

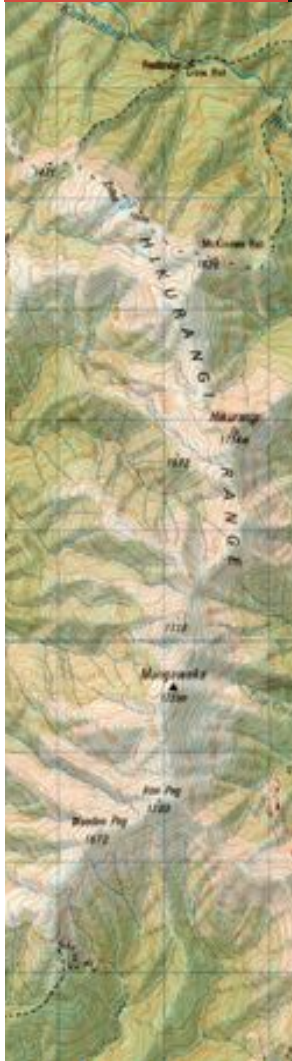
October 2008
Issue 09

mail:
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Surveying the African landscape in Ethiopia
Photo: Christine Scott



Upcoming club night

Four-wheel driving through Ethiopia

7.30 pm, 1st Tuesdays of the month at the RSA, Palmerston North, 200 Broadway Avenue

7th October - Travelling through the Rift Valley, Ethiopia

Christine Scott, along with her two brothers and sister, travelled by four-wheel drive down the Rift Valley to the border with Kenya. Along the way they visited a number of tribes before following the northern historical circuit looking at the rock hewn churches, the Queen of Sheba's palace, medieval palaces in Gonder and the Semien National Park. They were accompanied by their two drivers, a guide, a cook and Christine's cousin who now lives in Ethiopia. Come along and see part of the world where few of us would have ever thought to visit, you might be surprised and even inspired.

Reminder of Clubroom Change

A reminder that Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club now meets once a month at the RSA Clubrooms.

Venue: RSA Palmerston North, 200 Broadway Ave, Palmerston North

When: First Tuesday of every month (except January) – start 7:30 pm

We will continue to provide a range of interesting speakers at our club nights, and expect that our new central city venue will entice more people to come along.

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President's Report

Digging out the Club Lodge + Club Competitions

by Howard Nicholson

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

What a bumper snow season we are having! For confirmation, you need only ask Ken Mercer who spent 3 hours one night digging his way down to the front door of the lodge, or the skiers who have found that they can ski the runs that are usually too rocky to attempt. Personally, I was stoked to combine tramping, ski touring and downhill skiing in a day trip to the Ruahines recently. There is still plenty of snow out there to enjoy, and trips on the card to tempt you, so I hope that you make the effort to get into it soon.

Congratulations to the winners of our recent photo competition. On the night, we had a good turnout of people, every one of them a judge, who really appreciated seeing the entries from so many contributors. The winning entries will be on the web site shortly.

Have a great Spring!

Interclub Photo Competition

Contributed by Howard Nicholson

This year the Interclub Photo Competition will be hosted by MUAC. It will be at 7.00 pm on Monday the 22nd of September at Massey University in the Vet Tower. Snacks and beverages will be provided. You are all welcome to come along and see the winning pictures from our MTSC photo competition compete against those from PNTMC and MUAC.

Interclub Quiz Night

Contributed by Howard Nicholson

This is advance warning that PNTMC is hosting the Interclub Quiz on Thursday the 9th of October, Quakers Hall, 227 College Street. It will be an 8.00 pm start. Start sharpening your brain cells now...

Lodge Manager Report

by Ryan Badger

email Farmboy_ryan@hotmail.com or phone (027) 445 1997

Hopefully by now all you keen skiers in the club have had night or two in the MTSC lodge!?

As you will have noticed a few changes have taken place in bunk rooms 1 & 2 and also in the drying room. The most important change that you need to know about is that bunk rooms 1 & 2 are now heated using a ducted heat pump unit. This system is still in the trial stages and will be a learning curve for all of us!

The control for the heating unit is on the wall in the hall way between rooms 1 & 2, the orange button turns it on. PLEASE do not adjust the temp (it should be set to 16) Also the fan speed should be set at 3.

The unit will take about 2 hours to get the rooms to the set temperature and during this time it will be normal for it to stop approximately every half an hour to defrost the outside unit. Once the rooms are up to temperature the unit will still stop every hour or so to undergo its defrost cycle.

The old fan heaters in the two rooms are no longer being used and have been turned off. If you have any questions about the system please feel free to give me a call!

Also any feed back you have (positive or negative) about the work that has been done over summer would be greatly appreciated.

We will be undergoing another work party at the end of this year to strip and re-line bunk rooms 3 & 4 so if you're keen to help out please pencil it in now, jobs will include, demolition, re-lining, gib stopping, painting, fitting new bunks, cleaning, etc etc

All that aside, make the season & our great lodge & I hope to see a few of you up there on the slopes!

Heaphy Track Trip

Contributed by Don McDonald

Club member Don McDonald is planning a Heaphy Track trip in March 2009. If you don't already know of the Heaphy, it is in Kahurangi National Park and is considered a great forest/coast walk. Don proposes taking the trip from March 20-25th and would like expressions of interest from interested parties by the end of September. Don can be contacted on (06) 357 0222.





Snow on the ferns
(Private trip to Powell Hut | 9 August 2008).
Photo: Alla Seleyznova

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.

Pines-Reed Hill Farm

13-14 September

Adam Matich

Medium/Fit

359 2796

This trip starts from the Pines road end and ends up at Reef Hill Farm, which is the last gate on your left before you cross the Ruamahanga River on your way north to Mt Bruce from Masterton. It takes about 3-4 hours up the Barra Track to Mitre Flats hut for lunch, after which we will go another 3-4 hours up the Waingawa River to Cow Creek Hut for the night. That is if it doesn't rain heavily because the North Mitre Stream can be impassable - I fully expect winter to be all rained-out by then though.

The six berth Cow Creek hut was tidied up a couple of years ago, so it should be reasonably comfortable... for an old forestry service hut. There is a nice new bridge at Cow Creek, so next morning we won't have to get our feet wet when we make our way across and up to Cow Saddle. I can't say much for the rest of the day though. The descent

from Cow Saddle is not as is shown on the map. It now fairly quickly drops into and follows a new watercourse, and to get down to the Ruamahanga River track we need to cross Cleft Creek and there is another even more substantial watercourse about 3 km further East.

Unfortunately, both streams tend towards being wet, especially in winter. At least you won't need a shower when you get home! It will probably be a 6 or 7-hour day out from Cow Creek hut, the last hour being across farmland. Once we pick up the car we will then head back to the Pines to pick up the car we left there and head back home.

Skiing at the lodge

13-14 September

Christine Scott

Phone for more details

Downhill

354 0510

Makairo Track**14 September****Linda Campbell****Easy**
323 3836

The Makairo Track is in the Waewaepa Range out the back of Mangatainoka (near Pahiatua). Until the 1960s it was a public road but the rugged terrain and frequent slips made it difficult to maintain and it eventually fell into disrepair. Nowadays it is a popular track for hunters, mountain bikers and trampers.

The walk climbs gently for about 6 km up to the summit with some excellent views along the way. Most of the track is through a DoC reserve with attractive vegetation.

Wednesday Trampers**17 September****Rose Strahan****Easy/Medium**
328 9861

Phone for more details.

Thursday Trampers**18 September****Gordon Clark****Easy/Medium**
359 2500

Phone for more details.

Howletts Hut**20-21 September****Tony Evans****Medium**
357 4355

Drag up the preview from an aborted trip 2 years ago and change the dates, that was quick and easy. From Kashmir Road end we will travel up to Longview Hut, across Pohangina Saddle and up to Otumore, along the ridge and across the saddle to Taumatataua and along Daphne Ridge to Howletts Hut for the night. Next morning we return to the road via Daphne Spur and Daphne Hut.

This trip needs good weather so plans may change, if the weather is marginal we may head to Makaretu Hut from Longview and if it is too bad we stay home.

Wednesday Trampers**24 September****Kevin & Angela McKinnon****Easy/Medium**
358 9025

Phone for more details.

Thursday Trampers**25 September****Rose Strahan****Easy/Medium**
328 9861

Phone for more details.

Ruapehu Snow Camping**27-28 September****Peter Rawlins****Technical**
356 7443

If you have never camped in snow then this is the trip for you. We will be camping up on Mt Ruapehu and you will need basic ice axe and crampon skills. There will also be an opportunity to climb the mountain if weather permits.

Atene Skyline**28 September****Christine Scott****Medium**
354 0510

I am no longer able to lead this trip but am happy to coordinate a trip there, so contact me if you are interested in going.

Wednesday Trampers**1 October****Jill Spencer****Easy/Medium**
329 8738

Phone for more details.

Thursday Trampers**2 October**

Contact one of the regulars

Easy/Medium**Makaroro****4-5 October****Howard Nicholson****Fit**
357 6325

A trip in the eastern Ruahines with a bit of everything – river, bush, tops – and a chance to blow out the winter cobwebs. Depending on conditions, we may walk around the catchment, or include a river bash for variety. We may camp out on the tops if the weather looks good.

Honeycomb Rock**5 October****Alla Seleznyova****Easy/Medium**
355 0862

Unfortunately Alla is unable to take this trip on this date, it will be included in the new trip card.

Wednesday Trampers**8 October****Chris Brunskill****Easy/Medium**
354 2511

Phone for more details.

Thursday Trampers**9 October****Lyn Charlton****Easy/Medium**
(06) 374 8259

Phone for more details.

Kaiparoro Crossing**12 October****Adam Matich****Medium/Technical**
359 2796

This trip involves two separate road ends and will require some car shuffling. We will leave one vehicle at the end of Kaiparoro Road, a few km S of Eketahuna, and drive round to Putara Road, viz. Herepai Hut road end, to start our tramp. We will head up the track to Herepai and Roaring Stag Huts. At the intersection we turn left towards Roaring Stag and after 1.5 km veer left off the main track onto an old track system that takes us to bump 713. We then head SE through a little saddle and curve around to the NE through bump 858 and then 835. We have travelled this section of the route before so it shouldn't be too difficult, although the necessity for route-finding really does make the trip "Technical". There appears to be a continuance of the old track or trail from 835, east to 815 and presumably ultimately to Kaiparoro peak, which is then properly tracked down to Kaiparoro Road. We intend to find out if this is the case. It may be 'entertaining', or it may be a breeze. But even if it is unpleasant it will certainly be something new and given that we live in the best of all possible worlds, it is sure to work out for the best! Given the uncertainties involved, I would expect it to be a 7-hour day.

Wednesday Trampers**15 October****Patsy Inkpen****Easy/Medium**
323 8030

Phone for more details.

Thursday Trampers**16 October****Graham Pritchard**

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium**357 1393****Dundas Loop****18-19 October****Jean Garman****Medium/Fit****354 3536**

Depending on the weather and who is interested this could either be a trip from the Herapai Road end or from the Mangahao Road end. So anything from tracks with lots of ups and downs to crashing through untracked bush and leatherwood. Leaving early Saturday morning and back some time on Sunday afternoon/evening/night.

Wharite Peak**19 October****Tim Swale**

We will leave from the Coppermine Creek road end and head up to the transmitter tower for lunch. The track is

Easy/Medium**(06) 376 6556**

steep but was re-cut by DOC a couple of years back so is now a good walk relatively close to home. The return trip takes about 4.5 hours but anyone wanting to walk just one way could arrange to meet a vehicle at the top as there is a relatively good road up to the tower from Woodville.

Ureweras**24-27 October (Labour Weekend)****Mark Learmonth****Medium/Fit****355 9143**

We intend doing a loop in the Aniwanuiwa Area of the park possibly camping at the road end Friday night, visiting Hanamahihi, Hgaherama, Takurua, Tawhiwhi and Waikare Junction Huts. Expect to be tramping for long hours not necessary hard tramping. Final details still being worked on. If you are interested give me a call.

Department of Conservation News**Western Ruahines Storm Weathered**

18 August 2008



If you are planning a trip into the Ruahine Forest Park, be prepared for track damage, obstacles and possible delays. Fallen trees, wind-throw and other problems caused by recent storm events are inevitable.

Stephen Robson from the Department of Conservation (DOC) says it is likely that most of the tracks in the Ruahine ranges suffered some form of damage during the storm, but it is unknown what the extent of the damage is. Every effort will be made to restore the tracks but this work will be carried out along with DOC's usual workload, as resources and nature allows. The work will be prioritised according to the amount of use the track gets and the severity of the damage. "It may take a while, but we will get to it when we can" says Mr Robson.

Access has been cleared to Kawhatau Base where an out building, used as a sleep out, was crushed by a fallen beech tree and damaged beyond repair (see left).

The track to the cableway has been cleared to ensure a safe river crossing. Takapari Road, the top part of the track to Centre Creek and Diggers Hut Track has been cleared, as well as Oroua car park to Alice Nash Memorial Heritage Lodge. Rangiwahia and Kelly Knight tracks are open but care is needed and access is only recommended for people experienced in the backcountry. Purity Hut track has about 25 beech trees down but a route through is hoped to be cleared this week. Snow levels are also down to the park boundary which will slow progress even further.

In the meantime, it is strongly recommended that Ruahine Forest Park visitors contact DOC to check the status of the tracks they wish to use before they venture in. If you come across a fallen tree or other debris blocking a track, please do not attempt to navigate around it unless you are an experienced back-country trumper with appropriate gear. As Mr Robson commented, "the last thing we want is inexperienced trampers wandering around the Ruahines trying to find their way back onto the tracks".

DOC is keeping a record of track status. If you come across any damage, please call (06) 3509700 or email felliott@doc.govt.nz to report it, giving details of the location and the type of damage.

Margaret Metcalfe
Dept of Conservation, Community Relations Programme Manager
Palmerston North Area Office
VPN 8913
Phone: 06 3509 703 Mobile: 027 423 5560



Looking out over the sunny Hawke's Bay from sentry box spur
(Parks Peak Hut Trip | 2-3 August 2008).
Photo: Adam Matich

Trip Reports

Parks Peak Hut 2-3rd August

by Adam Matich

“The Annual Girlies Tramping Trip”

This was our third Annual Girlies Tramping Trip, which despite the name, is not for slouches because it involves getting to the hut as fast as possible so one has time to do more constructive things than tramping. The Sentry Box Road end is a farm gate off Mangleton Road, up beyond Kereru. After abandoning the car we were so busy gossiping (approved girlies trip behaviour) that we missed the stile at the start of the track to Sentry Box Hut and so kept on going until a farmer's hot-wire loomed. We back-tracked to the start again. The climb up beyond Sentry box was a steep 700 m plus, but despite the Metservice, we never put our rain coats on. There were great views out over the sunny Hawke's Bay for our first lunch stop part way up and the climb warmed us up more than enough. Second lunch was in the bush once we reached the top after our 2-hour climb, so we only had each other to look at.

Forty minutes after second lunch we arrived at the new Park's Peak Hut after a strenuous 2.75 hour day. This new 6-berth hut is on the eastern side of the clearing facing north, which is a bit of a problem given the prevailing weather. The rain blows straight in onto the veranda so it

is best not to leave anything out there, including firewood. Although it wasn't excessively windy and was not raining it was cold, so we didn't spend too much time collecting firewood, which was wet anyway. Fortunately, we had lugged 4 kg of carbonettes up the hill. Parks Peak hut is double glazed and insulated, so the slow-burning carbonettes were up to the task and lasted well into the evening. Following extended fire-lighting, Adam prepared the first batch of mulled wine, which after 30 minutes or so helped stimulate the conversation. Once the wine had dried up Jean fired up her cooker and made us a couple of batches of pikelets with jam and cream, which Kim was most successful at spilling all down her front. With the pikelets gone, we got bored again and made another batch of mulled wine, which pretty well kept us entertained until dinner time, that and critiquing Jean's tapestry skills.

Dinner was a big pot of corn, potato, and bacon chowder, after which we were so full that we couldn't manage desert, so we skulked off to bed, at around 6:30 p.m., for a good long night's sleep after our long hard day. It rained and blew a lot in the night, so it was a bit noisy in the hut, and next morning it was still blowing, but the rain was losing interest to be replaced by a short-lived snow fall. Jean cooked us a steamed chocolate pudding for breakfast and we drowned it with cream and blackcurrant syrup. After cleaning up we made our way back along and

down to Sentry Box hut (1.75 hr) to have an early lunch of bacon, eggs and tomatoes, to fortify ourselves for the strenuous 5-minute walk back to the car. Given that every successive gurlies trip seems to involve carrying more and more stuff and eating more and more food, it is only a matter of time before it regresses to a helicopter trip with a full medical team to clean up the fallout from the extreme overindulgence.

We were Kim Dowson, Jean Garman and honorary gurlies Mark Learmonth and Adam Matich

Sunrise Staircase 10 August

by Gary Bevins

A small crew headed off to a familiar place, which has a well worn track, but with some members to travel via a different route. The B-team turned into the bush at the bridge just past the Triplex turnoff. The A-team took the conventional main highway route. In an attempt to beat the A-team, the other group rushed thru the bush and soon lost the track. As the going was good and the bush open, you could not really say we bush-bashed our way to the top. However for most of the way we were not on a track. Near the top we did come across a track, which exited just before the Waipawa turnoff, onto the main Sunrise track. However this was not the staircase track.

It was not long before we saw, (heard) the other members of the team, racing along the main track. We all found our own way up to the hut, for a break and lunch. There was plenty of snow about, a pleasant day, if you were out of the wind.

The A-team headed off early, leaving the B-team to again go by an alternative route. We took the old track which drops over the side, in front of the hut. At every corner we took the short-cuts, thru the bush and back onto the main track. We came upon an area, which looked like a set of steps leading thru the bush. This was pointed out by an observant member of the A-team (probably why she was in the A-team). We believe this was the start of the staircase track. Down we went, although overgrown in places, it was reasonable easy to follow. We exited the bush, where we had entered earlier in the day. The other team were already back at the Mini-Bus, asking what had taken us so long? We were Gary, Brian, Adam, Greg, and the A-team sisters Bev and Binty.

Field Hut 14 August

by Nigel Spencer

Eight hardy souls set out from Palmerston North heading for the Otaki Forks Area. Went through quite a few showers on the way and we thought we could be in for a wet day. Arrived at Otaki Forks and the skies looked to be clearing. Set off for Field Hut and after entering the bushline saw Storm Damage amongst the trees. Had to clamber over, under and around trees that had fallen on to the track. Took 2.5 – 2.75 hours to reach the hut. Very cold wind blowing so had lunch in the hut then headed back down. No rain at all during the tramp so we had a very enjoyable day. We were Nigel, Gordon, Ann, Merv, John Mc, Ruth, Brian & Gillian.

Waiterere Forest and Beach Walk 20 August

by Rosemary and Ken Hall

Our planned trip to Mt Thompson did not eventuate due to heavy flooding in the area. When Ken and I sussed out the area the previous Sunday we found a raging torrent across the ford with a padlocked gate to stop entry. As the weather forecast was for more heavy rain and the Tararua Forest already saturated, we opted for a beach walk (with fingers crossed).



Heading up the spur from Sentry Box Hut
(Parks Peak Trip | 2-3 August 2008).
Photo: Adam Matich

Wednesday dawned bright and clear and with hearts uplifted to see a fine day, 18 jolly trampers made our way to Waiterere Beach. The plan was to walk through the forest to Hokio Beach and come back along the beach. The route was quite negotiable for most of the way and we were in the capable hands of Chris Brunskill for the tangly jungly bits. Chris would disappear into the wilderness and then a voice could be heard in the distance shouting "follow me" at which we all fought our way through the overgrowth to find him in a clearing grinning like a cheshire cat. For those who don't know, Chris had a horrific bike crash a few months ago, but you can't keep a good man down and thankfully he is "fighting fit" again and it's great to have him back in the group. We finally arrived at Hokio Beach and made our way to a wonderful well laid out picnic area. The sun was blazing down as we enjoyed our lunch and the feeling of wellbeing (amazing what a bit of good weather can do for your spirit). Being retired with good health and a love for the outdoors with likeminded people is hard to beat.

We ambled along the beach at a leisurely pace after lunch and after scouting around for the remains of the Hydrabad, we finally located it away back in the sand surrounded by masses of logs and rubbish thrown up by the sea. It was very sad



Sun in the snow
(Sunrise Staircase Trip | 10 August 2008).
Photo: Gary Bevins

Shorts Track 21 August

by Merv Matthews

The intention of this trip was to head up Shorts Track in the Ruahines, then south along the range to a point known as Whaingapuna Trig. From there an overgrown track leads west to Norsewood Road in the Pohangina Valley. Apparently this was the route of a proposed road across to Norsewood and was used to bring cattle across from the eastern side via Apiti Road (now renamed Ngamoko Road). However, it was a struggle to get to the top of the range due to deep snow, and the thick clag on the open tops would have made navigation difficult, so we decided to leave the southern excursion for another day. We were thirteen Thursday Trampers.

Mountain House/Atiwhakatu 27 August

by Ken Rush

We had intended walking the Mt Bruce track but this was closed for upgrading. With such wet weather it was difficult finding an alternative place that was not too saturated.

Twelve of us walked to Mountain House via the Mt Holdsworth track and despite the amount of water flowing on the track it remains in good condition. Five came back down the same track and seven returned via Atiwhakatu/Donnelly's Flats. The track was in excellent condition and not muddy, but spongy underfoot. Of course it rained, but not for the whole of the day.



Group photo at start of track
(Shorts Track Trip | 21 August 2008).
Photo: Christine Allardice

More Wed & Thu Trampers Trips

Wednesday Tramps

20th August Waitarere Beach walk (20 trampers)

28th August Mountain House Shelter (12 trampers)

Thursday Trampers

7th August Whariti Track (15 trampers)

14th August Field Hut (8 trampers)

21st August Shorts Track (13 trampers)

28th August Mania Track

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.



Lodge bookings should preferably be made by e-mail (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 **end** 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 mtsc.memsec@xtra.co.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 2008-09 Committee

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	Peter Rawlins	356 7443