

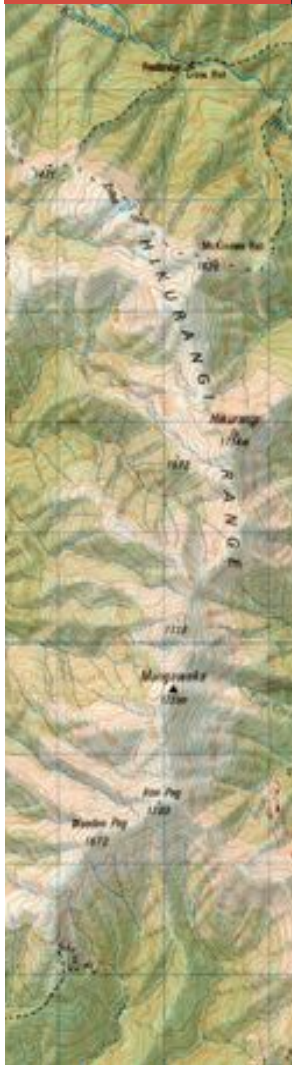
**November 2008
Issue 10**

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Pre-breakfast walk around North Crater, Tongariro (Photo: Adam Match)



Upcoming club nights

Electronics for the outdoors+Christmas

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

4th November - Electronics for the outdoors

Hugh Wilde and Peter Rawlins will be talking about electronic 'aids' in tramping, viz. GPS, PLBs, mountain radios, role of cell phones, satellite phones (maybe), and maybe a new realtime tracking device that's not yet on the market. These sorts of devices are not only great as aids, but some of them are essentials for outdoor safety and can be hired so aren't out of reach.

2nd December - Dinner and prizegiving

We intend to cap off the year with a dinner and prize-giving evening at the RSA. Costs, times and arrangements will be detailed in the next newsletter due out in November.

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Items for the newsletter

Thanks to all members for emailing your items in promptly. Please note that the email address for submission is mtsc.editor@xtra.co.nz. Photos are most welcome and should be sent as a jpeg (.jpg), the higher the resolution the better for me, along with details of the date, location, photographer a title or caption. Items are due in by the end of each month.

President's Report

Lodge Insurance + RSA Venue + New Trip Card

by Howard Nicholson

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

Several committee and general members have worked through our options regarding insurance for the lodge. There are few companies willing to take on the risk of a lodge on a volcano, and hence premiums are usually disproportionately high. Ruapehu Mountain Clubs Association, which represents the interests of lodge owners at Ruapehu, have created an insurance scheme that includes a reserve fund for paying out smaller claims, and policies underwritten by major insurers should a larger or catastrophic event occur. We have now joined this scheme, allowing the lodge to be insured for its replacement value, rather than the partial (indemnity) value of our previous policy, for comparable cost. I thank the committee and other interested club members for their input over the past few months.

Our next task is to review a proposed increase in lodge license costs, recently put forward by DoC. Also, please put some thought into joining a work party over the summer months. Please contact a committee member if you would like to be involved in these topics.

Our club nights are now held on the first Tuesday of each month at the RSA. Generally, these nights will be held in the conference room at the Broadway Avenue end of the building, but occasionally we will need to be in another area if the room has been booked by another group in advance. This has happened for our September and October meetings.

I am sure that you will find many interesting destinations listed on the new trip card. Thanks again to the leaders for putting your names forward to lead the trips, and I look forward to reading about them in upcoming newsletters. It is pleasing to hear that, even though some members may not get out as often as they used to, they still get a kick out of reading about the exploits of others in the club.

Have fun out there!

Chief Guide's Report

by Bev Akers

email bev.akers@xtra.co.nz or phone (06) 325 8879

By now, you all should have the new Yellow Trip Card. A very big thank you goes out to all of you willing to lead a trip. What would we do without you guys. There are some new and exciting trips ahead for us all, over this summer. If any one has any helpful hints or comments on the way we present the card, please feel free to let me know. There's always room for improvement.

So here goes - looking forward to a wonderful summer tramping.

overnight. Morning skiing is best on the groomed trails while in the afternoon one can enjoy the whole mountain and the glorious weather. Make the most of it!

Club Photo Competition

Contributed by Howard Nicholson

These are the results of the club photo competition held on September 2nd. These entries went forward to the Interclub photo competition hosted by MUAC on September 22nd. The results of that competition will appear in the next newsletter. Congratulations to all winners and for the organisers.

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...

Snow Stuff

by Ken Mercer

SNOW! Everywhere SNOW! The gullies are full and the mountain contours leveled. All the little half pipe gullies – gone!

Actually it's been very nice to be able to ski across ridges without dodging rocks. However this winter's massive snow level has caused a few problems - RAL have had a number of roofs collapse and we've had to dig down to the doors and clear snow from the roof of our lodge. Skiing to the lodge is sometimes a challenge – finding the door is not something I've had to contend with before!

We now have spring conditions which generally means the snow gets mushy in the afternoon and freezes

Section	Photo	Photographer
Alpine	(1) Kawekas (2) Ngauruhoe (3) Egmont	Kim Dowson Richard Lander Christine Scott
Natural History	(1) Fungi (2) Tui (3=) Kea (3=) Mountain daises	Jean Garman Richard Lander Jean Garman Kim Dowson
Overseas	(1) Portarro dEspot, Pyrenees (2) Summer place, Beijing (3) Grey Squirrel, Yosemite	Royce Mills Richard Lander Richard Lander
Scenic	(1) Himitangi (2) Colenso (3=) Panorama (3=) Lake Howden	Richard Lander Adam Matich Jean Garman Richard Lander
Topical	(1) Gary (2) In the snow (3) Routeburn track guides	Jeanette Andersen Peter Rawlins Richard Lander

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.

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 Rd, a few km south of Eketahuna, and drive round to Putara Rd, 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

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

323 8030

Thursday Trampers

16 October

Graham Pritchard

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

357 1393

Dundas Loop

18-19 October

Jean Garman

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.

Medium/Fit

354 3536

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 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.

Easy/Medium

(06) 376 6556

Wednesday Trampers

22 October

Margaret Gillingham

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

326 8812

Thursday Trampers

23 October

Rose Strahan

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

328 9861

Ureweras

24-27 October (Labour Weekend)

Mark Learmonth

We intend doing a loop in the Aniwaniwa Area of the park possibly camping at the road end Friday night, visiting Hanamahihi, Hgaheramai, Takurua, Tawhiwhi and Waikare Junction Huts. Expect to be tramping for long hours (not necessary hard tramping).

Medium/Fit

355 9143

Wednesday Trampers

29 October

Bernard Cobb

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

328 8088

Thursday Trampers

30 October

Carolyn Brodie

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

358 6576

Elder Hut

1-2 November

Kim Dowson

Phone for more details.

Medium

355 5496

- Herepai Hut**
2 November
John Doolan
 Phone for more details.
Easy/Medium
(027) 446 8740
- Wednesday Trampers**
5 November
Margaret Foote
 Phone for more details.
Easy/Medium
357 8003
- Thursday Trampers**
6 November
Harry & Chris Allardice
 Phone for more details.
Easy/Medium
323 4390
- Waterfall Hut**
8-9 November
Adam Matich
 This trip will start from where the Sunrise Hut road end drops into the Waipawa River. We will cross over the river and make our way across or around the farmland towards Middle Stream. The intention is to then travel all the way up Middle Stream an up onto the tops somewhere just south of Rangioateatua, head west through 1673 and drop down the big slip into Rangī Creek. From there it is a short loop around to Waterfall Hut. Depending upon circumstances, the next day we will leave nice and early and head up either Broken Ridge or Waterfall Creek, cross NE to 1715, and then head SE down the spur to Smith Stream Hut. From the hut we will drop into the stream to the east and head north up that stream until we can pick up the track that climbs up onto the tops and heads in a northerly direction all the way back to the car. Be prepared to camp out if Waterfall Hut is full as the weather is bound to have attracted lots of other people out into the hills!
Medium/Fit
359 2976
- Longview Hut**
9 November
Tim Swale
 This walk in the Eastern Ruahines is an easy way of getting the great views that come from being above the bushline. The start is at the end of Kashmir Road which gains a lot of height before the walk even starts. It is then a steady climb up to Longview Hut where we can have lunch before returning either the same way or via a detour along the ridge.
Easy/Medium
(06) 376 6556
- Wednesday Trampers**
12 November
Mona Webb
 Phone for more details.
Easy/Medium
323 4212
- Thursday Trampers**
13 November
Ann Green
 Phone for more details.
Easy/Medium
(06) 374 5208
- Roaring Stag Hut**
15-16 November
Alla Seleyznova
 Phone for more details.
Easy/Medium
355 0862
- Tunupo Peak**
16 November
Glen Pendergrast
 Phone for more details.
Medium
356 7487
- Wednesday Trampers**
19 November
Bev Akers
 Phone for more details.
Easy/Medium
325 8879
- Thursday Trampers**
20 November
Stuart Malcolm
 Phone for more details.
Easy/Medium
358 3409
- Jumbo - Aircraft wreck**
22-23 November
Royce Mills
 I've had one previous attempt to reach this popular tramping destination, but had to turn back to Jumbo hut because of bad weather. The plan is to drive to the Holdsworth Road end on the Friday evening (21 Nov) and head directly up to Jumbo hut in the morning, and on to hunt down the aircraft wreck. After staying overnight at Jumbo, if the weather permits, we can complete the circuit out via Holdsworth.
Medium/Fit
358 4398
- Totara Flats**
22-23 November
Jenny McCarthy
 Phone for more details.
Easy/Medium
(06) 376 8838
- Blue Range Hut**
23 November
David Newstead
 Phone for more details.
Easy/Medium
(027) 457 6175
- Wednesday Trampers**
26 November
Marion Beadle
 Phone for more details.
Easy/Medium
323 3246
- Thursday Trampers**
27 November
John Hunt
 Phone for more details.
Easy/Medium
324 0339
- Ngaawapurua Hut**
28-30 November
Gary Bevins
 Have experienced technical difficulties relating to this destination. If the proposed hut does not eventuate, the alternative will be Cameron Hut. Will be leaving PN Friday afternoon and camp at the road end.
Medium
325 8879
- Ruapehu**
30 November
Don McDonald
 Phone for more details.
Easy/Medium
357 0222



Thursday Trampers at Arawaru Trig on a fine day!
 (Thursday Trampers | 25 September 2008).
 Photo: Keith Fisher

Trip Reports

Tutuwai Hut 30-31 August

by Tony Evans

Originally planned for the 16th and 17th but postponed for two weeks in the hope of better weather and our luck was in, we left Palmy a little after 7.30 am and headed for Carterton where we successfully located a good bakery for a satisfying breakfast/morning tea although some missed out on their coffee because of a local power cut. On to Waiohine Gorge Road End and with a slightly different plan to that in the trip preview we headed up the track towards Cone Hut until we reached high point .682, from there we followed an old track along the ridge south to Reeves at .899, and then down the Mount Reeves Track to Tutuwai Hut beside the Tauheranikau River. Early enough at the hut to relax for a while and scavenge sufficient dryish firewood to light the fire we spent a comfortable night.

In spite of only having a short walk on Sunday we got up early and it was a little too cold to sit around so we were on the track before 8 am, with sunshine just a few yards away across the river the track stayed in the shade and we reached Cone Hut in a surprisingly short time, after a short break we carried on up to .682 where we had left the track the day before. Warm now we had a more

leisurely stop before continuing out to the car and then to the shop of enormous ice-creams on the Masterton bypass and arriving back in Palmy by afternoon tea time. We were Sandra Rowland, Mark Learmonth, Adam Match and Tony Evans.

Purity Hut 3 September

by Bev Akers

DoC have certainly been busy with tree clearing on this track since the storm - Wonderful, thanks Doc. They have done a lot of chainsaw work, as there certainly was a lot of big beech trees down. Mainly around one area of the track. This track is now in very good order and such a clean, tidy hut with a great view (18 trampers).

Herepai Hut 4 September

by Royce Mills

We enjoyed a mild, calm day for this tramp. A few headed above the hut for better views, but most chose to stay and relax in the sun on the verandah after lunch. A reasonable amount of snow was still visible on the tops. There were 15 in the group.

Climb/Ski Ngauruhoe 6-7 September

by Peter Rawlins

Everything came together for this trip, the weather, the people, the snow, everything. We have had many fantastic ski Ngauruhoe trips in the past and this one rates right up there with the best. Thirteen people tried to get into the 12 seat mini bus (the leader was never very good at maths). Eventually we got it sorted out (thanks Rob) and headed off to Mangatepopo hut for the night. The next morning was a mix of mist and clear patches and we were all soon heading up the valley towards the saddle.

Once you get to the head of the valley the new track to the saddle leads off to your extreme right.

When there is no snow it is probably really obvious, but with the amount of snow around everybody missed it and just stated to make their own way up. Jean, Brian and Adam were intending to camp in North Crater for the night so they headed off in a different direction once we got to the saddle.

The weather was clear and hot as we started heading up Ngauruhoe. We had three climbers and seven people who intended to ski the mountain. Some tried to skin up the first part of the mountain but it wasn't too long before we were all climbing with ice axes and crampons. The mist came and went a bit as we headed up but that only added to the sense of mystery. We were at the top for lunch and a bit of a walk around. Then it was all downhill. The purists will tell you that you need to start with your ski tails hanging over the edge of the crater but this is always easier said than done. But everyone did start from the top. The first part, skiing down into the old crater is not too bad. Then you have to come out onto the face and you realise that it is about 700 m down to the saddle. I always find this adds to the thrill and is a good incentive to get those turns right.

Lots of 'yahooing' followed as we worked our way back down to the saddle. You might think that it only takes a few minutes and it probably would if you pushed it. But after taking 4 hours to get there it always pays to savor the moment and take some photos on the way down. Howie tried to take a 'helmet cam' record but unfortunately it didn't work very well. Once at the saddle we retrieved our tramping boots and managed to ski right back to the valley floor and past the toilets, with only a couple of occasions where we had to take off our skis. Rob had obviously been watching too many Warren Miller movies where they jump off large cliffs into deep powder. I did have to point out to Rob that although I thought he was a good skier, the 70m cliff he was heading for didn't have very much deep powder at the bottom.

The walk back to the hut in the afternoon sun was very pleasant with everybody feeling like they had expended some energy. It may seem a little strange to spend the whole day for only one ski run, but what a run. Everyone was buzzing over dinner and wine. Sunday saw the team saddle up for an attempt at Tongariro. We climbed up the ridge behind the hut that leads past soda springs and up onto Tongariro itself. Once we reached the snow, crampons and skins were the order of the day. It was a really climb with a cool breeze to stop us getting overheated. We met the three



Wednesday Trampers outside Purity Hut
(Purity Hut Trip | 3 August 2008).
Photo: Margaret Gillingham



Adam and Brian on a snow pole
(Tongariro Trip | 6 September 2008)
Photo: Jean Garman

campers on the way down: they had a fantastic night with great views in the morning. The snow was in perfect condition and four of us managed to skin all the way up to the summit. The ski run down into the south crater looked very inviting but we decided we would get a longer run heading back the way we had come. Chris and Josh went round to red crater and back down the main track while the rest of us skied and walked back to the hut. All in all a memorable weekend. Thanks to Rob Pringle, Howie Nicholson, Ken and Mary Mercer, Ivan Rienks, Jean Garman, Brian Webster, Greg Dobson, Josh Spenser, James, Adam Matich and Chris Mercer.

Tongariro Camping 6-7 September

by Jean Garman

Three of us tagged along on Peter's 'ski Ngauruhoe' trip. Having no interest in either climbing and/or skiing down Ngauruhoe we opted to go for a bit of a walk around the features of Tongariro and camp for the night in North Crater. It was a

beautiful star lit night when we pulled into the Mangatepopo car park and a very pleasant stroll to the unoccupied hut. The morning dawned somewhat misty but with a promise of burning off quite quickly. It was a leisurely start as the skiers wanted the snow to have softened for their descent. We wandered up the valley with team Ngauruhoe; totally missed the new track which takes a more gentle route up to South crater and wandered up somewhere between the old track and the new track. The cloud was clearing and the day looked promising as we bid team Ngauruhoe good bye and headed off across South crater. The odd snow pole has a couple of inches showing above the snow so I challenged Brian and Adam to demonstrate their balancing skills in the hope of a silly photo.

As we crested the first climb to Red Crater we saw a million little ants (possibly some exaggeration) starting to head across the crater. Knowing we had a good head start on them we had an early lunch on the slopes down to the Emerald Lakes and scuttled off before they crested the

ridge. The lakes were non spectacular being mostly covered in snow. We headed over to Blue Lake which turned out to be flat white and began suffering menopausal symptoms. One minute it was calm and hot then the cloud would come in and a breeze pick up and it would be cold then the wind would drop and the sun come back out and the hot flushes would be back. One occasion it snowed - great fluffy flakes which appeared to be falling out of the clear blue sky.

We climbed up onto Rotopaunga and headed down the ridge to the north-east to have a look at the Te Mari craters then back tracked to the main Tongariro Crossing route which was now covered in a million new footprints before climbing up towards North Crater. The snow was soft and slushy as Brian staunchly plugged steps for us up into the cloud and into the crater. A complete white out made it a good time to make use of the Adam's GPS. We crossed the crater to the crater within a crater as Adam thought it might be a good idea to camp within this. The GPS didn't lie and we walked straight to it but it was a bit

wiffy and we couldn't see the bottom and I complained bitterly at the thought of having to climb back out in the morning so we picked a random flat spot between this crater and the south-western wall of the North crater. We soon had the tents set up, melted lots of snow for water, munched down dinner and were tucked up in bed by about 6.30 pm. Nothing to do but sleep.

When the sun hit the tent in the morning and the call of the bladder exceed the suction of the sleeping bag we emerged into a sparkling blue sky day. It was so stunning we all leapt out of bed slapped on our boots and went for a pre-breakie stroll taking in all the sights of the crater and beyond that had been hidden the day before. It was stunning! An hour later we were back at the

tents for breakfast before heading off to the summit of Tongariro to meet up with team Ngauruhoe once more. We beat them there so were heading down the ridge before we bumped into them. Brian headed straight off to the hut while Adam and I took a slightly longer deviation stopping to observe the few minutes worth of skiing action on the slopes above us. We played lizard



Climbing up the North Crater from the Tongariro Crossing
(Tongariro Trip | 6 September 2008)
Photo: Adam Matich

basking on the rocks on the ridge above the hut until the others came back down and then carried on down the ridge on an old and barely visible track all the way back to the vehicles. Stunning weekend. The campers were Brian Webster, Adam Matich and Jean Garman.

Tunupo 7 September

by Tony Evans

A brilliant clear and sunny Sunday morning and from the carpark at the beginning of the Heritage Lodge Hut Track snow covered Ruapehu, Ngauruhoe and Taranaki were looking magnificent. We headed up to Heritage Lodge to look at the new hut and have a break and then onwards and upwards, the track in good condition apart from quite a lot of windfall about .948 but clear again further up, we proceeded at a leisurely pace and with still 200 m to climb to the top we decided to have a relaxed lunch in the sun and admire the views before heading back to the car. My only companion on this trip was on her first tramp in New Zealand and coming from a city of 15 million people was surprised that we have all this so close to Palmerston North, we were Liping and Tony.

Blue Range Hut and Miki Miki Walk 10 September

by Pam Wilson

The majority went to Blue Range hut, while seven took the leisurely stroll along the Miki Miki stream where there was much birdsong. All enjoyed good conditions going up, with only a slight haze at the top. Most rewarded themselves with lattes and generous slices of cake at the Mt. Bruce bird sanctuary on the homeward journey. Thanks to Chris for driving the van, and Bev & Judy for taking cars.

Longview Hut 11 September

by Nigel and Jill Spencer

Ten Thursday Trampers set off from P.N. heading for Longview. On the way picked up one more at Dannevirke. The weather in the hills looked as though it was raining. Didn't get all the way up Kashmir Road as on the last steep bit up to the carpark as the road had quite a deep washout in it. Stopped below it and walked the last bit of the road to carpark and then on up the track to the Longview Hut.

We had some misty rain and occasionally the cloud would roll in blotting out our views. Reached the hut after approx 2 hours where we had an early lunch. Some then headed on to Rocky Knob while others made their way back down to the van. When all arrived back at the van the heavens opened up and let it all go. Got changed under the pine trees then into the van and headed home. Very enjoyable day. We were Nigel, Jill, John Mc, Ruth, Graham, Ann, Carolyn, Royce, John, Gillian & Keith.

Makairo Track 14 September

by Linda Campbell

Five of us ventured out on a lovely spring day for a very pleasant walk up the Makairo track. It was a bit of muddy in places and there were a few good puddles but the track

was mostly dry in spite of the rainfall the previous few days. We enjoyed lunch in a sheltered spot at the top out of a very cool wind.

Near the end of the track on our way back one of the group commented that they had expected to be quite muddy by the end of the day given what they had heard about the condition of the track from someone who had walked it the previous weekend. Just as the comment was made the speaker got their foot caught on a root, went down and ended up covered in mud! Everyone else in the party, of course, got to the end with very little mud on them.

It was a popular day on the track with members on the PNTMC also out for a walk and one of their group, for a ride. We also met two other parties on foot and three people on a quad bike. To finish the day we enjoyed afternoon tea at the Lavender Café at Mangatinoka. Thanks to Tim Swale, Lyn McCurdy, Alan Cameron and Sandra Rowlands for their great company. (Okay. I admit it. It was me who ended up covered in mud, bruised and with holes in my leggings!)

Kelly Knight Track 17 September

by Rose Strahan

Seventeen trampers headed through the Hopkins paddocks in the Kawhatau valley (thanks to Tim and Shane for vehicle access along the farm laneway) to Kelly Knight Track. Twelve trampers went to Kelly Knight's hut - for some it was a first visit - and five toiled up the aerobically-challenging but beautiful track to the first ridge above the leatherwoods on the way to Wooden Peg. A semi-circle of snowy tops blinked back at us from the east on the main Ruahine Range for our lunchtime break and the day was fine.

Track conditions were surprising - Kelly Knight track appeared not maintained after the junction with Wooden Peg track, rather rough and narrow, although the new detour over the slip was appreciated. By contrast the track up to the tops was wide and easy, much slashing of leatherwoods and toe toe having been done, and new blue-topped waratahs signing the track.



Tony Evans and Mark Learmonth at Howletts Hut
(Howletts Hut Trip | 20-21 September 2008)
Photo: Royce Mills

Howletts Hut 20-21 September

by Tony Evans

Having planned to do this trip on three previous occasions and canceling because of the weather each time it was a case of fourth time lucky and a trip that was well worth waiting for.

At 9 am we parked the car at the foot of the last hill before the Kashmir Road carpark and began our walk up to the carpark and on up the track towards Longview Hut in clear, calm and sunny weather. An hour and a half later we were at the junction where left takes one to the Longview Hut and right along the ridge leads to the Daphne track, we were going straight ahead across the Pohangina Saddle and up to Otumore; this route has recently been poled and the signpost said only four hours to Howletts which was less than we had anticipated. Onwards and upwards we went and as we approached the top the snow was thick enough to make walking tiring, we could see cloud forming in the clear air below us and it soon caught up with us, occasionally hiding the views and then clearing again as we continued along over Otumore. Past the track down to Daphne Hut, across the next saddle to Daphne ridge and reaching Howletts Hut five hours after leaving DOC's four hour signpost, OK we enjoying regular stops for muesli bars and photo's and general scenery gazing but it would be hard work to do that distance in four hours.

We had the hut to ourselves with dry firewood and coal to keep us warm, outside was cool calm and clear with patches of snow. With the lights of Waipukarau, Waipawa, Hastings and Napier shining far below and turning around to admire the starlit snowcovered peaks of Tiraha etc. the scenery was world class.

Next morning a cool breeze (there is no other sort when there is snow on the ground) was blowing as we headed down to Daphne Hut for morning tea before following the Tukituki River North Branch to where the track back to Kashmir Road starts. The water was ice cold and deep enough to keep ones feet wet so it was good to leave the river after half an hour and climb up and over the ridge and out to the road. A short road walk by one of the group to get the car and then to the ice-cream shop in Dannevirke and home again, we were Royce Mills, Mark Learmonth and Tony Evans.



Howletts Hut
(Howletts Hut Trip | 20-21 September 2008)
Photo: Royce Mills

Arawaru Trig 25 September

by Merv Matthews

Thursday unexpectedly turned out fine and sunny after the previous day's stormy weather, and as a result our group of eleven enjoyed the promised panoramic views from the top. The roof of a hut could be seen a long way off to the south-west, but a later check with the topo map showed that we had previously stumbled across this "unofficial" hut on a previous exploratory trip.

The trip to Arawaru is an easy tramp because most of the altitude is gained by driving up Scott's Road. Access is gained through private property so permission is required.

More Wed & Thu Trampers Trips

Wednesday Tramps

3rd Sept - Purity Hut (18 trampers)

Doc have certainly been busy with tree clearing on this track since the storm - Wonderful, thanks Doc. They had a lot of chainsaw work, as there certainly was a lot of big beech trees down. Mainly around one area of the track. This track is now in very good order and such a clean, tidy hut with a great view.

24th Sept - Manawatu Gorge Track (17 trampers)

Thursday Trampers

18th Sept - Stanfield Hut - Cattle Creek Hut (10 trampers)

Fundraising Raffle for Student Exchange to France

1st Prize – Assortment of items from **Bivouac Outdoor** totalling in excess of \$800, Includes \$300 Icebreaker voucher, Leatherman, Black Diamond head torch.....

2nd Prize - \$229.90 Steripen

3rd Prize – \$50 Kovea portable gas stove

Drawn 29 November, 2008 at Palmerston North Police Station.

Winners will be notified by organiser – Nicole Brooke 06 354 5335

\$5.00

(Only 500 tickets)



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 club asset. Adam Matich is our minibus custodian and he can be contacted at (06) 359 2796 or at work (06) 953 7679.

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

President	Howard Nicholson	357 6325	mtsc.president@xtra.co.nz
Secretary	Tim Swale	06 376 6556	
Treasurer	Christine Scott	354 0510	mtsc.treasure@xtra.co.nz
Chief Guide	Bev Akers	325 8879	
Day Trip Convenor	Gary Bevins	325 8879	
Membership Sec.	Doug McNeur	359 1893	mtsc.memsec@xtra.co.nz
Newsletter Editor	Wei-Hang Chua	021 212 0369	mtsc.editor@xtra.co.nz
Social Convenor	Geraldine Fovakis	356 4327	
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	Linda Campbell	323 3836	
	Rob Pringle	354 0218	
	Peter Rawlins	356 7443	