

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 Tuesday of the month, Rose City Aquatic Club Rooms, 50 Park Road, Palmerston North

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.



Tuesday 3rd August: MTSC Photo Competition

- be WOWed and INSPIRED by an evening of exceptional outdoor photography

Categories: **1. NZ Landscapes**, no people; **2. NZ Above Bushline**, predominantly alpine scenery (rock, snow, tussock, etc), may include people; **3. NZ Below Bushline**, predominantly bush/scrub (lowland to sub-alpine areas), may include people; **4. NZ Natural History**, NZ flora, fauna or detail (geology, ice formations, etc); **5. NZ Topical**, people or detail related to tramping, climbing, skiing, hut and camp life, etc. in NZ; **6. Overseas**, photos taken overseas.

Entries need to be submitted by Saturday the 1st of August to Howard at photocomp@mtsc.org.nz or by prior arrangement with Howard can be delivered via Dropbox or OneDrive. Unless you notify us otherwise by entering this competition you grant MTSC the right to: use submitted images for MTSC publicity purposes; submit your entries into the local Interclub competition; submit your entries into the Federated Mountain Clubs photo competition.

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

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



ISSUE 6: July 2015



MTSC President: John Beech

president@mtsc.org.nz

Greetings fellow club members. I realise that most of you will know very little about me as I have not been very regular with club tramps. However, as I will explain this does not reflect a lack of getting out into our beloved backcountry.

I have spent the last 40 odd years tramping the hills on and off, depending on lifestyle and where we happened to live at the time. My early years were with the club from 1974 to about 1980. After that family commitments and living in the South Island saw less tramping. To cut a long story short I have been back with the club since 2003 but have been on only a few trips. As a secondary school teacher at Feilding Ag however, I spend a considerable portion of my tramping time in the hills with students or, in some cases, ex-students who continue to tramp. Trips that span the length of major tramping areas of the country have been carried out including Stewart Island, Nelson Lakes, Whirinaki, Tongariro and, of course our local haunts of the Kaweka, Ruahine and Tararua ranges. One of my annual trips is to do the Abel Tasman track with our year 10 students. It is a place I never tire of tramping and the experience that the students gain is very rewarding.

Skiing proved to be an enjoyable past time when I was a lot younger and I spent a number of days on both sides of the mountain. However, like other activities such as hunting and playing volleyball, it has been relegated to the memory as my job and tramping take priority.

I also have a passion for our local huts in the Ruahine and Tararua ranges and have a management agreement with DOC for the maintenance of Gold Creek hut in the Northern Ruahines. This is a work in progress.

I look forward to seeing you all on a more frequent basis and hope to hear of your jaunts into the bush or up the mountain.



MTSC Chief Guide: Ken Mercer

chief.guide@mtsc.org.nz

It was good to see part of the Wednesday group overnighiting at Daphne hut. Unfortunately getting trapped by the rising Tukituki river was always a possibility and their one night stay became two. Of course they had extra food and apparently enjoyed the extra day, even honing their bushcraft skills.

However, even with PLBs, there is always a little uncertainty as to whether an overdue group are OK. One of the functions of the trip list is so the next of kin can be kept informed and reassured by someone and there are contact numbers on the tripcard, including mine, for that purpose.

The trip list doesn't always get emailed to intentions@mtsc.org.nz and it wasn't on this occasion so I was in the dark when I fielded the first phone call Thursday evening. It wasn't a big deal and we soon established the situation but there was another slip up on Friday when the "we're coming out" message, phoned from the top of the ridge, wasn't forwarded on to everyone.

So, following several discussions, these are a couple of thoughts for moving forward: If possible please email the trip list, or a photo of it, to intentions@mtsc.org.nz, so multiple people can access it. Mobile numbers are often more useful than landlines in the middle of the day. To complicate things your partner's number should be on the (or a) list too.

Most importantly, enjoy!

NOTICES and INFORMATION

AGM Awards



Most Spirited Trampler

Bob Hodgson

Gregory Fischer Award

Jill Faulkner

Beach Leaf Award (for service to the club)

Rob Pringle





2015/2016 Club Positions as elected or appointed at the 2015 AGM

Elected Position	Person
President	John Beech
Secretary	Tim Swale
Treasurer	Arthur Flint
Newsletter editor	Jean Garman
Membership secretary	Robert Belmont
Lodge manager	John Lyttle
Minibus manager	Ken Mercer
Chief guide	Ken Mercer
General committee	Bev Akers
General committee	Rob Pringle
General committee	Howard Nicholson
General committee	Bob Hodgson
Appointed Position	Person
Day trip convenor	Bev Akers
Lodge booking officers	Liz and Hugh Wilde
Newsletter distributions	Bev Akers and Gary Bevins
Gear Custodian	Peter Rawlins
Archivist	Brian Webster
Honorary financial reviewer	TBA
Website administration	Howard Nicholson
Publicity	Vacant
Tararua / Aorangi / Rimutaka Huts	Jean Garman
Assistant newsletter editors	Doug McNeur, Jenny McCarthy
Facebook administration	Wei Hang Chua, Howard Nicholson, Ivan Rienks
Minibus Custodian	Ken and Mary Mercer
Ski captain	Howard Nicholson
Social Convenor	Bob Hodgson

We welcome Simon Thorpe, Rodney and Leeza Boyce and family (Feilding), Dave and Kath Larsen (Tokamaru) to the club.



Crossing the Tukituki River before and after the rain.
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If you think you should be receiving this newsletter by email but aren't please send you email address to editor@mtsc.org.nz

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.

July Wednesday Tramps		
Date	Leader	Phone
1	Margaret Foote	357 8003
8	Marion Beadle	323 3246
15	Chris Teo-Sherrell	355 1816
22	Maurice McDonald	357 5522
29	Robert Bruce	329 7858



Autumn is a great season for fungi

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.

July Thursday Tramps		
Date	Leader	Phone
2	Craig Ross	355 3445
9	Richard Ellis	357 6410
16	Nigel & Jill Spencer	329 8738
23	Christine Scott	354 0510
30	Royce Mills	355 8556

An on-line copy of the winter trip card can be found here <http://www.mtsc.org.nz/trips.php>

July Weekend Trips				
Date	Trip	Grade	Leader	Phone
4-5	Beginner's Ski Weekend	All	Ken Mercer	06 3567497
11-12	Neill Forks Hut	Med/Fit	Dave Mitchell	06 3292803
11-12	Orongoronga Valley	Easy/Med	Linda Campbell	027 3334493
18-19	A weekend in the snow	All	Robin Lane	021 11058580
19	Pinnacle ridge loop	Med/Fit	Adam Matich	022 3588062

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



4-5th July: Beginners Ski Weekend **All** **Ken Mercer** **3567497 or 027 3646475**

This is a good opportunity for budding skiers to get together, enjoy company at the lodge, and learn how to handle long slippery feet. Lesson 1 for absolute beginners: borrow an old set of skis and shuffle around your lawn. Don't be put off by the name – boarders are welcome too. Please book in early and I'll do what I can to coordinate transport.

11-12th July: Neill Forks hut **Medium/Fit** **Dave Mitchell** **3292803**

The plan is to drive to the Walls Whare road end and head up to Cone saddle. Then head along Cone Ridge and drop down to Neill Forks Hut. It should take about 6 hours going in and we could try coming out via Neill ridge on Sunday. It's going to be cold and maybe it will snow so hopefully we will have the hut to ourselves. Being a popular destination in the Tararuas we will take tents and flies just in case. So if you're looking for a weekend trip that's not too difficult give me a call.

11-12th July: Orongorongo Valley, Rimutaka FP **Easy/Medium** **Linda Campbell** **3233836 or 027 3334493**

We will leave early on Saturday morning and travel to Wainuiomata, then South along the coast road for about 10km to the Catchpool Visitors Centre. From there we will take the popular Orongorongo Track up to Paua Hut which is maintained by the Wellington Tramping and Mountaineering Club. Where we go from there depends on the weather but possibilities are Mt Matthews, Mt McKerrow and the Whakanui loop.

18-19th July: Snow weekend **All** **Robin Lane** **021 11058580**

This is an opportunity for anyone wanting to try out skiing or boarding to come up and get help from experienced skiers and boarders and be initiated into the mysteries of this wonderful pastime. Also space for those experienced ones to do the helping - families welcome. Enjoy the new fully wooden-stepped track into the lodge. Book places in the lodge through Hugh and Liz Wilde.

19th July: Pinnacle Ridge Loop **Medium/Fit** **Adam Matich** **022 3588062**

Someone has been doing track-work and marking in this region, so the Pinnacle Ridge route is quite straight forward. Pinnacle (877m) is accessed from Holdsworth car park by veering right a little before the bridge across the Atiwhakatu River and following the track up the TR for 20-30 min before the climb proper. It takes a bit over an hour to reach Pinnacle, which is open topped, then one heads northerly to pt 862 (where an eye on the compass is needed to avoid heading off on a NE spur to point 800), and then westerly to pt 846 which drops one onto Pinnacle Ridge proper. It should take around 4 hours (all up) to reach the very northern end of the ridge where we land on the DOC track that leads us all the way back down the Atiwhakatu valley. This should be a full 8-hour day.

TRIP REPORTS

Wednesday 13th May: Whareroa Farm Park & Orange Hut *Bob Hodgson*

On a day that promised showers later, then rain, 28 Wednesday trampers assembled at the park entrance for a 9.30am start in mild, overcast conditions. About half of the group set off at a sparkling pace intent on reaching the Orange Hut, this goal was achieved by most of this group by noon. When we arrived we found a friendly team of 4WD Club members at work adding a barbeque area based on a large concrete pad. The Orange Hut is used by 4WD, trail and mountain bikers as well as trampers. Like many multi-use huts it has a chequered history; an original forestry hut fell into decline, was replaced then burned down to be replaced by the current substantial and fire proof concrete block structure. The tramp to and from the hut was measured at slightly over 20km with a total climb of 534m and required the crossing of several substantial streams that 24 hours later would have become dangerous.



Happy trampers in the rain



Staunch trampers in the rain

Richard

With the reservoir being so full, the amount of water cascading over the top of the dam was truly spectacular. Luckily the rain had eased, but was bucketing down again by the time we arrived at Shannon for a welcome coffee stop. We all agreed to revisit the track again but on a nice sunny summers day.

Thanks to Hugh for negotiating the van, over what must be one of the worst roads in The Horowhenua.

16th – 17th May: ~~Mid-Waihine Loop~~ Arete Forks

Jean Garman

My planned trip to Mid-Waihine involved crossing the tops and potentially a little river wading but the weather forecast didn't play ball so the plan was changed to Arete Forks hut which, while in the middle of the Tararua Forest Park, has a good weather safe track (no unbridged rivers, no open tops) to reach it and other route options if the weather is kind enough. Turned out the weather wasn't too bad after all, but better safe than sorry.



Crossing the river and climbing the spur towards the Waingawa high point.

Jean

With a drizzly wet forecast that was supposed to improve somewhat by Sunday, we set off bright and early from the Kiriwhakapapa road end. It actually wasn't too bad and we skipped along the track up and over the range to Cow Creek hut for lunch. The next section was the Arete Forks sidle track which has a fearsome reputation but we knew it had been recut and marked in the last couple of years so at least shouldn't be too hard to follow. The start of the sidle track is a long steep climb before the multiple undulations of the sidle begin. The sidle part is very up and down and at times quite steep and narrow. Jenny took an impressive dive off the side of the track at one stage but luckily came to a halt only a few body lengths below. While the track was indeed easy to follow, all in all it is not overly pleasant. On arrival, Arete Forks hut was looking positively spiffing in a fresh coat of bright orange paint, with lovely views up the valley and a good supply of firewood. We had a nice fire and a good read of the hut literature before retiring for the night. We hadn't had much rain, the river wasn't up, it wasn't windy and there were the odd break in the clouds so we opted for a more adventurous route to head out on Sunday. First removing our boots to cross the



river, then heading up the spur towards the Waingawa high point. This is a permolat marked route which is sufficiently cut through the leatherwood to make it not unpleasant. As we got above the trees we were treated to views of cloud shrouded hills and valleys before the cloud coalesced and we could not see anything. Once up on the Bannister ridge we headed down to Cow Saddle for lunch. From here we followed the old (no longer maintained and marginally marked) track round to the Blue Range - Cow Creek track then back to the car. We were Dave Mitchell, Jenny McCarthy, Adam Matich and Jean Garman

Wednesday 20th March: Hihitahi Forest Sanctuary

Bob Hodgson



Out of the sun and into the frost

Marion

A party of 18 assembled at the Sanctuary car park (760m) for a 9.15am start. It was a clear, cool day; the mountain was a magnificent site as it glistened, icing sugar white, in the sun. Sadly as the day progressed the clouds came down and the mountain was lost from view. The one-at-a-time swing bridge acted as a dispersion filter and we were soon strung out in procession across the farmland. Once over the fence into the sanctuary proper we were met by the challenge of the boggy section now sadly diminished from its legendary state of three years ago. The next challenge was the steep section that in one place, has a 52m rise in 100m, here a dog-leg detour misled a group

of about 10 into some bush bashing. By 11.30am all of the party had achieved the trig point (1111m) but were denied grand views by the lowered clouds. One of the party choose to have a leisurely lunch and turned at the trig, the rest of the party made progress towards the hut with 11 achieving it before turning.

All were safely out by about 3pm; there were few un-muddied bums and on the way out, at least two trampers, including the reporter, managed a brief sit-in-the-bog. Later discussion at Le Cafe Telephonic in Taihape revealed that, for its variety, this tramp is highly ranked by many of us. Thanks to Ian for leading the tramp and doing some track work, thanks to Dennis for a lot of track maintenance with his saw, and to our drivers, especially Evan for driving the van.



Approaching the hut

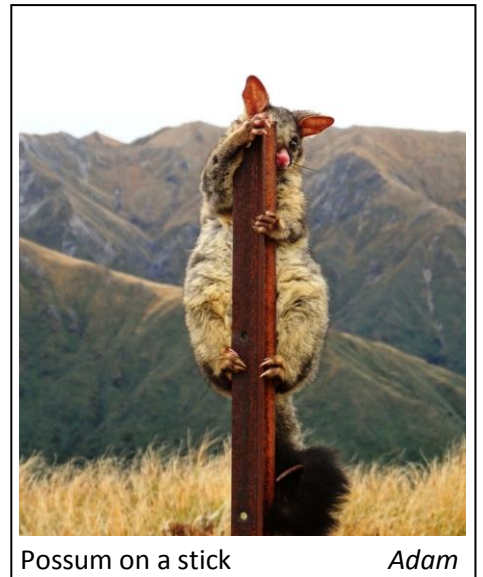
Marion

23rd May: Deadman's-Rangiwahia Loop

Adam Matich

There was minimal interest in Jenny's Holly-Pouakai Loop, so we decided to do something closer to home. Even though it was cold (5°C) on the climb up the Deadman's Track, there was no wind. Up on Mangahuia Peak we

encountered a possum clinging to a waratah. At first we wondered if it was dead, but it had been "playing possum" and scampered away when we got too close. There was a very light dusting of snow on the southern face of Mangahuaia and we could see snow in one or two gullies on the other side of the range. An hour's ramble saw us down at Rangiwahia Hut for lunch. The hut was warm as the residents had lit the fire before heading off on their day trip to Triangle Hut. Rangi Hut had a good supply of firewood and more kindling than you could shake a stick at. With proper heating (finally) and the bridle-track up to Rangi Hut, it is now a more desirable winter destination and is accessible to even non-trampers. Despite the track down being somewhat longer than in pre-slip days, the quality of it allowed us to steam back down to the car in an hour (4½ hour day) which gave us plenty of time for afternoon tea in Kimbolton. We were Jenny McCarthy and Adam Matich



Possum on a stick

Adam

23rd-24th May: Irongate Hut

Tim Swale

The trip to Irongate Hut was planned to support a group of five students from Tararua College who were keen to complete the Adventurous Journey section of their Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award. They had previously attended a MTSC Bushcraft course and completed a practice expedition with the Club so were now ready to undertake their final tramp.

The Metservice forecast for the weekend was reasonable: no rain forecast for Saturday with the possibility of some light showers around mid-day Sunday, by which time we would be just about out anyway. Janet Wilson (PNTMC) who runs the Blue duck protection programme in the Oroua Valley had forewarned us that there were two people heading to Irongate Hut for the night. We therefore made sure we had tents as well, since ten people in a seven bunk hut was going to be cosy. Starting from the Peterson's Road car park we headed downhill briskly; glad to get down into the bush and away from the chill wind. Linda, Ken and I were shadow party for the kids so we were keen to let them go on ahead and make their own decisions, apart from the crossing of Tunupo Creek which we were keen to check ourselves first. We caught up with the boys at Alice Nash Memorial Heritage Lodge where they had stopped for morning tea. After a short break we continued with the many ups and downs of the riverside route.



Ready to leave the hut

Tim

In many places the track is quite narrow with some impressive drops down to the river below. Coming round a corner on a particularly skinny bit of track, we heard screaming from up ahead. It was a heart stopping moment as I imagined one of my charges having taken a tumble off the track and smashing onto the rocks below. It took a few moments before we realised the kids were being attacked by wasps. A couple of the boys had been stung several times and were clearly shaken. Once away from the nest, things calmed down and we searched for a way round the nest site. At Tunupo Creek the water was only ankle deep so crossing was no problem. We also dropped off about four dozen eggs that we had been carrying to help the trap-line re-baiters. At this stage we were

overtaken by another group of four, it was going to be a crowded hut, with fourteen people that we knew of. The



next hazard was the mud; deep, sticky and smelly stuff that the boys managed to avoid but Linda went in up to her knees. She was stuck. Really stuck! Fortunately, Ken was with her and together, with some effort she was eventually freed. As the afternoon wore on the sky darkened, eventually turning to rain before we got to the hut.

The five boys managed to squeeze onto the top three person bunk at Irongate while Linda, Ken and I set about organising shelter outside. Not a very pleasant evening as the rain got heavier and a cold wind was blowing up the valley. We cooked outside as there was little room in the hut. About 7.30pm I checked that the boys were behaving themselves; they were having a great time playing cards so we left them to it and retreated to our sleeping bags. It rained steadily through the night and thoughts of being trapped by Tunupo Creek crossed my mind. The roar of rushing water in the Oroua river did nothing to dispel that concern.

By morning the river was noticeably higher with a distinct colour to it. We packed up and were away a bit before 9am with fingers crossed that we could ford the creek. Fortunately the water was no more than knee deep, so after giving the boys a refresher on how to link up for a river crossing, we waded through the icy water and got safely to the other side. Soon we were pulling on the rain-jackets to protect us from being pelted by hailstones. Fortunately it did not last long but looking back towards the hills the tops were covered in snow. No wonder it had been so chilly during the night. Surprisingly, as we got to Heritage Lodge, the sun came out and we had a very pleasant lunch break before climbing back up to the car park.



Crossing Tunapo stream

Tim

Despite the trip turning into a bit of a mission, we were impressed by the kid's resilience and the way they looked after each other. They found it tough, but were proud of their achievements and I suspect will remember it for many years to come. From my point of view it is very satisfying that our club has brought on these kids from knowing nothing about tramping to being at a stage where they can now undertake simple on-track adventures safely by themselves.

Wednesday 27th May: Waiopehu & 6 Discs

Bob Hodgson

26 Wednesday Wilderness Wanderers gathered at the Poas Road entrance to the Tararua Forest Park for an 8.55am start. It was a fine but brisk winter's morning but with less frost in evidence than around Palmerston North. At our trip leaders briefing three groups were identified; one to walk in as far as time allowed on the track to Waiopehu Hut, one to walk the 6 Discs loop with a bit along the ridge track from the junction as time allowed and a third group of three to walk in and out on the Ohau River track. The tracks were found to be drier than expected. There was a strong consensus in the party of ten that the 6 Discs track is best tackled going up from the Ohau River track rather than visa-versa as going down it under wet conditions was an unpleasant memory for many of us.

The Hut proved to be beyond the day reach of even the fleetest of the Waiopehu track trampers, Dennis made it to about Bush Corner, and so



Descending

Maureen



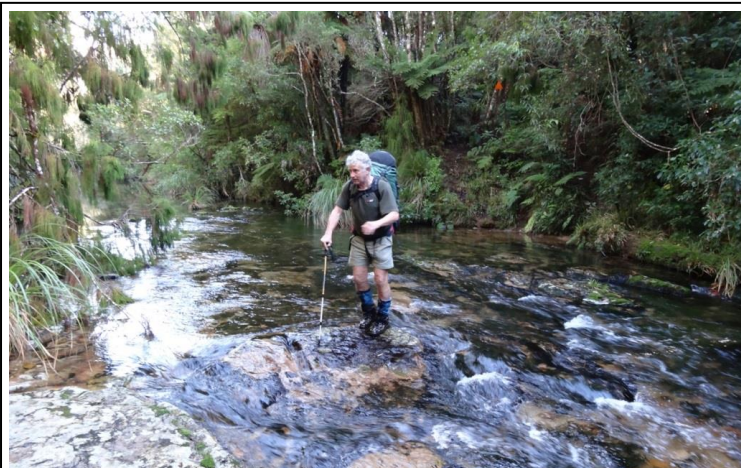
eleven turned and lunched at about noon at the top of a steep track descent beyond the old Edwards Shelter. It is thought that with an early start in summer, the new Waiopahu hut would be in reach. On the return, the Hut and the Disc groups converged. All were safely out before 3.30pm and it was a jovial and well exercised group that enjoyed afternoon refreshments at the Murryfield cafe.

Thanks to trip leader Russell and our drivers especially Evan who drove the club minibus.

30th–31st May: South Kaimais

Adam Matich

Two of us went to the southern Kaimais (west of Tauranga) on Queen's Birthday weekend; probably the only members of MTSC to visit the range in a decade, if not longer. This is an almost completely forested section of the park, and so one really doesn't have to worry about getting wind-blown. Not that we got to enjoy either wind or rain! The terrain is also rather gentle so not much effort is required to get from here to there. We headed south from Whakamarama Road, on the Leyland O'Brien Tramway Track, which needless-to-say was easy travel. In this section of the range a lot of the tracks are on the old logging tramways. None of the water courses are bridged, but the nature of them makes the crossings easy. Most rivers and streams in this part of the range are solid rock; no sand, silt, shingle, or rubble. One walks across a solid sheet of rock, sometimes in only an inch of water. Our first crossing was the Ngamuwahine River, which is a bit deeper and the rock a little eroded, but with the low flows it was possible to rock-hop across.



Mark rock hopping across the Ngamuwahine River. *Adam*

Two hours travel saw us at the O'Brien/North-South Track Intersection and we headed south to Hurunui Hut on a track not marked on the map. The track junctions in this part of the park are copiously sign-posted and the tracks are well marked. The DOC website, however, gives limited information and a lot of the tracks are not mentioned in detail, or at all! Hurunui Hut is a tidy 4-bunker renovated by the NZDA. After lunch we headed north along the N-S Track to Mangamuka Hut (4-bunk, NZDA refurbished), the last 200m section is muddy and unkempt, requiring careful footwork on the punga logs to avoid drowning in

the mud, a 6½ hour day. The Topomap does not show all the tracks around the hut but they are on the DOC website, well-marked and their intersections sign-posted.

The next morning we headed an easy hour north to the Te Tuhi Track, then 30 min east back to the N-S track. Travel north to the top of Wairere Falls was on good quality tramping tracks with lots of sheet-rock stream crossings. The approach to the falls is alongside the picturesque Wairere Steam. Wairere Falls is a 153m multi-step waterfall (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/bay-of-plenty/places/kaimai-mamaku-forest-park/things-to-do/tracks/wairere-falls-track/>). It is easy to cross the Wairere Stream just below the top cascade to approach the main falls from the other side, and perch on the edge of the falls to enjoy (or not) the feeling of vertigo when looking down the drop. We encountered quite a lot of day-trippers at and around the viewing platform.

After lunch at the falls we headed west on the Wairere Track which is a little rough; it appears to be a non-maintained track that is newly remarked. An hour east from the N-S track we landed on a logging road at a point quite a bit before the map suggests it should be a logging road. Over 1km later we hit another intersection and headed SE on a better quality logging track. The intersection to head to the Ngamarama Track was sign-posted, which was comforting, and we steamed our way up its gentle gradient. There was a blip 2/3 of the way along this

section as we encountered a cross-road that is not on the Topomap. Our GPS told us to keep heading SSW and eventually, around 4pm we dropped onto the Ngamarama Track, the last 200m of the logging track having been a bit overgrown. We then headed east, back towards the car. The track was a bit untidy; it had the look of another non-maintained track, but had recently been re-marked by DOC so was easy enough to follow. By now it was getting very dim in the forest and we were slightly relieved to emerge from the dimness at around 5.15pm before it was fully dark, 9¼ hour day. We were Mark Learmonth and Adam Matich.



Wairere Stream



Top of Wairere Falls

Adam

Wednesday 3rd June: Daphne Hut Track Day Tramp

Russell Poole

Fourteen trampers opted for the day trip and, lightly equipped with day packs in contrast to the heavy gear of their overnight colleagues, headed up the hill in the direction of the Daphne Hut. The main party ate their lunch at the top, just before the steep descent to the hut. With perceptibly cooling and dampening weather, the decision was made not to continue to the hut. On the way back a few trampers did a brief inspection of the open tussocklands to the south of the junction of the Daphne and Longview tracks, with ideas of a future summer loop trip taking in Longview. Also attempted by a few at the end of the trip was the direct ascent from the car park to the approach road ("not recommended").

Longtime members of MTSC recalled the lower foothills in this area being farmed in the 70s but the land has now started to revert to bush and the sheep are fewer and further between. Extensive logging has taken place on the forestry lands above the road to Longview. A remaining mystery was unmistakable "sign" of cattle along the track at a high point near the junction. Everyone was back at the van by around 3pm and coffee was enjoyed at the Dannevirke BP station. Thanks to Evan for expert manoeuvring of the van and to Bev for organising both this and the overnight trip.



Lightly laden day trippers

Maureen

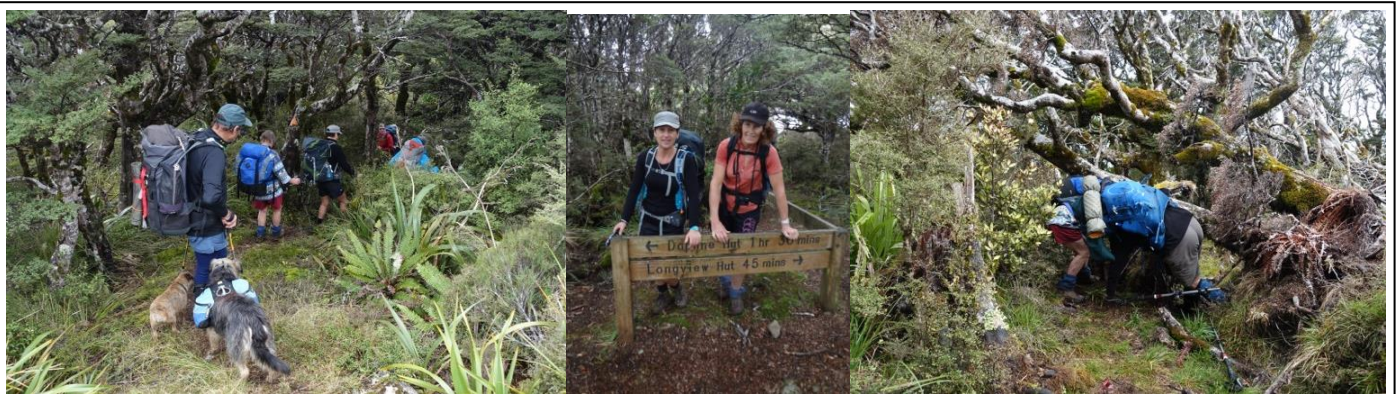
3rd – 4th June: Wednesday Wilderness Walkers-Daphne Hut Overnight Tramp

Bob Hodgson

At about 9.15am seven well equipped trampers set off for the Daphne Hut intent on an overnight stay. About 1km along the track, at the start of the 500m climb, they were passed by the day trampers who they were to meet later



at about 12.45pm on their return journey. In the region of the crossover there was an area on the ridge where the track became an obstacle course because of numerous wind thrown trees. This is an attractive track with a wide range of bush including areas of beech forest. As the tramp wore on the day deteriorated from cool but pleasant to damp and overcast with little wind. The steepest part of the descent, a fall of 175m in 490m brought us to the river at about 2.20pm. The next part of the tramp to the hut required us to follow the river as it swings between steep bluffs, a total of eight river crossings in about 1km brought us to the hut and so the party arrived about 5 hours after



En-route to Daphne hut.

Pam and Maureen

our departure. The river was in moderate flow requiring care but manageable. The A frame hut was found to be clean and cosy and soon the stove was lit and the first of many brews enjoyed. Soon after our arrival it became increasingly rainy with heavy falls throughout the night.

The following morning we packed up and set out to return but an inspection of the swollen and rising river led to the wise decision to return to the hut. As the day wore on the river continued to rise and it became clear that a second night in the hut was inevitable. By this time the river had risen by about 30cm and it was found to be unsafe to even cross the river on the flats near the hut to seek high ground and phone coverage. Overnight the rain moderated to intermittent light showers and our markers confirmed that the river level was at last falling. We packed up at dawn and after a careful river inspection set out at about 8am in river levels slightly above those of our tramp in. Gary and Pam, our fleetest trampers, were sent ahead to the junction to make cell phone contact and to confirm the wellbeing of the party. This was achieved via the Spark network. We were all out and making a welcome change of clothing by 2pm and it was a contented group that later had eats and drinks at the Nibbly Pig in Woodville.

Trampers Gary, Suzanne, Margaret, Leone, Pam, Bob and trip leader Bev had a safe and memorable tramp with no evidence of Hut fever. Having been trapped on 3 of 6 visits to Daphne Hut, Bev now insists that she is over it!



Inside and outside Daphne Hut

Pam



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 or phone (06) 356 9450. To confirm your booking, payment must be made by cheque to 179 Cook St Palmerston North 4410, by cash in person or internet payment (please email to confirm before depositing) Westpac account number 03 1521 022035300.

	Members	Guests
Adult	\$35	\$50
Secondary School	\$28	\$43
Primary School	\$23	\$38
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	John Beech	president@mtsc.org.nz	06 354 9310
Secretary	Tim Swale	secretary@mtsc.org.nz	06 376 6556
Treasurer	Arthur Flint	treasurer@mtsc.org.nz	06 356 7654
Chief Guide	Ken Mercer	chief.guide@mtsc.org.nz	06 356 7497
Membership	Robert Belmont	membership@mtsc.org.nz	06 323 2495
Newsletter Editor	Jean Garman	editor@mtsc.org.nz	021 1760209
Lodge Manager	John Lyttle	lodge.manager@mtsc.org.nz	027 4336307
Mini-Bus Manager	Ken Mercer		06 356 7497

General Committee

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

Appointees

Lodge Bookings	Hugh & Liz Wilde	lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz	06 356 9450
Gear Custodian	Peter Rawlins	gear@mtsc.org.nz	06 356 7443
Ski Captain	Howard Nicholson	ski@mtsc.org.nz	06 357 6325
Social Convenor	Bob Hodgson	social@mtsc.org.nz	06 356 2915
Wednesday Trip Convenor	Bev Akers	bevakers@xtra.co.nz	06 325 8879
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