

# beechleaves

Newsletter of the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club



MAIL: MTSC, P.O. Box 245, Palmerston North 4440 | WEB: [www.mtsc.org.nz](http://www.mtsc.org.nz) | FACEBOOK <https://www.facebook.com/MTandSC>

## CLUB NIGHTS

7.30 pm, 1st Tuesday of the month, Rose City Aquatic Club Rooms, 50 Park Road, Palmerston North

### Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August: MTSC Photo Competition

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

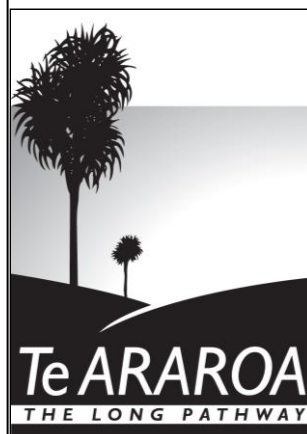
Categories: **1. NZ Landscapes**, no people; **2. NZ Above Bushline**, predominantly alpine scenery (rock, snow, tussock, etc), may include people; **3. NZ Below Bushline**, predominantly bush/scrub (lowland to sub-alpine areas), may include people; **4. NZ Natural History**, NZ flora, fauna or detail (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 1<sup>st</sup> of August to Howard at [photocomp@mtsc.org.nz](mailto: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.

### Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September: Walking the Te Araroa Trail

*Murray Faulkner*

Te Araroa is the 3000km trail stretching from Cape Reinga in the North of New Zealand to Bluff in the South. The trail was officially opened on December 3rd 2011 and now has over 300 walkers per year, mostly young foreigners but an increasing number of New Zealanders. It meanders down coastlines, through the forests, across farmlands, over volcanoes and mountain passes, along river valleys, and on green pathways through many towns and cities. It is one of the longest walking routes in the world and highlights the amazing diversity of our wonderful country. In this talk, Murray will give an account of his experiences of Te Araroa as he completed it.



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

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



**MTSC President: John Beech**

[president@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:president@mtsc.org.nz)

Well, the second week of winter is upon us and typically the weather is cold and wet. However, hopefully that hasn't put some of you off from venturing into the hills or up the mountain. The trip card has a number of trips over the next few weeks and I'm sure the mountain will have plenty of snow. I managed to miss the day of the floods by disappearing up to Gold Creek for a bit of maintenance over that weekend. Although it rained most of the weekend it was obviously not as heavy as back here. We were lucky most of our jobs were inside.

Over the last couple of weeks or so there has been the FMC AGM in Christchurch. From all accounts this was very successful with a very positive response from Lou Sanson (DOC's Director General) in regard to the role of volunteers in helping DOC with huts and track maintenance. Many clubs, various organisations and individuals are making a difference out there where it is needed. Our own work in partnership with DOC enables us to help maintain Te Matawai and Mangahao Flats huts in the Tararuas.

I am sure that most of us are more than happy to do the odd bit of track work and minor work at the huts that we pass through. So, as we pass through the back country I encourage all of us to keep up the good work over the winter months by helping out where we can. Enjoy your trips up the mountain skiing or tramping through the ranges.



**MTSC Chief Guide: Ken Mercer**

[chief.guide@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:chief.guide@mtsc.org.nz)

The van now has a blindfold! It's a bit of a trial but I've made a cover for the windscreen in an effort to win the battle with Jack Frost. It only fits one way so the top corner on the driver's side is marked. Properly used I'm a fan of hot glue which is how the aluminium hooks are attached. Anyway, flick it on at the end of a day and, hopefully, the next driver will get a clear view in the morning. With luck it can do double duty when the summer arrives, shading the inside during the day. If it works well version II will use more durable materials.

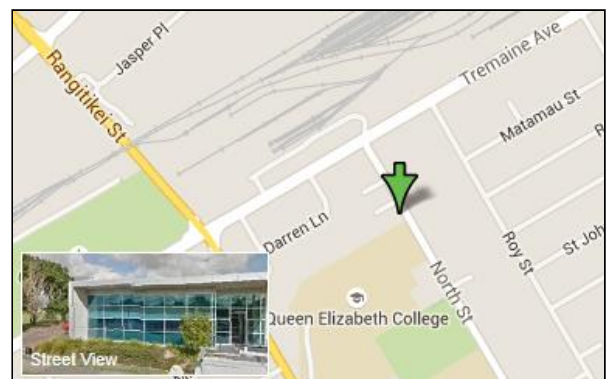
## NOTICES and INFORMATION

We welcome **Maureen Naylor** to the club.

### DOC office relocation

In case you haven't caught up with the Palmerston North DOC office's latest re-location, DOC can now be found at

**28 North Street, Palmerston North.**



### Jean Garman's notes from the Ruahine User Group Meeting

No changes to any of the on-going Ruahine access issues.

Then maintenance of tracks and huts is on schedule. There was a request from PNTMC that when the sidle track to Mid-Pohangina is cut to look at taking the track to a better crossing point of the river (near the hut) than where the bridge used to be. Our President, John Beech, has a personal 'maintain by community agreement' with DOC for Gold

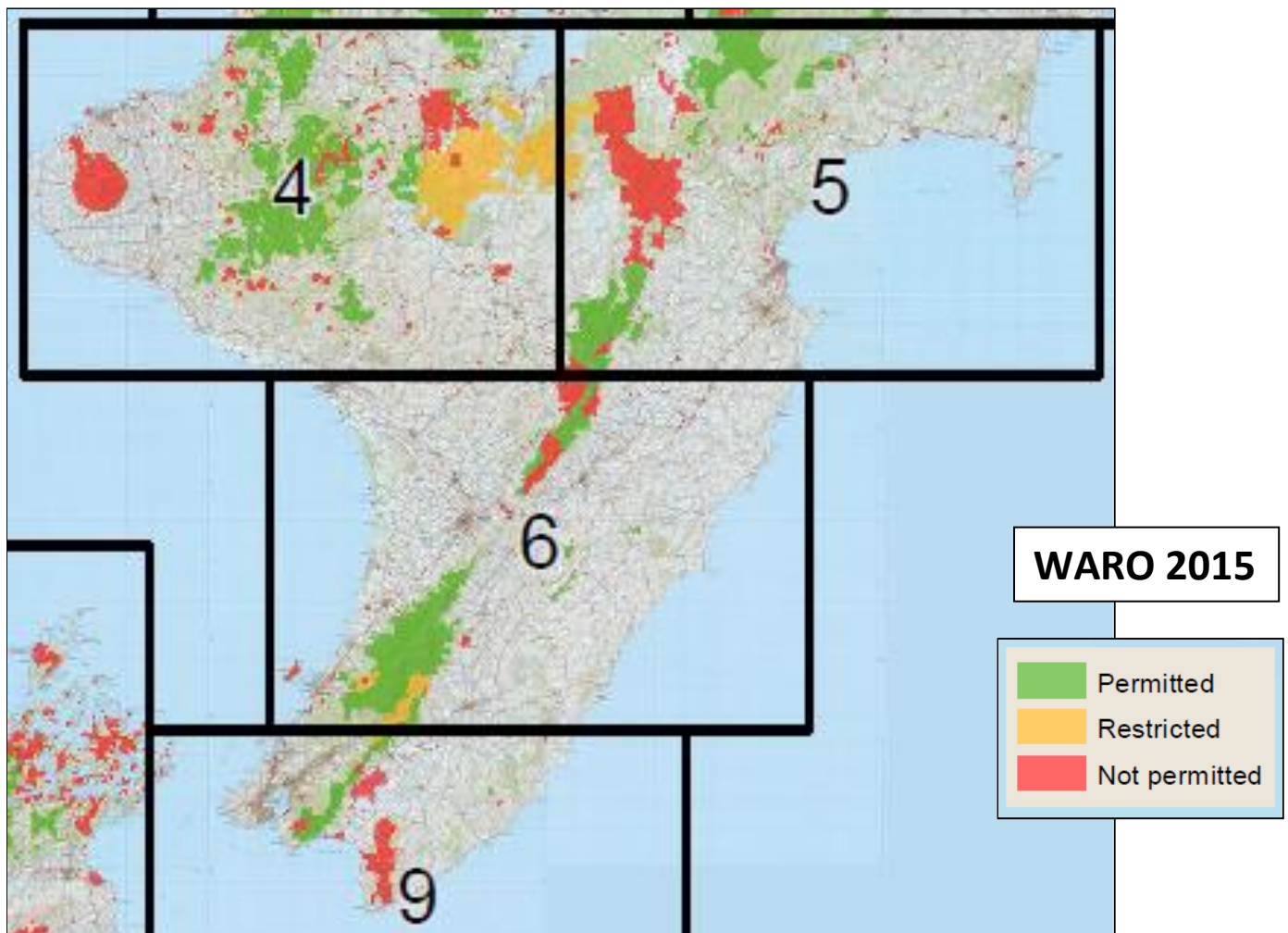


Creek Hut. In the last month or so he has carried out the following work over a couple of trips: replaced the grate and ash pan in the Corker Cooker, provided an ash bucket, replaced a rotten panel in the ceiling, replaced the non-regulation candle holders with regulation ones, installed a fire exit sign, patched a couple of small holes in the mattresses, installed a bait station under hut, cut some firewood as there was not a stick in the hut, brought out a couple of rubbish bags full of rubbish, scoped out a new location for the long drop and carried out a little track maintenance on the way out. Great effort John!!

Changes to Wild Animal Recovery Operations (WARO); also known as helicopter hunting. Please note that this is my interpretation of the changes and their potential impact.

There are three types of helicopter hunting zones: not permitted, restricted (can only be hunted in winter, May to October) and permitted (can be hunted all year except for 3 weeks over Christmas/New Years and 3 weeks over the roar). In the Ruahines the not permitted zones remain in place but the restricted zones have changed to permitted zones. In the short term as venison prices are quite low I do not think we will not see a dramatic increase in helicopter hunting, however, if prices lift then there may be a lot more helicopter activity throughout the year. This means gut bags rotting away on high points and ridge lines, the occasional rotting carcasses that have been left behind when there is a sudden change in weather and they can't be retrieved, more grumpy hunters and potentially more crowding of hunters into the 'not permitted' zones. There is also likely to be more off-loading activity at certain road ends when the carcasses are transferred from the helicopter to a truck.

In the Tararuas the only areas which are not permitted are around Otaki Forks and the Holdsworth road ends. A wider area around Otaki Forks and a corridor including the Atiwhakatu valley, the lower Waiohine valley and the Tauherinikau valley are a restricted area, while the rest of the park is 'permitted'.



## UPCOMING TRIPS

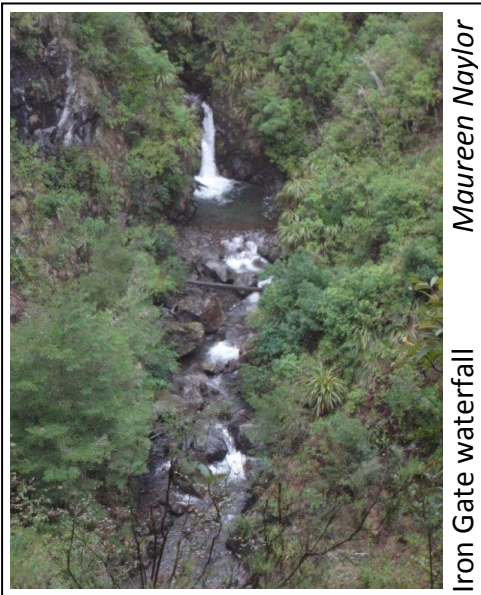
### Trip Intentions

The email address for leaving trip intentions is [intentions@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:intentions@mtsc.org.nz)

Intentions sent to this address will not be acted upon UNLESS a party is reported overdue (e.g. by a family member, flatmate, friend, etc.). The email is sent to several MTSC members. This information will be provided to LandSAR only if the party is reported overdue.

The email should include: a list of participants and their contact details; a brief description of the intended route and possible alternative routes; starting point; start date; date/time due out; vehicle registration; and any other relevant details.

August Wednesday Tramps		
Date	Leader	Phone
5	Mona Webb	323 4212
12	Leonie Lowndes	359 5005
19	Jill Faulkner	323 6094
26	Dennis Jensen	329 3229



Maureen Naylor

Iron Gate waterfall

### Trip Grading

The times listed below include tramping, meal and rest stops. In assessing the trip grading, terrain, weather and party fitness (which is as fast as the slowest member) are considered. Consult the trip leader if you are unsure about your suitability for a particular trip.

<b>FAMILY</b>	All welcome, casual pace, any age
<b>EASY</b>	Up to 4 hours per day, pace slower than Easy/Med. Does not relate to terrain
<b>EASY/MEDIUM</b>	Up to 5 hours per day at a pace slower than Medium
<b>MEDIUM</b>	Up to 7 hours per day at a standard walking pace
<b>MEDIUM/FIT</b>	Up to 8 hours per day at a pace faster than Medium
<b>FIT</b>	Over 8 hours per day at a pace faster than Med/Fit
<b>TECHNICAL</b>	Qualifying requirements to be announced by the trip organiser

Weekday trips generally range between Easy and Medium/ Fit. Call the leader for details on the destination and trip grade.

August Thursday Tramps		
Date	Leader	Phone
6	John Brock	329 4834
13	Gordon Clarke	359 2500
20	Hugh Wilde	356 9450
27	David Grant	328 7788

**“The passion to get ahead is sometimes born of the fear lest we be left behind.”**

*Eric Hoffer, American philosopher*

August Weekend Trips				
Date	Trip	Grade	Leader	Phone
1-2	Mangatinoka Hot Springs	Easy/Med	Linda Campbell	027 3334493
8-9	A Weekend in the Snow	All	Robin Lane	021 11058580
9	Kiritaki Hut	Medium	David Harrington	06 839 5766
22-23	Snowcave Whakapapa	Technical	Ken Mercer	356 7497
30	North Mangahao Biv	Fit	David Harrington	06 839 5766

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



**1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> August: Mangatainoka Hot Springs**                      **Easy**                      **Linda Campbell**                      **323 3836**

A favourite overnight trip for many where a highlight to the day is sitting in a hot tub watching the satellites, stars and glow worms while enjoying a wee drink of something to completely warm you through and through. True to tradition we will stop at Heavens Bakery, Taradale for an early lunch. Weather permitting we will cross the ford and from the Makahu Road end follow the track up beside the Mohaka River. With great views and a few ups and downs it takes about 3 hours to reach Te Puia Lodge where we will stay for the night. We will leave most of our gear in the hut and walk about another 40-45 min further up the river to reach the tubs. As this is a popular trip it would pay to take alternative accommodation (tent) and of course your togs and a towel. A good torch is required as we will be walking back to the lodge well after dark.

**8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> August: A Weekend in the Snow**                      **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.

**9<sup>th</sup> August: Kiritaki Hut**                      **Medium**                      **David Harrington**                      **06 839 5766**

We'll start from the end of No 1 Line and follow the track up and over the Ruahine Range to Kiritaki Hut for lunch. At this stage we'll return via the same route.

**22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> August: Snowcave Whakapapa**                      **Technical**                      **Ken Mercer**                      **356 7497**

The night time alpine temperature can easily drop to -10 or -20°C and there is often a strong wind blowing. A snowcave takes a little digging but is relatively warm at 0°C. Come with me and enjoy!

**30<sup>th</sup> August: North Mangahao Biv**                      **Medium/Fit**                      **David Harrington**                      **06 839 5766**

Hopefully if we get permission from the landowner we'll start from Kopikopiko Rd (on the eastern side). We'll follow the common route across the farmland and up the track to the North Mangahao Biv for lunch. Return trip will be via the ridge system to the south over spot 531. The second option is from the western side through Gordon Kerr Forest to follow the tracks to Punga Hut. From here it's a matter of trying to follow the hunter's route through to the North Mangahao Biv (may prove interesting). Return trip will be via the same route.

## TRIP REPORTS

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June: Alice Nash Memorial Heritage Lodge / Tunupo track area**                      **Bob Hodgson**

On a day of indifferent weather, following an 8am Palmerston North start, 24 trampers assembled at the Petersons Road car park.

As the clouds were down on the tops, the original intention for some of tramping up the Tunupo track was abandoned in favour of a **Smörgåsbord** of tracks. About half of the group started with the Stoat Line track (maintained by locals, not DOC) to the Iron Gate Gorge, this took about 1 hour each way. The track turns left off the route to Heritage Lodge soon after crossing the arched bridge over Umutoi Creek. First there is a view of a waterfall, then further along on a side track to a view over the Oroua River and finally down to the Iron Gate Gorge itself. Return was made by the same route. In spite of the 'easy' label applied to this track by trip leader, it proved to be both steep (a drop of 126m in 470m) and slippery but very rewarding in terms of the views and quality of the sheltered bush. Others walked part of the Stoat track to the view point then to the lodge and down to the Oroua

River. Most of the group ate their lunch at the Lodge. Yet another group combined part of these tracks with a walk in towards the Iron Gate Hut. It was a relieved trip leader that re-gathered all of her wandering flock for a 3pm departure and a rendezvous at Ian's home in Cheltenham for coffee and cakes.



Crossing the arched bridge



Congregating at the Lodge

*Maureen Naylor*

Thanks to trip leader Marion and our drivers especially van driver Evan and to Ian for his hospitality. Thanks also to the daughters of Alice Nash who met part of the costs of the construction of the Lodge.

**12-14<sup>th</sup> June: Lodge Food Carry**

***Howie Nicholson***

The forecast for the Food Carry weekend was not good, yet 26 people (including 7 people under 8 years old) still figured that any day on the mountain is better than a weekend doing chores at home. The Bruce Road was becoming increasingly white as we drove up on Friday night, so chains were put on the wheels to improve traction. It was a nasty night to be out, but before long we were all wrapped up in the cosy snugness of the lodge.

On Saturday, we first had to carry over a new freezer. The new steps on the track aided the carriers who toiled through freezing, stinging, icy conditions to deliver the bulky parcel. The next challenge was to remove the old freezer and install the new one in the storeroom on the mezzanine floor. After removing the stairs, the freezer was thrust through the opening, skilfully caught and slid into place.



Carrying the freezer across to the Lodge

*Howie Nicholson*

Next, several hundred kilograms of food were moved from the car park to the lodge, while others organised the

supplies into logical storage areas or produced scones and food for everyone. Several maintenance jobs were completed before tucking in to a delicious evening meal. Some final cleaning and a few more jobs were completed on Sunday, before heading home in the rain. There are many people who helped in the preparation and execution of this work party, and I thank you all. This includes those who supplied and converted a cow into culinary delights, arranged transportation and trailers, purchased electrical goods and whiteware, went shopping, ordered, carried,

cooked, cleaned, and fixed stuff over the weekend. Your volunteer efforts help to keep the costs of running the lodge as low as they are. We truly are well set up for a magnificent Winter - bring it on!

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June: The Mangoane Walkway**

**Bob Hodgson**



Frosty Morning



Break time

*Maureen and Andrew*

The 17<sup>th</sup> of June started with a cold and frosty morning when 27 Wednesday trampers gathered at the start of the Mangoane walkway for a 9.15am briefing on what the trip leader described as "a respite from tramps involving arduous climbs" - a succinct description of this year's program so far! For the record the total climb was about 2x 143m with no hazardous gradients. It is several years since the WWW last tramped the walkway but most previous participants shared strong memories of a day of relentless heavy rain. On this occasion we spared any rain but it was a cold and cloudy day with little sunshine and some very frosted areas. With the exception of some recently logged and raw hillsides, the walkway is notable for the beauty of the bush and the large number of tree ferns. The track was in good order with a few winter muddy areas a several minor stream crossings. Most arrived at the far car park and the start of the Pukeatea track around noon. Several sub groups made their way into the Pukeatea track with several turning at the first stream crossing. All were safely out by 2.30pm, and as appropriate for June 17<sup>th</sup>, for many it was a tramp of 17km!

Thanks to trip leader Ian, "nice bush and a good winter tramp", and our drivers, especially "Evan the Van", as he would be called in Wales!



Ben, Tim and Neil on Makara Peak

**20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> June: MAKARA PEAK MOUNTAIN BIKING**

**Tim Swale**

After hours of torrential rain on Friday night and Saturday morning we were lucky to make it to Wellington as State Highway 1 was closed due to flooding near Levin and the Makakahi River was starting to flow over State Highway 2 just south of Pahiatua. However, we were pleased to find the weather improved dramatically as we drove further south ready for our outing to the Makara Peak Mountain Bike Park at Karori. This MTB park is absolutely superb, with well over 40km of mostly single track, the majority at about grade 3 which is



heaps of fun without getting scary. Saturday was spent exploring some of the lower tracks and allowing Neil to get used to his new full suspension bike. About 3pm low cloud came in so we came off, showered and headed down to the War Memorial Museum for a couple of hours. It really is a very impressive display.

Sunday dawned bright and clear so the three of us made our way to the MTB park and rode by a circuitous route to the top of Makara Peak. The views to the South Island are magnificent. After spending quite some time at the top, we took the new route "Peak Flow" back down the hill. This is a fabulous track – fast, smooth and just so much fun! It links in to several other tracks so we were able to explore a range of options, one or two getting a bit technical and testing our riding skills. I would love to have ridden the downhill section again but could not summon the energy to climb up nearly 400m to the top a second time. However it will still be there next time we are in Wellington so will definitely be back.

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June: Wednesday Wilderness Wanderers Divert to the Gorge**

**Bob Hodgson**

On a cold but dry morning following a weekend of torrential rain and floods, the decision was made to abandon a proposed Blue Range Hut and Mikimiki expedition in favour of a Manawatu Gorge tramp. With both the Gorge and Pahiatua Track roads closed it was seen as a prudent and public spirited decision. With an 8am initial muster this decision led to an 8.30am start for the 24 participants.



The muddied footbridge

Lunchtime

Maureen and Evan

Strange to report that although between us all of the viewpoints were visited including the Ballance Bridge, nobody reported having seen the slips that led to the road closure. The track was in a remarkably good state after the weekend rains and during our tramp two pairs of DOC workers, each starting at opposite ends tidied up local damage. Apparently the track was closed on Saturday by a flooded and muddied foot bridge on the unnamed stream at the low point before the final climb but had since been dug out by DOC. As we are all aware the Gorge track offers a decent work out with two climbs of 314m and an end to end distance of around 20km. Most of the trampers did most of this so it was a well exercised, happy and incidentally, dry group that gathered by 2.15pm and headed for the Ashhurst Fusion Cafe.



**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June: Trip destination Rangī Hut and beyond**

*Allan Hardacre*



A stunning blue sky day

*Allan Hardacre*

A group of keen Thursday Trampers and one canine companion headed off to Rangī hut on a cold but clear winters day. There was plenty of snow on the track and the ice in some parts meant care had to be taken but there were no major falls. Some of us went beyond the hut into a real winter wonderland. The view to snow covered Mangahuaia in the background was magnificent. The tussock leaves were all encased in ice. It was good to see the pest traps doing their job as we saw three dead stoats and one dead rat.

After lunch at the hut we made it back to the car park in good time and headed for home, stopping for an ice cream or a hot

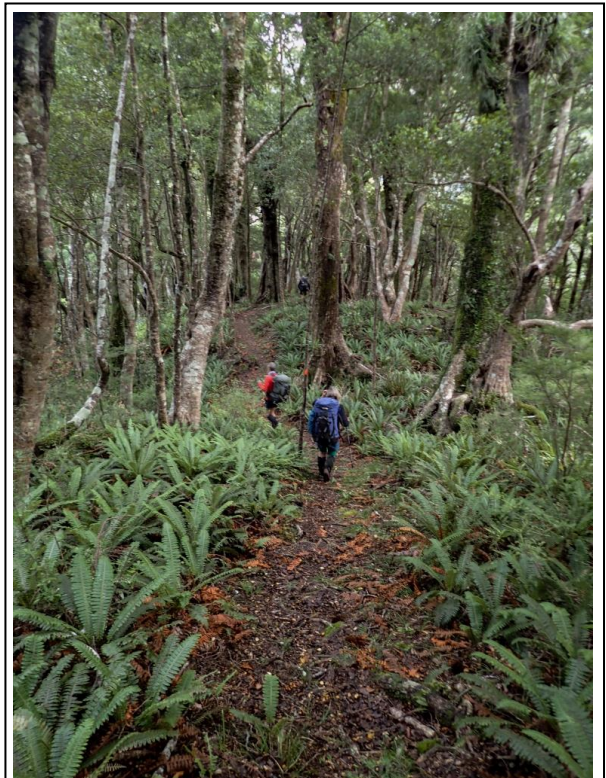
chocolate at the Cheltenham store. A good day was had by all. Thanks to trip leader Suzanne Clark, van driver Chris Mercer and to Syd Easton for transport.

**27-28th June: All you can eat at Roaring Stag Hut**

*Adam Matich*

At the Putara road end there were several cars and the WTMC Transit van; looked like Roaring Stag Hut was going to be over-full for the night. However, the engine on the Transit was cold so they came in the night before and couldn't be staying at Roaring Stag. Despite the weather of late, we had a dry under three-hour trip into the hut, slowed down a touch by Fred being a bit of a pussy on the swing bridges. We were pleasantly surprised to find only three people in possession of the hut; although not present as they were on a day trip on Cattle Ridge. In less than an hour we collected and cut up a good load of firewood, which we were able to feel virtuous about the next day as Jenny only burnt a small portion of it. Cutting up the fire wood was smelly work as there was something dead under the hut. Fred soon discovered the very ripe possum and Dave had to rescue it from him before he ate it. Janet and Jean didn't turn up until after the firewood collection, when we started on an afternoon tea of crepes with whipped cream, lemon juice, and maple syrup; a really good combination. Half a bottle each of mulled wine each kept us happy until dinner time when we sailed through lemon, rice and chicken soup, and then tapioca pudding. Janet was surprised at how little effect that amount of mulled wine had on the party.

During the afternoon other people turned up; the day trippers from Cattle Ridge and then a WTMC party who had been blown



Well-fed trampers heading for home

*Jean*

back off the tops on their way to Dundas Hut. In the end, the hut was full. But not uncomfortably so and the fire was let go out to prevent over-heating. Although some people went to bed late, they weren't noisy and so no one had anything to complain about. Annoying, really! Next day we were out before lunch time and so had a good amount of the afternoon in which to clean up and rest after a hard weekend of doing very little. We were Janet Wilson, Jenny McCarthy, Jean Garman, Dave and Fred Mitchell, and Adam Matich

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July: Wednesday Wilderness Wanders Go Simply Barmy**

**Bob Hodgson**



Taking a break in the Forest

*Ann West*

On Wednesday July 1<sup>st</sup>, 31 Trampers assembled at the Signal Street car park at Foxton Beach then made their way to the Cousins Avenue West entrance to the pine plantation. Bev then expertly guided the gullible, and initially dry shod group, through a 6.5km maze of mountain cycle tracks to include a surprising number of stagnant pools and boggy areas. After a final 400m trek across the sand

dunes, we emerged onto the beach west of our starting point and two hours older. The monolithic group then disassembled under the trip leaders directions "to stay in groups and not to get lost!" Most headed south to enjoy the beach and estuary on what was a fine winters day with a minimum of wind. A group of 10 headed north eventually taking lunch at noon before turning south to finally arrive at Signal Street and the Simply Barmy cafe via the estuary, having tramped 16.75km from their start. The day was enjoyed by all participants and we were happy that our numbers included several re-joining us after illness and injury. Dot injured in a tramp earlier in the year, broke her vow never to tramp again and Barbara was especially welcomed back after her long absence. From 2.30pm onwards most enjoyed refreshments on the sunny Simply Barmy deck. Thanks to trip leader Margaret, plantation guide Bev and our drivers including van driver Evan.



Out onto the beach



A beautiful day!!

*Anne West*

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July: Mangaweka tramps**

**Craig Ross**

Eighteen Thursday trampers (van + 3 cars) enjoyed a sunny July day in the Mangaweka/Huntermville area, doing several short tramps. Fortunately the numerous slips (from the June storm) across the access road to the Whitecliff boulders (CaCO<sub>3</sub> concretions) had been cleared, although Richard and Phil from Pahiatua had to back-track from the closed Vinegar Hill short-cut! Although tramping across the paddocks was boggy in places, we all had a good look around the boulders under the remnant Kahikatea forest.



The Whitecliff boulders



Gillian Thornley in a split boulder

After lunch in the Mangaweka camping area by the Rangitikei River, we visited the 1911 power station site, with a short tramp along the narrow track of former pipeline above the Mangawhararai River to the 10m high dam and reservoir. Then up to look at one of the old railway tunnels above Mangaweka township. Unfortunately, a slip across the tunnel entrance resulted in over a metre of water in the tunnel, so our headlamps and torches were redundant!



Mangaweka 1911 power station dam and reservoir



Old railway tunnels, need a canoe!!

After a coffee and ice-cream stop at Huntermville, we did the half hour or so tramp around the figure of 8 path (well some of us took different paths from the others!) through the Kahikatea forest of the Bruce Memorial Park.

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July: Wednesday Wilderness Wanderers Diverted to the Fern, Pettifar and Gilchrist tracks**

**Bob Hodgson**



Through the ferns

On a cool winters day and having diverted from an intended tramp to the Blue Range hut or the Mikimiki track because of forecasted unsuitable weather to the east of the ranges; at 8.40am, 20 Wednesday Trampers started out on the Fern Walk, a track 6km in length. In the circumstances it was a good day to be in lowland bush with morning tea taken at the second viewpoint seat. After enjoyable meetings with the old totara, rimu and rata, not to mention the ferns, we emerged at about 11am. Sadly we saw and heard few of the 29 bird species recently monitored in the reserve.

We then motored about 3km to upper entrance to the Pettifar and Gilchrist loop

tracks that were tramped as a single large loop that includes the old Coach Road track. For lunch we tramped in to the old riverside camp site but being unable to pick up the outer return track then returned to the camp site fork. We enjoyed the Kahikatea dominated forest in the wetter areas of which there were plenty, and the old totara dominated forest in the drier areas. After lunch the tramp was enlivened by several dodgy stream crossing but nobody succumbed to more than wet feet! After a tramp of, in total, about 14km, we were all safely out by 2.15pm. It was a happy band glowing from exertion in the cool winters air that then converged on the Herb Farm Cafe.



On the river bank

Thanks to trip (mis)leader Bob, drivers Carole, Marion and Evan.

Photos by Marion, Evan and Carole

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July: Trampers have stunning trip to Herepai Hut**

**Chris Mercer**

The bush at the Putara Road end was spectacular in the calm conditions as the white stuff had fallen through the night piling up on leaves and fronds. An impressive sight was the second suspension bridge where snow had accumulated on the deck and sides. At the Herepai hut we briefly saw blue sky and the tops near East Peak but we didn't go further up from the hut as it was really cold with a Southerly wind. On the way back we met a group of seven youth and two adult leaders who had seen the club bus and were worried we were staying in Herepai hut



where they planned to spend two nights. Heading back near the river, we were under melting snow crashing through the branches above and filling the air with crystals. This much snow on this track must be quite a rare event and we were really lucky to catch the day-of-the-decade after a big fall and before the big melt!

Thanks to leader Jill Spencer.

A cold start to the day

*Chris Mercer*



Red coat on bridge – Carolyn crosses the second swingbridge

*Chris Mercer*

**“There is no such thing as bad weather, only different kinds of weather.”**

*John Ruskin, 19<sup>th</sup> century English art critic*



## New Members

Prospective members must be nominated by a Proposer and a Secunder who are current MTSC members and have been so for at least one year. New memberships are confirmed at the next monthly committee meeting. Prospective members are encouraged to go on a club trip or attend a club night before joining. This is a great way to meet current members who can nominate you. For further information or an application form please see the club website.

## Club Equipment

Hire equipment: we have packs, 2 and 3 person tents, tent flies (small and large), snow mats, gas cookers, size 8 and 9 boots, billies, food dehydrator and two bivvy bags. Ice axes, crampons, and helmets are also available. We have two personal locator beacons (PLB) for which there is no charge. Contact the Gear Custodian: Peter Rawlins on (06) 356 7443.

## Website | [www.mtsc.org.nz](http://www.mtsc.org.nz)

This contains club information, photos, contact details and back issues of this newsletter, Beechleaves.

The club website is maintained by Howard Nicholson (06) 357 6325 and is kindly hosted by **Inspire Net**, a locally based company.

## Facebook | <https://www.facebook.com/MTandSC>

## Accommodation at the MTSC lodge on Mount Ruapehu

The lodge is close to Iwikau Village, has power, heating, hot showers and is stocked with food. Members and their guests are welcome. For Lodge bookings email Liz and Hugh Wilde [lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz) 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	<a href="mailto:president@mtsc.org.nz">president@mtsc.org.nz</a>	06 354 9310
Secretary	Tim Swale	<a href="mailto:secretary@mtsc.org.nz">secretary@mtsc.org.nz</a>	06 376 6556
Treasurer	Arthur Flint	<a href="mailto:treasurer@mtsc.org.nz">treasurer@mtsc.org.nz</a>	06 356 7654
Chief Guide	Ken Mercer	<a href="mailto:chief.guide@mtsc.org.nz">chief.guide@mtsc.org.nz</a>	06 356 7497
Membership	Sue Nicholson	<a href="mailto:membership@mtsc.org.nz">membership@mtsc.org.nz</a>	06 357 6325
Newsletter Editor	Jean Garman	<a href="mailto:editor@mtsc.org.nz">editor@mtsc.org.nz</a>	021 1760209
Lodge Manager	John Lyttle	<a href="mailto:lodge.manager@mtsc.org.nz">lodge.manager@mtsc.org.nz</a>	027 4336307
Mini-Bus Manager	Ken Mercer		06 356 7497

### General Committee

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

### Appointees

Lodge Bookings	Hugh & Liz Wilde	<a href="mailto:lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz">lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz</a>	06 356 9450
Gear Custodian	Peter Rawlins	<a href="mailto:gear@mtsc.org.nz">gear@mtsc.org.nz</a>	06 356 7443
Ski Captain	Howard Nicholson	<a href="mailto:ski@mtsc.org.nz">ski@mtsc.org.nz</a>	06 357 6325
Social Convenor	Bob Hodgson	<a href="mailto:social@mtsc.org.nz">social@mtsc.org.nz</a>	06 356 2915
Wednesday Trip Convenor	Bev Akers	<a href="mailto:bevakers@xtra.co.nz">bevakers@xtra.co.nz</a>	06 325 8879
Thursday Trip Convenor	Merv Matthews	<a href="mailto:merv6817@gmail.com">merv6817@gmail.com</a>	06 357 2858
Facebook	Ivan Rienks	<a href="mailto:facebook@mtsc.org.nz">facebook@mtsc.org.nz</a>	