

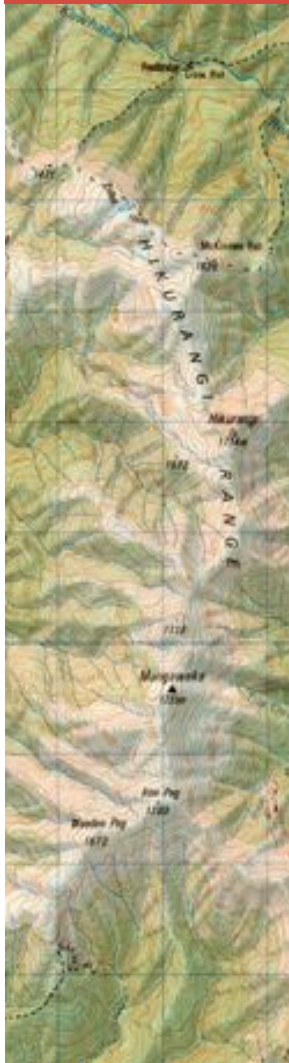
May 2008
Issue 04

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Zekes Hut
(Zekes Hut Trip | 6 April 2008).
Photo: Adam Matich



Upcoming club nights

Nutrition for trampers+AGM

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

6th May - Nutrition matters for trampers

Registered dietician Gaye Philpott will be speaking to us about the importance of good nutrition for our busy tramping lifestyle. She will be talking about:

What are the best carbohydrate foods to eat before, during and at the end of the tramping day and, how to ensure sufficient protein, fibre and kilocalories on longer trips. A proper diet can mean the difference between feeling ok and well, and help the body be prepared and recover from the daily rigors through the flats and up and down the hills in all weather. Come along and learn about how to fuel the body!

20th May - Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held at 7.30 pm at the Manawatu Districts Aero Club rooms, Airport Drive, Palmerston North. Committee positions will be up for grabs, so please consider how you may be able to help with running and setting the direction of the club. Items such as the club minibus, the ongoing maintenance of the club lodge, and club night numbers will be debated. Contact an existing committee member for further information or come on the night to bring up any issues you wish to raise regarding club operations or ideas you may have.

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President's Report

AGM in May

by Howard Nicholson

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

Unfortunately Howard was unable to get a report in this month. He did ask that I include a reminder of the upcoming AGM coming up on the 20th of May at the normal club night time of 7.30 pm as per the details on the cover. Some items of note which Howard mentioned in his last report are worth repeating and will be up for discussion. If you would like to express your views on these issues then please contact Howard or any other member of the committee. Committee positions are becoming vacant for the coming year, so if you think that you can bring new ideas and enthusiasm to the team discuss this with any member of the committee. The club relies on the commitment of these individuals to keep the books in order, and organise club activities in the direction that club members dictate. We need enthusiastic people, so don't underestimate yourself. See you at the AGM (Editor).

A couple of ideas have been floated recently:

One: Should we reduce the size of the Committee? Sometime back in the eighties (last century) some roles that were previously appointments became committee positions, largely because there were topical issues that needed regular committee involvement. This is no longer the case, and so some of these positions could convert back to being appointments again. This is no way degrades the importance or necessity of these roles; the position holders already spend considerable time performing their roles, so the additional requirement to attend committee meetings each month is removed.

Two: Should we hold our club nights only once per month? Currently, the Social Convener arranges interesting speakers for two meetings a month; however club night attendance is variable, ranging from about 12 to 50 or so. Maybe we would get a consistent turnout of more people if we only had one club night per month. Linda raised this in last month's newsletter and would be keen to hear from you.

What do you think about these ideas? Please give me your feedback, so that the committee can make informed decisions on these issues.

New Club Members

The club welcomes:

Janind Mazierska (Palmerston North)

David & Verena Haynes & Family

Chief Guide's Report

by Bev Akers

Phone (06) 325 8879 | Email bevakers@xtra.co.nz

We have had two very good club nights on First Aid. Unfortunately only a handful turned up to take advantage of this free offer to update on these vital skills. Amassing how techniques keep changing, so it does pay to attend these nights when they are made available to the club members. Thanks Tom, it was informative, entertaining and fun.

First Aid Courses

There will be two Outdoor First Aid courses running on the 14-15 June and September 20-21. For further information check out www.mountainsafety.org.nz or email Tom Siegenthaler on tsiegen@xtra.co.nz.

The Re-vamp Has Started!

by Ryan Badger

Christmas Trip

Well they say that a change is as good as a holiday, so a few of us decided to test the theory out and spent the last week before Christmas planning and organizing a work party to the ski lodge.

With the Christmas celebrations out of the way we packed up Rob's 4WD and headed for the mountain. We arrived on the evening of the 26th and proceeded to carry a few loads of gear into the lodge before bed time. We woke up the next morning to a white Christmas!! There had been a bit of a storm the night before and had covered everything with a light dusting of powder, however after a few hours of sun we were back to bare rocks.

Rob and I decided we had better focus on the task at hand so the work began. Demolition was the first task. All the wall and ceiling linings had to come off before we could start any re-lining. After the first room was stripped out Rob started the re-lining of the walls while I carried on with the demolition in the second bunk room. Work was steady over the next few days, however I was starting to question whether it was much of a holiday as work often started at 7.30 am and carried on until close to midnight most nights. We were joined but Kate on Saturday and Sunday and although we had done well fending for ourselves it was handy to have some fresh meal ideas! Kate also proved to be very handy with a mitre saw and nail gun, fitting most of the skirting while we were busy with other jobs. Doug and Jan Pringle also came for the day on Sunday and did all those little bits and pieces that Rob and I had forgotten about or hadn't had time for. Finally the end neared and right on time, we were planning to head home on the 31st and it was coming up quick!

The morning of the 31st came and we were finished! (just) we spent the morning tidying up and tying rubbish to pallets to be air lifted out, then we packed our several large loads of gear and headed for home, somewhat relieved that it was all over but with a great sense of

satisfaction as to what we had achieved! A huge thanks to those people who joined the team over the six days and gave a hand over the holiday break.

Easter Trip

Although the two re-lined rooms look great they were lacking one thing... new bunks!!! So Rob and I decided that Easter would be a great weekend to head up for a bit more work, the list was short and sweet:

- 1) Install the newly made bunks
- 2) Install a new women's shower!

Rob, Kate and I packed up and headed up Thursday night after work. Arriving quite late we walked in and headed for bed so we could make a fresh start the next morning.

Friday morning came and we started the big carry in, new bunks were carried in and the old ones taken out on a back load. Work was finally able to commence around 2 pm and carried on quite late into the evening. We were joined by my mother on Friday arvo as we planed to make the pilgrimage up the mountain to dome shelter on the Saturday.

Saturday was a cracker and made for a great walk to the shelter. This was the first time I had been up in summer and made for quite a different photo when the mountain isn't covered in snow!

We arrived back at the lodge around 4.30 pm and after a quick snack we carried on with the task at hand and by bed time we had the last bunk installed, the finishing touches being put in the shower and Kate had put up the new curtains that she had made for the bunk rooms. Sunday was the day we were planning to head home and once again we had finished on time! Rob and I were treated to bacon, eggs and brekkie sausages for Sunday breakfast (thanks Kate!) and then the final clean up and carry out of gear commenced. As we headed down the mountain in the car at 12.30 pm all agreed that it had been another weekend of hard yet very rewarding work!

A huge thanks to Rob and Kate for giving up their holiday weekend!

Editors comment: We are extremely lucky to have such a dedicated and enthusiastic lodge manager in Ryan. The maintenance and improvements that have been put into the lodge over the Xmas and Easter break will be appreciated for years to come. Once again the Pringle Family is also involved as they have been for so many years. If you're a keen DIYer, have skills in the trade, or like me have no skills at all but feel the need to help out, then see when the next working bee is happening. They are no doubt working and social events.



Left and above: New bunks in the relined bunk room and the new ladies shower.

Photo: Ryan Badger (Lodge Revamp | Xmas 07 - Easter 08)

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

30 April

Margaret Gillingham

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

356 8812

Thursday Trampers

1 May

Gordon Clark

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

359 2500

Hut Work Party

3-4 May

Jean Garman

We will leave bright and early Saturday morning to head into Mangahao Flats. There are five trees around the hut which have been cut down and ringed so we will be gathering these up, splitting them and stacking them in the woodshed. All the perspex windows have been replaced by glass so the hut should be lighter and brighter making it easier to see what needs cleaning. Dinner will be yummy and there will be ample time for relaxed socialising over a quiet drink or two. We should be home late Sunday afternoon.

Medium/Party

354 3536

Herepai Hut

4 May

Alla Seleznyova

This pleasant walk starts at Mangatainoka Rd end (also called Putara Rd) not far from Eketahuna. We will pass through some lovely beech forest following the Mangatainoka River, before a short steep climb up to the ridge line, and walk along the ridge to the hut. We will have lunch at the hut and return via the same route. Meet at the main Police Station in Church Street at 7:30 a.m.

Easy/Medium

355 0862

Wednesday Trampers

7 May

Margaret Foote

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

357 8003

Thursday Trampers

8 May

Rose Strahan

I will take the group to either Toka or No I line, Pohangina.

Easy/Medium

328 9861

Mangaehuehu Hut

10-11 May

John Doolan

Easy/Medium
john.doolan@inspire.net.nz

Graded easy/medium this trip will become a talking point at club nights for years to come. The talk will be about the fun that was had, the great company, fine food, great companionship, the stories told, the beauty of the southern slopes of Mt. Ruapehu and the relaxing time had by the chosen few.

If you want to enjoy such an experience, come with us to Mangaehuehu Hut. We will leave early on Saturday morning to give us time to have a coffee at Ohakune, park the van at the carpark a ways up Mountain Road (on the way to the Turoa Skifield) and then don our packs for the 3-4 hour tramp to the hut.

Along the track we will tramp the long board walk over a huge bog/swamp, stop and admire the Waitonga Falls and have great views of the Turoa Skifield. Mangaehuehu Hut is modern, has good loos, large bunk room and a smaller room for the noisy sleepers.

There are no "huge" hills, but there are lots of gullies to go up and down. But if there is no hurry and we go at my pace (slow) we will have an enjoyable day out in the Tongariro National Park.

Book your place now, limited spaces available. Don't use the phone number on the trip card, its been disconnected for years. E mail me at john.doolan@inspire.net.nz

Toka Loop

11 May

Christine Scott

Medium

354 0510

The intention is to leave from the parking area beyond Sixtus Lodge, go up Knights Track and back down Shorts track (with lunch in the sun at Toka Trig). Knights Track is a little steep and slippery but the views will be worth it. We will leave the Police Station at 7.30 am.

Wednesday Trampers

14 May

Lynne Robinson

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

329 8759

Thursday Trampers

15 May

Contact one of the regulars

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

Purity Hut**17-18 May****Bev Akers****Easy
325 8879**

Nice easy overnighiter to a new hut in the western Ruahines. Sunday, the intention is to venture further on to the tops and maybe to the highest point in the range, Mangaweka trig.

Wednesday Trampers**21 May****Alison Trotter****Easy/Medium
356 1296**

Phone for more details.

Thursday Trampers**22 May****Lyn Charlton****Easy/Medium
06 374 8259**

Phone for more details.

Mid Waiohine Hut**24-25 May****Garry Grayson****Medium/Fit
326 8837**

This trip begins from Mt Holdsworth Road-end on the south-western side of Masterton. The route in will take us about 3 km along the Atiwhakatu Stream track as far as East Holdsworth turn-off. From here a steady climb to the 'tops' exiting the bush at about 1200mtrs - slightly North-east of Mt Holdsworth. A climb to the top of Mt H' (1470mtrs) for some views or sidle around to climb over Isabelle Peak, then the long down-hill to the hut situated near the Waiohine River.

The homeward leg is back up to Mt H' peak and continue on down via Powell Hut and the Mt Holdsworth track back to the road-end car-park.

I'm hoping to leave P.N. at 7.30 Sat morning, possibly have a quick smoko stop at Masterton on the way through if we are running on time!

Wednesday Trampers**28 May****Mona Webb****Easy/Medium
323 4212**

Phone for more details.

Thursday Trampers**29 May****Graham Pritchard****Easy/Medium
357 1393**

Phone for more details.

Te Hoe Track (Whirinaki)**31 May - 2 June****Mark Learmonth****Medium
355 9143**

Nice easy overnighiter

Crow Hut (Northern Ruahines)**8 June****Dave Mitchell****Medium/Fit
329 2803**

This day trip starts from the Kawhatau base road end, which is in from Mangaweka.

We cross the Kawhatau river in the flying fox, then there is a steep climb(800m) all the way up to the bush line. We then climb more gradually, making our way along the Hikurangi range, for a short while, till we reach the turn off down to Crow hut(1471m). There is a steep descent(600m) down to Crow hut which is next to the Kawhatau river. We may have to plough through some

snow on the track above the bush line. It will probably be at least 3 to 4 hours each way, depending on the fitness of the party and weather conditions. People need to have the appropriate gear for this time of the year, just in case. I would like to get away from P.N. no later than 7a.m.

Holdsworth - Jumbo Circuit**14-15 June****Tim Swale****Medium
06 376 6556**

This popular tramp on the eastern side of the Tararua offers a range of scenery from lowland forest to open tops and makes for a very rewarding weekend trip. The plan at this stage is to walk up the Gentle Annie track from Holdsworth Lodge, stopping at Powell Hut for lunch before following the ridge across to Jumbo Hut for the night. The next day it is a steep descent down Raingauge Spur to the Atiwhakatu Stream which we will follow back to the road end. Because the tops are so exposed, full storm gear should be packed.

Waiouru Army Museum plus...**29 June****Adam Matich****Military/Cafe
359 2796**

We will be leaving P.N. around 8 a.m. and travelling as fast as possible to the nearest enticing-looking cafe for breakfast. Thereafter, our next stop will be in Taihape to walk off a few breakfast calories (if it isn't raining) on the Stewart Reserve hill which is behind the galvanised iron gumboot. I don't think it is a big walk so don't expect to walk off all your breakfast. Then we will make our way to the Army Museum and stay there until I have decided that we are bored and want to go home again, or we get kicked out at closing time (4:30 p.m.), or for other reasons. The museum has a cafe (Rations Cafe), which will do us nicely for lunch. The adventurous people may want to explore the more high-end dining establishments elsewhere in Waiouru.

War being an expensive business, it costs money to get into the museum.

Adults	\$12
Children	\$7
Students (ID)	\$8
Family	\$26
Seniors	\$8
RSA's	\$8

And with the cost of transport, breakfast, lunch, and maybe even afternoon tea, you might want to take out a second mortgage. But given the rubbish people waste their money on these days, the day is cheap at twice the price. Either way, this is an opportunity to finally visit the museum instead of just driving past it on the way to somewhere, like I always do!



The winter wonderland near the hut
(Mid King Biv Trip | 20 April 2008).
Photo: Adam Match

Trip Reports

Tongariro Weekday Trip

5 March

by Chris Brunskill and Rose Strahan

Jill Chapman's tramp but Jill was gracious enough to let us head up to Highway 1 to tackle the saddle track from Highway 1 via the Tama Lakes and on round to Whakapapa. Bev Akers and Rose Strahan dropped 14 trampers off in light drizzle (six stayed overnight at Sue and Lawson Pither's very accommodating chalet at Rangitaiea where we woke to insistent rain at 5 am!). The drivers headed north via Rangipo to walk in from the Whakapapa end to meet the group at Tama Lakes for lunch. The sun came out and all got to Lower Tama with eight going up the hill to Upper Tama to lunch in the stone circle on the Tama Ridge as there was a strong, cold wind up there. The Pinnacles Ridge on Ruapehu looked terracotta colour in the distance now clear of snow and Ngauruhoe seemed menacingly close. Lower Tama is a view no trumper should miss, and evidently the seagulls roost on the lake beach there at night. Most did the Taranaki Falls loop on the way to Whakapapa.

Toka

19 March

by Rose Strahan

Seventeen trampers went up to Knight's Track to Toka in perfect conditions. Nine intrepid Wednesday trampers

then showed how fit they were by proceeding along Ngamoko Ridge and coming down Shorts Track. The Ridge has become more overgrown with leatherwood so an extra half hour was needed. It would be great if DoC would be able to get up there sometime with some slashers so people can fully utilize the track.

Waiatouru Hut Found

20 March

by Christine Allardice

Twelve Thursday trampers set out to find the hut having failed on two previous occasions. Fortunately Merv Matthews had his GPS and was able to find we had passed the Hut and were moving further away. Combined with good map reading from Graham Pritchard we finally crossed the river again and after a short distance we were at the Hut. It was pleasing to see the old boilers have been given a coating to preserve them. An enjoyable day was had by all a good days tramping.

Kapakapanui

27 March

by Christine Scott

Eleven of us set off Kapakapanui on a brilliant day – reading trip reports it is often cloudy on the top of Kapakapanui but we were treated to brilliant views out to the south island, Wellington, Kapiti coast and across the

Tararuas. It was two hours up to Kapakapanui Hut and a further hour onto the trig before the ridge descended steeply back to the starting point. We were lucky that it was extremely dry underfoot – I imagine it could get quite greasy and slippery when wet.

Te Matawai Work Party 29-30 March by Adam Matich

It took us less than three hours to get up to the South Ohau Hut site from Poads Road because the Ohau River system was very low. It was a bit smelly for a little while in the South Ohau River though, and eventually we discovered a not very fresh deer carcass. Like most dumb animals, it had made the mistake of being at the wrong end of the rifle. DoC had completed blasting the site for the new South Ohau Hut, which meant that there was a bit of debris and the hut site looked muddy. Some of the earth was blown onto the other side of Butcher's Creek. A nice new toilet had been installed the day before. After lunch we made our way up to Te Matawai in the light drizzle. After all that hard tramping we decided to have a brief start on nibbles before the firewood chopping began. However, Tyrant-Jean wouldn't let us sample the drinks until after the work was done.

DoC had cut down some trees off the southern side of the helicopter landing pad, to where they had to be hauled and in turn wheel-barrowed down to the hut for Doug and Malcolm to split. The track is not really suitable for a wheel barrow, and so the transport part of the exercise was not all all enjoyable. It only took about 2½ hours to collect and chop and saw up all the available wood. With the work run out, we were so devastated that we spent the

rest of the afternoon drowning our sorrows in several bottles, and making unkind remarks about the parentage of whoever it was decided to cut down the trees on the southern side of the helipad instead of the much more accessible northern side, where the trees are also bigger.

After all the food and drink we didn't feel like too much for dinner and so our Thai chicken curry didn't have any rice in it and we only had half of the custard on our steamed pudding. The other half of the custard ended up on the bench, and the floor and Jean's socks, which was probably a result of us drowning our sorrows. But that was a happy accident as it meant part of the floor got washed. Next morning Jean rushed out to clean the toilet so that our morning visits there would be pleasant, while the rest of us cleaned the hut, which involved washing the windows, the bench tops, the walls etc etc, cleaning the fire, sweeping the whole place out, and tidying up the porch. Consequently, the hut looked very tidy! Aren't we wonderful?

Even though it had been raining all night, Jean made us return back down to the South Ohau because she didn't believe there had been enough rain to cause us difficulty in the river. We begged Jean to let us go out over the tops, but she was adamant. We should have mutinied, but were too dispirited from our hangovers. So like the sheep we were, we let Jean led us down to the South Ohau. When we got there the river looked a bit dodgy and so Jean decided that we were going to have to cross Butcher's Creek and climb up onto Gable End Ridge. And so baaaa! baaaa! baaa!, we all followed Jean up onto Gable End Ridge. In retrospect, it was probably better than climbing all the way back up the Yeats Track again. It took about 2½ hours (incl. lunch) to reach the track on Gable End



Above: Heading up the Ohau
(Te Matawai Work Party | 29-30 March 2008)
Photo: Jean Garman

Above right: The old boilers and Waitouru Hut
(Waitouru Hut Found | 20 March 2008)
Photo: Christine Allardice



Left: Mid King Biv in the snow
(Mid King Biv Trip | 20 April 2008)
Photo: Garry Grayson

Ridge at 930 m, and it was surprisingly easy. The forest was open and friendly (in a nice, platonic kind of way) and up top, there was a tussocky section and a very mild 5-minute bush push. From then on in was a wander down the Gable End Track to the Ohau Shelter site and out by the sidle track to complete our 7-hour day. We were: Jean Garman, Jenny McCarthy, Tony Evans, Doug McNeur, Malcolm Thomas, Adam Match.

Powell Hut and Atiwhakatu Hut **2 April**

by Pam Wilson

Fifteen trampers had a very enjoyable day in the Mt. Holdsworth area. Four went to Powell Hut, but sadly there was no view---so I was told. There is ongoing maintenance work due to slips, with the result that parts of the track to Atiwhakatu Hut are no longer alongside the river. For the most part, it is easy going, made even more so with board walks in some areas.

Apart from the usual attractive bush, we were treated to two wood pigeons which unusually remained at very close range to the talkative trampers. Thanks to our two drivers Chris Brunskill and Ken Rush.

Ruamahanga River (PNTMC/MTSC trip) **5-6 April**

by Tony Gates (PNTMC account)

For the end of a lengthened daylight savings season, both PNTMC and MTSC joined forces for a pleasant bush tramp and camp to near Roaring Stag Lodge, in the beautiful Ruamahanga Valley. Located in from Eketahuna, the area is a classic Tararua spot, with big bush, a big river, and big hills. By all accounts, it's a pretty popular spot too, as we met several other groups there.

My tramp began a day earlier than the others, and I ambled into the ranges to look for a trout and a deer. The former all swam off, but the one of the latter succumbed, so we had some venison to pack out. The lack of trout might have had something to do with my preference to wear high visibility clothing (due to the possible presence of hunters in the area), or maybe just lack of skill. There will therefore have to be more of these expeditions in the future, and one day trout will be on the menu. Some

other people we met spoke of hooking four trout a little up river!

The van load of trampers ambled into Roaring Stag Lodge after lunch on Saturday. It was not a difficult track by Tararua standards, but all members were pleased to see the palatial Roaring Stag Lodge. The hut was packed, with many people sleeping on the porch and floor. We chose to avoid the Olympic style snoring competition there, and camp out just a little down river. We chose a perfect grassy clearing in the manuka, which was sheltered and cosy. Dinner was of considerable volume- thank you chefs. I understand that it was Jessica's first overnight trip into the hills.

Sunday slowly dawned with sun on the slopes of Cattle Ridge, high above us. We had a leisurely departure from camp, paused for a chat at Roaring Stag Lodge, then some of us split to go and recover some venison. One feature of this area is the easy forest and grassy flats to tramp through when off track, and the east terrain. It is a large, flat basin. The venison was duely split between several of us and carted out. At the Mangatainoka road end, there was time for a swim and brew. I'm sure that we all schemed for more trips into this area.

Tramp members were; Terry Crippen, Warren Wheeler, and Tony Gates (PNTMC), and Christine Scott, Hugh and Howard Nicholson, Rebecca Lieberman, and Bruce Taylor (MTSC).

by Christine Scott (MTSC view)

We had a late start from Palmy as its not too far into Roaring Stag, although it ended up taking a couple of hours longer than anticipated. So instead of being there before 5 pm it was about 6.30 pm before the last of us got there. We sent a couple of the faster ones on in front to have a cup of tea waiting for us when we got to Roaring Stag, which was very welcome, and they even had a camp site all sorted as the hut was over flowing with people. It was a fabulous site, approximately 100 m downstream on the true right from the hut. We were completely surrounded by trees but only 30 m from the river. By the time the flies were pitched and tea started, it was beginning to get dark, so we dined by candle light

with not even a flicker from the candle flames, it was so still. We were treated to quite a range of food and drinks from some sort of Swedish smoked fish served on mashed potato and pita bread, Norwegian beer and a blueberry 'supa' with yogurt and almond biscuits for dessert (thanks Warren!) to our more standard tuna and pasta and red wine. The threatening rain never eventuated and we had a brilliantly warm and still night under the flies. Tony had shot a stag the previous day, so on Sunday all the guys went round to Hidden lake to help him carry out the venison while I wandered out with Hugh and Jessica. A huge effort from Jessica (and also from Hugh) – I don't think Jessica will forget her first overnight tramping trip.

We were: Howard & Hugh Nicholson, Jessica Leberman, Terry Crippen, Warren Wheeler, Bruce Taylor, Tony Gates and Christine Scott.

Zekes Hut

6 April

by Adam Matich

Zekes Hut is in the Hihitahi Scenic Reserve just north of the new road-bridges, which are themselves north of Taihape. So it took about 105 minutes to drive there, and we all overshot the turn-off. We were expecting a miserable rainy day, but fortunately the Metservice let us down again and we had a warm, calm, dry day. After a 10 minute walk across the farm we entered the forest and sidled along for another 10 minutes before the serious climb up onto Hihitahi peak commenced. Jean complained that Mary was going too fast, but Mary wasn't listening so she didn't slow down. Fortunately the steep bit was only 200 m, after which it seriously gentled off and we wandered up another 200 m to Hihitahi Peak, it taking a little over 1 hour from the road end. There were a lot of plump-looking wood pigeons, just begging for some 20 gauge therapy, and also quite a few small not-worth-eating birds as well. The top of Hihitahi was a nice sunny, grassy spot for our rest break with views out towards the not very snow-clad mountain.

From there we dropped off the peak and sidled around and down to a gully on the eastern face of Hihitahi peak

to where the new hut is over 100 m down. This section of the forest contained a lot of large of Mountain Cedars, which gave it quite a different character to the standard fare Beech forest. Zekes hut was reached 2¼ hours from the road end. This new 4-bunk hut is on the side of a nice sheltered sunny gully. There is plenty of fire-wood and a nice deck to sit on. There were some hunters in residence, but from the number of empties, I think they were killing more brain cells than deer. But then if we spent our lives being sensible we would never have any fun. After our lunch in the sun we made our way back to the cars via another rest stop on Hihitahi.

We were Mark Learmonth, Peter McCloud, Ivan Rienks, Ken Mercer, Adam Matich, Tony Evans, Mary Mercer, and Jean Garman.

Tunopo

10 April

by Keith Fisher

There were 3 vehicles at the road end when we arrived. Probably deerstalkers. The twelve of us left the van at about 8.50 am and the first arrivals were on Tunopo 3 hours later. Of recent times during our visits to Tunopo the weather has been lousy. A mixture of some of the following: rain, snow, cloud, wind and cold and of course no views. This trip was pay back. The weather was perfect. It was warm with a slight breeze on top and great views in all directions. The maps were out as trampers checked out what they could see. On the way down we heard several rifle shots and later a stag roaring but we saw nobody, which is usual for a Thursday tramp. We all back at the van by 3.30 pm.

YTTY Thompson Loop

13 April

by Jenny McCarthy

We left Palmerston North at 7.30 am and were ready to start walking by 8.30 am. The North Manakau road was a bit rough in one place but skillful driving by Tony saved us having to walk any further than we had planned. He also stopped us from following the orange triangles after we crossed the stream, (which would have been the wrong

Right: having lunch in the Deer Trap on Makahika Tramp (Thursday Trampers | 13 March 2008) Photo: Nigel Spencer



way). It was a pretty straight forward climb up to Waitawaewae (YTY). Just before the peak we took the ridge to our right towards the 739 point this required a bit more effort with the navigation to stay on the trail. As we were going down hill. There were still cut branches and some markers to follow. Progress was a lot slower through this section. We caught up with a hunter who was travelling the same way as us so had early lunch to allow him some space.

We made steady progress to the 730 point where we met the 4 wheel drive track. This led us around towards Thompson and then back down to the road end. On the way down we met some people out for a fun day with their motor bikes (it looked very difficult pushing them up hill even with the motor going).

It was an interesting day tramp nice regenerating forest and a small challenge to keep on the trail. It took us 7 hours to walk the loop.

We were Tony Evens, Gary Grayson, Adam Match, Jenny McCarthy

**Zekes Hut
17 April
by Royce Mills**

We were lucky. It rained all the way on the drive up, but as we approached Hihitahi the sun came out. We enjoyed sunshine and blue sky all the way in to lunch at the hut. We were treated to seeing or hearing many different

varieties of birds - including whiteheads, tuis, bellbirds, pigeons and grey warblers. Rain arrived again on the way back from the hut and the drive home was showery. There were 13 in the group.

More Wed & Thu Trampers Trips

Wednesday Tramps

26th March - Gorge Track (13 trampers)

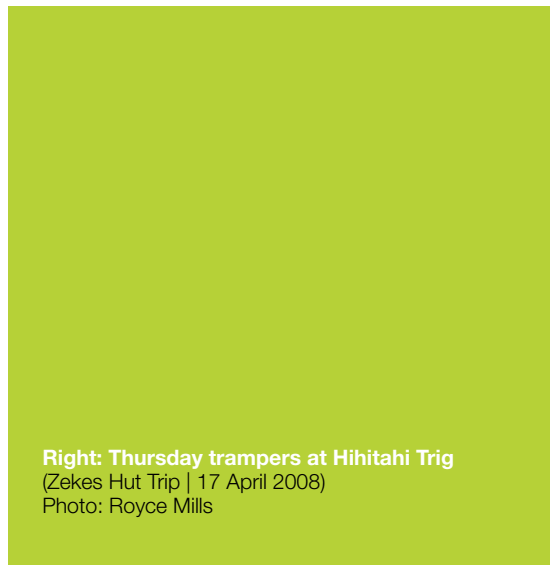
2nd April - Rangi Track (10 trampers)

This is a lovely track but not to sure about the slip. Its still very active as some of us watched as more gave way. I was a little worried about the group that was above at the time and what made it worse was that three of us were still to come. We were assured that the track was well above the slip. Some of the group managed to go beyond the hut to stretch their legs and have their lunch while some stayed at the hut to relax and brush up on C.P.R. Follow up from last weeks club night talk which a lot of you missed.

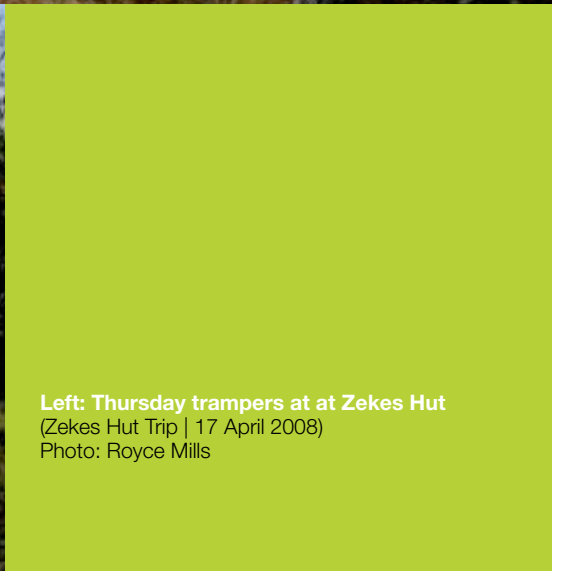
16th April - Coppermine track and onto a track heading towards Ross Peak (15 trampers)

Thursday Trampers

3rd April - Waitewaewae Plateau (12 trampers)



Right: Thursday trampers at Hihitahi Trig
(Zekes Hut Trip | 17 April 2008)
Photo: Royce Mills



Left: Thursday trampers at at Zekes Hut
(Zekes Hut Trip | 17 April 2008)
Photo: Royce Mills

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.



Lodge bookings should preferably be made by e-mail (wildeh@clear.net.nz). If for some reason you cannot e-mail then phone. Please 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 (but don't send cash through the mail). There is no internet banking for lodge fees. Contact Liz and Hugh Wilde on (06) 356 9450.

	Members	Guests
Adult	\$25	\$38
Secondary School	\$22	\$35
Primary School	\$19	\$30
Pre-school (3-5 yo)	\$10	\$10

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. 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 mtsc.memsec@xtra.co.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	