

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 10: November 2017



Club meetings are held on the 1st 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 7th November: DOC speaks - Manawatu Operations Manager Duncan Toogood

Hear about what DOC is up to in the Manawatu District. Topics to be covered include the Northern Ruahine Battle for our Birds aerial operation - to control rats, stoats and possums across over 30,000 ha of the Northern Ruahine Ranges, providing much needed protection to Whio, Kiwi and other native flora and fauna, as well as enhancing the great trapping work undertaken by the Whio Collective. There is also recreation work where community groups and volunteers work alongside DOC to carry out track and hut work on the 500 km of track and 57 huts in the Ruahine Range.

Tuesday 28th November: End of Year Function

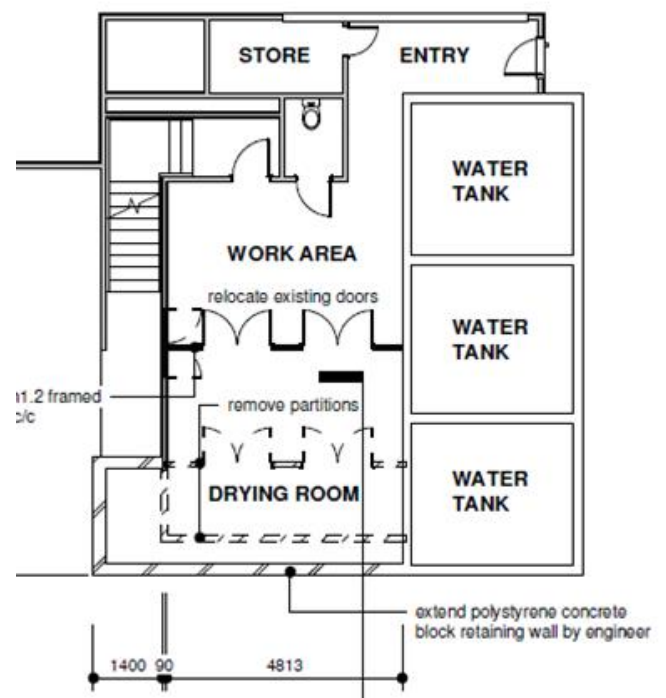
The MTSC End of Year Function will again take the form of a stroll followed by a convivial meal. We will meet at the car park of the Esplanade Railway at the park entrance off Park Road, adjacent to the Lido, at 6.15pm. We will then make our way at a conversational pace along the riverbank and then over the Bridge and up the road and track to ANZAC Park where magnificent views of the Manawatu and beyond can be enjoyed. After admiring the view, we will 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 **Gengy's Mongolian BBQ on Broadway** where we will have a convivial dinner.

Tuesday 5th December: MTSC Lodge upgrades – John Lyttle

John Lyttle (lodge manager) will be presenting proposed upgrades to the lodge and this meeting will be for members to discuss and comment on these changes.

To the right are the proposed changes to the ground floor of the lodge and members can go to the link below to see all of the proposed changes.

<http://mtsc.nz/lodge/lodge-20171010.pdf>



REPORTS AND NOTICES



MTSC President: John Beech

president@mtsc.org.nz

Hi all, it's been a quiet month again. However, the club has been quite active on the social scene with 2 quiz nights and our photo competition. Our own quiz night had us all scratching our heads as we tried to recall knowledge on the various flora, fauna and general topics associated with the backcountry. The following week a group of us headed down to PNTMC to pit our knowledge (and physical skills) against theirs and MUAC's. Fortunately, our team scraped in by the narrowest of margins and are now the proud holders of the Trevor Bissell Memorial Trophy.

On the political front, as I write, the election has come and gone and we still do not know who will govern us. With neither of the main parties able to form a government without NZ First (most likely) it could be an interesting next 3 years. As I have said on a number of occasions, hopefully conservation and the threats and opportunities will be balanced out by whoever is in power. By the time this gets to you we will know one way or the other.

Recently I attended the latest Ruahine User Group (RUG) meeting. There has been some good progress with upgrading of huts and tracks and this is encouraging. Volunteers are putting their hands up to get involved and this is something that has been helped through the availability of the Outdoor Consortium funding for work on huts and tracks that DOC no longer want to maintain. Access issues in the Ruahines continue to be a work in progress and it is to be hoped that agreements can be reached that benefit the public but do not impact on landowners in a detrimental way. As always, it is a minority that spoil the good relationships with landowners and this is disappointing. I have not heard any negative comments about our club and I know all of us act responsibly when crossing private land. One of the advantages of the clubs is that they are most useful in teaching newcomers the rules of crossing land, hut etiquette (sadly lacking with many these days) and of course all the other aspects of tramping in our bush. Unfortunately, there are few young people in our clubs these days, therefore they are not necessarily getting taught these skills in a practical environment. Reading a few pages on an MSC website, in my opinion, is no substitute for hands on practical skills taught by experienced trampers.

Hopefully the changeable weather will become more settled and allow us some fine days in the bush as we come towards the Christmas break.

John

MTSC Chief Guide Report: Ken Mercer

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Recently the Stuff website published a well researched interactive article on the two deaths on Mt Taranaki in 2013 called Too High, Too Late. Two members of the Auckland Alpine Club died after they were trapped near the summit when the weather closed in. Google will find it for you.

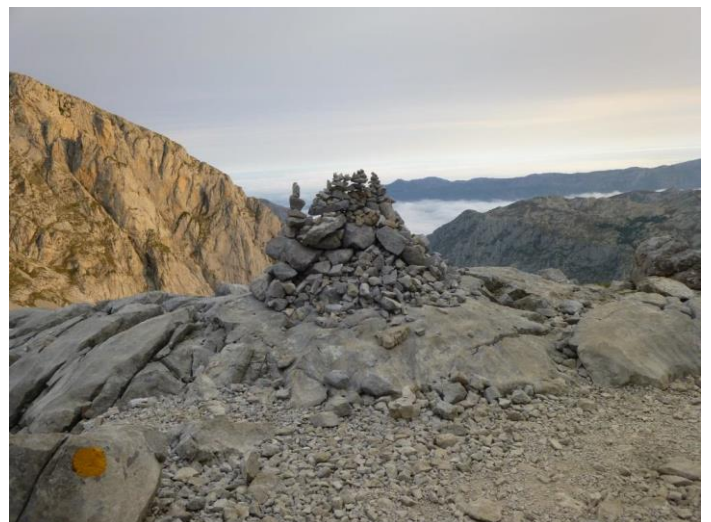
I justify a slightly morbid interest in accident reports by the aphorism "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it" and the accident section of FMC's Backcountry is one of the first sections I read when it arrives. Learning about other's errors is a shortcut to gaining experience. For example, a friend forced himself to watch several hours of motor cycle accidents on YouTube prior to buying his own.

Unfortunately there are many accidents, such as slips and sprains, which are impossible to avoid. Sure you start by wearing good boots and using walking poles but the risk remains. Modern communication devices may hasten a rescue although they didn't in the Taranaki tragedy. Often it comes back to the equipment the party is carrying, such as spare clothing and emergency shelter, to turn a situation from endurance, or worse, into adventure.

2017 Photo Competition Results & winning Photos

NZ Above the bushline	1st	Ski touring the summit plateau, Mt Ruapehu	Howard Nicolson
	2nd	Howie traversing the Peel Range, Kahurangi National Park	Jean Garman
	3rd	Crossing over to Moa Stream, Craigieburn Forest Park	Jean Garman
NZ Below the bushline	1st	Walking around Lake Cobb in the early morning, Kahurangi National Park	Jean Garman
	2nd	Snow highlighted leatherwood, Ruahine Forest Park	Helen Peek
	3rd	Heading down Moa Stream, Craigieburn Forest Park	Ivan Rienks

NZ Landscape	1st	Ivory Lake outlet stream, West Coast Conservation Area	Jean Garman
	2nd	Mist on the Arthur River, Milford	John Beech
	3rd	Sunset Range, Tararua Forest Park	Ken Mercer
NZ natural history	1st	Kea swooping in, Craigieburn Forest Park	Jean Garman
	2nd	Edelweiss, West Coast Conservation Area	Jean Garman
	3rd	Talkative Falcon/Karearea, Manawatu	Ken Mercer
NZ topical	1st	Admiring Mt Taranaki from the Pouakai Range, Egmont National Park	Tim Swale
	2nd	Looking a bit rough, Waikamaka Biv, Ruahine Forest Park	Jean Garman
	3rd	Dinner time at Awaroa Hut, Able Tasman National Park	John Beech
Overseas	1st	Intricate cairn, Picos de Europa	Royce Mills
	2nd	Pastoral scene, Picos de Europa	Royce Mills
	3rd	I'm in your way, Picos de Europa	Royce Mills



Sunday 19th November: Beyond Ruapae Falls

Medium/Fit

Adam Matich

022 358 8062

Ruapae Falls is in the Mangatainoka River and access to the falls themselves is not all that difficult, there is no reason for the not so adventurous to visit these falls and return. Starting from the Putara Road end you follow the river (alternatively there is a trail if you know where to find it), just before the falls a small cascade requires a short length of rope (more for getting down them than getting up) and you will get slightly wet. My intention is to find a route round the falls and head further upstream from where we will find an exit point from which to climb to Ruapae Peak; possibly at point "A" on the map in the link below, or at the stream confluence below "A" on the true right.

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B1qi10yywtJwZfVzdjNwMzBHR3M>

25th – 26th November: Kime Hut

Medium

Jenny McCarthy

021 215 2197

This is a classic tramp in the Tararua's from the Otaki Forks road end. It is a long climb up to the hut at 1400 meters but worth it for the wonderful views on a good day. The hut has no heating so it can be a bit cold. The way home is mostly downhill.

25th – 26th November: Lodge Work Party CANCELLED

This date was scheduled to start the proposed work to the lodge but due to delays in getting drawings done this weekend has been cancelled. This will be the last chance to ski as the ski field closes at the end of this weekend.

17th – 18th February 2018: Somes Island/Wellington walks

Easy

Linda Campbell

027 333 4493

lindamc@xtra.co.nz

Expressions of interest in this trip would be appreciated ASAP so I can sort the ferry and any accommodation needed. If we must just do a day trip to Somes Island we will do another Wellington walk on the Sunday before returning to the Manawatu.



2nd – 3rd September: Totara Flats

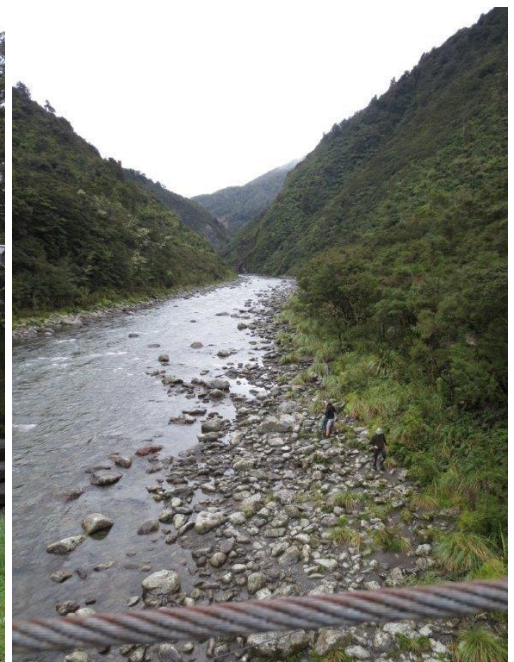
Report: Linda Campbell

Photos: Helen Peek

Helen, Jorn, Grietje and I met Tim and Jenny in Pahiatua and set off for the Mt Holdsworth Road end on a dampish Saturday morning. There was some rain as we drove along but it was okay when we started walking. We had a lunch stop at the turn off before starting on down to Totara Flats. Before long there was a light drizzle that persisted the rest of the day.



Jorn and Grietje at Totara Flats Hut



Waiohine River view from the swingbridge

There was plenty of mud and the usual Tararua tree roots to negotiate with some pretty big steps down. The walk along the creek was very pretty. There are several creeks to cross but we managed to get across them without filling

our boots with water. The new track is closed due to damage of the bridge but we stopped while Jenny scrambled down the bank to get a better look to check out the possibility of crossing the creek and going back along the new track. We decided that there was no point as it looked to be a scramble to get out the other side, there was plenty of water in the creek and there was a perfectly good track our side. There is good reason that the bridge is closed with the bank eroded away compromising the strength of the bridge but it was obvious that others had crossed anyway. We arrived at the hut to find two other parties and three small house dogs already in residence and the fire going. The three dogs were very well behaved, remained inside the whole time and slept with their owners. They were not the kind of dogs you expect to see in the bush!!

Next morning it was overcast as we headed down to the flats for a look. There was plenty of deer sign and great views up the valley. As we were preparing to leave the hut a group of mountain runners arrived and much to Helen's, Tim's and my surprise one was Paul that we had met the weekend before as we were leaving Powell Hut. Paul is a VERY keen mountain runner. When we met him at Powell Hut he had run the Jumbo Circuit and was on his way back to the car park before heading back up to Powell and down East Ridge. We met him later in the day as he was leaving the car park to head back up to Holdsworth for the third time! This time he was with a group running to Kaitoki.

I found it a real slog heading back up to the main track especially the rather large steps where I needed to pull myself up. Not being well the previous two weeks certainly caught up with me.

Rather than using the bridge at the bottom of the track Tim and I shared our river crossing knowledge and experience with the others which provided entertainment for a family who stopped to watch. We did get wet feet this time! It was great to welcome Jorn and Grietje, who had only been in New Zealand one week, to their first experience of the New Zealand bush.

Wednesday 13th September: Takapari Road to Traverse /A Frame Tramp

Report: Bob Hodgson

Photos: William and Jenny

It is a few years since the Wednesday trampers last tramped Takapari Road so after a week of wet weather we diverted there from the Bara Track on the other side of the ranges. On our last visit, we found ice on the track and, at the high point, icicles on an overhanging bank of up to almost two meters long. Wednesday 13th September was also not a mild day so as we assembled at the exposed car park adjacent to the gated start of the Takapari road we all rugged up.



Lovely Bush



Spring Rainbow

Twenty six trampers departed at about 9.30am with six making it all the way to A Frame hut for lunch (21km return). The hut is described by DOC in the following terms "This is a derelict hut in the Hawke's Bay area, not suitable for overnight shelter." It was found to be in a reasonable state with repaired windows carried in from the east side a year or so ago still in place.

Although the track is hard underfoot, it is attractive in the variety of the bush along the sides from decent trees including mountain cedar to leather wood on the top. Unfortunately, we discovered a green waste dump containing "weed" plants like agapanthus on the roadside in the bush.

Part of the way along the walk out, we were overtaken by two four wheel drive vehicles making their way to the hut and beyond. The road was in a good state with recent repairs evident.

All we safely out by 2pm and it was a high spirited group that then reassembled at the Herb Farm Cafe.



Hut Baggers Pause in Lovely Conditions.



Lunch in the Hut

Thanks to trip leader Dennis and drivers Chris, Bernard, Russell and Dennis.

Wednesday 20th September: Waiopehu Foothills

Report: Russell Poole

Photos: Judith & Maureen

Our Wednesday 20th September tramp took us into the Waiopehu foothills, reached from Poads Road. Some 24 trampers took part. Two groups formed, of which one group of 10 trampers (the sidlers) did the sidle track alongside the Ohau River as far as the junction with the Six Discs track and then returned.

The two groups had hoped to have morning tea at the picnic area on the site of the old Ohau Shelter but discovered that the bridge had been cordoned off, apparently because of damage by a slip. Clearly somebody had taken a cavalier attitude to the yellow tape before our arrival!

The 'unsafe' bridge



At the junction



The other group of 14 trampers (the loopers) continued up the Six Discs track. This is a well-marked track with just a few windfalls and overgrown patches to obscure the correct route. Along the way we noted vigorous understories of Tawa, Miro, and Rewarewa, with occasional glimpses of the other side of the valley, where the native clematis is obviously having a very good season. Birds sighted or heard included Riroriro (grey warblers), Kereru, Korimako

(bellbirds), and of course Tui. No shining cuckoos this week. At the junction, a few trampers continued a short distance uphill on the Waiopehu Track to find it slow and boggy going. Lunch was had by all back at the Six Discs / Waiopehu junction. It is a pity that the original six discs that marked the track (Rod is my authority for this) are no longer in evidence. They could be an exciting find for that keen metal detectorist.

From there it was a straightforward descent of the Waiopehu track, with the final stage between the bush line and the road end presenting challenges equal to anything on the track itself. The loopers found most of the sidlers already back at the road end, and everybody was out by 2pm.

Back at the car park we enjoyed the warmth and sunshine that had eluded us earlier in the day. The local farmer pulled up in his vehicle with a couple of lambs on board and several of us took the opportunity to gather local intelligence. He confirmed that the forestry clearance visible in the photo to the right is going to be followed by planting of the next generation of pines. The land above the long row of pines right at the top of the photo is in private ownership (a distinguished retired civil servant was mentioned) and apparently features an extensive network of mountain bike tracks.



The day was wrapped up by a leisurely afternoon tea at the Museum Cafe. Thanks to our drivers, Evan (the van), Anne R, Peter, Rita. No statistician on this trip but my phone told me I had done about 22,000 steps.

Thursday 21st September, Mt Wainui

Report: John Thornley

Photos: John Brock

The Thursday group managed to find their way to the top of Mt Wainui (722 metres), with starting point the car park to Whareroa Farm at MacKays Crossing, north of Paekakariki. Though the forecast was for a rainy day, we were favoured with calm dry weather. The trip falls into four sections: a 400 metre climb to the Campbell Mill's Road, then along to the entrance to Whakatiki Forest, followed by a trek through pine forest and hilly grassed sections to the entrance of the native bush and a final one hour (plus!) along a well-marked track to the summit. Not so well marked is the entrance to the bush, as if hunters are not keen to encourage trampers! Louise Thornley had led her parents, Gillian and John, on a reconnoitre of the trek the Saturday prior to the trip; a great help since there are few signposts or guides to the tramp's route. <http://tracks.org.nz/track/show/1296>



"Don't worry Gillian it'll lift" John McLeod



Through the pine forest



Kapiti island over the fence



"Is this really the track John?" Judy Swainson

Twelve of the fifteen trampers made the summit, the other three were well on the way along the final summit ridge. The negatives: a poorly marked track and a very wet slippery final ridge track (the group resolved the next time would be in summer or autumn). The positives: a new track for most of us, a variety of landscapes, and spectacular views of Kapiti Island and the coastline – two features superbly captured on camera by John Brock. A six to seven hour round trip, warmly recommended (in dry weather!).

23rd – 24th September: Technical Ski Improvement

Report: John Lyttle

Peter Bowker provided further tips to help improve members skiing technique using Harald Harab's teaching principles. Participants picked up some great trips and he and John Lyttle are looking to run a similar more structured program next year.

Editor's comment: I can personally recommend these weekends as they have helped me to improve my skiing ability and confidence significantly this season while being cheaper and more sociable than ski lessons. The video footage was especially interesting – to see how you actually ski rather than how you think you ski!

23rd – 24th September: Triangle Hut (2nd try!)

Report: Garry Grayson

Photos: Garry & Adam

With a reasonable Saturday but rainy-ish Sunday forecast, possible raised river levels and I think some good skiing on offer elsewhere, Jean's Maropea Forks trip was abandoned, leaving 3 of us looking for something to do for the weekend. Hence a decision was made to complete a trip to Triangle Hut originally planned by Jenny for August.

After an 8.00am start and a failed attempt to cast a vote at Rangiwahia (10mins too early) we arrived at Rangi car park and set off via Deadmans Track towards the Mangahua tops. Morning tea was at a nice sunny clearing in the bush then upon reaching the base of the 'climbing bit' a quick lunch in a sheltered spot out of the wind, sunny skies had been replaced by cloud and mist by this time.

Pushing on over Mangahua and past the Rangi turn-off, remnants of recent snow still lay about while a lone trumper passed very quietly in the opposite direction, apparently not wanting to stop to engage in any tall trail stories. Soon we were on the downhill to Triangle, a bit of a challenge in places due to hidden deep ruts on the poled section and windfalls to get around or over further down in the bush part.



Along the tops



Time to cross the river

Arriving at the hut around 2.30ish, unpacked and firewood gathered, 'reluctantly' the rest of the afternoon had to be spent relaxing, sampling pre-dinner snacks, Adam's homemade Mango wine + other refreshments and speculating on election results. A nice Thai Curry for dinner and loads of chocolate, courtesy of Jenny, set us up for a good night's rest, oblivious to what was transpiring further up the hill.



Crossing the river



Chopping wood outside Traingle hut

Jenny's Sunday morning toilet stop was interrupted by pleas for some assistance from across the river by 2 'damp' American tourists who had camped there after arriving at 1.00 in the morning from Rangi Hut. After an invasion of 20 females to Rangi Hut these 2 had decided at 5.00pm Saturday that Triangle would be a quieter place to be.

Arriving 8hrs later after apparently dropping off the track several times in the dark the river now stood in their way, the hut in full view a few meters away. Not wanting to risk crossing at that hour they decided to spend the remainder of the 'morning' in sleeping bags by the river. Although seeming to have many layers of clothing they had only 1pr of gloves between them and I think good torches and/or headlamps may have been in short supply as well.



Heading up the track and across the tops with the other trampers 'in tow'

Early morning excitement over, we set off on the return trip to Rangī Hut, with these tourists 'in tow', having asked if they could follow us due to confidence issues with navigating their way back out. Poor visibility, rain and cold winds were the theme out, Rangī Hut a welcome sight for a lunch stop and a quick dash back to the car. We were Jenny, Garry and Adam.

Wednesday 27th September: "Longview over the Rainbow"

Report: Robêrto Bruce

Photos: William, Robyn & Leonie

To recover from an election slugfest, a coalition of 32 sanguine sahibs of the Wednesday tramperati headed to the Moorcock Valley in the eastern Ruahines. The weather was cool but clear for the ascent up the exposed tussock ridge to Longview Hutte 1200m ASL.

Winding around the aptly named Kashmir Road conjured up the novelty of being confronted by the Mujahideen wielding their Kalishnikov AK-47s for an ever so friendly sniff. However, the main creatures seen with legs were the happy "hipi". These maternally - driven ewes knew their stuff for their contented lambs - no crêches, no paid parental leave, no elective caesareans - no wurries!

The Moorcock Valley was swept by a rogue fire back in the mid-1940s. Subsequently, it was grazed. It is splendid to observe the regenerating native forest of very mixed species in contrast to the commercial, exotic plantations on the east. The region has been a favourite locus for deer and hunters. The Moorcock Valley stream looked pristine and swimmable.



Heading up the track



Rainbow!!

Progress up to Longview was rapid with most sahibs reaching the hutte for lunch at midday. Some of the accelerati then headed south to Rocky Knob 1226m ASL. Meanwhile, the ploderati relaxed to enjoy the superb views plus the diversity of the apolitical, "strong & stable" alpine hebes clinging to their fragile, wind-swept habitat.

We descended safely with parkas hauled on in response to a few scuds. A brilliant rainbow appeared to cheer us along. Unfortunately, the rainbow plus the sun weren't at quite the right angles to produce a Brocken Spectre effect. However, the drooping leaves of the mountain flax *Phormium cookianum* were at their shimmering best in the mid afternoon light.



Walking and resting in the sunshine



Admiring the tarn and the drop beside the track

We then sloped off to the inviting Norsewood Café for copious intakes of revival drinkies + cake. We were too early to fraternise with the trolls who prefer to exert their mischief at night. Maybe it was just as well not to have encountered these "odd folks" so soon after the fantastic furphies of the election.

Namaste Gracias to drivers Chris B, Chris F, Rita, Bernard, Bev & Peter

Thursday 28th September: Atene Skyline Walk

Report: Chris Mercer

Photos: Chris Mercer

The day was fine, the first clear day for a week, hooray. This almost circular track begins on the Whanganui River Road, 36km from Whanganui. After shuffling cars between the two entrances, 17 of us set off up the "upstream" entrance. The walk is entirely along a ridge which circles an old river bed of the Whanganui River; the bed is now farmed and encloses the Puketapu hill. The river once flowed in an almost complete circle around Puketapu but after years of erosion the river broke through the neck, and cutting off the meander. So as we climbed, we had fine views of the Puketapu hill and to the W and N, views of the Whanganui River - but we never saw the distant volcanoes because of cloud.

The early part of the track followed an old, gently graded road line to a clearing which marks the track's halfway point with a shelter where we had lunch. We saw goats and pig rooting reminding us of the challenges facing DOC in this area. Beyond this point is the Taumata Trig, the highest point of the track at 572 m. The track then winds around the edge of sandstone bluffs to reach Taupiri Trig – the bluffs are alarmingly steep and high. The geology of the area is mainly papa, the grey mudstone. This makes the track much more slippery than we are used to in our

Ruahine and Tararua ranges and I fell several times. Friends in other clubs use in-step crampons and I will use these on future trips to this walk. The track descends quite steeply back to the River Road, the entrance we started on was a more gentle slope.



The old riverbed of the Whanganui River



The early part of the track followed an old road line

Ice creams at the Four Square Riverview completed the day.

7th - 8th October: Waterfall Hut

Report: Jean Garman

Photos: Jean Garman

After skiing all winter I was really looking forward to going for a tramp again and really hoping I hadn't lost too much fitness. At the beginning of the week the forecast looked great but unfortunately it is spring so by the end of the week it wasn't quite the same story. It wasn't going to be windy but pretty continuous light showery rain with a heavier fall on Saturday night was on the cards.



UP



UP



and along

We set off up the Waipawa River with coats on but barely getting damp from the misty drizzle. The river was low, clear and cold. We only got wet to the knees going up through the gorge but that was cold enough that we were happy to pop out into the more open country above. The rest of the travel up to the saddle was pretty straight forward and we stopped for lunch just short of the saddle to avoid the cool breeze at the top. Refreshed and with a few more layers on we headed along the ridge line to the South. The light rain was still falling but the cloud level was quite high so we had great 'atmospheric' views all the way to the top of Rangioteatua where we finally climbed into the cloud. We dropped out of the cloud again and as I couldn't quite remember which was the best slip to head down into Rangi Creek we chose a likely looking spot from what we could see. This provided a gentle knee friendly access down into Rangi Creek. We picked our way on down the stream then got to a tricky spot. No options to the left or right and the getting down by the stream looked a lot worse than I remembered. Luckily we had mountain goat Ivan with us so he went first. It didn't go quite according to plan as he got into a rapid slide down a steep bit. Since it was Ivan he managed to stay on his feet but came to a rather abrupt stop at the bottom. His first concern was for his hand but luckily although it had lost some feeling it wasn't bleeding. Since he was down now he could

help the rest of us down without us going for a slide. When we moved off again it became apparent that he had sustained a compression injury to his ankle from the abrupt stop and was now limping a bit. Sadly we have now written this off as a feasible route to get into Rangī Creek.



DOWN



DOWN



to a messy Hut

After the difficult bit it was pretty easy travel down the rest of the stream and up the Kauwhatau river. Before long there was the large cairn and the cheerful orange Waterfall hut. As we approached the hut we were disturbed to see the door ajar, dreading what we would see inside we pushed it gingerly open and yes the possums had been having a party in there. Food stuffs and now empty packets littered the bench and floor. Most of the mattresses had been left down and there was possum shit and urine on them. On the positive side there was a good supply of firewood at the hut and even some coal.

We set to work lighting the fire, picking up sealed containers and burning the rest, sweeping the floor multiple times, washing down the mattresses and making sure there were no possums lurking in the dim recess above the door. Once the hut was all ship shape again we settled in for a pleasant evening by the fire, which even though it was an open fire did a reasonable job of keeping us warm and drying our clothes. Once dinner and dessert were made and consumed there was nothing left to do but head for the sleeping bags for a long nights sleep.

The heavy rain forecast for the night never came and while the morning was still drizzly, the river had not come up at all. We retraced our steps to the track over Rangī Saddle. This was in good shape up to the saddle but not so great on the other side where snow/avalanche damage from the previous winter made it pretty hard going down to Waikamaka Hut. We opted for using the shelter of the hut for an early lunch and donned a few more layers to counteract the creeping dampness from the persistent drizzle. The route up to the Waipawa Saddle was straightforward but it was steeper going down the other side than I thought – no wonder I was puffing so much coming up.

With the continuous nature of the precipitation, the river was starting to come up and we accepted the fact that we were going to have to use the track that climbs to the Sunrise track rather than attempt to get through the gorge. Unfortunately we missed the track start as it is not visible from upstream so had to back track a little bit. After a weekend of walking in streams and rivers we really appreciated having a track to walk on and it was plain sailing the rest of the way out.

While not the best weather, it is lovely country to travel through, great company and we managed to cope with any obstacles. Well worth the effort! Many thanks to Jenny, Garry and Ivan for making it a great weekend.



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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	\$36	\$51
Secondary School	\$29	\$44
Primary School	\$24	\$39
Pre-school (3-5 yo)	\$11	\$11

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 tent fly (in the passenger door) and a Personal Locator Beacon (in the glove box) are available for use free of charge on trips.