

Masterton Tramping Club (Inc.)

www.mastertontc.org.nz

www.facebook.com/mastertontc

Email: mastertontc@gmail.com



41 Perry St, Masterton

Newsletter November 2022

Club Nights

Club nights are held at the Masterton Community Centre, 41 Perry Street on the first Wednesday night of each month except January. Meetings start at 7.30pm and visitors are welcome to attend.

Welcome to this month's newsletter. Another good turnout on Club night with a few new faces amongst us again. At least the weather was good on the night for a change which no doubt helped sway a few more people to come along and join in on the night's activities.

Guest Speaker

A very good photo / slide show presentation by Glenys Robertson entitled "TOPS – top of the hills in the Tararua Forest Park". First Glenys explained what motivates her when it comes to taking photos, what she looks for and when / how to achieve that "great" shot. As Glenys explained, while we all enjoy the horizon and vistas, sometimes it is what is at your feet that we should all take the time to see and admire. No doubt some members could recognise the various tracks and locations shown, for the rest of us there were lessons to be learnt when taking photos in preparation for next year's Club photo competition. Now there is a challenge to look forward to!

Ten Minute Training

Maybe not so much training but a 10 minute crossword style quiz about the back country. Thanks Sandra for putting this together, it was well received by members. Plenty of discussion on possible answers however winners on the night were Steve and Carol, with Julie coming second and Sue in third place.

Trips Done

9 October

Kiriwhakapapa Loop Track - Leader: Laura Hopkins

After the cold and miserable weather of the previous week it was just great to get out and enjoy the outdoors. A small group – Lorelei, Jill, Di, Viv, Ron, Laura and Mike – walked the loop track at Kiriwhakapapa. The carpark was very windy but there was no wind in the bush and the bird song and gorgeous bush was really soul-uplifting. We had morning tea back in the sun at the carpark and headed home with smiles on our faces.



15 - 16 October

White Rock trapping – Leader: Sandra Burles

More Hedgehogs Trapped!

Margaret, Nigel and Sandra joined Joe to check the Doc250 and Timms traps on the Opuawe River at White Rock. We arrived at the coast at 9.30am, and set off in pairs on each side of the river. Traps were emptied of mice and hedgehogs, cleaned and reset.

There was a bit of light misty drizzle, some sunshine and a cool breeze by the sea. Our feet were wet from the many river crossings, boggy patches and side creeks. All remedied by a hot cuppa when we finished.

Distance walked: 6.8km.

Pests caught: 6 hedgehogs and 7 mice.

Dotterels seen: 1



22 - 24 October

Neil Winchcombe overnighter. Leader: Paul Furkert

Paul and Conrad had a fantastic, epic (to me anyway), trip over Labour Weekend starting at Kaitoke to Neill Winchcombe via Cone – Kime and out via Quoin Ridge. A couple of very big days with very busy and overflowing huts. For a full read of their trip, grab a cuppa tea and sit down as you will be exhausted just reading about their trip. Click on attached link to read the full trip report. Well done guys. Hope you had a cold one afterwards when you got home to celebrate.

<https://www.mastertontc.org.nz/blog/neill-winchcombe-quin-adventure>

22 October

Blue Range Hut – Leader Nigel Boniface

Nigel, Sue & Lorelei headed up to the Club's hut. Sue put some oil/stain on the Blue Range Hut sign, it was very dry and after a good soaking looks way better.

Nigel replaced the baits under the hut, just one in each tunnel as they were mouldy but hardly touched, maybe mice? No sign of life, or death, around the A24's.

There was a note in the logbook to MTC, that there is a small drip from the skylight, something to investigate, otherwise the hut was tidy. Only two other visitors, on a day trip from Wellington. Plenty of campers and C/vans in the campgrounds.

The track is good, it needs some hedge cutters to trim back growth in places.

Still need to tidy up the gutter guards, and maybe check the top of the water tank is free of debris.

For those that do not know, last summer Jason and Sandra were accompanied by a gecko while having lunch on the big rock. Nigel has put in 3 more bait tunnels to help protect them (the geckos, not Jason and Sandra). Hopefully they will stay put and not get blown into the valley.

29 - 30 October

Cow Creek Overnighter. Leader: Tony Spittal

Unfortunately wet weather put paid to this trip going ahead. It turned out to be a very wet weekend indeed with the right call being made to cancel the trip.

However the following weekend, with a slight change in plans, Gerald and Tony were dropped off at Kiriwhakapapa carpark (thanks Chris) on Saturday morning and headed over the hill to Cow Creek Hut reaching the hut in 5 hours including compulsory smoko and lunch breaks reaching the hut just after 3pm. Weather remained good all day until around 5pm when a couple of showers came through however these came to nothing. Hut is in good condition with plenty of firewood available thanks to Derrick Field and his band of volunteers involved in clearing various tracks in the area.

We had the hut to ourselves for the night and in the morning set off to Mitre Flats Hut along the Waingawa River Track. Along the way we bumped 3 deer on the track otherwise we had the track to ourselves arriving at Mitre Flats Hut in 4 ½ hrs.

After a leisurely lunch and a chat to a young Canadian woman who had just arrived back from going up to Mitre (4 ½ hrs return), we then headed out to The Pines along the Barra Track (3 ½ hrs) where we were met by Chris for the ride home.

Total Trip was 25.4kms, (8.5 + 16.9).



Upcoming Trips

Trip Grades

Grades allocated to each trip, Easy / Easy + / Average etc, depend on several factors including weather, terrain, your own fitness and experience. An averagely fit person could expect to do the below trips as per the following times;

Easy	3-6 hours, little climbing, suitable for beginners to help them assess their fitness
Easy +	3-6 hours, probably some short hills
Average	5-8 hours, some experience required, fewer rest stops, almost certainly some hill work
Fit	6+ hours, Good fitness required, may go off track. Stops for lunch and smoko. Suitable for experienced trampers.

Trips coming up include (but as always, subject to change at short notice for a variety of reasons so check the below website for up to date information);

5 November - Whakapapa High Point

15 November - Rocky Lookout - Wairarapa Walking Festival (volunteers sought to assist – refer Club page if you are able to assist).

19 - 20 November - Tutuwai Hut overnigher

27 November - Herepai hut

4 December - 'Hooper Loop' via Gentle Annie track

For full details of trips scheduled refer the Clubs website link

<https://www.mastertontc.org.nz/#upcoming-trips>

Search and Rescue Report

Another quiet month with one call out to Rocky Lookout which turned out to be a non-event at the end of the day with the party in question being assisted out mainly under their own steam.

Coming up in next month's Club night meeting.

December's meeting will be the last for the year.

Come along for a catch up with friends and reminisce the year away over a cuppa and a nibble or two.

The next club night is Wednesday 1st December, same place, same time. Again, we look forward to seeing everyone including visitors there on the night.

Just a reminder also that there is no Club meeting in January as everyone will be busy either enjoying themselves with family on the beach, or in the hills chasing down those elusive huts and tracks.

Tony Spittal
President
Masterton Tramping Club

Sandra Burles
Club Captain
Masterton Tramping Club