

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



July 1st: Once upon a tramp.....

Early tramping experiences viewed through time's telescope.

Many members have now been tramping for 40+ years.

Three such members (Andrew Brodie, Hugh Wilde and Dennis Jensen) will share early memorable and forgettable experiences.

Expect the unexpected!

August 5th:

Annual Club Photo Competition

The three best images from each category will go through to the interclub competition, so come along for an evening of exceptional outdoor photography.

CATEGORIES: **1. NZ Landscapes** - no people; **2. Above the Bushline** - predominantly alpine NZ scenery (e.g. rock, snow, and tussock, etc) and may include people; **3. Below the Bushline** - predominantly NZ bush (lowland to sub-alpine areas) and may include people; **4. NZ Natural History** - NZ flora and fauna or detail (geology, ice formations, etc); **5. Topical** - people or detail related to tramping, climbing, skiing etc. in NZ; **6. Overseas** - photos taken overseas, open category: e.g. landscape, people, natural history.

Entries need to be E-mailed by Thursday 31st July 2014 to Howard photocomp@mtsc.org.nz or call 06 357 6325 for details about dropping off a CD/DVD. Unless you notify us otherwise by entering this competition you grant MTSC the right to: use submitted images for MTSC publicity purposes; submit your entries into the local Interclub competition; and submit your entries into the Federated Mountain Clubs photo competition.

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

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



ISSUE 6, July 2014



MTSC President: Linda Campbell

president@mtsc.org.nz

Thank you to everyone who was able to come along to the 87th AGM of the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club on May 20th. The numbers at the meeting were not great with only sixteen in attendance but we did have a good number of apologies. This year there was just one change to the committee. Our thanks go to Ryan Badger who is having a break from the committee to pursue more of life's adventures. Over the years Ryan has contributed hugely, especially with all the work he organised and did on our lodge prior to John Lyttle becoming our lodge manager. We welcome our new committee member, John Beech. John has worked with youth a lot in his 'day job' and we look forward to his input as a committee member, particularly around youth. Thank you to all those who have accepted appointed positions. As always it is great team work that makes our committee what it is. Thank you to all committee members for all you do for our club. I look forward to working with you all again.

I congratulate the following people who received awards at the AGM: Most Spirited Trampler - Royce Mills, Beech Leaf Award (Service to the Club) - John Lyttle.

Remember to check out what is happening and what other club members have been up to on our Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/MTandSC>

Enjoy yourselves in the hills but take care out there.

Linda



MTSC Chief Guide: Ken Mercer

chief.guide@mtsc.org.nz

Unless you have a mapping GPS and batteries that will never fail then a map and compass are essential for navigation. Topo50 maps are not expensive but are often inconvenient as they are quite large and always seem to have an edge at ones current location!

Printing an electronic map can avoid such issues as well as offering a chance to print oversize, compensating for mature eyesight. While there are several commercial maps available Topo50s are the least expensive – free to download. A couple of options to look at are listed below or please email me for further information.

<http://www.linz.govt.nz/topography/topo-maps/index.aspx> and <http://www.topomap.co.nz/>

NOTICES and INFORMATION

Subs are Due ** Subs are Due ** Subs are Due ** Subs are Due ** Subs are Due

If you have not paid your annual subscription and do not do so pronto this will be your last Newsletter - you will miss out on club information and no longer receive Trip Cards. This will also be your last FMC Bulletin and you will no longer receive the annual FMC discount card – which gives you discounts off things like the Wilderness magazine subscription, the DOC Annual Hut Pass (I certainly benefit from these), discounts at certain Outdoor Shops and discounts on the Interislander to name but a few of the benefits.

Also as a club member, you have priority to travel in our Mini Bus over non-members. As a heads up Wednesday and Thursday trampers there has also been discussion about charging a higher travel rate for non-members.....

Please Note: For online banking we have changed Banks, so our account number has changed accordingly. The new number is on your Invoice.



Project Aorangi – BRING BACK THE BIRDS – 1080 operation

In the first good weather window after the 23rd June an aerial application of non-toxic tan/brown coloured cereal baits will occur in the Aorangi Forest Park. One to two weeks later in the first good weather window after the 30th June a second aerial operation will drop tan/brown coloured cereal baits that contain 1080 poison at an application rate of 1 kg per hectare (roughly one bait to every 120 square metres). All baits will contain deer repellent.

Warning signs will be placed at all access points. If you are in the area do not handle the bait or allow children to wander unsupervised. Do not hunt or take game from within a 2 km radius of the operational area; hunting can resume 4 months after the control work. Do not take dogs into the area until the warning signs have been removed. Dogs are particularly susceptible to 1080 poisoning and possum/rat/stoat carcasses can remain toxic until fully decomposed.

Interesting stats from Merv Matthews

Since July 1997, when the **Thursday Trampers** began using the *Manawatu Tramping & Skiing Club* minibus we have:

made 728 trips

travelled 135,750 km with an average trip distance of 186 km

with an average of 9.9 trampers in the bus plus an average of 4.9 in cars

That is more than three times around the world !!

Mt Ruapehu

WHAKAPAPA and TUROA are scheduled to open on the 28th June – bring on the snow!

Women's Boots for Sale

1 pair of Women's Lowa Boots - Lady GTX "WXT"(size UK 9, US 10.5, EU 43.5)

Serious winter boot, near new condition - very little wear.

\$200

Phone Bev

06 3258879

0272746265



Chief Whatonga: This over-endowed installation is a pleasant surprise on the Gorge Walk at the track intersection above the big slip. *Adam Matich*

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.

July Wednesday Tramps		
Date	Leader	Phone
2	Patsy Inkpen	323 8030
9	Robert Bruce	329 7858
16	Bob Hodgson	356 2915
23	Leonie Lowndes	359 5005
30	John Ridge	357 3744

July Thursday Tramps		
Date	Leader	Phone
3	John and Gillian Thornley	356 9681
10	Brian and Ruth Evans	323 7614
17	Chris Mercer	356 2635
24	Syd Easton	356 7462
31	Alan Cameron	358 3848

July Weekend Trips				
Date	Trip	Grade	Leader	Phone
5-6	Beginners ski weekend	Ski	Ken Mercer	356 7497
12-13	All you can eat at Waihothonu Hut	E or M	Adam Matich	022 358 8062
19-20	Mangatainoka hot springs	E	Alla Seleznyova	355 0862
19-20	Ski tour Tongariro	T	Ken Mercer	356 7497
26-27	Cattle Ridge Hut	M	Jenny McCarthy	06 376 7498

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



5-6th July: Beginners ski weekend

Ski

Ken Mercer

**356 7497
027 3646475**

Skiing is one of those never quite mastered skills which has given me much pleasure over the years. It is achievable by anyone with some degree of co-ordination and a little fitness. This is a chance for you, or an acquaintance, to give skiing a go. We'll head up to the lodge after work Friday and return Sunday.

12-13th July: All you can eat at Waihohonu Hut

Easy or Medium

Adam Matich

022 358 8062

adam.j.matich@gmail.com



This is my annual cold-weather eat and sloth trip. There is the option to go into Waihohonu hut from the Chateau (5 hrs) or from the Desert Road (90 minutes; serious sloth), or from both if people can't agree. New Waihohonu Hut (as it is colloquially called) is a palatial pile with a two story wood shed and a wet-back to produce hot water. You do need your own cooker this time of the year though. It has several bunk

rooms and picture windows facing Ruapehu and Ngauruhoe, so if you take your binoculars you may spot hapless trampers falling off either. We intend to get there before afternoon tea time so there is plenty of scope for a proper, cooked afternoon tea followed by mulled wine until dinner, which of course will be followed by dessert. The more experienced eaters also tend to bring food and utensils for a serious cooked breakfast the next morning.

19-20th July: Mangatainoka hot springs

Easy

Alla Seleznyova

355 0862

This is one of my favourite overnight trips. I just love the idea of sitting in a hot tub late at night in the middle of the forest, preferably with a glass of rose in my hand. From the Makahu Road end we will follow a track up the Mohaka River. In parts the track climbs steeply to avoid bluffs, and other sections where a scramble around riverside rocks is necessary. But, there are plenty of good resting spots to take in the views of the river. It takes about 3 hours to reach Te Puia Lodge where we will stay for the night. We will leave our overnight gear in the hut and walk about 40-45 min further up the river to reach the spring situated on a small manuka terrace where there are two small fibreglass tubs surrounded by decking. Te Puia Lodge is a serviced hut with heating and cooking facilities; you will need three hut tickets or an annual hut pass. More adventurous people might like to stay in a camping ground next to the spring. Don't forget your togs, a towel and, most importantly, a torch to make it safe back to the hut.

19-20th July: Ski tour Tongariro

Technical

Ken Mercer

**3560 7497
027 364 6475**

If the snow conditions and weather are suitable we'll stay at Mangatepopo Hut on Friday night and ski tour around the Tongariro Crossing area over the weekend, camping somewhere in the snow on Saturday night. This is a technical trip and anyone comfortable with alpine equipment is welcome to come – you don't even have to ski if you don't want to!

29th June: Cattle Ridge Hut

Medium

Jenny McCarthy

06 376 7498

Cattle ridge hut is a cute little 5 bunk hut just above the bush line in the Tararuas. It is in line for a major upgrade/refurbishment but this may or may not have happened yet. The easiest route is to follow the track from the Putara Road end via Roaring Stag hut however there are a number of possible variations to this, so the exact route will be decided at the time dependant on the weather and levels of enthusiasm.

TRIP REPORTS

Thursday 15th May: Wharite in the Clouds

Hugh Wilde

We had planned to tramp up the Shorts Track to Pt 1380 m then south along to Whaingapuna and down the ridge to Pt 1192 m and along the old hunters' track to the end of Norsewood Road and keeping well west of the upper reaches of the Piripiri Stream. Last November we had walked up from Norsewood Road to below Whaingapuna in good weather with the farmer but only got 500 m beyond Pt 1192 m.

However, as the weather forecast that week was bad and promised low cloud and rain we instead went to Wharite. Whaingapuna is not a good place to be in bad weather and poor visibility as four New Plymouth trampers found out last July. There were 12 of us and although there was low cloud with wind but no rain it was not too cold. Half an hour saw us along the Coppermine Creek track to the Wharite turnoff, and another two hours or so to an early lunch sheltering in the leatherwood beneath the clouds with the wind moaning through the tower. The downside to the changeover from analogue TV to digital last September is that there's no longer warm air blowing down from the vents on the transmitter building that was so pleasant to sit under on a cold day. Anyway it was too windy to sit up on top or to linger too long. All were back at the van before 2 pm for an early return to Palmerston North via Woodville for refreshments.



Five of the group at the Wharite Trig

Richard Ellis

Anyway it was too windy to sit up on top or to linger too long. All were back at the van before 2 pm for an early return to Palmerston North via Woodville for refreshments.

17-18th May: Neill Forks Hut

Jean Garman



Bright eyed and bushy tailed after more than 11 hours 'sleep'

Jean Garman

Five people drove towards the Walls Whare road end only to find the road blocked by a strategically placed boulder. Time to park and walk; 10 min later the road end was reached. The sun was streaming down the Waiohine valley as we crossed the big swing bridge before following the track upriver. There are new bridges across Clem creek and Makaka creek and after crossing the later we decided that the adjacent ridge would be an interesting route up onto Cone Ridge. It proved to be mostly user-friendly travel with an occasional bit of pink tape and the odd survey line marker. On gaining the track at the top of the ridge we turned right and before long were at the track junction and heading down the steep descent



to Neill Forks for the night. All up it was about a 6½ hour day. A few abandoned cans of coke (got to love those fly in hunters..... sometimes) were dealt to. It didn't feel like the sun made it into the bottom of the valley for long at this time of year so the fire was lit and before long the hut was toasty warm. Not long afterwards a window was opened to try and moderate the heat. Hot drinks were followed by dinner then desert before we headed for our sleeping bags about 7:30 pm. Sometime after 7 am we emerged again to another sunny day.

Breakfast was supplemented by a couple of cans of peaches, courtesy of the aforementioned hunters, before we crossed Neill creek and headed up the ridge to Neill. This ridge had a pretty good trail on the lower part which got a bit hard to follow near the middle (800-900 m) then came and went a bit before reached the Neill-Winchcombe ridgeline. Some good views of the main range were admired on the way up. Back on the official track we turned left and headed over towards Cone where we found a sheltered (the wind had picked up) but still sunny spot for lunch. By the end of lunch it was no longer sunny as clouds were blowing over and the temperature seemed to have dropped, but as we headed towards Cone saddle we moved away from the deteriorating weather and back into the warm calm-air zone. We followed the ridgeline all the way back to the Waiohine swing bridge and despite predictions that the additional 10 min road walk at the end of a tramp would be heinous it wasn't too bad. An ice cream/milk drink/chippie stop was required in Masterton to top off a dry feet (for almost everyone) tramp. We were Brian Webster, Jenny McCarthy, David Harrington, Adam Matich and Jean Garman.

17-18th May: Bush-Craft Course

Tim Swale



Map reading

Tim Swale

This year's bush-craft course followed a slightly different format to the usual tramp with instruction. With seven young people from Tararua College signed up to do the course as the training component of their Duke of Edinburgh Award, we opted to follow the format used by Mountain Safety Council. The weekend was based at Donnelly Flat near the Holdsworth Road end. On arrival on Saturday morning we used one of the excellent shelters to spread out our maps and run a theory session on map reading. Ken and Christine spent time on map symbols, topographical features, grid references and orienting the map with a compass etc., while I set out a compass course with hidden "Minties" around the road

end area. Our group picked up the idea of magnetic variation pretty quickly and had soon found all the hidden treats.

After morning tea we tramped the short distance to Donnelly Flat where we went over camp site selection and environmental care code before everyone erected their shelter for the night.

In the afternoon we looked at water safety, practical navigation and types of stove and their safe use. A highlight was an off-track bush bash on a compass bearing across the loop track, which much to the amazement of the kids, brought us exactly to our campsite. With a frosty night on the cards, we set



River crossing

Tim Swale



about gathering firewood for a campfire before cooking a meal. It was something of a challenge getting the fire started with damp kindling after a lot of rain during the week. Fortunately the old rubber inner tube trick worked a treat and we soon had a roaring fire to toast the marshmallows and warm ourselves. At about 7:30 pm we headed off on a night walk on the loop track to see the glow worms and experience navigation at night. Back at camp we headed off to bed. It was indeed a chilly night and we woke to a frost on Sunday morning.

After packing up everything except the tents, we discussed leadership skills before heading off up the Gentle Annie track. Part way up we left the formed track to follow the spur up to Rocky lookout on a now unmarked and little used track. Stops along the way were used to cover route finding and loss of route procedures. Lunch was at Rocky Lookout where there are excellent views in every direction. Our return was via the new Rocky Lookout observation platform and then cutting off on the old Donnelly Flat track.

Back at camp, we packed up tents before heading out to the road end. On the way we ran our final session which was on river crossing technique. By linking up, we supported each other and crossed the Atiwhakatu stream safely, a good technique to know in light of the recent tragedy on the Milford track.

Whilst we did not cover a great distance we dealt with a wide variety of topics which I believe was immensely useful to young people starting off in tramping. From the feedback from the kids back at school, they were full of it and enthusing over the weekend's activities. I would like to thank Ken Mercer our Chief Guide and Christine Finnegan for giving up their weekend to pass on their knowledge and experience. I believe this is one of the best ways our club can serve future generations of trampers.

25th May: Cone Hut

Ken Mercer

As the numbers for the SAR navigation weekend were disappointingly low I was excused my role and opted to join Alla heading into the historic Cone Hut – new territory for me. Saturday's heavy rain was forecast to clear but the strong winds would remain. Not a problem – we'd be in the bush all day.



Hanging out at the historic Cone Hut

We took the van from PN with five on board and collected another three from Pahiatua. Climbing towards Mt Bruce was windy but passing Masterton it became calm. Due to Alla's careful research the enormous bolder blocking the road 1 km from the Waiohine campsite was no surprise but, as we booted up, the two guys with a bunch of dogs and a baby in a furry looking backpack coming towards us were. Hmm – not a backpack, a headless pig! Along the damaged road then across the slender bridge which was rated perfectly for a group of 8. Partway up the 400 m climb we took a layer off – best to not get sweaty. However there wasn't much chance of that as the wind was

roaring through the thinning trees. Along the way Tim followed progress on his map while my GPS confirmed he had it right. We had a discussion at the junction and opted to follow the ridge N to Cone Saddle then SE to the hut itself. We duly arrived and admired its slabs while we ate lunch at the outside table. The climb back to the junction



seemed further – had we really lost all that height? Linda was having difficulty with descents on the return with her left knee vigorously protesting an earlier minor misdemeanour. Tim and I carried her pack but it became so bad that she resorted to sliding downhill – I was reminded of “Touching the Void”. Eventually, in the dark, we reached the bottom and trekked back along the road.

About here the hard part started – for the driver (me) anyway. Limiting our speed to 70 km/hr appeared sensible. In Carterton masses of leaves swirled down the street before a flying object struck the windscreen. I dropped the speed to 60 km/hr and we crawled on. Gusts of wind buffeted us across the road. In short it was a long slow trip back with the wind gradually dropping as we drove north. The heroic survivors were: Ken and Mary Mercer, Tim Swale, Linda Campbell, Kim Fraser, Caroline, Jill Faulkner and Alla Seleznyova.

Wednesday 28th May: Miki Miki Tramway and Te Mara Peak

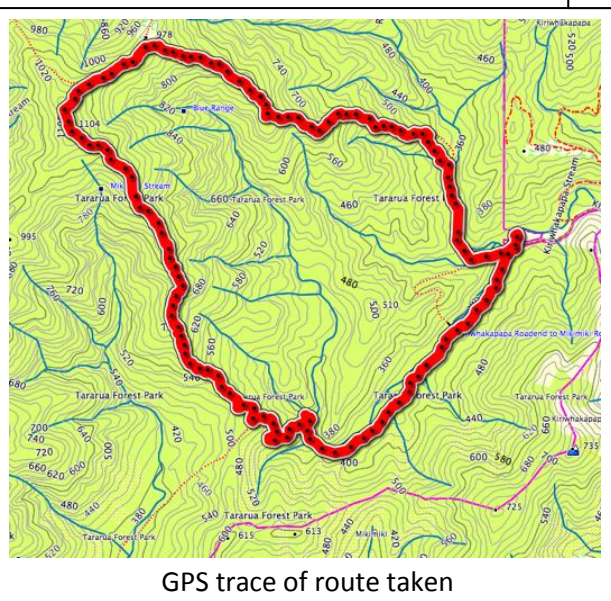
Bob Hodgson

On a bright and brisk Wednesday, thirty one keen trampers assembled at the Kiriwhakapapa Road entry to the Tararuas. A party of six elected to tramp the Miki Miki tramway and on return the lowland loop, reporting an enjoyable excursion. A larger party of twenty five chose the Te Mara Peak option. This involved following the Miki Miki track from the car park at 311 m up to the saddle at about 450 m. Morning tea was consumed here just below the two bench seats. From there to the peak we followed a GPS track and from time to time red ribbon markers. The terrain was steep but the compensation was that it was both beautiful and pristine. We regularly paused to ensure



Lunching in the goblin forest

Maureen



GPS trace of route taken

that all trampers in the column were in sight and it was with some relief that we stopped for lunch at 1001 m. We found ourselves in lovely goblin forest consisting of sinuous trees covered in mosses and lichen and a forest floor of mossy tufts. It was extremely cold as the north westerly wind gusted; this also caused the trees to sway like reeds in a flowing river. Twenty meters up from our lunch spot we found patches of snow. Soon we arrived at the Te Mara Peak trig point at about 1100 m; then it was more or less downhill all the way as we bush-bashed to pick up the Blue Range - Cow Creek track for our return to the car park. The last group out completed the tramp at 4:20 pm with an elapsed time of under seven hours. All trampers emerged from the bush with a sense of a day well spent. Thanks to Bev for organizing the tramps, Christine and her dog for leading the bush-bash and Chris for driving the van.

Wednesday 4th June: Rangiwahia area

Bob Hodgson

Thirty trampers assembled at the Rangiwahia car park for a 9:30 am start on a fine winter's day and then split into three tramping parties. A small and determined group set out at speed to attempt to tramp the Deadman's Track, Mangahaia, Rangiwahia loop. Conditions on the tops were such that, after taking only a brief 15 minute lunch stop, they returned to the car park by 3:20 pm; an impressive display of fitness and determination. The largest group of almost twenty tramped in to the Rangiwahia Hut with some



A walk in the park

making their way into the tussock. A third group of nine tramped Deadman's as an in-out with several of the party making it up to around 1380 m. On the way up the small trackside tarn was found to have a coating of ice but the winter sun and little wind made tramping pleasant. It was a day of enjoyable tramping and high spirits. Most of the party then called in at Ian's home for a convivial break with coffee and cakes with the cake supply augmented by Jill.

Thanks to trip leader Jill, Van Driver Evan and our other drivers.



Lunch in the sun

Queen's Birthday Weekend: Rongotea to Rangi Saddle

Jean Garman

There were just two of us available for this trip. We were coming from different directions and David wanted to leave the road end at 7:30 am to make the most of the limited daylight at this time of year so I decided a Friday night start might be easier than getting up horrendously early in the morning and since I was up there I may as well walk up to Sunrise hut and have a sleep in. It was a misty/drippy night on the way up but sometime after I got to the hut it cleared and everything froze. I awoke to a stunning daybreak, myself and the other hut occupants were up early to admire the sparkling views and take photos. On the downside, a careful climb onto the icy tank stand and much breaking of ice was required to get in at the water in the tank. After David turned up we headed on up towards Te Atuaoparapara in stunningly sunny and calm conditions. There was lots of impressive frozenness everywhere – frosted plants, hoare frost, ice coated vegetation and ice coated rocks (the later not so much fun). It was a not a good weather day for the deer though, as many were taking a ride out of the hills on the strop beneath a little black helicopter. Our ridge of choice turns off just before the summit of Te Atuaoparapara but as I have never



Iced vegetation

Jean Garman

had the pleasure of being on the summit on a fine day I scooted across for a quick look. The ridge down towards the Maropea – Wakelings track was good travel above the bush line; any tricky bits were easily sidled. On entering the bush it was a bit scrubby to start with; we got past one piece of unpleasantness by dropping onto the head of a slip to bypass it and luckily the other unpleasant bits didn't go on for long. The rest of the way was not bad at all, with only a little care on direction required in one place. Once we hit the track it was a quick descent to the river where it was off with the dry socks/boots for the achingly cold river crossing to get to Wakelings hut, arriving a good 15 min before dark. Interestingly the last 5 parties to visit the hut had all flown in – maybe another hut getting less foot traffic since the Kauwhatau road access was lost.



A stunning day

Jean Garman

end of the day we headed into the murk when we came back towards the eastern side of the ranges. We started the day with a steep climb onto Rongotea then followed the ridgeline to the south. The tops travel was easy; there were a few difficult sections when dropping through the initial bush section, including not getting too close to the overhanging slip edge while picking our way around it. Once down lower in the bush it was really good travel, that is until near pt 1359 where things became quite slow picking/pushing/crawling our way through a leatherwood/beech mix. Once up into the sub-alpine zone it was again good travel again all the way through to Rangi saddle. Coming down the stream we were feeling a tad peckish but the light was fading fast so we swallowed back our hunger and made it to Waikamaka hut about 15 min before dark. Despite my predictions that since it was a long weekend there would be people at the hut with the fire going, there wasn't.

Monday was cool, drizzly and reasonably calm. We chose to take the easy option out over Waipawa saddle and down the river which changes every time I go there. The drizzle eased off but pushing through the riverside tracks lower down was quite wetting. We took the track from just upstream of Waipawa lodge to the Sunrise track then back to our vehicles in time for lunch.

All in all a very interesting weekend. Many thanks to David for thinking up the route.



Travelling through the untracked forest

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

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
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Lodge Manager	John Lyttle	lodge.manager@mtsc.org.nz	027 4336307
Mini-Bus Manager	Ken Mercer		06 356 7497

General Committee

Bev Akers, Bob Hodgson, Howard Nicholson, Rob Pringle, John Beech

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
Wednesday Trip Convenor	Bev Akers		06 325 8879
Thursday Trip Convenor	Merv Matthews		06 357 2858