

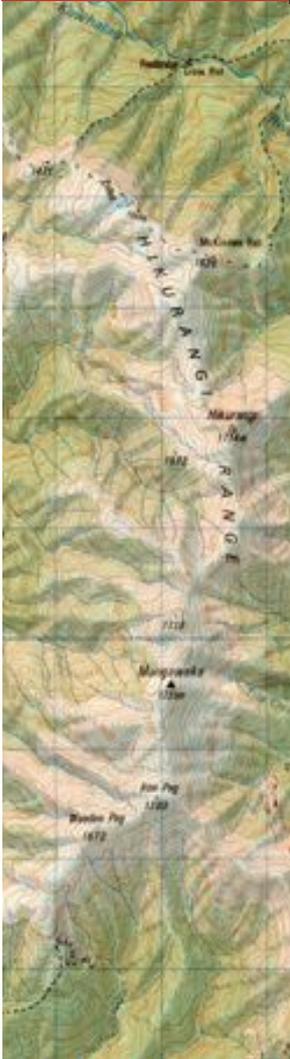
March 2010  
Issue 03

mail:  
MTSC  
P.O. Box 245  
Palmerston North

web:  
[www.mtsc.org.nz](http://www.mtsc.org.nz)



**Ken Mercer, Shailesh Agrawai and Daniel Petrov at Sunset Saddle above Lake Angelus.**  
(Photo: Ken Mercer | Nelson Lakes Nation Park | 21 December 2009)



## Upcoming club night

### Search and Rescue

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

#### 2nd March - Search and Rescue in the Central Region

Sergeant Bill Nicholson, Search and Rescue Coordinator for Central District, will be speaking to us about SAR in our region. Bill is charged with coordinating exercises and real life search operations in our region. SAR largely relies on the specialist skills and time of volunteers from several clubs (including ours) and groups that work alongside police. Come along and find out all about a vital part of outdoor activities.

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If you'd like to receive your newsletter by email as a pdf in full colour rather than by post then please send an email request to [editor@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:editor@mtsc.org.nz).

If you have a change of contact details please email the club membership secretary at [membership@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:membership@mtsc.org.nz) as well as copying the message to [editor@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:editor@mtsc.org.nz).

**Items for the newsletter:** The deadline for newsletter items is the end of the month. Please include a date with trip reports. Photos are appreciated, any number of images at a resolution of 1024x768 or greater if possible. For example a 2 megapixel image is 1600 x 1200 pixels. Please include the date and an appropriate caption for the photo.

# President's Report

by Ken Mercer

email [president@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:president@mtsc.org.nz) or phone (06) 356 7497 or (027) 364 6475

It's another new year and we're pointing the right way to get to the ski season! In the meantime Mary and I have made the most of the summer by getting into Nelson Lakes, knocking off the Heaphy, exploring the 1000 acre plateau, and kayaking for 5 days down the Clarence river.

Thanks to the latest FMC newsletter I have been looking at a DOC report which has the lengthy title Vehicle crime at outdoor recreation and tourist destinations: prevalence, impact and solutions. Having my car ransacked is an experience I have so far managed to avoid but we all know of and dread such incidents.

Unfortunately the offered solutions apply more to tourist destinations rather than remote road ends but parking in the open and not leaving valuables in your vehicle is the obvious advice. It is easy to get paranoid about these things (don't!) and I was cheered by this map (right) of historical data showing reported crime at DoC sites between 2001-2006, it shows that most of the road ends we use are safe.

Adam has been getting a little despondent lately following another minor ding in the club van which, of course, is a large vehicle with poor rear visibility. I have generally maneuvered it unaided but I think we should all make use of a "driver's mate", particularly out the back, when in a tight spot. Perhaps, to make getting into Adam's yard easier, we should get a high vis vest for warning traffic?

Finally, my tip for keeping your passengers happy when driving based on both Mary's and my susceptibility to motion sickness. Slow down gently going into a corner and don't accelerate if there is another one in front. In short, don't use the brakes! Also, it's a weighty vehicle and, when descending a hill, a low gear is important to keep the speed down and the brakes cool. Enjoy the outdoors!

## Chief Guide's Report

by Kim Fraser

email [dowson\\_kr@hotmail.com](mailto:dowson_kr@hotmail.com) or phone (06) 355 5496

Happy New year!! I hope everyone managed to find some time and get out into the hills, or like many I know managed to get out after the holiday period to reduce those few sneaky kilos gained from all that delicious christmas food and wine. While the weather has been interesting since Christmas I know its not entirely unusual for tramping in NZ but since christmas either myself or my friends have encountered snow, gale forced winds, swollen rivers, searing humid heat and chilly 5degree cloud covered tops which just goes to show the importance of being prepared for the worst weather possible even though its apparently the middle of summer (yes I believe it's raining and blowing a storm outside as I'm writing this).

Over the Christmas/New Year's break I joined the long party from the North Shore Tramping Club on 6 days of their 9 day trip in the Ruahines once again I thoroughly enjoyed tramping with a group whose



background in tramping is so different to ours, and one thing they did was made me appreciate how lucky I am to have all that tramping at my back door. But we did have three groups in the ranges and gave the new Topo50 maps a thorough working over and ...oh dear... we discovered quite a few mistakes which involve tracks appearing on the map which had disappeared off the old maps due to discontinuation of maintenance, tracks being inaccurately placed on the map and tracks appearing on the map which don't exist or have never existed at all. Lucky I had a copy of the old maps so my group used a combination of the two maps but just a word of warning if you are planning a trip that your not familiar with, it might pay to check with DOC that the tracks you wish to follow do actually exist. I have spoken to DOC about the problem with the new Topo50's and they want to know about any mistakes as they will update the maps regularly or let me know and I'll add it to my list I'm making for them. Happy tramping!

## Lodge Work Party

by Ryan Badger

email [farmboy\\_ryan@hotmail.com](mailto:farmboy_ryan@hotmail.com) or phone (027) 445 1997

As many of you will know the last two Christmas breaks have seen bunkrooms 1-4 and the drying room get a major re-vamp and they are now looking really good! However with a few of us being a bit busy during the Christmas just been we decided to have a break from what had become the annual lodge work party.

The remaining rooms 5 and 6 are still on the cards for this year with the aim of having them completed for the up and coming ski season so we've formulated a plan!

Starting Easter Friday we are holding a work party at the lodge with the intention of gutting, relining and installing new bunks in the remaining two bunk

rooms. There will also be plenty of painting to be done outside if the weather is up to it and just a general clean and tidy up.

This won't be an all work and no play trip however as we have penciled in a walk to the crater on Sunday for those who are keen.

The come home date hasn't been set yet as we will play it by ear but at a guess it will either Thursday or Friday the following week.

So if you are free any time between the 2nd - 8th or 9th of April and would like to lend a hand with demolition, painting, cleaning, cooking, or building then please let me know,

We would love to see you there!

## DoC News



### From the pages of "Keep Tracking on with DOC" Issue 20 - January 2010

A quick update on some local issue and news:

- The sidle track to Iron Gates hut has recently been cleared of vegetation making it a great walk.
- Knights and Purity tracks have been cleared of snow damage and windfalls.
- Diggers track has recently been cut from Takapari Road.
- Maintenance on the interior of Te Ekaou was started with DoC staff assisting Manawatu NZDA who manage the hut.
- Kawhatau Base camping area has a new wood fired bbq and campfire. Although there has been rain over the summer months fire danger can still be high. Take care with fires at all times and check for fire restrictions.

Margaret Metcalfe

Dept of Conservation, Programme Manager - Community Relations, Palmerston North Area Office

Phone: 06 350 9703



**Up on Maungaorangi Peak - the site of Royce's most difficult geo-cache.**

(Photo: Adam Matich | Makorako Peak Trip | 23-25 January 2010)

# 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.

<b>ALL</b>	All welcome
<b>EASY</b>	4 hours per day, pace slower than Easy/Med. Does not relate to terrain.
<b>EASY/MEDIUM</b>	5 hours per day at a pace slower than medium.
<b>MEDIUM</b>	7 hours per day at a standard walking pace.
<b>MEDIUM/FIT</b>	8 hours per day at a pace faster than medium.
<b>FIT</b>	Over 8 hours per day at a pace faster than medium/fit.
<b>TECHNICAL</b>	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](mailto: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.

### River Camping

13-14 February

Howard Nicholson

Easy  
357 6325

A few hours tramping, enjoying good company around an open fire, toasting marshmallows, and sleeping under a tent fly near a pleasant stream - the joys of summer camping! We have a couple of possible destinations in mind, depending on weather and preference of the group; Atiwhakatu Stream (eastern Tararua Ranges from the Mt Holdsworth roadend) or Makaretu River (Eastern Ruahine Ranges northwest of Dannevirke). Expect a few hours of slow tramping each day (this is a family-friendly trip!) with time to explore around our camp area.

### Wednesday Trampers

17 February

Rosemary & Ken Hall

Easy/Medium  
356 8538

Please call for more details.

### Thursday Trampers

18 February

Ann Green

Medium  
(06) 374 5208

Please call for more details.

### Oroua Stoa Line

20-21 February

Kim Fraser

Medium  
355 5496

No set plan as yet, there are quite a few traps set in the Oroua Valley and I plan on getting a team/s together to check them. So depending on how many people are keen will determine what we do or if we divide into groups which can be done and there's a wide variety of places to check traps ranging from Triangle Hut, the river, track to Iron Gates, Tunipo, Umutoi Streams, down to the gorge etc. Hopefully there are enough people to divide into groups which can vary from easy to fit one day only, to easy overnight, to slightly longer overnight (to Triangle

and back). Please let me know well in advance if you wish to help out, how far you want to go and I will make a plan from there.

### Wednesday Trampers

24 February

Pauline Hall

Easy/Medium  
329 7707

Please call for more details.

### Thursday Trampers

25 February

Stuart Malcolm

Medium  
358 3409

Please call for more details.

### Mt Taranaki/Kaitake Ranges

27-28 February

Linda Campbell

(06) 323 3836 or (027) 333 4493

Medium

The plan is to travel to Taranaki on the Friday evening. If the weather is suitable we will climb Mt Taranaki on Saturday. If not we will take a walk in the Kaitake Ranges instead and try again for a summit climb on the Sunday. Thinking positively, we will climb from the northern side making our way up the 'Puffer' to Tahurangi Lodge. From there we climb the stairs, the scree and finally the rocks that form the Lizard before dropping into the crater. From there it is a short climb to the summit.

### Tararua Trundle

27-28 February

Brian Webster

Fit  
357 0189

Please call for more details.

### Pretender

28 February

Adam Matich

Medium  
359 2796

Pretender is peak 967 in the southern Ruahines and is accessible from the Coppermine road end. Pretender is

much visited by the Thursday trampers, who may have even done some of the track maintenance. We head up Coppermine Stream past the hut site and near the end of the track, just before a stream crossing, climb the old trail up to Pretender, a 550 m climb. We then head SW along the tops towards Wharite, being careful not to fall off the side on one or two spiteful "I am going to lead you nowhere" tracks. Once we reach the little saddle the route is easy and the climb up onto the Wharite track system is easy, as is the descent back down to the Coppermine Stm track. It is a bit of a scramble and a bush bash in places, as the route is somewhat overgrown and not always easy to follow, but I don't expect there to be any tears before bed-time. Last time we travelled this route we had poor visibility and thrashed around a bit, but still managed the loop in about six hours. This time it will be a nice sunny trip, or I am staying home to have a good sulk!

**Wednesday Trampers****3 March****Judy Callesen**

Please call for more details.

**Easy/Medium****357 0192****Thursday Trampers****4 March****John McLeod**

Please call for more details.

**Medium****323 5785****SAREX****6-7 March****Howard Nicholson**

The local Search and Rescue Exercise will be held this weekend. The SAREX is a good chance to practice the many skills needed for effective searching, and MTSC members will again be involved in this fun weekend. If you are interested in SAR, then feel free to contact one of the many active members who contribute to the local SAR scene.

**Technical****357 6325****Stanfield Hut****7 March****Kim Fraser**

Phone for more details.

**Medium****355 5496****Wednesday Trampers****10 March****Ivan Alve**

Please call for more details.

**Easy/Medium****356 3123****Thursday Trampers****11 March****John Thornley**

Please call for more details.

**Medium****356 9681****Totara Flats****13-14 March****Duncan Fraser**

Phone for more details.

**Easy/Medium****355 5496****Wednesday Trampers****17 March****John Hunt**

Please call for more details.

**Easy/Medium****324 0339****Thursday Trampers****18 March****Bryan Evans**

Please call for more details.

**Medium****323 7614****Hikurangi Stream****20-21 March****David Harrington**

Starting from the road bridge at the confluence of Hikurangi Stream, we will follow the stream up for its full length. Easy travel to waterfall at 615899 (BK36) then expect plenty of waterfalls, deep pools, steep sidlings and leather bashing and a long day to arrive just south of Hikurangi high point. Sunday is back down track to cableway and down the Kawhatau River to start. Please avoid wet shorts!

**Fit****(06) 839 5766****Kiritaki Hut****21 March****Hugh Wilde**

Phone for more details.

**Medium****356 9450****Wednesday Trampers****24 March****Lorraine Green**

Please call for more details.

**Easy/Medium****354 6158****Thursday Trampers****25 March****Jill Spencer**

Please call for more details.

**Medium****329 8738****Te Matawai Work Party****27-28 March****Jean Garman**

Its that time of year again for our annual trip to Te Matawai hut to at the very least hack and slash the vegetation, chop the firewood and scrub the hut. Not all the details are sorted out yet but there may be a limit on numbers in which case preference is given to regular work party attendees. Guaranteed to be lots of good food and company.

**Hard Work****354 3536****Burttons Track****28 March****Mary Mercer**

Phone for more details.

**Medium****356 7497****Wednesday Trampers****31 March****Margaret Gillingham**

Please call for more details.

**Easy/Medium****356 8812****Thursday Trampers****1 April****Keith Fisher**

Please call for more details.

**Medium****357 1724****Northern Kawekas****2-5 April****Kim Fraser**

Please call for more details.

**Medium****355 5496**



**The final climb up onto Te Hekenga**

(Photo: Adam Matich | Triangle Trip | 6 February 2009)

## Trip Reports

### Honeycomb Rock

**9 December**

**by Bev Akers**

7.30 am start, all 29 of us set off with the destination being a big surprise, except for the 5 drivers. Once we left Terrace End car park, it was full on with the guessing game. Driving over the Pahiatua track cut down the options. We regrouped beside the Memorial Park in Masterton for a loo stop, and you guess it - coffee stop.

3/4 hr later after tracking everybody down, we were on our merry way again. As we turned off to Gladstone - bus became quieter as the destination was narrowing down. After Te Wharau, I told them it was a farm walk of sorts with no hills, which it was but out at the coast.

The gravel road continues winding through forestry until you get to the top of the hill. What an amazing view of farm land and sea. The road continued down through farm land amongst sheep & cattle. We continued south until the end of the public road, beginning of Glenburn Station, where we parked.

Unfortunately we had a strong nor wester blowing but sunny and warm. The walk was easy following orange triangles which lead us over stiles & farm land. Then there's the Seals which you can smell a mile away.

Lunch at the rock. Shame about the wind, as it was hard to lie the table cloth flat on the grass with all the wonderful yummy food to share.

The return trip was fairly fast as some wanted to be back by a certain time. For the bus group, we basically retraced our steps back to Masterton but as it was 5 pm (coffee shop shut) so we got a coffee at the New World & sat in the park eating Don's Chocolate chip bicies. Home by 7 pm. About 2 hr drive, 2 hr walk to the rock for lunch. Great day, thanks guys - Bev.

### Hemi Matenga North

**17 January**

**by Adam Matich**

After leaving Jeans' bike hidden in the bushes at the end of Mangaone South Road we drove through Waikanae to the northern road end of the Hemi Matenga track (on Huia Street) and started climbing. Forty five minutes saw us hot and sweaty at 490 m, where we turned NE off the Hemi Matenga track into the not so untracked "untracked wilderness". Over the next hour we made our way north along the ridge over 511 and to 540 where we landed on the logging track system. The travel through the forest had been on an easy well-defined trail with lots of markers due to bird surveying and bait station lines. There were tracks heading off to the sides, so a minor amount of attention was needed in order to stay on the ridge proper. Following the logging tracks north from 540 was a bit more fraught as they aren't all shown on the map – the outdated topomaps are more informative – and we

needed the GPS to confirm where we were a couple of times. Eventually we climbed uncertainly onto the “old” logging track system, which put us back into the forest. Therein, the track was generally quite narrow and there were one or two intersections at which care was necessary in order to find our way. Someone does use this track system, however, as there are quite a lot of tape markers. In the bush we had to rely on map, compass and terrain as strangely, the GPS started lying outrageously and was necessarily ignored.

Near the SW-most section of the old logging system we took a compass bearing and headed off into the wilderness to drop down onto the Mangaone Walkway, some 300 m below us. Travel through the forest was reasonably easy and safe, the only annoyances being some areas of supple-jack. But they didn't stop us from dropping onto the walkway exactly where we wanted to be, 1 km north of the Mangaone South Road end. Jean got the pleasure of the 12 km bike ride back to the car at the other road end, while some locals took pity on me and gave me a lift back into Waikanae after what was a warm sunny 5-hour day with just enough adventure in it to stave off boredom.

We were Jean Garman and Adam Matich.

### **Shute's Hut 16-17 January by Kim Dowson**

Three of us we left Palmerston North at Friday lunchtime knowing that the weekend's weather was to be slightly rotten, we hoped that a Friday get away would get us into Shute's before Friday night's dumping of rain and

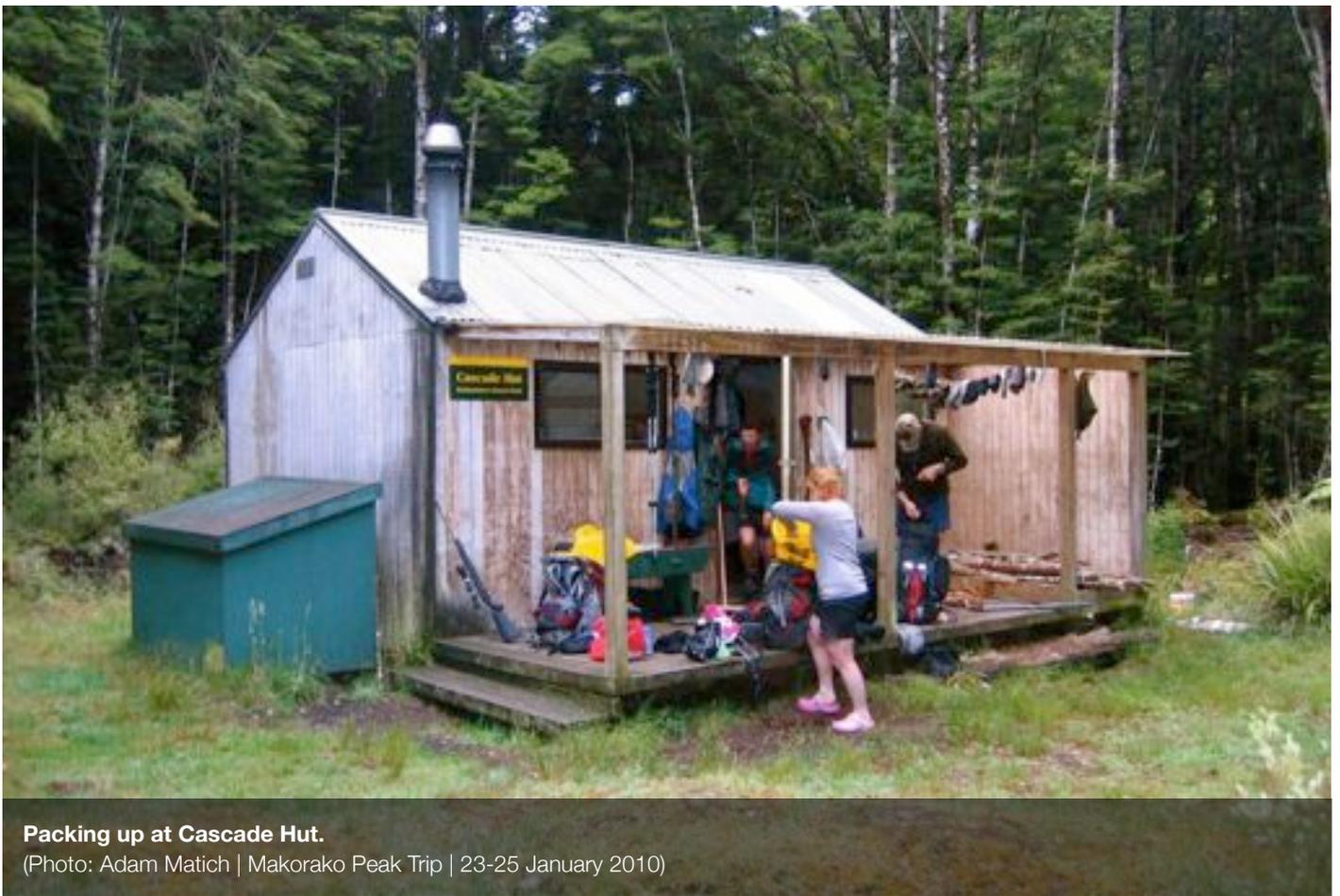
hopefully by Sunday the river would let us out again. Upon arrival at Comet Hut it was clear that it hadn't rained yet so we threw gear on and away we went down the toe crunching hill to Shute's. Once safely across the river we settled on camping at the campsite since we had 2 fishermen it was more fishing friendly to stay by the river rather than 20 minutes away, fair enough majority rules! After dinner saw fishing rods come out and disappear down the river and I took a stroll to Shute's Hut.

Overnight we only had a couple of light showers so again the fishing rods came out after brekky and I decided to take a day trip to Tauruarau Biv. After leaving Shute's Hut the cloud came down and turned into a light misty rain, by 11am I'd had enough pushing through wet scrub as the track was in bad need of maintenance and I was sick of wasting time at every bald area looking for the track so I turned around and headed to Shute's for lunch. Upon arriving I found two wet fishermen and bad news that the river had risen. So since we were all wet and miserable decided to pack up camp and head out as we had two more arriving for dinner and it was looking like they would be camping on the other side of the river. 40 minutes later we were nervously preparing ourselves for a possibly rough crossing with the river having risen a foot or so to chest height, we managed to tip toe across and fight the current as there is only one safe place to cross. Safely across, wet, miserable, and sweating due to the humidity, packs and boots weighing a tonne, we trundled up the stinking hill back to Comet Hut just in time to meet our late arrivals at the top of the big hill. We were Kim and Duncan Fraser, Jacob Brown, Hannah and Geoff (late arrivals).



**Early morning view from Boyd Hut.**

(Photo: Adam Matich | Makorako Peak Trip | 23-25 January 2010)



**Packing up at Cascade Hut.**

(Photo: Adam Matich | Makorako Peak Trip | 23-25 January 2010)

## Taupo Mountain Biking Weekend 23-25 January

by Tim Swale

Peter, Lynda, Liping and I left Palmerston North in steady rain, bikes stashed in my Hiace van, hoping that the weather would improve as we headed North. By Taihape it was still pouring. There seemed no rush to get wet so we disembarked for a coffee and a browse around the sports shop at the Brown Sugar Café. Our spirits rose as we eventually shook off the rain as we descended from the Desert Road into Turangi. Soon we were at the Wairakei Forest MTB track (near Craters of the Moon) getting kitted out and smearing on sunscreen ready for a fun afternoon.

With our map at the ready we had a warm up on the easy Grade 2 “Tourist Trap” before heading into the Grade 3 “Ferret”. All too easy! With confidence growing we then took the long uphill “TankStand” and “Ground Effect Grinder” tracks through mature pine forest to the summit. From there it was an exhilarating downhill rush with sweeping turns and switchbacks via “Mr and Mrs” to the slightly intimidating “Better than P” with its big drops between the trees. All out safely, we took the “Incline” and then a fast ride down the “Coaster” and back to the start. Even the see-saw could not unseat our intrepid riders. However, the short track down to the café did, and Lynda emerged bruised and bloodied from the forest. Thankfully, nothing too serious for rider or bike but a timely reminder that biking can turn to custard pretty quickly.

The night was spent at DeBretts Holiday Park where a long soak in the soothing hot pools should have set us up for a good sleep when we got back to our tents. However,

the noise of heavy trucks labouring up the Napier-Taupo highway on the other side of the fence did make sleep for me a long time coming.

On Sunday we decided to try the new W2K track. This masterpiece of bike friendly single track links Whakaipo Bay to Kinloch with a 14.5 Km route that is an absolute delight to ride. Whilst there is about 300 metres of vertical height gain, every single bit is rideable with no section harder than Grade 2. The views across the lake are stunning as it weaves in and out of forest and eventually down to the lake front at Kinloch. After a very pleasant café lunch we headed back the way we had come but this time at a faster pace. It's very tempting to really let rip on the downhill but you have to be always mindful that this is a two way track and there are lots of blind bends. Nevertheless we made good time (1h 20min), arriving back hot and sweaty at Whakaipo Bay and ready for a plunge into the cooling waters of Lake Taupo. An outstanding trip and all credit to the “Bike Taupo” organisation that put so much effort into building it.

With bikes and cyclists once again loaded we headed back down the lake to Turangi where we set up tents at the camp that was once the temporary home for workers on the Tongariro power Scheme. A real bit of history but a pleasant and most importantly, quiet spot. We walked around the thermal reserve at the back of the Tokaanu hot pools as Liping had not seen boiling mud and bubbling cauldrons of geothermally heated water before. Of course, a soak at the baths followed.

On Monday morning we made a reasonably early start to do our final ride, the Tree Trunk Gorge circuit. Peter, Lynda and Liping were dropped at the top of Tree Trunk

Gorge Road whilst I went back to park the van 2 km back where the track eventually emerges onto the Desert Road. This bit on SH1 is not nice but only takes about 7 minutes. A long, fast downhill down Tree Trunk Gorge Road quickly gets you to the start of the MTB track proper. The view from the bridge is awesome with the Tongariro river squeezing through a cleft in the rocks little more than 3 metres wide. I caught the others on the rocky descent to the first creek where there is no choice but to get wet feet. Although rated as grade 3, this 17 km loop was the hardest trip of the weekend with some long, steep climbs, lots of creek crossings and a few un-ridable sections. There are also some big bluffs next to the track around the Pillars of Hercules which require care. Nevertheless, the beautiful native forest and spectacular views make it very appealing. After crossing the new swing bridge at the Pillars of Hercules we climbed steadily in blazing heat on a 4WD track through manuka scrub for about 4 km back to the Desert Road where we had left the van.

With bikes loaded for the final time we were ready to head towards home. A brief stop in sunny Taihape for a picnic lunch was very welcome after all the energy expended that morning. Reflecting on the weekend, I would have to say there is something very special about mountain biking: wonderful scenery, great company but above all that ear to ear grin that comes with those fast downhills. There may have to be some more mountain biking weekends on the next trip card!

### **Makorako Peak (Kaimanawa Range)**

**23-25 January**

**by Adam Matich**

After dropping some hunters in the Rangitikei River the helicopter pilot reported that Makorako peak was shrouded in mist and that it was cold (5 degrees) and wet up there. So we had to be dropped off just to the East of Te Wetenga at 1600 m. Upon looking at the conditions we decided that we didn't care all that much about Makorako Peak and so headed 1/2 km in an easterly direction before our traverse two hours north across the tops to 1429 for lunch. The weather gradually improved throughout the day, to the point that the occasional light showers we experienced died out. Travel across the tops was very easy,

and the clouds cleared to give us some pretty good views. From 1429 we headed NW until we hit the bush line SW of 1257. Travel through the bush to the saddle just north of 1257 was not good. We did find a track, but it didn't really end up going in the direction we wanted and so we crashed down through the bush into the gully and then up to the saddle at the headwaters of the Rangitikei River (3 pm). Instead of spending the rest of our day and that night at the campsite we decided to make our way to Cascade hut, and so climbed onto Ngapuketuru, followed the tops around, and dropped down to the ridge that makes its way down the Cascade hut. The track up onto this ridge is badly eroded, and so it is necessary to search for the small detour tracks to avoid having to climb out of the deep guts.

The forest on the upper section of the Cascade Spur is a bit messy and overgrown in places, and the track markers are very necessary. On the lower section of the spur, however, it is much tidier and so following the track is quite easy. We startled a couple of deer on this lower section. It got dark before we reached the bottom, so for the last 30 minutes we were by torch light, and some of this was the steepest of the whole day. We crossed the Tauranga-Taupo River and arrived at Cascade hut at 9:35 pm after an 11 hour day. There were three unoccupied bunks in the hut and so only Kim (the youngest) needed to sleep on the floor. Next morning Royce found the geo-cache hidden under the hut.

Next morning we headed up to Waitupurutia Saddle (2hr) and attracted the notice of a couple of Sika, which whistled at us. Instead of taking the track down into North Arm, we continued climbing up to Maungaorangi, on which there is another geo-cache hidden under the cairn. Maungaorangi peak is an open-topped alpine meadow with ankle high vegetation. The



**Sawtooth Ridge and Pourangaki River headwaters from Te Hekenga.**

(Photo: Adam Matich | Triangle Trip | 6 February 2009)

poled route lead us across the top past the geo-cache at the summit and then south towards the Oamaru River. We had good views down into North Arm from the open tops which lasted for a couple of km before we found ourselves in the forest. Last year's snow damage to the forest is severe, but fortunately DoC have been through and remarked, so although it is messy and slow the route is quite possible. Because the route was extremely well-marked we became a bit complacent and put too much trust in the orange DoC markers.

Somewhere between 1365 and 1319 Gary noted a direction change towards the west, but we were still on a well-padded and marked DoC track. Given the chief guide's previous experience with the seriously error-ridden Topo50 Ruahine maps, we rationalised that the track just does not go where the map says it does. However, in this case the map was correct. Someone had used DoC markers to create a private track down into North Arm. Part way down this private track a pink-tape track dived off to our right down to the North Arm hut, and we continued on following the DoC markers on the spur until they just stopped at a bit below 1200 m. Due to a confusion created by the two map systems we were using and the different grid systems the GPS's were set at, we didn't realise this until we were 50 m above Te Waiotupurutia Stm. The serious lesson for us was, only use one map series, get the GPS's in agreement, and double-check even when there are DoC markers. If we had done so we would have picked the problem much earlier. However, we were committed now and so gave up on getting into the Oamaru River. We bashed down Fuchsia Stm into Waiotupurutia Stm and wandered down to the Ngaruroro River to arrive at Boyd Lodge (9:40 p.m.) after a 13-hour day, whereas we had been expecting an eight-hour day. The only consolation was that Kim was able to crash Duncan's hunting party at Boyd Lodge. The boys go on hunting trips in order to get away from their partners and children.

The next day dawned a bit more hopeful. The route out from Boyd to Poronui station is well known and well marked. We crossed the river, climbed to Waitawhero saddle and followed the stream down to the confluence with the Oamaru River, where we found the bottom end of the track we had fallen off the day before. It was well sign-posted, marked, and where the map said it should be. So we cursed whoever had "illegally" used DoC markers to make their private track down into North Arm, and continued on. The Oamaru River track is nice, easy travel through some very pleasant forest. We ground on to reach Oamaru Hut (5 1/2 hr) for a late lunch, after which we did our two river crossings and climbed onto Poronui Station. From thereon we had a long, boring 3-hr tramp across the station to the main gate where our vehicle awaited us. Along the way, the clouds rolled in, it got darker, and thunder was heard, but the rain never came and so we stayed hot and dirty. Once we were in the vehicle however, the rain started in earnest and there was flooding on the Napier-Taupo and the Desert Roads. So our nice medium-grade trip degenerated into a fitness-essential grade trip.

We were Kim Fraser, Adam Matich Gary Bevins, and Royce Mills

### Tararua Crossing 4 February by Merv Matthews

We had a perfect day for this crossing, no wind and a high overcast which allowed excellent views along the way. After being dropped off at the Kahuterawa carpark, we headed up the Sledge Track to the main junction, followed by the Short Spur route to the Council roadway where we met up with the two drivers who had taken the vehicles around to Naenae Road. After a leisurely lunch we followed a hidden hunters' trail out to the other side, reaching the vehicles at 2:15pm. We were 17 Thursday Trampers.



Near the top of Te Wetenga after having been dropped off by helicopter.

(Photo: Adam Matich | Makorako Peak Trip | 23-25 January 2010)

# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:editor@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@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:membership@mtsc.org.nz).

## Club website | [www.mtsc.org.nz](http://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 2009-10 Committee

President	Ken Mercer	356 7497 <a href="mailto:president@mtsc.org.nz">president@mtsc.org.nz</a>
Secretary	Tim Swale	06 376 6556
Treasurer	Christine Scott	354 0510 <a href="mailto:treasurer@mtsc.org.nz">treasurer@mtsc.org.nz</a>
Chief Guide	Kim Fraser	355 5496
Day Trip Convenor	Bev Akers	325 8879
Membership Sec.	Jenny McCarthy	06 376 8838 <a href="mailto:membership@mtsc.org.nz">membership@mtsc.org.nz</a>
Newsletter Editor	Wei-Hang Chua	021 212 0369 <a href="mailto:editor@mtsc.org.nz">editor@mtsc.org.nz</a>
Social Convenor	Rochelle Beaumont	354 4929
Ski Captain	Rob Pringle	358 3319
Lodge Manager	Ryan Badger	027 445 1997
Lodge Booking Officers	Hugh & Liz Wilde	356 9450 <a href="mailto:lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz">lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz</a>
Mini-bus Custodian	Adam Matich	359 2796
General Committee	David Newstead	025 576 175
	Geraldine Fovakis	356 4327
	Linda Campbell	323 3836
Imm. Past President	Howard Nicholson	357 6325