

beechleaves

Newsletter of the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club



ISSUE 9: October 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 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.

Tuesday 3rd November: Walking in Spain and France:

Travel notes and notes for future travel...

Alla Seleznyova

In June 2015, I met up with Jeanette Andersen and we spent about five weeks travelling in Spain, France and Italy. As a part of our travel, we did the Mountains to Sea Freedom Walk in the Pyrenees along the Spanish/French border. World Walks Company organised our accommodation and luggage transfers and supplied maps and the walk description. The walk was a combination of GR sections, local walks and country roads. Our main challenge was not to get lost! We also did some walks in Costa Brava (Rugged Coast) and Catalonia including sections of GR 92 which run along the coast. It was a wonderful combination of stunning scenery, culture and local cuisine. I have beautiful memories of this trip, but also a strong feeling that we had merely scratched the surface and I definitely want to go back!



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

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



MTSC President: John Beech

president@mtsc.org.nz

Greetings from the couch. The Winter months have come to an end and Spring has arrived, or so the calendar says. The Winter has been a wet one here in our region and I must confess to very little outdoor activity over the last 7 weeks. Pressures of work and the weather (more likely the former) have conspired to keep me inside looking at future trips from the computer screen. At least the time has not all been wasted and a couple of future multi-day trips have been planned and confirmed.

Health and safety changes seem to be the order of the day at the moment with the government passing new legislation that may impact on some of our activities although hopefully not much. Ironically, the media releases on DOC's website revealed a cable failure of the Hoporuahine suspension bridge tossed 4 trampers into the river below. This is on the Lake Waikaremoana Great Walk and many of us will have walked across it. Lets hope we do not get a knee jerk reaction where all bridges get closed while DOC inspects them, although understandably we all want to know these structures are safe. I guess there is always going to be some risk out there in whatever we do, whether tramping or any other pastime, and no amount of legislation is going to remove all risk. Lets hope the current changes are realistic and practical.

In the mean time I hope you are all enjoying something to do with the outdoors whether reading the latest FMC Bulletin or getting out in the bush. I will be looking at upping my fitness during the next couple of months as I prepare for a couple of trips to the South Island prior to Christmas. One, the Abel Tasman Coast walk with students is not too physically demanding, whilst the other to the Wangapeka will test the muscles and back a bit more.



MTSC Chief Guide: Ken Mercer

chief.guide@mtsc.org.nz

FMC is [soliciting material](#) for a 'rucksack of knowledge', a reading list to guide all those with a passion for enjoying the outdoors. What follows is my contribution. Please consider sending in your own.

I have stood on the top of a few mountains but I am not a mountain climber. However I was moved by reading Ed Viesturs "No Shortcuts to the Top" particularly his much repeated simple philosophy "Getting to the top is optional. Getting down is mandatory."

Outdoor skills don't come from books and my personal philosophy is a basic: "Join a club". I've had close involvement with a kayaking and a tramping club. Both have brought many good times, companionship and even marriage. I have also learnt much from the wealth of knowledge embodied in a club. It's a true apprenticeship which, with additional learning and experience, eventually leads to a few skills. However I still have a ways to go as there is always someone else with greater ability to aspire to.

Whakapapa Ski Area Concession - your submission is needed!

The Minister of Conservation has given notice of her intention to grant a concession to Ruapehu Alpine Lifts Ltd for a licence to occupy Whakapapa ski area. Submissions close Wednesday 21 October 2015.

Skiing is a core activity of MTSC and we have a lodge at the Whakapapa Ski field. Much needed maintenance and development of the ski area has been delayed for several years while the renewal of the licence has been negotiated. Your committee has agreed to lodge a submission in support of granting the concession. If you wish to contribute to the Club's submission, then please **contact our Ski Captain, Howard Nicholson (ski@mtsc.org.nz) before 26 September 2015.**

Please also consider entering your own submission in support of the concession. This is a big deal for the development of skiing on Mt Ruapehu, the regional economy, the viability of the lodge, and access to the alpine backcountry surrounding the ski area.

For further details, see:

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/have-your-say/all-consultations/2015/intention-to-grant-a-concession-to-ruapehu-alpine-lifts/>

<http://www.mtruapehu.com/winter/license-renewal/>



Tararua Road End Updates

Otaki Forks Road: According to the Kapiti Coast District Council road closures website, the Otaki Forks Road is open.

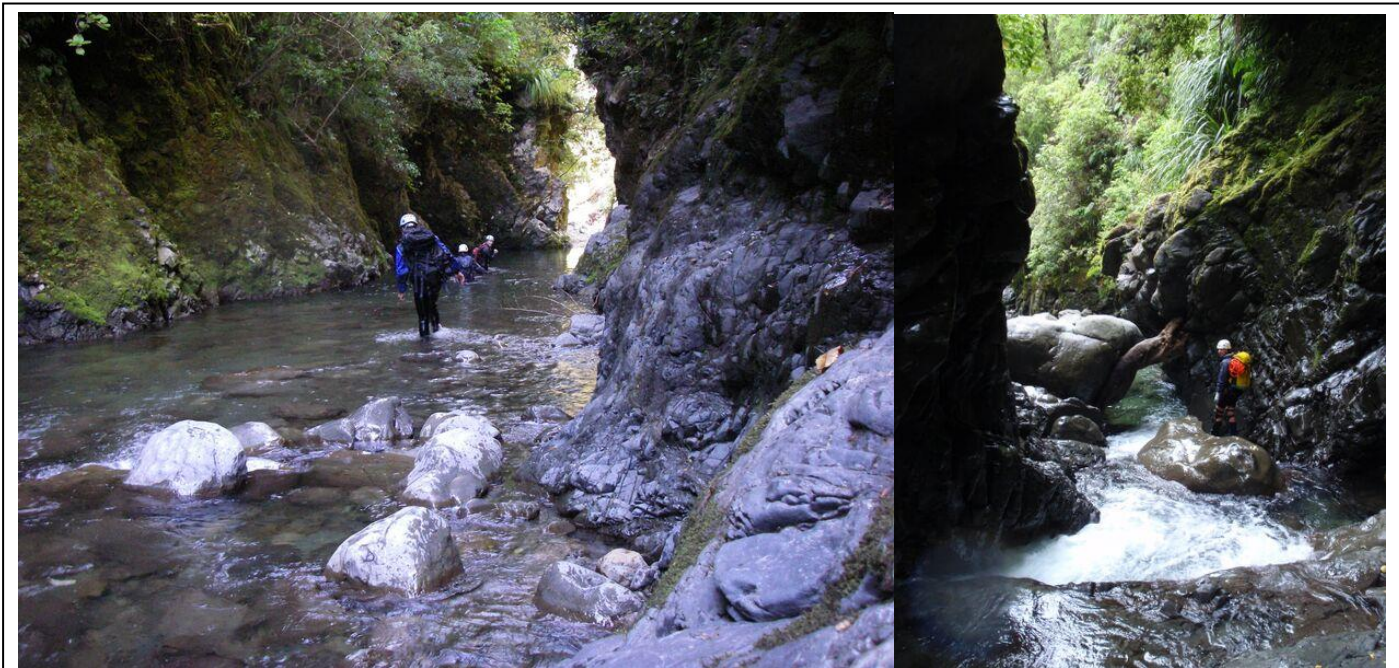
North Manakau Road: I have had a communication that this road is in poor condition.

Canyoning

The sport of canyoning is the descent of steep mountain gorges on foot, using any combination of swimming, jumping, sliding, scrambling and abseiling. Canyoning is a rapidly growing adventure activity throughout the world, but it is only just beginning to take off in New Zealand.

This summer season is an exciting one for the development of the sport here. The first guidebook to 'Canyoning in New Zealand' has just been released, which provides detailed information for more than 50 canyons across the country. The book features a range of adventures, from short, non-technical canyon walks to the most difficult descents that are only suitable for fit and determined experts. Over 100 additional canyons are briefly described as a canyoning history, and as start point for further adventures. The book is full of stunning colour photographs as well as sections on canyoning ethics and safety.

Although canyoning shares some fundamental techniques with sports such as tramping, mountaineering, whitewater kayaking and caving, these fundamentals must be applied differently in the canyon environment for the sake of safety and efficiency. There are several canyon guiding companies which offer tours and instructional courses. These are excellent if you want to learn new skills, or the right way to apply your current skills to the canyon environment.



Tararua Canyoning - the Atiwhakatu Gorge and Chamberlain Creek

Daniel Clearwater

The 'Canyoning Technical Manual' by OTE Rescue is focussed on NZ canyon conditions and provides an excellent reference for the skills needed to stay safe. Online, the KiwiCanyons.org website provides a number of resources for canyons, including technical tips and Facebook groups. The national association (Canyoning New Zealand) also organising the first NZ Canyoning festival in Wanaka, 29-31 Jan 2016.

Check out the resources online and learn how to get into canyoning!

Canyoning in NZ guidebook: <http://www.kiwicanyons.org/product/guide-book/>

Canyoning courses and resources: www.kiwicanyons.org/about-canyoning-in-nz/skills-courses/

NZ Canyoning Festival, 29-31 Jan 2016, Wanaka: www.canyoningnz.org/canyoningfestival/

We welcome Adrian Thompson and family to the club.

UPCOMING TRIPS

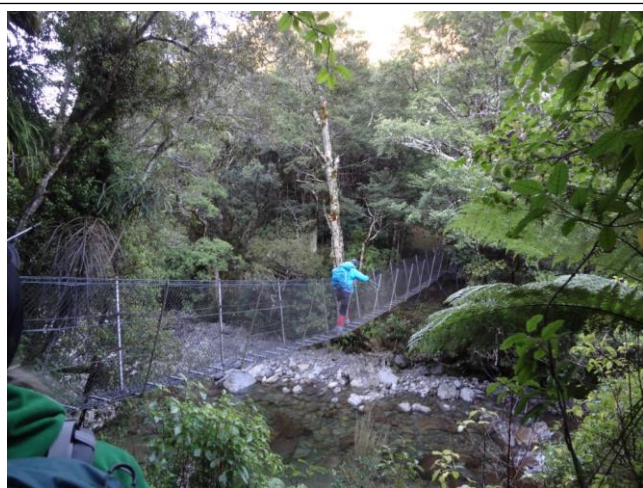
Trip Intentions

The email address for leaving trip intentions is intentions@mtsc.org.nz

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

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

October Wednesday Tramps		
Date	Leader	Phone
7	Linda Darbyshire	354 6171
14	Andrew Brodie	358 6576
21	Liz and Arthur Flint	356 7654
28	Allan Rae	358 3962



Heading into from Herepai Wednesday 12th August

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.

October Thursday Tramps		
Date	Leader	Phone
1	John & Gillian Thornley	356 9681
8	Brian & Ruth Evans	323 7614
15	Chris Mercer	356 2635
22	Glenn Pendergrast	356 7487
29	Syd Easton	356 7462

October Weekend Trips				
Date	Trip	Grade	Leader	Phone
3-4	Triangle Loop	Med/Fit	Jean Garman	021 1760209
10	Waipahinga Trails	Easy	Linda Campbell	027 3334493
17-18	Conche Falls	Med/Fit	David Harrington	06 839 5766
18	Colenso Trig Sunrise Hut	Easy	Alla Seleznyova	355 0862
23-26	Lake Chalice Loop	Medium	Adam Matich	022 3588062
24-26	Spring Ski Long Weekend	All	Ken Mercer	356 7497

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



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3rd-4th October: Triangle Loop

Medium/Fit

Jean Garman

021 1760209

trampski.cave@gmail.com

Leaving from the Rangi car park we will travel up the Deadman's track to Mangahua where we will either take the ridge down to the 'up and over' track then up the river to Triangle hut or if we suspect the river level might be up we will take the other spur which involves a little leatherwood but brings us down close to the hut. Sunday will be following the track up onto the Whanahua range and out via Rangi hut. As there are many predator box traps along this route we will be clearing and possibly re-baiting as we go.

Saturday 10th October: Waipahinga Trails

Easy

Linda Campbell

027 333 4493

323 3836

We will leave around 8.00am on Saturday 10th October for this walk and travel through Whanganui to Kai Iwi before turning right onto Rangitata East Road. The trails are about 12 km past Bushy Park. The plan is to take the Okehu ridge trail and have morning tea at Croppers clearing and then take Tom's track down to the Waitahinga Dam which was once the source of Whanganui's water supply. We will have lunch there before heading back along Harry's track until we hit the Okehu ridge track again and returning to the car park.

17th-18th October: Conche Falls, Ruapehu

Medium/Fit

David Harrington

06 839 5766

I spotted this name on a map a little while ago and with a quick search on google I still know nothing about it. That's a great reason to go! From the start of the Horopito Track we'll head due North cross country through hopefully nice bush (no guarantees) to the Mangaturuturu River then head NE for the Coche Falls 19m. We may make camp about 1km up-stream from here. Sunday we may follow the leading ridge (depending on the vegetation) up to Lake Surprise. It's then just a plod back along the track to the Mangaturuturu Hut and down the Horopito Track to the road end.

Sunday 18th October: ~~Colenso Trig~~ Sunrise Hut

Easy

Alla Seleznyova

355 0862

The access over private land to the start of the easy walk to Colenso Trig has been stopped. Instead we'll go to the Sunrise hut (altitude 700 m), the most popular tramp in the Eastern Ruahine ranges. It offers easy walking, beautiful bush, scenic views, and plenty of photo opportunities. It is also pretty safe under most weather conditions. The track starts at a car park near the end of North Block Rd and it takes 2-3 hours to reach the hut depending on the pace.

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 in a northerly direction 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 which is in a nice big grassy clearing suitable for footballs and Frisbees (about 7 hrs). On day three we will head south into the Goulter River and end up at Mid Goulter Hut (about 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. Our designated vehicle is now full, but if more people decide that they want to come along, then a second vehicle might give us more route options.

24th-26th October: Spring Skiing/Boarding

All

Ken Mercer

356 7497

Make the most of the long weekend and the last chance for some skiing/boarding in 2015!

There must be a valley between two hills.

German proverb

TRIP REPORTS

1st-2nd August: Mangatinoka Hot Springs

Linda Campbell

The first weekend of August was a great weekend for a trip to the Mangatinoka Hot Springs on the beautiful Mohaka River. It was unusually warm. In fact it was the first winter trip we have had to the springs when there was not ice on the ground mid-afternoon. There wasn't even any on the Sunday morning either.

Nine of us made the long trip north having the usual stop at Heavens Bakery in Taradale. After an early lunch we set off for the final part of the drive twisting and turning over sealed road and then on unsealed road to the start of the track. We set off along the track enjoying the scenery and views as we went. We were fortunate to see a blue duck happily doing its thing as we walked along. Several cameras came out and a few reasonable photos were taken. A stop was needed at 'the skimming beach' for a snack and for the 'boys' to have a skimming competition.



"The Skimming Beach"

Tim Swale

We were a little worried about the number of vehicles at the car park and more so when a group passed us. We needn't have worried as when we got to Te Puia Lodge there was only the group that had passed us and there was plenty of room. After claiming our beds and a quick hot drink we were on our way to the pools. We were pleased to see there was no queue and before long we were changed and in a tub. Wine and chocolates were consumed and a lovely time was had under the stars with the glow worms sparkling on the bank. There was a group of young people there that we had passed while they were standing on the road as we drove past earlier in the day. It

turned out they were a fourteen strong party from MUAC and they were tenting at the hot springs.

Feeling relaxed and warm we made our way back to the lodge to cook dinner. The cookers there are a challenge at the best of times and this year it seemed that all four needed encouragement to stay alight! Eventually dinner was cooked and we were all snuggled up in bed.

We returned via the same track. There was no sign of the blue duck but we did stop for a snack and another skimming competition at "the skimming beach."

We were in time for a late lunch at Heavens Bakery before we travelled back. Thanks to Jill Faulkner, Alla Seleznyova, Helen Peek, Karen Tutt, John Doolan, Doug Lagerstedt, Corey Julius and Tim Swale for their wonderful company and to John and Tim for driving for us.



A well-deserved soak

Tim Swale

Thursday 6th August 2015: Paekakariki Incline & Papatioihanga Walkway

John Doolan

It was a cold and windy forecast that came true as we started our tramp at the Ames Street Park / Reserve at Paekakariki. It was down the road a bit and under State Highway 1 to reach the start of the Escarpment Track. We headed south on a well formed track that gave no indication of the climb yet to come. We followed the train line for about 45 minutes admiring the extensive planting on both sides of the track. At the first water crossing we saw what destructive forces mother-nature can deliver us.



Half way up the Escarpment Track at Paekakariki *Richard Ellis*

A small water course that wound its way down the steep hillside had exploded by the bridge destroying the surrounding landscape in a most destructive way. Its powerful surge of uncontrolled water allowed nothing to stand in its way, nature at its worst!

Then the climb started: up and up, steps and more steps, some well-crafted wooden steps at the right height for us (unlike those leading up to Holdsworth) with the cold northerly at our backs. At the highest point the track just stopped right where the signs said “end of the line, do not go past the fence or future permission may be declined”. At some stage in the future this track will go down to

Transmission Gully and become part of NZ’s great walk.

Then we shot off to south of Levin and the Papatioihanga Walkway. This is a well tracked family walk through what I imagine is still part of the original forest that was there before the area had two legged upright beings walking around and clearing all the surrounding area for cultivation. That we can still enjoy and experience “what was” was truly wonderful. The track takes about 45 minutes return on excellent tracks and is suitable in all weathers, and would be graded as very easy / family.

Sunday 9th August: No. 1 line to Kiritaki Hut

Adam Matich

It took us a little under 3½ hours to make our way across to Kiritaki hut on the other side of the range; a 600m climb followed by a 200m descent. Not long after leaving the end of the DOC track for the unofficial track (at the park bench) we found it necessary to put on our rain coats, gloves and over-trousers. The snow started at around 600m and because the vegetation was well covered in snow pushing through it saw lots of it falling on us. We had to duck under quite a bit of vegetation that was weighed down by the snow as well. We were very lucky with the weather, as



Kiritaki Hut in the snow

David Harrington

there was little-to-no wind; just more snow which started falling at around 10am and got heavier as we approached the hut. It was a quick, cold lunch before making our way back to the vehicle in around three hours (less climbing in that direction). The falling snow had really taken hold by now and down at the car park (410 m) it was sleeting. Not the best conditions for



Winter wonderland

David Harrington

getting changed in, but David had hot coffee waiting for us in the vehicle so we didn't find it necessary to complain too much. This was our second good in-the-snow trip this season. We were Jenny McCarthy, Adam Match, and David Harrington.

Wednesday 12th August: Herepai and beyond

Russell Poole

Leonie's original plan for the 12th August was a walk up to Field Hut and possibly beyond. But a check with the Kapiti District Council brought the news that the Otaki Gorge Road was out, yet again. So a quick change of plans saw us tramping up to Herepai Hut instead. 15 of us turned out, with an advance party of about six making the full trip up to a viewpoint above the hut while the others, including this reporter, were happy to bask in sunshine at the hut and eat a leisurely lunch. The viewpoint from the hut was excellent, with a mixture of blue skies and rapidly moving cloud above the leatherwood, and the photos will show you that the viewpoint above the hut was better still.

Along the track we noted the unmistakably signposted Bottles Track junction just below the hut, with the thought that it could make for a good trip on a longer day. We also saw fine regenerating bush along the track, with lots of Kamahi and Toro but also some Rimu. Bird sightings were sparse.



Lunch in the sun at Herepai hut



Above the hut

Evan and Maureen



What with a 7.30am start and some brisk tramping -- the cool conditions didn't invite a leisurely stop-over down at the stream, unlike other times we have visited this locality -- we were all out again by 3pm. Sadly that wasn't early enough to secure us a cup of coffee at Eketahuna, though you can be sure all avenues were explored, including the Op Shop and the Four Square. We hope Michele's establishment will be up and running again not too long from now. With thanks to trip leader Leonie and to drivers Evan and others.

Wednesday 26th August: Wednesday Trampers Take The Longview And For Some The Extension To Rocky Knob

Bob Hodgson

At about 9.30am on Wednesday 26th of August, some twenty Wednesday Wilderness Wanderers set out on the tramp to the Longview Hut.

Up to the evening before, the weather forecast had been gradually improving, from persistent rain to none at all. In the event, we had yet another superb, warm sunny day adding to the evidence that trip leader Dennis had either done a deal with Beelzebub* or was unusually lucky. His last trip to Longview, a notoriously exposed tramp, also took place on a calm, sunny day. Although the weather was near perfect, the same could not be said for our access route along the Kashmir Road. From well before the Daphne Hut track car park, to the road end, we encountered numerous deep and water filled pot holes and for the last hundred meters or so the road was muddy with deep ruts. So it was with some jubilation that we arrived at the road end and started



On Rocky Knob

Maureen and Evan

along the track to the hut. For the first km or so, most used the zig-zag track while a few used the original and steeper route to where they converged. The tramp to the hut is signed as a two hour tramp, all of the Wednesday



Longview Hut – a great place for lunch in the sun



Maureen and Evan

trampers of the day made it up to the hut mostly under the signed two hours. As most will know, at about 3.7km it is not a long tramp up to the hut but it is steep with a rise of ~490m. There are several sustained sections having a gradient of more than one-in-three and there are several sections near the edges of very steep drops demanding

special care. The spring-like weather induced a festive atmosphere over lunch at the hut. Some then tramped on along the ridge for the views at Rocky Knob which is just 2m higher than the high point on the track before it drops down to the hut. By about 2.30pm all were safely back at the vehicles at the road end and most later enjoyed coffee at the Dannevirke BP station.

Thanks to trip leader Dennis and our drivers including Evan who drove the van.

* One of the Seven Princes of Hell.

Wednesday 19th August: Wednesday Wilderness Trampers Branch Out

Bob Hodgson

At about 8.45am on a day that promised heavy rain later, 28 Wednesday Wilderness Wanderers assembled at the start of the Branch Road walkway near the junction with Kuku road. With instructions not to take any wrong turns and to respect the gates, the party made its way up the valley in dry, overcast conditions. Three sub groups formed; a small group that deviated in search of a beehive, a larger group made its way up to the seat-with-a-view for the first morning tea then up to the top end of the walkway for a second to be joined by the beehive deviationists. At this point about half of the original party submitted to the lure of the steep and foot warming descent loop route via Ridge, Ennis and finally Kuku Road, lunch being taken under the veranda of the disused school. GPS data confirms that this circuit covers a distance of 15.4km and a rise and fall of 228m. Meanwhile the sensible and cool-footed trampers in the third group mostly tramped the 12km round trip to the end of the walkway and back with multiple refreshment stops reported en route. Within 10 minutes of 1.15pm, all groups had safely returned to the start point with the last half hour or so of tramping taking place in persistent rain. In driving rain, we all then converged on the Herb Farm Cafe to enjoy further refreshments. This was an enjoyable and inclusive winter tramp that accommodated all levels.



Anyone want a banana?

Maureen Naylor

Thanks to Mona as tramp leader and to our drivers, especially Evan for driving the Van.

21st – 23rd August: Snow caving

John Doolan

The plan was to travel up to our lodge on Friday night, have a good warm night's sleep, travel around to the Mangatepopo Track early on Saturday morning, climb up the Devils Staircase and up onto the Red Crater, then drop into the Central Crater, dig us a snow cave and come off the mountain on Sunday via a South West route to the Mangatepopo Hut.

Didn't quite go to that plan! As we approached the South Crater a call of "help, help" was heard above us from the mist and clouds around Ngauruhoe. The younger men in our group dropped their packs and climbed up to find the source of the calls. Eventually they assisted a trumper down to the track who had fallen on ice and injured his ribs. After an assessment of the injuries combined with lots of words of sympathy and the arrival of a descending group together with a Doctor, we recommenced our climb to the crater, albeit it we were now 2 hours behind schedule at



Snow camping

John Doolan

2.30pm. This was not enough time to complete our planned trip so we found a spot to camp for the night in the northern end of the crater.

Three tents were dug in and then we went to work on the snow cave. It took 3.5 hours to dig out a cave large enough for 4 of our group who had not slept in a cave before (which meant that I had to forgo my snow cave 2015 experience).

The wind started before we had made a start on our camp and continued until we dropped off the mountain at 11.30am on Sunday.

The snow started at 7.00pm and

didn't stop until we were half way down the Devils Stair Case at about 10.00am the next day. Everything we had to do was done while it was blowing and snowing: putting tents up, digging the snow cave, cooking in a trench, packing up and the inevitable calls of nature. As we were in a National Park, everything had to be taken back out (now that was a new experience for me!!).

It was a real lesson in conditions that were not the best. Ken had ensured by email that we had bought the most appropriate gear and it was needed. Without his advice we might not have had such a comfortable weekend in the snow. Nobody was cold and we all had good meals (except for Rob's curry, thankfully there was just enough snow around to cool my throat), a warm safe night's sleep and a safe tramp off the mountain.



Cooking in the wind and snow

John Doolan

We were Ken Mercer, Colin Mercer, Peter Rawlins, Howard Nicholson, Rob Pringle, John Doolan, Tim Swale, Linda Campbell, Margaret Horne, Peter Bowker.

30th August: North Mangahao Bivi

David Harrington

After picking Jenny up the two of us headed for Kopikopiko Road and parked up by the bridge. With heavily overcast skies after overnight rain we headed up the Patupaiarehe Stream through farmland (yes we had permission) with it being very muddy underfoot and taking care with the young farm stock. On reaching the bushline and being pleased with myself for still having dry feet we headed up a smaller side stream where unfortunately the crossings were deeper. So much for dry feet as one crossing was upper thigh deep on me and well, with Jenny being shorter you

can imagine. On reaching the forks it was a good track, although largely unmarked, up the spur for 350m to North Mangahao Bivi located in a tiny clearing near a small stream in the dripping bush.

After an early lunch in the nice dry and tidy Bivi we followed the padded track up behind the Bivi heading up the ridge a short distance then sidling off to the right in the direction of Punga Hut? We back tracked a bit then followed another faded padded track around to the left of the ridge keeping just below the scrubby tops and in nice bush. Just before spot 705 we changed direction and being very careful with the navigation in the poor visibility we descended SSE down a ridge, again sidling to the left of the scrubby ridge top and travelling in the nice open bush. On reaching spot 531 we followed a marked track to the east to a tiny knob then down a spur on a very well-marked track through nice Tawa forest to the farmland. It was then just a plod down beside the Mangahao River to the vehicle. We were David Harrington and Jenny McCarthy



Jenny at North Mangahao Biv

David Harrington

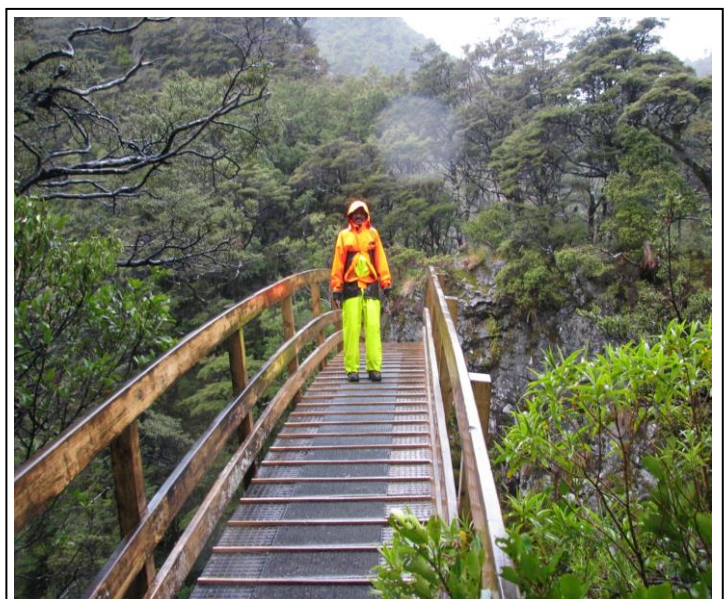
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A day out with DOC service team for track cutting and hut check

Raj Palinasamy

I have volunteered for the Department of Conservation (DOC) from October 2014, starting with half a day a week and ending up working 4-5 days in a week. Mostly I do data entry, transferring hut log books hard copy to an electronic format and entering biodiversity monitoring field data sheets into electronic spread sheets and I enjoy doing that. For a change, and to understand the hard work behind the field data sheets I wanted to go out with the service team when they were out about for their job, but didn't get a chance until recently on the 3rd September. A team of three including Nathan Lightbourne, Tim Paki (Timbo), both from the Palmerston North office, and Richard Taiaroa from Mangaweka were heading to Rangiwahia to check the Rangihut and for track cutting and clearing work. Timbo suggested I should join them on a field trip for a change and he got permission from Clinton Purches and Rod Smiley to take me on the field trip, so I happily agreed. I informed Nathan (team leader) that I would like to go with them and he kindly agreed as well.

The weather on that day was not at all nice as it was raining cats and dogs. Nathan came to pick me up and assessed my unprofessional wet weather gear so he provided me with spare gear to put it on which made my misery less. While Nathan and Richard with Tahī (Nathan's handsome, shiny, black coated, friendly and very obedient dog) did the track cutting and clearing, Timbo and I headed towards Rangihut for a monthly check. Monthly checks involve general tidying up and checking things are in good condition (availability of enough firewood, clean toilet, etc), so that people who stay in the hut feel at home. We were happy to see the hut in good condition after being used by 45 people in

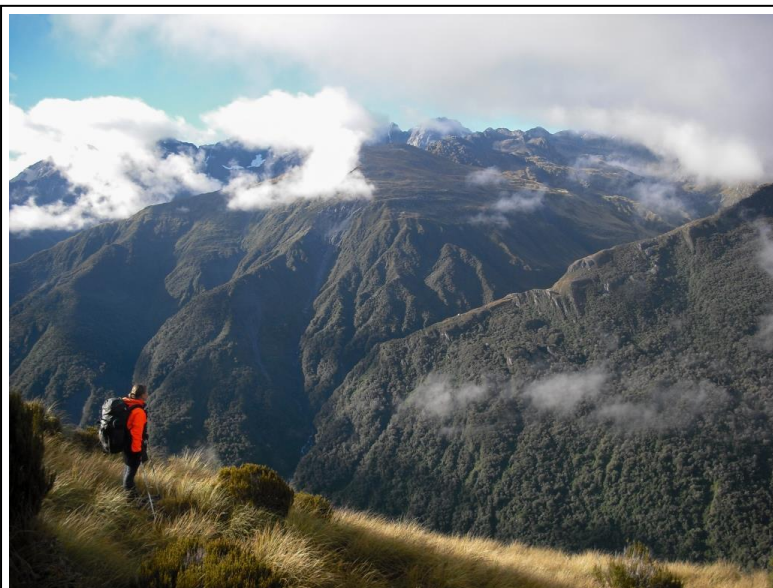


Raj kitted out for the rain

a month period, thanks to all the users on behalf of DOC for keeping the hut tidy.

Being a newbie to tramping I used to think about the hardships of the track maintenance teams. I am sure when you happened to be bush bashing on a tramp once you reach the well maintained track you tend to appreciate it. Michael Allerby once excitedly pointed out after two hours of bush bashing when reaching the well maintained track on our trip to South Ohau hut "Now we are on HIGH WAY Raj"! Now I learnt that a well maintained track comes from the good work of the hard working DOC service team as I witnessed on that day. When we went up the track towards the hut Nathan and Richard had just started the work on the track so I noticed the state of the track with fallen wood debris and branches, slipped stones on the walkway, etc. But when we returned the track was all clear and I did not need to think what I am landing my foot on, it was such a good work. I have seen people working on the tea plantations in continuously pouring monsoon rain to pluck the tea leaves in my earlier job, this track clearing work in that pouring rain reminded me of that. For this one needs dedication and commitment to finish the task whatever the weather may be. I don't think money motivates people to be dedicated and committed at work but individual's persona. Doing a good service to the people comes with the good heart, I learnt this on that day and I was proud of being with them on that occasion. My admiration to the service team at Palmerston North DOC office!

Some more winning photos from the 2015 photo competition.....





2nd place in Above the Bushline *Ivan Rienks*



2nd place in Below the Bushline *Yvette Cottam*



2nd place in Overseas *Owen Mills*

Many Thanks to  and 
COMMITTED TO ADVENTURE
 for generously supplying prizes for the photo competition.



ISSUE 9: October 2015

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
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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
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