

July 2009
Issue 07

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Thursday Trampers making their way home through the snow
(Photo: Ken Rush | Powell Hut Trip | 21 May 2009)

Upcoming club nights

Niger, Africa + Antarctica

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

7th July - Niger

Mark Griffiths has spent several years, with his family, working in Niger, which is in central Africa. His talk will open a window to this beautiful but flat country. He'll also touch on his medical experiences.

4th August - Antarctica: A Photographic Expedition

Richard Lander, his family and friends spent a month in South America and Antarctica last summer. Antarctica is a continent of contrasts, this trip was a travellers dream with calm seas, sunny skies and photographic scenery to die for. Find out what it was like to kayak amongst icebergs, dance with penguins, brush with leopard seals, watch glaciers carve and see more humpback whales than you would ever see in a lifetime.

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

Please remember to let Jenny, the club membership secretary, know if you are about to or have changed your postal details so we can get the newsletter to you.



President's Report

New Committee + Rangiwahia Rescue

by Ken Mercer

email president@mtsc.org.nz or phone (06) 356 7497

If you glance at the back page of this newsletter you'll see we have a new committee. For me the most significant change followed on from the constitution only allowing the president a three year term, Howard's had run its course, and I now find myself in the hot seat. Fortunately I'm not alone as we again have a strong committee. Welcome to you all!

The recent rescue of two teenagers from the spur above Rangiwahia Hut had a SAR turnout of ten civilians of whom seven were MTSC members. It was VERY cold and windy on the tops and snow had obliterated the track. None of us envied the pair who had been huddled together for several hours in a shredded "survival bag". Besides having insufficient gear they lacked the navigation skills which become particularly important when descending from the tops.

I don't expect their experience will put off these two young men. While the rest of us were huddling around our heaters during a grotty weekend they were exploring in the hills. Somehow, as a club, we need to up skill such people and, perhaps, capture them into the club. Maybe running a Go Tramping course later in the year could work?

Besides being self sufficient one of the SAR skills is packing quickly. I was impressed that the hasty team arrived at the helicopter hanger within half an hour of the alerting TXT message. I took twice as long to get to the police station even though Mary gave me some welcome assistance!



The Club Lodge (Photo: Tim Swale | July 2006)

Ski Captain's Report

by Rob Pringle

email rob.kate.pringle@gmail.com or phone (06) 358 3319

Welcome all to the start of another winter season, snow has started falling early and temperatures are plummeting.

The Food carry is coming up on the weekend of the 20th of June and if the current weather patterns keep up there may be a chance of sledding the food in, it would be great to see another bumper turn out for this annual event that is so vital to the smooth running of the winter activities at the lodge.

Season Pass holders will be pleased to hear that there have been some technological developments to the way passes will be scanned, however RAL are requesting our patience as along with their technical glitches regarding the sale of passes, it is taking a little longer to process all the information required for the new passes, rest assured they will be here before they open the lifts!! The developments will bring them more into line with international ski field standards and eliminate the need to reach down ones top with a cold wet glove just to produce

a pass. The new passes are able to be scanned through your clothing!! (see website for more details)

I write this having just driven across the Desert Road, having admired the snow to low levels, I will leave you with the thought that it should not be too long before we're all enjoying falling gracefully down the mountain trying hard to link one perfect turn into another.... Hope to see you all up there.

New Members

The club welcomes the following new members. We look forward to seeing you out on a tramp or up at the lodge.

Igor Kardailsky and Family (PN)

Malcolm Thomas and Family (PN)

Clare Davies-Colley and Family (Whangarei)

Dave Grant (PN)



Massey University Alpine Club 80th Anniversary

The Massey University Alpine Club (MUAC) is celebrating its 80th Anniversary in June 2009. MUAC invites members of your club to help us celebrate this historic milestone. To mark the occasion the club are organising a celebration involving an evening of dinner and entertainment along with special guest speakers including FMC Bulletin Editor, renowned photographer, author, and former club member Shaun Barnett.

The event will be held on Saturday July 18th 2009 from 6pm onwards at the Broadway Functions and Conference Centre at the Palmerston North RSA. Check out the following website for more details:

www.studentcity.net.nz/muac80thanniversary.html

We hope to see you there!

Regards

MUAC 80th Committee

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.

TRIP SAFETY

Trip leaders are reminded that trip intentions can be emailed to intentions@mtsc.org.nz, although this is not a substitute for leaving full written details with the designated contacts within the club. If you require further information on this please contact the Chief Guide. The club also has tent flies and personal locator beacons available free of charge, the club transit van will always have these so there isn't any reason not to take these on a trip short or long, they way next to nothing.

Mid-Winter Feast and Food Carry

20-21 June

Ken Mercer

Glutton

356 7497

At last daylight saving has ended and we've had a southerly or two. As I write there's not much snow on the mountain but it will come. Then there will be skiing and happiness and hunger. Food! We need to move a mountain of food into the lodge, as well as spruce it up.

We'll drive up Friday night with a load of frozen meat. Groceries will be delivered on Saturday and all need to be carried across to the lodge. For the carriers boots, packs, and possibly storm gear will be needed. Checkers and stackers are also needed in the lodge and there are a number of maintenance jobs for handy people too but the most important job is baking pinwheel scones for morning tea!

On Saturday night we'll celebrate midwinter in fine style. On Sunday some may go skiing while others can enjoy a local walk or simply relax. Call me on the number above or 027 364 6475

Those who take part in the food carry receive one nights accommodation free and there's also free transport in the minibus if you are one of the first ten people who want to leave from Palmerston North. Be in quick as space is limited by the size of the lodge.

Revised Rimutaka Incline

21 June

Tim Swale

Mountain bike or easy walk

06 376 6556

I rode the Rimutaka Incline recently and met a lady who provides track transport from Cross Creek to Kaitoke for \$10 per person if we can get a minimum of 10 people. As there are a few people who have already expressed an interest in the trip but don't want to ride both ways I thought it would be a good idea to take up this offer. The 18 km ride is a lot of fun with a number of tunnels and bridges, some awesome views and newly installed

information panels. Suitable for pretty much anyone who can ride a bike.

Irongate Hut

21 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.

Wednesday Trampers

24 June

Bernard Cobb

Easy/Medium

328 8088

Phone for more details.

Thursday Trampers

25 June

Stuart Malcolm

Easy/Medium

358 3409

Phone for more details.

Takapari Road to Diggers (Walk & Mountain bike)

28 June

Gary Bevins

Medium

325 8879

The idea is to take a 4wd or two up Takapari Road with Mountain Bikers and Trampers. Drive to the locked gate by A-Frame, drop off the Mountain Bikers to pedal back down. The Trampers will be dropped at the start of the diggers track, head down to the hut and out across the farmland to the roadend. Depending on numbers, there will need to be a driver or two, to take the vehicles back to the roadend. Give me a ring by Wednesday so I can organise transport, etc.

Beginners Ski Weekend**4-5 July****Ken Mercer****All****356 7497**

This is a good opportunity for budding skiers to get together, enjoy company at the lodge, and learn how to handle long slippery feet. A tip for absolute beginners: borrow an old set of skis and shuffle around your lawn. (I have an ancient video I'm happy to lend which goes through the basics). I'll do what I can to coordinate transport. Call me on the number above or 027 364 6475.

Pourangaki**11-12 July****Jean Garman****Medium/Fit****354 3536**

In winter rivers and nasty cold places so the plan is to not get our feet wet. On Saturday we will climb up past Purity, travel along the Hawkes Bay ridge then down a spur to Pourangaki hut for the night. Sunday will see us climbing onto the Whanahuia range then dropping to Kelly Knight and back to the car. Other options include doing it in the other direction and a possible untracked variant between the Whanahuia range and Kelly Knight.

Powell Hut**12 July****Alla Seleznyova****Easy/Medium****355 0862**

According to DOC, Powell Hut is "a popular winter destination for fitter day visitors because it is probably the quickest route by which the snow-covered tops of the Tararua Range can be reached". This is exactly why I chose this trip. Last winter, Jinny (Andersen) and I had an exhilarating experience of walking up to Powell Hut through a forest covered with snow. The view from the Mountain House Shelter reminded me of Russian winters. When we reached the hut the fresh snow was up to our knees and it kept falling. The temperature around the hut was well below zero and a hot cup of soup never tasted so good. If this sounds like fun to you join me on this trip.

Powell Hut is located in Mount Holdsworth area, northwest from Masterton. A return trip from the car park to the hut should take about 6 hours including lunch and photo stops.

Park's Peak**18-19 July****Bev Akers****Easy/Medium****325 8879**

I'm really looking forward to visiting this new hut in the Eastern Ruahines. Not yet sure which way we'll go, all depends on the weather at the time. I'm keen on the river crossing and the longer route to the hut as it's been awhile since I've done it. It's all up to us on the day.

Oturere**25-26 July****Jenny McCarthy****Medium/Technical****06 376 6556**

At this stage I have no idea of the route we will take. The destination will be Oturere weather permitting. It will be off track and hopefully there will be some snow. Please phone for more details.

Oturere**25-26 July****John Doolan****Easy/Medium****027 446 8740**

What better way to start the winter by having a weekend in the mountains with like-minded trampers. With a bit of luck there will be some snow hanging around! Oturere Hut is in the Oturere Valley in the Eastern shadows of Mount Ngaurahoe, that's the pointy one in-between Ruapehu and Tongariro.

We will access the hut from the Desert Road (3-4 hours). Lunch will be at the Waihohonu hut after about 1.5 h, a good place for a cuppa, toilet stop and a good old chat. Then it's a comfortable 2-3 hours to the overnight hut.

We will leave from my home at 7:00 am. No need for tents as the hut sleeps heaps (unless you are so inclined). Contact me at john.doolan@inspire.net.nz, 06 3555 495 (work) or 0274 468 740. There no truth to the rumour that I snore!.

Leitch's Hut**1-2 August****Mark Learmonth****Easy/Medium****355 9143**

Phone for more details.

Tokomaru Waterfall**2 August****Mark Learmonth****Easy****358 4398**

Phone for more details.

Wednesday Trampers**5 August****Don McDonald****Easy/Medium****357 0222**

Phone for more details.

Thursday Trampers**6 August****Graham Pritchard****Easy/Medium****357 1393**

Phone for more details.

Mangatainoka Hot Springs**8-9 August****Tim Swale****Easy****06 376 6556**

Phone for more details.

Arawaru (Baldy) Trig**9 August****Gary Bevins****Medium****325 8879**

We travel up Scotts Road to the locked gate, entering Gordon Kear Forest. An old farm track takes us to the bush edge. When we find the beginning of the track, battle our way to the Trig. From leaving the vehicle to the Trig should take about 3 hours. We can return via a different route, hopefully it will be a day of approximately 7 hours. This is if we can manage to stay on the track, if not who knows, so you had better bring a torch just in case.

Wednesday Trampers**12 August****Colleen Newth****Easy/Medium****358 8801**

Phone for more details.

Thursday Trampers**13 August****Merv Matthews****Easy/Medium****357 2858**

Phone for more details.



Thursday Trampers at a track junction in the snow
(Photo: Ken Rush | Powell Hut Trip | 21 May 2009)

Trip Reports

Makairo Track **13 May**

by John Hunt

The trip was new to me, and in spite of the weather was very enjoyable. Eighteen of us drove east from the Tui Brewery at Mangatainoka, to the end of "usable" part of Makairo Road and walked up the now overgrown section of the closed road along the edge of Waewaepa Reserve. The bush was more extensive than I had been led to believe, and in the southerly conditions provided reasonable shelter, except near the top of the climb (about one and a half hours walk up) where it was more open, so we didn't push on down to the Quarry. However I'm very keen to do the "full" trip in better conditions and really enjoy the bush and views in the not too distant future. We did pause at the Tui Cafe for coffee on our return journey!

Powell Hut **21 May**

by John Thornley

Twelve of us braved the winter cold and were fortunate to have a cloudy, calm day in the snow-covered bush after the first significant winter blast from the South. A group of 20 senior students from Wellington High School shared the track, and for a while it looked like a Hare and Tortoise race to the hut. As their teachers stopped them periodically, to count heads, the Tortoise got there first, through steady plodding, leaving sunken footprints for the younger generation to follow. Snow on the ground and hanging heavily on the bush was encountered as low as the Rocky Lookout, making a magical landscape from

here to the hut. Those who made it: John, Keith Fisher, Carolyn Brodie, Judy Swainson, Geraldine Fovakis, Gordon Clark, Graham Pritchard, Ann Green, Hugh Wilde, John McLeod, and Bryan and Ruth Evans.

Hemi Matenga, Waikanae **24 May**

by David Newstead

Given the ferocious weather forecast for Wellington 'plan 2' was adopted – Hemi Matenga Memorial Park Scenic Reserve, on the hill behind Waikanae.

The Park: Hemi Matenga (died 1912), of Ngati Toa descent, established an estate at Waikanae on land he bought from his brother Wi Parata. The park was established in his memory by the estate trustees. It is now administered by the Dept of Conservation.

The seven of us (Bev Akers, Chris and Glenice Saunders, Adam Matich, Warren Henderson and son Liam (9), and me) made a comfortable mini-bus load, setting out at the civilized hour of 8:00, with vague thoughts for a 'plan 3' if the weather proved to be no good in Waikanae as well as Wellington. No problem. Waikanae had little wind, misty drizzle at worst, and a temperature of about 11°C. On Bev's directions we parked in Tui Cres, where we intended to emerge (this trip is well known to the Wednesday Group) and walked the 1.8 km to the foot of the 'Te Au' track in Huia St (according to my source, Kathy Ombler's "Walking Wellington", the Te Au route is for "experienced trampers only", i.e. a typical Tararua track). The way leads pretty-well directly up, to the top of the ridge (a fair grunt for our young Liam), through stands of predominantly kohekohe, interspersed with the



Unpacking the club minibus before hitting the track

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

odd well-grown rimu and matai. The kohekohe (a variety of mahogany, new to my awareness of such things) were in fruit, up to about an inch diameter, green with red centre. Reaching the ridge top we pushed on past the Wednesday Group's customary lunch spot, a delightful open glade with a southerly aspect, and, on this day, breeze, and made our way along to a clearing with a north-west aspect. Lunch, with a view of Kapiti and beyond, through light drizzly haze; little wind. This is where the Te Au Route meets the Parata Track, the latter being more of a tourist route (formed and gravelled). From here it was a pretty cruisey descent to the minibus, About 5 h round trip. Home with a stop at the 'Brown Sugar' café (for me, a compulsory stop in future !). An excellent trip for keeping the winter mopes away. Thanks to Bev for her local knowledge on this trip.

Wed & Thu Trampers Trips

Wednesday Tramps

May	13th	Makairo Track (18)
	20th	Tangimoana Beach (18)
	27th	Maharahara (8)

Thursday Trampers

May	7th	Maharahara Crossing
	14th	Mitre Flats (12)
	21st	Powell Hut (12)
	14th	A-Frame (11)

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

Department of Conservation News



From the pages of "Keep Tracking on with DOC" Issue 16 - May 12 2009

A quick update on some local issue and news:

- New track signs have been installed in Pohangina, Kawhatau, the Oroua Valley, and at Diggers Hut, Mania, Deerford and Shorts tracks.
- Kahikatea and Pohangina Bush Walk tracks have been cleared.
- Contractors have completed track formation work with the digger on the Manawatu Gorge Track and gravelling continues. The digger is now at the Totara Loop Track at the Woodville end of the gorge beginning the upgrade to a barrier free walk.
- The track out to the bird watching hide at Pukepuke Lagoon has been gravelled during the area meeting work day in April. The hide was also scrubbed clean after swallows had set up home when the viewing shutters were left open.

Kelly Stratford

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

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 (lodge.bookings@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. There is a Personal Locator Beacon, in the glove box, for people using the van to take with them.



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 two personal locator beacons (PLB), 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 (no charge for PLB). 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	Ken Mercer	356 7497	president@mtsc.org.nz
Secretary	Tim Swale	06 376 6556	
Treasurer	Christine Scott	354 0510	treasurer@mtsc.org.nz
Chief Guide	Kim Fraser	355 5496	
Day Trip Convenor	Bev Akers	325 8879	
Membership Sec.	Jenny McCarthy	06 376 8838	membership@mtsc.org.nz
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Social Convenor	Rochelle Beaumont		
Ski Captain	Rob Pringle	358 3319	
Lodge Manager	Ryan Badger	027 445 1997	
Lodge Booking Officers	Hugh & Liz Wilde	356 9450	lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz
Mini-bus Custodian	Adam Matich	359 2796	
General Committee	David Newstead	025 576 175	
	Geraldine Fovakis	356 4327	
	Linda Campbell	323 3836	