



beechleaves

Newsletter of the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club

September 2006
Issue 8

mail:
MTSC
P.O. Box 245
Palmerston North

web:
www.mtsc.org.nz

Heaphy Track
by Alla Seleznyova



Upcoming club nights

The Outback + Antarctica + Charity Tramp

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

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 hear 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).

19th September - Camping with emperor penguins in Antarctica

John Cockrem will talk about a field trip to Cape Washington in Northern Victoria Land in Antarctica. John and his group camped on sea ice near the emperor penguin rookery which is the second largest in Antarctica. The talk will include their work with the penguins and the flights along the coast from Scott Base and further north to Cape Hallett.

3rd October - Tramping for charity

In April, 198 teams of 4 people tramped through some of New Zealand's most beautiful scenery around Taupo in the 100 km Oxfam Trailwalker. Lyn McCurdy was part of a team including Warren Dickson and MTSC members Dianne Broadly and Don McDonald. The purpose of the event was to raise awareness and funds to help fight poverty and injustice in the world's poorest countries and to take up a physical challenge to boot. Lyn will speak to us on her team's experience, they completed the walk in 32 hours - a bit behind the Hong Kong team that ran it in about 11.

Change of email address: I have followed Howard's lead and changed my email address to mtsc.editor@extra.co.nz to ease collection of club items in my inbox. Please use this in future.

President's Report

Photo competition + Interclub Quiz

by Howard Nicholson

email mtsc.president@xtra.co.nz or phone (06) 357 6325

It seems to be the season for competitions. We have just held our club photo competition, and we will compete in the Interclub photo competition against PNTMC and MUAC on the 28th of September. Also coming up is the Interclub Quiz, which usually provides a bit of entertainment. This year it will be run by MUAC, and although the date is yet to be set, it is expected to be during Sept/Oct. Please contact a committee member if you wish to participate, or watch the website (www.mtsc.org.nz) for further details. As always, supporters at these events are very welcome.

The hills are looking fantastic cloaked in snow, so I hope that you get the chance to enjoy it soon.

Chief Guide's Report

by Tony Evans

It may be wet and cold but it is time to start planning the summer trip card. The trip card meeting will be held in the Rose and Crown on Tuesday the 26th of September starting as usual with a meal at 6:30 pm. If you are unable to come along please contact me with your trip plans on 357 4355 or email tevanspn@hotmail.com, preferably prior to the meeting.

Ski Captain's Report

by Ken Mercer

It's the sport of kings! Well I think so anyway. I used to be impatient with queues, slow chair lifts, and T bars. But now I don't see them as wasted time because the scenery is so magnificent. There's the way the ice accumulates on the rocks or the snow flurries grace the peaks and the whole thing changes dynamically as the chair rises up the mountain.

The environment tends to be a bit dynamic too. Last weekend was typical clag! We were

skiing from marker to marker in a white world. Non skiers won't appreciate how difficult it is to see when cloud makes the light flat so the snow has no shadows or glints. I skied over a 0.5m drop onto a track, expecting it somewhere but unable to see it. I couldn't help but be impressed by modern gloves as the ice accumulated around my fingers. The scenery was still impressive although it faded with distance. Also, to be honest, we left early. Motion sickness is a terrible thing!

Even kings like dry boots and gloves and I've installed a mk2 boot drier in the lodge, (aided by Scott Bevins and Logan Westwood who put the grunt into getting it across!) We've used mk1, which is in our garage, with great success for several years. The boots sit upside down on tubes so any water drains out (this is more important with tramping boots after washing) and a slow stream of air blows through. And there's room for gloves too. An advantage of cold air is the bugs don't grow so smells don't develop. Mk2 though, is in the boot locker in the basement where the heater speeds up the drying process.

Petrol is, of course, a major cost these days and we also have a community responsibility to go easy on green house gases. For the last year

Rock hopping
through the snow
Photo: Ivan Rienks
(Not quite Waterfall
Hut Trip |
12-13 August 2006)



or so I have made a point of not exceeding 100 km/hr, and frequently cruising at 90.

Without going into the maths fuel consumption increases heaps at higher speed so slowing down a bit is quite significant. 40 mpg (7 l/100 km) is a figure I wouldn't have dreamed of a few years ago but our 15 year old car is achieving that, including some shopping trips.

New Club Members

The club welcomes:

Geraldine & Theohavis Fovakis (PN) rejoin after a 20 year absence
James & Mary Frankham (Auckland)
Colleen Franklin (Hastings)
Kim Garnham (Auckland).

Club Photo Competition

by Howard Nicholson

Once again there was an excellent array of images submitted for the 2006 competition, as you will see in the newsletter over the coming months. The best three photos from each section will go into the Interclub Competition to be held at the Quakers Hall, 227 College Street, Palmerston North, at 7:45pm on Thursday 28 September 2006. Come along to support your club and to see some more stunning images.

Mountain Equipment kindly donated a copy of *Mountain Solitudes* by Aat Vervoorn - thanks Dave, Gaewyn and co. for your continued support of our club. The book was awarded to Alla Seleznyova for her image of Mountain Neinei.

I also sincerely apologise to Roger Athersuch and Glyn Thomas, who sent images to me in time for the competition, however I did not have them with me on the night. I hope that you can make the images available at next year's event.

Alpine (NZ)

1st: Ruapehu Crater Rim (Tim Swale)
2nd: Taranaki (Tim Swale)
3rd: Ruapehu Shelter (Tim Swale)

Scenic (NZ)

1st: Dundle Hill (Alla Seleznyova)
2nd: Oroua River (Tim Swale)
3rd: Heaphy (Alla Seleznyova)

Natural History (NZ)

1st: Dragonfly (Ken Mercer)
2nd: Powelliphanta (Alla Seleznyova)
3rd: Karearea near Armstrong Saddle (Howard Nicholson)

Topical (NZ)

1st: Mt. Bruce Sunrise (Tim Swale)
2nd: SAREX - Oroua (Tim Swale)
3rd: Ruapae Stream bashing (Sue Nicholson)

Overseas: Open

1st: Washington State, USA (Marty Schmidt)
2nd: Aussie Parrot (Glyn Thomas)
3rd: Night, USA (Marty Schmidt)

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.

Tararua Trampers Beware

Contributed by Doug McNeur

Be aware that DOC will be dropping 1080 into the Otaki area from 21 August. This is intended to reduce possum and rat numbers in this area. The area covers pretty much all of the Otaki river catchment from Otaki Forks all the way up to the valley head just South of Te Matawai hut. This area should be treated with caution up to 30 April 2007. For further information call the Kapiti DOC office on ph 04 296 1112.



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Department of Conservation Hut and Track Notes

Rangiwahia Hut

DoC is seeking public feedback on the possible relocation of Rangiwahia Hut on the Ruahine Range. The hut's current location is on the slip prone Rangiwahia Track which is very unstable. A detour around a major slip has been in place for several years, but the slip face is constantly deteriorating and a long term solution is needed. One proposal is to shift or rebuild the hut on nearby Deadman's Track. If you have feedback, contact Arend Renting (arenting@doc.govt.nz), Department of Conservation, Private Bag 11010, Palmerston North.

For further details contact:

Jo Greig (Community Relations Manager, Department of Conservation, Palmerston North Office. Email: 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.

ALL	All welcome
EASY	4 hours per day, pace slower than Easy/Med. 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 the trip organiser.

Thursday Trampers
7 September
Jill Spenser
 Phone for details.

Easy/Medium
329 8738

of course means a gentle uphill on the way back. I can also be contacted on 027 333 4493.

Skiing at the Lodge
9-10 September
Christine Scott
 Phone for details.

All welcome
354 0510

Thursday Trampers
21 September
Keith Fisher
 Phone for details.

Easy/Medium
357 1724

Blue Range Hut
10 September
Darlene Westrupp
 Blue Range Hut is a beautiful bright blue hut on Blue Range in the Tararuas. Access is from the Kiriwhakapapa Road end, not from Mt Bruce. We will leave town around 7 am. Please call Darlene for details and to join us. Phone work – 353 6091 or home as above.

Easy/Medium
354 5764

Mitre Flats Hut
23-24 September
Tony Evans

Easy/Medium
357 4355

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

Wednesday Trampers
13 September
Tina Fraser
 Phone for details.

Easy
328 7757

Mountain House Loop
24 September
Lorraine Sutherland
 Phone for details.

Easy
329 2577

Thursday Trampers
14 September
Ray Pratt
 Phone for details.

Easy/Medium
328 7884

Wednesday Trampers
27 September
Phil Pearce
 Phone for details.

Easy
354 6687

Mount Pirongia
16-17 September
Garry Grayson
 Phone for details.

Medium
353 3117

Thursday Trampers
28 September
Tony Evans

Easy/Medium
357 4355

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

Roaring Stag
17 September
Linda Campbell

Medium
323 3836

Gold Creek Hut
30-31 September
John Beech

Easy/Medium
354 9310

This is not a strenuous walk but it is a fairly long day. We head up the track as if going to Herepai Hut but go left at the turning rather than right. It is a gentle down hill to Roaring Stag hut which

Note that this trip differs from that advertised in the trip card. We will head up the Makororo to the junc-

tion with Gold Creek then up the ridge and down into Gold Creek again to the hut.

Waikamaka Hut

1 October

Dave Allan (See below)

Medium/Fit

323 9734

Due to a work commitment that weekend, out of the area, I am now unable to lead this trip. Have spoken to Tony Evans about the situation and we have decided to leave things as they stand meantime, in the hope that someone else may become available to lead the trip. I am quite happy to be used as the contact up until Thursday 28th September: Meet at the Palmerston North Police Station at 7:00 am, travel to road end start of trip to Triplex Hut (eastern Ruahines), overland route to Waipawa Forks Hut, up Waipawa riverbed to Waipawa Saddle, down headwater stream to Waikamaka Hut and return same way. A full days tramp.

Thursday Trampers

5 October

Bev Akers

Phone for details.

Easy/Medium

325 8879

Lake Dive (Taranaki)

7-8 October

Gary Bevins

We drive up Saturday morning earlyish to Mt Egmont - Dawson Falls car park. Then its a matter of whether we take the high track, which is out on tussock tops with lots of steps, or the low track which is in bush. Route will be dependent on the weather etc on the day. It is a cozy hut with a view of the lake. Come along for a cruisy weekend and the traditional stop off at the Bakery.

Easy/Medium

325 8879

Longview

8 October

David Newstead

Phone for details on mobile or at work at 350 4649.

Easy

025 576 175

Wednesday Trampers

11 October

Dave Warnock

Phone for details.

Easy

357 4140

Thursday Trampers

12 October

Neville Gray

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

357 2768

Ski Touring Traverse

14-15 October

Peter Rawlins

Phone for more details.

Technical

356 7443

Takapari

15 October

Jenny McCarthy

Phone for more details.

Easy

06 376 8838

Kawekas (Labour Weekend)

21-23 October

Mark Learmonth

Medium

355 9143

Destination this year is the Southern Kawaka's. We have two proposed circuit routes depending on the weather. Which route we take will decide closer to the day.

First route: Makahu Saddle. Up Makahu spur (this route depends on the wind), Kaweka Junction-south Mad Dog Hill, and then down to Studholme Saddle Hut for the night. Next Day dropping down Mackintosh Spur to Mackintosh Hut for the night. Then out North to Makahu Saddle.

Second route: Lakes road end up to Kiwi Saddle and then north to Castle camp for the night. Next day drop down to visit Studholme Saddle Hut and Bivvy and then drop down to Mackintosh for the night, then back to the road end.

Travel Times approx: Saturday (6 hr), Sunday (5 hr), and Monday (4.5 hr). We will leave early Saturday morning from Palmerston North. Looking forward to hearing from you

Atiwhakatu Hut

22 October

Sue Tuohy

We will get away from Palmerston North about 8:30am and head off to Holdsworth car park in the Tararuas, then along an almost flat track for about 2 hours to the Atiwhakatu Hut for lunch. Heading back the same way. Ring for more details.

Easy

353 3303

Whakapaiti Hut

28-29 October

John Doolan

A real easy graded trip, no question about that. Whakapaiti is just south of Whakapapa (the village on the side of Ruapehu). Ideal for first timers and family or a relaxed tramp for club members. There are no big hills and just a 3 1/2 hour stroll to the hut. The track sidles south around the contour lines for a couple of hours and then heads east towards the mountain up the Whakapaiti River valley. There is a river to cross 20 minutes from the hut so wet feet cannot be avoided.

Easy

355 2100

The team from the recent Powell Hut trip are all keen to go so this will be a popular trip. There are clean toilets, two sleeping areas (snoring and non-snoring), running water, a real beaut log fire (and dry wood) and great views of the mountain. Emphasis will be on having a fun weekend with friends, cameras, fine food and entertainment. Book your spot soon as this trip will book out in no time with John Doolan at 06 355 5495 at work or john.doolan@inspire.net.nz.



Left: **Big Bird Feet**

Photo: John Doolan (Powell Hut Trip | 26 August 2006)

Below: **Ruapehu Crater Rim**

Photo: Tim Swale (15 April 2006)

1st in the alpine section of the club photo comp.



Trip reports

Herepai Hut

19 July

Leader: Pauline Hall

13 trampers.

Waipawa Forks Hut

23 July

by Ade Beech

Four of us set out from a cloudy Manawatu and entered into the beautiful sunny Hawkes Bay. We walked half way up Sunrise track turned off to the left and headed towards Waipawa Forks hut which is situated on the other side of the Waipawa River. A source was not wrong when they said you can get four seasons in a day up there!! After lunch at the hut we headed back down the river which was icy (could not feel my feet at any stage!!) but we all really enjoyed the day. We were Mark, Ade, Christina & Tanjia (Germany).

Coppermine - Billygoat Track

27 July

by Merv Matthews

16 trampers.

Although the Coppermine to Billygoat Track had recently been cut, we opted for the alternative route through the bush by way of a change. It's a fairly well marked route and easy climbing. After a brief stop at the signposted junction we headed west and picked up the entrance to a little-known hunters' track that leads up a ridge in the direction of spot height 1015. The Thursdays did some track cutting here a few years ago in an attempt to reach 1015. As usual the group scattered a bit, but we managed to retrieve everyone safely and returned to the carpark via the farmland route.

Mangatainoka Hut

29-30 July

by Tim Swale

This was always planned to be a cruisy weekend away with a short walk up the scenic Mohaka River and the benefit of hot springs at the end of the day. The only proviso is that high water can prevent access to the road end entailing a very long road walk. As luck would have it there was no significant rain in the preceding week, so after an early lunch at Heaven's Bakery in Taradale our party of seven arrived at the Mangatutu Road end early afternoon ready to start the tramp.

Waikamaka Hut

Photo: Adam Matich
(Not quite Waterfall Hut Trip |
13 August 2006)



Despite air temperatures being quite cool, the bright sun reflecting off the rocky gorge sides warmed us through so that shorts and T-shirt were quite adequate. Not bad for July. However, arriving at Te Puia Lodge deep in the Mohaka Valley about 4:30 pm, a thick frost was still on the ground from the night before indicating that the night may not be quite so balmy. A stop for a brew and to drop off the heavy overnight gear, then on up the river another three quarters of an hour to the Mangatainoka Hot Springs. Arriving just on nightfall, we had the pair of hot tubs completely to ourselves and spent a very pleasant hour or so watching the stars and satellites from the steamy comfort of the thermal waters.

The return to the hut along pitch black forest trails by torchlight involves a precarious descent of a very narrow, steep ridge. Restraint with the red wine at the hot pools seems like a good idea! Back at Te Puia Lodge around 8 pm. we got to work cooking up the evening meal. How

we laughed when Lynne, on her first overnight trip to a backcountry hut couldn't find the light switch. However not quite so amusing when we realised that the icy temperature in the hut (the gas heater wasn't working) had caused the moist air from cooking to condense on the roof and drip all over our sleeping bags. So much for the theory that the top sleeping platform would be warmer.

After a pretty good night's sleep we had a leisurely breakfast and set off back down the trail. Only a few minutes into the journey we were stripping off layers of clothing and enjoying another very pleasant winter's day. By late morning we were back at the Mangatutu road end where another fibreglass fisheries tub set into the hillside beckoned us for a final hot soak before the long journey home. All in all, a very pleasant weekend. We were Lynne and Tim Burgess, Bruce Taylor and Walter, Ian Harding, Linda Campbell and Tim Swale.

**Dragonfly**

Photo: Ken Mercer
(1st place in the Natural History
section of the club photo comp)

Wharite Peak**30 July****by Tony Evans**

The track closed signs have been removed and some maintenance work done on the Coppermine Track since I last tramped in this area and the good news is that the track up to Wharite is scheduled to be re-cut this summer.

A cool but dry Sunday morning saw four trampers head up the Coppermine Track, turning left at the junction, a steep but short haul up onto the ridge and then follow the ridge up to another junction on the top where the northerly option leads to the more challenging Pretender loop. Heading south the tower appears to be a lot closer than it really is and the going is slow with fallen leatherwood and mud, nearly three hours after leaving the car we arrive at the trig and enjoy the novelty of looking down on the windmills. Sheltering from the wind we ate an early lunch and then returned the way we came. We were Harold Petterson, Chris Brunskill, Denise Brunskill and leader Tony Evans.

A-Frame Hut**2 August****by Ken Rush**

Eleven Wednesday Trampers set out to A-Frame hut from the Tamaki Reserve car park. Mindful of our guest speaker's advice on "warming up" in his presentation on club night the previous evening some of us made a short diversion along the gentle Rokai Track to prepare our bodies for the much tougher track to A-Frame. Unfortunately the rest of the group were in such a hurry to get to the toilets they missed the turn off to Rokai and had to hang around in the picnic area until we returned. Re-united we all made it to the top, had lunch in the scungy hut and then headed down again as the weather packed up. A good workout in pleasant company.

Maharaha Trig (Eastern side)**3 August****by Ann Green**

Ten Thursday Trampers went up Maharaha from the Kumeti Road end. The track has been recently cut making walking relatively easy. The sun was shining in the valley but low cloud most of the time. The Kumeti Hut is still there but in very bad condition.

Mt Bruce Track**10 August****Leaders: Harry and Chris Allardice**

Eight trampers.

(Not quite) Waterfall Hut**12-13 August****by Jean Garman**

The weather forecast was mediocre and I had just come down with a cold but despite this six of us hopped into the minibus and set off for the road end. The river was cold and since we were heading for snow some of us spent a bit of time rock hopping in the hopes of keeping our feet dry, others were more staunch. Most of the way up the Waipawa River the sun was shining warmly on our backs while a chill breeze blew rain into our faces. We stopped for lunch below the Waipawa Saddle which was just as well as the wind was blasting through the saddle at an unfriendly rate of knots forcing a quick descent down the other side. We reached Waikamaka Hut 4 1/4 hours after leaving the minibus. Brian repeatedly and loudly informed me that I had been going **INCREDIBLY SLOWLY** adding an extra 1 3/4 hours onto the trip so far and because I was so **INCREDIBLE SLOW** that it would take a further 4 hours to reach Waterfall Hut. This combined with a forecast of snow to low levels and

**Aussie parrot**

Photo: Glyn Thomas

(2nd in the open international section of the club photo comp)

the presence of a good wood burner as opposed to an open fire tempted us to stay at Waikamaka for the night.

What was left of the afternoon was spent stoking the fire, frightening the two resident possums away and doing crosswords. A standard dinner was followed by an interesting desert where everybody bought something along to share - lots of chocolate!

A peaceful nights sleep where those who braved the outdoors for a night time pee found that the drizzle had indeed turned to snow. The next morning the trees and ground were liberally coated and the snow was still falling heavily. We packed up and headed off up the stream which was a stunning beautiful winter wonderland. The wind was blasting through the saddle again but things improved as we dropped down. We stopped for a quick brew and a snack at Waipawa Forks Hut then blasted out to the minibus.

On the way out we ended up at the back of a convoy of 2 cars and a 4WD vehicle while going through the gates. The cars didn't understand about multi vehicle gate protocol so someone would hop out of the 1st car to open the gate which would drive through far enough for everyone to get through. We all had to wait until the gate was shut and the person back in the car before we could move off. The 4WD decided to go round the cars on the wet grass and Adam decided to follow. We quickly lost momentum and came within millimetres of needing to push the minibus back onto the road in front of everyone. Fortunately lady luck smiled on us and saved Adam from a chocolate hamster nomination. A quick visit to Norsewear revealed no good bargains, not a single item was purchased. A bite to eat and a hot drink in Dannevirke and before we knew it we were home.

We were Brian Webster, Adam Matich, Garry Grayson, Jenny McCarthy, Ivan Rienks and Jean Garman.

Manawatu Gorge Track - Cafe for lunch

16 August

Leader: Margaret Gillingham

19 trampers.

Longview Hut and beyond

17 August

Leader: Caroline Brodie

12 trampers.

Plenty of snow on a perfect clear day. Some headed up to Otumore while others where contented with Rocky Knob.

Powell Hut

26-27 August

by John Doolan

"The Big Bird appears"

Yes, it is true... the Big Bird did appear. It's appearance was soon after seven weary, wet, cold and tired trampers finally walked into Powell hut at 5:09 pm. It is true, we all saw it. It was a terrible sight, not one that sore eyes would want to see. BUT, it was caught on camera and its photo appears elsewhere in this fine newsletter.

But who could it be? There's a chocolate fish to all those who can identify the Big Bird at the next MTSC club night. Trip members and their families and extended whanau are not allowed to compete in this guessing game.

The weather forecast spoke of an extreme weather warning in the Tararua's. A quick phone around identified no streams to cross, bush line almost all the way and an "easy" graded trip. So it was all on.

We left in rain, we tramped all the way in rain, we arrived in rain, we departed in the morning in falling snow, we tramped down in rain, we changed in rain, and when



Ron & Roz O'Leary at Powell Hut shivering in the cold (a hut with no gas!)

Photo: John Doolan
(Powell Hut Trip | 26 August 2006)



Best way to wind down after a long hard days tramping...

Photo: Tim Swale
(Mangatainoka Hot Springs Trip | 29 July 2006)

we left it was raining. It was till raining in Masterton where we stopped off for lunch.

Our group consisted of two club members and five prospective club members. This was their introduction to the joys of tramping. Reality sunk in at Powell Hut when despite reassurances of gas heaters in the hut and gas cookers, there was in fact no gas (at all). None what so ever. Not even a tiny bit. AND it was very cold.

The hunters we passed on the way up advised us not to continue but to divert to Holdsworth hut as it had a log fire and plenty of dry wood. That they had had a very cold night and were glad they were on their way down. At the time there appeared to be a good reason why we declined their advice.

But we quickly made the best out of the worst. Dry clothes, a hot drink and a nibble or two and our spirits soon improved. Lamb, peas, potatoes and vegetables followed by stewed apricots and two custards made our life a lot happier. Mind you, there were a few running races and dances to keep some of us at a livable temperature.

In bed at 7:00 pm was a shock for some, but when the various levels of snoring started, we knew that bed was the right place on a very cold night in a hut high in the mountains with snow falling all around our accommodations.

We were gone by 9:00 am in falling snow and were thankful that the wind was not blowing while we climbed along the ridge line. Once in the bush we were a lot hap-

pier and went down and down and down to our awaiting MTSC van.

We were: club members Don Macdonald (leader) and John Doolan and prospective members Ron & Roz O'Leary, John Robertson, Mike Oliver and Brendon Donald.

A fine weekend, pity about the rain, the lack of views, the cold, no gas and the wet. But we will all be back as despite the weather we had a real fun weekend with great company.

Mt Thompson 31 August

by Graham Pritchard
Leader: Ivan Alve

Thirteen trampers climbed Mt Thompson from the southern (Waitohu Valley) side. Parked by the quarry buildings since the little bridge over the Waitohu River (turnoff right through gate - easy to miss) is officially closed. Couldn't spot the track up the ridge we used 5 years ago so went up the old winding logging road. About half way up, turned off up a sidetrack coming in from the left which looked like it might be a more direct route (but it wasn't). Eventually reached the top in drizzly cloud and a cool wind so we weren't tempted to linger. Our return followed the main logging road all the way down. About 5 hr return.

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 jeanandivan@value.net.nz jeanandivan@value.net.nz or phone (06) 354 3536.

For Sale

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

Asolo 101 climbing boots (Size 9) + Scissor crampons + 75cm Camp ice axe. Good cond. Phone Doug at (06) 374 6790

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. 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 mtsc.editor@xtra.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

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

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