



beechleaves

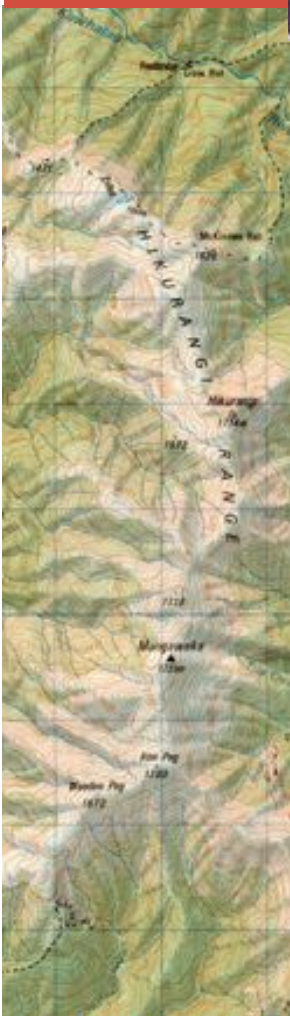
Newsletter of the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club

September 2007
Issue 8

mail:
MTSC
P.O. Box 245
Palmerston North

web:
www.mtsc.org.nz

Heading to Te Puia
Lodge (Mangatainoka
Hot Springs Trip |
11/8/07). Trip report
on page 10.
Photo: Tim Swale



Upcoming club nights

Stoats+Interclub Photo Comp

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

4th September - Stoats in North West Ruahine

Rebecca Lewis from the Department of Conservation will be coming to speak to us about Te Potae o Awarua, a two year research project to determine if the use of bait in stoat traps is necessary. This area contains a large number of rare and threatened plant and animal species including kiwi, kaka, falcon, bats, kakariki, whio, snails, dacty-lanthus and mistletoe. The project is being funded by a several sponsors and provides an invaluable opportunity to see the effect of stoat control on flora and fauna. Come along and hear about research which may help maintain and enrich our forest.

18th September - Interclub Photographic Competition

The best photos from each of the MTSC, PNTMC and MUAC photo competitions are judged against each other on this night (sounds almost like some sort of battle only with tripods and lenses). See who went that extra few metres or waited out for hours in the cold, or just took that spontaneous amusing shot. As Howard alludes to on page 2, club honour is at stake for us as hosts, so come out and support your club.

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President's Report

Interclub Competitions

by Howard Nicholson

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

The honour of MTSC is under threat! Annual inter-club competitions are about to get underway, first with the Interclub Photo Competition on 18 September. This is a great opportunity to see the finest images from our local clubs, as only the best pictures from each club will make it to this competition.

The next test will be the Interclub Quiz on 16 October, which MTSC is also hosting this time around. We narrowly missed out on first place last year; the competition will be hot again this time, and we need you to ensure our names appear on the coveted Trevor Bissell Memorial Billy once more. We intend to base the format on the very successful event hosted by MUAC last year, so all comers will be put into teams and will be involved.

In the meantime, brush up on your local and general knowledge (I suggest by tramping and skiing!) and prepare to defend MTSC's honour!

Howard Nicholson

New Club Members

The club would like to welcome the following new members:

Karl & Justine Massey (Palmerston North)

Maureen Talbot (Palmerston North)

Robert & Justine Beaver (Palmerston North)

For Sale

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

Altica Thermaplus V Neck Top Men, Medium size, Navy. I bought this for my son as a part of Kathmandu "3 for 1" deal. I have not realized how much muscle this guy managed to grow, there is no way he can squeeze into a medium size. Give me \$20 and it is yours. Phone Alla, 355 0862.

WANGANUI TRAMPING CLUB

50th ANNIVERSARY of the Opening of MANGATURUTURU HUT

22 – 24th March 2008
(EASTER)

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

SATURDAY 22nd – TRIP INTO THE HUT

SUNDAY 23rd - CELEBRATORY DINNER

Replies of interest to:

Russell Donaldson

6 Stafford St.

Wanganui, 4501

Phone: Ah 06 3442275; Mob 027 5149183

E-mail: russelld@clear.net.nz

Right: Jenny, Tony and Ken in deep discussion, Fred obviously doesn't want a bar of it and sits on a rock.
Photo: Dave Mitchell
(Burn Hut Trip |
12 August 2007)



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.

Oturere Hut

25-26 August **Medium/Fit/Technical**
Jenny McCarthy **06 376 8838**

We will be leaving early on Saturday morning. The route we take to Oturere Hut will depend on the weather forecast and where we leave the vehicle. It will be a technical trip requiring the use of crampons and ice axe. Please contact me for more information

Wednesday Trampers

29 August **Easy/Medium**
Bev Akers **325 8879**

Phone for more details.

Thursday Trampers

30 August **Easy/Medium**
Ann Green **06 374 5208**

Phone for more details.

Ngauruhoe

31 August - 2 September **Technical**
Howard Nicholson **357 6325**

Pack the sunscreen, bring your goggles, and join the adventure! This is your chance to strap crampons and/or skis to your feet, and to put your snowcraft skills into practice. The nearest chairlift is several kilometres away, so you are guaranteed some exercise. The plan is to drive up on Friday night and stay at either the Lodge or Mangatepopo Hut, giving us two days to choose from for the summit bid.

The club has gear for hire, including some ski touring gear for people who want to give this a go. Other costs will be \$40-\$50 for transport, plus accommodation. Please book early to avoid sadness and regret.

Waitewaewae Trig

2 September **Easy/Medium**
Tony Evans **357 4355**

Waitewaewae Trig is on the northern edge of the catchment area of the Waitewaewae River and a long way from the hut of the same name.

From the end of North Manakau Road it is a short walk in to where the Panatewaewae and Waikawa Streams meet, an old but well marked track heads up the ridge between the two streams to 708, the ridge then veers south and leads to Waitewaewae Trig. There is an old track near the trig which is signposted to Thomson which looks like an interesting round trip but that would involve taking more food and an extra day so we will just retrace our steps back to the road end.

Wednesday Trampers

5 September **Easy/Medium**
Jill Spencer **329 8738**

Phone for more details.

Thursday Trampers

6 September **Easy/Medium**
Ray Pratt **328 7884**

Phone for more details.

Skiing at the Lodge

7-9 September **All Skiers**
Christine Scott **354 0510**

Fancy a weekend skiing based at the Club Lodge at Whakapapa? I will be going up Friday evening (time negotiable) and returning Sunday evening (depending on the weather).

Totara Flats Hut

8-9 September **Easy/Medium**
Doug McNeur **359 1893**

Early in September, the Spring will be here! What better way to celebrate than to go for an easy/medium overnighter in the lovely Tararua's. If you've been hibernating over the cold period, you can use this as an opportunity to re-acquaint yourself with the wonderful bush and fresh air we have in this country. Call for more details.

Cone and Tutuwai Huts

9 September **Easy/Medium**
 Regrettably I won't be able to run this trip as we will be visiting the kids in North America from

late August till late September. Apologies to trip list organiser.

Wednesday Trampers

12 September

Bernard Cobb

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

328 8088

and then NNE to pick up an old farm track which will take us all the way down the spur back to the road end. It should be a solid 7-hour day, if not more, and given the amount of navigation and common sense required, people should be equipped for the worse...or the best, depending upon your view-point.

Thursday Trampers

13 September

John McLeod

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

323 5785

Wednesday Trampers

19 September

Dave Warnock

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

357 4140

Ski Camping

15-16 September

Ken Mercer

If the weather permits we'll stay above the ski field and get the first runs in the morning!

Technical

356 7497

Thursday Trampers

20 September

John Thornley

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

356 9681

Putara Road End Loop

16 September

Adam Matich

Surprise, surprise, this trip starts from the end of Putara Road, the Herepai Hut road end. About 200 m along the track we cross a footbridge. From there we leave the track and climb South-West up onto the high point (2724750E, 6054470N) directly north of the second footbridge. There is rumored to be an old trail up to there. We then head North-West along the trail to fall into the stream (2723965E, 6055090N) down-stream of Ruapae Falls. We head 200 m down-stream to the confluence (2723835E, 6054735N) and pick up the Bottle's Track, which heads south up the spur to the Herepai Track (2723715E, 6054040N) about 700 m short of Herepai Hut. Then we head down towards Roaring Stag Hut for 2 ½ km and veer off the track to the South West at bump 713, through the little saddle WSW of 713 and around and along to 858 and then 835. All of this is on an old track system. From 835 we then want to head North

Medium/Technical

359 2796

Trains Hut

22-23 September

Linda Campbell

I have been advised that if it has been raining this track in from Waitotora is not overly pleasant and probably best avoided. I did the track some years ago, on a good weekend, with a group that included children. It was a pleasant walk and not too challenging for young people. Should the weather be unsuitable another trip, also suitable for children will be organised.

Easy

323 3836

Atene Skyline

23 September

Dave Allan

We will be leaving at 7 am from the PN Police Station or 7.30 am at the Feilding Railway Station. Trip should take about 6 hours depending on the capabilities of the group.

Easy/Medium

323 9734

Wednesday Trampers

26 September

Ken Rush

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

357 2529



Left: Cattle Creek Hut
Photo: Adam Matich
(Cattle Creek Hut Trip |
4-5 August 2007)

Right: Preston Hatcher carrying part of the newly covered lounge suite up to the Club Lodge. Great job by Turnbull Furniture! (See page 9 for the story). Photo: Ken Mercer (Beginners Ski Weekend | 28-29 July 2007)



Thursday Trampers

27 September

Ivan Alve

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

356 3123

Waterfall Hut

6-7 October

Doug McNeur

Medium

359 1893

Waterfall hut is pretty much smack in the middle of the Ruahines. It's in a lovely spot beside the Kawhatau river. We'll probably be going in over Mangaweka and wandering up the river but there are several ways in so if you have a preference, let me know.

Park's Peak Hut

29-30 September

John Beech

Will be walking from the Sentry Box end to Parks Peak Hut. An easy weekend trip.

Easy/Medium

354 9310

Sledge Track (with PNTMC)

7 October

Christine Scott

Medium

354 0510

This is a nice close trip to town at the head of the Kahuterewa Valley. Due to a knee injury I will probably just be doing the short Toitoi loop but others are welcome to do the longer loop up onto South Range Road and along the ridge looking down into the Wairarapa. (Estimated time about 7 hour)s. Highlights of the trip will be mine shafts, views over both the Manawatu and Wairarapa, tussock flats and native bush. We will leave the Police Station at 7.30 am.

Longview Hut

30 September

Rod McKenzie

Situated in the south west Ruahines, the hut is a gentle climb up an open ridge (some time windy). Once there a great view is on offer. Depending on the day there are two alternatives for the return journey. We will leave town at 8 am.

Easy/Medium

357 0136

Wednesday Trampers

3 October

Jill Chapman

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

326 8605

Thursday Trampers

4 October

Jill Spencer

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

329 8738

Wednesday Trampers

10 October

Donna Hayes

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

06 322 8686

Thursday Trampers

11 October

Stuart Malcolm

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

358 3409

Pureora Forest Park

20-22 October

Christine Scott

This 78,000HA forest park lies on the western side of Lake Taupo. The forest is one of the last remnants of the extensive podocarp forests that once covered the central north island. Significant conservation battles took place here in 1978 with protestors occupying platforms in the treetops. It is also the home of one of the largest remaining populations of the north island kokako. For more information go to the DoC website at www.doc.govt.nz and do a search for Pureora. Our plan is to walk into Waihaha Hut (3 hours) from the Western Bay Road (SH 32) and from there head either north or south exiting at another road end. There may or may not be a second night out.

Easy/Medium

354 0510

Waipakihi Hut

13-14 October

John Doolan

An old dog can learn new tricks: never been here before, so why not join me and help find the way.

First rule, this is a fine weather trip and is for those who enjoy an easy / medium. If there is cloud on the top (rain, strong wind, etc) we will not go into Waiakihi, instead we will go into the Oturere Valley hut. That will be a shorter trip, say 4 hours (eastern side of Mt Ngauruhoe).

The Waipakihi Hut is reached after a "good" climb up to the bush line and then along the tops for a fair way: say about 5.5 hours in total. All of the tops are exposed, so as this is an easy / medium, we will err on the cautious side and not hesitate to put plan B in place so we can still have a weekend away.

We leave from 24 Montana Way at 7am on Saturday. Call me at work on 355 5495 (leave a message with Jacqui if I'm away) or email me at john.doolan@inspire.net.nz but don't call me on 06 355 2100, that phone hasn't worked for years.

Easy/Medium

355 5495

Wednesday Trampers

24 October

Pauline Hall

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

329 7707

Thursday Trampers

11 October

Nigel Spencer

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

329 8738

Wednesday Trampers

17 October

Tina Fraser

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

328 7757

Napier Walkways

27-28 October

Jenny McCarthy

Phone for more details.

Medium

06 376 8838

Thursday Trampers

18 October

Keith Fisher

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

357 1724

Mountain House Loop

28 October

Sue Tuohy

Phone for more details.

Easy

353 3303

Cobb Valley

20-22 October

Mark Learmonth

Phone for more details.

Medium

355 9143

Wednesday Trampers

31 October

Margaret Gillingham

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

356 8812



Left: Dog and owner brave the wind on the swing bridge near Totara Flats Hut
Photo: Karl Fraser (5 August 2007)



The Ahukawakawa Swamp with Mt Taranaki in the background (above) and walking across the Boomerang Slip (right)
 Photo: Loma Spencer (Holly and Pouakai Hut Trip | 18-19 June 2007)



Trip Reports

Holly & Pouakai Hut (Birthday Trip) 18-19 June

by Loma Spencer

Or two thirds of the Pouakai Circuit. Tom declared he wanted his 11th birthday up the mountain. So he wrote the gear lists and the trip rules, “adults lead and bring up the rear, wait at junctions, look after each other”- simple stuff! We took 6 kids and 4 adults.

In from North Egmont in brooding weather on Saturday after lunch. A moderate Southeasterly was bringing cloud down to the highest part of the trek (1400 m), where the bush was iced over. Four hours to Holly Hut (6.5 km), the track is in good nick as it has been upgraded to make the circuit. Some scrambling over rock falls under the Dieffenbach Cliffs, which we could barely see the top of through the cloud. The Boomerang Slip had caused some parental consternation before the trip, but was no more unpleasant than it usually is (no ice). The kids all rose to the challenge (keeping quiet as you cross it!). As we walked past the Kokowai Track turnoff (Plan B for bad weather) it started to snow lightly, great for the kids who had never been in snow! Fantastic snow cloud sunset over the Pouakai Ranges on the gentle walk down to the hut-last adult in delayed by multiple photo stops. There is now solar panel lighting at the hut, a bit sad perhaps, but no brighter than candles really. The potbelly (heaps of wood) warmed up the birthday tea, and the kids played noisily in the bunks. Luckily we had the hut to ourselves.

After the coldest night of the year so far we had porridge the next morning and took a sidetrack to Bells Falls, a long way down, but worth it. Strong winds nearly blew us into the Stoney River! The walk across the Ahukawakawa

swamp is beautiful, quite different from the rest of the mountain. Sheltered, completely different vegetation, warm, flocks of birds, only a couple of short soggy sections, with a really attractive, simple bridge over the river (full marks to the designer). The climb up the spur to the Pouakai was the worst section of the track, exposed to the wind and falling away in all directions, but DoC is obviously onto it. (We had the accountant for the timber suppliers with us, she was quite excited to see the planks- whatever turns you on!) The views down to the sunlit sea and back to the mountain with its fresh covering and snow cloud cape were superb. Lunch stop was the Pouakai hut verandah in the sunshine and then it seemed a long slog down through the rainforest to the pick-up point at the top of Mangorei Road (10.5 km including trip to Bells Falls).

All the kids (several complete novices) said they would come again, but maybe a shorter trip next time!

Sunrise Hut 21 June

by Keith Fisher

Eleven trampers left the road end in watery sunshine. The track approaching the hut made it a real mid winter tramp – snow, ice and a cold wind. Lunch in the hut only reinforced the effect – the heating system was not working. We were back down to the van by mid afternoon. Here the weather was good, more watery sunshine.

Alpine Instruction Course I 14-16 July

by Brian Webster

Man that new minibus is good. Comfort, power, WARMTH (A two area heating system that on a cold winters night had the rear passengers asking for the heater to

Right: Course participants at the Club Lodge

Photo: Alla Seleznyova
(Alpine Instruction Course I |
14-16 July 2007)



be turned down after only 20 mins). A Friday night trip to the lodge is no sweat!

Yep it's snowcraft time and nine keen and excited, expectant, apprehensive (depending on which particular story Geraldine had told them) people headed to the mountain for a weekend of fun in the sun and snow. A group of mostly new club members enjoyed themselves learning to walk on snow, use ice axe and crampons and building a snow shelter (which three brave souls used) on a day that couldn't have been better.

On the Sunday we took a walk up on to the Pinnacle Ridge just to eat our lunch and catch some sun (oh well we did manage a wee bit of instruction as well).

I had a great weekend. Thanks for coming: Kim Dowson, Greg Dobson, Rachele Cocker, Kristy Jones, Fiona Odering, Heather Fletcher, Geraldine Fovakis, Alla Seleznyova and Brian Webster.

Waiopehu Hut 22 July

by Glenn Pendergrast

From the car park just beyond the pipe bridge out of Levin there was just a short farm walk before the bush-edge and the immediate uphill trudge to the hut. We stopped on the way to view the camp-site by Camp Creek, the site of the old Edwards Shelter, and the site of the old Waiopehu Hut. The new hut was reached in a snow shower which quickly cleared to give us great views of the main range and out over the Manawatu Plains. Lunch was eaten inside the hut, staying warm with the sun streaming in through the big windows. We came back the same way and were back in town before dark. Glenn Pendergrast, Tony Evans, Jill Stewart, Kim Dawson, and Brian Webster.

Hemi Matenga 25 July (Wed)

by Rosemary and Ken Hall

Hemi Matenga Memorial Park Scenic Reserve comprises 330 hectares of native forest overlooking Waikanae, pro-

tecting one of the largest remaining areas of kohekohe forest. The reserve rises steeply from 150 m to its highest point, Te Au, 514 m above sea level. The land was originally owned by Hemi Matenga Waipunahau and Wiremu Parata Waipunahau, brothers from a distinguished family of Ngati Toa descent. Hemi Matenga died in 1912.

Twenty one of us (eight men and 13 ladies) left Palmerston North with very black clouds looming ahead in the direction we were heading for, but we were very hopeful, after all we were heading for the sunshine coast. Our aim was to get the steep bit over and done with first, so after parking the car at Kakariki Grove we ambled off to Huia Street, which took about 15 min walk. Travelling at a leisurely pace with several stops, we hardly noticed the grunt up the ridge and eventually reached a lovely clearing in the bush where we enjoyed an early lunch. Sadly the views from the lookout were obscured with heavy clag so we didn't hang about there too long.

We encountered lots of huge cowpats over the next section and two of our lovely men stepped straight in them, one after the other, they must have been looking up at the clouds. Thereafter the cry was heard down the line, cowpat, cowpat. Later on we met a runner coming up the track and he told us that it was in fact a loose bull making all the mess, (bullpat or bullshine was the new mantra). Geez! Glad we didn't encounter him in our lunch break in the bush.

The round trip took about 3 hours approximately and we rounded off a lovely day with coffee and yummys at the Brown Sugar Cafe. Thanks to everyone for their wonderful company and sense of fun.

Sledge Track 26 July (Thu)

by Peter Carver

Twelve people went up the Sledge Track around the mines and home again. At least that is what they said they did as Hon Leader got left way behind and didn't see them until we were all back at the van.

Beginners Ski Weekend

28-29 July

by Ken Mercer

Mary and Ken had taken one days leave in the hope of skiing fresh powder on Friday without queues. Alas it turned out to be a drizzle day so we were content with three runs down the rock garden and carrying in fresh supplies.

Preston surprised us by arriving early which was great as the other "little job" which was planned involved carrying in the resprung and recovered 10 piece lounge suite! Ryan and Rob arrived in a truck soon after 3.00 and used Dennis Turnbull's technique of carrying an inverted settee on their heads. Preston and Ken were more conservative, using the pack frames and rope to carry the larger pieces. Mary carried bundles of cushion whilst the inclement weather got the top surfaces quite wet.

The final phase was sorting out the jigsaw puzzle and eventually all pieces and cushions slotted into place. Phew! We had our tea, Ryan left for the return drive back to PN, and people trickled in throughout the evening until the lodge was full.

Saturday's weather was a vast improvement although some mist drifted by from time to time. The 9 beginners learnt heaps on the lower mountain whilst the experts enjoyed the upper slopes. Peter, Rob and Preston skinned up to near Dome in the afternoon.

Sunday dawned overcast with good visibility but rain was forecast later. We raced out early and skied until it clagged out, returning to the lodge to lunch on leftovers and tidy up. It was the end of an enjoyable weekend.

Alpine II

28-29 July

by Howard Nicholson

Friday arrived at last, and I finally had a good excuse to take the minibus up the mountain. Picking up a few skiers on the way, we arrived at Taihape bang on tea-time, and arrived at the Lodge soon thereafter. The rest of the alpinists, some travelling from Wellington, arrived around Midnight.

The squeak of the tea trolley announced the end of a too-short sleep. The forecasted poor weather was obviously venting its fury somewhere else, so we made the most of an awesome day by climbing up to Hut Flat (or in my case, riding), where we indulged in a little sliding and self arresting. Still the weather held, so we headed up the ridge to Delta Corner, practicing our best cramponing technique on the Whakapapa "firm" snow. A steeper, icy slope added a bit more realism to what we were doing, and soon we were heading back down to the Lodge. This was my first chance for a ski run this year, and I can confirm that skiing is definitely faster than walking! To say that one could ski all the way to the Lodge was technically correct, however some of the snow was only one ski wide in places. We had the pleasure of testing the newly refurbished lounge suite, courtesy of Turnbull's Furniture and Sherpas Badger, Mercer, Mercer, Pringle, and Hatcher. The Lodge was full, but even so, it is a great place to unwind for the weekend.

We knew the weather wouldn't hold out for much longer, so on Sunday we rebuilt a nearby snow shelter, prepared earlier by the Alpine I team, noting that even though

someone (I will remain nameless) put their shovel through the roof, we would all still be winners under our NCEA-based grading system. Alas, it soon started to rain and I suspect that the shelter is now lost at sea somewhere. After a hearty lunch and a final clean-up, we trundled back to town, ready for another week in th' mines. We were Sabina and Rex de Rooy, John Dimond, and Howard Nicholson.

Mt Bruce

2 August

by Graham Pritchard

Seventeen trampers made the trip to the top of Mt Bruce (or Bruce Hill as the map names it, 710m) - great views over the fog-filled Wairarapa plain. Most went on down to the reserve boundary on the eastern side and back. Parts of the track to the summit in the scrubby areas are becoming very overgrown. About 6 hours round trip.

Cattle Creek Hut

4-5 August

by Adam Matich

It being an easy trip, we left town later than usual on what was a warm sunny day without a cloud in the sky, somewhere else. We took the Holmes Ridge Track to keep our feet dry, which most managed despite the single, initial river crossing. Then we had a 250 m climb up onto Holmes Ridge over a distance of about 1 km, which was easy going, especially once we reached the vehicle track. Eventually we dropped back down to the West Tamaki River, not far from the Rimu Track, and wandered on up to Standfield Hut (1¼ hr) for a slightly early lunch. From thereon we had less than ½ km up the river to the base of Apiti Ridge, which required a 300 m climb. The day was still clear and from up on the ridge we could see down to Cattle Creek Hut (8-bunk), which looked especially inviting as we could see that it had a proper wood-burner type chimney. It took 15 min to drop down to the hut to arrive just as the rain started (4¼ hr day). Jenny lit the fire and we settled in for afternoon tea and sloth until the rigours of cooking dinner intervened.

It was a wet and very windy night and some of us didn't get very much sleep because of the noise. Come morning we were concerned about the wisdom of returning to the road end via Takapari Road as it was still very noisy outside. We decided to play it by ear and headed up Cattle Creek looking for the track up to the saddle. Creek travel was not too difficult, but keeping our feet dry slowed us down a bit. The track out of the creek up to the saddle doesn't seem to start where the map says, but eventually we spotted a cairn up on our left and a sign just beyond it. Although the track is little used or maintained, it was a quick an easy route up to the saddle (2¼ hrs). For most of the creek travel there had been almost no wind, and the saddle itself was also calm. So we decided to head on up the Lost Track to Takapari Peak. The sign said 1 hr to the top, but it took us 75 min. The Lost Track hasn't been officially maintained since 2004 and is starting to show its age. Travel is still not too bad, but because of some regrowth and little wind-falls is just a bit slow and wet pushing through the vegetation. It is getting near the stage where perhaps it should stay lost. However, it would not take very much effort to make it a worthwhile track again. A good project for the Thursday Trampers perhaps!



Left: Mark, Jenny and Kim in the Ruahines
Photo: Adam Matich
(Cattle Creek Hut Trip |
4-5 August 2007)

It took us another hour from Takapari to the nice open leatherwood corridor at the top of the track down to Stanfield Hut (E2769389,N6120614). Again, this is not maintained and it is slightly tight and slippery in places. The latter of which can be capitalised upon. On the slippery downhill section the women-folk preferred to tramp behind so that should they slip they would have someone to fall on, an enjoyable experience for some of those concerned perhaps. It took 70 min of easy travel along the open corridor and Takapari Rd to reach A-Frame Hut for a late lunch, just before a heavy downpour. While it was windy on the tops, both the road and the tracks up there were all well sheltered from the westerly winds, so our concerns of that morning were unfounded. After lunch we bounced on down (75 min) to the car park to end our trip after a 6.25 hr day, in which like the previous day, the weather had been surprisingly kind to us, although the state of Jenny's hair prompted the suggestion that she audition for a part in Macbeth. We were Kim Dowson, Jenny McCarthy, Mark Learmonth and Adam Matich.

Makairo Tramp 8 August (Wed)

by Patsy Inkpen

A chill but pleasant and enjoyable day for 22 trampers. There were rocks on the road there so had to get out and get them out of the way.

Miro Hut 9 August (Thu)

by Merv Matthews

The route to the Miro hut (aka Punga hut) took us through the Gordon Kear Forest to its southernmost boundary where after a brief search we located the start of a reasonably clear track to the Scrub trig. Another hands-and-knees search in the vicinity of a large rock soon revealed a hidden but well-marked track which took us all the way to the cosy four-bunk hunters' hut. It comprised walls of punga logs and an iron roof and seemed quite expertly

built, and very old. The hut book showed frequent use by hunters. We were eleven Thu Trampers. Total time 5.5 hr.

Mangatainoka Hot Springs 11-12 August

by Tim Swale

Severe weather warnings over most of the country predicting storm force winds and heavy rain were not what we wanted to hear just before setting off on our long trip up to the Kawekas. However a quick ring round the trip participants on Friday night made it clear that nobody was going to be put off by such dire warnings. Don McDonald very kindly offered to pick up the Club minibus and bring over the Palmerston contingent to meet the rest of the group at Woodville. The journey was punctuated with an early lunch at Heavens Bakery in Taradale before continuing on our way over roads of ever diminishing stature until we reached the roadend at Mangatutu Hot Springs.

With windy but mainly dry conditions we set forth to follow the winding Mohaka river for just over a couple of hours to our night's accommodation at Te Puia Lodge. There are three bluffs to be climbed on the way giving panoramic views along this delightful valley. In no time at all we were at the hut having a leisurely afternoon tea before dumping all the heavy overnight gear and heading off up to Mangatainoka Hot Springs another 45 minutes upstream. This time we needed the waterproofs as a shower of rain blew in but did nothing to dampen our enthusiasm.

The hot springs as always were a sheer delight. The skies cleared to reveal millions of brightly shining stars that almost merged with the glow worms on the banks surrounding us. After an hour or so we were sufficiently wrinkly to feel that it was time to head off back towards the hut for an evening meal. A very narrow, steep ridge on the return trip needs to be taken seriously as the results of a fall hardly bear contemplating!

Morning dawned dull and grey with persistent rain across the valley but with only a short trip back to the road end there was no rush to get going. Shortly after setting out we

again came across one of the pair of blue ducks that we had seen bobbing about in the river the previous day. Soon the rain stopped, the sun came out and waterproofs were packed away making the return journey very pleasant indeed.

The road end camping area at Mangatutu also has a hot spring that pours into a fibreglass tub thoughtfully placed by DOC on the side of the valley. Of course we had to try this one out as well. A bit of tub cramming followed and after a suitable amount of soaking we eventually made our way home via the bakery at Taradale. A great weekend with delightful company. We were Jinny Anderson, Linda Campbell, Rachelle Cocker, Don McDonald, Mike Phillips, Alla Seleznyova, Ben and Tim Swale. PS. The new Club minibus is superb in providing cost effective and comfortable travel.

Burn Hut Trip 12 August

by Dave Mitchell

Despite the weather looking a bit rough on Sunday, five of us left the police station at 7 am. There were many flooded paddocks and water tables on the way down. The road from the Mangahao power station to No.3 dam was in good condition but from No.3 dam to No.1 dam the road is getting rough. The route we followed, takes us over the dam which was full and overflowing, from there we take the sidle track through the bush which brings us to college

creek. It's normally an easy 45 min walk up the creek to where we start climbing up the ridge. We had to bush bash up the true right as the creek was discolored and still high. This involved me falling in the stream and getting wet while I carried the dog across, everyone else managed ok with a little assistance from each other. It got better further up though and we soon left the creek for the climb up onto the ridge tops. The track gradually winds its way up through the bush, eventually coming out on the tops. It had been raining, then hailing earlier on but once we were on the top, the sun came out and we got some nice views around the place. We wound our way along the ridge eventually dropping down to Burn hut 4 hours after leaving the cars. Burn hut was in good condition but it was cold so we didn't linger. From Burn Hut it is a shorter walk around the tops to where the track enters the bush and then it is all down hill to the Mangahao River. Fred the dog just had time to get one opossum. There is a bridge over the first side stream then two more crossings before emerging at No. 2 dam. This part of the tramp only took us 1 and $\frac{3}{4}$ hours but Steve and I had to walk back 4 km to No.1 dam and get the cars. As luck would have it a vehicle was just coming past the turnoff to No.2 dam as we set off. The people were only too happy to give us a ride up to No.1 dam. This enabled us to get out to Shannon for an ice cream by 5 pm. It was a good tramp and we were lucky to miss most of the rain that weekend. Those on the trip were Jenny and Steve, Tony, Ken, Dave and Fred.



Above: Burn Hut

Photo: Dave Mitchell (Burn Hut Trip | 12 August 2007)

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 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 to be made in advance by personal cheque, bank cheque or cash. There is no Internet banking for lodge fees. Contact Hugh & Liz Wilde on (06) 356 9450.

	Members	Guests
Adult	\$21	\$33
Secondary School	\$18	\$30
Primary School	\$15	\$26

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. 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 effect club asset. Adam Matich is our minibus custodian and he can be contacted at (06) 359 2796.

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. 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

Club website | 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 2007-08 Committee

President	Howard Nicholson	357 6325 mtsc.president.xtra.co.nz
Secretary	Tim Swale	06 376 6556
Treasurer	Christine Scott	354 0510
Chief Guide	Bev Akers	325 8879
Day Trip Convenor	Gary Bevins	325 8879
Membership Sec.	Jenny McCarthy	06 376 8838 mtsc.memsec@xtra.co.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 Custodian	Adam Matich	359 2796
General Committee	Geraldine Fovakis Ivan Alve Clare Wilford	