

beechleaves

Newsletter of the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club



P.O. Box 245, Palmerston North 4440 www.mtsc.org.nz <https://www.facebook.com/MTandSC>

Issue 1: February 2016

Newsletter Format: You will notice that this newsletter looks a little different. We are moving towards a new, simpler format, better suited to being read on a screen. This will allow the inclusion of more photos and cut the need for editing reports to make things fit into an even number of pages. A printed version will still be available but will be smaller (less photos) than the online version. This is a work in progress so things may continue to change for a while. Suggestions welcome, send to editor@mtsc.org.nz.

CLUB NIGHTS

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

Tuesday 2nd February: Red Rocks and Desert

Royce Mills

Highlights of our visit to four National Parks in Utah, USA: Arches NP, Canyonlands, Bryce Canyon and Monument Valley. Huge rock arches, balanced rocks, natural bridges, giant monoliths and canyons. Endless sunshine too!



Tuesday 1st March: The 4,300 km Pacific Crest Trail [PCT]

Glenn Pendergrast

In 2015 Glenn Pendergrast spent five months hiking the 4,300 km Pacific Crest Trail [PCT] from the Mexican border through California, Oregon and Washington State to Canada. The PCT follows the mountainous

spine of these three states through 7 National Parks, 4 National Monuments, 5 State Parks, 25 National Forests and 48 Federal Wilderness Areas with a total elevation gain of over 128,000 meters and with a high point of over 4,000 meters in the Sierra Nevada mountains. It was a great adventure.



REPORTS & NOTICES

MTSC President Report: John Beech president@mtsc.org.nz



Well, another year has flown by and here we are at the start of 2016. Hopefully some of us have been out and about in the bush taking advantage of the fine weather and holiday time over the Christmas break.

Looking at the media recently a story on yet another road through a National Park caught my eye. This time it was Kahurangi's turn for a road through the Wangapeka track. Coincidentally, I was due to walk this track with some friends just prior to Christmas so was quite interested to see what the country would be like. As expected, we found the whole area challenging with steep, difficult and highly unstable terrain. Although I am not an engineer or geologist it seemed pretty

obvious that the economic, let alone environmental cost would be enormous. Unfortunately these schemes tend to pop up regularly, particularly when a region is struggling economically, none more so than the West Coast with the downturn in the coal industry. Although I sympathise with the locals I cannot support the concept of anything like this being pushed through any of our National Parks. To my mind our conservation land is sacrosanct and should remain that way. There has to be a line drawn in the sand that means no more exploitation of this land. Unfortunately, for many people our conservation land is foreign to them for a variety of reasons. Therefore they push for this sort of development having never set foot in the bush or mountains. Those of us that do make the effort and appreciate the delight of a Robin perching on your boot and pecking at your laces would find this type of development abhorrent. Indeed, there are 890 rat and stoat traps on the Eastern side of the divide in the Wangapeka. The amount of bird life was more than I have seen in many other forest parks. Surely this demonstrates what can be achieved if we continue to preserve these areas without the threat of development.

So let us hope that this scheme will go the way of its predecessors and fade into obscurity.

In the mean time I hope you have all enjoyed the Christmas break, are having a happy New Year and intend to get out into the hills at some stage.

John

Otaki Forks Road Closure



Due to further slippage at Blue Slip (again) there is currently no vehicle or foot access to Otaki Forks.

<http://www.kapiticoast.govt.nz/whats-on/News/2015/taki-gorge-road-closed-due-to-slip/>

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/news/75358903/popular-kapiti-picnic-spot-closed-for-summer-due-to-rock-fall-risk>

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.

February Wednesday Tramps			February Thursday Tramps		
Date	Leader	Phone	Date	Date	Date
3	Russell Poole	022 658 0661	4	Christine Scott	354 0510
10	Leonie Lowndes	359 5005	11	Royce Mills	355 8556
17	Ian Brookes	358 7974	18	John Brock	329 4834
24	Robert Bruce	329 7858	25	Gordon Clarke	359 2500

February Weekend Trips				
Date	Trip	Grade	Leader	Phone
6 - 8	Otaki Gorge	Med/Fit	David Harrington	06 8395766
6 - 9	Lake Colenso	Medium	Mark Learmonth	355 9143
13 -14	Full Waingawa	Fit	Jean Garman	021 176 0209
13 - 14	Lodge Workparty	All	John Lyttle	027 433 6307
20 - 21	Rimutaka Forest Park Walks	Easy/Med	Alla Seleznyova	06 355 0862
20 - 21	Waipakahi hut, Kaimanawas	Med/Fit	Dave Mitchell	329 2803
27 - 28	Tongariro Crossing	Medium	Ken Mercer	356 7497

Extra tramp Sunday 24th January: Tarn Biv

Medium

Mark Learmonth

355 9143 or 027 200 4960

For those of you who may not be able to commit to one of the clubs three day tramps over Wellington Anniversary weekend but would like to spend at least one day out in the bush, on the Sunday Tony Evans and myself are tramping up the Rovalls Track to Tarn Biv. You are most welcome to join us.

6th – 9th February: Lake Colenso Hut

Medium

Mark Learmonth

355 9143 or 027 200 4960

On the 6th from the road end we will climb up to the Motai Patea peak and sidle round to the track proper and onto Lake Colenso hut for the night. On the 7th we will travel up a stream to a marked track leading to Ruahine hut. On the 8th we will head for Iron Bark hut via Ohutu Ridge. This is a long day; we may end up camping out. The 9th will be a short day back to car park. At this stage we have three confirmed starters. Do come and join us, as this will not be a fast trip and should suit most medium trampers. Tony Evans will be our leader.

6th – 8th February: ~~Otaki Gorge~~ Pourangaki Headwaters

Medium/Fit

David Harrington

06 8395766

Due to the closure of the Otaki Forks Road, this weekend has moved from the Tararuas to the Ruahines. The new plan is to head in via the Mania track and over Te Hekenga before following the Pourangaki river down to the intersection with the Pari stream before making our way back to the road end. Probably a 2½ day trip and at least one night will be camping. This trip is dependent on good weather.

13th – 14th February: Full Waingawa

Fit

Jean Garman

021 176 0209

trampski.cave@gmail.com

On Friday afternoon/evening we will wander into Mitre Flats hut for the night. Saturday will see us climbing Mitre before descending into the headwaters of the Waingawa River which we will follow for the rest of the day, camping where takes our fancy before continuing on down the river on Sunday back to the car. Lots of wet feet and some pack floating involved. This trip requires good weather.

13th – 14th February: Lodge Work Party

All

John Lyttle

027 433 6307

john@bcsltd.co.nz

The main focus of this weekend will be to install the new double glazed windows to the bedrooms. As well as this we will be doing the usual tidy up and spring clean, so regardless of your abilities we can find you a job. These work parties are a great time to socialise and meet other members. It is free to stay and eat at the lodge with a small charge if you want to catch a ride in the club van. The van will leave Palmerston North around 6pm on Friday 12 February. Please email, text or call me if you have any questions or want to reserve a bed. All help appreciated.

20th – 21st February: Waipakahi Hut, Kaimanawas

Medium/Fit

Dave Mitchell

329 2803

I have not been to this hut in the Kaimanawas for many years, so I am interested in visiting it again. I plan to leave PN very early on Saturday or on Friday night. We will park at the Umukarikari road end, although if we have more than one car we may leave a vehicle at a different road end to come out to. The track climbs up to the peak Umukarikari and heads along the ridge to Waipakahi hut which is at the head of the valley. If the weather is fine we could walk back down the river and then climb out using the loop track to get back on the Umukarikari track. Alternatively if we have several vehicles then we could go out over the top of Urchin and come out at different car park. Both days could be up to 9 hours and we may have to camp if the hut is full. So it will be a full w/e with us getting home late on Sunday. If the weather is fine it is usually a nice walk in this part of the Kaimanawas with views of the surrounding areas like Ruapehu.

20th – 21st February: Rimutaka Forest Park Walks

Easy/Medium

Alla Seleznyova

06 355 0862

Catchpool valley is 12 km south of Wanuiomata. There are a number of DOC huts close to Orongorongo River that can be booked in advance. I have stayed in Boar Inn, a small charming rustic hut with a huge fireplace, and in a bigger Jans Hut with a wetback stove and I loved both of them. There is a variety of tracks starting from the Catchpool valley car park that can be used to reach the huts. On Saturday, we will probably take the shortest way along the Catchpool stream (about 5 km). After settling in the hut we can explore the river or do the Cattle Ridge Track. On Sunday, we will return to the car park via a section of McKerrow Track to a Mount McKerrow (706 m) and return via Clay Ridge track. I have not done the tracks to Mount McKerrow; but my time estimate from the Rimutaka Forest Park booklet is about 6 hours. If you like to come to this trip please let me know ASAP, these huts are very popular and I need to book in advance.

TRIP REPORTS

Wednesday 11th November: Wednesday Wilderness Wanderers go off-shore to Mana

Report: Bob Hodgson

Photos: Maureen and Linda

It was yet another day of indifferent spring weather with several heavy rain squalls met as we motored south. 29 of us board the twin hulled ferry to Mana Island and most enjoyed the twenty minute, lumpy, crossing.

We were joined on board by two Friends of Mana Island who were to be our guides for the day. Once disembarked we made our way to the Woolshed Museum where the resident DOC Ranger, Jeff, welcomed us and gave an initial briefing on the establishment of the Island as a Scientific Reserve (1987).



Mana has a colourful history: having been inhabited and cultivated in pre-european times, then as a whaling station and source of ships' supplies, the location as a short lived lighthouse that, through confusion, caused two ship wrecks(!), as a private farm then as a quarantined government sheep breeding station. 28th September 1976 saw the first of the suspected scrapie outbreaks on the Island. The first was kept quiet. The affected sheep were killed and burned with the help of 10 tons of coal 80 tyres 15 cord of pine, 58 bales of straw and 30 gallons of diesel. This was the amount of fuel estimated to burn 280 sheep. Two years later a second possible outbreak led to the abandonment of the breeding program and the change of use for the Island which is now being restored to its presettlement state by large scale plantings. In addition the island has been cleared of possum, rats, mice etc. The mouse eradication program took three years and 5500 bait stations spread across the island every 50 meters. After the last mouse was



caught, the island was declared rodent free eighteen months later. Mana was the largest Island to be cleared of mice in the world at the time. Before the control started at the back door of one of the houses, using a simple bucket trap they caught 204 mice in one night.....There are many such stories to be told, see www.manaisland.com, many of these stories were shared with us by our two guides as we tramped around the Island.

The benched tracks were easy going, about one and a half metres wide and grassed. They had recently been mowed and made a welcome contrast to the muddy tracks recently "enjoyed" by the group.

We had a pleasant lunch at the site of the lighthouse also the high point of the island at 122m, as we moved on we were hit by about fifteen minutes of heavy rain but then the weather cleared. We saw little of the birds restored to the island; for most of us this amounted to the distant sight of the heads of two takahe plus many sightings of kakariki. We were also briefed on the efforts being made to reintroduce the fairy penguin to the Island including the cliff-top burrows and the intensive feeding of the chicks brought in from elsewhere.



We spent almost six hours on Mana, mainly wandering the tracks and listening to our excellent guides. Not a tramp as we know them but a most enjoyable day trip.

Thanks to Trip Leaders Bev and Mark, our drivers especially Evan for driving the van.

Weekend 14th – 15th November: Pourangaki Hut

Report: Adam Matich

Photos: Jean Garman

On Saturday morning a group of three made their way up the Mania Track in fine weather. Some of the lower sections of this track are in very attractive forest; plenty of large firewood worthy trees. Up higher it grades into mountain cedar and then to nice open tussocky tops above the bush line, although the trail was not always glaringly obvious and the waratahs were few and far between. On the mountain cedar section of the track there were a couple of campsites with views down onto slips above Pari Stream, which is a much-used hunting area.

The 1635m high point was reached a bit after lunch (3½ hr) and the group dropped through the windy saddle and followed the route as it sidled around the eastern side of Maungamahue (1 hr) to the gully to the NE of this peak. At the top end it was a steep descent down through the tussock into this stream; for

the first 50 m it being necessary to bum-slide down on the grass while holding a little grimly onto the tussock. Not something to do when it is wet or snowy.



Eventually a steep scree slope was reached and progress down onto the stream was much faster. Stream travel was pretty good, although it was a continuous rock hop in the bouldery watercourse. The first small waterfall easily negotiated, but the second one (200 m from the main river) looked difficult and so the party climbed out on the true left (860 m) and sidled north across the flat terrace to reach Pourangaki Hut after a 7½ hour day. We were expecting this benched section to be difficult going with dense vegetation, but it turned out to be quite open.



The weather changed overnight to light rain/drizzle with a bit of cold wind; although the climb up the track to 1614 wasn't a problem as it was all pretty sheltered and was a good track. Once on the top the only practical place for a stop out of wind was in the lee of Maungamahue; otherwise we didn't stop until we reached the bushline on the Mania track. Navigation along the top was also a bit of a problem as visibility was poor. For a short while we were heading West instead of instead of SE, but Jean and Dave soon corrected this error. The bush line on the Mania track was well and truly reached by lunch time and the car was reached in the early afternoon (6 hr day).

Weekend 21st -22nd November: Teacher's Weekend at the Lodge

Report: Tim Swale

This weekend was an opportunity to show off our Club Lodge to any teachers who might be interested in using it as a base for school camps or fieldwork trips. We have an asset which is very popular during the ski season but under-used for much of the rest of the year. It is therefore in our interests as a club to utilise the facility to ensure that on-going costs such as insurance, rates and lines charges are met. Information on the Lodge and an invitation to join us for a teacher's weekend was sent to all schools in the Palmerston North and Bush Districts with a good amount of initial interest. Despite this, we only managed to get a couple up to the lodge for the weekend. However, the seed has been sown and hopefully principals and teachers will have in the backs of their minds that our lodge could be a good place for their school to use. A link to the Lodge School's flyer is here <http://mtsc.nz/lodge-flyer-schools.pdf> so if you have any friends who may be interested in taking a group to the lodge, please pass it on.

Weekend 28th -29th November: Te Matawai Work Party

Report: Jean Garman

Photos: Jean Garman

This was the last ever Te Matawai Work Party - sorry if you missed it. With a limited pool of willing workers it has become too much for MTSC to carry on looking after two huts in the Tararuas. Te Matawai is part of the Te Araroa walkway, so we figured it would stand a better chance of DOC looking after it than Mangahao Flats which gets less visitors being a bit more off the beaten path.



Five of the regulars made the trek in via the Gable End ridge as although the weather was not unpleasant the Ohau River was running a bit high from previous rain. We set to work carrying out the normal chores. The hut was cleaned, including the windows, the toilet, the guttering and all the mattresses. Firewood was gathered and cut up. Then it was time to relax; nibbles and drinkies were followed by a soup that had been simmering away on the log burner while we worked. Everyone else must have thought that the weather wasn't that great as we had no company for the night.

Anything that wasn't finished on Saturday was completed on Sunday before we headed back out down the Gable End ridge as there wasn't much hope of the Ohau River having dropped sufficiently to risk dropping down to South Ohau.

A full report of all the hut issues beyond our capacity to deal with including the need for a new long-drop hole in the near future (!) was sent through to DOC. It was very sad that this was going to be our last clean-up of the hut but there is still Mangahao Flats to pour our love and care into – work party scheduled in March!

Many thanks to the ever willing workers: Dave Mitchell, Adam Matich, Jenny McCarthy, Ivan Rienks and Jean Garman



Wednesday 2nd December: Herepai Hut

Report: John Ridge

Photos: Maureen Naylor

The weather report was favourable for the Wednesday trampers; it was somewhat warmer than expected with high cloud cover and not too much sun, good for tramping. Herepai Hut is situated in the Tararua Forest Park. South-West of Putara in the upper part of the Mangatainoka Valley.

Twenty-four were in our party today. The tramp starts easy but as one progresses it becomes a challenge and can be fairly demanding. One has to keep a close lookout for potential hazards such as roots and rocks of which there are many and particularly when wet are slippy and could cause a fall.



The early part of the tramp is an easy grade on a good track. Five minutes after starting we reach the first swing bridge high above the river which causes some delay as it is "one at a time" to cross. At this stage we are passing through some pleasant stands of beech forest.

The middle stage starts at yet another swing bridge and time for morning tea and re-grouping. We divide into groups for the climb to follow. This is quite steep through dense bush. We feel rewarded on reaching the T-junction on the ridge top. Here is a signpost indicating Herepai hut, our destination for the day.

The track continues along the ridge top and in places there are view points through the vegetation. Unexpectedly the first sightings of the Tararua main range appear and good photo opportunities. Soon we arrive at the hut. Time for Lunch.



After lunch we look forward to returning to the car park by retracing our steps, once again taking care as we descend.

We stopped for refreshments in Eketahuna which now has a choice of cafes. Coffee, cake (or both) or ice-cream whatever one decided was very much appreciated.

Thanks to the car drivers of the day - Marion, Russell and Christine. The van was driven by John.

Weekend 5th – 6th December: MTSC Lodge Work Party

Report: John Lyttle

Photos: Ivan and Jess



We had a great turn out and the weather on the Saturday was clear and sunny making it perfect for the completion of the track to the lodge. We now have formed steps on all the hilly sections to the lodge make access safe and easy. Sunday was a wet cloudy day so we were able to attend to some internal repairs and painting. Overall a very productive weekend and another major project completed. Thanks to all who gave up there weekend.

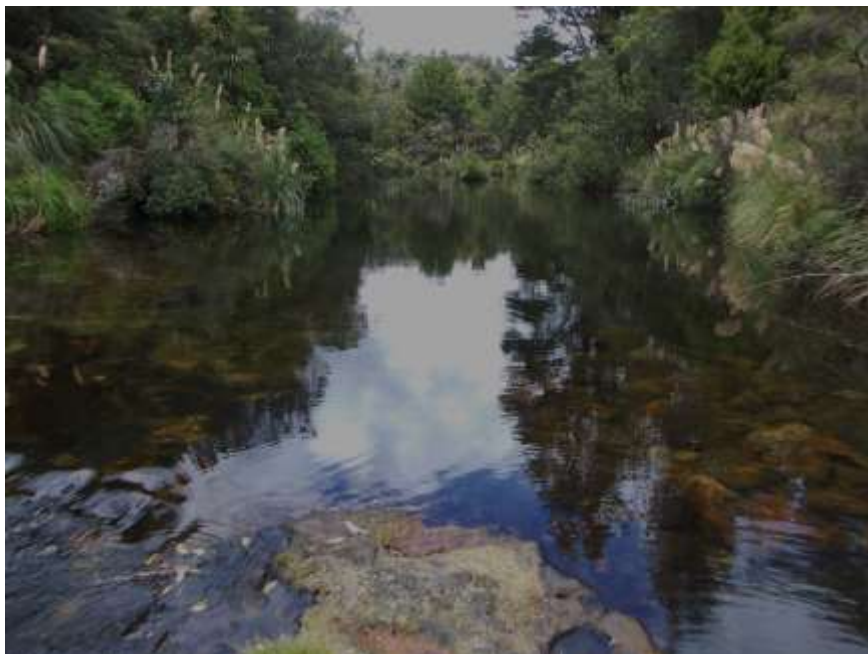


Weekend 5th – 6th December: Waiaua Gorge Hut

Report: Mark Learmonth

Photos: Mark Learmonth

As there was no interest in this trip instead I joined up with the Hamilton Tramping Club for a day trip to view the awesome Te Rere i Oturu falls in the Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park. It is rated a five to six hour round trip. These falls are 40 meters high and 25 meters wide. To reach the falls we went on the overland track, which first on leaving Ngatuhua Lodge climbs an old logging road up to a plateau then takes you south to the Opuaki river which you then follow up stream to the base of falls. This involves two river crossings which would be really tricky if the river levels were up a little. On arriving at the falls we had a lovely lunch break before returning first up the short top track to Frankham's road then along the road back to lodge. A totally enjoyable day, thanks to the Hamilton tramping club.



Weekend 12th -13th December: Holly-Pouakai Loop

Report: Adam Matich

Photos: The weather was not conducive to anyone taking their cameras out!

The weather forecast didn't look good for Saturday, and on the drive up to the road end that seemed to be confirmed. However it quietened down and at the start of the track, the party enjoyed a false hope; we even considered not wearing rain coats. The Kaiuauai Track starts 2 km short of the North Egmont road end, it taking not much more than an hour to get to Kaiuauai Shelter where we had lunch. Despite what the map says all of the water courses are now bridged, so it is a winter-safe track. The Henry-Maude area is now all stepped and board-walked so the going was very steady and there is a viewing platform on top of Henry. All the way through to Henry we had a bit of light drizzle and not much wind, but once atop Henry we experienced proper Taranaki weather. The wind and torrential rain finally arrived and we were walking in a stream not on a track. However, it wasn't at all cold and so what could have been misery was a bit of an adventure (4 hr day). The people in Pouakai Hut had the fire alight so we had a warm night and were able to dry out our clothes and the floor of the hut overnight as the other occupants got up in the night to add coal. Sunday was slightly damp, but much better and we almost had some views. It took another 4 hours to make our way back to the car via the Ahukawakawa, Holly, and Kokowai Tracks. The latter was a new route for all of us and had some good views down into Kokowai Stream and across to the North Egmont visitor centre. It was a faster, easier trip than we expected; although in good weather we might have stopped to smell the roses and gotten our cameras out. We were Peter Rawlins, Jenny McCarthy, and Adam Matich

MTSC Christmas Mini-trek and Feast, 15th December 2015

Report: Bob Hodgson

Photos: In order protect the good names of the participants no feast photos are included!

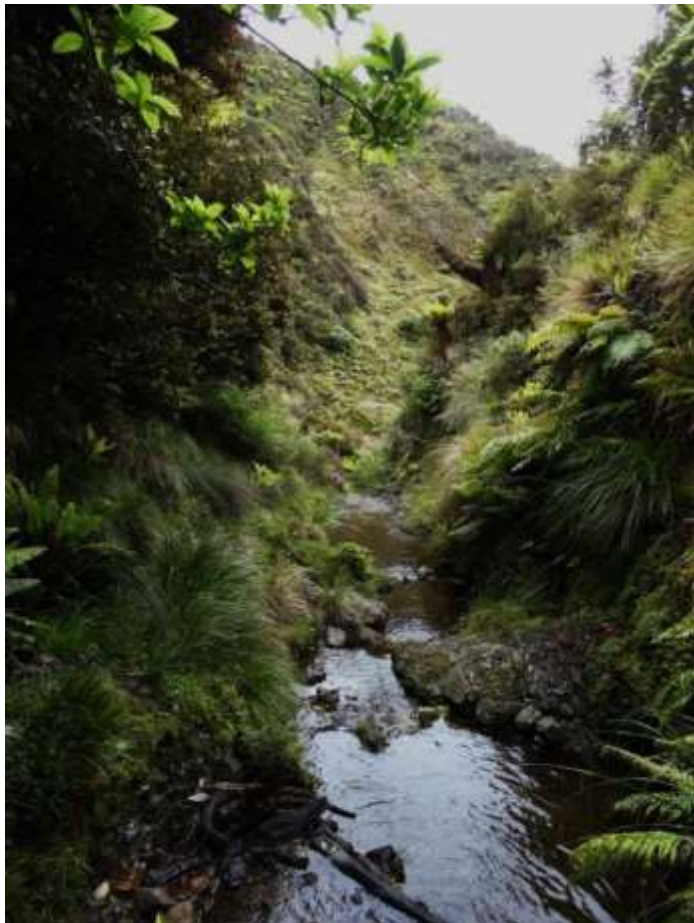
By 6pm on an overcast evening of light winds, about 25 MTSC members assembled at the Esplanade Railway car park adjacent to the lido. They then made the (slightly) steep ascent to the Manawatu River Bank Track. Avoiding the hazards presented by runners, cyclist, dogs and mothers with prams, they made their way to the first of two major river crossing. With no wet bums in evidence and using the Loop track, they then scaled the heights (35m) of that well known beauty spot and lovers rendezvous, Pork Chop Hill. After a brief stop to take in the view and to inspect the river works, the party descended via the Loop Track to repeat their crossing of the mighty Manawatu River, again achieved with no swims or even wet bums!

The return to the car park was completed on the bush tracks. After the 4.44km trek all safely returned by about 7.15pm and then reassembled at Halikanas Restaurant to enjoy a convivial meal in the function room. This included both Turkish delight and Christmas crackers with an associated plethora of bad jokes, a fitting end to an excellent year for the club.

~~Saturday 20th – December: Full North Ohau~~ 9th January: Ohinetapu Stream

Report: Adam Matich

Photos: Adam Matich and David Harrington



The weather interfered twice with the advertised trip so it was replaced with Ohinetapu Stream which is a bit north of No.1 Line, Pohangina. We followed the bushline from No. 1 Line north across Dundas Creek to the stream we wanted. Fortunately, we were on the other side of the fence to the very stropy bulls that were bellowing and pawing the ground. They followed us along the fence-line for a little while before eventually losing interest.

In the stream, from 370 to 450 m was a bit buddleia-ridden but not difficult going as there were animal and people trails. It wasn't long before we got our feet wet, but never our shorts. Once the buddleia ran out the stream got to be pretty pleasant and the higher we went the more open it was.

A bit above 600 m a proper waterfall was encountered but the slope on the TL was steep but scaleable without any difficulty, allowing access to the very top of the fall. It was then plain sailing until around 740 m where a gorge and multiple falls were encountered. We had to back up out of the gorge and climb up to a bit over 800 m on the TL to get around it and then drop down a steep little spur back into the stream.

Finally, after 30 m more climbing up the stream we decided it was better to leave it and climb on a sidle along-side in the Horopito on the TR. Eventually this degenerated into a leatherwood shimmy for last 100 m up to 990 m, which was about 100 m east of 1011. The leatherwood was damp, dirty and unpleasant but not nasty and there were no tears or tantrums. Then everyone was happy as it was a hop, a skip, and a jump along the track back down to the road end after a 7 hour day without any rain or sun; all to the good. We were David Harrington and Adam Matich.



CLUB DETAILS

Contact Details

Postal Address: MTSC, P.O. Box 245, Palmerston North

Committee 2015 - 2016

President	John Beech	president@mtsc.org.nz	06 354 9310
Secretary	Tim Swale	secretary@mtsc.org.nz	06 376 6556
Treasurer	Arthur Flint	treasurer@mtsc.org.nz	06 356 7654
Chief Guide	Ken Mercer	chief.guide@mtsc.org.nz	06 356 7497
Membership	Sue Nicholson	membership@mtsc.org.nz	06 357 6325
Newsletter Editor	Jean Garman	editor@mtsc.org.nz	021 1760209
Lodge Manager	John Lyttle	lodge.manager@mtsc.org.nz	027 4336307
Mini-Bus Manager	Ken Mercer		06 356 7497

General Committee: Bev Akers, Bob Hodgson, Howard Nicholson, Rob Pringle

Appointees

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

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. 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.