

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.

6th December

BBQ / Prizegiving / Final Clubnight for 2005

The End of Year BBQ is at the Aero Club rooms as usual. Festivities kick off at 7pm. The club will supply sausages, tomato sauce, bread, a small amount of wine and juice. Bring your own salads, drinks and other meat if you wish.



24th January

Start of 2006 Barbeque

Note that this is the fourth Tuesday and not the usual third Tuesday and the day after Wellington Anniversary weekend. Catering details are as above but also come along and catch up with everyone. No doubt everyone will have plenty of summer holiday stories to share and compare!

Happy trails...

A bumper issue to round out 2005. You will notice that this larger than usual issue covers Dec 2005-Jan 2006. The Beechleaves production team takes a break over December.

I'd like to express my thanks to the outgoing assistant editor, the tireless **Sue Tuohy** who has earned a well deserved rest. Thanks Sue! I'd like to welcome along **Bev Akers** and **Gary Bevins** to the team.

Have a great festive season!

Wei-Hang Chua (Newsletter Ed.)
morepork@ihug.co.nz

Where we've been...



Above: The last hug of Maungahuka Hut before it was demolished.
(A wander in the Tararuas Trip | 21-24/10/2005 | Photo: Garry Grayson).

Best wishes for the festive season!

Club notices

President's Report

by Christine Scott

Annual rewards are fast approaching - a good time to recognize those who have done that little bit extra for the club. We have the Beech Leaf Award for services to the club and the Most Spirited Trampler for someone who has been particularly instrumental in getting other people out tramping (or skiing). The second option for recognizing those who have "rendered special services to the club or to the furtherance of its objectives" is to elect them a life member of the club. In contrast to the Beech Leaf Award and the Most Spirited Trampler Award the person proposed for this award has to be recommended by the committee and elected at the AGM. So if you have someone you think is worthy of one of the above awards please get in touch with me or a committee member. PS - I hope you all have some great plans for getting away tramping over summer.

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

Chief Guide's Report

by Tony Evans

This will be the last Chief Guide's report of the year so it is a good time to reflect on how much tramping has been done over the year. Hopefully you have all enjoyed plenty of tramping and been on some good tramps, I know I have and they have all been good with only a few moments on the Penn Creek Track when I stopped enjoying myself. With longer days and better weather the opportunities for tramping improve as the ski season ends, so why not take advantage of this and spend as much time as possible in the great kiwi outdoors.

This leads me to mention another excuse for not going tramping, too busy!! I am guilty of using this one myself but it is really just a matter of priorities, when the choice is between weeding the garden and tramping the weeds can wait for another day. Merry Christmas and Happy Tramping to all!

News from the Tararua-Aorangi Huts Committee

Contributed by Jean Garman

Western Tararuas

A new Elder Hut will hopefully be built by Christmas (weather permitting). It will be a four bunk hut with a north facing deck for lazy sunny afternoons. It will be situated near where the Biv was but on the Northern side of the Renata Ridge.

A new hut is being built in the North Ohau. It is situated on a nice sunny river terrace down stream from where the Biv was. It will be a four bunk hut and has been made possible through the hard work of the Horowhenua Hunting Club who have obtained various grants, material donations and sponsorship to fund it along with supplying most of the labour. It should be completed

shortly after Christmas.

A new Maungahuka Hut is to be built this summer. It will be a 10 bunk hut similar to the new Roaring Stag with two covered verandas facing to the north and the east. The old hut will be closed from late January for several months while construction occurs (more information on exactly when closer to the time) so don't plan to stay there then. The new hut will hopefully be ready by mid April, weather permitting of course.

A replacement for South Ohau Hut is scheduled for 2007. It will be a 10 bunk hut on one of three sites which are all within 300 m of where the old hut was.

A new bridge across the Waiotauru is to be built at Otaki Forks this summer, hopefully February/March. It will be a bit downstream from the temporary bridge and the route up to the grassy plateau will revert to the old graded track instead of the steep little climb behind Parawai Hut. The roof of Parawai Hut is to be replaced, a new deck will be put on the swing bridge that crosses the Otaki River above Waitewaewae Hut and new toilets with containment/holding tanks are going into Kime. Track work to deal with slip problems is planned for the track towards Waitewaewae and Waiotauru.

Eastern Tararuas

Roaring Stag lodge still needs a few finishing off jobs done but is getting lots of positive feedback. Some initial problems with smoky flavoured water will hopefully be fixed by changing which area of guttering that feeds the water tank. Usage rates are very high at the moment as people check out the new hut but this is expected to reduce after about a year.

Tarn Ridge Hut has some very serious dampness issues with water coming through joints in the cladding, insufficient flashings and the ground under the hut being in a constant state of wetness. Possible solutions are being looked into.....

Further ventilation is to be installed in Powell hut to try and combat the condensation problem. Neil Forks will be upgraded (maintenance, painting, etc) this summer. The only possible site for a bridge in the Tauherenikau that is free from the problem of flooding undermining bridge supports is near the Marchant stream junction. This is not very far up from Smith Creek Shelter so consequently extensive track cutting is required as most of the route will be on the other side of the river.

Aorangi

Three of the huts (Washpool, Kawakawa and Pararaki) in the Aorangis were upgraded last summer and three more (Tauani, Mangatootoe, Sutherlands (?)) will be done this summer.



Mountain Safety Council 2006 First Aid Courses

Contributed by John Doolan
For those of you interested, the dates for 2006 courses are as follows:

April 22-23
July 22-23
October 7-8

And for those looking to update or revise their skills, revalidation course dates:

May 20
August 13
November 12

Outdoor first aid is an invaluable skill each of us needs to have some awareness of.

FMC 2006 Calendar

The Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (FMC) have developed a lovely calendar for next year. It's got some wonderful outdoor images of people and places ranging from the Tararuas to all around NZ. It's

only \$15 including postage so has got to be great value for money. The club's copy is on display on the club nights. Your very own copy can be ordered by sending cheques to: Rick Barber, 8 Kowhai Street, Greymouth. For queries, call ph 03 768 4563 or email mawhera@paradise.net.nz

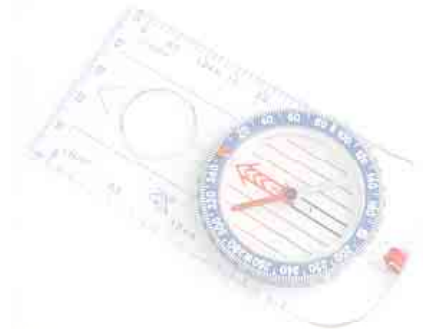
Club Member Going Places

Club member Tim Brown has been selected as one of five New Zealanders to be torchbearers for the pre-Winter Olympics Torch Relay. This takes place from 8 Dec 2005 to 10 Feb 2006. The Winter Olympics run from then till the 26 Feb 2006. They are centered in Torino, Italy. Five NZ torchbearers were selected from 500 - three from Auckland, one from Palmerston North and one from Dunedin.

There are 10,000 runners over 11,000 kms, covering the whole of Italy with 12,000 torches each 2 kg in weight - all sponsored by Samsung Electronics. 1500 runners are being sponsored from outside Italy. Tim's wife gets to travel with him courtesy of Samsung. Tim and the four other kiwis run in Venice on 18 Jan. They will be running in uniform track suits which they get to keep along with the torch. Following this they head away on tours and a gala dinner with duties finishing on the 19 January. Greer and Tim will be visiting friends, touring and attending the Winter Olympics proper in Torino.

Gorge Track Sundays

Just a reminder: there is a standing invitation to anyone who would like company walking the Gorge Track of a Sunday morning. I go more Sundays than I don't (anywhere between 7:30 (seldom) and 8:30 (more usual)), meet my wife, Leslie, at the Beyond-the-Bridge Cafe for morning tea (or lunch more often) and get a ride back through the gorge (or, very occasionally, walk back). So if you want to join me for a walk, and us for lunch, just give us a call. (025 576175)



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

Oct 26 **Easy**
Margaret Gillingham **356-8812**
Phone for details.

Triangle Hut

26-27 Nov **Medium**
Dave Allan **323-9734**
Will meet in PN at 8:00 a.m. or alternatively Feilding Railway Station at 8:30 a.m. Intend going in via Deadman's Track and out via Iron Gate/Heritage track. We need sufficient interest to utilize two vehicles to enable ferry at Heritage R/E at end. Phone me on the number above or on (027) 212 1005 by Wednesday 23rd to register interest.

Scotts Rd Tararua Crossing

27 Nov Medium
Gary Bevins 325-8879

Travel into Scotts Road with the luxury of being able to drive through Gordon Kear Forest. A short climb takes us to Scrub Trig. A down hill track leads to Miro Valley. From here we sidle around a stream which leads to a waterfall. From here we climb up through broken scrub and bush-bash the last few metres to North Mangahao Bivvy. A step decent and out via a stream.

Thursday Day Trip

1 Dec Easy-Medium
Jill Spencer 329-8738

Camping East Harbour Lakes**Block**

3-4 Dec All welcome

Ade Beech 354-9310

Mark Learmonth 355-9143

Come along and join us on this fun camping weekend. The plan is after leaving PN we will stop for breakfast along the way prior to reaching East Harbour Regional Park. We will enter the park off Coast Road at White Bridge, for an easy stroll to view the light houses, lakes, harbour and coast line. Three hours tops with no heavy packs to carry, returning to the van we will head back down the road to the Catchpool camp grounds and set up camp. Early Sunday morning for those who wish or are able we will go on a light tramp along the Cattle Ridge Track to the Orongorongo River returning via the Orongorongo Track before lighting up the barbecue for breakfast. These weekends are great fun.

Castle Point

7 Dec Xmas Cheer

Ken & Rosemary Hall 356-8538

The Wednesday Trampers Christmas Trip is being held at Castlepoint this year. We will be leaving at the earlier time of 7.30 a.m. for the 2.5 hr drive to our destination. If the weather is suitable we intend walking to the lighthouse and later, after a yummy Pot Luck lunch, we will take a stroll along the beach. This should be a fun day and we anticipate a good turnout for this annual event. We should be back in Palmy around 6 pm.



Above: Crossing the Tamiki Stream on the way to Stanfield Hut.
 (Stanfield Hut Trip | 13/11/2005 | Photo: Tim Swale).

Thursday Day Trip

8 Dec Easy-Medium
Ivan Alve 356-3123

Rangiwahia Loop

11 Dec Medium
Sara/Christine Scott 354-0510

We will walk up Deadmans Track, have a relaxing lunch on the top of Mangahuia, afternoon tea at Rangi Hut and a gentle womble (apart from the 1 hr detour which is definitely not womble country) back down the Rangi Track to our transport (5 - 6 hours).
 Departure time: 7.30am from the Police Station.

Yeoman's Track Mountainbiking

11 Dec Easy
Peter Rawlins 356-7443

Thursday Day Trip

15 Dec Easy-Medium
Stewart Malcolm 358-3409

Gorge Track

15 Jan Easy
Christine Scott 354-0510

Had a hard night on Saturday night? Just want a relaxing womble on Sunday afternoon? Join us for a walk through the Manawatu Gorge (about 3 hr). We will leave the track start point about 1.30 p.m.

Canoeing the Wanganui River

21-23 Jan Wet
Sara/Christine Scott 354-0510

All water babies welcome

Ever wanted to canoe the Wanganui River? If it is something you've always wanted to do too, come and join me. No canoeing experience necessary but you must have outdoor experience such as tramping. We will travel through to National Park on Friday night where we will meet up with our canoes/kayaks.

Between 10am and noon Saturday morning we should be on the river at Whakahoro, we will camp out the night at one of the many camping spots on the banks of the Wanganui river and exit at Pipiriki on Monday. We will be picked up at Pipiriki and returned to our transport. Approx 4 - 5 hours easy paddling each day. Cost: \$150 approx for canoe hire and transport from Whakahora and Pipiriki and approx \$30 for transport to National Park.

Waipakihi Hut (Kaimanawas)

21-22 Jan Easy/Medium
John Beech 354-9310

Up over Umakarikari, down to Waipakihi Hut then down the river, over Urchin and home.

Dragonflies and Tall Trees**22 Jan Family****David Newstead** 025 576-175
wk 350-4649

This is my annual summer trip to observe the (day-time) insect life of forest and stream, and anything else of interest to children of all ages - a chance for a leisurely stroll along an easy track and picnic by the stream. The place is Cole Creek and the Ngahere Tane precinct, at the road-end beyond Sixtus Lodge, beyond Apati. It's a maximum of 3 km walking beyond the car park, so is suitable for the youngest. We would probably leave PN about 8:30, but all details are by arrangement, depending on who wants to come. (Note: dragonflies fly only in the sun, but there is still plenty to see if the day is dull.)

Snowy River Loop**28-29 Jan****Medium****Adam Matich****359-2796**

This is rated as a medium trip, but may be a little bit more strenuous. We leave from the Otaki Forks road end, head south up the Waio-tauru River to the forks, across the bridge and then east up the Snowy River (Eastern Waiotauru). We go through the gorge to Snowy River

Hut, a private hunter's hut hidden on a river flat, and continue up river to find a river flat to camp on for the night. Next day we climb the rest of the way up the river to Field Peak on the Southern Crossing. On the way we pass some neat waterfalls and some inviting swimming holes. Higher up there is a stand of tree fuschias and other interesting alpine plants. Once on the Southern Crossing Route we head back out through Kime and Field huts.

Herepai Hut**29 Jan****Easy/Medium****Darlene Westrupp** 354-5764

My trip to Herepai Hut. Well what can I say!! I have never been there and only found out last night that it was on the opposite side of the Tararuas to what I had thought. I can't read a map and get lost in the supermarket carpark!! Rest assured that between now and 29 January 2006 that I will be honing my navigation skills, doing the actual tramp and will be ensuring that there will be experienced navigators coming on the tramp on actual day.

Wednesday Day Trip**1 Feb****Easy****Jill Chapman****326-8605****Thursday Day Trip****2 Feb****Easy-Medium****Ray Pratt****328-7884****Around Ruapehu****3-6 Feb****Med-Med/Fit****Christine Scott****354-0510**

We will be leaving at 5.30 p.m. Friday night, driving through to the Ohakune mountain road and either camping at the road end or walking by torch light into the first hut (<1 hr).

On Saturday it will be approximately a 7.5 hr walk to Rangipo Hut followed by another 7 hr day on Sunday through to the Chateau road end (bypassing Waihohonu Hut) where I am told there is a possibility of a hot spa and dinner at the pub!

Hopefully on Monday we can get a ride up the mountain road to access the more direct route to the Whakapapaiti Valley and from there we head on round the mountain and back to the Ohakune Mountain road (7-9 hr). At this time of the year there are plenty of daylight hours so there will be time for reasonable breaks during the day to soak up the sunshine and re-fuel the body!

Cone Hut**5 Feb****Easy/Medium****John Gee-Taylor****323-2087****Thursday Day Trip****9 Feb****Easy-Medium****Keith Fisher****357-1724****Full Waingawa River****11-12 Feb****Fit****Jean Garman****354-3536**

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

Saturday night will either be at Arete Forks hut, Cow Creek hut or camping somewhere. This trip requires it not to rain.



Above: Enjoying the Gorge Tracks new seating with man's best friend. (Photo: Christine Allardice).



Above: Wandering among the windmills.
(North Range Road Trip | 27/10/2005 | Photo: Christine Allardice).

Sunrise Hut

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

This popular walk on the eastern side of the Ruahine Ranges near Onga Onga follows a well formed, gentle track up to the bushline at the recently renovated Sunrise Hut. The hut is reached in a little over two hours and from there we have the option of either having lunch at the hut, or if the weather is suitable, going on a little further to Armstrong Saddle to get views to the west of the divide.

Wednesday Day Trip

15 Feb **Easy**
Donna Hayes **06 322-8686**

Thursday Day Trip

16 Feb **Easy-Medium**
Tony Evans **357-4355**

Roaring Stag Lodge

18-19 Feb **Easy/Medium**
Bev Akers **325-8879**

We go in by the Herepai Track then drop down into the Ruapae stream. A nice stroll down, maybe stop off at the hidden lake then on to the flash

new lodge for the night. Remember this is an easy/medium trip, so we get to laze about a bit.

Saturday should only be 5.5 hr (all depends on how lazy we are). Sunday's only challenge is dragging ourselves away from this cosy hut and heading home (about 3.5 hr). This would be a great trip for someone who wants to do a spot of fishing, hopefully for tea.

Takapari Lost Track

19 Feb **Medium**
Tony Evans **357-4355**

From Tamaki West Road end we will follow the Tamaki River West Branch upstream past Stanfield Hut and up the track towards Cattle Creek Hut. At the junction on top of the ridge turning right takes the main track along the ridge and down to Cattle Creek Hut, turning left the track follows another ridge and before heading down to the stream to take the creek route to Cattle Creek Hut, an old sign saying Lost Takapari Track points up an overgrown track.

According to some maps this track meets the Stanfield Hut/Takapari Trig track about 10 minutes south of the trig where there is another old sign saying Lost Track and pointing down an overgrown track. A seldom travelled route to the Takapari Trig where the views are fantastic on a good day and return via either Stanfield or A-Frame Hut.

Thursday Day Trip

23 Feb **Easy-Medium**
Ken Rush **357-2529**

Climbing Ngauruhoe

25-26 Feb **Medium**
Adam Matich **359-2796**

This trip will start from the Mangatepopo Road end. The intention is to climb Ngauruhoe and quite possibly Tongariro as well. This all depends upon the weather, the phase of the moon, and how people (meaning me) feel on the day. Under ideal conditions we might climb Ngauruhoe on Saturday and camp in the South Crater to return to the Road End via Tongariro on Sunday. If conditions are a little less ideal we



Above: Tararua windfarm windmills along North Range Road.
(North Range Road Trip | 27/10/2005 | Photo: Christine Allardice).



Above: One good reason to tramp on a weekday, it always seems to be sunny. (Mangaone Walkway Trip | 26/10/2005 | Photo: Margaret Gillingham).

may lazily go into Mangatepopo Hut for Saturday night and then climb Ngauruhoe on Sunday.

Murderers Hut

26 Feb

John Stantiall

Easy/Medium

354-5521



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!

Herepai Hut

20th October (Thurs)

Leader: Merv Matthews

11 trampers

Mangaone Walkway

26th October (Wed)

by Margaret Gillingham

Ten people in three cars left for the

Mangaone Walkway. We met up on the main road 200 m north of Te Horo before driving up Hautere Cross Road to the car park. It was a sunny day, the trampers happy and the walk easy. At the end of the walkway we had lunch and during that time were shown how to load a logging trailer onto a logging truck with no outside assistance. We walked back to the carpark and on the return journey to Palmerston North, stopped at the dairy near Toad Hall for an excellent fruity ice

cream. The day was notable for birdsong and democratic decision making all the way.

North Range Road 27th October (Thu)

Leader: Peter Carver

12 trampers

Longview Hut 30th October

by Tony Evans

From Kashmir Road end the track climbs up to Longview Hut, with frequent stops to admire the view we arrived at the hut for a coffee break in the company of a scout group from Ashhurst who had spent the night there. Some of our group stayed at the hut while three of us followed the ridge south to Rocky Knob (1226 m) to admire the view, from there you can look south over the Makeretu Stream catchment and see the ridge the Apiti track follows and to the southeast Toka and Tunupo Back to the hut to regroup and another coffee, then we headed north with views of Daphne Range and beyond, the snowcapped peaks of Te Hekenga and the Sawtooth Range disappearing up into the high cloud, a great stroll with views all around, not too hot or too cold and no wind at all. Along the ridge until we met the track into Daphne Hut



Above: Everyone gathered outside Longview Hut. (Longview Hut Trip | 30/10/2005 | Photo: Alan Hardacre).



Above: The bonfire! They obviously couldn't wait till dark for their festivities!
(Managahao Flats Work Party | 05/11/2005 | Photo: Jean Garman).

and down to Kashmir Road and to Dannevirke for icecream. We were Donna Hayes, Linda Hale, Suzanne Clark, Alan Hardacre and substitute leader Tony Evans.

Arawari Trig 3rd November

Leader: Merv Matthews

14 trampers

Often cited as a possible local destination, Arawaru Trig in the Tararua foothills was finally visited by the group following prior track exploration and cutting by a couple of members. Access was from Scotts Road, then through private property (permission required) and former hunters' trails. The track is now a fairly easy stroll through pleasant bush and unpleasant leatherwood to an altitude of 767 m at the trig, but most of that height is gained just by driving up Scotts Road. The expected panoramic view from the top was not to be, as it was a total white-out, but at least the forecast rain did not arrive.

Mangahao Flats Work Party (Jean's version)

5-6th November

by Jean Garman

The sky was overcast. A cruel wind was blasting up the river valley. At least it wasn't raining. For the first

15min. After that it was windy and wet. We wandered through the number 1 dam and up a river that has changed markedly due to flooding in January to the swing bridge. Into the bush and we were sheltered from the wind which seemed to dissipate completely just leaving a light but steady drizzle as we scrambled our way over to the old Harris Creek Hut site. Just beyond this a large

gravel fan had cut its way through the bush and the rest of the track to the swing bridge was trying to fall into the river. Easier if not somewhat muddier going beyond Harris Creek and another couple of gravel fans and badly eroded creek beds were encountered along the way. Must have been wild in January.

The hut came into view and the advance party quickly changed into dry clothes, lit the fire and settled down to some serious snacking while waiting for the others. The rear guard arrived and settled in and we were starting to make bets as to whether the adventure team would turn up or not when they suddenly appeared on the other side. Unfortunately the river had now risen to uncrossable proportions. The rain eased off so we headed down to the river flats while the adventurers started to head up river looking for somewhere to cross. Shortly thereafter they turned up having found a conveniently downed tree that bridged the river. We started on the vege clearance and were rather appalled to find a lovely beech tree had been roughly chopped down and just left where it fell. This along with a large fire ring built right in the middle of the helipad where most likely the work



Above: Festivities in the hut, not quite sure what they are spelling 'dessert' perhaps? :)
(Managahao Flats Work Party | 05/11/2005 | Photo: Jean Garman).



Above: Garry Grayson on the step ladder on the Tararua Peaks.
(A wander in the Tararuas Trip | 21-24/10/2005 | Photo: Anonymous).

of the 'PN team xtreme' who had been there a few weekends ago. We were not impressed. We dealt to the downed tree and cleared away a few saplings. Everything worthy of firewood was taken up to the hut and the rest was gloriously consumed with a bonfire.

It was eventually time for tea (started to rain again) so we retired to the hut, had another round of snacks accompanied with alcohol. When the snack pile was suitably reduced we started on dinner then guzzled down desert. A wee wait for darkness ensued but as the morepork started to call we could wait no longer and adjourned to the

deck for some pyrotechnics. Impressive echoes off the valley sides, flashes, explosions and sparks and the morepork was heard no more. At last there was only the obligatory sparkler session before we could retire to bed.

A long and sound nights sleep and we started to stir at about 7.00 a.m. After breakfast cleaning was started with the windows, gutters and toilet all getting a good going over. Some smaller trees were removed from around the hut and all potential firewood was broken down into sections that could be stored in the woodshed awaiting a suitably qualified and approved chainsaw to be

segmented into woodburner size. The adventurers and the cruisers set off around 9.00 – 9.30 and the rest of us followed a while later. It was infinitely more pleasant without the rain, unfortunately it started to rain again just after lunch. The only other people we spotted were the MTSC day trippers, complete with umbrella. I hear the adventurers made it out too.

We were the adventure team – Brian Webster, Adam Matich and Garry Grayson and the rest – Jenny McCarthy, Bernadette Heaphy, Doug McNeur, Christine Scott, Malcolm Thomas and Jean Garman.

Mangahao Flats Work Party (Adam's version) 5-6th November

by Adam Matich

Although Jean's hut work parties are the social highlights of the tramping calendar, the track into Mangahao Flats Hut is not a great draw card. So three disgruntled partygoers headed in by a different route. We started at the locked gate, just across the Waiti Stream Bridge on Gladstone Road (Levin). The farm track eventually crosses the stream to a batch at the base of the spur and from there we commenced our climb to Square Knob, the forest being reached about 15 minutes from the road end. While the track through the forest has not been cut, the vegetation doesn't require it and the track is reasonably well marked. We had little difficulty and a fast 2 hours travel saw us up on Square Knob where the broad well cut track system started.

From there it was a quick 75 min travel around the headwaters of the North Ohau River to Tawirikohukohu. We then headed south towards bump 1040. Unfortunately, just as we dropped off Tawirikohukohu the track ran out and we had to bush bash the 1 km across the tops over the next 90 min. It wasn't enjoyable, but eventually Brian declared that we were on bump 1040 and could commence our steep, almost 2 hour descent down to the River and Mangahao Flats Hut. However, the river was too high for us to cross



Above: Anderson Memorial Hut.
(A wander in the Tararuas Trip | 21-24/10/2005 | Photo: Garry Grayson).

safely and the people at the hut looked longingly across the river at us. We were carrying the dessert. So we headed up river to see what we could find and fortunately, just round the first bend were two large trees that had sacrificed themselves by falling across the river. So we crossed our handy bridge to finally reach the hut after a sometimes-traumatic 7.5 hr day.

Next morning we headed 30 min down river to find a slightly different route out. We crossed over and picked up the spur just down river of Tawiri Stream.

On old park maps there is a route up here to Tawirikohukohu and so we thought we would give it a go. It got a bit tight in the upper tree line, but once out of the trees the travel was very good all the way up (2 hr), back to Tawirikohukohu and out (6.5 hr day).

There is a track from Tawirikohukohu down into the upper North Ohau and from Square Knob, possibly also down into the lower North Ohau. We will leave these until we regain our sense of adventure. We were Brian Webster (navigator), Garry Grayson, and Adam Match.

Harris Creek 6th November

by David Newstead

This was an Easy/Medium grade walk, with a Medium/Technical access (or rather, exit) road. The day dawned dull and damp, and found the three of us on the track by the Upper Mangahao (No.1) Dam at 9:10. It was many years since I had been there and Sharon and Tony had not been on that particular track before.

The track is still the same as I remembered it, moderately rough, wet, lots of liverwort, not too many big old trees but a couple of attractive stands of young (up to about 200 y) rimus, and some venerable old kamahi. The three new bridges (since previous visit) were welcome, and the light rain was ok. It's the bit after you cross to the right bank of the Mangahao that turns the "easy" into "medium", up, down, up, down, all the way to the Harris Creek bridge.

We were having an early lunch by bridge as Jean's work party came past on the way out, and then were back at the Dam a bit after three o'clock. Then the minor drama for the day: on passing two in-coming cars full of young people, the cars

rather too close together on such a road, I allowed them rather more room than we could afford for passing, and slid into the ditch. Oh dear, how sad. Never mind, thanks to Tony' presence of mind. He had the strapping young lads from the two cars (and us) organised into lifting the car out (low tech.) before they'd even thought of driving on. Thanks Tony! (or I might still be waiting for a tow truck instead of writing this). [We recommend the ice creams (and pies) at Tokomaru.]

Manawatu Gorge 9th November (Wed)

Leader: Bernard Cobb
11 trampers

Mitre Flats Hut 10th November (Thu)

Leader: Carolyn Brodie
7 trampers

Maungarau Hut (Waitotaras) 12-13th November

by Mark Learmonth

Disappointingly only Adam and myself went on this trip. This area is probably the best of the Waitotaras with fine forest, views overlooking the ranges, and plenty of bird and animal life.

The first stage of the track was over farmland close or above the Pokeka stream to Slab Hut which took approx 1 hr 40 min. From Slab Hut the track follows Pukeka stream banks or flats to Pukeka Hut. This stretch is really interesting, not only is the stream and surrounding forest pleasant to view, but the wildlife is really in abundance, with goats everywhere and not a afraid of humans, deer (five sighted), wood pigeons, and tuis etc. Only downside was the last 1/2 hr to Pukeka hut as there was a lot of ongaonga weed.

After a lunch break at Pokeka Hut we climbed up out of Pokeka stream onto the top of the range and along to Maungarau Hut. For a track not used frequently it was in good condition, easy to follow with not too many windfalls to negotiate around. After 9 hr tramping we arrived at Maungarau Hut. Nice hut and excellent views from the helipad of the

surroundings areas. The loo there had no door but the view from the throne is one of the better ones (lol). The return trip took us 8.5 hr with few stops. This area is well worth a visit, even if only to Pukeka Hut.

Stanfield Hut **13th November**

by Tim Swale

After a couple of dry weeks the rivers were low and with a reasonably benign weather forecast the prospects of a good trip down the Tamiki stream were high. Our group of 10 intrepid trampers left vehicles by the newly erected locked gate at the Tamiki West road end and headed on foot to the picnic area. With water levels low we were able to cross the stream without getting our feet wet and then started on the short but steep ascent to Holmes Ridge. The ridge route afforded pleasant views of the high Ruahine tops and way down into the Tamiki Stream. DoC have recently re-routed the upper section of this track to avoid erosion damage and put in new markers leading down into the stream bed from where we continued up the valley to Stanfield Hut.

An early lunch stop in the cosy hut came just in time to avoid a brief shower of rain. Once fed and watered it was back into the stream bed for the return trip. Although it was impossible to avoid wet feet on the many stream crossings, with water temperatures rising to summer levels we had a very pleasant walk out down this delightful river valley. Even another brief shower didn't dampen the enthusiasm of our group and we arrived back at the carpark early in the afternoon with plenty of time for the obligatory ice cream stop in Woodville.

We were : Sharon Hoult, Denise and Terry Knight, John Gee Taylor, Darlene Westrupp, Don McDonald, Ian and Holly Algie, Wendy Ross and Tim Swale.

Te Araroa Trail – Burton's Track **17th November**

Leader: Bev Akers

19 trampers

This trip took a total of 5 hr.



Above: Our ticket out of here!
(A wander in the Tararuas Trip | 21-24/10/2005 | Photo: Garry Grayson).



Above: Stanfield Hut.
(Stanfield Hut Trip | 13/11/2005 | Photo: Tim Swale).

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 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	Tony Evans	357 4355
Day Trip Convenor	Vacant	
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	358 3319
Lodge Booking Officers	Hugh & Liz Wilde	356 9450
		wildeh@clear.net.nz
Mini-bus Manager	Neville Gray	357 2768
General Committee	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.

