

July 2007  
Issue 6

mail:  
MTSC  
P.O. Box 245  
Palmerston North

web:  
www.mtsc.org.nz

Carrying out the  
sofa's from our Lodge  
at Whakapapa.  
Photo by Mike  
Sampson.



## Upcoming club nights

### Looking After Your Feet

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

#### 3rd July - Looking after your Feet!

Do you suffer from sore feet after several hours tramping? The solution could be as easy as the way you tie your boot laces! Murray McDonald from the Shoe Clinic will talk about foot care, tying of shoe/boot laces and answer all your questions.

#### 17th July- Gliding in New Zealand

John Brooks, a local glider pilot, will be giving us a look at our back country from a totally different perspective, including some spectacular south island scenery.

#### 7th August- "Birds in Arabia" by John Cockrem

#### 21st August- Photographic competition

Time to dust off those slides and prints or go through that collection of digital photos on your computer as the annual club photo competition is coming. Photos can be entered in one of the following 5 categories with the one condition that photos shouldn't have been entered in a previous photo competition. **Alpine (NZ)** Predominantly alpine scenery in NZ (i.e. above the bushline). **Scenic (NZ)** Pictorial interest in NZ hills etc (i.e. predominantly below the bushline). **Natural History (NZ)** NZ flora and fauna or detail (e.g. geology, ice formations etc). **Topical (NZ)** People or detail related to tramping, climbing, or skiing related activities in NZ **Overseas:** Open



# President's Report

by Howard Nicholson

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

Winter is starting with a bang this year! As I was being snowed on at the Alice Nash Memorial Heritage Lodge carpark recently, I started thinking about the awesome tramping and skiing trips that are coming up on the trip card. Winter is a great time to revisit your favourite destinations, and a chill in the air and snow on the ground somehow heightens the sense of adventure. Sure, you may need to plan a shorter trip to take account of the short daylight hours and slower travelling conditions, but the rewards are worth it. Carrying the right gear (especially shelter for all the party, warm and water-proof clothes, sunscreen and sunglasses, torch, along with the other standard pack contents) will help to ensure you have a good time and can tell everyone about it when you get back.

I hope that many of you will have the chance to visit the Lodge sometime soon. The refurbished lounge suite (thanks to Turnbull Furniture, who incidentally built the suite way back in the eighties) will cap off a busy pre-season series of work parties. If you want to know what colour it is, then go and have a look for yourself!

Your subscriptions, which are the same as in previous years, are now due. 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; it helps the Club, too. You can now use Internet banking, making payment easier for many of you. Thank you to those who have already paid, or are about to do so.

## 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

### 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

## Chief Guide's Report

There are lots of good winter **Easy/Medium** trips on the trip card. I wish more new inexperienced trampers would give it a go with over-nighters. They are not difficult with the maximum times being only 4 - 5 hrs. Once you are at the hut its a great place to learn what one needs and how simple it all is with basic but practical gear. Main thing is to keep the gear light but necessary. There is a very good guide line on the trip card which lots of **you don't read**. Start off with the Food & Gear for a day trip, then add the Sleeping bag, Mattress and a change of clothes for in the hut. (Longjohns/ fleece trou, polypro / wool long sleeve top, fleece / down jacket and warm socks & hut shoes). Keep it light and simple. Then the food which your leader will advise you with. You

learn from seeing what others take and use. So please give it a go, we would love your company.

7th - 8th July John Beech

(be a **great starter trip**)

14th - 15th July Bev Akers (yes!)

21st - 22nd July John Doolan

(lot of fun with snow)

14th - 16th July Howard Nicholson

(at our Lodge - great for all you snow bunnies)

28th - 29th July Ken Mercer

(weekend at our lodge - cool!)

4th - 5th August Adam Matich

(feast at a lovely hut)

Keep your trip card close & read it

see you soon Bev Akers.

## New Club Members

The club would like to welcome the following new members:

Ross & Marilyn Linklater	Palmerston North
Isobel Holdaway	Palmerston North
Ross & Nissin Browning & family	Havelock North
Gert & Elma Starker & family	Palmerston North
Elizabeth Evers-Swindell	Hastings
Frances Evers-Swindell	Hastings
Margaret Foot	Palmerston North
David Shanks	Wellington

## For Sale

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



Covering up the Septic Tank



Working on the Lodge roof: photo Ken Mercer

## News from Ruapehu

Alpine Meadows (Turoa) opened on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June in clear cold conditions but with gale force winds. As of writing this there is 40cm base of snow on the upper mountain but more snow is needed before the upper mountain can open. Happy Valley at Whakapapa is hoping to open later this week (approx 20<sup>th</sup> June). The upper mountain there currently has a 20cm snow base.

There are over 90 snowguns pumping snow at both Whakapapa and Turoa. Most of the guns have been running continuously since Friday afternoon (15th). Snow is forecast to 700m over the weekend of 16/17 June which is great news for the skiers but will probably make the food carry across to the Lodge a little more challenging.

Construction plans for the Valley Express chairlift proposed for Whakapapa Ski Area have been delayed due to the need for a more lengthy approval and consent process than had originally been expected. The 3 major development projects at Turoa are very close to being finished. The new snowmaking system is pretty much ready to go, contractors are putting the finishing touches on the massive new Alpine Chalet and the chairs for the High Noon Express are being flown up now.



Beam Traverse, Nichole Brooks

# 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.

**Mitre Flats (via Te Mara)**  
**30-31 June**  
**Garry Grayson**  
 Phone for details.

**Haurangi**  
**7-8 July**  
**John Beech**  
**Easy/Medium**  
**326 8837** **354 9310**

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.

**July Wednesday Trips** **Easy/Medium**  
 4th Lynne Robinson 329 8759  
 11th Rita & Arthur Hodson 323 5491  
 18th 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).*  
 25th Rosemary & Ken Hall 356 8538

**July Thursday Trips** **Easy - Medium**  
 5th to be confirmed  
 12th Gordon Clark 359 2500  
 19th Bev Akers 325 8879  
 26th Peter Carver 354 4479

**Kapakapanui**  
**1 July** **Easy/Medium**  
**Hugh Wilde** **356 9450**

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.



Campsite at Oturere: Photo Adam Match



Ngauruhoe : Photo Jean Garmen

**Waiotauru Hut**

**8 July**

**Tony Evans**

**Easy/Medium**

**357 4355**

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

**Penn Creek Hut**

**14-15 July**

**Bev Akers**

**Easy/Medium**

**325 8879**

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 overnighter. 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.

**Alpine Instruction Course 1 (AIC1)**

**Snowcraft**

**14-16 July**

**Howard Nicholson**

**Technical**

**357 6325**

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.

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.



**Tahupo Hut, Waitotaras : Photo Adam Matich**



**Kiritaki : Photo Jean Garmen**



**Descent from Kiritaki : Photo Jean Garmen**

### **Blue Range Hut**

**15 July**

**Alan Watts**

**Easy/Medium**

**357 6848**

The track to Blue Range hut begins at the Kiriwhakapapa road end south of Mount Bruce. It climbs steadily for approximately two hours to the hut where we will have lunch before returning the same way. Leave Police Station at 8 am.

### **Lake Surprise**

**21-22 July**

**John Doolan**

**Easy**

**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.



**Upper Tama Lake: Photo Jean Garmen**



**Thursday Trampers on Mt Reeves: Photo Christine Scott**

Mind you, if there has been a big dump of snow, well that might slow us down a little.

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 (especially if there is snow or ice around). 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. Two hours at the most!

Then it's off to Lake Surprise with just our day packs on (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.

Don't call me, e mail me on [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.

### **Waiopahu Hut**

**22 July**

**Glenn Pendergrast**

**Medium**

**356 7487**

With the short winter days we will leave the police station at 7.30 am driving to the Pipe Bridge just out of Levin. The track to the hut climbs steadily through the bush to the hut where we will stop for lunch before returning the same way. Access to the park is through private farm land and no dogs are permitted.

### **Alpine Instruction Course 2**

**27-29 July**

**Brian Webster**

**Technical**

**357 0189**

Phone for details.

### **Beginners Ski Weekend**

**28-29 July**

**Ken Mercer**

**All welcome**

**356 7497**

This is a good opportunity for budding skiers to get together, enjoy company at the lodge, and learn how to handle long slippery feet. A tip for absolute beginners: borrow an old set of skis and shuffle around your lawn – that's lesson 1!

I'll do what I can to coordinate transport.

Ph 027 364 6475

**August Wednesday Trips**

1st Mona Webb 323-4212  
 8th Pam Wilson 357-6247  
 15th Chris Brunskill 354-2511  
 22nd To be confirmed  
 29th Bev Akers 325-8879

**Easy/Medium****Mangatainoka Hot Springs**

**11-12 August** **Easy**  
**Tim Swale** **06 376-6556**

A long drive up to the Kawekas (about 3 1/2 hours) but a wonderful winter walk with hot pools to end the day. The intention is to leave vehicles at the Mangatutu Hot Springs and walk about 2 1/2 hours to TePui Lodge. We can drop off overnight gear and head on up to the Mangatainoka Hot Springs about another 45 mins. upstream for a soak.. A torch will be needed for the walk back to the hut in the dark. On Sunday we retrace our steps, stopping at the road end hot springs for a final dip before leaving for home. A very cruisy weekend. Phone me on 06 3766556 or email [theswales@xtra.co.nz](mailto:theswales@xtra.co.nz) if interested.

**August Thursday Trips**

2nd Graham Pritchard 357-1393  
 9th Merv Matthews 357-2858  
 16th Carolyn Brodie 358-6576  
 23rd Harry & Chris Allardice 323-4390  
 30th Ann Green 06 374-5208

**Easy - Medium****Tunupo Peak**

**29 July** **Easy/Medium**  
**To be confirmed**

**Cattle Creek Hut**

**4-5 August** **Easy/Medium**  
**Adam Matich** **325-8879**

**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.

**Burn Hut**

**12 August** **Easy/Medium**  
**Dave Mitchell** **329-2803**

**Explore the Mountain**

**18-19 August** **Skiing**  
**Peter Rawlins** **356-7443**

**Roaring Stag Lodge**

**19 August** **Easy**  
**Lorraine Sutherland** **329-2577**

Lorraine is unable to take this trip on this date. If you are interested in leading it contact Lorraine otherwise it will be transferred to October.

**Oturere Hut**

**25-26 August** **Med/Fit/Tech**  
**Jenny McCarthy** **06 376-8838**

**Maharahara Trig**

**26 August** **Easy/Medium**  
**Darlene Westrupp** **354-5764**



**Roger Athersuch punching holes in the Lodge roof: photo Ken Mercer.**



**Chris loading a sofa onto Christine: photo Ken Mercer.**

## Trip reports

### Wednesday & Thursday Trampers

The Wednesday and Thursday trampers have been busy again with 12 Wednesday trampers doing the Black Bridge Track on the 16th May, 14 walked through the gorge on the 23rd, 15 tramped over Knights Track (30th), 5 visited Blue Range Hut (6th June) and 14 went to Herepai Hut on the 13th with 6 getting all the way to Herepai Peak with plenty of views and no wind.

Fifteen Thursday trampers visited the Kaiparoro - Plane Crash on the 17th May, 8 went to Diggers Hut on the 24th, 12 into Mt Reeves (see separate report) on the 31st, 12 into Rangi Hut (6th June) and on the 14th climbed Tunupo.

### Around Ngaurohoe

19-20 May

by Jean Garmen

Four of us set off not so bright but very early on Saturday morning in the minibus along with some of the lodge work/meat carry group. After a feed of pies and pastries in Ohakune we started to rearrange Doug's trip. Tracks were considered boring, some of us were antisocial and wanted to avoid other people and we thought it should be mostly downhill to Tama Lakes from the Top of the Bruce so we went there instead of being dropped at the Chateau. A lovely sunny day with only a gentle breeze and views for

miles saw us heading over to Meads Wall from where we dropped into the valley below, several more ins and outs of valleys and it was time for lunch. Shortly after lunch we reached the Tama Lake track and instantly ran into a couple of sets of day trippers – boo hiss tracks. We left them behind as we climbed to the upper Tama Lake where we decided to take the western side rather than the eastern side as we had done in the past. It looked like it should be a shorter route if we encountered no difficulties and did indeed turn out to be a good option. Once past the Upper Tama Lake we carried on up the valley at the head then swung around and sidled relatively high under the slopes of Ngaurohoe. Again this proved to be pretty easy with no difficulties encountered although everytime Doug mentioned having gone one way before we instantly decided to go a different way to see if it was possible. Poor Doug getting stuck with such a contrary bunch. As the day was drawing to a close and we were starting to feel a little weary we dropped into the Oturere valley and it was a short hop skip and jump to the hut. Having only seen a few people all day it was a bit of shock to the system to open the door to a hot noisy crowded hut with more people arriving by the minute. Some of us decided that the inside conditions were intolerable and retreated to the veranda, planning to spend the night there. That was until we found out that it was still peak season and that having not prepurchased our \$20 hut tickets it would be \$25 to stay the night. Doug and

Jenny caved into the thoughts of warmth and comfort while Adam and Jean exhibited their tight arsed natures and decided to crawl off into the darkness and camp the required 500m from a track. We all had dinner together and shared some green ginger wine and a bottle of port – most of the later being consumed by Jean who stumbled off into the night in a fit of giggles. A cool breeze was blowing but a nice spot was found in the lee of a large rock and the tent fly was pitched. The cold breeze blew all night long and in the morning it was misty with intermittent drizzle. Once we had regrouped we took an alternative route up the valley hooking onto the track at the top. We had thoughts of nice views of the emerald lakes and red crater but should have paid more attention to the thick cloud blanketing the mountain and the now constant rain. Needless to say it was too unpleasant (persistent horizontal rain) for any site seeing but we were treated to a constant stream of grossly under dressed day trippers heading in the other direction. Some of them didn't even have rain coats of any description! Bearing in mind that they probably needed to keep moving to survive we smiled encouragingly at them as we headed in the other direc-



Ken Carrying out the cushions.



tion. Once down into South Crater we were sheltered and things weren't too unpleasant. The Mangatepopo valley had sprouted more boardwalks from the last time we had been there and rapid time was made out to the road. Doug was of the opinion that the Hut would be a nice warm sheltered place to wait for our expected pickup in a couple of hours but the rest of us were of the opinion that getting changed into nice dry warm clothes was more desirable so when he wasn't looking we snuck past the hut turn off. Several cold hours in the shelter were spent leaping around to keep warm and chasing poor little birds with cameras before the minibus turned up to whip us off back to Palmy. Great trip, awesome scenery but must remember to only do tramp after Queens Birthday and before Labour weekend.

We were Doug McNeur, Jenny McCarthy, Adam Matich and Jean Garman

### Top Maropea Hut 26-27 May

by Adam Matich

The 2½ hour tramp up to Sunrise Hut passed easily as we discussed and solved most of the world's problems. Unfortunately, the tramping club's shortcomings proved to be more problematical. There were only three other people at Sunrise Hut which was quite noisy due to the possibly gale-force wind. Mischievously, we encouraged them to continue their day walk up and across to Top Maropea Hut. We finished up lunch and followed not long after, but did put on our gloves and raincoats to keep out the wind.

Fortunately, we were well ballasted from the nice fatty pies we had eaten in Dannevirke that morning, and so just managed to just stay upright on our way across to Armstrong Saddle. Unwisely, the day-trippers had neglected their ballasting and only got part way before taking shelter on the ground. The wind was not a problem at all from Armstrong Saddle up and over to Top Maropea Hut, and we even had some views up the range and out to the East. It being only a four-hour tramp to the hut, we spent the afternoon trying to get a decent fire going. The wood was damp and the open fire-place didn't draw properly, so it was a cold, cold night. Although the walls of this four-berth hut are lined, the roof is not. The only thing keeping the warmth in was the iron and the tatty building paper. It was even colder in the dunny which had no roof at all.

Next morning was a bit windier as we climbed back up to the top and the crossing from Armstrong Saddle to Sunrise Hut was a lot more difficult. We spent quite a lot of the time on the ground and some crawling was necessary. Fortunately, the wind was coming from the south up the slip, so there was no real danger. As soon as possible we dropped into the treed gully that leads up to Sunrise Hut, which only had two people in residence. From thereon we had an easy ramble back down to the car to be home early in the afternoon.

We were Mark Learmonth and Adam Matich

### Thursday Trampers Climb of Mt Reeves



Yes! This is your president sampling grease from the grease trap at Whakapapa. Photo: Ken Mercer

## 31 May

by John Thornley

On Thursday 31 May a full van load of 12 successfully climbed to the top of Mt Reeves (around 900 metres), on the foothills of the South-Eastern Tararua Range, overlooking the Wairarapa. It was a two hour van trip to the start of the walk, on the southern bank of the Waiohine Valley, inland from Greytown. It was the last of the late sunny summer weather, and though clouds were banking up over the western tops, it remained sunny throughout the three hour climb to the top, with a quicker two hour climb down. Views extended from Masterton in the North to Lake Wairarapa and the distant ocean beyond in the South. The actual distance by van was a little less than our regular trips to Sunrise Hut in the northern Ruahines. It was a nice way to end the summer!

## Waitotara's

### 2-4 June

by Adam Matich

The distance between the two road ends (100 km) decided us to head up to the Stratford Motor Camp on Friday night and eject the luggage and non-drivers. The three drivers then headed east from Eltham, through Rawhitiroa, Mangamingi, Matemateaonga, Omoana, and Takou to Moeroa where two of the vehicles were parked on the farm at the headwaters of Paddock Stm. This had been arranged previously with the land-owner. It was a round trip of 2½ hours from Stratford, and thus a late night for some.

The next day the shuttle bus dropped us at the starting point, the western end of the Matemateaonga Walkway, around an hour from Stratford. We stayed on the walkway for just over 1 km before dropping onto the adjacent logging track (2661420E, 6211755N). This was a short-cut to Puteore Hut, our destination for that night. Unfortunately we missed the very obvious right hand turn (2661965E, 6210825N) required to put us back on the official DoC track, and so had to shame-facedly backtrack a bit. Once on the DoC track again the going was pretty good and we reached the clearing with the first derelict hut site (2660470E, 6209020N), for lunch (2½ hour). We were greeted by heavy rain. Even sheltered under the big Macrocarpas, it was not pleasant, and lunch was cut short. However, as the afternoon progressed, the rain faded and our misery markedly decreased.

Most of the way to the next clearing, and derelict hut site (2661440E, 6205605N, 1¾ hours), was on old logging tracks and so the going was very easy. After this clearing we were off the logging tracks again and there were some windfalls to slow us down. Still, the navigation was easy and we more or less rattled on for the next three hours to gladly reach the 6-bunk Puteore hut after a 7¾ hour day. Tony quickly fired up the wood burner to warm us up and we had dinner and went off to bed ready for our early rise the next day.

On day two we left Puteore Hut in the dark at 6:45 and had our torches on for the next half an hour it took to reach Puteore Peak. This was a good quality tramping track and so we had no difficulty. Also, we were finally into the old, undisturbed forest. There were big Rimu and Totara trees

and unlike the dense regrowth areas on the edge of the park, the forest was quite open. It was a much more enjoyable area to tramp through. We also saw/smelled lots of goats and little black pigs. Gary had to raise his voice at one stage later in the day to call Jemma back from a chase. At the intersection (2663275E, 6195845N) where one would turn left to Tahupo hut, temporary signs told us that it has been moved. It is no longer on the disused track system that heads east-ish to the also disused Maungarau Track system, although it could be quite easy to end up heading off in that direction as that is where the main track appears to go.

New Tahupo Hut is now on the central track system we were travelling, at 2662787E 6195383N which is approx. 1 km SW of the intersection. We stopped there for lunch around 5 hours after leaving Puteore Hut. It is the same design as Puteore Hut, but is tidier because sloppy hunters don't appear to have been there recently. Like Puteore it is a great hut with good views across the Forest Park. One would need to be careful going to the dunny at night as there is a serious drop quite close by. After lunch we kept heading SW and then SSW towards Train's Hut. On average, our travel was downhill. Again, time was moving on and by the time we reached Kurawhao Peak, it was getting pretty dim. Soon after we donned our torches for the sometimes steep and occasionally difficult to navigate track down to the falls just down-river of Trains Hut. We crossed on top of the falls and to the dismay of those of us with dry socks, discovered it was just deep enough to change that situation. What was worse, 50 m up stream, we discovered a nice new bridge across the river, which we had missed in the dark. It was just a hop skip and a jump to Trains Hut to end our 11½ hour day. We were pretty dry (apart from our socks) and warm so a fire was deemed unnecessary that night.

On day three we optimistically left in the daylight and climbed SW up the Koane Track which starts behind the hut. This track is variously marked with DoC and venetian blind markers, and is not too hard to follow, despite being unmaintained. Even though it didn't rain, we needed our raincoats on because we were pushing through a lot of wet ferns and bushes. Footing was sometimes obscured and both Garry and Gary managed to arse up quite spectacularly and find them selves cast. Lunch was on Karikarirua, where we encountered several friendly little black pigs who were just begging to be shot. For most of this day we were again in very good forest on what were mostly nice well-defined ridges, and with the occasional view which is rare in the Waitotaras. Even so, we manage a navigational mishap...Jean's fault for not being with us. Due to silly mistakes by several people, at what was a hard left hand turn (2655555E, 6193205N) we sailed on through and headed north instead of SW. What made it even messier was that we were still on a track system, and which was still occasionally marked by authentic DoC markers. Eventually, almost 1 km out of our way, compass and GPS readings convinced us that something was wrong and that we had put too much faith in the DoC track markers. So we backtracked. Found our turn and headed on.

Yet again, time was moving on. However, we did make our descent down to Moeawatea Stm before it got dark, which

was fortunate because it was not pleasant. Again we were following a marked track, but it was rubbish. The track markers ceased and we had to wing-it for 100 m or so of our descent down the steep, thick scrub-infested slope. Once we got down to the stream junction the properly marked track was spotted heading up in amongst the large trees about 50 north of where we came down. Somehow we had fallen off the proper track onto one poorly marked by someone with a sense of humour. Better to do this section in the opposite direction or with someone who knows what they are doing. We climbed up onto the farmland and followed the farm track up along Paddock Strm to reach the cars in the dark after an 11-hour day. After another bit of car shuffling we reached PN by about 11 p.m. that night.

We were Mark Learmonth, Tim and Barbara Cowan, Tony Evans, Adam Matich, Garry Grayson, Gary Bevins, and Jemma who was pretty good at track-finding.

## Kiritaki

9-10 June

by Jean Garmen

Think of this as an overnight day trip – leave late, get home early and eat lots of good food in between. After a week of rain and wind the forecast was marginally better for the weekend and 3 brave soles left Palmy at around 10.00am, a very civilised start time. We meet Jenny in Woodville and carried on up to Fairbrother road (once Jean got her navigation sorted out). It was tad chilly in the car-park but as we slogged up the hill we got nice and warm. We followed the track along the ridge line which was mostly in good shape with only the odd stumble off it in a couple of places. Interestingly where it meets the official DOC track it is just about invisible so to pick it up going the other way you need to know where it is. Once on the DOC track the rain started to fall only to be interrupted with a bit of hail. The wind was howling above our heads but we were happy in the shelter of the scrub. We rocked up to Kiritaki Hut a bit before 2.30pm and quickly got the fire going. The hut is lovely, light and bright, well set out and equipped and we whiled away the afternoon eating piklets with jam and cream, drinking mulled wine, reading, sewing and doing crosswords. When dinner time rolled around we had an enormous billy of thick and hearty soup which had been simmering all afternoon on the wood burner with the accompaniment of warm crusty rolls to get through. To my surprise only a few dregs were left in the billy and two people even had room for pudding. The night was only interrupted by a constant stream of people getting up to pee. All that mulled wine and soup had us thoroughly rehydrated. The morning dawned calm, high overcast and chilly. It was a toasty 3°C in the hut but we were all out of bed nice and early for hot drinks and a fry up of bacon, eggs and tomatoes. Leaving the hut in as nice a condition as we found it we headed off down the track behind the rubbish bin (as opposed to down the DOC track). This was also a good track although required a bit of care further down to follow and got very steep towards the end. From there it was a splash down the river. Adam poncing around like a ballerina to keep his feet dry while the rest of us accepted the inevitable and splashed away in the water. The river keeps getting easier

and easier and before we knew it we were back to the farmland and the cars and it was only lunch time. Home in plenty of time to get all the weekend chores done. Lovely walk, great hut/food/company – what better way to spend a winter weekend.

We were Kim Dowsen, Adam Matich, Jenny McCarthy and Jean Garman

## Sunrise Hut

10 June

by Tim Swale

With numbers reduced to just Linda and myself for the Sunrise Hut walk we got lazy and decided to dispense with the long drive up past Ongaonga and do something local instead. We chose to start at Coppermine Creek and climb up to Wharite Peak, a good choice as the track has been recently recut. Hats off to DOC as this work has transformed the track from one that was totally overgrown to being a very pleasant if fairly steep day trip. Despite a forecast of fine, sunny weather we started in windless, dull conditions but with the hope that it would burn off as the day progressed. However it was not to be and just a couple of hours later on the ridge near Wharite the cloud came in, the wind got up and we were pulling on all our warm winter gear to protect us from stinging hail and even a flurry of snow. Just goes to show it is worth going well prepared even for a relatively short local trip. The return trip is about four and a half hours.

## Blown Away

*A.K.A. Lodge Food Carry and Mid Winter Feast*

16-17 June

by Ken Mercer

\$4000 worth of food makes an awfully big pile when it is sitting on the side of the Bruce road. Delivered by Ohakune New World it arrived in a van and trailer. We were lucky with the weather; despite the “rain and snow to 800m” forecast it was cold with a slight breeze, clear and dry. We’d even been able to drive our van straight up the road Friday night so the new chains were still new.

Fortunately we had 25 enthusiastic people to cut steps (yes, there was a little snow around!) carry groceries across to the lodge, count, tally, lug it up the stairs, and stack it all. Huge plates of pinwheel scones appeared and disappeared too! Within a few hours it was all done and lunch also appeared and disappeared.

It might have been nice to take the afternoon off and perhaps walk up the mountain but I had somehow managed to cobble together a list of jobs which needed doing. I’m not known for lists but this one was half a page long! Some of the jobs were quite complicated and one positively distasteful. The latter involved digging out the septic tank, removing the lid and pumping out the rainwater which had accumulated after the plumber broke the lid while connecting us to the communal sewerage scheme. Not a nice job. In fact the intermittent snow flakes and continuous cold wind made all the outside jobs very chilly work.

To my great relief people wandered off, found equipment, improvised, sought advice from others and things happened. There were a couple of things left for Sunday morning but everything on the list was completed!

The quote for the weekend would have to be: *My pack is lighter than I thought – could someone shove something into the back pocket?* And the award for stoicism belongs to Anne Henderson. She spent most of the weekend with her left wrist strapped after slipping on ice but kept working one handed.

The feast Saturday night was superb and we were snug inside. Several people were initiated into the *rope traverse* and the wind increased further. But I'd already been blown away.

Thanks to all the hard working people who too part.

## Meat Carry & Sofa Carry

by **Christine Scott**

Prior to the food carry in mid June there was a meat carry (19-20 May) and a sofa carry (2nd June). This year we have home kill beef packed into the freezer but because the butcher couldn't work in with the June food carry we made a special trip up the mountain and got the meat carried in. As well as that we managed to get a number of other jobs done around the lodge included holes hammered in the roof, painting of the laundry and outside toilet wall, grease trap cleaned, freezer and panty cleaned out, and all the sofa cushions carried out for recovering. Having got all the cushions out we then decided we should really cover all the sofa's, so Ken hired a truck and 3 of us went back up for the day and carried all the sofa's out.

## 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. 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.