

beechleaves

Newsletter of the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club



ISSUE 8, September 2014

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

2nd September

Nepal: Mera Peak, Amphu labsta Pass and Island Peak

In March and April, of this year, 5 local people took part in a World Expeditions 27-day trekking/climbing trip through this stunning part of Nepal. Hear about what it is like to be a part of an organised trip, see the many photos and hear about the successes and the helicopter rescues.



7th October

The Lodge: Past, Present and Future

A talk will be given on the history of the MTSC Lodge, its origins, its highs, and its lows; also what the current state of play is with the Lodge; and where the club sees itself going with its maintenance and development. People are welcome to come along to join in with the discussion on the Lodge's next decades!



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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.



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MTSC President: Linda Campbell

president@mtsc.org.nz

At the last committee meeting, as requested at the AGM, the idea of holding the AGM on the normal May club night was discussed. After some discussion it was agreed that in order for the accounts to be finalised and the booklets to be collated and sent out to everyone in time we would continue to hold the AGM the third Tuesday in May.

Thinking of club nights the recent photo competition club night once again showed the work of some of our talented photographers. The range of photographs was fantastic with a variety of topics within each category. Club members certainly do some interesting things and record detail as well as whole scenes beautifully. The photos are a reminder of some of the beautiful places, flora and fauna we have the privilege to have access to. The winners' photographs will be entered into the interclub photo competition which will be held on Monday 8th September at 7pm at the MUSA lounge on concourse at Massey. Congratulations to everyone who put forward photos for the competition and especially to the place getters. Enjoy yourselves in the hills but take care out there. *Linda.*



MTSC Chief Guide: Ken Mercer

chief.guide@mtsc.org.nz

Many people have stories of sharing accommodation with a chainsaw but nothing I've heard beats this excerpt from a travel book called Hokkaido Highway Blues:

I was jolted awake by the sound of an asthmatic seagull being throttled to death by a mad bagpiper. It was my roommate. He was snoring. Loudly! So loudly the walls were being sucked inward with each inhalation and bulging outward with each exhalation. In between he made this high-pitched gawking sound that set my nerves on edge. I wrapped a pillow around my head and was considering my options - murder, madness, insomnia - when the man stopped breathing. Entirely! I had heard of sleep apnoea, but this was alarming. It lasted for long agonizing minutes and now, damn it all to hell, I couldn't sleep because of the silence. (It's hard to drift off when you may be sharing a room with a copse.) A few minutes later he started breathing again with a startled gasp and I relaxed ever so slightly. With a mumbled moan, he rolled over and began releasing farts into the blankets like depth charges.

NOTICES and INFORMATION

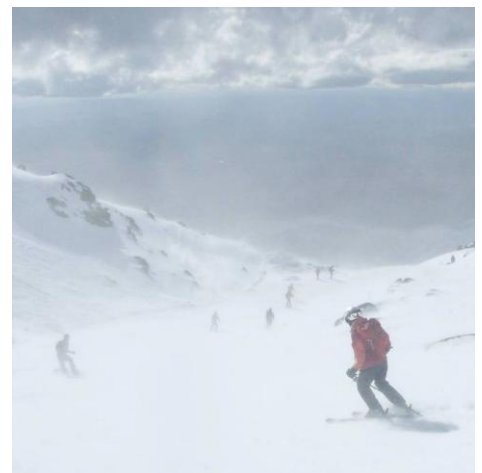
Summer Trip Card (November 2014 to April 2015)

Work is starting on the summer trip-card and the first effort will involve combining the trip-card meeting with the next club night. So please bring your ideas for trips along to the 2nd of September club night.

The Annual John Andrew Ngauruhoe Trophy Race

This is on Saturday 13th September 2014 at Whakapapa and we want your club to be there. This is a fun inter-club ski race with a competitive edge and a great prize giving and after-party. The three divisions are Juniors, Open, and Masters, with individual prizes for the Fastest Male and Female in each division. Skiers and snow boarders are welcome. Details can be found at: www.ngauruhoeskiclub.org.nz.

Register on the day from 9 a.m. at the Knoll Ridge Cafe, or send the Declaration Form to, or contact clubcaptain@ngauruhoeskiclub.org.nz by 9 p.m. Friday 12th September. We will accept up to five teams per club, depending on demand.





Once again the infamous Custodians Race will occur. Clubs can pre-register their custodian or enter them on the day. Anything goes in this race; and costumes are encouraged! We have fantastic sponsors: John Andrew, Timex, and our new sponsor Amped; without their support this event wouldn't be possible. The prize giving is at our Whakapapa lodge from 7 p.m. The Inter-Club Race series prize giving will follow directly afterwards and then the infamous Ngauruhoe after-party will commence. Music will again be supplied by DJ Murry Sweetpants, with our sponsors Shingle Peak and Peroni supplying drinks.

For further enquiries Email: clubcaptain@ngauruhoeskiclub.org.nz or mobile: 021 1573 143 (Jen Valentine.)

Good News from the Lodge

We have been successful in obtaining almost \$15,000 from Pub Charity to cover the cost to double glaze the single glazed timber windows at our lodge. One of the conditions of the funding is that the work needs to be done by the end of this year so we will be organising at least three separate work parties, starting when the snow melts from around the lodge. I will have dates over next few weeks and will put them in the next newsletter and on our website. All help is much needed to get this project completed with the time frames. Please do let me know if you are interested in helping.



Also: It has been decided to install Wi-Fi at the Lodge, which will happen before the end of August. Use of this service is conditional on the individual user adhering to the applicable copyright and privacy laws.

8th September (Monday at 7 p.m.): Interclub Photo Competition

This year MUAC is hosting the annual Interclub Photo competition between Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club, Massey University Alpine Club, and MTSC. The best photos from the individual club competitions go head to head; a great chance to see some of the best recreational outdoor photos taken in the last year. Winners of this year's MTSC, PNTMC, and MUAC club photo competitions go directly into this competition.

The competition will be held at the MUAC meeting venue which has recently changed. It is the MUSA lounge on concourse at Massey. [Use this Map to get there.](#)

25th September: Interclub Quiz – organised by PNTMC this year

This will be held at 7:45 p.m. at the Quakers Hall, 227 College St. ***Time to start organising yourself a team!***

Game-changing funding boost for Outdoor Recreation Consortium

A consortium representing over 30,000 trampers, hunters, mountaineers and mountain bikers welcomed Minister of Conservation Dr Nick Smith's recent announcement of major funding to assist its volunteers to maintain backcountry huts, tracks and facilities.



Speaking on behalf of the NZ Outdoor Recreation Consortium, which comprises the FMC, the NZDA and Trail Fund NZ, NZDA president Bill O'Leary said the \$700,000 grant awarded today from the Community Conservation Partnerships Fund would be augmented by donations and volunteer work to the value of at least \$156,000 by members of the consortium and other groups.

Mr O'Leary joined with FMC president Robin McNeill and Trail Fund NZ chairperson Ben Wilde in praising DOC's community partnership approach to work on conservation and recreation projects.

"This is a game-changing approach that allows backcountry users to get involved with looking after the facilities they enjoy using and their volunteer effort means that more work can get done than DOC could manage alone."



The Community Conservation Partnerships Fund - *Pūtea Tautiaki Hapori* - provides funding to community-led conservation groups for natural heritage and recreation projects in New Zealand on public and private land and waters.

The NZ Outdoor Recreation Consortium was formed in 2014 as a partnership between FMC, NZDA and Trail Fund NZ to maintain and enhance backcountry facilities and attract a wider range of users to enjoy and look after these special places. The Consortium will work on behalf of a wide range of user groups in the outdoors to manage and distribute the funding for the benefit of all who enjoy the New Zealand backcountry.

Results of the 2014 MTSC Photo Completion

Above the Bush-line

- 1st Jean Garman: Hikurangi Range, Ruahines
- 2nd Tim Swale: Lake Wanaka from Roy's Peak Track
- 2nd Jean Garman: Black Ridge, Ruahines

Natural History

- 1st David Harrington: *ca.* Te Atuaoparapara, Ruahines
- 2nd Jean Garman: Manuka flowers
- 3rd Jean Garman: Kidney ferns

Below the Bush-line

- 1st Kim Fraser: Routeburn Falls
- 2nd Jean Garman: Approaching Mt Taranaki
- 3rd Tim Swale: Routeburn Valley

Overseas

- 1st Jean Garman: Blessings from the Lama, Nepal
- 2nd Jean Garman: Mera peak from the Hinku Valley, Nepal
- 3rd Tim Swale: The Three Sisters, Blue Mountains, Australia

Landscape

- 1st Jean Garman: Dobson Ski field Tops
- 2nd Kim Fraser: Mangawhai Heads, Northland
- 3rd Kim Fraser: *ca.* Rangi Hut, Ruahines

Topical

- 1st Howard Nicholson: Maungahuka sign, Taranuas
- 2nd Ivan Rienks: Gold Creek Hut, Ruahines
- 2nd Ivan Rienks: Taranaki ladder
- 2nd Yvette Cottam: Shearers hut, Whakahoro

2014 Photo Competition: 1st in Above the Bush-line



Brian heading up onto the Hikurangi Range, Ruahines

Jean Garman

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.



Sauté in garlic butter

September Wednesday Tramps		
Date	Leader	Phone
3	Ann and Ian Shipman	357 4139
10	Andrew Brodie	358 6576
17	Ian Ritchie	328 9618
24	Margaret Gillingham	356 8812

September Thursday Tramps		
Date	Leader	Phone
4	John Brock	329 4834
11	Gordon Clark	359 2500
18	Hugh Wilde	356 9450
25	David Grant	328 7788

September Weekend Trips				
Date	Trip	Grade	Leader	Phone
6-7	Spend a Weekend in the Snow	Ski	John Lyttle	04 473 5300
13-14	Oturere Hut	M	Adam Matich	022 358 8062
20-21	Rae Ridge	M	David Harrington	06 839 5766
20-21	Spend a Weekend in the Snow	Ski	Robin Lane	021 1105 8580

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



6 - 7th September Spend a Weekend in the Snow Ski John Lyttle 04 473 5300

These weekends are run by club members and are about giving non members or members not familiar with the lodge the opportunity to use the lodge at members' rates. People can experience staying in the snow and are free to just go out and play in it or if they wish partake in skiing or snowboarding. The leader (club member) will introduce them to the lodge and its facilities. They will also show them the ski field's facilities and where they need to go if they want to have a slide down the slopes. The club van will run from Palmerston North and there is often vehicles running from other parts of the country if transport is needed.

13 - 14th September Oturere Hut M Adam Matich 022 358 8062

This is a snow trip and requires ice axes and crampons. The intention is to circle around Ngauruhoe and do a bit of cross-country travel. If we have enough people to take the van then we can leave it at the Mangatepopo road end to be vandalised. Otherwise we will look at leaving from either the Chateau or from the top of the Bruce Road!

20 - 21st September Rae Ridge M David Harrington 06 839 5766

Starting from Otaki Forks we'll either cross the Waioatauru River or sidle up it (whichever is the easiest on the day) to the toe of Rae Ridge. Here we'll follow Rae Ridge all the way up to the tops to Dennan then maybe drop down to Field Hut for the night. If the evening looks good we may camp on the tops somewhere.

Sunday will be down the Fields Track to Tiro tiro Knob then drop down a spur (a navigational exercise for somebody) to the old Otaki sidle track which we'll back follow out.

20 - 21st September Spend a Weekend in the Snow Ski Robin Lane 021 1105 8580

2014 Photo Competition: 1st in Below the Bush-line



Routeburn Falls

Kim Fraser

TRIP REPORTS

Wednesday 23rd July: Blue Range Hut

Leonie Lowndes

The trip began on a very chilly morning with a strong contingent of 28 people taking part. The trip was split into two options, one being led by Andrew Brodie doing the Mikimiki tramline route. The party of 15 set off for the Mikimiki stream, following the tram line formation from the car park and not taking either the Blue Range Hut footbridge or the subsequent Loop Track footbridge. Just along from where the stream turns north the track climbs to a saddle where there is a seat and a perpetual cool breeze. Morning tea was taken just below this point. The track then descends steadily to a wet crossing on the



Blue Range Hut: Evan Davies, Leonie Lowndes, Linda Darbyshire, and Marion Beadle

Maureen Naylor

northerly branch of the Mikimiki stream. Here ten of the party declined the opportunity to wet their socks and turned around. At the cost of three wet feet, the famous five crossed the stream and in increasingly wet conditions tramped on to the final foot-bridge on the westerly branch of the stream as a lunch stop. The weather then slowly improved during the return tramp completing 12 km in 5 hours. Good winter tramping on wet and slippery tracks.

The second group led by Leonie Lowndes undertook the more strenuous option tramping to Blue Range Hut. The entire trip was completed in rain, sleet and snow making conditions a little more challenging. It took the faster members of the group 1½ hours to reach the hut, with the rest of the group arriving up to an hour later. It was much appreciated to arrive at the hut and find the earlier group had lit the fire and made the place nice and warm by the time everyone else arrived. There was a healthy covering of snow around the hut and along the Ridge. The descent was undertaken with caution due to the wet weather making conditions very slippery.

Both groups arrived back at Kiriwhakapapa road meeting point at similar times where everyone boarded the bus looking forward to hot drinks at Mount Bruce.

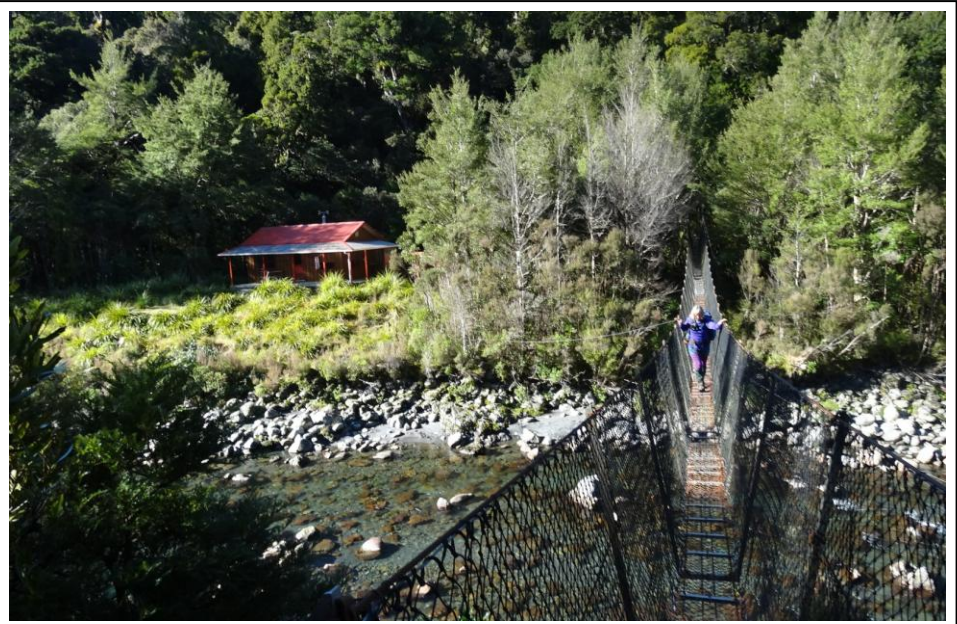
All in all it was a good day out and thanks goes to all those who assisted on the day by taking cars, driving the bus, and especially to Andrew for leading the Mikimiki group.

26 - 27th July: Cattle Ridge Hut

Adam Matich

A renovation of this hut had been planned, so we were hoping to spend our night in comparative luxury. Unfortunately, the work was delayed and we didn't fancy a cold dank night therein, even if the weather forecast was otherwise ideal. Just less than three hours saw us at Roaring Stag Hut for an early lunch; this hut was looking like a much better proposition with its plentiful supply of firewood, amongst the other attractive mod cons.

The 700 m climb up to Cattle Ridge Hut was an easy 100 minute amble, given we were carrying almost-empty packs. There was one spot in the forest where a windfall caused some track confusion, however. There was only a light breeze up top and a couple of inches of snow, so above the bush-line was almost pleasant. There were a couple of Wellingtonians almost resident in the hut when we arrived, but we soon convinced them that it was going to be nicer back at Roaring Stag (not a difficult feat as it turned out). After admiring the views from the ridge above the



Jenny crossing the Roaring Stag swing-bridge on the way to Cattle Ridge Hut
Adam Matich

hut we made our way back down to Roaring Stag Hut for the night. It was a nice steady climb back up to the intersection the next morning; on the way we encountered Dave Mitchell who, assuming we had stayed at Cattle Ridge, was expecting to meet us at Roaring Stag. We were out well before lunch time and so had no excuse for avoiding house-hold chores when we got home. We were Jenny McCarthy and Adam Matich.



Jenny heading back down to Cattle Ridge Hut from the top of Cattle Ridge
Adam Matich

2014 Photo Competition: 1st in Landscapes



View of the tops from the Dobson Ski-field road, South Island

Jean Garman

2014 Photo Competition: 1st in Natural History



Near Te Atuaoparapara, Ruahines (Queen's Birthday weekend)

David Harrington



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, 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	bevakers@xtra.co.nz	06 325 8879
Thursday Trip Convenor	Merv Matthews	merv6817@gmail.com	06 357 2858