



beechleaves

Newsletter of the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club

**October 2007
Issue 9**

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Kahuterawa Mountain
Bike). This photo
came 3rd in Topical
category of the club
photo comp.
Photo: Kim Dowson



Upcoming club nights

France+Interclub Quiz

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

2nd October - Les aventures de Rob et Kate en France

Rob and Kate Pringle will share video and photos of their beautiful adventure to the Vallee Blanche, Chamonix, France. The famous Vallée Blanche is an off-piste ski route, 20 km long with a vertical descent of 2700 m. The views are stunning and the high mountain environment provides a real sensation of wilderness. This is one of those memorable life experiences that you'll never forget! Come along and hear about this and their memories from the rest of their trip to France, working in the ski resort, parapenting in the Alps and lots of skiing.

16th October - Interclub Club Quiz

The Interclub Quiz is being hosted by our club this year. We narrowly missed out on a win last year; the competition will be hot again this time, and we need you to ensure our names appear on the coveted Trevor Bissell Memorial Billy once more. Brush up on your local and general knowledge (I suggest by tramping and skiing!) and prepare to defend MTSC's honour!

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Left: Luncheon,
Mount Ruapehu
Second place getter in
the alpine category of
the club photo competi-
tion
Photo: Kim Dowson

President's Report

Trip Card + Spring + Spring

by Howard Nicholson

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

The latest trip card is brim-filled with great ideas of where to go and when – I hope you get a chance to go somewhere new this summer. Spring usually means that the temperatures are warmer, but please be prepared for the fickle weather that is typical of this time of year. There is gear available for club use or for hire, but please arrange this at least a few days in advance of your trip.

Many of you have enjoyed a reasonable ski season and have made good use of the Lodge. Please consider how you can help over the summer season, by volunteering your time to help with the regular and specialized maintenance that will be done in coming months. Your help will allow us to keep costs down, however please note that lodge rates will likely increase before the next ski season.

If the recent photo competitions are anything to go by, the upcoming Inter-Club Quiz will be fiercely contested. Do come along for a bit of a laugh and some friendly rivalry.

Happy tramping!

Chief Guide's Report

by Bev Akers

Phone (06) 325 8879

FMC Training Workshop

Have we got an opportunity for you! There is a River Safety/Navigation Course, 17-18 Nov, Central Plateau. The fee is \$80 and maybe subsidised by the club. The closing date is October 26.

Decision making, risk management, river crossing methods, recovery techniques. Navigation refresher and micro-navigation. Food will be supplied and accommodation will be at a lodges. So how about it? These workshops are a lot of fun interacting with people from other clubs around North Island. Gary and I went on one a couple of years ago (Leadership Course) and we learnt a lot and really enjoyed it. Great meeting other club members and comparing stories. These courses are limited to numbers per club, then have to be accepted by FMC, So

get in ASAP by contacting me to put your name forward.

First Aid Courses

Periodically Outdoor First Aid Courses are available. If you are interested in attending a course please contact me to go on the list. This would be a great opportunity for our club members who lead trips.

Stop Press: New Trip Card Error

We have made history - that is the Chief Guide & Associates. This is about internet vs personal dealings. Shocking Pink, our past colour, is now pink on the internet. Pink on my colour guide from the printers is a Pale Pink - Great colour for summer. But don't be confused, look on the pinky bright side of it all. We have our new committee listed, interesting new trips & leaders. To top it all off with a photo which all goes towards creating history. Its shocking about the pink.

Ski Captain - Snow Stuff

by Ken Mercer
Phone (06) 356 7497

Spring is here! While this means the weather is improving it also means the snow softens during the day. Experts may dislike the "slush" but these are ideal conditions if you're learning to ski. You might be able to encourage a friend to "have a go".

Last year RAL's spring passes went on sale at the end of September and the field was open right through October so, if we don't get too many northerly storms, there'll be plenty of skiing left. Enjoy!

New Club Members

The club would like to welcome the following new members:

Eddie & Alison Fellerhoff (PN)

Shaye Simpson (PN)

Marcus Giles (PN)

Carlo van den Dijssel & Karin Weidgraaf (PN)

Sarah Meyer (PN)

Margaret Robinson (PN)

Lost and Found in the Van

- One nice little digital camera (the owner should be able to describe it)
- Sunglasses
- Lipstick
- Chapstick
- First aid kit
- Charger for a Nokia Cell Phone
- Very nice maroon norsewear vest in the van as well. The owner had better be quick as I have my eye on it!

I have been waiting for the owner/s to complain about their absence, but no one has. Unfortunately, I already have a similarly nice camera, the sunglasses just aren't me (too girly), the lipstick is the wrong colour, I don't have a cell phone with a defunct battery charger, there are no good drugs in the First Aid Kit and who knows where the chapstick has been used, so I thought that I might as well see if the owner/s wish to claim them. Otherwise we might look at selling what we can and putting the proceeds into my retirement fund.

Adam Matich (Transit Van Minder)

Phone: 359 2796 (h), 356 8080 ext 7778 (w).

Safety Recall of Crampons

Contributed by Doug Pringle

Petzl SARKEN crampons

The problem: The front points of the crampons are susceptible to premature wearout following heavy use. There is a risk of cracking of the

metal forefoot near the front point(s), followed by possible breakage if usage continues.

Details: Petzl SARKEN crampons. Any binding system, black or orange colour metallic parts.

What to do: Stop using the crampons. Do not return the crampons to retailers.

Ring Spelean NZ on (03) 434 9535 from 9 am to 5 pm weekdays and provide your name and shipping address for delivery of a replacement.

Summer Southern Crossing

Are you interested in forming a party to walk this Tararua classic tramp over a weekend in late Spring or early Summer before Xmas? The plan is to take our time and do the trip from Friday night to Sunday afternoon. The route would be in to Fields Hut on Friday night; Fields Hut to Alpha Hut or camp at Cone Flats on Saturday; and out to Kaitoke, north of Upper Hutt, via either the Marchant Ridge or Tauherenikau Valley on Sunday. This is an above the bush line alpine route so full storm gear is essential and you have to be able to walk for up to 8 hours each day. Previous tramping experience is obviously essential.

Please contact Bruce Taylor on (04) 905 4481 or rowena.bruce@clear.net.nz if you would like to do this trip.

For Sale

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



Bridge crossing

Photo: Jean Garman Totara Flats Hut Trip
8-9 September 2007

Interclub Photo Competition

by **Howard Nicholson**

People who attended our clubnight on 18 September were treated to some stunning pictures from the three Manawatu clubs. To ensure impartiality, local landscape photographer and trumper Harley Betts pre-judged all entries, and then passed on his comments on the night. It was great to hear what an experienced photographer had to say about composition and technique, and explaining what works and why.

Bivouac (Fergusson Street, Palmerston North) kindly donated a gas stove head, which was awarded to the creator of the best picture (as voted by those present). The prize went to a MUAC entry showing a Karearea in flight.

I encourage you to visit Harley's website at www.harleybetts.com to see a selection of spectacular images, or to visit:

www.craigpotton.co.nz/Products/published/Calendars/calendarnative/newzealandcoast to order Harley's 2008 Coastal calendar.

The results:

Category	Rank	Club	Photographer	Image title
Alpine	1	MUAC	Romeric Vincent	"Geoff"
	2	MTSC	Adam Matich	Tahurangi, Mt Ruapehu
	3	PNTMC	Terry Crippen	White Valley, Arthur's Pass
Scenic	1	MTSC	Adam Matich	Poutaki Hut, Whakarara Range
	2	MTSC	Richard Lander	Stream, Milford Track
	3	MUAC	Leith Williams	Beach, Abel Tasman
Natural History	1	MUAC	Andrew Thomas	Karearea (NZ Falcon)
	2	MTSC	Jean Garman	Baby hare, near Arete
	3	PNTMC	Martin Lawrence	Fungi
Topical	1	MTSC	Jean Garman	A resting Brian (Webster)
	2	MTSC	Jean Garman	Kirwan's Hut, Westland
	3	MUAC	Andy Gifford	"Hello Train" Manawatu Gorge
Overseas/Open	1	MUAC	Jackson Wong	Glacial Lagoon
	2	PNTMC	Bruce van Brunt	Hidden Garden (South Korea)
	3	MTSC	Richard Lander	Reed Flute Cave (China)

Department of Conservation Notes



Items from the September issue of Keep Tracking On with DoC

Lake Colenso 1080 Operation

A 1080 operation is about to take place in the biodiversity-rich Lake Colenso basin, in the NW area of Ruahine Forest Park. Cereal baits will be hand laid in a 150 ha area in a bid to control possum numbers. Warning notices will be erected in and around the treatment area immediately prior to the operation.

Manawatu Gorge Track – there has been a slip along the roadside track at the Ashhurst end making it narrow but passable at this stage. Transit will be fixing the problem at some stage requiring this access to be closed. Public will be notified of this at the time.

Heritage Lodge track – there has been a slump on the track just through the stile from the car-park. Care is needed. – a track was formed earlier this year around an active slip 30 mins past Heritage Lodge enroute to Iron Gate Hut.

Tracks closed for lambing

Beehive creek walkway reopens November 1

Opawe access-Maharahara track reopens late October

Tracks cleared to date 2007

- Rangiwahia and Deadmans Tracks.
- Kawhata Base to McKinnon Hut.
- Kelly Knight Hut to Wooden Peg and Purity (more poles added also).
- Kelly Knight Hut to Pourangaki Hut and Pourangaki Swingbridge to Hikurangi Range
- Mid-Pohangina Hut track - Track trimmed Piri-piri Creek end.
- Takapari Road to Centre Creek Track -Top part of track cleared
- Waiokotore Biv to Ohutu Ridge and to Potae and Potae to Colenso Hut

For further details contact: Kay Davies (Community Relations Ranger, Department of Conservation, Palmerston North Office. Email: 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.

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.

Park's Peak Hut

29-30 September

Easy/Medium

John Beech

354 9310

Will be walking from the Sentry Box end to Parks Peak Hut. An easy weekend trip.

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.

Longview Hut

30 September

Easy/Medium

Rod McKenzie

357 0136

Situated in the south west Ruahines, the hut is a gentle climb up an open ridge (some time windy). Once there a great view is on offer. Depending on the day there are two alternatives for the return journey. We will leave town at 8 am.

Wednesday Trampers

10 October

Easy/Medium

Donna Hayes

06 322 8686

Phone for more details.

Wednesday Trampers

3 October

Easy/Medium

Jill Chapman

326 8605

Phone for more details.

Thursday Trampers

11 October

Easy/Medium

Stuart Malcolm

358 3409

Phone for more details.

Thursday Trampers

4 October

Easy/Medium

Ann Green

06 374 5208

Phone for more details.

Waipakihi Hut

13-14 October

Easy/Medium

John Doolan

355 5495

First rule, this is a fine weather trip and is for those who enjoy an easy / medium. If there is cloud on the top (rain, strong wind, etc) we will not go into Waipakihi, instead we will go into the Oturere Valley hut. That will be a shorter trip, say 4 hours (eastern side of Mt Ngauruhoe).

Waterfall Hut

6-7 October

Medium

Doug McNeur

359 1893

Waterfall hut is pretty much smack in the middle of the Ruahines. It's in a lovely spot beside the Kawhatau river. We'll probably be going in over Mangaweka and wandering up the river but there are several ways in so if you have a preference, let me know.

The Waipakihi Hut is reached after a "good" climb up to the bush line and then along the tops for a fair way: say about 5.5 hours in total. All of the tops are exposed, so as this is an easy / medium, we will err on the cautious side and not hesitate to put plan B in place so we can still have a weekend away.

We leave from 24 Montana Way at 7am on Saturday. Call me at work on 355 5495 (leave a message with Jacqui if I'm away) or email me at john.doolan@inspire.net.nz but don't call me on 06 355 2100, that phone hasn't worked for years.

Sledge Track (with PNTMC)

7 October

Medium

Christine Scott

354 0510

This is a nice close trip to town at the head of the Kahuterewa Valley. Due to a knee injury I will probably just be doing the short Toitoti loop but others are welcome to do the longer loop up onto South Range Road and along the ridge looking down into the Wairarapa. (Estimated time about 7 hours). Highlights of the trip will

Wednesday Trampers

17 October

Easy/Medium

Tina Fraser

328 7757

Phone for more details.

Thursday Trampers

18 October

Easy/Medium

Keith Fisher

357 1724

Phone for more details.

Cobb Valley
20-22 October
Mark Learmonth
 Phone for more details.

Medium
355 9143

Please let me know by the Tuesday 23rd of October so I can arrange accommodation

Pureora Forest Park
20-22 October
Christine Scott

Easy/Medium
354 0510

This 78,000 ha forest park lies on the western side of Lake Taupo. The forest is one of the last remnants of the extensive podocarp forests that once covered the central north island. Significant conservation battles took place here in 1978 with protestors occupying platforms in the treetops. It is also the home of one of the largest remaining populations of the north island kokako. For more information go to the DoC website at www.doc.govt.nz and do a search for Pureora. Our plan is to walk into Waihaha Hut (3 hours) from the Western Bay Road (SH 32) and from there head either north or south exiting at another road end. There may or may not be a second night out.

Mountain House Loop
28 October
Sue Tuohy

Easy
353 3303

Phone for more details.

Wednesday Trampers
31 October
Margaret Gillingham

Easy/Medium
356 8812

Phone for more details.

Thursday Trampers
1 November
Merv Matthews

Easy/Medium
357 2858

Phone for more details.

Wakelings Hut (Ruahines)
3-4 November
Dave Mitchell

Medium/Fit
329 2803

This trip will start from the Kawhatau road end, which is in from Mangaweka. We will climb up to Colenso peak and then proceed along the Mokai Patea range, which is a broad open ridge that climbs slowly, till we reach the high point of Rongotea, 1568m. From Rongotea we drop down a ridge to Wakelings hut, next to the Waikamaka river. Next day to get out, we climb back up to Rongotea, then drop down to crow hut which is next to the Kawhatau river. From crow hut we climb up the ridge again, and then follow the track back down to the cableway across the river. We cover quite a bit ground in 2 days so I wouldn't expect each day to be less than 8 hours.

Wednesday Trampers
24 October
Pauline Hall

Easy/Medium
329 7707

Phone for more details.

Thursday Trampers
25 October
Royce Mills

Easy/Medium
358 4398

Phone for more details.

Napier Walkways
27-28 October
Jenny McCarthy

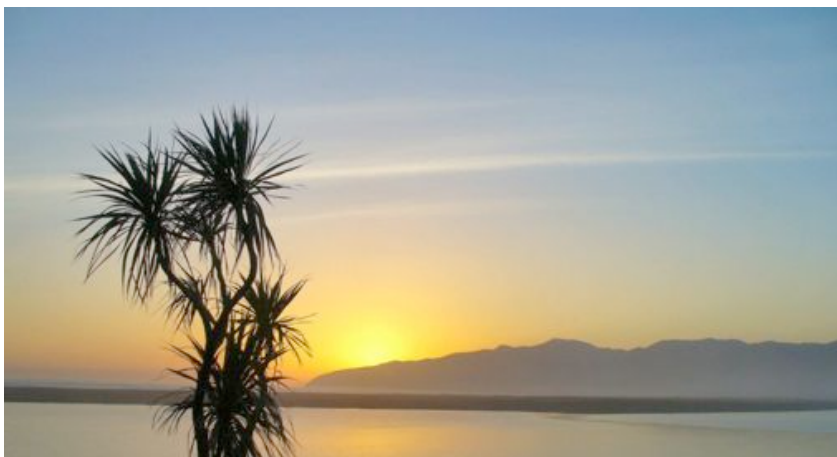
Medium
06 376 8838

I am going to the Boundary Stream Mainland Island which is 1 hour north of Napier. I will be travelling up on Friday night and staying at a campground, either cabins or tents. **Saturday:** we will visit the Boundary Stream area. There are a variety of walks from 40 mins to 5 hours. So there is something for everyone. For more information on the area and the walks go to the DOC web site East coast/Hawkes Bay Tracks and Walks. **Sunday:** we can do the art deco walk around Napier or go wine tasting.

Maharahara
11 November
Tim Swale

Medium
06 376 6556

Maharahara can be accessed from either the Kumeti Road end near Dannevirke or the Pohangina Valley. I recently went up from the East side and was impressed with the views, vegetation and track. It took us about 5 hours return. If there are enough people interested it could even be done as a Ruahine crossing by two groups swapping car keys at the top. If interested phone or email theswales@xtra.co.nz



Left: Lake Ferry Sunset
 First place getter in the scenic category of the club photo competition
 Photo: Alla Seleznyova



Above: Walking down to Centre Crater

Photo: Adam Matich (Oturere Hut Trip | 25-26 August 2007)



Right: Waiting at Totara Flats

Photo: Adam Matich (Totara Flats Hut Trip | 8-9 Sept 2007)

Trip Reports

Wednesday Trampers 22 August

by Ann Rush

Eleven trampers enjoyed a comfortable tramp through the beautiful bush up to Blue Range Hut. Some of the group diverted down to the Cow Creek lookout before going to the hut for their lunch. During lunch time it snowed quite heavily which impressed a visitor from Scotland who felt right at home.

On the return trip we bush whacked our way through to a giant Rata. The original track to this great tree is blocked with windfalls but if you can find where the tree is it's well worth the effort.

Oturere Hut 25-26 August

by Adam Matich

Ivan dropped us off at the Mangatepopo road end on Friday night so that the feral wild-life was minus at least one vehicle to vandalise or empty. We trundled along under the bright moon for 15 min before reaching the empty Mangatepopo hut at around 9:30. Between our arrival and 2 a.m., more people turned up in disruptive dribs and drabs. I would like to think that the briskness in our bunk room (Jean had the window wide open) encouraged them to settle down quickly.

Next morning we crossed Mangatepopo Stream and climbed 80 m up onto the spur that we were to follow all of the way up to Tongariro peak. The snow level was actually quite high, there being none in Mangatepopo Valley and none on our spur until we were maybe 300 m below Tongariro peak, which is where we put on our crampons. They were needed as the snow was firm; too much so for

enjoyable skiing. It was also rather calm and sunny, so people who didn't want to skite about their weekend by going to work with sunburn, covered up.

It took about 3 hours to reach the top of Tongariro, where we had our morning tea stop with lots of photo-taking for next year's photo competition. From there we did not head towards the Red Crater (been there, done that), but dropped down into the central crater and headed across to the Emerald Lakes for lunch. The lakes were partially frozen over, with an ice bridge across one of them. It was so tempting to cross it, but the ice looked a bit wet in places and Jenny frowned sternly when the idea was floated, despite Jean's irresponsible urgings..she was after a good action photo. There were a few people around, doing the crossing, or climbing up to the red Crater or up Ngauruhoe.

Instead of following the poled route down into the Oturere Valley, directly to Oturere Hut (been there, done that too), we extended the sunny day even further. From the Emerald Lakes we headed NE up onto Peak 1850. This was kind of a mistake! Some parts of this peak were steep, hard snow, and climbing over and down rocks while wearing crampons was not really what crampons were for. But it didn't matter, a bit of fear is good for you occasionally, and if we got into trouble Jenny was trip leader so it was all her fault. Given the current fashion for people not being required to take responsibility for their own actions and well-being, we were confident that we could get away with blaming it all on her.

We should have followed the poled route across the central crater to Blue Lake (which was white at the time) and from there head down the ridge that follows Oturere Stream on its NE side to Oturere Hut. Regardless, we dropped off 1850 onto said ridge and after less than 1 km of travel stopped to take our crampons off as the snow gave way to rock and shingle. For the most part the going

was good, although when dropping off 767 we climbed down steep rocks onto hard snow which was a bit unnerving. Soon we were on rock and shingle again. Then a bit further on we came across a snow-covered slope which was too steep for safe sans-crampon travel. Fortunately, we had Dave with us, fresh (well not particularly stale anyway) from a year in the Antarctic and his step-cutting arm was still in good form.

From then on we just followed the ridge down until we were North of Oturere Hut, crossed Oturere Stream, and climbed up onto the poled route a few hundred meters from the hut, which we only shared with one other person that night after a slightly less than 8-hour day. All in all, travel down the ridge had been pretty good, and in summer, without any snow, it would be easy apart from one slightly difficult descent.

It appeared to be a bit windy the next day and so instead of going out through the South Crater we elected to head around through the Tama Lakes, but again avoiding the tracks for fear of repetition and meeting people, who can after all, be pretty awful. We did a high sidle (below the snow) around Ngauruhoe to the little lake just NE of Upper Tama lake. This involved crossing several gullies; one or two of them being rather steep, and one of them was ice covered because it never saw the sunlight. From the little lake we dropped down into Upper Tama, headed West along the beach and then climbed out to find ourselves on the western side of Upper Tama. From here on we were on tracks again and encountered people.

We had lunch while overlooking Lower Tama lake and trundled the 2 hours back to the Chateau to find the car (7-hr day) where Ivan had promised to leave it. Ivan turned up not long after to pick Jean up, bemoaning the possible loss of their week's skiing holiday as it was possible they were going to have to be involved in the Cave SAR in the Green Link - Middle Earth Cave system on the Takaka Hill.

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

Herepai Hut & Peak 30 August (Thu)

by Jill Spencer

Ten of us set off at 9 am in sunshine. Great start to the tramp considering the bad forecast. Arrived at Herepai Hut in 2¼ hours. Enjoyed the sunshine, but the wind was getting up. Five of us went on, and we were mostly sheltered until we reached Herepai Peak, where the wind hit, with force, taking my fleece hat with it, never to be seen again. The views all round were great, well worth the effort. We headed back down & out after a 6½ hour day. Great tramp had by all.

Ngauruhoe 1-2 September

by Howard Nicholson

As many people already know, mountain weather forecasts are not always correct, and this time the difference was in our favour. With eight people on the original trip list, only four of us assembled at an otherwise empty Mangatepopo Hut on Friday night, ready for a good night's sleep and tomorrow's adventure.

A beautiful morning followed, and we had increasingly clearer views of Ngauruhoe as we progressed up the valley. We were above the cloud as we ski-toured and climbed our way up the mountain. The snow could hardly be better, with a smattering of fresh snow over a firm layer providing ideal conditions for both cramponing up and skiing down. The wind became stronger as we progressed, so we huddled in the lee of a warm rock for lunch before tackling the awesome downhill run below us.

We descended a short band of warm rocks to the start of our ski run. Skis that had been carried up the hill were now to carry us down. Peter was first away, putting in a few graceful turns to prove that it could be done, before stopping. Lynda soon followed, also making it look so easy, until she caught an edge on the second turn and fell over, dropping her ice axe in the process; no problems though, as she stopped after sliding only a few metres.



Left: Herepai Hut
Photo: Jill Spencer
(Herepai Hut Trip | 30 Aug 2007)

Right: Milford Track Stream
Third place getter in the scenic category of the club photo competition
Photo: Richard Lander



Sam, being a really helpful chap, then set off with the idea of retrieving the ice axe and graciously returning it to Lynda a few metres below. Unfortunately, after half a turn he fell over, but instead of stopping as Lynda had, he kept going, picking up speed and momentum as he went! Then he started to tumble... Luckily, I was recording it all on video so that I would have something to send back to his family in case he just continued sliding into oblivion, but eventually he did stop, body intact but ego severely bruised!

Between us, we managed to return Sam's ski to him, and the slope eased as we descended, so we were all able to continue skiing back to the saddle. Once again we shouldered our skis and trogged back to the hut for a cup of tea and a biscuit. Soon after arriving we were alerted (via mobile phone message) to a search unfolding back at Palmerston North, however the efficient people back home had found the person after just a few minutes.

Sunday's weather was a bit grotty, so with the main objective completed and both skifields mostly shut, we headed for home.

Thanks to Lynda Hunt, Peter Rawlins and Sam Johnson for another great trip.

Waitewaewae Trig **2 September**

by Bruce Taylor

There were just two of us, Bruce and Tony (leader), who met early on a fine Sunday morning at the corner of North Manakau Road and SH1. We were heading into a little visited part of the Tararua Forest Park on the ridge between the Waikawa and Panataewaewae Streams. Our objective was Waitewaewae trig at a height of over 960 metres.

As it enters the hills, North Manakau Road becomes a rough one way track with grass down the middle, but it is negotiable as far as the car park. We stepped off from the car park down to the junction of the Waikawa and Panataewaewae Streams, crossed the Pantewaewae and found an old track heading up our ridge. The track was soon lost for a while and we struggled through thick creepers. Heading back to the right we regained the track. It is surprisingly

well marked, mainly with pieces of venetian blind, all the way to Waitewaewae. It looked like a hunters' track. The bush was reasonably open and very pretty once the sun came through the morning the cloud. The climb was steep to begin with and then the gradient leveled out. Point 708 metres was reached in 2.5 hours from the car park. There is a grassy lookout here over the Horowhenua district.

From here we headed south and arrived at the trig in one hour twenty minutes. Just before the top of Waitewaewae there is a well marked track junction indicating the track to Thompson (711). This would have been an interesting extension to our tramp, but, unfortunately, we did not have another day available to spend in the hills. After lunch on the trip we retraced our steps through the bush down to stream junction and the car park in three hours. An enjoyable excursion into a little visited part of the Tararuas. The party was Bruce Taylor from Waikanae and Tony Evans from Palmerston North.

Deadman's Rangiwahia Loop **6 September**

by Keith Fisher

Eleven trampers left the car park at 9.00 am with the promise of good weather. 2 went straight to Rangi Hut and the rest headed off on the Deadmans Rangiwahia Loop Track. At the higher levels there was a good covering of snow from the day before. There was some mist round the tops but the views were great with only a very light breeze on Mangahuia. We lunched just down the track to Rangi Hut and then met up with the other members of our party. After a snack at Rangi Hut we were back at the van by 3.10 pm.

Totara Flats Hut **8-9 September**

by Doug McNeur

As is consistent with an easy/medium trip, we left Palmy at 8am and went to the Walls Whare road end via a hot bread shop in Carterton. After being impressed at the flash new

bridge, we wobbled our way up to the hut in 3½ hours and proceeded to laze away the afternoon and evening.

We'd decided to do a loop track so on Sunday we crossed the river to visit Sayers hut then powered up the hill pausing briefly (several times) to let the heart slow down to its normal rate (I'm not fit ok?). At the ridge line, we turned right and navigated our way along it honing our GPS skills in the process. We were following a route most of the way which made things a bit easier but we did have to be a bit careful about the navigation as some of the ridges dropped down into gorges which was not part of the plan.

However the navigation was successful as we eventually came to an old forestry road which cruised out onto the real road and from there it was a short walk back to the van.

The Carterton hot bread shop was still open on way way back which was a jolly fine thing too. As is traditional on my trips, the weather was absolutely delightful so we all enjoyed ourselves.

We were: Jean Garman, Adam Matich, Bev Akers, Gary Bevins, Gary Grayson, Jenny McCarthy, Malcolm Thomas, and trip leader, Doug McNeur.

Ski Camping 15-16 September

by Ken Mercer

Well, camping was the description so the five of us were carrying two tents, ice axes, crampons, food and warm clothes as we skinned across the Tukino rope tow and around the south edge of the field, parallel to the Whangaehu river. The sky was blue, the sun hot on our legs and barely a breath of wind disturbed the calm.

By lunch time we'd climbed 440m and dropped slightly to the NZ Alpine hut which perches on the edge of a cliff. We had an hours break then ground our way up the Whangaehu Glacier minus much of our overnight gear as the weather was closing in and there'd be room in the hut. By the summit plateau, a further 460m, the cloud had dropped and the wind was strong and very cold.

On with more clothes, off with the skins, and back down the glacier. The surface was ski-able but icy and the wind, increasing in ferocity, followed us down, snow flurries turning to rain. It was nice to shut the door on the weather.

On Sunday we headed down toggged up against the elements. The visibility was poor, compasses were out, the rain poured down, the mushy snow took control of the skis and we all had falls. Worst of all navigated down a valley north of the ski field and, running out of snow, were forced to climb back up. But we warmed up and avoided dropping over a bluff!

Coffee and sticky buns in Waiouru was an appropriate way to conclude a great weekend.

Putara Roadend Loop 16 September

by Adam Matich

As one might expect, this trip started from the end of Putara Road. We headed 200 m up the main track and immediately after crossing over the footbridge, we left the track and climbed SW up onto the broad un-labelled peak which (ca. 640 m). The climb was pretty easy going, even though we weren't always on the sometimes unreliable trail or the old vehicle track which eventually appeared. Fortunately, Jenny seemed in good route-finding form, although it is best to hobble her when she is at the front to slow her down. 1 hr saw us at the top, following the trail marked by the pink ribbon. We headed NW across this broad peak and dropped into the stream next to the little saddle, 90 minutes from the road end.

Four hundred metres down stream (some got wet feet) we hit a confluence, then headed 20 m up the next stream to another confluence, and 20 m up the left fork to find the bottom of the Bottles Track (some looking was required). 30 minutes travel up the Bottles Track saw us on the Herepai Track. The Bottles Track is a little vague in places, so we put Jenny out in front to lead and exercise us. 2½ km down the track towards Roaring Stag Lodge was our next off track section, 3 hrs from the road end. This is



Left: High point of the loop
Photo: Jean Garman
(Putara Road end Trip |
16 September 2007)



Left: Baby Hare near Arete
Third place getter in the Natural History category of the club photo competition
Photo: Jean Garman

an old track system that veers left off the main track to peak 713, from where we dropped into a little saddle to the SE and continued on the old, sometimes marked, route to eventually reach the open on peak 858. The last 200 m up onto 858 was kindly cut, by someone else, through scrub and leatherwood. In a couple of spots a little attention to navigation was needed as the route wanders around like a drunken teenager. We had good views on top, but it was a bit windy, so we headed NE to 835, an important turning point. In a previous attempt at this trip we had sailed through this point and ended up bush-bashing our way down into Rawnsley Stream.

835 is not as clear and open as is suggested by the map. It is scrubby and the route onto the spur heading north is not at all obvious, there being no discernable track. After considerable discussion, Jean decided that we would stay on the track heading NE towards Kaiparoro until we reached the trees. We then Sidled NW across the head of Rawnsley Stm. Quite a bit of compassing, GPS-ing and argument was required before we were headed in the right direction again. Even once we were on this spur heading north, we managed to go astray, and it was all Jean's fault, but Jenny soon put us right again. Finally we dropped onto the old farm track and our rate of travel increased.....for a while. In places it was a bit overgrown, and faint. But with some navigation and Jenny in front, we found a fence line, which we crossed and followed to pick up the track again for the last time before trundling on down to Putara Road 100 m from the road end after a 7¼ hr day.

We were Jenny McCarthy, Jean Garman, Graeme Olliver, Dave Mitchell, Garry Grayson, and Adam Matich.

Atene Skyline 23 September

by Dave Allan

Three club members undertook this day trip in what could be described as very pleasant, warm conditions, with no

wind and 50% cloud cover. The track was in a good dry state and spring growth was very evident in the bush. Two of the participants had returned from extended holidays overseas and this was an ideal trip for one to realize how quickly fitness levels are lost after holidaying in hot countries.

We were; Tony Evans, Graeme Olliver, Dave Allan & Scotty

Wednesday & Thursday Trampers

Wharite Peak (Wed)

East Holdsworth track (Thu), 10 trampers

Blue Range Hut (Wed), 11 trampers

Blue Range Hut (Thu), 16 trampers

Zeke's Hut - Hihitahi (Wed), 21 trampers

Herepai Hut & peak (Thu), 10 trampers

Waitewaewae Track to the Boiler (Wed), 19 trampers

Deadmans Loop (Thu), 11 trampers

Atiwhakatu Hut (Wed), 14 trampers

Mountain House (Wed), 5 trampers

Forks Hut (Thu), 15 trampers

Zeke's Hut

After reading the report about Zeke's Hut in the Standard, the Wednesday Trampers decided to give it a go. Warning - not to get stuck in the paddock after its rained and heavily grazed (We were careful). But its good to get off the road. The first 1/2 hr is over farm land which is easy, with a sort bridge, good for beginners. The next hour is horrid - steep and after rain, very slippery with one rather nasty short rock scramble. Thanks to the guys in our group for helping all the woman folk - We bush bashed to avoid it going back down. Walking polls do come in handy for tracks like this. Once on the ridge its lovely, mossy and pleasant with easy walking grade. Good place to stop on the top for an early lunch. Its 40 min down to the new hut ,5 min past the old site. About 3 hrs all up to hut.

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 to be made in advance by personal cheque, bank cheque or cash. There is no Internet banking for lodge fees. Contact Hugh & Liz Wilde on (06) 356 9450.

	Members	Guests
Adult	\$21	\$33
Secondary School	\$18	\$30
Primary School	\$15	\$26

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. 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 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.memsec@xtra.co.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	