

Masterton Tramping Club (Inc.)

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41 Perry St, Masterton

Newsletter December 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. Well, another year almost over. The months certainly do seem to fly past. It was good to see another strong turnout at the Club night despite several apologies from members unable to attend. Again, a few new faces amongst the attendees and it was good to have a chat with you before the meeting started and also over a cuppa afterwards. We look forward to seeing you on a few of our upcoming walks planned and also at our next Club meeting in February.

Bruce kicked off the night by sharing with us what his family bought him for his recent birthday. Check out the below website for "mini huts" including one of our very own Blue Range Hut. These are only say 75mm-100mm high so really are mini huts. Very well put together but it appears there is a very limited range available so you would need to be quick to secure one.

<https://keminiko.com/Mini-Huts-Shop>



Mini Hut Ingredients

Made in Aotearoa

½ Large tin can, slab of reclaimed rimu or pine, hours of time and attention, years of experimentation, a healthy dose of hut obsession. Every hut comes with a corrugated info card & map hidden in its chimney.

Speaking of Blue Range Hut, our hut turns 65 years old in November 2023. It would be great if members / past members could have a look around their collections for any photos especially of the earlier years they may have. Closer to the time we will be asking members for any copies of photos or stories that we can look to put together as a display to celebrate this milestone.

Guest Speaker

Unfortunately Tony Gazley was unable to attend on Club night with his usual annual calendar but fortunately Conrad and Gail provided a mix and mingle activity requiring everyone to get up and out of their chairs. This involved each person being given a piece of a map for a section of the Tararua Ranges and you then had to mix and mingle around the room to locate the three missing pieces that went with your section of the map. Once done, you then had to identify where on a hand sketched map of the Tararua Ranges where your section fit in. A lot of talk and banter and a fair bit of guessing going on but everyone was a winner on the night. Thanks again to Conrad and Gail who we should probably now refer to as the “Game Masters”.

Due to Tony Gazley being unable to attend his calendars were not available this year, the Club however has produced its own calendar for the year featuring shots of club members on various trips throughout the year.

There are only a few of these calendars left and if you are interested in obtaining a copy, please email your details to the Clubs email address and we will be in contact. Alternatively contact a committee member to obtain a copy. Cost is \$15 each.

Trips Done

5 November

Whakapapa High Point, Leader John Rhodes

A combined Masterton and South Wairarapa Tramping Club trip Point 613 is somewhere near Mikimiki. Well, perhaps not altogether near if you've spent three hours getting there. But, after navigational uncertainty had cost us a quarter hour, we found the small eminence of Point 613 an unexpected delight. From its open top of we looked down on a forest canopy shaded and textured in green.

One tramper said, 'Are those really the trees we walked among?' For we could now see none of the windfalls, logs and branches we'd clambered over, or the tightly-woven bushes across the track (if it was a track, which we doubted), or the bush lawyer, or the great root discs of wind-felled trees where Tararua rock showed below a skin of stripped-off soil.

From above, the forest seemed truly a carpet of greenery, moulded and shaped to the contour of the land. And to the south, beyond other forested ridges like ours, rose tawny tops that beckoned to adventure: Jumbo, Baldy and the Kings. The moment could have been perfect.

However, doubts had begun seeping into some of our minds. Their unspoken-ness made them more nagging, more inducive to unease, than if they'd been voiced. Those doubts troubled us. Earlier, at morning tea, we'd been full of expectancy and positivity, and Mt Whakapapa had offered the likelihood of an easy stroll. But since then tea we'd spent much time, effort and navigation in covering only a third of the distance to our goal.

Such were the uncomfortable thoughts lodged in a corner of one or two (or perhaps nine or ten) minds as we drank in the view from Point 613. Meanwhile, Mt Whakapapa remained our stated objective and ten packs remained on ten backs, ready to move on.

At the same time Point 613 (on which we now stood) was beginning to seem to one or two (or perhaps nine or ten) of us a worthy objective in its own right. Furthermore, it was 12.15 p.m.

Should we stop, or should we continue?

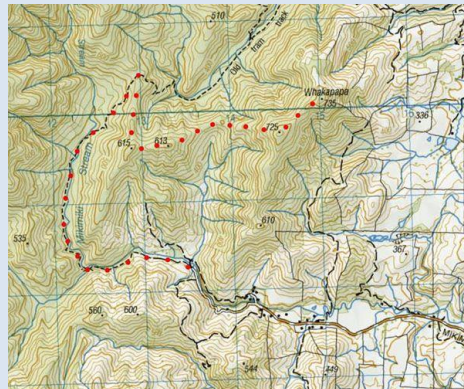
Several new people were in the party. New, that is, to one or other of our clubs but not to tramping. Some of the new people had already shown themselves to be trampers of ability and experience. Was it perhaps incumbent upon established club members (affiliated to the Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand, no less) to demonstrate to these new people the fitness, rigour and determination that makes trampers press on until they achieve the declared purpose of the trip?

These silent concerns filled the air with an invisible miasma of uncertainty and indecision. Even the highest-ranking trumper present, the very President of SWTC, declined to make a pronouncement. Then a voice—that of a new trumper—was heard to say, ‘lunch’.

A light southerly breeze carried the magic word to the ears of the Trip Coordinator several metres away. However, he failed to catch the rest of the sentence, or to capture the exact inflection imparted to the word by the new trumper. Its import was therefore unclear to him. Suppressing a note of hopefulness in his voice, the Trip Coordinator asked, ‘Was that a question, or was it a statement?’

‘A statement’ came the reply. The die was cast. Saved from ourselves, and from a long and possibly scratchy walk to a hill with not nearly as good a view as the one we were already on, we had a leisurely lunch and went home.

Charlotte, Ross Anderson, Nigel Boniface, Ed Cooke, Stuart Hammond, Tracey Higgins, Alyn Higgins, Joanna London, Lorelei Olafson and John Rhodes



15 November

Rocky Lookout - Wairarapa Walking Festival

What a lovely Tuesday afternoon for a walk to Rocky Lookout! Lots of happy smiles here, great views and sunshine.

Masterton Tramping Club led a group of keen walkers to Rocky Lookout at Mount Holdsworth road end. Perfect weather for a zig-zag path through the trees to reach great views and chocolate.

A big thanks to Sandra for organising this and including the Club in the Wairarapa Walking Festival. It was a good afternoon's walk for sure and our guests enjoyed themselves.



19 - 20 November

Tutuwai Hut

Unfortunately due to weather and other commitments by the team, this trip did not proceed. A definite trip for another day though – stay tuned.

27 November

Herepai Hut

Also unfortunately this trip did not proceed largely due to weather. Surely the weather has to start playing its part! Who knows, for the really keen ones we may be able to visit the hut as part of December's overnight trip to Roaring Stag Hut otherwise we will look to include in an upcoming trip schedule.

4 December

'Hooper Loop' via Gentle Annie track

Denise and Rebecca ventured out for an anticlockwise trip around the Hooper Loop track. Good weather and a good walk on the day. This is a well formed track which is sure to get the heart pumping, then back down the Gentle Annie Track to Holdsworth.

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);

10—11 17-18 December - Roaring Stag hut overnigher, Leader Tony

27 December - Blue Range hut – Post Christmas Blast, Leader Sandra

Also check the Clubs website for the January – March trip schedule which will be updated shortly for upcoming summer walks. Do not hesitate to contact any of the Leaders should you wish to join in on any of the planned trips.

For full details of trips scheduled refer the Clubs website link

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

Search and Rescue Report

Nigel provided an update on a recent LandSAR training exercise. In addition there was a recent Police / LandSAR search for a missing person in the greater Holdsworth Ranges area however unfortunately to date this person has not been located.

Barry updated the team on recent renovation works being carried out at the local SAR base which will greatly assist the SAR team going about their work.

Greater Wellington Backcountry Network (previously TARHC) has been doing some great work in the hills throughout the Tararua Ranges. In recent weeks / days even, work has been carried out clearing tracks in the Tauherenikau Valley. In addition other members have spent 2 weeks fixing up and giving Dorset Ridge Hut a much needed makeover including a paint job inside and out, clearing vegetation etc. Great work by the teams and a huge thanks to all involved.

To see exactly what they have been up to, visit <https://gwbn.org.nz/home/>

Coming up in next month's Club night meeting.

The next club night is February (remember, no January meeting), Wednesday 1/2/2023, same place, same time. Again, we look forward to seeing everyone including visitors on the night.

Thank You to Christine for the great Xmas supper provided at the end of the night. This was another chance to mix and mingle over a cuppa and a Xmas biscuit or two. It was great to catch up with each other, speak to new friends, and also check out who is doing what tramp or trip over the Xmas period.



On behalf of your committee, we would like to wish very happy holidays to everyone and we look forward to catching up again in the New Year to compare tramping stories. If you are having to work over the holiday period, take it easy and hopefully you will be looking forward to a well-deserved break later in the year.

Tony Spittal
President
Masterton Tramping Club

Sandra Burles
Club Captain
Masterton Tramping Club