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



END OF YEAR FUNCTION

Tuesday 25th November 2014

WALK: Meet at the Gorge car park for a 5.15pm prompt start on the Tawa Loop track.

EAT: Bookings have likely closed for the after walk dinner, 6.45pm at the Fusion Cafe in Ashhurst, but you can contact Bob Hodgson, rmsbhodgson@inspire.net.nz, to see if it is still possible to attend.





Tuesday 3rd February Talk + BYO BBQ

Volunteer track work - Ian Ritchie

Ian Ritchie can be described as a practical tramper who is passionate about preserving and enhancing our access to the bush. He has a long record of cutting and clearing tracks and concern for the lack of maintenance of some of the huts in the hills, such as, the much-used A Frame. In this talk Ian will share some of his experiences and aspirations.



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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 1**st 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

Recently Tim and I went to Roaring Stag hut as shadow party for three young men on a practice trip for their bronze Duke of Edinburgh award. It was a popular place to go that weekend with seventeen of us in a twelve bed hut. Of the seventeen, seven were school aged and three were young adults. It was a great mix but what was interesting was within the group staying that night five tramping clubs

were represented. There were first time trampers to extremely experienced trampers who were only there as the very high winds on the tops forced them to retreat and Roaring Stag was their choice for accommodation. The young people enjoyed having the river so close and the swing bridge swaying in the wind provided great entertainment for a while. A great night was had with a word game called Tumble Word being played by several of us and interesting conversation. You just never know who you will meet in the hills!

Enjoy yourselves in the hills but take care out there.

Linda



MTSC Chief Guide: Ken Mercer

chief.guide@mtsc.org.nz

One thing you can be sure of in spring is that the weather will be changeable. Hot, calm and sunny one day (with the danger of sunburn for winter white skin) through to wind, rain, hail and even snow the next (which can have much more serious consequences). Recently there have been a couple of beacon activations for people caught behind flooded rivers/streams, which besides showing poor planning is a questionable use for a PLB. Responsible trampers keep a close eye on weather forecasts

and river levels before their trip and it pays to have a plan B, C and even D up your sleeve in case things don't go quite as expected. If the predictions are looking particularly dire staying home and going another time is sometimes the sensible option or if you are desperate for some outdoor R&R think about changing your plans to a weather safe route.

NOTICES and INFORMATION

The Manawatu Walking Festival

http://www.mwf.org.nz/

The Manawatu Walking Festival is an annual event which is to be held 20-22 February 2015. The event is focused on bringing together walkers from around New Zealand to experience the variety of great walks in the Manawatu.

This festival has walks for all ages and fitness levels, with plenty of options to choose from including the iconic Manawatu Gorge Track through native bush, a twilight beach walk where you can get sand between your toes and an urban art and sculpture walk to soak up the City culture. There is even a vineyard tour with tasting and a farm walk thrown in for good measure.

Hosting this festival is a wide range of experts ranging from tramping guides and historians through to storytellers, nature experts, experienced walkers and photographers. What sets this festival apart from other walking festivals is we will be connecting walkers with hosts (guides) of similar interests – all wanting to share their knowledge to help enhance your walking experience in Manawatu.

BOOKINGS WILL BE ESSENTIAL

Last year MTSC members assisted with the Foxton to Himitangi evening beech walk, the Fern walk and the Gorge walk while PNTMC looked after the Rangi Hut walk. Bob Hodgson will be co-ordinating MTSC volunteers.

rmsbhodgson@inspire.net.nz 356 2915

MTSC welcomes Grant Davies plus family and Rosemaire Knowles plus family to the club.

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.

| December/January Wednesday Tramps | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|----------|--|
| Date | Leader | Phone | |
| December | | | |
| 3 | Margaret Foot | 357 8003 | |
| 10 | Pauline Hall | 329 7707 | |
| January | | | |
| 28 | Marion Beadle | 323 3246 | |



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.

| | December/January Thursday Tramps | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|--|
| Date | Leader | Phone | |
| December | | | |
| 4 | Alan Cameron | 358 3848 | |
| 11 | Richard Ellis | 357 6410 | |
| 11 | Barbeque | | |
| January – please contact a regular | | | |

| December/January Weekend Trips | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|------------------|--------------|
| Date | Trip | Grade | Leader | Phone |
| December | | | | |
| 6-7 | Waterfall Hut | М | Adam Matich | 022 358 8062 |
| 14 | Manawatu Gorge | E | Alla Seleznyova | 355 0862 |
| 14 | Horopito Stream (W Ruahine) | М | David Harrington | 06 839 5766 |
| January | | | | |
| 17-19 | Omarukokere Biv, Kawekas | М | Adam Matich | 022 358 8062 |
| 31-1 | Colenso Hut River Routes | F | Jean Garman | 021 176 0209 |

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



6-7th December: Waterfall Hut M Adam Matich 022 358 8062

adam.j.matich@gmail.com

We will be heading into Waterfall Hut from the Sunrise road end. It is a rock-hop up the Waipawa River to Waipawa Saddle and then more rock-hopping down the other side to Waikamaka Hut. From there we have a 300 m climb up a side creek to Rangi Saddle and a 300 m descent into Rangi Stream. We then have less than 2 km of stream/river travel to reach Waterfall Hut. We will probably return by the same route. There are lots of other routes to Rangi Hut that people can take in and meet us there, but as I am feeling girlie it is in and out by the easiest route for me and a no go if we don't get summer weather. If conditions are ideal we may camp out.

14th December: Manawatu Gorge E

Alla Seleznyova 355 0862

We are very lucky to have Manawatu Gorge Scenic Reserve so close to Palmerston North. The walking track has considerably improved during the last couple of years with addition of a new family friendly loop, new lookouts and points of interest. The idea is to meet at the Gorge car park at 10 am, walk to the Windy Lookout for lunch and return the same way. Alternatively we can meet at 1 pm and have an afternoon tea at the Windy Lookout. December is a busy time of the year and it can be quite stressful for many; this is an opportunity to take a break and relax. Bring your family and friends.

http://www.doc.govt.nz/Documents/parks-and-recreation/tracks-and-walks/wanganui/manawatu-gorge-tracks-brochure.pdf

14th December: Horopito Stream, Western Ruahines M David Harrington 06 839 5766

We'll start by heading up Shorts track to a small saddle at the 1030 m contour and leaving the track we'll sidle around to the next ridge to the SW followed by a descent WSW into the Horopito Stream. The bush travel should be good, maybe. It is then up the Horopito Stream with good travel at first and most likely be challenging further on. I'm aiming for the top fork then intending to climb back out onto Shorts Track. I will try to avoid the leatherwood but no guarantee. It is then back out via Shorts Track.

17-19th January: Omarukokere Biv, Kawekas M Adam Matich 022 358 862

adam.j.matich@gmail.com

We are going to helicopter into Omarukokere Biv on the Ngaruroro River in the Kawekas on day one. Under ideal conditions we would fly in late Friday afternoon and stay overnight, which means Friday afternoon off work to drive up to The Lakes car park. Otherwise we will fly in as early as possible on Saturday morning. From the biv we will bush-bash 800 m up to Manson Peak, which is on the nice open Kaweka tops. Then we will head west for the steep drop into Manson Creek, from where we will climb out to Otutu Hut for the night. On day two we will pass through Manson Hut on our way back down to the Ngaruroro River to Kiwi Mouth Hut for the night. On day three we climb up to Kiwi Saddle Hut before heading down to The Lakes car park.

31st January – 1st February: Colenso Hut river routes F Jean Garman 021 176 0209

jean.garman@fonterra.com

The plan is on Saturday to head up and over the Mokai Patea range to Iron Bark hut then up the river to the Unknown Campsite (bypassing the waterfall along the way) then up and over to Colenso hut for the night. Sunday will be following the Mangatea River to the confluence with the Waikamaka River then up the Waikamaka River back to Iron Bark Hut and up and over the Mokai Patea range back to our starting point. Nice weather and reasonably low river levels are required and if the necessary the trip may be reversed.

TRIP REPORTS

18-19th October: Arete Forks

Jean and I were away from the car just after 8am on our way up towards Blue Range. Although it was quite warm down low we made good time to Blue Range Hut where we had a quick stop for a photo and a muesli bar. We were down at Cow Creek Hut just after 12pm for lunch.

After lunch we started off on the sidle track to Arete Forks. This is steep initially before it turns to sidle up the valley. At this point we carried on up the ridge to Table Ridge. The route is cairned and was not too hard to follow. It was a great day with good views from the tops towards Mitre, Brockett and Tarn Ridge around to the Bannister Ridge. The cool wind and threatening clouds out to the N/E kept us moving along and, after checking the map and compass, we soon headed down towards Arete Forks.

There is a long tongue of tussock and small scrub leading down this spur and the bush line is well down. Jean had heard that this (old track on some maps) route had been re-marked recently by the ex-Forest Service team who look after the hut. We looked around carefully at the bush edge and soon picked up the route, which is very well marked with bits of venetian blind. We had a little rain at this point and it was parkas on until the hut which we reached at 4.30pm. The hut is in great order - recently

Janet Wilson



Jean descending to Arete Forks with views to the Banister ridge-line Janet Wilson

renovated and painted with heaps of firewood available. After dinner we went for a little walk upstream spotting a couple of deer which guickly vanished.



Janet arriving at Arete Forks hut

Jean Garman

Next morning the cloud was down and it was damp. We were away at 7.30am and travelled downstream on the TR for a short while before crossing over and climbing up the bank, we were headed for the Bannister Ridge. After a short while we found the reassuring line of fresh markers - which probably started at the forks just below the hut - we should have looked at the obvious point. It was a steady climb which included a decent sized leatherwood band (track on the RH side heading up) and a steep scrubby section higher up. We had our coats on before we gained the

ridge top and it rained for the rest of the day. The ground trail made gong a bit faster along to Cattle Ridge where we had to check our direction and turn for Cow Saddle - care needed in the clag. We were getting a bit cold and

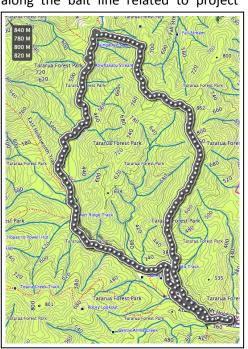
descended as quickly as possible - at one point a big windfall at a change of direction made life difficult. We had a quick lunch at the saddle and then followed the old track - narrow but quite well marked with bits of tape - to the main Blue Range/Cow Creek track. The climb towards Te Mara seemed bigger on tired legs. After that it was all downhill back to the car - got back about 4pm.

A great trip, thanks Jean. It was very enjoyable to use some different routes and special thanks must go to those who have done such a great job of marking and maintaining them. On the combined MTSC and PTNMC trip were Jean Garman and Janet Wilson.

Wednesday 22nd October: Holdsworth – Pinnacle Peak – Atiwhakatu

Bob Hodgson

After a 7.30am muster in PN, 24 Wednesday trampers departed from Holdsworth at 9.15am on a bright summery day. Six trampers made their way directly to the Atiwhakatu Hut with a detour over a new slip about halfway along, what is otherwise, a near perfect benched track. The six enjoyed the sunshine at the hut and the cooling stream. Meanwhile the main party of eighteen made their way along the opposite side of the stream along the bait line related to project





Kaka with a seriously climb starting opposite Donnelly's flat skirting the large slip. This led us eventually to the exposed Pinnacle Peak (877 m) where lunch was eaten and the views of the Tararuas including Broken Axe were enjoyed in the warm sunshine. We then followed Pinnacle Ridge heading north then made our way down the steep slope to the Atiwhakatu stream, crossing it about 15 minutes up stream of the hut. All that remained was the roughly two hours tramp back to the car park! In total a tramp of 14.66 km with a rise and fall of 566 m in 5 km. After a rewarding and memorable tramp all trampers were safely back at the cars by 4.45pm. Thanks to trip leaders Bev (who pioneered the route) and our drivers including Chris who also drove the van.

25th October: Summit Ruapehu

Ken Mercer

This trip was scheduled for a week earlier but storm conditions reigned and the entire mountain closed. I'd gone to a little trouble too, checking out the route on the 12th but, despite my best efforts, no one would come with me. This may have had something to do with the beautiful afternoon and the absence of queues at the T-bars so on with my skins and off I shuffled from the top of the Far West T.

Shortly after overtaking a group slogging it out on foot I rolled over the edge of the col and the Crater Lake vista opened out. Conditions until then were good but, rounding the end of Dome ridge, it became very firm and



crampons would have been useful. As it was I followed a wisp of softer snow up to the top of Dome with my skis on my pack and ice axe in hand. While whipping my skins off a fellow traveller arrived and we took photos of each other then I skied down into the Summit Plateau and managed enough speed to get halfway across the flat. With a little more skinning I arrived at the ridge leading to Tukino Peak. It was a 100m vertical climb which I walked with my skis on my pack past several false summits. The plateau side has a spectacular drop and a corniced edge which I was careful to keep clear of while the north side is a skiable slope.

The peak itself was a bit pointy for my liking and I considered myself close enough. There is a small saddle to cross to Te Heuheu which, as the surface was a little icy, was safer to ski towards

before the 40m climb for which I'd want my skis back on my pack. Only 4.30pm but the sun was descending and the surface hardening so I made the decision to maintain a safety margin and head down. I thought too I'd try a route between two bluffs which I'd been looking at all weekend.

Skis on; a wonderful surface and lots of turns in the initial descent. And, bother, the edge is rolling over and it's one of the bluffs which I have no intention of pioneering. Skis on the shoulder for a 10 minute walk back up. I'm just starting to puff and Rob rings, "How are you?" He's in the car park way below and, when I wave my poles, can just make me out. His advice is head left, where I was going anyway. Rob has heaps of free minutes so uses more to tell others "Ken's bluffed". Not to worry, I put in heaps of turns down a more conventional route and my dinner was still hot when I arrived at the lodge. Definitely a good day!

Wednesday 29th October: Sunrise

On Wednesday October 29th and after a 7.30am PN rendezvous, 24 trampers started along the Sunrise Hut track at about 9.35am. It was a sunny and blustery day of North West winds that from time to time, blew



Time for a break Maureen

chill. 21 trampers made it to the hut well before noon and everybody was 3pm. out by Beyond the hut the winds were



extreme, so nobody ventured any further. On the ascent we passed a school party before and after morning tea.

The first time we were greeted by "make way for the old people so they do not fall off the track" but with more respect on the second passing "gee these old fellas walk fast!" An hour into the road journey back the forecasted heavy rain arrives. Thanks to Mike as trip leader and to our drivers.

25 - 27th October Labour Weekend: Te Urewera National Park

Adam Matich

We left town mid-afternoon on Friday for the long drive to Oputao Marae, on the Ruatahuna Road, where we stayed the night. The local transport operator, Richard White, drove us to the locked gate on Maungapohatu Road, where

we started our tramp on the Six Foot Track. The first half of the tramp to Makomako Hut is on a proper tramping track (2 hr), but beyond the second track junction it is a surveyed road, all through pleasant, open forest; we made our way to the tidy Makomako Hut for lunch in an easy 4.5 This hut has had the hours. Dulux treatment and like most Urewera huts we have visited it is in an open, grassy clearing that is kept manicured by the deer and probably also the ubiquitous horses. After lunch the Six Foot Track took us and easy 90 minutes to the Paetawa Track



Mark amongst the kanuka forest, Paetawa track

Adam Matich

which is a bit rougher and took us longer than the advertised 40 min because it is slightly overgrown and the DoC track-marking is not always strategic. Fortunately, in most cases the venetian blinds took up the slack. After a 10 minute climb out of the only stream crossing we landed on the Pinaki Track which, along with its marking, was again ideal; we made Taurawharona Hut after a leisurely 8½ hours. Just south of this hut the map is in error; the track crosses Waikare River twice, not once over Pariri Stm as it does on the map. The hut was in another big open grassy



Sunny Taurawharona hut

Adam Matich

clearing with a hitching rail for people to moor their horses to. As we arrived we startled some cattle and a pig; no going hungry there if you are armed. The hut is in a nice sunny location, so we had a pleasant afternoon.

On day two we headed back south for the ca. 14 km (6½ hours) trip to Waiawa Hut. We found our map, compass, and GPS were useful on this section as the TopoMap was again in error; the crossing of Waipaepae Stm, where we startled

three deer, is several hundred metres upstream of where it is shown on the map, BG40 575 257 (not 270 258). From

thereon we were on a logging road which proceeds possibly as far south as Te Huia Stm. In places on this road we had views east to Maungapohatu Farm and the bluffs beyond. After the logging track ran out we were on an overgrown, but not difficult, track down to manicured lawns (horses) on the flats upstream of Waiawa Hut. There is lots of room for camping in this area with some stands on large trees. Travel down Manangaatiuhi Stm is easy and the stream-crossing route has almost enough DOC markers. Travel would be awkward after a lot of rain though. Waiawa hut is in another grassy clearing well above the stream and, like the previous hut, it was untidy; these huts need a good clean and rubbish removal to get them up to standard.

On day three we had an easy 3½ hour tramp out to the main road through Kanohirua Hut (2½ hours), with a lot of stream crossings but as it never rained we had no problems. We were Mark Learmonth and Adam Matich

Thursday 23rd October: Arawaru Loop Track

Merv Matthews

We first tramped this new loop track in March this year, so this time we tried it in the reverse direction. We began as usual with the first part of the Sledge track, then veered to the right at the fork and continued along the riverside track, crossed Quartz Creek and tackled the steep climb up the Quartz Ridge. Now that it has been opened up for use as a bait-line track it is easy to follow as far as spot height 624 where there is a rocky viewpoint. From that point it becomes more difficult as it is just a faint hunters' trail which eventually merges with the track formerly used we when accessing Arawaru from Scotts



A breezy day at Arawaru trig

Road. Along the way there are other bait-line tracks numbered H16, 17, 18 and 19 so it pays to keep alert and not stray down one of those.

Upon reaching Arawaru we were greeted with a strong cold wind from the south, so after a quick photo stop at the trig we sought shelter to have lunch further along the new track which heads east through the leatherwood. Unfortunately, many of our orange tape markers had been removed and dumped by persons unknown, so it became difficult at times to find our original trail through to the H4 loop track. Eventually we stumbled out on to the H4, glad to be on a decent track again. We headed north to spot height 550 and the final downhill run to the Sledge track and back to the car park. We were 15 Thursday Trampers.

31st Oct - 2nd November: Taupo Bike Trails

Mary Mercer

The strong winds on Friday evening did not auger well for the weekend but, amazingly, both Saturday and Sunday were perfect for biking - blue sky days with just the gentlest zephyr. We started the day with a pleasant, early morning drive in the countryside to the start of our first ride, off Wangamata Road. It was then that Owen discovered the hazards of having his bike too close to the exhaust of his Subaru. The heat had blown a hole in his front bike tyre and melted his bead tape. While five of us set off for a ride to the lake, Owen had to drive to a Taupo Bike Shop for a new tyre.

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The Orakai Trail runs through quite dense bush, alongside a swamp for a way, and down to a beach at Kawakawa Bay. It has lots of fun ups and downs and turns, not too challenging for an inexpert biker like me but reasonably demanding, especially as you can only see a little way ahead. The next section of the track, K2K, ends at Kinloch. After a short distance along the lake shore, it zigzags its way up over a saddle. At the top, some large flat rocks made a perfect seat to admire the still snow-capped Mt Ruapehu across the blue Lake Taupo. Another group of cyclists, also enjoying the view, were intrigued by the large metal box Royce hauled out of the bush nearby, her only geocache find for the whole weekend! Owen met us a short distance down the saddle and we all cycled together to Kinloch. It took the five of us two hours and twenty minutes to complete the whole 15.6 km ride. The lake shore picnic tables made a perfect place for lunch with lots of boats sitting in the little Kinloch marina for us to admire.



Peter and Linda ready to ride

biggest climb was only 100 m, my legs thought otherwise. Nonetheless, we visited all three look outs which gave wonderful views across Lake Taupo and the surrounding bush. It took us 3 hrs in total to cover a distance of 19 km. Ken and Owen met us on our way back down the W2K trail.

On Sunday we split into two groups, with Peter, Lynda and Owen doing the Waihaha Trail. This starts near the bridge over the Waihaha River on Western Bays Road, running alongside the river then heading north around the lake to join the Waihora Trail near the car park. Access to this car park was back along Western Bays Road,

For the afternoon, Peter and Ken decided that they would accompany Owen on his trip along the Orakai and K2K trails. After a car shuttle and a quick visit to the Tipsy Trout cafe (for non alcoholic drinks), Lynda, Royce and Mary set off for the Headland Ride. Access to this is via the W2K, or K2W (Kinloch to Whakaipo Bay) in our case so it starts with a bit of a slog up a hill. However all the trails are well graded and not too steep in either direction. The Headland Trail does a loop around the peninsula between Whangamata and Whakaipo Bays. Although the map indicated that the



Dinner time Peter Rawlins

right, onto Waihaha Road, through a gate with a Bike Taupo sign and along a private farm track to the bush edge, a 15 to 20 minute drive. The Waihora Trail runs alongside the Western side of Lake Taupo through bush, much of which is regrowth so quite open. Every so often it rewards you with fabulous views of the lake, flanked by steep rocky cliffs, and distant mountains. The trail itself starts with small ups and downs which become a bit bigger as it wends its way down and up across two streams which dissect the track. It ends by winding down to the lake beside

the Kotukutuku Stream which drops into a significant waterfall before flowing out into the lake. It is possible to ride all the way via multiple wooden bridges which are impressive engineering feats. Much of the track is pretty but this last section is truly beautiful. It ends at a sandy beach in a lovely little cove, a great lunch spot in spite of a smelly speed boat there when we arrived. I thought the return would be very challenging but, though Royce and I did walk a couple of steep sections, Ken managed to cycle almost all the way. He was sabotaged at one spot though when his chain broke. The Waihaha Trail is 13 km long and took the other trio one and a half hours so we were met by Peter and Owen a short distance back along the Waihora Trail and caught up with Lynda a bit further on. The Waihora return trip was 24.5 km and took us 6½ hrs.

Bike Taupo should be commended for building some wonderful, well graded trails which have good surfaces for mountain bikes. The scenery is fabulous too! We were Royce and Owen Mills, Lynda Hunt and Peter Rawlins and Mary and Ken Mercer.

Thursday 6th November: Pinnacle Ridge circuit

Royce Mills

Sixteen Thursday trampers braved wet and cold conditions to walk the Pinnacle Ridge circuit. Starting at the Holdsworth road end this was a new route for our group and it was very much enjoyed in spite of the weather. Unfortunately no views were to be had at Pinnacle (877 m), but the rain-washed bush was particularly beautiful. It was a steep drop down to the Atiwhakatu stream and then a good chance to practise our river crossing skills - but it was no worse than damp shorts for some. We crossed just upstream from Atiwhakatu hut and it was a relaxing walk out. The whole circuit took us just under 6 hours; our stops were always short ones in these cold conditions. Meanwhile another five in the group had a pleasant return walk to Atiwhakatu hut.







Crossing the Atiwhakatu stream

Richard Ellis

8th November: Pinnacle ridge (again)

Adam Matich

Unlike the Thursday trampers, who did this trip in wet weather, two days later I had a calm almost sunny day. The Pinnacle Ridge track has improved markedly over the last few years as someone has been doing some track-work. The track heads up the true left of Atiwhakatu Stream, just before the swing-bridge, and climbs up to the open top of Pinnacle Peak opposite Donnely Flats (90 min). Then it was northerly through pt 862 and westerly to pt 845 (45 min), after which it was an easy 800 m northerly to the marked track junction. A left turn headed down an easy spur into the Atiwhakatu Stream (25 min, wet feet) across from a side stream that is not shown on the topomap, but which is only a few minutes tramp down-stream to the hut, 3 hours from the road end. In less than two hours I made it back to the road end on the easy track and was thankful not to be staying at Atiwhakatu hut that night as I passed 13 people who were on their way in.

New Members

Prospective members must be nominated by a Proposer and a Seconder 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 lwikau 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 vo) | \$10 | \$10 |

The Lodge phone number is (07) 892 3860.

Booking the MTSC Van

For bookings:



- Contact Ken Mercer (06) 356 7497.
- Cancelations 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.

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