

August 2007
Issue 7

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Thursday Trampers
up at the unfinished
Zeke's Hut (12/7/07).
Photo: Nigel Spencer



Upcoming club nights

Birds in Arabia+Photographic Comp

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

7th August - A Wildlife Trip to Saudi Arabia

John Cockrem will talk about a trip to a wildlife research centre in Saudi Arabia in February of this year. He flew to Jeddah, travelled by road past Mecca to the research centre near the city of Taif. The centre breeds the Arabian Oryx, the Houbara bustard which is an endangered bird, and other Arabian animals. John went to help with the breeding programme for the bustard, and will talk about this programme. He will also describe a field trip to a desert area where bustards and oryx have been released into a large reserve.

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 five categories with the one condition that photos shouldn't have been entered in a previous photo competition. See page 2 for more details and get your photographs in to Howard.

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President's Report

Winter+Club Photo Competition

by Howard Nicholson

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

With MTSC, there is no excuse to be bored over the winter. During the next few months you will have the opportunity to join a winter tramping, skiing or alpine trip, be enlightened on a range of topics at our club nights, display your photographic talents at the club and inter-club photo competitions, and show your competitive side at the annual interclub quiz. Club nights are a good time to catch up with what has been happening in the hills.

This newsletter may be the last reminder to the few people who have not yet paid their subs. If you have overlooked payment last month then please pay now, to ensure you continue to get the benefits that club membership brings.

Have fun out there!

Howard Nicholson

Chief Guide's Report: Gear for a Day or Weekend Skiing Trip at the Mountain

by Bev Akers

Wool or polyprop longjohns, shirt or skivvy, wool jersey or fleece jacket, ski (or wool) trou, socks, ski jacket/suit or raincoat, over-trou, sun-screen, sun glasses or goggles, hat, mittens or ski-gloves, over mittens, boots, skis, snack food, day pack, water bottle. Bring a change of clothes for the Lodge, personal First Aid Kit and medications.

REMEMBER - at the Lodge you will need a torch, pillowcase, and sleeping bag. The Lodge is fully stocked with food - except for bread, milk, biscuits, snacks, and fresh fruit. Bring what you require for your stay. Chains, anti-freeze and shovel are essential for drivers. Enjoy the Snow - Bev Akers.

Trip Card Meeting: August 28 at the Rose and Crown - 6.30 pm. Good excuse for a casual bar meal, good chance for a catch up chat, and especially to help the club out with ideas for new trips on our summer trip card. We would love ideas and leaders and encourage others to give it a go.

Ski Captain's Report

by Ken Mercer

When I started skiing, not many years ago, an "expert" showed me how to slide my hand up through the pole strap, gripping both the strap and pole. I could then get plenty of push on the pole without having to grip it tightly. I have assiduously followed this advice ever since and looked with distain at skiers who have gone down through the loop, leaving it loose around their wrists.

Well, the ski season has started and I'm now skiing with my pole straps loose. The June Consumer Magazine was responsible with an report on wrist guards for snowboards (a good

idea) and a footnote about Skier's Thumb. The latter is explained in detail on <http://www.ski-injury.com/alpine.htm> and is caused by the pole acting as a lever and forcing the thumb away from the palm. It happened to me last year and is not pleasant!

Why bother at all with pole straps? We don't have deep powder so cannot lose a pole under the snow. Collecting all the bits after a crash is not all that difficult either. No, the real reason is for safety. A ski pole can be used to self arrest a slide down the mountain. A few years ago I watched a girl sliding helplessly down the valley when it was glazed with ice. Skis and poles were all over the place as she slid down the slope, almost stopped, slid down another steeper section and eventually banged into a pile of ice which finally stopped her.

If you still have a pole attached it is possible to grasp its base with one hand while still holding the other end by the grip and press the point into the surface. This should at least slow one's descent, if not halting it altogether. It is a good thing to practice.

I did so the other day in a slightly embarrassing but not dangerous slide – head first down the mountain! To my delight I stopped sliding and also rotated so my skies came back under me so I could regain my footing. For sure an arresting experience!

Photo Competitions

Remember that awesome photo you took on your Easter tramp, or the time you snapped your mate falling in the river? You could earn the kudos you deserve by entering your pics in the Annual MTSC Photo Competition to be held on August 21 at 7:30 pm. The top three pictures in each section will go on to compete at the Interclub Photo Competition, hosted by MTSC, on September 18.

The categories for both competitions will be as follows:

Alpine (NZ)

Predominantly alpine scenery in NZ (ie above bushline)

Scenic (NZ)

Pictorial interest in NZ hills etc (ie predominantly below the bushline)

Natural History (NZ)

NZ flora and fauna or detail, eg geology, ice formations etc)

Topical (NZ)

People or detail related to tramping, climbing, or skiing related activities in NZ

Overseas (Open)

Alpine or scenic; People met while tramping or climbing overseas.

Entries for the interclub competition are limited to the best three (3) pictures in each category, from each club. Also, entries shall not have been entered in a previous Interclub Competition. If possible, please send your digital picture entries, along with a title and/or brief description, to me by 18 August, via CD (call me so that I know when to expect them – 357 6325) or email (mtsc.president@xtra.co.nz) so that they can be arranged into categories and tested prior to the night. I can also scan slides if you wish, provided I have them by Aug 16.

New Club Members

The club would like to welcome the following new members:

Jeanette Andersen (PN)
 Rachelle Cocker (PN)
 Heather Fletcher (Feilding)
 Kristy Jones (PN)
 David & Lynne Gough (Tauranga)
 Ian Harding (Woodville)
 Caroline Hart (Tauranga)
 Robin & Valda Lane & Family (Auckland)

Collin Littlewood & Family (Hawkes Bay)

Sean Lynch (PN)

Fiona Odering (PN)

Kelvin & Angela McKinnon (PN)

Alasdair Noble (PN)

Craig & Catriona Robinson & Family (Raumati Beach)

Stephen Tetley-Jones (Tauranga)

John & Gillian Thornley (PN)

Ruapehu Movie at Downtown**Ruapehu -****A Tribute To Our Skiing Pioneers**

The film tells the story of the achievements, trials and tribulations of our skiing pioneers in the ninety plus years of skiing development on Mt Ruapehu. John Ball has lived at the foot of Mt Ruapehu for the past 35 years. He directed ski schools at Whakapapa and Turoa throughout the 1970s and 1980s. He has experienced first hand some of the incredible challenges of Ruapehu and has many fond memories of skiing experiences in this unique environment.

How skiing developed on Ruapehu and his own experience teaching skiing there had a profound influence on him and inspired him to research and tell this story.

Ruapehu - A Tribute To Our Skiing Pioneers Film Screening One Day only

Cinema 7, Downtown Cinemas, Palmerston North
 Wednesday July 25 2:30 pm & 7:30 pm
 Ticket price \$15.

The film is also available in DVD format (70 minutes) and can be purchased for \$39.99 plus \$2 postage from John Ball, Pukawa, RD1, Turangi.

For Sale

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



Left: Wednesday Trampers
 Photo: Margaret Gillingham
 (Sunrise Hut Trip | 20 June 2007)

Upcoming trips

TRIP GRADING

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

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

Wednesday Trampers

25 July

Rosemary & Ken Hall

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

356 8538

Thursday Trampers

26 July

Peter Carver

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

354 4479

Alpine Instruction Course 2

27-29 July

Brian Webster

Phone for details.

Technical

357 0189

Beginners Ski Weekend

28-29 July

Ken Mercer

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!

All welcome

356 7497

Tunupo Peak

29 July

Neville Gray

Phone for details.

Easy/Medium

357 2768

Wednesday Trampers

1 August

Mona Webb

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

323 4212

Thursday Trampers

2 August

Graham Pritchard

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

357 1393

Cattle Creek Hut

4-5 August

Adam Matich

As this is a river trip, we will only go in reasonably good weather. I am not keen on swimming in winter. Cattle Creek Hut is in the South Eastern

Easy/Medium

359 2796

Ruahines and we will start from Tamaki West Road and head up the West branch of the Tamaki River past Stanfield Hut (~2 hrs). About ½ km up river of this hut we leave the river and climb almost 300 m onto Apiti Ridge and head along there for a couple of km before dropping 160 m down into Cattle Creek and the nearby Cattle Creek Hut (~2 hrs). Hopefully there will be lots of fire wood there so we can spend a nice cosy night. Come equipped to camp out just in case the hut is already occupied. I think the hut has a verandah, so overflow people may be able to shelter there. On Sunday, conditions permitting, we will head straight up Cattle Creek to the saddle and take the Lost Track up to Takapari (1257 m) and from there head down onto and then along Takapari Road to A-Frame (Travers) Hut, from where we will drop back down to the road end. I am not sure what the day length will be here but it could stretch out to as much as 7 hours.

Apiti Track

5 August

Tony Evans

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.

Easy/Medium

357 4355

Wednesday Trampers

8 August

Pam Wilson

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

357 6247

Thursday Trampers**9 August****Merv Matthews**

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium**357 2858****Mangatainoka Hot Springs****11-12 August****Tim Swale****Easy****06 376 6556**

A long drive up to the Kawekas (~3 hr) 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 hours to Te Pui Lodge. We can drop off overnight gear and head on up to the Mangatainoka Hot Springs about another 45 min 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 or email theswales@xtra.co.nz.

Burn Hut**12 August****Dave Mitchell****Easy/Medium****329 2803**

The plan is to leave PN no later than 7.30 am. The tramp is in behind Shannon in an area between No. 1 and No. 2 dams in the Mangahao Valley. If there are enough people we will do the loop track otherwise we will walk directly to Burns Hut from No. 2 dam. Walking 6-7 hours.

Wednesday Trampers**15 August****Chris Brunskill**

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium**354 2511****Thursday Trampers****16 August****Carolyn Brodie**

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium**358 6576****Exploring the Mountain****18-19 August****Peter Rawlins**

The actual format of this weekend will be weather and snow conditions dependent but essentially I am hoping to explore some of the off-piste areas of the mountain. It would be great if we could do a traverse from Turoa to Whakapapa or at least a trip to the crater lake. We do have a limited number of ski touring skins and binding adapters for those with normal downhill skis but you will need to get in quick. We can also cater for those people who just want to go for a walk without the skiing bit skiing.

Skiing**356 7443**

Give me a ring if you are unsure about what might be required. Please remember to book yourself into the lodge with Hugh and Liz.

Roaring Stag Lodge**19 August****Lorraine Sutherland**

Lorraine is unable to take this trip on this date.

Easy**329 2577**

If you are interested in leading it contact Lorraine otherwise it will be transferred to October.

Wednesday Trampers**22 August**

Please contact one of the regular Wed/Thu Trampers for more details.

Easy/Medium**Thursday Trampers****23 August****Harry & Chris Allardice**

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium**323 4390****Oturere Hut****25-26 August****Jenny McCarthy**

We will be leaving early on Saturday morning. The route we take to Oturere Hut will depend on the weather forecast and where we leave the vehicle. It will be a technical trip requiring the use of crampons and ice axe. Please contact me for more information

Medium/Fit/Technical**06 376 8838****Wednesday Trampers****29 August****Bev Akers**

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium**325 8879****Thursday Trampers****30 August****Ann Green**

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium**06 374 5208****Ngauruhoe****31 August - 2 September****Howard Nicholson**

Pack the sunscreen, bring your goggles, and join the adventure! This is your chance to strap crampons and/or skis to your feet, and to put your snowcraft skills into practice. The nearest chairlift is several kilometres away, so you are guaranteed some exercise. The plan is drive up on Friday night and stay at either the Lodge or Mangatepopo Hut, giving us two days to choose from for the summit bid.

Technical**357 6325**

The club has gear for hire, including some ski touring gear for people who want to give this a go. Other costs will be \$40-\$50 for transport, plus accommodation. Please book early to avoid sadness and regret.

Waitewaewae Trig**2 September****Tony Evans**

Waitewaewae trig is on the northern edge of the catchment area of the Waitewaewae River and a long way from the Hut of the same name. From the end of North Manakau Road it is a short walk in to where the Panatewaewae and Waikawa Streams meet, an old but well marked track heads up the ridge between the two streams to .708, the ridge then veers south and leads to Waitewaewae trig.

Easy/Medium**357 4355**

There is an old track near the trig which is signposted to Thomson which looks like an interesting round trip but that would involve taking more food and an extra day so we will just retrace our steps back to the road end.

Totara Flats Hut

8-9 September
Doug McNeur

Easy/Medium
359 1893

Early in September, the Spring will be here! What better way to celebrate than to go for an easy/medium over-nighter in the lovely Tararua's. If you've been hibernating over the cold period, you can use this an an opportunity to re-acquaint yourself with the wonderful bush and fresh air we have in this country. Call for more details.

Skiing at the Lodge

7-9 September
Christine Scott

All Skiers
354 0510

Fancy a weekend skiing based at the Club Lodge at Whakapapa? I will be going up Friday evening (time nego-

tiable) and returning Sunday evening (depending on the weather).

Sledge Track

7 October
Christine Scott

Medium
354 0510

This is a nice close trip to town at the head of the Kahuterewa Valley. Highlights of the trip will be mine shafts, views over both the Manawatu and Wairarapa, tussock flats and native bush. We will leave the Police Station at 7.30 am. The plan is to do the full loop up onto South Range Road and along the ridge looking down into the Wairarapa. Estimated time about 7 hours.



Above: All but one of the Queen Charlotte Track trampers
Photo: John Doolan (Queen Charlotte Track Trip | 1-3 June 2007)

Left: Bev and Jenny descending from Table Top
Photo: Jean Garman (Penn Creek Hut Trip | 14-15 July 2007)

Trip Reports

Queen Charlotte Track
1-3 June

by John Doolan

Never been on a tramp like this one! A boat took our gear from us in the morning and dropped it off at our finishing spot for the day! No weekend packs to be carried, just little day packs. And no huts at the end of the day, we stayed in tourist accommodation (warm, dry, no wind, hot showers, real toilets, kitchen, TV [and the All Blacks were playing and we did see them!], no cooking, and there was a cold beer or a glass of wine at the end of the day [oh and a

whiskey for one of us] and a choice of meals that were cooked for us). Now how good is that?

Who was this tramp who gave us this wonderful opportunity? Why Don McDonald of course! Although he made us tramp in the rain for an hour and a half on the Friday night, he really turned it on for the rest of the three days with little wind, lots of sun, no clouds and excellent tramping temperatures.

The days were longish with 6-7 hours the norm, so we were up with the sparrows and gone before the sun was wide awake. That gave us quality time at the end of the day to make good use of the tourist accommodations.

There were some hills (in fact there were a lot of hills and some of them so steep even the mountain bikers had



Left: Queen Charlotte Track trip views
Photo: John Doolan (Queen Charlotte Track Trip
| 1-3 June 2007)

to push their bikes up) but lots of long gentle down hills and wonderful views of the Sounds.

We tried to remember all the animal life we saw along the way: a lama, kunikuni pig, wild pig, horse, dog, tui, bell bird, weka, fantail, goat, stork, paradise duck, duck duck, tomtit, Australian gannet, local gannet, heron and dolphins: lots of people saw the reported whale, but we didn't.

But thankfully it was the right time of the year to miss the nasty wasps feeding on that black stuff that grows on the trunks of the beech trees, as two of us can have real health issues if we are stung (but we both did have our prescription drugs just in case).

The junior of our team was about 52, the most senior was 76! And we all did the whole trip! We started from Ship Cove and stayed at the Resolution Bay Cabins (1 ½ hours and 4.5 km's), Punga Cove (6 hours and 23 km's), Portage (7 hours and 24 km's) and finished at Anakiwa (6 hours and 21 km's).

We were: Don McDonald (camp father), Darlene Westrupp (camp mother), Bev Akers (entertainment coordinator), Ivan Alve (Chinese proverb "the old wise one will always look for ways to beat the young ones!"), Isobel Holdaway (how do those little legs move so fast?), Alison & Jim Jefferies (who did Jim say was standing for Mayor?), Marilyn & Ross Linklater (they can both come our trips anytime), Marion Beadle (she runs down hills!) and John Doolan (do we have to get back on that boat?).

Toka Trig **24 June**

by Dave Mitchell

There were no takers for this tramp, I guess because the weather was bad. So I waited till Wednesday, when the weather was showing some improvement. It was just Fred (the dog) and I on the walk. It was cold and murky on the tops along with plenty of snow. I decided to tramp up to Toka anyway where the weather cleared briefly although it was very cold. Plodding through the knee deep snow was slow going. On the way back I came over the loop track for a change. It was a good walk and we managed to dispatch nine possums as well.

Atene Skyline Track **28 June**

by Nigel Spencer

After getting the ice off the windscreen of the van, seven trampers piled in and headed off to the Atene Skyline Track. Picked up three more at Awahuri and one at Sanson. About 1 ½ hours later we arrived at our destination. VERY COLD. Set off up the track and after a while we were in the mist and then we had what we thought was frost dropping off the trees. Coats and gloves weather. Stopped at the shelter for lunch and the weather improved. The track from the shelter on was remarkably dry and we made good time out to the road-end. Walked back up the road to the van, the walk taking 6 hours in total. On the way home stopped at the road junction so as Royce could find a Geocache. Success! Great day. We were Jill, Gordon, Gillian, John, Chris, John, Brian, Ruth, Clare, Royce and Nigel.

Makahika Track **5 July**

by Merv Matthews

For this trip we wanted to check out the new extension to the Te Araroa Walkway, the section which continues from the end of Burttons Track on the Mangahao Road to Gladstone Road, east of Levin. Though not yet officially open, the track is largely complete with some finishing and marking to be done. We decided to walk in from the southern end at Makahika, climb a spur up to the main ridge for the views, then walk out the same way. Ian Argyle gave the leader instructions which included "scramble across the floodgate to avoid getting your feet wet", but he didn't mention the other 22 stream crossings on the way to the spur. The view was not to be had due to a low overcast, so with some of the group singing "Mud, mud, glorious mud" we scampered back for an early trip home. All 14 trampers survived.

Waiotauru Hut **8 July**

by Tony Evans

We left Palmy at 7.30 am on a beautiful calm and sunny winters morning and headed for Otaki Forks with the

views of the Tararua tops covered in fresh snow as beautiful as any postcard of the Southern(or Swiss) Alps. Shortly after 9 we were on the Waiotauru Track which follows the Southern Waiotauru River from Otaki Forks south to the hut, the track has been recently re-cut and is easy walking. A little over halfway and we stopped for morning tea by the bridge across the river, a little cool in the shade here but we did not know then about the lovely sunny clearing with good views only 10 minutes further on, and the track got even better being an old logging road and still in very good condition.

Less than a kilometre from the hut the track stopped, after some dithering by the leader we followed a mix of track markers, 4 wheel drive tracks and the riverbed and found the remnants of the footbridge marked on the map and then the hut.

Lunch was eaten in the sun in front of the hut before retracing our steps, we were back at the van 7 and a half hours after leaving it. We were Alla Seleznyova, Maureen Talbot, Dave Mitchell and Tony Evans.

Penn Creek Hut 14-15 July

by Gary Bevins (and italic inserts from Adam Match)

The chief guide (Bev), the chief guide's sidekick (Gary), and Gary's sidekick (Jemma), headed off to Field hut Saturday morning after feeding out on the farm. It was a sunny but crisp morning so we stopped for a brew at Field hut (2.25 hrs). On the journey towards Penn Creek junction we stopped to talk to several other trampers. Some had been turned back because of the ice on the track. One experienced trumper had stayed the night at Kime hut and told us that it had been -10 degrees in the hut. He was worried about a couple of European trampers who had continued on to Mangahuku without crampons and ice-axes, after warning them of the danger, they pressed on.

We continued on the icy track to the turnoff to Penn Creek hut (1 hr), where we debated as to whether we wait for the other party. When the cloud came in, it got cold, so we pressed on. Just as we hit the bush edge we came across the European trampers. They had realized that they were not going to get to Manguhuka. They had been going too slow because of the deep snow and ice. They decided to drop off onto the McIntosh Track to Penn Creek arriving at midnight. Their very tired state told the story. We told them they were doing well and continued on our way.

The track down through the bush seemed to go on and on. When we reached the stream crossing (2 hrs), the stretch that followed sapped our energy (0.5 hr). The hut was a welcome site.

The medium/fit group decided that it didn't want to go into and out of Penn Creek Hut by the same route, and so we started our trip from the camp ground at the very end of the Otaki Forks Road. There was a good no-nonsense frost, but it was a calm and sunny morning, weather which lasted all weekend. As we didn't want to get our boots wet we crossed the Waiotauru River in our jandals. It was savagely, painfully cold...as if we were being punished for our sins. This was impossible of course. After re-booting, we crossed Sberidan Creek and started up Rae Ridge from its northern-most point. Travel up the ridge was never difficult (no bush-bashing) because a lot of it was tracked (logging) or trailed and the terrain is for the most part gentle. Also, here and there were old venetian blind-type tin markers

and red and orange electrical tape on the trees so navigation wasn't too bad either. Although there were a couple of turning points where some attention was necessary (particularly at 668 m). Even these were helpfully marked for those who take the effort to look properly.

Unfortunately, we were in the forest all the way and so didn't get to enjoy the nice sunny day. We found a faintly sunny spot for a short lunch, it being all of 5° C in the forest, and continued on up. About 100 m below the bush line we encountered snow, which got a bit deeper as we progressed. While it was never deep, climbing through it did increase our energy drain. We finally emerged from the forest at around 2:30 pm and clambered up through the snow onto Dennan just after 3 p.m. There was a thick coating of ice on the south-facing rocks and ice-covered vegetation. Fortunately, none on the ground that we had to walk on until we dropped down onto the track down to the Penn Creek Hut turnoff. Another trumper we met on our way down told us that the track up to Kime was a bit dodgy because of the sheet ice.

There was a bit more sheet ice on the track down to Penn Creek hut, but 30 minutes saw us at the bush line and from then on it was fine. Or so we thought. Not far down through the trees an accident occurred, which saw us discussing the necessity of camping out for the night or calling for a helicopter. Fortunately, Jenny decided that she would be able to soldier on despite her broken finger nail, and much inconvenience and discomfort was averted for the rest of us. It was an 800 m drop down to the hut and with the day moving on, it was getting pretty dim in the forest. We couldn't smell any smoke either, which was a bit of a worry as we wanted to arrive at a toasty-warm hut. However, not long after commenting on the lack, Jean sniffed out some smoke and our fears were put at rest. Finally, in the dim light the we hit a very steep section of the track and were forced to use our torches for the final 100 m of travel to the hut, where Jemma Gary and Bev had been in residence for an hour, with Gary frantically tending the fire for fear of being growled at by pretty well everyone.

Gary gathered firewood and got a brew on while Bev lit the fire and relaxed waiting for the three med/fit guys to arrive. By then it was dark and nearly tea time. Adam and Gary manning their MSR cookers, made short work of tea. Due to the fact that it was Gary's birthday the day before, we set about demolishing two large cakes of chocolate (thanks Adam).

Next morning was sunny but frosty again. Only a wee sleep in as Bev had to get home in time to feed out to the deer before dark. So it was onwards and upwards to the tops. After an 800 m climb, talking continuously we reached the junction (2.5 hrs). The track back to Field Hut was a lot icier than the previous day.

Adam and Gary went on to the hut to boil the billy for lunch. Then back to the carpark once again talking all the way. There was lots to talk about.

It was great to catch up with Jean, Jenny and Adam. Thanks guys for joining us (Bev, Gary and Jemma).

Other Wednesday and Thursday Day Trips Wednesday Tramps (20th June - 11th July)

- Fifteen went to Sunrise in the snow.
- Twenty four walked the Massey walkways ending up at the cafe on the hill.
- Eight did the Manawatu Gorge then on a tour of a private hunting block - Pahiatua.

Thursday Tramps (21st June - 12th July)

- Eleven went to Sunrise in icy cold conditions.
- Fourteen alked the new track of the Te Araroa Trail

heading north from the end of Gladstone Road.

Belated Whanganui Trip Report - Paddle Down The River Easter 1986

by Grant Platt (with help from John Allen)

In the mid 1980s I led a canoeing trip down the Whanganui River from Whakahoro to Pipiriki. It is a trip I've done several times and so I felt okay about volunteering for this intrepid journey. It was Easter 1986, or was it? It may have been Queen's Birthday. But what the heck, what's 21 years between friends? At that time Alan Gardiner, a club member who previously ran an outdoors equipment shop in Palmerston North with his partner, was using Raetihi as a base for river trip adventures. His assistance, and that of his crew, was useful for logistics and supplying canoes and kayaks to be launched at Whakahoro and picked up at Pipiriki. That left me with less to worry about and so I did the driving for the group in the old club diesel vehicle of the era. There were about eight of us all up including John Allen, Amanda Craig, a 14 year-old boy, and some couples and individuals along with yours truly. The young guy's mother took some convincing that her son would be safe on the river trip. In the end he took to it like a fish to water.

After meeting up with Alan and his crew we exchanged the club bus for canoes, kayaks and the two Canadians at Whakahoro and proceeded downstream. John remembers that the Wanganui River had a flood go though a week or so before, and that the river was higher than normal flow (remembering that usually water is being diverted for power generation). After a time of enjoying the river we searched out a grassy site to camp the night on the right bank (facing downstream). After refreshments and vitals we all sat around singing on the first night. I got ragged by the others for turning in early into my tent but, hey, a trip leader needs to conserve his or her energy (it was the only early night I got anyway). John recalls that 'a possum ate its way into my tent and started eating my stew from that night out of the billy'. The tent had to be repaired some time later. He remembers someone skinny dipping in the river for a morning wash, 'Very fast in and out', he recalls. But

John was to soon experience the freshness of the water as well. As he relates it 'someone pushed me off in the canoe next morning and as a joke pushed the rear end down so that I turned over and had to bail out. I got all wet, very funny for some. I hope that wasn't you. It most probably was you though !!!'. But come to think of it, it was you, you bugger !!!!!'. We continued our mostly leisurely trip down river stopping at where farms used to be and some old Maori sites (the Maori had old walking trails in the area like the Matemateaonga Walkway). There was some excitement on the river. John recalls 'someone wrapped their canoe around a rock. Talk about a banana bent in two. [It] seemed to bounce back when we jumped on it [though]'. We had to camp high up on a plateau area on the last night, as the river was quite high near the end where it narrows through a gorge. We sat up half the night and the Kid won all the conundrum puzzle games with me being a close second. John went off to bed early and left us to it. The next day was our final day and we had a head wind to paddle against out to the finish at Pipiriki. Along the way I foolishly got into a kayak race with the teenager and ended up getting tendonitis in my right forearm, which took a year to come right. John remembers that we hit some rapids in the last hour or so. He 'turned turtle in a bad wash and ended up upside down going very fast. Most everyone else got through okay though two in the Canadian got sunk and had to be rescued by some other party in canoes'. The boy and I went through the rapids a few times and had a bit of fun on the waves. We all had lunch on the left hand side and froze in the trees. John recalls I had to have my 'wrist and arm all bound up as it seized up or something'. Then we all paddled out on the flat river pass dead cows and all the debris from the flood. It was a welcome relief having Alan's crew at the end to pick up the canoes and kayaks and we proceeded homewards in the club truck. I felt like a one-arm paperhanger driving with bandages. John thinks 'we were all knackered as it was a tuff paddle but we all survived and lived to finally tell the tale some 21 years later!!!!'.

Grant N. Platt (G.N.Platt@massey.ac.nz)
John Allen (jmallen@velocitynet.com.au)



Left: Whanganui Paddlers in '86
Photo: Grant Platt

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 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. 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

Club website | 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 mtsc.president.xtra.co.nz
Secretary	Tim Swale	06 376 6556
Treasurer	Christine Scott	354 0510
Chief Guide	Bev Akers	325 8879
Day Trip Convenor	Gary Bevins	325 8879
Membership Sec.	Jenny McCarthy	06 376 8838 mtsc@inspire.net.nz
Newsletter Editor	Wei-Hang Chua	021 212 0369 mtsc.editor@xtra.co.nz
Social Convenor	Linda Campbell	323 3836
Ski Captain	Ken Mercer	356 7497
Lodge Manager	Ryan Badger	027 445 1997
Lodge Booking Officers	Hugh & Liz Wilde	356 9450 wildeh@clear.net.nz
Mini-bus Custodian	Adam Matich	359 2796
General Committee	Geraldine Fovakis Ivan Alve Clare Wilford	