

March 2007  
Issue 2

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North Ohau Hut  
Photo: Adam Matich



From: Map 260-U22 (LINZ)

## Upcoming club nights

Twilight orienteering+Antarctica

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

### 6th March - Twilight orienteering - PN walkways

Meet in Pacific Drive (near the corner of Aokautere Drive) from 7 pm onwards. Using a map, there are a number of questions to answer as you walk around the great network of walkways in this area. You can do the orienteering individually or in groups, just set off as you arrive. Bring a pencil and an A4 plastic bag if rain threatens. No charge. Members of the Red Kiwi orienteering club will be present to help you at the start.

### 20th March - Antarctic Experiences

Interested in what it is like over the dark months of the Antarctic winter at Scott Base? Club member Dave Mitchell knows as he has done his fair share of winters down on the ice. Dave will be speaking to us about his 2006 winter.



Scott Base and Mt Erebus (Photo: W-H. Chua)

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# President's Report

## Lodge Work Party + Club Activities

by Howard Nicholson

email [mtsc.president@extra.co.nz](mailto:mtsc.president@extra.co.nz) or phone (06) 357 6325

A couple of successful workparties have seen part of the Lodge re-roofed, ensuring that the building remains weather-tight despite the rather inhospitable climate. The Club is hugely grateful to all those involved with the upkeep of the Lodge to date, and for those who will be continuing the effort over the next several weeks. There is external painting to be completed before we lose our fine weather opportunities, and internal maintenance that is underway.

We rely on your help at workparties to keep Lodge costs low. Please, make a commitment to maintaining this major asset as a fantastic place to stay, and have some fun along the way. Contact Ryan Badger or Ken Mercer to find out when the next workparties will be happening and to sign up for one.

Tony Evans is putting the finishing touches on the next trip card, so if you haven't yet done so, please contact him and tell him where you want to go. MTSC has a superb range of activities on offer, which hopefully caters for most of our membership. If your ideal trip is not on the card, then how about proposing it as a destination and or leading it yourself?

And finally, if you haven't been to a club night recently, then you are probably unaware of what you are missing! Keep an eye on the newsletter and the website for what is coming up soon.

## Chief Guide's Report

by Tony Evans

By the time you read this the planning of the 2007 winter trip card should be well under way but not finalised so if you are willing to lead a trip please contact me on 357 4355. The aim, as usual, is to have a variety of trips to suit different levels of fitness so there is no need to be extra fit to lead a trip. Nor is it necessary for the trip leader to drive the mini-bus, one can always delegate and chances are that a group large enough to use the bus will contain several experienced drivers.

## FMC is coming to town

10-11 March 2007

Federated Mountain Clubs is holding its executive meeting at Te Manawa Seminar Room on Saturday 10 March. At 2-4 pm there will be a "Club session" for club reps (and other members) to ask questions and discuss any issues. This is an opportunity for club reps to meet the FMC Executive, and for any local issues to be raised.

Club reps are also invited to attend dinner at Fisherman's Table at 7:30 pm.

On Sunday 11 March, PNTMC has arranged a day trip for the Executive and other interested people, to Rangi Hut, departing at 8:00 am from the Countdown car park. This should be a good chance to highlight some local history and issues, plus anything else that comes to mind about national issues, etc.

Please contact Howard if you are interested in participating, or would like any issues or comments raised with the FMC. For more information about FMC, see [www.fmc.org.nz](http://www.fmc.org.nz)

## Lodge Working Bee Mar 10-11

by Ken Mercer

On the 10-11th of March we are looking for volunteers for a work party at the lodge. The major tasks are sanding and painting the exterior south wall and polyurethaning the dining tables and the women's bathroom but there will be a number of others including covering the old septic tank and emptying the grease trap. (It's not quite as bad as it sounds!)

There's also some in depth cleaning needed and, of course, a couple of batches of pin-wheel scones never go amiss!

We'll drive up in the minibus Friday night, leaving at 6:00 pm from 9 Eton Place, Palmerston North. If necessary we'll also take a car. The travelling and accommodation costs for those working will be covered by the club. This includes people from outside Palmerston North!

Please let me know ASAP if you are able, or may be able, to come. And, thanks heaps!

Please contact Ken Mercer

Phone: 06 356 7497 or 027 364 6475

## Mountain Clean-up Day

16-17 March 2007

This is organized by the Ruapehu Mountain Clubs Association and will be held on Saturday March 17, or if the weather is dreadful it will be postponed to Sunday March 18.

DoC want everyone to meet at the top of the Bruce Road outside the Snow School Building at 9:00 am. Scottie Barrie will assign people to teams and will be co-ordinating the day. The clean-up will end at approximately 1:00 pm and then RAL will be putting on a barbecue for the participants.

DoC will supply the rubbish bags and gloves. They have also asked me to remind you that participants should bring the correct gear for both winter and summer

MTSC will support this activity by providing transport and accommodation in the lodge for the weekend for 12 people. We may have a bit of a work session on the other day, if the work party has left anything to do! Otherwise we'll go for a walk somewhere!

Please contact Ken Mercer on 06 356 7497 or 027 364 6475.

## Christchurch Tramping Club 75th Anniversary

Weekend after Easter 2007 (14-15 April 2007). If you have ever had any involvement with the club come and help us celebrate.

For details visit [www.ctc.org.nz](http://www.ctc.org.nz) or contact Rex or Greta Vink Ph (03) 352 5329, PO Box 527, Christchurch. Email [greta-vink@clear.net.nz](mailto:greta-vink@clear.net.nz)

## For Sale

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

## 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.

<b>ALL</b>	All welcome
<b>EASY</b>	4 hours per day, pace slower than Easy/Med. Does not relate to terrain.
<b>EASY/MEDIUM</b>	5 hours per day at a pace slower than medium.
<b>MEDIUM</b>	7 hours per day at a standard walking pace.
<b>MEDIUM/FIT</b>	8 hours per day at a pace faster than medium.
<b>FIT</b>	Over 8 hours per day at a pace faster than medium/fit.
<b>TECHNICAL</b>	Qualifying requirements to be announced by the trip organiser.

### Ohuinga

3-4 March

Howard Nicholson

Up the Government... Spur, that is. Rumour has it that only a government worker would possibly consider putting a track up that ridge, which may be why the route is now overgrown. A round trip that traverses the rugged heartland of the Ruahines is planned, starting at Mill Road end in the Ruahines behind Ongaonga, bashing up the Government Spur, camping on the tops, and then returning via Sawtooth Ridge, Howletts Hut and the Tukituki River.

### Wednesday Trampers

7 March

Pam Wilson

Phone for more details.

### Thursday Trampers

8 March

Neville Gray

Phone for more details.

Medium/Fit

357 6325

### Waikamaka Hut

10-11 March

Doug McNeur

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

359 1893

### Mikimiki Saddle - Te Mara Loop

11 March

Adam Matich

This day trip starts from the Kiriwhakapapa Road end. We follow the tramway south all of the way up to the saddle (2.5 km), and then start climbing again. That is, we hook a right to head north and then north-west-ish up the Spur to Te Mara peak (2.5 km, 600 m). Then we drop onto the Blue Range track and head back down to the van. Travel up the ridge is pretty good, with only a little bit of wending through the scrub, but no proper bush-bashing. So serious trampers need not apply. Unless they are feeling lazy like me, or are just desperately in need of my company.

When we did it last year, it took around 5 hours. So I would not expect the day to exceed 6 hours (at a medium pace) unless it is a gloriously



sunny day and we sit on Te Mara for a long sunny contemplative lunch.

### Wednesday Trampers

14 March

Chris Brunskill

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

354 2511

### Thursday Trampers

15 March

Gordon Clark

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

359 2500

### Gold Creek Hut

17-18 March

John Beech

We will depart the police station at 8 am and head for the Makarora Road end. Once there we will walk up the river to the Gold Creek junction and then up the ridge track to the hut. Sun we may come back via the creek depending on weather. Should be a fairly easy and leisurely tramp although I haven't been there myself.

Easy/Medium

354 9310

### Alfredtown Gorge

18 March

Hugh Wilde

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

356 9450

### Wednesday Trampers

21 March

Neville Gray

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

357 2768

### Thursday Trampers

22 March

Nigel Spencer

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

329 8738

### Atiwhakatu Hut

24-25 March

Sue and Howard Nicholson

Ahhh...Ahhh...Atiwhakatu! Must be time to clear out the sinuses and head for the hills. The plan is for a trip up the Atiwhakatu Stream (on the well benched, well bridged all-weather track) to the river flats 15 minutes downstream of Atiwhakatu Hut in the eastern Tararuas, at a pace that allows us to take in all of the sights along the way.

Assuming the weather will be good (and why would I expect anything else) we will pitch the tents and flys and relax by this picturesque stream until dinner and marshmallow time. After an awesome night's rest and a nourishing breakfast in bed (for me anyway) we will make our way back down the valley in the sunshine, accompanied by the buzz of dragonflies and the flutter of piwakawaka.

Grade: Easy (about 3 hours tramping each way at a relaxed pace)

Cost: Transport \$15

Leaving: 8:30am Saturday 24 March

### Tregear Spur

24-25 March

Garry Grayson

This trip is basically a repeat of my first trip as leader back in the days of being a new club member. We'll leave P.N. around 7.00 am Sat, travel to Otaki Forks, head off up the Waioatauru River as far as the foot bridge, stage left up the Snowy until the Tregear creek – Snowy fork is reached. From here it's a progressive climb, initially on old logging tracks, on up to exit the spur near Kime Hut around 1400 m. Depending on weather, etc, etc, we may camp out near, or spend the night inside the hut. Next day its back down via the track as far as Dennan Peak where we'll drop off down Rae Ridge to return to the Waioatauru near Sheridan Creek confluence.

Medium/Fit

326 8837

### Waitewaewae

25 March

Dave Allan

Meet at the Palmerston North Police Station at 7.00 am. Travelling via Otaki Forks and will aim to get as close to hut as daylight hours will allow. Those interested phone Dave on 027 212 1005 or the number above by Thursday 22 March.

Medium

323 9734

### Wednesday Trampers

28 March

Bev Akers

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

325 8879

### Thursday Trampers

29 March

Peter Carver

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

354 4479

### Waiopehu Hut

31 March - 1 April

Hugh Wilde

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

356 9450

### Field Hut and Table Top

1 April

David Newstead

We will be leaving from the (new) Palmerston North Police Station, Church Street, 7:30 am. We have an approximately one and a half hour drive to Otaki Forks car park (at about 150 m). It's about an 8 km trudge up to Table Top (at 1047 m), first over farm land, then up an open ridge, onwards and upwards through re-growth kamahi with bigger stuff as we get nearer to Field Hut.

Easy/Medium

025 576 175

It should take about three and a half hours at easy-medium pace, and about the same back after lunch. Phone on the number above or on my work phone 350 4649.

### Wednesday Trampers

4 April

Rose Strahan

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

328 9861

- Thursday Trampers**  
**5 April** **Easy/Medium**  
**Graham Pritchard** **357 1393**  
 Phone for more details.
- Maungahuka Hut**  
**6-9 April** **Medium**  
**Doug McNeur** **359 1893**  
 Phone for more details.
- Blue Range Hut**  
**8 April** **Easy/Medium**  
**Christine Scott** **354 0510**  
 The Blue Range Hut track leaves from the Kiriwhakapa Road end (not far from Mt Bruce Bird Reserve in the Wairarapa). According to "Tara-rua Footprints" it is only 1 hour 40 minutes into the hut although one hour of this is steady up hill. We will leave the Police Station at 8 am.
- Wednesday Trampers**  
**11 April** **Easy/Medium**  
**Jill Spencer** **329 8738**  
 Phone for more details.
- Thursday Trampers**  
**12 April** **Easy/Medium**  
**Merv Matthews** **357 2858**  
 Phone for more details.
- Tongariro Crossing**  
**14-15 April** **Medium**  
**Linda Campbell** **323 3836**  
 Note: Unfortunately Linda didn't realise this trip coincided with the Oxfam 100k trail walk which she is taking part in. If someone else is prepared to take the trip please contact Linda otherwise it will be postponed until later in the year.
- Te Matawai Work Party**  
**14-15 April** **Medium**  
**Jean Garman** **354 3536**  
 Leaving Palmy at 7.00 am we will take the shortest feasible route in, either up the Ohau River or Gable End Ridge if the river is up. We should be at Te Matawai by early afternoon in time for several hours of vegetation clearance and fire-wood cutting to try and fill up the new wood box which will hopefully be installed by then. An evening of good food, a few liquid refreshments and conversation (no guarantees on the quality) will follow. Sunday will start with hut cleaning and we will leave to walk out by what ever route the group decides late morning.
- Herepai Hut**  
**15 April** **Easy/Medium**  
**Ade Beech** **354 9310**  
 Phone for more details.
- Wednesday Trampers**  
**18 April** **Easy/Medium**  
**Dave Warnock** **357 4140**  
 Phone for more details.
- Thursday Trampers**  
**19 April** **Easy/Medium**  
**Carolyn Brodie** **358 6576**  
 Phone for more details.
- Rangiwahia Hut**  
**21-22 April** **Family**  
**Ken Mercer** **356 7497**  
 "Rangi" hut is in the western Ruahine's, north east of Kimbolton. It is a lovely hut just above the bush line which is usually a day trip, in and out. On this occasion however, we'll take it easy and stay overnight. On Sunday those with enthusiasm and energy can walk up to Mangahuia which is at a similar altitude to the Lodge on Mt Ruapehu.  
 It is a two ticket hut which means hut tickets will come to \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. We'll travel at a "family" pace too, including the detour around the slip!
- Jumbo-Holdsworth Loop**  
**21-22 April** **Medium**  
**Dave Allan** **323 9734**  
 Phone for more details.
- Mountain House Loop**  
**22 April** **Easy**  
**Sue Tuohy** **353 3303**  
 Phone for more details.
- Wednesday Trampers**  
**25 April** **Easy/Medium**  
**Bernard Cobb** **328 8088**  
 Phone for more details.
- Thursday Trampers**  
**26 April** **Easy/Medium**  
**Harry and Chris Allardice** **323 4390**  
 Phone for more details.
- Roaring Stag Hut**  
**28-29 April** **Easy/Medium**  
**John Doolan** **355 2100**  
 Phone for more details.
- Roaring Stag Hut**  
**29 April** **Medium**  
**Christine Scott** **354 0510**  
 Roaring Stag Hut is about 2.5 hours from the Mangatainoka Rd end (also called Putara Rd) not far from the Mt Bruce Bird Reserve. We pass through some lovely beech forest before climbing steeply up to the ridge to the junction of Herepai and Roaring Stag. From there it is about an hour (or less) down to Roaring Stag Hut. We will leave the Police Station at 8am.



**Left: Sneak preview of the new Alice Nash Memorial Heritage Lodge**  
Photo: Ian Patterson (4 February 2007)

**Above: Ruahine Hut (we drove to this!)**  
Photo: Gary Bevins (Northern Ruahines Trip | 19-25 January 2007)

## Trip reports

### **A very Big Thank you from the Wednesday & Thursday Trampers.**

The new mini bus is a joy to drive and travel in. It takes less time to travel from A to B and very easy and enjoyable to drive. I found it less work than the old bus, not as tiring. There are one or two things you need to ask Neville about when collecting the bus like "how to open the bonnet" and to make sure the rear wipers haven't been turned on accidentally as its hard to see while driving with passengers. Great to have the space. So people, don't be afraid of driving it, as its cruise.

### **Te Ateparapara - Armstrong Saddle** **18 January**

**Leader: Jill Spencer**

Five trampers.

### **Big Hill Station - Northern Ruahines** **19 - 25 January**

**by Gary Bevins**

Ruahine, No Mans, Aranga, Ruahine Corner, Ikawatea Forks & Dianas Huts were visited along with Rockslide, Mistake & Taruarau Bivys. It is a credit to D.o.c who control this area that the huts & bivys are in such good condition. Some huts had a reputation as being dives. This now only applies to the private huts, all the others have 5 star bush ratings. It is a pity that such a nice area, still has huge access problems, and private land issues.

Our planned route was altered when the weatherman told us our first 2 days would be fine. Rather than drop down into the river we stayed on the tops traveling from No Mans to Aranga (both private) in perfect conditions (4 hr).

So we fly camped for our first night. We arose next morning to clear skies. Tent fly's packed away, we headed along the tops to the Tarns north of Kylie Biv (5 hr). We had perfect views of Ruahine Corner hut and surrounding areas along with Ruapehu. So we relaxed in the sun. Photos could not do the scenery justice.

From the tarns a drop and a climb and a bit of a scramble - three hours later we were at Ruahine Corner Hut. The weather had turned for the worst by the end of the day. The following day also bought rubbish conditions so it was decided to have this day off and relax.

The following morning conditions had improved but visibility was still poor. Four members of the party headed for Ikawatea Forks, while the other four took a short cut back to No Mans.

Navigation with compass & GPS. as we came to the bush edge in the fog was spot on. We ended up at trig point 1206 m exactly where we were heading. We dropped too far to the east when we entered the bush so had to back-track uphill to find the route. This meant we arrived at



Ikawatea Forks later than we had planned. A quick cupper and we headed for Rockslide Bivy. The grunt up and over to avoid the waterfall, in the heat meant the return to the river was a welcome site. About three hours of good river travel saw us at Rockslide Bivy, where we camped for the night. Rockslide to Mistake was a saga. travel upstream was slow, some obstacles taking up to half an hour to avoid. A steep climb out of Mistake, brings you onto a bulldozed track leading back to No Mans. At No Mans we met the rest of the party who had been relaxing there. We packed up and drove to Ruahine Hut for the night. A lovely spot with the hut set in a large clearing with camping galore around it. And you drive right to the door. Next day we drove to the track that takes you to Diane Hut & climb up to Taruarau Biv for a day trip. The weather was again good to us and had views out to the Kawekas and Comet Road end (about a 7 hr day). Returned to Ruahine Hut for our last night. We were away early next morning, sad to be leaving such a special place. Stopped off at D.o.c. to return the key and chat to the guys about our trip. we were Neville Gray, Royce Mills, Linda, Daryl, Stefan & Errin Rowan, Bev Akers, Gary Bevins & Jemma.

## Powell Hut 21 January

by **Darlene Westrupp**

We (Suzanne Clark, Alla Seleznyova, Alan Cameron, Driver: Don McDonald, new recruit: John Potter and Camp Mother: Darlene Westrupp) – left a cool, windy overcast Manawatu day at 7:30 a.m. and headed for Wairarapa. The weather cleared from Mt Bruce, so we were heading for a fine day.

The Holdsworth camping ground was full of campers of all shapes and sizes – great to see in such an idyllic spot. We left the carpark and headed upward around 9.20 am. It was a pleasant ascent highlighted by the sight and sounds of a kaka (an escapee from Mt Bruce?). Nearer the top the wind picked up and by the time we reached Powell Hut we decided that any ideas we had of going up to the top of

Holdsworth, would not make pleasant tramping. This was confirmed by several trampers lunching at the hut who had just come that way from over-nighting at Jumbo.

While stopped for lunch, five mountain runners passed through, followed shortly after by three members of another mountain running club. The second trio's arrival was heralded by Tony Gates bursting into the hut to register himself in the hut log book and looking like he was about to expire. He did not stop long before he headed off down. Don made himself very useful by offering his services to several young ladies at the hut to correctly adjust their pack straps. They left "walking on air". Instruction on this topic may be a good meeting night topic for new trampers. The trip back down to the car park was punctuated by a couple of stops for further minor adjustments for the ladies to achieve optimum comfort.

We met up with Tony Gates again at the car park, looking for his two running companions. They had been still at the hut when we left and only arrived back down about 15 minutes after us – obviously not as energetic as Tony. We stopped for the obligatory ice-cream in Masterton and arrived safely back to a wet and miserable Palmerston North around 6 pm.

## Daphne Hut 25 January

Leader: **Ann Green**

Six trampers.

## Ohingepango Springs - Waihohonu Hut 31 January

Leaders: **Sue and Lawson Pither**

Twenty trampers. Some stayed on at the Pither's place over night and the next day walked the old coach road.

## Toka Trig via Knights Track 1 February

Leader: **Ray Pratt**

Sixteen trampers.

Coming up to Powell Hut  
Photo: Alla Seleznyova  
Powell Hut Trip  
21 January 2007



## Pouakai Circuit (Egmont National Park) 1-3 February

by **Christine Scott**

With very little interest in a four day trip around Mt Taranaki, a lack of fitness and other commitments, Barry and I decided to opt for the two day Pouakai Circuit instead. It was the area that Barry was keenest to see anyway.

On Friday night we booked into the Camp House at North Egmont – the oldest historic hut in any National Park in New Zealand. It has been well done up and has hot showers, a good kitchen and four bunk rooms each holding about eight people. About the only down side was the wooden floors which were quite noisy when people arrived late at night and didn't take their boots/shoes off.

Early Saturday morning Mt Taranaki was in full view behind the Camp House but by mid morning it had clouded over and we only ever got to see the lower slopes for the rest of the weekend.

We headed down the Ram Track and past the Kainuui Shelter (the Kainuui Hut originally built as a base for goat hunters has been removed). We were enjoying the track and the bush until we started ascending Mt Henry and then things turned rather ugly. The track was in atrocious condition with deep clay gouges requiring real effort to scramble through and unable to go off the track because of the thick leatherwood. To make it worse DoC had dumped a series of wooden floaters for track repair right in the middle of the track and these had to be negotiated as well. However, from the top of Mt Henry there were board walks and ladders all the way past Maude and on to Pouakai Hut so our views on DoC track maintenance improved slightly. A slight rain made it a bit cold to really enjoy lunch and the view from Mt Henry so we moved quickly on and were soon at Pouakai Hut after stopping briefly to talk to a ranger who was replacing the eggs in the 1,500 stoat traps that had been laid along the edge of the track.

It was good to catch up on two other MTSC members from Wellington (Garth and Angie) that night who were also doing the circuit.

On Sunday it was back to the board walk to drop down to the Ahukawakawa swamp which lies between Taranaki and the Pouakai Range. Once across the swamp we stopped briefly at Holly Hut (solar panels and all) before joining the round the mountain track and returning to North Egmont. It was a very well graded track and it didn't take too long to reach the highest point of the circuit below the Dieffenbach Cliffs. The most difficult part was the knee jarring steps down the Razorback Ridge back to North Egmont! Barry & Christine Scott.

## Lodge Re-Roofing (Part 1) 3-4 February

by **Ken Mercer**

Our lodge manager, Ryan, had this well organized with a professional roofer, Justin, and his off sider, Simon. Ryan had driven up and back Thursday night with the iron and a helicopter flew it across on Friday. Even the weather cooperated with no wind and only a hint of drizzle.

On Saturday we started on the south side and by late afternoon we had most of the iron off, new insulation, building paper, wire netting and half the new iron in place. Most importantly we had established where snow was blowing into the eaves and above the ceilings, and sealed off the gaps. We were also into a rhythm and getting that side finished by dark was our target.

Then Ryan stepped onto the new iron which had become slightly damp. Perhaps he was impatient to practice his skiing skills because he slid over the edge still upright.

“\$#%#@ I've broken my leg – call 111”

Well it was indeed a compound fracture so we called and we made him, well, comfortable is not the right word! We covered him and made a very effective splint from an old real estate sign. Eventually a chopper arrived and, after a dose of morphine, he had a ride to Wanganui where, next day, they inserted a titanium rod and two big screws into his leg.

Thanks very much to the rest of the team: Trevor and Christine Reynolds (Taupo), Preston Hatcher from Auckland (via Waikaremoana) and Doug Pringle, Christina and Rachael. We all wish Ryan a speedy recovery.

Installing the new roof on the Club Lodge  
Photo: Ken Mercer  
Lodge Re-Roofing Work Party  
3-4 February 2007







**Ryan being taken to hospital**  
 Photo: Ken Mercer  
 Lodge Re-Roofing Work Party  
 3-4 February 2007

**Mt Thompson**  
**7 February**

**Leader: Ivan Alve**  
 Eight trampers.

**Tunupo Trig**  
**8 February**

**Leader: Jill Spencer**  
 Nine trampers.  
 Heritage Lodge looking good with a big deck out front.

**Pourangaki Hut**  
**10-11 February**

**by Garry Grayson**  
 After two previous aborted attempts to do this trip, weather and numbers this time were favourable and so a trio of us (plus Gemma) drove off to the Mangakukeke Road end carpark ( Kawhatau ). From this park there is

now a view of the new Purity Hut, perched in it's new position higher on the ridge just above the bushline at around 1350 m, our first waypoint on this trip.

Packs on, vehicle secure, we set off across the poled route then grunted & groaned up the steep farmland pitch to the Park boundary. The weather was overcast, but very humid, so sweat was sure 'streaming' by this point, (where was the predicted Southerly breeze when it's needed). Upon reaching the bush canopy it's a bit cooler, terrain angle improves and in 2 hours we're standing on the deck of Purity Hut #2 admiring the commanding views from it's new position. Design and layout of course are a major improvement on the old hut, (good one DoC!), had I not been trip leader any suggestion of spending the afternoon lounging around on the deck with a leisurely retreat back to the vehicle the next morning may have been willingly accepted.

Back to reality! After a short smoko break it's onward and upward passing Wooden Peg (1672 m) where the fore-



**View from Purity Hut**  
 Photo: Garry Grayson  
 Pourangaki Hut Trip  
 10-11 February 2007

casted Southerly breeze and light misty rain arrives forcing another brief stop to put on coats. On up to Iron Peg high point (1703 m) and our turning point to head Southeast along Hawkes Bay Ridge.

A late-ish lunch break was taken overlooking a tarn about half an hour along the ridge, patches off warm sun then cold wind was the weather menu along here, no views due to clouded conditions for most of the way along.

This ridge route is quite well defined with a reasonably obvious trail in most places, however, not all was as it seemed and following this trail would eventually lead us into a spot of bother! There is a point where the 'trail' veers slightly right and shows obvious signs of use by previous traffic but does drop off rather quicker than one would expect, the not so obvious route involves a scramble over a steep slip area, we took the 'obvious' direction and after 100 m or so of descent decided a glance at the map might be a good idea. The error of judgement was quickly realised although we later figured that this route would drop into Pourangaki River headwaters and follow a creek to exit near the footbridge adjacent to Pourangaki Hut, probably used as a short cut option.

Back-tracking to the ridge top we continued on over the tricky slip area soon reaching the turn-off to Waterfall Hut above Pinnacle Creek, marked by a tent peg pointing out of a pile of rocks. A short distance from here was the sign-posted turnoff, (2 hr from Iron Peg) down the spur to Pourangaki.

Travel was easy down this spur and after a short time nice sunny conditions prevailed allowing at last a few views of Pourangaki headwaters. About 1.5 hr saw us reach the river where a 'roundabout' way of reaching the footbridge approach is encountered, turned out an easier course of action would have been to walk a couple of hundred metres up river to reach another much easier track leading up to the hut, thus eliminating the sharp climb off the footbridge and resulting descent back down to the hut site at 850 m. A total day length of 7.5 hours.

After a classic overkill of evening meal quantity, Gemma was called upon to rescue us from embarrassment and

clean up the one litre or so of food remaining – also her 'treat' for having reached her 100th hut bag milestone. Next morning dawned a 'cracker' with promise of sun-burn, dehydration and much sweat if you were 'tops' traveling, fortunately we were not! By 7:30 am my socks felt the first wave of Pourangaki River water pouring over my gaiters and so the river section of the trip down to Kelly Knight Hut began. After 2.5 hr the foot-bridge at K.K. came into view and we scrambled out to the hut for morning tea break, the 'swim' hole below the bridge no longer exists as it's now full of shingle from previous floods. Energy boosted and refreshed, the final stretch out to the farmland was dealt with and then the boring old 1 hr beat up the farm track to reach the vehicle in about 2.5 hr from K.K. – a nice short day of 5 hr. We were Garry Grayson, Gary Bevins, Adam Matich and the one ton hut bagger, Gemma.

## Tall Trees and dragonflies

11 February

by David Newstead

The main focus of this annual family trip "Ngahere a Tane", a delightful forest grove off Deerford Track, which is on the terrace above Coal Creek, at the road end beyond Sixtus lodge (Southern Ruahines). This is part of an outdoor education area set up by the old NZ Forest Service about 25 years ago.

It all got off to a good start with the sun shining (dragon flies fly only in full sunshine) and the youngsters spotting a giant dragon fly on a fern tree, even before we crossed the creek. Doc have re-routed the track to avoid recent slips and some swamp so that on crossing the creek you climb straight up the bank (steep steps) and reach the terrace level right in the heart of Ngahere Tane, right beside one of the 'feature' trees (in the "Teacher's Guide Book" which we had) a big old gnome tree (a kamahi), so the children immediately became gnomes, and climbed the nearest accessible tree. Beyond all the commentary in the "Teacher's Book" one of the remarkable features is that sapling undergrowth shrubs (horopito) featured in the guide book have hardly changed in the 25 years since it was printed. It



**Pourangaki Hut**  
Photo: Garry Grayson  
Pourangaki Hut Trip  
10-11 February 2007



### Beehive Creek Walkway

Photo: Tim Swale  
Beehive Creek Trip  
18 February 2007



makes the point how very, very slowly the temperate rain forest grows compared with its tropical counterpart.

A late morning snack, a play and a spell by the stream with dragon flies and others cruising by, a stroll back along Deerford track to the foot of Shorts Track (too steep for us on a hot day), lunch in the sun and an unhurried stroll back to the car park by mid afternoon. (That's what you do on a summer's day - if you get one).

This year's 'family' comprised Abby and Jeremy (10 and 7), mother Penny (not telling), Gill, Helen and me (60ish - we were the youngsters last year).

### Longview Hut 17-18 February

by Gary Bevins

Three of us reached Longview carpark to find Adam & Jean's car already there & still warm. They were off hunting over the other side of the range. It wasn't long before we spotted them up in front, on this magical sunny windless day. So we sat down for lunch on top of the last bump watching the others continue climbing up over the main range.

We spent the afternoon lounging around in the sun at the hut. Only one other couple visited on a day trip. We took a late stroll over to what the map calls Rocky Knob but in the hut book a hunter thinks its not. He says its a further 20 -30 mins beyond. Anyway we sat up there looking for deer and enjoying the sunny, still evening. Back to the hut for tea and bed.

Eleven pm a hunter arrived stomping around what seemed for ages. So we got chatting briefly telling him we have a couple of mates over the ridge hunting. He was a little annoyed coz its obvious our mates were in his hunting ground. Next morning at 5 am he was up again. More chatter and it turned out he is Adams old hunting mate. Off he went to leave us to watch the slow sunrise.

With day packs we climbed Otumore (1519m) for a look around and laze in the sun on the tops. Just as we decided to make tracks, I heard Adam. Looking miles away down a

ridge we could see them through the binoculars. So we decided to go a bit closer onto peak 1520m to watch. It looked like hard work pulling themselves up out of that valley below. When they finally arrived looking stuffed - Adam said " Not again in the next 10 years." Jean had a smile from ear to ear but you could see the pain in her legs. Not only scratched but throbbing from the weight of her pack. Yes, she shot her deer and now had to carry it out. I gave her no sympathy coz she could have bought venison off me (all packaged) for less pain - If only she had asked. Anyway Jean is a legend and proud of all the hard work etc & will enjoy. It was a slow drop down all the way from the main range to the carpark.

Longview Hut is a great spot to go for an easy overnighter and do side trips or just relax and enjoy the Longview. We were Sharon Hoult, Bev Akers, Gary Bevins & Jemma (who has knocked off 100 huts & Kiwi approved - How many 4 year old dogs can say that)

### Beehive Creek Walkway 18 February

by Tim Swale

This was always going to be a tough mission! It took us over an hour in blazing hot sunshine to negotiate the Guinness and paninis at the Waterford before we even got to the start of the Beehive creek walkway. With a car left at the stream exit point we headed up the Pohangina valley to the start of the track. A steady climb up and across farmland following the new marker poles brought splendid views of the Ruahines and the windfarm developments in the northern Tararuas. By the time we reached the creek we were looking forward to cooling off in the shallow waters. The next hour following the meanders of Beehive Creek, constantly in and out of the water were a sheer delight. It ended all too soon at the road bridge where we had left the car. After a quick shuttle, the seven of us Lynne and Tim Burgess, Alan West, Jill Stewart, Linda Campbell, Ben and Tim Swale headed off for the final rendezvous of the day - Ashhurst's TipTop ice cream parlour.



# Club Information

## Annual Hut Passes

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](mailto:jeanandivan@value.net.nz) or phone (06) 354 3536.

## 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 Thurs day, 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 at [mtsc.editor@xtra.co.nz](mailto: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 or email [info@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:info@mtsc.org.nz)

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

This includes a list of contact details and a club email address. 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 <a href="mailto:mtsc.president.xtra.co.nz">mtsc.president.xtra.co.nz</a>
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 <a href="mailto:mtsc@inspire.net.nz">mtsc@inspire.net.nz</a>
Newsletter Editor	Wei-Hang Chua	021 212 0369 <a href="mailto:mtsc.editor@xtra.co.nz">mtsc.editor@xtra.co.nz</a>
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 <a href="mailto:wildeh@clear.net.nz">wildeh@clear.net.nz</a>
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