

post: P.O. Box 245, Palmerston North  
web: [www.mtsc.org.nz](http://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.



### 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.



### 19th Oct – Cycle touring

Owen and Royce Mills are giving an illustrated talk on two cycle touring trips – one in Brittany, France (Owen), the other a short bike trail in Japan (Royce and Owen). We would like to stress that both these bike rides were very recreational – not the typical extreme, adventurous, adrenaline-filled presentations that MTSC members come to expect.



### 2nd Nov – Mount Aconcagua

Martin Madie will be holding a slide show presentation on Aconcagua, the mountain he climbed earlier this year. Everyone welcome to come along and share his thoughts and experiences on climbing this South American peak of almost 7000m.  
(Photo: Argentina Government Tourist Information)

## Bangers and...

### End of Year BBQ

When: 7.30 pm, 7th December 2004  
Where: Aero Clubrooms

Another year is coming to a close (sorry for reminding you), but all is not lost the holiday season is just around the corner, and maybe we might even see some sun!

What better way to celebrate the end of the year and another great year of tramping than by having a barbeque before things get too hectic with the mad Christmas rush. This will be a great social evening and to catch up with everyone before you head off into the hills for your summer adventures or a welcome respite before you are inundated with Christmas sales junk mail and Christmas shopping.

Please note that the BBQ will be the last club meeting for 2004.

## Where we've been...



Above: There is snow in them ar' hills. Sunrise Hut getting a good dose of the white stuff (Photo: Adam Match).

# Club notices

## President's Piece

At the end of August I attended the NZ Recreation Assoc Annual Conference. One of the speakers was Astrid Anderson (organizer of Le Bike Race in Christchurch where a cyclist was killed). She talked on the effect the subsequent fallout had had on her life and what we should all be doing when organizing events. Her main message was: "We need to change our culture of blaming other people. Individuals need to take responsibility for themselves and for others." This also applies to going out tramping, particularly when leading a trip. All party members must take responsibility for ensuring they have the correct gear and for participating in any decision making. However each individual also has the responsibility to make sure that other people on the trip are OK and managing the trip. The responsibility does not fit solely with the trip leader. If something goes wrong, we all have some responsibility to ensure that support is given and that correct decisions are made.

## Public Access to the Foreshore

(a summary of a talk given by Kay Booth and Brendan Doody, Lincoln University, at the NZ Recreation Assoc conference).

Currently no-one owns the foreshore - the public have no actual

legal rights to assess it. The possibility has now been raised that maori could become the owner which would then change the rights of public access. (Once you have ownership then the trespass act can apply). The proposed foreshore and seabed bill is to protect the rights of public access by putting in into the Public Domain. However there are 2 particular points in the proposed act that everyone should be aware of: Section 21 - the minister may prohibit or restrict public access Section 21 (3) customary activity is to be given precedence over public access.

Overseas Investment Queens Chain Extension - if there is no Queens Chain in a property that is sold to overseas investors, the territorial authority can be contacted and it will decide if it is in the public interest for an esplanade strip to be included before the land can be sold.

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

## The club welcomes the following new members:

Wolf Chun (Wellington) :: Philip & Jill Darragh & Family (Auckland) :: Angie & Garth London (Wellington) :: Stuart Malcolm (PN) :: Roy &

Diana Mills & Family (PN) :: Bettina Schmid & Family (Lower Hutt) :: Tim Swale (Pahiatua) :: Matt Thomas (Gisborne)

## Note from fellow tramper

On another note, Tony Gates from PNTMC emailed this to me:

### Warning- road end vandalism

A few individuals were recently up at Rangi hut for a ski. They met some hunters there, whom they described later as "pure bred mongrels". The next day, on returning to their car, they found its windows smashed in, a wallet taken, and their spare clothes. Message to all trampers: the Ruahines are no longer safe from road end vandalism.



## Upcoming trips

### Oturere Loop

**25-26th Sept**

**Jenny McCarthy**

**Tech/Med/Fit**

**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.

## Chief Guide's Break

by Gary Bevins

Work and family commitments have meant that I have been doing less tramping than I would like. Feedback tells me there is a lot of snow about. Most trips during the week and on the weekends have come across snow at some stage.

The club now has two small flies in the club van for use on day trips. There are for your safety so please carry them. August has been a cold and wet month, one of the coldest in 10 years. Here's hoping for a run of good weather in September and October. Happy tramping!

**Waihohonu Hut****25-26th Sept**  
**John Doolan****Easy**  
**355-2100****Hauhangitahi****26th Sept**  
**Royce Mills****Easy/Medium**  
**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.

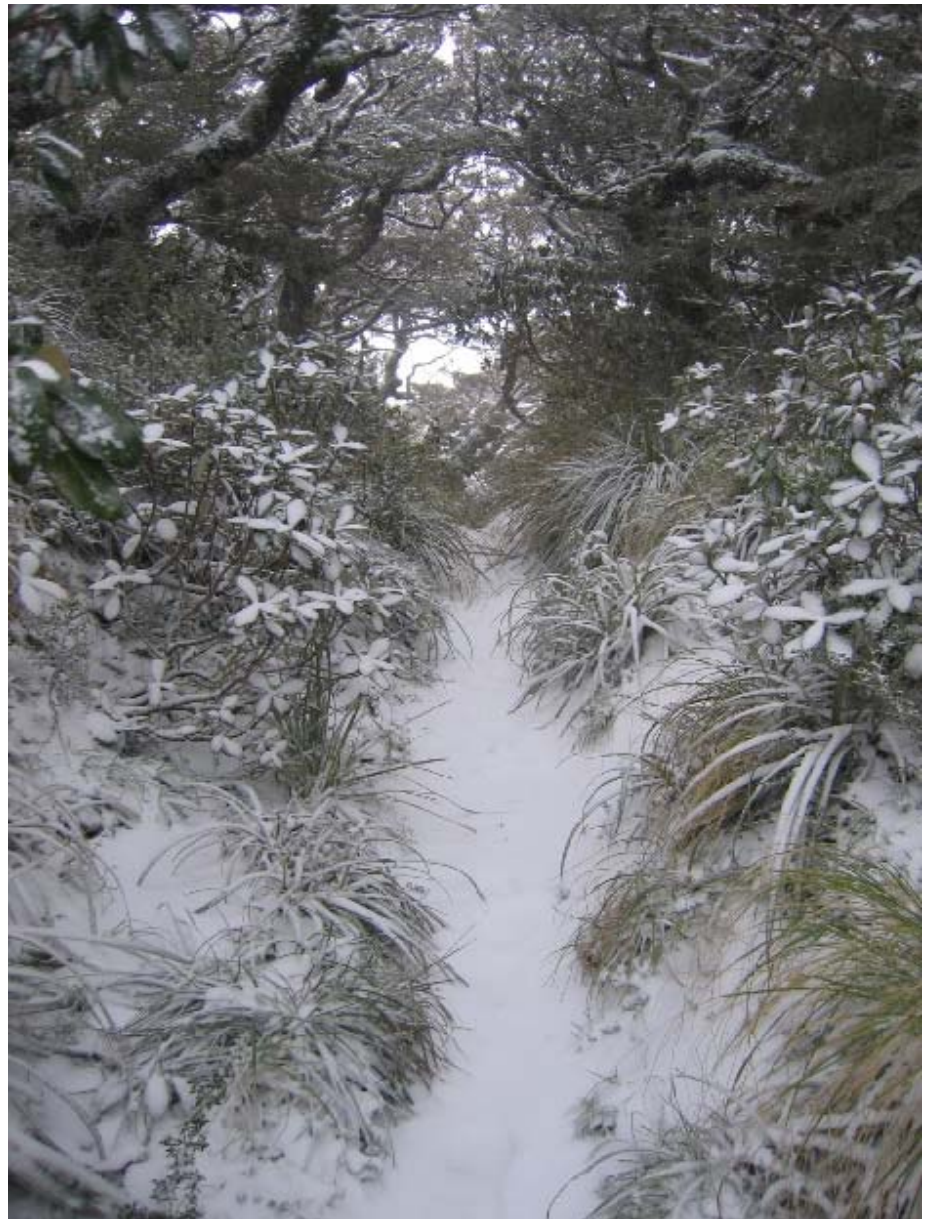
**Arete Forks Hut****2-3rd Oct****Garry Grayson****Medium/Fit**  
**353-3117**

We will depart Palmerston North as early as possible on Friday night, drive to Kiriwhakapapa roadend, then climb up to Blue Range Hut (900 m) for the night, about 2½ h. On Saturday its on via Cow Creek or Cow Saddle up the spur to the southend of Cattle Ridge and on to Waingawa Peak (1423 m). The route down to Arete Forks from here may require a bit of 'pushing and shoving', but what would tramping be without it!

The return route out on Sunday is via the river sidle track, which I believe is a bit messy here and there, the alternative being wet, wet, wet in the river. After reaching Cow Creek, it's back toward the roadend via Blue Range.

**Atene Skyline****3rd Oct****Charles Little****Medium**  
**357-3438**

This walk is an undulating ramble through bush along the ridges behind the hamlet of Atene in the Whanganui Valley. Part of it follows an abandoned road. It should be a good walk in any weather. We depart from the police station at 8am.

**Thursday Trampers****7th Oct****Don MacLaine****357-0745**

Above: The snow covered track behind Sunrise Hut in the Ruahines (Photo: Adam Matich).

**Family Ski Weekend****8-10th Oct****Frank Usmar****All****04 569-5996****025 957 106**[usmar@actrix.co.nz](mailto:usmar@actrix.co.nz)

Head up Friday evening & stroll over to the Club's comfortable lodge. When the morning dawns, and after a hearty breakfast is consumed to fuel your body, you'll be all fired up for a great day out on the slopes. Whether it's skiing, snowboarding, snow sliding, walking or just relaxing, the choice is yours. So come along, 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 early and make your booking.

**Irongate/Tunopo Stream****9-10th Oct****Adam Matich****Medium/Fit****359-2796**

This will be a dry weather only trip because it requires a substantial amount of river travel. The weekend commences with heading into Iron Gates Hut on the Oroua River (3-4 hr), and following the river a further 200 metres to where Iron Gate Stream (not named on the map) joins it.

We then head up Iron Gate Stream for 3-4 hrs to look for somewhere to spend the night, which might be slightly challenging with a large party. Next day we will climb ca. 600 m up an old, overgrown hunting

track onto the spur that drops down off the tops to Iron Gate hut.

From there we drop down a steep slip into Tunupo Creek which we follow all the way down to the Heritage-Iron Gate track, and then out (8-9 hr day). People will need to be equipped to enjoy the many pleasures associated with camping out.

### **Pohatuhaha Peak**

**10th Oct**                      **Easy/Medium**  
**Neville Gray**                      **357-2768**

### **Thursday Trampers**

**14th Oct**  
**Peter Carver**                      **354-4479**

### **Social Ski Weekend**

**16-17th Oct**                      **All**  
**Christine Scott**                      **354-0510**

It has been a fantastic winter for snow. Come and join us for a spring skiing weekend at the Lodge. It will be one of your last chances for this winter. Costs: transport \$30, lodge fees, ski/snowboard hire, lift pass (price depends on whether you buy a lower or full mountain pass).

For the full range of prices visit:

[www.mtruapehu.com](http://www.mtruapehu.com)

### **Waitewaewae Hut**

**16-17th Oct**                      **Medium**  
**Bruce Taylor**                      **357-4484**

This is an easy/medium tramp from the Otaki Forks roadend across farmland initially and then a pleasant stroll through the bush to the comfortable Waitewaewae Hut on the majestic Otaki River.

The journey time is about 5 hours one way with a possible optional extension to the beautiful Waute-waewae River for a look.

This is a good introductory tramp to get to know the Tararuas. Everyone will be asked to bring something nice for a communal evening meal. Depart town at 8am Saturday and return by 5pm Sunday.

### **Kiritaki Hut**

**17th Oct**                      **Easy/Medium**  
**Bev Akers**                      **325-8879**

Kiritaki Hut (Southern Ruahines) is about an hours drive from PN. This tramp covers farmland, bush and



Above: A Kea at Blue Lookout in Westland. Second place in the natural history section of the MTSC photo competition (Photo: Howard Nicholson).

river walking taking about 6-7 hours. I (Sue Tuohy) am unable to take this tramp, so Bev Akers has kindly offered to do the organising. So if you are interested in coming along, or even leading this tramp, contact Bev.

### **Thursday Trampers**

**21st Oct**  
**Merv Matthews**                      **357-2858**

### **Whirinaki Forest Park**

**23-25th Oct**                      **Medium**  
**Mark Learmonth**                      **355-9143**

This year we are off to Whirinaki Forest Park which lies east of Taupo, sandwiched between the exotic forests of the Kaingaroa plateau to the west and Urewera National Park in the east.

*Saturday:*

Will see us on the Whirinaki river track to central Whirinaki hut for the night, four to five hours on a well maintained and graded track. On the way to the hut you pass tall rimu, matai, kaitikatea and some huge totara, and maybe flocks of kaka.

For those who wish we will visit the ignimbrite caves located an hour upriver from the hut. They contain native bats & cave weta.

*Sunday:*

We will visit upper Whirinaki hut

and then head off down to Mangamate hut for the night. Possibly seven hours travel.

*Monday:*

It back to the car park 3.5 hours easy tramping and no climbing to speak of.

### **Wednesday Trampers**

**27th Oct**  
**Judy Callesen**                      **357-0192**

### **Thursday Trampers**

**28th Oct**  
**Carolyn Brodie**                      **358-6576**

### **Toka Trig**

**31st Oct**                      **Medium**  
**Mark Street**                      **353-7442**

This trip starts from the Limestone Road carpark on the western side of the Ruahines. We go up Knights Track to have lunch at Toka Trig.

The views from Toka on a good day can be very rewarding for the 920m altitude gain. A possibility is to drop down the other side to inspect Toka bivouac, but this would certainly be weather dependant and require some fitness because 200m of altitude is lost. If this side tour is not undertaken a return via the somewhat longer Shorts Track can add variation.

Tramping time: 7h (return via Knights), 8h (return via Shorts)  
Start time: 6:45 am



Above: Adelie penguins covered in snow on Ross Island in Antarctica. Second place in the open overseas section of the MTSC photo competition (Photo: Wei-Hang Chua).

### **Hidden Lake**

**31st Oct**

**Family**

**Sue &**

**Howard Nicholson 357-6325**

Down State Highway 2 and hidden from view, at the base of Mt Bruce is a lake. If, like me, you would like to see it then this is the trip to take. An easy stroll, quite pastoral, will present a view to enthral. So mark the date, it's not too late, to book, so give me a call. (We may have a look at the Mt. Bruce Wildlife Centre after the walk if people are interested).

### **Camping at Lake Ferry**

**27-28th Nov**

**All**

**Ade & Michael Beech 354-9310**

**Mark Learmonth 355-9143**

For all Levels of fitness Tramping. Tramping come/Christmas Party. We intend to visit three really visited Doc buildings in the Rimutaka's. These being Battery Biv, Wharepapa Hut and Waiorongomai Hut.

Saturday we will visit Battery Biv & Wharepara then PARTY at lake Ferry Motor Camp. Sunday all going will (And heads enabling) on the way home we will visit Waiorongomai Hut. All these structures are located off the Western Lake road Wairapapa.

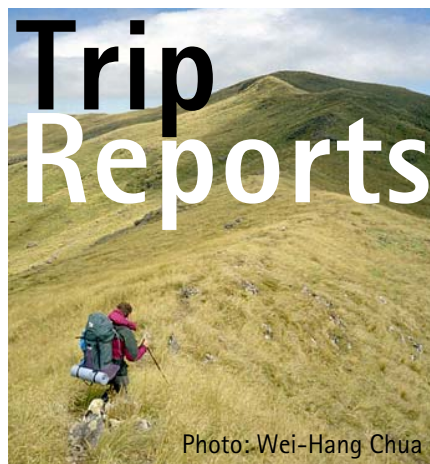


Photo: Wei-Hang Chua

### *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!*

### **Basic Snowcraft**

**17-18th July**

by Howard Nicholson

For various reasons (mostly unforeseen), the number of participants halved during the week prior to the trip. However, this wasn't enough to dampen our enthusiasm as we drove north to Ruapehu. The Bruce Road sign said that chains/4WD were needed from the loop road - which we can now confirm. The forecast winds were not apparent during our extended walk to the Lodge.

Saturday brought a mixture of snow and rain as we practiced our self-arrest technique. The soft snow meant that we had to 'pack' the slope first by rolling down and patting the snow, so that there was enough firm snow for our ice axes to bite into. In the afternoon, we built a 6-person snow mound emergency shelter on the ridge behind the Lodge (interestingly, the shelter was still very much intact and usable 8 weeks later).

Sunday morning brought clear skies, but the telltale spindrift blowing off the top of the mountain indicated a strong southerly wind. We donned our crampons and headed out for a walk. After an hour or two, there was a quantum rise in windspeed as the southerly finally caught up with us, so we turned tails and headed back to the comfort of the Lodge for lunch.

The afternoon was spent 'finding' our new avalanche transceivers (reported on earlier this year) which had been 'buried by avalanches' outside the Lodge. At \$800 each, I am pleased to report that we found them all!

This was a most enjoyable and worthwhile weekend, and a great start to our alpine instruction courses for 2004, thanks to Adeline Wong, Gary Bevins, Garry Grayson, and instructors Hilary Hurst and Howard Nicholson.

### **Punga Hut**

**1st August**

by Bev Akers

The track to Punga Hut was getting a bit overgrown so what better way to open it up than to offer a Sunday trip. There were 22 takers, so after they had tramped their way in and out, the track was a lot more obvious, but it is a pity they weren't armed with slashers, then we would have had a highway. A great social trip with good company and lots of talking. As access into this area is limited, we had visitors from two other tramping clubs taking this opportunity to get to see this hut which also goes under the names of Miro Hut or Thompson Hut. Seven



Photos from the Advanced Alpine Instruction Course (Clockwise from top left): Garry gets vertical; Garry and Sam head for Grand Gully; Sam and Garry get to grips with "Gorilla"; and Sam and Garry wait for Howard to answer the phone. (Photos: Howard Nicholson).

vehicles + Adam Matich, Mark Learmonth, Sarah and Harry Clark, Helen Davidson, Lorraine Green, Bill Homes, Tony Lock, Monical Cantwell, Ian Paterson, Pam Phease, Harold Patterson, Ian Harding, Suzanne Clark, Alan and Rosie Hardacre, Hannah Parkinson, Fiona Donald, Joe and Carole Fritchley, Bev Akers and Gary Bevins.

### High Ridge - Totara Flats 21-22nd August

by Garry Grayson

Due to limited interest and unfavourable weather conditions, we decided to join Jenny's group to Totara Flats for this weekend.

### Totara Flats Hut 21-22nd August

by Jenny McCarthy

After a wet week I had high hopes of a dry weekend. Doug, Adam and Don piled into Gary's car and left Palmerston North at 8am. We had originally planned to take my car as well but it was decided that it wasn't far there was plenty of room for 5 people but not for 5 packs. Still my pack although really large and heavy could sit on my knee.

From the Holdsworth road end we wandered up to the lookout where we stopped for a drink and to admire the view. There was much talk

of alternative routes but this was an easy trip. We had lunch at the turn off and then splashed and squelched through the wet and mud down the hill. It was not long and the rain started out with the coats it was very cold and there were a few tiny pockets of snow. An uneventful walk to the hut we arrived about 2pm and Peter was already there. Time for food we had a good selection of nibbles that kept us eating until tea time. Red and Ginger wine plus chocolates made a good finish for the day.

Sunday morning we left at 8:30 am Peter was away before the rest of

us. It started to rain as we started to climb. Talk about taking the old track back was just that. We were wet enough without brushing past wet bushes. We were back at the car park by 12.30pm. If the people on the day trip want to know how the van changed parking spots all by itself they should talk to Adam. Good job we managed to eat most of the food all 5 wet packs fitted in the boot of the car on the way home.

### **Atiwhakatu Hut**

**22nd August**

by Ade Beech

We departed Holdsworth car park in sunshine but a chilly breeze. We continued on across the Atiwhakatu stream bound for the hut. As we progressed along the track the weather deteriorated and the rain set in. Along the way we had to do the odd detour due to slips and obvious flooding. We arrived at the hut after approx. 2 – 2/12 hours and had lunch.

After lunch we traversed back along the track to arrive at Holdsworth carpark where we discovered the van had been moved - how it moved will probably remain a mystery but ye never know.....do ya? We were Judith, Peter, Rebecca, Jill, Helen, John, Mike and Ade.

### **Waiau Gorge Hut, Egmont NP**

**28-29th August**

by Camp Mother

Our pleasant weekend started at the Ihaia Road end entrance. Our short journey was up the well used Ihaia track to the junction with the Oaonui track and along it for a short distance to Waiau gorge hut. During the period of tramping we experienced Egmont's at times fast changing weather patterns with 4 seasons in one day. Know wonder people can get court out higher up.

First we started off in light rain, around twenty mins later it stopped and it was dull and overcast. This lasted for another 20 mins before it started hailing soft small hail stones, this went on for 10 mins more before it stopped out came the sunshine. The sun reflection on the

wet bush was stunning, BLOW me down less than 20 mins later it was snowing.

The track junction is also the site of the once standing Oaonui hut, which I have fond memories of when my wife & I stayed in the early eighties. Only the chimney & concrete floor now remains. Late in the afternoon Murray and I walked along to the Brames Falls junction and back. The snow falling eased off around 5.30 the mountain cleared and from that point on had wonderful views of the mountain. If you haven't been to Waiau Gorge hut before, let me assure you it is one of the better huts you will find anywhere in the bush.

It has two 8 person bunk rooms, coal burner, large living area complete with excellent views of the upper mountain (& sky TV for the rugby we wished).

As it was an easy grade trip we lived high, all our veges, meats, etc were fresh cooked on the coal burner followed by hot wild berry pie, with bacon & sausages for breaky. The stars were out most of the night giving us the impression Sunday was going to be a glorious day, how wrong we were, we awoke to heavy snowing which lasted all morning before clearing. Our party consisted of Mark (trip leader), Brendon, Calum, Murray, and Camp Mother.

### **Advanced Alpine Instruction Course**

**28-29th August**

by Howard Nicholson

This trip, being the third of three alpine instruction courses, was a chance "to go where no man has gone before..." (well not these ones anyway).

An uneventful Friday night drive was followed by a devious cross-country route to the Lodge on the crisp, hard snow. Lesson one: Mollenberg bread is not effective for self arresting while sliding.

A "brisk" and breezy morning saw us walking to Hut Flat and the slopes below Pinnacle Ridge. The

bitter wind (approx -20°C wind-chill) deterred us from progressing too far up the slopes. However, by lunch time the wind had subsided and we made our way to the frozen waterfall at the head of Broken Leg Gully, where we spent the afternoon lead-climbing and top-roping on more vertical terrain.

The offer of Peter's "old" skis was too much to resist, so I managed a bit of night skiing under floodlights on the Rockgarden. It had been several years since I had skied on 2-metre straight-cut "french fries". The wind had picked up again by 8:30pm so it was an early finish and walk/ski back to the Lodge, with Sam giving me a push up some of the hills.

Sunday turned out to be an awesome day, so we trundled back up the mountain to the base of Grand Gully. Superb conditions in the shadow of Grand Pinnacle gave a good opportunity for testing our crampon and belay techniques, followed by a spot of lunch on the saddle at the head of the gully. We descended slightly to the start of the ice climb called "Gorilla", which we then ascended to the plateau below Grand Pinnacle.

Standing just four metres below the narrow icy summit, my phone rang. "Is there something wrong with the last few metres?" Peter asked as he stood in the carpark 600 metres below. At 3pm we climbed to the top for the summit photos.

The snow was a lot softer now that we were on the sunny side. As we carefully made our way down we were reminded that the top "wind-slab" layer of snow was on top of a weaker layer, when the slope gave quite a loud "whumpf" as it settled. We had been descending via a minor spur for safety, but I was also pleased that we were wearing the club's new avalanche transceivers. We had a quick cuppa at the Lodge before heading back to town, reflecting on a fantastic, full-on weekend in the snow, thanks to Garry Grayson and Sam Johnson.



Above: A spot of snow on David Newstead's trip? (Photo: Rod McKenzie).

### **Powell Hut** **29th August**

by David Newstead

That was the time when the rain came every day; do you remember now, after 10 days of 'normal' weather? [Now, what will the weather be between now, when I'm writing this, and when the Newsletter comes out?]. This day the forecast was for snow down to 400 m in the Wairarapa, but not a great deal of rain. Not only that, but the 5:00 am marine forecast stated "no gale warnings", so we were encouraged, "we" being Rod and Suzanne and Allan and me. A nominal 7:00 am start from PN Police Station saw us on the track at 9:00, after picturesque drive along by the snow sprinkled eastern Wairarapa hills (forecast right thus far). No rain, but melting snow sprinkles from the trees above dictated some protection (the trees seemed to pick on Rod mainly, especially while he was taking photos).

The snow was, indeed, down to 400 m, and very pretty too, as we reached that level. The trees and shrubs shining, sprinkled with white flakes, as a Christmas tree, and snow-white tree ferns weighted down into exotic domes. The track, covered in soft, fresh snow, initially to about 4 inches, made for

pretty easy going (well, mostly). We disturbed a shivering possum in the Mountain House shelter and pressed on up through the goblin forest, looking different with the hanging moss hidden by snow, and up until the snow was about a foot deep. At this point we were aware of the wind getting up outside the sheltering forest and the murk of light sleet higher up obscured all hope of a view. So about half an hour short of the hut (a summer-conditions half



Above: New species of tree fern? (Photo: Rod McKenzie).

hour, that is, but an hour under the conditions of the day) with a single set of brave footprints still ahead, we turned back to the shelter for lunch and evicted the possum. The snow was by then melting fast so we'd see the best on the way up. Back in the car park, as we were packing up, the owner of the afore-mentioned brave foot prints turned up with frozen sleet on the back of his pack and wet clothes to inform us that we had turned back at the right place (that's how we knew it was an hour further to the hut, through snow up to knee deep). So after a pleasant and 'easy'-grade winter tramp, not to Powell Hut, we stopped at the Mt Bruce Reserve for coffee, and so home at a very civilized time.

### **Purity Hut** **5th September**

by John Cockrem

Eight hardy trampers (and one hardy dog) gathered at the Police station on a damp Sunday morning. The weather in the hills did not look promising, with the Ruahines hidden by cloud and rain as we headed north. The road trip became interesting, when we travelled along a gravel road from just north of Apiti to the Kawhatau valley. There were impressive slips from recent rains on most hillsides. Slips had also come across the road or the road had





slipped away in many places. The road was passable for the van, but more suitable for four wheel drive, providing a rather more exciting trip for us than expected just to get to the end of the road.

We set off across very muddy paddocks and headed up the hill into the cloud. The weather remained cool but not cold, and damp but not raining as we moved into the bush. This made for pleasant tramping up through the beech forest. We ascended steadily and soon were passing patches of snow. The snow patches grew larger until we were tramping on snow that covered the track to a depth of 30 cm or more. This was just perfect for those of us who had come looking for snow. After about 2 hours we reached Purity Hut (see photo above). I had last been up this track on a fine day in summer and the hut had not

been very impressive in that weather. On this trip the wind was blowing, all we could see was cloud and then cold rain and sleet arrived as we reached the hut. In these conditions it was welcome shelter from the rain for a lunch stop.

Our plan had been to head out on to the tops towards Mangaweka trig. We did venture above the bush line and were greeted with a view of tussock, rain and lots of cloud. The plan to venture further disappeared into the wind and we all headed off down the track again. Eventually we emerged from the bush to a view across the hills that came and went as the showers passed. We continued down through the mud, across the paddocks and back to the van. We returned to town back down the main road through Mangaweka after a mutiny from the passengers left Neville with no option but to take a different route instead of returning by the "interesting" road we had taken in the morning trip. Many thanks Neville for an enjoyable trip up into the snow.

We were Neville Gray, Bev Akers, Rod McKenzie, Carolyn Brodie,

Helen Davidson, John Cockrem, Darlene Westrupp and Judy Callesen.

### **Iron Gates Hut 12th September**

by Rod McKenzie  
In the week leading up to Sunday the 12th the weather marked the start of spring by bringing us fine warm and calm conditions giving expectations of a good day for the walk in the bush. We were not disappointed, on the morning there was high overcast around the ranges but no obvious rain and the temperature was warm. We were underway from the Table Flat road end at about 8.45 with prospect of a pleasant day. After leaving Heritage Lodge we encountered, at regular intervals, a number of trees and branches down over the track many appeared to be broken off, probably by the snow that had fallen the weekend before. These slowed the walk a little as we had to climb over/around them but we still made it to the Hut just after midday. After lunch we retraced our steps, took a couple of compulsory stops after climbing up from the two creeks that have to be crossed, over/around the fallen trees again and were back at the car around 4.30. The mandatory stop for an ice cream on the way home completed a very pleasant day. Thanks for the company Wayne King, John Gee-Taylor, Darlene Westrup, Christine Scott and time keeper Rod McKenzie.

## wednesday & thursday trampers

12th Aug (Thu) Yeoman's Track

Leader: Graham Pritchard (9 trampers)

For once a sunny Thursday. Much speculation beforehand about the possibility of crossing the Makororo River but all got safely across with nothing worse than chilled feet. An enjoyable return trip to Ellis (Murderer's) Hut.

19th Aug (Thu) Tunopo

Leader: Neville Gray (5 trampers)

Day after the snow and floods. They drove in snow from Apiti onwards so you can imagine how much was on the hills. They needed to use chains to get up to the car park, this in itself was an adventure.

26th Aug (Thu) Deadman's Track

13 trampers

Because of the snow, they only got as far as the tarns. Snow was at the carpark.

1st Sep (Wed) Blue Range Hut

Leader: Lorraine Green (13 trampers)

Remainders of the snow still about. Quite a hike for two new people.

2nd Sep (Thu) Mt Bruce Track

Leader: Gordon Clark (9 trampers)

9th Sep (Thu) Sledge Track

Leader: Don MacLaine (15 trampers)

Happy 88th Don!



# 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](mailto: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
Secretary	Howard Nicholson	357 6325
Treasurer	Doug McNeur	359 1893
Chief Guide	Gary Bevins	325 8879
Membership Sec.	Mark Street	353-7442
		<a href="mailto:mtsc@inspire.net.nz">mtsc@inspire.net.nz</a>
Newsletter Editor	Wei-Hang Chua	021 212 0369
		<a href="mailto:morepork@ihug.co.nz">morepork@ihug.co.nz</a>
Social Convenor	Bev Akers	325 8879
Ski Captain	Peter Rawlins	356 7443
Lodge Manager	Rob Pringle	355 9174
Lodge Booking	Hugh & Liz Wilde	356 9450
Officers		
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](mailto: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.