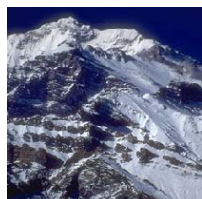


post: P.O. Box 245, Palmerston North  
web: [www.mtsc.org.nz](http://www.mtsc.org.nz)



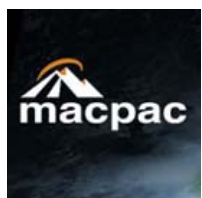
## Upcoming club nights

club nights: 7.30pm, 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month, at the Manawatu Aero Club rooms, Airport Drive.



### 2nd Nov – Mount Aconcagua

Martin Madie will be holding a slide show presentation on Aconcagua, the mountain he climbed earlier this year. Everyone is welcome to come along and share his thoughts and experiences on climbing this South American peak of almost 7000m.  
(Photo: Argentina Government Tourist Information)



### 16th Nov – Macpac

Macpac representatives Jo Campbell and Jenny Saunders will be coming to our club night to talk about Macpac's new summer range, especially the new lightweight waterproof sleeping bags and a one person bivvy. Now is the time to ask all the questions about their gear!



### 7th Dec – End of year BBQ and prizegiving

What better way to celebrate the end of the year and another great year of tramping than by having a barbeque before things get too hectic with the mad Christmas rush. This will be a great opportunity to catch up with everyone before you head off into the hills for your summer adventures. The annual club awards will also be presented on the night!

## Where we've been...



## Great Walk discount



Club members interested in doing one of the 'Great Walks' are encouraged to use their FMC membership to receive a discount.

If you didn't already know, FMC members get a 30% discount on Annual Back Country Hut Passes. FMC holders of an annual hut pass will, effective from the start of the 04/05 summer season (depends on the walk involved, as they have slightly different seasons), get a 10% discount off 'Great Walk' hut fees. Members will need to supply their annual hut pass number when booking. Please note that a single FMC sub is for one member only.

Left: A pleasant walk on the tops near the turn off to McKinnon Hut in the Ruahines. See page 5 for the trip report.  
(Photo: Adam Matich)

# Club notices

## President's Report

by Christine Scott

Committee meetings have been interesting of late with a lot of discussion on what constitutes a club trip, could the club/committee be legally responsible if there is an accident on a club trip, should club trips have a destination and grading when listed on the trip card and/or newsletter, does not having a published destination and/or grading have some safety implications and does it or doesn't it deter/attract people from going on these trips. Tramping, by its very nature, attracts some very strong minded individuals and it can lead to some interesting discussions when you have strong minded individuals on either side of the fence.

The end of year club barbeque is on the 7th December and at that we will be awarding our annual rewards: the Most Spirited Trampler, the Most Improved Trampler, the Beech Leaf Award, and last but not least the chocolate hamster award. Last year the awards went to Jean Gorman (the Beech Leaf Award for her work with the Tararua Huts committee); Doug McNeur (the most Spirited trampler award - not only for his work as Treasurer but for getting out there and leading some of the most popular trips); Gary Grayson (most improved trampler); and John Doolan (the chocolate hamster award for keeping one of the awards at his place all year and not even realizing it).

If you have any nominations for the Beech Leaf Award and the Most Spirited Trampler Award, please pass them onto me.

Christine Scott  
Phone (06) 354-0510  
[C.A.Scott@massey.ac.nz](mailto:C.A.Scott@massey.ac.nz)

## Chief Guide's Raincoat Stop

by Gary Bevins

Nobody can remember the last time that they went tramping, and didn't have to don their raincoat. It has certainly been wet. Water and strong winds have prevented a few trips from reaching their conclusion.

There has been no interest in a First Aid Course that I was to organize, despite the fact that I knew very few active members that have current first aid training. You can take a horse to water but you cannot make him drink!!!

Training is very important. It is good to see that one of our members

attended the 'Above the Bushline Course' and thoroughly enjoyed it. Courses do become available throughout the year, sometimes with little notice. If you register your interest with the club you can be included.

## The club welcomes:

Sonya Turk (Wellington) :: Linda Campbell (Feilding) :: Cameron & Shiree Marsh & Family (Auckland).

## Lost and found

**Lost in Lodge:** 1 green mag light torch. **Found in Lodge:** 1 Petzl zipka torch. Please phone Doug Pringle 358 3319.

## Mt Ruapehu News

by Doug Pringle

### Report on Ruapehu Mountain Combined Club Association Meeting on the 9th Oct 2004

(Editor's note: this report has been shortened. Please email the editor should you wish to read Doug's full report)

MTSC Attendees: Robert and Doug Pringle.

#### Sewerage:

The Department of Conservation are 85% through their construction project to install the sewerage scheme. The total project cost has increased to \$4.3M. This equates to a new total lump sum cost per lodge of \$48,100. Operating costs are approximately \$800 per annum.

#### Car Park Security:

Car thefts from the mountain have reduced substantially as a result of police intervention into a car theft ring based in Turangi. Another ring is in the process of forming. It is felt that it was up to individual vehicle owners to handle risk on car park security. Solutions of security compounds and/or CCTV monitoring and/or security guard are all too expensive given the small number of vehicles being lost.

#### Water Quality:

The Department of Health is proposing, from 2005 on, that each lodge needs to install a water treatment plant. This was soundly rejected by the combined clubs.

#### Mountain Clean Up:

It is proposed to have a mountain clean up in March or April 2005.

#### Ski History Display:

The Department of Conservation is looking for financial support and also notable recent items to update the ski history display at the Whakapapa Conservatory Centre.

#### Department of Conservation Report: Crater lake:

The crater lake is 90% full. At 100% full it reaches the pre-eruption levels. It is anticipated that it will need to fill to 120% before it breaches the

lahar retaining wall put up by the last eruption. It is anticipated that the lahar down the Whangaehu Valley will occur in the summer of 2005/2006.



## Upcoming trips

### **Whirinaki Forest Park**

**23-25th Oct**      **Medium**  
**Mark Learmonth**      **355-9143**

This year we are off to Whirinaki Forest Park which lies east of Taupo, sandwiched between the exotic forests of the Kaingaroa plateau to the west and Urewera National Park in the east.

### *Saturday:*

Will see us on the Whirinaki river track to central Whirinaki hut for the night, four to five hours on a well maintained and graded track. On the way to the hut you pass tall rimu, matai, kaitikatea and some huge totara, and maybe flocks of kaka. For those who wish we will visit the ignimbrite caves located an hour upriver from the hut. They contain native bats & cave weta.

### *Sunday:*

We will visit upper Whirinaki hut and then head off down to Mangamate hut for the night. Possibly seven hours travel.

### *Monday:*

It back to the car park 3.5 hours easy tramping and no climbing to speak of.

### **Wednesday Trampers**

**27th Oct**  
**Judy Callesen**      **357-0192**

### **Thursday Trampers**

**28th Oct**  
**Carolyn Brodie**      **358-6576**

### **Toka Trig**

**31st Oct**      **Medium**  
**Mark Street**      **353-7442**

This trip starts from the Limestone Road carpark on the western side of the Ruahines. We go up Knights Track to have lunch at Toka Trig.

The views from Toka on a good day can be very rewarding for the 920m altitude gain. A possibility is to drop down the other side to inspect Toka bivouac, but this would certainly be weather dependant and require some fitness because 200m of altitude is lost. If this side tour is not undertaken a return via the somewhat longer Shorts Track can add variation.

Tramping time: 7h (return via Knights), 8h (return via Shorts)  
Start time: 6:45 am

## Results of the Interclub Photo Competition

Local photographer and writer Fraser Kitt was guest judge for the annual interclub competition hosted at the Aero Club rooms a few weeks ago. Special thanks to Fraser for his time and insightful comments. Thanks also go to Bruce Watt Photography, FotoFirst and Fraser for supporting the competition with prizes.

### **Alpine (NZ)**

#### *Projected*

1. Nine Years in the Making, Lee Davies (MUAC)
2. Alpine escapade, Anonymous (MUAC)
3. Wish you were here, Lee Davies (MUAC)

#### *Prints*

1. Three Climbers, Annabel Smith (MUAC)
2. Mt Aylmer, Daniel Clearwater (MUAC)
3. Temple Col, Warren Wheeler (PNTMC)

### **Scenic (NZ)**

#### *Projected*

1. Wanganui Valley, Westland, H. Nicholson (MTSC)
2. Morning mist, Andy Huine (MUAC)
3. Homeward bound, Lee Davies (MUAC)

#### *Prints*

1. Tennyson Inlet, Warren Wheeler (PNTMC)
2. Sunset, Geoff Walker (MUAC)
3. Paddock, Annabel Smith (MUAC)

### **Natural History (NZ)**

#### *Projected*

1. Tui in Kowhai, Jean Garman (MTSC)
2. Fern, Tony Gates (PNTMC)
3. Good enough to drink, Lee Davies (MUAC)

#### *Prints*

1. Landing Gear (Kea), Heather Purdie (PNTMC)
2. Rata flower, Elaine Hervé (PNTMC)
3. Frozen Lily, Aidan Haig (MUAC)

### **Topical (NZ)**

#### *Projected*

1. Burn, Jean Garman (MTSC)
2. Stan Evans Memorial, Jean Garman (MTSC)
3. Captain's Call, Lee Davies (MUAC)

#### *Prints*

1. Sitting on ice, Elaine Hervé (PNTMC)
2. High tea, Warren Wheeler (PNTMC)
3. Good end to a great day, Jackie White (MUAC)

### **Overseas: Open**

#### *Projected*

1. Snow covered penguins, Wei-Hang Chua (MTSC)
2. Patagonia Granite, Tony Gates (PNTMC)
3. Dents de Lanfon, Terry Crippen (PNTMC)

#### *Prints*

1. Alpine fence, Terry Crippen (PNTMC)
2. Six against one, Terry Crippen (PNTMC)
3. Valley of the 10 peaks, Malcolm Leary (PNTMC)





Above: View to Hikurangi and Mangaweka. Read about the McKinnon trip on page 5 (Photo: Adam Matich).

### **Hidden Lake**

**31st Oct**

**Family**

**Sue & Howard Nicholson 357-6325**

Down State Highway 2 and hidden from view, at the base of Mt Bruce is a lake. If, like me, you would like to see it then this is the trip to take. An easy stroll, quite pastoral, will present a view to enthral. So mark the date, it's not too late, to book, so give me a call. (We may have a look at the Mt. Bruce Wildlife Centre after the walk if people are interested).

### **Thursday Trampers**

**4th Nov**

**Harry & Chris Allardice 323-4390**

### **Te Matawai Party**

**6-7th Nov**

**Medium**

**Jean Garman**

**354-3536**

There is a change of venue from Te Matawai to Mangahao Flats. Weather permitting there will be a helicopter present at the road end at 8.00am Saturday morning which will give you the option of flying in at a cost of \$160 per 4 people (i.e. \$40 each). If flying is not your thing you are very welcome to walk and everyone will be walking out. Jobs for the weekend will be replacing the old toilet (hence the presence of the helicopter), tidying up the area below the hut and cutting, moving and stacking firewood. The hut is pretty tidy so only a minimal amount of cleaning will be required. Of course the usual standard of food

will be observed. I need to know as early as possible if you want to come to sort out for the helicopter so let me know NOW if you are interested!

### **Kapakapanui**

**7th Nov**

**Easy/Medium**

**Alan Rae**

**358-3962**

We will leave the Police Station at 8am, hopefully on a wonderful fine day. Given such conditions, this trip is a must! After a steady but not too onerous tramp to the top of the peak, the reward is a magnificent view from Ruapehu and Taranaki right around to Wellington city and the Marlborough Sounds. Then we complete the loop by continuing back down the hill, via the hut.

### **Yeoman's Track**

**7th Nov**

**Mountain Biking**

**Peter Rawlins**

**356-7443**

Yeoman's track is an old logging track between the Eastern Ruahines and the Gwavas state forest. It's just perfect for mountain biking with no big hills and a great surface to ride on. This is a non technical trip and a good opportunity to get that bike out of the garage. The ride should be about 3 or 4 hours all up including a leisurely lunch.

### **Wednesday Trampers**

**10th Nov**

**Rose Strahan**

**328-9861**

This will be either a mountain tramp or a farm walk up Apiti way.

### **Thursday Trampers**

**11th Nov**

**Ann Green**

**06 374-5208**

### **Stoney River - Pouakai**

**13-14th Nov**

**Medium/Fit**

**Adam Matich**

**359-2796**

The road end is a good 3 hours plus away on the north-west side of Mt Taranaki, and Stoney River separates Mt Taranaki from the Pouakai Range.

An intersection is reached after an easy 3½ km walk up the Puniho Track, and here one drops onto the Stoney (Hangatahua) River track. The track follows 6 km up the river past Bells Falls (detour) to reach Holly Hut after about 5 hours. It is another two hours to Pouakai Hut for the night.

On Sunday it is intended to head towards Poukai Peak (1 hr) and 500 m before reaching it turn left to bump 1375. From there the track drops down a spur into the Stoney River near the Road end with a river crossing of some sort at the bottom. This track is not maintained and thus may prove challenging/technical.

### **Kahui Hut**

**13-14th Nov**

**Easy**

**Mark Learmonth**

**355-9143**

Kahui Hut is on Egmont National Parks round the mountain circuit track. We intend to join Adam's

stoney river group party for transportation to & from the park. I intend taking the Kahui track to oonui track, along this track to the old oonui hut site for lunch, then doubling back to Kahui track and up to the hut for the night. Sunday it's sleep in, then it's down the Puniho track to the road end.

Saturday four hours easy tramping, Sunday little more than two hours. Interested? Call Mark on (06) 355 9143 or 027 200 4960.

### **Thursday Trampers**

**18th Nov**

**Ken Rush 357-2529**

### **Tunupo-Irongates Loop**

**20-21st Nov Medium/Fit**

**Garry Grayson 353-3117**

This is a rescheduled trip from 3/4th April which didn't happen. We will leave Saturday morning for the carpark at the Heritage Lodge road-end, then climb up to Tunupo Peak and proceed North-East along the tops towards the spur leading down to IronGate Hut. From this point we'll continue East through the Pohangina Saddle down to Longview Hut for well earned R&R.

Next morning we back-track to the IronGate turn-off and carry on down to IronGate Hut for lunch and out to the car along the Oroua River track.

Clear skies and no wind have been secured for this weekend outing, trust me.

### **Rangiwahia Loop**

**21st Nov**

**Christine Scott 354-0510 Medium**

Rangiwahia is on the western side of the Ruahines. We will walk up Deadmans Track, have a relaxing lunch on the top of Mangahuia, afternoon tea at Rangi Hut and a gentle womble back down the Rangi Track to our transport (5 - 6 hours). Departure time: 7.30am from the Police Station.

### **Wednesday Trampers**

**24th Nov**

**Mona Webb 323-4212**

### **Thursday Trampers**

**25th Nov**

**Stewart Malcolm 358-3409**

### **Camping at Lake Ferry**

**27-28th Nov**

**All**

**Ade & Michael Beech 354-9310**

**Mark Learmonth 355-9143**

For all levels of fitness tramping. Tramping come/Christmas Party. We intend to visit three really visited Doc buildings in the Rimutaka's. These being Battery Biv, Wharepapa Hut and Waiorongomai Hut.

Saturday we will visit Battery Biv & Wharepapa then PARTY at lake Ferry Motor Camp. Sunday all going will (And heads enabling) on the way home we will visit Waiorongomai Hut. All these structures are located off the Western Lake road Wairapapa.



#### *Editor's Note:*

*Janet Allan is my copy procurer. If you have led, or are scheduled to lead a trip, Janet may phone to remind you to send in a preview or report. Don't give her any lip!*

#### **McKinnon**

**4th September**

by Jean Garman

The weather forecast for Saturday was unfavourable so the original plan to do the Oturere loop required modification. Instead we chose to go to McKinnon hut figuring that we could survive the worst the weather could throw at us for the quick dash across the tops. We would then be in a good position to make the most of the lovely weather



Above: Bridge over the Waingawa at Cow Creek (Photo: Garry Grayson).



forecast for Sunday. After a few navigational errors finding the road end we set off to brave the cableway and the horribly steep climb that came after it.

Lunch was held below the bush line and shortly after we met another group who were due out three days previously but due to the inclement weather had ended up stuck in Crow hut. Luckily there is coverage for the old 025 phones from the hut so no one was unduly worried about them.

Snow was found around the bush line, soft wet sugary stuff which it was generally best to avoid where possible. As we proceeded upward the snow firmed somewhat and the weather deteriorated markedly. For the last section visibility was less than 40m (couldn't see from one pole to the next) and a freezing fog was blasting into our faces. As our clothing quickly became coated in ice Jenny and I were extremely glad we were wearing long-johns. Adam's legs were bare and ice was building up on his leg hair which he assured us was painful.

Eventually the sign post to McKinnon came into view and we plunged over the side hoping to drop below the worst of the weather. It was



Above: Enjoying the view from McKinnon Hut (Photo: Jean Garman).

a bit grim for a while and luckily we were heading down as we sank repeatedly into the knee to thigh deep snow. A hundred meters or so down things improved marginally and then the hut appeared out of the murk and we dove inside. A quick change of clothes and we cranked up the fire. Having brought some dry kindling with us and a pruning saw to cut available wood into useable lengths we soon had it roaring away. Just as well as the

ful calm clear day with the sun blasting into the hut at 6.00am. Adam tried to light his stove for the morning brew but it wasn't cooperating and when he finally opened the fuel tank he realised that the freezing point of cyclohexane must be above 1°C as his fuel was frozen solid. A quick cuddle and it thawed enough to get the stove going. Much to our relief the soft wet snow had set hard overnight so it was on with the crampons for a quick spike back up to the ridge line.

Glorious views in every direction. Ruapehu and Ngarahoe looked almost close enough to reach out and touch.

Back up on the ridge we dropped our packs and went for a bit of a wander enjoying the best day of winter tramping any of us had had so far. Eventually the snow started to soften and there are only so many exclamations you can make about the stunning views



Above: Jenny cranking the handle on the cableway (Photo: Adam Matich).

pipe connecting the guttering to the water tank had disappeared so we needed to melt snow for water.

The rest of the afternoon was spent eating drinking talking and reading readers digests. By the time we went to bed the hut was a comfy 18°C. Five hours later when Adam got up and found the door frozen shut it had dropped to 4°C. By morning we were down to 1°C but it was a beauti-



so we headed back towards the car.

A quick stop in the sun warmed tussock turned into a couple of hours of chatting then lunch before we tripped our merry way down through the bush. A quick hop across the cableway and a stop at Mangaweka for junk food and we headed home.

We were Jenny McCarthy (trip leader) Adam Matich (trip whinger) and Jean Garman (trip scribe).

### **Armstrong Saddle 19th September**

by Mark Street

Our party of eight left the Triple X carpark just after 9 am with one or two opting for the parkas to fend off drizzle. Very soon we were two groups as Jill, Helen and Judy sought a slower pace and Sunrise Hut as their objective.

The walk up to Sunrise was quite pleasant on the wide benched track with Tim, Ian and Geerton enjoying their experience in what to them was a new area. Along the way we came across Gary and Bev and rest of the Sparrowhawk Loop cum Sunrise Overnighter team. At Sunrise we had an early lunch having arrived just before 12 noon. We watched the antics of Tony Gates and two others from PNTMC on their cross-country skis. The forty odd minutes we had at the hut was sufficient to contemplate the journey on to Armstrong Saddle, because we knew this leg would expose us to the strong, cold sou'wester.

After doning storm gear including overtrousers we set off and shortly after saw Jill, Helen and Judy arrive at Sunrise. The cloud base was just under the summit of Te Atuaopara-para so visibility was not a real concern and fortunately what snow there was on the path to the Saddle was soft. So we did not regret leaving ice axes in P.N. The cross-country skiers were trying hard to get some runs on the nearby slopes but it appeared to us that there was limited scope in this region.

The furthest point reached was the



Above: Great views of Mt Ruapehu on the Hauhungatahi trip (Photo: Royce Mills).

1499m bump north of the saddle from which we viewed the snow-capped ridge north to Sparrowhawk Bivvy. By now snow and hail showers were making life rather unpleasant so it was a case of back to the hut for a brief stop to refuel. Ahead lay a somewhat idyllic stroll down a snow laden beech forest path with afternoon sun breaking through the canopy and bird life singing away – wonderful.

Five trampers met three trampers back at the carpark at 3:30pm. We were Tim Swale, Ian Algie, Helen Davidson, Jill Chapman, Geerten Merkens, Royce Mills, Judy Callesen and Mark Street.

### **Hauhungatahi 26th September**

by Carolyn Brodie

Cloudless day, light winds, stunning views. Hauhungatahi is a peak on the west side of Mt Ruapehu. It looks so small and insignificant with its backdrop of snowy mountains but is actually 1500 and commands brilliant views. It took us about 3 hours of effort to get to the top. The terrain and flora changed with altitude: railway line behind Erua, up through flaxes into majestic bush, trees get smaller and scrubby, then alpine bog, then tussock and finally the top which had a bit of rocky out-

crop. Lots of lovely orange colours in the tussock and rock. The whole route was marked and even on a fine day we were glad of the poles to show us the best way through the boggy areas. The reward from the top was seeing the snowy Mounts Tongariro, Ngauruhoe and Ruapehu suddenly spread out in front of us. We could see skiers and climbers through binoculars. Climbing up the west side meant we were limited to white glimpses only on the way up. However the magical Taranaki made up for it, clearly floating above the land to the east. A lovely day. We were Royce, David N, Judy, Bev, Neville, Linda C, Donna, Helen D and Carolyn.

### **Arete Forks Hut 2-3rd October**

by Garry Grayson

Friday nights meeting point for this trip was at Jean's place, then on to pick up Jenny in Pahiatua. However, upon arrival Jean's pack and gear was conspicuous by their absence, Jean appeared and muttered 'you lot are on your own', I'm off to SAR Headquarters to help with a search for a lost farmer in Pahiatua, and off she drove. Now 3 of us continued on as planned, picked up Jenny and arrived at Kiriwhakapapa road end in misty rain conditions, yum, those 5 day old pies from Eketahuna

didn't taste to bad at this time of the night.

Rain gear on and a steady slog up to Blue Range saw us at the hut in 1 1/2hrs, 4 bunks and only we 4, this was a good start, in to bed and rest. About midnight, muffled voices outside and the door pushed open, we thought Jean had caught us up, the next morning there were 4 more bodies littered about the floor, VTC members from Wellington were planning to go on via Cow Creek to Table Ridge and around to Tarn Ridge Hut.

Overnight snow signalled the arrival of the southerly cold front, and at this point visibility on the tops was looking a bit patchy, however we decided to reassess the situation further down the track, so set off at 7.30 start towards the track intersection that leads to Cow Saddle, located in about 1 1/2hrs. This is now an unmaintained track, although overgrown, a fairly obvious route exists, compasses required only once after we dropped off going around windfall areas, Cow Saddle- Ruamahanga junction reached in about 1 1/2hrs.

Now for that 750m climb up to Cattle Ridge and Waingawa at 1423! A good track to the exit of the bush at 1100m where an early lunch was called for, in a nice sunny, sheltered hollow at the start of the open tussock climb to the tops. Intermittent snow flurries, a few wind gusts, and then sunny patches were the mix during the climb to Waingawa which totalled about 3hrs from Cow Saddle junction.

About 1/4hr on towards Bannister is a cairned turnoff indicating the route down the spur towards Arete Forks. The top end of this route is easy going, however, further down the leatherwood gets taller and taller, a job for chief guide Gary we thought, who proceeded to bash over and under these 'bushes' which looked large enough to be 'milled' for timber.

Once reaching the bushline proper the remainder of the downhill was



Above: Arete Forks Hut (Photo: Garry Grayson).

straight forward, an occasional 'tin lid' marker seen on trees, the river crossing near the forks signalling the end of this leg of the trip. Arete Forks Hut is close by and was found after a little bit of re-orientating, a successful day, finishing at 4.00pm. Arete Forks Hut is a bit dark and dismal, doesn't appear to get a lot of use, has a chimney but no fire and rain water gets blown down onto the table which is directly beneath the chimney. A sign on the wall says be ready to evacuate during flood conditions and looking at the current river path may eventually see this hut swept away by a new river course.

Daylight saving time saw us depart Arete Forks at 8.15 next morning along the sidle track towards Cow Creek. This track is reasonable going, although the 50-80m descents and climbs in and out of the several side streams on this route tend to slow one's progress down, however, the Cow Creek junction showed up in about 3hrs, another 15mins and Cow Creek Hut, time for early lunch. Cow Creek is a beaut spot, has a great camping site beside the Waingawa and the flash new bridge nearby, the hut recently repainted is in tidy order and a good base for a few day trips.

From here it was the 500m climb back up to Blue Range intersection then down and back to the Gary's 'truck', a 9hr day. We were Garry Grayson, Gary Bevins, Jenny McCarthy, Alyn Higgins.

### **FMC Above the Bushline Training Course 2-3rd October**

by Carolyn Brodie

This wonderful training weekend, organised by Laurie Gallagher, took place on the lower, but snow covered slopes of Mt Ruapehu. The weather was brilliant, views marvellous and excellent instructors. Ray Goldring is a back-to-basics mountain instructor, so we practised ice axe skills (step cutting, arresting, belaying) but not crampons.

We learnt how much you can do with 30 metres of 6mm spectra rope, from throwing it out in a white out to see where the ground is, to stretchers or seats to carry injured, in addition to getting across dangerous terrain or abseiling. Lots of knots! A little bit of rock climbing. We learnt to use a fourth number on each grid reference to pinpoint more accurately where we were navigating to. We dug slots in snowy banks for immediate shelter and learnt how useful a piece of 4m by 1.5m ripstop nylon can be.





Above: Oroua River on the Irongate/Tunupo trip (Photo: Jean Garman).

The varied experience of the 20 participants from all over the North Island, was catered for by the more experienced people acting as instructors of small groups, after a demonstration from Ray Goldring. Leadership of each group rotated. We camped on the snow, had a fireworks display (courtesy of RAL) at bedtime and woke to apricot sunrise on Mt Ngauruhoe.

I'm most grateful to Bev and Gary for nominating me on behalf of MTSC and thanks to the club for the use of the equipment.

**Atene Skyline Walk**

**3rd October**

by Charles Little

This walk has been considerably affected by storms this year. Nevertheless the six of us (two Johns, Monica, Suzanne, Heather and I)

demonstrated that reports of its being impassable are greatly exaggerated.

We set off from the north end in perfect conditions, ignoring the "track impassable" sign. A major slip was encountered within the

first few minutes. Although it was certainly impressive, it could in fact be negotiated without a great deal of difficulty. Conditions improved once we reached the fence line, but some of the old road bed was rather muddy. The weather was kind to us for the whole walk, and we enjoyed excellent views of both Ruapehu and Mt. Egmont. We had a wonderful day, but it is a little sad to see that the Dept. of Conservation seems to be making no effort to restore this delightful track to its former state.

**Irongate/Tunupo Streams**

**9th October**

by Adam Matich

We started out from the Heritage Lodge road end on Saturday morning, with good intentions, but upon reaching our first stream crossing 30 minutes after the lodge we worked out that perhaps we wouldn't even make it to Iron Gate Hut. The stream was crossable, but we had doubts about Tunupo Stream, and crossing the Oroua River beyond Iron Gate hut was definitely out of the question. So we headed back to Heritage Lodge to drop off our packs and got for a 50 minute round trip down to ogle at the raging river and see if we could spot any drowned trampers floatng past. The ogling worked fine but the spotting was a bust so we climbed back up to the Lodge to pick up our packs, and made a thorough inspection of the rifle range on our way back to the car after a 4-hour day.

We were: Jean Garman and Adam Matich

wednesday & thursday trampers

15th Sep (Wed) Gorge Walk  
13 trampers

16th Sep (Thu) Tunopo  
Leader: Peter Carver (13 trampers)

30th Sep (Thu) Hemi Matenga - Waikanae  
Leader: Lorraine Green (10 trampers)

7th Oct (Thu) Longview  
12 trampers



# Club Information

## Annual Hut Passes

Support our club huts in the Tararuas. Buy your Annual Hut Pass through DoC Waikanae. Full price \$90, with FMC card discount \$63. Jean Garman will provide you with a form to fill in which will be sent off with your cheque and your FMC card (if you have one) to DoC Waikanae who will post your Annual Hut Pass back to you. Please note that MTSC family memberships only pay one FMC sub so only one FMC card (and therefore discount) is available per family. Email: [jean.garman@fonterra.com](mailto:jean.garman@fonterra.com) or phone (06) 354-3536.

## For Sale

### Howard's Bargain Basement

DOC hut tickets – discount rates to members. Phone Howard on 357-6325.

## Accommodation at the MTSC lodge on Mt Ruapehu

The lodge is reasonably close to Iwikau Village, has power, hot showers, and is stocked with food. The phone number there is (07) 892 3860.

Photo: Anja Feise



Lodge bookings may be made between 9:30am and 9:30pm on any day of the week. Please don't call outside these hours. Note that bookings are not confirmed until the fees are paid. Payment is in advance by cheque or cash.

	Members	Non-members
Adult	\$21	\$33
Sec. School	\$18	\$30
Primary School	\$15	\$26
Group Prices	on application	on application

## Booking and use of the MTSC Transit Van

The normal run-of-the-mill things you need to do if using the Transit Van are:

1. Book preferably by Thursday, and certainly no later than 6pm Friday.
2. Cancel bookings by these times so others who may want the van have time to amend their travel arrangements.
3. Check oil, water, and tyres.
4. Fill in the travel sheet (kilometres, people, and dollars).



Trip leaders and those planning trips should seriously consider using this cost effective club asset. **Neville Gray** is our mini-bus custodian, and he can be contacted at 357-2768.

## Club equipment

We have packs, 2 and 3 person tents, fly-sheets, snow mats, sleeping bag cover, gas cookers, size 8 and 9 boots, billies, two new bivvy bags and two of the big tent flies. Ice axes, crampons, and helmets are also available. Food Dehydrator: ideal for drying large and small quantities of fruit, vegetables, and meat for tramping rips. Easy to use, works well, and is available for hire from the Gear Custodian. Hire cost for members, \$1 per day. Contact the Gear Custodian – Peter Rawlins on 356 7443.

## People to contact

If you would like to contact the club with general inquiries, please drop a line to Manawatu Tramping & Skiing Club, P.O. Box 245, Palmerston North and it will reach the appropriate person. If you want a particular topic discussed at the Committee meetings, this is a good way to go about it.

### MTSC 2004-05 Committee

President	Christine Scott	354 0510
Secretary	Howard Nicholson	357 6325
Treasurer	Doug McNeur	359 1893
Chief Guide	Gary Bevins	325 8879
Day Trip Convenor	Bev Akers	325 8879
Membership Sec.	Mark Street	353-7442

[mtsc@inspire.net.nz](mailto:mtsc@inspire.net.nz)

Newsletter Editor	Wei-Hang Chua	021 212 0369
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[morepork@ihug.co.nz](mailto:morepork@ihug.co.nz)

Social Convenor	Bev Akers	325 8879
Ski Captain	Peter Rawlins	356 7443
Lodge Manager	Rob Pringle	355 9174
Lodge Booking Officers	Hugh & Liz Wilde	356 9450
Mini-bus Manager	Neville Gray	357 2768
General Committee	Garry Grayson	353 3117
	Ken Mercer	356 7497
	Darlene Westrupp	354 5764

## Articles for the newsletter

Send by the 15th of each month, to Wei-Hang Chua (editor) at [morepork@ihug.co.nz](mailto:morepork@ihug.co.nz), phone on (021) 212 0369. If you'd prefer to receive your newsletter by email only, please contact the editor. Send changes of address to the Membership Secretary at P.O. Box 245, Palmerston North.



## Club website

This includes a club contact e-mail address and is hosted by InSPire Net. The club webpage is maintained by Howard Nicholson and Adam Matich and is kindly hosted by InSPire Net.