



beechleaves

Newsletter of the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club

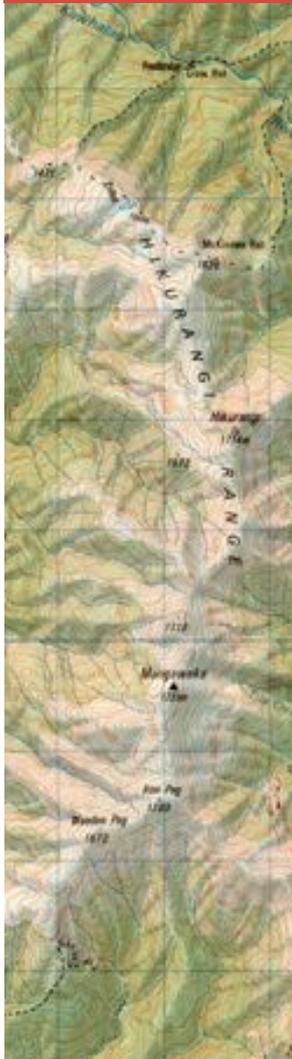
**February 2009
Issue 01**

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Climbing Broken Ridge (Waterfall Hut Trip, November 9, 2008 | Photo: Adam Matich)



Upcoming club nights

New Year + Cycle Touring

7.30 pm, 1st Tuesdays of the month at the RSA, Palmerston North, 200 Broadway Avenue

3rd February - New Year Meet

For those lucky people who have been out and about over the break, here is your chance to gloat! Bring along your pics and stories, show us your scratches, and regale us with stories tall and true. Let Howard know if there is a particular trip that you want to present and he can advertise it on the website. As usual, you can grab a tea and a biscuit, or a beer or wine if that improves your storytelling.

3rd March - Cycle touring in Europe

Eight countries in four months, from the Netherlands to the Mediterranean and north to Normandy. Just two cycles, one tent and lots of fitness. Steve Glasgow and Jenny McCarthy will be speaking about their Euro velo tour on two wheels. No doubt there will be some great weather and sights in this trip. Come and find out how many wine bottles you can fit into cycle panniers.

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Happy New Year to everyone. Just a reminder that if you'd like to receive your newsletter by email as a pdf then please let me know on mtsc.editor@xtra.co.nz. You can also let me know if you'd just like to receive it by email and not by post.

President's Report

Emergency location devices and Lodge Maintenance

by **Howard Nicholson**

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

I trust that you have all had a great time over the holidays, despite the searing heat, torrential rain, or hailstorms, depending on where you ended up. Our family attempted the Ruapehu Round the Mountain Track, and it was a pleasure to bump into other MTSC members along the way. Others were tiki-touring and tramping down south, or heading out for local tramps. Please consider showing a few pictures at our next club night on February the 3rd; we would love to see them!

So far as I know, everyone came back safely from their trips. In February, the committee will decide which emergency locator device (e.g. Personal Locator Beacon, SPOT) we will purchase. If you have any input or suggestions at all, then please let me know ASAP.

While we were relaxing, Ryan Badger and Rob Pringle were toiling away at the lodge. Another heat pump has been installed, and two more rooms have been relined, with just a few tidy-up tasks and new bunks to be completed. The Club greatly appreciates the work that has been done – Thank You to all that helped: Ryan, Rob, Doug & Jan, Steven, Kate, Trace, Rachael, Lyndsay, Josh & Anna! More help is needed for the next work party, which is advertised later.

Enjoy the sunshine....

Chief Guide's Report

by **Bev Akers**

email bevakers@xtra.co.nz or phone (06) 325 8879

Happy New Year. Another year has passed, so now you have one year less to do all those things you didn't get to do last year. So now is the time to head out into those hills. Check out the trip card and earmark some trips and just do it.

As a side - issue Gary & I drove around the East Coast of the North Island in our combie campervan, over the new year. Quite a few thousand people had the same idea. Camping grounds & freedom campsites were overflowing. Some sport shops told us that they had sold out of tents over xmas. This is a great way to introduce kids to the outdoors and possibly tramping. Maybe the influx of campers will mean some new trampers will be born. Looking forward to this years trips - Bev.

Trip Card Meeting - Tue 24 February

by **Bev Akers**

There will be a get together at Adam's place to get ideas and suggestions of trips for our new Winter Trip Card. Its a very informal get together of Skiers, Trampers, Climbers & Mountain Bikers, who all contribute to our wonderful event card. Call in on your way home from work or pop round after tea to taste Adam's coffee. Its a good place, if you are new, to meet some of us and chat over coffee. The get together will start at 7 pm on Tuesday the 24th of February at 798 Main St. If you can't make it then phone in with ideas, ring Bev or Adam at (06) 325 8879 or (06) 359 2796 respectively.

Lodge Workparties

Contributed by **Howard Nicholson**

We need YOU!

Great progress with renovations is being made at the Lodge. However, the chance to do external maintenance (e.g. painting) is limited by the environment; we need a good turnout of helpers to get this work done quickly. Ryan and Rob will be heading up the mountain again around Waitangi Day to complete the bunk rooms, but we

also need people to organise and do some of the other work up there while the sun shines. Please check out the website for more details about upcoming work parties and put your name down with the work party leader. If you do not know who that is then contact Ryan on (027) 445 1997 or Howard Nicholson. Dates will be confirmed shortly.

New Club Members

The club welcomes the following new members:

Saman Bowatte (PN)

Nicola Wallace (PN)

Fundraising Raffle Results

Contributed by **Andy Brooke**

Thanks to all who bought raffle tickets for Nicole's trip to France. The winners are as follows:

- 1st prize: Assortment of items from Bivouac Outdoor totalling in excess of \$1000 (G Hughes, Palmerston North)
- 2nd prize: Steripen (G Fovakis, Palmerston North)
- 3rd prize: Kovea portable gas stove (J Offenbach, Palmerston North)

Woodpecker Forest work

Contributed by **Merv Matthews**

Would the enthusiastic trumper(s) who have been at work cutting alternative tracks (marked with pink tapes) in the Woodpecker Forest, Kahuterawa Valley, please make contact with Ian Argyle, ph. 354 0130, so that he can coordinate their efforts. Currently, there are PNCC workers, under Ian's supervision, forming alternative tramping tracks in the same area, and some coordination is necessary to avoid future confusion.

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. |

Camping with Howard

24-25 January Easy
Howard Nicholson 357 6325

Makaretu River is in the eastern Ruahine Ranges and runs south from Moorcock Saddle. We will walk in for a few hours and make camp somewhere along the river.

Waiorongomai Hut

25 January Easy/Medium
Bev Akers 325 8879

This hut is on the Western side of Lake Wairarapa. We hope to have an easy drive down Saturday afternoon and camp in the carpark to avoid the long drive all in one day. Sunday we make tracks to the hut which takes about 2.5 h following a stream. The carpark is on my cousin's farm, a lovely spot in a paddock amongst native trees - beautiful.

Wednesday Trampers

28 January Easy/Medium
Sue & Lawson Pither 357 3033

Phone for more details.

Dorset Ridge Hut

30 January-1 February Medium/Fit
Jean Garman 354 3536

We will be leaving as early as possible on Friday afternoon and walking into Mitre Flats Hut for Friday night. From here there are numerous options for travelling to and from Dorset Ridge Hut. At some point we will use the route on the Nth King spur checking out the crashed aircraft on the way and also the down/up route between Sth King and Dorset Ridge Hut but the exact route probably won't be decided till on the day. Expect long days, untracked terrain and at some point wet feet.

South Ohau Hut

31 January-1 February Easy/Medium
Bev Akers 325 8879

Good summer trip up an easy river to a brand new hut. This hut has replaced an old one that was under treat with the river. I'm keen to check out this hut and enjoy being in a river in hot weather, so come along and enjoy.

Ohau River

1 February Easy/Medium
Sue Tuohy 353 3303

A good hot weather tramp along the Ohau River to the new south Ohau Hut. Leave around 8.30 am.

Wednesday Trampers

4 February Easy/Medium
Don McDonald 357 0222

Phone for more details.

Thursday Trampers

5 February Easy/Medium
Jill Spencer 329 8738

Phone for more details.

Mangatainoka Hut

6-8 February Medium/Fit
Gary Bevins 325 8879

We will probably travel up Friday and camp at the Gums road end. From the Gums we will be flown by helicopter to Tussock Hut. From here we follow the poled route along the tops, then drop into the Mangatainoka River till the Mangatainoka Hut (roughly 5 hours). We continue following the river till it meets the Mohaka then out to the Gums passing the Hot springs and Te Puia Lodge on the way. From Mangatainoka hut to the road end is about 10 hours. So the plan is to travel as far as we can on Saturday and camp in the Mangatainoka river between the hut and Te Puia Lodge to make Sunday a shorter day. We are at the mercy of the weather coz of the river travel and in the hands of the chopper pilot. Fly in will be approx \$160 - each and there will also be a Levy of \$10 - \$15 per person for traveling thru private land. I will have to be notified by 23rd January of your interest. People must be flexible to work around the whims of the helicopter company..

Colenso Trig

8 February Easy/Medium
David Newstead 027 457 6175

Phone for more details.

Wednesday Trampers

11 February Easy/Medium
Bev Akers 325 8879

Cone Hut - Walls Whare which is in the Tararuas south of Masterton. The oldest hut in the range made out of timber slab.;

Thursday Trampers

12 February Easy/Medium
Ray Pratt 328 7884

Phone for more details.

Maropea Forks
14-15 February
Peter Rawlins
 Phone for more details.

Medium
356 7443

Toka Peak
15 February
Dave Allan
 Phone for more details.

Medium
323 9734

Wednesday Trampers
18 February
Rosemary & Ken Hall
 Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium
356 8538

Thursday Trampers
19 February
Keith Fisher
 Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium
357 1724

Mangorewa Track and Mayor Island
21-22 February
Mark Learmonth
Mayor Island trip replaced with previously postponed Pureora Forest Park tramp.

Medium
355 9143

The intention is to leave around 7 am on Saturday morning for Waihora Lagoon car park situated 3 km along Waihora Road off State Highway 32. We will then tramp into Waihaha Hut via the Waihora track. This area has wonderful stands of large Rimu trees the greenness or variety of the ferns quiet different to elsewhere plus there is a fair amount of bird life to be seen. On return to our transportation we will head for DOCs Kakaho campground and set up camp for the night. Sunday morning will require an early start. We will travel a short distance to Pureora's Link Road car park. From here we will take the track which alternately leads to the summit of MT Titiraupenga. Roughly 8 hours return. Note you will only be required to carry day-packs. For those of you who don't like carrying overnight packs this is a wonderful

opportunity to view some of this parks hidden wonderland plus if you don't wish to travel the full distance each day that's fine to. All you need to do now is pick up the phone, ring me at home or on (027) 200 4960 and confirm your place.

Hauhangatahi
22 February
Linda Campbell
 Phone for more details.

Medium
323 3836

Wednesday Trampers
25 February
Pauline Hall
 Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium
329 7707

Thursday Trampers
26 February
Royce Mills
 Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium
358 4398

Cascade Hut - Fishing
27 February-1 March
Duncan Fraser
 Phone for more details.

Medium
355 5496

Te Matawai Work Party
28-29 March
Jean Garman

Medium/Fit
354 3536

An early start will see us scurrying into Te Matawai by the quickest route possible so we can spend the afternoon cutting firewood, clearing vegetation, cleaning the hut and anything else that seems appropriate at the time. When knock off time is reached there will be a long round of nibbles, tipples and free flowing conversation followed by a supper scrummy dinner and desert. Sunday will see more cleaning and any last minute jobs finished before leaving the hut around mid morning aiming to be out mid afternoon by what ever route is decided upon by the participants at the time.



Camping at North Ohau Hut
 (Square Knob Trip | 13 December 2008).
 Photo: Jean Garman



Waterfall Hut
(Waterfall Hut Trip | 9 November 2008).
Photo: Adam Match

Trip Reports

Waterfall Hut 8-9 November

by Adam Match

We started this tramp from the very end of North Block Road by the Waipawa River which we crossed to head south towards Middle Stm (1 hr). DoC re-routed this track some years ago so it is no longer a hapless, aimless wander across the farmland. The well-marked and now reasonably defined track stays closer to the hills on the western side of the farmland. There used to be two tracks dropping into Middle Stm, the upstream track for those heading up to Middle Stm hut (now removed) and the downstream track (by 700 m) which is there for those heading south to Smith Stm Hut. Only the latter track exists now, and so after clambering down the rope into Smith Stm, we had an extra 700 metres to travel up said stm on our way to the tops.

Middle Stm is much more difficult to travel than it once was, and so it took us a slow 90 minutes to reach our lunch spot 20 min down stm of the old hut site. Not long after passing the hut site travel in the stm improved and so did our pace. Navigation was kindly dictated by the terrain, and somewhere around 1400 m we found ourselves climbing the increasingly steep gully in deep, but friendly snow which provided us with footing that was much more secure than the rock and shingle underneath. It was only within 40 metres of the top that we were back on slightly loose rock interspersed with shingle. We made

the top about 200 m SE of 1715 at 4 p.m., 6¼ hours from the road end. From there it was a hop, a skip and a jump...or two, WNW over 1715, 1673, and W down the spur to pick up the right hand side of the third slip down into Rangī Creek. A traverse descent of 250 m down this extremely friendly shingle slip took only 10 minutes or so, after which we ambled down Rangī Ck and up the Kawhatau River (45 min) to the empty (no prints in the snow) Waterfall Hut after an 8¼ hour day.

Sunday was mooted to be a longer day so we left at 7 a.m. and headed past the long drop and across Waterfall Ck to start our initially steep climb up Broken Ridge to Paemutu. In some sections Broken Ridge is breaking, viz. falling away on the western side, and so there were a few sections where we were a bit “exposed” to some uncomfortably steep slopes. Fortunately, everyone managed to keep their heads, and various other body parts, so that we had our morning tea stop near the top of Paemutu ca. 3½ hours from the hut. From Paemutu we took a left to head down into the deep saddle to the NE and then climbed the 200 m up to 1715, which we happily reached at around 11:30 a.m. There was only one tight bit in the saddle, where we had to sidle around a rock spire. This involved dropping down an uncomfortably steep chute on the eastern side.

On 1715 we split the party, with the scenery-hogs deciding to head back to the van via Rangiateatua and Waipawa Saddle, while the track-baggers headed SE to

take the spur down to Smith Stm Hut (2½ hrs). We had lunch in the sun just above the tree line and after a short search headed on down the wide, well marked track. It was very steep at the top end and full of snow, so care was necessary in order to avoid embarrassment. We dropped our packs at the track intersection (not shown on the map) 40 m above Smith Stm Hut and headed on down to visit. This recently painted (and re-long-dropped) hut is rarely visited which is evidenced by the Forest Service hut book dating back to 1988. A notation in the hut book claims that having been built in 1953, it now has a historic hut status.

Back at the intersection we headed N to sidle into the Stm (very wet boots) and eventually pick up the track (all well marked) that climbs 100 m up to a saddle and then sidles north to eventually drop into Middle Stm. The map shows this track climbing a further 100 m from the saddle and we did see some old track markers off up to our right, but were happier with the easier, well-marked sidle. Eventually we started a gentle descent down to Middle Stm through open grassland. Once we were down into the bush again the gradient steepened to such an extent that the bottom of the track has fallen away and a risky little sidle has been cut to get around it. From there on, we had an hour's travel back north to the van parked by the Waipawa River, which we arrived at 3 hours from Smith Stm Hut, 15 min after the scenery hogs, at the end of a 10 hour day.

We were Kathy Corner, Kim Dowson, Jean Garman, Peter Rawlins, Brian Webster, and Adam Matich

Coppermine Creek/Klein Track 19 November

by Ken Rush

Our original intention was to take the track up Bruce Hill, but found out at the 11th hour the track is now closed and the bridge over the stream has been dismantled. Access is now through Mt Bruce Wildlife Centre for which a fee has to be paid. We had an enjoyable tramp up Coppermine Creek, to the top and back down through farmland to the carpark. The track is in excellent condition and the orchids, clematis and other natives were in full flower. It was a short tramp, so after an early lunch we stopped off at Ballance and walked the Klein track. There were 13 trampers.

Totara Flats 22-23 November

by Chris Mercer

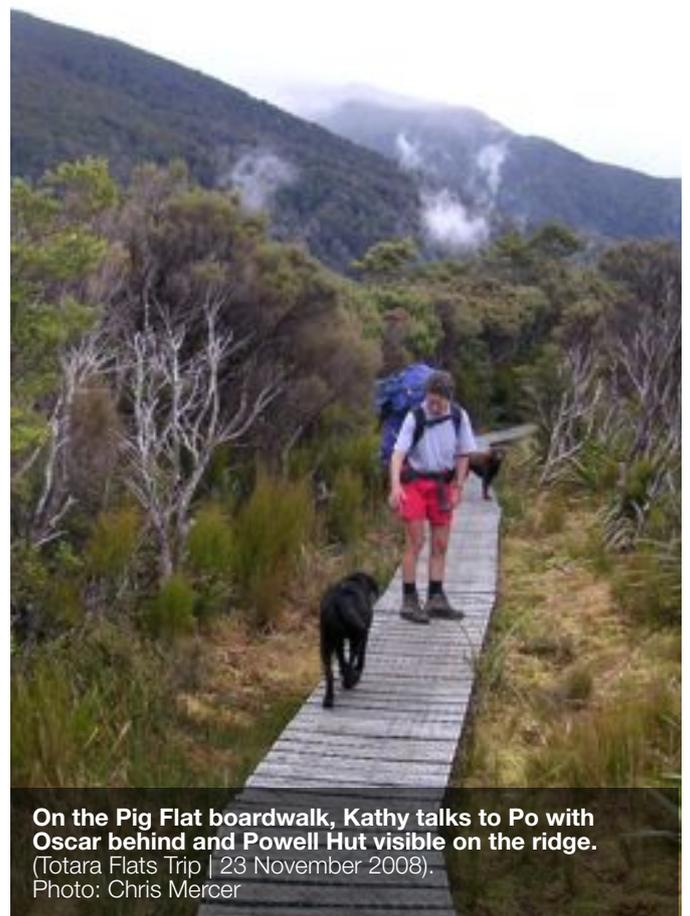
Rough weather stopped Royce looking for a cache in a crashed aircraft but four of us decided to take low-level tracks that weekend. We all fitted in Geoff's big ute, four trampers and three dogs, and set off for Wall's Whare. The walk in was fun as I was testing the Garmin Map 60CSx GPS device with my position continuously indicated on a map. The device was hired from the PN Deerstalkers Assn \$5 a weekend, \$20 a week. I was in touch with enough satellites for position fixing all the way up the Waiohine Valley to the Totara Flats hut but the next day, in the deeper Totara Ck valley leading up to Mountain House shelter, there was not enough satellite contact. The dogs were two Labradors and a short haired German pointer. They all got on well and covered five times more distance than we did as they raced around

chasing smells in the bush. That night at the hut, a fourth dog was not as social as ours and caused some grief. Several times that night, four dog owners woke up asking themselves "Is that my dog woofing?" BUT it was never one of ours! On Sunday, Geoff and Rochelle walked back to the ute and Kathy and Chris walked up to the Mountain House shelter for an early lunch. The Gentle Annie track is closed for work this summer so we dropped down the Foot Track to the Atiwhakatu Stream and out to Holdsworth. I asked three parties we met how the Kiwis fared against the Aussie league team in the World champs final- the first were foreign language students and apologised for not knowing, the second didn't know and seemed to be on their own planet and the third was a big local rugby player who had stayed up late watching the historic game live and raved on to me with satisfying detail while his companions moved on! I walked on air the rest of the trip! We were Geoff, Rochelle, Kathy and Chris.

Blue Range Hut 23 November

by David Newstead

We, Nicola, Saman, Chris and I, set out from PN at 8:00 with the weather report promising occasional showers, but a warm day. The showers were over by the time we reached the Kiriwhakapapa road end. With the promise of the day we left the umbrellas behind and set off through the grove of magnificent Sequoias at 9:30. Across the stream and then up, a gentle enough climb for the first part, but the steep slog to the top of the spur soon killed the gossip. Not having been there for maybe 20 y I was



On the Pig Flat boardwalk, Kathy talks to Po with Oscar behind and Powell Hut visible on the ridge. (Totara Flats Trip | 23 November 2008). Photo: Chris Mercer

surprised at how familiar it all was, especially the "hairy" old trees dressed in their pale green lichen and the stunted beeches along the ridge. We stopped for a view from a rocky platform on the spur-track down to the hut with views of Mitre due west, Brockett, Table Ridge and Arete, just losing the last of the mist. A relaxed lunch and brew on the 'lawn' in front of the hut saw us on the return an hour later. (Couldn't find the hut book, not even a sign of its existence; don't tell me DoC has abolished them, wouldn't seem to be a good move.)

Funny how much steeper it often seems on the way down, no wonder the gossip stopped on the way up! It took us about 2 h up and 2 h down (no hurry).

Back in PN about 17:30 after a stop at the Eketahuna cafe. A very congenial trip, ideal weather.

Mt Maunganui 3 December

by Rita Hodson

The trip to Mt Maunganui is not an easy track to follow but with a little bit of help from Bev's map, Rita's map, John's GPS and knowledge of the area we reached the top. Unfortunately very low cloud covered the hoped for view and on the way back down we were a little concerned if we were on the right track but John's GPS came into good use again. Interesting trip coming out of a very well concealed entrance deliberately done to stop motor bikes using the track

Cameron Hut 6-7 December

by Adam Matich

(In place of Ngaawapurua Hut – 28-30th November)

An early departure saw us starting off from the Kuripapango road end at 9:15 and heading up the spur towards Kuripapango Peak (1250m), a 2-hour 750 m climb on a good track with excellent views down to the Ngaruroro River. From thereon we had 2 hours of down and up to the intersection at 1400 m, and headed west down towards Cameron Hut, with Mark complaining that we had already travelled 4 out of the 4-5 hours he was told the day would take us. There is one born every day. It took a little bit over another 3 hours to make our way down to the hut, it being one of those tracks that drags on. One little climb to a high point after another. But, finally just after the Kiwi Mouth track intersection we started down in earnest. Perhaps too earnestly. There was a very steep section for 100 m or so, with difficult footing. The thunder and the skiff of rain that sailed through didn't endear itself to us much either.

Cameron is a tidy Forest Service hut in a grassy clearing, with good camping, adjacent to the river. Next morning a Sika hind on the slip opposite the hut made a lot of noise. Fortunately no one was carrying, so we weren't required to help lug out a carcass. Travel down the river was pretty easy, although there were lots of crossings, but not deep. A big fat eel was spotted in the pool adjacent to one of



Ascending the Smith-Russell Track.
(Cameron Hut Trip | 6 December 2008).
Photo: Adam Matich

the crossings. We weren't keen on helping it get fatter. There were quite a number of tracks on the flats adjacent to the river, the entrances to some of them marked with shopping bags. Further down the river some of these tracks were extensive.

The water gauge was reached after 3½ hours and we climbed out for the 10 minute tramp back to the car. It turns out that it is 35 km shorter (but not quicker) to travel to this road end via Taihape than the Hawkes Bay.

We were Bev Akers, Gary Bevins, Mark Learmonth, Adam Matich, and Jemma.

Bason Botanical Reserve - Wanganui 10 December

by Bev Akers

Twenty six trampers were in this trip for a little bit of Christmas cheer. First stop Virginia Lake (30min walk). Drove out to Kai Iwi beach for a walk up the beach - fascinating place. Lunch was at Bason Botanical Reserve which is a 74 acre paddock planted out in trees, tracks, out buildings for the public to just wonder about. We had Xmas feast in a summer house, then all went walking or just enjoyed lying in the sun - ah Lawson. Yes, we had Lawson & Sue Pither and all the regulars plus a couple of wives joined us for the special day. Back into the vehicles for a short drive to the next stop - Westmere Lake which takes 30min walk round with very few views. All of this happens down Rapanui Road, 4.5 km north of Wanganui.

Square Knob - North Ohau 13-14 December

by Jean Garman

Three MTSC's (Adam, Jenny and Jean) met up with two Heretaunga Tramping Club members (David and Debbie) at Poads Road end. We left Adam's car there and loaded up the other vehicle for a short drive up Gladstone Road where we headed off up someone's driveway. Adam had failed to find a phone number for what appeared to be a currently occupied holiday home so he knocked on the door and acquired permission to cross their land. We headed off into the pine trees and picked a spur line which looked relatively open to gain the ridge. Once on top of the ridge we were onto the track up to Square Knob. It was a very nice track but a somewhat hot and sticky climb to Square Knob. We descended to the saddle for lunch before the final climb to Tawirikohukohu where we had some stunning views of the quite rugged North Western corner of the Tararua. We headed off down the spur which dropped into the headwaters of the Nth Ohau. There was a reasonable trail to start with which kept up for a while although sometimes more felt as 'the path of least resistance' than seen, unfortunately it petered out while we were still in the leatherwood. A little unpleasantness followed but before long we were down into the trees and the travel was pretty easy going again. The river was also easy, so much so that the boys bounced from boulder to boulder and managed to keep their feet dry all the way to Nth Ohau Hut. The hut being a 4 bunker and there being 5 of us meant someone was going to be outside so we decided we would all be outside and

parked ourselves down by the river. David and Debbie had a spot tucked in under the trees while Adam, Jenny and I lined our flies up along the river bank. There was a nice area to sit around, 'cook' dinner and read magazines from the hut until the sun disappeared behind the ridge later in the evening. While David and Debbie cooked up their own meal we had an enormous smoked chicken salad (Adam even carried in a salad bowl) followed by fruit salad and meringues (we did share desert). What little breeze there was died away and those of us out in the open on the river bank awoke to a bit of dampness in the morning as very heavy dew had fallen and the undersides of our flies were also severely condensated. The fly under the trees stayed completely dry. We were all up bright and early into what looked like being a smoking hot day. A pleasant stroll down the Nth Ohau and on down the Ohau where the girlies decided to take the track while the boys carried on down the river. Adam had realised that while his car was at Poads road end his car keys were in the other vehicle and the river provided a more direct route to retrieve them. The river also had the advantage of more interesting sights (a dead faun and a sick/stupid young tui which let Adam pat it) but did have the disadvantage of a waist deep wade or two. Eventually all the vehicles and people were in the same place again and we all headed for our respective homes. Interesting area with more potential for exploring and we will look forward to David and Debbie joining us on some future trips.

More Wed & Thu Trampers Trips

Wednesday Tramps

- 5th Nov Back Track - Kahuterawa (14)
- 12th Nov Branch Rd Track & Beehive Creek (13)
- 19th Nov Coppermine Loop (13)
- 26th Nov Deadman's Track (17)
- 3rd Dec Maunganui Trig, Paraparaumu (17)
Loop track starts off Maungakotukutuka Road which climbs up under the pylons to a trig (708 m). Loop track taking 5 hours.

Thursday Trampers

- 6th Nov Sledge Track
- 13th Nov A-Frame Loop (12)
- 20th Nov Makahiku Track via Mangahoa (11)
- 27 Nov Hemi Matanga Track - Peka Peka Road (12)
- 4th Dec Maharahara track (Western side) (13)
- 11th Dec Atene Skyline (14)
- 18th Dec Toka Loop

The number of trampers in each trip is listed in brackets.

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 mains power, heating, hot showers and is well stocked with food. Members and their guests are welcome. (Lodge phone number is (07) 892 3860).



Lodge bookings should be made by e-mail where possible (mtsc.bookings@xtra.co.nz). If for some reason you cannot e-mail, then phone between 9.30 am & 9.30 pm on any day. Please do not call outside these hours. Please also note that bookings are not confirmed until all fees are paid. Payment is to be made in advance by personal cheque, bank cheque or cash (in person). Don't send cash through the post. There is no internet banking for lodge fees. Contact Liz & 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 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 club asset. Adam Matich is our minibus custodian and he can be contacted at (06) 359 2796 or at work (06) 953 7679.

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 **end** 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 2008-09 Committee

| | | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|--------------|--|
| President | Howard Nicholson | 357 6325 | mtsc.president@xtra.co.nz |
| Secretary | Tim Swale | 06 376 6556 | |
| Treasurer | Christine Scott | 354 0510 | mtsc.treasure@xtra.co.nz |
| Chief Guide | Bev Akers | 325 8879 | |
| Day Trip Convenor | Gary Bevins | 325 8879 | |
| Membership Sec. | Doug McNeur | 359 1893 | mtsc.memsec@xtra.co.nz |
| Newsletter Editor | Wei-Hang Chua | 021 212 0369 | mtsc.editor@xtra.co.nz |
| Social Convenor | Geraldine Fovakis | 356 4327 | |
| 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 | Linda Campbell | 323 3836 | |
| | Rob Pringle | 354 0218 | |
| | Peter Rawlins | 356 7443 | |