

post: P.O. Box 245, Palmerston North
web: 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.



1st Feb – Xmas trips and yarns

Bring along your summer trip snapshots and share your photos and yarns with the rest of the club. This will be a general free-for-all catch up to see what everyone was up to over the holidays.



15th Feb – Orienteering in the Esplanade

Meet at the Esplanade cafe 6.45pm onwards. No need for a compass – hope torches won't be necessary, but might be useful. There is a \$2 charge for the colour maps which can be shared. People can go off in pairs, groups or individually as they arrive. Finding the controls will take 30-60 minutes depending on whether you want to find all of them. Should be a fun event to sharpen up "fine navigation".



1st Mar – Old Drover's Track, Outback Australia

A not to be missed evening by our colourful character Peter Carver. He has once again been adventuring in the Australian Outback. This time he will enlighten us about Old Drover's Track.

Happy New Year!

I trust all of you had an enjoyable festive season and have been making the most of the recent spell of excellent weather, quite unlike the usual Manawatu climate! There is a good collection of stories and photos sent in by club members over the past few weeks covering a range of weather conditions from snow to searing heat.

All the best to you in 2005, I look forward to hearing from all the trip scribes out there over the next few months!

Wei-Hang Chua (Editor)

Where we've been...



Above: Wairongomai Hut on the Cape Ferry trip, more trip details on page 5. (Photo: Adam Match)

Club notices



President's Report

by Christine Scott

A happy new year everyone. Here's hoping for some summer weather before we head back into winter again. Hopefully you have all managed to get out and do some walking or tramping over the Christmas New Year break. We walked into Macetown and out over the top of Advance Peak to the Skippers. Advance Peak is just over 1700m and there is an old gold mine just below the summit called Sunrise Gold mine. It makes you realize how tough those old gold miners were. What took us 4 - 5 hours to walk from Arrowtown to Macetown took them 2 - 3 days with a pack horse. Shania Twain has bought a large block of land between Wanaka and Macetown and there is talk of putting in a track and huts to connect Arrowtown to Wanaka via Macetown. Part of the agreement of buying the land was to put in public access. All the country around Macetown belongs to run holders and I had some very interesting discussions with my sister regarding access to the back country. They own a large block of land in Southland and are very hot under the collar regarding access. Apart from that fact that they don't want uninvited strangers in 'their back yard' there is the whole security and safety aspect of stock and land owners.

Happy tramping for 2005.

Christine Scott

Phone (06) 354-0510 or email: C.A.Scott@massey.ac.nz

Chief Guides Break

by Gary Bevins

On holiday. Have a happy new year and I hope the weather improves for some enjoyable tramping.

The club welcomes:

Catherine O'Rourke & Daryl Iwikau & Family (PN).

Kahurangi Trampers' Services and Vehicle Storage

Kindy sent in by Royce Mills.

Owen and I would like to publicise an unsolicited recommendation for the above company, run by Trevor Painter. We used his service while doing the Leslie-Karamea-Wangapeka in December. Trevor went way beyond the call of duty to provide an excellent service for us, and our car was stored free on his property for 6 days. The cost for taking us up the Graham road in his van (to Flora Saddle) was \$45, and being met at the Wangapeka Rolling junction and

returned to our car was \$80. Trevor also provides services for the Heaphy, Queen Charlotte tracks and will drop off and pick up at your request in the Kahurangi area from Nelson or Motueka.

Contact details:

"Chepstow"

Graham Valley

RD 1 Motueka

phone 03 526 8620

or McGregor Biv. Be prepared to camp out. Same route out.

Blue Range Hut

30th Jan

Easy/Medium

Helen Davidson

356-2249

Wednesday Day Trip

2nd Feb

Jill Chapman

326-8605

Phone for details of the destination.

Thursday Day Trip

3rd Feb

Neville Gray 357-2768

Phone for details of the destination.

Whanahuia Range/Oroua River

5-6th Feb

Fit

Jean Garman

354-3536

We will leave Friday evening and head up the Oroua River to the Tunapo campsite for the night. On Saturday we will try our best to follow an old overgrown track up onto the end of the Whanahuia Range which we will then traverse along until near the junction with the Te Hekenga ridge for a night of camping on the tops. Sunday we turn onto the Te Hekenga ridge and at the first low point drop into the headwaters

Upcoming trips

McGregor Bivouac

29-30th Jan

Medium

Bev Akers

325-8879

Walk up to Jumbo. Depending on number and weather conditions Saturday night will be at Jumbo





Above: Upper Makaroro Hut (Photo: Adam Matich).

of the Oroua River which we will follow all the way back towards Heritage Lodge. Some scratchy leath-erwood and swimming guaranteed. Good weather required.

Oriwa Bivouac

5-6th Feb **Medium**
Gary Bevins **325-8879**

Tramp starts from Gladstone Road end, where we head up to Waiopehu Hut. From here we find our way to Oriwa Ridge Bivouac, where we stay the night. Out the same route, or maybe Gable End as an alternative.

Dragonflies at Ngahere Tane

6th Feb **Family**
David Newstead
025 576-175
wk 3504600 ext 7559

Depart PN Police Station, Church St, 8:30. Destination: Coal Creek (access to Short's and Knight's Tracks) western Ruahines, Sixtus Lodge road end. This is an annual trip. The routine is to amble along, watch the forest grow and see what small wild-life is about. The giant dragon flies and large hover flies fly only in full sun. But the trees and plants in the Ngahere Tane sanctuary are always there (naturally). This is an area set up by DOC" predecessor for forest education (out of Sixtus Lodge)

about 25 years ago: so we will follow round the numbered pegs and see what is new. Lunch on the grass, or by the stream, as people prefer. This is definitely "easy" grade suitable for small children. The usual total walking distance is 3-4 km.

Thursday Day Trip

10th Feb
Gordon Clark **359-2500**
Phone for details of the destination.

Climb Mt Taranaki

12-13th Feb **Medium**
Adam Matich **359-2796**

Naturally, this trip is weather dependant as Taranaki does have some unpleasant personal habits at times. Saturday will be an easy day and we may not leave town until late morning or early afternoon. I have a tentative booking for Tahurangi Lodge on Saturday night so all we need to do is the 1-hour climb up there from North Egmont on Saturday afternoon. We can always increase the day length by side-tripping to Maketawa Hut if people are really desperate and insistent. Accomodation is \$15 pp (I think) and because it is so easy to get there we can eat well in preparation for our strenuous 1000 m climb on Sunday morning.

The route (poled and stepped in places) is up the North Ridge (The Lizard) and could take 3-4 hours but the view is bound to be worth it...if there is one. It would be useful for me to have some idea of numbers sooner than later so that I can firm up the booking at the lodge.

Roaring Stag

13th Feb **Medium**
David Newstead
025 576-175
wk 3504600 ext 7559

Roaring Stag is at the foot of eastern Tararuas, due east of Mt Dundas. This is a second go at a trip we did about mid-winter day. We were supposed to go to Roaring Stag, but as the daylight was rather scarce, being that time of year, and rain was threatening, we turned right instead of left at the junction and went to Herapai, for the view. So I still have not been to Roaring Stag... this time!

From the said track junction Roaring Stag, an old hunting lodge, I'm told, is way down the bottom of a ridge (easy gradient), about 3/4 km beyond the Ruamahanga Forks. Of geographic significance - this ridge divides the watershed, out to the Tasman Sea via the Mangatanoka and Manawatu to the north, where we start from the road end, and from Ruamahanga Forks out to the Pacific via the Ruamahanga mouth at Lake Ferry. (We can claim to have crossed the main divide!)

This is not a strenuous route, but it's a long day, about 9-10 km each way.

Wednesday Day Trip

16th Feb
Jill Chapman **326-8605**
Phone for details of the destination.

Thursday Day Trip

17th Feb (Thur)
Bev Akers **325-8879**
Phone for details of the destination.
Mangaehuehu Hut
19-20th Feb **Easy/Medium**
Ade Beech **354-9310**

Carrington Ridge Loop

20th Feb **Medium/Fit**
Jenny McCarthy **06 376-8838**
We will be leaving from the

Mangatarere Valley Road and going towards the Totara flats area then up the Totara Creek and back down the Carrington Ridge. I have not done this trip so it will be an exploration type trip.

Thursday Day Trip

24th Feb

Don Maclaine 357-0745

Phone for details of the destination.

Moki Track

26-27th Feb

Medium

Mark Learmonth 355-9143

"A Stroll in the Park"

27th Feb

Family

Sue &

Howard Nicholson 357-6325

Helicopter in the Kaweka's

25-28th Mar

Medium

Gary Bevins

3258879

Would you please register your interest by the end of February so that the helicopter operator can be organized. Approx cost of this will be \$120-160 depending on numbers. We will be flying to Venison Tops and exiting at Poronui. Huts on the route include Mangaturutu, Tira Lodge, Te Pukeohikarua, Harkness, Tussock, Boyd Lodge, Oamaru.



Above: Irongates Hut (Photo: Garry Grayson).

member, 5 of us and dog Gemma set off on Saturday morning for the Heritage car park shadowed by overcast skies and hilltop 'clag' moving in from the southwest. As we neared the roadend our planned route along the tops was clear and skies blue, we thought may-be our first day at least would be pleasant hilltop wandering.

After 'gearing' up and securing the truck it was a dash down the farmland to the park entrance, over the bridge, and up to the Heritage-Tunupo turnoff where a quick snack and removal of clothing layers was the order before the long drag to Tunupo Peak. By the time the bush edge was reached it was obvious that the clag had caught up and promises of far reaching views would be dashed, not to be discouraged, it was onwards and upwards until Tunupo top was reached in about 3 ½ hrs from the car park. This was not a particularly nice place to be, with strong nor-westerlies, clagged, and cold conditions making our lunch stop an uncomfortable and chilly affair huddled down behind the ridge away from the wind.

Dave's new GPS and compasses confirmed the direction from here and while adopting a walking style

with a 30degree list into the strong nor-wester a reasonably padded track along the tops was followed, every so often the 'windless' comfort of a rock or bump in the terrain giving relief from the persistent side winds. After 1 ½ hrs or so, a slight clearance in the clouds allowed some intermittent views east & west and soon a wind free vantage point overlooking the Pohangina headwaters saw us relaxing in sunny conditions taking in views over the Onga Onga plains area.

This point was just past the triangular posted turnoff down to Irongate which we would follow tomorrow, and not far from the trig above Pohangina Saddle. The trig was passed and soon a sign-posted turnoff down the saddle to Longview was reached where another short rest stop and views was taken before proceeding down the hill to arrive at Longview Hut at about 3.30, a nice early finish to the day and time to negotiate bunk space with some 7 members of W.T.M.C. already settled in.

Sunday morning, seemed Gary's body clock had advised him to put the billy on at the early-ish time of 5.30 – 6.00am, and soon after we smelled muffins being toasted on the hut gas cooker, ahh, breakfast in



Photo: Wei-Hang Chua

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!

Tunupo-Irongates Loop

20-21st November

by Garry Grayson

After a late withdrawal of one



Above: Crossing the Wairongomai River (Photo: Adam Matich).

bed we thought, how nice of him, wrong! Turned out this was Bev's treat, the rest of us had to make do with the usual dry cereal mix.

Outside were misty, light rain conditions with a hint of gusty wind again being present on the tops. Storm gear on, we departed Longview at 7.05am and slogged off back up to the Saddle, sidling briefly along the leeward edge of the ridge to gain short relief from the nor-wester' before climbing up past the trig and hastily continuing onwards to the marker posts indicating the route off down to Irongate, about 1hr 20 from Longview.

Not long after starting off down this well padded route, the mist cleared revealing some sobering views down over the storm ravaged farmland of Apiti and surrounding areas, from this vantage point there were acres and acres of eroded hillsides which may take years to stabilize and regrow. Once the bushline is reached, a well maintained, unusually wide track leads on down to complete the 800mtr or so descent to Irongate Hut, arriving here at 10.45 for an extended lunch stop and a 'brew'. Now free of wind and basking in warm sunny conditions saw us lounging around here for

1 ¼ hrs, however, all good things must come to an end and reluctantly at midday it was time to push on for the final leg towards Heritage Lodge, this section also included a ½ hr 'world problem solving' stop. A few bits of windfall scrambling, (mostly caused by recent heavy snow), and Heritage Lodge loomed in to view in 3 ¼ hrs, another quick snack stop then out to the carpark to finish what turned out to be a warm relaxing afternoon. Our party was Gary Bevins, Bev Akers, Jenny McCarthy, Dave Mitchell and Garry Grayson (trip co-ordinator).

Rangi Loop 21st November

by Christine Scott

Seven of us braved a not so wonderful weather forecast, but despite a cold wind on the top of Mangahuia, had a great day with no rain coats needed. Lunch was had on the lee side of Mangahuia, and then it was a quick descent to Rangi Hut to get out of the wind. The womble down from the hut to the car park contained a half hour detour to climb above and around the slip which is causing so many problems. It had slipped even more in the last month. It was obviously a bit much of a challenge for one member of a group going in the opposite direc-

tion to us as she decided to wait for the rest of her party rather than continue with the scramble - even though unbeknownst to her, she was only about 10 minutes from regaining the track. We were: Mike Jackson, Doug McNeur, Allan Cameron, Rod McKenzie, Peter Rawlins, Suzanne Clark and Christine Scott.

Camping at Lake Ferry 27-28th November

by Adam Matich

With only seven campers, we were just able to fit everything in the van to head down Western Lake Road (Western side of Lake Wairarapa) to the Waiorongomai car park just north of the Waiorongomai River. The car park is on Waiorongomai Station, the oldest Romney Stud in NZ. We had some difficulties getting through the gate as the cattle proof latch also proved to be "townie" proof. It proved necessary for a nearby farm worker to inculcate us into the mysteries of the Waiorongomai Station cattle proof gate latch.

The extensive, well-grassed parking area would be an excellent camping spot, but instead we took the short track that dropped us into the shallow Waiorongomai River, which we followed for a short while before picking up the well-marked track on the true left, whose beginning is not obvious. The track crosses the river a number of times, also with considerable travel up the river as well. The river was shallow with the occasional side creek waterfalling to meet it. There were lots of birds, little sign of possums and the forest sported an interesting variety of plants including lots of climbing vines.

It took us 2 hours to reach Waiorongomai Hut and the track into it from the river was obscured. We had to look for the gap in the bushes at the right spot on the map. The tired, old 4-berth hut is nevertheless, clean and tidy. A faint track heads up river, from the hut, through the forest to reach the Waiorongomai River-Oreore Stream forks from where one can climb up to Waiorongomai Saddle and drop down into the Orongorongo River



Above: Aranga Hut in the snow (Photo: Adam Matich).

which wanders towards the coast past the Catchpool road end. There is a 38-metre waterfall to view on the way up to the saddle.

A 5-hour day saw us back at the van to make our way down to the Lake Ferry campground where we had a properly excessive BBQ before a sleepless night. It was very windy and it was hard to sleep while waiting for the tent to blow down. Hmm! Perhaps we should have camped at the Waiorongomai car-park. Fortunately, the wind started to wander off by morning and so after a "cooked" breakfast, rarely enjoyed by trampers, we vainly beach combed for debris from shipwrecks. We had to make do with viewing the coastal flowering plants and the huge amount of driftwood. Gary got entertainment from playing fetch with Jemma until she was nearly drowned in the very strong under-

tow, which curtailed that activity slightly. After our morning exercise we headed on back to the Carterton bakery for lunch and on home.

We were Ade, Jordy and Michael Beech, Bev Akers, Gary Bevins, Mark Learmonth, Adam Matich.

Sentry Box-Aranga-Upper Makaroro Loop **4-5th December**

by Adam Matich

Sentry Box Hut – Aranga Hut (3½ hr) – Totara Spur (3¾ hr incl. 1 hr for 2nd lunch) – Upper Makaroro Hut (1½ hr). Upper Makaroro Hut – Up River (1 hr) – Up the old track (4¼ hr) – Sentry Box (3 hr)

Due to seasonal wet weather Jean's planned trip down the Waingawa River was relocated. We spent Friday night at Sentry Box (4 berth), which is only a few minutes from

Mangleton Road. An early start the next morning saw an initially steep climb up the spur to reach the main ridge after a 1¾ hr climb. Travel North along the tops was easy going and it was not until we passed the turn off to Pohatuhaha Trig that the quality of the track declined, but not enough to cause difficulty. We reached Aranga Hut for first lunch at 11:20 am. Aranga Hut is a bit of a dive these days, it needs some renovations, but it still provides shelter for the desperate.

After lunch we headed in a westerly direction across the poled, grassy, rolling tops to pass the trig (1406 m) and 90 min beyond Aranga we found a nice sheltered spot in the sun for a long second lunch. On this section of the tops we enjoyed uninterrupted views along the range and across to Ruahine Corner. Brian and Lance seemed eager to do the track

finding so trip leader and Adam had the responsibility of wandering on behind enjoying the sights. Because the route between Aranga hut and Totara Spur is not very heavily used it is not wheel-chair grade, although it is not difficult either. We reached the top of Totara Spur at around 3:30 pm to admire some more views and the tarns on the broad flat tops. Lance and Brian took the > 1hr round trip to visit Kylie Bivouac while Jean and Adam dropped down to Upper Makaroro Hut (4-bunk) to claim the best beds (9½ hr day) and guiltily eat all the nibbles before the other two turned up an hour or so later. Upper Makaroro Hut has had a paint and tidy up recently, as have Kylie Bivouac and the track down Totara Spur.

A Hunter arrived at the hut at about 9 pm after having gutted out a couple of deer he had shot about 10 minutes down river of the hut. There was lake a couple of hours downstream from the hut, which was formed by a slip. When river levels were up it required either a 60 m swim or a climb out of the river into a side stream, which runs back into the river below the lake. There is a sign at upper Makaroro Hut indicating that only experienced trampers should use the river route.



Above: Heading up to Totara Spur (Photo: Adam Matich).

The Hunter informed us that the slip has now been washed away and the lake drained, so a swim is no longer necessary. As we had already filled up the sleeping space in the hut he had to sleep on the floor.

It rained lightly from midnight, so it was a damp 1-hr of travel up river the next morning to pick up the base of a spur up to the tops near the trig we had passed the day before. According to the hunter the track up this spur has not been maintained for in excess of 10 years. The track is messy in places and all of the track markers are gone. There are blazes on trees and in sections someone has cut saplings, but travel down the spur might be very challenging even though travel up wasn't too bad. There was no proper bush bashing, but travel was slow, as we had to wind our way around windfalls and through thickets of saplings.

About 200 m below the top we found ourselves in snow, and after winding our way through the final leatherwood belt we found ourselves in about 4 inches depth, with more coming down. We had all of our clothes on by now and some of us were on our third pair of dry gloves. After a necessarily short readjustment of clothing (for some)

we headed off towards the shelter of Aranga Hut. Jean seemed to want to take lots of photos of the "pretty snow". The rest of us just wanted the shelter of the hut so she was in danger of being abandoned to die alone in the snow if she mooned around too much. It was too cold to hang around playing amateur photographer.

We had lunch and a boil-up at Aranga Hut which was now covered in snow and made our way back out through sentry box through the snow on the tops for most of the way (9 hour day). In contrast the Northern Hawkes Bay was dry and sunny and it wasn't until we approached Dannevirke that we again enjoyed cold, wet weather. We were Jean Garman (trip leader), Lance Gray (PNTMC), Brian Webster, and Adam Matich.

Oturere Hut 4-5th December

by Doug McNeur
The plan was that this would be a leisurely cruise around Mt Ngaurahoe including the world renown Great Crossing. And so it was, mostly...

We left Palmy at a respectable hour of the day and wandered up to the car park at the Whakapapa Cha-teau. There were clouds around but they weren't doing much in the way of being threatening so we ambled along the path to the Lower Tama Lake where we had lunch. The clouds were still coming and going as we went around the upper Tama Lake and cross country to Oturere hut. The late afternoon was mainly wonderful and I even managed to get a bit of sunburn. It took us about 6½ hours to get to the hut and it took another couple of people 9½ hours to do the same trip using the track via Waihohonu so the shortcut is well worth it and it's lovely scenery. The weather started crapping out in the late evening and got progressively worse during the night.

The small bit of snow that had been clustered around the top of Ngaurahoe had been kind enough to come down to the bush level and cover

the ground for an inch or so. Quite impressive for December I thought. The cloud was obviously proud of its handiwork so was hanging around admiring it so views were reasonably restricted. This was especially the case once we got up to the Emerald Lakes as the wind also wanted to play so was cheerfully blowing the loose snow into our faces. All very jolly refreshing really. The 200m visibility we had in the picturesque Oturere valley closed down to about 5-10m as we went over the top and down to South Crater so we didn't get to see anything much at all. That was a pity as it's always worth looking at and Mike had never been there before. It being a Great Walk, it also had several foreign tourists there complete with things like sandshoes up in the snow. Several down by the hut had umbrellas. Nothing like being well equipped.

We had lunch at Mangatepopo hut where we were still getting snow flurries. We managed to persuade/con a couple to give Malcolm a ride back to the Chateau so he could get the car which meant that we

wouldn't have to do the relatively boring walk across that section. All in all, a good bit of exercise in a wonderful part of the world and with a bit of surprising weather just to make life interesting. Thanks to Mike Beech and Malcolm Thomas for coming wombling with me.

Wednesday Group: Xmas Trip 8th December

by David Newstead (The Pied Piper) Destination; Wellington East Harbour Regional Park.

Half a carriage of us (21), plus the regulars, pulled out of PN railway station on the "Capital Connection" at 6:18, through showers, passing brooding black clouds on the hills to the east, a chatty trip, we arrived 2 h later in Wellington. Some headed for the Astoria Cafe (Lambton Sq) for breakfast, while the shopping addicts did their thing. On arriving at the Queens Warf harbour-ferry terminal, shortly before the appointed assembly time of 9:30 -CONSTERNATION! - the 10:00 ferry is book out with 100 school children, the next not until noon (The PP slipped up there, forgot the

end of term didn't he). The party had unravelled, every which way: no problem in the forest, no problem in the mountains, but in the city?! (or so it seemed). However, no cause for alarm, they all proved to be sensible, streetwise people, so we all arrived at the bus centre for the 10:05 Eastbourne bus (having booked on the return ferry for 3:15), and arrived at Days Bay only half an our late, having had a scenic bus tour as a bonus.

By 10:10 we were climbing gently through mixed beech and rata forest, along the gully from the Duck Pond in Williams Park. The climb is not gentle for long, shortly it turns to a steep slog up the next 250 m to the top of the ridge - numerous stops (to admire the view). Actually, about half way up there was a magnificent view back over a calm, blue sunlit harbour, the city and heads softened by a slight haze; this from a Wahine-storm clearing, complete with park bench. From here on up the trees are younger, a legacy of fires along the dry tops. Turning north on reaching the ridge-top we



Above: Top of Totara Spur (Photo: Adam Matich).



Above: In the snow at the top of the unmaintained track (Photo: Adam Matich).

plod along the track (well formed and in good condition) undulating up to the maximum height of about 320 m, with occasional glimpses through the trees, across Gollans Valley and the low range beyond to the southern Rimutakas. Shortly the beech gives way young kamahi until eventually we reach the lunch stop, under the trees with attendant tui and pigeon. After a (light) lunch we leave the main ridge track which goes on to Wainuiomata, and descend the "Ferry Rd" track, 30 min, back to Days Bay, a leisurely 3 h round trip. Then through the village, past the Wellesley College (a tidy, impressive, old wooden building) and back to Williams Park where we scatter severally to forage for the main (late) lunch, in the park kiosk, the cafe, (and the gift shop) and beyond. We shared the 3:15 harbour ferry with boys from Wellesley College, and other day-trippers across a sparkling calm blue harbour, picking up of a sun-browned family group from Matui (Somes) Is on the way, and a jolly crew we all made too.

The shoppers scattered on berthing, while the remaining third of the party (8 of us) kept an appointment with the little story teller, in the Museum of City and Sea (the old Queens Warf Bond Store) to learn about Whetaitai and Naki and how they made Wellington Harbour, Barrett's Reef and the Miramar Peninsular - "A Millennium Ago". (If you want to know more, you must take your children and grandchildren, and see for yourselves). Being early birds at the station we all got seats in "our" carriage and after a jolly trip through a now sunlit landscape we

were home at 7:30 as the sun was setting.

Top Maropea Hut 12th December

by Gary Bevins

One of the last trips of the year which involved all grades. Some stopped at Sunrise because of the wind and rain. But a brave (stupid?) five continued onto Top Maropea in marginal conditions all for four of them to bag another hut. Mac (Garry G) led the way; Clive cruised along in his running shoes; Tumbleweed (Mike) managed to stay on his feet helped along by steady Dave while Gary and Jemma were tail-end charlies. We were: Mike Beech, Neil Campbell, Dave Mitchell, Garry Grayson, Clive Baxter, Jill Chapman, Helen Davidson, Gary Bevins, Bev Akers, Jill and Nigel Spencer, and Anne Green.

Oz's Track 16th January

by Jan Watts

Excerpt from a trampers diary.

Woke up early to another fantastic Manawatu morning. Yes! Left town about 8.30 a.m. and drove to the Pipe Bridge road end east of Levin. Got geared up and set out over farmland towards the river and the mythical Oz's track. Still plenty of mud around – bit of a challenge to those in trainers (we booted ones sloshed on through). Quite a few options today – go as far as the river and return, go to the end of Oz's track and return, go up the track and back down the river. So many decisions to make so early in the day! River still a bit 'milky' - evidence of the flood last weekend obvious to the feisty four who chose the 'Oz's track and back down the river' option. Stayed in the water most of the way down – fine gravel made the river walking pretty easy compared to previous trips, and cool too. Great day! Group members were: Lesley and Briony Findlay, Barbara Norris, Jeanette Gibbs, Michael Harford, Lee Chin, Hannah Parkinson, Jan and Allan Watts.

wednesday & thursday trampers



16th Dec (Thu) Panatewaewae Track

Leader: Graham Pritchard (10 trampers)

Our second (unsuccessful) attempt to explore the old overgrown ridge track to Panatewaewae from the Waikawa Valley. We followed the old logging track as far as point 527 (usually a great view) but rain and poor visibility discouraged any further exploration. So we retreated to the Waikawa picnic shelter to share our Christmas goodies. A GPS trace revealed that the logging track follows quite a different route from that marked on the topo map.

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 or phone (06) 354-3536.

For Sale

Howard's Bargain Basement

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

Wanted to Buy: Child carrier back pack, Phone Garry Grayson, Evenings (06) 353 3117.

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.



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

Newsletter Editor	Wei-Hang Chua	021 212 0369
-------------------	---------------	--------------

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, 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.