



# beechleaves

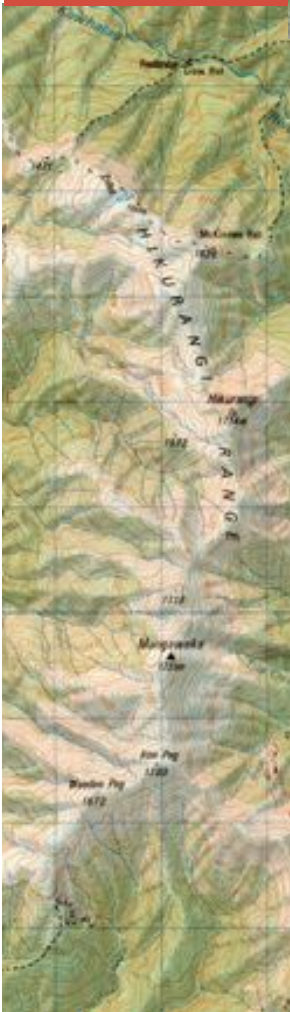
Newsletter of the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club

June 2007  
Issue 5

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Jenny and Adam at  
Leon Kinvig Hut.  
Photo: Jean Garman



## Upcoming club nights

### Bivouac Outdoor+Biking in Kathmandu

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

#### 5th June - Bivouac Outdoor Night

This club night will be held at Bivouac Outdoor (Mountain Equipment) from 6.00 pm. There will be 25-30% off some items with another 5% off for members just for the night and the following day. There will be 7.5% off GPS and other electrical equipment. For catering please RSVP Linda on 323 3836 (home), 328 5880 (work), 027 333 4493 or [principal@kimbolton.schoolzone.net.nz](mailto:principal@kimbolton.schoolzone.net.nz) on or before Friday June 1. Please leave a message if Linda is not available to take your call.

#### 19th June - Biking in Kathmandu

Lhasa to Kathmandu is the world's biggest downhill bike ride. In 2005 Adam Philps, Chris Peterson, Glynne Lloyd and John Rhodes journeyed from the dry hills of Tibet to Nepal's green valleys, enjoying road works, dust, ice and Tibetan toilets en route. Tonight John presents their twin screen slide show.

#### Newsletter arrangements for the next few months

I will be overseas from mid-May until mid-July. Christine Scott has kindly offered to take on the July newsletter. See page 2 for more details.

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# President's Report

## Committee Members Needed

by **Howard Nicholson**

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

We have had our AGM, and I extend a big welcome to the new committee and appointees. Thank you for your commitment to use your skills and talents for the benefit of the Club. I also extend my gratitude to the outgoing committee and appointees for their efforts that have resulted in another successful year for the Club, as evidenced by the articles in the AGM booklet.

Post-AGM is a busy time, with preparations for the ski season ramping up and subscriptions due. Several members will be taking on the challenge of new roles this year, so please have patience should it be required!

Subscriptions are now due and are the same as in previous years. Please make a point of paying your subs promptly to ensure that you continue getting the newsletter, member rates at the lodge, use of the minibus, and all of the other benefits. Thank you.

Winter is an awesome time to go tramping, skiing, ski-touring, snow-camping, climbing, or whatever else takes your fancy. Take care, take the right gear, and have a great time! I look forward to reading about your trips in the newsletter.

### MTSC 2007-08 Committee

#### Committee:

President	Howard Nicholson
Secretary	Tim Swale
Treasurer	Christine Scott
Chief Guide	Bev Akers
Membership Sec.	Jenny McCarthy
Newsletter Editor	Wei-Hang Chua
Social Convenor	Linda Campbell
Ski Captain	Ken Mercer
Lodge Manager	Ryan Badger
Lodge Booking Officer	Hugh Wilde
Mini-bus Manager	Vacant
General Committee	Geraldine Fovakis Ivan Alve Clare Wilford

#### Appointed positions:

Day Trip Convenor	Gary Bevins
Asst. Lodge Booking Officer	Liz Wilde
Asst. Newsletter Ed.	G. Bevins & B. Akers
Minibus Custodian	Adam Matich
Gear Custodian	Peter Rawlins
Club Archivist	Brian Webster
Honorary Auditor	Darlene Westrupp
Website Administrator	Howard Nicholson

## Lodge Lockers

by **Howard Nicholson**

A limited number of lockers are available for regular users of our lodge at Iwikau, Mt Ruapehu. In past years, there have been more people wanting lockers than were available.

Last year, several lockers were cleaned out, the contents stored for a couple of months, and a notice to that effect was published in the Beechleaves newsletter. We now have a better idea about who has what locker, and wish to ensure that locker holders are also lodge users.

The committee has agreed that lodge locker holders will be charged for the equivalent of two night's accommodation (\$42.00) as well as the usual annual locker fee. The additional fee will be credited towards the cost of the locker holder's lodge usage during the current year; in effect, the first two night's accommodation has been paid in advance.

Please note:

- The additional fee is not refundable.
- The credit is only valid until the next AGM (e.g. May 2008), and may be used by people associated with the locker holder's membership (e.g. the person named as a single member, or a family member of a family membership).
- When making a booking, please advise the Lodge Booking Officers that you wish to use your locker holder's credit.

If you no longer require a locker, then please notify the Membership Secretary and return your locker key as soon as possible. Likewise, let the Membership Secretary know if you wish to have a locker.

Please understand that this move has been made in fairness to the regular lodge users who require a locker, and to get the best use of a limited resource.

## New Club Members

The club would like to welcome the following new members:

Clare Wilford (Palmerston North)  
 Geoff Thornburrow (Hamilton)  
 Bernard & Ursula Cobb (Feilding)  
 Greg Dobson (Otaki)  
 Scott Jefferson & Morag Wilson & Family  
 (Napier)

## Queen's Birthday Weekend

**June 2-4:** Don McDonald is looking for traveling 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. Christine Scott has kindly offered to take on the reins for the July issue. Please email trip reports and previews during late-May, and June to Christine at [barry.scott@xtra.co.nz](mailto:barry.scott@xtra.co.nz). Articles for the August newsletter which need to be sent to me at the end of June and early July can be emailed to me at [mtsc.editor@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mtsc.editor@xtra.co.nz), I will be back in the

country and hopefully reading to get on with the newsletter, or nursing a sun burn ;-), wishing you all a great time over the winter months, Wei.

## For Sale

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

## Auckland Uni Club 75th

Details as below for those interested.

### Auckland University Tramping Club 75th Jubilee

Celebrate 75 years of A.U.T.C. Join us for a fully catered formal dinner on Friday 27 July 07 in Auckland, and day walks in the Hunuas the next day. A big party and celebratory dinner will be held at the traditional Hunua Camp on the Saturday night.

Pay by the 31<sup>st</sup> May to qualify for the earlybird discount.

**For more information or to register, go to [www.autc.org.nz](http://www.autc.org.nz), or contact David Gauld on (09) 373 7599 extn. 88697**

## Department of Conservation Notes



### Notification of Possum Control in the Manawatu Gorge

DoC has contracted Target Pest Contracting Ltd for a restrict/elimination of possum activities on native flora and fauna within the Manawatu Gorge. This will take 5-6 weeks to complete and be between early June until the end of July. The 1,665 hectare area will comprise DoC reserve, railways and highways, plus privately owned farmland. Control is by pellet, and bait bags and stations.

### Hut & Track News

Kaweka Forest Park - Mangaturutu, MacIntosh and Comet Huts, Tira Lodge and the Lakes car park tracks have been recut.

Ruahine Forest Park - Hinerua, Dead Dog, Gold Creek, Herricks and Wharite tracks have been recut.

Planned for the 07/08 summer are the Shutes to Koau Stream, Daphne hut to Howletts and Daphne hut to Sparrowhawk Biv.

For further details contact: Kay Davies (Community Relations Ranger, Department of Conservation, Palmerston North Office. Email: [kdavies@doc.govt.nz](mailto:kdavies@doc.govt.nz)

# Upcoming trips

## TRIP GRADING

The times listed below include tramping, rest and meal stops. In assessing the trip times and grades, terrain, weather and party fitness (a party is as fast as its slowest member) must be considered. As these factors will never repeat themselves, times are only estimates. Contact the trip leader if you are unsure about trip gradings for a specific trip.

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

### Top Maropea 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 Maropea Hut, which is a four berth affair, so people need to be equipped to sleep out or on the floor. There may be time to stop at bakeries or cafes on the way. [In keeping with the easy (and sexist) nature of the trip, women-folk will be expected to think up something nice to make for afternoon tea at the hut. This 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 girl) 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 8 am, Countdown carpark.

### Wednesday Trampers

30 May

Easy/Medium

Donna Hayes

06 322 8686

Phone for more details.

### Thursday Trampers

31 May

Easy/Medium

John Thornley

356 9681

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.

### Wednesday Trampers

6 June

Easy/Medium

Tina Fraser

328 7757

Phone for more details.

### Thursday Trampers

7 June

Easy/Medium

Jill Spencer

329 8738

Phone for more 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 Kere-taki 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. SeaMac hotel is not a huge venue so come prepared to sleep out or on the floor. (Editor comment, this preview is abridged but the remainder of preview is pretty much identical as the text in between the square brackets for Adam's Top Maropea Trip, I can see some sort of competition heating up here.

#### **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.

#### **Wednesday Trampers**

**13 June** **Easy/Medium**  
**Pauline Hall** **329 7707**  
 Phone for more details.

#### **Thursday Trampers**

**14 June** **Easy/Medium**  
**Ray Pratt** **328 7884**  
 Phone for more details.

#### **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** **Easy/Medium**  
**Darlene Westrupp** **354 5764**

The official grade on the trip card is easy/medium but I had a trial run at the weekend and was up at the trig in two hours, therefore making it an easy trip. We will therefore leave the police station at 8 am as it is almost the shortest day of the year. It takes approximately 1.5 hours to travel up to the Kawhatau valley and to the end of Rangitane Road and the DOC base. It is then a steady climb up to the trig with beautiful bush and views of the surrounding countryside and the mountains. Hopefully we will have a perfect day on 17 June as I did on Sunday as there is no shelter on the top to have our lunch. If you are keen to join me call me at home - 354 5764 or work 353 6901

#### **Wednesday Trampers**

**20 June** **Easy/Medium**  
**Margaret Gillingham** **356 8812**  
 Phone for more details.

#### **Thursday Trampers**

**21 June** **Easy/Medium**  
**Keith Fisher** **357 1724**  
 Phone for more details.

#### **Waikamaka Hut**

**23-24 June** **Easy/Medium**  
**Tony Evans** **357 4355**

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 Waikamaka 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** **Easy/Medium**  
**Dave Mitchell** **329 2803**

Toka trig : we will try and leave the police station at 7am. The tramp is located in the southern Ruahines, not far from Apiti. 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.

### Wednesday Trampers

27 June

Margaret Foot

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

357 8003

### Thursday Trampers

28 June

Nigel Spencer

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

329 8738

### Mitre Flats (via Te Mara)

30-31 June

Garry Grayson

Phone for details.

Medium

326 8837

### Kapakapanui

1 July

Hugh Wilde

This makes for a good warm-up for the ski season. Gets the legs stronger! Kapakapanui is just east of Waikanae on the edge of the Tararuas. All up we can usually do the whole trip including travel in a little over 8 hours. It's a good climb up to the trig where we usually have lunch and then down past the hut back to the road end. About 5 hours walk unless you really dawdle. Don't forget your warm winter clothes even though the weather will be OK for us of course. Ring Hugh Wilde 356 9450.

Easy/Medium

356 9450

### Wednesday Trampers

4 July

Lynne Robinson

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

329 8759

### Thursday Trampers

5 July

Neville Gray

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

357 768

### Haurangi

7-8 July

John Beech

I have a trip going into the Haurangis sometime in the school holidays I think. There is not much to say about it as the final destination has yet to be determined. The trip will be an easy-medium one somewhere in the Haurangis and it will depend on the weather at the time and where the prospective trippers would like to go. This assumes that there will be some interest as the last 3 trips I have led no-one has wanted to go. Anyone who knows the area may like to contact me and offer some suggestions.

Easy/Medium

354 9310

### Waiotauru Hut

8 July

Tony Evans

From the end of the Otaki Forks Road a track follows the Waiotauru River south to the Wai-

Easy/Medium

357 4355

tauru Forks where a bridge crosses the river, the track continues south leaving the river for a while and climbing 120 metres above it before returning to the river and crossing another bridge to the hut. Well that is according to the map, it would be good to have some company to go and see if it is true.

### Wednesday Trampers

11 July

Rita & Arthur Hodson

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

323 5491

### Thursday Trampers

12 July

Gordon Clark

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

359 2500

### Penn Creek Hut

14-15 July

Bev Akers

There is an easy way to get to this hut which very few of you have visited. Great opportunity to come along on this easy overnighiter. Its just a matter of getting ourselves to Field Hut and up onto Table Top. Then its along a good open track to the turn off down to Penn Creek Hut which is next to the river. About 6 hours in total. Sunday we retrace our steps.

Easy/Medium

325 8879

### Alpine Instruction Course 1 (AIC1)

#### Snowcraft

14-16 July

Howard Nicholson

Each year MTSC runs a series of Winter alpine courses, covering the skills needed to safely enjoy tramping and/or climbing above the bush line. Topics covered in AIC1 include alpine equipment, travelling on snow, snow shelters, avalanche awareness, and keeping yourself and the rest of your party safe even if your day goes pear-shaped. This course is for everyone who tramps or ventures to the mountains in Winter, and includes two nights at Manawatu Lodge on Mt Ruapehu. The club can provide gear if you do not already have an ice axe and crampons.

Technical

357 6325

AIC2 – Intermediate snowcraft - follows two weeks later, and provides an introduction to other mountaineering techniques. Competency to the level of AIC1 is a pre-requisite.

Opportunities to try out your snow skills are listed on the trip card and usually have a grading of “technical”.

Transport and accommodation costs are \$40 and \$42 (for members) respectively. Please book as early as possible.

### Blue Range Hut

15 July

Alan Watts

The track to Blue Range hut begins at the Kiriwhakapapa road end south of Mount Bruce. It climbs steadily for approximately two hours to

Easy/Medium

357 6848

the hut where we will have lunch before returning the same way. Leave Police Station at 8 am.

**Wednesday Trampers**  
**18 July** Easy/Medium  
**Rose Strahan** 328 9861  
 Heading to the Cone off Petersons Eoad near Table Flat, Apiti - a privately owned deer farm/ bush property with great views (and some good uphill aerobic potential).

**Thursday Trampers**  
**19 July** Easy/Medium  
**Bev Akers** 325 8879  
 Phone for more details.

**Lake Surprise**  
**21-22 July** Easy  
**John Doolan** 355 2100  
 Phone for details.

**Waiopahu Hut**  
**22 July** Medium  
**Glenn Pendergrast** 357 7487  
 Phone for details.

**Wednesday Trampers**  
**25 July** Easy/Medium  
**Rosemary & Ken Hall** 356 8538  
 Phone for more details.

**Thursday Trampers**  
**26 July** Easy/Medium  
**Peter Carver** 354 4479  
 Phone for more details.

**Alpine Instruction Course 2**  
**27-29 July** Technical  
**Brian Webster** 357 0189  
 Phone for details.

**Beginners Ski Weekend**  
**28-29 July** All welcome  
**Ken Mercer** 356 7497  
 Phone for details.

**Tunupo Peak**  
**29 July** Easy/Medium  
**Neville Gray** 357 2768  
 Phone for details.

**Apiti Track**  
**5 August** Easy/Medium  
**Tony Evans** 357 4355  
 Many years ago construction of a road was started to link Norsewood with Apiti, it was never completed but today the track heading into the Ruahines from Ngamoko Road, Norsewood, is known as the Apiti Track. This track heads north-east from Ngamoko Road, past a side track on the right to Makeretu Hut and another on the left to Birch Whare, on over .855 and up to the junction at .1232, from here the choice is left and down to Leon Kinvig Hut or right and north along the ridge to Longview Hut. We won't be going that far but will turn around at a point in keeping with our enthusiasm and an easy/medium day.



**Roaring Stag Hut**  
 Photo: John Doolan  
 (Roaring Stag Hut  
 Trip | 28 April 2007)



**Top: Very wet trampers enjoying a quick lunch.**

Photo: Christine Allardice (Waiotauru River Valley Trip | 12 May 2007)

**Above: Rata Tree on the way to Roaring Stag Hut**

Photo: John Doolan (Te Matawai Work Party | 29 April 2007)

**Left: Jean showing one of the other things that people do out in the hills.**

Photo: Ivan Rienks (6 April 2007)

## Trip reports

### Maharahara Crossing 16 April

by **Christine Allardice**

Twelve trampers were dropped at the end of Kumeti Road on the Eastern side of the Ruahine Range. Then thanks to Gordon Clark the van was driven to the Western side where 3 trampers walked up to meet the 12 others from the Eastern side. The day was clear and good views on the top were enjoyed by all. It was the 1st crossing for 6 of the Group and all enjoyed the day.

### Sledge Track 18 April

**Leader: Dave Warnock**

Fourteen trampers.

### Hunters Hut West of Arawaru (Kahuterawa) 19 April

**Leader: Merv Matthews**

Fourteen trampers.

### Jumbo/Holdsworth overnighter 21-22 April

by **Dave Allan**

The long range forecast indicated a fine sunny weekend, however the closer to Friday it got indications were that a southerly front may layer the peaks with low cloud.

We started with the obligatory morning tea in Masterton on a brilliantly clear morning and then proceeded to Holdsworth road end, where the number of cars indicated a good presence of like minded people in the hills. It was agreed we would stop for lunch at Atiwhakatu Hut, then allow all afternoon for everyone to tackle Rain Gauge Spur at their leisure. By the time the group had all arrived at Jumbo Hut in windless conditions, the misty cloud had appeared/disappeared three or four times, pushed by the gentlest of south easterly breezes.

The hut was shared by another 12 trampers, all of whom were traveling in the opposite direction to ourselves and remarked how great it had been on the "tops" earlier in the day.



The next morning brought still, misty conditions which were unlikely to change unless any wind shifted the mist or the sun emerged to burn it off. Neither occurred in the trip south along the "tops" apart from two brief occasions which allowed us to view out to Kapiti in the west, and three red deer hinds watching us intently from a slip face a hundred metres below the ridge line to our east.

We had a brief stop atop Holdsworth, then down to Powell Hut for morning tea stop. We had guessed we may come across the Club day trippers at Mountain House around lunchtime and that proved to be the case.

We continued on our respective ways back to the Holdsworth road end and arranged to meet at the Mt Bruce Wildlife Sanctuary tearooms for more coffee and eats.

All in all a rather pleasant tramping weekend enjoyed by all. We were; Ivan Alve, Bev Akers, Gary Bevins, Jeanette Anderson, Alan Cameron, Alla Seleznyova, Dave Allan.

## **Mt House Shelter** **22 April**

**by Sue Tuohy**

Sunday dawned a beautiful day but by the time we arrived at Holdsworth it was cloudy and a bit misty.

6 of us, we made our way up to the Shelter and within five minutes they 'other lot' turned up on their way down. Had a bit of a chat, then they moved on. We had lunch and made our way back via Akiwhatu Steam - a very pleasant day. The others were already at the car park by the time we got there, so we decided to meet up again for a cuppa at Mt Bruce.

## **Atene Skyline Track** **25 April**

**Leader: Bernard Cobb**

Fourteen trampers.

Not quite to the shelter for lunch.

## **Maharashtra Crossing** **26 April**

**Leader: Harry and Chris Allardice**

Fourteen trampers.

## **Roaring Stag Hut** **28-29 April**

**by John Doolan**

We were planning to cancel this trip on the Thursday night as the weather chats looked wet, in fact quite wet and one of us said that she wasn't too keen on getting her rain coat too wet (eh?).

Still the bravest of us said let's go and go went to Roaring Stag hut in the north eastern Tararua's, in from Eketahuna. The coffee stop at Eketahuna is a worth while visit as it is full of rural things to purchase, and the outside toilet is worth a look at (after you get the key, so don't be in too much of a hurry!). Coffee and cakes were good and very well priced.

It was raining for the trip over to the road end and for the first hour of the walk in. We did have an hour with our raincoats off but the final hour saw us with our raincoats back on. In total we spent 3.15 hours on the track going along, then up, and up and up before the gradual walk down the ridgeline to the relatively new hut. It was clean and tidy and most of all dry!

Sue had the fire going before the rest of us had our dry gear on and Gary had the billy boiling before Bev asked him and while they were all busy I got the pick of the bottom bunk beds. We were joined by two other two person teams who were persuaded to sleep on the top bunk for fear of being kept awake by a not to be named snorer!! (who had the pick of the bottom beds).

Gary and Bev soon got into an argu... discussion with a couple of greenies about the merits and demerits of 1080 poisoning. Good to see that one can be passionate about a point of view but really.. it's no use argu... discussing 1080 with a deer farmer and a builder, it was a lost cause.

Mind you, the greenies were not impressed with the bedding arrangements for the dog. Yes it had a little coat on, but the veranda was wet and cold and it blew a lot at night.

The morning was great, no rain, no clouds, no wind, no hurry to get to the road end as it was just a wamble away, but do you think Sue and I could have a sleep in? No way, the farmer's partner was up making tea before it was light, but then again he did give us all a cuppa in bed.

On the way out, just after we had started down the steepish hill, we met the Sunday strollers coming up. Christine had a good sized group with her but we were happy to be going down not up. We stopped and took photo's of a flowering Rata tree beside a swing bridge, one of two very long and very high swing bridges. We were: Bev Akers, Sue Tuohy, Gary Bevins and John Doolan.

## **Roaring Stag Day Trip** **29 April**

**by Christine Scott**

I hadn't been to Roaring Stag Hut for a long time, not since the new hut was built, so along with 5 others we checked out the new hut nestled on a terrace just above the Ruapae Stream. What a delightful spot. In fact the whole 3 hour walk (one way) was really pretty with lovely bush to walk through. The flat river terraces just before the hut had a couple of side streams flowing through them and the whole area looked like a deer's version of paradise. The only down side of the trip was that the overnight group had not put the billy on for us but with such a beautiful day it was not too onerous not having a hot drink to welcome us! We were: Darlene Westrupp, Robert Bruce, Stan Mackowiak, Hugh Wilde, Colleen Jensen and Christine Scott.

## **Mt Bruce Reserve** **2 May**

**Leader: Ken Rush**

Twelve trampers.

## **A-Frame Hut** **3 May**

**Leader: Ann Green**

Sixteen trampers Thursday trampers walked the round trip, 6 hours, from the Tamaki West road end up to the Aframe hut, along the Takapari road (in thick mist), down to Stansfield hut. Then we split in to two groups one walking back down the river the other going along the Holmes Ridge. It was not a race but the Ridge walkers got back first, just. The tracks were clear. The track to the Takapari trig now has a notice saying it is no longer maintained. See photo on front cover.

**Leon Kinvig Hut****5-6 May****by Jean Garman**

An early start saw us leaving Palmy not long after dawn heading for a feed of pies and sweet things from the Dannevirke bakery. Once fed we proceeded to the Kashmir Road end which I would seriously not recommend trying to take a little front wheel drive car up to at the moment. The passengers had to be evicted and several attempts made to get up the first "steep grade change down" section. Poor little car, still better to give it a hard time than - shock horror - have to walk any further than is absolutely necessary.

Finally we set out from the road end into a mild, calm, sunny day. We headed along and down the ridge to Awatere Hut, followed by a visit to the very derelict Black Stag Hut before a pleasant stroll down the truly delightful North Branch of the Makaretu Stream. Unfortunately the South Branch of the Makaretu Stream wasn't quite as delightful being somewhat brown and slippery and mostly in the shade. Still after an hour on avoiding falling over we made it to the lovely sunny Makaretu Hut for lunch. Here we contemplated the merits of staying the night where we were but instead of being sensible and kicking back in the sunshine we headed on up the ridge behind the hut.

This track was quite interesting because although it wasn't marked on our maps it had obviously been cut a long time ago and was well signposted and marked with orange triangles, but the very scant ground trail indicated that it didn't get used much at all. Much puffing and grumbling about the steepness of hills today and finally we crested the ridgeline. From there we turned south for a while before dropping down to Leon Kinvig Hut for the night. Wood was cut for the fire. The wood didn't appreciate being cut and fought back inflicting a hearty blow to Adams nose which made his eyes water and blood come

from both the inside and the outside of his nose. Jenny kindly stuck a sticking plaster on it.

The fire was lit and being an open fireplace proceeded to smoke up the hut unless the door and/or the windows were open. This made things kind of drafty and not warm at all so we were all tucked up in bed not long after 7.00pm. A half hearted attempt was made to fill in a crossword before we were overcome with sleepiness and gave up for a nice long 11 hour kip.

There were still patches of blue sky on Sunday but the wind had increased significantly overnight. The haul back up on to the ridge wasn't too horrific since we were refreshed by all that sleep but the constant up and downs along the ridgeline towards Longview had some of us (me) complaining again. A relatively sheltered spot with sunshine and views to the east (the west being under a thick blanket of cloud) was found for lunch. Refuelled we had just the final climb up to Rocky Knob to go but from there on we were out of the comforting shelter of the leatherwood where the wind could bully us as we scuttled along to Longview. During our quick stop at the hut Jenny contemplated swapping her ankle bruising boot for an abandoned sandshoe. Try as she might it really was just too big so she forced the boot back on for the final hobble back to the car. A feed of milkshakes, icecreams, chippies and lollies in Dannevirke and the kiddies were happiness filled and looking forward to their next excursion into the hills. We were Jenny (my foot hurts) McCarthy, Adam (my nose hurts) Matich and Jean (when did these hills get so steep) Garman.

**Irongates****6 May****by Dave Allan**

Four club members (three for the first time) ventured into the Oroua River Valley with the aim of either reaching



**Sth. Makaretu Hut**  
Photo: Adam Matich  
Leon Kinvig Trip  
5 May 2007

Irongate Hut or getting as close as we could by 12 noon. Noon arrived before the hut unfortunately, and lunch was had on the track.

The new track situated upstream of the large slip at the first stream crossed past Heritage Lodge which obliterated the existing track is likely to be a problem itself once heavy rainfall takes place this winter.

The new Heritage Lodge is an impressive structure, and hopefully it won't suffer the same fate as many huts do situated close to road ends.

Under foot conditions are as dry as can be remembered and river/stream levels are very low at present. With absolutely no air movement, warm temperatures, it was a very pleasant all day stroll admiring the variety of trees and listening to the birds.

We were; Denise & Terry Knight, Nicholas Mills, Dave Allan & Scotty.

### Rangi Hut 9 May

**Leader: Jill Chapman**

Jill Chapman took 16 people up to Rangi Hut. They had superb weather. (I know, as I was on a plane flight from Palmy to Wellington and I got a great buzz following many Tararua tracks and hut spotting!) Back to the Rangi

trip, it was hard work around the slip, taking longer than expected. Some went past the hut to get a view over H.B. way. Sounded like a great trip on an equally great day. Thanks for taking my trip Jill. Judy Callesen.

### Waiotauru Valley 10 May

**by Stuart Malcolm**

Nine trampers.

In from Otaki Forks on a track that surprisingly (given the aggregate experience of the party & the proximity to Palmerston North), only one person had previously visited. The track has recently been cleared & is now in good condition. The day started out overcast, but after a couple of hours deteriorated into heavy rain. An hour or so beyond the swingbridge the track reaches a stream crossing, & when after a further 10-15 mins, we had still not reached the hut, in view of the weather, we decided to turn back - will leave the hut for another day. Subsequent discussion with DOC indicates we were very close to it. I suggested that a marker at the stream, giving time to hut would have been helpful & was told that at least two previous markers had been shot to oblivion, but they would consider another - pity that useful initiatives are sometimes destroyed to satisfy some idiot's sense of fun.



**Gary and friend**

Photo: Jeanette Andersen  
(Jumbo Loop Trip |  
21-22 April 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. Adam Matich is our minibus custodian and he can be contacted at (06) 359 2796.

## 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 2007-08 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	Christine Scott	354 0510
Chief Guide	Bev Akers	325 8879
Day Trip Convenor	Gary Bevins	325 8879
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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 Custodian	Adam Matich	359 2796
General Committee	Geraldine Fovakis Ivan Alve Clare Wilford	