

Masterton Tramping Club (Inc.)

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41 Perry St, Masterton

Newsletter February 2023

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 and a belated Happy New Year to everyone. Hard to believe we are into February already. Trust everyone has had a good break and managed to fit some walks in over the past month or two.

Our first Club night of the year was a quiet affair, a lot of members are still out and about on walks or just holidays in general but to be fair, it wasn't a very nice evening to be out and about either. Nonetheless thanks to everyone who came and braved the weather on the night.

Welcome also to 2 new faces, Naomi and Logan. It was good to catch up and have a chat. Hope to see you both at next month's meeting or out on the track on one of our upcoming walks.

Some good news – last year the club participated in assisting the Wairarapa Multi Sports Club (WMSC) Duathlon in April by providing marshals on the run section at Holdsworth. We are very pleased to advise that we have received \$400 from WMSC and these funds will be put towards various club activities going forward. A big thank you to WMSC in that regard.

On that note, this year's Duathlon will be held on Saturday 1st April at Holdsworth. At this stage we will be looking to provide 12 Marshals to look after the running section of this popular race and as such we are again looking for volunteers.

If you can assist, please let the committee members know at the March club meeting or otherwise email the Club advising if you are able to assist. This is an all-day affair (well, to say 2pm 'ish for most give or take). This will be discussed further at the March club night but also keep an eye out for emails detailing further information in this regard. The Club is willing to pay for 2 club members to attend a First Aid Course on the proviso that these people are able to be marshals on race day. Again, please contact one of your committee members for further details if you wish to take this offer up.

On other news, the committee is finalising new updated club pamphlets / brochures for handing out to potential new members / anyone looking for information about the club. We can also leave these on aligned business premises so they are available for anyone to take away. These should be available in the coming weeks.

Trips Done

Over the past 2 months several club trips managed to go ahead despite the adverse weather putting paid to several others.

On 4th December, (seems so long ago now) Denise led a trip around Hooper Loop track. The Roaring Stag overnight trip on 10th-11th was postponed to the following weekend due to wet weather then cancelled altogether due to even worse weather. Good news however is that this trip is now scheduled as an overnighter for the weekend of 25th-26th March.

The traditional Blue Range Hut post Xmas walk on 27th December was led by Nigel with a very nice day at the hut for lunch. There is definitely blue sky in the background which felt like a rarity in December.



The Pinnacle High Point walk on 8th January was cancelled due to rain however the following weekend Mike, Laura and Denise managed to get to Kiriwhakapapa for a short walk.

Mike advised in his trip report that it was pleasant walking weather, cloudy but not raining. The track was poorer than normal due to the recent heavy rains which left lots of muddy sections, windfalls and undercut stream banks. Some of the windfalls could not be avoided and at least two had to be climbed over in slipper conditions. We stopped for a drink and snack break at Mikimiki Stream and returned to the car. Nobody was in a hurry due to the slippery conditions and we enjoyed a few pleasant hour in the bush for a respite from the recent bad weather.



On 23rd January Sandra led a mountain bike trip on the Remutaka incline with 7 keen bikers going along for a ride (pun intended). Another nice looking day and it sounds like everyone enjoyed themselves on the day. Sandra commented “that it was a lovely relaxed ride, great tunnels, water splashes, the massive Siberia Bridge and lunch at the summit. The day got sunnier as we returned down the hill, lots of other cyclists and walkers on the track.”



The Sayers Hut Trip on 29th January was cancelled due to heavy rains the day before which would have made the track slippery and the possibility that the streams required to cross by car and foot may not have been easily crossed. Better to be safe than sorry. The heavy rains and poor weather also saw the Jumbo – Holdsworth race (where several club members volunteered their time as marshals) cancelled the day before. Not a very nice weekend all round weather wise for sure.

So the battle of the weather over December / January period saw 4 Club trips able to be enjoyed while weather cancelled 4 other trips during this period.

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);

Manawatu Gorge trip with Sth Wairarapa Tramping Club,
Alpha Hut trip overnighiter and
Mount Bruce crossing again with Sth Wairarapa Tramping Club.

In addition and as a heads up, there is an overnight trip weekend of 11 – 12 March
Jumbo / Pinnacles loop

Walk to Jumbo hut Saturday - go in via the Baldy track, Broken Axe Pinnacles, McGregor and Angle Knob if the weather is good enough.

Leader: Sandra Burles. Ph 021 061 7054

Grade: Average.

Carpool cost \$8

NOTE: Jumbo hut MUST be booked in advance.

Plus there is a planned 3 night / 4 day trip to Sunrise Hut for the long weekend of 22-25 April (25th April being ANZAC Day is a Tuesday so you will need to take into account that Monday is a working day). **You will need to book your own accommodation** for Sunrise Hut (limited to 20 persons) via the DOC website and advise either Sandra or Nigel (in person or via the club email) of your intention to attend. Transport will be finalised closer to the time.

For full details of trips scheduled refer the Clubs website link

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

Search and Rescue Report

Nigel briefed us on a recent Search and Rescue callout between Neill Forks Hut and Maungahuka Hut. The injured trumper was able to activate their PLB but sadly succumbed to their injuries before they were able to be rescued. We extend our condolences to the individual's family and also extend our thanks to the Search and Rescue team involved with the recovery of the trumper and their return to the family.

Greater Wellington Backcountry Network previously known as TARHC.

There is a lot of great work going on in the hills by volunteers with both track maintenance / clearing and also hut upgrades. This includes a lot of recent track cutting around Totara Flats area and also hut maintenance such as Dorset Ridge and Te Matawai Huts getting much needed TLC. The latter is also getting a new loo which is currently being dug and installed. A huge effort by all involved and again a big thanks to the individuals and volunteers involved.



Te Matawai Hut before and after.

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

Tony Spittal
President
Masterton Tramping Club

Sandra Burles
Club Captain
Masterton Tramping Club