

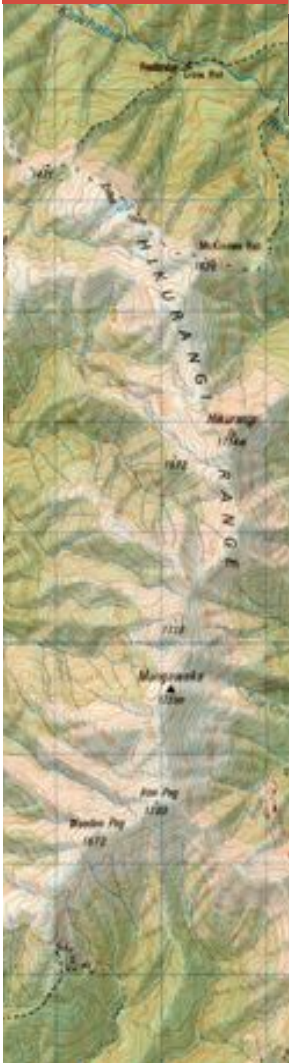
April 2009
Issue 03

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Alla, Ian and Li Ping with the wreck of the Tuvalu, a Fijiian coaster
(Photo: Tim Swale | Honeycomb Rock Trip | 1 March 2009)



Upcoming club nights

The Middle East+Arthur's Pass+AGM

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

7th April - Travel in the Middle East

Alison McGee will be giving a presentation on her trip through the Middle East.

5th May - Arthur's Pass

In March 2008, Jean and Ivan spent 7 days in Arthur's Pass checking out some of the country to the North of the highway. Fantastic weather and an interesting cross section of what the park has to offer.

19th May - Annual General Meeting 2009

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 19 May 2009 at 7:30pm, at the RSA, 200 Broadway Ave, Palmerston North. See page 2 for details.

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If you'd like to receive you newsletter by email as a pdf rather than by post then please let me know on editor@mtsc.org.nz.

President's Report

AGM + Pre-AGM dinner + PLBs + Work Parties

by Howard Nicholson

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

Annual General Meeting 2009

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 19 May 2009 at 7:30pm, at the RSA, 200 Broadway Ave, Palmerston North. This meeting is in addition to our usual club night schedule and is on the third Tuesday of May. A new committee needs to be elected, including a new president as I have served for the maximum three terms allowed by our constitution. Your vote is important so please be there if you can.

Join us for a feast!

We also invite you to join us at 6:30pm, prior to the AGM, for dinner at the RSA. A meal from the carvery costs only \$14, dessert \$5, or you can choose a meal from their menu. All Welcome – See you there!

Personal Locator Beacons

Thank you to the members who responded to my recent queries regarding locator devices. Further research by Hugh Wilde, Ken Mercer and others showed that Personal Locator Beacons were the best option for an emergency location device for our club, and subsequently Peter Rawlins has purchased two PLBs – see Peter's article in this newsletter.

Work Parties

Coming up, we have work parties scheduled for Te Matawai Hut and our lodge at Mt Ruapehu. Please help us to keep our assets in top condition and keep our costs down.

Happy tramping.

New Committee email addresses

We are standardising the email addresses used for the MTSC committee. The intentions[at]mtsc.org.nz email address is for people to send their intentions and participant lists to, if they want to. Nothing will be done with the email, unless the recipients are notified that we have an overdue trip. Then, the overdue process is started. Remember to substitute the [at] with a @ symbol.

Contact	New email address
President	president[at]mtsc.org.nz
Secretary	secretary[at]mtsc.org.nz
Membership Secretary	membership[at]mtsc.org.nz
Treasurer	treasurer[at]mtsc.org.nz
Newsletter Editor	editor[at]mtsc.org.nz
Lodge Manager	lodge.manager[at]mtsc.org.nz
Lodge Bookings	lodge.bookings[at]mtsc.org.nz
Gear Custodian	gear[at]mtsc.org.nz
General inquiries	info[at]mtsc.org.nz
Intentions	intentions[at]mtsc.org.nz

New Club Members

The club welcomes the following new member:
Judith Swainson (PN)

Notes from the Tararua Aorangi Rimutaka huts committee

Contributed by Jean Garman

- There is concern from private land owners regarding access, especially from people with dogs not on the lead. There is danger that access could be stopped at Ngatiawa, Poads Rd, Mangahao/Makahika. There will be a press release asking people to follow the rules when crossing private land, but please pass on the message to any people you see in these areas with unrestrained dogs.
- There have been car break-ins at Otaki Forks over the last 3 weeks, mainly around the picnic area but also in the overnight carpark. These break-ins are happening during the day specifically targeting valuables that have been left in view so please hide your valuables or take them with you are parking here.
- In Tararua and Aorangi Park huts maps that are provided with the general information under the perspex screen are being stolen. If you see anyone doing this or know anything about this DOC would be most interested in any information.

Purchase of Personal Locator Beacons

by Peter Rawlins
phone (027) 678 0747

The club has purchased two Accusat MT 410G 406 MHz personal locator beacons for club members' use. These are small units (250g and bright yellow) that need no instructions on how to use them (the instructions are on the back anyway). They truly are idiot proof. All you do is release the antenna and swing it upwards and the unit is on (it is not that easy to do this by mistake and you have to break the security seal so that you know you are doing it).

These units are equipped with a GPS (that sends your exact location when unit is activated) and a strobe light (for detection at night by helicopters using night vision goggles). Beacons must have line-of-sight contact with satellites to communicate. Deep narrow gorges can affect beacon communications with the geostationary satellites (positioned over the equator) but the low orbit satellites (approx 1 every 90 minutes) will be able to pick up the 406MHz signal – it just might take a little longer to raise an alert. Dense foliage can also affect the ability for satellites to pick up the signal so try and get a clear view of the sky if you can.

One of the units will be kept in the van and the other one at my house with the rest of the club gear. We have deliberately made the units free of charge for club members to use so please carry them on all trips.

These PLBs are for emergency use only and it must be remembered that they will not help you navigate when you are lost, they will not help you stay dry when it is raining, nor will they keep you warm when it is cold. It is also important to remember that even if the PLB is activated it may not be possible for the rescue services to reach you quickly. Helicopters can't fly in all weather conditions (these things often happen in bad weather) and one might not be quickly available because of other commitments. This will mean the deployment of ground teams, which can take a long time to reach you.

Accordingly, for your own safety and for the safety of others in your party, it is important that you tramp safely. This means carrying sufficient food and clothing for the trip, remembering that if something happens you may be stationary for many hours in difficult conditions. It means looking after ALL members of your party and knowing where they are. We have had to look for one very experienced trumper who got lost in an area they knew well; nobody thought it would happen to him. It also means having appropriate navigation, river crossing and first aid skills.

One of the most important pieces of equipment to carry is a tent fly, even on day trips (you never know when someone is going to get hurt). These multi use pieces of equipment will help people dryer and warmer in adverse weather conditions. You don't necessarily need to pitch it, it is amazing how warm they are if you wrap them round several people on the tops when somebody needs it. They are also very good for attracting attention as movement is more obvious than colour (although ours are bright blue which is the best colour). The club has several tent flies for members to use. There is always a small one in the van and I have several different sized ones with the rest of the club gear. Please feel free to call me if you want to borrow one. It is always best to call me no later than Thursday as I may not be home on Friday night. Happy tramping.



The Wednesday Trampers walking down Pourere Beach
(Photo: Andrew Brodie | Pourere-Blackhead Trip | 4 February 2009)

Upcoming trips

TRIP GRADING

The times listed below include tramping, rest and meal stops. In assessing the trip times and grades, terrain, weather and party fitness (a party is as fast as its slowest member) must be considered. As these factors will never repeat themselves, times are only estimates. Contact the trip leader if you are unsure about trip gradings for a specific trip.

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

Wednesday Trampers
25 March
Judy Callesen
 Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium
357 0192

Thursday Trampers
26 March
David Grant
 Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium
357 8269

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.

Burn Hut
29 March
Dave Allan
 Phone for more details.

Medium
323 9734

Wednesday Trampers
1 April
Pam Wilson
 Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium
357 6247

Thursday Trampers
2 April
Graham Pritchard
 Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium
357 1393

Kumeti Road - Camping
3-4 April
Greg Dobson

Easy/Medium
06 364 8218

For those of you who want a shorter trip away. Kumeti roadend camping area. I plan to explore the streams in the

area on Saturday and return late on sat afternoon. Phone (027) 374 5620.

Punga Hut #1 Stream
5 April
Gary Bevins
 Phone for more details.

Medium/Fit
325 8879

Wednesday Trampers
8 April
Jill Spencer
 Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium
329 8738

Thursday Trampers
9 April
Merv Matthews
 Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium
357 2858

Easter in the Kawekas
10-13 April
Peter Rawlins
 Phone for more details.

Medium
356 7443

Wednesday Trampers
15 April
Liz Flint
 Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium
356 7654

Thursday Trampers
16 April
Carolyn Brodie
 Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium
358 6576

McKinnon Hut
18-19 April
Royce Mills

Medium
358 4398

I have viewed this hut from a distance, but have never visited it. Here's a chance to cross the Kawhatau River by the infamous cage and have an overnight stay high in the western Ruahines.

Kakakapanui
19 April
Hugh Wilde
 Phone for more details.

Medium
356 9450

Wednesday Trampers
22 April
Ken Rush
 Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium
357 2529

Thursday Trampers
23 April
Harry & Chris Allardice
 Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium
323 4390

Shute's Hut - Fishing
24-26 April
Duncan Fraser
 Phone for more details.

Medium
355 5496

Walls Whare - Woodside
26 April
Adam Matich
 Phone for more details.

Medium
359 2796

Wednesday Trampers
29 April
Margaret Gillingham
 Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium
356 8812

Thursday Trampers
30 April
Ann Green
 Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium
06 374 5208

Yoga for Skiing
2-3 May
Alla Seleznyova

Easy/Medium
355 0862

What do yoga and skiing have in common? The need for strength, balance, flexibility and focus. Yoga practice develops these qualities and helps to overcome the physical and mental tensions that restrict the body and mind.



This weekend is an introduction to yoga and, in particular, to yoga techniques beneficial for skiers and trampers. Our instructor will be a qualified yoga teacher Peter McDermott (International Yoga Teachers Association Diploma, 2004). Peter has been practicing yoga for 15 years and he continues to refine and extend the techniques he shares with his classes. If you are interested, please let me know by the end of March. I will book suitable group accommodation in the National Park/Whakapapa area depending on the number of participants. The cost of tuition will be about \$30-40 per person.



Wednesday Trampers at Cone Hut
 (Photo: Andrew Brodie | Cone Hut Trip | 11 February 2009)



At the top of the unscalable waterfall, what do we do now?
 (Photo: Adam Matich | Mangatainoka Trip | 6-8 February 2009).

Trip Reports

Mangatainoka Hut 6-8 February

by Adam Matich

An early departure saw us at the helicopter base, across the road from the DoC office in Puketitiri, for our mid-morning weigh-in so the fatties wouldn't cause the very tidy R44 to crash and burn. Lynda, Gary, and Adam drew the short straws and ended up in the second load, which meant a full 45 minute drive to the sign-posted helicopter pad just short of the Te Puia Lodge road end. The others got to fly all the way from Puketitiri. The scenic flight was up the Mohaka and then the Makino River, up and over into the Ngaruroro River to pass over Omar Biv, Ngaawapurua Hut, and up the Harkness Valley, over Harkness Hut, to finally land at Tussock Hut. It was drizzling, but we were able to take our coats of permanently within 20 minutes. The route into the upper Mangatainoka Valley is easy to follow. The trail headed past the long drop and the meat safe to sidle SE along a well-trodden, poled track through the tussock, and then NE up the Harkness Stream to pick up the base of the spur we were to climb. There was a sign post just before the spur as one track heads into the Mangatainoka and the other heads northerly to Mangapapa Saddle. It was a hot slow 200 m climb up the slightly sparsely marked spur, but which was easy enough to follow in the open forest. After our rest-stop lunch, the marked route

led us NW and then west down a spur into the Mangatainoka River, 3 hours from Tussock Hut. The river turned out to be very friendly, with little in the way of rock-hopping and only a few log-jams. The gradient was a gentle 1 in 50 and so we didn't lose height very rapidly. Around 2.75 hr travel down the river saw us at the tidy, six bunk Forest Service Mangatainoka Hut in a long grassy clearing on a river flat. Next morning, the first 40-50 minutes down river was on quite well defined trails through the forest on the river flats, but thereafter it was just as easy to stay in the river, which in some sections was nicely shingled. Again there were occasional log jams, and in one spot the remains of a large slip washed out by the river after having completely blocked it.

There was debris further down river, including pumice of which Mark eventually ran afoul. The big mats of floating pumice actually looked solid, and so when he trod on one he fell through into the thigh-deep water and smashed his knee on something solid. There was blood, swearing and very immediate swelling, but fortunately no serious damage. The rocks in the river also tended to be slippery and Lynda slipped over a couple of times, as did Gary wrenching his backa good flood is needed to flush the river out. Only Peter and Adam didn't have any real mishaps. The devil was feeling benevolent perhaps! Around 4.5 hours down river from the hut we reached the waterfall, which had a big eel lurking in the pool at the

top. Navigation down the river by stream counting was not entirely successful as the side streams did not look nearly as large in real life as they did on the map. To get around the waterfall one is supposed to head up the stream on the true left 200 m before the falls, climb into the little saddle adjacent and then back down into the main river. Because we overshot, we climbed directly up the spur from the top of the falls and dropped into the saddle from where there was an easy descent back to the river for lunch and a wallow in the river. On the way down to the confluence with the Mohaka (70 min), a dinner-for-two sized trout was spotted in one of the pools. At the confluence we had a celebratory swim in the deep pool from where it was possible to see the roof of a hut being built on the private land across the river.

A hop skip and a jump down river on the track saw us at the Mangatainoka hot springs where we set up camp. It being a warm day, the deep pool in the river provided a good swimming spot before we went for a soak in the hot tubs. The only thing that marred our time at the camp-site was the flights of sand flies, which for once were more plentiful at the hot springs than were the people who were actually quite sparse. On our third, short day, we headed down river to Te Puia Lodge (40 min) and then out down the sidle track to The Gums car park (2 hr). The track between the hot springs and Te Puia Lodge has been redirected onto easier terrain. Down river from the lodge, the track is sometimes quite high above the river, but drops back down a few times and in places there were some deep, inviting pools and quite a population of trout. Then we had a 4-hour

drive back to town. We were Gary Bevins, Lynda Hunt, Mark Learmonth, Adam Matich, and Peter Rawlins.

Colenso Trig 8 February

by David Newstead

Colenso Trig is a spur off the Mokaia Patea Range in the Western Ruahines. What a great day! Clear sky, views for a hundred miles. We (Chris Sauders, Niclola Wallace, Alan Cameron, and I) set off from the Kawhata Base (old NZFS) at about 10:30 after a 2 h run from PN. The DoC sign said 3 h to the "high point" (which I presume is the peak at the end of the spur before you get to the Trig itself, about 20 min

further on). It's a steep slog for the first half, through our usual mixed beech forest (welcome protection from the sun) and then it levels out a bit as you reach the ridge itself. From there on there are occasional glimpses of the lowland through the trees until, shortly before, the mountain beech gives way to mountain cedar, some delightful views of Ruapehu and Ngaurahoe, framed by the beech trees, hanging snow-covered in the blue distance. Emerging from the tree-line and pushing on to, what I take to be, the "high point" the view was magnificent with just enough haze to add mystery to the Southern Tararuas. It was, however, well worth the little effort to push on to the Trig, so that the views became un-obstructed, and you could study the geography from the skyline above Sunrise Hut to the far distant North.

There was a gliding convention just down the valley (Upper Kawatau); so we had occasional fly-bys where we could look down on the gliders and wave to the pilots. We had lunch in the tussock about 1 o'clock, virtually no wind.

The descent was, naturally, quicker, but what was the hurry? So we paused at the Kimbolton cafe to round off a perfect day.

Sunrise Hut 18 February by Pam Wilson

Nineteen left for Hawkes Bay with great enthusiasm. The clear sharp views of the ranges confirmed our expectations of a brilliant day.

A recent addition at the car-park is a toilet, well fenced, and a small shelter with map/information.

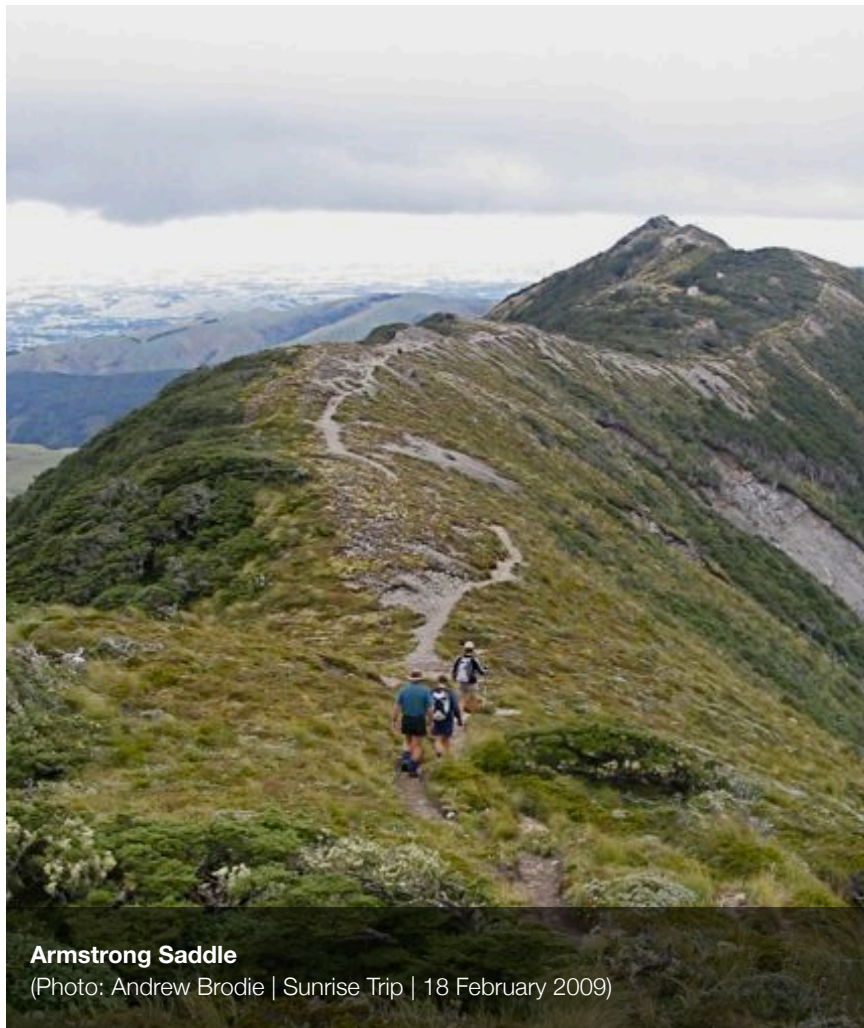
The track is in its usual very good condition, and even then has work in progress marked by a digger.

Most of the party reached the hut, including one couple on their first tramp. Such a day, destination and company, guarantees their keeping on, keeping on.

Six walked over to Armstrong Saddle, only in time to get a fleeting view of Mt. Ruapehu before the cloud rolled in.

Descending, as we reached Norsewear's notice, 'at this level it is five times more likely to rain than at OngaOnga,' we were once more in cloudless conditions.

This trip to Sunrise



Armstrong Saddle

(Photo: Andrew Brodie | Sunrise Trip | 18 February 2009)



On the way down from 1499

(Photo: Keith Fisher | Sunrise to 1499 Trip | 19 February 2009)

certainly was the rewarding day that all had anticipated. Thanks to our drivers-Don, John & Kelvin.

Sunrise to 1499 19 February

by Keith Fisher

We left the van at 9.35 am and reached Sunrise Hut within the 2 hours. After a brief stop we went along to Armstrong Saddle and then climbed 1499. We were there for lunch at 12.20 pm. There were great views in all directions. We saw a pair of North Island Robins on the tramp in and out, near the start of the track, and a bush falcon flew over us both ways on the route along to Armstrong Saddle. We were back at the van soon after 3.00 pm. It was windy at times on the tops but overall the weather was good, with great views and good company. There were ten of us.

Coppermine Creek Loop Track 25 February

by Pauline Hall

On a glorious day we left Palmerston North at 8 am. There were seventeen trampers.

After parking the vehicles we started on the walk. Four trampers went to the caves to see the Weta's and the rest of us headed up the track. We crossed the stream and with the help of Chris did not get our feet wet. The track then ascended for approx an hour and a half in the bush. We had lunch at the top where the cavers caught up with

us. There were wonderful views over Southern Hawkes Bay. The track homeward bound was over private farm land which zig-zaged down to the car-park. The bush track was well maintained and we actually met DOC workers with weed-eaters on their way to Deerleap Track which was overgrown.

On the way home Don dropped us off at the bottom of the Klein Track on the Gorge. We walked back to Ballance Bridge end of the track where Don picked us up. This part of the Gorge track has had extensive work by DOC and parts of the track have been re-routed. There is a new seat to take in the views and when the metal is placed it will be great.

Hauhungatahi Traverse 26 February

by Royce Mills

We made an early start from PN at 7 am and started tramping from Mahuia campsite at 10 am in perfect weather. After an hour along the Whakapapaiti track we left the track adjacent to spot height 1026 m. This is how our planned route is described in Wilderness magazine (Nov 2007): "climb a defined spur for 200 m through untracked beech forest until breaking out above the bushline". We certainly climbed the right spur and it was untracked, but it was a serious exercise in bush bashing through fern, bracken, fallen trees, close knit shrubbery, supplejack, bush lawyer and the occasional beech tree. Two and a half hours later we emerged out of the forest and onto the open tussock, scratched and bleeding. A

welcome sit-down and lunch was enjoyed, followed by a long traverse across Hauhungatahi to the Erua side. This was slow going at times too when we struck denser shrubbery. We eventually met the poled track and followed it downhill to Erua. A kindly local gave a couple of us a ride back (15 km) to our van at Mahuia so that we could bring it round and head home, arriving considerably later than usual for a Thursday tramp. There were 8 hardy adventurers on this trip.

Honeycomb Rock 1 March

by Alla Seleznyova

We had all the right ingredients for an enjoyable coastal walk: glorious weather; iconic New Zealand landscape - cabbage trees on the beach; lazy, smelly seals; fascinating rock formations; and a rusted ship wreck. Even a somewhat longish drive to Glenburn and back did not seem so bad thanks to a beautiful countryside and bubbly tramping companions. We were Li ping Ding, Tim Swale, Ian Harding and Alla Seleznyova.

Ikawatea Forks Hut 14-15 March

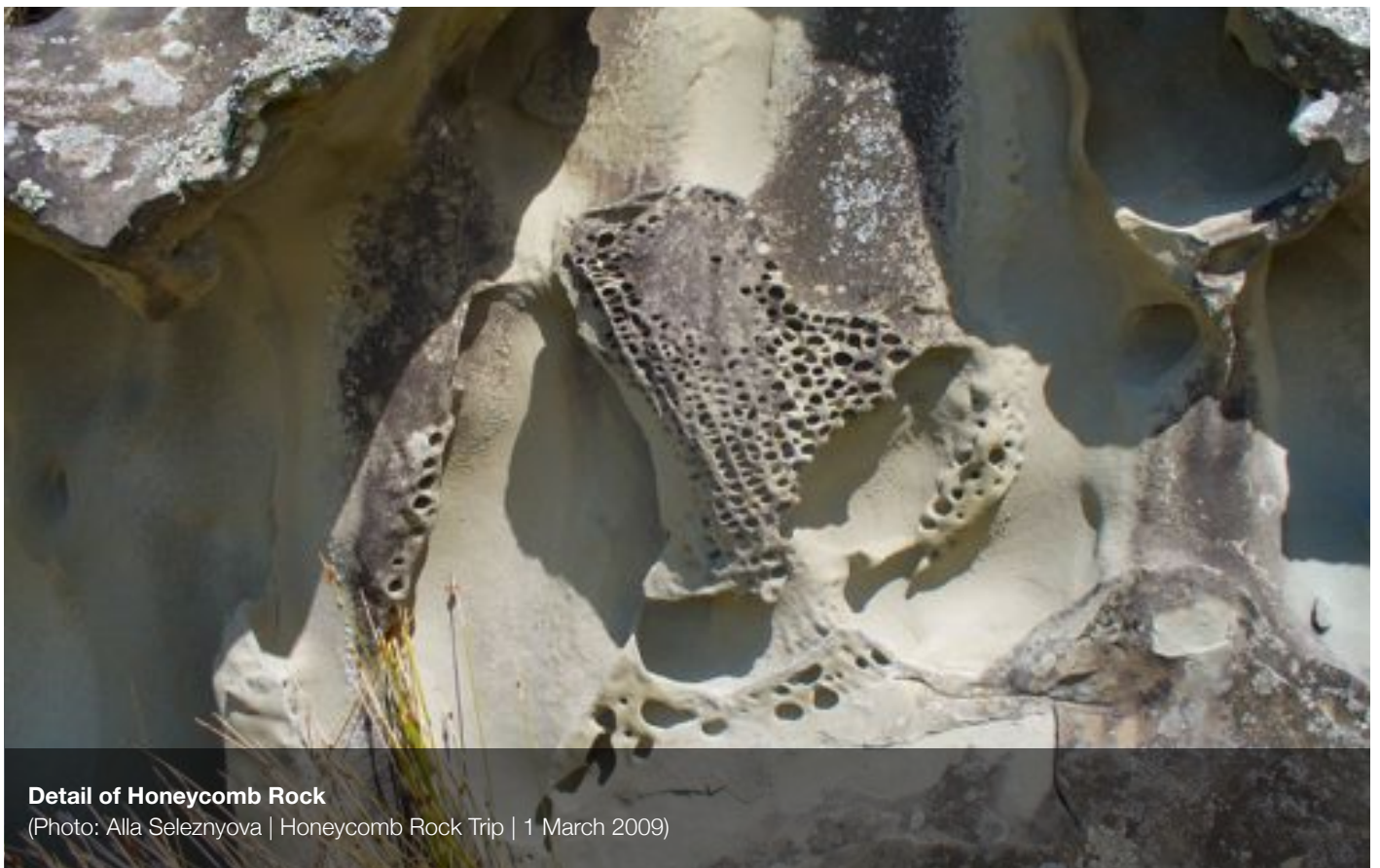
by Adam Matich

After a substantial drive along winding gravel roads and a stressful grind up slightly slippery farm tracks we found ourselves at our 1050 m ASL road end (anywhere in the farm paddock) with views of Mt Ruapehu, interrupted only by the sleek, shifty looking cattle-beasts who were milling around looking for an opportunity to lick the sign-writing off the van. The highest we had to climb was 1200 m, so it was a pretty good start. Travel across the farmland was easy and it didn't take us long to make our

way along the 4WD track past the Reporoa Bog, through a shallow saddle and uphill through the gate that led from pasture onto the Aorangi Awarua Trust land (permits are required). A sunny lunch-stop was had in the golden tussock.

The 4WD track continued all the way across this mostly gently undulating land, past the Makirikiri Tarns, onto the DoC land and finally to the airstrip around ½ km short of Ruahine Corner Hut. Then it was a wander between dolines from the airstrip to reach the hut after around 4 hours of walking. One of the stoat trap lines has thoughtfully been run NNE from Ruahine Corner Hut to Makirikiri Trig, and so we followed it through the tussock. The going was easy but it being a warm day we thought it best not to overexert ourselves and settled down at the trig for a long afternoon tea. Eventually, sunburn and the lateness of the hour pushed us north along the trap-line to 1206 from where, at 4:30 pm, we dropped off the Plateau to take the spur down to Ikawatea Forks Hut. Fortunately, the DoC contractors had marked the route down the spur for us when they put in the stoat trap-line. Bless those little mustelids. Especially the stoats! Before the advent of this stoat trap-line, a previous party had a couple of navigational problems on the way down this spur. The new markers however, enabled us to wander down in 90 minutes with our brains in neutral, and reach Ikawatea Forks hut by 6 pm (7.5 hr day).

Next morning we headed on down Ikawatea Stream on what was expected to be the adventurous part of the trip. Travel was un-demanding, and there were lots of inviting swimming holes. We spotted a hind on a slip and followed two irate blue ducks for quite a distance before they reached the edge of their territory and flew back upriver again. Counting streams to locate the old track up to



Detail of Honeycomb Rock

(Photo: Alla Seleznyova | Honeycomb Rock Trip | 1 March 2009)

Makirikiri Hut did not work. The streams were not as obvious as the map suggested, which meant that we sailed on down past our climb out point. Fortunately, the valley faces north and so GPS reception was strong. So we back-tracked up-river to pick up the track 60 m south of a not very obvious stream, in which when we looked hard at a

particular angle through the trees, we spotted a 10-15 m waterfall. The beginning of the track had a piece of not overly visible pink tape and a couple of Venetian blind markers. From thereon we followed the deer trails up the very steep (contour lines touching contour lines), rocky, bushy slope. Fortunately, the map is incorrect and so our steep climb, while unhappy and uncertain, was not as long as the map implied. Fifty metres, or so, saw us into friendly forest with an almost easy sidle down to the creek above the waterfall. Track markers were sparse and the creek crossing was found to be not as high as the altitude shown on the map.

Not long after our creek crossing the track markers ran out, so heading down from the top would not be so easy. However, as far as heading up hill was concerned, the forest was friendly and the going easy and we climbed back onto the Trust land and reached the top no more than 3 hrs from Ikawatea Forks Hut. The intersection at the top of the climb is not quite as shown on the map. We reached it before the map said we would, and just after passing from a little clearing into the manuka scrub. But once we were on it the northerly-heading track was well defined and the possum carcasses surrounding the bait stations gave us an effluvial reassurance. A hop, skip and a jump saw us in another clearing from which we navigated our way onto the marked trail through the manuka scrub down to the derelict Makirikiri hut for an early lunch.

Makirikiri hut is not a place to stay, it being better to find a camp-site in the lumpy clearing. We found the track that climbs west back up towards the Plateau from the hut, but fell off it soon after, and so for a short while we wound our way through the tall manuka scrub. Fortunately, Brian lost patience with this and made a serious effort to get us back on track. It didn't take long and wasn't very painful, and put us back on a well defined trail that climbed all the way up to the scrub line (as the map said) where it disappeared, thus forcing us to show some initiative by climbing 50 m up the steep grassy slope to the top. A short rest in the long dry grass gave us a view of much of our route back over the farmland to the



Makirikiri Hut

(Photo: Adam Matich | Ikawatea Trip | 14-15 March 2009)

minibus 2 hours away. Fortunately, the cattle were not as troublesome as they looked and we arrived back at the van (7 hr day) to find the sign-writing intact and only one wing-mirror pushed askew. The farm tracks had dried out over the weekend, so our trip back down to flat-ish land was not so stressful. Our only negative impact from the trip was

a bit of sunburn, which was far outweighed by a trip into a rarely visited area.

We were Adam Matich, Brian Webster, Ian Patterson, Jean Garman, and Jenny McCarthy.

More Wed & Thu Trampers Trips

Wednesday Tramps

28th Jan - Ohakune (10)

walk into a large waterfall off the track leading into Mangaturuturu Hut. Turn right before the Cascade drop off. The over nighters walked the old coach road.

4th Feb - Pourerere Beach walk (16)

11th Feb - Cone Hut (14)

Good grunt up with a good drop down to the hut with a few taking the long way via the saddle track (2.5 h). Some had lunch outside the hut while a few of us chose to be down by the river. Four of us had a swim to cool us off before the big hill climb out in the heat. Found a lost pig dog with a tracking collar on, so hopefully its back with his master by now.

18th Feb - Sunrise Hut (20)

25th Feb - Coppermine (18)

Mines, a cave and the loop track which DoC have just completed cutting. What a difference it makes to the track. We meet them heading off to do the Billy goat track next. Some of the group headed home after getting back to the vehicles while the keen ones went on to walk the Klein gorge track .

Thursday Trampers

5th Feb - Waiopahu Hut and Beyond (14)

12th Feb - Toka Trig

19th Feb - Sunrise Hut & beyond Armstrong Saddle (10)

26th Feb - Hauhungatahi

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\[at\]value.net.nz](mailto:jeanandivan[at]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 ([lodge.bookings\[at\]mtsc.org.nz](mailto:lodge.bookings[at]mtsc.org.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 [editor\[at\]mtsc.org.nz](mailto:editor[at]mtsc.org.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 [membership\[at\]mtsc.org.nz](mailto:membership[at]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 2008-09 Committee

President	Howard Nicholson	357 6325	president[at]mtsc.org.nz
Secretary	Tim Swale	06 376 6556	
Treasurer	Christine Scott	354 0510	treasurer[at]mtsc.org.nz
Chief Guide	Bev Akers	325 8879	
Day Trip Convenor	Gary Bevins	325 8879	
Membership Sec.	Jenny McCarthy	06 376 8838	membership[at]mtsc.org.nz
Newsletter Editor	Wei-Hang Chua	021 212 0369	editor[at]mtsc.org.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	lodge.bookings[at]mtsc.org.nz
Mini-bus Custodian	Adam Matich	359 2796	
General Committee	Linda Campbell	323 3836	
	Rob Pringle	354 0218	
	Peter Rawlins	356 7443	