

# beechleaves

Newsletter of the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club



ISSUE 9, October 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

7<sup>th</sup> 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!



4<sup>th</sup> November

Jill Dalton

### Crazy Kiwis go trekking in Greenland

- reindeer, sled dogs and snow

The Arctic Circle Trail runs 165kms between Kangerlussuaq and Sisimiut, Greenland. 10 days of remote, glaciated country travelling parallel with the Arctic Circle, this trail ranks as one of the classic walks of the world.

A fantastic set of slides and amazing scenery!

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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)

Spring is definitely in the air. There is still a bit of snow for those who enjoy skiing or a walk higher up. It certainly makes for a pleasant day out when it is not too hot and not too cold.

One of the items on the committee's long term plan is to look at younger membership. Perhaps one way of attracting younger members is for club members to introduce young people to the outdoors. This came to mind after Tim Swale and I took three young boys, aged 8 and 9 for a walk to Alice Nash Hut and down to the river on a lovely day late winter. The boys found sticks to use as walking poles so they could be like real trampers and really enjoyed tossing small rocks into the river while we boiled the billy. It was a delight to see them enjoying themselves and to take part in games to keep their minds off the climb on the way back to the car park. On the ski front I have just been on a school trip to Turoa for a day and the improvement during the day of those who took the lessons was truly incredible. Perhaps taking young people into the great outdoors is not everyone's cup of tea but maybe taking your own is different and something you could thinking about if you haven't already.

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)

The New Zealand weather has a reputation for being difficult to forecast due to our isolation in the ocean and the paucity of weather stations. Forecasts have improved and NIWA claim a modern 5-day forecast is as accurate as a 1-day forecast fifty years earlier. This is because observations now come from satellite data and computer models have become very powerful.

At the start of the year I was foolish enough to wander into a bookshop and glance through one of the "Moon Man's" books. It even had a section which predicted several substantial snowfalls, starting in early June, which didn't eventuate. Never-the-less we have had a successful ski season and some "alpine" tramps over the winter. Now, I predict, summer is coming. Enjoy it!

**MTSC Lodge Manager: John Lyttle**

[lodge.manager@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:lodge.manager@mtsc.org.nz)

**→ work party to install double glazing ←**

For those of you who weren't aware we have been successful in obtaining \$15,000 to double glaze the majority of the windows at our lodge. We have engaged a glazier who will be providing and installing the glass. We will need to carry the glass over to the lodge and install some of the new windows.

We are planning to run work parties on the weekends starting the 1st and 22nd November 2014. Most of the work will be carrying the new and old glass to and back from the lodge. We will also remove some of the older double glazing and paint the window frames in the process.

All and any help is appreciated and we will be running the club van up. These weekends are free for your contribution of your labour. Let me know if you want to come.

**NOTICES and INFORMATION**

**MTSC welcomes new members:**

Dan Smith & Alison Nelson, Craig Pawson & Family, Philip Almand and family, Ben Sandle, and Fraser Rolfe.



## Inter Club Photo Competition

The Inter Club Photo Competition was hosted by MUAC – MTSC got a placing in almost all categories including several firsts with best overall photo by Kim Fraser for “Mangawhai Heads Storm”



MTSC placings: NZ Landscapes: 1<sup>st</sup> Kim Fraser Mangawhai Heads Storm, 3<sup>rd</sup> Jean Garman Landscape layers  
Below the Bushline: 1<sup>st</sup> Kim Fraser Routeburn Falls  
Above the Bushline: 2<sup>nd</sup> Jean Garman Heading for the clouds  
Topical: 2<sup>nd</sup> Ivan Rienks well protected ladder  
Overseas: 1<sup>st</sup> Jean Garman Blessings from the Lama

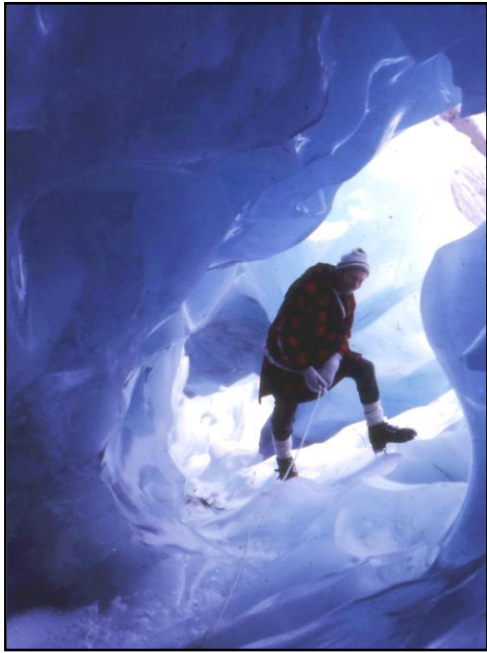
### Powell and Jumbo Hut Booking

**FMC** “Quick action from clubs and FMC ensured there will now be consultation regarding possible online bookings of these Tararua huts”.

**DOC website** “**Important notice:** Opening of the bookings for the hut for the summer season has been delayed. Until further notice, the hut ticket payment system still applies. This hut is usually bookable for the period between 1<sup>st</sup> October and 30<sup>th</sup> April via the [online booking system](#). This booking system is in place to ensure everyone gets a bed and enjoys their stay during the peak season period, and to avoid overcrowding of these popular huts. Before you book, read the [terms and conditions](#). For any queries of if you wish to use your Backcountry Hut Pass as payment please book directly with the Masterton Office at [masterton@doc.govt.nz](mailto:masterton@doc.govt.nz), +64 6 377 0700.”

### Takapari Road Closure 22<sup>nd</sup> September – 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2014

Takapari Road, Ruahine Forest Park, will be closed to all vehicles and bikes for a period of two weeks. This is to allow for maintenance work to occur. Recreational users may still access the road on foot. **All users** must adhere to any safety instructions on signage. For more information contact DOC, Palmerston North on 06 350 9700.



**James Leo Neumann  
(Jim to us)**

**2nd November 1926 to  
16th August 2014**

*friend, mentor and thorough  
gentleman*

MTSC Life Member, past Chairman and Chief Guide. SAR controller and advisor. Jim organised one of the extensions to the MTSC Ruapehu Lodge - his team added the piece that is now the locker room (between the blackboard and the Lockwood extension). As usual those projects always attracted lousy weather!

Jim was born in Taranaki then raised and educated in Fielding where he lived all his life. As a boy he joined the Scouts then continued on to be a Ranger (senior Scout) which most likely introduced him to his great love of the Outdoors.

His working life started as an apprentice Joiner/Cabinetmaker. This knowledge led him to build his own home when he married Zona, the girl from across the road and his wife of 63 happy years. They had 3 daughters and as a family spent as much time as possible in the outdoors - tramping, skiing, fishing, camping, etc. Jim also built his own caravan for use on many family holidays. In later years he bought a campervan and he and Zona toured New Zealand extensively, also hiring a campervan in Australia on a number of occasions.

After some time in a joinery factory, the dust (uncontrolled in those days) was affecting his health. As well as the dust he often said "one had to speak in Braille to be heard above the noise of the machinery" which was surely a big factor in his hearing loss in later years. He subsequently made a move to being the manager of Tisdall's Sport Shop, on Broadway in Palmerston North, an ideal position for a man of his outdoor ability.

His outdoor interests were varied. Tramping trips with the club and family - Jim never hurried keeping an even pace, his way of having a 'rest' was to stop and adjust his socks at frequent intervals! Jim was skiing, well into his 70's, and hunting and fishing the high country rivers; always with success. One place we used to hunt was on private property where we were allowed only one beast each - Jim would say "why take more than one bullet, extra unnecessary weight!"

Jim developed an interest in cutting gem stones. He built machines that let him cut the precious stones the way he wanted to. Eventually he was cutting stones for many top jewellers throughout New Zealand and Australia. He still had an interest in wood work so bought a lathe and produced many bowls and other pieces that were the envy of many wood turners who had thought they were the clever ones. Many of the tools he used for turning he made himself as nothing was available that would let him achieve what he wanted to. Both his gem cutting and wood turning were utter perfection.

To Zona, Jacqui, Pauline and Sue - Jim was a special loving husband and father - thank you for sharing him with us.

Graham Baker.



## 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.

October Wednesday Tramps		
Date	Leader	Phone
1	Liz and Arthur Flint	356 7654
8	Chris Brunskill	354 2511
15	Liz and Arthur Flint	356 7654
22	Bernard Cobb	328 8088
29	Mike Oliver	355 5320



Natural History photo competition entries

### 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.

October Thursday Tramps		
Date	Leader	Phone
2	Judy Swainson	358 4082
9	Geraldine Fovakis	356 4327
16	Graham Pritchard	357 1393
23	Merv Matthews	357 2858
30	John McCleod	323 5785

October Weekend Trips				
Date	Trip	Grade	Leader	Phone
4-5	Maropea Forks	Med Fit	Adam Matich	022 358 8062
11-12	Somewhere in Taranaki	Easy Med	Linda Campbell	323 3836
18-19	Summit Ruapehu	Ski	Ken Mercer	356 7497
18-19	Arete Forks	Med Fit	Jean Garman	021 176 0209
25-27	Ureweras (Labour Weekend)	Med	Mark Learmonth	355 9143

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



**4-5<sup>th</sup> October**      **Maropea Forks Hut**      **Medium Fit**      **Adam Matich**      **022 358 8062**  
[adam.j.matich@gmail.com](mailto:adam.j.matich@gmail.com)

This is a new hut in the Ruahine Range, having replaced its previous incarnation which was endangered by the Maropea River (no, nature is not kind). It is possible that every dog and his man will be visiting it, so we are going to be prepared to camp out! I intend to take the easiest route in (which requires good weather), through Sunrise and Top Maropea huts and then sloshing down the watercourse. I am hoping that for the return on Sunday someone will suggest an alternate river or spur for us to head back up to the tops on, to add a bit more adventure to the weekend.

**18-19<sup>th</sup> October**      **Arete Forks**      **Medium Fit**      **Jean Garman**      **021 1760209**  
[jean.garman@fonterra.com](mailto:jean.garman@fonterra.com)

Arete Forks hut (classic NZFS 6 bunker) in the Waingawa Valley, Eastern Tararuas. From the Kiriwhakapapa road end, past Blue Range either to Cow Saddle or to Cow Creek, then up to Waingawa before following a spur down to Arete Forks hut for the night. The next day there are 3 options to get to Cow Creek; the river (wet), the side track (many horror stories) or Table Ridge (big climb). From Cow Creek it's back to the road end via Blue Range. This tramp will involve both maintained tracks and very very un-maintained tracks/routes with optional swimming.

**11-12<sup>th</sup> October**      **Taranaki**      **Easy Medium**      **Linda Campbell**      **3233836 or 027 3334493**

The plan is to head for Mt Taranaki on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October. Just what we will do will depend on the weather and how keen people are but the plan is to stay the night at Lake Dive Hut. All going well we may head up to Syme Hut before dropping down to the hut on the Saturday. On the Sunday we will walk out along the bottom track to the Dawson Falls car park making a pleasant round trip.


**11-12<sup>th</sup> October**      **Rae Ridge**      **Medium**      **David Harrington**      **06 8395766**


Due to a forecast with words like heavy rain, snow, gale force winds this trip has been moved to the 11-12<sup>th</sup> October. Starting from Otaki Forks we'll either cross the Waioata River or side 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 Denna 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 Tiroiro Knob then drop down a spur (a navigational exercise for somebody) to the old Otaki side track which we'll back follow out.

**Come for a walk.....**

Pukeokahu Hall Committee presents:

## The Timahanga Station Walk






Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2013  
 Start / End point : Timahanga Station  
**\$70 per person**  
(includes dinner, breakfast and basic accomodation)

*Come and participate in a rarely shared sheep and beef station, 67kms from Taihape*

For more information and to register please contact  
 Heather Gilbert  
 06 3880762  
[pukeokahuevents@gmail.com](mailto:pukeokahuevents@gmail.com)

Please note:  
 This walk is suitable for adults with a good level of fitness. It is a 6-7 hour walk through beech forest and tussock with magnificent views.



**TRIP REPORTS**

**10<sup>th</sup> August: Rangiwahia Hut and the Deadman's Loop**

**Tim Swale**



Linda arriving at Rangiwahia Hut.

*Tim Swale*

This joint MTSC and Egmont Alpine Club trip saw eight well equipped trampers leave the Renfrew Road car park at 8am to head up the track to Rangiwahia Hut. The new track which has been re-routed to avoid the scramble around the slip is excellent and in many ways reminiscent of the Sunrise track. Within a few minutes of starting we encountered snow. As we climbed it became thicker until by the time we got to Rangiwahia Hut we had entered a winter wonderland of frozen tussock and icy leatherwood. It was good to sit in front of the fire at Rangiwahia for our morning tea.

Shortly after 10am we were off again, heading up the track towards Mangahuia. There was a hint of watery sun as we left the hut with good views to the lower slopes of Mount Ruapehu. However, we could see cloud hovering around the tops and as we climbed, the wind increased and the snow became deeper. Soon we passed a couple of trampers who had decided to turn back as they were having trouble falling through the wind crust. It



Heading up towards Mangahuia

*Tim Swale*



Descending the Deadman's Track

*Tim Swale*

was certainly hard going as some areas of snow were not quite strong enough to take a person's weight, resulting in sudden collapse through to knee depth. Stepping up to get out of the hole it was never certain if the surface would hold or not. Fortunately with a good team of people plugging away at the snow we were able to make steady progress past the Triangle Hut turn off and up onto the summit of Mangahuia. There was an icy wind pushing across the ridge which encouraged us to descend until we found a sheltered hollow where we could stop for lunch. Re-invigorated after our short break we set off again, climbing for a little while before starting our



descent of the Deadman's track. Going downhill in the collapsing snow was considerably easier than going up, and in no time we were below the cloud with thinning snow and down to the bush-line. Our ice axes and crampons had been unnecessary but nevertheless a good insurance policy. We were back at the car park by 3.20pm, nearly 7½ hours after we started. Despite being a fairly slow trip, it was memorable for its stunning winter scenery and that wonderful sense of achievement in moving comfortably and confidently such a harsh environment and above all the good company.

### **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> August: Tunapo Track**

***Marion Beadle***

Seventeen well prepared trappers headed north. We first saw snow on the ground at the turnoff onto Table Flat Road with about 2 cm cover on that cold exposed car park. The bridge was a little slippery and we headed off up Tunapo track into a Christmas card winter wonderland with no wind and every leaf and twig covered with fresh snow. Light showers of first rain then snow as we climbed. The leading group, upon reaching the signpost at the top of the Leatherwood, found a hostile place with a strong wind blasting stinging ice so hastened back down to shelter for a quick lunch stop. Heading back down the track snow was dropping off trees around and on us. There are still several big windfall logs to negotiate. The car park was still bitterly cold at 2.30pm when we left but the coffee and cake at Ian's place was much appreciated. Thanks Ian.

### **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August: Blake**

***Adam Matich***

The very southern end of Blue Range, from pt 865-south to Blake, is a section of that ridge that we had not previously travelled, so we decided it would make nice little day trip. At the first bridge we came to, as shown on the map, we left the track and headed southerly up the side stream. Unfortunately, the stream and surrounding terrain wasn't as some party members remembered. After about 35 minutes of tooling around in the bush we decided this was not the stream we wanted, but the one before it for which the map did not show a bridge. An hour after leaving the road end we found ourselves back at the bridge and headed off back along the tramway to bridge number two. The terrain here looked much better, with the remnant tramway heading SW along-side the stream. Less than 1 km later we met our first stream junction and headed NW up the side stream. Unfortunately, a steep side saw us travelling a little high to stay in sight of this stream, and so we missed the next stream junction, from which we were hoping to climb west up onto the northern end of Blake. The stream junction we did find, and which our altimeters told us was the correct one, took us up to pt 865-north. This turned out to be pretty good though as there was a marked trail most of the way up and the forest was friendly. At 800m we encountered a dead deer on the track; later we decided it had probably been 1080'd as we came across dead possums as well and a couple of cereal baits. Lunch was had on top of the ridge and then we headed south. After a few hundred metres of travel along the tops we decided that we had come up the wrong spur, not that it mattered greatly as it only added 1 km of easy travel to our day. The ridge sported a marked, meandering trail for us to follow and whilst the marking ran out on pt 865-south there was still a faint trail to follow onto Blake. Here we had to do some careful navigation to drop SE off onto the spur that drops in a little saddle, and onto to pt 632; but it all went well. From 632 we then took the spur NE to 520m, and East down to just south of the stream confluence. Thereafter, all we had to do was follow the water course back to the bridge; a 6½ hour day which could have been only 5 hours long if it hadn't been for our inattention and shoddy navigation early in the day. We were Jenny McCarthy, Brian Webster, and Adam Matich.

### **18<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> August: Men's Ski week**

***John Lyttle***

As you can take by the name this was a week for men. Roger Athersuch and myself took the week off from work, and our families, to spend time with other like-minded men. We were enrolled in a Whakapapa Ski School ski training week that included 6 other men and two ski instructors.





We started the Monday with breakfast and coffee provided free until we could eat no more. Then it was off to the top of the mountain where we broke into two equal groups. We then spent 2 hours in the morning and another 2 in the afternoon with training on our technique in variable snow conditions and slopes. The timing of the course was directly after the 1.2 metres of snow that fell in early August so we had some great snow to practice on.

After skiing on 3 afternoons we met at Lorenzo's for beers, great food and the sharing of the day's activities. Some of these were stretched as beers were consumed. Part of the package was dinner and wine at The Château, this was a night of great food and company. There was also a women's week running at the same time and they outnumbered us and helped us keeping our manliness under control. This was a fun week had with like-minded men. Both Roger and I got a lot out of what the instructors and other men provided to our technique. Both of us will be doing this program again next year and there is plenty of room for others that want to improve their skiing or boarding technique.

### **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> August: Atiwhakatu Hut**

*John Ridge*

The tramp to the hut is mainly a well-formed track except for a couple of detours to avoid slips where all going that way are advised to "Proceed With Caution". You cannot miss the notice. Over the past twelve months or so DOC have built several new bridges, and board walks provide dry passage over swampy ground. The track passes through some magnificent bush and is constantly not far from sight or sound of Atiwhakatu Stream, certainly one of the most attractive rivers in the Tararua Range. Morning tea was taken at one of the many picnic spots along the way where we were able to enjoy the river with fantails darting around. All 24 of our party arrived at the hut in time for a leisurely lunch, sitting on the veranda or on the grass soaking up some sunshine. The return trip to the car park was not rushed and we were ready to make our way homeward by 3.30 pm giving us plenty of time for coffee and cake in Masterton - most enjoyable. Thanks to car providers Robert Belmont (Feilding) Chris B. and Evan D. The mini-bus was driven by the writer.

### **23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> August: Cow Creek**

*Adam Matich*

We headed up the Blue Range track from the Kiriwhakapapa road-end in overcast weather, and throughout the early part of the day occasionally needed our rain-coats to fend off the drizzle. Fortunately the wind was from the south, so our side across the north face of Te Mara was in the lee. It can be pretty windy there in a strong northerly. We made Cow Creek hut in four hours, and decided that this was all a bit lame. You will never get tramping-fit doing a four-hour walk, so we headed off down to Mitre Flats hut. This was probably our one-and-only use of this side track; not that it is nasty, but it really is lacking charm. There is quite a bit of up and down and in places the track and map disagree quite violently. Less than an hour from Mitre Flats hut we encountered two army guys who were



Heading from Blue Range to Cow Creek



Getting ready to leave Cow Creek Hut

*Adam Matich*



out looking for something to kill. They weren't entirely pleased to see us as being the noisy trampers we were, we had probably frightened away anything and everything up-river of them. Regardless, later that afternoon they did encounter a stag, but it was smarter than they were. They had left the fire alight for us at Mitre Flats (7-hour day), so it was a comfortable start to the night, there being a total of eight people in residence.

We didn't need our rain-coats the next day and so optimistically crossed the swing-bridge and climbed 500 m up to pt 865-south, on the southern end of Blue Range. We travelled a few hundred metres north to 865-north and then headed SE down the spur we had climbed up the weekend before. At the bottom we crossed the stream and followed a gully 100 m up to the little saddle just north of pt 535, from where we sidled in a northerly direction down to the Mikimiki Tramway where it crosses the SE-flowing stream that drains from Bruce Hill. It was pretty easy going in the forest, with only the occasional light supple-jack thicket and a rather smelly deer carcass to add a little bit too much interest to our day. Lunch was had on the Mikimiki Tramway Saddle, and we then made our way back to the car after a day length of little under 5 hours, our navigation having been far more successful than the previous weekend. We were Dave Mitchell, Brian Webster, Jenny McCarthy, and Adam Matich

**23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> August: Weekend in the snow**

***Robin Lane***

This snow trip to the lodge was notable for having no new skiers or boarders, providing an easy weekend for your intrepid trip leader. There were, however, 28 people in the hut, including two very junior members, and a really great time was had, aided just a little, for some, by a bottle of Oban whisky left behind ("we don't have room in our luggage") by one of the Australian families who had spent the previous week skiing and conviviating at our hut. Thanks to all who helped out with the chores, and we hope to see more at the next two snow weekends.

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> August: Bruce's Hill**

***Royce Mills***

Our Thursday tramping group of 16 headed to Bruce's hill, near Mount Bruce. We enjoyed a sunny, calm day and there were great views looking across to the snow capped Tararua Range. We first walked to a lookout just 30 minutes up the track for an early morning tea. This was the first of several stops we made to check out and identify the main peaks that we could see, using maps and compasses. We continued on to and past Bruce's hill (710m) noticing the prolific bird-song above us. What has changed since our visit a year ago is that the track from the summit of Bruce's hill to our usual lunch spot has been cleared and widened so that it is now an easy walk. Here we relaxed in pleasant conditions enjoying the views. On the way back a few of us were lucky enough to sight a morepork sitting just above us at head height in a tree, in the daylight! Our day's walk of 5½ hours was rounded off with a coffee stop at Mount Bruce Wildlife Centre where we heard and saw kaka flying about.



Reaching our lunch spot

*Royce Mills*



Morepork in daylight

*Owen Mills*



### 13-14<sup>th</sup> September Oturere Hut

*Adam Matich*

The weather forecast for this trip was not looking good, but people were desperate to do something interesting with their lives and badgered the trip leader into not cancelling. We started off from The Château under an overcast sky with very little wind and followed the track to the Tama Lakes. There were quite a lot of day trippers about. At Upper Tama Lake we sidled down to the north shore beach, stopping part way down for lunch in the sun, to then climb through the small saddle that drains into Waihohonu stream. We maintained an altitude of roughly 1400m as we sidled Ngauruhoe on our way to the Oturere Valley. We didn't need to put our rain coats on until 2 pm, but then 30min later also needed our over-trousers as gentle rain settled in. The wind was never nasty and it was warm. This was our best effort yet on this route, as we managed to wander our way through the bluffs with no difficulty, and eventually strolled into the Oturere Valley and picked up the track. It was here that Jean blotted her copy book; due

to a kink in the track the map and compass indicated we needed to turn left. About 10min later this was not feeling right so a re-evaluation of the map with the help of Dave's GPS showed us we should have turned right. We back-tracked and carried on down to the hut (6¾ hr day). Oturere hut is a bit tired for a Great Walks hut, the roof leaks, everything is worn, and the gas had run out so we had no heating. In summer it



Oturere Hut

*Adam Matich*

would be better to camp somewhere; cheaper too! After dark the weather fulfilled its promise and there was lots of wind and heavy rain; a small lake formed in front of the hut.

Next morning we decided to take a quick route to South Crater, heading off-track up the Oturere Valley - very pleasant travel as it is flat and soft under foot. Our route took us up the stream that drains from the saddle on the eastern side of the crater. Only in the last 100m of climb were we obliged to travel on snow, fortunately it was soft and easy to kick steps in as Jean was shamelessly wearing light-weight sports shoes. The South Crater itself was a bit less hospitable, requiring rain coats and we had to walk through wet snow, slush and occasional patches of slippery ice. Two hours from the hut we were at the lip of the Mangatepopo Valley and heading down into improving weather. From just past Mangatepopo Hut we picked up the Mangatepopo Track, a 9 km plod back to The Château. This track is not in as good condition as the Tongariro Crossing as it is not used as much by tourists. Even so, it caused no fears or tears and we found a nice sheltered gully to have lunch in the sun before making our way back to the car (5¾ hr day). As per usual, the weather was considerably better than forecast; perhaps/maybe people were correct to insist that the trip go ahead! We were Dave Mitchell, Jean Garman, Jenny McCarthy, and Adam Matich.



The wide spaces of the Oturere Valley

*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, Bob Hodgson, Howard Nicholson, Rob Pringle, John Beech

### 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
Wednesday Trip Convenor	Bev Akers	<a href="mailto:bevakers@xtra.co.nz">bevakers@xtra.co.nz</a>	06 325 8879
Thursday Trip Convenor	Merv Matthews	<a href="mailto:merv6817@gmail.com">merv6817@gmail.com</a>	06 357 2858