

UPCOMING CLUBNIGHTS

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

7 JUNE 2011 | 5 JULY 2011

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

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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 appreciated, and will be included where possible - remember to include an appropriate caption for the photo, including names of people.

JUNE CLUB NIGHT - NEPAL & EVEREST BASE CAMP - Darlene Westrupp & Ann Young

In late September last year Ann Young, owner of the company "Trekking for Women", & long time MTSC member led a trip to Nepal & Everest Base Camp. Darlene Westrupp was one of the group of five women who made the journey. Darlene is looking forward to sharing her experiences & photos of the trip with you. Ann will also be helping with the talk. Ann is off to Nepal again on 19 March to lead a group of 14 men & women up to Everest Base & will also be exploring new routes in the Gokyo Valley. She returns to NZ in May but will be off again in August leading a cycle trip from Tibet to Nepal followed by a further Everest Base Camp trip. She will be happy to talk about any of these trips.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
KEN MERCER
president@mtsc.org.nz
PHONE (06) 356 7497 or (027) 364 6475



SKI CAPTAIN
Howard (torn between
two loves) Nicholson.

Our family is just back from an overnight trip into Rangiwahia Hut, and a little beyond. It was a spur of the moment decision as a weather window opened and, despite a little clag Sunday morning and drizzle on the way out, very pleasant. Delightful actually; walking out onto the broad expanse of tussock above the hut.

Rangi is a serviced 3 ticket hut, costing \$15.30 per night. For that one gets somewhere to sleep, an internal cold water tap, and gas cooking and heating. With helicopter costs I doubt DOC are making much of a profit.

In comparison, at our lodge, we're charging \$26 per night for much more luxurious accommodation and food is included! Another comparison is the bunkroom rate at a backpackers which is \$25, if you're a member.

The view was expressed at the recent AGM that our fees are too low since the lodge account is not as healthy as in the past. Because of advance bookings it isn't practical to further increase fees for this season however they will be reviewed later this year. In the meantime, make the most of the winter!

We have a new committee and I take great pleasure in welcoming Liz Flint and Bob Hodgson to it. Thank you, in advance, for your contributions.

This cooler weather is starting to get me excited. Turoa is scheduled to open on 25 June & Whakapapa on 2 July. In preparation, our annual "food carry" workparty at the Lodge on 11-12 June will see the larders stocked & a final tidy-up done before the main ski season kicks off. I hope you can make it.

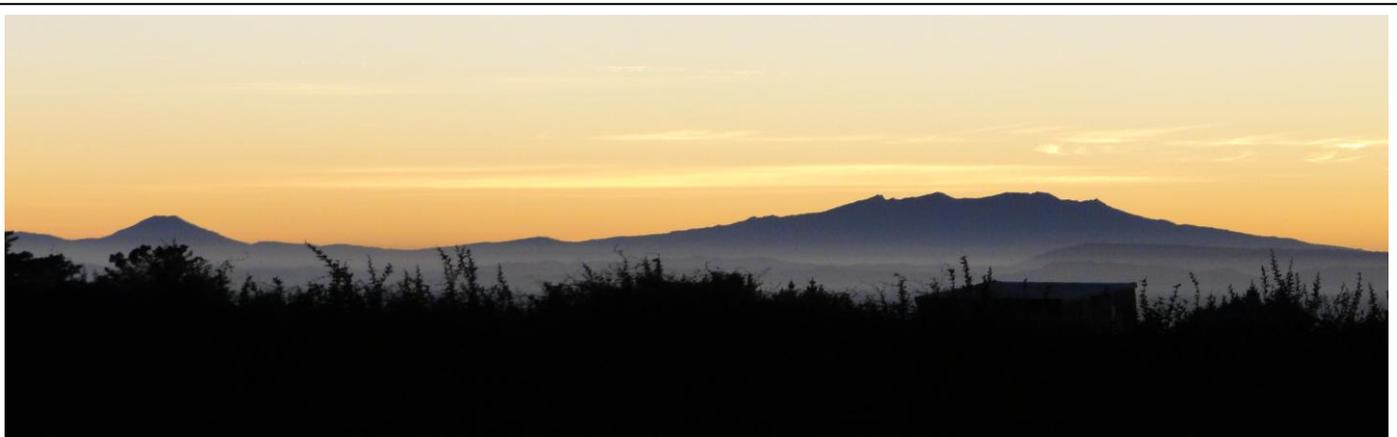
Improvements to the High Noon Express chairlift at Turoa appear to be on track, which should improve its reliability and resilience to our infamously severe weather. See <http://www.mtruapehu.com/> for more updates on this.

A \$1 increase in lodge fees this year reflects the increasing costs of being on the mountain. The committee has been asked to review the fees again later this year, to ensure that they cover the real costs of running the lodge. In the meantime, I suggest that you plan your stay early, at what must be one of the most social & best value lodges around.

Chief Guide's Report.

After winning a cool retro lime green FMC packliner recently, she seems to have vanished to test it out...

However, the new trip card is well & truly out -with all the interesting stuff to do at this time of the year involving fluffy, sometimes wet, white stuff, one could be forgiven a little for reticence on the report side.



Ngaruhoe & Ruapehu at dawn from Pembroke Road, near Stratford, Taranaki. Image T.Tyler

CLUB NIGHTS & NOTICES

Manawatu Tramping & Skiing Club 83rd AGM

Draft Minutes for 17May 2011 at Rose City Aquatic Clubrooms

Full Minutes will be included once accepted at next meeting. Minutes circulated prior to meeting were accepted as a true & correct record.

Reports from the President, Membership Secretary, Lodge Manager, Minibus Manager & Gear Custodian presented.

Financial Statement accepted, thanks extended to Darlene Westrupp for auditing accounts. Thanks to Christine Scott for her work in preparing them.

In view of energy charge, Lodge rates to be reviewed by November & alternatives sought.

The number & nature of positions on the Committee is noted.

FMC Conference 11-12 June

As the umbrella group turns 80 years young, a conference held at TePapa will help to shape the direction this venerated volunteer organisation will take. There will be at least one member of MTSC at this event but with speakers like Craig Potton it promises to be one worth going to! FMC president Richard Davies gave a small taste of the conference at the last club night that packed out the room.

[Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ » Conference](#)

WANTED TO BUY:

Macpac Esprit pack, phone Anna, c/o Glenn Prendergrast, 06 3567487.

Position	Person	Nominated by	Seconded by	Carried ?
President	Ken Mercer	Tim Swale	Liz Flint	Yes
Secretary	Tim Swale	Liz Wilde	Linda Campbell	Yes
Treasurer	Christine Scott	Ken Mercer	Howard Nicholson	Yes
Chief guide	Kim Fraser	Howard Nicholson	Linda Campbell	Yes
Social convenor	Linda Campbell	Mary Mercer	Liz Flint	Yes
Newsletter editor	Tim Tyler	Hugh Wilde	David Newstead	Yes
Membership sec.	Jenny McCarthy	Linda Campbell	Mary Mercer	Yes
Ski captain	Howard Nicholson	Ken Mercer	Peter Rawlins	Yes
Lodge manager	Ryan Badger	Doug Pringle	John Lyttle	Yes
Lodge bookings	Hugh Wilde	Ken Mercer	John Lyttle	Yes
Minibus manager	Bev Akers	Liz Flint	Hugh Wilde	Yes
General comm.	Liz Flint	Ken Mercer	Liz Wilde	Yes
General comm.	Bob Hodgson	Ken Mercer	Liz Flint	Yes



Fay, Bev & Gary at Makahu Saddle Hut. By A.Match



Jemma & Fay guarding Kaweka Flats. By A.Match

UPCOMING TRIPS

Club Lodge Food Carry Weekend.

A good excuse for some exercise & preview of preparations for ski season. Also, there is the Saturday Ski dinner... a fine tradition! Call Ken Mercer on 06 3567497. Note there will be maintenance work on offer if you aren't of packhorse build but still want to

1 June (Wed) Bev Akers	325 8879
2 June (Thu) Keith Fisher	357 1724
4-6 June Avalanche Flats/Dundas Adam Matich	MED/FIT 359 2796
8 June (Wed) Liz Flint	356 7654
9 June (Thu) Royce Mills	355 8556
11-12 June Lodge Carry & Dinner Rob Pringle	FAMILY to FIT 358 3319
11-12 June Trains Hut Kim Fraser	EASY Still moving, TBA
15 June (Wed) Mona Webb	357 8003
16 June (Thu) Gordon Clark	359 2500
18-19 Sunrise Hut Foodie Trip Tim Tyler	FAT (FAMILY) 356 6008
22 June (Wed) Margaret Foot	357 8003
23 June (Thu) Hugh Wilde	356 9450
25-26 June Mangahao Flats Hut Bev Akers	EASY/MEDIUM 325 8879
29 June (Wed) John Hunt	324 0339
30 June (Thu) David Grant	357 8269
2-3 July Ruapehu Ramble Brian Webster	TECHNICAL 357 0189

Foodie Weekend!

Fancy yourself as the Heston Blumenthal of the hut cookery scene or have never boiled an egg but make a good donkey & can't make it to the Lodge Food Carry? Sunrise Hut with commanding views in the Eastern Ruahine Ranges is the site for this cheeky little number. Tim (never trust a skinny chef) Tyler can be called or emailed for details, editor@mtsc.org.nz or 06 3566008

Sunday breakfast will be French toast with caramelised spiced banana & optional bacon...

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 suitable daytrip to suit your preferences.



Thursday Crew on 28 April, by K.Fisher



Lunch spot for Thu trampers on Hinerua Ridge, 12 May, K.Fisher

TRIP REPORTS

Wednesday Trampers 6 April. **Deadmans Loop** by Liz Flint

10 hardy trampers left Palmy at 7.30am & after picking up Jill at Kimbolton we arrived at Rangi car park to be greeted by 3 more from Feilding on a cold & cloudy day. The first of the "winter" southerlies was still blowing through but it was decided to stick to the original plan to take the Dead Man's track up to Mangahuia & on to Rangi hut.

Liz kept the group together & we were soon out of the bush & onto the open tussock. The track was quite well marked but with low clouds it was often difficult to see the next waratah. Short breaks were taken every hour & an early lunch was had by the tarns. Some snow was on the ground & with the temperature at zero & a freezing wind, it was into full storm weather gear for the climb to the top of Mangahuia. The worst part of the trip was the short drop down from the tarn before we started the climb but everyone managed to negotiate the sometimes overgrown track without incident.

Once at the top it was an enjoyable descent to Rangi hut for a rest & to take on board more food & drink - still low cloud so very little to see. A quick trip back to the carpark, notwithstanding the slip saw us back at the bus just after 4pm. A very enjoyable trip & really demonstrated to all the benefit of just taking their time, being together & being kept fully informed of progress.

Wednesday Group 27 April - **Waitohu Lodge**

It turned out this track was not one that a lot of the Wednesday Group knew of (even Ivan had not done this walk before) so it proved to be a little different. I have John Hunt to thank for bringing this to my attention, the last time he did this was 22 years ago! I believe it originated as a logging track way back, as there is what appears to be a rusting old boiler about half way up, which adds to this belief. 16 of the regulars & 2 additional from New Plymouth made up the party, we all made it comfortably to the lodge, after a relatively easy climb, lunch at the lodge was a packed little gathering - the lodge is mainly used by hunters, but the hut book described a varied clientele - quad, & mountain bikers, didn't appear to be many trampers listed; there is quite a splendid view from the rear of the lodge. Permission has to be sought, to go over private land to get access to the start of the track. Dave Pollard

Mount Bruce - Just downstream of the old bridge our group of 21 easily waded the chilly stream to follow the new track up to join Braddicks track. Although we did not find a route to the larger area of open grassland top remembered by some, we nevertheless found good views & enjoyable tramping. **Marion Beadle**, Wed. Group.



Thur trampers carpark for access to Hinerua. Image R.Mills.



J.Hunt took this image of Wednesday trampers at Mt Bruce

Te Mara - 10th April - by Tim Swale

The day after Howard's splendid Kapiti Island trip, Linda Campbell, Ian Algie & myself set off on a bush bashing expedition to find our way round the Kiriwhakapapa, TeMara, Blue Range loop. I had a group of children from school doing the Wairarapa Mountain Safety Council Bushcraft course for their Duke of Edinburgh's Award based at the Kiriwhaka-papa road end, so I was keen to catch up with them & see how they were getting on. The road end camping area which has been greatly improved by DOC in the last year was a hive of activity with trampers preparing to go out for the day & campers finishing off their breakfast in the bright morning sun.

By 9.30am we were on our way heading towards the saddle between Kiriwhakapapa & Mikimiki. From here we set a compass bearing & headed off track on the spur that climbs to TeMara. It turned out travel was relatively easy with faint traces of a track in places, a few pink tape markers & nothing much in the way of difficult vegetation to cause us to deviate from the ridge.

About 2/3 of the way up, we came across a tent & concluded that there may be hunters in the area. Sure enough, about twenty minutes later we heard the sound of a stag roaring followed by voices not too far away. Three gunshots very close by stopped us in our tracks & we replied with several blasts on our whistle to let the hunters know we were in their area. We never saw them because of the thick bush but it does make one realise that tramping off track in the "Roar" needs a bit of extra caution. Bright coloured clothing is probably a good idea.

We had lunch just below the summit of TeMara & then headed over the top & took the north-easterly spur down towards Blue Range Hut. Yet again the new Topo 50 map has a glitch in that the actual DOC track is not quite where it is shown. However, it was not a hard finding the track, it just wasn't quite where we were expecting it.

Afternoon tea was at the quirky but delightful Blue Range Hut before we set out for our final descent to Kiriwhakapapa. Overall a very pleasant day in the bush.



MTSC Social Convenor Linda Campbell & Secretary Tim Swale at TeMara trig in the Blue Range. Image I.Algie

Colenso Trig – 4th May

By Bev Akers

A full bus & carload headed to Kawhatau Base via Rangiwahia which is shorter distance than going via Mangaweka. At the end of the road before driving through Liz & Alan Rennie's farm, you must fill in the intention book. You are supposed to phone prior to arriving, to get permission. We were confronted with an interesting Doc sign saying "No access between March 20th – April 30th unless arranged with Alan & Liz in advance. Phone (06) 3825555 ". This was a booking of the Lodge due to the Roar, I guess. So keep this in mind over the roar period. Lucky for us it was the 4th. Two helicopters were just leaving as we arrived.

Once on the track climbing up hill, we had to scramble round several tree falls, a sign of very strong winds recently. Needs a bit of work done with chainsaws. Still, a lovely track, getting up onto the tops, with great views. (18 trampers).



Jenny, Jean, Brian & Ivan taking a break on Cone on their way out from Neill's Fork Hut. Image A.Match, 22May'11



"...And what did you do at the weekend?" LandSAR Operation 7 May 2011. By Howard Nicholson

A text message arrived late on a Friday night, interrupting my plans for a relaxing start to the weekend. At the same time, dozens of people were receiving the same message: "PNSAR: Evening, I require 2 search teams for search Otaki area..." A quick reply was followed by the usual scramble for everything required for a 5:30am start; all of my tramping gear, food for three days, cooking gear, tent fly & a bivvy bag (one never knows where they may end up the following night). Several other members of MTSC were doing the same, & after a few short hours of sleep we were meeting at the local Police Station.

We were briefed of the situation at Levin &, after picking up more gear (radios, maps, GPS, etc.) we were driven to the local showgrounds to board the Palmerston North Rescue Helicopter for the first of several flights that day. After a quick hop over the front ranges, keeping one eye on the approaching rain, we were standing in the Otaki River near the bridge at Waitewaewae Hut, just minutes from Levin by helicopter but 6 hours away by road & foot.

The scenario for this search was simple, but the concerns were very real - why was a well-equipped, experienced trumper, who was setting out clues for an upcoming exercise (SAREX) overdue? And why had his Spot Me tracker transmissions not been received?

Our first task was to search up to the Otaki-Waitewaewae Forks, where a clue was expected to be found if the lost party had made it this far. Searching is definitely a team effort; for instance, while one team member found some prints heading upstream another found a point where someone had scrambled up a river bank. We soon had our first planted clue, effectively narrowing down the search area & allowing other teams to be deployed in the more likely areas.

Our next task involved another short helicopter flight to a spot on the Oriwa Ridge. There were no landing places here, so it was on with the winch strop & out the door. As sometimes happens, I began to spin as I went down, but thankfully was gently manoeuvred into a tree before continuing my descent. The winch training session in the Kahuterawa Valley only 2 weeks earlier really paid off & soon all our team were on the ground, in the bush & a few walking-hours away from our previous river location.

Finding a planted clue here could limit the search to two instead of three river catchments. We were tracking a person down the ridge, but was it our lost party? Soon we had a Police search dog team from Wellington with us & it was interesting to see how the dog worked under these conditions. A passing thunderstorm reminded us that we may be camping in the wet tonight.

Shortly, we heard that the lost party had been found, & that we needed to find a good extraction point. We headed back up the ridge to a gap in the canopy, & hoped that we could be picked up tonight in spite of the deteriorating weather & approaching darkness.

The "chop-chop-chop" of an approaching Iroquois helicopter coincided with a lowering cloud base. Soon we had two of our team on board; then our transport flew off into the gloom. I reconfirmed that the dog handler indeed had a tent, but soon the helo was overhead again, having checked that they could still make an escape should the weather deteriorate further. Twenty minutes later & we were drinking soup at the Levin Police Station.

To answer my earlier questions - the intended route of the lost party was a lot more arduous than they initially thought. The tracking device appears to have been functioning, but a wet & dense bush canopy may have prevented the signals from being received by passing satellites. The lost party was overdue, but thankfully alive & well due to being well equipped with the basics for survival - shelter, food and warmth.

Several MTSC members are involved with LandSAR, & we can usually count on about 5-20 members being involved in most operations requiring more than just a police-team response. SAR is an emergency situation & usually requires an immediate response. MTSC members bring backcountry skills & experience that makes them deployable in many situations.

Members involved in this search included Maren Domke, Peter Rawlins, Ivan Rienks, Tim Swale, Ken Mercer, Tony Groome, Sonja Turk, Neal Harold & article author Howard Nicholson.



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 phone (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 for some reason 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	\$26	\$39
Secondary School	\$23	\$36
Primary School	\$20	\$31
Pre-school (3-5 yo)	\$11	\$11



Pink lake at Mangawhio showing native fern growing on the surface.
A. Brodie

Booking and use of the MTSC Transit 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. Adam Match is our minibus custodian and he can be contacted at (06) 359 2796 or at work (06) 953 7679.

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 rips. 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. The club webpage is maintained by Howard Nicholson and is kindly hosted by InSPire Net.

People to Contact

If you would like to contact the club with general inquiries, please drop a line to MTSC, P.O. B ox 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 2010-11 Committee

President	Ken Mercer	06 356 7497 president@mtsc.org.nz
Secretary	Tim Swale	06 376 6556
Treasurer	Christine Scott	06 354 0510 treasurer@mtsc.org.nz
Chief Guide	Kim Fraser	06 355 5496
Day Trip Convenor	Bev Akers	06 325 8879
Membership Sec.	Jenny McCarthy	06 376 8838 membership@mtsc.org.nz
Newsletter Editor	Tim Tyler	06 356 6008 editor@mtsc.org.nz
Social Convenor	Linda Campbell	06 323 3836
Ski Captain	Howard Nicholson	06 357 6325
Lodge Manager	Ryan Badger	027 445 997
Lodge Bookings	Hugh & Liz Wilde	06 356 9450
Mini-Bus Manager	Bev Akers	06 325 8879
General Committee	Liz Flint	06 356 7654
	Bob Hodgson	

NOTE this list remains subject to confirmation of AGM minutes.