



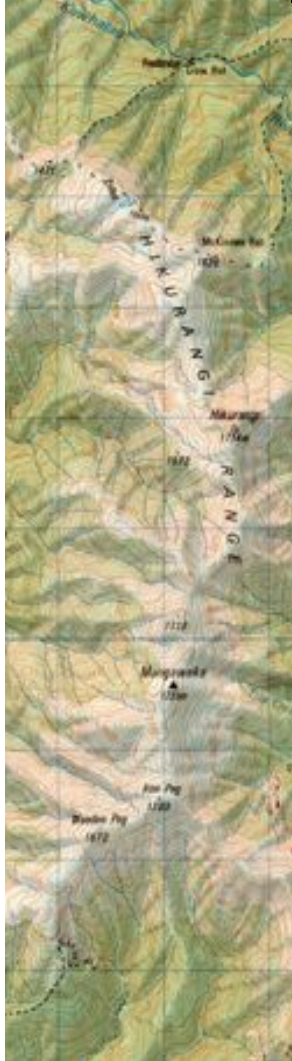
Dec 2008 -
Jan 2009
Issue 11

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Recent storm damage on the Tunopo Track (Photo: Keith Fisher)



Upcoming club nights

Christmas and New Year Functions

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

2nd December - Christmas Function

Fingers and food come together for our final club night of 2008. Enjoy the culinary delights of the RSA, grab a bevvvy from the bar, and relax – its nearly Christmas after all! There is a partially subsidised charge of \$10 per person to cover food (see menu on page 2), and the bar will be open. Feel free to bring a swag of digital memories and we will play them as part of a random slideshow.

So that we can get an idea of numbers, please indicate if you intend to come by phoning Geraldine on 356 4327, or send an email to t.g.fovakis@xtra.co.nz

3rd February - New Year Meet

For those lucky people who have been out and about over the break, here is your chance to gloat! Bring along your pics and stories, show us your scratches, and regale us with stories tall and true. Let Howard know if there is a particular trip that you want to present and he can advertise it on the website. As usual, you can grab a tea and a biscuit, or a beer or wine if that improves your storytelling.

Contents

Notices	page 2	Trip reports	page 6
Upcoming trips	page 3	Club information	page 11

Seasons Greetings and safe travels to you all! From the Newsletter Production team.

President's Report

Emergency location devices, Lodge Maintenance, and Summer

by **Howard Nicholson**

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

Electronic devices for the outdoors were discussed and demonstrated at our November club night. Many people already carry a GPS to help them navigate on their tramps; many people have taken a mountain radio with them, particularly on longer trips or where two-way communication may be important; and a few will carry an emergency personal locator beacon (PLB). A new generation of satellite communications products and services allow an "I'm alright and this is where I am" message or a "send help and this is where you will find me" message to be sent, depending on your situation. The latter device has a lower purchase cost (about \$350) than an EPIRB, but requires an ongoing yearly service charge of \$150-\$200. At around \$800, a PLB costs more to purchase initially but does not rely on a third party organisation to receive and pass on messages.

Is this something that the club should buy? In the interests of safety, should we consider making these devices available for our members to use, and at what cost, if any? These are not rhetorical questions! Please feel free to pass me your feedback via email (mtsc.president@xtra.co.nz) or give me a call on (06)357 6325.

Lodge maintenance

We have had a fantastic snow season on Ruapehu, with more snow than you can poke a 4-metre measuring stick at. Now that we no longer need to dig our way into the lodge, it is time to ensure that it stands up to the ravages of the 2009 season. Ryan has put together a plan for maintenance at the lodge, and we hope that many of you will take the time to help keeping the lodge in shape for next season. There are many jobs to be done, from cleaning to painting to construction, so please do give Ryan a call find out when the work parties are on. The web site (<http://www.mtsc.org.nz>) will also carry information about this.

The summer trip card, in hard-to-lose yellow, is full of great destinations. Don't wait to be told where to go – check it out now! On behalf of the committee I wish you all a wonderful Christmas, and I look forward to hearing about your trips in 2009.

Lodge Workers Needed

by **Ryan Badger**

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

Well summer is here finally so its time to pick up the tools again and all head to the lodge!

We are planning a work party from the 1st of January through until the 7th of January.

There will be plenty of jobs for every one to do from sanding to painting, demolition to re-lining and of course the all important, Cooking! The workers must be feed!

If you would like to come and lend a hand even just for a day or to please let me know, either buy email or phone. We will look forward to seeing you there!

Snow Stuff November 2008

by **Ken Mercer**

July and August are the months when the snow falls. Occasionally one is lucky enough to have a storm leaving fresh snow followed by clear, not too windy weather. The latter, for many people, must also coincide with a weekend!

All the above, as well as a huge snow base, came together on Labour day – three weeks after the season usually ends! It was fantastic! The Turora forecast was gales followed by cloud. That for Whakapapa was better but, arriving in Ohakune, Turora was open and Whakapapa more or less closed. So Turora it was. The breeze kept the snow in good condition and, amazingly, the cloud stayed high. Never rely on a mountain forecast!

As the season ends I'm grateful to the many people who have helped keeping the lodge running. The bulk of the food goes in with the food carry in June but top ups are necessary and your help in buying food and carrying it in is appreciated.

Christmas Function Menu

Fresh asparagus rolls
Smoked salmon & cream cheese rolls
Mini chicken burgers
Smoked salmon on cucumber rounds
Small kransky sausages
Petite savoury selection
Kahlua & cream brandy snaps
Tea & coffee

Interclub Photo Competition Results

Contributed by **Howard Nicholson**

These are the results of the Interclub photo competition between PNTMC, MUAC and ourselves. Congratulations to all winners, especially Jean Garman who was the overall winner!

Section	Photo	Photographer
Alpine	(1) Terry Crippen (2) John Appleby	PNTMC MUAC
Natural History	(1) Richard Lander (2) Bruce van Brunt	MTSC PNTMC
Overseas	(1) Bruce van Brunt (2) Andy Foggal	PNTMC MUAC
Scenic NZ	(1) Jean Garman (2) Richard Lander	MTSC MTSC
Topical NZ	(1) Peter Rawlins (2) Katie Hoff	MTSC MUAC

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.

Roaring Stag Hut 15-16 November

Alla Seleyznova

Easy/Medium

355 0862

We leave Palmy at 8.30 am and head for the Putara Rd end not far from Eketahuna. The track follows the Mangatainoka River, before a short steep climb up to the ridge line. At the T-junction on the top of the ridge we turn left and walk along the ridge to the Roaring Stag Lodge, our accommodation for the night.

The walk should take about 4 hours, leaving us plenty of time to explore the Ruapae Stream. We may even find the 'hidden lake' located up the stream from the hut. I found a photo of the lake on the Web and I am very keen to see it for myself. On Sunday we may visit Herepai hut on our way back to the car park.

Tunupo Peak

16 November

Glen Pendergrast

Medium

356 7487

Phone for more details.

Wednesday Trampers

19 November

Bev Akers

Easy/Medium

325 8879

Phone for more details.

Thursday Trampers

20 November

Stuart Malcolm

Easy/Medium

358 3409

Phone for more details.

Jumbo - Aircraft wreck

22-23 November

Royce Mills

Medium/Fit

358 4398

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.

Totara Flats

22-23 November

Jenny McCarthy

Easy/Medium

(06) 376 8838

Phone for more details.

Blue Range Hut

23 November

David Newstead

Easy/Medium

(027) 457 6175

Leaving PN Police Station (Church St) 8:00 am.

Blue Range Hut is in the Eastern Tararuas, just South of the Mt Bruce Centre. Access from the Kiriwaka Road end. From there we climb up the ridge through mixed beech forest onto Blue Range, to a height of 978 m, and drop down a little, to the North, to the hut. The map says 2 h; a gentle 2 1/2 h should do it for us. A nice leisurely trip (including ice-cream stop) should have us back in town by 17:30.

Wednesday Trampers

26 November

Marion Beadle

Easy/Medium

323 3246

Phone for more details.

Thursday Trampers

27 November

John Hunt

Easy/Medium

324 0339

Phone for more details.

Ngaawapurua Hut

28-30 November

Gary Bevins

Medium

325 8879

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.

Ruapehu

30 November

Don McDonald

Easy/Medium

357 0222

Phone for more details.

Wednesday Trampers

3 December

Rita & Arthur Hodson

Easy/Medium

323 5491

Phone for more details.

Thursday Trampers

4 December

John Thornley

Easy/Medium

356 9681

Phone for more details.

Mt Titiraupenga - Bogg Inn Hut**6-7 December****Mark Learmonth**

Phone for more details.

Medium**355 9143****Hikurangi Range****7 December****Brian Webster**

Phone for more details.

Medium/Fit**357 0189****Wednesday Trampers (Xmas Cheer)****10 December****Bev Akers**

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium**325 8879****Thursday Trampers****11 December****Christine Scott**

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium**354 0510****Square Knob - North Ohau****13-14 December****Adam Matich**

This trip will start from somewhere along Gladstone Road (Levin) past Poads Road which is the road to the Ohau River track system. There are two tracks up onto Square Knob, one of them being up a spur from Waiti Stream and the other possibly from somewhere near Makahika Road. These are not DoC tracks! Once Square Knob is reached we will then travel round the tops through 798 to Tawirikohukohu, which is also unofficially tracked. From Tawhiri there appears to be a track down into the North Ohau River, so we will be seeing just how far down it goes and how difficult it may be. Once the river is reached we will head down to the new North Ohau Hut for the night. Next day, we will either head out down the Ohau River system, or if we are feeling super-adventurous, bush-bash back up onto Square Knob and take the other track back down to Gladstone Road.

Medium/Fit**359 2976****Full Moon - Ruahines****13-14 December****Greg Dobson**

If you have never experienced walking along the tops under a full moon then this is your chance. We have the option of camping out or staying in a hut, a long walk or a short walk. Phone me for more info. Greg Dobson. 027 3745620.

Easy/Medium**(06) 364 8218****Table Top****14 December****Rod McKenzie**

Table Top is a high point about 45mins climb above Field Hut which is accessed at the Otaki Gorge road end.

In good weather there are great views as Table Top is above the bush line.

We will leave from the Police Station at 8am.

Medium**357 0136****Thursday Trampers****18 December****Bryan Evans**

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium**323 7614****Full Park River****16-19 January****Jean Garman**

We will be leaving as early as possible on Friday afternoon aiming for South Ohau or preferably Te Matawai for Friday night. Saturday we climb to between Pukematawai and Arete and then head down into the Park River which we will follow all the way to Park Forks where it joins the Waiohine River. Depending on how long this has taken us options for Saturday night could be Nichols, Drac Biv or even camping in the Otaki. On Sunday we will make our way back to the vehicle by whatever route seems most appropriate at the time. Expect long days, untracked terrain and lots of wet feet.

Fit**354 3536****Belmont Regional Park - Camping****17-19 January****Greg Dobson**

History, scenic views over Wellington and Porirua harbours, picnicking in the sun, open tops and hidden valleys. All this and more when you come along to one of the newest regional parks in Wellington. We will camp at Dry Creek campground to make the most of our time there so we can explore the WW2 ammunition dumps, waterfalls and dam. Several viewpoints give grand views and would make ideal spots for lunch. This area also contains the last significant stand of rimu, rata, tawa and kohekohe in the region. Ring Greg on 027 3745620 to book your spot on this fantastic trip.

Easy/Medium**06 364 8218****Barlow Hut****18 January****John Beech**

Phone for more details.

Easy**354 9310****Camping with Howard****24-25 January****Howard Nicholson**

Makaretu River is in the eastern Ruahine Ranges and runs south from Moorcock Saddle. We will walk in for a few hours and make camp somewhere along the river.

Easy**357 6325****Waiorongomai Hut****25 January****Bev Akers**

This hut is on the Western side of Lake Wairarapa, in the Rimutaka Range. We hope to have a cruisey drive down Saturday afternoon and camp in the carpark to avoid the long drive all in one day. Sunday we make tracks to the hut which takes about 2 1/2 hrs following a stream. The carpark is a lovely spot in a paddock on my cousins farm, amongst native trees - beautiful.

Easy/Medium**325 8879****Wednesday Trampers****28 January****Sue & Lawson Pither**

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium**357 3033****Dorset Ridge Hut****30 January-1 February****Jean Garman**

We will be leaving as early as possible on Friday afternoon and walking into Mitre Flats Hut for Friday night. From

Medium/Fit**354 3536**

here there are numerous options for travelling to and from Dorset Ridge Hut. At some point we will use the route on the Nth King spur checking out the crashed aircraft on the way and also the down/up route between Sth King and Dorset Ridge Hut but the exact route probably won't be decided till on the day. Expect long days, untracked terrain and at some point wet feet.

South Ohau Hut
31 January-1 February
Bev Akers

Easy/Medium
325 8879

Good summer trip up an easy river to a brand new hut. This hut has replaced an old one that was under treat with the river. I'm keen to check out this hut and enjoy being in a river in hot weather, so come along and enjoy.

Moorick needs a home



Not the usual sort of classified we run in the newsletter (ie this one does not have a breathable Goretex outer and don't try taking him out in the rain I don't think he'd appreciate it) but Alla sent me this nice photo of Moorick and a caption to go with it so I checked with our President and am running this. Hopefully one of us can help Alla and Moorick out.

"I've got a most beautiful and friendly 6 years old Burmese cat, Moorick, but I decided to find him a new home. I work full time, often come home late and go away on weekends. This is hard on Moorick because Burmese cats get attached to their owners. Although my neighbours are happy to feed him when I am away, they tell me that he is not happy to be by himself. If you know somebody who spends a lot for time at home and wants a cat please let me know. Thanks Alla."

Email: ASeleznyova@hortresearch.co.nz
Phone: 355 0862



Crossing the bridge on the way out from YTTY
(19 October 2008).
Photo: Adam Matich



Track signs
(Dundas Hut Trip | 19 October 2008).
Photo: Jean Garman

Trip Reports

Blue Range Hut 16 October

by **Graham Pritchard**

The original intention had been to do the Mikimiki Saddle/ Te Mara trig point/Blue Range track circuit. However the initial weather conditions and dubious outlook lead us to opt for the standard Blue Range hut tramp. The only real challenge seemed to be the prospect of having 17 trampers simultaneously eating lunch in Blue Range hut. However, as so often happens, we arrived at the hut in dribs and drabs - by the time the tail enders (including me) arrived others were already setting off for all points of the compass. Some went round to the Cow Creek lookout point over the Waingawa, others made it to Te Mara trig point, the remnants made our way straight back down to Kiriwhakapapa road end. All eventually turned up in good time to make the day of the Eketahuna ice cream shop owner by having most of the 17 customers arriving all at once.

Wharite Peak 19 October

by **Tim Swale**

After some less than wonderful weather during the week it was uplifting to wake up to a fine, sunny day on the Sunday morning, just as the weather forecast had predicted. Our group of eight met up at the Woodville Caltex before making our way to the Coppermine Creek

road end. DOC has been busy in this area with brand new information boards at the car park and up the valley. However we were soon leaving the relatively flat terrain of the Coppermine track and heading up the impressively steep valley side towards Wharite Peak. Fortunately the gradient quickly eases off and the rest of the climb was very pleasant indeed. Once up to the ridge the track to the transmitter tower got pretty boggy. Only Saman arrived at the lunchstop looking almost as clean as when he started. An impressive feat indeed.

We picked a sheltered, sunny spot for lunch but after about 20 minutes a wind change brought cold air streaming over the mountain and suddenly there was vapour on our breath. That was the signal for us to slip on jackets and hit the trail again for the return trip. After a couple of hours and a few more slides on the mud we were back at the car park with the sun was shining with all the warmth of a Summer's day. A very pleasant day out and great to see some prospective members joining us. We were : Kathy and Brendan Corner, Nicola Wallace, Laura Wear, Saman Bowappte, Ian Algie, Linda Campbell and Tim Swale.

The Urewera National Park 25-27 October

by **Adam Matich**

We stayed at the Ruatahuna Motel (east of Murupara) on Friday night and next morning the motelier drove us to



Trampers on the Coppermine Track
(Wharite Trip | 18 October 2008).
Photo: Tim Swale

the road end where we started our tramp north along the Whakatane River. A 4WD vehicle is necessary for this road end which is a public right-of-way across the farmland. It had rained quite heavily early in the morning but cleared up to give us a fine weekend. We tramped 2½ hours down the Whakatane River on a sometimes sidle track, and across one 3-wire bridge to Tawhiwhi Hut for morning tea. This hut is in a very large open clearing cropped bowling-green short by the cattle and horses. Unfortunately we weren't carrying bridles and bits and so were going to have to continue walking. Interspersed with the sidle track were more close-cropped grassy clearings dotted with trees, cattle, horses, and opposite, on the lower river flats were private shelters/huts. The river looked very inviting for those who worry about personal hygiene or heat-stroke, but we had a long way to go that day. After morning tea we left the Whakatane River and headed east across Mangatawhero Stm and up and over (666 m) to Takurua Hut for lunch. This was a very tidy 8-berth forest service hut in a little grassy clearing by Takurua Stm. The track there, and nearly all the other tracks and routes were well defined and marked and so there was almost never the likelihood of accidentally getting lost.

A 90 minute tramp down Motumuka, Te Kumete, and Kiekie Stms saw us at the only bridge over the swollen Waikare River. Contrary to what is shown on some maps, the bridge is up-river of the confluence. 10 minutes down-river of the crossing are the grassy clearings, one of which once hosted the now-removed Waikarewhenua Hut (3 p.m.). It was down-river from here that we got into trouble. Eventually the grassy flats petered out and the track markers told us we had to cross the river which was a bit too fast, a bit too deep, and a bit too discoloured. We spent the rest of the day climbing up and over bluffs. Some of the climbs were steep and prolonged. Because we were forced to stay on the true right, we didn't get to visit many of the batches dotted along the river. Come, 7 p.m. we decided to give up and camp for the night in a rather comfortable spot.

Next morning the river was low enough for a river crossing and a 2-hour climb, followed by another possible river crossing to the beginning of the Ohane Track, only 750 m as the crow flies from our camping spot of the night before. The river was still too high for us to proceed all the way down to Waikare Junction. In summer, with low flows, this would actually be an easy river to travel. Unfortunately, October is not summer. The Ohane track took us up and over to Ohane Stream (2 hrs) up which we travelled 20 minutes to Ohane Hut, which DoC weren't even sure was still there. It was very much in evidence and in good order, almost luxurious by DoC Hut standards. Given that they administer the Ureweras, DoC don't actually seem to know much the place. Travel all the way back down Ohane Stm to the Whakatane River was simple, with an increasing prevalence of cropped grassy flats. Travelling from the confluence up Whakatane River to Waikare Junction Hut should have taken us 30 minutes. It was closer to an hour, because in contrast to our experience thus far, this section of the track was poorly marked. We were thankful of the cattle trails through the scrub and blackberry. Waikare Junction Hut was around 50 m above the river on another grassy clearing with a view down the

Whakatane River, and so it was great to sit on the steps in the sun drinking the very welcome cup of billy tea provided by the people at the hut. Four parties had come up the river from the north, three by jet boat and one by horse, so at this hut the hitching rail was not merely decorative. The Ureweras is strange for a National Park.

After our late lunch we had another 4 hours travel up-river to finish up our second 11-hour day at Hanamahihi Hut. This track was again well marked and easy (even the up and over section), except for one short section where the track sidled across a steep slope. The track was just a bit narrow and the drop below a bit too serious about itself for comfort's sake. Finally, a bit after 6 p.m. we crossed the bridge to Hanamahihi Hut. The grassy clearing around this hut was not bowling-green short, so it appears the livestock had neither made it this far up-river nor down-river. But then, in this section of the river there was not the array of grassy river flats which would encourage the animals to wander.

Our third morning was a frosty one, but we soon warmed up as we headed up river. After around an hour we passed through Sheep Farm flat but couldn't find the exit back into the bush. After tooling around for 20 minutes we wandered back onto the track again. We crossed the last bridge across the Whakatane River and headed up the sidle track to the parkland encircled Ngahiramai Hut almost 4 hours from Hanamahihi Hut. We were running short of time to reach the road end in time to meet our transport, so picked up the pace to

return to Tawhiwhi Hut in 45 minutes, on the increasingly easy track. During lunch in the sun we eyed the horses and bemoaned our ignorance of how to catch and ride a horse bareback. So we had another 3 hours slow climb out of the Whakatane River to arrive at the road end just as our transport arrived. Then we had a 6 hour trip back to Palmerston North.

There is lots of scope for tramping in the Urewera's, both east, west and more particularly north of our exploration. For those who might want something more relaxed, people have rafted down the river, there are horse treks, and it is certainly possible to jet-boat down from the north as far south as Hanamahihi Hut. Stopping off at DoC and private huts (yes, in a national park) dotted along the river on the park-like terraces provides scope for diversion.

We were Mark Learmonth and Adam Matich.

Dundas Hut 18-19 October

by Jean Garman

There were mutterings of interest but as the weekend drew nearer the excuses started. "I haven't been feeling well this week." "The weather forecast is good for Sunday and I need to dock lambs." "I need to visit my parents." No one wanted to come and the forecast looked pretty shitty with a southerly front coming through on Saturday afternoon but I hadn't been out for a couple of weeks so decided to go anyway.



Motumuka Stream, between Takurua Hut and the Waikare River
(Urewera Trip | 25 October 2008)
Photo: Adam Matich

The road end was deserted but at least it wasn't raining. I trotted into Herepai ever mindful of not mucking around so as not to be caught out by the approaching front. The existing damp westerly was still present so at Herepai it was time for the coat to go on and to climb into the mist and wind. Around Ruapae the wind dropped and just after I finished lunch on East Peak the cloud started to break up. Off with the coat and a pleasant stroll along the ridge line with full views.

As I reached Pukemoremore the cloud started to thicken and by the time I started to descend to the hut rain started to fall. A few more rain showers followed but tucked up warm and safe and dry in the hut I didn't really mind. It was still a balmy 7°C when I went to bed – what had happened to my Southerly? A quick check in the morning and the temperature had dropped to 0°C and when it was light enough to see through the window a pretty dusting of snow was covering everything. That was worth coming out for.

I set off bright and early descending to the Ruamahunga River then climbing back up onto Cattle Ridge. The snow was melting off the tops very quickly in fact it melted all over me as I climbed up through the flaxes and tussocks. Cattle Ridge Hut appeared too early for lunch so it was off to Roaring Stag to eat lunch on the veranda admiring the river views. It was quickly becoming apparent that the world was full of excuses as not another sole had ventured into this part of the ranges for the whole weekend. The trudge back to the road end was not too unpleasant as the lack of any foot traffic over the weekend meant the track wasn't too muddy. A lovely wintery experience never to be repeated and shared with no one – just mine, all mine!

Parks Peak Hut 30 October

by Gordon Clark and Keith Fisher

With no trip organised for this week we had made a corporate decision the previous week that we would go to



Dundas Hut
(Dundas Hut Trip | 19 October 2008)
Photo: Jean Garman

Parks Peak Hut leaving at 7.00 am with Gordon to organise the transport and Keith to collect the names. Twelve of us left the van and crossed the Makaroro River at about 9.15 am and headed off on Yeomans Track to the turn off. The first of the party and reached the Hut in 3 hours 30 minutes with eleven of the group there within the 4 hours. Although the site is somewhat desolate the new Hut looked great. Apart from the climb we found it a good wide track to tramp on through interesting country. The tops had cleared of cloud on the return trip and we had good views across to the main Ruahine Range. Royce's GPS informed us that we had climbed 900 m

and traveled 20.8 km. It felt like it. A good day was had by all.

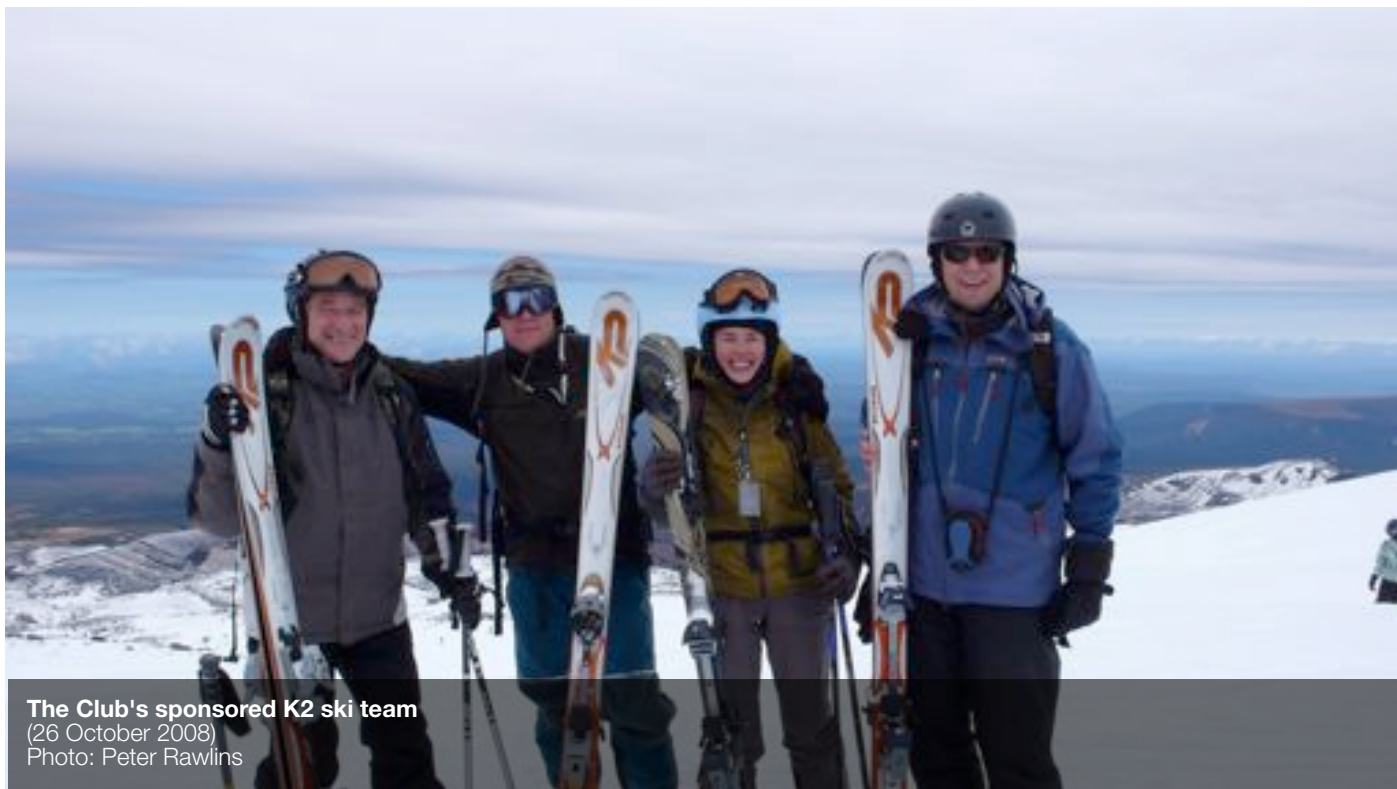
Kaiparoro Crossing 2 November

by Adam Matich

Most of this tramp was on an unofficial track system between Roaring Stag Hut and Kaiparoro Peak. We started from Putara Road (Herepai Hut Road End) from where we headed up to the intersection and down towards



Parks Peak Hut
(Parks Peak Hut Trip | 30 October 2008)
Photo: Keith Fisher



The Club's sponsored K2 ski team
(26 October 2008)
Photo: Peter Rawlins

Roaring Stag Hut for 1.5 km (2 hrs) to an altitude of 700 m. At this point we veered SE onto the old track system. This took us through 713, the adjacent little saddle and up to 858 for lunch with views in the sun (1 hr). This old track system is for the most part occasionally marked or the track itself well enough defined that we did not have to continuously navigate. After lunch we headed NE to 835, some of this track sidled just below the ridge top and was not hard work to follow. From 835 on was new ground for us so a bit more care was necessary, but the route was still pretty friendly as we headed towards 815 and beyond it to Kaiparoro Peak. Above the bushline on Kaiparoro we had quite a lot of flax and high tussock to wade through. Travel in the reverse direction from Kaiparoro to 815 would have been difficult, as finding the trail into the bush off Kaiparoro would be challenging. After our afternoon tea break at the trig we wandered off Kaiparoro Peak down the DoC track to Jenny's car parked on Kaiparoro Road after a 7-hour day.

We were Kim Dowson, Jean Garman, Jenny McCarthy and Adam Matich

Longview Hut 9 November

by Tim Swale

In almost perfect weather conditions and with the spectacle of fresh snow on the tops, our group of six intrepid travellers skidded and bumped their way up the steep gravel road to arrive at the Kashmir Road carpark ready to start our walk. The last section has at present got signs up warning that it is 4 WD access only but the road end facilities have been improved considerably with new information board/shelter and a toilet. With it being the day after the election and an easy trail up to Longview Hut, we had plenty to discuss. In no time at all we were at the hut, much quicker than expected so we had an early lunch and discussed what route to take back.

As everyone was going so well we decided to extend our trip by heading North along the ridge to join the Daphne track.

Although there is no marked route, the tussocky tops are easy to negotiate and provide splendid views of the snow covered mountains to the centre of the ranges. We decided to use this as a bit of a navigation exercise, walking on compass bearings and plotting waypoints on the GPS. It is always good to practise these things under good conditions so that they become second nature when they are really needed. After a pleasant afternoon break sitting in the sun we entered the forest for our descent down the Daphne track and across the stream to the Daphne car park. With a bit more foresight we could have left one of the cars here but it was only a half hour walk back up to the Kashmir road end to complete this very enjoyable circuit in a total time of about five and a half hours.

On this trip our team were Jenny McCarthy, Nigel Kerr, Saman Bowapte, Mark Street, Ian Algie and Tim Swale.

More Wed & Thu Trampers Trips

Wednesday Tramps

- 1st Oct - Herepai Hut (13 trampers)
- 8th Oct - Porangahau Beach (13 trampers)
- 15th Oct - Irongates track (15 trampers)
- 22nd Oct - Fern Walk & the Old Coach Road - Pohangina (14 trampers)
- 29th Oct - Atene Skyline (14 trampers)

Thursday Trampers

- 2nd Oct - Apiti Track (12 trampers)
- 9th Oct - Fern Walk & No. 1 Line Track (10 trampers)
- 16th Oct - Blue Range Hut (17 trampers)
- 23rd Oct - Tunupo Track (12 trampers)
- 30th Oct - Parks Peak (12 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 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	