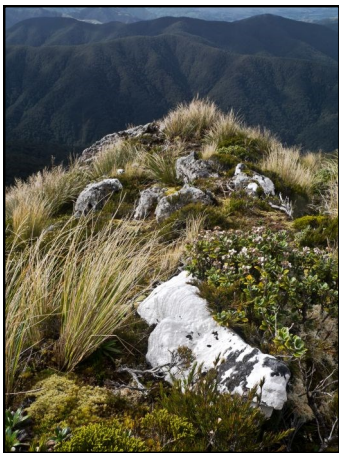


A small victory for stainless steel

John's day trip, 26.4.2014



First time above bushline in the Tararuas since Sept. 2012 !



I want to find out what this white lichen is. Looking for it, I discovered this:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/publications/Introductory_Lichen_Guide_A_Knight.pdf

I'm on the look-out for a good leatherwood pic. This is the best I managed today.



or maybe this



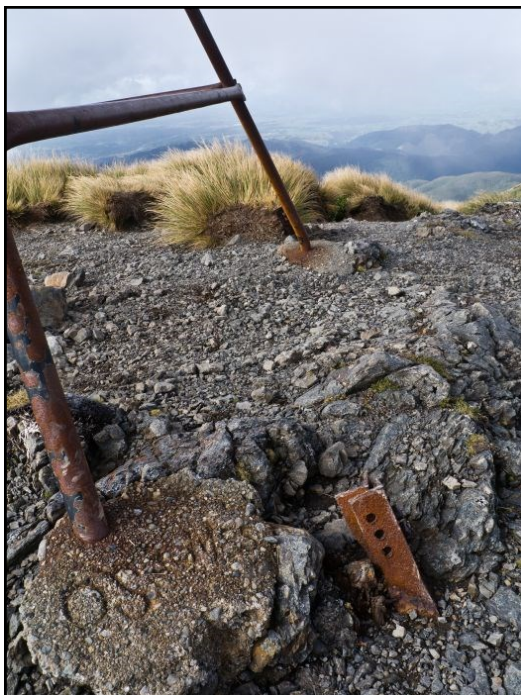
What a relief to find a signpost—but it doesn't say which forest park I'm in. I'll just have to guess.



I'd totally forgotten this tarn in the saddle before Taratahi / Holdsworth. How many times have I been here?



nearly there, and a selfie on Taratahi



I'd like to know when the old trig beacon, whose steel corners remain, was removed. It was here in July 1966 (right). The original beacon was wooden, so there have been at least three. Trig beacons are vanishing from the Tararuas—Girdlestone and Dundas have lost theirs since Nigel and I walked over both peaks in Sept. 2012.





See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beverage-can_stove

I reached Powell Hut about 12.30, just over four hours from the Lodge. I would have thought that was quite good, but just above the hut Ian Bowie and two other runners passed me. They'd left the bottom long after me AND been to Jumbo. Ian clearly wants to graduate to a stainless steel knee like mine. Anyway he saw that I was about to light my MSR and instead produced his beer can stove which weighs less than 5 g, and made me a brew on it. Then he gave me the stove for Christmas (mug not included). I should have photographed Ian with the stove, but even more important things were on my mind. No sooner had Ian departed than Julie Millar arrived, also via Jumbo. She'd left the bottom an hour and a half behind me and was drinking cold water. Some people I do not understand.



This Coprosma (*C. pseudocuneata*, I think) was between Powell Hut and the Sentinel. It's more fruit than leaves. Probably Julie was at Mountain House when I took this, and Ian at the Lodge.

Brachyglottis elaeagnifolia (below) is a near relative of the Stewart Island muttonbird scrub. I photographed it because I couldn't remember what it was. It's also above the Sentinel.



An attractive sprig of *Coprosma foetidissima*, a wee way down in the bush. Near Donnelly's flat just now the track is orange with fallen fruit of *C. robusta*.



But what I really wanted to photograph is the next one down, *Myrsine umbricola*, which is endemic to the Tararuas. The leaves have an indentation making them heart-shaped.



While I was taking that pic some trampers came along so I snapped them on the new knee-unfriendly steps. The fruiting *Astelia* was a bit further down.

I reached the car park nearly nine hours after leaving it—enough time for certain people to run two whole Jumbo-Holdsworth circuits. (without stainless steel).

