

UPCOMING CLUBNIGHTS

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

7 MAY 2013 | 4 JUNE 2013

May Clubnight - Horizons Flood Protection Schemes.

Horizons manage 30 river and drainage schemes across our Region, and maintain over 460 km of stop banks, 700 km of drains, 20 pumping stations and 53 dams. These features and facilities are prominent aspects of our landscape. **Graham Doull** is a Civil Engineer with the Horizons Regional Council whose enthusiasm and responsibilities align. In his talk he will explain the design and operation of these flood protection schemes.

Notice of Annual General Meeting:

The Annual General Meeting will be held at Rose City Aquatic Club Rooms, 50 Park Road, Palmerston North (next to Lido Aquatic Centre), on

Tuesday 21 May 2013 from 7:30pm.

All members are welcome to attend.

Annual reports and a financial statement are expected to be sent out with this newsletter and will also be available on the club web site.

The Snow Men - Men Behaving Mildly

Epic descents... Exotic locations... Big budget... Actually, renowned film maker Mr W. Miller didn't return our call so we decided to make a movie ourselves. Join us on a ski tour to some spectacular South Island back country, and sample some club-field skiing along the way. This is back-to-basics skiing - no hype, just pure enjoyment of our fantastic back country. Find out who has "pow style", who got hurt, and why you should give a nutcracker a go. If we can all make it, the evening will be presented by Howie Nicholson, Ken Mercer, Peter Rawlins and Peter Bowker on 4 June



Pete 'Scarface' Rawlins shreds the pow at Mt Olympus.
Image by K.Mercer

Contents

Committee Reportspage 2
Club Nights & Noticespages 2-3
Upcoming Tripspage 4

Trip Reportspages 5-7
Club Informationpage 8

If you would like to receive your newsletter by email as a pdf in full colour rather than by post then please send an email request to editor@mtsc.org.nz. For change of contact details please email the club membership secretary at membership@mtsc.org.nz as well as copying the message to editor@mtsc.org.nz.

The deadline for newsletter contributions is @ **the 1st week of the month**. Please include a date with trip reports & images. Photos are welcome and will be included where possible - remember to include an appropriate caption for the photo, including names of people.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT LINDA CAMPBELL

president@mtsc.org.nz
PHONE (06) 323 3836



I would like to say a huge thank you to John Lyttle, our lodge manager, for his leadership in getting the external walls of our lodge painted. There have been groups of people giving their time over many weekends to travel sometimes big distances (Wellington and Auckland) to paint the lodge. It was a job that was well overdue and it has been a real commitment from everyone involved. Manawatu Lodge is a wonderful asset & available for skiers & trampers alike.

Ski Captain

RAL have applied to remove T-bars and add chairlifts at Whakapapa. Submissions closed on 11 April, but the club has made one on your behalf supporting the application as it will allow faster access to the white stuff for members with minimal disruption to the environment.

I have not been able to be involved in any of the work parties mostly due to work commitments but I am looking forward to seeing it all spruced up and weather tight. One of my recent work commitments was a 4x4 fundraiser. This 4x4 tour involved very steep hills, incredibly narrow tracks, some big drop offs, small creeks, twisting and turning and I believe very skilled drivers. I was fortunate to be invited to take a ride in one of the vehicles after lunch by the driver who was our very own Bev Akers. Bev is a regular Wednesday trumper and a frequent driver of our club minivan. I am absolutely confident that those who travel with Bev are in good hands. Enjoy the outdoors and take care out there.

Editorial

Well, time for me to move on from editing the newsletter for now. I might badger my 14 year old nephew to submit a report on his upcoming tramp though, despite him not being a member. Could make for interesting perspective...in the meantime, thanks to all you reporters out there for all your great stories and images.

CLUB NIGHTS & NOTICES

Lodge Smart and Tough

John Lyttle is pleased to advise that our Lodge on Mt Ruapehu has been assessed for compliance to the building code (useful for seismic information). It happens to be 96% compliant, which is excellent. It also happens to look pretty smart in a fetching new coat of paint lovingly applied by helpers and members over several working party weekends recently. Good work crew, extra karma points for the powder hounds amongst you this ski season!



Jenny & Tony crossing the Oturere (see previous Beechleaves for report). Image A.Match

New Members

All prospective members are encouraged to go on a club trip or attend a club night before joining. This is a great way to meet current members who can nominate you.

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 usually confirmed at the next monthly committee meeting.

For further information or an application form please visit: www.mtsc.org.nz



SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS:

The committee have reviewed the Constitution of the club and have a number of changes that they are recommending that members approve at the AGM.

ENTRANCE FEES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Resolution to amend the Constitution by deleting clause 9 and replacing with the following.

“Entrance fees and subscriptions shall be set by the committee”

Explanatory Note:

Clause 9 currently states; “Entrance fees and subscriptions shall be set at the Annual General Meeting provided that if any alteration is contemplated notice of such proposed alteration shall be given with the notice of the Annual General Meeting.” At present the Committee recommend the annual fees and subscription each year that then have to be approved by the AGM. The recommendation is based on the latest financial information available to the committee. The issue here is that any change in fees currently approved at an AGM cannot be implemented until the following year. This recommendation goes hand in hand with the next resolution to change the membership year.

PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Resolution to amend the Constitution by deleting clause 10 and replacing with the following.

“Annual subscriptions shall be due and payable on the first day of each Membership year which shall begin on the first day of April or such other date as is fixed by the preceding Annual General Meeting.”

Explanatory Note:

Clause 10 currently states; “Annual subscriptions shall be payable before the first day of each Membership year which shall begin on the first day of June or such other date as is fixed by the preceding Annual General Meeting.”

Currently the membership year starts at 1 June. By changing to 1 April it will then be the same as the financial year.

AUDITOR:

Resolution to amend the Constitution by deleting clause 17 and replacing with the following.

“A Financial Reviewer, who shall not be a member of the committee, shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. A vacancy occurring in the office of Financial Reviewer during the year shall be filled by the Committee.”

Explanatory Note:

Clause 17 currently states; “An Auditor, who shall not be a member of the committee, shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. A vacancy occurring in the office of Auditor during the year shall be filled by the Committee.”

As a result of some poor financial auditing undertaken by accounting firms of finance companies that have failed in recent years the rules of auditing have been tightened. It is now more appropriate to have a financial review which is not as onerous as a full audit but still gives comfort to the Committee and members that an independent person has reviewed the accounts.

THE COMMITTEE:

Resolution to amend the Constitution by altering clause 12a.

“To amend Clause 12a by deleting Ski Captain, Booking Officer and Social Convenor and altering “three” to “five”.

Explanatory Note:

Clause 12 covers all matters relating to the committee. Currently clause 12a states;

The entire management of the Club and its property shall be vested in a committee consisting of President, Secretary, Chief Guide, Ski Captain, Social Convenor, Membership Secretary, Minibus Manager, Lodge Manager, Lodge Booking Officer, Newsletter Editor and up to three other members who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting and the President for the Past Year.

The committee have established a Lodge sub committee under the Lodge Manager, and see no need for the ski captain nor booking officer to continue being full committee members. By increasing the number of elected members to up to five will enable greater participation by rank and file members.

UPCOMING TRIPS

WEEKEND TRIPS

May

4-5	Apiti Track to Cattle Creek	M	Adam Matich	359 2796
11-12	Toka Biv loop	M	Ken Mercer	356 7497
18-19	Blue Range loop	E/M	Howard Nicholson	357 6325
25-26	Dundas Loop	M/F	Jean Garman	354 3536
26 Sun	Deadmans Track	E/M	Linda Campbell	027 333 4493

WEDNESDAY TRIPS (Easy/Med)

May

1 Rita/Arthur Hodson	323 5491
8 Anne Rush	357 2529
15 Chris Brunskill	354 2511
22 Patsy Inkpen	323 8030
29 Robert Bruce	329 7858

Trip Grading

The times listed below include tramping, rest & stops. In assessing the trip times & guides, terrain, weather & party fitness (which is as fast as the slowest member) must be considered. Consult the trip leader if you are unsure about the trip grading for a particular trip.

FAMILY	All welcome, casual pace, any age
EASY	4 hours per day, pace slower than Easy/Med. Does not relate to terrain
EASY/MEDIUM	5 hours per day at a pace slower than Medium
MEDIUM	7 hours per day at a standard walking pace
MEDIUM/FIT	8 hours per day at a pace faster than Medium
FIT	Over 8 hours per day at a pace faster than Med/Fit
TECHNICAL	Qualifying requirements to be announced by the trip organiser

Weekday trips generally range between Easy & Medium/Fit, so call the leader for details on these to plan a daytrip to suit your preference & ability.

Trip Intentions:

The club has an email address for leaving trip intentions: 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 should include: a list of participants and their contact details (e.g. mobile, contact person phone number); a brief description of the intended route/destination; starting point (e.g. name of road end); start date; date/time due out; vehicle rego; and any other relevant details.

The email is sent to several MTSC members. This information will be provided to LandSAR only if the party is reported overdue.

Queens birthday weekend – Urewera south west trails with Mark Learmonth. Medium grade.
Call him now to arrange a spot! 06 355 9143.

THURSDAY TRIPS (Medium)

May

2 Russell Watts	353 6367
9 Syd Easton	356 7462
16 Alan Cameron	358 3848
23 Richard Ellis	357 6410
30 Nigel & Jill Spencer	329 8738



Jenny & Mark climbing up to the Ngamoko Range from Ngamoko hut. Image A.Matich



TRIP REPORTS

Ngamoko Loop 16-17th February, by Adam Matich

We started up the Knights track on yet another sunny morning (summer is getting boring) for the 900 m climb to Toka peak on the Ngamoko Range. This is a reasonably no-nonsense climb on a good track (apart from one wind-fall) through attractive forest, a short leatherwood corridor and then nice open tussocky tops. We reached Toka Peak in 2 hours which was too early for lunch, and so we headed off SE down (750 m) the waratah marked spur to Leon Kinvig Hut (4 hr) on the other side of the Pohangina River. This was a good track that only got a bit steep and slightly difficult for the lower 100 m. If the river had been up we would have suffered considerable more difficulty, but it has been a while since that was an issue this season. After a brief inspection of the hut he commenced our travel down the Pohangina River towards Ngamoko Hut. We were told to expect it to take up to 4 hours, but conditions must have been clement, because it only took us 3 ¼. That is not to say it is an easy river. There is a lot of rock-hopping, some bouldery sections and one little gorge that has a tracked marked around it on the true left. The last 1 km or so was somewhat easier and quicker, and we knew we were there when we spotted someone sitting on a boulder in the river. Mark was disappointed as he thought we still had another hour to go. Ngamoko Hut is now looked after by PNTMC as DoC can't afford to do so without going into receivership, so if you stay there you need to send PNTMC some money....preferably lots of it so they can keep it looking as tidy as it is at the moment. We shared the hut with two other guys who were so eager to escape us next morning (who wouldn't be?) that they were off at first light. The early wake-up was useful for us as it meant our climb, from directly behind the hut, up onto the Ngamoko Range was more in the cool of the morning. This was another good track, again steep at the bottom, with a no-nonsense attitude towards climbing. It is a little bit overgrown by ferns and grasses up near the bush-line, but otherwise well-marked and easy to follow. We manage the 700 m climb in under 2 hours and headed NE along the tops in the direction of the Shorts Track 3 km away. The southern 1 km of this un-poled route was very slightly leather-woody, but not enough to cause complaints and so the 3 km was travelled in under 90 minutes, the going getting easier as we approached the top of the Shorts Track. Thereafter we had a 2-hour romp down back to the car (5 ½ hr day)

This trip was easier and faster than we had expected, almost degenerating into a medium-grade. Over the tops is certainly the nicest route into or out of Ngamoko Hut, apart from by helicopter. We were Mark Learmonth, Jenny McCarthy, and Adam Matich

MAKAIRO TRACK, Wednesday 27 March 2013 by Patsy Inkpen

The best weather day ever for 22 trampers, the Wednesday group have ever experienced doing this track. No wind, rain, cloud, mist or chill factor to contend with. Glorious sun, slight breeze in places to cool off.

The beginning of the track has altered due to most of the macro and pine trees being removed. Clay road for about ¾ km for the vehicles removing the trees. Car park is larger. Steel barriers both ends of the collapsed bridge insitu.

Pity about the stinging nettles a few of us got hit with and the cutty grass to plough through, head high in places. 16 ventured up to the very top of the farm hill to have lunch and enjoy the 360 degrees view instead of going down to the gravel pit.

Usual stop at Tui brewery café for liquid refreshment.

Many thanks to the drivers, Chris Brunskill, Margaret Foote, Marie Inkpen and myself, trip leader Patsy Inkpen.

Coppermine Loop - with a difference, 21 March 2013 by Merv Matthews

It was a few years since we (Thursday trampers) last did the popular Coppermine Loop. On this occasion we chose to take a little-known track which diverts from the usual track a few metres up from the former hut site. A pretty waterfall is passed almost immediately - presumably this was the original supply for the hut. The track is reasonably easy to follow as indicated by red markers, but a few extra orange tapes were put up in advance of the trip to make it easier for the group to follow. The track follows a generally parallel route up the ridge, and there are at least three exits on to the normal track if one wants to bail out early. Upon reaching the signposted junction at the top we turned left to locate another old track which heads due west along a ridge towards spot height 1015. It was a little overgrown but could be followed quite easily. We did some track clearing some years ago, but never quite reached 1015. Satisfied that the track was still there we turned around and headed out to the farmland for lunch, followed by the usual route back to the car park and an early return to town. We were 15 Thursday Trampers.

Ruapae Falls – Bushcraft Weekend ONE 23rd/24th March - by Tim Swale. See next page for postscript.

The purpose of this weekend was to practise some of those outdoor skills that are often overlooked in walking on well marked tracks & staying in huts. So with this in mind our group of four arrived at Putara Road end near Eketahuna on a beautiful Autumn morning & rather than rush off into the bush, spent a little while orientating maps, counting steps per 100m & relating the map to landscape features. Soon we were off, with our first task to locate a grid reference where we were to leave the track & climb on a compass bearing to highpoint 665m. Since my last visit someone had been through & placed pink flagging tape which made it all too easy. However, shortly after 665m we lost the markers - which was good, because it forced the team to walk on a compass bearing sending out a front person as far as could be seen on the correct bearing then walking to them. After about 600m in thick bush we merged with the marked route. Unfortunately, all the fumbling with map & compass had resulted in me putting down my walking stick somewhere. Talk about “needle in a haystack”! However after backtracking for some time there it was laying on the ground where I left it.



We arrived at our campsite about 3-30pm, an idyllic grassy clearing amongst manuka & flax beside a crystal clear creek. We set up fly shelters & had a leisurely afternoon tea before setting off upstream to find Ruapae Falls. Being marked on the Topo 50 map led us to expect something spectacular. Although the valley is delightful, the falls are insignificant so we returned to camp unimpressed. After dinner Carolyn & I were introduced to a novel card game “Presidents and Arseholes” by young Hamish & Calem which had us amused for an hour or so before retiring for the night. With the day’s heat rapidly radiating away we pulled on extra layers of warm clothing to keep the cold at bay. There were a million stars sparkling in the skies above us & lying in our sleeping bags listening to the babbling of the creek and moreporks calling to each other in the forest around, it was easy to feel at one with nature & drift off into a contented sleep.

The morning dawned cool & fresh, & with only a short distance to go for the day we were in no rush to leave our sleeping bags. As the sun came up over the hilltops the valley was flooded with a warm light, just perfect for us to sit by the creek having a leisurely breakfast. By the time we left camp at 10-30am we were down to shorts & T-shirts again, slapping on sunscreen & ready for the challenges of the day. We headed down the gentle & gravelly stream frequently checking on the map looking for side creeks & spurs to judge our position. Soon we were at the base of the Bottles Track & with only about 1 ½ km to go to the swing-bridge where we would join the main Herepai Track, we thought we would be back to the car in no time at all.



Calem avoiding a swim with Carolyn picking her way past boulders. Image T. Swale

How wrong we were. With a drop of 120m over this distance, the creek became narrow, bouldery & log infested & required a lot of time searching for the best way down. At one point it took an hour to cover just 350m. Who needs a gym when you can have so much fun getting a whole body workout in such a pristine wonderful environment! Lucky

<< Setting up camp. Image T.Swale



Endless boulders. Image T.Swale

the water was warm & at a low level. It would definitely not be safe after heavy rain. By the time we got to the swing-bridge we were looking forward to getting out of the river but unfortunately, Hamish who had got a bit ahead of the rest of us had not even seen the swing-bridge about 20 meters above our heads & had gone down into the main river. Not wanting to lose track of him, we followed his wet footprints until we caught him up then found a place where we could scramble up to the track. From there it was just a short flat walk on an easy track back to the road end, a bit later than expected but bringing to an end a delightful weekend.



Blue Range Hut & Miki Miki, Wednesday 20th March, by Pam Wilson

24 Members went on this trip on an unusual day for this summer. Unusual in that it was overcast and at times showery. Those who went up to Blue Range hut had their first taste of cold for this season. All enjoyed it, but for those on their first visit there, they will have to return on a clear day for the marvellous view that the trip leader had promised.

Miki Miki stream offers a good alternative for those not wanting a two hour uphill tramp. It is also an ideal walk to introduce family members to tramping, or as an add-on to a picnic in this beautiful area.

Importantly, thank you to John Ridge for driving the van, and to Linda Derbyshire, Robert Bruce, Patsy Inkpen for taking their cars.

Ruapae Falls – Bushcraft Weekend postscript – Tim Swale

I have since been informed by Jenny McCarthy that the small cascade that we reached is not Ruapae Falls which is impassable. It looks like we never actually got there! Editor: I bet you weren't the first to be robbed by the decoy waterfall Tim!

Maharahara Peak Track, Wednesday 6 February. by John Ridge

Eighteen participants took part in this Waitangi Day tramp and all reached the summit. This was a west-east tramp starting from the end of Opawe Road in the Pohangina Valley. We were expecting mud but it was not too bad considering that there had been a heavy thunderstorm on the night of the 4th. We were wary of the possible hazards and took appropriate care. The track crosses farm land which is uphill and then as we entered the Park it continued steeply through typical southern Ruahine rimu, kamahi and tawa forest. After climbing for an hour we were ready for morning tea. Ten to fifteen minutes breather and then on our way again. Higher up the track passes through more shrubby species and then across a series of open rocky knolls. The scratchy leathery leaved shrub leatherwood is evident on the tops here. We had a relaxed lunch in the sun and although the distant hills were rather hazy, the views were amazing. Unfortunately no one had brought a camera to record the occasion. Our descent was slower than usual, we were, no doubt, taking breaks to admire the views or could it have been the nature of the track. Thanks to Barbara, Rita and Arthur for helping out with transport - much appreciated.

Kaipororo Range crossing, Thursday 11 April by Graham Pritchard

This unofficial route was researched by Merv Matthews and explored by a small group last year. This was our second such crossing and is still a work in progress needing some refinement in parts. It begins near the end of the Putara Road with a well-marked 4 WD route across private land (prior permission from two different owners needed) from which there are good views of the northern end of Tararua Range, cloud permitting. The upper section through attractive forest is now fairly well marked (if you know where to start looking). The tricky bit is negotiating the transition between the upper edge of this forest and the scrub/tussock zone – a mixture of high red tussock, Dracophyllum, leatherwood, manuka, Astelia etc in order to reach the Kaipororo trig. This bit can be unpleasant during or after rainfall and should avoided altogether in low cloud and mist as visibility is very limited on the large Kaipororo summit plateau. This trip was blessed with good weather and visibility and much wry humour as we thrust our way through the summit plateau vegetation.

Eight of the group, led by Merv Matthews, made the full crossing completed by the Kaipororo track and the crossing of the Makakahi River (with very little water). Six of us (led back through the maze through which we had come by Dave Grant and Gordon Clark) returned to the Putara Road end; four for an early return by car, two of us to take the minibus around to collect, at the Kaipororo Road end, the eight who had crossed right over.



Kaipororo summit plateau, Image D.Grant

Wharite / Copper Mine, Wednesday 3 April. By leader Anne Rush

Seventeen opted for Wharite and 9 for the Copper Mine loop. The track to Wharite is very steep in places and mostly dry except for about three boggy patches. The return tramp is approximately 5 hours, although several super fit people managed to get to the top in 2 hours! We had good views to the Wairarapa and north to Ruapehu but were grateful for the tall leatherwood which protected us from an unpleasant wind. Thanks to our drivers Chris Brunskill, John Hunt and Lynda Derbyshire.

CLUB INFORMATION

Annual Hut Passes

Buy your Annual Hut Pass through DoC. The full price of an Annual Hut Pass is now \$122.60 but is reduced to \$85.60 with your Federated Mountain Club (FMC) card discount. For further information or for the forms to complete contact Jean at jeanandivan@value.net.nz or call (06) 354 3536.

Accommodation at the MTSC lodge on Mount Ruapehu

The lodge is close to Iwikau Village, has mains power, heating, hot showers and is well stocked with food. Members and their guests are welcome. (Lodge phone number is (07) 892 3860).

Lodge bookings should be emailed to Liz and Hugh Wilde lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz. If you cannot email, please phone (06) 356 9450. To confirm your booking, payment must be made in advance by cheque, or cash (in person) to 179 Cook St, Palmerston North 4410. Internet payment is not available for lodge fees.

	Members	Guests
Adult	\$30	\$45
Secondary School	\$25	\$40
Primary School	\$20	\$35
Pre-school (3-5 yo)	\$10	\$10



Jenny at grass-besieged LeonKinvig Hut. Image A.Matich

Booking and use of the MTSC Van

The normal run-of-the-mill things you need to do if using the Transit Van are:

1. Book preferably by Thursday, and certainly no later than 6 pm Friday.
2. Cancel bookings by these times so others needing the van have time to amend travel arrangements.
3. A fly should be carried on every tramp, there is always one in the passenger door of the club van and they are available from the Gear Custodian at no charge. There is a Personal Locator Beacon, in the glove box, for people using the van to take with them.

Trip leaders and those planning trips should use this club asset. Ken and Mary Mercer are interim minibuss custodians and can be contacted at (06) 356 7497.

Club Equipment

We have two personal locator beacons (PLB), packs, 2 and 3 person tents, fly-sheets, snow mats, sleeping bag cover, gas cookers, size 8 and 9 boots, billies, two bivvy bags and two big tent flies. Ice axes, crampons, and helmets are also available. Food Dehydrator: ideal for drying large and small quantities of fruit, vegetables, and meat for tramping trips. Easy to use, works well, and is available for hire from the Gear Custodian. Hire cost for members, \$1 per day (no charge for PLB). Contact the Gear Custodian: Peter Rawlins on (06) 356 7443.

Club website | www.mtsc.org.nz

This includes a list of contact details and a club email address. Back issues of Beechleaves can be found on the site and it is updated regularly with new information.

The club webpage is maintained by Howard Nicholson and is kindly hosted by **InSPire Net**, a locally based company.

People to Contact

If you would like to contact the club with general inquiries, please write to MTSC, P.O. Box 245, Palmerston North and it will reach the appropriate person.

If you want a particular topic discussed at Committee meetings, this is a good way to go about it.

Alternatively an email to the below addresses will suffice.

MTSC 2012-13 Committee

President Linda Campbell	06 323 3836
	president@mtsc.org.nz
Secretary Tim Swale	06 376 6556
Treasurer Arthur Flint	06 356 7654
	treasurer@mtsc.org.nz
Chief Guide Ken Mercer	06 356 7497
Day Trip Convenor Bev Akers	06 325 8879
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	membership@mtsc.org.nz
Newsletter Editor	editor@mtsc.org.nz
Social Convenor Bob Hodgson	
Ski Captain Howard Nicholson	06 357 6325
Lodge Manager John Lyttle	
Lodge Bookings Hugh & Liz Wilde	06 356 9450
Mini-Bus Manager Bev Akers	06 325 8879
General Committee	
	Royce Mills, Bev Akers, Ryan Badger