (these would not be taken over by DoC so longer term commitment would be required)
- Training to obtain skills needed for projects
- Huts and tracks for public use (including club huts, but not locked huts)

FMC has already written to all clubs outlining the new Fund, but if you haven't received our letter yet, please let us know ASAP. We would like to receive an outline of possible projects that clubs might have sitting on the books by 29th April so we can get together a list for the funding application.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: JUNE 14th (St John's Hall, Willis Street Wellington)

The Annual General Meeting of FMC will be held in Wellington on June the 14th. Guest speakers invited to speak include the Minister of Conservation, Nick Smith, the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment Jan Wright, Labour's conservation spokesperson Ruth Dyson, and the Green Party's Eugenie Sage. It is election year after all!

FMC will be launching its campaign to protect stewardship land at the AGM.

There will also be workshops discussing and seeking club views on the new DOC structure and partnerships model (and trying to make it work!), DOC's Battle for the Birds, and how we can combat Kauri Dieback Disease in Northland's forests.

Information about the AGM, the nominated candidates for the Executive, and voting information will be sent out to all clubs shortly.

MAVORA-SNOWDON MONORAIL and HAAST HOLLYFORD ROAD UPDATE

The Minister has further delayed his decision on the Mavora-Snowdon monorail proposal, seeking further information on the financial viability of the project. FMC continues to doubt the economics of it, and urges the Minister to decline the proposal because of the risk to the public and the environment of half-completed works.

FMC President Robin McNeill headed to Wellington with members of Save Fiordland to present nearly 20,000 signatures in opposition to the proposed monorail to Deputy Prime Minister (and Clutha-Southland MP) Bill English.

The Haast Hollyford Road issue continues to bubble away, although FMC is confident that the sheer cost of the road will sink itself long before any substantial campaign is needed. However the Executive is remaining alert to developments in this area.



UPCOMING TRIPS

Trip Intentions

The email address for leaving trip intentions is intentions@mtsc.org.nz

Intentions sent to this address will not be acted upon UNLESS a party is reported overdue (e.g. by a family member, flatmate, friend, etc.). The email is sent to several MTSC members. This information will be provided to LandSAR only if the party is reported overdue.

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



Trip Grading

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

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

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

May Wednesday Tramps		
Date	Leader	Phone
7	Bernard Cobb	328 8088
14	Mike Oliver	355 5320
21	Patsy Inkpen	323 8030
28	Bev Akers	325 8879

May Thursday Tramps		
Date	Leader	Phone
1	John Brock	329 4834
8	Gordon Clark	359 2500
15	Hugh Wilde	356 9450
22	David Grant	328 7788
29	Judy Swainson	358 4082

May Weekend Trips				
Date	Trip	Grade	Leader	Phone
3-4	The Rogue to Mackintosh	Med.	Adam Matich	022 358 8062
17-18	Bushcraft	Easy/Tech.	Ken Mercer	356 7497
17-18	Neill Forks Hut	Med./Fit	Jean Garman	021 176 0209
25	Cone Hut	Easy/Med.	All Seleznyova	355 0862
25	Rimutaka Incline	MTB	Tim Swale	06 376 6556
31-2	Rongotea - Rangi Saddle	Med./Fit	David Harrington	06 839 5766

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



June Wednesday Tramps		
Date	Leader	Phone
4	Jill Faulkner	323 6094
11	Margaret Foot	357 8003
18	Mona Webb	323 4212
25	Suzanne Clark	356 8322

June Thursday Tramps		
Date	Leader	Phone
5	Geraldine Fovakis	356 4327
12	Graham Pritchard	357 1393
19	Merv Matthews	357 2858
26	John McLeod	323 5785

June Weekend Trips				
Date	Trip	Grade	Leader	Phone
31-2	Rongotea - Rangi Saddle	Med./Fit	David Harrington	06 839 5766
7-8	Lodge food carry	Work	Howard Nicholson	357 6325
15	Whariti	Easy	Tim Swale	06 376 6556
21-22	Not Sure yet!	Easy/Med.	Alla Seleznyova	355 0862
28-29	Waterfall Hut	Med./Fit	Jean Garman	021 176 0209
29	Holdsworth - Old Tracks	Easy	Tim Swale	06 376 6556

TRIP PREVIEWS

3-4th May: The Rogue to Mackintosh **Medium** **Adam Matich** **022 3588062**
adam.j.matich@gmail.com

This trip is in the southern Kawekas, starting from The Lakes road end. The track heads north across Tutaekuri River, followed by an almost 700 m climb up The Rogue spur, a 200 m climb up to The Tits, and a 100 m climb up to Kaiarahi. From there it is a hop, a skip, and a jump East down to the top of the Mackintosh Spur which takes us 500 m down to Mackintosh Hut for the night. Next day it is a short (2 hr) tramp back to the car by the easiest, flat-land route, or a slightly longer and more energetic tramp by the route that heads directly SW from the hut, or maybe up to three hours for people who want to head out to Lawrence shelter and be picked up there. Anyone who wants a truly lazy weekend can head in and out by the shortest route. It would be nice to have the fire alight when we get to the hut

17-18th May: Bushcraft **Easy/Tech.** **Ken Mercer** **356 7497**
 This is a chance to hone your skills in map reading, river crossing, fly camping, and general bushcraft. Along the way we'll discuss appropriate food, clothing, and equipment. We'll base ourselves near the Mt Holdsworth road end and won't be walking far as we've graded it easy!

17-18th May: Neill Forks Hut **Medium/Fit** **Jean Garman** **021 176 0209**
jean.garman@fonterra.com

Neill Forks hut is a nice forest service hut at the confluence of Neill Creek and Hector River in the SE Tararuas. The intention is to start from Walls' Whare (Waiohine Gorge road end), head up to the old Totara Flats hut site, 1 km down-stream from the present hut, take the spur up through the bush to 957 followed by the normal descent to Neill Forks Hut. Next day we will cross Neill Creek and take the spur up to the Neill Ridge track, and then head out through Cone and Cone Saddle.



25th May: Cone Hut

Easy/Medium

Alla Seleznyova

355 0862

Cone Hut is a small slab hut in the Upper [Tauherenikau River Valley](#), near the river, at the bottom of the track down from Cone Saddle. The hut is very old (built in 1945 by the Tararua Tramping Club) and has a lot of character. I visited this hut about four years ago when I did the Cone Saddle track and I am looking forward to returning. We will start from the Waiohine Gorge road end car park. After crossing the swing-bridge the Cone Hut track climbs steeply from 200 m at the swing-bridge to about 580 metres along the ridge. The bush along the ridge is very nice. After about 2 - 2½ hours the track descends to the hut. We will return via the same track.

TRIP REPORTS

Wednesday 26th February: Maharahara & Kiritaki from Kumeti Road End

Bob Hodgson

A party of 24 departed at about 8:20 a.m. from the Kumeti Road End entrance to the Ruahine Forest Park with a range of destinations. We all tramped the Mangapuaka Stream and navigated a minor slip before the steep ascent to the tops (a climb of 265 m over a horizontal distance of 722 m). We all soon found ourselves in cloud. Some tramped to the track fork leading to the Kiritaki Hut, some within 20 m of the Matanginui peak (1074 m), and some on to Maharahara (1096 m), where scenic views were enjoyed. An intrepid party of 7 navigated the challenging descents and ascents to Kiritaki Hut. On return this group's reaction varied from stunned silence to pledges of never again! Inspection of map contours revealed that they had climbed up and down about an extra 700 m, much of this in a challenging, boulder-strewn stream. By 4:10 p.m. all 24 participants had safely and happily stopped tramping at the Kumeti Road End car park. A brief call for coffee and ice creams at Dannevirke completed the day. Thanks to our drivers, especially Chris for driving the van.



Lunch in the Clouds near Matanginui peak Maureen Naylor

Saturday 1st March: Manawatu Walking Festival

Ken and Mary Mercer

Others took the Rangiwahia trip so Mary, Ken and Viv McGlynn, from Forest and Bird, volunteered to take 11 keen walkers through the gorge. We wondered who would want to be guided on such an accessible walk but it turned out that a number came from out of town – from Orewa, Te Puke, Levin and Hawkes Bay. Our group ranged in age from 20 something to 80 something but all got along at a good pace. We had a few welcome rests when Viv enlightened us all on aspects of the plants and birds along the way. It was a lovely day and we finished with afternoon tea at the Ballance Cafe.

It was very nice to have the bus, organized by the Walking Festival, waiting for us at the cafe.

Sunday 9th March: Sledge Track

Alla Seleznyova

On a glorious day, four of us Mareike, Carla, Kaye and I went up to the 556 m point of the Sledge track. There we had lunch with panoramic views of Manawatu and then returned to the car park via the Toe Toe Flat. We were very hot on the way back, so we stopped at a swimming hole to cool our feet in the Kahuterawa stream. This was not enough for Mareike who opted for a dip in her tramping clothes. My tramping companions were very happy to discover this nice walk so close to Palmy and I was pleased with the test of a new Topo GPS app I've recently bought for my iPhone/iPad (about \$6.50). It has a built in NZ Topo50/250 map, and once the map is downloaded, it can be used without cellular or WiFi connection. The iPhone app works just as a normal GPS, showing current location, track recording, etc.



The group on Toe Toe Flat (Sledge Track)

Alla Seleznyova

Thursday 20th March: Tukino Ski Field

John Brock

After discussion with some of the prospective trampers for this trip, I decided we could visit a place I had always by-passed on the 'Round the Mountain' track, the Tukino Ski Field and beyond, or above as is the case. No bush or tussock this time, rock and open spaces. The weather forecast was good so why not?

After a clear pre-dawn, Thursday at 7:30 a.m. was overcast and it remained so right up to the Desert Road, not so good. While crossing the Rangipo Desert the cloud cleared and Ruapehu stood clear and bright with the promise of a good day. Thanks to the skill of our driver, we were able to get up to the microwave repeater station on the 'Round the mountain track' by 10 a.m. As the day would be fairly long, I suggested we needed to be back by 3 p.m. but was immediately overruled as such a great day with the weather beckoned and we should stay until 4 p.m. With that positive start we did indeed enjoy a great day. Our



The colourful rock landscapes above the Tukino ski field

John Brock

objectives were the NZAC Whangaehu Hut and the 1948 crash site of the Airspeed Oxford aeroplane, a tight schedule and one not achieved as it turned out. Once on the steeper slopes above the ski tows, the views of the

rocks and peaks around the crater rim above, out across Rangipo Desert and north to Lake Taupo and Mt Ngauruhoe were spectacular. Around mid day a few light clouds began to appear intermittently but always dissipated, forming a misty backdrop and adding an ethereal atmosphere to the scenes around. At around 2100 m we could see across to the crash site at the foot of the Mangatoetoe Glacier but time was against going across, so we traversed south onto the ridge overlooking the Whangaehu River out flowing from Crater Lake and the Whangaehu Hut. Lunch here under the nearby Cathedral Rocks



Near the headwaters of the Whangaehu River

John Brock

amongst such superlative scenery was inspiring. But with time ticking on there was no time to linger and a return by a slightly alternative route through great rock landscapes got us back to the van on the required time table. Needless to say from a photographer's perspective the angled light on those steep slopes combined with the clarity of the high altitude atmosphere provided maximum colour saturation and dramatic effects to the features surrounding us. After a coffee stop in Taihape (and on the way up), the group arrived back at 7 p.m., a long but satisfying day.



Cathedral Rocks on the left and Mangatoetoeuui Glacier on the right (below Te Huehue)

The Editor

6th April: Atiwhakatu Hut

Alla Seleznyova

About 9:30 a.m., a group of eight, Helen, Lee, Carla, Mareike, Mike, Rosemary with her daughter Alana and me (Alla) set off to the Atiwhakatu hut. Apart from Helen who was getting back into tramping with a brand new knee and me, the rest of the group were new to the Club/Manawatu area and were doing this walk for the first time. The weather was overcast and it was drizzling at times but nothing serious to wear a raincoat. We spotted some Easter orchids that were still in flower, perfected techniques for swing bridge crossing and had a lot of laughs, especially when Lee started screaming because she thought she was about to step on a snake, which turned out to be a twisted tree branch. That was an enjoyable outing for everyone and some of party expressed interest in joining the club.



Helen crossing a side-stream below the bridge closed for repairs

Alla Seleznyova



Old and new faces at Atiwhakatu Hut

Alla Seleznyova



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

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.
- Cancellations should be made as soon as practicable to accommodate other potential users.

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



Contact Details

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

Committee 2013 - 2014

President	Linda Campbell	president@mtsc.org.nz	06 323 3836
Secretary	Tim Swale	secretary@mtsc.org.nz	06 376 6556
Treasurer	Arthur Flint	treasurer@mtsc.org.nz	06 356 7654
Chief Guide	Ken Mercer	chief.guide@mtsc.org.nz	06 356 7497
Membership	Judy Swainson	membership@mtsc.org.nz	06 358 4082
Newsletter Editor	Jean Garman	editor@mtsc.org.nz	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

Lodge Bookings	Hugh & Liz Wilde	lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz	06 356 9450
Gear Custodian	Peter Rawlins	gear@mtsc.org.nz	06 356 7443
Ski Captain	Howard Nicholson	ski@mtsc.org.nz	06 357 6325
Social Convenor	Bob Hodgson	social@mtsc.org.nz	06 356 2915
Day Trip Convenor	Bev Akers		06 325 8879