

post: P.O. Box 245, Palmerston North
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Upcoming club nights

club nights: 7.30pm, 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month, at the Manawatu Aero Club rooms, Airport Drive.

4th May - Kayak Expedition in the Himalayas

Chris and Harry Allardice's son was the logistical organiser of a kayak trip in the Himalayan River. Although there was only a handful of kayakers, there was plenty of food and a lot of porters were required. Come see some awesome video footage of kayakers in unbelievable water conditions and scenery. The expedition financed by US backers. National Geographic were also there and are to make a documentary about the expedition, so even though this is an amateur video come get a sneak peak!



18th May - MTSC Club AGM 2004

The MTSC AGM will be held on Tuesday 18 May 2004 at 7:30pm, at the Manawatu Districts Aero Club rooms (off Airport Drive, near the control tower at the airport). All are welcome.

Note that there will be a proposed change to the constitution's winding up clause in line with IRD requirements (please see page 2 for full details).

AGM 2004

Where we've been...



Above: Middle Hill Hut in the Kawekas after a cold night out on the verandah. See the trip reports for details on this Easter trip (photo: Adam Match).

Bumper Issue

The nice weather since Feb has resulted in a lot of trips going ahead. People have kindly obliged with lots of great reports to read this month. Thanks to all those who take the time to contribute previews and reports.

Howard Nicholson has compiled the AGM notes and these are enclosed with the newsletter, please bring these along to the AGM meeting.

As an aside, I'd like to make special mention of the tireless Sue Tuohy. Sue collects the newsletters from the printer, and folds and envelopes them. An up till now, unacknowledged member of the editorial team.

Wei-Hang Chua
Editor

Club Notices

President's Bit

The AGM is very rapidly approaching and I hope many of will be there to contribute your piece to the future of the club. Issues coming up include how to increase attendance at club nights, ensure we have trips that cater for everyone, a 75th anniversary 'book', safety management in the outdoors, connecting the lodge to the sewerage system, and maintenance and administration of the lodge. If you would like to contribute to these issues (or any other issues) please give myself or another committee member a call and come along to the AGM.. It would be great to have some new faces on the committee.

Christine Scott
Phone (06) 354-0510
C.A.Scott@massey.ac.nz

Proposed Change to Club Constitution at AGM

The MTSC AGM will be held on Tuesday 18 May 2004 at 7:30pm, at the Manawatu Districts Aero Club rooms (off Airport Drive, near the control tower at the airport).

There will be a proposed change to the constitution's winding up clause in line with IRD requirements.

During the year I needed to send the Inland Revenue Department a copy of the club's constitution to confirm our tax free status. They have made a request that clause 18 (alteration of constitution) be added to as follows before they will confirm this status.

"No addition to or alteration of the objects, personal benefit clause or the winding up clause shall be approved without the Inland Revenue approval. The provisions and effect of this clause shall not be removed

Chief Guide's Bit

by Gary Bevins

March was another month with marginal weather. Trips that did go ahead, had to battle the weather. It was a social month with a camping weekend at Catchpool and the Mangahao Flats work party. These were enjoyed by those who attended.

Catchpool was highlighted by a great barbecue tea of venison patties and sausages, steak etc, and a Sunday breakfast of huge amounts of bacon and eggs, along with many cups of coffee. On Sunday, everyone was too contented to go tramping. The Mangahao Flats work party had the job to clear trees and vegetation from the chopper pad and surrounding area. The wet weather was forgotten when the REAL work of eating began. There was a ridiculous variety and amount of food, some people were forced to eat dessert for breakfast because of the quantity.

So it is not all hard out tramping, and these social events are a good break, so come along. You will enjoy. Drag those boots out of storage and put them on.

from this document and shall be included and implied into any document replacing this document"

If the above is not added to our constitution, we will be required to file an annual tax return and pay tax on any surplus for the year. I will therefore be moving that our constitution be amended as shown above at the AGM. If anyone would like any more information about this issue, please contact me.

In addition to the above, I will also be proposing that annual subscriptions remain the same level as the current year.

Doug McNeur (Treasurer)

Trip Card Meeting

Is there that one tramp that always gets left off the trip card or one you want to do again? If you think you're up to being a trip leader or just want suggest trips, now is the time to start thinking about it. The

next trip card meeting will be at Howard Nicholson's place at 7.30pm on the 27th of April.

The address is 26 Epsom Avenue, Palmerston North. So start making the list of all the trips you are going to lead. People who are taking snow craft and ski trips up to the mountain, ie those who will need the club lodge, really need to book in with Hugh Wilde asap, because the bookings are starting to roll in!

Challenge for members

by Mark Learmonth

In recent times the club has organized and run different events to the norm, like the trip to the Martinborough Wine festival, 75th year celebration diner and our most recent event camping at Catchpool in the Rimutaka Forest Park. The idea of this event was to have three different grading level tramps set out from the same base and meet back up around 4pm for a social evening and barbecue as we don't normally have must

contact outside club nights. The fitness levels for the trip were fit, medium and easy.

We had a thoroughly enjoyable weekend the largest overnight trip I've been on for many years and it was great not only to use the mini bus but also to full it. We left Palmy at around 7.00am and headed for Catchpool south of Wainuiomata stopping at Otaki's hot bread shop for breaky. The sole shop attendant seemed to be blown away by the volume of people all in the shop at once. Shortly after arriving at Catchpool camping grounds the fit and medium groups shot off, keeping together until shortly after lunch leaving the easy group to set up camp. After setting up they had an easy stroll along the Orongorongo track to the river and back and were relaxing in the sun by 4.00pm.

The medium group once split from the fit set off up the Whakanui track. We intended taking an old track between the Whakanui track and Mount McKerrow, but found no trace of it, so we had to carry on to the main intersection. This placed us way behind time and it was obvious we would be very late back if we carried on tramping so it was decided to carry on along the Whakanui for another half hour to the roadend and



Above: Lynda Hunt and Bev Akers toast marshmallows over the last of Harris Creek Hut (Photo: Peter Rawlins)

Track notes



Track Status Report as of early April

The recent flooding has caused washouts and slips in many areas. As access improves, we are able to begin checking on the many tracks and access roads. The information below will be updated as information comes to hand. Please recommend any park users check with DOC before planning any trips into the Ruahine Forest Park. For further road information, check the district council websites.

- Manawatu Gorge Track: Closed for repair work. Not expected to re-open before the end of April. Access along SH3 not currently possible anyway. **WARNING:** Due to the undermining of structures, the track is in an unstable and dangerous condition and should not be used.
- Takapari Road: Open but 4WD recommended. Status of Takapari track: Open.
- Table Flat Road – Heritage Lodge/Limestone Road: Open
- Oroua Track to Heritage Lodge: Passable with care.
- Heritage Lodge to Iron Gate Hut: Slips on track.
- Rangiwahia: Te Parapara Road north of Rangiwahia is open. Renfrew Road has been graded and cleared.
- Status of Rangiwahia hut: Open. Rangiwahia track has recently been cut and vegetation around the hut have been cleared.
- Mid Pohangina Hut: Sidle track has impassable slips at the start of the track (where it crosses Kevin Billet's farm land). Access is still possible upstream from the Piripiri Bridge.
- Centre Creek Biv to Mid Pohangina Hut: 2 major slips on track but can be passed.
- Otukota Hut: Big slips on track in from Mokai Station. These are difficult to cross, and extreme care is needed. Alternative route via Bruce Ridge.
- Mokai Road Access: 4WD is recommended for most back roads at the moment.
- Coppermine track: Closed until further notice. This includes access to the Coppermine Loop, Wharite Peak and Billy Goat tracks.
- Kawhatau Base: Road access is single lane in places. Care is needed and 4WD is recommended.

Sources: Palmerston North DoC office and DoC website

was certainly a nice change from what we normally eat on overnight trips, some members talked of tramping again Sunday morning. But once the barbie was fired up and the bacon and eggs came out all thought of tramping went out the door. Instead we spent the next five hours drinking, eating, chatting, and dreaming before packing up and heading home.

This was probably the first time the club has tried to bring these three groups together for one weekend of tramping and a successful one at that. All these events were successful and with a little more refining would have even been more. In the next few weeks the club will work on the next trip card. With a trip card meeting set down for the 27th April.

My challenge to all club members is to come up with new ideas, get involved/help organize in any way you can other events which will help get the club humming along. I believe these types of events will help. Build the club by attracting and retaining potential new members. Get your thinking caps out now and phone your innovative ideas into the Chief Guide or someone on the committee. Ideas could include a 77th year celebration party, why wait another 25 years.

Remember no idea is silly and you only get out of a club what you put in. Food for thought, looking forward to viewing the next trip card.



Upcoming trips

Waiotauru/Kapakapanui

1-2nd May **Medium**
Bev Akers **325-8879**
CANCELLED

Sorry guys but its the opening of duck shooting season and I've

been given a job. Will put it on the next trip card.

Kapakapanui

2nd May **Medium**
Hugh Wilde **356-9450**
We will be departing at 7.30am. This is a hardy annual, to help get fit for the ski season and other things. Kapakapanui is the flat-topped hill behind Waikanae that you see from SH 1 and is a good 2-3 hour grunt to the top where we have lunch at the trig. Then it's a pleasant walk round the tops to the bush track down, and then gently down to the deerstalkers' hut. From the hut it's all down, quite steeply in places, back to where we started. A nice round trip circum-navigating the small catchment. All up it should take about 9 hours including the driving.

Thursday Trampers

6th May **Medium**
Liz Flint **356-7654**

Makaretu Loop

8-9th May **Easy/Medium**
Michael Beech **354-9310**
We will be leaving on Saturday morning from the Palmerston North Police Station and will drive to the Kashmir road end. We will tramp up to Longview which should take approx 2 hrs. We then go along the main ridge over Rocky Knob to the turnoff to Makaretu Hut where we will spend the night. Day 2 will see us go down the Makaretu river to Happy Daze Hut. From there we turn NE and go up the North Branch Makaretu river to Awatere Hut. We then take the Awatere track back to the Kashmir roadend. This stretch should take 1.5 hrs max.

Longview-Awatere Loop

9th May **Medium +/-**
Adam Matich **359-2796**
This day trip involves the climb up to Longview Hut, which should take no longer than 90 minutes, then a descent to Awatere Hut via the North Branch of the Makaretu River. It is the descent that I am not entirely sure about. Apparently it can be done, and it is not difficult, but I have never met any one who

has admitted to doing it. So dropping into and travelling down the river could be an adventure, and may well take 2-3 hours.

So if you want avoid another empty, boring Sunday come along and you may never have to suffer another one again! The ridge track back to the road end is reputed to take not much more than an hour.

Longview

9th May **Easy**
John Gee-Taylor **323-2087**

Wednesday Trampers

12th May
Ian Alve **356-3123**

Thursday Trampers

13th May
Bev Akers **325-8879**

Howlett's Hut

15-16th May **Medium**
Doug McNeur **359-1893**

This delightful little walk in the South Eastern Ruahines features a walk along a ridge to Daphne hut and then up a bit to Howlett's Hut where we will be able to see the Ruahine tops in all of their glory. So for a walk in the park, give me a call.

Sledge Track

16th May **Medium**
Christine Scott **354-0510**

This is a nice close trip to town at the head of the Kahuterewa Valley. Highlights of the trip will be mine shafts, views over both the Manawatu and Wairarapa, tussock flats and native bush. We will leave the Police Station at 7.30am. The plan is to do the full loop up onto South Range Road and along the ridge looking down into the Wairarapa. Estimated time about 7 hours.

Thursday Trampers

20th May
Phil Pearce **354-6687**

Waikamaka Hut

22-23rd May **Medium**
Peter Carver **354-4479**

Ngapuketurua Loop**23rd May** **Medium**
Glen Pendergrast **356-7487**

Change of plan. The track along the tops is so overgrown that cricket pads are required. We will start as planned and leave at 8 am for the top Mangahao dam and Baber forks. From there we will take the old route used to avoid crossing the Mangahao River before it was bridged below the gorge. We will splash up Baber Creek, head up over the watershed and down Dick Creek to near the old Harris Creek hut site. We head out down the track along the Mangahao River and back to the dam.

Billy Goat Creek**23rd May** **Easy**
Jan & Allan Watts **357-6848****Wednesday Trampers****26th May**
Jill Spenser **329-8738****Thursday Trampers****27th May**
Lorraine Green **354-6158****Kelly Knight-Wooden Peg****30th May** **Medium**
Neville Gray **357-2768****Kelly Knight****30th May** **Easy**
Jill Chapman **326-8605***Editor's Note:*

Janet Allan is my copy procurer. If you have led, or are scheduled to lead a trip, Janet may phone to remind you to send in a preview or

report. Don't give her any lip!

Camping at Catchpool
13-14th March

by Adam Matich
We had a spending spree in the Otaki Bakery on the way, thus boosting the local economy – I trust they appreciated our selflessness. It took 3½ hours to trundle down through Wainuiomata to the Catchpool road end, arriving a bit after 10 a.m. There is a large camping/picnic area at his road end, with gas cooking and showers @ \$5 per adult and \$2.50 per minor per night. The DoC office is near the entrance to the Forest Park. When we saw that people were intent on doing some work, i.e. setting up the campsite, the medium and the medium-fit group did a runner.

The Easies later complained about how technically difficult it was to erect some of the tents. After setting up camp the Easy group wandered through to the Orongorongo River (Orongorongo Track), visited a couple of the huts there and then wandered back for afternoon tea and an afternoon nap – an overly pleasant and civilised day. The other two groups had steamed off in front of the Easy's and headed up river on the sidle (Big bend) track to pick up the Whakanui and the East Whakanui Tracks, which start on either side of Whakanui Creek. This area (the Rimutakas) is on the Wellington (R27, R28) map.

On the way upriver we spotted a number of the private huts that dot the banks of the Orongorongo River and visited one of them for lunch. Some of these are DoC huts, but it is necessary to book in advance – they are kept locked. At Whakanui Creek we separated into the Medium (Whakanui Track) and the Medium-Fit (East Whakanui Track) groups and never saw each other again. The East Whakanui Track is not maintained, but for all that it is reasonably well defined and still has quite a lot of markers. There is some attractive forest in this area. The M-F group stormed

up to Bump 800, dropped west through the saddle to reach the track intersection just north of bump 711, and upon deciding that time was getting short took a compass-bearing short-cut to drop directly down onto the Whakanui sidle track.

The medium group had passed through the 711 intersection at around the same time as the M-F group, having somehow missed the sidle track that leads to the McKerrow Track. This saw them on the unmaintained section of the Whakanui Track (all rather mysterious). Eventually they found their way onto the McKerrow track by the alternate route, and being in mind of the good scolding they would get for being late for dinner, dropped down into Wainuiomata (20 min). The ninth house they came to had a taxi in the driveway, and so after interrupting the taxi driver's shower, they managed to make it back to the camping ground in time.

The Medium-Fit group was not so fortunate/inventive. As per usual, the terrain on the short cut didn't really agree with the map, which caused some concern. But we trusted to dumb/fool's luck and eventually dropped onto another unmaintained track (not on the map). We were expecting the well-maintained and marked sidle track that the medium group had missed. This unmaintained track went roughly in the right direction, and so it was followed and then lost, and then found to have taken a sharp turn downward to fall onto the desired sidle track just before it reached the McKerrow Track.

All very confusing to be sure. But the day was moving on and there was not time for serious philosophising about the mysteries and wonders of the Rimutaka track system. We picked up the pace to reach the forever-distant Mt McKerrow and then dropped down the Clay Ridge, and the Five mile Loop Tracks to reach the camping ground after a very fast eight-hour day.

That night a serious BBQ was had before a reasonably early night, as people were rather tired after their day of exploration and misadventure. Sunday morning dawned an excellent sunny, tramping-quality day, but somehow no tramping got done. After a big bacon & egg fry-up, solving the world's problems, and yet another cup of coffee, lunch appeared and went and it was time to pack up and head north after an energetic and then relaxing weekend.

We were Ade, Michael and Nick Beech, Jenny McCarthy, Bev Akers, Gary Bevins, Janet and Martin Hunt, Garry Grayson, John Gee-Taylor, Adam Matich, and Mark Learmonth

SAREX 2004 **20-21st March**

By Garry Grayson

The MTSC team of 4 drove to 'Forward Base' at the Tamaki West road end on Friday night intending to fly camp outside the woolshed, however, due to high wind gusts which would of shredded our fly and a lack of space free of sheep dung, we elected to join other teams who had made themselves nice and comfortable inside. A bit of 'giggle' juice and a radio commentary of the 'lost by 1' Hurricanes game filled in the evening.

Insertion of the 'lost parties' had begun earlier in the afternoon but resulted in helicopter insertion being abandoned for the last few due to wind and poor visibility. They had to get lost in the woolshed until 4 wheel drive transport took them up river early next morning.

Saturday morning saw clagged hill tops and intermittent rain showers with wind 'bombs' blasting down the gullies from Takapari Road hilltops area. A 'just in case' helicopter briefing was done and after a show of hands indicating lack of 'winching' experience by most present, it was decided to run every body through this procedure. This was probably the highlight of the weekend for most, including



Above and below: Travel in the Kawekas
(Photos: Peter Rawlins)



myself, and resulted in 6 at a time being transported off to a nearby airfield where each person was lowered by winch harness to the ground then picked back up again in the return direction.

After a full briefing of all involved at the Sarex, including descriptions of the 10 lost people (mostly 'older teenagers'), tasking of the 7 teams began. Of course walk-in searching was the only option due to winds keeping helicopter insertion off the agenda, our team among the first

to be tasked to walk the 4wd track toward Stanfield Hut.

We found various evidence en-route of recent human presence, however, apparently none was relevant to this case – we guessed this one particular turn-around area on the track was just a good dumping spot for rubbish!

Upon arrival at Stanfield we were retasked to search a stream bed for clues but mistakenly searched $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way up the wrong stream before realising we had missed one important part of the instruction, i.e. a stream 'south' of the hut, not north (also on wrong GPS coordinates). We backed down stream and returned to search the correct area, which happened to be to be the 'stream from hell', with waist height vegetation, 'lawyer' and 'ongaonga', a most unlikely place to be lost we figured, but carried on as far as possible following instructions as required. There were cheers all around when Stanfield was radioed through as our base for the night, as we were expecting to use biv bags & fly's somewhere in the bush with the wet and wind, as did several other teams.

During the day some teams were hot on the trail of lost parties and eventually found 2 who, due to a lull in wind, were able to be extracted by helicopter, the first member was lifted successfully to safety, however, the second was 'afraid' of heights and was reluctant to be dragged up through 'those bl**dy trees', so with his 'broken' ankle he made his way down to spend the night with us at Stanfield Hut.

An intense interrogation of the lost party was carried out, with Jenny and Andrew being particularly successful in obtaining a script full of information to be used by SAR base. Other parties found included a 'dead' person who amazingly still had a good 'pulse' and some people with broken limbs, which were attended to by very efficient search personnel.

Sunday morning, still high wind gusts, our lost party member was instructed to walk out to forward base (his ankle had mended overnight!), meanwhile our team was retasked to continue searching the stream mistakenly started the day before, this was carried out with nothing except many deer tracks found. Around mid-day all teams were instructed to return via the shortest route to base, we walked back down Tamaki River – West Branch, the usual route to Stanfield Hut.

Teams continued to 'straggle' in over the next few hours, including some who were at Cattle Creek Hut last night, and who were really hoping for helicopter extraction, again aborted due to wind gusts. Meanwhile, a BBQ and refreshments in the woolshed were a welcome sight and was appreciated by all.

Debriefing which included all teams, lost parties and SAR base personnel was carried out, with all 'pluses' and 'minuses' from the weekend exercise being discussed. The day concluded with a group photo session. Monday morning dawned clear and windless, perfect for helicopter SAR flights, 'murphy's law'!!

We were Andrew Mercer (team leader), Garry Grayson, Jenny McCarthy, and Dan Touhy.

Mt Bruce 21st March 2004

by Sue Tuohy

Eleven of us made our way up the Mt Bruce track on a slightly overcast and cool day. Some went via the lookout – all meeting up for lunch. Back down and straight to the Mt Bruce cafe for a cuppa. Some of the girls are travelling overseas in the near future, so we had an entertaining time listening to their forthcoming adventures.

We were Helen, Jill, Monica, Darlene, Wendy, John, Lorraine, Jennifer, Margaret, Vina and Sue.

Mangahao Flats Work Party 27-28th March

by Jean Garman

Nine people and three dogs squeezed into the minibus and set off for the Mangahao Dams one Saturday morning. A bit of a breeze and light drizzle at the road end was not inspiring but at least we were just heading up a nice valley instead of roaming the tops. The top dam was only part full so we got to take the short route round the dam and up the river to the swing bridge. Once on the track numerous windfalls were noted and several wasp nests encountered – luckily for the rest of us only Arran got stung.

Lunch was had along the way, the new Barra bridge was sighted and approved of and before we knew it we were at Mangahao Flats hut. The inside paint job has been very professionally done and lightens the interior considerably. The one pane of perspex that has been replaced with glass in the kitchen area looked really good so here's hoping it doesn't get broken so they can all be replaced. Did I mention all new mattresses too and the hut was immaculately tidy. Still time for work and it had even sort of stopped raining. Our main objec-

tive was to open up the view again and let more light and air movement into the hut so we headed down to the helo pad, which needed enlarging, then started to work our way back through the beech seedlings towards the hut. Much pruning later the helo pad had disappeared under the cuttings. Peter valiantly tried to start a fire down by the river but the soaking wet green vegetation was not co-operating, for a little while the visibility dropped to about 10m and eventually he gave up. In the end the cuttings either ended up hidden around the place or were caught by the rapidly rising river and headed off downstream. Any wood large enough was left to be cut up later by DOC for firewood. We had cleared about ½ the regrowth when the rain came back with a vengeance and it was time to retire to the hut for nibbles and drinks. The sheer volume of nibbles somewhat defeated us and an early halt was called to leave room for the smoked chicken salad, which was followed by a baked lemon cheesecake. Three Birthdays of note were being celebrated. Both Adam and Doug had just turned 40 and in the not to distant future Jenny was about to make a half century, so much cause

Below: Dick's spur: looking down to kaweka flats bivouac in the clearing
(Photo: Adam Matich)



for merriment. Doug tried to help this along by not only bring 2 whole bottles of wine but also 600ml of Baileys – no wonder his pack was so heavy. After a hard ½ days walk and ½ days destruction and much consumption tiredness crept in and we hit the lovely new mattresses for a big sleep.

Sunday dawned bright and shiny. Peter, Lynda and Adam headed off to the Harris Creek Hut site to get rid of the last remaining wood pile while the rest of us cleaned the hut trying to leave it as spotless as we had found it. Following the others we rerouted the track where it had fallen in the river, cleared the smaller windfalls and took note of the location of the larger ones and where the wasp nests were. At the old hut site we met up with the rest of our group, a roaring fire and the Sunday day-trippers. Besides destroying the remnant wood they had also picked up the rubbish that had migrated upwards through the leaf litter and removed one of the two fireplaces.

Being lunchtime we finished off the last of the nibbles and the birthday cake. After lunch a group of us rerouted the track between the hut site and the bridge to move it away from the river where chunks of it were disappearing at regular intervals. A short sharp shower caught us away from our packs and parkas but luckily didn't last long. Most of the group then set off towards the road end clearing windfalls enroute while a few stayed behind to let the fire burn down a little more before dowsing it with water. The concrete slab from under the old wood burner was broken up by Arran doing an impression of '2001 a space odyssey' and tactfully disposed of by throwing the chunks into the bushes.

By the time the last people left the hut site was looking very pristine with the only remaining evidence of habitation being one fireplace rather full of charcoal. The team regrouped again at the swing bridge then headed down the river



Above: Rafts at the Mangatainoka hot springs on the Mohaka River (Photo: Adam Matich).

only to find the dam had filled somewhat during our absence making it necessary to take to the track for the last little bit, where surprise surprise some more windfalls were encountered.

A very productive weekend, but it will take at least one more work party to properly open up the view for the hut. DOC should be

Below: Jemma looking sad because Gary and Bev made her sleep outside in the cold at Ballard Hut (Photo: Adam Matich).



through in the not too distant future to deal to the rest of the windfalls and hopefully the wasp nests.

We were Jenny McCarthy, Adam Matich, Doug McNeur, Peter Rawlins, Lynda Hunt, Arran de Malmanche, Bev Akers, Gary Bevins and Jean Garman accompanied by Jess, Jemma and Chopper.

Harris Creek Camp site. 28th March

by Judy Callesen

As I hadn't been out for ages, I wondered whether I would make it to Harris Creek, but I did and had a marvellous time, thanks to Rod McKenzie, Suzanne Clark, June Hardacre, Sue Tuohy and Emma Callesen. It was wonderful to arrive to a raging fire to have lunch around. The working party were cleaning up the remains around the old hut site. Reluctantly we left the fire to the workers and wombled off back down the track, a little way in the riverbed and back on the track again and out.

Crashed Aircraft, Tukino 4th April

by Hugh Wilde

Seven of us left at 7am for a 3-hour drive to the top of the Tukino ski field road. The locked gate a few hundred metres past the repeater station necessitated a 3+ km walk to the end of the road. It was a pleasant walk and the weather was sunny and reasonably clear, staying that way most of the day, except for a cool breeze and some low cloud later coming in above the ski field at 2200 m.

We were looking for the wreckage of the RNZAF Airspeed Oxford that had crashed onto the Mangatoetoeu Glacier in 1951 with three people on board. About ten years ago, on a club trip, we found various bits and pieces emerging at the glacier margin after 40+ years of burial in the ice. At that time we saw some hickory wood spars, some fabric, and bits and pieces of broken perspex from

the windscreen, all polished by 40 years of burial in the ice. The plane had been flying from Harewood (Christchurch) to Te Rapa (Hamilton) and had dropped someone off at Ohakea. The pilot was flying too far east and had hit a high point—either Te Heu Heu or Cathedral Rocks—and fallen onto the glacier.

We climbed to about 2100 m to overlook the streams draining the Mangatoetoeui Glacier, some distance below the glacier and sent out two scouts—Neville and Tony—to see what they could find in the way of plane wreckage. Well, they found the one remaining engine (I have heard that the other had been salvaged) but little else, which was hardly surprising as the wreckage we had found 10 or so years ago at the glacier margin has probably been carried further down the mountain by the streams draining the upper mountain, particularly after snowmelt.

We eventually headed downhill again as the weather began to close in at the higher levels, arriving back at the van at 4pm, and in Palmerston North about 7pm.

Participants: Tony Evans, John Gee Taylor, Neville Gray, Wendy Ross, Sue Tuohy, Darlene Westrupp and Hugh Wilde.

Kawekas Easter Trip 9-12th April

by Lynda Hunt

Eight of us set off for the long drive to the Makahu Saddle road end despite a pretty threatening weather forecast for the long weekend. Priorities were soon established for the trip with a mission to find an open hot bread shop in Dannevirke and a further restock of supplies in Hastings.

We arrived at the road end to find that one of the team had left their boots back in P.N. but undaunted we set off on a largely downhill track to Kaweka Flats Bivvy. The rain that was forecast held off (thanks to Adam's fine weather affirmations?) and we soon enjoyed lunch in the sun. Michael took



Above: At the trig looking down to the Mohaka River: do we really want to go all the way down there? (Photo: Adam Matich)

the opportunity to scan the area with his binoculars and Bev was heard to exclaim that there was no way she would go along Dick's Spur, the highpoint that loomed large above us.

Lunchtime discussion centred on the merits of visiting the nearby Iron Whare which was described as derelict on one map and historic on the newer version. However the group opted for a more direct route and in about three hours we reached Middle Hill Hut our destination point for the night. It was a pleasant surprise to find that the hut had been recently refurbished and a large verandah space added. Five of our group transformed the verandah into sleeping quarters while three of us opted for indoor accommodation and the warmth of the open fire in the hut, shared with three trampers from Wellington.

Peter organised the communal stew for the evening and soon a most delicious meal was underway. Pudding took the form of Easter eggs and a quick count of our Easter egg stock revealed that there would only be three packets of eggs to share with the group each night! Horror stories were requested to entertain those sleeping

outdoors for the night while those inside were entertained (?) by the ongoing rustling of the newly covered plastic mattresses.

Saturday dawned fine and frosty. Gemma was given lessons on how to break the ice in her water bowl before drinking the water. Michael realised that he and his binoculars had parted company. Nevertheless we set off in some lovely beech forest with the knowledge that the days walking would be dominated by several long descents into river valleys and correspondingly long climbs back out again. Towards the end of the morning to break the tedium of yet another climb two trampers in the front of the group decided to explore a superior route to ascend the ridge in front of us. Not everyone was enthusiastic about this deviation but fortunately bush bashing in open beech forest is relatively painless, and we were quickly back on track and looking for that ideal sunny lunch spot.

Before we descended into the Mohaka River valley Lynda helped the hut baggers reach Makino Hut a day before schedule (due to a very short deviation on an old track). The thought of a soak in the hot pools spurred us on however

and we were soon at the camping area at the Mangatainoka hot springs. The area seemed quite peaceful initially but a handful of trampers, some hunters and three rafts full of rafters soon appeared providing lots of entertainment for the evening. Our soak in the hot pools was sheer bliss. The banks by the spring are now liberally decorated with pumice carvings adding a creative dimension to the swim. Michael satisfied his desire to find the spring outlet undeterred by complaints that he was really spying on those soaking in the pool. We then enjoyed copious quantities of another delicious communal meal followed by a variety of different Easter eggs before retiring into our sleeping bags.

The next morning it was hard to believe that another sunny day was unfolding despite the rain that was forecast. This was a real bonus as our route was to return to Makino Hut then travel over the tops to find a camping site or to tramp on to Ballard Hut. It was onwards and upwards with a brief stop at Makino Hut. As we ascended it was clear that the wind was strengthening. Our route was sheltered for much of the way but as we moved above the bush line it was definitely time to put on more layers. Shortly before Whetu (our high point for the day) a brief squall brought snow for a minute or two. Ballard was looking like a really good option by now and I for one was quite happy to descend down the spur to the hut into relative shelter. Ballard is a four bed hut in immaculate condition, again recently refurbished, with some great sheltered camping sites below the hut. Luckily we were the only group there and soon had the fire stoked up and were happily organising the evening meal and the now ritual distribution of Easter eggs.

Monday dawned fine but a strong and steady wind continued. We wrapped up and climbed back onto the main ridge. The force of the wind made for some less than

vertical walking styles, and Michael earned the nickname 'tumbleweed' quite early in the day. As we slowly progressed Peter took up the challenge of encouraging the group to descend down Dick's spur. Words like 'spit the dummy' were muttered but largely ignored as we dropped down the spur thankful at least to be sheltered from the worst of the wind. The route proved a little challenging at times but there were no insurmountable obstacles and soon Kaweka Flats Bivvy loomed into view.

The thought of an early lunch, a brew and an opportunity to relocate Michael's binoculars motivated the descent down the spur, but when I arrived Michael's search for his binoculars appeared to be in vain. After lunch and a brew Adam eventually admitted to picking them up before Michael

had arrived. Inevitably the time came to return along the track we had walked in on back to the road end. The walk back to the car park provided an opportunity to reflect on our trip. No wet boots, no mud, no wasp attacks, not much rain (though the rain was definitely on the way) and all dummies intact. All the huts were in great condition and we covered some really great country. The only complaint I heard was that some of the team had put on weight over the weekend.

My thanks go to Peter for leading the trip (and driving the van), and for the company (and Easter eggs) of the team. We were: Bev Akers, Garry Bevens and Gemma, Mack (Garry Grayson), Adam Matich, John Crawford, Michael (tumbleweed) Beech, Peter Rawlins and Lynda Hunt.

wednesday & thursday trampers

11th Mar (Thu) Field Hut

Leader: Jill Spenser (9 trampers)

Good to get back out tramping after the bad weather.

17th Mar (Wed) Retail therapy in Wellington

Leader: Bev Akers (9 trampers)

Because of the miserable weather we headed to Wellington to look at tramping shops. It was fun, with six shops taking about 5½ hrs.

18th Mar (Thu) Forest Hill Road

Leader: Monica Cantwell (8 trampers)

25th Mar (Thu) Towards Cow Creek

Leader: Ivan Alve (6 trampers)

31st Mar (Wed) Ohinapongo Springs - Waihohonu Huts

Leader: Jennifer Leaman (12 trampers)

Fifth time lucky getting there! Two and a half hour drive to the carpark. One and a quarter hour walk into the hut - beautiful sunny day. Visited the old hut + fresh water springs. So much history left in the old hut.

1st Apr (Thu) Zeke's Hut - Hihitahi Forest

Leader: Gordon Clark (12 trampers)

Taking a good 3 hrs to the hut.

8th Apr (Thu) Eastern side of Makarahara

Leader: Ann Green



Club Information

Annual Hut Passes

Support our club huts in the Tararuas. Buy your Annual Hut Pass through DoC Waikanae. Full price \$65, with FMC card discount \$45.50. Jean Garman will provide you with a form to fill in which will be sent off with your cheque and your FMC card (if you have one) to DoC Waikanae who will post your Annual Hut Pass back to you. Please note that MTSC family memberships only pay one FMC sub so only one FMC card (and therefore discount) is available per family. Email: jean.garman@fonterra.com or phone (06) 354-3536.



For Sale

Howard's Bargain Basement

DOC hut tickets – discount rates to members. Phone Howard on 357-6325.

Accommodation at the MTSC lodge on Mt Ruapehu

The lodge is reasonably close to Iwikau Village, has power, hot showers, and is stocked with food. The phone number there is (07) 892 3860.



Photo: Anja Feise

Lodge bookings may be made between 9:30am and 9:30pm on any day of the week. Please don't call outside these hours. Note that bookings are not confirmed until the fees are paid. Payment is in advance by cheque or cash.

	Members	Non-members
Adult	\$21	\$33
Sec. School	\$18	\$30
Primary School	\$15	\$26
Group Prices	on application on application	

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 Thursday, and certainly no later than 6pm Friday.
2. Cancel bookings by these times so others who may want the van have time to amend their travel arrangements.
3. Check oil, water, and tyres.
4. Fill in the travel sheet (kilometres, people, and dollars).



Trip leaders and those planning trips should seriously consider using this cost effective club asset. **Neville Gray** is our minibus custodian, and he can be contacted at 357-2768.

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 new bivvy bags and two of the 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 356 7443.

People to contact

If you would like to contact the club with general inquiries, please drop a line to Manawatu Tramping & Skiing Club, P.O. Box 245, Palmerston North and it will reach the appropriate person. If you want a particular topic discussed at the Committee meetings, this is a good way to go about it.

MTSC 2003 Committee

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Lodge Booking Officers	Hugh & Liz Wilde	356 9450
Mini-bus Manager	Neville Gray	357 2768
General Committee	Garry Grayson	353 3117
	Bev Akers	325 8879
	John Doolan	355 2100

Articles for the newsletter

Send by the 15th of each month, to Wei-Hang Chua (editor) at morepork@ihug.co.nz, phone on (021) 212 0369. If you'd prefer to receive your newsletter by email only, please contact the editor. Send changes of address to the Membership Secretary at P.O. Box 245, Palmerston North.

Club website



This includes a club contact e-mail address and is hosted by InSPire Net. The club webpage is maintained by Sam Gillingham sam.g@clear.net.nz and is kindly hosted by InSPire Net.