

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.



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

5th April – Department of Conservation

Jo Priestley and a number of other representatives from DoC will be coming to speak to us about the plans for a number of popular Ruahine Range walks. This will be an important opportunity to hear first hand what is going on. Please come along and ask questions about any particular issues or concerns you might have about the park.

19th April – The Long Antarctic Night

Club member Dave Mitchell will be speaking to us about his latest stint at Scott Base, Antarctica. Dave has been a regular down on the continent and "overwintered" yet again, enjoying (enduring?) another stay during the unbroken darkness of the Antarctic winter.



3rd May – Winter Tramping Gear

Learn all about what you need to take with you on those winter trips! Being prepared is everything out there. One club night you can't afford to miss. Come listen to some of the club's most experienced members give out some invaluable advice.



17th May – MTSC Club Annual General Meeting 2005

The MTSC AGM will be held at 7:30pm at the Manawatu Districts Aero Club rooms (off Airport Drive, near the control tower at the airport). We are looking for people to put themselves forward or for nominations for all committee positions. This will be an exciting opportunity to get involved with another aspect of the club. Contact Christine (C.A.Scott@massey.ac.nz) should you be interested or know of someone who is interested in becoming part of the committee team. All are welcome.

AGM 2005

Where did March go?

For those of you who might wonder where the March Beechleaves has got to, from this issue on all Beechleaves will be dated for the following month. Hope that saves a little bit of confusion.

As you'll read, the club AGM is in May. Thanks to the members of the committee standing down and I hope we'll hear from other members wanting to volunteer for the committee.

Wei-Hang Chua (Editor)



Crow Hut viewed from the bridge over the Kawhatau River. (G. Grayson)

Club notices

President's Report

by Christine Scott

It is that time of year again i.e. the AGM is rolling around very quickly. As always all committee positions are up for grabs so if you are interested in being on the committee get in touch with one of the current committee members or myself. We have a number of committee members standing down so we do need more people who are prepared to help with the running of the club. It is a great way to get to know other people better and also a chance to put a bit back into the club. It is always good to have new people with new ideas but also good to have people who have been on the committee before who may have particular issues, events or other ideas they would like to promote and develop.

Christine Scott

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

Chief Guide's Stop

by Gary Bevins

Most weekend tramps still struggle to get numbers. A few have been cancelled through lack of interest, others struggle to get four together. The weather should not be a factor, as we have had some brilliant weekends.

Any suggestions to get more boots into the hills would be appreciated. This is especially the case with Medium Grade trampers, that seem to be non-existent.

New Club Members

Ivan Alve (PN) | Alison & Jim Jefferies (PN) previously members back in the late 1980's | Cameron & Sandra Mocke & Family (PN).

Heritage Lodge Burnt Down

contributed by Ian Patterson

I had a lovely call at midnight last night informing me that Heritage Lodge up the Oroua River has burnt down. This came from an NZDA club member who witnessed it. He was standing at the carpark when he phoned me. He was staying at the road end on an Army

exercise when some trampers arrived at the carpark. They explained that they didn't want to stay in the lodge as it was a bit smoky (Note: not on fire at this stage). When he went to investigate with some troops he found it ablaze. We have spoken to DOC this morning and they have confirmed that the damage is not repairable.



Early Bird Season Passes

contributed by Peter Rawlins

That's right the ski season is looming and its time to consider getting geared up for the season. RAL are offering their early bird rates on their website:

www.mtruapehu.com/rates.html so go and have a look.

Basically they are: \$329 for the adult pass; \$279 for students and \$189 for youths. They are on sale from the 1st of April to the 30th April so be in

to win.

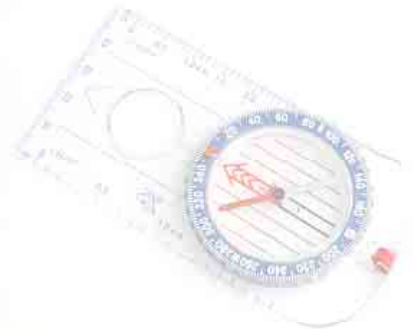
In addition to this the club has purchased two sets of Alpine Trekkers (to convert downhill bindings to touring bindings) and some skins (for going UP hills). These will be available for hire from me at \$10 per day for a set (if you had to purchase the then it would be over \$650 worth if kit). We will be looking to have some ski touring trips on the trip card so come along and have a go but be quick to secure the gear.

Howlett's Hut

contributed by Tony Gates

Another load of coal has just been delivered to Howlett's Hut. Rest assured, all you hardy winter trampers, that you can be kept toasty warm this winter up at Howlett's Hut.

Please use it wisely, and if you are tramping up there, you can gather a few dead leatherwood twigs to help the fairly meager supply of wood. The Heretaunga Tramping Club (the hut owners) paid for the coal, and DOC staff helicoptered it in during February 2005. Also, a new door was put on the hut.



Upcoming trips

Wednesday Day Trip

30 Mar

Mona Webb 323-4212

Phone for details of the destination.

Thursday Day Trip

31 Mar

Ann Green 06 374-5208

Phone for details of the destination.

Te Matawai 'work' party

2-3 Apr Medium

Jean Garman 354-3536

As the days are growing shorter and colder we will look at having a pyjama party with a suitably winterish nosh up on Saturday night. Around the edges of this we will do some cleaning, vege clearance, firewood gathering and walk in and out via whatever route seems appropriate at the time.

Will aim to leave Palmy at 7.30am on Saturday morning and be back probably late afternoon on Sunday.

Burn Hut

3 Apr Medium

Glen Pendergrast 356-7487

Thursday Day Trip

7 Apr

Stewart Malcolm 358-3409

Phone for details of the destination.

Jumbo Hut

9-10 Apr Easy/Medium

John Doolan 355-2100

Karori Bird Reserve

10 Apr Easy

Christine Scott 354-0510

The Kapiti Island trip has had to be changed to the Karori Bird Reserve in Wellington as I have been unable to get permits to visit Kapiti Island.



Above: Waterfalls on eastern end of Moki track (Photo: Adam Matich).

Wednesday Day Trip

13 Apr

Tina Fraser 328-7757

Phone for details of the destination.

Thursday Day Trip

14 Apr

Graham Pritchard 357-1393

Phone for details of the destination.

Te Mara

17 Apr

Howard Nicholson 357-6325

This trip will start at the Mikimiki Road roadend, north of Masterton. Our route will climb to the ridge between the Waingawa River and Mikimiki Stream, traverse Bruce Hill and Te Mara, before picking up

the Blue Range track back down to Kiriwhakapapa.

Mikimiki Tramway

17 Apr

Sue Nicholson 357-6325

This family-grade trip is suitable for all-comers, including children. Generally the track up the Mikimiki Stream and over a low saddle to Kiriwhakapapa is well graded, due to its origin as logging tramway. The idea is to follow the track for as long as people feel comfortable, and to have lunch in the bush on the way. There may be an option of walking the whole track one way if transport arrangements work out.

Thursday Day Trip**21 Apr****Jill Spencer 329-8738**

Phone for details of the destination.

Tararua Crossing**23-25 April****Medium****Doug McNeur****359-1893**

Starting at Holdsworth Lodge, we'll head towards the new Totara Flats hut but will climb then descend a hill to end up at Neil Forks hut.

Then we'll climb over Concertina Knob, over the Tararua Peaks, along the main range and descend to Otaki Forks. It's a medium-fit trip with several good sized hills and the Tararua Peaks included.

Alternatively, we could go the other way! So if this sounds like something you'd like to do, call me. By the way, I'd really, really, really like a lovely person to help with transport. Please?

Windmills by Moonlight**24-25 Apr****Easy****Wayne Scott****354-3904****Wednesday Day Trip****27 Apr****Jill Chapman****326-8605**

Phone for details of the destination.

Thursday Day Trip**28 Apr****Merv Matthews****357-2858**

Phone for details of the destination.

Howletts Hut**30 Apr – 1 May****Medium****Christine Scott****354-0510****Blue Range Hut****1 May****Easy/Medium****Helen Davidson****356-2249****Thursday Day Trip****5 May****Ray Pratt****328-7884**

Phone for details of the destination.

Triangle Hut**7-8 May****Med/Fit****Jenny McCarthy****06 376-8838****Field Hut****8 May****Easy/Medium****John Gee-Taylor****323-2087****Wednesday Day Trip****11 May****Jill Spencer****329-8738**

Phone for details of the destination.

Thursday Day Trip**12 May****Keith Fisher****357-1724**

Phone for details of the destination.

Gentle Annie Loop**15 May****Medium/Fit****Adam Matich****359-2796**

This trip of uncertain duration and difficulty will leave from the Holdsworth road end. We are going to investigate going up to the Forest Lookout, which is pretty well south of Holdsworth Lodge. From there we head up to 670 and then down to Gentle Annie Saddle, if there is someone in the group who can navigate or who has a GPS. Once in the saddle, we just head WNW up onto Carrington Ridge to find... surprise, surprise... the Carrington Ridge track. This will lead us up to 801 and the Holdsworth Track not far beyond. I am not likely to be available Wed-Fri of that week, so contact me either Mon-Tues or on the Saturday before the trip.

Longview Hut**15 May****Easy/Medium****Mark Street****353-7442**

Longview Hut is situated on the eastern side of the Ruahine Range. It is 1.5 to 2 hours of relatively easy tramping in from the Kashmir Road carpark. The altitude gain is about 440m, so it is not overly strenuous but for those so inclined there is scope for obtaining even better views than those afforded by reaching the hut. For example Rocky Knob and Pohangina Saddle - Otu-more peak can be considered. The wishes of all the participants (and the weather) will dictate what we do on the day. Depart from P.N. 7:30 am. Trip cost \$18 if taking cars (cheaper if the minibus).



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!

Carrington Ridge Loop**20th February**

by Adam Matich

This fast medium/fit day tramp started at the end of the Mangatarere Valley Road which is the next road end south from Holdsworth. We parked just before the final bridge (which we didn't cross) across to Mangatarere Lodge and walked up the 4WD track on the true left of the side stream. The track dropped into the stream where we crossed and picked up the track at the base of the spur. It took us 50 min to climb 400 m to 660 m where, given that we had plenty of time in hand, we decided to investigate a minor track system and headed NE to follow this track down a spur into the creek. After this bit of discovery, we made our way back to the main track (90 min later) and climbed another 100 m to pick up the track which heads north, to Totara Creek, along the spine of the ridge. The very beginning of this track, as it diverges from the Sayers Track, was faint and it was only the sharp eye of a mother (Jenny) that spotted it. Investigation eventually revealed some old track markers and we made our way to the little bump just south of 768.

On this little bump we quickly found the track heading north towards 768. Initially this track was marked with ribbon and some old track markers. Further on it was electrical tape, and at the far end near

Totara Creek it was paint markers, which zigzagged a bit in places so we had to pay attention. Regardless, the track was generally quite easy to follow and we made good time. Both this ridge and Carrington Ridge had some pleasant forest, there being some quite substantial trees and some areas with little under storey. The intersection at 768 was well marked so it is easy to pick up the track that drops into Totara Creek at 126E, 280N. However, we stayed on the ridge all the way north through 728 and 575 to drop onto the Totara Creek track at 144E, 304N before the steep climb up to the Mt Holdsworth Track. We were really steaming and managed this climb in 35 min.

10-20 m down the Mt Holdsworth Track from the intersection we picked up the old Gentle Annie track and made our way up to 801 where there is a tree with three sign posts, one pointing down Carrington Ridge. The ridge became the fastest part of our travel, it taking us 1 hr 35 min to drop into Carrington Creek. Carrington Ridge has a well defined track and someone has recently marked it very clearly with vention blinds. These were very helpful as there are a couple of direction changes where the markers are cut like arrows to point the direction. Even so we overshot one turn in our haste, but soon picked it up again. Near the bottom of the ridge the markers were also very helpful as there is a section where the forest closes in. From the base of the spur we made our way back down the Creek and along the road to pick up the car after an 8¾ hour day.

We were Jenny McCarthy, Tony Evans, Garry Grayson and Adam Matich.

Moki Track 26-27th February

by Adam Matich

The Moki Track is accessed via Uruti, some 65 km ENE of New Plymouth and follows the Waitara River between Moki Rd West and Moki Rd East. Apparently, at one time the Moki track was meant to be established as a proper road between



Above: Moki Hut (Photo: Adam Matich).

the two. This is another of those areas like The-Bridge-to-Nowhere, in which servicemen were installed on rather marginal land, and which they eventually abandoned...for good reason. It was a solid 4 hours drive up to Moki Rd West. We parked at the gate by the bridge. It is not necessary to do so as there is 2½ km of drivable farm track before reaching the only bridge across the Waitara River, a steel and concrete affair. From here on it is trampers,

trail and mountain bikes only. We spent 3 hours, in all, on the farmland, the farm track continuing all the way to the bush proper. This is papa country and at the Mironui Scenic Reserve we passed through an unstable-looking papa tunnel. Scenic Reserve seems to be a label attached to land that is unusable, pretty well inaccessible, and not very scenic.

Eventually, we found ourselves on



Above: Papa Tunnel on the Moki track (Photo: Adam Matich).

the first of five swing bridges after which we sidled into the forest across a steep papa face above the river. From here on it was mostly flat travel through the dense bush with the occasional clearing. There were goats and feral sheep and during rests stops the occasional small bird. The remaining four swing bridges were vital as even the small streams had cut narrow, impassable ravines into the soft papa. We encountered a couple of mountain bikers on the way and they were not happy. Even though the Moki track is touted as a MB route, only the farm sections are suitable. 2½ hours of bush travel saw us emerging onto the farmland on the eastern side, where the farmer had been industrious. It was at this end the land had previously been abandoned. However, the current owners have recently started to re-clear the land...there were whole hillsides of dead scrub waiting to be burnt after what we assumed was a serious poisoning campaign, the farm tracks had been repaired, and best of all on the very bush edge an old tin shack (Moki Hut??) had been renovated. So we had mattresses, lots of firewood (not needed) and clean running water. We had been wondering where to fill up with water as the river and stream water looked uninviting...as if it already been through someone's kidneys.

We dropped off our packs and continued heading east along the renovated farm track for another 45 minutes before rounding a corner to spot the main farm buildings, and Moki Road East about 1.5 km away. This section of the Waitara River sported an impressive waterfall. But this was far enough, it being 6 p.m., and so we headed back to Moki Hut for the night. Next day we headed back out the way we had come in. We were Mark Learmonth, Dave Mitchell and Adam Matich.

A Stroll in the Park - Old Coach Road 27th February

by Howard Nicholson

An unsettled weather forecast the day before our trip was not enough to dissuade us from heading up the Pohangina Valley for a stroll. We



Above: Tara and Hugh at the culvert (Photo: Howard Nicholson).

chose to walk part of the Old Coach Road track at Totara Reserve, as it provided easy access and "escape" options if required.

We followed the Link Track, detouring through a large culvert under the road for a bit of fun. We ate lunch in the sun, high above the Pohangina River at the junction of the Link Track and the Old Coach Road, collected cicada skins and soaked up the ambience. After arriving at the Opawe Road track exit, we were happiness-filled to discover lots of perfectly ripened blackberries, which soon became our lunchtime dessert. The day turned out to be beautifully sunny, with no parkas required. We were Hugh, Tara, Sue and Howard Nicholson.

St James Walkway - Nina Track - Mt Fyffe 1-9th March

by Merv Matthews

Seven trampers with an average age of 68.3 headed off to the South Island on 1st March 2005. Leaving the minibus in secure storage at the Boyle Outdoor Education Centre we began the St James Walkway at the Lewis Pass end. The day was perfect - clear skies, no wind, and we reached the Cannibal Gorge hut after a pleasant stroll over mostly

bush tracks. No other trampers arrived so we had the hut to ourselves. Day two was the same, perfect weather, and arrived early to an empty hut at Christopher. There was plenty of time to explore so Graham suggested we take a look at a couple of nearby lakes - Lake Paget and one other unnamed. We pushed into the dense bush and searched around for a bit to no avail, so it was out with Merv's GPS, a quick entry of the grid coordinates and the GPS reported we were 999km from Lake Paget. Oops! Correct one digit in the coordinates and we were now only 1km from it. Changed course by 90 degrees and 20 minutes later we found it. The second lake was also an idyllic spot, beautiful green water, and inhabited by flocks of Canada geese.

Days 3 and 4 consisted mostly of walking across farmland with black cattle grazing, along with a few horses. Our last night in the Boyle Flats hut was a little crowded - 19 in a 20-bunk hut - and four late arrivals added to that number, but fortunately they used their tent. Day 5 dawned cloudy, but no rain yet, so once again a pleasant stroll out to Boyle Village to pick up the van and head back to the Hanmer Springs camping ground.

On day 6 we chose to walk the Nina track, the entrance to which is about 5 km north of Boyle Village. The track follows the Nina River up to a new hut which was reached after about 3 hours of easy walking. On day 7, bored with all the easy stuff, the over-70s in the group selected something a little more demanding - Mt Fyffe in the seaward Kaikouras. We all made it to the top (1602 metres) in well under the times suggested on the signposts. The spectacular views from the top were well worth the climb. We were - Ann Green (leader), Graham Pritchard, Stuart Malcolm, Ray Pratt, Theo Hyde, Gordon Clark and Merv Matthews.

Crow Hut 5-6th March

by Garry Grayson

3 blokes drove to the Kawhatau Base road-end arriving at a respectable time of 9.00am, 'packed' up and proceeded to grunt and sweat our way up the climb towards Colenso Trig. Today was clear with light winds, thereby prompting a pleasant smoko break upon reaching the bush edge, the final bit to the trig putting us on the spot in about 1 3/4hrs from base.

Great views of the surrounding country, including Mt Ruapehu were enjoyed although the freshening winds were a tad cooler at this point. Moving right along, the next significant point off interest was the signposted intersection on top of Mokai Patea range where the park boundary merges onto private land (Mokai Station) to the North, a poled route allows access to this area where stock roam freely, and 'Miracle Biv' can be found hidden in the trees. We turned south-east and looked for a cosy spot for lunch where a 40min break lazing in the sun was enjoyed. Continuing on along the range was reasonably easy travel over undulating tussock country dotted with many tarns for water top-up's, eventually the poled route turn off down to Crow appeared, all be it a bit sooner than anticipated, so continuing on to Rongotea high point to fill in time was the consensus, (about 20min further). Here we



Above: Unnamed lake near Christopher Hut, St James Walkway
(Photo: Merv Matthews).

took in views of the upper Kawhatau and Waikamaka Rivers, the upcoming new trip card prompting maps out and various route options being discussed, some requiring more than a 2 day weekends though.

By 2.45pm we'd had enough and decided it was time to retire to the comfort of Crow Hut, the rather steep 750m downhill to the hut saw us take a slight "off" from a

poorly defined part of the track into the trampers favourite vegetation, (leatherwood) requiring a bit of a 'bash' to sidle back to the track (couldn't be bothered going back up to where we'd gone off). By 4.30pm the swing bridge crossing the Kawhatau to the hut came into view, hut to ourselves each of us claimed bunk space, spread out and settled in for a comfortable nights rest.



Above: Crow Hut (Photo: Garry Grayson).

Sunday dawned misty and clagged in around the tops, (as forecast), leaving the comfort of the hut around 8.00am it was back across the swing bridge, then a short track section and into the river for the 20min rockhop to reach the well marked exit leading up to McKinnon Hut. This 600mtr climb was conquered in 1hr putting us in McKinnon for an early smoko and prompting a change into warmer gear / raincoats. The upper areas of this route around the terraces below McKinnon are popular with hunters, so some activity at the hut was anticipated, none in residence however.

Continuing on up the remaining 220mtrs to the Hikurangi tops was viewless due to light rain and clag, turning north-west, a speedy trip along the well padded, poled route towards the spur route down to K/base was taken. The last part of this route down to the cableway across the Kawhatau is a tad 'scrappy' due to some slip damage and not much of the stepped path at the bottom end now remaining, at bit of a scramble! Safely across thanks to relentless cranking of the hand wheel by Tony, a short track up to the terrace top saw us back at the car at 12.30am, a 4½ day (the shortest med/fit day in history!). Us blokes were Tony Evans, Alyn Higgins & Garry Grayson (trip supervisor).

Bev's Hell Trip 12-13th March

by Adam Matich

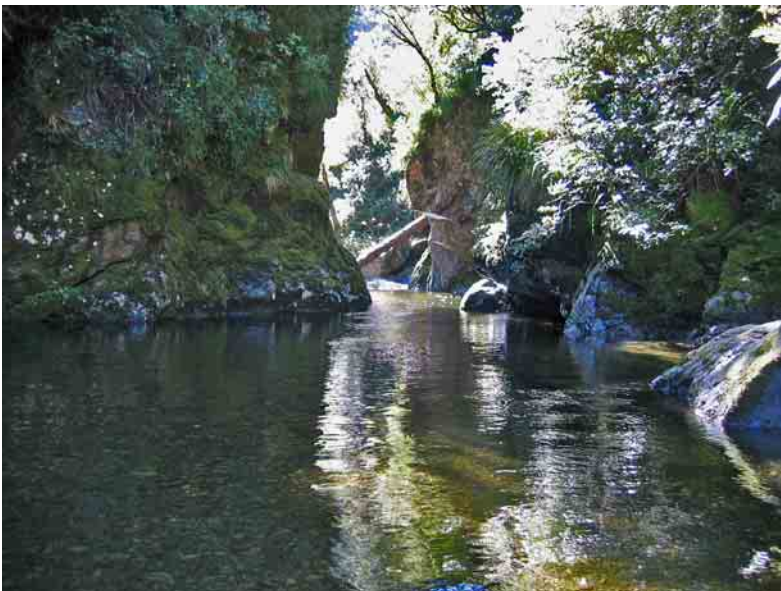
This trip was rated as a Medium, but degenerated into a medium-fit with overtones of fit, and not only did it not go where advertised (Ngamoko & Piripiri Huts), but the trip changed when we were 2 ½ hours into it. This is all an indication of the folly of paying too much attention to destinations and trip gradings on the trip card...they can be approximations at best. Originally we were supposed to head up the Pohangina River to Mid-Pohangina and then Ngamoko Hut, but information from DoC and others led trip leader to believe that the track is awful at the moment. So it was decided to go somewhere where the track will always be awful. We started in from the east (Ngamoko Road) along the Apiti track, intending to head south off this to Birch Whare and beyond. However, further discussion (argument) meant we continued on to Leon Kinvig and then spent the nice sunny afternoon wandering down river to Ngamoko Hut. These sudden changes in direction would seem to be a good reason for the club supplying its active trampers with a satellite phone, so they can be more easily found if they go missing. The Apiti track has



Top: On Colenso Trig. Bottom: Having a relaxing lunch stop on Mokai Patea (Photos: Garry Grayson).

been cleared all the way up to the high point just before the final descent to the hut but is overgrown from thereon down. We had a nice lunch up in the sun before wading our way down to the hut (5 ¾ hr).

The down river (2:45 p.m.) section to Ngamoko hut was where the trip degenerated from a medium into a medium-fit, the total day length rounding out to 9½ hours. Trip leader kept complaining about being misled into going on these really hard trips etc etc.... ad nauseum. She seemed to have forgotten that she was the trip leader and that it was all her fault. We had been misled by her. Hmmm!!! The Pohangina River is not really much fun as its bouldery nature means one's footing requires constant attention. It is not one of those rivers in which you can switch off and wander along mindlessly. We were constantly looking for sensible crossing points and ways around big boulders and occasional cascades. There is a marked sidle around the only gorge in this section of the river. We could have floated through but there were a couple of hydrophobes in the party. Four blue ducks were



Top: Bev's hell trip gorge in the Pohangina Valley between Ngamoko and Leon Kinvig. Bottom: Ngamoko Hut (Photos: Adam Matich).

encountered in this section of the river, two of them being quite stropy. We finally reached the very welcome Ngamoko Hut at 6 p.m., and by this time people were staggering and tripping. Ngamoko Hut is extremely clean and tidy, having recently been re-lined and re-mattressed. We had an early night, being disturbed only by a stag carrying on across the river.

Next morning we crossed the river and headed 100 m down to pick up the entrance to Ngamoko Stream. A short distance up stream we located the sidle track (true left) around the waterfall, and toiled and struggled up, along and down into the stream again. The track is reasonably well marked, but is steep, overgrown and not entirely easy to find at each end. We didn't get back into Ngamoko Stream until an hour from Ngamoko Hut. From there on up the stream got better and better, it being very easy until we took the left fork in the stream in order to make our way to Lake Ngamoko...or as Tony Gates calls it, Duck Pond...or as we would call it Ngamoko Swamp. The branch of the stream up to Ngamoko Swamp was narrow, overgrown and dark...we

were on the lookout for trumper-eating eels and various other nasties. Eventually we pushed our way through to the rather uninviting swamp and had a look round for Duck Pond Hut, which Tony had told trip leader about. Unfortunately he never told her exactly where this hut was by the swamp. We never found it and eventually tired of wandering around in the swampy bush. According to an adviser, this area is paradise... someone needs to consult a dictionary. Trip leader certainly never found paradise...at least not while out tramping anyway.

So we decided that we had had enough of paradise lost and took a compass bearing up to Apiti Saddle. This was pretty easy travel, and a second bearing took us up to the Cattle Creek Ridge Track. Travel on this second bearing was a bit slow as the route was rather overgrown, but once we were on the ridge track it was good travel all the way down to Mangatewainui River, somewhere near the site of Birch Whare. From here on we had easy travel down the river to eventually make our way back to Ngamoko Road after 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ hours. We were Bev Akers (trip leader), Gary Bevins, Tony Evans and Adam Matich

Jumbo - Baldy **13th March**

by Mark Street

This tramp did not go ahead (as a Club trip) because there was no interest shown. I had a very enjoyable day doing it solo. The weather was outstanding: no wind and sunny throughout.

Atiwhakatu Hut **13th March**

by Sue Tuohy

A beautiful hot sunny day saw us making our way into the Akiwhakatu area. We had our lunch beside the river and strolled on out. Lots and lots of other groups in the area this weekend. Never seen so many other people in fact! Bushcraft and Mountain Safety courses were being held - couldn't have picked a better weekend for them. We were Jill, Helen, Harold, Alla, Lorraine and Sue.

Mikimiki (Wed Trampers) **16th March**

by Donna Hayes

Our group of 16 jolly trampers left Palmerston North at 8.00 am with great anticipation for a fine warm day. There were 4 sturdy and might I say, handsome men, to accompany the 12 equally lovely ladies. It boded well for a first class day!

The track from Miki Miki to the Blue Range car park and camping ground is approximately two hours of flat to undulating with a hump in the middle, but not too grunty. The three stream crossings were running swiftly but nothing like the raging torrent we witnessed at Herepai the previous week.

After a pleasant lunch stop at the shelter we encountered some rain on the way back, which was quite heavy for a while but then thankfully eased off before we got to our transport.

Now they say that a dog is a man's best friend, but sadly for Chopper, his master Peter thought that Ken Rush was his best friend as he completely forgot Chopper and took off without him which left us in a dilemma. There was no room in Lorraine's full carload for a wet smelly dog and we couldn't leave him tied to a fence, could we!

The decision to take Chopper in the bus was unanimous. The bets were on as to when Peter would find out he had left his faithful friend behind. Well thankfully after about half an hour we saw Peter's van speeding towards us with lights flashing. Ah well, it could have been a lot worse for him if it had been his wife that was forgotten he would surely have been in the doghouse! Well, we would like to nominate Peter for the Chocolate Fish Award.

Our merry group consisted of: Peter Carver, Ken Rush, Pam Wilson, Rosemary Hall, Lorraine Green, Mona Webb, Lynne Robinson, Pauline Hall, Bernard Cobb, Margaret Gillingham, Colleen Newth, Robert Bruce, Jill Chapman, Rita Hodson, Margaret Foot and Donna Hayes – Leader of the Pack.

wednesday & thursday trampers



16th Mar (Wed) Rangī Hut

Leader: Jill Chapman (7 Trampers)

Took them 2¼ hours to get to Rangī Hut going up on the new diversion.

17th Feb (Thu) Makaretu Stream

Leader: Bev Akers (8 trampers)

This is such a lovely easy stream to walk up especially in the summer with heaps of swimming holes. You get to see the odd trout and eel. Takes about 2 hours to get to the gorge with a deep hole along the way. The keen ones found a way up the bank to avoid getting wet. This stream takes you up towards Oriwa Ridge which runs off Waiopēhu Peak.

24th Feb (Thu) Apiti Track

Leader: Ann Green (13 trampers)

Track takes you into Leon Kinvig Hut from the Eastern Ruahines. A pleasant walk through attractive bush. About half the group went to the first track junction at the turn off to Makaretu Hut, while the others got as far as the Cattle Creek Junction (3 hours).

2nd Mar (Wed) Makaretu Stream

Leader: Bev Akers (14 trampers)

Once again back up this stream but with a different group and this time with more water.

3rd Mar (Thu) Kahuterawa Back Track

Leader: Peter Carver (10 trampers)

Nice easy walk starting at the Black Bridge – Kahuterawa taking you up to Scotts Road and beyond.

10th Mar (Thu) Pretender

Leader: Merv Matthews (6 trampers)

The destination was the prominent peak named Pretender (2.8km NW of Wharite) using the No. 4 Line access and following a hunters' trail north along the ridge. However, a strong, cold westerly coupled with an overgrown track drove them back before reaching the top, and they reverted to plan B - Totara Reserve.

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

wildeh@clear.net.nz

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.