

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.



2nd August - Outward Bound

Have you ever been interested in the Outward Bound movement? **Darlene Westrupp** will be speaking to us about her experiences. The three week course is held in Anakiwa in the Marlborough Sounds. The course encompasses a wide range of activities including sailing, tramping, kayaking, rock climbing, to name a few. Come along if you want to find out about this course.



16th August - MTSC Photo Competition

The time to start digging through your recent tramping photos is upon us! Get your photos into Howard Nicholson by the 14th of August to enter, there are several different categories. The top three places in each category will go through to represent the club at the interclub photo competition (see page 2 for details).



6th September - Slovakia and Croatia

Club president **Christine Scott** will be speaking to us on her recent trip to this often overlooked part of Europe. A wedding in Slovakia, Budapest, a week sailing round the islands off the Dalmatian coast of Croatia. What a way to spend 3 weeks of a NZ winter! Come listen to what will no doubt be an interesting look at another part of the world.

Where we've been...



Above: Everyone stopping to pose for a photo on the recent basic snowcraft course (Photo: Tim Swale).

Lots of snow

It seems as though winter is well underway with a large number of club members heading up to the central plateau for skiing and snowcraft courses.

The shortest day has past but it will be a long time before we feel the last effects of winter, all the more reason to take part in some of the more advanced winter courses.

Lots of trips on this month so be sure to take lots of winter snaps to put into the newsletter or enter in the photo competition.

Wei-Hang Chua (Newsletter Ed.)

Club notices

President's Report

by Christine Scott

It was good to see such a full newsletter last month and see how active everyone has been. Winter is now well and truly upon us although the days are once more getting longer, but no doubt you will all still remain active in the outdoors. The lodge is now topped up with food so hopefully many of you will venture up Ruapehu over winter whether it be for skiing, alpine courses or just being on the mountain in winter.

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

Chief Guide's Report

by Dave Mitchell

We have reached the time of year when tramping is fairly low-key and people are interested only in day trips and easy – medium weekend trips.

This is understandable and it is a good idea to be a little cautious with where you go. Someone recently from another club got caught out overnight while on a day trip, but luckily he survived ok, so it can happen even to experienced people. During July and August there is a variety of alpine trips coming up, including the instruction courses at the lodge, some ski/climb trips and even camping in the snow on Tongariro. So if you want some adventure in the snow you can get it in spades full... when more snow arrives.

The club requires a Day Trip Convenor, preferably before the next trip card is done. Anyone who is interested can call me and I will explain what is involved.

New Club Members

The club welcomes the following new members:

Rhian and Benjamin Evans (Havelock North)
Anneliese Fritz (Napier)
Logan Fritz (Napier)
Jaaron Fritz (Napier)
Ryan Osborne (Napier)
Abby Petersen (Napier)
Stancy Kelly (Taihape)
Bryony Leng (PN)
Neville & Junko Chun & Family (Lower Hutt)
Mitchell Burgess (Ashhurst)

Interclub Quiz

Contributed by Howard Nicholson

This year, the usually-annual Interclub Quiz is being hosted by Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club at the Society of Friends Hall, College Street, on Thursday 29 September. MUAC, PNTMC, Mountain Equipment and MTSC vigorously compete for the Trevor Bissell Memorial Trophy, and the best team usually wins. I suspect that we have won it the most (no bias here, my friends...). We will be getting a team together soon, so if you are interested in taking part then please let Howard (Secretary) know. We will also need a support crew on the night, so mark the date on your calendars now.

MTSC Photo Competition

Contributed by Howard Nicholson

The 2005 MTSC photo competition will be held at our club night of Tuesday 16 August 2005. The three best images in each category will progress to the Interclub competition to be hosted by Massey University Alpine Club on Monday 19 September. If possible, please send your digital and slide picture entries to me by Sunday 14 August, via CD, email mtsc.secretary@xtra.co.nz or personal delivery, so that they can be arranged into categories and tested prior to the night. Please ensure that prints are brought to the competition on the night.

Each category will be judged in two streams: printed (photos) and projected (slides and projected digital images). I will scan slides so that they may be projected, as I did last year.

The categories for both competitions will be as follows:

Alpine (NZ)

Predominantly alpine scenery in NZ.
(i.e. above bushline).

Scenic (NZ)

Pictorial interest in NZ hills etc.
(ie predominantly below the bushline).

Natural History (NZ)

NZ flora and fauna or detail.
(e.g. geology, ice formations etc).

Topical (NZ)

People or detail related to tramping, climbing, or skiing related activities in NZ.

Overseas

Open alpine or scenic, people met while tramping or climbing overseas.

There are some awesome images shown at the competitions, so try to be there if you can, even if you are not entering any images. Please contact me if you have any queries: Howard Nicholson, telephone 357 6325 or email mtsc.secretary@xtra.co.nz



Attention Ski Racers

Contributed by Peter Rawlins

The Christiania ski club has invited us to enter our Club into the Christiania Ski Club Derby, to be held on Saturday 6th August or Sunday 7th 2005 if weather permits. This event is a team Race for all Iwikau Clubs. The details are as follows:

Venue: To be held on the Te Heu Heu Valley course No 1.

Event: GS teams race – Christiania Derby

Team: Men's Women's and Masters Men's team to consist of 4, Women's team to consist of 3 or 4, Master consist of 4 team members mixed

(male/female), Snowboarder race as individuals.

The results to be calculated from the three fastest times for Men's, Women and Masters. Snowboarding to be calculated by fastest Man and fastest woman. **Entry Fee:** The entry fee of \$20.00 per person. If we are interested then please send me an email to p.rawlins@xtra.co.nz

Manawatu Mountain Safety Council Snow Craft Course

Contributed by Colin Rose

If you've missed the first basic snowcraft course our club runs then the Manawatu Mountain Safety Council will be running a snowcraft course on the 10 -11 September. There are limited positions on this available. For more information please contact Colin Rose on (06) 374 8741 or (027) 248 7221.

Challenges and opportunities in the South Island High Country

Contributed by Brent Barrett
7:30 p.m. Tuesday 23 August at Te Manawa, Main Street West Palmerston North

Forest and Bird's Canterbury/West Coast field officer, Eugenie Sage will give an illustrated talk on Federated Mountain Clubs' and Forest and Bird 's "Six Pack of Parks" proposal for six new high country parks, and current high country issues on the South Island. The Six Pack proposal was featured with beautiful photographs in the most recent FMC Bulletin, and seeks to achieve parks designations for six distinct areas east of the South Island main divide.

The South Island high country east of the Main Divide has spectacular landscapes, distinctive plants and wildlife and abundant opportunities for recreation. Yet few areas are protected as parks and reserves. Current issues include the need for changes in the tenure review process to better protect lands with high conservation and recreation values; and increasing demand for water for irrigation which threatens braided rivers and some of these special landscapes and wildlife.

All Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club members and friends are invited to hear Ms Sage speak. Eugenie has a long history in conservation interests in our South Island high country, and promises to give an excellent presentation of the case for greater protection for the areas in the Six Pack proposal.

DoC Snippets

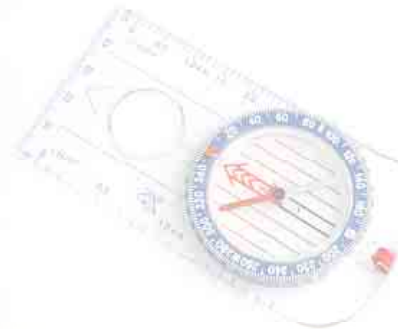


Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Brief notes from a user group meeting held with DoC on Wednesday the 20th July 2005.

1. Opawe Hut and Centre Creek Biv in the Southern Ruahines are going to be removed as soon as the weather is a bit more stable.
2. DOC have new marker poles ready to be installed and trialled. They are welcoming feedback from clubs. The ones to be used on farmland will be in DOC colours (green base with a yellow band around the top). Poles on the tussock tops will be a warratah with a plastic pipe sleeve over top, the colour of the sleeve will be orange with a yellow band around the top.
3. DOC would like feedback on a suggestion tabled to moving Rangi Hut from its present site to the bushline at the top of Deadman's Track. All suggestions welcome.
4. A proposed design for the new Purity Hut has been drafted and DOC would like suggestions on any features clubs would especially like to see incorporated. The new hut is a six bunker with a full verandah. The location will either be the same as the present hut or just above the bushline.
5. What information would Park Users like to see on the information boards at the roadends. eg. a place where people could record track info, species in the area or a map of area etc.

Contributed by Ian Patterson



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.

Thursday Day Trip

28 July **Easy-Medium**
Ann Green **06 374-5208**

Mt Bruce is the planned destination. Phone for more details.

Waitewaewae Hut

30-31 July **Easy/Medium**
Tony Evans **357-4355**

Across the new swing bridge at Otaki Forks, across the terrace to the bridge over the Otaki River, the track meanders along old logging tramways, past the old log hauler and follows Saddle Creek up to the Waitewaewae Plateau and on until the track meets the Otaki River again. There we find the hut and make ourselves comfortable for the night and wander back again on Sunday. A cruisy winter walk with no river crossings and very little

uphill walking, the highest point on the track being 530 m.

Family Ski Weekend

30-31 July **Family**
Ken & Mary Mercer **356-7497**

This is a winning weekend, no matter the weather. Hopefully we'll have a brilliantly fine day on crisp winter snow. Staying at the lodge means we can stroll over to the chair lifts ahead of most of the crowds. If the weather doesn't cooperate you can still take your family out for a while then retreat indoors to warm up and relax. Come on up and enjoy a great weekend!

Cone Hut

31 July **Easy/Medium**
Mark Street **353-7442**

Cone Hut is a two hour easy tramp in from Wall's Whare in the south-eastern Tararuas. We head west between Carterton and greytown finishing up at the end of the Waiohine Gorge Road (Wall's Whare site). The track starts with the wire bridge crossing of the Waiohine River then ascends reasonably fast for 30 min before a more gentle



Above: Mountainbiker on Maling Pass track, St James (Photo: Andy Dennis).

rate of ascent prevails. The total climb is 500 m. After that it is gently going before the descent down to the historic slab hut. An alternative return could take us up to Cone Saddle which would add another 20 min but not extra climbing onto the return journey. Departure time from P N would be 7:30 a.m. Total tramping time 5-6 hr.

Wednesday Day Trip

3 August **Easy**
Judy Callesen **354-2946**

She has moved to a different phone number than the one on the trip card Karere Road Lagoon and river walk (about 3 hr). Will be departing PN at 8 a.m.

Thursday Day Trip

4 August **Easy-Medium**
Stewart Malcolm **358-3409**

Roaring Stag Hut is the planned destination. Phone for more details.

Intermediate Snowcraft

5-7 August **Technical**
Brian Webster **357-0189**

This course follows on from Basic Snowcraft held in July and is an introduction to the more technical requirements of alpine climbing.

All necessary gear is available through the club. We will be staying at the Manawatu Lodge. Basic Snowcraft or similar is a prerequisite.

Sayer's Hut

7 August **Medium**
Glen Pendergrast **356-7487**

We will be leaving the police station at 7.00am. From Holdsworth road-end we head up the Mt Holdsworth track and turn left down Totara Creek to Totara Flats for lunch.

Sayer's Hut is at the lower end of the flats and we will return up the other side of the Waiohine River to rejoin the track at Totara Creek junction and out to the cars by the route we came in on.

Thursday Day Trip

11 August **Easy-Medium**
Ivan Alve **356-3123**

Mitre Flats Hut is the planned destination. Phone for more details.

Tongariro Snow Camp

12-14 August **Technical**
Howard Nicholson **357-6325**

Do I have a trip for you! The idea is to take some shovels, maybe a tent, some energy and a few alpine skills to Mt. Tongariro and camp out for the night. Assuming enough snow, we will build snow shelters in one of the craters and sleep in them overnight, and if people are keen we can have a crack at Ngauruhoe the following day – see Peter's trip also. This is a good chance to practice your snowcraft, or maybe try out the Club's ski touring gear. Basic snowcraft skills to the level of Alpine Instruction Course I are a prerequisite.

Ski &/or Climb Ngauruhoe

12-14 August **Technical**
Peter Rawlins **356-7443**

See above.

Local Palmy Walkways

14 August **Easy**
Ade Beech **354-9310**

We will meet at the Te Matai Road End of the Bridal Track at 9:30 a.m. to walk to the Esplanade for a drink at the café and then return again. It's a lovely easy walk down by the Manawatu River.

Wednesday Day Trip

17 August **Easy**
Dave Warnock **357-4140**

The phone number on the trip card is incorrect. Phone for more details.

Thursday Day Trip

18 August **Easy-Medium**
Jill Spencer **329-8738**

Phone for more details.

Skiing at the Lodge

20-21 August **Easy/Medium**
Ken Mercer **356-7497**

This is a winning weekend, no matter the weather. Hopefully we'll have a brilliantly fine day on crisp winter snow. Staying at the lodge means we can stroll over to the chair lifts ahead of most of the crowds.

If the weather doesn't cooperate you can still take your family out for a while then retreat indoors to warm up and relax. The "experts" can

supply plenty of advice too! Come on up and enjoy a great weekend!

Mitre Flats Hut

20-21 August **Easy/Medium**
Dave Allan **323-9734**

My intention would be to leave Palmerston North Police Station at 8:00 a.m. Saturday 20th for The Pines road end for an "out and back" trip to Mitre Flats Hut. However if there was sufficient interest and numbers would be keen to split the group... we would leave a vehicle at both The Pines and Holdsworth road ends, travel to Mitre Flats, swap car keys, travel the round trip and meet again for coffee in Masterton Sunday afternoon, reclaim vehicles and get to Palmerston North around 5:00 p.m.

Mountain House

21 August **Easy**
Helen Davidson **356-2249**

Thursday Day Trip

25 August **Easy-Medium**
Ken Rush **357-2529**

Phone for more details.

Family Ski Weekend

26-28 August **Family**
Hilary Hurst **354-6380**

If you want to know that your mates will be there to ski and socialise with then this is the weekend for you. You do need to book so that we can be sure of space in the Lodge. And also let me know if you want to come up in the minibus.

This is a pretty relaxed weekend structurally – I am just there to coordinate transport and accommodation... You are welcome to bring your own car. We will be sharing the Lodge with Howard's advanced snowcraft course. If you could book by phoning Hilary 06 3546380 or preferably email me hilary_hurst@xtra.co.nz, then I can let you know who else is going. Spaces may be limited if there is heaps of snow so get in soon.

Alpine Instruction Course III

26-28 August **Technical**
Howard Nicholson **357-6325**

Email: hnicholson@xtra.co.nz

Here is your chance to use all of the

skills learnt during previous alpine instruction courses. There will be an emphasis on the basic mountaineering aspects of snowcraft, with plenty of belaying practice as we climb some higher-angled slopes. Some previous snow experience, such as previous AIC courses, is required.

All AIC III participants will be automatically booked on the avalanche awareness course. We will be travelling to our Lodge on Friday night, to allow a full day in the snow on Saturday. Please contact me by Tuesday 23 August to allow time for gear to be organized.

Avalanche Awareness Course
27-28 August **Technical**
Howard Nicholson **357-6325**

Email: hnicholson@xtra.co.nz

MTSC has arranged an avalanche awareness course during the week-end of 27-28 August 2005. The course, to be based at our Lodge at Iwikau, will involve an evening pre-course seminar on Saturday evening, followed by a day on the slopes on Sunday. We have engaged a professional instructor and course fees will be covered by the MTSC training and development fund. Participants will need to be at the Lodge on Saturday night, and will pay for their own accommodation and transport.

This course is open to all club members, including skiers, trampers and climbers. You will need to be confident about travelling on snow, whether by ski or on foot, as we will be moving around the skifield as we hunt down suitable slopes to analyze. Anyone who skis "off piste" (away from the patrolled skifield), ventures into the mountains in Winter, or intends to do any trans-alpine tramping will benefit from this course. This course is an integral part of our AIC III trip.

Please contact me as soon as possible, so that Lodge bookings can be confirmed.

Pourangaki Hut
27-28 August **Medium/Fit**
Garry Grayson **353-3117**

We drive to Mangakukeke Road end (off Kawhatau Road) on Saturday Morning. The route on the first day is up past Purity Hut to Wooden Peg, Iron Peg then turn south-east along the ridge where, with a bit of luck, we may stumble across the top end of the track leading south-west down to Pourangaki Hut for the night.

Sunday gives us two options, one will involve wet shorts (or more!!) i.e. down river route to Kelly Knight, or alternatively, take the track on up to Pourangaki Peak 1539 and loop back down to Kelly Knight Hut. From here it's a hop, skip and a jump back to the car via the farmland poled route (if we're allowed to use it!).

Herepai Hut
28 August **Easy/Medium**
John Stantiall **354-5521**

This is an enjoyable walk, following the Mangatainoka River, before a short climb up to the ridge line and along to the hut. Lunch at the hut, then return via the same route. An easy-medium trip and suitable for beginners (though you still need suitable footwear and wet weather gear). Meet at the main Police Station in Church Street at 7:30 a.m.

Wednesday Day Trip
31 August **Easy**
Margaret Foot **357-8003**

Phone for more details.

Thursday Day Trip
1 Sept **Easy-Medium**
Ray Pratt **328-7884**

Phone for more details.

Totara-Sayers Loop
10-11 Sept **Medium/Adventure**
Adam Matich **359-2796**

This trip starts at the Mangatarere Valley Road which is the next one south of the Holdsworth road end. The intention is to climb up the spur as if heading to Sayers Hut, but slightly before reaching the ridge-top we will veer north, on an old track system, to bump 768 and then north-west down a spur to the confluence of Totara Creek and the Waiohine River. This track is no longer maintained by DoC but

appears to receive attention from other quarters. From the confluence we will make our way to Totara Flats hut for the night. Next day we make our way back to Mangatarere Valley Road via Sayers Hut. If the river is low we will cross by the hut, otherwise we will cross at the bridge and bash our way down river to Sayers as best we can.

Big Hill Station
Sept 17-18 **Medium**
Gary Bevins **325-8879**

Not having much luck getting to this destination. DoC have closed this area until the end of October. I am considering the alternative of Shutes Hut via Comet Hut.



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!

Iron Gate Track
16th June (Thu)

Leader: Stuart Malcolm
 (11 trampers)

The intention of reaching Iron Gate Hut was thwarted by the swollen Tunupo Stream.

Diggers Hut
19th June

by Adam Matich

This trip was planned to be an over-nighter, but dire omens inveighed against that option and so wisely, as it turned out, it was deemed safer to make it a day trip. After dropping off a car at the farm by Makawakawa Stream we continued on in the van to and up Takapari Road to the



Above: Heading off to dabble in some snowcraft (Photo: Tim Swale).

unlocked gate. Beyond there the road is a bit steep for a standard vehicle. We trudged along Takapari Road through the mist for 90 min before reaching the DoC sign at the top of the spur that heads down to Makawakawa Stream. It was cold up there, but the food gathering antics of Dave's dog Fred distracted us while we had our morning tea.

From there on we headed down the spur, which was easy travel along the wide, sometimes muddy, track. We travelled through some good forest, enjoyed some views at the lower end, where it got steeper, and marvelled at all of the deer sign we encountered. There were more deer prints than you can poke a stick at. Our time down the spur, including lunch, was 2.25 hr followed by 30 min travel down Makawakawa Stream. Despite the rain of the previous day water levels were not unduly high. Thus, stream travel was not challenging, although we got our feet wet all the way up to our knees.

Diggers hut is of forest service vintage and size, but unfortunately the rats have set up camp. It was not a place to spend the night, and so we were happy that ours was only a day trip. The map shows the track out starting across the river, just upstream of the big slip. This is

incorrect. It starts down stream of the slip and it is a reasonable climb up onto the farmland around 40 min away. From then on we guessed our way out, based upon the map and the lie of the farmland. There are no poles to mark the way as the route is across private land. Although the farmer is easy going it is a good idea to phone him first. We finally made our way to the car, 90 min from the hut, and went off in search of the van on Takapari Road after a reasonably easy 6.5 hr day.

We were Mark Learmonth, Jenny McCarthy, Dave Mitchell and Fred, Jean Garman, Daniel Buckley, Tony Evans and Adam Match.

Tokomaru Waterfall **19th June**

by Judy Callesen

It was a disappointing walk up to the waterfall as it was all clogged out and so we all went off further up and it just got worse. So with no views it was back down to the waterfall and guess what, the cloud moved away and we had a beautiful view of the waterfall and down on the flats. It was a good walk and thanks for coming Jennie and Guy, Emma, Bev, Alla, Anette, Charles, Jill, Helen, Carolyn and Andrew, Rita and Arthur, Ade and Gordie.

Gorge Walk

22nd June (Wed)

Leader: Phil Pearce

(5 trampers)

Very wet start to the day. Started off with 19 people but because of the rain only five did the tramp. Lunch was at the Balance Café. Phil and Eddie met us for lunch.

Blue Range Hut and Mikimiki Tramway

23rd June (Thu)

Leader: Bev Akers

(11 trampers)

Some went to Blue Range Hut while some did the Mikimiki Tramway which was a little bit easier.

Scotts Road-Sledge Track

30th June (Thu)

Leader: Peter Carver

(11 trampers)

Thought we would try something different. Dropped the mob at Scotts Road then left them to walk up and over the hill. Meanwhile I drove the van around to Black Bridge and walked in to meet them. Still had a lot of energy left so we had a wander up the Sledge Track.

Shopping in Wellington

2nd July

by Adam Match

An early start allowed us to breakfast at McDonald's in Paraparaumu. The Barmy Army were in Wellington, and so parking was at a premium, but we finally managed to lever ourselves into a place down by the waterfront in amongst all of the FCV's (camper vans). On our way out of the parking area Diane asked three Brits, who were still abed in their van, whether they had showered yet. Upon receipt of a negative, she gave them a quick shower with her water bottle. Hmm! After our spend up in Bivouac, the group separated and some of us missed out on the rest of Diane's hijinks.

We spent the rest of the day making collective nuisances of ourselves at Tisdalls, Gordon's, Doyle's, Mountain Designs and Mainly Tramping where we were all supposed to meet up at 2 p.m. Unfortunately, one group (including a former chief guide) had severe difficulty navigat-

ing their way to Mainly Tramping and didn't arrive until after the non-geographically embarrassed party had left. In the end we didn't meet up at the van until quite late, minus Diane who we were informed had been arrested for shoplifting and that it was decided she would have to make her own way home. So we headed home minus one and tired after our day out in Big City.

We were Mark Learmonth, Bev Akers, Gary Bevins, Pam Dransfield, Diane, Gordon and Adam Match.

Tokomaru Headwaters

3rd July

by Gary Bevins

Two vehicles traveled up Scotts Road to Gordon Kear Forest. The road into the forest was closed because the bridge is being strengthened. This meant 1/2 hr of walking through the forest was added to the trip. Almost an hour of walking saw us entering the bush. We headed down a spur towards the Tokomaru River.

When the track forked, we took the left hand branch (dry weather

track), which takes you to No. 1 Creek which flows into the Tokomaru. A short sidle and No. 2 creek is reached. A few people had wet feet by the time we crossed the second creek. Then came a few crossings of the Tokomaru. By then everybody had wet feet, even Adam. There are a few sidle tracks, to limit the crossing of the Tokomaru. Most people just headed into the river once they were wet.

When Burtons Track is reached, there are no more river crossings. The track sidles the true right of the Tokomaru, sometimes on a high bench, well above the river. We came out onto a four-wheel drive track which led to some old disused farm buildings. We were looking for our ride home, no sign!

We walked to the end of Tokomaru Valley Road and onto the Mangahou Road, and waited... and waited... and waited. Little did we know that our driver had got carried away working and lost track of time!!! Meanwhile it was getting cold for the waiting trampers, so we started walking to keep warm. We were well down the road when the van was sighted. The driver was given an ear-bashing but this was like water off a duck's back. His only comment was that we have saved a few dollars on the mileage.

It took us 6.5 hr from Scotts Road to Tokomaru Valley Road. We were Adam Match, Gordon Match, Gary Bevins, Bev Akers, Darlene Westrupp, Jenny McCarthy, Alla Seleznyova, Pam Dransfield, and Peter Bennett.

Tiritea Road

6th July (Wed)

Leaders: Sue and Lawson Pither
(15 trampers)

Waihohunu Hut

7th July (Thu)

Leader: Christine Allardice
(15 Trampers)

Fifteen Thursday Trampers travelled to the start of the Waihohunu Huts track. We left the car park at 7 a.m. taking 2 hr 20 min.



Above: The old and new Waihohunu Hut (Photo: Christine Allardice).

Arriving in light drizzly rain but no wind. Our first destination was the source of the Ohineponga Stream then on to the old Waihohanu Hut where we studied the history of the hut and had a group photo, then on to the new Waihohanu Hut for a late mid Winter Xmas lunch where many goodies were enjoyed by all.



Above: Darlene, Hilary and Don practicing how to keep warm out of the wind in a blizzard high up on the side of Ruapehu (Beginners Snowcraft Trip; Photo: John Doolan).

We then tramped up to a view point above the Hut but there were no views due to the weather so we tramped back down to the van and headed back to Palmerston North. Even though the weather did not permit us the usual spectacular views the lovely Natures Gardens and the vegetation provided made up for this making it an enjoyable trip.

Cow Creek 9-10th July

by Doug McNeur

The weather forecast was good so despite the hailstorm that left Aokautere blanketed in white, my hardy band departed for the Tararua's. The sun was shining at the road end so we started walking at the leisurely hour of 10 a.m. The air temperature was cool so we kept warm by powering up and over the hill. I really couldn't slow Jenny down so we got to the hut at the early hour of 2 p.m. That left us with many hours of daylight left so we spent a while collecting wood for the fire and then we started to burn it. It's a great hut and has a very efficient stove in it so we didn't need to burn much to keep the hut at a lovely toasty temperature. We had a bit of a lie in on Sunday (it being a



Above: Such lovely helpers, they made dessert for the lodge crowd last weekend, all 32 of us. (Beginners Snowcraft Trip; Photo: John Doolan).

weekend and all so didn't leave until 9 a.m. We took the return trip a bit slower but were still out at the car by 1:30 p.m. All in all, a fairly cruisy trip to a lovely hut. The dynamic duo was Jenny McCarthy and Doug McNeur.

Sledge Track- Harding's Park 14th July (Thu)

Leader: Merv Matthews

(12 trampers)

Twelve trampers set out for the

Sledge Track and the Harding's Park long loop track, completing it in under 7 hr. Apart from a short period of drizzle the rain stayed away, but the wind on the tops was something else! The Sledge Track is under repair at two serious track dropouts, but should be completed by the time you read this.

Beginners Ski Weekend 15-17th July

by Doug Pringle

Our party of five met at the ski lodge on Friday night. Saturday was spent in Happy Valley practicing pizza turns and weight shifts. After lunch fathers went off to enjoy the rock garden while their young daughters continued in Happy Valley. By the end of the day we

could form a train through the crowds using various spectators as things to navigate our way around. The temperatures dropped dramatically later in the afternoon and the learners headed back to the lodge. Doug was able to spend the last hour warming up again with faster runs higher on the mountain. On Sunday the field was closed due to high winds, so some theory was cov-

ered in the lodge. Eve managed to get back out Sunday afternoon and put some of the theory to use. We where: Roger and Eve Athersuth, Peter and Ella Nisbett, Doug Pringle.

Beginners Snowcraft

16-17th July

by Tim Swale

Snowcraft 1 was held on 16th and 17th July based at the Club Lodge on Mount Ruapehu. There were 6 club members on the course organised by Hilary and Sam, with the intention of giving us some basic skills in moving safely on snow. After a wet day on Friday we were much relieved when Saturday dawned clear and cold with the snowy summit of Mount Ruapehu towering above us. In fact conditions were ideal for using crampons as the wet surface of the snow had turned to hard ice making travel in tramping boots impossible once any slope was encountered.

Our first mission was to master the technique self-arresting using the pick of the ice axe dug in the snow to act as a brake. After an hour or so of throwing ourselves down a gully in a variety of positions we felt that we had the idea – and in my case a few bruises too. Cutting steps with the axe was also tried which as it turned out was pretty hard work. However after strapping on crampons we walked away with ease up steep slopes as far as the top chairlift station where we took a break to sit in the sun and have lunch with a most welcome cup of coffee.

In the afternoon we headed off above the lift well away from the skiers to an area where we could practice making a snow cave. This was done by cutting into a snowdrift and then piling snow over our packs to make a large mound. Finally we tunneled in to find our packs, removed them one by one and wonder of wonders the roof actually stayed up without collapsing! A bit more gouging and smoothing and we had a shelter big enough for 8 people. It had taken us over an hour but with the wind increasing and the outside temperature dropping we could really see the benefits of our



Above: Digging the snowcave (Photo: Tim Swale).

construction. Finally we returned to the lodge for hot showers and a warming evening meal.

The weather on Sunday was a complete contrast with high winds and horizontal snow. Even the mountain road was closed. After a briefing on avalanches and the use of avalanche transceivers we were given the task of locating a couple of transmitters that had been cunningly hidden in the snow outside

the lodge. No problem. These devices are a real asset to anyone going into avalanche prone areas. After a final session on mountain weather we decided to retreat down the mountain while the road was still open. All in all a great weekend with some really good skills learned. A big thank you to Hilary and Sam for giving up so much of their time to pass on their skills to other club members – one of the real benefits of club membership.



Above: Lake Paget and Faerie Queen part of the proposed St James/Spenser Mountains park in Canterbury. St James is New Zealand's largest pastoral lease. (Photo: Andy Dennis).

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.



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 minibus 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	Vacant	
Membership Sec.	Mark Street	353-7442
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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
		wildeh@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 | www.mtsc.org.nz

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.

