

# 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 2: March 2018



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 6<sup>th</sup> March: How to enjoy the Cook Islands – Bob Hodgson



In the company of Sue, my wife, I have enjoyed many active holidays in the Cook Islands. Our initial visit was made in 2000 to Rarotonga, the Capital Island, and we continue to make it our base. Since our first visit to Rarotonga, we have also visited; Mangaia, Atiu (twice) and Aitutaki (four times). Our main activity has been snorkelling in the lagoons but we have also walked, tramped and cycled as well as descended into caves in Mangaia and Atiu, gone ocean fishing and sailed in a vaka (ocean sailing canoe). One unlikely activity was making a tour of the Green Peace flagship, the Esperanza an ex Russian navy, submarine mother ship. I have also on two visits, operated an amateur radio station from Rarotonga with the call sign E51RMH. By finding out what local events are taking place and attending them it is possible to enjoy the special nature of the Island community and move beyond being a mere tourist!

Recently we made our thirteenth visit to the islands. Over the years we have gained a love of the islands and have come to admire the friendly and capable islanders. In this talk illustrated from our large collection of photographs, I will give a brief history of the Cook Islands who incidentally celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their independence from NZ in 2015, describe the Islands and discuss what they offer to the active and curious visitor.

### Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April: Orienteering – Ken Mercer

Every trumper likes to look at maps; to plan trips, to figure out where you are or even to use in conjunction with a compass to find your way around in the hills. Orienteering is a great way to help develop navigation skills. For this club night we'll have a short theory session at the club rooms then head out to have a go at the orienteering course in the Esplanade. If your skills are pretty good already come along and help your fellow club members to learn. If you have them, please bring your compass and headlamp along.



# REPORTS AND NOTICES



## MTSC President: John Beech

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

*Hi all,* February has rolled around and we are continuing to enjoy the summer weather. I hope that most of you have had the opportunity to get outside to enjoy yourselves in the bush. I've had a quiet month tramping wise since my last column. The only walk I have done was up the Branches track on a beautiful day. This is a lovely walk through a variety of landscape from pine forest through a small remnant of bush and into a picturesque sheep and beef farm. We are fortunate in the Manawatu that there are easy tracks that are just on our doorstep giving us the opportunity to pop out for an afternoon stroll with the minimum of travel.

The other day I listened with interest to DOC's director general speaking on Radio NZ. I was hoping to see some indication that the department's focus had moved away from tourism promotion and back to its core function of conservation. Although this was alluded to on occasions, it would seem that there is still a strong push for tourism on the conservation estate from within the department. I guess the relentless promotion of NZ and the increasing tourism numbers will continue to fuel tourist growth on the conservation estate. As I have stated before, there is a fine line between the public and tourists enjoying the walks and the detrimental effects of overcrowding tracks and the downstream problems this causes. This, plus the huge extra cost of continuous infrastructure expansions to DOC must stretch their limited resources. One does not envy the fine line that DOC has to follow. Nevertheless, in my opinion, we should not be trying to cater for ever increasing numbers, but perhaps look to limiting tourist numbers on some of the heavy use areas such as the Tongariro crossing. As I've said before tourism is not DOC's primary function, it is conservation and whilst tourism is allowed, it should not compromise the former.

This week we also had our first club night of the year. Myself, Linda and Tim spoke and showed slides of 3 trips that each of us had completed during 2017. Respectively, they were the Hollyford track, Pouakai crossing and Queen Charlotte track. As always, I find these nights to be especially interesting as our members relate their trips to all parts of the country. We are indeed fortunate to have such a diverse and special country. *Till next time. John*

## MTSC Lodge Manager: John Lyttle



## Update on upgrade work to the Lodge

As part of the building consent process we are required to obtain a fire report on the present systems in the lodge. The main impact of the report is that we need to create fire separation between bedrooms and the living areas of the lodge. This means relining (Fyreline plasterboard) both sides on walls that are part of the middle lounge, drying room and top entry. We also need to replace the glazed doors at the end of the hall with certified fire doors. This report and what it proposes still needs to be accepted by council when we file the building consent.

The requirements of the fire report are having us think that we should incorporate the top entry into the adjacent bedroom and move the main entry to the downstairs entry. We have had the engineer modify his drawings to include the extension of the retaining wall to increase the size of the downstairs entry area. We would install a new secondary entry door into the external wall of the middle lounge. Does any have any objections with the downstairs entry becoming the main entry? My intention is to file for a work permit with DOC and with this will include the agreed drawings and we will also include the following. A lot of this is more a wish list to see what DOC will allow.

Include top entry room into adjacent bedroom.

Move middle lounge external wall out to align with wall line of living area.

Extend existing timber deck along front of new lounge.

Provide new exterior door to new middle lounge wall.

Air lock at new main entrance with the rebuild of the external wall of the entrance way.

Once approval or not is obtained from DOC, I will finalise the building consent documents ready to file around June 2018. Again after DOC approval we will be obtaining fixed prices for materials so that I can start filing for grants. Anyone who has contacts or can assist with the grant process please do contact me.

We are in the process of setting up some dates for work party weekends starting Oct 2018 running through to June 2019. Part of the purpose of this is to see what we can achieve in what we are calling stage 1. We will be asking club members to commit to a weekend or three to help with the construction.

If anyone has any questions or is able to help in any form please do not hesitate to contact me.

[john@bcsltd.oc.nz](mailto:john@bcsltd.oc.nz)

027 433 6307

*We welcome Julie Clifton and Robbie Green to the club.*



March Wednesday Tramps			March Thursday Tramps		
7	Bob Hargreaves	357 0734	1	David Grant	328 7788
14	Richard Hunter	357 6821	8	Judy Swainson	358 4082
21	William Laing	358 4876	15	Merv Matthews	357 2858
28	Judith & Peter Zwart	353 5087	22	Darlene Westrupp	355 5470
			29	Bryce & Raewyn Buddle	353 5163

March Weekend Trips				
3	Top Gorge Hut	Medium/Fit	Adam Matich	022 358 8062
10-11	Makaroro River trip	Medium	Howard Nicholson	027 294 1941
17-18	<del>Bush Craft course</del> CANCELLED	Easy	Tim Swale	022 134 8384
17-18	Dundas Hut via Harris Creek	Fit	Garry Grayson	027 269 5934
24-25	Taranaki Walks	Easy/Medium	Linda Campbell	027 333 4493
30-2	<del>LODGE work party</del> CANCELLED	ALL	John Lyttle	027 433 6307

**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 Land SAR/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.

### **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March: Top Gorge Hut**

**Medium/Fit**

**Adam Matich**

**022 358 8062**

Top Gorge Hut is in the upper Pohangina River and is accessed from the Longview road end. We will tramp up to Longview Hut, south along the tops to 800m past Rocky Knob and follow a gully down into the Pohangina River 800m up-river of the hut. Our return journey will be all the way up the river until level with Longview Hut where we will climb out of the river. There are one or two waterfalls in the river to climb around, so it should be entertaining.

### **10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> March: Makaroro River trip**

**Medium**

**Howard Nicholson**

**027 294 1941**

This trip will head for the Upper Makaroro Hut region from a Mangleton Road trailhead, and return (all going well...). We'll consider a Friday night departure from Palmerston North.

### **17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> March: ~~Bush Craft course~~ CANCELLED**

**Easy**

**Tim Swale**

**022 134 8384**

Unfortunately Tim is not able to run a bushcraft course on this weekend. If you would be interested in doing a bushcraft course at a later date please contact Tim.

### **17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> March: Dundas Hut via Harris Creek**

**Fit**

**Garry Grayson**

**027 269 5934**

Plan is to drive up to and park at the Top Mangahao Dam. From there a bit of river travel (or by track if the dam is full) to the first swingbridge, via track to the Harris Creek bridge, 'catch a breath' then a 900m 'bash' up the spur to West Peak. Traveling SW along the tops over Walker and Pukemoremore then dropping down to Dundas Hut for the night. Next day either return via same route or select another spur to drop back down to the Mangahao track.

### **24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> March: Taranaki Walks**

**Easy/Medium**

**Linda Campbell**

**027 333 4493**

[lindammc@xtra.co.nz](mailto:lindammc@xtra.co.nz)

The plan is to travel to Taranaki leaving reasonably early on the Saturday morning. Exactly what we will do is weather dependent, if the weather is good we could walk on up to Syme Hut for the night. It is a steep walk up, the hut which sleeps ten and is situated at 1940m on Fanthams Peak. The other option is to walk in the Waiaua Gorge area on the west side of the mountain and to stay at the Waiaua Gorge Hut. The remains of an Avro Anson plane wreck, which crashed in September 1944 killing two and leaving two injured, are about 30 minutes from the hut. It could be interesting to locate the plane wreck.

# TRIP REPORTS

## Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January: Te Ekaou Stream

Report: Adam Matich

Photos: Adam and David

Permission was obtained (a long time before) to drive across the farmland and so the farm experience was brief. We left the truck on the knoll 300 m past Te Ekaou Hut, walked through the gate and down the spur just next to the bush-line. At near the bottom we crossed a stream and then the fence to push into the bush on an overgrown track which sidled around the base of the spur and dropped straight into Te Ekaou Stream at a spot (BL35 488 551) we later discovered was just upstream of a difficult waterfall. From thereon we got wet feet, and other bits, as we encountered several deep wades on the way up to the first waterfall (not big). This was slightly awkward to climb around without a rope. All the other waterfalls were straightforward, with route-finding being done by the deer that had gone before us. After 3¼ hours we reached the tallest waterfall (ca 20m; BL35 495 530), which was the most straightforward, thanks to the deer trails on the TR, followed by an easy descent into the stream above. This upper section of the stream was the friendliest and included deer trails for us to follow through the forest.



*The largest waterfall*

After 5¼ hours we reached 760m and took the short easy climb up onto the ridge (BL35 500 520) which was looking very promising; open bush and sparse track markers. There were a couple of tricky kinks in the ridge (@ 540 and 460m) and down in this flat region the supplejack was making its presence felt. It increasingly slowed us down and the day dragged on. Eventually, we were slowed even further when we reached a flat, deforested (but not clear) section that was looking (and feeling) impassable. We sidled on the NE side of the ridge; an equally unpleasant



*Some of the deeper bits in the stream*

experience as we found ourselves on a very steep slope covered in malevolent vegetation. It had degenerated into a fit trip. Also, at odd times during the day we suffered stinging nettle, which wasn't in superabundance but was strategically placed. Eventually, with much swearing, injury, and frustration we dropped back into the waterfall free section of the stream about 15 min upstream of our climb out point (where we had dropped in earlier in the day). We finally made it back to the vehicle after a 9¼ hour day. In itself, the stream wasn't too bad; just one slightly awkward waterfall (the first one). It was the lower section of the ridge we returned on that was dire. Perhaps we should have dropped off into the stream earlier and taken the known route up over 495 to Te Ekaou Hut.

## Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January: Tukino Road to Waihohonu Hut

Report: Marion Beadle

Photos: William & Raewyn

A quick stop at Waiouru and up Tukino Road to where it crosses the Round The Mountain track. This "road" has not improved – the washouts are deeper and there are more of them. After roasting in the Manawatu lowlands, it was delightful to be in a cool breeze, a few tops even appeared. We went north toward Waihohonu Hut, down and along, up and down and along the gullies with ever changing views and vegetation. There had been rain earlier and the dust washed away; the colours were wonderful and the mountains were clear. We visited cool and clear Ohinepango Springs, had lunch at the new hut with our drivers, visited Historic Waihohonu Hut built in 1904 and finally walked out to the car park just off the Desert Road. A very pleasant and easy start to 2018 tramping. Many thanks to drivers Chris, Linda, Bev and Bernard who made our day possible.

Tramp stats; about 15km long, 200m up and 600m down.



*Getting ready to go on the Tukino Road*



*Down from the Van and across the boulder field*



*The Mountain on a clear day*



*Looking toward Ngaruhoe over the green valley*

## **2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> February: Mount Arthur**

Report: Adam Matich

Photos: Adam Matich

Inclement weather on the Thursday limited the places we could go to in the Northern South Island, so we decided on Mount Arthur which is weather-safe as long as you are not on the open tops in gale force winds. The Mount Arthur track systems are also relatively easy and of good quality so a traumatic weekend was unlikely. On Friday afternoon we had an easy 70 min climb from Flora Saddle car park to Mt Arthur Hut which is on the bushline. The steady rain didn't start until we had been there an hour or so; a lucky escape.

The following morning was calm and clear as we made our almost 500m climb up to Mt Arthur to enjoy the 360 degree views of the region. The climb was straight-forward; not difficult and it was through interesting terrain. The top of Mount Arthur is quite flat, so only extreme winds would blow you off. We were slightly concerned about leaving our packs at the Gordon's Pyramid Route junction as there were Kea around. On top we rued not taking our packs as it looked like we could drop off the north face of Mt Arthur and go cross-country to the Gordon's Pyramid Route instead of retracing our steps. From the track junction, through Horseshoe Basin and over the Pyramid to Salisbury Lodge took us about three hours and from there we followed the footsteps of two other people to reach the night's destination, Balloon Hut. We thought there were only going to be the four of us at this nice hut, but eventually most of WTMC turned up and frightened the other two back to Salisbury Lodge. This was in the wrong direction for us, so we had to tolerate the crowd. Garry slept on the veranda and I slept in the wood shed. It rained again that night, but again the wind stayed away.

*Towards Gordon's Pyramid*



*Mt Arthur hut*



*Mt Arthur*



*On Mt Arthur*

On day three we headed to Sylvester Hut via Lake Peel, the Cobb Ridge, and the Bullock track down to the reservoir road from Peat Flat. The road walking wasn't fun but we didn't want to stay on Cobb Ridge as, next day, we were going to use the northern section of it to reach Asbestos Cottage. Even though it didn't rain, we needed our raincoats on as there was very tall, wet tussock to push through on Cobb Ridge. The eight cars at Sylvester car park were disconcerting, but they were either all day trippers, part of the SAR group that were exiting the park, or trampers that were going past Sylvester up onto the Lockett Range. So we were all alone; us and the ubiquitous hut wekas. It rained overnight again. Sylvester is another very tidy hut in a nice spot less than two hours up from the dam wall on a 4WD track and like most huts in this area has lots of firewood. It would be a really good easy winter destination if snow hasn't blocked the Cobb Valley road. On our walk from Sylvester Hut to Asbestos Cottage we occasionally needed our raincoats because of the odd shower, a pattern that was repeated all afternoon at the hut; 30 minutes of sun, clouding over, 5 minutes of light rain, then sun again. Our route from the dam wall was; up the Cobb Valley road to the information shelter that overlooks the reservoir and then southwest along Cobb Ridge to 1154, where the unmaintained (signposted as such) track down to Asbestos Cottage commences. Part way down the spur this track forks; left to the cottage and right to continue down the spur to land on the Asbestos Track south of the Cottage.



*Unmaintained track to asbestos cottage*



*Asbestos cottage*

As unmaintained tracks go, it was better than some maintained ones. Very slightly dicky navigation in the upper, scrub section, but if you get lost in the forest section you deserve to stay so. It was an embarrassment to arrive by lunchtime, but we blamed DOC for poor hut spacing and enjoyed an afternoon of mostly sun, firewood gathering and later on, marvelling over loopy tourists. Around 4pm a couple of them turned up. *Can you tell us how to get back to our car?* (to be translated as we don't want to go back the way we came). *Where is your car? We don't know.* Is it on the Cobb Valley Road? *Yes.* Where is it on the Cobb Valley Road? *We don't know.* What track did you arrive on? *That one.* Then that is how you get back to your car because the other, next shortest, route takes at least four hours and not all on maintained tracks. Well, I suppose they hadn't appreciated they were holidaying in a developing nation, in which such matters are not managed for hapless tourists!

Asbestos Cottage is a cool place to stay, given its rustic nature and interesting. There were not many weka at this hut, which we thought odd as all the other huts have them. It wasn't until the next morning that a single shy one appeared. DOC workers regularly cut the grass in the clearing around the hut so that it doesn't go rampant. Why don't they just release a few breeding pairs of deer and goats into the park. They would happily manicure the lawn.

*Upper and lower Gridiron Shelters*

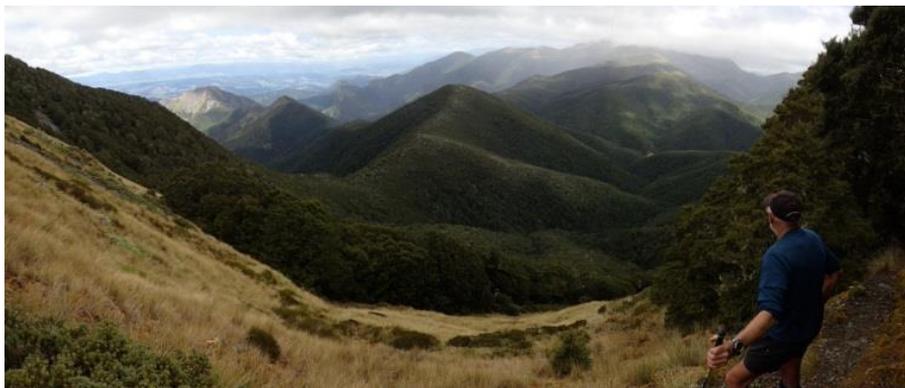
That's how it works in the Richmond FP.



On our second last day we had a shameful 4 hour walk to Flora hut (2km from the car park) via the Gridiron rock shelters which would have been cool places to stay if DOC had only employed a more rational spacing of huts and shelters. The upper shelter has a hut built into it (the other a sleeping platform) and they both have a good supply of

firewood; the 4WD track from Flora Saddle makes it this far. To fill in part of our afternoon, we took the Lodestone track over Lodestone peak, a 500+m climb up onto an open top with lots of views. It is not a girlie-grade track either. Some of it is quite steep. We then dropped down (again sometimes rather steep) to the Flora Saddle car park where we marvelled at its almost fullness and more importantly, collected that night's dinner from the car and tramped back to Flora Hut for the night. There was still plenty of afternoon to enjoy weka watching, which was very entertaining. They produced some very loud territorial disputes and some of them were really fast runners. We also had to stop them from wandering into the hut to rummage through the rubbish in the fireplace. They were

extremely cheeky. There were also lots of day-trippers wandering around, and the entertainment of an almost SAR call out. Unfortunately, the missing tourist turned up before phone calls were made so we didn't get all of our money's worth out of the day.



*climbing Lodestone*



*Weka (one of many)*

Apart from the easy, safe tramping, nice huts and good views (weather dependant), the Mt Arthur area has some very decorative beech forest, some of which is very open for those of you who want to do some off-track exploration. Although it is also rather sink-hole and bluff-ridden in places. Well, the SAR people can probably do with the experience. Around the Flora car park there are some particularly nice stands of *Dracophyllum*. Then there is the open tussock of the Tablelands, Gordon's Pyramid Route and the Cobb Ridge, while other areas have lush alpine meadow; the climb to Mt Arthur, and Sylvester Hut. The plentiful bird life also adds interest, the weka being especially entertaining. There were a few kea around but they seemed more standoffish than usual, which is not a bad thing. The count of smaller birds was also very good; robins, tomtits, skylarks, fantails, bellbirds and more rifleman than you could fit in a crockpot. We were Garry Grayson and Adam Matich

### **3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> February: Lodge Work Party**

Report: John Lyttle

The work party was a great success with 8 of us attending. We managed to apply two coats of new paint to external wall areas and were able to touch up the paint on a number of the timber windows. This has really tidied up the look of the exterior and gotten rid of the mismatch of colours that has occurred during previous touch ups. We also did a bit of excavation required to extend the ski room. This was just to see what it will take and what rocks we might find. We found some big rocks!!! The keen workers were Ken and Mary Mercer, Ivan Rienks, John Lyttle, Carl Pester, Robin Lane, Anne Henderson and John Doolan.

### **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February: Makaretu Hut Via Happy Daze Hut**

Report: Rita

Photos: William & Raewyn

This was to be a river tramp planned for a hot February day but that did not eventuate. We arrived at our starting point at Paget road to a cool drizzly thirteen degrees Hawkes Bay day but forecast had promised improving weather in afternoon. After a meeting with very agreeable farmer Dave Ellison to sign necessary permission and safety forms 29 trampers set off.

The Makaretu River was low and it was a pleasant walk in the misty rain up to Happy Daze Hut with a warning from farmer about a rock fall he had marked to keep away from and an injured cow that had fallen from a high bank in the same area. After the morning tea stop at Happy Daze hut half of the group decided to explore around the river area near to Happy Daze hut tramping 12km, while the other half continued up river to Makaretu Hut.



*A Damp day that just got damper!*



*...And damper!*



*A photo that represents the day!*

With high banks on both sides and beautiful bush the river tramp to Makaretu is not so easy with larger slippery stones to navigate and reports of quite a few unplanned swims by some trampers. From Happy Daze hut it takes about one and a half hours to reach Makaretu Hut with most getting to hut but a group of 5 running out of time stopping within 10 minutes of hut.



*Morning-tea group at Happy Daze.....*



*And homeward weary plod!*

Unfortunately the weather didn't improve and coming back down river the rain became more steady and noticeable higher river levels. Everyone was out by 4.15pm and it was good to get changed into dry clothes and into warm cars on to the coffee stop at Wild Bean Dannevirke after a challenging but enjoyable day.

Thank you to drivers Chris, Bob, Anne, Marion and Rita and every one there who made it a great day.

## **10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> February: ~~Mckinnon Hut~~ Neill Forks Hut**

Report: Jean Garman

Photos: Jean Garman

The weather forecast foretold lots of rain and strong winds coming in from the North West so a tramp that finished with a 2 hour walk down a major river did not seem a good idea. Instead we opted for a weather safe tramp in the South East of the Tararuas into Neill Forks hut.

Very few cars in the car park indicated that other people though the forecast wasn't the best either. It was, however, only marginally damp, not enough for a coat but the humidity was through the roof so after we crossed over the Waiohine River on the very high swing bridge it was a very sweaty climb up onto Cone. There was cloud around but it wasn't raining. To make it more of a round trip we opted to head down into Neill Saddle then up the other side to pick up the untracked spur that dropped down to the hut. We were all lacking a bit of tramping fitness that combined with the heat and humidity meant the last climb for the day was quite a struggle. Luckily it was all downhill from there..... unfortunately while most of the ridge has a bit of a trail along it along with the odd blaze or bit of tape, so is pretty straight forward travel, there is one section higher up where the right way to go is not at all apparent and there is a natural tendency to drift to the right. Before long it is apparent you have gone the wrong way as the descent become very steep. After a bit of mucking around to get back on the spur we all made it down to the hut where we were joined by one other trumper for the night which made for a pleasant evening of conversation and chocolates.



*A flat bit on the track*

*Heading down the start of the spur*

*Clearing windfall from the track*





Breakfast @ Neill Forks hut

Views for miles



Picturesque tarn



It was a hot night – no real need for a sleeping bag! Morning came with no sign of the promised rain. After the steep and again sweaty climb up onto Cone Ridge, it was a pleasant amble along through the moss covered stunted beech forest, past the picturesque tarns and back up onto the top of Cone. We still had expansive views, although it looked pretty dark to the North West. Our hut mate kept us company on the way back to Walls Whare, the rain set in for real in Cone Saddle but I found it too hot with my coat on so opted to be washed with pure rain drops rather than drowned in sweat.

After a change into dry clothes, we headed for home having had a remarkably good weekend despite the forecast but all of us feeling like we needed to improve our fitness.

We were Jean Garman, Ivan Rienks and Dave Mitchell (plus Larry for some of the time, who I tried to convince to come on the Mangahao Flats work party but unfortunately he had other plans for that weekend).

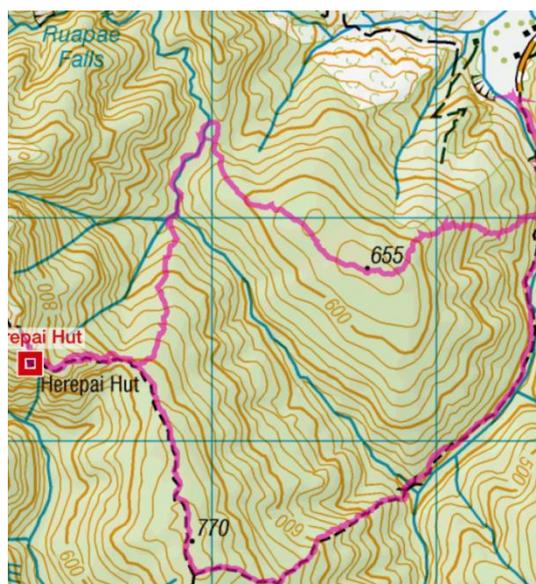
### Valentines Day: To Herepai Hut via the Bottles Track for some

Report: Bob Hodgson

Photos: William

On Valentines day, 19 MTSC Wednesday Trampers chose to dodge the romantic frenzy of the day by tramping to the Herepai Hut. We assembled at the Manganatoka Valley car park and at 9am made our way across the first swing bridge. Here we were briefed by trip leader Evan. Six trampers chose to tramp up the bottle track and on to the hut. This is a steep route and requires several river crossings on a day of low flows. Most made it to the hut then back via the two swing bridges. The remaining thirteen trampers then tramped along the valley to the second and longer swing bridge and up to Cross Roads and on to the Hut. Again most made it to the hut for lunch. All were out by 3pm some a little weary on what was a warm and humid day and an approximately 10km tramp for all.

It was a contented bunch that then visited the Lazy Graze cafe in Eketahuna. The van was back to PN by five. Thanks to trip leader Evan and drivers Chris, Anne and Bernard.



Map Showing the Bottle track loop



Bottle Trackers Morning Tea



River Crossing on the Bottle Track loop



**Contact Details**

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

**Committee 2015 - 2016**

President	John Beech	<a href="mailto:president@mtsc.org.nz">president@mtsc.org.nz</a>	06 354 9310
Secretary	Tim Swale	<a href="mailto:secretary@mtsc.org.nz">secretary@mtsc.org.nz</a>	06 376 6556
Treasurer	Arthur Flint	<a href="mailto:treasurer@mtsc.org.nz">treasurer@mtsc.org.nz</a>	06 356 7654
Chief Guide	Ken Mercer	<a href="mailto:chief.guide@mtsc.org.nz">chief.guide@mtsc.org.nz</a>	06 356 7497
Membership	Sue Nicholson	<a href="mailto:membership@mtsc.org.nz">membership@mtsc.org.nz</a>	06 357 6325
Newsletter Editor	Jean Garman	<a href="mailto:editor@mtsc.org.nz">editor@mtsc.org.nz</a>	021 176 0209
Lodge Manager	John Lyttle	<a href="mailto:lodge.manager@mtsc.org.nz">lodge.manager@mtsc.org.nz</a>	027 433 6307
Mini-Bus Manager	Ken Mercer		06 356 7497

**General Committee:** Bob Hodgson, Howard Nicholson, Linda Campbell, Karen Tutt, William Laing

**Appointees**

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

**New Members**

Prospective members must be nominated by a Proposer and a Seconder 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 021 054 2560. 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>\$37</b>	<b>\$52</b>
<b>Secondary School</b>	<b>\$30</b>	<b>\$45</b>
<b>Primary School</b>	<b>\$25</b>	<b>\$40</b>
<b>Pre-school (3-5 yo)</b>	<b>\$12</b>	<b>\$12</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 tent fly (in the passenger door) and a Personal Locator Beacon (in the glove box) are available for use free of charge on trips.