



Newsletter of the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club

**November 2006
Issue 10**

mail:
MTSC
P.O. Box 245
Palmerston North

web:
www.mtsc.org.nz

Right:
Descending to the
Makaretu River
by Alla Seleznyova



Upcoming club nights

Intrepid Journeys+DoC+Christmas BBQ

7.30 pm, 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at the Manawatu Aero Club Rooms, Airport Drive

7th November - Intrepid journey to Vietnam and China

Darlene Westrupp left for Hanoi on the 24th of September and will end up in Beijing three weeks later. She is trekking through small villages, paddy fields, up and down mountains and of course two days on the “wall”. She is staying in basic local accommodation with three overnight train trips. She'll be traveling with Wendy Ross who will co-present the talk. This talk is perfect for all of those who are interested in Intrepid Journeys or looking at travelling to China or Vietnam.

21st November - DoC biodiversity work in the Ruahines

Department of Conservation Biodiversity Assets Ranger, Rebecca Lewis, will be speaking to us about the Departments work in the Ruahines. She will be focusing on rare plants and animals, namely blue ducks, snails, kiwi, *P. turneri*, mistletoe and briefly bats. The monitoring techniques and some of the results that we are getting will be discussed. Come along and hear what conservation work is happening in our backyard. (Photo: www.doc.govt.nz)

5th December - End of year club BBQ

The end of year BBQ is at the Aero Club rooms. Festivities along with the prize giving will begin at 6 p.m. The club will supply sausages, tomato sauce, bread, a small amount of wine and juice. Bring your own salads, drinks and other meat if you wish.



Change of email address: I have followed Howard's lead and changed my email address to mtsc.editor@xtra.co.nz to ease collection of club items in my inbox. Please use this in future.

President's Report

Lodge and hut work parties + Minibus

by Howard Nicholson

email mtsc.president@xtra.co.nz or phone (06) 357 6325

The new November-April trip card is here and it contains dozens of excuses to get out in the hills. Thank you to all of the leaders who have put their names down, and to the people involved with putting the card together.

Please give serious consideration to helping out on one of the upcoming Lodge or hut work parties. The maintenance season is relatively short, and there is a lot of work to be done this year. Costs are kept low by relying on your help, and the more people who help, the less each individual needs to do. No matter what your skill level, your input will be greatly appreciated. Lodge work parties will be notified in upcoming newsletters.

We are now getting serious about finding a replacement for the minibus. Please read the separate article, and pass any comments that you may have to me if you have not already done so. Happy tramping, Howard.

Chief Guide's Report

by Tony Evans

The new trip card will come out the same time as this newsletter. Thank you to all those who are leading trips, also to those who volunteered but found that someone had beaten them to the dates they wanted.

If the previews for the trips I am leading this month look familiar it is because they are recycled from the September newsletter. They did not go ahead then because of lack of support but with more daylight and hopefully some better weather there should be more boots heading into the hills.

Snow Stuff

by Ken Mercer (Ski Captain)

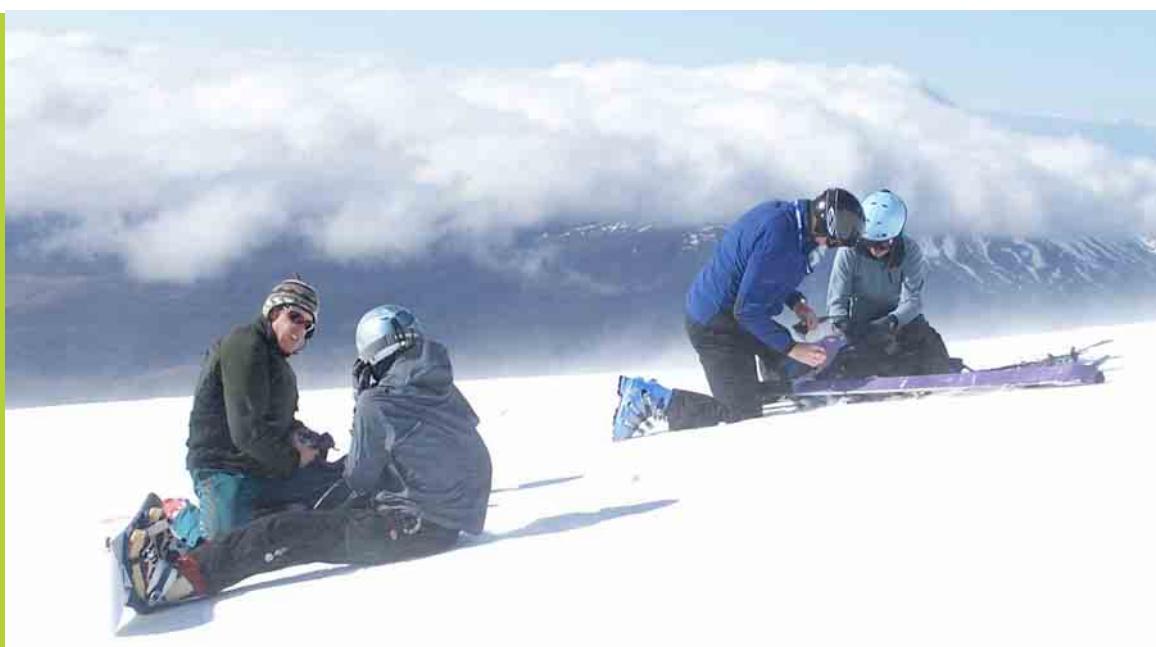
It's a sad time of year really. The daffodils have popped their heads up greeting the world. Day

light saving has arrived and the lawns keep growing. And (the bad part) the snow levels are dropping as northerlies bring warmth and rain.

Well, there is still plenty of snow. We enjoyed an exhausting weekend over the 7th and 8th October. The forecast was dicey: wind on Saturday, more wind and cloud on Sunday. As it happened we had clear blue skies both days, although it did rain overnight, the wind was acceptable and the queues were tiny.

Saturday afternoon, after the lifts closed, 5 MTSC members skinned and climbed above the Valley T bar to skyline ridge with the breeze at our backs. Preston gallantly strapped Mary's snowboard to his pack which had the effect of an aeroplane wing.

The ridge itself looks down on the pinnacles and is broad enough so we were able to stay well away from the lee edge. At this level the wind was strong enough to pick up skies and equipment and we were careful to secure everything whilst removing skins and organizing gear. As I had walked up I was free to take the pictures and enjoy the view.



Preston, Mary, Peter and Lynda fitting skis

Photo: Ken Mercer
(Mt Ruapehu |
7 October 2006)

Mary, Lynda,
Preston and
Peter climbing
above the val-
ley

Photo: Ken
Mercer
(Mt Ruapehu |
7 October 2006)



The snow at this level had not gone through any freeze/thaw cycles so was delightful to ski through as we descended towards the pinnacles and then down through the Valley. A little later we enjoyed fine food and good company back at the lodge.

Lodge Working Bee

by Ryan Badger

It's time for a working bee! After many years comfort and good times, the elements have taken their toll on the MTSC lodge at the top of the Bruce Road on Mt Ruapehu and it is well overdue for a bit of a do-up!

So in the first week or two of February 2007 we are planning a week long working bee. Items on the list of things to do include:

- 1) Re-roofing the locker and bunking portion of the lodge (which includes new building paper and insulation).
- 2) Re-line and paint inside of bunkrooms general tidy up in other areas of the lodge.

If you are keen to help out with any of these things (you don't have to be a registered builder to lend a hand!) we would love to hear from you!!

Please note you don't have to attend for the whole week, even one days help would be greatly appreciated!

Please contact Ryan Badger
Phone: (027) 445 1997
Email: Farmboy_ryan@hotmail.com

New club members

The club welcomes:

Janis Hooge (PN)
Nigel Kerr (PN)
Adele Scott (PN)
Kim Dowson & Duncan Fraser (PN)
Colleen Newth (PN)

Food for Tramping

Contributed by Christine Scott

The October issue of Wilderness magazine has an interesting article on "Tramping on your Stomach" by Amanda Wells. In this she lists some web sites that you might find valuable in planning food for your next tramping trip.

They include:

- www.massey.ac.nz/muac/resources/food/food.htm
- www.joycesfinecooking.com/camping_packet_recipes.htm
- www.excaliburdehydrator.com/gen16.htm
- www.stretcher.com/stories/980910b.crm (marinating jerky, drying steak)
- <http://wudhi.com/reipes/tramping.htm>
- www.geocities.com/yosemite/gorge/7216/recipes.html (billy bread)
- www.bakepacker.com (gadget allowing you to cook baked goods in plastic bags in your billy).

Replacement of the MTSC Minibus

by Howard Nicholson

Summary

The MTSC committee is looking at a replacement for our minibus, and wants to be ready to purchase a vehicle when one becomes available. The committee wishes to ensure that the Club buys a vehicle that will cater for our needs, is safe, reliable, and can be driven on a standard car license.

Background

The replacement of the minibus was suggested at the 2006 AGM, noted in the June and August newsletters, and has been discussed at committee meetings. The August newsletter asked for feedback and comment from members, and responses suggested that the following requirements were important:

Vehicle requirements:

Safety	Features	Other
Three-point seatbelts for all seats	12 seats (minimum 9)	Length (SWB preferred by some, LWB by others)
Headrests	Storage area for packs	Can be driven with a standard car license
Anti-lock brakes	Legroom	Cost: around \$40,000
Cargo-restraining cage	Reliability	
Airbags for driver/front seat passenger(s)		

A vehicle recently became available that met most of our requirements, but was sold within two weeks. This was a 2005 model, ex demo, Ford Transit Long Wheel Base (LWB) minibus (12 seats; ample storage for packs; all safety features including traction control; “auto-shift-manual” gearbox; 15,000 km; \$48,000). The new price for this particular model is over \$63,000. The main concerns that were discussed about its suitability were the size of the vehicle, and the cost.

Size of vehicle

A minibus that can carry 12 people and their gear is necessarily a large vehicle. However, current usage suggests that the minibus is generally full with people on day trips (but with less baggage), and usually up to 8 people on overnight trips (but with more baggage filling up the seats). Some tramps, work parties and Lodge trips require 12 seats, and a trailer is then required for gear. Some members would be happier with a shorter vehicle, similar to our current minibus, while others see the opportunity to upgrade to a vehicle that does not require the use of a trailer. A LWB Transit minibus is about 800 mm longer than a short wheelbase (SWB) model like our current minibus. There is debate about whether the extra length would deter some people from driving.

Cost

At 31 March 2006 the minibus “account” had \$33,851, and has been running annual surpluses of \$4730 (2003), \$3378 (2004), \$3627 (2005), and \$6722 (2006). The existing minibus has value as a trade-in or sale. The committee feels that the replacement minibus would be self-funding. The minibus under consideration would have cost more than we had originally considered paying, however it had all of the features that we consider to be important, and further research suggested that the price was reasonable for this standard of vehicle.

There will, of course, be other makes and/or models that may be suitable, and these will be considered as they become available. An older or shorter vehicle would probably cost less.

Another option put forward was that the club owns two smaller minibuses; however, the committee did have concerns about the feasibility of this given the expected usage, and maintenance and other costs, associated with this.

What's Next?

The committee will continue to look for a replacement minibus. To be able to react quickly to a good deal should it arise, we need to be able to commit to a purchase. Therefore, I propose to put forward the following motion at the next committee meeting on 14 November 2006:

Proposed Motion: That MTSC pursues the purchase of a minibus to replace our current vehicle, up to a maximum value of \$50,000 (excluding any trade-in offers).

Proposer: Howard Nicholson
Seconder: Tim Swale

If you have a view regarding the minibus, or any comments regarding this report, then please take the time to contact me, either via email or by telephone. I would especially like to hear from as many of the current minibus drivers as possible. This is a major purchase for the club, the committee wants to "get it right", and we value your input.

Howard Nicholson | mtsc.president@xtra.co.nz | Telephone (06) 357 6325.



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Department of Conservation Hut and Track Notes

Twilight BBQ with DoC

DOC invites you to the Tangimoana Boat Ramp turnoff on Thursday 26th at 5.30 p.m. for an hour of pulling the introduced South African weed, Pink Ragwort (*Senecio glastifolius*).

This weed, and a similarly coloured import, *Senecio elegans*, is invading our beaches and inland coastal areas and taking valuable habitat away from our native plants. Pink Ragwort, in particular, can grow to about 1 m high.

This is an easy way to make an immediate difference along our coast as pink ragwort is very easy to pull out of the sand.

If you are interested, meet at the Tangimoana Boat Ramp turnoff, near the recycling bin at 5.30 pm. Please bring your own gardening gloves if you have them, otherwise we have a very limited supply of cotton gloves.

For your efforts you will be rewarded with a cup of coffee and a sausage.

Please RSVP To Jo Greig prior to this date for catering purposes.

06-3509700 or 027-4055104

Conservation Volunteers

Sign up for a summer holiday with a difference ! The Department of Conservation is offering volunteers two week's free accommodation at two prime holiday destinations in the Egmont National Park - Holly Hut (4-8 Dec 2006) and Lake Dive hut (12-16 Feb 2007). Volunteers will get first hand experience at hut and track maintenance. Previous experience with a paint brush and outdoor work would be an advantage. You will also get to experience the magic of monitoring kiwi calls at night and surveying for a threatened plant found only on Egmont. Volunteers will need to provide their own tramping equipment, wet weather and sleeping gear. You will be supplied with food, tools for the job and supervision.

Contact Neville Parminter, 06-765 5144 or nparminter@doc.govt.nz for more information and for an application form. Numbers will be strictly limited.

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 Easy/Med. 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 the trip organiser.

Wednesday Trampers

25 October

Margaret Foot

Phone for details.

Easy

357 8003

Thursday Trampers

26 October

Ken Rush

Phone for details.

Easy/Medium

357 2529

Whakapaiti Hut

28-29 October

John Doolan

A real easy graded trip, no question about that. Whakapaiti is just south of Whakapapa (the village on the side of Ruapehu). Ideal for first timers and family or a relaxed tramp for club members. There are no big hills and just a 3 1/2 hour stroll to the hut. The track sidles south around the contour lines for a couple of hours and then heads east towards the mountain up the Whakapaiti River valley. There is a river to cross 20 minutes from the hut so wet feet cannot be avoided. The team from the recent Powell Hut trip are all keen to go so this will be a popular trip. There are clean toilets, two sleeping areas (snoring and non-snoring), running water, a real beaut log fire (and dry wood) and great views of the mountain. Emphasis will be on having a fun weekend with friends, cameras, fine food and entertainment. Book your spot soon as this trip will book out in no time with John Doolan at 06 355 5495 at work or john.doolan@inspire.net.nz.

Cattle Creek Hut

29 October

Christine Scott

Phone for more details.

Easy

355 2100

Thursday Trampers

2 November

Peter Carver

Phone for details.

Easy/Medium

357 2529

Mangahao Flats Guy Fawkes

4-5 November

Jean Garman

The plan is to celebrate Guy Fawkes at Mangahao Flats Hut which is a pleasant stroll (on a nice day) up the Mangahao Valley. It takes somewhere between 3 1/2 hours (fast) to 5 hours (medium) to 6+ hours (slow) to get there and while we are there we will take the opportunity to carry out our annual clean up which consists primarily of cleaning the hut and making sure no trees are growing anywhere near the helo pad.

Wednesday Trampers

8 November

Judy Callesen

Easy overnight trip to Waipahu Hut or half way as a day trip. Departing 8 a.m.

Thursday Trampers

9 November

Graham Pritchard

Phone for details.

Easy/Medium

357 0192

Waikamaka Hut

12 November

Tony Evans

We will leave town nice and early (7 a.m.) for a good days walk. Leaving the vehicle at North Block Road we head up the track towards Sunrise Hut and take the left fork in the track to Waipawa Forks Hut. From there we follow the Waipawa River up to the Waipawa Saddle and on down to the Waikamaka River and downstream to the Hut. Have lunch and come home.

Easy/Medium

357 1393

Thursday Trampers

16 November

Merv Matthews

Phone for details.

Easy/Medium

357 2858

Easy/Medium

354 4479

Piripiri Hut			
19 November		Medium	
Gary Bevins		325 8879	
Parking at the Pohangina Field Centre we drop down to the Pohangina River to get wet feet - Great. Its a short walk along until we reach the Piripiri stream and from here its upstream, which we have been told is a bit of a scramble. Hopefully this will get us to the hut for lunch. Its another one of these huts we don't visit and could soon be removed.			North Ohau Hut. This hut was built by the Horowhenua Hunting Club to replace the old Bivvy which was somewhat further up-river and which was useful only for people desperately in need of shelter or wild-life suffering from low self esteem.
Wednesday Trampers			
22 November		Easy/Medium	
Pam Wilson		357 6247	
Phone for details.			
Thursday Trampers			
23 November		Easy/Medium	
Carolyn Brodie		358 6576	
Phone for details.			
Mitre Flats Hut		Easy-Medium	
25-26 November		357 4355	
Tony Evans			We will leave the vehicle at the Mount Holdsworth Road end on Saturday morning and follow the track up the Atiwhakatu Stream and on to Mitre Flats Hut by the Waingawa River. Options of a detour to visit Jumbo or Baldy will depend on the weather and energy levels and returning to the vehicle on Sunday via the same route.
North Ohau Hut			
26 November		Medium	
Adam Matich		359 2796	
We will start from the end of Poads Road, cross the farmland and sidle through the bush to the Ohau Shelter site (70 min). From there it is probably less than an hour of travel up the Ohau River (yes, wet feet) to Ohau Forks. Then we will head up the North Ohau River for probably no more than an hour before we reach the new			
Thursday Trampers			
30 November		Easy/Medium	
Harry & Chris Allardice		323 4390	
Phone for details.			
Thursday Trampers			
7 December		Easy-Medium	
Anne Green		(06) 374 5208	
Possible overnight to Roaring Stag and on to Cattle Ridge. Please phone for more details.			
Big Hill Station			
19-25 January 2007		Medium	
Bev Akers and Gary Bevins		325 8879	
Bev & Gary have two permits (Hunting & Tramping) for access through Big Hill Station to allow us tramping off Nomans Rd. Gives us the opportunity to visit all those hard to get to huts etc in the Northern Ruahines. Only one other hunting permit has been given out so we have the place much to ourselves. Each permit gives assess for four people in one vehicle (our limit is 8).			
We will travel up on the Friday (19th) and drive right to the Hut for the night, Ruahine Hut - How easy is that ! From here we will head off in a western direction visiting huts and tracks that will eventually get us back to the vehicles at Ruahine Hut. This allows the unfortunate trampers to head home after the long anniversary weekend. Bev & Gary plus anyone keen, will stay on to do more tramping until our permit runs out on Thursday (25th) We are open to any ideas and are fairly flexible with the days as it will be in holiday mode!			



Trampers having lunch in the sun

Photo: Alan Cameron
Longview Trip
8 October 2006

Trip reports

Field Hut

21 September

Leader: Ray Pratt

11 trampers.

Mitre Flats Hut

23-24 September

by Tony Evans

This trip was cancelled due to lack of interest but will try again in November.

Blackhead Beach to Pouerere Beach

27 September

by Rosemary Hall

With the rain belting down and the weather forecast for Hawkes Bay not looking too good, 21 hardy souls set off for new territory. Don McDonald was our leader for the day and we were heading to one of his favourite spots on the East Coast, Blackhead Beach. The latter part of the two-hour journey took us on a long and twisty road, where to our surprise and delight we encountered a huge mob of sheep – my first impression was at least one million. They were stretched along the road as far as the eye could see. Neville, our sheepdog, leapt out of the van and demonstrated his mustering skills (without one bark) and steered the sheep to one side so we could inch forward. The final tally was 2,300 sheep but don't know whether that included the few teeny weeny lambs that were at the back of the mob. They were on their way

back to green pastures and one felt a little sorry for them without their woollen coats with the rain beating down!

We parked the vehicles beside a nice-looking camping ground on one side and a Private Resort on the other with lots of caravans and other accommodation. Before setting off to walk to Pouerere Beach, Don gave us a low-down on the area. The story goes that Captain Cook whilst sailing along the coast, spotted a lot of Maori on the beach and named it Blackhead Beach – betcha didn't know that eh! Cape Turnagain was off to the right but couldn't be seen because of the low cloud and mist.

On the first part of the walk from Blackhead to Aramoana there is a Marine Reserve called Te Angangi and we were asked not to pick anything up from this part of the beach, ie. shells etc. The area has many boulders strewn along the beach and also a rocky surface to walk on. There was a very interesting settlement at Aramoana Beach with a big old manor house further up the hill, which we discovered belonged to the original station owner called McKenzie, but the wet conditions weren't conducive to exploring further. We finally came to Pouerere, which is a delightful camping area. The caretaker (or whoever) opened up the community room for us to have lunch and shelter from the rain. We discovered a house just a few doors away that had a "for sale" notice ad a price tag of \$575,000 with an annual lease of \$12,000. Seems a big price to pay for a weekend hideaway.

Lots of caravans had a room attached and looked very cosy and accommodating, however there are rum-

blings that DOC after making a recent inspection of the area, has some changes in mind – lets hope they don't wave the big stick and demand removal of the non-permanent structures. It is such a lovely place with a real Kiwi identity and a reputation for great fishing, especially crayfish, that it would be an awful shame to alter the status quo.

It is a place that we would very much like to revisit in the summer.

Te Mara Peak

28 September

by Tony Evans

It had been raining for 36 hours when we left Palmy at 7.30 a.m. but the weather was better down on the Blue Range and the raincoats stayed in the packs all day, we even saw a little sunshine. Leaving the Kiriwhakapapa Road end we headed up the track and at the junction shortly before Blue Range Hut we took the left fork towards Cow Creek Hut, after a few minutes we veered left again following the high ground and picked up an old track which followed a spur up onto the main ridge and then left again for a few minutes and we were at Te Mara Trig (altitude 1104m) within half an hour of leaving the junction.

Some went a little further south along the Blue Range while others enjoyed a longer lunch, we then headed north along the Blue Range until we met the Cow Creek track again and followed the track back to the road. Then back to the Eketahuna ice-cream shop for 15 happy trampers.

Herepai Hut and Herepai Peak

5 October

Leader: Jill Spenser

10 trampers.

Longview

8 October

by David Newstead

Friday we were six, Saturday midday we were five, by 19:30 after Neville had been chatting people up, we were eight and a maybe; Sunday 7:30, eight of us left PN in the minibus picking up Ian in Woodville, making a congenial, not to say jolly, nine.

We set out from the car park at 9:30 in gloomy overcast and cool weather, with gale-force winds forecast for the afternoon. It was not too bad on that exposed ridge, and clear enough for the renowned views to the East. A 590 m climb then a bit of a drop down to the hut and time for elevenses (lunch at 11:00). An hour for lunch (after all, it was morning tea as well) and after some discussion and banter we decided not to split the party, as had been planned, but all opted to drop straight down below the hut to the stream and amble along the stream bed to the Awatere Hut, the terrain progressing from near vertical through the alpine scrub to a near level gravel bed, with no drama along the way. (There was

some reminiscing about waiting for the steam to go down and the boulders to stop rolling by, on a previous trip, however).

An hour out from Longview the sun came out and the wind dropped (mainly because we had dropped into the gully) and another hour saw us to the Awatere Hut. Another pause for this and that, half an hour this time (this was to put the "easy back into what was on the way to being a "medium" trip).

There was some discussion among those with GPS devices as to the height of the climb back out to the car park (sounded like a mix up between feet and metres to me, but I can hear strong denials burning my ears) never mind, we won't dwell on that, nor on the earlier suggestion of a short cut to avoid the said climb. The climb up onto the much-discussed ridge proved to be a comfortable slog, more or less straight up about 650 feet (to 2550 feet asl, according to my 1981 map). A stroll along the ridge, with some fine views over a now sunny countryside, brought us to the car park (2000 feet, for the (1981) record) at 16:30, an hour out from Awatere Hut.

Then back to find PN in the gloom and wind of a spring evening. A great day out in great company. (If you go and check up on us in the hut books, you will find we officially did the trip a day later, on the 9th: oh dear, how sad, never mind. I hope we didn't get lost.) The cast: Alla, Alan (Cameron), Alan (Ray), Chris (back from PNTC), Dave (Allen), Ian, Neville, Rod and me.

North Range Road to the wind mills

11 October

Leader: Dave Warnock

13 trampers.

Purity Hut and Wooden Peg

12 October

Leader: Neville Gray

13 trampers.



Don MacLaine cutting his cake on his 90th Birthday. Don tramped with the Thursday Trampers for 5 years and only hung up his boots earlier this year. His Birthday was celebrated by golfing, tramping, service club friends and the McLaine Clan from far and wide. Photo: Christine Allardice

Club Information

Annual Hut Passes

Support our club in the Tararuas. Buy your Annual Hut Pass through DoC. The full price of an Annual Hut Pass is \$90 but is reduced to \$63 with your Federated Mountain Club (FMC) card discount. Jean Garman will provide you with a form to fill in which will be sent off with your cheque and FMC card (if you have one) to DoC Waikanae who will post you an Annual Hut Pass. Note that MTSC family memberships only pay one FMC sub so only one FMC card (and therefore discount) is available per family. Contact Jean at jeanandivan@value.net.nz or phone (06) 354 3536.

For Sale

LOST: A Green One piece ski suit was left behind in the Lodge on 30th July. If you find this, please, please, please call Simon Romanos ph 04 479 5430 or email sr@cadre.co.nz. Reward offered.

DoC hut tickets - discount rates to members. Contact: Howard Nicholson on (06) 357 6325.

Accommodation at the MTSC lodge on Mount Ruapehu

The lodge is close to Iwikau Village, has power, hot showers, and is stocked with food. The lodge phone number is (07) 892 3860. Lodge bookings can be made between 9:30 am and 9:30 pm on any day. Do not call outside of these hours. Note that bookings are not confirmed until the fees are paid. Payment is in advance by cheque or cash. Contact Hugh & Liz Wilde on (06) 356 9450.



	Members	Non-members
Adult	\$21	\$33
Secondary 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 6 pm Friday.
2. Cancel bookings by these times so others needing the van have time to amend travel arrangements.
3. Check the oil, water, and tyres.
4. Fill in the travel sheet (km, people, and dollars).
5. A fly should be carried on every tramp, there is always one in the passenger door of the club van and they are available from the Gear Custodian at no charge.

Trip leaders and those planning trips should use this cost effect club asset. Neville Gray is our minibus custodian and he can be contacted at (06) 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 bivvy bags and two 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 (06) 356 7443.

Articles for the newsletter

Send by the 15th of each month to Wei-Hang Chua (editor) at mtsc.editor@xtra.co.nz. Please contact me if you'd prefer to receive your newsletter by email only. Send changes of address to the Membership Secretary at P.O. Box 245, Palmerston North.

Club website | www.mtsc.org.nz

This includes a club contact email address and is hosted by InSPire Net. The club webpage is maintained by Howard Nicholson and is kindly hosted by InSPire Net.

People to contact

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

MTSC 2006-07 Committee

President	Howard Nicholson	357 6325 mtsc.president.xtra.co.nz
Secretary	Tim Swale	06 376 6556
Treasurer	Doug McNeur	359 1893
Chief Guide	Tony Evans	357 4355
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 mtsc.editor@xtra.co.nz
Social Convenor	Linda Campbell	323 3836
Ski Captain	Ken Mercer	356 7497
Lodge Manager	Ryan Badger	027 445 1997
Lodge Booking Officers	Hugh & Liz Wilde	356 9450 wildeh@clear.net.nz
Mini-bus manager	Neville Gray	357 2768
General Committee	Bev Akers	325 8879
	Roger Athersuch	353 0434
	Darlene Westrupp	354 5764
Imm. Past President	Christine Scott	354 0510