

beechleaves

Newsletter of the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club



ISSUE 10: November 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 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), 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!



Tuesday 15th December: The MTSC End of Year Function = an evening stroll followed by a convivial dinner.

We will meet at the car park of the Esplanade Railway on the park entrance off Park Road adjacent to the Lido at 6pm. We will then make our way at a conversational pace along the river bank, over the Bridge and up the road and track to ANZAC Park where, if it is not raining, magnificent views of the Manawatu and beyond will be enjoyed. We will then retrace our steps down to and across the bridge and through the bush tracks back to the car park.

By 7.15pm we will arrive at the newly refurbished and earthquake strengthened modestly priced Halikarnas Restaurant, 15 Fitzherbert Avenue, where we will have a convivial dinner.

*Please book with Bob as soon as you decide you are attending but no later than Monday 23rd November.

rmsbhodgson@inspire.net.nz

** Halikarnas Turkish Restaurant menu offers choices to suit both meat eaters and vegetarians, it is licensed and BYO.

Contents

Reports, Notices and Information.....	pages 2-3
Upcoming Trips	pages 4-5
Trip Reports	pages 6-13
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

Another month goes by and we are now into spring. So far the weather has been somewhat changeable as is mostly the norm for our region at this time of the year. For those of us that are skiers, the season is starting to wind down as the snow begins to disappear. Hopefully, as the weather warms up some of us will be able to dust off the tramping gear and start to get out and about.

In the last couple of days, DOC has signed off the controversial land swap for the Ruataniwha dam. For those of us that have an interest in the Makaroro river area in the Ruahines, I would encourage taking a look at the relevant documents on DOC's website. From the information provided, DOC will get 170ha of land in exchange for revoking conservation status of 22ha of Forest Park land. This now removes one of the impediments for the proposed dam to go ahead. This is part of our conservation estate and should any of it be given up for development? I'll let you make up your own minds as to whether you agree or not with DOC's decision. If the dam goes ahead I personally will miss the opportunity to walk up the Makaroro River from the car park as this is a picturesque and pleasant stroll up to the park boundary. From a recreational perspective, I hope DOC has a plan for maintaining access to the Makaroro area should the dam go ahead. After all we don't need another area with restricted access in the Ruahines!

In the meantime take some time out to visit the mountains and enjoy the outdoors. *John*



MTSC Chief Guide: Ken Mercer

The club has three Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs) with two residing in the van. They have a test facility which I occasionally exercise and have just done so. Jean assures me that testing is worthwhile as her personal PLB failed at some point resulting in it being replaced by the supplier. Quite a few club members have their own PLBs so this is a reminder to ensure yours is working.

Are you interested in Canyoning? FMC have arranged a number of \$300 Canyoning Scholarships. Please contact me for the application form.

Lastly, my tally comes to 8 club members who volunteered in the Waitarere search. Well done, and thank you.

Interclub Photo Competition Results

Many thanks PNTMC for hosting the interclub photo competition and to Udo von Mulert for judging.

- NZ landscapes:
 1. Winter Wonderland; Woody Lee PNTMC
 2. Tongariro NP Aerial; Goldie Walker MUAC
 3. Homeward and Conway Ridges from Frisco Helipad, Westland; Jean Garman **MTSC**
- Above the Bushline:
 1. Chancellor Dome; Ange Minto PNTMC
 2. Overlooking Lake Hawea; Chris Tuffley PNTMC
 3. Looking across to Homeward and Conway Ridges, Westland; Ivan Rienks **MTSC**
- Below the Bushline:
 1. Castle Point; Goldie Walker MUAC
 2. Approaching Mungo Hut, Westland; Jean Garman, **MTSC**
 3. Three Wire Bridge, George Sound, Fiordland; Yvette Cottam **MTSC**
- Natural History:
 1. Alighting Tui; Chris Tuffley PNTMC
 2. Celmisias in Snow; Ange Minto PNTMC
 3. Alpine Flowers; Yvette Cottam **MTSC**
- Topical NZ:
 1. Mid King Sign; Ken Mercer **MTSC**
 2. Nature Rainbow; Claudi Mannering MUAC
 3. Fantail; Goldie Walker MUAC
- Overseas:
 1. Highway 211 Utah; Owen Mills **MTSC**
 2. Horseshoe Bend; Royce Mills **MTSC**
 3. Trail Home - Squamish BC Canada Malcolm Leary PNTMC



Interclub Quiz night results

Hosted by MTSC and by all accounts a fun evening was had by all with very close scoring between 1st and 2nd place.

1st **MTSC A** (84 points) Mary Mercer, Hugh Wilde, John Beech and Dave Newstead.

2nd PNTMC (82 points), 3rd equal (67 points) MUAC and **MTSC B**, 4th **MTSC C** (64 points).

The “guess the number of giant jaffas in a jar” was won by John Ridge.

Sunrise Hut track

Please note that the Hawkes Bay Mountain Bike club are having their annual ride of the Sunrise track on the 22 November. Not a good day to walk the track!

Club Maintenance of Te Matawai and Mangahao Flats huts

Currently MTSC has an MOU with DOC to assist with the maintenance of two huts in the Tararuas that have historical significance for the club. These huts are Te Matawai and Mangahao Flats. Although the club did not build either of the current huts it has been involved in the building, maintenance and removal of previous huts in these areas. In the last decade or so the club has donated funds, sought additional funding and carried out significant programmes of work to improve these two huts. However, for several years now all we have done is to run an annual work party to each hut to thoroughly clean the hut/toilet, gather/cut firewood and clear vegetation from around the hut and helipad along with minor track clearance on the way in/out. Over the last several years the number of people attending these work parties has dwindled to a small core group and the desire is not to continue with looking after both huts. We would prefer to continue with an agreement to assist with the maintenance of Mangahao Flats and not to continue with Te Matawai. The reasoning for this is that the club has historically had a stronger association with the Mangahao valley than with Te Matawai; originally having huts at the dam, at Harris Creek and further up the valley at Avalanche Flats. Te Matawai is a core hut and part of the Te Araroa walkway so DOC will continue to maintain it. Te Matawai is currently in worse condition due to its age and location which exposes it to more extreme weather. The walk into Te Matawai is longer and considered to be less pleasant by those attending the work parties. If you wish to comment on this please email newsletter@mtsc.org.nz.

Beechleaves Newsletter

It is proposed that due to the limited number of people still receiving a printed copy of the newsletter that the format of the newsletter will change from one that is geared to being printed to one that is geared to being viewed on the web. Printed copies will still be sent out to those who pay the additional membership fee to receive them while other members will be emailed a link to the latest newsletter when it is loaded onto the web page. It is proposed that these changes will take effect from next year. If you have any concerns, questions, objections please address them to the editor.

newsletter@mtsc.org.nz

296 Aokautere Drive, RD1, Palmerston North 4471

021 176 0209

Notes from the Ruahine User Group meeting

HUTS: A-Frame Shelter has sustained further damage; a smashed window and a fire lit on the floor. At Gold Creek hut the rats are enjoying the bait provided and a new longdrop is to be installed this summer. Otukota hut will hopefully be painted this summer. Cattle Creek hut requires some work for a leak in the skylight over the veranda. Manawatu NZDA is moving towards signing a management agreement for Forks hut and Te Ekaou hut. Kiritaki hut is suffering from quite a lot of wetness on the end wall and is scheduled to be re-painted this summer. Kelly Knight hut has new decking. Heritage lodge has had work started on the steps and rat feeding stations have been installed. Rangi hut is supplied with firewood and gets monthly checks.

ROADS and TRACKS: The Takapari road is in reasonable shape (it has a 5 to 7 year maintenance cycle) but be warned that getting your vehicle stuck beyond where you are allowed to go can result in an expensive recovery, in the order



of \$800 to \$900. Nomans road has been trimmed and the access ballot (2 hunting and 1 tramping/mountain biking party per weekend) has been allocated for this summer. 100km of track cutting work is planned for summer.

BRIDGES: PNTMC are seeking support (financial or in kind) for the replacement of the mid-poh bridge. In the meantime there are to be investigations into re-routing the track to a safer crossing point near the hut.

ACCESS: No further progress on Ruahine access issues at this point.

DOGS: All dogs entering the Ruahines will require avian aversion training (previously just for the Eastern side). Sunrise is a no dog road end.

WEEDS: DOC appreciates any feedback on weeds within the park; if you can provide a GPS location that would be appreciated. No need to tell them about the buddleia but they are particularly interested in wilding pines.

WHIO: The Whio group are gearing up for Summer and looking at options to extend the trap lines.

Notes from the Tararua Aorangi Rimutaka Huts Committee meeting

DOC: From mid-November DOC will have one manager and one operational team in each area. For the Tararuas this is Wellington (responsible for Parawai lodge and Kapakapanui hut in the Tararuas) and Masterton (responsible for everything else in the Tararuas).

HUTS: The Powell – Jumbo – Atiwhakatu hut booking system has been going for 3 years now; the season is from Labour weekend to Easter. A decision is yet to be made over whether to extend this to year round. Bookings opened mid-October and existing hut passes or annual hut passes can be used. You still need to book through DOC but they are looking into an on-line booking system. A DOC bid for internal funding to upgrade Jumbo hut was unsuccessful this year but they will try again next year. Recladding of Powell has been approved in principle but a business case still needs to be put together. The Cone hut vandalism has been dealt with; an on-going plan for appropriate historical maintenance is being developed. The long awaited work on Cattle Creek hut is scheduled for this summer. ARAC (not to be confused with AREC) are the group wishing to be associated with the Waitotaru area but they need to reach an agreement with DOC for Odlin’s road before they will engage with Waitotaru hut. A bid for committee funds to assist with returning Arete Forks hut to its original condition (and yes that does mean reinstating the open fire and painting the interior the traditional blue/green colour) was approved. This will make Arete Forks a good historical example of an NZFS hut – the ex-cullers have promised to keep it well stocked with firewood. This summer DOC plan to re-stain Mitre Flats and do some work on Herepai’s windows.

ROADS and TRACKS: The Walls Whare and Otaki roads are now fully open. DOC plan to re-gravel the Gentle Annie track. An internal bid for DOC funding to replace the hand wire in the Marchant stream was unsuccessful. The new section of the Te Araroa walkway between Paekakariki and Pukerua Bay is likely to open in February.

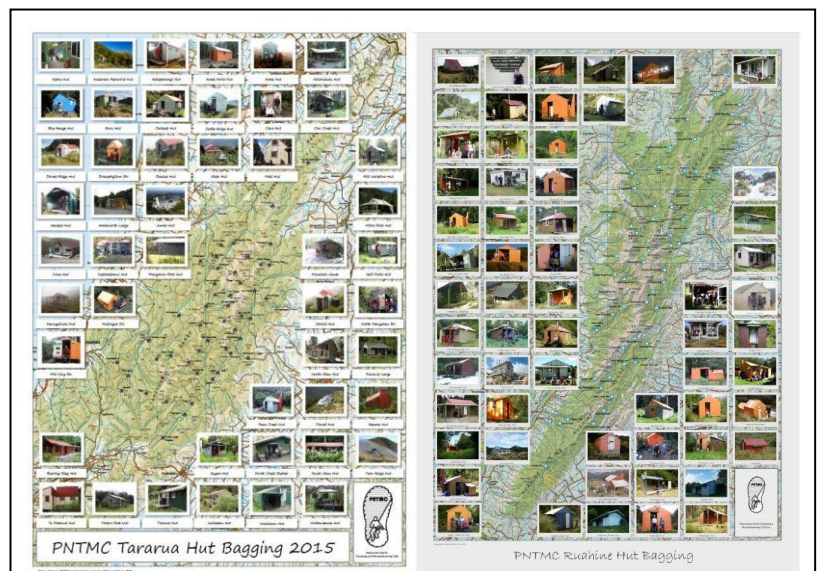
PNTMC hut bagging posters

PNTMC had a Tararua hut bagging competition from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015 and have made a colour map poster of the Tararuas incorporating all the huts in the area. A Ruahine Hut bagging poster from the previous year is also available for the same prices.

All proceeds help PNTMC fund maintenance of Ngamoko Hut and Mid-Pohangina Hut in the Ruahine Forest Park.

Prices: A2 size \$12, A1 size \$24

Contact Warren Wheeler 356-1998.



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.

November Wednesday Tramps		
Date	Leader	Phone
4	Rita Hodson	323 5491
11	Bev Akers	325 8879
18	Anne Rush	357 2529
25	Rod McKenzie	357 0136



Wednesday line up 2nd September

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.

November Thursday Tramps		
5	John Doolan	355 2100
12	Richard Ellis	357 6410
19	Carolyn Brodie	358 6576
26	Suzanne Clarke	356 8322

"Freedom is the will to be responsible for ourselves"
Friedrich Nietzsche

November Weekend Trips				
Date	Trip	Grade	Leader	Phone
1	Zeke's Hut	Easy	Linda Campbell	06 323 3836
1	Ross Peak	Med/Fit	Jenny McCarthy	06 376 8838
14-15	Pourangaki	Med/Fit	Adam Matich	022 3588062
21-22	Teachers W/E @ Lodge	All	Tim Swale	06 376 6556
28-29	Te Matawai Work Party	Med/Fit	Jean Garman	021 1760209

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



South Eastern Tararua 1080 drop October/November

Greater Wellington Regional Council

The operational area is located in the foothills of the Tararua and Rimutaka Ranges (see map). The pre-feed will happen when the weather permits after the 20th of October 2015, followed 1 to 2 weeks later (again weather permitting) with 1080 pellets.

TRIP PREVIEWS

1st November: Zeke's Hut **Easy**

Linda Campbell **06 323 3836**

Zeke's Hut is in the Hihitahi Forest Sanctuary about 17 km north of Taihape. I have never been there but have heard good things about it so the time has come. From the car park we will take the track across farmland, around a swampy bit and across a small stream before going over the fence that marks the forest boundary. There is then a short flat section before the main climb on the track. Near the top the track flattens out a bit and passes the Hihitahi Trig. Hopefully we will have fantastic views to the mountains. The track then heads down a grassy slip before sidling around and going down into the valley to the hut.

1st November: Ross Peak **Medium/Fit**

Jenny McCarthy **06 376 8838**

The tramp will leave from the No 2 Line to make our way to the timber trig on Ross Peak and back to the car. It should be about a 7 hour day. It is not going to be a repeat of the trip reported in the September 2011 Newsletter. We will be going the same way but this time the breeze will be warm and we will stop for lunch in a sunny clearing. I am only going there if the forecast is reasonable. There will be bashing through leatherwood, which is much more fun in the dry. If this was a track it would make a really nice summer day tramp but it is not so come along and hone your bush bashing skills. To get really inspired read the old trip report.

14th – 15th November: Pourangaki **Medium/Fit**

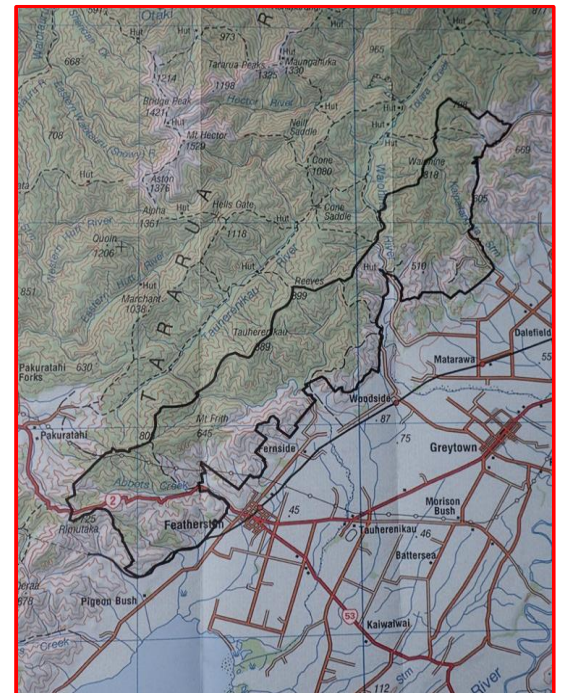
Adam Matich **022 358 8062**

adam.j.matich@gmail.com

We will be taking the Mania Track (one road end north of the Rangiwahia road end) up onto the tops, head north over Maungamahue Peak to then drop down to Pourangaki Hut for the night. Our descent may be either on the track or down the stream immediately NW of Maungamahue. The next day we will head back up onto the tops, either directly from Pourangaki Hut or via Kelly Knight Hut after sloshing down the river (depends on the weather and how we feel on the day), then back down the Mania Track.

21st – 22nd November: Teachers weekend at the Lodge **All Welcome** **Tim Swale** **06 376 6556**

This weekend is intended to promote our lodge to teachers, with a view to attracting greater use during the summer months by school groups. It makes a great base for fieldwork in Geography, Travel and Tourism, Environmental Studies, Outdoor Education or simply for school camps. We expect to head up on Saturday morning, introduce teachers to the lodge and let them explore any areas of interest to their subject area. We will stay overnight and hopefully enjoy a very social weekend as well as sharing ideas on educational activities in the area. So, if you are a teacher, or partner of, and are at all interested in exploring the educational possibilities of this unique mountain environment with like-minded people, please come and join us.



Area of 1080 application in South Eastern TARARUAS

www.gw.govt.nz



28th – 29th November: Te Matawai Work Party

Medium/Fit

Jean Garman

021 1760209

trampski.cave@gmail.com

NOTE this may be the last work party to Te Matawai hut – don't miss out! Aim: to clean the hut/toilet, gather/chop firewood and clear vegetation from around the hut/helipad. Most likely we will head in up the Gable End ridge then out via either South Ohau hut and the river or via Waiopehu hut depending on the weather, the river levels and the inclinations of the party. While most of the group will walk in at a relatively quick pace anyone who wants to walk in at their own pace and join us for some work and a sociable evening is very welcome.

TRIP REPORTS

2nd September: The Wednesday Wilderness Wanderers Knock Off the Carrington Loop

Bob Hodgson

On the second of September spring restarted as about thirty Wednesday Wilderness Wanderers assembled at the Holdsworth Lodge car park (~300m) at about 9.20am. Rain coats were barely needed all day.

After a brief discussion of alternatives, all but one of the Wanderers decided to tramp the loop. The first challenge



Wednesday Wilderness Walkers enjoying various aspects of the Carrington Loop

Maureen Naylor

was to ascend the steep slope to the Holdsworth Lookout indicated to us by trip leader's arm being pointed up at about 45 degrees to the vertical and the explanation for the uninitiated that the climb was "the hardest part of the loop". In retrospect, this resulted in a rare consensus amongst trampers, which is we (mostly) agreed! After the early start on our travels, the first morning tea taken at the Holdsworth Lookout (580m) was very welcome; sadly clouds obscured the labelled peaks. We then tramped on to the Gentle Annie Saddle and then the Carrington Ridge. Unusually, because of the ease with which we could have lost trampers, we tramped as one party. From above this would have had the appearance of a giant centipede or looping caterpillar, with the front going forward then pausing as the rear end caught up. We also regularly numbered through the column to ensure that nobody was missing. Finally, after a bush-bash that followed a track that was so eroded that it took on the appearance of a tight stream bed, we emerged onto the Mount Holdsworth track in the vicinity of the Rocky Lookout (680m). By 3pm all were all safely out after a tramp that was enjoyed for the challenge met and the varied and beautiful bush we navigated. Coffee etc, was subsequently enjoyed at the i-Site in Masterton. It was also good to see a little of regular trumper Chris as he awaits surgery.

Thanks to trip leader/camp mother Bev and our drivers especially Evan who drove the van.

3rd September: Atiwhakatu Hut

John Doolan

The weather forecast was for rain, rain and more rain so an email went out to the 16 people on my list to prepare them for a wet day and the need for a good raincoat. The raincoats went on as soon as we got out of the van and stayed on until we got back to the van 6 hours later. Thankfully the Holdsworth road end has a shelter up the hill by the toilets so that we could get ready out of the rain.



ISSUE 10: November 2015

The track in is very user friendly nearly all the way. Towards the end there has been a huge slip that is still wet and looks like it still has some more movement to come. The track goes up and over the top of the slip requiring some good footwork to stay upright. A huge tree lying on its side at the top of the slip is testament to the destructive force of nature as it cut a 70 metre gash in the side of the hill.



Looking up the Atiwhakatu River valley

The big tree sliding down the slip

Richard Ellis

Our arrival at the hut in the pouring rain had the potential to upset a 75th birthday party so we all sat outside, under the eaves so out of the rain. Trampers from the Wellington area were waiting for the birthday girl to arrive at 12.30pm and she did, bang on time. Table clothes, plates, serviettes, wine glasses, at least two bottles of wine, balloons (in the hut and along the track), cheese ball, pate and a birthday cake were amongst the preparations for this special occasion.

Our intention was for us to split into two groups: one to relax at the hut while the other group stretched their legs for an extended tramp. But the wet weather cooled that idea and we all headed back out to the car park. The forest along this track is some of the best around. Graham was able to give us a commentary on the different kinds of fungi and lichens, absolutely fascinating and educational. It was inspirational to learn about what can be seen from the track rather than just blindly tramping to get to the hut / car park.

The ice cream shop in Masterton was open and 13 of us enjoyed double scoops while 3 of us waited until we got to Eketahuna for a coffee. Alas, the coffee lady had broken her leg and the shop was closed ☹️. Comment was made that one did not make coffee with your legs so why was the shop closed?

The happy trampers on this occasion were: Carolyn, Norman, John D, Syd, Richard, Brian, Ruth, John McL, Merv, Graham, Craig, Jill, Judy, Gillian, Hugh and Tony.

9th September: Wednesday Wilderness Wanderers Go Sledging

Bob Hodgson

On Wednesday September 9th, a coolish, wetish, dullish day, about 20 Wednesday Trampers assembled at the Sledge Track car park; the only extreme aspect of the day being the foul odour from the long drop! We split into three groups, one intent on a gentle tramp at the lower levels, one intent on turning at the mines and the majority group intent on tramping the top loop (about 12km return and a climb of about 400m). As we climbed, the track became increasingly muddy and the temperature dropped to the point that breath was briefly visible but we were mostly spared the forecast rain. Apart from a little confusion that led to a 70m deviation, the loopers made good time to an agreed lunch spot. As soon as the nose bags were engaged a shower of fine rain started but only persisted for a few minutes, just



Weraroa virescens, spindle pouch

enough time to make sandwiches soggy! As the photos testify, unlike the sandwiches, the weather did not dampen the enthusiasm of any of the groups.



Lots of smiles for the cameras

Maureen and Carole

The Loopers found a rare fungi subsequently, tentatively identified by Maureen, as Spindle pouch *Weraroa virescens*. After an 8.35am start we were all safely out by 2.30pm followed by coffee at Rendezvous where we were joined Ken Rush. Bev and Gary who having made an early start, had tramped the Sledge and on and round the Nipple leaving notes found by the loopers, also joined us.

13th September: Mountain house loop
Alla Seleznyova

It was a brilliant calm day and we had a great walk. The Mt Holdsworth car park was full and we met a lot of trampers of all ages, especially on the way to the Rocky Lookout. We had lunch at the Mountain house and then took a track down to the Atiwhakatu stream and back to the car park.

We were Karen Tutt and Alla Seleznyova.



Karen and Alla enjoying the sunshine and views at the Rocky Lookout

16th September: Wednesday Wilderness Wanderers do Rangiwahia Hut or Deadman's or both

Chief reporter Bob, Cub reporters Robert H, Maureen and Russell

Wednesday September 16, saw 27 trampers meet at the Rangiwahia Hut car park at about 9.30am. At this point the weather was fine but cloudy on the tops so the loop track seemed out of the question. Most of the party opted for the Rangiwahia Hut option but four, "The Super Group", chose to tramp up the Deadman's Track which is steeper but offers fewer steps than the hut track with its



At Rangi hut

Maureen Naylor



multiple sets of ten (did anybody count them?). After two hours of hiking up the well-formed track the last of the hut bound party were enjoying a leisurely lunch and, thanks to some departing overnight occupants, the warm wood stove. Nearby the hut a Karearea (NZ falcon) was seen on the wing, and on the tops some fine carex testacea, the Latin name for a group of species of sedge grasses. Also observed above the hut, was the unlikely sight of a lone sun-bather (Ian), topping up his Vitamin D. Meantime, an intrepid group had gone on beyond the hut into snow and returning to the hut for a late lunch. Then, perhaps affected by the altitude, Chris Teo-S and Dennis, decided to do the full loop track. The weather gods smiled on them allowing a speedy circuit in well under four hours. They overtook the Super Group as they enjoyed the lovely bush on the tramp down Deadman's.



On the Rangī track

Maureen Naylor

A fine trip altogether and especially with the sudden improvement in the weather and after lunch giving good views for all. Most were safely out by 2pm and the last shortly after 3pm

As usual the mission concluded with a coffee stop. This time at the Hansen Cafe in Kimbolton who stayed open for us and made us most welcome. The consensus was that this Cafe is worth another visit!

Thanks to trip leader Robert H. and our drivers especially Evan for driving the Club van.

17th September: Hidden Lake

Merv Matthews



The 'Hidden' lake

Richard Ellis

This was only our third trip to the Hidden Lake in the last 18 years. Three of our group opted for a shorter trip to Herepai hut, while the other seventeen headed for the lake. We found the trip a little more difficult and took longer this time because the faint trails that used to be visible on previous trips were now overgrown. However, the trusty Garmin GPS guided us directly (more or less) to the exact spot. The Ruapae stream was unexpectedly high, and most of us had wet feet after crossing it. The lake is sited high on a plateau overlooking the Ruamahanga River. It's not particularly large, but large enough to show on topo maps and on WAMS aerial photography. After a lakeside

lunch we took a shortcut for the return trip by heading due East in order to strike the Roaring Stag track part way up the hill. It would have been more pleasant without the occasional drizzle, but everyone seemed to enjoy the adventurous nature of this trip.

19th – 20th September: Kime Tutuwai Hut

Adam Matich

The weather forecast for Kime Hut was rather doubtful so we decided to head for Tutuwai Hut which is a pretty weather-safe destination. We headed in from Wall's Whare (the road is now open all the way) by the Reeves Track which took us less than 4 hours; in part because stopping wasn't an attractive option. While the weather wasn't nasty, it drizzled more-or-less continuously and not long after we reached the hut it started raining and continued to rain lightly or drizzle, all night. It can't have ever been solid rain as the river did not noticeably "come-up" and somewhere around 10pm a party arrived after having dropped off Marchant Ridge, down the Omega Tack, and crossed the river. Soon after we arrived we spent half an hour splitting fire wood; splitting axes are far more useful for splitting large rounds than normal axes. There ended up being twelve people in the hut for the night which was not too many. Next morning we headed up-river to the recently refurbished Cone Hut, which is looking tidy and now sports a wood shed. However, if anyone is feeling community spirited, it needs an axe, a splitting axe, and a good bow saw. A three-hour day saw us back at the road end with plenty of time to get back home, clean up the mess and mow the lawns. We were Jenny McCarthy and Adam Matich.



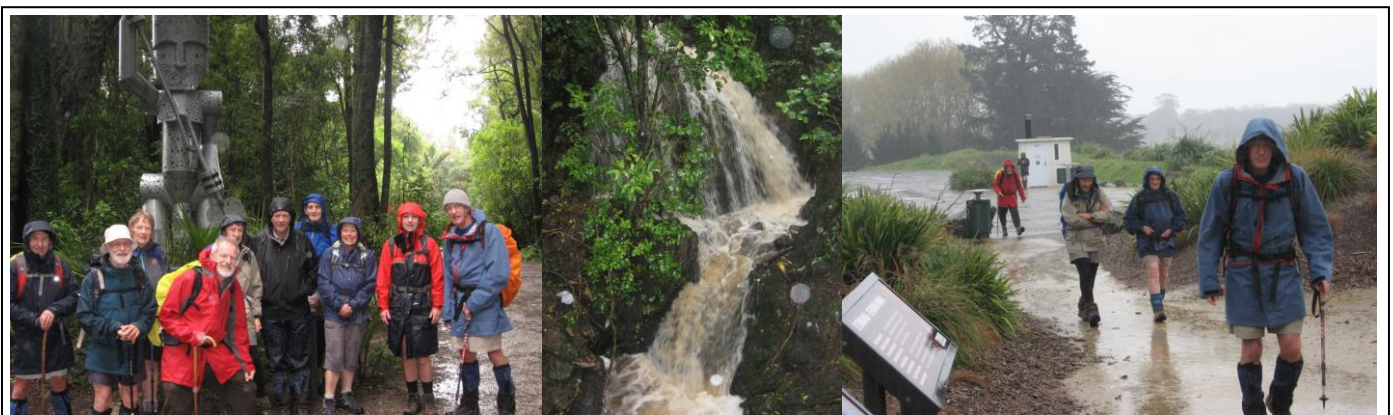
Jenny at Cone hut

Adam Matich

23rd September: Wednesday Wilderness Wanderers Divert to the Gorge

Bob Hodgson

After an amazing run of dry or, at least trampable Wednesdays, the 23rd of September was memorable for a heavy rain warning and low rain clouds. Faced by this betrayal by Huey, the Wednesday Wilderness Wanderers abandoned prior plans and about twenty made their way to the relative safety of the Gorge. Most tramped through to Balance.



A wet day in the Gorge

Maureen Naylor

The van and a car were driven through to Balance and three tramped in and out to meet the main party half way while several did in outs from the Ashhurst end. It rained on us all for all of the time except when we gathered for lunch in the Ashhurst Domain shelter at about noon! The tramp was enjoyed of course, but the consensus was that we appease Huey and hope for a dry one for a tramp to Field Hut next week.

Thanks to Trip Leader Denise (good decision!) and drivers Evan, Denise, Christine and Bernard.

26th – 27th September: A Weekend in the Snow

Carl Pester

The weather was kind and the group friendly. Saturday night we had 16 adults and 10 children (including babies). Most were regulars, but it was great to have a couple of groups new to the lodge. Rob Pringle treated us to Eggs Benedict for breakfast, using his trademark hollandaise sauce, which is to die for. To top it off, Jess had made Rob a large chocolate birthday cake in the shape of a landrover (Rob's restoration project). We all had to play our part in protecting Rob's waistline by partaking of that sweet treat. The highlight of Saturday evening was the beam-traverse entertainment. Several people took on the challenge under the watchful guidance of experienced club members and all impressed with their efforts. Peter Rawlins' 3.5 minute record was not under threat, but Rob Pringle made a statement with his sub 7 minute effort. The enthusiasm did not wane until close to midnight (I am told). Thanks to all those who pitched in with meals (particularly Shirmay on Saturday night) and cleaning over the weekend, without any prompting as usual.



Ready to go

Carl Pester

27th September: Kime Hut

Adam Matich



Kime Hut in clearing weather

Adam Matich

The weather forecast for this weekend looked rather better than for the designated weekend, so it was decided to do a day-trip to the newish Kime Hut. The Otaki Gorge road is now open all the way again. Just under 2 hours saw us at Field Hut, which had accommodated 28 people the night before (rather than me), of which only four filled in the log-book. After a short break we continued on up in the sun. There was no snow on Table-Top and very little was encountered until we reached Bridge Peak, from where it was maybe inches deep but not icy, so it was

not a technical trip. We arrived at Kime Hut (105 min) in slightly murky conditions, but the longer we stayed the more we saw of the sun. By the time we left the hut it was clear. Unfortunately, the hut wasn't in a very happy condition. A window had been left open and had been blown out by the wind, which allowed a good amount of snow to be blown into the bunk-room section of the hut. A couple of DOC guys got there a bit before us and managed to put the window back in and start on the clean-up. After lunch we continued with the clean up, brushing the snow off all the mattresses and scraping the ice from the floor and sleeping benches with the shovel. Three of the four sleeping benches were affected. The icy floor was very slippery and that end of the hut very wet. Some loser had also left the vestibule door open, and so that area had a considerable amount of snow to be shovelled out too. It took us an hour to do the best that we could manage, without offer of assistance from the people who were staying there that night, they seemed to think it wasn't their problem! So an hour later than expected we headed back down again and had to suffer a bit too much sun until we reached the shadiness of the forest below Field Hut.



Jenny clearing snow/ice inside Kime



Adam Heading for home

Jean

Part way down from Field, we encountered a couple of desperate hunters who begged for water as they had run out and were feeling excessively dry. So we gave them what we had and continued back down to the road end (8½ hour day) where there were actually people splashing around in the river....didn't think the weather was that warm. We were Ivan Rienks, Jean Garman, Jenny McCarthy, and Adam Match.

30th September: Wednesday Wilderness Wanderers do some Field work & some made Table Top

Bob Hodgson



Spring clematis

Maureen

Wednesday 30th September, the last gasp of September, was a gorgeous spring day, it was the sort of day hoped for since the official arrival of spring. Twenty one sprightly trampers assembled in the area adjacent to the suspension bridge over the Waititauri River situated just above its confluence with the Otaki River. With a 9.30am start the day warmed up as we all chugged up the zig-zag many dispensing with layers as we went. The sun was warming so it was pleasant to gain the cover of the bush. In all its variety the bush along the upper track was as gorgeous as the day. The exception was the large numbers of wind thrown trees along the ridge in the approach to the hut. All made it to the slab seat about an hour from the hut but on such a pleasant day many opted for an early lunch and turn.

Others tramped on to the hut for lunch at ~754m and five or six, to the views from Table Top at 1047m. All trampers were safely back by 3.45pm and it was a relaxed, well exercised and mentally refreshed party that left to meet for coffee in Otaki.

Well done Sam, grandson of Evan and Coralie, who not only tramped to the slab but also reminded us all of the energy that we once had!

Thanks to van driver and trip leader Evan and to our other drivers.



Well done Sam

Maureen



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
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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
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