



December 2006/  
January 2007  
Issue 11

mail:  
MTSC  
P.O. Box 245  
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web:  
[www.mtsc.org.nz](http://www.mtsc.org.nz)

Right:  
Dominie Biv in the  
Kawekas  
by Adam Matich



## Upcoming club nights

### Christmas BBQ+Marton Maize Maze

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

#### 5th December - End of year club BBQ

The end of year BBQ is at the Aero Club rooms. Festivities along with the prize giving will begin at 6 p.m. 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.



#### 16th January - Opening club night of 2007

The opening club night of 2007 will be held at the Marton Maize Maze. The night will commence at 6:30 pm and with a BBQ. A great opportunity to socialize and catch up after the Christmas and New Year festivities and have fun in the maize. Further details will be sent out closer to the time via email, or contact one of the committee.

(Crop circle photo from [www.joecool.it](http://www.joecool.it))



#### Seasons greetings and happy trails over the summer months

It may not seem like it but it is officially summer, which is supposed to bring with it warm and sunny days and other such fanciful things, fingers crossed! The Christmas deadlines have meant I have been pushed to get this issue out on time, but here it is. This also means that the Beechleaves team of Gary, Bev and myself take a break until the Feb 2007 issue. So on behalf of the rest of the Beechleaves team, thank you for another great year with all the items you have sent in and may I wish you a safe and enjoyable holiday season!

**Ed** ([mtsc.editor@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mtsc.editor@xtra.co.nz))

# President's Report

## Minibus + Work Parties + Club Awards

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

### Minibus

The committee has approved the funds to purchase a replacement minibus, and are now actively looking for a suitable vehicle. Feedback from members indicate that improved safety (and especially luggage restraint) is an important requirement. We tend to keep our vehicles for quite a long time, so lower kilometres is desired. Generally, there are not many vehicles with all of the desired features to choose from. Please contact me if you have any further comments or suggestions to make. **STOP PRESS: Check out the photo on the bottom of page 8.**

### Work Parties

Work parties at the Lodge are scheduled for February 2007. If you have skills related to re-roofing, building, or renovating, and you are available, then I am sure that Ryan (Lodge Manager) would be ecstatic to hear from you. General helpers will also be required. The Lodge has to cope with hostile weather conditions, and so maintenance must be done to keep it in good order. Low Lodge fees are dependent on your help with maintenance, so no matter where you live, please contact Ryan and commit to helping out this summer.

### Awards

Each year, several awards are made to people who have made a significant contribution to the Club, either by their service (Beech Leaf Award), promoting our core activities (Most Spirited), improving their skills (Gregory Fisher Memorial), or being just plain silly (Chocolate Hamster). Come along to the End-of-Year Barbecue on 5 December (6 p.m.) to find out who wins.

Best wishes for your upcoming trips, drive safely, and have fun. Roll on 2007.

## Chief Guide's Report

by Tony Evans

Well the weather is a little warmer but the rain just keeps on coming, surely it must improve soon. The big flood of 2004 was in February and I recall tramping in the snow below

Longview Hut in December that year so summer is no guarantee of good weather. I am not staying home waiting for perfect weather and tomorrow am going for my third tramp in 3 weeks, it is not a matter of being brave or foolhardy but being well-equipped and having the sense to turn back if conditions are too bad.

Thursday Trampers  
on the top of 1635  
Photo: Keith Fisher  
(Mania Track-  
Rangiwahia Circuit |  
23 November 2006)



This photo is from one of the autumn trips to Mangaweka Trig.

Photo:  
Alla Seleznyova  
(2 April 2006)



## Lodge Working Bee

by **Ryan Badger**

It's time for a working bee! After many years comfort and good times, the elements have taken their toll on the MTSC lodge at the top of the Bruce Road on Mt Ruapehu and it is well overdue for a bit of a do-up!

So in the first week or two of February 2007 we are planing a week long working bee. Items on the list of things to do include:

- 1) Re-roofing the locker and bunking portion of the lodge (which includes new building paper and insulation).
- 2) Re-line and paint inside of bunkrooms general tidy up in other areas of the lodge.

If you are keen to help out with any of these things (you don't have to be a registered builder to lend a hand!) we would love to hear from you!!

Please note you don't have to attend for the whole week, even one days help would be greatly appreciated!

Please contact Ryan Badger

Phone: (027) 445 1997

Email: [Farmboy\\_ryan@hotmail.com](mailto:Farmboy_ryan@hotmail.com)

## Garmin GPS owners

by **Royce Mills**

Just a note for club members who have a Garmin GPS with map displays.

I have come across a site which offers much better highway / street / location maps for NZ compared to the rather "fugly" ones that come with the Garmin GPS map units. These can be downloaded without charge and are in colour. Detail goes down to many street names in Palmerston North for example. Unfortunately no contours!

The site also has a free download of waypoints for all tramping huts in NZ. However as

my GPS only takes 500 waypoints this was too many on top of the current waypoints I have stored.

Check out the site: New Zealand Open Maps Project for Garmin Mapping GPS

<http://gwprojects.orcon.net.nz/gps/index.htm>

All this is thanks to one mans' dedication to provide New Zealanders with free maps.

GPS users might also like to visit the geocaching website:

<http://www.geocaching.com/>

Geocaching involves using your GPS to find hidden containers with log books and trinkets that can be swapped. There are now hundreds of geocache sites in NZ, and quite a few around Palmerston North. It becomes quite addictive!

Any questions phone Royce 358 4398

## For Sale

**Macpac Torre pack**, very good condition, dark blue, large size, i.e. will suit someone of average to above average height. Offers around \$100, phone Dave 355 1798.

**Mary Mercer has new boots!** They're woman's Randonnee, from Kathmandu, and fit perfectly. They're also one size larger than the almost new 40's which destroyed her toenails and are now for sale. If your feet are slightly smaller than Mary's you can have them for \$100. Ph 356 7497.

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



# 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.

### Wednesday Trampers

6 December

Chris Brunskill

Please phone for details.

Easy/Medium

354 2511

### Thursday Trampers

7 December

Anne Green

Possible overnight to Roaring Stag and on to Cattle Ridge. Please phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

(06) 374 5208

### Totara Flats Hut

9-10 December

Doug McNeur

This is a pretty cruisy trip for those that want to try out an overnight trip or just re-start tramping after a horrible winter. Nestled close to Masterton, Totara Flats can be reached by wombling up a well graded track and then working your way down to a delightful little creek and then meandering along that. You get to cross a river on the safety of a swing bridge and arrive at the hut on the other side. This is intended to be a relaxed weekend so if you want some fun, give me a call.

Easy/Medium

359 1893

### Manawatu Gorge

10 December

Ken Mercer

This will be a good trip to "bring a friend" or a family to introduce them to tramping with the club. We'll take it easy and stop for lunch somewhere on the way.

Easy

356 7497

### Thursday Trampers

14 December

Stuart Malcolm

Please phone for details.

Easy/Medium

358 3409

### Duck Pond Hut

16-17 December

Adam Matich

This trip is into a little known hut in the Eastern Ruahines. It is almost 2 km ESE of Ngamoko

Medium/Technical

359 2796

hut and not far from Apiti Saddle, near an unattractive, un-named swampy little lake (Duck Pond). We will travel up the West Tamaki River past Standfield hut, and up along the ridge past Cattle Creek Hut by about 1.5 Km. From there we will drop into the headwaters of the creek on the western side of this ridge. This creek runs into the Pohangina River opposite Ngamoko Hut, although we won't be travelling that far down the creek. Part way down we will turn East to head up another creek to Duck Pond and search for the hut in its vicinity. Given the off-track travel, etc etc the day could be 8-hours long. People will need to be able to sleep out as the hut is rather small and unkempt. From the photos I have seen of the hut there doesn't appear to be a huge amount of camping space, so it could be entertaining. On Sunday we will make our way roughly East (possibly through Apiti Saddle) to get back onto the tracked ridge that runs all the way past Cattle Creek Hut down to Stanfield Hut, etc etc. There are bound to be lots of scratches and trips and sprains on this trip, navigational arguments, and tears before bedtime. So those of you with families will feel right at home.

### Rangiwahia Hut

17 December

Linda Campbell

The intention is to leave Feilding around 8:30 am to drive to the start of the track at the end of Renfrew Road and then walk up to Rangiwahia hut for lunch. This is an easy walk in spite of the fairly steep clamber around the slip. Weather permitting we should have great views from the hut.

Easy

323 3836

### Elder Hut

13-14 January

Adam Matich

Elder Bivouac has been replaced by Elder Hut (not Bivouac...DoC were very specific about

Medium/Technical

359 2796

**Nibbles**

Photo: Andy Brooke (Mangahao Flats work party | 4 November 2006)



this), which is on the north side of Elder Peak. The Bivouac was on the Southern side in the Wellington Water Catchment area. This is a small hut and so people will need to be prepared to sleep out, as I don't share my bed with anyone. We will head from Otaki Forks up the Waioatauru River (wet feet) to Waioatauru Forks and then head up the Eastern Waioatauru (Snowy) River which has a little gorge in it and sometimes requires a short swim. Not long after the gorge, we arrive at the base of the very long (800m over 4.5 km) spur up to Elder Peak. I have no idea what travel up this spur is like, but we will find out. I don't expect the day to be much shorter than 8 hours. On Sunday we will head back along Renata Ridge and make our way, by whatever route that tickles our collective fancy, through Waioatauru Hut back to Otaki Forks.

**Deadman's Loop****14 January****Dave Mitchell****Medium****355 1798**

The plan is to leave PN no later than 7:30 am. We will walk up Deadman's track and have lunch on Mangahuia. The return route will be via Rangiwahia hut if the track below the hut is still open. An expected 6-8 hours walking.

**Big Hill Station****19-25 January****Bev Akers and Gary Bevins****Medium****325 8879**

We have two permits (Hunting & Tramping) for access through Big Hill Station to allow us tramping off Nomans Rd. which give us the opportunity to visit all those hard to get to huts in the Northern Ruahines. Only one other hunting permit has been given out so we have the place much to ourselves. Each permit gives access for four people in one vehicle (our limit is

8). We will travel up on Friday (19th) and drive right to the Hut for the night, Ruahine Hut - how easy is that ! From here we will head off in a western direction visiting huts and tracks that will eventually get us back to the vehicles at Ruahine Hut. Bev & Gary plus anyone keen, will stay on to do more tramping until our permit runs out on the 25th. We are open to any ideas and are fairly flexible with the days as it will be in holiday mode!

**A Tararua Crossing****20-22 January****Dave Mitchell****Medium****355 1798**

This will be the classic northern crossing, Saturday night at Te Matawai Hut, Sunday night at Tarn Ridge Hut and out over Mitre Peak on Monday.

**Powell Hut****21 January****Darlene Westrupp****Easy/Medium****354 5764**

Phone for details.

**Thursday Trampers****25 January**

Contact one of the regulars

**Easy/Medium****Lake Surprise****27-28 January****John Doolan****Easy/Medium****355 2100**

This trip is graded easy/medium... yeah ok I suppose so. Well it could be an easy medium, well no, blow it, we will make it an easy medium. That means we have plenty of stops for catching breaths, taking photo's, admiring the excellent views and chatting about who knows what.

Come with me on an easy/medium trip to Lake Surprise, up on the south western flanks of

Ruapehu. We leave from the Massey Alpine Club hut on the Turoa Ski Field road just down from the ski field car park (after leaving PN that is).

It's a drop off the road for 100 meters or so then back up 120 of them to a relatively flat bit and then we do a climb down a meandering rock face beside a truly wonderful waterfall. Need to watch our feet on this bit so slowly, slowly will be the order for the day. Through an amazing gully and across to the old Wanganui Tramping Club hut: our sleeping accommodation for the night! Only 8 beds so it will be a first in thing to be in on this sort-after trip. We will take a tent so the keen ones can sleep out on the grass with views of the mountain to tramp for.

Then it's off to Lake Surprise with just our day packs (rain coat, snacks and water) an hour or so away. A bit of leg work as we do have to climb 100 meters up a poorly maintained water course. And then back to the hut for the night. It's a short trip out as we retrace our steps from the Saturday morning.

Email me [john.doolan@inspire.net.nz](mailto:john.doolan@inspire.net.nz). For those without electronic toys, only call me at work 06 355 5495, but not at home, that phone hasn't worked for years.

**Mokai Patea**  
**28 January**  
**Mark Street**

**Easy/Medium**  
**353 7442**

This tramp starts from Mokai roadend in the north-western Ruahines. A poled route climbs through paddocks on the Mokai Station until the main ridge of the Mokai Patea range is met. After this climb (nearly 700m) there is fairly easy ridge travel. The objective is to head south as far

as the park boundary (refer to the Ruahine Park map) or if party fitness and inclination permits as far as Colenso trig. With reasonable weather the tops of the Mokai Patea offers some fairly impressive views of the northern Ruahines and the country out to the west. Departure time from PN will be 6:15 am.

**Wednesday Trampers**  
**31 January**  
**Sue & Lawson Pither**  
Phone for more details.

**Easy/Medium**  
**357 3033**

**Mt Egmont Circuit**  
**3-6 February**  
**Christine Scott**

**Medium/Fit**  
**354 0510**

The plan for this four day trip over Waitangi Weekend is to travel up to Dawson Falls either Friday night or early Saturday morning, walk to Waiaua Gorge Hut via the upper mountain track on the Saturday and through to Holly Hut on the Sunday (via the Kapoiaia and Stony River tracks). The Monday will either be spent at Holly Hut with a day trip to Bells Falls and/or Pouakai Hut or we will go through to the Camp house (North Egmont) or Maketawa Hut via Pouakai Hut, Maude Peak and Henry Peak. The Camp house is a recently restored historic mountain house and has to be booked in advance. The last day (Tuesday), we will walk out to Dawson Falls. The length of the final day will depend on whether we walk out from Holly Hut, the Camp house or Maketawa Hut. Day lengths are expected to be 6-8 hours but at a medium pace.

**Negotiating  
Piripiri Stream**  
Photo: Adam  
Matich  
(Piripiri Hut Trip |  
19 Nov 2006)





Left: Barra Bridge

Photo: Andy Brooke (Mangahao Flats Hut | 4 Nov 2006)

Below: Howard showing off his shiny new jacket

Photo: Alla Seleznyova (29 October 2006)



## Trip reports

### Takapari

14 October

by Jenny McCarthy

It would have been very easy to stay home inside out of the wind, instead we went tramping. The car park was a hazards area with four of us trying to change, put on boots and shelter from the wind under the tailgate of Tony's car. The climb to the A Frame was sheltered by the forest and then by the scrub.

We arrived at the hut about 11:30 am and so had first lunch before going along the road to the turn off to the Rimu track. We were surprised we were able to walk along the road relatively easily, lovely leatherwood for giving us so much shelter from the wind. The turn off to the Rimu track was marked and the track down was well marked with orange triangles. We had second lunch at the bottom before walking back down the river.

We were Tony, Alla, Adam and Jenny.

### Burn Hut

19 October

Leader: Merv Matthews

Twelve trampers.

### Kaweka Forest Park

21-23 October

by Mark Learmonth

**Part 1:** Our trip started at the end of Kaweka Road in very hot /still conditions with not a cloud in sight. After a stiff climb we arrived at Dominie Bivouac for lunch. Nice views of the surrounding areas from here. The weather from here started to change with cloud coming in and the wind getting up. From the Biv we climbed again before reaching the high point of the Kawekas, Keweka J.

With the weather closing in up top and the temperature dropping twofold, we didn't muck around, heading quickly off to Mad Dog Hill and down to Studholme Saddle Hut for the night. As Studholme Hut had only four bunks, and there were eight of us so three sleep outside in tents and Gary on the floor. Sunday away bright and early, six of us made a short detour to our planned route visiting Castle Camp before back tracking to Kaiarahi to link up with the track down to Mackintosh Hut, while Peter and Lynda went directly to the hut. By the time we reached Kaiarahi in the far distance we could see smoke raising from the bush, the fire in which Peter had just lit.

We arrived at the hut in light drizzle. Again not enough accommodation so four of us sleep out on the veranda

**Studholme Saddle Hut**

Photo: Adam Matich  
(Kawekas Trip |  
21 October 2006)



with flies set up around the veranda poles to keep the weather out. It rained lightly a good percentage of the night. As we arrived early afternoon we had a lazy afternoon hearing lots of stories and listening to the bird life. Around the hut there is some reasonable bush which has an abundance of bird life especially tuis, bird song was constant throughout the afternoon.

Monday, the troops were again eager for an early start, after a short distance of flats tramping, we experienced the long drop down into the Donald River before an hours gut buster climb up to the top of the Matauria Range and along back to our starting point.

Special thanks to our cooks and driving duo of Gary and Adam. The eight troopers were Peter, Lynda, Adam, Gary, Michael, Kim, Ben, and Mark.

**Part 2:** This was my first visit to the Kawekas and it was with bitter disappointment to find such large areas of *Pinus contorta* devastation. The track and area from Kairarahi to Mackintosh Hut is a complete right off, riddled and stuffed with *Pinus contorta*, plus the track is littered with debris of fallen pines. The track along Matauria ridge is also stuffed, with the area between Castle Camp and Kairarahi littered with young seedlings. We pulled out a number of these along side the track, if this area is left to long it will become a larger problem. Conservation, what conservation these pines have killed off our native vegetation/ flora, useless for our native bird life, even the possums prefer other types, only the pigs don't seem to mind them. Its interesting to note the government departments running this area in times gone by started this invasion in an attempt to control erosion with planting trials back in the 1950s and 60s with area seedlings carried out through the early 1970s. What some parts of the area needs is a good fire to clean out some of these trees.

**Manawatu Gorge Track (Return trip)**

**26 October**

**Leaders: Harry and Chris Allardice**

Nine trampers.

**Whakapapaiti Hut**

**28-29 October**

**by John Doolan**

This was a trip of two halves: Saturday and Sunday! There were nine of us on this trip leaving from the Whakapapa centre car park. We contoured southwest from the car park along the tourist trail for 30 minutes. Then the track changed into a backcountry track as it wound around towards the Whakapapaiti Valley and river.

There are no big climbs on this part of the track to the hut (in fact there are no big hills at all along the way to the hut). Then we dropped down over the river and into the swamp area leading up the valley. A few of us had concerns about the river crossing 15 minutes before the hut, but need not have worried as the water was just ankle deep. No one got across without having their boots and socks washed!

**The nice and shiny new club van**

Photo: Howard Nicholson  
(1 December 2006)



**On Kaweka J.**

Photo: Adam Matich  
(Kawekas Trip |  
21 October 2006)



Two hours fifty minutes of tramping time and three and half hours total time saw us at the hut in excellent condition. The day had been fine, some sun, no wind, no rain, lots of stops, a good lunch spot on the boardwalk, chatting and talking on the way and lots of photo opportunities.

Saturday night was a lot of fun as we cooked in small groups, enjoyed each others company, sat beside the warm fire and soaked up the atmosphere that only happens in a backcountry hut. Sunday was different! It was blowing a gale, pouring with rain, clouds just above the roof of the hut and generally a day that should only happen when one is in their own home with the family cat on their knee lounging in a their favourite chair! And some were concerned about "that" river crossing and the forces of nature blowing fair smack up their nostrils as they tramped out back down the valley. So after careful thought and consideration, plan B was formulated and put into action. A 300 metre climb up to the round the mountain track (wind at our backs) and across to Scoria Flats, then up one kilometre on the tar sealed mountain road to the coffee bar and ski shop (dry, warm, no wind, no rain, coffee, food and a

30% off sale... last day). But the van was waiting for us at the Whakapapaiti centre! So Don McDonald (bless him) thumbed a ride down from the first car that he could stand in front of! And that just about is the end of this report... but mention must be made of the visit to our hut by the cross-country ski team from the MT&SC. Lynda, Peter, Howard and Christine set off from Turoa, up to the Crater Lake and down to our hut. They brought additional hilarity to our group and added new topics for us to discuss, debate and argue about. But one has to ask why Howard slept outside on the veranda (remember that it was raining heavily and blowing a gale) and why he needed to do a very good impression of a cross between the Michelin man and Naomi Campbell. We were: Don, Lyndsay, Jeannette, Lorraine, John, Andy, Nicole, Sue and Alla.

### Sledge Track 2 November

by Peter Carver  
Thirteen trampers.



### Time out from the work to light sparklers

Photo: Jean Garman  
(Mangahao Flats Work Party | 4 November 2006)

## Mangahao Flats Guy Fawkes Work Party 4-5 November

by **Jean Garman**

Nine eager souls crammed into the minibus that rattled and shook all the way to the No. 1 Mangahao Dam. The day was overcast but calm and mild. The speedy took off with Ivan and Brian braking the three hour mark to get to the hut and Tony turning up not much long after. The rest of us took a more leisurely pace admiring the clematis and enjoying lunch by the Barra Bridge.

On arrival the hut and toilet were already pretty clean so we joined the others on the never-ending task of vegetation clearance and firewood cutting. After a couple of years of persistence the area below the hut is starting to look very nice, an inviting place to spend sunny afternoons. Given a few more years it will be even nicer. As the afternoon wore on the pile of off cuts was growing quite large on the helipad so the burning commenced. An incoming group of five could smell the smoke from 20 min away. 5 o'clock was deemed knock off time so we started on the nibbles and drinks and eventually had to palm the leftovers off to our fellow trampers so we could contemplate dinner. Around then another four people turned up so it was a full hut that night. As it started to darken we revisited the fire site, piling on a bit more wood and letting off the fireworks. The valley sparkled, rocked and echoed for a while before it was back to the hut for a game of presidents and scumbags. It wasn't long before we all retired to bed. Our younger hut mates cried "are you going to bed already" to which we replied "we are old", "bugger they said, I suppose that means you'll be getting up early".

Well it wasn't that early actually. Some of us managed to ignore our muesli and instead breakfasted on leftovers. The others eventually left the hut so we cleaned it thoroughly before packing up and heading out. A quick shower of rain before we left was a little ominous but it didn't rain again and we very almost got a little bit of sunshine at one stage. Some of us headed out down the track, cutting the odd windfall enroute while the rest took to the river. The water was low and beautifully clear but a tad chilly so rather than get more than wet knickers we took to the track again at Harris Creek meeting up with the others back at the van. Icecreams in Shannon finished off a most enjoyable weekend. Many thanks to all the hard workers: Brian Webster, Ivan Rienks, Tony Evans, Geraldine Fovakis, Nikki Brooke, Andy Brooke, Adam Matich, Doug McNeur and Jean Garman.

## Six Disc Track 8 November

Leader: **Judy Callesen**

Twelve trampers.

## Apiti Track 9 November

by **Graham Pritchard**

Yet another wet (and cold) Thursday! Our intention had been to do a circuit, in via the Apiti Track and out via the south branch Makeretu River, or alternatively, travel up the north branch to Awatere Hut and back. Inspection of the river level at the Makeretu Road Bridge ruled out both options. So we tramped up to a high point on the Apiti Track

by which time it had started snowing. Tramping back in the beauty of freshly falling snow rewarded us for otherwise unpleasant conditions. We retreated to the comforts of Ann Green's home at Dannevirke for a late lunch and to celebrate Merv Matthews' coming of age (i.e. 70).

## Waikamaka Hut 12 November

by **Tony Evans**

Leaving the vehicle at the Triplex carpark we headed up the track towards Sunrise Hut and took the left fork in the track down to Waipawa River, there we had a break, put on raincoats and headed up the riverbed towards the Waipawa Saddle. As we climbed the wind got stronger, blowing cold showers down the valley from the snowy saddle, after about 40 minutes of this we had a conference and decided that the day would stop being fun before we got over the Waipawa Saddle. So we went back down to the Waipawa Forks Hut for a leisurely lunch and back out the way we went in. We were Stephanie Ralle on her first outing with the club, Dave Allan and myself.

## Zeke's Hut 16 November

by **Merv Matthews**

Nine Thursday trampers headed for Zeke's Hut in the Hihitahi Sanctuary. After the boggy paddock it was a pleasure to tramp through the bush trail and hear a variety of bird calls, including tui, long-tailed cuckoo, and a falcon. Three of our more experienced trampers, who shall remain nameless, took a wrong turn on the way back and headed north-west on a different track and didn't notice for quite a while. They eventually turned up with a variety of excuses, none of which were convincing. Suffice to say that other members of our group will in future keep a close eye on Gordon, Graham, and Keith.

## Mania Track - Rangiwahia Circuit 23 November

by **Carolyn Brodie**

Sixteen people, three different agendas, three cars, six drivers! Eleven people took on the challenge of new territory, the Mania - Rangi circuit. The circuit took 7 to 7.5 hours, including breaks. We had clear weather which made map reading easy. However, about three kilometres is untracked on a tussock ridge, some of it wide and featureless. A compass (or GPS?) would be essential in clagged out conditions. We found 2 metal waratas probably on 1514 and 1635. We chose to start at Mania as we then had to find the track from Triangle to the Rangi turnoff, possibly easier than coming off 1635 down the wrong ridge in the reverse direction. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day for all of us, part of the pleasure being amazement that we were actually able to enjoy fine weather on the tops in spite of all the dire weather warnings.

Although I coordinated all the drivers etc it was Graham Pritchard who made it happen by offering to drive the van round, after doing a shorter foray up Mania. Thank you Graham for getting the idea off the ground.

# Club Information

## Annual Hut Passes

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

## 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 Thurs day, 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 use 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 at [mtsc.editor@xtra.co.nz](mailto: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 or email [info@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:info@mtsc.org.nz)

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

This includes a list of contact details and a club email address. 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 <a href="mailto:mtsc.president.xtra.co.nz">mtsc.president.xtra.co.nz</a>
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 <a href="mailto:mtsc@inspire.net.nz">mtsc@inspire.net.nz</a>
Newsletter Editor	Wei-Hang Chua	021 212 0369 <a href="mailto:mtsc.editor@xtra.co.nz">mtsc.editor@xtra.co.nz</a>
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 <a href="mailto:wildeh@clear.net.nz">wildeh@clear.net.nz</a>
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