



# beechleaves

Newsletter of the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club

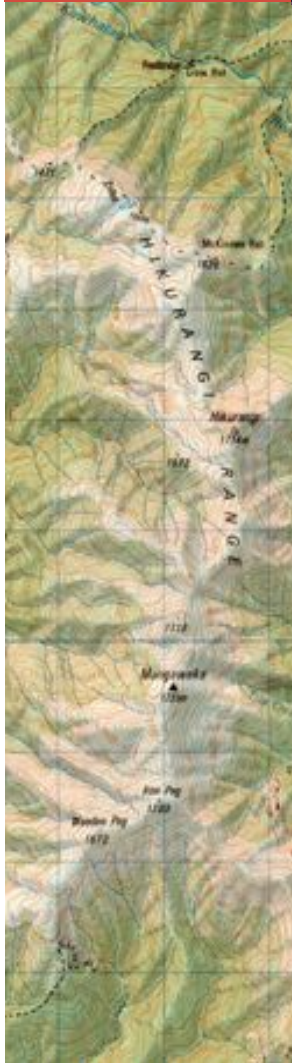
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Mark and Tony crossing one of the many bridges on the trip  
Photo: Jean Garman (Whirinaki Trip over Queens Birthday Weekend)



## Upcoming club nights

### Fiordland+Ruahine Corner Stoats

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

#### 1st July - Fiordland Adventures

Max and Melanie love traveling at sea level. So much so they've set out to circle the South Island by kayak. Like a salty version of Gareth and Jo Morgan, this couple is on a mission to paddle places few have even been. And they're doing it to increase awareness of the environment and to raise funds for the battle against child cancer.

They will describe their journey, the trip from Jackson Bay to Milford and beyond via sea, sound and portage. The Ashhurst-based kayak couple undertook this leg of the trip during May 2007. The illustrated talk is sure to appeal to adventurers, environmentalists, trampers and paddlers alike.

#### 15th July - Ruahine Corner Stoat Trip

Club members Linda Campbell and Geraldine Fovakis recently went on a trip with the Department of Conservation to Ruahine Corner. The reason for the trip was to reset stoat traps in the area. Some awesome photos were taken on this trip and Linda and Geraldine will be sharing these with us, come along and see what is happening up there and what the place looks like, especially for all those of us who haven't been up there.

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# President's Report

## Club Night Changes

by Howard Nicholson

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

MTSC clubnights are on the move! From 5 August, our clubnights will be held at the RSA Clubrooms, 200 Broadway Ave, Palmerston North (located between Victoria Ave and Princess St). Also, we will be reducing the number of clubnights to one per month - club nights will be held on the first Tuesday of each month (excluding January) at 7:30 pm.

We have some interesting speakers lined up, and expect consistently more people along to one meeting per month at a central venue. I am sure that you too will be impressed with the new room; there are options for running social events, with a full catering and bar service available should we require them. Access to the conference room is open, so just come in via the front entrance (Broadway Ave) and keep turning right until you find us - easy!

The days may be short but the opportunities of Winter are many, so make the most of every chance you get to walk, climb, ski or ride. Check out the trip card for inspiration!

## Chief Guide's Report

by Bev Akers

email [bev.akers@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bev.akers@xtra.co.nz) or phone (06) 325 8879

Is there anyone out there who knows of any young people who would love to go tramping, either day or overnights. We really would enjoy their company and they keep us feeling young - We can actually learn things from them to. So all you young guys who want to give it a go - try us, we aren't all that bad and we might even have fun. Give the trip leader a call. Looking forward to tramping with you. Same goes to Skiers.

## 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.

### Waiouru Army Museum plus...

29 June

Adam Matich

We will be leaving P.N. around 8 a.m. and travelling as fast as possible to the nearest enticing-looking cafe for breakfast. Thereafter, our next stop will be in Taihape to walk off a few breakfast calories (if it isn't raining) on the Stewart Reserve hill which is behind the galvanised iron gumboot. I don't think it is a big walk so don't expect to walk off all your breakfast. Then we will make our way to the Army Museum and stay there until I have decided that we are bored and want to go home again, or we get kicked out at closing time (4:30 p.m.), or for other reasons. The museum has a cafe (Rations Cafe), which will do us nicely for lunch. The adventurous people may want to explore the more high-end dining establishments elsewhere in Waiouru. War being an expensive business, it costs money to get into the museum.

Military/Cafe

359 2796

Adults	\$12
Children	\$7
Students (ID)	\$8
Family	\$26
Seniors	\$8
RSA's	\$8

And with the cost of transport, breakfast, lunch, and maybe even afternoon tea, you might want to take out a second mortgage. But given the rubbish people waste their money on these days, the day is cheap at twice the price. Either way, this is an opportunity to finally visit the museum instead of just driving past it on the way to somewhere, like I always do!

### Wednesday Trampers

2 July

Pauline Hall

Hemi Matenga Scenic Reserve - Waikanae.

Easy/Medium

329 7707

**Thursday Trampers****3 July****Stuart Malcolm**

Phone for more details.

**Easy/Medium****358 3409****Forest Lookout Loop****6 July****Garry Grayson**

Phone for more details.

**Medium****326 8837****Wednesday Trampers****9 July****Marian Beadle**

Phone for more details.

**Easy/Medium****323 3246****Thursday Trampers****10 July****John McLeod**

Phone for more details.

**Easy/Medium****323 5785****Rangiwahia Hut****13 July****Linda Campbell**

The plan is to leave from Feilding around 8.30 am to drive to Renfrew Road and then walk up to Rangiwahia Hut for lunch. It is an easy walk with one steepish section.

Weather permitting there should be great views and perhaps even a bit of snow.

**Easy/Medium****323 3836****Wednesday Trampers****16 July****Ivan Alve**

Phone for more details.

**Easy/Medium****356 3123****Thursday Trampers****17 July****John Thornley**

Phone for more details.

**Easy/Medium****356 9681****Big Hill Station****18-24 July****Gary Bevins and Bev Akers**

Gives access to the Northern Ruahine Range. Drive to the hut door in four-wheel drive comfort, and spend a week relaxing, tramping, or whatever takes your fancy. Be in early as the Doc Permit has a restriction on numbers.

**Medium****325 8879****Beginners Alpine****18-20 July****Brian Webster**

Phone for more details.

**Technical****357 0189****Beginners Ski****18-20 July****Ken Mercer***Please note the date change.*

So you have never skied? Or tried a couple of times and found it hard work? Long slippery feet can be tricky but start now, shuffling around your lawn with an old set, getting used to stepping forwards, sideways, and turning.

Then come up to the lodge where we'll give you a little instruction and you can have heaps of practice. On the

**Medium****356 7497**

Saturday you may not even bother getting a pass (if you're fit you can walk up happy valley faster than the chair!)

I'll do what I can to coordinate transport. Give me a call on the number above or on (027) 364 6475.

**Wednesday Trampers****23 July****Rita & Arthur Hodson**

Phone for more details.

**Easy/Medium****323 5491****Thursday Trampers****24 July****Christine Scott**

Phone for more details.

**Easy/Medium****354 0510****Elder Hut****26-27 July****Dave Mitchell**

Unfortunately Dave is unable to take this trip, if you are interested in leading this trip please contact Dave or the Chief Guide.

**Medium****329 2803****Wednesday Trampers****30 July****Bev Akers**

Phone for more details.

**Easy/Medium****325 8879****Thursday Trampers****31 July**

Please phone one of the regulars for more details.

**Easy/Medium****Not Zeke's Hut Trip****2-3 August****Adam Matich**

I have changed my mind about going to Zekes Hut because I have found somewhere more luxurious. Instead, we are going to Park's Peak Hut for an almost, but not really, easy weekend. We will go in from Sentry Box Hut which is on the NE side of the Ruahines all the way up near Kereru, which is quite a drive. So we don't want to leave too late in the morning as we need to hurry, hurry, hurry up to the hut by afternoon tea time for pikelets and jam and cream and sloth, and before anyone else gets there. It is a sometimes steep 700 m plus climb from Sentry Box Hut up onto what I assume is the southern end of the Golden Crown Range. From there we will zoom south for 2 km to Parks Peak Hut. The appeal of this hut is that it is brand new having been finished this autumn, and with any luck there will be lots of snow around for people to un-enjoy. So we hope to have a nice lazy afternoon and cozy evening, with lots of eating and a proper cooked breakfast the next morning, before we return back to the car by the same route. The technical aspect of it is that you will have to know how to make pikelets and do me a proper cooked breakfast and be prepared to sleep on the floor if there are other people at the hut as well.

**Medium/Technical****359 2796****Intermediate Alpine****2-3 August****Peter Rawlins**

Phone for more details.

**Technical****356 7443**

**Sunrise Staircase****10 August****Gary Bevins****Medium****325 8879**

Hopefully after getting some instructions, we will be able to find the beginning of this track. Its the original staircase track up to Sunrise Hut. Could be a bit of a scout around at times but we know its there, its only a matter of keeping on it. Will eventually get us to Sunrise Hut. Join us on somewhere new.

**Tutuwai Hut****16-17 August****Tony Evans****Easy/Medium****357 4355**

Phone for more details.

**Jumbo Hut****17 August****Christine Scott****Medium****354 0510**

Jumbo Hut has to be one of my favourite huts in the Tararua's with its magnificent views out over the

Wairarapa and the goblin forest you walk through to reach it. I expect it to take 3-4 hours to walk into the hut and less to walk out. We will leave the Police Station at 7.30 am.

**Mangatainoka Hot Springs****23-24 August****Don McDonald****Easy/Medium****357 0222**

Phone for more details.

**Otukota Hut****30-31 August****Garry Grayson****Medium/Fit****326 8837**

Phone for more details.

**Arriving at Mangakahika Hut**

(Whirinaki Trip | 31 May - 2 June 2008).

Photo: Jean Garman

## Trip Reports

**Herepai Hut****21 May****by Alison Trotter**

The forecast of showers and fine periods seemed accurate as 15 Wednesday Trampers crossed the Pahiatua Track,

headed for Putara Road end. But wet weather gear wasn't needed as we warmed up for the "middle bit" by setting a reasonable pace along the stream bank section of the track. After a brief regrouping and food stop at the second bridge, the short climb stirred muscles and took us

into the noticeably cooler temperatures and damper air of low cloud, but it was clear and sunny when we reached the hut for lunch.

For most of us the trip was a return visit to Herepai. But as usual, we tapped Bev's wonderful knowledge of practically everywhere, with en route discussion of possible options for future tramps on less well-marked tracks – along with the pros and cons of breadmakers and other useful information.

We heard lovely birdsong on the way up, and those racing down probably missed the delightful little red fungi some of us saw (in response to the question passed back from someone ahead “have you seen a red thing on the track?”)

Back at the car park we'd just finished changing footwear and clothing as the first of the day's significant showers sent us scurrying into our vehicles, rather than unpacking parkas. Good timing!

### **Awatere Hut via Makeretu River, North Branch** **22 May**

**by Graham Pritchard**

It is five years since the Thursday trampers last walked up the North Branch of the Makeretu River to Awatere Hut. Then it was very easy walking on flat gravel flats.

A succession of high river flows over the five years has scoured out the gravel and vegetative cover exposing a bouldery river bed - much less enjoyable travel.

The sun shone warmly for our group of twelve trampers at Happy Daze Hut (good to see it well looked after). Then cloud cover cooled down the long walk to Awatere Hut but it is still an attractive valley.

We had parked the van just off- road in Graham Ellison's front paddock rather than driving much further in as previously. Even so it took quite a few goes, much advice and some pushing to get us out on the road again.

### **Longview Hut** **28 May**

Nineteen Wednesday Trampers got out on a perfect day with no wind. Finally everyone has got to the hut as last time, the winds were too strong. One poor soul twisted her ankle not far from the top and stubbornly continued on without any assistance or complaints. She discovered she had a broken bone so is now in plaster.

### **Powell – Holdsworth – East Holdsworth** **29 May**

**by Nigel and Jill Spencer**

Seven hardy souls set off from Palmerston North in brilliant weather heading for Holdsworth picking up one at Eketahuna. Arrived around 9.15 am and seven of us set off for Powell Hut. One wanted to do some botanizing up the Atiwhakatu Track. Arrived at Powell Hut approximately 2.75 hours later. Had a short lunch stop then set off for the summit. Shortly after leaving the hut we were into cloud and very strong wind (bitterly cold). Up at the top of Holdsworth there were icicles everywhere. Headed on over to East Holdsworth Track and proceeded down it. As soon as we were in the bush the weather became much more pleasant. On down and out on to the Atiwhakatu Track then back to the van arriving around 4.45 pm. A great tramp enjoyed by all.

### **Punga Hut**

**5 June**

**by Merv Matthews**

The Punga hut (also known as the Miro hut or Thompson's hut) located in the Miro Valley in the Northern Tararua is a quaint four-bunk hut especially popular with hunters judging by the number of gear bags stored inside. It was built many years ago by a local man, Rex Thompson, a keen hunter who has also built a Jodel D11 aircraft and an amphibian aircraft.

We arrived soon after 10 am, too early for lunch, so we explored another track leading south from the hut. It was easy to follow, having been recently marked with pink tapes. It crossed a wide plateau, and eventually reached a small stream known as No. 1 Creek which flows into the Tokomaru River. At this stage we returned to the hut for a leisurely lunch in the sun. We were twelve Thursday trampers.

### **Maharahara Track**

**12 June**

**by Ann Green**

Seven trampers set out on the Maharahara track. We battled a gale up the stream. The track provided some shelter but there was also rain blowing in the wind, by the time we got to the Kiritaki hut junction we decided it was wiser to turn back. There is a new sign at the junction with a more realistic time to get to the hut. Back at the car park the sun was shining the wind was a breeze but I think we all felt better for our battle with the elements.

### **Whirinaki**

**31 May - 2 June**

**by Jean Garman**

We were dropped off at the Okahu road end into a calm, clear morning with a cracking frost on the ground.

Luckily the sun was only minutes away from reaching us so we didn't have to shiver for long. Tony was unhappy. He had failed to unload his bananas from the vehicle before it departed so was in for a banana free weekend. We started off along the neatly graded, benched and foot bridged track. With 18+km to go before we reached our destination for the night I was predicting the need for torches. The going was very easy and the km quickly clicked by under the steady pounding of our boots. The sun rose high in the sky, the blue ducks frolicked in the babbling brook and the wood pigeons cooed in the trees while all around us was vegetation devastation. This was the result of a heavy snow fall in the winter of 2006 (on an area unaccustomed to snow) inflicting extensive damage to most of the trees. This part of the park was largely inaccessible until track cutters got in and cleared the debris a full year later.

It was less than a couple of hours to Skips hut where we lapped up the sunshine while we had morning tea on the picnic table set out in the clearing in front of the hut. More of the same continued and before we knew it we had reached the very quaint picturesque hand adzed stained glass windowed Rogers hut. Seeing the way we were eating up the distance my concerns of running out of daylight melted away. In the next section of track we found the 'Robert Collins' campsite which not only had an abundance of picnic tables, clear grassy areas, sheltered campsites, an outdoor fireplace and toilets but also had 2



**Benched track between Central and Mid Te Hoe Hut**  
(Whirinaki Trip | 31 May - 2 June 2008).  
Photo: Adam Matich



**Skips Hut**  
(Whirinaki Trip | 31 May - 2 June 2008).  
Photo: Adam Matich

showers which backed onto a wood powered hot water cylinder - hot and cold running water! The track was still immaculate with only the gentlest of gradients which brought us up and over a rise and down to an area of tree debris and mud. This was the result of a log jam in a side stream letting go and flooding a short portion of the valley. On the other side of this mess was Mangakahika hut. The last hundred meters involved a bit of mucking around as we figured out where to go and proceeded to hop skip and jump our way from firmish bit to firmish bit in an effort to stay as clean and dry as possible. Luckily the hut was unscathed. There were 9 bunks in a 3 x 3 pattern, the bottom bunks were roomy but the top two levels were squeezed into a space normally occupied by one. This combined with the nanny state don't fall out of bed side panels made them difficult to get in/out of and very claustrophobic to be in - the floor was infinitely preferable.

Sunday morning dawned fine and calm and we set off for Central Te Hoe hut on more benched/graded/foot bridged track. We moved from one catchment to another so the slope was a little more tangible than the day before but not at all arduous. In record time Central Te Hoe hut was reached, once again basking in the sunshine in the midst of a large clearing. It was a little early for lunch at 10.30 but that didn't stop us and we had morning lunch anyway. Almost an hour later we tore ourselves away and headed for the biggest climb of the trip, the ridge route to Upper Te Hoe hut. Apparently the river is a recognised route between the huts but the last people who tried it turned back due to the high number of windfalls making the going slow and painful. Again the track was benched and graded and for part of it dug into the side of a cliff -

impressive stuff. This track took us most of the way up but suddenly stopped and pushed us onto the old 'normal' track which ran along the ridge line. Afternoon lunch was consumed in the lee of the ridge as a cool breeze had sprung up and the skies were now overcast. The benched/graded track was back in time for the decent so it was an easy (on the knees) stroll back to the river. The Upper Te Hoe hut was perched above the river with a hand rail at the edge of the clearing just in case you might fall over the bank. It started to rain.

Occasional rain and wind were heard in the night but the morning dawned once more calm with lingering mists hugging the ridge lines. We started off for our last climb without coats but as we got higher the mist got thicker and eventually started to rain. It was quite chilly so only brief stops were held before we began our decent to the next valley. As we headed down the cloud started to break and patches of sunshine came through. Somewhere before 11.30 am we reached the Pine Milling Road and decided to walk along it for a while before stopping for lunch. While licking up the last of the lunch crumbs our driver arrived and then it was a quick get changed and an endless series of logging roads before we delivered him home and could set off back to Palmy.

We were Mark Learmonth (trip organiser extraordinaire), Tony Evans, Adam Matich and Jean Garman.

## More Wed & Thu Trampers Trips

### Wednesday Tramps

4th June - Blue Range Hut (16 trampers)

11th June - Manawatu Gorge (24 trampers)

# 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.



Lodge bookings should preferably be made by e-mail ([wildeh@clear.net.nz](mailto:wildeh@clear.net.nz)). If for some reason you cannot e-mail then phone. Please 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 (but don't send cash through the mail). There is no internet banking for lodge fees. Contact Liz and Hugh Wilde on (06) 356 9450.

	Members	Guests
Adult	\$25	\$38
Secondary School	\$22	\$35
Primary School	\$19	\$30
Pre-school (3-5 yo)	\$10	\$10

## 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. 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](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 [mtsc.memsec@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mtsc.memsec@xtra.co.nz).

## Club website | [www.mtsc.org.nz](http://www.mtsc.org.nz)

This includes a list of contact details and a club email address. The club webpage is maintained by Howard Nicholson and is kindly hosted by InSPire Net.

## People to contact

If you would like to contact the club with general inquiries, please drop a line to MTSC, P.O. Box 245, Palmerston North and it will reach the appropriate person. If you want a particular topic discussed at Committee meetings, this is a good way to go about it.

### MTSC 2008-09 Committee

President	Howard Nicholson	357 6325	<a href="mailto:mtsc.president@xtra.co.nz">mtsc.president@xtra.co.nz</a>
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Chief Guide	Bev Akers	325 8879	
Day Trip Convenor	Gary Bevins	325 8879	
Membership Sec.	Doug McNeur	359 1893	<a href="mailto:mtsc.memsec@xtra.co.nz">mtsc.memsec@xtra.co.nz</a>
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Ski Captain	Ken Mercer	356 7497	
Lodge Manager	Ryan Badger	027 445 1997	
Lodge Booking Officers	Hugh & Liz Wilde	356 9450	<a href="mailto:wildeh@clear.net.nz">wildeh@clear.net.nz</a>
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General Committee	Linda Campbell	323 3836	
	Rob Pringle	354 0218	
	Peter Rawlins	356 7443	