

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.



7th Dec – End of year BBQ and prizegiving

Great opportunity to catch up with everyone before you head off into the hills for your summer adventures. Festivities begin 6.30-7pm at the Aero Club Rooms. Bring your own salad, plates, cutlery and beer. The club will provide sausages and bread and some wine. The annual club awards will also be presented on the night!

18th Jan – First Club Night for 2005

What better way to start off the year than with another BBQ. Festivities begin at 6.30-7pm at the Aero Club Rooms. Bring your own salad, plates, cutlery and beer. The club will provide sausages and bread and some wine. Bring along your surplus gear to sell or swap.

1st Feb – Xmas trips and yarns

Bring along a few piccies of your summer trips and share pictures and yarns.

15th Feb – Orienteering in the Esplanade

Brush up your map reading and navigation skills, and maybe test out your fitness as well with club orienteering extraordinaire Royce Mills. We will meet for a 7pm start at the Victoria Café. A torch and compass are essentials!



Seasons Greetings

Dear Beecheaves readers,

I would like wish you all a safe and enjoyable festive season. Thanks for putting up with my monthly prompts for newsletter items. I'd like to make special mention of the production team of Sue Tuohy (with Mike's help), Janet Allan, and the assistance of Mark Street, Bev Akers and Gary Bevins. This newsletter wouldn't make it out without you guys!

Look forward to hearing from all of you in 2005!

Wei-Hang Chua (Editor)

Where we've been...



Above: Mountainbikers getting their feet wet on a river crossing during the Yeoman's Track trip, more trip details on page 8.
(Photo: Peter Rawlins)

Club notices



President's Piece

by Christine Scott

Christmas is rapidly approaching and I hope you all have plans for getting away somewhere and doing some tramping. Our end of the year bbq is on the 7th December so come along for a sausage, a yarn and of course the annual awards. If you have any nominations for the Beech Leaf award or the Most Spirited Trumper Award - please contact me.

Club Trips

Should all club trips have an advertised destination and grade (in the trip card and/or newsletter)?

Pro's for having no advertised trip destination or grade include:

- The trip is open to all abilities and fitness levels.
- The destination can be changed more readily than trips with an advertised destination if the weather and/or conditions are not suitable.

Con's for trips with no destination or grade include

- If you have a party of mixed ability it is easier for the party to get split up without realizing that this has happened;
- It doesn't encourage some/many people to take part as they can't plan ahead. Many people like to know where a trip is going and what level of ability it is before contacting the trip leader.

What are your thoughts? The committee would like to know what your opinion is. Send me an email with any further pro's or con's you may have and whether or not you think a club trip should have an advertised destination and/or grade.

Christine Scott

Phone (06) 354-0510 or email: C.A.Scott@massey.ac.nz

Chief Guides Sunscreen Stop (Hopefully)

by Gary Bevins

A few trips have been cancelled or the venue changed due to the weather or lack of interest. November has seen a weather change. We are seeing the sun every now and then, and the temperature has risen. Good tramping weather.

The committee has been working on some club guidelines to help trip leaders before, during and after their tramps. These have been put

on paper and a final draft is not far away so keep your eyes out for it!!!

The club welcomes:

Annette Litherland (PN)
Pete Nisbet & Family (rejoined)

Rangiwahia Track News

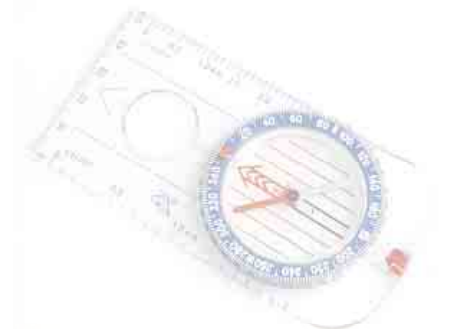
from Manawatu Evening Standard
(15th November 2004)

A new Rangiwahia Track, cutting out serious and troublesome slips

that closed the popular walk for five months, should be open by the end of this week. The Conservation Department regards the Rangiwahia as the most popular in its Ruahine network. It takes trampers to the Rangiwahia Hut.

Pohangina Field Centre supervisor Stephen Robson says the location of the biggest slip has been an ongoing headache for DOC. "The slip face is unstable and continually moving," he said. "As soon as we cut a new track through the slip, more rocks would fall and we'd be back to square one". Even if they had succeeded, the danger to trampers from falling rock would have been unacceptable. Mr Robson said the track has been rerouted up and around the slip face. But care should be taken along the new section.

The detour will add an extra half hour to the trip, and is of a slightly lower standard than the rest of the track. But Mr Robson said that lower standard was more in keeping with the original concept for the track, which was designed to offer a "back-country adventure" tramp.



Upcoming trips

Full Waingawa River

4-5th Dec

Jean Garman

Fit

354-3536

We will head into Mitre Flats hut on Friday evening. Saturday we will climb up and over Mitre aiming to drop into the Waingawa headwaters from Girdlestone. The next bit may be a little adventurous but once the gradient eases off it should just be a long, long boulder hop and river wade (wet undies are inevitable) all the way back to the car. Saturday night will either be at Arete Forks



Above: Smoko break before the leatherwood on the spur to Arete Forks.
(Photo: Garry Grayson)

hut, Cow Creek hut or camping somewhere. This trip requires it not rain.

Oturere Hut

4-5th Dec Medium
Doug McNeur 359-1893

This trip will largely be an off track trip around Mount Ngaurahoe with the overnight stay at the lovely Oturere Hut with views over the Kaimanawa ranges. The off track work isn't too hard and we also have the option of cruising over the top of Mt Tongariro. Come along for some fun in a world class national park.

Herepai Hut

5th Dec Easy/Medium
Christine Scott 354-0510

Departure: 7.30am from the Police station. It is a long time since I have been to Herepai Hut but I still remember the beautiful beech forest you walk through before ascending steeply up onto the ridge which leads to Herepai Hut. Herepai Hut is about 2 hours from the road end which starts north of the Mt Bruce Bird Reserve. Herepai itself is less than an hour beyond the hut.

Wednesday Trampers

8th Dec
Santa Akers 325-8879

Thursday Trampers

9th Dec
Jill Spencer 329-8738

Top Maropea Hut

12th Dec Medium
Gary Bevins 325-8879

Stroll up to Sunrise Hut, cruise through Armstrong Saddle to Top Maropea for lunch. Wander out the same way.

North Range Road

12th Dec Mountain Biking
Peter Rawlins 356-7443

The north range road is a great mountain bike trip and only requires a moderate level of fitness. We start from the top of the Pahiatua track and end up at the 'Across the Bridge' cafe balance so the trip is more downhill than uphill. There is often some quite deep muddy puddles to avoid but they are not usually that hard. The total trip should take about 4 or so hours and you will only need an entry level mountain bike in good condition. There are some transport considerations and we could really do with some people to either move the cars from the top of the Pahiatua track to Balance (and then perhaps you could go for a bit of a walk) or perhaps run some of the drivers back to get the cars.

Thursday Trampers

16th Dec
Graham Pritchard 357-1393

Whakapapaiti Hut

15-16th Jan Easy
John Doolan 355-2100

Oz's Track

16th Jan Easy
Jan & Allan Watts 357-6848

This track follows the usual route in as far as Ohau Shelter, then travels above the river almost to the confluence of the North and South Ohau streams. To make a round trip of it, we will be returning down the river to the site of the old shelter, so bring your webbed feet. We leave the Police Station at 8.30 a.m.

Canoe the Wanganui River

22-24th Jan Wet
Christine Scott 354-0510

All water babies welcome!

I've always wanted to canoe the Wanganui River - if its something you've always wanted to do too, come and join me. No experience necessary. We will travel through to National Park on Friday night where we will meet up with our canoes/kayaks. Between 10am and noon Saturday morning we should be on the river at Whakahoro, we will camp out the night at one of the many camping spots on the banks of the Wanganui river and exit at Pipiriki on Monday.

We will be picked up at Pipiriki and returned to our transport. Approx 4 - 5 hours easy paddling each day. Cost: \$150 approx for canoe hire and transport from Whakahora and Pipiriki and approx \$30 for transport to National Park.

Pukerua Bay

23rd Jan Easy
Ade & Michael Beech 354-9310

We will leave Palmerston North at 8:30am and will drive to Pukerua Bay. We will walk round to Wairaka Point and then down the rocky shore. According to the map, we come to a quarry and a metalled road. We will walk round to Te Rewarewa Point and into Hongoeka Bay and the settlement of Karehana Bay. As this is a one way trip we will

need one or more vehicles at each road end. It will be approximately 3 hours walking

McGregor Bivouac

29-30th Jan

Medium

Bev Akers

325-8879

Walk up to Jumbo. Depending on number and weather conditions Saturday night will be at Jumbo or McGregor Biv. Be prepared to camp out. Same route out.

Blue Range Hut

30th Jan

Easy/Medium

Helen Davidson

356-2249



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!

Toka Trig

31st August

by Mark Street

The day was fine and calm as we left the minibus at the Limestone Road car park. A windfall a short distance up the Knights Track left us scouting around to find the orange triangles but apart from this the climb to Toka peak was uneventful.

At 11.15 am we downed packs for lunch on the leeward (eastern) side of the ridge just a 100 m or so short of Toka. By now there was a rather unpleasant cold nor-westerly wind and thickening high cloud. Despite this the views out to the west and the east were quite impressive although the best views of the central mountains had been gathered earlier in the morning.

After lunch we ambled onto Toka, chatted with some fold from Hawera and Feilding then split up. Lynda, Peter and Rod stayed on Toka for awhile then headed back to the car park via the somewhat longer Shorts Track. The remainder of us continued north along the range to a triangular waratah structure that marks the drop off point to Toka Bivvy. However before we reached this point we heard someone calling out from way behind. Looking back a tall figure could be seen just north of Toka and a dog coming down the ridge heading in our direction. Before long we figured out Jess the Airedale had greater aspirations than Toka or perhaps she was upset that a little fox terrier (Scotty) was going to log more hours at high altitude than she would that day. Anyway she eventually responded to Peter's call.

Toka Bivouac is nestled in a large basin 200m down off the eastern side of the main range. The bivvy itself has two good mattresses and could accommodate three at a squeeze. Presumably it is still painted in undercoat colour – it is certainly not conspicuous. Scotty found the nearby tarn a fascinating place. After regaining the ridge and getting buzzed by two gliders we

too made our way back to the car park by Shorts Track. So we ended seven and a quarter hours of rewarding tramping. We were: Peter and Michael Baxter, Rod McKenzie, Lynda Hunt and Peter Rawlins and Jess, Tim Swale, Garry Grayson, Dave Allen and Scotty, and scribe.

Fields Hut and Table Top

16-17 October

by Bruce Taylor

This tramp was scheduled to go to Waitewaewae Hut, but when our party of three got to Otaki Forks and learnt that there had been 153mm there in the last 24 hours and saw the flood level in the rivers, no one needed to be persuaded that it was not a good idea to risk the side streams on the Waitewaewae track. Two others had already pulled out after hearing the rain warnings the previous night.

We walked up the steam bed in the track to the bush edge before getting some respite from the rain in the bush. The cloud base was low and there was little to see. We made steady progress to reach Fields in 2hours 45 minutes. The hut is in very tidy order and of great historical interest. We had a leisurely lunch including soup and a brew before hitting our bags for some reading and sleep. Our efforts to light the



Above: Upper Whirinaki Hut (Photo: Adam Matich).

fire that afternoon were in vain. We could get it going but not sustain it. Our conclusion was that despite our best bushcraft skills the wood was wet having been brought in recently from the bush. Two other parties called in, but that night we had the hut to ourselves. Not surprising considering the fact that the rain was still coming in regular showers. A long comfortable night's sleep was had by all with, I'm told, a tolerable level of snoring!

Sunday was a much better day weather wise with the cloud lifting to reveal the sun which hadn't been seen much that week in the Manawatu. We pushed up the excellent track to Table Top taking about 30 minutes going up onto the trig point itself for views and also cruised along to the Penn Creek turn-off. The views of the Main Range and beyond to the East were great and to the west and south you could see Kapiti, the Upper Hutt Valley and the South Island.

After tidying the hut and packing up we descended to Otaki Forks for lunch. By now the rivers at the Forks were much lower and you were in danger of sunburn to skin which had not seen the sun for a long time. This was the end to a much modified, but still enjoyable trip. It has wetted my appetite for a three day Southern crossing starting about 18 December. Any one who is up to it and is keen please contact me on 3574484. Our party was Walter Jobstl, Gareth Trotter and Bruce Taylor.

Whirinaki Forest Park 23-25th October

by Adam Matich

River Road (Minginui) to Central Whirinaki Hut, 5 hr; The Cave, 65 min to Upper Whirinaki Hut 1.5 hr to Mangamate Hut, 3.5 hr River Road (Minginui) 3.5 hr.

It was a 5½-hr drive to the road end via picking up the guy who was minding the car (\$25). The road end has a bad reputation. We started off at a fair clip, there being 16 km to cover, along a wheel-chair grade track which had much the same



Above: Mark making his way to Central Whirinaki Hut (Photo: Adam Matich).

lack of difficulty all the way to the hut. The first hour or so had the best forest, boasting giant Kahikatea, Rimu, Miro, and Matai - some over 700 years old. Whirinaki forest was saved from the loggers back in the 1970's, otherwise it would probably now be dairy farms. The track follows the river more or less, and our first real stop was after 75 min for lunch at Whirinaki Falls which is a little side trip off the main track.

After lunch we continued on to Central Whirinaki Hut for the night. This 28 berth hut (+ warden's quarters) is in a large flat clearing a bit removed from the river. The hut was only half full, but given how warm the evening was it was more comfortable to sleep outside on the verandah. The day ended with a light shower of rain, which was an appetiser for the day that followed. It rained on and off all day Sunday,



Above: Central Whirinaki Hut (Photo: Adam Matich).



Above: Mangamate Hut (Photo: Adam Matich).

but it was warm and sheltered in the forest so we weren't miserable.... given that we knew other people would be getting wet as well. Our first stop was the volcanic ash cave which didn't look as stable as one might like as the ash had not compacted tight enough to form rock. Embedded in the walls and ceiling of the cave was charred and burnt wood, as if the hot ash had burnt and buried a forest.

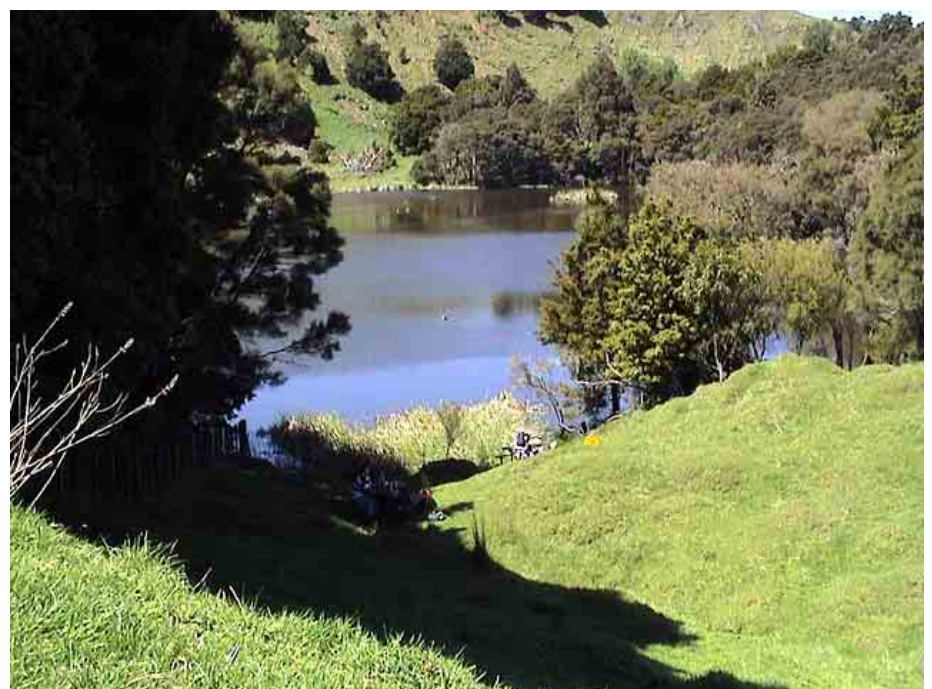
From here on the travel was more interesting as the track now started to criss-cross up the Whirinaki River on its way to Upper Whirinaki Hut. The track was still reasonably marked, but slightly overgrown and untidy in places. Fortunately none of us are compulsively tidy. This track is not shown on all the maps, despite having proper DoC markers. It was however, no longer suitable for wheelchairs and thus was more engaging without being difficult or dangerous, except maybe after very heavy rain. For all that it was wet, the watercourses did not become difficult. At an intersection (which gives access to the eastern track system) 20 min before Upper Whirinaki Hut we climbed out of the river to make our way to the hut for an early lunch. This tidy 9-berth hut was on another large river flat and was occupied by a group of hunters who

had bagged themselves at least one animal

The route towards Mangamate Hut from Upper Whirinaki Hut is counterintuitive at the beginning. It involves a direction change to climb 80 m up to a saddle followed by a gentle descent down the Tau-mutu Stream and then quite a few more direction changes into other streams and over saddles into other

catchments. It might have been navigationally challenging without the track markers and sign posts. Mangamate Hut has been replaced, and the new 9-berth hut is in a saddle on the tops instead of down on a river flat as shown on most maps. The old track climbed over a saddle into the Upper Mangamate Stream and sidled north along the stream to reach the hut. The new section of track turns north 500 m before the saddle and parallels 500 m west of the old track as it climbs up the side of the ridge to reach the new hut. There are some signs at the intersection (2830320E, 6264765N) which confusedly indicate the direction of the new track. We just followed the track markers heading north-east up the new track instead of south east up the old track to the saddle.

Mangamate hut was overfull and the occupants were pyromaniacs and so it was over warm. Some of us slept outside on the verandah again, although we had to put up tent flies to keep the rain out. Sometime in the night the rain got the message, lost interest and went elsewhere, and to celebrate the coming dry day the birds treated us to a brief dawn chorus. The wheel chair grade track down from the hut has not been completed and so it wasn't long



Above: The not so Hidden Lake (Photo: Howard Nicholson).

before a rude, but serviceable track dropped us down into the stream to follow what is the temporary official (old hunting) track down to the Upper Mangamate Stream and the old hut site. From here on it was mostly stream travel following the remains of the 4WD track back to the Central Whirinaki Hut track and dry feet. In the stream we encountered some stands of large trees and had very frequent stream crossings. Again heavy rain would have caused considerable difficulties in this section. Having visited the more trafficked (western) section of the park we would like to have a look further east into the wilds. We were John and Michael Beech, Dave Mitchell, Adam Matich, and Mark Learmonth

Hidden Lakes 31st October

by Howard Nicholson

A less than perfect start to the weekend developed into an awesomely clear and still Sunday morning for our trip. Nine people in two cars headed across the Ranges, to the start of the Hidden Lakes walk, just south of Mount Bruce. After debating which was the second gate in the instructions that we had received from the landowners, we headed cross-country to pick up the

track to the top of the ridge. From here we had a great view of the lakes (formed after an earthquake triggered a landslide during the late 19th Century), the Ruamahanga River, and the Tararua Ranges. A short steep descent down the fault scarp to a bush remnant beside the lake, and a pleasant stroll in the sunshine, led us to the other end of the main lake and our lunch spot.

It was hot work as we returned to the top of the ridge, retracing our steps from earlier on, before the gentle descent all the way (this time) down the proper track to the cars. Ice blocks and a play at the Pahiatua playground capped off a very enjoyable day for the children and adults alike. We were: James, Taylor and Trent Kearn; Vina Cottam; Fiona Donald; and Sue, Hugh, Tara, and Howard Nicholson.

Mangahao Flats Work Party Party Party

6-7th November

by Adam Matich

This trip coincided with Wayne (DoC Waikanae) flying a shiny new toilet into the hut. So with a helicopter on hand we rolled up to number one dam at 8 a.m. to fly in (@ \$40 ea.) with lots of food and drink and one or two tools. Some of us want-

ed to fly up to West Peak to do some ... umm... errrr... unofficial track cutting but Jean wouldn't let us because she felt she would be short-handed at the hut. It seems people are so lazy these days that very few can be bothered to take advantage of a lazy-tramping windfall. So we didn't get our roading expedition. New club members, the Rowans, did however take advantage of the opportunity and were flown up to West Peak and tramped back out to the top dam on the same day. It was a good choice as it turns out. They had a perfect, calm day... great for tops travel, alpine plant spotting, falling off superannuated tracks, and a bit of palliative bush navigation.

After our short flight up the river we set about clearing around the hut, cutting and splitting lots of fire wood, demolishing and burning the old toilet and installing and christening the new one. There was lots of rubbish to burn down by the river and the fire started just after lunch was still glowing next morning and had to be quenched before we left. In the other direction we carted lots of firewood up to the hut from the lower river flat. Ivan pointed out that there would have been far less work if we just relocated the firewood shelter down by the firewood. Lots of wood was thrown around to get it where we wanted it and even though the strictest of safe working practices were enforced, one of the workers did manage to score an accountant with a hefty lump of beech. It wasn't a hot day but all the wood cutting, carting, chopping, and accountant scoring probably made us smelly enough for even the fussiest of dogs to want to roll in us.

By 5 p.m. the workers were both smelly and revolting, and downed their tools to demand pre-dinner nibbles. Trip leader realised she was seriously outnumbered and in serious danger of having her authority severely tested, if not battered and beaten. So she relented and hooked out the chips, dips, veggie sticks and cheeses and everyone enjoyed a restorative bottle of wine or two before a big meaty stew with a light salad to cleanse the palate before a



Above: The helo flight start to the Mangahao Flats party (Photo: Jean Garman).



Above: Demolishing the toilet at Mangahao Flats (Photo: Jean Garman).

shamelessly expensive and calorific cake for dessert. We didn't have the hut entirely to ourselves as a party turned up about 6 p.m., but there was just enough room around the table for all the important people.

Next morning we packed up and vacated so the house cleaners could clean house while others of us spent a couple of hours clearing an overgrown section of the track. Unfortunately, not all members of the track cutting party had received proper instructions on the use of the tools provided and so there was some damage.....to the tools. Apparently scythes aren't to be used for cutting down saplings.....even though there are no such instructions written on them. We left the sparkling clean hut by 11:20 a.m. to head down river for lunch on the way to Harris Creek. The more socially conscious of us (and there weren't that many) decided to travel all the way down the river to enjoy the enforced bath in the pools below Harris Creek, so at least we would smell sweet by the time we arrived back at the cars. The river route was faster than the track and it was a comfortably warm day so the swims weren't onerous and the trip took less than 4 hours. Unfortunately the gates in the dam had been closed

and the rising water levels meant that we couldn't quite walk all of the way out on the river bed. The Rowans' vehicle was gone so either they made it out or they hadn't and someone had stolen their wheels. Either way it wasn't our problem. One of our chauffeurs came close to driving the limo over the edge, on the road out, when manoeuvring

around a strategically placed Landrover. At least if the helicopter ride was uneventful the car ride wasn't. Swings and Roundabouts! We were Wayne Boness (DoC), Dave Mitchell, Jean Garman, Ivan Rienks, Brian Webster, Jenny McCarthy, Doug McNeur, Adam Matich (the workers), and Linda, Daryl, Stefan and Erin Rowan (day trippers)

Yeoman's Track 7th November

by Peter Rawlins

Eight intrepid souls braved the brilliant sunshine of the Hawkes bay to partake in this trip. Yeoman's track is an old mill road which used to have a tramline on it. They used to drag the logs with horses along the tramline to the mill at 'Mill road end', funny that. There was a thriving little community back in the earlier part of the last century but there is little sign of it now.

Wet feet to start off with didn't appeal to everybody so a number of the team were seen to take their shoes off for the first river crossing. After that it is up the hill to the gravel road and along to the track junction neat Craig's hut. I have heard that they are going to remove Craig's and they didn't do anything



Above: Peter leading the merry wheeled troops (Photo: Lynda Hunt?).

about the water tank when it fell over recently. The track from here could best be described as undulating with no really steep uphill or downhill apart from where it drops down to the little bridges across the streams. Eventually the lunch spot was reached at an old pit-saw site. Not a lot there apart from an old concrete chimney in a bit of a clearing.

After lunch we headed down to Ellis hut or 'Murders' hut as it is sometimes called. A guy called Ellis who was the key suspect in a murder was eventually cornered here after nine and half months on the run. The afternoon was then spent retracing our steps back along the Yeoman's track. You can do a round trip along the gravel roads in the Guavas forest but I always think that is a bit boring, besides the track is more downhill than up on the way back so it makes it a pleasant journey. On the way back we met Clive who had been on his second lap. He had run the first one and was now on his mountain bike (he still managed to beat us back to the car, must be that flash bike of his.) Everybody made it back safe and sound and we only had one spill despite my best efforts to push Barbara off her bike early on in the trip (I am pleased to see that she took the hint and managed to fall off all by herself later). After that it was back to Onga Onga for ice creams. Thanks to Tim and Barbara Cowan, Tim and Dan Swale, Martin Luoni, Clive Jones and Lynda Hunt.

Apiti 10th November

by Rose Strahan
Wednesday Trampers went to Apiti on 10/11 and, after a car shuttle around to Makoura Lodge, we set off up the hill on Ridge Road, turning in to the Strahan farm by the cottage and surprising the manager Theresa who was having her coffee break (yes, Bev wanted a coffee at that stage too). Up the hill behind the cottage to go along the ridge to the saddle by Duncan's Hill (asp 2000 feet) where the view of Ruapehu was obscured by cloud. Down the farm track and past the fences and creek showing both

snow damage (August) and flood damage (February) to the Camp Paddock where we do the docking in October. Morning smoko at last (it's a tough tramp) and then out to the back of the farm where we had to squeeze lunch in before going onto Rusty McIntyre's farm. A bit of sheep herding by Tina, Rose and Justin (from Canada) expanded the time frame. We had a bit of guess work on the McIntyre farm to get ourselves on the right 4w bike track so as we could get down to the Coal Creek with the Reserve opposite still showing kowhai flowering, and clematis and jasmine in pockets of scrub and broadleaf up the good steep track to the Lodge, where Hugh McIntyre had nice food and whatever-your-fancy to drink for \$5 per person. 15 people took part in this rural adventure.

Stony River – Pouakai 13-14th November

by Adam Matich
Puniho Road – Across Stony River – Bump 1375 (Pouakai Range), 4.5 hr - Pouakai & Ahukawakawa Tracks – Holly Hut, 2 hr
Holly Hut – Stony River Track - Kapoiaia Track – Puniho Track – Puniho Road 3.5 hr

Due to minimal interest in both this trip and Mark's Easy Kahui Hut trip this trip consisted of only trip leaders. I am glad I only lead trips to places I want to go! Because of impending Taranaki weather on Sunday we decided that it would be safer to do the circuit in the reverse direction....to avoid accidental drownings. We walked, from the car, in a northerly direction along the edge of the farmland, climbed over the stile and took the track down to Stony River. We crossed the river, which was very low – it is a big river, and picked up the start of the unmaintained track at 2593630E, 6216070N which is about 150 m up-river from the base of the spur...or that's what we would have done if we had known what we were doing. As it was, it took us about 10 minutes to get onto the track proper. This track is in good condition, being well marked and well defined. We were never in fear of losing it, even up in the leatherwood belt and

tussock. There were some windfalls to get around but otherwise it was a continuous and gentle climb that only got slightly steep at the top.

Three hours of the almost 1000 m climb was in the forest, followed by maybe an hour in the extensive leatherwood belt and another 30 minutes up high in the tussock before we reached the Pouakai Track about 250 m SSE of Pouakai Peak. We had wind, light rain and poor visibility, but none of these elements were difficult or dangerous. The route through the leatherwood belt is still well defined, not requiring any bashing, and the leatherwood provides shelter from the wind. In the tussock just below 1375 m we found the first of the snow poles which sidled around 1375 and headed NNE to fall onto the Pouakai track. The sign saying the track we came up "is no longer maintained" appears to be missing. Further down the Pouakai track was a warning sign wrecked by the elements or the idiots. Presumably this indicated that both our track of choice and the Dover Track are now closed??

Anyway, we were as happy as Larry to have travelled another closed Taranaki track, without the need of rescue, and ambled on down to Holly Hut for the night. There is now a bridge across the stream that drains the Ahukawakawa Swamp. The weather that night was disappointing as the heavy rain and extreme winds never arrived, although the wind did pick up on Sunday.

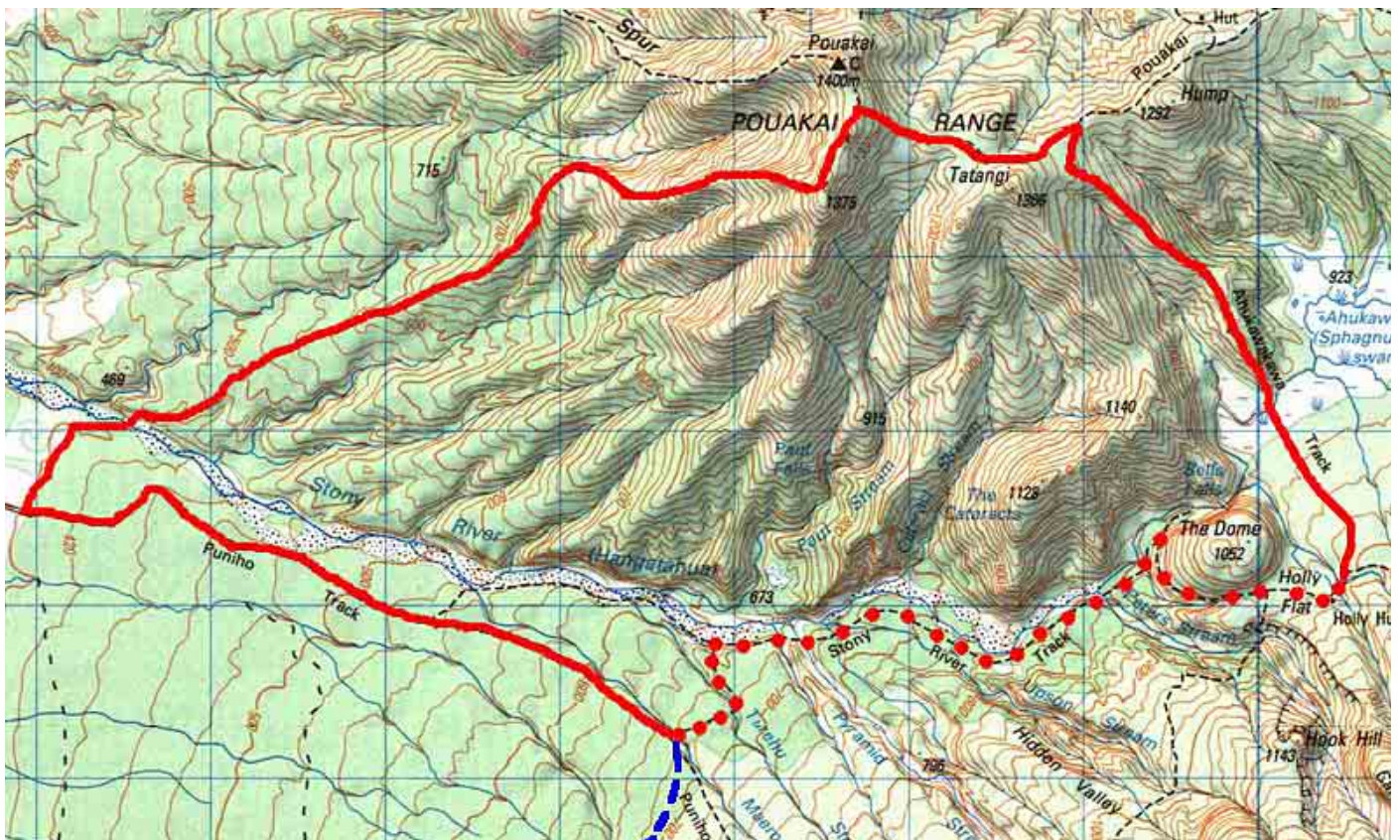
On Sunday we dropped onto the Stony River track, which is now officially part of the around-the-mountain-circuit. The upper track around the mountain, which passes below the big and little pyramids, is now closed. The upper section of the Puniho Track is also closed. Presumably, the February floods extended Pyramid stream further up the mountain, thus cutting off the track....DoC must be tired of redirecting the track further up the mountain. We followed the Stony River Track until we picked up the Kapoiaia Track (2596885E, 6214785N) which took us back up

onto the Puniho Track (2596630E, 6214230N) which we headed down to the road end to end a cushy day, enabling us to get back to P.N. for afternoon tea, which Delwyn had neglected to prepare for us. The easy to use Kapoiaia Track has been re-sign-posted and remarked and is also now part of the around-the-mountain-circuit. It extends from the river, crosses the Puniho Track and heads in a southerly direction to eventually meet up with the Kahui Track somewhere near the Oaonui Track. This is now "the" route

between Waiaua Gorge and Holly Huts.

A serious problem with this new route is the Stony River Track, which before intersecting with the Kapoiaia Track crosses the infamous Pyramid Stream. At this point Pyramid Stream is a substantial watercourse and in heavy rain would most definitely be uncrossable. It would be difficult to bridge. Otherwise it is a nice route and gives one an opportunity to visit Bells Falls and see a bit of the river. Also, if this is

a permanent arrangement it takes Kahui Hut off the around-the-mountain-circuit, making it a backwater, which DoC my well remove?? The solid red line on the map (see previous page) marks our route, the dotted red line our route on the new around-the-mountain route, and the dashed blue line the new around-the-mountain route heading south off the map towards Waiaua Gorge hut. We were Mark Learmonth and Adam Matich



wednesday & thursday trampers

13th Oct (Wed) No. 1 Line
Leader: Judy Callesen (9 trampers)

14th Oct (Thu) Kiritaki Hut

21st Oct (Thu) Ruapae Lake – Roaring Stag
12 trampers

27th Oct (Wed) Rose and Sam Strahan's property – Kiwitea
Leader: Dave Warnock (17 trampers)

28th Oct (Thu) Mangaone Walkway + Lake Papaitonga
Leader: Phil Pearce (12 trampers)



4th Nov (Thu) Atene Skyline
Leader: Harry and Chris Allardice (9 trampers)

10th Nov (Wed) Rose and Sam Strahan's Apiti Hill Farm
Leader: Rose Strahan (15 trampers)
Walked from Apiti cross country over a couple of farms, ending up at Makoura Lodge for a cuppa (See page 9).

11th Oct (Wed) A-Frame – Stanfield Hut
Leader: Ann Green (6 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
Secretary	Howard Nicholson	357 6325
Treasurer	Doug McNeur	359 1893
Chief Guide	Gary Bevins	325 8879
Day Trip Convenor	Bev Akers	325 8879
Membership Sec.	Mark Street	353-7442

mtsc@inspire.net.nz

Newsletter Editor	Wei-Hang Chua	021 212 0369
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morepork@ihug.co.nz

Social Convenor	Bev Akers	325 8879
Ski Captain	Peter Rawlins	356 7443
Lodge Manager	Rob Pringle	355 9174
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.