

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

Tuesday 2nd June: "50 Shades of Grey"

Tramping in We(s)tland

The Westland Conservation Area has an interesting mix of well maintained (by DOC) tracks and huts and minimal maintenance tracks and huts that rely on volunteers to stay functional. Ivan and Jean spent 9 days in the area behind Hokitika and are keen to go back for more. Come along and see why.



Tuesday 7th July: The Future of our Lodge

John Lyttle and Rob Pringle

A presentation on the potential upgrades to our lodge over the next ten years. The lodge is now in good order, painted and double glazed thanks to the work of many but especially to John's input and leadership. This evening will be about how John Lyttle and Rob Pringle (both on our committee) see how the lodge could be upgraded to be more user friendly and energy efficient. There will be an opportunity for members to contribute and to constructively criticise their vision.



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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.



MTSC President: Linda Campbell

president@mtsc.org.nz

By the time you are reading this we will have a new president so this will be my last president's report. The last three years has gone fast and it brings back memories of feeling honoured to be elected to the position of president in our Club. I have enjoyed working with a group of knowledgeable, capable people and have learned a lot along the way. Any new committee members will be learning how our committee works and I am sure their contribution will be appreciated. Of course the contribution made by all committee members over the last year has been much appreciated. We are lucky to have such skilled members who are passionate about our club and willing to share their expertise with us.

It has been a great autumn for tramping and the trampers amongst us have had some great experiences in the hills. Some experiences have been very pleasant and some challenging but that all adds to the adventure. Winter is now upon us and with luck it will be a great ski season for those who love to ski.

I wish you all the best. Enjoy yourselves in the hills but take care out there.

Linda

NOTICES and INFORMATION

Winter is coming..... The lodge fees per night for 2015 are as follows:

	Members	Guests
Adults	\$35	\$50
Secondary	\$28	\$43
Primary	\$23	\$38
Pre-school	\$10	\$10
Group rates	Group rate on application	



The establishment of a 'Wildbase Recovery' facility at the Esplanade, Palmerston North

Wildbase Recovery will be a world-class place for ill or injured animals to rehabilitate in a stress-free and purpose-built environment after their hospital stay at Massey University's Wildbase Hospital. The facility will also hold new breeding aviaries for Whio and Pateke. Wildbase Recovery will have a strong focus on educating national and international visitors about our native wildlife.

Wildbase Recovery Community Trust is a Charitable Trust tasked with raising funds which will be granted to Palmerston North City Council for the sole purpose of building, operating and maintaining the community funded Wildbase Recovery.

There are heaps of ways you can keep up to date with the news and fundraising efforts of Wildbase Recovery:

- read the regular newsletter of the trust at:

<http://us8.campaign-archive1.com/?u=26b4c12375eebf90663fcce16&id=4ed3c8b6a9&e=%5bUNIQID>

(You can also subscribe to the newsletter from there)

- check out the website: <http://wildbaserecovery.co.nz/>

- follow their facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/WildbaseRecoveryCommunityTrust>

Also, feel free to contact DOC staff - Nina Mercer, Chau-Phing Ong or Allanah Irvine - with any questions or support.

We welcome **Rajasekaran Palinisamy** 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.

June Wednesday Tramps		
Date	Leader	Phone
3	Bev Akers	325 8879
10	Ann & Ian Shipman	357 4139
17	Ian Brookes	358 7974
24	Ian Ritchie	328 9618



Enjoying the ambiance of Herepai hut

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	Up to 4 hours per day, pace slower than Easy/Med. Does not relate to terrain
EASY/MEDIUM	Up to 5 hours per day at a pace slower than Medium
MEDIUM	Up to 7 hours per day at a standard walking pace
MEDIUM/FIT	Up to 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.

June Thursday Tramps		
Date	Leader	Phone
4	Alan Cameron	358 3848
11	Brian & Ruth Evans	323 7614
18	Caroline Brodie	358 6576
25	Suzanne Clark	356 8322

An on-line copy of the winter trip card can be found here

<http://www.mtsc.org.nz/trips.php>

June Weekend Trips				
Date	Trip	Grade	Leader	Phone
6-7	Toka Biv or Longview	easy/medium medium/fit	Ken Mercer	356 7497
12-14	Lodge Food Carry	all help appreciated	Howard Nicholson	357 6325
20-21	Wellington Makara Peak	mountain biking	Tim Swale	06 3766 556
27-28	Roaring Stag all you can eat	medium	Adam Matich	022 358 8062

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



6-7th June: Toka Biv or Longview hut **easy/medium or medium/fit** **Ken Mercer** **356 7497**

This trip has two options utilising the “Shorts” and “Knights” tracks from Limestone Road. The first option is to spend Saturday night under the stars at Toka Biv. The second option is longer, travelling through the Pohangina Saddle to stay at Longview hut on Saturday night and returning via Leon Kinvig hut and the Toka high point.

12-14th June: Lodge Food Carry **all welcome!** **Howard Nicholson** **357 6325, 027 294 1941, ski@mtsc.nz**

We have a few jobs to complete on the upcoming Lodge Food Carry trip and you are invited to help. Not least, we need to get a new freezer over to the lodge and installed before taking the meat over. The lodge at Mt Ruapehu will be stocked with food in preparation for the upcoming winter season of skiing, riding, climbing and sliding. This involves carrying the food from the Top 'o the Bruce Road to the lodge, and usually takes just a few hours to complete. Show your skill at remaining upright under load, scone-making, or general duties - there will be something for everyone and a mighty fine meal to be had too. Enjoy some pre-season mountain delights before heading home. Transport from the Manawatu will be by club minibus and private cars. Travellers from other locations may be able to car pool - please let me know ASAP if you are coming along; maybe we can arrange transport with others from your region.

20th-21st June: Wellington Mountain Biking Trip **Tim Swale** **06 3766556**

Wellington has some amazing mountain biking tracks scattered around the city. Saturday will be spent tackling the tracks of the Makara Peak Mountain Bike Park at Karori. There are tracks to suit every ability from novice to expert, although I expect most of my riding to be on intermediate, grade 3 tracks. Sunday will depend on what people want to do but the Barking Emu between Brooklyn and Hawkins Hill radar station is pretty good and has some stunning views of the South Island. It's all about fun, technical riding without carrying lots of gear. So if you enjoy Palmy's K Loop, you will love Wellington's mountain biking tracks.

27-28th June: Roaring Stag - All You Can Eat **medium** **Adam Matich** **022 358 8062**

This is my annual winter trip involving eating and sloth. As it is an easy tramp in to Roaring Stag Hut we will not be leaving town at all early. I want to get to the hut in time for afternoon tea, when we will have pikelets and jam and cream (or some other suitable calorific), followed by mulled wine to keep us going until dinner, which will be followed by a light dessert. People can keep themselves amused through the afternoon by collecting firewood, reading the paper (which hopefully someone will supply), and solving all of the world's ills. Think about what you want to do for breakfast the next day. Some people may decide they want a cooked breakfast, which makes the less-prepared members of the party feel like poor cousins. If the weather is good, I may consider the idea of taking a “creative” route in (or out), which might involve following a water course or two. Those who don't want to can stay on the track system. Basically, people can do pretty well whatever they like, as long as it doesn't result in Police and/or SAR involvement.

TRIP REPORTS

Wednesday 8th April: Waikanae River Walkway

Bob Hodgson and Andrew Brodie

On a day when the weather forecast was not looking good, 26 Wednesday Wilderness Wanders optimistically set out to check out the new Waitewaewae Track diversion. However, when we got to the Otaki Forks turn off, the troops decided Plan A was not a good idea. The heavens had opened, the Otaki River looked ferocious and so sensible counsel prevailed and trip leader, Andrew Brodie, agreed that we should divert to the Waikanae River Walkway. We arrived in heavy rain, we walked in persistent rain and got changed in – yes, more of it. For the record we walked



11.9km in about 2 hr 40 min with a total rise of 24m. Over welcome refreshments under cover at the Murrayfield Café (near Shannon), the group decided they would like to try Plan A again the following week, which they did in good weather. Unfortunately Andrew could not be there since he was in Sydney but he and Carolyn walked along the coastal walkway from South Coogee to Bondi Beach on the same Wednesday, which with its magnificent sea views, could not have been more different. Thanks to Chris Brunskill for driving the van and to the other drivers who willingly took their vehicles.

11-12th April: Leon Kinvig

Dave Mitchell

The weather was looking much improved for the weekend. It didn't matter that the gorge was closed due to slips as we had to pick up Jenny in Pahiataua. We were heading for Norsewood first, then heading down to almost the end of Ngamoko road. This is the start of the Apiti track which heads towards Leon Kinvig hut. We set off from the empty car park and made our way across the farm and up onto the ridge. The sun was coming out by now and there was little wind as we had our first smoko stop. The track continues up the ridge and then sidles around through some quite thick bush. There are a few tricky bits to negotiate but it is a nicely graded track. The stags were roaring occasionally. It would be quite difficult bush hunting here, the deer have the advantage. Eventually the track drops down to a clearing which looks out over where we were headed. After a quick lunch stop here it was only a short walk up to the turn off to Makaretu hut. From the turnoff the track drops and rises again to the next turn off, which



Raring to go!

Maureen Naylor



The ever essential smoko and lunch breaks

Jenny McCarthy

is down in the direction of cattle creek hut. We then had a climb of about 400m straight up the spur onto the high point at 1232m. It was a bit of grunt getting up there and I was left behind after Fred decided to get a possum. From this high point the track heads along the ridge in a SW direction before descending down through the leatherwood, then bush. Eventually the marked track follows the ridge down to Leon Kinvig hut next to the Pohangina River. It took about 6 hours to get there. The river was just starting to drop in level but was still a bit discoloured.



The hut was empty so we spread out and relaxed for the remainder of the afternoon. A couple of us collected and chopped firewood. Then Jenny displayed her mastery of fire lighting and we soon had a good fire to sit next to. DOC are planning to replace this original fire place with a wood burner so the wood will need to be chopped a lot smaller. Dinner was a beef casserole, which was heavy to cart in but worth it. Dessert was a chocolate mousse with light almond biscotti and some raspberry chocolate. This is the sort of trip you can take a few luxuries in. We were all in our sleeping bags by 8.30pm, nothing like catching up on lost sleep when you're in the hills. Occasionally there were a few calls which sounded like Whio. The wind shook the hut later in the night and next morning it was quite windy from the west.

We left the hut early, climbing back up onto the tops where the wind blasted us all the way along the ridge. The plan was to go back via Makaretu hut and this meant dropping down a steep overgrown old track which comes out at the back of the hut. Makaretu hut is really tidy and well maintained with a sunny position. After a quick cup of coffee we headed up the Makaretu stream and after a while a track appears which takes you up to the junction of the Apiti track. From here we retraced our steps back towards the farmland. As usual I got behind again after Fred decided to go bush again looking for possums.

Back at the car park there were 2 hunters who had only walked in for 30 mins and shot 2 spikers. Too easy.

It was a good weekend, in a nice area of the Ruahines where you can always get out even if it is bad weather. Thanks to Adam, Jean and Jenny who accompanied myself and Fred.

Wednesday 15th April: The Delayed YTYT Expedition

Bob Hodgson

19 Wednesday Wilderness Trampers converged on Otaki Forks for a 9.30am start on a tramp towards the YTYT Hut. After the deluge of the previous week we were surprised to find the rivers in moderate flow and clear. The side streams were low and with judicious foot placement, barely above boot laces. The tramp into the junction with the new track including the bush tram sections, were covered quickly in pleasant sunshine. The new track was, in the words of several of our veterans, "a real trampers track" with a lot of scrambling over trees and muddy slippery sections. For some the rate of progress on the new track was about halved. Sunny spots were few and far between. Needless to say nobody made it to the hut but we all had a good day and, apart from muddy bums, all were safely out by 3.30pm. Would be SAR dog, Brownie, made easy work of it all and gained his swing bridge certification. Coffee at the River Cottage cafe (ex Brown Sugar) made a jovial end to the day. Thanks to trip leader Robert and our drivers, especially van driver Chris.



Enjoying the sunshine *Maureen Naylor*

19th April: Field Hut

Helen Peek

On a stunningly clear and sunny Sunday five of us left Palmerston North in the Swalemobile headed for Otaki Forks with our destination of a day trip to Field Hut. The day stayed not only stunningly clear and sunny but got really hot as well. After we leisurely negotiated the first part of the trip out in the open stopping to practice some navigation skills, remove layers of clothing, and soak-up the atmosphere we were pleased to enter the cool of the bush. The track was quite busy with other people and after further stops for chats we enjoyed lunching on the hut deck while



taking in the views that went way out to sea. Due to “technical” difficulties we have no photos. It was a very pleasant way to spend a sunny Sunday day and was enjoyed by Linda Campbell, Carolyn Nixon, Tim Swale, Alla Seleznyova, and Helen Peek.

18-19th April: Lake Dive

Nicola Wallace

On a solidly raining morning Mark picked us all up from Kathy’s, and just after 8am we were heading to Taranaki. Soon after Wanganui the sun emerged temporarily, but the clouds were very black in the region of our destination. We turned off the main road at Eltham, went through the sleepy heritage town of Kaponga, and arrived at the Dawson Falls carpark just after 11am. There was very light drizzle, and I decided to do without the hassle of my pack cover. We met some trampers as we got changed outside the visitor centre, and they had stayed the night before in Lake Dive Hut, on their last night of their “Round the Mountain”.

As the forecast was for better weather on Sunday, the plan was to walk to Lake Dive Hut via the lower track, and hopefully, if the forecast was right, return the next day via the upper track. Soon after we set off, the sun came out briefly, making me feel excited, and I wondered if we should do the upper track first, but luckily the others talked me out of that idea. In a few minutes the clouds returned.

About 15 mins from the start, we left the main Fanthams Peak track, and started on the lower track. Initially it was quite overgrown, and there were a few stream crossings. There was also the odd bit of snow lying around. We took a little side trip up to Hasties Hill, and got a fantastic view of the mountain, the only view of it we’d get all day, as it turned out. By the extreme overgrownness of the Hasties track, it looked as if no one had been up there for years. The lower track gradually opened out and I must say, all the wooden steps, (downhill, mostly), were all in very good condition. Most of them were netting covered, which was a good thing, as the whole place was very wet, and anything wooden was very slippery.



Stunning reflection of Taranaki in Lake Dive *Nicola Wallace*

About 1 km before the hut, the track flattened out, and soon after that, the rain started. We were at the stage of “the hut should be around the next corner or two” , but it was coats on, and about 5 minutes after that, the dunny came into view (often the first sign that you’ve reached a hut), and then the unoccupied hut. The hut was still warm inside from last night’s occupants, making for a nice welcome for 4 slightly wet trampers.

Lake Dive Hut is a serviced hut, and certainly no dive. It has a great woodstove, wood and coal supplied, an inside sink, and even cupboards so you can safely store your food. Plus it’s roomy.

With the drizzle continuing, Kathy & I went for a lakeside walk, and got a look at Lake Dive. We took

a few photos and hoped for an improvement in the weather tomorrow. As night started arriving, we got a fire going by a team effort, and by tea time the hut was feeling very cosy.

It was off to bed at around 9am. Because there was a little bit of snoring, I moved out to the kitchen, accidentally kicking over the ash bucket (which made a huge clang), as I dragged mattress and sleeping bag to my chosen spot. Sometime during the night, I went outside expecting it to be wet and drizzly, and was amazed to find a completely clear sky, spangled with stars, and the ghostly white-streaked mountain, which looked very close indeed.



Sunday dawned as a beautiful day, still clear, and before we left, Kathy and I got some better photos of Lake Dive – with the mountain reflected in the lake. Then it was goodbye to the hut as we headed up the upper track.

About 25 minutes later we emerged from the bush, to be confronted with the most amazing views, which just got better as we climbed higher. We stopped for a break at the Brames Falls track turnoff. It was still completely clear, with mist visible out at sea, that seemed to be staying there. It was the first time I'd ever had a view from above of the Beehives (those curious mounds), the lake and hut. Several towns were in sight: Hawera and Opunake among them, the smoke down below indicating a very light Easterly wind.

From here we took the sidle track, which took us up and down (but mostly up) through the tussock, and through some small snow drifts. Then we reached the trip's highest point, approx. 1500m, at the turnoff onto the Fanthams Peak track. We met a group of 4 blokes here, who were heading to Lake Dive. They asked "Did you see the big thunderstorm here yesterday morning, between 8 and 10?" No, we were still on the way here.

Cloud was coming in now, and the top of Mt Taranaki was obscured. We scurried off down the hundreds of wooden steps. It was a warm day anyway, but as I got lower, I found myself getting very warm. We had our last break at the Hooker Shelter, where we encountered lots of people heading up on day walks. The mountain had cleared again.



Heading down the Mountain

Nicola Wallace

It didn't seem to take long to get back to Dawson Falls, although maybe I was going too fast, as I slipped on one of the wet wooden steps in the bush. Once back at the car, Kathy and I paid a quick visit to the power station.

Lunch was had on the way home, at a wonderful café in Hawera. Many thanks to everyone for their good company, and to Mark for all the driving. We were: Mark Learmonth (trip leader), Kathy Corner, Raj Palanisamy and Nicola Wallace.

Wednesday 22nd April: The Te Mara and the Cow Creek / Blue Range Hut track Loop and Mikimiki for some.

Reporters Russell and Bob Hodgson

After a 7.30am start in PN a large group of Wednesday trampers started walking at 8.45am with a morning tea stop at about 10am at 500m at the Mikimiki track seat.

Two groups then formed and diverged.

Fifteen trampers did the loop section, a mild bushbash along a pre-existing but somewhat overgrown track up a spur. It looked as if quite a few parties may have used this track since the last time we were on it. Various levels of skill at track-finding were exhibited along the way but the whole party found its way to the Te Mara summit, at 1104m, for a pleasant lunch-time stop. While views from the summit were limited by surrounding vegetation, the



Misty Forest

Maureen Naylor



general impression was of being up in the clouds or possibly above them. A steepish descent to the Cow Creek / Blue Range Hut track followed and from there an easy homeward walk past a line of majestic sequoias.

A slightly smaller group chose to tramp the Kiriwhakapapa Road to Mikimiki Road track, a tramp that makes up in length (16.4km return) what it lacked in height gain (228m twice). Six went all the way to the Mikimiki Road end while others turned back before it. All enjoyed the lush green of the tree ferns and bush restored after the recent heavy rain. The stream was low and unthreatening.

All were safely out by 3.15pm and it was a lively group than descended on the Mt Bruce Cafe. A feature of our visit was Marion putting the sticker on "our" Hectare, a designated area of the reserve in which the Wednesday trampers have paid for vermin control.

Thanks to trip leader and van driver Chris, to our other drivers and to Maureen for the photos.

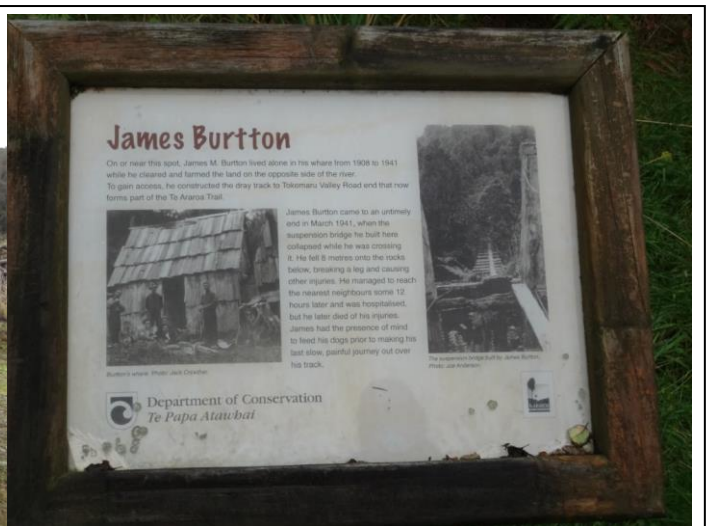
Wednesday 29th April: Tokomaru Valley Road Burtons Track Tramp

Bob Hodgson

On the 29th of April 30 Wednesday trampers assembled by 9.15am at the Tokomaru car park on a day that promised indifferent weather. The upper reaches of the road were in poor condition having been scoured by the recent heavy rains. The track sidles the river and although there are few open views along the valley, this is an especially attractive track with the bush well in recovery from the dry summer. Once under way a number of groups formed,



Keen and eager to go



Information Board

Maureen Naylor

the fast group traveling about a half hour further than the others. They were rewarded for their diligence by having to make multiple extra river crossings. The river was flowing clear at about knee level for many. Most groups made it to the second clearing. The track was muddy and slippery in places but apart from a few muddy bums, all emerged safely by 3pm with a cleansing rain shower, thankfully the first of the day. A lively indoor gathering for coffee at the Plum Duff cafe in Shannon and a drive through showers completed what was a most satisfying day. Thanks to trip leader Coralie and our gallant drivers.

Thursday 30th April: Kapakapanui

Hugh Wilde

Fourteen of us made the trip. It was raining in Palmerston North when we left, as it had been on and off for the past few days, but soon we could see a cloudless sky to the south with a good clear view of Kapakapanui from the road once we were much closer to Otaki. This trip used to take us 8 hours, including travel, a number of years ago but now the hills seem a little steeper and it takes a bit longer to finish the trip.



We walked the track anticlockwise, visiting the top first to enjoy the views whilst having lunch. We could see Wellington quite clearly as well as the South Island, and almost the whole of the main range of the Tararuas to the east. Brilliant, as more often than not on this trip our view is of the inside of a cloud. There had been a cold wind above 800m necessitating the wearing of windproofs, but the wind dropped around midday. No gliders today



Goblin Forest

Craig Ross

Brilliant views

Richard Ellis

though. Probably too cold as the only thermals were what we were wearing. We headed down after lunch, first visiting the geocache near the top, then on to the hut where there was a friendly hunter and his dog in residence, and on down to the road end. All up we spent about six and a half hours on the track including stops, arriving back in town around six pm.

Wednesday 6th May: Maharahara

Bob Hodgson

At about 9am on 6th of May 13 Wednesday Trampers assembled at Opawe Road car park to follow the poled farm track into the Ruahine Forest Park. A number of minor injuries, a dose of flu, a medical alert and the circulation of the tramp profile from February 2013, all conspired to reduce numbers from the 30 of the previous week. This tramp involves the ascent and decent of seriously steep sections, for example round the 620m contour, 153m of height gain in 360m as well as an overall height gain of more than 800m+ up to the top. For the record, 12 members of the party made it to the 1032m viewpoint by noon and all were safely back at the cars by around 3pm. This tramp took place on a beautiful late autumn day with temperatures up to 21°C and rewarded us all with spectacular views



Blue Sky day

At the view point

Maureen Naylor



up and down and across the ranges. The one member of the party who did not make it to the top celebrated his 87th birthday on May 3rd: he went up 500m before he turned but thought nothing of it! For most it was a Goldilocks Tramp, not too fast, not too slow, not too short and not too long. There was something of a debate about the steepness entry for Goldilocks status and a consensus that once every two years was just about right. Coffee and heroic tales were enjoyed at the Herb farm Cafe. Thanks to trip leader Bob, drivers Bob, Robert, Bernard and Marion.

9-10th May: Herepai Hut

Tim Swale

After a week of less than wonderful weather it was pleasing to see fine weather on the Saturday morning as we set off for Putara Road end near Eketahuna. The Horizons river level graph at Larsens Road had peaked a couple of days before and was almost back to normal, so we felt that our off track route which entails half a kilometre of travel in the headwaters of the Mangatainoka River would be ok. This trip with a little bit of navigational challenge was chosen to support three students from Tararua College who were on a practice tramp for their Duke of Edinburgh's Award expedition. So the three boys, plus Ken, Mary and myself set off to find the start of the route up to 655m just a couple of hundred meters past the first swing-bridge. We were quite surprised to find that a substantial slip had cut across the track just before our turn-off, spewing tons of rock and smashed trees into the Mangatainoka River. Fortunately it was easy to cross and we were soon heading straight up hill on a compass bearing.

We had our lunch on the flat top of the hill at 655m before following a faint hunters trail to the river flats near Ruapae Falls. This makes a great camping spot but we were keen to keep moving on towards Herepai hut for the night as the wind was increasing and a bit of drizzle was starting to make things damp. After a short time in the creek we scrambled up a steep side creek to find the bottom of the old Bottles Track. A bit of track renovation with saw and secateurs was undertaken until we finally popped out on the main track up to Herepai. The boys were greatly relieved to finally reach the hut, drop their heavy packs and get the fire going. A good meal, an hour or so of playing cards and word games and it was off to bed. The hut shuddered throughout the night as a north-west gale hammered the ridge. We were glad we were not camping.



New slip across the track

Off track route

Tim Swale

As we had breakfast the next morning the rain was still driving onto the veranda, so the idea of walk up the hill to get some better views was abandoned in favour of heading out by the quickest route. However, minutes after leaving the hut, the rain stopped, rain-jackets were stowed away and we had a pleasant if slightly muddy walk back to the road end. A big thank you to Ken and Mary for accompanying us on this trip and helping the boys to prepare for their qualifying tramp.



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 stocked with food. Members and their guests are welcome. For Lodge bookings email Liz and Hugh Wilde lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz alternatively phone (06) 356 9450. To confirm your booking, payment must be made in advance by cheque to 179 Cook St Palmerston North 4410, by cash in person or internet payment Westpac account number 03 1521 022035300 (please email to confirm).

	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
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