



# beechleaves

Newsletter of the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club

August 2006  
Issue 7

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Ruapehu skiing  
Photo: Tim Swale



## Upcoming club nights

Body Care + Photo Comp + The Outback

7.30 pm, 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at the Manawatu Aero Club Rooms, Airport Drive

### 1st August - Taking care of your body in the outdoors

Glenn Pendergrast will be speaking to us about taking care of your body in the outdoors. Topics include: 1. Pre ski-season fitness. This quick and easy programme really works. 2. Taking your creaking and arthritic joints out tramping. Don't just ignore those first signs. Things you should do..... 3. Surviving on the Tararua tops. Recent hypothermia, dehydration, and fatigue research. Practical advice for tramping in extreme conditions. 4. Answers to any physiotherapy questions you might have.

### 15th August - MTSC photo competition

Time to dust off those slides and prints or go through that collection of digital photos on your computer as the annual club photo competition is coming up on the 15th of August. Basically you enter photos in the following categories with the one condition that photos shouldn't have been entered in a previous photo competition.

### 5th September - Outback 4WD adventure

Peter Carver spent his June on a four wheel drive trek across the Australian Outback. A convoy of three four-wheel drive vehicles left Alice Springs and travelled west across the Outback covering thousands of kilometres across dirt roads before heading back to Alice Springs. Come to this club-night to heard Peter speak about this unique part of the world and no doubt see some spectacular scenery very different from our own. (Photos top-bottom: Adam Matich, Editor, Sam Gillingham).



**Harsh winter:** Hasn't it been a cold and white winter so far? The photos throughout this newsletter are a testament to how quickly weather conditions can change out there so it is good to read that there weren't many occasions for people getting caught short. Safe trails to you all, Wei (Editor).

# President's Report

## Winter + SAR + Club Subscriptions

by **Howard Nicholson**

email [mtsc.president@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mtsc.president@xtra.co.nz) or phone (06) 357 6325

What an awesome start to Winter we have had! The local hills have been cloaked in snow, and swollen rivers have meant our club has been involved in more Search and Rescue work. Members and their employers are to be commended for making their time available for such a worthy cause. Of course, the short day lengths mean we have to be careful on our own trips; a night out without shelter is not very pleasant – just ask the people who were recently evacuated from the Oroua River.

For a piece of the action at the mountain, give Liz and Hugh Wilde a call, and they will gladly find a place for you in the lodge. But be warned – it's a bumper season so book early!

Subscriptions are now past due, so for the few people that have not yet paid, please do so now to ensure you continue to get the benefits of membership such as member rates at the lodge and FMC discount cards. This will be the last newsletter for those who haven't paid, so please be quick – we would much rather have you in the club!

Finally, thank you to the many people who took part in the recent food carry/work party at the lodge. A good clean, food stored away, and two shiny new stoves were accomplished.

## Chief Guide's Report

by **Tony Evans**

There has been a lot of early snow and rain this winter and to enjoy the hills trampers must be well clothed. The days of the mountain mule pack, swandri and oilskin have gone to be replaced by aluminium framed packs with lumbar support, micro-fleece and gortex. Those were the good old days but for comfort, lightness and convenience give me the modern gear every time.

## Message from the Club

by **Christine Scott**

The club's condolences go to Neville Gray whose wife, Eleanor, passed away on the 14th July after a long illness. Eleanor will be remembered by many of us for the help she gave Neville in the booking of the mini bus. Many

are the times we would ring up to book the mini bus and it was Eleanor who would patiently do the booking.

## New Club Members

The club welcomes:

Stuart and Susan Henderson and family (Lower Hutt), Jason Stevenson (PN), Francois & Lydia van Driel (PN) and Scott Wythe and Kelly-Anne Philp (Feilding).

## Lodge Lockers

by **Howard Nicholson**

Please note that gear from disused lockers was removed during the recent lodge work party (see July newsletter). The gear may be picked up from the lodge, or contact Chris White or a committee member to arrange for it to be returned. We have photos of the gear if you suspect it may be yours. Note that we intend to dispose of the unclaimed gear (and alcohol!) at the end of August.

DoC workers repairing part of the Klein track part of the Manawatu Gorge track

Photo: Jo Greig  
Manawatu Gorge  
23 May 2006



## Minibus Replacement

by Howard Nicholson

This notice is advance warning that the committee is starting to consider whether we should replace our existing Transit minibus. This possibility was raised at the AGM. As a first step, we have discussed what features of a minibus may be important to us. The following features have been noted as important: safety (e.g. three-point seat belts, head rests); minimum 9/maximum 12 seats; internal storage for packs; preferably short wheelbase (although this needs to be defined); sufficient leg room for longer journeys; and reliable.

Your comments and input are sought. If you have any comments you wish to make, then please contact a committee member, or you could email your suggestions to [mtsc.president@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mtsc.president@xtra.co.nz).

## MTSC Photo Competition

by Howard Nicholson

Time to dust off those slides and prints or go through that collection of digital photos on your computer as the annual club photo competition is coming up on August 15. Enter photos in the following categories, the one condition is that photos shouldn't have been entered in a previous photo competition.

### Alpine (NZ)

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

### Scenic (NZ)

Pictorial interest in NZ hills etc (i.e. 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.

The best three photos in each category will be put forward to represent the club at this years Interclub photo competition between PNTMC, MUAC and ourselves.

If possible, please send your digital picture entries to Howard Nicholson by the 13th of August, via CDs or email ([mtsc.president@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mtsc.president@xtra.co.nz)) so that they can be arranged into categories and tested prior to the night. I can also scan slides if you wish.



Department of Conservation  
Te Papa Ataubai

## Department of Conservation Hut and Track Notes

### Pohangina Field Centre Ruahine News

#### Tracks and Huts

- Tracks to cableway and river from Kawhatau Base have been cut.
- Kelly Knights Hut has had vegetation clearance
- Wasp control on nest below Otukota Hut carried out.
- Takapari Road in Ruahine Forest Park is closed until further notice due to snow/weather/track conditions.
- Slip on the Klein Section of Manawatu Gorge Track is passable but care must be taken.

#### Purity Hut Open

Purity Hut, one of the most popular in the Ruahine Ranges has been rebuilt and is now open to the public. The old Purity Hut, which was built in 1928, was dismantled as it no longer provided visitors with an enjoyable experience. Work began on the new hut in May and the hut was closed while contractors battled rain, wind and snow to construct the new hut in a more elevated site with fantastic views out to Kapiti, Mt Egmont/Taranaki, and Mt Ruapehu.

The hut sleeps six, has a deck around the outside, and a pioneer stove for heating. Recreation Manager Arend Renting says for a back country experience this will be hard to beat. Purity Hut is a popular overnight stay on the way to the Hikurangi Range. It is the gateway to Waterfall Hut and provides a jumping off point for west-east crossings. It is situated close to the Mangaweka Trig (1733m) which is the highest point of the Ruahine Forest Park.

For further details contact:

Jo Greig (Community Relations Manager, Department of Conservation, Palmerston North Office. Email: [jgreig@doc.govt.nz](mailto:jgreig@doc.govt.nz)).

# 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.

<b>ALL</b>	All welcome
<b>EASY</b>	4 hours per day, pace slower than Easy/Med. Does not relate to terrain.
<b>EASY/MEDIUM</b>	5 hours per day at a pace slower than medium.
<b>MEDIUM</b>	7 hours per day at a standard walking pace.
<b>MEDIUM/FIT</b>	8 hours per day at a pace faster than medium.
<b>FIT</b>	Over 8 hours per day at a pace faster than medium/fit.
<b>TECHNICAL</b>	Qualifying requirements to be announced by the trip organiser.

### Thursday Trampers

27 July

Merv Matthews

Please phone for details.

Medium

357 2858

### Mangatainoka Hot Springs (Kawekas)

29-30 July

Tim Swale

This is an excellent winter walk that follows the Mohaka River to Te Puia Lodge and then beyond to the thermal area at Mangatainoka hot springs. Assuming the ford north of Puketitiri is passable, the walk starts at the road end at Mangatutu Hot Springs. The intention is to walk for a couple of hours to Te Puia Lodge, leave heavy overnight gear and take togs and torch another 45 min up to the hot springs. After a warming soak in the hot tubs, just the perfect antidote to a chilly evening, we will return to the hut for dinner. The next day we walk back downstream to Mangatutu Hot Springs where those keen can have another dip before the long drive home.

Easy/Medium

06 376 6556

### Wharite

30 July

Tony Evans

From the Coppermine Road car park we follow the track a short distance up the stream before taking the track to the left which follows a ridge all the way to the main divide, then left again along the top to the tower for lunch. Retracing our steps to the road end with maybe a detour to some of the old mining works on the way.

Easy/Medium

357 4355

### Wednesday Trampers

2 August

Colleen Newth

Please phone for details.

Easy

355 4667

### Thursday Trampers

3 August

Carolyn Brodie

Please phone for details.

Easy/Medium

358 6576

### Beginners and Family Ski Weekend

5-6 August

Peter Rawlins

All Welcome

356 7443

This weekend is the opportunity for those of you who would like to give skiing a go or have had one or two days and are looking to get a little better. I have put both a beginners ski weekend and a family weekend to cater for those families or groups of friends who have a couple of experienced people and a couple of beginners. Please make sure that you let Liz and Hugh know which group you want to be with when you book with her. I have include the prices for the package deals for Whakapapa so that you know what the costs might be. This is quite competitive as a lower mountain lift pass is \$57 and a group lesson is \$35. In addition to these cost there will be transport costs to the mountain (\$30 in the minibus or \$40 in private cars) and accommodation in the lodge refer to trip card or website for appropriate costs (see back page).

#### Discover Ski or Snowboard Package:

This package is for those who have never skied or snowboarded before. It includes rental equipment for the day, a lift pass for Happy Valley and a 2 hr first timer group lesson. Lessons will depart from the Snow School meeting area in Happy Valley every half hour from 9.30 a.m. - 2 p.m.

	Adult	Youth
Discover Ski Package	\$76	\$52
Discover Snowboard Package	\$82	\$57

#### Next Step Ski or Snowboard Package:

The next step package is perfect for those who may have had one or two days and would like to refine their skills. This package includes rental equipment for the day, a Lower Mountain Lift pass, and a 2 hr advanced beginner or lower intermediate group lesson. Lessons depart from the Snow School Meeting area at the bottom of the Centennial Chairlift at 10.30, 12.30 and 2 pm.

	Adult	Youth
Next Step Ski Package	\$92	\$61
Next Step Snowboard Package	\$98	\$66

If you are booking in for the beginner weekend then give me a ring to discuss the sort of gear that you will need to take. Bring on the snow.

### **Te Atuaoparapara - CANCELLED**

**6 August** **Medium/Fit**  
**Garry Grayson** **353 3117**  
 Trip not running due to work commitments.

### **Thursday Trampers**

**10 August** **Easy/Medium**  
**Harry & Chris Allardice** **323 4390**  
 Please phone for details.

### **Family Ski Weekend**

**12-13 August** **All Welcome**  
**Howard Nicholson** **357 6325**  
 The snow is fine and hopefully the weather will be too. Please book your place in the lodge with Liz and Hugh, and contact me if you want any further details or to arrange transport.

### **Waterfall Hut**

**12-13 August** **Medium/Fit**  
**Jean Garman** **354 3536**  
 Waterfall Hut, a classic NZFS 6 bunker, is a beautiful place to visit even in the middle of winter. We will head in from the North Block Road, up the Waipawa River to Waipawa Saddle but the route taken from there will be dependent on the weather. It is quite likely that we will want to take ice axes and crampons.

### **Deadman's Loop**

**13 August** **Medium**  
**David Newstead** **025 576 175**  
 Alternatively call me at work 350 4649 for details.

### **Wednesday Trampers**

**16 August** **Easy**  
**Margaret Gillingham** **356 8812**  
 Please phone for details.

### **Thursday Trampers**

**17 August** **Easy/Medium**  
**Ann Green** **06 374 5208**  
 Please phone for details.

### **Totara Flats Hut**

**19-20 August** **Easy/Medium**  
**Jenny McCarthy** **06 376 8838**  
 We will be leaving Palmerston North at 8 a.m. I am planning an easy walk into Totara Flats via the Holdsworth Road end.

### **Mangaturuturu Hut/Lake Surprise**

**19-20 August** **Easy/Medium**  
**Hilary Hurst** **359 1905**  
*Note that the date of this trip has changed from the original date of the 5-6 August.*

Only a couple of hours walk to the hut and maybe another hour to the lake (but a couple of hours drive as we go up the Ohakune Mountain Road). This is a beautiful trip – about a third in tussock; a third negotiating the cascades and finishing with a wee bit of beech forest before the hut. Here we drop the heavy stuff and head up for a look at the lake. It is easy time-wise but can be technical at times if there is a bit of ice and snow about. So good boots and wet weather gear is important. We went in 2004 and had a magical weekend. Definitely appropriate to bring a bottle of wine and relaxed attitude. Don't worry about ice and snow cos a bit of team work will get us through (provided we get up the road). Plan B would be a longer walk up the road before getting to the track; or going to Blyth Hut. I can also be contacted on (021) 343 451.

### **Colenso Trig**

**20 August** **Easy/Medium**  
**Mark Street** **353 7442**

This trip starts from the DoC Kawhatau field base at the end of Rangitane Road in the western Ruahines. The climb up to the trig has two reasonably steep sections with a gently grade in between. The altitude gain is 740 m. Colenso trig is on a prominent high point in tussock country; so in fine weather the views are impressive. Tramping time 5.5-6 hr. Start time: 7 a.m.

### **Thursday Trampers**

**24 August** **Easy/Medium**  
**Stuart Malcolm** **358 3409**  
 Please phone for details.

### **Intermediate Alpine**

**26-27 August** **Technical**  
**Howard Nicholson** **357 6325**

Following on from Brian Webster's Beginners' Alpine course, we will be based at the Lodge and venturing into the white stuff for a play and a practice. This is a chance to try out a few mountaineering rope tricks and anchor systems, and to consolidate techniques.

### **Powell Hut**

**26-27 August** **Easy**  
**Don MacDonald** **357 0222**  
 Please phone for details.

### **Field Hut/Table Top**

**27 August** **Easy/Medium**  
**Glen Pendergrast** **356 7487**

Leaving at 8 a.m. for Otaki Forks. We will head up to the historic Field Hut for lunch and then on a bit to Table Top for the views. This first/last part of the Southern Crossing is always a popular day walk. Back to the cars the same way.

### **Wednesday Trampers**

**30 August** **Easy**  
**Ken Rush** **357 2529**  
 Please phone for details.

**Thursday Trampers**

**31 August**

**Ivan Alve**

Please phone for details.

**Easy/Medium**

**356 3123**

depend on the weather and energy levels and returning to the vehicle on Sunday via the same route.

**Mitre Flats Hut**

**23-24 September**

**Tony Evans**

We will leave the vehicle at the Mount Holdsworth Road end on Saturday morning and follow the track up the Atiwhakatu Stream and on to Mitre Flats Hut by the Waingawa River. Options of a detour to visit Jumbo or Baldy will

**Easy/Medium**

**357 4355**

**Thursday Trampers**

**28 September**

**Tony Evans**

This trip will be to Te Mara Trig. Please phone for more details.

**Easy/Medium**

**357 4355**

**Top: Purity Hut**

Photo: Jo Greig  
(7 May 2006)

**Bottom: Cone Hut**

Photo: Gary Bevins  
(Tutuwai Trip | 17  
June 2006)



Right: **Snow on Rangiwahia Bridge**

Photo: Adam Matich (Rangiwahia Trip | 24 June 2006)

Below: **Somewhere on Ngamoko Ridge**

Photo: Dave Allan (Toka Trip | 15 June 2006)



## Trip reports

### Herepai Hut

15 June

by Ken Rush

Fifteen Thursday trampers made the tramp to Herepai Hut on the 15th of June. The weather was reasonable on the way up but was wet, windy and cold on the tops. Ten trampers left the hut after lunch and braved the weather for a short time. The other five stayed inside and either slept or played bridge. Thanks to Don MacDonald for driving the van and providing the cards!

### Toka

18 June

by Glenn Pendergrast

Dave Allan and I left the car park beyond Sixtus Lodge just after 9.00 am and headed up Knights Track. Coal Creek was low so we managed the two crossings with dry feet. It was drizzling as we chugged up the spur; Dave getting wet with his jacket off and I was getting wetter with my jacket on. Sheltered by the last of the trees, we stood in the snow for an early lunch then broke out the hats and mitts and headed up. Once on Ngamoko Ridge the flying ice-crystals discouraged us from visiting the trig and we pushed along the tops towards Shorts Track. I

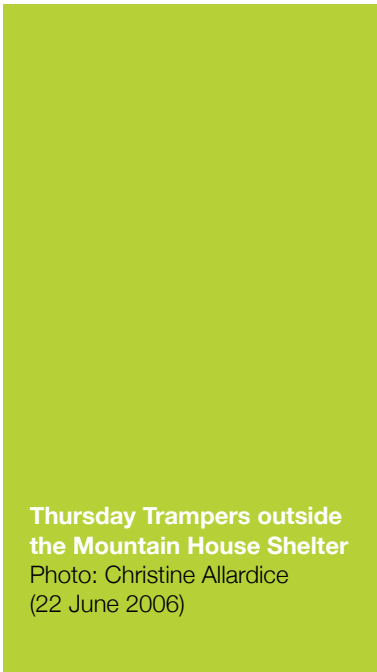
was soon regretting not wearing over trousers since forcing through tussock which was covered in razor-ice was sandpapering my knees raw. At the rain gauge we turned off and headed down a track consisting of snow-covered holes, bogs, and drop-offs. Every second step was a lucky dip. As soon as we were back in the trees, and the snow was back to falling as non-abrasive flakes, we had a second lunch before completing the loop back to the car. The rain picked up as we climbed the car park stile and we had an audience of sheep as we took turns at getting changed under Dave's umbrella. It was a good work-out and we were back in town well before dark.

### Tutawai Tail

17-18 June

by Jemma

The weather forecast for the weekend was atrocious. This cast doubts about the intelligence of these humans doing this trip. My master & keeper, plus three others traveled in the minibus (with me tucked in under the seats). First stop was the bakery at Carterton. I could smell pies, sausage rolls, pizzas and cakes not to mention coffee & hot chocolate. I waited patiently tied to a tree, keeping guard of the bus. I was rewarded with a big sau-



**Thursday Trampers outside the Mountain House Shelter**  
 Photo: Christine Allardice  
 (22 June 2006)

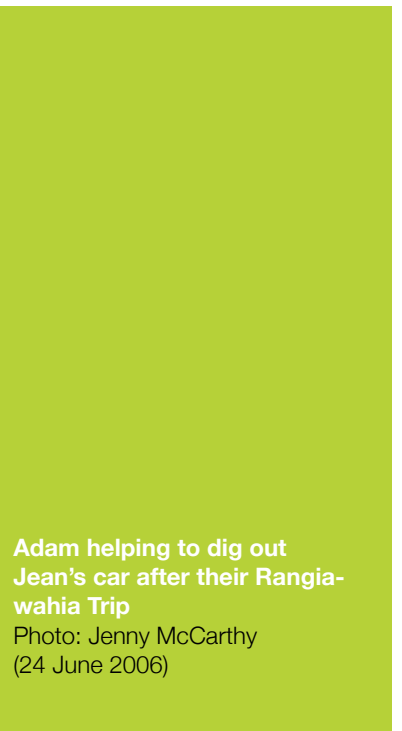


sage roll. Then it was on to Walls Whare carpark. After watching the first two cross the swing bridge I realize that this bridge was the longest and “swingiest” I’ve ever been on. Three-quarters of the way across - I didn’t like it. So turned around to head home but my master who was following insisted I turn around and continue across. These bridges aren’t wide enough for dogs to turn on.

Then it was all uphill for about one hour until a nice flat area on bump 695 m where they stopped to talk (man it was cold). The group split going different directions. I tried to follow Bev (my keeper) and John as they would be taking the easier and quicker route to the hut via Cone. But Gary (my master) called me to heel. We continued along a different route along with Adam and Garry (mac). There were not many markers on the trees but pretty straight forward following a ridge till we got to snow and Mt Reeves (3 hr). Here we stopped for a quick

lunch, for we were on the Reeves - Woodside Track which would take us to Tutawai. The snow was cold but fun. Less than 1 hour down hill I could smell smoke, and yes the hut - yay. Thanks Bev and John for getting the fire going and water boiled for a brew. I had to be contented with same old tux biscuits and my mat. After a few hours the door opened and Gary had a Billy with left overs - Yum! Warm food was a welcome on such a cold night.

The morning was clear with a frost. Snow could be seen on Marchant Ridge. Along we walked following the river flats till we reached another, but very old, hut - Cone Hut on the sign. This was the reverse trip Bev and John did yesterday taking them just over 3 hrs in total. It was uphill from here till we reached the point where the party had split yesterday, then down to that dreaded swing bridge and yes, rain. It got very wet and



**Adam helping to dig out Jean’s car after their Rangiahia Trip**  
 Photo: Jenny McCarthy  
 (24 June 2006)



cold. Just as well we got going in good time this morning as the weather really turned to custard. Glad to be in the bus heading home, stopping off at the bakery for lunch. I slept most the way home with the heater blowing heat on my back - Thanks Guys for a fun but gurr cold walk. I'm into hut bagging, these two huts meant I'm just short of 100 - woof woof. Thanks Gary (master), Bev (keeper), John Beech, Garry Grayson (mac) & Adam Matich.

### Atiwhakatu Hut - Holdsworth

21 June

Leader: Margaret Foot

11 trampers.

### Mountain House Shelter - Holdsworth

22 June

Leader: Ray Pratt

8 trampers.

Because of all the deep snow, the shelter was far enough.

### Lodge Food Carry / Midwinter Feast

24-25 June

by Ken Mercer

“We'll all be rooned, said Hanrahan” is an Ausie poem about pessimism. This food carry was certainly notable for its pessimists. “The roads are closed – we'll never get there.” “We might get to Whakakapa village but will freeze to death in the DOC shelter.” “The truck with the food will never make it up.” “You'll break your backs carrying the ovens over.”

Well, many roads had been closed but during Friday they opened. In fact the Bruce road only required chains from Scoria Flat. It was extremely windy and the car park was slick with ice so we parked where it wasn't so steep and trudged into the lodge.

On Saturday morning the weather continued to improve. Cold and windy but clear and blue. Tucked away in the basement was a fantastic sledge made from 2” light gauge stainless steal tube – the perfect size for an oven. So with a mile of rope and a snow stake for belaying the first oven was dragged to the car park.

The belay turned out to be unnecessary as the snow was firm and not icy so by the end of the morning the new ovens were wired in (thanks, Ivan) and cooking the first batch of pin-wheel scones. The truck with the food arrived later in the afternoon and we were able to form a human chain and unload all four pallets onto the icy car park. This sure beat cramming it into our trailer to keep the rain off.

The walkers walked, the checkers checked, the stackers stacked. Children kept the walkers well supplied with water, tea and biscuits and dinner the feast was prepared. Just on dark the hard work was all done and we enjoyed a most convivial evening.

The following morning, Sunday, the weather was calm and clear. Skiers went up the mountain (an unheard of event for a food carry) and a group headed down the Whakapapaiti track. What should have been a leisurely stroll became a slog through knee deep snow. Ahh – the joys of winter!

### Maharahara - No - Burn Hut

25 June

by Rod McKenzie

After receiving only one expression of interest during the preceding week, two trampers met at the agreed time on Sunday morning. A quick look towards the Ruahines from the city, disclosed clag from top to bottom (the weather had been wet and windy all week) whereas the Tauraruas were in clear sunshine. A decision was quickly reached to change our destination so, after a telephone



Ferrying food across to the lodge via a human chain  
Photo: Ken Mercer  
(24 June 2006)



**Thursday Trampers outside Blue Range Hut**  
 Photo: Christine Allardice  
 (29 June 2006)

call home to advise of the change, we set off for Burn Hut. The drive to No 2 dam on the Mangahau River behind Shannon was easy as the weather in the valley was calm under blue sky. A pleasant 2 hr climb up the hill brought us to the bush edge. Along the crest in the warm sun got us to the hut for lunch. The return trip went without hitch and we were back in PN before dark. We noticed that the clag was still on the Ruahines but we had had a great day in the Tauraruas. We were Alan Rae and Rod McKenzie.

**Blue Range Hut**  
**29 June**

**Leader: Gordon Clark**

13 trampers.

Some went further along the track towards Cow Saddle getting into deeper snow.

**Sunrise Hut (Mid Winter Feast)**

**6 July**

**Leader: Bev Akers**

17 trampers.

Knee deep in snow on the track & even thicker round the hut. Rain made it very cold & bleak. There was a notice at the carpark informing us of maybe no gas at the hut because of the freezing conditions - They were right. So be prepared if staying over night for a very cold one.

**Te Mara Loop**

**10 July**

**by Adam Matich**

The unseasonably clement weather and a very low-maintenance party encouraged trip leader to make the best of a sunny day and make the loop a big one. We left the Kiriwhakapapa road end at 8:20 am to climb up the



**A Mid Winter Feast was had at Sunrise Hut recently**  
 Photo: Christine Allardice  
 (6 July 2006)



### Shall we drop down to Mitre Flats Hut for lunch?

Photo: Gary Bevins  
(Te Mara Loop Trip | 10 July 2006)

Blue Range track. At the 978 m junction we headed SW and as the track started to sidle across the face of Te Mara peak we left the main track and headed straight up. If you are observant you can pick up the faint track where it leaves the main track that heads to Cow Saddle. We reached Te Mara at about 10:50 for morning tea and a climb of the trees to get a view of the snow covered Table Ridge, Mitre, the Kings and the Pinnacles.

From there it took us 90 minutes (12:20 p.m.), or so, of travel along Blue Range to reach Bruce Hill for our lunch stop. There were a couple of spots on the way where we broke out of the bush to take in the views. Blue Range is variable, with a faint trail in places and a bit overgrown in others, with the occasional glance of the map and compass being necessary. The travel was never 'nasty', just a bit slower in spots and the party did exactly what trip leader demanded of them, so it was a pleasant day for all...well for trip leader anyway. Some kind locals have cut down some trees on Bruce Hill to create a nice opening where we were able to have lunch in the sun... although not for too long for fear of getting burnt.

From then on (12:45 p.m.) we picked up the spur that drops (SE) off Bruce Hill to the southern end of the Mikimiki tramway. This trail is generally very easy to follow as the locals have done some clearing and a lot of track marking. There are one or two spots where it is necessary to pay attention, but for the most part it is as good as a DoC track and so it took us only 75 minutes (2 p.m.) to reach the footbridge at the bottom. From there we steamed back home along the tramway (80 min) to reach the car after a 7-hour day at a medium-fit pace.

Tony, especially, was steaming after falling over at the first stream crossing and stepping in a hole at the second. But then there is always an attention seeker. We were surprised at how dry the forest was, and even the tramway wasn't particularly wet. Either that area is a very fast draining sponge or it didn't get the really heavy rain last week.

We were Tony Evans, Garry Grayson, Gary Bevins, and Adam Matich

### Manawatu Gorge Track

13 July

**Leader: Peter Carver**

Lunch at the Cafe.

N.B. We would like to say a big thank you to Don McDonald for taking time out to clean the outside of the club minivan and Howard for organizing the grooming - much appreciated.

### Purity Hut

21 July

**by Graham Pritchard**

Another wet Thursday! Strangely enough it seems to bring out the big numbers. Thirteen trampers set off and duly arrived, somewhat dampened in clothing but not in spirits, at the brand new Purity Hut. An excellent hut which will be a good base for tramps along the Hikurangi Range. We were especially impressed by the big window in the door of the toilet (visited by all 13 members) offering the prospect of great views (alas not on this occasion).

# Club Information

## Annual Hut Passes

Support our club in the Tararuas. Buy your Annual Hut Pass through DoC. The full price of an Annual Hut Pass is \$90 but is reduced to \$63 with your Federated Mountain Club (FMC) card discount. Jean Garman will provide you with a form to fill in which will be sent off with your cheque and FMC card (if you have one) to DoC Waikanae who will post you an Annual Hut Pass. Note that MTSC family memberships only pay one FMC sub so only one FMC card (and therefore discount) is available per family. Contact Jean at [jean.garman@fonterra.com](mailto:jean.garman@fonterra.com) or phone (06) 354 3536.

## For Sale

DoC hut tickets - discount rates to members. Contact: Howard Nicholson on (06) 357 6325.

## Accommodation at the MTSC lodge on Mount Ruapehu

The lodge is close to Iwikau Village, has power, hot showers, and is stocked with food. The lodge phone number is (07) 892 3860. Lodge bookings can be made between 9:30 am and 9:30 pm on any day of the week. Please do not call outside of these hours. Note that bookings are not confirmed until the fees are paid. Payment is in advance by cheque or cash. Contact Hugh & Liz Wilde on (06) 356 9450.



	Members	Non-members
Adult	\$21	\$33
Secondary 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 6 pm Friday.
2. Cancel bookings by these times so others needing the van have time to amend travel arrangements.
3. Check the oil, water, and tyres.
4. Fill in the travel sheet (km, people, and dollars).
5. A fly should be carried on every tramp, there is always one in the passenger door of the club van and they are available from the Gear Custodian at no charge.

Trip leaders and those planning trips should seriously consider using this cost effect club asset. Neville Gray is our minibus custodian and he can be contacted at (06) 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 bivvy bags and two 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 (06) 356 7443.

## Articles for the newsletter

Send by the 15th of each month to Wei-Hang Chua (editor) at [morepork@ihug.co.nz](mailto:morepork@ihug.co.nz). Please contact me if you'd prefer to receive your newsletter by email only. Send changes of address to the Membership Secretary at P.O. Box 245, Palmerston North.

## Club website | [www.mtsc.org.nz](http://www.mtsc.org.nz)

This includes a club contact email address and is hosted by InSPire Net. The club webpage is maintained by Howard Nicholson and is kindly hosted by InSPire Net.

## People to contact

If you would like to contact the club with general inquiries, please drop a line to MTSC, P.O. Box 245, Palmerston North and it will reach the appropriate person. If you want a particular topic discussed at Committee meetings, this is a good way to go about it.

### MTSC 2006-07 Committee

<b>President</b>	Howard Nicholson	357 6325 <a href="mailto:mtsc.president.xtra.co.nz">mtsc.president.xtra.co.nz</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Tim Swale	06 376 6556
<b>Treasurer</b>	Doug McNeur	359 1893
<b>Chief Guide</b>	Tony Evans	357 4355
<b>Day Trip Convenor</b>	Bev Akers	325 8879
<b>Membership Sec.</b>	Mark Street	353 7442 <a href="mailto:mtsc@inspire.net.nz">mtsc@inspire.net.nz</a>
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Wei-Hang Chua	021 212 0369 <a href="mailto:morepork@ihug.co.nz">morepork@ihug.co.nz</a>
<b>Social Convenor</b>	Linda Campbell	323 3836
<b>Ski Captain</b>	Ken Mercer	356 7497
<b>Lodge Manager</b>	Ryan Badger	027 445 1997
<b>Lodge Booking Officers</b>	Hugh & Liz Wilde	356 9450 <a href="mailto:wildeh@clear.net.nz">wildeh@clear.net.nz</a>
<b>Mini-bus manager</b>	Neville Gray	357 2768
<b>General Committee</b>	Bev Akers	325 8879
	Roger Athersuch	353 0434
	Darlene Westrupp	354 5764
<b>Imm. Past President</b>	Christine Scott	354 0510