

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



Upcoming club nights

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

7th June – Alpine tramping and climbing

Following on from the winter tramping gear night in May, we kick off June by looking at different aspects of tramping and climbing in alpine conditions. Ever fancied heading out onto the tops in winter or dabbled in the snow and ice, then this club night is for you! Those interested in alpine pursuits should consider the snowcraft courses outlined on page 2.



21st June – Skiing in Canada

Interested in skiing, Canadian scenery or overseas travel in general? If so then you need to come along Peter Rawlins and Lynda Hunt talk. They will be giving us an audio-visual presentation of their recent ski trip in Canada. Sure to be a great opportunity to come and see Canada through their eyes and maybe plan your own visit!



5th July – South American Cycle Tour

Come along to hear Glynne Lloyd speak about his cycling adventures in South America. Glynne cycled from Pucon in Chile to Ushuaia in the Argentine portion of Tierra Del Fuego in late summer 2004. You will be taken on a unique journey through some very scenic but off the beaten track parts of this colourful continent. Brush up on your Spanish!



The long summer...

...has definitely turned into a wet and cold winter going by the trip reports that have appeared in my inbox. Still it sounds like everyone is having a great time and do look into the winter club night on the 7th or snowcraft courses if you are keen on climbing or winter travel. You never know when you might be caught out!

After the recent AGM it seems you'll all be stuck with me as editor for another year :-). Together with assistant editors Sue Tuohy and Janet Allan, I wish you all a great year and look forward to hearing from you!

Wei-Hang Chua (Newsletter Ed.)

Where we've been...



Above: A sight we're all too familiar with out there. A photo taken by Peter Rawlins on the recent Triangle Hut trip, see page 9 for trip details.

Club notices

President's Report

by Christine Scott

Thank you to everyone who came to the AGM and congratulations Jean Garman and Doug McNeur on being awarded life memberships. Well deserved by both of you.

A big thank you to the three outgoing committee members: Bev Akers, Gary Bevins and Garry Grayson. A very special thank you must go to Bev for her tireless work organising club nights, as day trip convenor and also as a strong supporter of the Wednesday and Thursday groups. With her (and Neville) on the committee the wants and needs of these groups have been well looked after.

We welcome three new people onto the committee: Tim Swale, Tony Evans and Dave Mitchell. Dave is taking on the position of chief guide - a position he deserted a couple of years ago in favour of a trip to Antarctica!

Christine Scott

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

Chief Guide's End of Trail

by Gary Bevins

Back from 13 days tramping on Stewart Island. If the opportunity arises go there! No where have I seen bird life so friendly, bellbirds in particular. Kiwi do not seem as plentiful as they have been. This could be seasonal, although wild cats are a big problem on the island. Adult kiwi are a match for a cat, but kiwi chicks are easy prey. We did notice a lot of cat sign all over the island. Hopefully DoC's pest control policy can reduce the cat numbers. The Winter Trip Card is out with lots of trips so as long as the weather plays ball, there is no excuse not to be out there tramping or skiing. Here's to blue skies, dry boots and new adventures.

AGM 2005

by Editor

Thirty two hardy souls braved a cold and blustery Tuesday night to attend the AGM. Thanks to Christine and Howard for chairing and organising an important yet humorous evening. Special thanks to honorary auditor John Todd for going over the club books with treasurer Doug McNeur. One of the non-committee positions left vacant is that of Day Trip Convenor. The Day Trip Convenor fields phone calls from people seeking information on upcoming day trips, liaises with the Wednesday and Thursday tramping groups, and assists the Chief Guide with the publication of the trip card. It is not necessary for the day trip convenor to attend committee meetings, but their input is more than welcome at meetings. If this sounds like you please contact the club president.



Above: Snowy Tararua crossing (Photo: Tim Swale).

Advanced Notice - It's Winter!

by Howard Nicholson

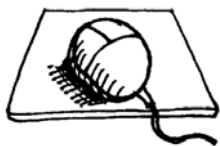
Winter is coming (OK, so that is no surprise), and so is the snow. If you are venturing above the bushline, then you will need to be prepared for the conditions. MTSC runs a series of courses each year covering various aspects of snowcraft, such as walking on snow, keeping yourself and the rest of your party safe even if your day goes pear-shaped, shelters, avalanche awareness, etc.

The first course on the 15-17th July is for everyone who tramps or ventures to the mountains in Winter. For people who wish to have an introduction to mountaineering techniques there is the Intermediate Snowcraft trip on the 5-7th

August, and Advanced Snowcraft on the 26-28th August. There are other opportunities to use these skills also; see the tripcard for more details. For a taste of what's coming up, come to the Alpine tramping and climbing clubnight on the 7th of June.

MTSC Website

by Howard Nicholson
Do you want to find more information about MTSC? Do you have internet access?



If so, then take a look at www.mtsc.org.nz. Recently, the committee published new guidelines for trip leaders. You will also find:

- The latest newsletter (published a week before it is mailed out) and the last 12 months newsletters.
- The latest trip card.
- Lodge information.
- Membership application form.
- Photos, and more...

If you have any suggestions for website content, then please let me know at hnicholson@xtra.co.nz or phone 06 357-6325.

Federated Mountain Clubs Inc. AGM

by Howard Nicholson

FMC is holding its AGM on 11 June 2005 in Christchurch. Our Club intends to nominate proxies to vote on our behalf, however if you happen to be in Christchurch on that day and wish to represent our Club, then please give me a call. Before



you ask, we are not paying for travel to the event! There will also be workshops on: The Relevance of Clubs in the 21 Century; Mountain Bike Accord; Mountaineering; and 6-Pack Campaign for High Country Parks. Contact

Howard if you would like further details (Howard Nicholson, 06 357-6325).

1080 drop in the Northern Tararuas

contributed by Jean Garman and Doug McNeur
Horizons.mw regional council has notified the club of a 1080 poison pellet drop which commenced in late April and completed by the end of May 2005. People are advised not to take dogs into the area until February 2006. The area is bounded by the Mangahao River in the north, through Taramea, Ngapuketuru to West Peak in the west, through the Haukura Ridge and Tawhero in the south and basically follows the forest boundary in the east. Effectively it covers the main range North of West Peak and all of the Putara Road end. Dundas Hut and Roaring Stag Lodge are not in the affected area. The club secretary will have a map of the area. Should you require further information, the people to contact are: George Robinson, Contracts Area Manager (Southern), Kairanga, (06) 350-1760 or Ray Wilman, Area Supervisor (Eastern), Pahiatua, (06) 376-7758.



Access to Kelly Knight Hut

For those planning trips to Kelly Knight Hut, it should be noted that access across the farm (Kohunui Station) still requires permission of the landowners. Please make contact with the farm owners Ian Hopkins and Shelly Dewe-Hopkins (ph 06-3825577) if you wish to cross their land.



Above: New MTSC lifemember Doug McNeur in action on the recent Anzac weekend crossing of the Tararuas (Photo: Tim Swale).

Track notes



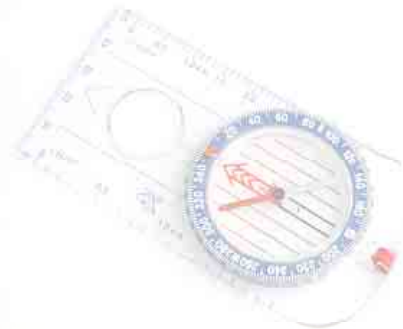
Issued: April 2005

Roaring Stag Lodge temporary closure

Valid until 20 June, 2005

The Roaring Stag Lodge (GR S25 233 497) in the Tararua Forest Park will be closed for the purposes of constructing a new hut on Sunday, 17 April 2005 until the afternoon of Monday 20 June 2005. Tent sites are available in the valley below the hut. Please exercise caution when in the vicinity of the hut. For your safety, every effort has been made to ensure this information is correct. However, you should always seek more information before you begin your trip and be prepared to change your trip according to conditions. For an update or further information contact: Hera Smith, Programme Manager, Visitor/Historic Assets, Wairarapa Area Office, Ph +64 6 377 0700

Source: DoC April track report



Upcoming trips

TRIP GRADING

The times listed below include tramping, rest and meal stops. In assessing the trip times and grades, terrain, weather and party fitness (a party is as fast as its slowest member) must be considered. As these factors will never repeat themselves, times are only estimates. *Contact the trip leader if you are unsure about trip gradings for a specific trip.*

ALL: All welcome

EASY: 4 hours per day, pace slower than E/M. Does not relate to terrain.

EASY/MEDIUM: 5 hours per day at a pace slower than medium.

MEDIUM: 7 hours per day at a standard walking pace.

MEDIUM/FIT: 8 hours per day at a pace faster than medium.

FIT: Over 8 hours per day at a pace faster than medium/fit.

TECHNICAL: Qualifying requirements to be announced by Trip Organiser.

Wednesday Day Trip

25 May

Jill Chapman 326-8605

Phone for details of the destination.

Thursday Day Trip

26 May

Ken Rush 357-2529

Phone for details of the destination.

Bell Track (Mt Pirongia)

28-29 May

Medium

Mark Learmonth 355-9143

Pirongia Forest Park is in the four blocks, the largest centred on the extinct volcano of Mount Pirongia. Located 35 km south-west of Hamilton. The Bell track is the longest in the park and with Tahanui track forms a round trip. Along the way we should view the tallest measured

trees in New Zealand, a 66 m Kahikatea. All going well we should be staying Saturday night at Pahautea Hut. As it's a fair way to go travel time between Palmerston North and Hamilton we will be leaving very early on Saturday morning.

Waipawa Forks Hut

29 May

Easy/Medium

Christine Scott

354-0510

The Waipawa River is on the eastern side of the Ruahines, inland from Ongaonga. I plan to follow the track up towards Sunrise Hut but branch off and head down to the Waipawa River and up to the Waipawa Saddle for lunch in the sunshine. We will visit Waipawa Forks Hut on the way back down

the Waipawa River to the road end. There are lots of river crossings in the lower Waipawa but if the river is high we will stay on the Sunrise Hut Track. Departure time: 8 a.m. from the Police Station.

Thursday Day Trip

2 June

Easy-Medium

Neville Gray

357-2768

Phone for details of the destination.

Wednesday Day Trip

8 June

Easy

Colleen Newth

355-4667

Phone for details of the destination.

Thursday Day Trip

9 June

Easy-Medium

Gordon Clark

359-2500

Below: The posing Morepork from the Triangle Hut trip (Photo: Jean Garman).





Above: Dealing with the leatherwood on the Triangle Hut trip (Photo: Peter Rawlins).

Cattle Ridge Hut

11-12 June **Medium**
Tony Evans **357-4355**

Leaving Palmerston North on Saturday morning and driving to the Putara Road end in from Eketahuna. The track follows the stream and then up a spur to a junction, the right hand fork heads up to Herepai Hut while the left is new territory to the trip leader. The plan is to turn left and down to Roaring Stag Lodge, across the bridge and up a steepish climb to Cattle Ridge Hut at 1120 m altitude for the night. Depending on time and weather, we may walk along Cattle Ridge to the small lake/tarn marked on the map near Pukeroa high point and on Sunday we retrace our footsteps

back to the road end.

Rimutaka Incline

12 June **Easy**
Tim Swale **06 376-6556**

This walk follows the disused railway track once used by "fell engines" to cross the Rimutaka Range between the Wairarapa and Wellington. We will start near Cross Creek on the Featherston side of the hill and walk up to the summit station. The route is rich in history with excellent information panels showing the line in its heyday. We will walk through three tunnels (the final one nearly 1 km long) so a torch would be a good idea. After lunch at the summit we will return the same way. If anyone is interested we could stop in Feath-

erston afterwards to look around the Fell Engine Museum.

Thursday Day Trip

16 June **Easy-Medium**
Bev Akers **325-8879**

Phone for details of the destination.

Diggers Hut

18-19 June **Medium**
Adam Matich **359-2796**

Tokomaru Waterfall

19 June **Easy**
Judy Callesen **354-2946**

For views over the Manawatu, Horowhenua, Kapiti, maybe South Island, Mt Egmont, Mt Ruapehu, Tasman Sea, etc. Be at the Police Station by 9 a.m. We have a short drive to Victoria Road, just past Tokomaru. It is an easy walk mainly on farm tracks and you can be home again soon after lunch. Be prepared for chilly winds as it is very open country.

Wednesday Day Trip

22 June **Easy**
Phil Pearce **354-6687**

Phone for details of the destination.

Thursday Day Trip

23 June **Easy-Medium**
Bev Akers **325-8879**

Phone for details of the destination.

Dorset Hut

25-26 June **Medium/Fit**
Dave Mitchell **355-1798**

Depending on the weather and numbers of people we might go into Mitre Flats on Friday night. Then venture up onto Mitre on Saturday if conditions are ok. From there we will head for Dorset Hut and either stay there or head along to Tarn Ridge Hut on Saturday night. Sunday it will be retracing our steps out via Mitre. As it will be winter conditions, full winter gear will needed including ice axe and crampons. It is possible we will need to walk for more than eight hours on Saturday and Sunday.

Mid-Winter Feast & Food Carry

25-26 June **All welcome**
Peter Rawlins **356-7443**

This is the annual opportunity to come along and have a fun week-

end of celebration at the lodge. We start off on Saturday morning with the food carry for the winter. This involves lots of helpers, big and small, helping to carry the necessary foodstuffs from the car park to the lodge. People often say to me that they know they don't have the skills to take part in the lodge work parties but they feel this is their opportunity to put something back into the club. We need people who can carry as well as people who can unpack and sort (we also need people who can make lots of cinnamon pinwheel scones). On Saturday night we will have a mid-winter feast which always proves to be a popular event. On Sunday we can go for a bit of a walk to stretch those muscles and joints prior to the ski season.

Those who take part in the food carry receive one night's accommodation free and there is free transport in the minibus if you are one of the first twelve people who want to leave from Palmerston North. Be in quick as space is limited by the size of the lodge.

Makairo Track

26 June **Easy**
Jan & Allan Watts **357-6848**

The Makairo Track follows an abandoned road crossing the Waewaepa Range between Coonoor and Makairo. This road was officially closed about 1975 because of a collapsed bridge, and lack of maintenance has now reduced the route to a walking track only. This is a winding track, easy in gradient and suitable for children. It is generally dry underfoot, but can have wet patches after rain. We will walk for approximately two hours to the saddle at the summit of the range (the fit and more determined can clamber up to the trig if they wish), have lunch in a sheltered possie, and then return downhill to the road end. We will leave the Police Station at 9 a.m. and the cost for those needing transport will be in the vicinity of \$10.

Thursday Day Trip

30 June **Easy-Medium**
Peter Carver **354-4479**

Phone for details of the destination.



Above: Tahurangi Hut (Mt Taranaki; Photo: Adam Matich).



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!

Te Mara **17th April**

by Howard Nicholson

I have noticed that the weather in Palmerston North is not a predictor of weather in the hills. On this trip, we left the clag of the Manawatu and southern Hawkes Bay behind at Mt. Bruce and burst into the blue-sky autumn of the Wairarapa. Leaving Tony's car at the Mikimiki Road carpark, we wandered up a well-benched track to the bridge at a major fork in the stream. Gaining the spur between the streams was

easy, and we soon discovered that there was an assortment of markers leading up the ridge – tape, milk bottle tops, aluminium cans, and pieces of roadside marker, some with the reflectors still intact. The ridge provided a steady climb to Bruce's Hill, rewarding us with stunning views across the Waingawa Valley to the Three Kings, Mitre and Table Ridge. To the sunny south, we could see Jumbo and McGregor, where I had stood only a few days earlier. Further north, we could see that Arete and Bannister were doing a great job of damming the cloud behind them. It seemed obligatory to take photos of Robert on "his hill".

After lunch, and no longer on a marked route, we navigated our way north to Te Mara. The clearings along this ridge provided awesome vantage points, being at about half height compared to the surrounding mountains. Feeling rightly chuffed with our achievements on a perfect Tararua day, we descended through the open bush to the Blue Range Track, and made a knee-pounding descent to the Kiriwhakapapa road end. Tony's car was here; Sue's group, who had started here and walked through to Mikimiki, had driven it back (thanks), and had added fresh, home-baked goodies

to boot! An awesome day spent in great company, thanks to Robert Bruce, Tony Evans, and Howard Nicholson.

Mikimiki family tramp 17th April

by Sue Nicholson

On a fairly dismal Sunday morning, after fielding several cancellations, five of us set off to Kiriwhakapapa road end. After mentioning to John that the weather commonly changes around Mt Bruce, I was gratified to find that, once over the saddle, the sun was shining and the sky blue.

At the road end, we proceeded to get boots on ready for a good walk, when we were approached by a couple who were camping at the road end, with an offer of a cuppa. Well what would you say? So the kids played with the two boys they had with them, and we had a leisurely cup of tea and chat. In fact they came from Eketahuna and his brother-in-law had given Hugh a ride in his digger only a week or two before at my brother's place.

Dragging Hugh away from an exciting game down in the creek, we headed up the tram track, and made the saddle just on lunchtime. Going down the other side we ran into some medical issues with a wrenched ankle (Caitlin) and a bee sting (Hugh). Tara, not to be left out, decided she could squeeze a plaster and a "hold Mum's hand" out of a small graze acquired some way back on the track. For the record, you cannot walk three abreast on that track. Going down the stream on the other side we met some cyclists going the other way. On being asked if we had far to go, they said that we had a long way, which rather surprised us, till we realised that they thought we were heading up to the saddle rather than out to the Mikimiki road end.

We made it out to the car that Howard's trip had left after about 5½ hours and drove back round to the Kiriwhakapapa. Our camping friends had left, but my parents had been in for a wander and had left some home baking to replenish



Above: The all important snack stop (Mikimiki Track; Photo: Sue Nicholson).

our reserves. We headed home with a quick stop-off in Pahiatua for an ice cream and play in the park. Thanks to John, Caitlin, Sue, Hugh, Tara and the weather for a great trip.

Tararua Crossing Anzac Weekend 23-25th April

by Doug McNeur

As always, I had a plan. John Doolan would drop us off at Holdsworth Lodge, we'd cross the ranges and Peter Rawlins would pick us up at Otaki Forks. Simple really, so what could possibly go wrong...

Saturday morning was looking good as we trundled down to Holdsworth Lodge. We got changed into our tramping gear in the sunshine and



Above: All sun at the road end (Tararua Crossing; Photo: Tim Swale).

wombed up the Gentle Annie to Powell Hut where we put on some anti-wind gear. Still a nice day but some definite wind chill. We cruised over Mt Holdsworth and did the long descent down to the Mid-Waiohine Hut. Three people passed us on the way and although they got to the hut first, they were wonderful enough to camp out and leave the hut for us.

We'd decided that the original trip wasn't going to work as the third day, from Mangahuka Hut along the tops and out to Otaki Forks, was going to be too long so we decided that Sunday would be a day trip up to Aokaparangi Biv. Sunday, however, had other ideas. During the night, it was obvious that there would be some snow around the tops. Before we got to the bush edge, we sent Peter a message saying that we'd changed the trip. We got a reply saying that their ferry had broken down and they'd been delayed. Yeah right, Peter – good joke.

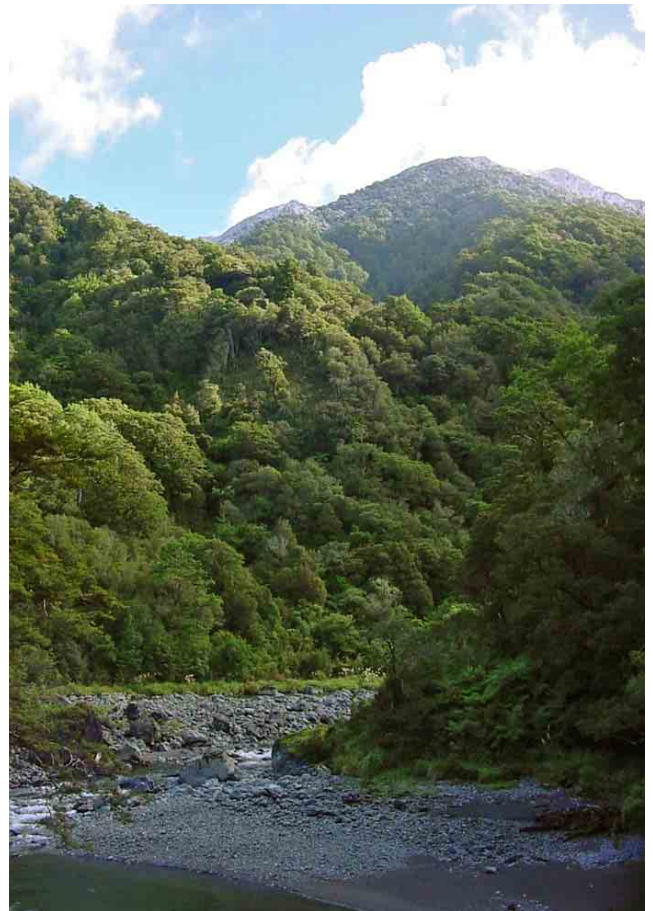
Before we got to the bush edge, we were walking through a fairy land of lovely snow powder dangling off trees and generally looking beautiful. At the bush edge, the wind had picked up and it was feeling decidedly cold. Most people turned back but a couple of us went about 50 m above the bushline before deciding that the probable white out would make navigation too difficult and turned back. The weather was teasing us as it cleared up then crapped out, then cleared up, etc. There were some serious snow falls during the night and I was surprised that the tenting people didn't join us in the comfort of our hut.

On Monday we got to grind back up to Mt Holdsworth. Even before we'd cleared the bushline, it was obvious that a lot of snow has fallen. It was still really beautiful at this stage. The trip from the bushline to Isobelle wasn't too bad as the wind behaved itself, but it got more serious from then on. The snow was waist deep in places and visibility down to 10-20 m, life was a bit more interesting and relatively tiring.

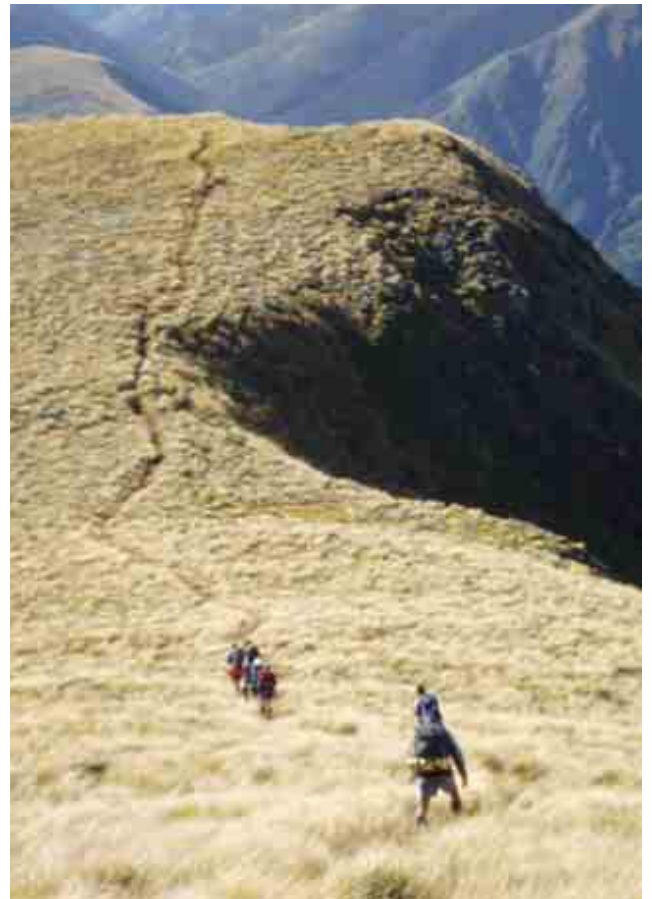
Life really got interesting as we got to the Holdsworth Trig and started down to Powell Hut. Where the summit had been entirely clear on Saturday, now it was 6 inches deep in snow with about 3-4 horizontal inches of ice built up on the trig. The wind had picked up, the snow got deeper, and visibility was a lot less. Map, compass, and a GPS, really, really helped us get to the hut safely – even then we had a bit of a side trip. By this stage Jenny had developed a Rastafarian look as her long hair had developed ice bound dreadlocks and I was stuffed from plugging steps in the snow.

We had a 2 p.m. lunch at Powell (after melting snow to a hot brew as the taps were frozen solid). It was there that we found that Peter had not been joking – his ferry had broken down but Howard was leaping to the rescue and would pick us up. We beat a retreat down to the relative warmth of the car park where Howie was patiently waiting and escorted us back to Palmy.

All in all, it was an educational trip; if only about what the weather can do to you. I am very, very, glad that we



Scenes from the Tararua Crossing (above, Tim Swale) and Triangle Hut tramps (below, Peter Rawlins).



changed the trip as early as we did. I believe there is no way we would have made it along the tops in those conditions. The survivors were: Tim Swale (official photographer), Tony Evans, Jenny McCarthy, John Livingstone, Mike Beech, Mark Learmonth and leader - Doug McNeur. Much appreciated drivers were John Doolan and Howard Nicholson (as stand in for Peter Rawlins). I'd like to thank people for the many offers of transport, it really was great to have that many offers; I was really impressed at the level of assistance that was offered.

Triangle Hut

7-8th May

by Jean Garman

The minibus was the only vehicle in the car park. The day was mild with high patchy cloud and almost no wind. Seven of us puffed up the short sharp start of Deadman's track then wandered along the gentle ridgeline in the sub-alpine zone with stunning views of the surrounding ridges. For an interesting diversion a morepork flew in and sat on a tree next to us for a photo session. Quick progress was made and lunch was had on the tops looking down onto Triangle Hut. After lunch six members of the party bounced and slithered



Above: Triangle Hut (Photo: Peter Rawlins).

their way down the track to the hut while Jean masochistically went off in search of a nasty leatherwood choked stream as an alternative. Much firewood was gathered and the fire cranked up. Four more people arrived and the hut was bursting at the seams so Dave put up the fly for some alternate accommodation. Just on dark as dinner was about to be consumed Jean wandered in took one look at the extremely cosy hut and opted to spend the night under the fly with Dave.

It had started to drizzle ever so lightly late in the afternoon, which was followed by a bit of rain in the night. This all added up to one very chilly walk down the river first thing Sunday morning. The river was still running clear but a little higher than normal so the odd vertically challenged person suffered a little dampness in the shorts region.

An hour later we were puffing up the very direct track over the bump between Triangle and Iron Gates, which warmed us all up again. Instead of heading down to Iron Gates we carried on up the ridge to get back onto the

Whanahuaia Range. The bush was very open, a pleasant and easy wander through the trees. Just before the scrub we stopped and donned more clothes in anticipation of the murky breezy weather above the bushline. There is a route through the leatherwood but it does require a little pushing so not sure everyone was that happy with it although it would have been nearly impossible if the route (meagre as it is) didn't exist.

Once out of the tall leatherwood it was as predicted windy and misty and also a jolly long haul all the way up to Mangahuaia. The top achieved and it was all downhill along the gentle ridgeline to Rangi Hut where thanks to the presence of gas we had a hot drink and lunch cuddled up to the heater.

The track down from Rangi was quick and easy with the exception of the detour around the nasty large slip. This proved to be very steep and somewhat slippery although well marked with encouraging signs from DoC at the top. It took us about 30 min to go round so probably added 20-25 min to the trip. Then it was back onto lovely track again and a hop skip and a jump back to the vehicle where Peter reminded us of the necessity to take care crossing stiles. It was raining lightly as we got changed but the real shock to the system was getting out of the van in Palmerston North where due to the recent arrival of a southerly it was significantly cold.

We were Peter Rawlins, Lynda Hunt, Jean Garman, Michael Beech, Tony Evans, Dave Mitchell and Jenny McCarthy (trip leader).

Field Hut

8th May

By Dave Allan

With two late defections and a worsening weather forecast, six club members set out from the road end at Otaki Forks with light rain falling. By the time we filed across the temporary swing bridge over the Waiotauru and climbed the short hill to the first terrace it became plainly obvious that coats could be

discarded and the low cloud ceiling was lifting. The plan had been to have lunch at Field and if the weather permitted to maybe travel on to Table Top for a view. After an easy meander up Judd Ridge to Field Hut we shared lunch and stories with a DoC employee (based at Field for a week doing possum surveys).

Just as we were about to set off back to the road end blue skies suddenly appeared so we decided to continue up the track to the lookout just below Table Top where a good view of the Horowhenua coast, surrounding hills and Kapiti was had by all as another southerly front was starting to reach us.

After the obligatory real fruit ice-cream at Otaki it was generally agreed that it had been a good autumn days' tramping exceeding everyone's expectations. Footnote: The weather was neither good enough for Neville to fly his kite from Table Top, nor bad enough for him to trial his "New World" patented over trousers. We were; Alla, Helen, Rod, Alan, Neville, Dave and Scotty.

Longview Hut 15th May

by Mark Street

Our party of nine left the minibus at the Kashmir Road car park at 9:30 a.m. in very pleasant weather. The climb up to Longview level was uneventful but quite rewarding. The views out over the Takapau Plains, up to Hawke's Bay, the Guava forest and of course the Ruahine landscape before us were very interesting and worthwhile especially for those of us who were experiencing this area for the first time.

At 11 a.m. and within 10 min of the hut, the trip leader assigned Dave to take an expedition up through Pohangina Saddle to the tops. Meanwhile Alla and leader went on past Longview to climb Rocky Knob where we had an enjoyable lunch stop. The views from this small peak certainly make it worth the effort.

Tim made it up to Otumore Peak where there were wonderful vistas of snow-capped Mt Ruapehu and Mt Taranaki. The others had lunch in the vicinity of the saddle between Otumore and 1519 m peak before time constraints forced a return to

Longview Hut. At 3:15 p.m. we were all back at the car park where there was a short session on navigation using the Ongaonga map and compass.

The trampers who sought and found 'rare' calm weather at Longview were John Stantiall, Darlene Westrupp, Alla Seleznyova, Daryl McClaren, Harold Pettersson, Dave Allan, Tim Swale, Linda Campbell and Mark Street.



wednesday & thursday trampers

13th Apr (Wed) Mania Track
Leader: Ivan Alve (12 Trampers)

14th Apr (Thu) Kapiti Island
Leader: Stuart Malcolm (20 Trampers)
A leisurely but enjoyable day trip, especially for those of us who had not been to Kapiti before - fine weather enhanced the experience. Following the Ranger's introductory talk, most climbed to the high point (Tuteremoana 521 m) with frequent stops for birdwatching (Saddlebacks; Stitchbirds; Kakariki etc and of course the inquisitive Kaka as shown in the photograph in May 2005 Beechleaves). A few of the party chose the North Track to Okupe Lagoon.

21st Apr (Thu) Tunupo
Leader: Jill Spencer (16 Trampers)

27th Apr (Wed) Mangaone Walkway
Leader: Tina Fraser (10 Trampers)

28th Apr (Thu) Sunrise/Top Maroepa Hut
Leader: Ivan Alve (13 Trampers)

5th May (Thu) Waitewaewae Track
Leader: Ray Pratt (15 Trampers)
Walked as far as the plateau for lunch.

11th May (Wed) Longview Hut
Leader: Jill Spencer (19 Trampers)
Freshly cut track (motorway). Pity about the strong north-westerly winds.

12th May (Thu) Deadman's Track
Leader: Keith Fisher (7 Trampers)
The wind got the better of them.



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 2005-06 Committee

President	Christine Scott	354 0510
Secretary	Howard Nicholson	357 6325
Treasurer	Doug McNeur	359 1893
Chief Guide	Dave Mitchell	355 1798
Day Trip Convenor	<i>Vacant</i>	
Membership Sec.	Mark Street	353-7442
		mtsc@inspire.net.nz
Newsletter Editor	Wei-Hang Chua	021 212 0369
		morepork@ihug.co.nz
Social Convenor	Darlene Westrupp	354 5764
Ski Captain	Peter Rawlins	356 7443
Lodge Manager	Rob Pringle	355 9174
Lodge Booking Officers	Hugh & Liz Wilde	356 9450
		wil deh@clear.net.nz
Mini-bus Manager	Neville Gray	357 2768
General Committee	Tony Evans	357 4355
	Ken Mercer	356 7497
	Tim Swale	06 376 6556

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.