

May 2009
Issue 04

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A cold lunch at Tarn Bivvy
(Photo: Adam Matich | Iwakatea Trip | 15 March 2009)



Upcoming club nights

Arthur's Pass+AGM

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

5th May - Arthur's Pass

In March 2008, club members Jean Garman and Ivan Rienks spent seven days in Arthur's Pass National Park 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. Come along and see some great country just a few hours drive out of Christchurch.

19th May - Annual General Meeting 2009

The MTSC Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 19 May 2009 at 7:30 pm, at the RSA, 200 Broadway Ave, Palmerston North. See page 2 for more details, and don't miss out on the pre-AGM club dinner as well.

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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.

BEECHLEAVES May 2009

President's Report

PLBs + AGM + Pre-AGM dinner + Club Lodge

by Howard Nicholson

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

Our new Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs) have been a popular addition on several trips lately. They provide an effective emergency resource that potentially can save a lot of time, money, and possibly death in the outdoors. MTSC wants its members to be safe; hence the PLBs are available to members on club or private trips at no charge. That's a lot of peace of mind at no cost! Contact the gear custodian for more details.

I hear that Te Matawai Hut received a good clean and restocking of firewood, thanks to efforts of a recent MTSC work party. We continue to have a close association with this hut and DoC, having contributed money towards a new deck and running regular work parties in recent years.

Ruapehu "early bird" ski passes are still on sale until the end of April. Combined with the excellent value of staying at the lodge, these passes can make skiing a bit more affordable even in lean times.

Recently, DoC increased the site rental charges for all lodges at Ruapehu, by 74% over three years. Our club, along with the Ruapehu Mountain Clubs Association (RMCA), unsuccessfully appealed against the increase. We noted that the site charges had not been reviewed for several years, and that major improvements (e.g. Iwikau sewerage scheme) meant an increase was inevitable.

The June newsletter (to be published early May) will include the annual report and an agenda for the Annual General Meeting. Your vote is important so please attend the AGM if you can. A new president and committee will be elected, so you may wish to give some thought to how you can contribute to the running of the club.

Wishing you lots of fun in the hills!

Annual General Meeting 2009

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 19 May 2009 at 7:30 pm, 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 6:30 pm, prior to the AGM, for dinner at the RSA. A meal from the RSA Carvery costs only \$14, dessert \$5, or you can choose a meal from their menu. All Welcome – See you there!

New Club Members

The club welcomes the following new member:
Christopher Saunders (Palmerston North)

Chief Guide's Report

by Bev Akers

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

Anyone interested in attending a First Aid course over the winter months? The Mountain Safety Council are running courses. The dates are the 10–12th July, and 2–4th October. The courses cost \$120 incl GST. They start on Friday evenings continuing through to Sunday afternoons. If you're keen, contact someone on the committee or look up on the website under Mountain Safety Council NZ.

Snow Stuff

by Ken Mercer

Daylight saving has ended and winter chills are approaching. And, for skiers, it's about time too!

April is the month when season ski passes are on sale. This year Ruapehu Alpine Lifts (RAL) have reduced the cost by 6% to \$385. This compares very favourably to the early prices for some of the South Island fields. Mt Hutt is charging \$879, the Queenstown pass is \$999 and Treble Cone \$1500. Is the snow that much better in the South?



From the pages of "Keep Tracking on with DOC" Issue 15, April 2 2009 - Palmerston North Area

A quick update on some of the work that has been done on tracks and huts about the place:

- Work on the Manawatu Gorge track continues. Nearly all gravel dumps have been made and staff have been using hand and motorised wheel barrows to spread it. Contractors have made good progress realigning and widening the track, starting at the Ballance end. A digger may be operating at times, and the surface may be rougher than normal. If you are using the track, please take care and wait until the operator signals that the way is clear before passing. Delays are expected to be short (less than five minutes).
- Kawhatau Base has been painted.
- The historic Top Maropea Hut has been returned to its former glory with a paint job in Forest Service colours (orange), with an old style toilet installed.
- Over 18 km of tracks have been cut in Ruahine Forest Park over the summer.
- A large slip was cleared on the Deerford track
- A proposal to develop a day visitor track in Makino Reserve in partnership with Mokai Gravity Canyon has been prepared.

Kelly Stratford
Dept of Conservation, Community Relations Ranger
Palmerston North Area Office
Phone: 06 350 9708

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.

Shute's Hut - Fishing

24-26 April

Duncan Fraser

Phone for more details.

Medium
355 5496

bridge over the Waiohine River and pick up the remains of the old track that used to head across Coal Stm and climb up the spur to the junction with the Mt Reeves Track. A left turn will see us heading down over Rocky Knob to the Woodside Road End.

Walls Whare - Woodside

26 April

Adam Matich

This trip requires at least two vehicles so we can do a car shuffle, and I only own one so someone will have to volunteer. We will be dropping one vehicle off at the end of the Waiohine Valley Road (Woodside), which is the road end for the Mt Reeves track into Tutuwai Hut. Then we will drive around to the end of the Waiohine Gorge Road (Wall's Whare) from where we cross the new swing

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.

Gorge Walk**3 May****Ken Mercer****Family****356 7497**

The Manawatu River is unusual in that it has managed to cut through a mountain range although it did take a million years to do so. We'll walk across in less time, probably 3 or 4 hours, including a leisurely lunch break at the lookout. Encourage your friends to come and bring their children!

Wednesday Trampers**6 May****Angela & Kelvin****Easy/Medium****358 9025**

Phone for more details.

Thursday Trampers**7 May****Royce Mills****Easy/Medium****358 4398**

Phone for more details.

The Impressionists at Te Papa**10 May****Adam Matich****Arty-Farty****359 2796**

This collection of over 50 art-works is from one of the world's finest collections of 19th -century French painting, held in the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. There are more Monet's than you can poke a stick at, as well works by Renoir, Degas, Cézanne, Pissarro and other unpronounceables. It will cost you \$15 to get into this exhibition, plus transport to Wellington and back (and parking) in the club van. The rest of the museum is open to all comers of course and there are a couple of cafes inside. I would recommend the upstairs one which is rather civilised, away from the neurotic parents and their screaming children. It has complimentary newspapers and subdued lighting for those of you who might be suffering from the excesses of your Saturday night. I don't intend making it a super long day as you can only spend so much time in a museum before becoming one of the exhibits. We probably won't leave too early in the morning either and if my advisers allow, we may have brunch on the way down. This exhibition runs out on the 17th of May, so if you haven't been already this is an opportunity to do so.

Wednesday Trampers**13 May****Lynne Robinson****Easy/Medium****329 8759**

Phone for more details.

Thursday Trampers**14 May****John McLeod****Easy/Medium****323 5785**

Phone for more details.

Beehive Creek**17 May****Christine Scott****Easy****354 0510**

This easy walk (2-3 hours / 4 km) is located on the Pohangina Valley West Rd about 33 km north of Palmerston North. The walk follows Beehive Creek through a mixture of native bush and exotics with several crossings of the normally shallow creek. It then climbs over hilly farmland to reach the Pohangina Valley West Rd. Hopefully we will have a couple of cars to save a walk back down the road to the start point. Suitable for families and anyone wanting an easy day out. We leave the Police Station at 8 am

Wednesday Trampers**20 May****Chris Brunskill****Easy/Medium****354 2511**

Phone for more details.

Thursday Trampers**21 May****John Thornley****Easy/Medium****356 9681**

Phone for more details.

Butterfly Creek (Wellington bays)**24 May****David Newstead****Easy****027 457 6175**

Leaving from PN Police Station at 7:30 am.

This is the first of a series of Easy- (not to say social-) grade trips to explore some of the tracks and walkways round Wellington Harbour. There will be another Sunday trip later in the year and one on a Wednesday. For this and the later Sunday trip we have booked the mini-bus; for the Wednesday one we will take the train (Capital Connection). The plan for the 24th May is to drive down to Eastbourne arriving about 9:30. We then take the track through the forest to the top of the ridge behind Eastbourne (good views) and carry on round to drop down to the Beehive Creek picnic spot (maybe lunch there, if the timing and weather are right). From there we make our way back to the mini-bus via the Eastbourne waterfront (and a suitable cafe). We'd aim to be back to PN by 6:30 pm or so.

Wednesday Trampers**27 May****Mona Webb****Easy/Medium****323 4212**

Phone for more details.

Thursday Trampers**28 May****John Hunt****Easy/Medium****324 0339**

Phone for more details.

Ngaawapurua Hut**30-1 May****Gary Bevins****Medium+****325 8879**

We will take a whirly-bird into Ngaawapurua hut. From there several routes take you out to different road ends. You can head to Harkness, Tussock, Boyd, Oamaru, then Poronui. A safe option in marginal weather. The preferred route is via the tops. Harkness, Te Puke, Mangaturutu, Makino and out, or Harkness, Te Puke, Tira Lodge, Ballard, Middle Hill and out. Whatever happens we will be visiting plenty of huts and having lots of fun. Depending on where we fly from approximate cost of helicopter will be \$140.00 each. Please give me a call by the 15th May so I can organise the chopper and the weather. See you there.

Queen Charlotte Walkway**30-1 May****Don McDonald****Easy****357 0222**

Phone for more details.

Triangle Hut**6-7 June****Jean Garman****Medium/Fit****354 3536**

A Saturday morning start will see us heading up Deadmans track from the Rangī car park. At the top we have 2 options; we will either take the hunters track down to the doc track that climbs over the bump between Irongates and Triangle then head up river or we will take a different spur that comes down closer to Triangle Hut but unfortunately has no track through the leatherwood. Wet feet and leatherwood scratches guaranteed for both routes. Sunday will be up the track to the Whanahuia Range and out through Rangī Hut.

Irongate Hut**7 June****Christine Scott****Easy****354 0510**

From the carpark on Table Flat Road it is less than an hour into the Alice Nash Memorial Heritage Lodge which was built to replace Heritage Lodge in 2007. From there it is 40-50 min down to the Oroua River Flats (a lovely spot for picnicking and camping). We then go downstream to the Iron Gate Gorge and back up through farmland to the carpark. An easy 3-4 hour tramp. We leave the Police Station at 8 am.

Rimutaka Incline**21 June****Tim Swale****Mountain bike or easy walk****06 376 6556**

From the carpark on Table Flat Road it is less than an hour into the Alice Nash Memorial Heritage Lodge which was built to replace Heritage Lodge in 2007. From there it is 40-50 min down to the Oroua River Flats (a lovely spot for picnicking and camping). We then go downstream to the Iron Gate Gorge and back up through farmland to the carpark. An easy 3-4 hour tramp. We leave the Police Station at 8 am.

The Rimutaka incline once provided a rail link between the Wairarapa and Wellington and was quite unique in the way that railway carriages were hauled up the hill from Cross Creek Station near Featherston to the Summit. Trains no longer use this route but it now makes for a great bike ride or walk with its numerous tunnels and interpretive signs.

We plan to ride from the Featherston end up to the summit and then to the end of the trail at Kaitoki before returning by the same route. As an alternative there may be some members who would prefer to walk to the summit for lunch and then return – still a great trip but without the adrenaline rush of the high speed return to Cross Creek! Anyone with the inclination to do so could stop off at the Fell Engine Museum at Featherston on the way home.



Leatherwood damage. Most of the leatherwood was dead or dying on the ridge across to Burn Hut and the surrounding area. I have not heard what DOC had to say.

(Photo: Keith Fisher | Burn Hut Trip | 26 March 2009).



Top-left and -right and lower-left: Wed Trip to Ruapehu; Lower-right: Trip to Sunrise
(Photo: John Hunt | Ruapehu and Sunrise Trips | 28 January and 18 February 2009).

Trip Reports

Wednesday Trip to Ruapehu 28 January

by John Hunt

To waterfalls in headwaters of the Mangaturuturu Stream. We walked there from the Turoa access Road. Sue Pither was the trip leader. The photo above shows a most unusual waterfall, with jets of water forced out from fissures in the rock under pressure from an underground stream. The second picture on the right from the Hapuawhenua Walkway shows the laying of sleepers for a replacement walkway over the old viaduct. We reached this after walking through the former tunnel (lower-left photo), now partially closed/ cut off by the realigned railway line.

Sawtooth Ridge 7-8 March

by Kim Dowson

Saturday morning saw us leaving at the gentlemen's hour of 7.30am heading to the end of Mill road, after leaving the van with the local vallet parking service (a bunch of hungry/itchy looking Angus heifers) we trundled off down the hill and up the tukituki river heading for Daphne Hut, which was quickly reached and then a nice sweaty climb to Howletts Hut for the night which we spent with a chatty hunter and there was even plenty of

daylight to admire the view at times with Brian even able to check on the van with his bino's and inform us that he could no longer see any sign writing left on it!!!.

On Sunday we stayed in bed a little longer while listening to the wind harass the outside the hut then deciding that it wasn't that bad set out to tackle sawtooth ridge who was hidden in the clag, while it was very, very windy, the ridge was disappointly easier than anticipated and it didn't really prepare us for the stronger wind that battered us along the whole of black ridge heading back towards the van. We sought a little shelter at Tarn Bivvy for a late lunch and rest from the wind before dripping down the spur to the Tukituki and finally out to the van which did have its sign writing intact along with everything else that cows like to eat/chew and scratch on. We were Kim, Jean, Ivan, Brian, Adam, Pete, and Logan.

Wednesday Trampers 11 March

by Ivan Alve

Three of us did the tramp. We could not have had better weather no wind and very little cloud. The view was great. We did the round trip, to Waiopahu Hut, Gable End and out. Very enjoyable.

Mangaweka Trig 15 March

by Hugh Wilde

Six enjoyed this fine day with a cool breeze. Ideal weather for tramping – not too hot but not too cold. It took us about two hours to reach Purity Hut, another hour to Wooden Peg and around 40 minutes on to Mangaweka. Great views to the north and west with Mt Ruapehu showing off its new dusting of snow. There was cool breeze on the tops, necessitating some extra layers of clothing, but also sunny, so that it was very warm out of the wind. It was cloudy on the Hawkes Bay side, though. Coming down we took a few minutes off our time to reach the top. A great day! Participants were Colleen, Katy, Royce, Mary, Ken and Hugh.

Kapakapanui 19 March

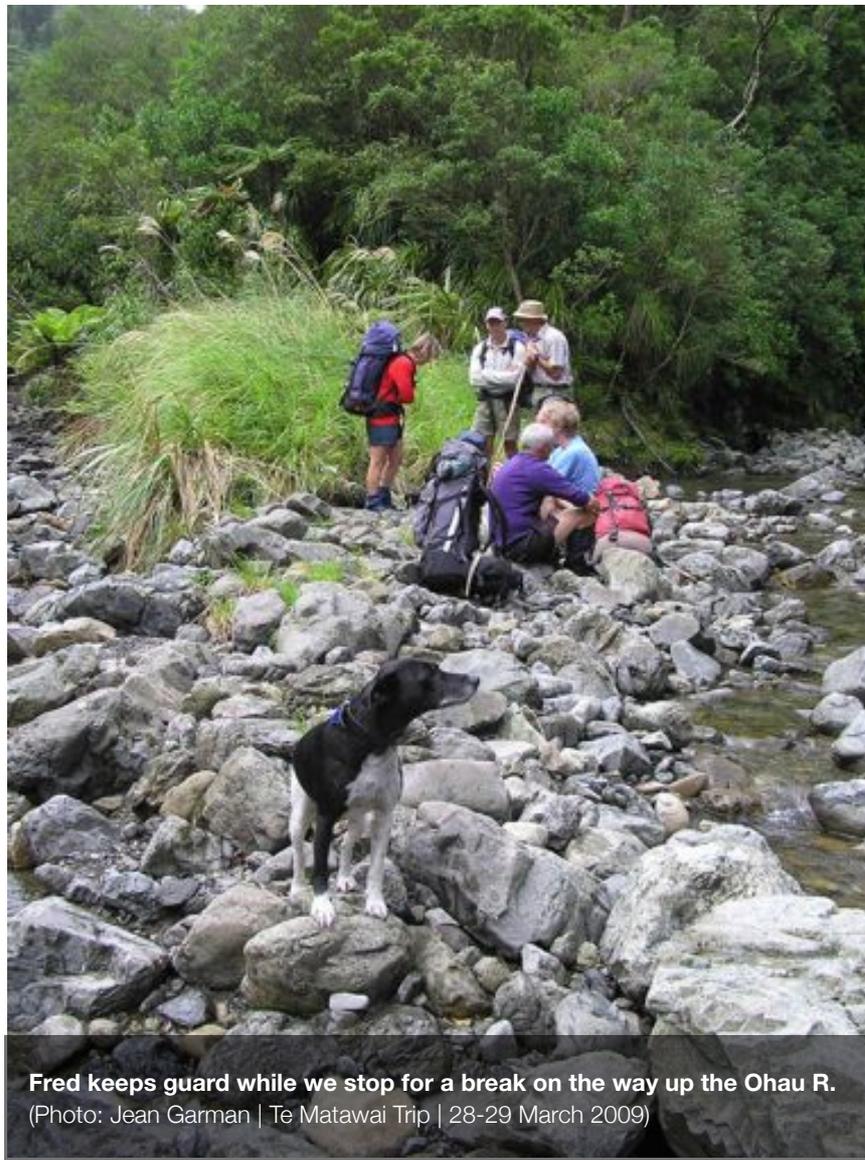
by Hugh Wilde

We decided to do the trip clockwise this time so that anybody who didn't want to complete the round trip could spend some time at the hut. Nine completed the round trip in coolish weather with cloud on the tops and a cool wind blowing. Ideal tramping weather generally. It rained for just a few minutes as we left the trig and descended into the bush for the homeward leg. It had taken us two and one half hours to reach the hut, another hour on to the trig, and a little over two hours to walk from the trig down to the roadend. Participants were Gordon, Keith, Peter, Ann, Graham, Jill and Nigel, John and Gillian, Judy and Hugh.

Atene Skyline 22 March

by Linda Campbell

Tim Swale, Alan Cameron and I started walking mid morning after some discussion about which end of the track we would start from. We made the right decision by starting at the far end. A lot of work has been done at



Fred keeps guard while we stop for a break on the way up the Ohau R.
(Photo: Jean Garman | Te Matawai Trip | 28-29 March 2009)

that end of the track to make for easy walking to the look out.

The Atene Skyline, a six hour trip, is an interesting walk in many ways and I am sure a hunters delight. There were an incredible number of goats on or near the track. As we approached them the strong aroma of goat wafted along to meet us. Mostly they were not too perturbed to see us and we had some reasonably close encounters. There was also an abundance of pig sign along sections of the track. With autumn approaching there were many fungi to be seen. My favourite example was an upright tree trunk with young bracket fungi growing around it like hand holds on a climbing wall. There

were birds singing in many places and at times some wonderful views through the trees.

The shelter was a pleasant sight and a great place to stop for lunch. The fact that goats had been there before us and used the table as a toilet didn't stop us enjoying our food and a hot drink.

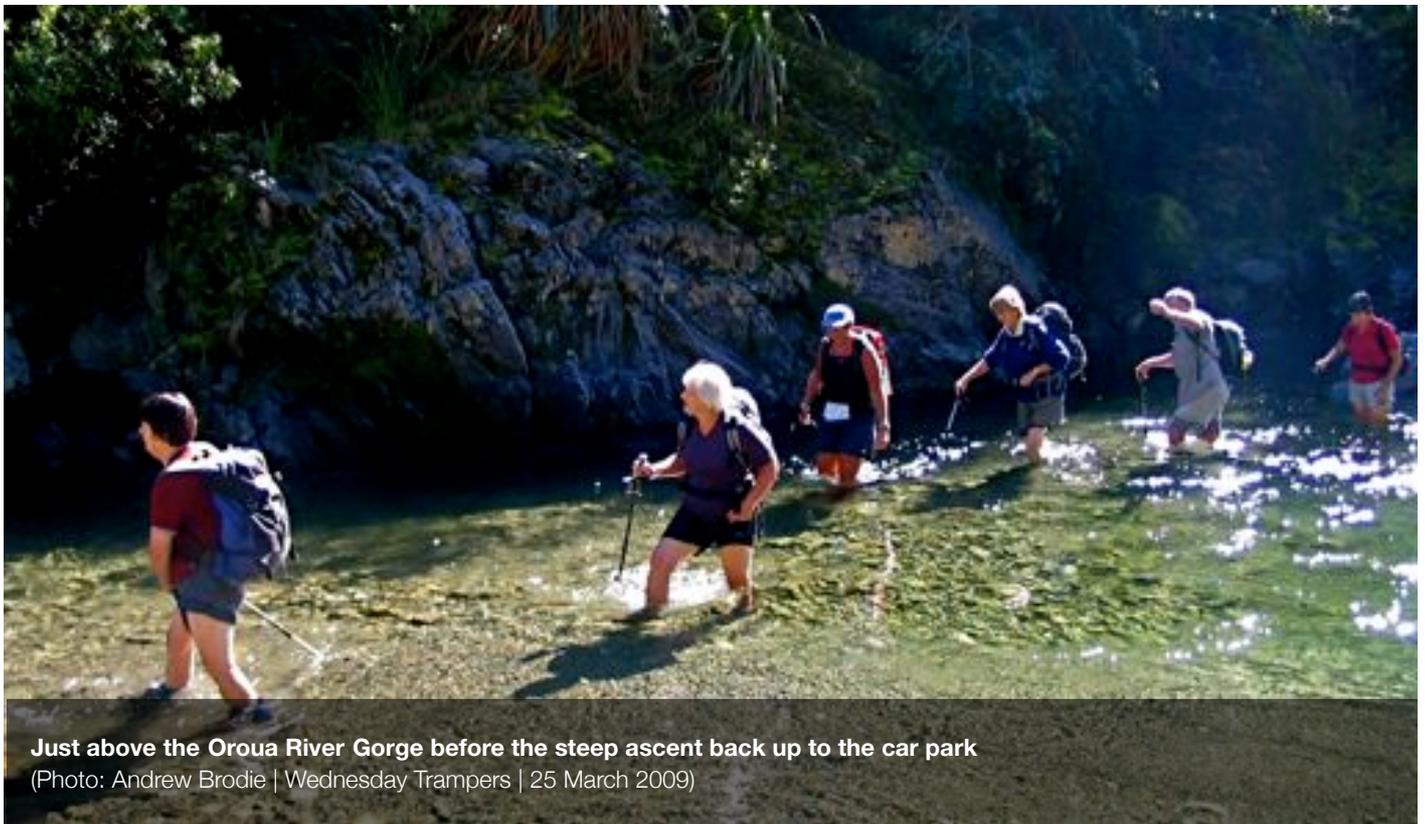
Te Matawai Work Party 28-29 March

by Jean Garman

Eight keen and enthusiastic people and one small dog signed up for the work party. The forecast was for rain on Saturday morning then clearing for the rest of the weekend. It was wrong, we had lovely weather all of Saturday.

A pleasant sidle took us to the old shelter site and the trip up the river was uneventful. Fred was privileged enough to be carried across most of the crossings and through the gorgy bits while Jenny was less privileged and managed to get her shorts wet when she went the wrong way round a rock. The new South Ohau Hut looked great in the sunshine so we stopped for a bite to eat and a chat with some hunters. A short grunt up Yeates 500 then a gentler climb along the ridge and we arrived at Te Matawai in dribs and drabs.

Armed with the knowledge that a VUWTC party was headed our way latter in the day we opted to clean the hut



Just above the Oroua River Gorge before the steep ascent back up to the car park
 (Photo: Andrew Brodie | Wednesday Trampers | 25 March 2009)

and toilet while it was relatively unoccupied and not too smelly. As the trees around the helipad keep on growing and threatening to get in the way of rotor blades we put a concerted effort into weeding out any up and coming trees in the wrong place. These were brought back to the hut where they were cut into firebox sized lengths and split if of sufficient size. Unfortunately we proved to be poor magicians and some of our lovely weta assistants were actually sawn in half.

Come knock off time there was still no sign of the VUWTC party and we began to hope we had scared them away. The fire was lit and the soup was started off on cookers then left to simmer away on the woodburner while we tucked into an extensive round of nibbles and drinkies. Everything except one bag of chippies, two blocks of chocolate and two packets of biscuits was dutifully consumed. We were just getting ready to dish up the minestrone as the first of the VUWTC started to arrive; we tucked into big bowls of hearty soup while they continued to arrive and started to sort themselves out. Not too long after dark the last of their party of nine showed up and we started on the baked cheesecake with lemon honey topping for dessert. They were just starting their dinners about the time we were finishing and as some of us now had rigidly distended tummies it was time to waddle off to bed and leave them all the space round the table.

Dave opted to keep Fred company out on the porch for the night. The bunkroom was noisy between the snoring, the farting and the VUWTC slowly going to bed in dribs and drabs, the last coming in at about 12.30 am. Unfortunately the last ones hadn't quite finished their conversation and carried on whispering away to each other. Too many people, too much noise – Ivan and I took our mattresses and debunked to the living area and a while later a couple of the VUWTC opted to share the porch with Dave and Fred. Other members of the party

were more sound sleepers and reported no disturbances at all in the night.

The next morning was misty damp and we started to get up around 7 am. Kim and Hannah opted for a sedate stroll back out down the river and packed up and left around 8 am. The rest of us went back to chopping and sawing away at trees. The noise we made finally aroused the youngsters from their slumber and they were well into breakfast about the time we had some of the leftover biscuits for morning tea and left. There appeared to be a case of some missing ladies clothing from the other party and we thought it possible that Kim and Hannah packing up in the half light might have accidentally packed a few extras so we promised to check when we caught up with them.

Back at South Ohau the left over packet of chippies was eaten along with most of a block of chocolate then we carried on down the river. It kept threatening to drizzle but as soon as we took it seriously and stopped to put on coats it would clear up and we would take them off again (this happened several times). We caught up with the others having lunch just above the South and North Ohau river junction so stopped for lunch too and finished off the last remaining chocolate. Before we had all got moving again the first VUWTC's appeared so we thought we had better catch up to Kim and Hannah and get them to check their packs for extraneous clothing. We eventually caught them again by the tarp camp and they obligingly emptied their packs even checking nothing had got stuffed with their sleeping bags but to no avail. Not wanting MTSC to be known as clothing thieves we decided everyone would have to check their packs back at the van. Pack after pack was emptied but nothing turned up until the very last pack offered up the missing items – it was Dave who had a thing for ladies clothing..

Home via Shannon for an ice cream. Good trip, lots of hard work, lots of hard eating, what more can you ask for

a work party. We were Kim Fraser, Hannah Parkinson, Brian Webster, Jenny McCarthy, Stan Mackowiak, Dave Mitchell (and Fred), Ivan Rienks and Jean Garman.

Hinerua Hut

2 April

by Graham Pritchard

The group of 15 trampers crossed the Tukituki River at the end of Mill Road en route to Hinerua Hut. The morning cloud shrouding the eastern Ruahines had cleared as we reached the road end and sunshine stayed with us for the rest of the tramp. There is no marked route up from the river but once the ridge top is reached there is a well-formed but not heavily used track through the beech forest. This track joins the alternative route, via Lookout road and Hinerua Ridge, just before the hut. We basked in the sun in a helipad clearing near the hut for lunch and returned via the same route.

This trip, along with the Oroua River track in the western Ruahines, the dubious distinction of ending with an uphill slog back from the river bed to the carpark but it's a small price to pay for a very attractive tramp.

Pretender

9 April

by Merv Matthews

Pretender is a peak in the southern Ruahines marked as spot height 967 on current topo maps, although earlier maps name it. It is plainly visible from the city if you

look just north of Wharite when driving east along say Grey Street or Napier Road, and it is often mistaken for the peak Maharahara.

We started from the end of the Coppermine track and followed a sparsely marked hunters' trail up a spur which leads to the main ridge. It is possible to complete a circuit by heading south along the main ridge, then crossing over to the Wharite track and following it back down to the Coppermine track. However, after entering cloud it became very cold and the predicted southerly started to bite, so we opted to return and have lunch back at the carpark where it was somewhat warmer. We were eight Thursday Trampers.

More Wed & Thu Trampers Trips

March Wednesday Tramps

Stanfield Hut - via Holmes Track & river (19)

Sledge Track (15)

Atiwhakatu Hut / Mountain House (11)

Iron Gate Gorge (16)

March Thursday Trampers

Herepai Hut and beyond

No.1 Line track

Kapakapanui (11)

Burn Hut (15)

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



Wednesday Trampers at Atiwhakatu Hut

(Photo: Margaret Gillingham | Atiwhakatu Hut Trip | 18 March 2009)

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
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