

post: P.O. Box 245, Palmerston North
web: www.mtsc.org.nz



Upcoming club nights

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



7th Sept – Trip card planning night

Always wanted to head to a particular hut on the map or you've got lots of trips under your belt and want to lead one yourself? Here is your chance to have your say on what and where the club goes on those club trips. Come and contribute your ideas or speak to the experienced trip leaders if you'd like to lead yourself.



21st Sept – Interclub photo competition

We host the annual interclub photo competition on September 21 at 7.30pm at the Manawatu Aero Club rooms. The top three place getters in each of the categories from the club competition (see page 2) are being put forward to represent the club. Come along and see what all the outdoorsy people in the Manawatu have been up to and support you club.



5th Oct – Successful ascent of Mount Everest

Not long after K2 talk, Clive Jones will be speaking on his experiences and thoughts on a successful expedition that reached the summit of Mount Everest on the 15th of May, 2004. Another exciting opportunity to hear about a local's experience on the world's highest peak.

Where we've been...



Above: Tahurangi from Girdlestone on Mt Ruapehu. Brian Webster took this photo which won the alpine category in the recent club photo competition.

Snippets

STOP PRESS

There is still some concern about people venturing out with tiny day-packs, carry very little gear. There is a list on the trip card which shows the minimum gear requirements. Please make sure you have this gear. In the interests of safety, the trip leader is entitled to turn you away if your gear is inadequate.



Factors outside of your control may require to you to spend an unscheduled night out. These could include geographical embarrassment (i.e. getting lost), weather conditions, an injured party member. A night out could be miserable at best, life threatening at worst without the right equipment. You must plan for the unexpected.

The club will be purchasing two small tent flies to be left in the club van. Depending on the party size, one or two should be carried to be used as an emergency shelter. These are for your safety, so please take advantage of them.

Club notices



President's Piece

During Conservation Week (August 2-8) I attended the Inaugural Conservation awards in which community contributions to conservation were recognised by DoC.

The local recipients were Dawne Morton and Nigel & Nancy Fifield. Dawne is the Bird and Rescue Manawatu/Wanganui coordinator and is based at Turakina while the Fifields live up the Pohangina and also help with the rehabilitation of sick birds. Tramping and conservation tend to go together so it is great to see the work of people such as these being rewarded and also to learn about what some people are doing and the dedication they have.

Other recipients in the Manawatu, Wanganui and Taranaki conservancy included: Tamahaki Iwi, the Taumaranui Sustainable Land Management Group, Barry Hartley, The TSB Community Trust and the Taranaki Kiwi Trust.

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

The club welcomes the following new members:

Sylvia & Mark Anderson and family (PN) :: Fiona Donald (PN) :: Theo Hyde (PN) :: Tim Kannegieter & Barbra Cowan (PN) :: Justin Lemieux (PN) :: Edwin Robertson (Hastings) :: Simon & Inez Romanos (Wellington) :: Mona Webb (Feilding) :: Adeline Wong (PN).



Above: Blue Lookout on the Wanganui River in Westland. Howard Nicholson's photo was third place in the scenic NZ category.

MTSC Photo Competition

The 2004 club photo competition was held on the 17 August. Place-getting photos will be entered in the interclub photo competition. Thank you to our guest judge on the night, **Harley Betts**, a local landscape and natural history photographer. You can see some of Harley's artwork at the Van Uffelen's Picture Framing and Gallery down Princess Street or check him out on the web at: www.harleybetts.com

Alpine (NZ)

- 1st. Tahurangi from Girdlestone, Mt Ruapehu (Brian Webster)

- 2nd. Powell Hutt (Jean Garman)
3rd. Taranaki (Jean Garman)

Scenic (NZ)

- 1st. Kauwhatau River Headwaters, Ruahine Ranges (Jean Garman)
2nd. Wanganui River, Westland (Howard Nicholson)
3rd. Blue Lookout, Wanganui River, Westland (Howard Nicholson)

Natural History (NZ)

- 1st. Tui in kowhai (Jean Garman)
2nd. Kea (Howard Nicholson)
3rd. Seal, Abel Tasman NP (Peter Bowker)

Topical (NZ)

- 1st. Burn (Jean Garman)
2nd. Frank, Toaroha Range, Westland (Howard Nicholson)
3rd. Stan Evans Memorial, Herepai, Tararua Ranges (Jean Garman)

Overseas: Open

- 1st. Trans-Antarctica Ranges (Wei-Hang Chua)
2nd. Adelie Penguins, Antarctica (Wei-Hang Chua)
3rd. Fijian people (Brent Barrett)

Mt Equipment Prize

- Frank, Toaroha Range, Westland (Howard Nicholson)

Chief Guide's Snow Stop

by Gary Bevins

I took part in the Beginners Snowcraft course. I am not really a snow person, but I thoroughly enjoyed it and getting an introduction to crampon and ice axe use. If you ever go tramping above the bushline in winter, this course is a must! Areas which you would otherwise avoid can be negotiated with the right equipment and correct skills. There is still a core of trampers, braving the weather, and keeping winter tramping alive.

First Aid Notice

A few people have expressed interest in first aid training. Some just need a refresher course, while others need to start from scratch. If you are interested in first aid training at any level please register your interest. Depending on knowledge and experience we may need to run courses on different levels. Would you prefer a club night or week night or a day on the weekend? Please ring as soon as possible. Gary or Bev (06) 3258879



Upcoming trips

Thursday Trampers

26th August

Gordon Clark

359-2500

Advanced Snowcraft (Technical) & Social Ski Weekend (All welcome)

28-29th August

Howard Nicholson

357-6325

Peter Rawlins

356-7443

Here is your chance to use all of the skills learnt during previous alpine instruction courses. There will be an emphasis on the mountaineering aspects of snowcraft, and plenty of belaying practice as we climb some higher slopes. Some previous snow experience is required. We will leave Friday night to maximise our time on the mountain. Phone Howard Nicholson by Tuesday 24 August, to allow time for arranging gear.

Waiiau Gorge Hut

28-29th August

Mark Learmonth

Easy

355-9143

Powell Hut

29th (Sun) August 025 576-175

David Newstead (wk) 350-4649



Above: Tui in kowhais. Jean Garman took this great shot to win the natural history category of the club photo competition.

Thursday Trampers

2nd Sept

Liz Flint

356-7654

Climb & Ski Taranaki

4-5th Sept

Peter Rawlins

Technical

356-7443

Although this trip is called climb and ski it doesn't mean that you have to do both. It is certainly possible for you to climb up and down but not so easy to ski up and down (although I am going to do my best). Who knows what the conditions are going to be like? Sometimes it has been bullet hard ice but other times it has been just perfect for skiing and I have regretted not having my skis.

We will head over on Friday night and then climb up to Syme hut on the Saturday. If the weather is good we will go to the top on Saturday afternoon otherwise we will do it on Sunday morning. Ability to use crampons and ice axes is a must on this trip. I will be away on business prior to this trip so the best bet is to ring me on my mobile 027 678 074.

Mangaweka Trig

5th Sept

Neville Gregory

Medium

357-2768

Purity Hut

5th Sept

John Gee-Taylor

Easy/Medium

323-2087



Above: Powell Hut in the Tararuas. A hut that many of us have graded.
(Photo: Jean Garman).

Thursday Trampers

9th Sept
Bev Akers **325-8879**

Waterfall Hut

11-12th Sept
Doug McNeur **Medium/Fit**
359-1893

Irongates Hut

12th Sept
Rod McKenzie **Medium**
357-0136

The Hut is in the Southwest Ruahines and is accessed by a sidle track alongside the Oroua River. The track starts at the Table Flat carpark and passes by Heritage Lodge. On the way it crosses a couple of creeks with associated climbs and descents to get to the creek bed.

Normally a good walk in all weather. We will leave town at 7.30.

Wednesday Trampers

15th Sept
Phil Pearce **354-6687**

Thursday Trampers

16th Sept
Phil Pearce **354-6687**

Lodge Ski Weekend

18-19th Sept **All welcome**
Frank & Robyn Usmar **04 569 5995**
The season is going well so come

along for another great family ski/snowboard weekend. No matter what the age, you are sure to have fun, whether it's out in the snow or back in the Lodge.

Be in quick as most spaces are already booked. We can also be contacted on 025 957 106 or emailed on usmar@actrix.co.nz

Sparrowhawk Loop

18-19th Sept **Medium**
Gary Bevins **325-8879**

We head into Sparrowhawk Bivvy via Makaroro Road end for Saturday night. Sunday will see us travel to Maropea Peak and then along the tops to Armstrong Saddle, where we hope to meet up with the day trippers. From there, out through Sunrise Hut and hopefully a ride back to Makaroro Road end.

Armstrong Saddle

19th Sept **Easy/Medium**
Mark Street **353-7442**

This trip starts from the carpark near the end of North Block Road in the north-eastern Ruahines.

There is a very well graded track up to Sunrise Hut (2 to 2 1/2 hours) then an easy ridge across to Armstrong Saddle (30 minutes). The

rewards for all this altitude gain (750m) are wonderful views of the snow capped Ruahines tops and Mt Ruapehu if the weather plays ball. The views out to the east and north-east are worthy of a mention as well.

If the weather and party enthusiasm/numbers permit there is the possibility of going slightly further from the Saddle.

Start time: 7 am
Travel time: 1 hr 40 min (one way).
Cost: \$21 (assuming cars)

Oturere Loop

25-26th Sept **Tech/Med/Fit**
Jenny McCarthy **06 376 8838**

We will be leaving Palmerston North early on the Saturday morning. The route we take will depend on the weather and snow conditions. I would like to do a loop that leaves from the Whakapapa village across to the tama lakes then leave the path and make our way across country to the Oturere Hut.

For our return journey past the Red and South Crater Mangatepopo Hut and back to the car. You will need to be able to use crampons and ice axe.

Waihohonu Hut

25-26th Sept **Easy**
John Doolan **355-2100**

Hauhangitahi

26th Sept **Easy/Medium**
Royce Mills **358-4398**

Hauhungatahi is the distinctive peak near National Park (1,521 m), which has bush clad sides and a flattish top covered in open tussock.

We will depart from the Police Station at 7 am and travel to Erua. This tramp has an unusual start, we walk along the railway line for a few minutes. The next challenge is to find the start of the track and keep to it up through the bush.

Once on the open tops we can enjoy views of Ruapehu and surroundings from an unusual perspective.

Trip Reports



Photo: Wei-Hang Chua

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!

Maungarau Hut (Waitotaras)

24-25th July

by Adam Matich

Due to a clash in hut bookings we decided to go to Puteore Hut instead. This was via the Western end of the Matemateaonga Walkway. The day included a nearly four hour drive so a 5:45 a.m. departure was grudgingly deemed necessary. After about 3 km travel along the Walkway we headed southwest to drop onto the old logging track about half a km distant. On the map it appears that one should then follow the logging track in order to continue in a generally SW direction. The actual tramping track crosses over the logging track and sidles slowly along below it to pop back up where the map shows the road ending – in fact the road doesn't end but continues on

down the spur and we surmised into the Puniwhakau Stream. This whole area seems to have been extensively roaded and presumably logged in the dim distant past. It is quicker to take the road and on our way back we cut the day an hour shorter by using the logging track where it was practical to do so.

Anyway, beyond the "road-end" we trundled 2 km along the tramping track to reach our lunch spot by a derelict hut hidden in amongst the Macracarpa and Pine trees. This had taken us 2 ½ slow hours, partly because we were looking around, partly because the track was slow in places and partly because wind that could have been used for tramping

was used for gossiping and much deserved character assassination of people we don't like very much – a necessary component of any tramping day!. 20 minutes further on from our lunch spot was another intersection where we again found ourselves on a logging road and travelled a quick 5½ km in 90 minutes to reach our afternoon tea spot in a large open clearing sporting very little of its derelict hut, a very curious horse (Mr Ed), a mob of somewhat shy goats, some more pine trees and an enigmatic white cross looking down from on top of the adjacent hill top. On our way from our lunch spot to Mr Ed's clearing we had spotted quite a bit of old fence line, suggestive of this

area having also been subjected to farming as well as logging.

From here on we were back onto a proper tramping track (there were windfalls of big trees) to travel another quick 6 km in 2 hours to reach Puteore Hut at around 5:30 as it was getting dark (7½ hr day). Puteore Hut is a new very tidy six-bunk hut in a sunny clearing on the tops. We were impressed but instead of standing gawking at it all night we quickly settled in to crank up the fire, which ended up being too warm, and have dinner so we could turn in early after a long day. Next day we decided to head back the way we had come as to do a loop North over Omaru Stream to the Walkway would necessitate a 10+ hour day....Yuck! Sunday was a better day and we had views of both Ruapehu and Taranaki on our way back, visited Mr Ed and headed on home



Top: No doubt Puteore Hut was a welcome sight
Above: Mr Ed the curious Waitotara horse (Photos: Adam Matich).

after an interesting weekend.

We were Mark Learmonth, Garry Grayson, Gary Bevins, Bev Akers, and Adam Matich.

Herepai 25th July

by Allan Rae

A party of 10 departed at 7.30am on what looked a promising day weather-wise. Conditions at the road end were very pleasant, and we set off for the enjoyable stroll through the bush and over the bridges. Eventually (as is usually the case) the climb got tougher, puffing commenced and clothes were stripped off. A short snack break was taken at the T-junction and another at the hut, while we decided what to do next. Given the sunshine and the complete absence of wind, most of us climbed further upwards, taking in the wonderful views along the way. Lunch was taken on Herepai itself, while a smaller group dashed off for a way further up the hill for better views but decided that Ruapai was just a bit too far for the time. We then retraced our steps, and eventually made it back to the car park. That steep descent gets no easier on the knees as one gets older!

We were: Alan, Susanne, Virginie, Rod, Michael, Neil, Linda, Carolyn, Harold and Allan.

Ski Weekend 31st July

by Christine Scott
Glorious weather, no queues, good snow: what else could a ski bunny ask for.

We couldn't believe it - Saturday and no queues. There may have been a bit of flat lighting off and on but nothing to seriously limit visibility. The Waterfall and Rock Garden weren't that appealing but the top T-bars and

the Far West Quad were great.

Gary and Nicola were convinced to try out the Far West on Sunday after spending Saturday morning on the Rockgarden and there were no regrets. The wide open runs and limited number of people made for much easier skiing. Ben and I climbed up onto the ridge above the Valley T bar for a magnificent, but all too short a run down virtually untracked snow. The climb up was a bit tricky in snowboard boots due to sold ice under a couple of inches of snow but ski boots easily kicked a reasonable footing.

We were: Gary and Nicola Grayson, Ben Niven, Kyo and Christine Scott

Sledge track 8th August

by Judy Callesen

Not a good weather forecast, but wasn't so bad when we got there. Peter Carver, Emma and I turned back after seeing the dog poison signs and decided to take the Back track with our precious dogs. Bev took the reigns of the rest of the party and had an enjoyable trip up to the mine shafts. They were Jo Scott, Fiona Donald, John G. Taylor, and the new boys Tony and Bill all the way from Marton.

Cattle Ridge Loop 14-15th August

by Adam Matich

We headed off from Putara road end to make our way to lunch at Roaring Stag Hut, 3 hours away. It was a bit cool and drizzly so we kept our raincoats on all the way. Despite the recent rain the watercourses were not notably high, but lots of rain and gale-force winds were forecast for overnight and the next day. Therefore we decided to travel up the end of Cattle Ridge instead of down it the following day. After crossing the Ruamahanga at Roaring Stag Hut we sidled up river, sometimes in the forest and sometimes rock-hopping, for about 40 minutes until we thought we were about level with Lake Ruapae.

From here we started climbing up an old overgrown shingle slide. It was steep in places but eventually we found ourselves on a spur. However it wasn't the one we were aiming for, but one further south. It didn't cause any serious problems. Those started once we reached the leatherwood and scrub zone which covered about 250 m in altitude. We had to break our way through, crawl under, and climb over to achieve a climb rate of about 150 metres per hour.



Above: Jean, Jenny and Doug being happy campers in Cattle Ridge Hut. (Photo: Adam Matich)

It was in this section we discussed the joys of other people's suffering (Doug's cramp and Jean's recent illness were greatly appreciated), discovered the confusing sadism paradox (the philosophical low point of the trip), decided that next time we would go down instead of up, and got very dirty. Jenny's nice new pack looked particularly sad.



Above: Who said big brother wasn't watching us as we tramp? A watchful possum encountered during the trip in the Waitotaras (Photo: Adam Matich).

We battled our way into the open to be blown over by the gale-force winds and so Jean led us on a sidle to eventually reach the hut at just after five p.m., four hours from Roaring Stag Hut. It takes two hours if one follows the official track. It was cold, but once changed we hoed into hot drinks and the excess of nibbles. We never finished the nibbles, cooked an ate very little dinner

and groaned through dessert – to his great shame Doug couldn't even finish that – before turning in for an early night. Some of us found it difficult to sleep because of the noise though. On and off all night, violent gusts of wind struck the hut, causing it to shake and the metal cladding to flex noisily. We could feel the walls of the hut moving in and out with the gusts of wind, and occasionally

the roof was violently assaulted by squalls of rain – alas no snow. We were warm and dry though.

Next morning we finished off some of the previous nights nibbles and dinner before taking the main track down to Roaring Stag Hut (90 min). It was wet and windy, although the wind didn't cause any difficulty, so we dressed for the season.

After a very brief morning tea stop at Roaring Stag, because the inhabitants had the fire alight and it was unbearably smoky, we made our way back out to the road end (2 hr 45 min). Despite the heavy rain forecast, there were only showers

and the river and creeks never became notably impressive. By around 1 p.m. we were warm and dry after our weekend of adventure.

We were Jenny McCarthy, Jean Garman, Doug McNeur, and Adam Matich.

wednesday & thursday trampers



15th Jul (Thu) Herepai Hut

Leader: John Ayers (14 trampers)

21st Jul (Wed) A-frame Hut

Leader: Donna Hayes (8 trampers)

22nd Jul (Thu) Mitre Flat Track

Leader: Ivan Alve (10 trampers)

We didn't get to the hut as the bridge had been washed away during the storm. We made do with looking at the hut from the track.

29th Jul (Thu) Herepai Hut

Leaders: Harry & Chris Allardice (11 trampers)

Because of all the heavy rain they headed to Herepai. Great place to go to when very wet.

4th Aug (Wed) Herepai Hut

Leader: Judy Callesen (10 trampers)

5th Aug (Thu) Field Hut

Leaders: Jill Spenser (15 trampers)

Club Information

Annual Hut Passes

Support our club huts in the Tararuas. Buy your Annual Hut Pass through DoC Waikanae. Full price \$90, with FMC card discount \$63. 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 mini-bus 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 2004–05 Committee

President	Christine Scott	354 0510
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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
	Ken Mercer	356 7497
	Darlene Westrupp	354 5764

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 Howard Nicholson and Adam Matich and is kindly hosted by InSPire Net.