

post: P.O. Box 245, Palmerston North  
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## Upcoming club nights

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



### 5th July – 'Pusher' from Dusted Vision Films

A DVD on downhill mountain biking in New Zealand and Europe by Byron Scott and Mike Hill. This DVD would be New Zealand's top mountain biking film capturing the skill and thrill of what downhill mountain biking is all about. A night not to be missed for those of you with an interest in two wheeled pursuits or adrenaline junkies.



### 19th July – Stewart Island Experiences

In April, a group of club members staged a trip down to our southern most and youngest national park. They covered the northern and southern circuits so should have more than enough stories to answer all your questions. Definitely a club night you don't want to miss if you want to hear about one of the more remote parts of New Zealand.



### 2nd August – Outward Bound

Have you ever been interested in the Outward Bound movement? **Darlene Westrupp** will be speaking to us about her experiences on the course in March. The three week course is held in Anakiwa in the Marlborough Sounds. The course encompasses a wide range of activities including sailing, tramping, kayaking, rock climbing, to name a few. Come along if you want to find out about this course.

## Keeping me busy...

Wow! What a weekend it has been putting this last newsletter together. This issue contains no less than 21 trip previews and 14 trip reports of varying sizes. Looks like everyone has been out there making the most the tracks we have rain or shine.

I hope you are all keeping warm out in the cold and wet weather. Taking part in one of the winter training trips is highly recommended for your safety and enjoyment out there this winter.

Safe travels,  
Wei-Hang Chua (Newsletter Ed.)

## Where we've been...



Above: Thursday Trampers having a cuppa at Te Ekaou hut on Merv Matthews Forks Hut trip (Photo: Christine Allardice).

# Club notices

## President's Report

by Christine Scott

At the last committee meeting we had two members of the Massey Alpine Club come to our meeting - Geoff Walker (President) and Sara Scott (Environmental Officer). MUAC have over 200 members in their club with over 60% of them being international students (mainly European and American) - many of them here for only a couple of months. It was interesting to hear how they deal with large numbers of people wanting to come on trips with little or no gear - a problem we don't have to deal with too often.

In contrast to us their weekend trips are more popular than their day trips with up to 20 people going on them. Many of these are instructional weekends. Maybe it has something to do with the social nature of nights away together where a 3am bed time is not unusual!! It is great to see their enthusiasm and commitment to the outdoors.

Christine Scott

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

## Chief Guide's End of Trail

by Dave Mitchell

I have cobbled something together for the chief guide's contribution, we will see how it goes. I have taken over the chief guide's role from Gary, I will try and stay the full 12 months this time, but you never know when I may get the call to go south again.

Back in the late 70's I was chief guide and the most noticeable thing between then and now is the wide variety of trips that now run every month. The skill level and technology is far greater, with trips going to places we never visited back in the 70's. People on trips still have to be prepared for adverse conditions though, like the Tararua trip on Anzac weekend. Having the right gear is always important i.e. full storm gear, goggles and good gloves. Having a GPS was very useful as it turned out.

In the coming months there are some good alpine activities coming up like the alpine instruction courses, ski trips and some alpine climbing/skiing trips in addition to the tramping trips. There is plenty to keep everyone interested so I will see you out there whether you are tramping, skiing or climbing.

## New Club Members

The club welcomes the following new members: Ryan Badger (PN) and Ian Pellow (PN)

## Advanced Notice - It's Winter!

by Howard Nicholson

The snow is near! If you are venturing above the bush-

line, then you will need to be prepared for the conditions. MTSC runs a series of courses each year covering various aspects of snowcraft, such as walking on snow, keeping yourself and the rest of your party safe even if your day goes pear-shaped, shelters, avalanche awareness, etc.

The first course on 15-17 July is for everyone who tramps or ventures to the mountains in Winter. For people who wish to have an introduction to mountaineering techniques there is the Intermediate Snowcraft trip on 5-7 August, and Advanced Snowcraft on 26-28 August. There are other opportunities to use these skills, such as snow camping on Tongariro, ski touring and a Ruapehu climb/ski, so see the tripcard and newsletters for more details.

## Avalanche Awareness

by Howard Nicholson

Anyone who skis "off piste" (away from the patrolled skifield), ventures into the mountains in Winter, or intends to do any trans-alpine tramping needs to be aware of avalanches. I want to organize an avalanche awareness course for the club, using a professional instructor, but first I need to know how much interest there is within the club. The content will be similar to the Mountain Safety Council courses, but may be subsidized to some degree by the Club's training and development fund.

A tentative date is one day during the weekend of 27-28 August. The course would form part of the Alpine Instruction Course III, but will be open to anyone with an interest in snowcraft. The Mountain Safety Council

provides avalanche forecasts for Mt. Ruapehu and other areas. See <http://www.avalanche.net.nz/> for details.

I need to know as soon as possible whether there is enough interest – please contact me NOW if you are keen. Email: [hnicholson@xtra.co.nz](mailto:hnicholson@xtra.co.nz) or phone (06)357 6325.

### Access to Kelly Knight Hut

From June 1, those seeking access to Kelly Knight Hut through Kohunui Station should contact Tim Hopkins on (027) 490 5904, and not as given in the June newsletter.



## Upcoming trips

### TRIP GRADING

The times listed below include tramping, rest and meal stops. In assessing the trip times and grades, terrain, weather and party fitness (a party is as fast as its slowest member) must be considered. As these factors will never repeat themselves, times are only estimates. *Contact the trip leader if you are unsure about trip gradings for a specific trip.*

**ALL:** All welcome

**EASY:** 4 hours per day, pace slower than E/M. Does not relate to terrain.

**EASY/MEDIUM:** 5 hours per day at a pace slower than medium.

**MEDIUM:** 7 hours per day at a standard walking pace.

**MEDIUM/FIT:** 8 hours per day at a pace faster than medium.

**FIT:** Over 8 hours per day at a pace faster than medium/fit.

**TECHNICAL:** Qualifying requirements to be announced by Trip Organiser.

### Thursday Day Trip

**30 June** Easy-Medium  
**Peter Carver** 354-4479

### Shopping in Wellington

**2 July** All/Technical  
**Adam Matich** 359-2796

This trip into the wilds of Wellington has a couple of technical requirements. You will need a credit card, which is not over its credit limit, and both the knowledge of how and the courage with which to use it with gay (in the old sense of the word) abandon. Otherwise your shopping trip will be a waste of time and I, for one, will make fun of you.

In line with the trend towards safety hysteria, I should feel it incumbent on me to point out some of the hazards associated with this trip. Unfortunately, I believe that that you are old enough to look after your own well-being and so will resist being patronising....about this matter. So you are on your own. Although I will endeavour not to crash the van... if I am in it.

We will leave 798 Main St around 7:30 a.m. and see if we can manage a quick, low-brow McDonald's breakfast in Paraparaumu, or thereabouts, before rushing on down to Wellington for our big spendup. We will head back up to Palmerston North at around 4 pm so people will be home in time for the news.

### Tokomaru Headwaters

**3 July** Easy/Medium  
**Gary Bevins** 325-8879

We start walking from Scotts Road. An uphill section leads to a ridge which we follow down to the Tokomaru River. We follow the Tokomaru River until we hit Burton's Track. This follows the Tokomaru River until we exit at the headwaters and Tokomaru Valley Road. If you are interested, I would appreciate notice of at least five days before the trip to arrange transport.

### Wednesday Day Trip

**6 July** Easy  
**Sue & Lawson Pither** 357-3033  
Phone for details.

### Thursday Day Trip

**7 July** Easy-Medium  
**Harry & Chris Allardice** 323-4390

The tramp is in the National Park off the Desert Road. We intend going to Waihohonu Hut and visiting the old Waihohonu Hut also the Ohinepongo Springs the source of Ahinepongo River.

### Cow Creek Hut

**9-10 July** Easy/Medium  
**Doug McNeur** 359-1893

Cow Creek is a lovely little hut on the Eastern side of the Tararua ranges. The track doesn't go above the



Below: Anyone for a spot of breakfast? (Waikaramoana Trip; Photo: Garry Grayson).



bushline and the only river crossing has a wonderful bridge which makes it easy to get to. There is good camping there if you like and we can also do a side trip to include Blue Range hut so you get two huts in one weekend! So if you want to blow away some winter blues or just find out what weekend tramping is about, call me.

### **Colenso Trig**

**10 July**                      **Easy/Medium**  
**Neville Gray**                **357-2768**  
 Phone for details.

### **Thursday Day Trip**

**14 July**                      **Easy-Medium**  
**Carolyn Brodie**                **358-6576**  
 Phone for details.

### **Basic Snowcraft**

**15-17 July**                  **All Welcome**  
**Hilary Hurst**                    **354-6380**

[hilary\\_hurst@xtra.co.nz](mailto:hilary_hurst@xtra.co.nz)

**Sam Johnson**                **358 6487**

Picture yourself on the tops. The weather is clear and crisp. You can see for miles. Actually you would like to keep going for miles. But... there is snow all around and the ground is icy. What if you go on and can't get back? What if you slip over and the tops become just a memory far above you. What if you would just like to go a wee bit further, but your boots just won't hold on to the snow.

It need not be like this. Come along to Sam & Hilary's Snowcraft (alpine 1) course at the Manawatu Lodge on Whakapapa. Here we will introduce you to ice axes, crampons, walking in snow and a wee bit of awareness of avalanche safety and shelter building. (In case you'd like to spend a night out sometime) No doubt there will also be good food and good company as well.

The Plan: head up to the lodge from the Police Station around 6 p.m. There is a bit of a walk from the car park to the lodge so have a torch handy. It should take around 15-20 min. We will spend a bit of time fitting crampons to boots in case we need them, then Saturday we will make our way out and about – practicing walking in snow, using



Above: Diggers Hut (Photo: Jean Garman).

the ice axe, and maybe crampons... Sunday we will spend a bit of time on more general stuff and shelter building. But that depends pretty much on who you are, what you want and the weather and snow conditions.

Suitable for: Winter tramping | Back-country skiing | Intro to mountaineering | No experience required

Planning to cover: Walking in snow | Crampons | Ice axes | Navigation | Weather | Transceivers | Shelters

We will organize transport, accommodation, ice axes, crampons and helmets and we will give you a gear list as you will need to bring some warm clothes and sturdy boots. We will be picking up the gear (ice axes, crampons, helmets) during the week prior, and also space in the lodge is limited so book now to avoid disappointment. I think there is a beginner's ski weekend the same weekend

### **Beginners Ski Weekend**

**15-17 July**                      **Easy**  
**Doug Pringle**                    **358-3319**

### **Totara Flats Hut**

**16-17 July**                      **Easy/Medium**  
**John Beech**                      **354-9310**

The Totara Flats trip will probably be

the usual route from the Mt Holdsworth road end and walking up the Gentle Annie track then down to Totara creek and along to the flats. Will leave the Police station at 8am. The trip takes about 4-4.5 hr.

### **Wednesday Day Trip**

**20 July**                              **Easy**  
**Lorraine Green**                **354-6158**  
 Phone for details.

### **Thursday Day Trip**

**21 July**                              **Easy-Medium**  
**Merv Matthews**                **357-2858**  
 Phone for details.

### **Ski and/or Climb Ruapehu**

**23-24 July**                      **Medium/Technical**  
**Peter Rawlins**                    **356-7443**

The club recently purchased some ski touring gear. This weekend will be an opportunity for those people who would like to find out how much fun ski touring is to have a bit of a go. In addition to the ski touring it is also an opportunity for those people who went on the basic snowcraft course to use their skills to climb to the top as well. I am happy to act as a guide for both groups.

We only have two sets of touring gear so what we do will depend on how many people want to try out the gear and which lifts are open on the mountain. It would be great

if the far west T was open because it only takes about 35 to 45 min to climb to the top from there. We could have a roster where people could ski on the field for a time and then come along to have the gear fitted and then off we go. The great thing about this weekend is that we can do it even if the lifts aren't operating. Get in quick as space is limited.

### **Sunrise Hut**

**24 July** **Easy**  
**John Gee-Taylor** **323-2087**  
 Phone for details.

### **Thursday Day Trip**

**28 July** **Easy-Medium**  
**Ann Green** **06 374-5208**  
 Phone for details.

### **Waitewaewae Hut**

**30-31 July** **Easy/Medium**  
**Tony Evans** **357-4355**  
 Across the new swing bridge at Otaki Forks, across the terrace to the bridge over the Otaki River, the track meanders along old logging tramways, past the old log hauler and follows Saddle Creek up to the Waitewaewae Plateau and on until the track meets the Otaki River again. There we find the hut and make ourselves comfortable for the

night and wander back again on Sunday. A cruisy winter walk with no river crossings and very little uphill walking, the highest point on the track being 530 m.

### **Family Ski Weekend**

**30-31 July** **Family**  
**Ken & Mary Mercer** **356-7497**  
 This is a winning weekend, no matter the weather. Hopefully we'll have a brilliantly fine day on crisp winter snow. Staying at the lodge means we can stroll over to the chair lifts ahead of most of the crowds.

If the weather doesn't cooperate you can still take your family out for a while then retreat indoors to warm up and relax. Come on up and enjoy a great weekend!

### **Cone Hut**

**31 July** **Easy/Medium**  
**Mark Street** **353-7442**  
 Cone Hut is a two hour easy tramp in from Wall's Whare in the south-eastern Tararuas. We head west between Carterton and greytown finishing up at the end of the Waiohine Gorge Road (Wall's Whare site). The track starts with the wire bridge crossing of the Waiohine River then ascends reasonably fast

for 30 min before a more gentle rate of ascent prevails. The total climb is 500 m. After that it is gently going before the descent down to the historic slab hut.

An alternative return could take us up to Cone Saddle which would add another 20 min but not extra climbing onto the return journey. Departure time from P N would be 7:30 a.m. Total tramping time 5-6 hr.

### **Tongariro Snow Camp**

**12-14 Aug** **Technical**  
**Howard Nicholson** **357-6325**  
 Finding it too hot to sleep at night in your centrally heated house? If the answer is yes, then I have the trip for you! The idea is to take some shovels, maybe a tent, some energy and a few alpine skills to Mt. Tongariro and camp out for the night.

Assuming there is enough snow, we will snow cave in one of the craters overnight, and if people are keen we can have a crack at Ngauruhoe the following day. Basic snowcraft skills to the level of Alpine Instruction Course I are a prerequisite.

### **Totara-Sayers Loop**

**10-11 Sept** **Medium/Adventure**  
**Adam Matich** **359-2796**  
 This trip starts at the Mangatarere Valley Road which is the next one south of the Holdsworth road end. The intention is to climb up the spur as if heading to Sayers Hut, but slightly before reaching the ridge-top we will veer north, on an old track system, to bump 768 and then north-west down a spur to the confluence of Totara Creek and the Waiohine River.

This track is no longer maintained by DoC but appears to receive attention from other quarters. From the confluence we will make our way to Totara Flats hut for the night. Next day we make our way back to Mangatarere Valley Road via Sayers Hut. If the river is low we will cross by the hut, otherwise we will cross at the bridge and bash our way down river to Sayers as best we can.



Above: Early morning start at Doughboy Bay (Stewart Island; Photo: Wei-Hang Chua). Attend the club night on the 19th July to hear the Stewart Is. experiences of others.





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!*

### **Deadmans Track 12th May (Thu)**

by Keith Fisher

We left the van at the Rangī car park at 9:00 a.m. under cloudy conditions and by the time we had reached the bush line we were into cloudy mist. We lunched at the base of Manga-huia. Due to the poor visibility and resulting lack of views we opted out of the completing the loop track via Rangīwahia and retraced our steps to the car park arriving back at 2:20 p.m. There were seven of us in the van although three from Feilding had set off earlier and we had met them coming down near the top of the Whanahua Range.

### **Wooden Peg trig 19th May (Thu)**

by Tony Evans  
(14 Trampers)

With awful weather preceding the trip and more forecast for the day the destination was Purity Hut and maybe beyond. Leaving Mangakukeke Road end (Kawhatau Valley) about 9 a.m. and uphill to Purity Hut, an older 3 bunk hut due to be replaced soon. On to Wooden Peg trig and lunch in beautiful weather, good views with not even enough wind to fly a kite, a leisurely stroll back to the road and home again.

### **Leon Kinvig Hut 21-22nd May**

by Garry Grayson.

Destined for Kasmir road end in

the eastern Ruahines, four of us set off by car into misty and overcast conditions, a slight deviation from that being forecast, i.e. Sunday was supposed to be THE WET day. Following a short smoko stop in Dannevirke and a slight 'overshoot' of the turnoff into Ashley Clinton Road, we soon reached the park boundary and eventually 'that steepish hill', which, if you don't have 4wd, can be tricky due to deep rutting and loose metal. With only front wheel drive and loaded up with four people & packs, the trusty Corona soon slipped into a rut and refused to move any further. A gentle shove by three passengers soon got us to the top, continuing on to reach Kashmir Road end by 9:15 a.m.

With Longview Hut in sight, a steady pace up the hill saw us in the saddle area near the Pohangina head-waters in 1hr. A small trickle from the hillside was where one branch of the Poh' commenced it's journey, so this seemed the right place to begin, pushing under a few over-hanging leatherwoods and tussocks, the route here was quite easy going.

Continuing on down-stream, a couple of scrambles down rocky water courses, then a sudden halt

at a rather large waterfall, with a 10 m drop into a shallow pool at the bottom flanked by steep rock walls either side, saw us considering our options. To the TR of the fall was a route requiring a bit of a scramble initially then becoming somewhat easier once secure hand grips were gained on scrub out-crops (there is apparently a sidle route over the 'knob' on the TR of this fall, starts further back upstream – we missed it!).

About 11:45 a.m. Top Gorge Hut was spotted and a 'brew up' for lunch was the order. This hut has a concrete floor, two bunks and a rather vintage looking hut book, which dates back many years. Appetites satisfied, it was back into the river for the remaining 3-4 hr to Leon Kinvig. From here on the pools became a 'tad' deeper and soon a sidle on the TR is required to get around a gorge area, this sidle is well marked with venetian blind strips, (Peter's older map shows this sidle on the TL).

After 3 hr and without any major mishaps we rounded the last bend to find a plume of smoke drifting across the river from the hut, we were not alone! Upon arrival there seemed to be people everywhere, in fact, another nine to be exact. A



Above: Gearing up at Leon Kinvig Hut (Photo: Garry Grayson).

group from Napier tramping club, three Duke of Ed' girls doing their bit, and also their two 'shadows'. Options for our bedding requirements were considered, um', camp under a fly (no flat ground), put fly up along deck area and sleep on deck, (maybe!), but there's a fire inside! - perhaps we could sneak in after dark! In the meantime tea was prepared and cooked out on the deck while being entertained by two blue ducks splashing around in the river next to the hut. After tea a bit of reshuffling saw 1 bunk space become available, and the remaining three would sleep on the floor, (cosy!).

Next morning, 8:15 a.m. start, it was off up the 500 m climb towards the Ngamoko road end turnoff, the first 300 m or so of this route from the hut is steepish going on a track that could do with a little attention (DOC), once the ridge is gained, the track on from the Ngamoko sign is wide and well trimmed. The sign post to Ngamoko reached in 1hr, we continue on along the tops toward Rocky Knob and Longview passing both signposted drop-off points down to Makaretu Hut, and catching some great views of Ngamoko Range in between passing 'clag' clouds.

By 12:15 a.m. Longview was reached for a lunch stop and the long awaited arrival of cold wind and rain, time for another brew using the hut gas facilities was enjoyed after which it was out to brave the wet and cold and finally the descend to the car park, accomplished in 50 min. Back via Dannevirke for warm food and coffee's. We were Garry Grayson, Peter Rawlins, Dave Mitchell and Alyn Higgins.

### **Toka**

#### **22nd May**

by Rod McKenzie

We arrived at the car park to a high overcast and no wind. The climb to Toka (3.5 hr) was relatively straight forward, although the wind from the northwest started to increase as we reached the crest of the range.

As we sat down for lunch just over the summit, a squall came through - time to put on parkas and eat quickly as it was a little chilly. Half way through our sandwiches a member of the party called out "Look at that!" and there, not 10 m away, was a deer bounding through the tussock. We were able to watch it for a couple of minutes as it headed to the west side of the range. Perhaps he was trying to get out of the cold wind as well!

We chose to complete the loop as the wind was at our backs, and we were rewarded with the rain stopping as we reached the bush line. The rain held off, catching us just as we were changing and getting back into the van for the return journey.

We were: Royce Mills, Darlene Westrupp, Allan Rae, Michael Beech, Neville Gray, Alan Cameron, and Rod McKenzie.

### **Hemi Matenga-Waikanae**

#### **25th May (Wed)**

Leader: Rosemary Hall  
(22 trampers)

### **Toka Loop**

#### **26th May (Thu)**

Leader: Ken Rush  
(13 trampers)  
Up Knight's Track (Northern route) and down Short's Track (6-7 hr).

### **Bell Track (Mt Pirongia)**

#### **28-29th May**

by Adam Matich

It is a solid five hour drive to Mt Pirongia, which is over near Te Awamutu, and so we were fortunate to get a night's accommodation on a dairy farm, in Pirongia. It is a matter of who you know. We had an early start on the Nikau Track, which is reached via the Lime Works Loop Road. We were hoping to find the Bell Track, but it never turned up and we eventually found ourselves on the Tahunui Track on which we intended to return the following day. Oh, well. Doesn't matter. The Tahunui Track was good travel, and entertainment was provided by the thunder and lightning overhead. Unfortunately, we didn't have very much rain, and so were reasonably dry after a three hour slog to the track intersection at the top. It was windy up there and visibility was less than 50 m, so we didn't hang around admiring the view but headed on to the summit (959 m), an hour away and finally the hut about 15 min beyond that (4½ hour day). We had the hut all to ourselves.... but it was cold. The one shortcoming of Pahautea Hut is that it doesn't have a fire. We spent the afternoon huddled in our sleeping bags hoping our trip would end as happily as did



Above: Thursday trampers having lunch at Forks Hut (Photo: Christine Allardice).



the Shackleton expedition, and not parallel that of Scott.

The weather cleared and then clagged in again overnight, so it was misty again on Sunday when we started along the Bell Track. All we saw on our way across the tops to The Cone (945 m) was the mud. Which is fine if you like mud. The descent from The Cone was steep, initially, but soon leveled off to provide us with some choice swamp to wade through. We didn't have a hope in hell of keeping our feet dry. The Bell track seemed a lot longer than it needed to be. Instead of heading straight down the spur it seemed to wind around the place so that what looked like 4-5 h on the map took us 7 hr. As the day proceeded the rain came to meet us. On the lower sections of the track the rain was so heavy that the dog cringed with her tail between her legs and took shelter wherever she could. Down by Blue Bull Stream the track became a stream and we had to feel our way across the bridges over the small side streams because they were awash. All good fun. About 80 min from the road end was a 20 min side trip to the 66.5 m Kahikatea tree and another 25 min closer was a group of small caves. It was too wet and miserable for us to investigate them too closely.

Once back onto the Nikau track we discovered why we never found the Bell track the day before. The sign-posting is not good. To get to the Bell track it is necessary to go via the Nikau Track. Blue Bull Creek was so high, that another couple of inches would have seen the farmland inundated. We hot-footed it out of there before that happened, being eager to get a change of dry clothes, patronise the café in Pirongia and congratulate ourselves on another adventure without loss of life, limb or even the slightest touch of frost bite.

We were Gary Bevins, Bev Akers, Mark Learmonth, Adam Matich and Jemma who displayed the most common sense.

### Waipawa Forks

**29th May**

by Christine Scott

A bit of a dismal forecast didn't prevent seven people from setting off to the Ruahines to visit Waipawa Forks Hut. Plan A was to head up the Sunrise Track, drop down into the Waipawa River and head up to the Waipawa Saddle. Plan A was rapidly abandoned after about 20min of heading up the Waipawa valley into driving rain (the weather had been clear up until then). The promise of a Club fly to have lunch under had no appeal and after 'viewing' Waipawa Saddle we headed back to Waipawa Forks Hut for lunch. (The river has now moved over to the true left of the valley so you can no longer head upstream without getting your feet wet). It was deemed too miserable to head down stream (despite the rain lifting) and too far to go up to Sunrise Hut, so we went back over the Sunrise track and did a quick loop round the Swamp track before heading back to PN in good time 'to get a few other chores done'.

We were: Harold Pedersen, Alla Seleznoyva, Rod McKenzie, Mike & John Beech, Alan Cameron and Christine Scott.

### Forks Hut

**2nd June (Thu)**

Leader: Neville Gray

(11 trampers)

Takes about 2 hr to the hut from the farm sheds.

### Lake Waikaremoana

**3-6th June**

by Garry Grayson

Being on the list of Great Walks of N.Z. pre booking of hut beds is required for this track. seven of us were secured bookings and set off early Friday afternoon on the 5 - 6 hr drive to Lake Waikaremoana Motor Camp where the first night would be spent. These trips must always include coffee stops, of course, the first being Greenmeadows (Napier) then on for dinner at Wairoa. After driving around clocking up unwanted km's in the bus looking for an elusive McDonalds branch, we had to settle for a Chinese 'help your self' deal which looked and tasted a bit marginal. The final 1 hr push to Waikare' saw us parked outside our cabins by 8:30 p.m.

Temperatures were a lot cooler at this 600 m lake level and we had been told of snow falls around the Panekiri Bluff area the previous day, a frost was on the cards. This proved correct the next morning when we



Above: The Waikaremoana team at Whanganui Hut (Photo: Garry Grayson).



awoke to find very heavy ground frost and iced up van windows. Our favourite tramping cereals were on the breakfast menu, of course, following which Darlene soon appeared from her cabin with a considerably lighter looking pack, trailed by Bev with a big grin holding a 5-6 kg bag of 'not needed' items she had raided from Darlene's pack.

The water taxi to the track start at Hopu-ruahine Landing, was booked for 9:00 a.m., just allowing time to retrieve our hut passes from the DOC base about 2 km up the road. Soon we were loaded, 9 trampers with packs and the skipper headed off towards Hopu-ruahine, no wonder he couldn't get that boat to lift up and 'plane' with this load of people, the little Volvo Penta just couldn't 'cut the mustard'.

Disembarking on frost covered rocks proved a little tricky but soon we were all safely off the boat and on the journey, first stop smoko at Whanganui Hut, 3/4hr away. Except for private land peninsula's, the track follows reasonably close to the lake edge all the way until Waiopaoa Hut leading up to Panekiri Bluff area and is a mixed bag of terrain types, good flattish areas, some rocky scrambles, and a few wettish/muddy patches. Next stop was Tapuaenui Campsite, an area with several acres fenced off for kiwi protection. We were met by a 'huffing', 'puffing' English tourist who was complaining of poor heating in the older huts we were planning to use, apparently 3 Doc guys had been unable to get a gas heater going at Panekiri Hut, likewise the heater at Marauti Hut would turn out to be the



Above: Exploring the shores of Waikaremoana (Photo: Garry Grayson).

same. This sounds all too common a complaint with the gas heaters DOC tends to use (Powell Hut is another example!).

Moving right along, our planned lunch stop, Waiharuru Hut soon came into view and Wow! what a Palace! 2 large structures, one a cooking house with bench space for many cooking groups - (somebody who's brain was apparently disengaged had already placed a cooker on the vinyl floor right below a perfectly good stainless top bench and burnt large holes in the floor covering), the other building was a 40 bunk sleeping facility, which, when full of 'snoring' trampers would surely create enough ground vibra-



Above: Mahauti Hut (Photo: Garry Grayson).

tions to bring down the Panekiri Bluffs!

By 4.00 p.m. we'd arrived at Marauti Hut (25 bunks) which was shared with five other trampers and four fishermen. Many attempts were made to get the 'reliable' gas heater running but no joy! Later in the evening when all but the fishermen had retired, there was an almighty 'crash' and we suspected they were venting their frustration by 'ripping' the heater from the wall,

but next morning only turned out to be a stool being knocked over. Sunday was to be a longish day (8 hr), so we were on the move by 7:30 a.m. for the first stop, Maraunui Campsite - 20 min, where we would burn all the rubbish from the day before. At this location is a Campsite Shelter, a DOC base station, and nestled in a corner in his own little camp was a possum eradication contractor who was not all that impressed about having to set up his own camp when there were unused DOC buildings nearby.

Korokoro Campsite was next target, about 3hrs away, passing by a couple of semi-permanent cottages en route, the track passes right through their property and we found the first displaying a nice bundle of five trout hanging near the door (very tempting!), the second cottage to our surprise had a satellite dish fixed above the roof, must have had a generator stashed somewhere as well. This section of the circuit was the most impressive, with lovely clear waters and coves, the occasional trout fishing boat cruising by in

'mill pond' conditions.

We arrived at Korokoro Campsite 11:00 a.m., here met a group of runners just been dropped off by boat intending to run to Marauti Hut and return I think. These Campsites are well set up, this one the nicest of all, there is a shelter at each site with old style hand water pumps and cooking benches with seating. Would no doubt be very popular in the peak season with boat access nearby. A short break then on in 50 min reaching another Waikaremoana 'Hilton', Waiopaoa Hut, this being the second large hut complex they have placed around the lake to cater for large numbers of people during peak periods (rumoured to have cost around \$400,000 for these two hut complexes!).

Unfortunately because access by water, etc is so easy, it must/would be impossible', without spot checks, for DOC to have any idea who is using these huts and/or who is 'paying'. There are Wardens during season but by DOC's own admission, some people claiming 'tight' budgets and that they have already 'paid' in their taxes, simply refuse to pay! This is unacceptable given that we willingly forked out \$270.00 for our group for huts with no cooking facilities and failed heating systems (\$20.00 per hut per night).

Anyway, that aside, Waiopaoa Hut is 30 bunk, has ample cooking areas and a WOOD BURNER, it was still not officially open when we passed but was already being used, in particular by a fishing/hunting group who had enough food supplies and cartons of 'grog' to last for many weeks.

Leaving Waiopaoa Hut around 1:00 p.m. for the 600 m steepish haul up to Panekiri Hut, 3 hr away, this was a steady climb through bush track at first, then up a series of wooden stepped structures once the bluff areas are reached. Once on the tops of the bluffs, it's 1-1/2 hr of 'up and down' terrain, which, at the end of the day tended to be a tad never-ending, all hoped that 'hut' would be just over the next rise.

Panekiri Hut (36 bunks), eventually came into view, occupied only by three kayaking 'buffs' who had left their boats at Waiopaoa, and gone high level up to this hut. Soon another five people arrived, these ones had been dropped off at the start of the track just ahead of us and we had tailed them most of the trip so far. To our amazement the heater was in fact going, bringing some hint of warmth to what would otherwise be a 'cold hole' - not unlike Kime Hut in winter. This hut sported a curved barn style roof which was lined inside and out with corrugated iron and had an unusual fixture up on one end wall which had everybody stumped as to what it was! - maybe a pigeon roost?

Snow still lay around the hut walls and in parts of the bush along the tops, hence the outside air temp' combined with a southerly breeze made it damn cold outside while trying to get cell phone reception standing on a 1 m spot which seemed the only place.

An exceptionally large meal was 'tabled' forcing second helpings by everyone, (where's Mike B. when you need him?) followed by a large array of chocolates, then off to our frozen bunk area for nap time.

Next morning was a bit overcast, we departed Panekiri 7:30 a.m. needing to be at Onepoto pick up point by 12 noon, but allowing for some photo shots from the lookout points along the way. The terrain leaving the hut for the first 1hr or so is similar to that of the previous afternoon, only one view point found but low cloud now filling the valley and lake area below making photo shots a non-event, soon light rain was also falling.

We therefore were making good time down towards the road end and would have arrived much too early if we hadn't of stumbled across a possum trappers line all the way down the ridge. He had set traps unusually close to the track and many of them contained trapped possums which were visible by those traveling this route down. Lucky our

resident hunter, Gary, was on hand to put these furry pests out of their misery, (about 6 - 8 all told).

At the track end is another well constructed shelter, where one can wait for Water Taxi pickup, ours arriving slightly ahead of booked time meaning we could get away a bit earlier home and also be gone before the other group of five arrived, who were also booked for 12:00 pickup.

Back at the Motor Camp car park we were pleased to see the van not burnt out by vandals, a change of clothing (showers for some), back to civilization and home, off course to include a coffee stop and snacks at our favourite Greenmeadows Café.

We were Garry Grayson (trip co-coordinator), Adam Matich, Bev Akers, Gary Bevins (possum executioner), Ian Pellow, Darlene Westrupp, and John Beech.

### **Irongate Gorge-Tunupo Track 8th June (Wed)**

by Anne Rush

There were 16 names for this tramp into the Oroua valley towards Irongate Gorge and then up Tunupo Track via the site of the former Heritage Hut. It was an eventful outing. One member lost her dog and didn't make it. Another member lost his way and waited patiently at the wrong terminus until retrieved and taken to the right track. A third member lost her pack and had to walk several extra kilometres to regain it in time for morning tea!

Between times we were entertained by the NZ Army which employed a large military helicopter to lower two soldiers down to the remains of Heritage Hut to collect into a large net the smokestained corrugated iron- about all that was left after the fire.

We watched in awe (and a ferocious downdraught) as the helicopter descended close to earth, the soldiers hooked the net on and the load was whisked away.

The rest of the trip was not so exciting but the Beech Forest was beautiful and well worth the effort



in walking the Tunupo Track. Colleen Newth was our leader.

### **Zeke's Hut-Hihitahi Forest 9th June (Thu)**

Leader: Gordon Clark  
(10 trampers)

### **Rimutaka Incline 12th June**

by Tim Swale

Sunday morning dawned dull and not at all promising for our walk on the Rimutaka Incline. Driving down through the Wairarapa, the windscreen wipers worked hard almost to Featherston and then miraculously the rain stopped and we could see blue sky above our starting point at Cross Creek.

The seven of us, Helen Davidson, Alla Seleznyova, Lynne and Tim Burgess, Clint Betteridge, Dan and Tim Swale set off up this historic

rail route that once linked the Wairarapa to Wellington. After half an hour following a narrow path beside the stream we arrived at Cross Creek station, where we joined the now disused railway line. A brief stop to look at the display of old photographs at the station and we were away up the track taking in long views of the Rimutaka hills and the surrounding bush. Although teams of special locomotives called "Fell engines" were needed to heave carriages up what in railways terms is a very steep line, we made quick progress upwards passing through the first tunnel before reaching Siberia Gulley. Here in 1880 a train was blown off the rails killing three people – but fortunately for us we had picked a relatively windless day. Onward then through another two tunnels, the final one almost 600 metres long to the Summit station and lunch.

There is a well maintained picnic area at the summit with more display panels, a collection of rusty boilers and many traces of the small settlement that once thrived here in the railway's heyday. This is indeed a very popular spot with walkers and mountain bikers. On our return journey we had to keep a sharp look out for bikers several of whom we met mid tunnel riding towards the distant speck of light at the other end with no lights on at all. Not a great idea - as Dan knows from a rather nasty crash in the lower tunnel on a previous trip "assumption is the mother of all stuff ups"! Nevertheless apart from a couple of quick exits from the track to let speeding mountain bikers through we all made it down safely and despite having to get out the waterproofs for the last three quarters of an hour of the walk we had a very enjoyable day out.



Above: One of the tunnels on the Rimutaka Incline (Photo: Tim Swale).

### **Cattle Ridge Hut 11-12th June**

by Tony Evans

We left Putara Road end shortly after 9 a.m. and headed up the track trying to ignore the cloud covered ridges ahead, turned left at the junction and down to the new Roaring Stag Lodge for lunch. This new hut is not due to be opened for another 10 days but only needs a few minor finishing touches, and what a great spacious hut, 12 bunks and plenty of room more on the floor and a verandah around two sides. Across the swing bridge over the Ruamahanga and a grunt up towards the clouds, by the time we reached Cattle Ridge Hut the clouds had kindly lifted a little giving us views out over the farmland and of Herepai Hut although Herepai and the top of Cattle Ridge were still covered. With a hot cuppa inside us we headed to the top of the ridge and looked toward Dundas which was well hidden by nasty looking blue/black clouds, a quick walk along the ridge in the clouds and with traces of snow on the ground to Pukeroa high point (1318 m) and the tarn which looked to small to earn a place on the map. Back to the hut soon after 4 p.m. and an early tea and into the sleeping bags early.

The morning brought lower cloud and light showers, we left the hut by 8:30 a.m. and had morning tea on the verandah at Roaring Stag in very pleasant conditions, up to the junction for a quick lunch (a bit colder there), and back to the road end by 1 p.m. We were Tony Evans and Michael Beech enjoying a good winter's walk.

# 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 2005-06 Committee

President	Christine Scott	354 0510
Secretary	Howard Nicholson	357 6325
Treasurer	Doug McNeur	359 1893
Chief Guide	Dave Mitchell	355 1798
Day Trip Convenor	<i>Vacant</i>	
Membership Sec.	Mark Street	353-7442 <a href="mailto:mtsc@inspire.net.nz">mtsc@inspire.net.nz</a>
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Social Convenor	Darlene Westrupp	354 5764
Ski Captain	Peter Rawlins	356 7443
Lodge Manager	Rob Pringle	355 9174
Lodge Booking Officers	Hugh & Liz Wilde	356 9450 <a href="mailto:wil deh@clear.net.nz">wil deh@clear.net.nz</a>
Mini-bus Manager	Neville Gray	357 2768
General Committee	Tony Evans	357 4355
	Ken Mercer	356 7497
	Tim Swale	06 376 6556

## 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 | [www.mtsc.org.nz](http://www.mtsc.org.nz)

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.

