

# beechleaves

Newsletter of the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club



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

Issue 10: November 2016

## CLUB MEETINGS

Club meetings are held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month at the Rose City Aquatic Club Rooms, 50 Park Street, Palmerston North (next to the Lido). Meetings begin at 7.30pm.

### Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November: Exploring Coastal Fiordland

Vince Neall



Coastal Fiordland was first visited by Europeans during Cook's second voyage in 1773. Having searched fruitlessly for the great southern continent for months, but also having been the first to cross the Antarctic circle, Cook veered north to arrive in Dusky Sound on 26 March 1773 to resupply. He first anchored off Anchor Island, before mooring the "*Resolution*" in Pickersgill Harbour for a month. The last vestiges of their visit are still observable today.

Soon further British explorers arrived, together with the Spanish, leading to the beginnings of a seal and later a whaling industry. This led to construction of the first European house at Luncheon Cove, on Anchor Island, and construction of the first European ship to sail in New Zealand waters.

Pigeon Island was the home of Richard Henry, a Government conservation officer, from 1894 to 1909. Over that time period his total efforts were expended on finding rare birds, especially kiwi and kakapo, and transferring them on to pest-free Resolution Island.

In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century Preservation Inlet became the focus of a gold rush and later prospecting for silver and copper. Two towns of Cromarty and Te Oneroa serviced the miners, but by 1904 most of the population had left.

This talk will trace this rich and diverse history together with the geology, flora and fauna of the area today.

### Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December: MTSC end of year WALK and MEAL



Following the pattern of our previous end of year dinner walks we will assemble in the Manawatu Gorge Car Park (Ashhurst End) at 5pm for a 5:15pm (prompt) start. Then, come hail or shine, we will walk the 4km Tawa Loop (<http://www.manawatunz.co.nz/item/te-apiti-manawatu-gorge-tawa-loop/>). On emergence we will transform from trampers to more or less elegant dinners and head to "The Ashhurst Inn" at 8 York Street, Ashhurst, by 7pm to be joined by anybody unable by reason of other commitments or affliction to join the Looping Walkers. There is plenty of parking to the rear of the Inn.

**If you plan to attend please let me know names ASAP and definitely before Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November**, Bob Hodgson, Social Convenor, [rmsbhodgson@inspire.net.nz](mailto:rmsbhodgson@inspire.net.nz)

<http://www.ashhurstinn.co.nz/home> Main Meals range in price from \$17 to \$28 and there will be a small charge for the breads and dips to be served on our arrival. There are vegetarian and non-red meat options available.

# REPORTS AND NOTICES

## MTSC President Report: John Beech

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



Hi all, spring weather has typically arrived in force as we start into October. As I sit here writing the wind is blowing and the rain has been on and off over the two weeks of the school holidays.

For those of us that are skiers, the facilities and skiing on the mountain look to be slowly reducing as the warmer weather takes a toll on the snow conditions. Maybe it's time to pull the boots or the bike out of their winter recesses and dust them off for some summer activities.

Firstly, a couple of updates from the last newsletter. The Ruahine User Group recently had their tri-annual meeting and this was expected to be controversial with the Ongaonga base closure at the forefront. To their credit DOC managers responsible for the decision were in attendance and this was appreciated by the group. Members were able to give their opinions and DOC's Southern

North Island Operations director gave us his take on why the base is possibly closing. Although the decision has not been finalised, we hope that our concerns will be taken into account. To that end members of the Committee and I have penned a letter to the Director General of Conservation outlining our concerns.

Secondly, the recent Appeal Court success of Forest and Bird on the Ruataniwha land swap will now go to the Supreme Court as DOC seek to have the decision overturned. This is reprehensible but is being backed by the Minister of Conservation. This now has the rather perverse effect of pitting DOC against Forest and Bird. One has to wonder how much of this is politically driven as the dam is certainly one of the government's pet projects. One has to wonder what the Department is all about as normally both organisations would be on the same side. FMC will be watching carefully as the decision has serious ramifications for future development on conservation land.

I want to finish on a positive note, particularly with reference to the work that DOC does. It is relatively easy to find something to complain about and unfortunately two of the recent issues we disagree on are in our own patch. However, three weeks back two of my colleagues and I took a group of students into the Kaweka Hot Springs. As most of you know this is a popular place for obvious reasons. As usual we had an enjoyable time, but the normally good Hawkes Bay weather let us down. While that proved to be a minor issue, when one is soaking in the hot pools, what we did notice was the huge amount of damage done on the track from the recent winter snow storms. Obviously DOC had been in there and cleared a lot of it to get the popular track open, but much more remedial work will be needed. We also noticed a new addition to Te Puia lodge and that was a wood burner. Gone is the gas heater, although the gas rings are still there. DOC fly in the wood for it as well. It worked a treat, and was certainly appreciated in the wet and cold conditions. So congratulations to DOC for getting on with the job of clearing the track smartly and replacing the old gas heater with the new wood burner. We really appreciate the work that does go into keeping our huts and tracks in tip top shape. Till next month. *John*

## Results from the Annual Inter-Club Photo Competition

Category	Place	Club	Photographer	"Caption"
Above the Bushline	1 <sup>st</sup>	MTSC	Royce Mills	"Snake Ridge"
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	MUAC	Stacey Hendriks	"Morning delight, Lake Angelus Hut, Nelson Lakes"
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	PNTMC	Chris Tuffley	"Angelus By Moonlight"
Below the Bushline	1 <sup>st</sup>	MUAC	Greg Speirs	"Pouakai Tarn, Mt Taranaki"
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	MTSC	Jean Garman	"The Hector Gorge"
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	MUAC	Sophie Burling	"Exploring the Underworld"
Landscape	1 <sup>st</sup>	MTSC	Owen Mills	"Lindis Pass"
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	PNTMC	Chris Tuffley	"The Main Range"
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	MTSC	Jean Garman	"Great Southern Lake"
Natural History	1 <sup>st</sup>	PNTMC	Chris Tuffley	"Coming In"
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	PNTMC	Martin Lawrence	"Snares Island Penguins"
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	MTSC	David Harrington	"Kiwi"
Overseas	1 <sup>st</sup>	PNTMC	Chris Tuffley	"Elephant's Eye"
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	MUAC	Sophie Burling	"Waterfalls at Grinnell Glacier"
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	MUAC	Jonathan Tam	"Salzburg in Winter"
Topical	1 <sup>st</sup>	MUAC	Jonathan Tam	"Milky way and the light tower"
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	MTSC	Jean Garman	"Thirsty work"
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	MUAC	Greg Speirs	"Taranaki sunset from MUAC Hut, Ruapehu"

## The winning photos



Above the bushline *"Snake Ridge"*



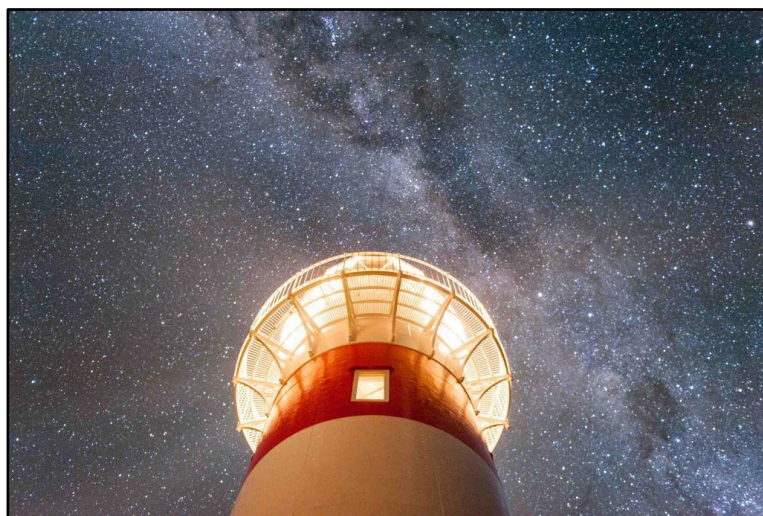
Natural History *"Coming In"*



Below the bushline  
*"Pouakai Tarn, Mt Taranaki"*



Overseas *"Elephant's Eye"*



Topical *"Milky way and the light tower"*



Landscape  
*"Lindis Pass"*

## MTSC achieved a creditable 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Annual Inter-Club quiz hosted by MUAC

### Closure of the end of Whakarara Road

The last section of Wakarara Road down to the river is not a public road. This is now shut to the public. Please respect this decision as the road is on private land, therefore not legal access even though it is a formed road. DOC will be looking at poling a nearby paper road down to the river, which will enter downstream of where the current private road enters the Makaroro River. For further information please contact the Department of Conservation Palmerston North Office 06 3509700.

### Slip on the Manawatu Gorge track

There is a section of track in the Manawatu Gorge walk that has let go and disappeared along with a structure due to a large slip. This section is on the main track between the Klien track and the Balance end of the gorge. It will most likely remain shut for a couple of months; for an engineer to assess the stability of the site, designing a new structure, getting it built, installed and signed off for it before it can be opened again. You can still walk the main gorge track from the Ashhurst end, but only as far as the Klien track to come out at the upper gorge road bridge. Be aware that this area has limited car parking and it is recommended to go under the road bridge to get of the other side of the road. The small loop track at the Balance end of the gorge remains open as does the Tawa loop at the Ashhurst end. Any question please ring DOC Palmerston North, 06 3509700.

### The MTSC Lodge on a clear and starry night

*Hazel Phillips*



### Notes from the Ruahine User Group meeting

**Huts:** Work on **Top Maropea** has been completed; new piles and bearers along with levelling and clearing of the area around hut. **TripleX** and **Waipawa** have new fireplaces. At **Forks hut** a meat safe/signage has been put in and rubbish/windfall taken out. The spouting has been fixed up at **Te Ekau**. Looking at putting a wood burner into **Mid-Pohangina**, PNTMC didn't get a bid in this round but will try next round. A bid for **Toka biv** was made to ORC; piles/flooring are good so basically a rebuild on top of these and add a water tank but as ORC only fund like for like to change to a stand-up biv would require additional funding. Bids have also been put in for **Aranga hut** (apparently within the park boundary by about 60m) and the **Kawhata Base**. **Gold Creek** has a new loo. To collect rat bait to take into Ruahine huts please give DOC notice as it is held at the Tremaine Ave depot so needs to be brought into North Street office for collection.

Volunteers are wanted for hut wardening at Sunrise and Rangi over the summer season as trialling a booking system – see information below if interested.

**DOC:** Huts are on a 10 year painting rotation = 6 huts/year. Work at Sunrise and Kylie biv has been delayed due to weather, ready to go 1<sup>st</sup> weather window. Irongate track and hut work planned for this summer.

**Tracks:** Going to a 6 year track cutting cycle; 4 years is the maximum desirable time but DOC is not sufficiently funded to achieve this. The cutting is done by DOC staff; if it was contracted the cycle would be even longer. Ken and JJ designed the rotation. Gateways and local treasure tracks get cut on an annual basis. At a regional level can ask for additional funds for specific events (flooding, snow/wind break events) but no guarantees.

**Access: Kashmir road:** a roading contractor will be giving a quote, likely to move car park and toilet to below the worst section (600m back from current location) but if it doesn't cost too much may do it all. **Takapari Road:** from the gate at the airstrip to the gate at the bush is all bad, 4WDs getting stuck going up through the farmland. Council are pricing up fixing the bottom section while DOC are pricing up the upper section. Once in the bush the road is OK.

**Sunrise road end:** looking to realign the access to Smith Stream to conform to the paper road (currently at goodwill of farmer). The vehicle track will go through to TripleX so no need to walk across farmland. Proposal has gone through council but still has to go through the legal process before changes can happen. **Kauwhata Base:** looking at the base building to be bookable by school groups, tramping clubs – the original access is available for maintenance of the base and will most likely be available for booked groups. Possibility of a track through the Rangitane reserve which will halve the time currently need to walk up the river to the base. **Purity Road End:**

looking at an easement access way, might possibly be sorted by the end of year for work over summer. **Pohangina:** better signage as to what is private and what is public, will be open again once lambing is finished. **Happy Daze:** talks have stalled, experts looking at what the title actually means, if they give a favourable opinion will negotiate with the landowner. **Mokai Patea:** looking to restart negotiations for direct access to Iron Bark, may move the car park to the other side of the culvert. **Whakarara Road Makaroro River:** the last section of road is on private land. This has been closed, possible trench to stop access. There is a paper road option and DOC are looking to pole this but unsure of car parking. If the dam goes ahead there will be a car park and walking track around dam included. See below.

**Biodiversity: Blue Ducks:** please report blue duck sightings to DOC. New trap line (120 traps) going in through from Longview to join with the Orua traps, effectively surrounding the upper Pohangina valley. **Goats:** contractors working the southern and NE areas. **Pines:** primary focus is within tussock lands, 3 year rotation of checks on known areas except the NE (biggest threat) where it is checked annually. The central North Island and Kawekas get special funding to hold a line to stop further spread. Please pull up/report pine sightings in tussock areas.

**Ongaonga Field Center:** A report on the Ongaonga Field Centre is being compiled; looking at efficiency (cost vs customer service), work sites, delivery of work, time/travel, H&S, etc. If closed the DOC position(s) will move to PN. Decision to be made by Reg Kemper, Director of Operations for the lower North Island. RUG has concerns with how you quantify the value of relationships; stability, continuity, local knowledge, goodwill, local emergency response, point of contact, local farmers and volunteer contact/rapport. Has the full impact of closure of other centres eg Western Ruahine or Waikanae been evaluated? Where would the savings go or if Ongaonga base was kept what will miss out?

**Rangiwahia and Sunrise Hut – trial of a booking system for the 2016/2017 summer season**  
The proposal would be similar to the Jumbo-Powell bookings.

## **Rangiwahia and Sunrise Hut – trial of a booking system for the 2016/2017 summer season**

The proposal would be similar to the Jumbo-Powell bookings.

- Bookings from labour weekend to Easter weekend, inclusive
- Users with bookings have a guaranteed bed
- A backcountry hut pass can be used to create a booking by contacting a booking office
- Hut tickets and backcountry hut passes continue to be accepted
- Shelter in a storm is guaranteed, the huts will not be locked
- No penalty fees are charged for those without a booking or hut pass/ tickets
- Wardens will be on site periodically
- No bookings are required for camping sites near the huts

After a review of visitor numbers, revenue, feedback gathered via hut book, wardens, users and any other information received a decision will be made on making summer booking regular for these huts.

**Volunteer Hut wardens** are being sought for Sunrise and Rangiwahia huts during weekends and public holidays (December – February). Hut wardens help visitors enjoy their stay. Tasks include:

- Provide information to visitors, visitor satisfaction surveys
- Hut pass/ticket compliance and recording
- Cleaning and minor hut maintenance

To be a hut warden you need to be a reasonably fit and experienced trumper with a practical outlook, able to carry out hut wardening duties on your own and be familiar with the outdoor environment and ideally the Ruahine Forest Park area. Also:

- Current New Zealand first aid certificate
- Background check (police vetting)
- Fit and healthy (able to carry own personal gear and tramp up to 4 hours), New Zealand backcountry experience

- Fluent in English, comfortable relating to range of people in a friendly manner

Volunteers who are accepted will be required to attend an orientation briefing prior to the work starting.

Sunrise Hut has a separate warden's quarters (key required). Rangiwahia Hut does not have separate warden's quarters, so there is only space for one warden at a time at Rangiwahia. However, two people may warden together at Sunrise Hut if desired. Hut wardens need to provide their own food, pack, personal gear/clothing and sleeping bag. For more information please go online to <http://www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/volunteer/in-your-region/manawatu-whanganui/manawatu/> or contact DOC Palmerston North 06 3509700.

### Waiotauru Hut, Tararua Forest Park

ARAC is delighted to announce that an application for funding to rebuild the Waiotauru Hut has been provisionally approved by the New Zealand Outdoor Recreation Consortium. The amount totals \$16,435 which goes most of the way to demolish and then build a new hut. The Tararua Aorangi Rimutaka Hut Committee (TARHC) has allocated an additional \$6,000 contingency should it be required. Naturally we will not draw from TARHC funds unless we have to. The funding is dependent on ARAC completing the formal management agreement for the Hut with DOC which is in progress at this time.

### Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November: Mangaohane to Ruahine Corner day walk fundraiser



Here is a rare chance to walk across Mangaohane Station to Ruahine Corner hut on a day walk, Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November. This is the annual Pukeokahu School fundraiser that several MTSC members have enjoyed in the past. These day walks have taken us to some stunning places in the Ruahines and Kawekas, and are always very well organised with experienced local guides. This year we will be driven by 4WD vehicles across part of Mangaohane Station (on the Taihape-Napier Road), then walk across the magnificent Mangaohane Plateau to Ruahine Corner hut.

This hut, in a stunning location, is not easy to access except as part of a multi-day tramp. We will walk out and be collected again by 4WD vehicles.

The plan is to drive to Mangaohane station on the Friday afternoon where we will be accommodated in shearers' quarters with a generous dinner and breakfast provided. After the walk a late afternoon

tea has been provided in past years. You can expect real country hospitality!

The cost of the walk, accommodation and meals is \$85.00.

To book please contact Heather Gilbert 06 388 0762 [pukeokahuevents@gmail.com](mailto:pukeokahuevents@gmail.com)

*We welcome Nicki Fielder, Hassan Seeiahagh , Harley Hislop & family, Judy Gerke and Marzieh Keshavarzi to the club.*



November Wednesday Tramps			November Thursday Tramps		
Date	Leader	Phone	Date	Leader	Phone
2	Dennis/Chris Brunskill	354 2511	3	Richard Ellis	357 6410
9	Harold Pettersson	357 4248	10	Carolyn Brodie	358 6576
16	Ian Ritchie	328 9618	17	Suzanne Clark	356 8322
23	Bob Hargreaves	357 0734	24	Craig Ross	355 3445
30	Christine Finnigan	329 7822			

## The Next Trip Card: Winter (April-October) 2017

Now that the summer trip card has been printed, it is time to start thinking about all the exciting trips **you want to see or to lead** on the next winter trip card. At random times people think of trips they would like to go on or lead but forget about them before it is trip card compilation time again. To get around this problem we have put a form for the next trip-card in a Google Drive folder; you can enter your trips or trip suggestions for the next trip card before you forget what it was you wanted to do, and well ahead of the next deadline. The link is <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/18mz-5fAFwspTrTfooWzu6fuaC8u1mGamGiVZOfxVEE/edit?usp=sharing>.

November Weekend Trips				
Date	Trip	Grade	Leader	Phone
5	Hauhungatahi	Medium	Adam Matich	022 358 8062
5 – 6	Top Maropea Hut	Easy	Linda Campbell	06 323 3836
12 – 13	Mackintosh Hut	Easy	John Beech	354 9310
19 – 20	Herepai via Puketurua Track	Medium	Dave Mitchell	06 329 2803
26 - 27	Ruahine Track Work	Medium/Fit	Jean Garman	021 176 0209

**Trip Intentions:** The email address for leaving trip intentions is [intentions@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:intentions@mtsc.org.nz). Intentions sent to this address will not be acted upon UNLESS a party is reported overdue (e.g. by a family member, flatmate, friend, etc). The email is sent to several MTSC members. This information will be provided to LandSAR/RCC only if the party is reported overdue or a PLB is activated. 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.

### 5<sup>th</sup> November: Hauhungatahi

**Medium                      Adam Matich                      022 358 8062                      [adam.j.matich@gmail.com](mailto:adam.j.matich@gmail.com)**

This trip should be a 5-6 hour day; it is not really on an established track, so it is not an "easy" route. If I can get the numbers then we will take two vehicles, leave one at the Mangahua campsite on SH47, which is where a track travels up the mountain from the main road to Whakapapaiti Hut. Then we will drive round to Erua and pick up the beginning of the old track from there. According to some reports, the very beginning of the trail is a bit naff; overgrown and scratchy. But before long it degenerates into nice, open forest. The first hour of the climb is judged to be steep, although it doesn't look that bad on the map. Once the tree-line is reached it is a matter of wending our way to the trig at the top and trying not to drown in any of the bog holes. That hasn't been reported yet, so it can't be that bad. Next we will head NE down from the peak, through what looks like a swampy section, and drop down through the forest to the Mangahua Track and back to the other vehicle.

### 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> November: Top Maropea Hut

**Easy                              Linda Campbell                              06 323 3836**

Top Maropea hut is situated in the Ruahine Ranges beyond Sunrise hut. To get there we need to carry on past Sunrise hut onto the ridge and follow the track to Armstrong Saddle. At the saddle, the track veers left up the ridge. Further on we turn right and drop steeply down into a valley to the hut. It should take a couple of hours to Sunrise hut then approx. 1-1½ hours from Sunrise hut to Top Maropea. There are many stunningly beautiful views along the way. The hut is small so we will need to be prepared to sleep out if needed. Fine weather with little or no wind has been ordered but should we get to Sunrise hut and find the weather is not suitable to continue we will consider our options.

### 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> November: Makintosh Hut, Kawekas

**Easy                              John Beech                              354 9310                              [beech1960@yandex.com](mailto:beech1960@yandex.com)**

This trip is in the Southern Kaweka Forest Park. After driving through the forestry roads it involves a steep drop into the Tutaekuri river, then an equally steep climb up the other side on to the Mackintosh plateau. An easy walk across the plateau through the *Pinus contorta* brings us back into Beech forest and shortly thereafter Mackintosh hut. Depending on fitness levels and weather there is an alternative but longer way back which could be an option for those willing. About 2-3 hours via the Tutaekuri river crossing and 5-6 hours via the longer route.

### 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> November: Herepai Hut via the Puketurua Track

**Medium                              Dave Mitchell                              06 329 2803**

This trip is in the Northern Tararuas and will begin from the No 1 dam at the end of Mangahao road. Ideally I want to do this in good weather otherwise it becomes a mission. I have graded it as medium, more for the expected pace

however it will be a long day. From the dam we skirt around the dam to Baber forks. We then climb up the ridge via the Puketurua track and proceed along to Ngapuketurua (1094m), then we have to sidle around to Massey Knob (1084m) to move along the ridge to Kareiti and Hines (1185m) before dropping down then climbing up to Ruapae (1280m). We drop down to Herepai hut from this point. Saturday night will be in Herepai hut. Sunday will be an easy day in comparison to Saturday. The track/route along the top section maybe overgrown in some parts but should still be passable. It will require someone to drop us off and pick us up, so hopefully I will find someone. If the trip doesn't run for whatever reason I will reschedule it.

## 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> November: Ruahine Track Work

Medium/Fit

Jean Garman

021 176 0209

[trampski.cave@gmail.com](mailto:trampski.cave@gmail.com)

To put something back into the Ruahine Forest Park I have decided to run an annual track work party. This is to be the very first one. The current plan is to walk the Sentry Box – Aranga - Upper Makaroro - Parks Peak loop carrying bow saws and some track markers to clean up the snow/wind fall and mark any dubious parts. We may camp out if the weather is kind or stay at Upper Makaroro hut. This plan may change if a greater need arises or the weather is too unkind.



## Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September: Tokomaru # 2 Stream Hunter's Hut

Report: Adam Matich

Photos: Adam Matich and David Harrington

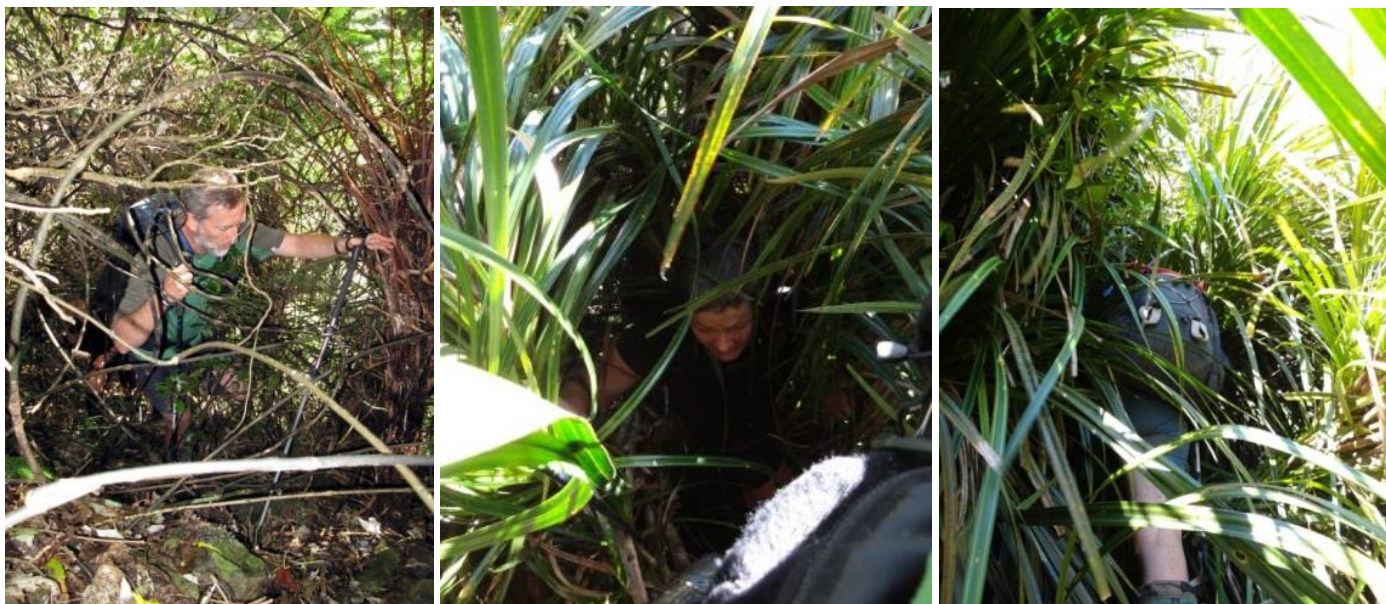
The logging road on the way to the northern end of Burton's Track was in good condition as it has been upgraded for the recent logging-truck traffic. It took a little over an hour to drop down from the stile at the bush edge, cross #1 stream and the unnamed stream, and reach the grassy patch by the Tokomaru River for morning tea. Some of us even kept our socks dry. After morning tea in the sun we had another 10 minutes to #2 stream; on the other side we commenced our climb up the spur. It was easy travel in open bush with, for the most part, a flagging tape trail markers to follow. At around 460m we dropped east off the side of the spur into the TL branch of #2 Stream. We didn't find any trail markers to tell us where to drop off so it was a bit of a lottery. The descent was steep and the vegetation and terrain pushed us sideways a bit, but not far from the bottom we could see the roof of the Hunters' Hut on the base of the spur across the stream from us. Once across the stream we picked up the faint trail leading up to the hut (3¾ hour). The hut is not habitable at the moment, as the rats have been partying. The area around the hut is also rather untidy; it needs a good clean up.



*The character filled hunters' hut*

We had lunch in the tiny grassy clearing next to the hut, then dropped back down to the TL branch which we followed almost all the way down to the confluence. There we picked up a trail that crossed over the toe of the spur to the TR branch, which we crossed and then climbed up onto the next spur. This was a mistake. We should have dropped off the spur directly behind the hut, which would have led us into obliging vegetation for our climb up onto the next spur. Instead we had to push our way 100m up a steep slope infested with Kie Kie; it was tight enough in one spot that we had to take our packs off and crawl. Once above around 420m we were back into the open forest and had another marked trail to follow down over 410 to the toe of the spur near #1 stream. A solid, sweaty hour's climb then saw us back up the top on the logging track after an eight hour day. We were Deb and David Harrington, Jenny McCarthy and Adam Matich.





*The joys of supple jack and kie kie*

## Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September: WWWs enjoy a Muddy Maharahara

Report: Bob Hodgson

Photos: Maureen Naylor

Thirteen optimistic Wednesday Wilderness wanderers assembled in steady rain at the Opawe Road entrance to the Ruahine Forest Park for a 9.15am start. It was a wet and misty drive in with the ranges obscured by cloud. The forecast was for the rain to stop at about 10am but all day we were faced by intermittent light to heavy rain. The mist also persisted so no views were enjoyed at any stage.

The first paddock was pugged and the initial hill climb slippery so in the mild conditions inner layers were soon abandoned. The bush was soggy but beautiful in its wetness and variety as we climbed towards the peak. From the car park to the top involves a climb of over 750m, the return trip 21,500 steps (Bill) and a calorie consumption of 2100 plus but for all this the most memorable aspect of the days tramp was the pervasiveness and variety of mud. Few bums were un-muddied.

Seven of the speedier trampers made the peak but then warned the next group within 300m and a 100m climb of the top, that the track was extremely slippery, three spectacularly muddy bums provided evidence of this. The comment was also made that "I now know what the inside of a high cloud looks like!"

We were all safely out by 3pm and after this rough, tough winters tramp, it was a muddied but high spirited group that subsequently enjoyed the hospitality of the Herb Farm Cafe. Thanks to trip leader Bob and drivers Evan and Marion.

**Mud** is a mixture of [water](#) and any combination of [soil](#), [silt](#), and [clay](#), and it usually forms after rainfall or near water sources.



*Muted light both in and out of the bush*

## Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> September: Makahika Track

Report: Royce Mills

Photos: Craig R

We were lucky with the weather! A superb calm, warm, sunny day on the Makahika track. Sixteen Thursday trampers started at the Gladstone Road end and three others from the Mangahao Road end. Both groups started about the same time and we met almost simultaneously at the Horowhenua Lookout, so that must be the middle of the track. Here most of the group relaxed in the sun over lunch, but several from the larger group were feeling energetic and continued on for another 45 minutes to successfully seek out a deer trap close to the track. Each group then returned the way they had come. A good day out in lovely bush with plenty of bird life. It was often muddy though after all the rain we have experienced. It was pleasing to notice that the Mangahao Road surface is much improved. Thanks to our leader on the day, Merv.

*enjoying the dappled sunlight*



## 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> September: Mangaehuehu Hut Adventure

Report: Adam Matich

Photos: Jean Garman



*Heading into Mangaehuehu hut*



*At Mangaehuehu hut*

Gale-force winds frightened us away from approaching Mangaehuehu Hut from the Turoa Ski field, and so we drove back down the mountain to the Blyth car park for an easy, sheltered 2¼ hour tramp into the hut on the around the mountain track. We needed our rain coats, but the rain was pretty half-hearted and there was absolutely no snow. We had plenty of time in the afternoon for chopping firewood, eating, drinking, gossiping, sewing, and tending the fire, so it was a shamelessly relaxed day. The heavy rain never did arrive; just some drizzle, and near dark the wind ceased. It was eerily quiet. Just before dark we were joined by a couple who were doing the around the mountain track, having the good sense to do so before the school holidays.



*Bad pine tree*



*Even some snow to walk through*

Next morning was calm and misty, the visibility being variable. Given the lack of wind we decided to climb up the mountain to the ski field and so headed almost directly uphill through the low scrub. We had to push through some trees, but the forest wasn't dense enough to be unpleasant and we were fully in the open after climbing about 200m. From thereon we did a climbing sidle as we needed to reach 1750m to avoid some bluffs and waterfalls on

our way to the base of the eastern-most chairlift (Nga Wai Heke) on the Turoa Ski field. The terrain was pretty gentle all the way, and picturesque with the rock-dotted slopes covered with colourful dwarfed alpine plants. A couple of rogue pine trees were uprooted along the way. Above about 1650m we encountered expanses of snow, most of which were soft enough to kick steps in. A couple of icy patches were blundered onto, the second episode leaving behind a sacrifice of blood to the mountain. Just over three hours saw us at the ski field for a hot chocolate and shelter from the rain which had arrived at last. Finally, we headed down the road to reach the car park after a 4 hour day. The weekend certainly didn't leave us in calorie deficit. Getting changed in the rain was the least fun of the whole affair. We were Jenny McCarthy, Jean Garman and Adam Matich.

### Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September: Mt Holdsworth

Report: Anne Rush

Photos: Maureen Naylor and Bob Hodgson

Twenty five trampers split into two groups with six intending to go all or part way to the Atiwhakatu Hut and the rest making their way to Mountain House. For a change the larger group took the river track towards Atiwhakatu then after 45 minutes took the upward track to Mountain House. This was a popular decision which everyone seemed to enjoy. The track was well defined and not too muddy. The bush on the lower slopes was very attractive but higher up the undergrowth was lacking, possibly due to storm and snow damage. On reaching the main ridge the temperature dropped but we all had the cosy shelter of Mountain House for lunch. The cloud was low so we were unable to get a view of Powell Hut. The return trip was down the main track and on the way down several tracks were noted for later exploration. We regrouped at Rocky Lookout for a rest, conversation and good views. Thank you fellow trampers for a most enjoyable day.



*Rearing to go*



*Swingers*



*Regrouping at the rocky lookout*

### Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September: Pukeatua Track

Report: Royce Mills

Photos: Royce Mills

Our Thursday Tramping group headed up the Pukeatua track, part of the Te Araroa trail that starts at Otaki Forks and heads towards Waikanae. After a pleasant morning tea stop at an open clearing we walked up to the high point, 812m, for lunch. Here we enjoyed sunshine and views of the high Tararuas and Kapakapanui. Twenty-three of us today, thanks to our leader John T, everybody commented on what a good day out it had been.



*Enjoying a break in the sunshine*



*Beautiful clematis flowers*

## Wednesday 28<sup>st</sup> September: Rangiwahia - Deadmans

Report: Russell Poole & Carol Kennerley

Photos: Maureen and William

Early morning, showed a lot of promise of a good weather day. Driving north, parallel with the Ruahines, we observed the low thick cloud hugging the tops and hoped the predicted easterlies were not going to be too harsh. Twenty seven keen trampers rendezvoused at the Rangiwahia hut car park and decided on their destinations. Thirteen steady individuals planned to tackle Deadman's track and had a jolly time appreciating the low bush, old mountain cedar trees, spear grass and on into the leatherwood. Here the cloud crept ever nearer and hail threatened and even the word sleet was mentioned. Coats came out and the wind proved too harsh and cold up at the tussock tops and the party turned back for an early lunch. Once down into the warmer shelter, conversation and laughter flowed. Cold, biting winds were quickly forgotten. A kingfisher was heard but not seen.



*Ready to go*



*Great spot for a break*

The rest of the group chose the Rangiwahia Hut track and followed the path up through the red beech forest. The track zig-zags above an active slip before crossing a deep ravine of the Mangahua Stream via a picturesque arched wooden bridge. Two new seats were spotted, checked out and approved. Great to have a new seat near the hut to take in the spectacular views out to Mt Ruapehu and surrounds. Two new members were welcomed, Peter and Judith, and enjoyed getting to the hut for an early lunch with the others. Several went on further to check out the tops before heading back to the car park.

Two people, Dennis and Evan, did the round trip in four hours. They carried on from Rangiwahia Hut up the tussock ridge, onto the tops of the Whanahua Range along to Mangahua Trig. Conditions here were very muddy and extremely cold with definite hail and sleet. They carried on down the rolling tussock ridge and caught up with the first group heading back down Deadman's.

As we were all out earlier than planned most of us headed to the Kimbolton cafe for nourishment. Thanks to van driver Chris and to Marion, Russell, Dennis and Peter for taking their cars. Thanks to Carol Kennerley for help with the Rangiwahia Hut Track report, and trip leader Jill.



*Small tarn*



*Admiring the views*

# Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October: Pukeatua Track

Report: Anne West

Photos: William and Maureen

A dubious weather forecast did not deter 28 trampers, who headed for Otaki Forks to walk the Pukeatua track. Luckily the showers held off, and in calm conditions the initial climb soon warmed us up. At times the clouds cleared and sun shone through. Many native clematis were admired and photographed at the bush edge. Some trampers chose to stop and turn back at various points along the way but 18 reached the Pukeatua high point where cloud obscured any views and a cool breeze sent us back a short way to find a sheltered spot for lunch. Returning downhill the mud seemed to have multiplied since morning, and all boots were well covered, plus clothes and body parts in some cases. An unfortunate problem with one of the cars delayed the start of 4 of our group. We enjoyed a great day out amid beautiful bush, ferns and mosses. A happy group of trampers proceeded to River Cottage Cafe for refreshments on the way home. Thanks to Evan for driving the van and waiting at the road end for those who were delayed, and to drivers Rita, Coralie, Chris and Marion.



*Pausing at the track junction*



*More beautiful clematis*



*Time to refuel*



*Enjoying the forest*



## Contact Details

### Committee 2015 - 2016

President  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
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Mini-Bus Manager

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

### Appointees

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Facebook	Ivan Rienks	<a href="mailto:facebook@mtsc.org.nz">facebook@mtsc.org.nz</a>	

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

This contains club information, photos, contact details and back issues of this newsletter, Beechleaves. The club website is maintained by Howard Nicholson (06) 357 6325 and is kindly hosted by **Inspire Net**, a locally based company.

**Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/MTandSC>

### Accommodation at the MTSC lodge on Mount Ruapehu

The lodge is close to Iwikau Village, has power, heating, hot showers and is stocked with food. Members and their guests are welcome. For Lodge bookings email Liz and Hugh Wilde [lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz) or phone (06) 356 9450. To confirm your booking, payment must be made by cheque to 179 Cook St Palmerston North 4410, by cash in person or internet payment (please email to confirm before depositing) Westpac account number 03 1521 022035300.

	<b>Members</b>	<b>Guests</b>
<b>Adult</b>	<b>\$35</b>	<b>\$50</b>
<b>Secondary School</b>	<b>\$28</b>	<b>\$43</b>
<b>Primary School</b>	<b>\$23</b>	<b>\$38</b>
<b>Pre-school (3-5 yo)</b>	<b>\$10</b>	<b>\$10</b>

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.