



# beechleaves

Newsletter of the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club

**May 2007  
Issue 4**

mail:  
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Climbing Mad Dog  
from Studholme  
Saddle Hut  
Photo: Adam Match



## Upcoming club nights

### South America+Club AGM

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

#### 1st May - South America

In 2006, Barry Greenbrook, a member of both the Mt Egmont Alpine Club and New Plymouth Tramping Club, went on a 50 day intrepid journey coast to coast from Lima to Rio de Janeiro in South America. He travelled through some amazing places from sea level to 5300 m and in temperatures ranging from -25 to +40 degrees C. Come out and find out what sort of scenery and cultures he experienced.

#### 15th May - MTSC Annual General Meeting 2007

The Annual General Meeting of Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club Inc. will be held at Manawatu Districts Aero Club Rooms, Airport Drive, Palmerston North, at 7.30 pm on the 15th of May 2007. All Welcome.

#### Newsletter arrangements for the next few months

I will be overseas from mid-May until mid-July. I will still be putting the June issue together but Christine Scott has kindly offered to take on the July newsletter. More details regarding the submission of trips and reports on page 2.

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# President's Report

## Committee Members Needed

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

Last month I had the pleasure of highlighting some of the great work done on behalf of the Club. This month I would like to ask all of you to consider taking on some of the tasks of running the Club. That's right, it's AGM time again, and as some people step down from the committee, we need to find others to fill the vacant positions. I for one find it satisfying to help run the Club, and with the division of tasks among the executive, the jobs are not onerous.

For more information about what is involved, please contact a current committee member or myself. Note that some long-standing committee members have decided to take a break for various reasons; in particular, we will be looking for someone with financial nous to take over the Treasurer's position. As always, all positions are "up for grabs", so please give some serious thought to how you can help.

So, note the date of the AGM – Tuesday 15 May – come along for a cup of tea and a biscuit, and get in the know about what is happening in your Club!

## Chief Guide's Report

by Tony Evans

Summer is over and it is time to start using the winter trip card with its new and improved layout, Adam and Bev organised this so I cannot take the credit but I like it.

I would like to thank all of those who have volunteered to lead trips and while I hope that all trips go ahead I expect that, as happened last winter, some tramps will be cancelled because of bad weather or lack of support. This reflects the New Zealand winter and the busy lives we lead but does not make the offer to lead a trip any less appreciated.

I will not be making myself available for the committee at the AGM because I intend to spend more time in Australia. I have enjoyed my time on the committee and have not found the task too onerous, writing these reports is the hardest part. I must admit to having been a little apprehensive when asked to take on the position of Chief Guide but with help always at hand it has not been difficult.

## Club membership and the FMC

A single adult or family membership to the club gives you a lot of benefits, one of which is a single membership to Federated Mountain Clubs. It pays to pay your club membership promptly as late subs mean that you may not receive FMC bulletins, the FMC card and may not be able to get club rates at the Lodge.

## Queen's Birthday Weekend

**June 2-4:** Don McDonald is looking for travelling companions to zoom down to the Picton Ferry, zoom across the waters, jump on a much

smaller boat, zoom out to the top of the peninsular, get dropped off (on land), and walk the track back for three days, then catch the boat / ferry / bus back home.

Each night will be spent in a well furnished lodge (own catering or supplied), no big packs to carry (just a small day pack) and lots of great photo opportunities.

Sounds too good to be true? Call Don McDonald on 06 355 0222.

## Newsletter editor

I am going to be overseas from mid-May until mid-July. I will still be composing the next issue (June) so continue to send me material for recent trips and other upcoming trips.

Christine Scott has kindly offered to take on the reins for the July issue. Directions for who to email or send material during the month of June will be listed in the next issue of Beechleaves.

At this point I envisage that people will continue to email [mtsc.editor@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mtsc.editor@xtra.co.nz). Christine will be able to receive messages sent to this address. People will be able to correspond with Christine directly at [barry.scott@xtra.co.nz](mailto:barry.scott@xtra.co.nz).

## For Sale

**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.

### Diggers Hut (Joint PNTMC trip)

**25 April (ANZAC Day) Warren Wheeler** **Easy/Medium 356 1998**

Depart 9.00 am from the War Memorial in the Square. From Arbons Rd in the mid-Pohangina Valley it is a gentle uphill slog across farmland to the Forest Park boundary. We then follow the bush track along the wide ridge before dropping steeply to Diggers Hut for lunch beside the Makawakawa Stream. Anyone wanting an Easy Trip would slog their way up again and out the same way. The Medium alternative is a more adventurous rock hop down the picturesque stream. Either way - We Will Remember Them.

### Wednesday Trampers

**25 April Bernard Cobb** **Easy/Medium 328 8088**

Phone for more details.

### Thursday Trampers

**26 April Harry and Chris Allardice** **Easy/Medium 323 4390**

Phone for more details.

### Roaring Stag Hut

**28-29 April John Doolan** **Easy/Medium 355 2100**

If you have never heard or seen a roaring stag, this is your best opportunity. We are off to spend a night in Roaring Stag Hut. The hut is to the west of Eketahuna. We will walk up a valley until our progress is stopped by a 400 m hill. But who's in a hurry anyway? We will amble up and then 300 m down to the hut. Time on the track? About 3-4 hours. Trip is graded easy/medium so we will go at that pace or slower. Interested? Email me at [john.doolan@inspire.net.nz](mailto:john.doolan@inspire.net.nz) or day time at work on 06 355 5495.

### Roaring Stag Hut

**29 April Christine Scott** **Medium 354 0510**

Roaring Stag Hut is about 2.5 hours from the Mangatainoka Rd end (also called Putara Rd) not

far from the Mt Bruce Bird Reserve. We pass through some lovely beech forest before climbing steeply up to the ridge to the junction of Herepai and Roaring Stag. From there it is about an hour (or less) down to Roaring Stag Hut. We will leave the Police Station at 8 am.

### Wednesday Trampers

**2 May Nigel Spencer** **Easy/Medium 329 8738**

Phone for more details.

### Thursday Trampers

**3 May Ann Green** **Easy/Medium (06) 374 5208**

A Frame, Stanfield Hut back along Tamaki West stream.

### Leon Kinvig Hut

**5-6 May Jean Garman** **Medium 354 3536**

We will travel to Leon Kinvig from the Kashmir Road end and back again. There are three possible routes - along the ridge line through Longview, through Awatere/Makaretu and via the Pohangina River/Longview. Which ones we use will be decided just before or on the day.

### Iron Gates Hut (Western Ruahines)

**6 May David Newstead** **Medium 354 3536**

Leaving from PN Police Station, Church St 7.00 am. About 3.5 h plus each way; probably longer now (as follows). It is two years since I was in there (ANZAC weekend, in the snow); meanwhile there has been a slip on the (north) face of the first (biggest) gully after leaving the new Heritage Lodge site. I am told that here is new bit of track by-passing the slip that adds about 20 min to the trip (each way). Much depends on the weather. If the side stream in that first gully is up we won't cross it; we could back track and go some way up Tunapo instead. We will see on the day. I can also be called on (027) 457 6175.

**Wednesday Trampers**  
**9 May** **Easy/Medium**  
**Judy Callesen** **357 0192**  
 Phone for more details.

**Thursday Trampers**  
**10 May** **Easy/Medium**  
**Stuart Malcolm** **358 3409**  
 Phone for more details.

**Te Matawai Hut**  
**12-13 May** **Medium**  
**Tony Evans** **357 4355**  
 Leave Palmy at 7.30 am and drive to the carpark at the end of Poads Road. Follow the track up Gable End Ridge to Richards Knob and then follow the Dora Track to Te Matawai Hut. After spending the night in the improved hut we retrace our steps as far as Richards Knob and then take the Waiopahu Track back to the carpark. That is the plan and for those who were unable to make Jean's work party in April it is a good chance to see how DOC has spent the money that MTSC has donated.

**Purity Hut**  
**13 May** **Easy/Medium**  
**Alla Seleznyova** **355 0862**  
 The new Purity Hut is located on the scrub line on the ridge west of Wooden Peg peak about 200 m up the track from the site of the previous hut, replaced in 2006. The altitude is 1400 m and on a clear day the hut provides excellent views to Ruapehu, Taranaki, the Tararuas and Manawatu. We will leave the Police Station at 7.30 am and head for Mangakukeke Rd end. We walk from there to the hut along a route over farmland and cut track 4.5 km (2-3 hours). The total climb is 700 m. Wooden Peg summit lies about 2 km (0.5-1 h) from the hut, and given the party enthusiasm and fine weather, we might go to there for a better view.

**Wednesday Trampers**  
**16 May** **Easy/Medium**  
**Jill Chapman** **326 8605**  
 Phone for more details.

**Thursday Trampers**  
**17 May** **Easy/Medium**  
**Jon McLeod** **323 5785**  
 Phone for more details.

**Around Ngauruhoe**  
**19-20 May** **Easy/Medium**  
**Doug McNeur** **359 1893**  
 Ngaurahoe is a lovely mountain and we'll be cruising around it. From the Chateau, we'll take the off track part to Outere hut. After that we'll wander past the moonscape that is the Outere valley before winding our way over most of the Great Tongariro Crossing. This is a good chance

to see some of New Zealand's most spectacular scenery so give me a call to come along.

**Atene Skyline Walk**  
**20 May** **Medium**  
**Christine Scott** **354 0510**

The Atene Skyline walk is an almost circular track which begins on the Whanganui River Road, 36 km from Wanganui.

The focus throughout the walk is Puketapu hill. Many hundreds of years ago the hill stood at the end of a long, narrow-necked peninsula. The river once flowed in an almost complete circle around Puketapu but after years of erosion the river broke through the neck, forcing a more direct route to the sea and cutting off the meander.

Spectacular views from vantage points along the track include the cut-off meander, the Whanganui River, Mt Ruapehu, Mt Taranaki/Egmont, the Tasman Sea, and the Whanganui River's tributary valleys.

Beginning at the up-river end, the track climbs steeply from the River Road to a height of 260 m through fine lowland forest. Following an old, gently graded roadline for approximately 3 km the track follows the ridgeline to a clearing which marks the track's halfway point. Shortly beyond this point is the Taumata Trig, the highest point of the track at 523 m. The track then winds around the edge of sandstone bluffs to reach Taupiri Trig before descending steeply back to the River Road.

**Wednesday Trampers**  
**23 May** **Easy/Medium**  
**Colleen Newth** **358 8801**  
 Phone for more details.

**Thursday Trampers**  
**24 May** **Easy/Medium**  
**John Thornley** **356 9681**  
 Phone for more details.

**Top Maroepa Hut**  
**26-27 May** **Easy/Medium**  
**Adam Matich** **359 2796**

This trip starts from the Sunrise road end, heads up through Sunrise hut, Armstrong Saddle and up and over to Top Maroepa Hut, which is a four berth affair, so people need to be equipped to sleep out or at the very least on the floor. There may be time (if I feel like it) to stop at bakeries or cafes on the way. In keeping with the easy (and sexist) nature of the trip, the women-folk will be expected to think up something nice to make for afternoon tea at the hut. This activity will rest their hands from all the needlework they will have been doing that afternoon, but will in no way interfere with their more-or-less continuous discussions about the legion shortcomings of the men-folk, who weather and other conditions permitting, will be

outside collecting/chopping firewood, boasting to each other about imagined sexual conquests, and discussing the legion shortcomings of the women-folk who are making their afternoon tea. The men-folk (excluding trip leader who is an honorary girlie) may be expected to cook dinner and a proper breakfast the next morning, as everyone knows that it is not proper for the women-folk to do these sort of things when out in the wilds.

### **Hardings Park Variation (Joint PNTMC trip)**

**27 May** **Medium/Fit**  
**Terry Crippen** **356 3588**

While many of you have probably walked or ran the Sledge Track loop up in Harding's Park, the idea of this variation is to do a bigger loop in the same area, with a lot of it being either following a rough track/route or off-track (Depending what we want to do on the day.) A good way to catch up with some of the trampers from the other club and do a bit of exploration at the same time. Departing 8am, Countdown carpark.

### **Wednesday Trampers**

**30 May** **Easy/Medium**  
**Donna Hayes** **06 322 8686**

Phone for more details.

### **Thursday Trampers**

**31 May** **Easy/Medium**  
**Ivan Alve** **356 3123**

Phone for more details.

### **Waitotaras**

**2-4 June** **Medium**  
**Mark Learmonth** **355 9143**

Want to go somewhere different, with no major climbs, loads of history, the possibility of seeing Ed (the Horse) tramping on low usage tracks, with three good huts thrown into the mix. If the answer is yes maybe this trip is for you. We will be traveling through the Waitotara Conservation area.

Day 1 Starting off Puniwhakau road in from Stratford to Puteore Hut 6 hours.

Day 2 A longer day, lunch at Tahupo Hut 4 hours and then onto Trains hut 5 hours.

Day 3 Koane Track out to Moeroa road end (in from Eltham) traveling time unknown at this stage.

Travel details are still to be finalized. Mark can also be contacted on (027) 200 4960.

### **Queen Charlotte Walkways**

**2-4 June** **Easy**  
**Don McDonald** **357 0222**

See page 2 for details.

### **Keretaki Hut**

**9-10 June** **Medium**  
**Jean Garman** **354 3536**

This trip is on the lower eastern side of the Ruahines. Several options exist for getting to the leatherwood surrounded brilliantly orange Keretaki hut (aka the SeaMac Hotel) but as some of these involve rivers we will wait and see what the weather is like and how cold it is before finalising our route.

In keeping with the moderate (and sexist) nature of the trip, the men-folk will be expected to think up something nice to make for afternoon tea at the hut. This activity will rest their hands from all the firewood gathering and chopping they will have been doing that afternoon to provide a warm-cheery fire for the hard-working women-folk. These tasks will however, in no way interfere with their more-or-less continuous discussions about the legion shortcomings of the women-folk, who weather and other conditions permitting, will be outside looking for deer to kill, boasting to each other about imagined sexual conquests, and discussing the legion shortcomings of the men-folk. The men-folk will also be expected to cook dinner and a full breakfast the next morning, as everyone knows that it is not proper for the women-folk to do these sorts of things when out in the wilds. SeaMac hotel is not a huge venue so come prepared to sleep out or on the floor.

### **Sunrise Hut**

**10 June** **Easy**  
**Tim Swale** **06 376 6556**

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

### **Howletts Hut**

**16-17 June** **Medium**  
**Gary Bevins** **325 8879**

Quaint alpine hut in the eastern Ruahines with many entry and exit routes. A decision as to which route will be taken depends on the weather conditions and what track interested parties wish to take. The direction we favour is Longview - Howletts - Daphne

### **Lodge Food Carry/Midwinter Feast**

**16-17 June** **All Welcome**  
**Ken Mercer** **356 7497**

This is an opportunity to celebrate the start of the real year – the ski season! It is also a chance for helpers, large and small, to contribute to running our club lodge.

We'll drive up Friday night with a load of frozen meat. Groceries will be delivered on Saturday and all need to be carried across to the lodge. For the carriers boots, packs, and possibly storm

gear will be needed. Checkers and stackers are also needed in the lodge and there are a number of maintenance jobs for handy people too but the most important job is baking pinwheel scones for morning tea!

On Saturday night we'll celebrate midwinter in fine style. On Sunday some may go skiing while others can enjoy a local walk or simply relax.

Those who take part in the food carry receive one nights accommodation free and there's also free transport in the minibus if you are one of the first ten people who want to leave from Palmerston North. Be in quick as space is limited by the size of the lodge.

**Colenso Trig**

**17 June**

**Darlene Westrupp**

Phone for more details.

**Easy/Medium**

**354 5764**

**Waikamaka Hut**

**23-24 June**

**Tony Evans**

We will leave town 7.30 am on Saturday morning, and leaving the vehicle at North Block Road we head up the track towards Sunrise Hut and take the left fork in the track to Waipawa Forks Hut. From there we follow the Waipawa River up to the Waipawa Saddle and on down to the Wai-

**Easy/Medium**

**357 4355**

kamaka River and downstream to the Hut. Arriving at the hut early afternoon we will relax and make ourselves comfortable for one of the longest nights of the year. Sunday morning we head back home the same way.

**Toka Trig**

**24 June**

**Dave Mitchell**

Toka trig : we will try and leave the police station at 7am. The tramp is located in the southern Ruahines, not far from Apati. If the weather is fine we could tramp up the shorts track to Toka trig then walk along the main ridge to Tunupo trig for lunch. Then return by walking down the knights track. If the weather is no good we can evaluate it on the day, possibly doing a much shorter walk. So there could be up to 7 hours tramping if the weather is right.

**Easy/Medium**

**329 2803**

**Mitre Flats (via Te Mara)**

**30-31 June**

**Garry Grayson**

Phone for details.

**Medium**

**326 8837**



Above: Easter in the Kawekas- at Manson Biv, about time the lodge was burned down and the insurance used to buy one of these... Adam was joking of course ;-)  
 Photo: Adam Matich (Kawekas Trip | Easter 2007)



**Above: Workers in front of a well stocked wood shed**  
Photo: Jean Garman (Te Matawai Work Party | 14-15 April 2007)

**Left: The ladder at the Tararua Peaks**  
Photo: Doug McNeur (Mangahuka Hut Trip | 6-9 April 2007)

## Trip reports

### Mikimiki Tramway 21 March

**Leader: Jill Chapman**  
Eleven trampers.

### Cone Hut 22 March

**Leader: Nigel Spencer**  
Eight trampers.

### Atiwhakatu 24-25 March

**by Howard Nicholson**

Man, I'm good! This trip was almost everything I said it would be: wonderful weather (totally cloudless); delicious dinner; superb sleep under a flapless fly; breakfast in bed; and fantastic fauna. Quite by chance, we had found the most excellent marshmallows for toasting on our evening fire, but given the current buzz about "food miles" we were surprised to see that they came from Guatemala!

The only thing that did not work out was the location – we were still next to the picturesque Atiwhakatu Stream, but further downstream than originally planned. Still, a great weekend enjoyed by all.

Hugh, Tara, Sue and Howard Nicholson

### Burton's Track 28 March

**Leader: Bev Akers**  
Nineteen trampers.

Four vehicles dropped all the trampers off a wee way in past the locked gate. Off they all went while we headed

round to the other road end. (Takes about 1 hour) It was good to get back down off Scotts Road as they have started logging. Its not nice coming face to face with one of those big trucks on that narrow road. From the Manga-hao road end we managed to walk in not quite to the Burtons Whare Site before meeting up with the 2 front ones. We had lunch with them while the others had stopped back at the Site for there's. All regrouped and headed out, all remarking they have had a good tramp. Thanks to the fellow drivers.

### Sledge Track 29 March

**Leader: Peter Carver**  
Fifteen trampers.

### Field Hut 1 April

**by Rod McKenzie**

On arrival at Otaki Forks car park a party of six was greeted by overcast sky and mist starting at the bush edge. Despite the weather we set out across the cleared land and in to the bush. The climb towards the hut was uneventful with out any view because of the mist and without paka's until but we were two minutes from the hut when a quick rain shower went past. In to the hut for lunch gave us shelter till the rain stopped. After lunch the group decided that there was no point in continuing higher due to the continuing mist and headed back down. The mist seemed to clear as we returned so that we had a view across the valley when we left the bush. A stop for a 'real fruit ice cream' on the journey home completed a pleasant day (despite the misty conditions) in the Tararua's.

We were Robert Bruce, Harold Pettersen, Hugh Wilde, Colleen Jessen, Alla Seleznyova and Rod McKenzie (leading, in place of Dave Newstead).

### **Purity Hut 4 April**

**Leader: Rita Hodson**

Fifteen trampers.

An enjoyable trip well worth "the hill" near the start.

### **Mikimiki Saddle - Te Mara Loop 5 April**

**by Graham Pritchard**

The details of this trip are covered in Adam Matich's report in the March issue of Beechleaves. We followed the same route (Mikimiki saddle, untracked ridge to Te Mara trig and back to carpark via the Cow Creek/Blue Range Track.) except that from Te Mara trig we kept to the Blue Range main ridge until intersecting with the Cow Creek track (no markers but not difficult). The lower section of the route up the untracked ridge through the crown fern and some mingimingi scrub left those up front of the group a bit damp after the overnight rain (thanks Stuart and other front runners for blotting this up). The designated leader opted to bring up the tail end (good ploy). The the upper part of the ridge is open with a beautiful soft carpet of mosses and filmy ferns. Two hours from the saddle to Te Mara trig with a couple of stops. On the return some of us diverted a short distance to the rocky view point above Blue Range hut to soak up the sunshine and take in the view. Twelve trampers enjoyed the day.

### **Easter at Mangahuka Hut 6-9 April**

**by Doug McNeur**

It was a public holiday weekend, and I was leading the trip. What could possibly go wrong with the weather??

With a favourable weather forecast, Kim and I set off to the Hot Bread Shop in Otaki on Friday morning. We were

both concerned about our fitness (or lack thereof) so this was going to be an interesting trip.

Cheered (and fed) by the fact that it was open, we wombled our merry way up to Kime hut and graciously shared it with about 15 other people. Kim is practising her photography so there was a bit of running around and taking sunset photos (about 25).

Just before the crack of Dawn, Kim charged out the door to photograph the sunrise. Impervious to this excitement, I slumbered on, ignoring the organisational efforts of the 8 Tararua Tramping Club members who got up at a similar time. Kim returned triumphant with a modest number of good photos (about 30), and after waiting for the TTC people to leave, we cruised out and headed for the Tararua Peaks. Going over the Peaks in brilliant sunshine and no wind was a much better experience than I've had previously.

We got to Mangahuka Hut at about 2pm so spent most of the rest of the day engaging in Kim's favourite past time of taking photo's. She was relatively restrained due to some mist and only took about 50 over a 3 hour period. By this stage, I was getting increasingly paranoid due to the fact that I had been in the Tararua's for 2 days without any wind!

Sunday was going to be the longest day so (once again) the TTC crowd were up before dawn. We got up about 1/2 to 3/4 of an hour later and left 5 minutes after them so it was no surprise when we caught them. We all bounced along the Main Range to have lunch at Anderson's Hut, before dropping the long way down to Waitewaiwai hut for the night. Once again, MTSC lead the group into the hut then waited for them to catch us.

Monday was a short day out, but the daily ritual of TTC getting up before dawn continued. This time we/Kim were ready to go about an hour after them but we still got to the end at the same time after passing everyone else on the track.

The Hot Bread Shop at Otaki was still open so we dropped in to offer our thanks for a perfect long weekend.



**Field Hut**  
Photo: R. McKenzie  
Field Hut Trip  
1 April 2007





All in all, a pretty cruisy trip with wonderful weather as you'd expect from the Tararua's in April. A jolly fine time really.

We were; Doug McNeur and Kim Dowson.

### Albert Road - Tokomaru 11 April

**Leader: Jill Spencer**

Seventeen trampers.

Access through Joe Ryder's place.

### Herepai Hut 12 April

**Leader: Carolyn Brodie**

Nine trampers.

### Te Matawai Hut Work Party 14-15 April

**by Jean Garman**

After two days of winter weather and with a marginal (but fortunately inaccurate) weather forecast 5 dutiful individuals headed for Te Matawai Hut in the Tararuas. It was the first ride in the new minibus for all of us and we were most impressed. A pleasant wander up the valley scented with easter orchids. There was still enough gravel in the river to prevent shorts getting wet (at least for those who didn't sit down in it eh Jenny) although the pools are starting to empty out again so it might be a wet knicker trip again in the near future. After lunch we dragged ourselves up the hideously steep Yeates track – luckily the hideous stuff doesn't last long then its just a progressively more gentle climb to the hut. The cloud was sitting just on the very top of the tops, there was a fair bit of sunshine around and no wind what so ever, all in all a lovely day for tramping. The new deck (funded by MTSC) was looking mighty fine and very practical giving plenty of covered space to remove coats and boots and a nice seat to sit in the sun and admire

what is a pretty impressive view. The new woodshed (funded by the Huts Committee) to keep firewood off the nice new deck had been installed the previous week.

We got things underway with a toast to the deck and an official opening of the new woodshed. Then we settled in for an afternoon of filling the wood shed. Energy levels started to drop around 3.30pm so we had a quick nosh of the nibbles and a hot drink then ripped back into it while the 'made from scratch' minestrone soup simmered gently on the wood burner. Knock off time rolled around and a concerted effort was made to put a significant dent in the nibbles and drinkies. Conversation flowed freely, rambled around and climbed into places it was better kept out of then it was time for the super scrummy soup and rolls followed by an appropriately decorated chocolate cake. With tummys stretched to bursting we crawled off to bed for a long hard sleep.

The next morning dawned misty but still calm and mild and the boys headed back out to deal to the wood and a few misplaced flax bushes while the girlies cleaned the hut. When everything was sparkling clean and with the woodshed looking reasonably stacked we packed up and headed off as the sun started to break through the cloud. A pleasant amble out interrupted by semi frequent sun basking cum conversation breaks and we were back at the van looking forward to an ice cream in Shannon on the way home.

Many thanks to the club and to the huts committee for the recent improvements to Te Matawai, still a very 'unique' hut but actually a really nice and cosy (when the fire is going) place to stay. Also many thanks to the people who came along to the work party (if we'd had a few more people we might have filled the wood shed) but there is always next year.

We were Jenny McCarthy, Brian Webster, Adam Matich, Dave Mitchell and Jean Garman.



**Grilling great  
Guatemalan  
marshmallows**  
Photo: H. Nicholson  
Atiwhakatu Trip  
24-25 March 2007

# 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 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 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