

beechleaves

Newsletter of the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club



ISSUE 8: September 2015

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 1st 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.



Thursday 24th September: Interclub photo competition

The best photos from the three Palmerston North Tramping clubs photo competitions go head to head in an event hosted by PNTMC at the Quaker Meeting rooms, 227 College Street, doors open 7.45pm, meeting starts 8.00pm.



Tuesday 6th October: The Annual Interclub Quiz, hosted by MTSC

Come along to the annual quiz night as we battle it out against PNTMC and MUAC to find the biggest know-it-alls.

This year we could expand the inter-club rivalry to include some intra-club rivalry by having teams to represent the Wednesday Wilderness Walkers, the Thursday Trampers, the weekenders, etc.

Always a fun night and you never know you might learn something.

Contents

Reports, Notices and Information.....	pages 2-4
Upcoming Trips	pages 5-6
Trip Reports	pages 7-13
Club Information	page 14

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: John Beech

president@mtsc.org.nz

As the winter months tick by it can be a time when we tend to stay indoors as the inclement weather means for cold and often wet tramping. I'm sure skiers will be enjoying the snow and the mountain and hopefully many of you are getting out there.

However, sometimes Winter can have its benefits that you don't get in the warmer months. I was recently in the northern Ruahines heading from Mokai station through to Ruahine Corner and back. Unfortunately the forecast was for heavy snow therefore we elected to return from Iron Bark after 1 night. Weather 1, tramping nil. The following week I spent 4 days in the Richmond ranges on the Pelorus track. Two days of rain and two days of beautiful weather made for an enjoyable tramp at least half of the time. In terms of the Pelorus we encountered cooler weather, fewer people and no wasps. These are some of the benefits of the cooler months so I hope some of us can pull out the winter gear and get up into the hills. After all, there is nothing cosier than a warm fire on a cold night.

On the other hand it is important for us to remember that during the cold months the weather and conditions can be very unforgiving as has been borne out by the tragedy on the Kepler track recently. If we are going up into the hills or up the mountain it is worth making sure we are fully equipped and prepared for any change in the conditions. Enjoy the Winter season all of you and take care out there.



MTSC Chief Guide: Ken Mercer

chief.guide@mtsc.org.nz

Am I allowed to tell/repeat a joke? Its winter so here goes. It came from a toilet wall, at the dart club rooms....

One winter morning at breakfast a couple was listening to the radio. They heard the announcer say, "We are going to have 200mm of snow today. You must park your car on the even-numbered side of the street, so the snowplow can get through." The wife went out and moved her car. A week later while they are eating breakfast, the radio announcer said, "We are expecting 300mm of snow today, you will need to move your car to the odd-numbered side of the street so the snowplow can get through." So the wife went out and moved her car again. The next week, while they were eating breakfast, the radio announcer said, "We are expecting 400mm of snow today and you must park..." Then the power went off! The wife was very upset. With a worried look on her face she said, "Honey, I don't know what to do. Which side of the street am I supposed to park on?" With the love and understanding in his voice that all men who are married to blondes exhibit, her husband said, "Why don't you just leave it in the garage this time."

NOTICES and INFORMATION



1st Above the Bushline

David Harrington

Photo competition results

At the club meeting on the 4th of August the attendees voted for their top 3 selections for each category (results on page 3). The winning photos will now go through to the interclub photo competition being hosted this year by PNTMC on the 24th September.

Category	Placing	Photographer	Title
Above the Bushline	1 st	David Harrington	Ngauruhoe
	2 nd	Ivan Rienks	Looking across to Homeward and Conway Ridges, Westland
	3 rd	David Harrington	Central Crater, Tongariro
Below the Bushline	1 st	Jean Garman	Approaching Mungo Hut, Westland
	2 nd	Yvette Cottam	Three wire bridge, George Sound, Fiordland
	3 rd	Yvette Cottam	Korokoro Falls, Waikaremoana
Landscape	1 st	Yvette Cottam	Beech forest, Kepler Track, Fiordland
	2 nd	Jean Garman	Kokatahi River gorge, Westland
	3 rd	Jean Garman	Homeward and Conway ridges from Frisco Helipad, Westland
Natural History	1 st	Yvette Cottam	Fungi, Kahuterawa Valley
	2 nd	Yvette Cottam	Alpine flowers, Ruahines
	3 rd	Yvette Cottam	Tomtit babies (girl and boy), nest box, Whenua Hou
Overseas	1 st	Royce Mills	Horseshoe Bend Colorado River, USA
	2 nd	Owen Mills	Highway 211, Utah, USA
	3 rd	Royce Mills	Double Arch, Arches National Park, USA
Topical	1 st	David Harrington	Adam
	2 nd	Ken Mercer	Mid King sign, Tararua Ranges
	3 rd	Helen Peek	From the hut window



1st Natural History *Yvette Cottam*



1st Overseas *Royce Mills*



1st Topical *David Harrington*



1st Below the Bushline *Jean Garman*



1st Landscape *Yvette Cottam*

Restricted access to Otaki Forks, Tararuas

The Ōtaki Gorge Road at Blue Bluff (approximately 3km from the road end) will remain closed for four to six weeks due to on-going stability issues of banks alongside the road. The closure will allow an investigation and remedial work to be carried out. The road was closed on Tuesday 11th August after a dropout occurred on the lower bank at Blue Bluff. Debris is also falling off the top bank in this area where several slips have occurred recently. Pedestrians will be able to get through this area of the road, but council is warning people to stay away from the site unless absolutely necessary due to the risk of falling rocks.

“We are looking at what options we have to stabilise the area and have engaged a geologist to provide expert advice early next week. We may need to remove up to 10,000 cubic metres of unstable material off the top bank. This could require explosives to bring down, as the site is currently too dangerous for anyone to get to the material. The dropout on the lower side of the road will also require an engineer-designed wall to prevent it collapsing again.”
Group Manager Infrastructure Services Sean Mallon.

Cone Hut, Tararuas Barry Durrant (Tararua Tramping Club)

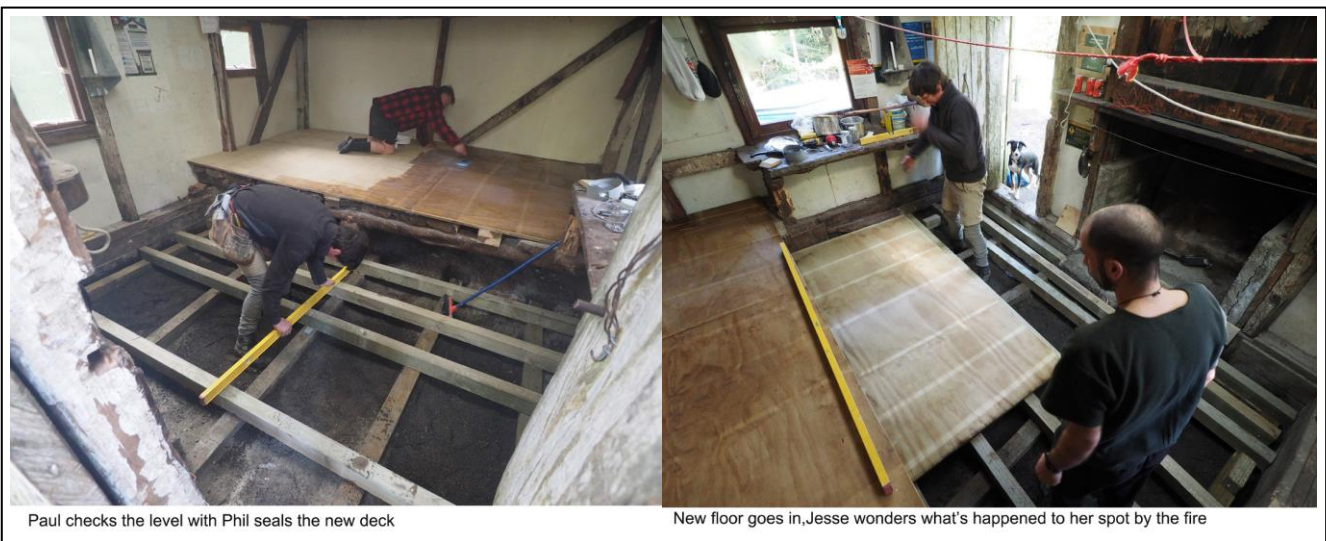
Who would believe it, less than a month (the end of June) since Grant Timlin and I discovered the vandalism at Cone hut, the hut has become tidy and welcoming to visitors.

Without the cooperation of DOC this would not have happened; club member help and the enthusiasm of Paul Maxim has also been a big help. DOC Masterton (Haden Barrett and Joe Hansen) supplied Jason and his helicopter to get the building materials, Colin Cook, Ken Fraser and Barry Durrant plus DOC staff to the Hut. While the Tararua Tramping Club members cleaned the hut floor up DOC built the prefabricated woodshed. At the end of the day we all flew out, the new woodshed completed.

The 18-19th July working party to install the floor and deck was postponed because of bad weather but we got lucky the next weekend with Friday and Saturday being perfect, no cloud or wind. Paul Maxim and Phil Cole flew in early Friday morning while I walked in (had to come out Saturday). By the time I got there they had nearly finished the sleeping platform. We worked the rest of the afternoon on the floor base and bearers and then while it was still light gathered a good supply of firewood for the night ahead, Cone was becoming warm again. Next day Kohe Habberfield from Greytown turned up to give us a hand (greatly appreciated). I had to leave early afternoon just after Alan Wright and his party arrived, the hut was looking pretty good with the deck floor nearly finished.



Cone Hut in restoration mode + new woodshed



Paul checks the level with Phil seals the new deck

New floor goes in, Jesse wonders what's happened to her spot by the fire

We welcome Gavin McKenzie (PN) and Davide Conti (Wellington) 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.

September Wednesday Tramps		
Date	Leader	Phone
2	Bev Akers	325 8879
9	Ann West	357 5716
16	Bob Hodgson	356 2915
23	Chris Brunskill	354 2511
30	Evan & Coralie Davies	357 6288



The chosen ones *John Doolan*
Thursday Trampers 16th July

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.

September Thursday Tramps		
Date	Leader	Phone
3	Geraldine Fovakis	356 4327
10	Graham Pritchard	357 1393
17	Merv Matthews	357 2858
24	John McLeod	323 5785

“It cannot be later than midnight.”

Burmese proverb

September Weekend Trips				
Date	Trip	Grade	Leader	Phone
5-6	Weekend in the snow	All	John Lyttle	027 4336307
12-13	Ski to Turoa	Technical	Ken Mercer	3567497
13	Mountain House Loop	Easy	Alla Seleznyova	3550862
19-20	Kime Hut	Technical	Adam Matich	022 3588062
26-27	Weekend in the snow	All	Carl Pester	06 3588062

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



5th-6th September: A Weekend in the Snow **All** **John Lyttle** **027 4336307**

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.

12th-13th September: Ski to Turora **Ski/Technical** **Ken Mercer** **356 7497**

We'll ski Whakapapa in the morning to allow any crust to soften then sidle from the far West T-bar. I expect we will need to climb halfway up the Mangaturuturu Glacier and then be able to descend to Turora and use the lifts to regain altitude and load up on coffee. If returning is necessary we'll sidle/climb some more to the Mangaturuturu col and the inside of the crater. We will have circled Paretaitonga! Of course walkers, suitably equipped, are welcome to join us.

13th September: Mountain House Loop **Easy** **Alla Seleznyova** **355 0862**

A pleasant loop walk (no matter what the weather) through lovely beechforest on well graded tracks. Climb up to the Mountain House shelter, descend into the Atiwhakatu valley, then head down the valley back to the road end.

19th-20th September: Kime Hut **Technical** **Adam Matich** **022 3588062**

No one with any sense ever visited the previous incarnation of Kime Hut in winter as it was a cold, damp place; unless they were rather misanthropic. I thought that I would see if the new hut is more congenial. As this is a winter trip on the tops, and we are having a proper winter this year, I expect there to be lots of snow. So this trip will require crampons and possibly ice axes. Of course, we will only be going if the weather is pretty good (doesn't have to be ideal) as I am not keen on gale force winds and zero visibility. Normally, in summer it would take a bit over four hours to climb up to Kime Hut, but if there is lots of snow we it could take an hour longer and require a reasonable level of fitness as pushing through snow is hard work!

26th-27th September: A Weekend in the Snow **All** **Carl Pester** **06 3768002**

This weekend is designed to encourage and support people who would like to experience skiing or just like to be in a relaxed group enjoying a weekend in the snow. We are there to help, both with the lodge and finding your way around Whakapapa ski field. Call Carl on 06 376 8002 or text on 021 131 6264, or email to pesters@slingshot.co.nz. Car-pooling or club van depending on numbers.

23rd-26th October: Lake Chalice Loop **Medium** **Adam Matich** **022 358 8062**

We are catching the morning ferry on Friday the 23rd October. Lake Chalice is on the southern side of the Richmond Forest Park in the Wairau Valley and Lake Chalice Hut is only an hour from Staircase Road, so day one does not need to be very energetic. The next day, Saturday, we will head northerly to climb 800m (the exercise will be good for you) up onto the tops to Old Man peak and then West and South to Old Man Hut (7 hrs), which is in a nice big grassy clearing suitable for footballs and frisbees. On day three we will head south into the Goulter River and end up at Mid Goulter Hut (5 hrs). On day four (Monday) we will make our way back to the Lake Chalice Road end, either via Lake Chalice or preferably the tops (900m climb, which will be even better for you), and catch the late afternoon ferry back to Wellington. We will get back to PN rather late. I found it expedient to book the ferry at the beginning of August but there is still one space free in the car. Of course if two or more people decide that they want to come along, then a second vehicle might give us more route options.

“Real courage is holding on to a still voice in your head that says, ‘I must keep going’.”

Cory Booker, American politician

TRIP REPORTS

11th-12th July: Orongorongo Adventure

Nicola Wallace

We arrived at the large Catchpool car park mid-morning after a very interesting drive down through the Wairarapa and over the snowy Rimutaka Hill road. Once we were all assembled, there were 6 of us and after a look at the Kereru feeding in the Kowhai trees in the car park, we headed off up the Orongorongo track. This beautiful track follows the Catchpool Stream and after about 1.5 hours we descended and arrived at the wooden arched Turere Bridge. After a tricky little scramble, we came to the Orongorongo River, where we had lunch under cloudy skies.

At this point I'll explain that it was a true adventure for all of us, as only Linda had been here before, and that was many years ago.

Tim had been warned that the river level was high and we found the river to be slightly discoloured and its depth couldn't be determined. This was the best place to cross, as here the river was braided. Under Tim's expert direction, we stowed poles, undid sternum straps, and linked up, crossing without problem as a group. At its deepest, the water was up to my knees, and the current was quite strong.

Our accommodation for the night was to be Paua Hut, a WTMC hut at the downstream end of the chain of huts which line the Orongorongo River, and on our way downstream, there were other huts to check out on the way – all locked, but you can look through the windows! We kept to the true left bank, and the first hut we came across was DOC's Raukawa Lodge, a large and flash hut, which I believe is hired out at \$115 per night, and sleeps 14. Back to the river again, we went over a steep little bluff that would otherwise have necessitated a deep wade. A little track up here led to our next hut, the privately owned A-Frame, Delta Lodge (no looking through its windows as they were boarded up). Soon after this we knew we must be getting somewhere near Paua Hut and followed a 4WD track into the bush, which led to..... a Landcare Research building with a nearby pile of stoat traps. There's something new around every corner in the Orongorongs. Soon after, we came upon the next DOC hut, the rustic Boar Inn (which is cheap, at \$35 a night, but only sleeps 4). And finally, we came to Paua Hut, which was in the most beautiful setting, on a low hill, and standing among tall, straight beech trees. The hut has been there for 75 years!



Our accommodation for the night, Paua Hut



Breakfast in Paua Hut

Nicola Wallace

The boys soon had the fire going and boy it was starting to cool down now. After checking out the hut's extensive collection of cutlery, cups, plates and cookware, as well as its lovely "Woodbine" wood stove, Linda and I went for a

short stroll down the 4WD track that goes right past the hut. This track eventually comes out on the South coast, near Baring Head.

Tea was a cosy affair, and we went to bed at about 9pm, to the sound of light rain on the roof. This continued all night, but it was the only sound, as we were all quiet as mice and there were none of those either. It was still raining lightly in the morning, and cloud sat in the valley. It was decided that we'd head back up the river to Turere Bridge, so we could cross at the braided section to return over the Cattle Ridge track and down Butchers track to the car



Braided section of Orongorongo River *Nicola Wallace*

park. After another brief stop at Boar Inn, we were soon back at the braided section of river and once again we linked up to cross. The river was 1-2 feet higher than yesterday, and the first braid felt a bit dicey. A group of trampers watched us crossing from Turere Bridge.

The Cattle Ridge track travels along the hill that separates the Orongorongo and Catchpool Valleys. It was steep at the bottom, but the gradient soon eased and it was a misty walk along the top. The maximum altitude along here (and for our whole trip) was 444m. White plastic possum traps were mounted on the trees, which caught the possum by the head, with the body dangling out the bottom. Tim found some choice possums caught in these.

The final count was 5 whole possums, and 2 heads only! Something had ripped the body from the head in these 2 cases – pigs maybe? They have big possums here, and a darker brown than I had seen before.

We had lunch in the mist at the high point, where we cooled down. It took a while to warm up again even though we were descending. After passing a fenced off area of pine trees among the bush, the beech and native trees gave way to gorse, on a good day we would have had views - today we looked at the inside of a cloud. At the Butchers track turnoff, the sign enticingly announced the presence of a lookout only 100m away. I just had to have a look. It was a short, steep climb, and not worth going, as there was just high gorse.

Descending on the Butchers track was a delight, surrounded by bush and with constantly improving views of the surrounding tree, fern and palm covered hills. The track was still of a very high standard. By the time we got to the bottom of the hill, the sun was out and the temperature was very warm. A few minutes later, we were back at the car park. Kereru were still feeding in the kowhai, and a *kek-kek-kek* came from the sky, I looked up and saw 2 Falcons on the wing.

On a sunny late afternoon we went to a café in Petone. Tim bade farewell to his son Ben (and Ben's flatmate, Wendy) for the time being, and the rest of us headed North. It was a great Orongorongo sampler, and I want to go back,



The rustic Boar Inn (DOC hut) *Nicola Wallace*

spend a couple of nights in there and explore further.

Many thanks for Linda and Tim for running this trip. We were: Linda (trip leader), Tim, Ben, Wendy, Corey, Nicola

11th-12th July: Neill Forks Hut

Dave Mitchell

Being the middle of July I expected we would see some snow this weekend and we weren't disappointed. We got away to what I thought was an early start, but after picking up Adam then Jenny, the car decided to play up on the way down to Carterton. Despite this minor setback we started walking from the Walls Whare road end about 9.45am.

The track initially goes up to Cone saddle where there is an intersection of tracks. We chucked down a bit of lunch here. Then it is a steeper climb up through increasingly snow covered forest. It was quite picturesque with the snow in the trees. Eventually we pushed our way out onto Cone peak. There were no views as it had clouded in although we could see the weather station. Using the compass we knew the general direction to go and we were picking up Jeans tracks from time to time. By this time the snow cover was quite heavy so it was a definite plod through the snow as we tried to find track markers and follow Jeans tracks. The first part of Cone ridge is a bit tight and steep before it flattens into a more easily walked track. We had our rain coats on as it had started warming up.



Winter Wonder Land

Adam Matich

By 4pm we reached the turnoff down to Neill forks hut. It's quite a steep slippery descent at the start, but the track steepness relents as you reach the bottom. From there it is only 5 to 10 minutes to the hut. Jean was already at the hut and luckily for us she had the makings of a fire going, although the wood at the hut was wet. So we settled in for the night after our dinner of butter chicken and jelly tip chocolate. The hut was actually a bit damp inside due to a couple of leaks and us being wet. A lone Welly trumper showed up later; he only took 5 hours to get in but he had our footprints to follow.

I woke everyone up at 6.30am and we were ready to leave by 7.45am. The weather was looking better with the promise of some sun as we retraced our steps back up to Cone Ridge. The trees were a bit drippy on us, but it was way easier going up. From here we elected to go back via Totara Flats, following a nicely graded track which descends all the way to the hut. We stated meeting people and dogs at the hut which was our lunch stop. It was my chance to have a coffee. As we were leaving there were pig hunters madly running around after pigs which had been seen rooting up the track out from Totara Flats. The sidle track is a bit up and down, with quite a few bridges. There were even more people walking and running coming in as we were going out. It is a pretty popular place. By 4pm we reached the car park then there was a short walk to the cars due to the road closure. I was bit worried about how the car would perform but we made it to the ice cream shop in Masterton, so all was well. On the trip we had Jenny, Adam and Dave, Jean was already in there.

Wednesday 8th July: At last Mikimiki and Blue Range

Bob and Maurice

On a grey but dry winters day, 28 Wednesday Wilderness Walkers (WWW) assembled at the Kiriwhakapapa entrance to the Tararua Forest Park and split into two groups. 14 trampers walked the Miki Miki Track, there and back and most included the Loop Track for good measure at the end. Good unhurried exercise was had on a fine, no wind day and through lovely, varied bush. It's a track that would suit family outings especially if finishing at the Miki Miki Road end and with transport pick-up there if not intending to tramp back to the start. There was once a bridge across the stream that can be a challenge when in spate; perhaps DOC will replace it one day! Miki Miki statistics: total rise 456m (ie 2x228) and length to road end and return 16.4km.



The very blue Blue Range Hut



medical themed signage *Ann and Maureen*

The exact balance of the party tramped their way up the trampers track to the Blue Range hut with a height gain of 644m to the white rock. The advanced guard arrived early at the hut and lit a welcoming fire however the rear-guard chose to turn and lunch at the white rock with one member (very briefly) sunbathing. The goblin forest near the top was appealingly green but the wind gusts were extremely chilling so it was good to lose some altitude. The bush in full winters green was superb!

All trampers were safely out before 3pm and then converged on the Mount Bruce Visitors Centre for Coffee. Thanks to trip leader Maurice and our drivers including van driver Evan.

Wednesday 15th July: 'LUNCH AT SUNRISE'

Guido Robêrto Bruce

At 8.00am, twenty "seasoned and salted" Wednesday trampers were on their way to Sunrise Hutte. The road journey across the ewe studded plains to the Ruahine foothills was relaxing as always. Arriving at the DOC Triple X car park by 10.00am, Jensen Sahib a.k.a "Longfellow", loped on upwards to fire up the wood burner in the hut, 1280 m ASL. We, the ploderati, weaved and wandered our way through the supreme podocarp and beech forest stopping for scran at the junction. By 12.30pm and after a 700m climb, all were in the hutte for warm tucker plus a bite of homespun, nontoxic, just edible "Bruyo Shortbread."



En route

Maureen Naylor

Snow + ice made for a dicey descent. With her truncated Stubai axe, "Stop the Slither" Pither, merrily whacked the living daylight out of the snow + ice on the benched track - a whirlwind effort. We paused to reflect at the site of Shut Eye Shack. In 1911, when the pack horse carrying a load for the then new hutte collapsed and died and could proceed no further, a shelter of sorts was built alongside.



Sunrise Hutte

View from near the hutte

Maureen Naylor

The trek to Sunrise is a there and back sortie and a safe and enjoyable option in all weathers and seasons. By 3.30pm, we were in our trucks heading for Dannevirke and hot drinkies. Then it was the bell lap back to the mighty Manawatu and soaks in the tubs to be followed by single malt, metabolic recharges for the deserving and very needy. Thanks to Arthur, Bev & Evan for assistance with transport.

Thursday 16th July: Kiritaki Hut

Hugh Wilde

Fifteen of us headed to Kiritaki Hut which we hadn't visited for two years. The weather forecast predicted sunshine and so it was down on the plains, although not in the mountains where we were. Here the weather was cool from the north-westerly wind that also brought rain squalls from time to time in between short bouts of sunshine that also provided some rather spectacular rainbows.

It took just over two hours following the hunters' track through the bush to past the high point and the start of the 'leatherwood ridge'. The track then became quite muddy with the treading of 15 pairs of feet, and a little further along a windfall of blocked the track where it was more exposed to the westerlies. Past the windfall the track was in reasonable condition although it was more overgrown compared with two years ago.

We eventually had three separate groups along the track. Four had gone ahead to the hut getting within about 500 m of it before turning back. A second group got within 1 hour of the hut before turning back, with a third deciding that discretion was the better part of valour and retreating from the 800m



Overgrown

John Brock

point on the track when the temperature was going down quite rapidly. It just wasn't very appealing weather! On the plus side there were no incidents this time and retracing our tracks took less time than anticipated despite the muddy and slippery state of the track.

18th 19th July: Weekend in the snow

Robin Lane



Before and after the snow came

Unfortunately the July Weekend in the snow coincided with a major snow dump, so all the hopefuls cancelled out. Friday was a good ski day, and Howie and Sue's family were joined by Jonko and her family, plus the intrepid trip leader. Saturday gave a 20cm dump, Sunday had 80-90km/h winds, and the week looked the same, so everyone went home Sunday afternoon, after digging the cars out and fitting chains. The next snow trip on 8-9th August, hopefully met with better luck.

Thursday 23rd July: The Escarpment Track

After a several hard winter tramps over the last few weeks, fifteen Thursday trampers set off to the Kapiti coast for a shorter day out. The destination was the Escarpment Track which starts at Paekakariki and climbs steadily above State Highway One and the railway below. When completed this track will be part of the Te Araroa Trail and will carry on south to Pukerua Bay. Unfortunately there have been long delays finishing this track and, at present, it is just a "there and back" walk taking a little less than three hours. Signs warn people who might suffer from vertigo not to attempt this track. It becomes steep, with spectacular views.

After this walk and a lunch break, the group drove north and enjoyed a walk at Lake Papaitonga near Levin.



Richard Ellis
Stunning views!

Saturday 25th July: Pinnacle Ridge

Adam Matich

On yet another fine winter's day we headed off up the true left of the Atiwhakatu Stream on the trail which, after 20 minutes or so, climbed more-or-less continuously for 500m up to Pinnacle. We had a little bit of sun and some views with morning tea and then headed north to 862, where trip leader missed the left-hand turn and had to be called

back. Another 20 minutes saw us at 846, from where we had no more major changes of direction, and not much climbing either. Most of Pinnacle Ridge is well marked and tracked all the way to the Barton Track at the saddle (3 hr); hardly necessary though if you have a map and compass it would be easy navigation. After lunch at the saddle, we dropped 100m down to the Atiwhakatu Stream and made our way down to the lightly occupied hut for a brief stop before steaming on out to the road end. We really didn't see any one until close to Donnelly Flat, but the car park was, as per usual, very full so there were obviously lots of people out and about. Just not where we had been! We were Jenny McCarthy, Jean Garman and Adam Matich.



Looking down on the Atiwhakatu Stream



Views from Pinnacle

Jean Garman

Wednesday 29th July: WWW, Go Up and Down on a Wintery Day

Bob Hodgson

On a mainly dry, overcast, day, a band of about 30 Wednesday Wilderness Wanderers (WWW) assembled at 8-50am at the Coppermine Road entrance to the Ruahine Forest Park. We first crossed the stream and then tramped 240m up the steep zig zag open farmland track then along the fence line to the start of the bush track where morning tea was taken at about 9:40am. Here the party split into several smaller groups to tramp through the bush to the junction then turn right onto the Goat Creek track. The intention of the trip architect, Chris (unwell and not tramping) was that at the point where the Goat track went steeply down, we were to turn steeply up on a little used but recently well marked track that follows the ridge lines eventually leading to an unnamed peaks at 960m then 1015m. In the conditions of the day with a mixture of light rain, very fine hail and cool gusts of wind, most of the party lunched and turned at noon and about 910m. Of the rest of the trampers, some turned and returned at the critical junction on the goat creek track. A sizable group missed the marked turn off and went steeply down rather than up. In the wet and slippery conditions there were few un-muddy bums but no injuries of note. All were safely out by 3pm to travel to Woodville for afternoon tea and to debate the relative steepness of the tracks taken. Conclusion: we must do this again in summer conditions!

Thanks to trip architect Chris, Ian for being an attentive trip leader, Ian and Chris for their track cutting and marking work and to our drivers of the day, especially Evan.



Snack time

Maureen or Evan



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

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General Committee

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

Appointees

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