

June 2009  
Issue 06

mail:  
MTSC  
P.O. Box 245  
Palmerston North

web:  
[www.mtsc.org.nz](http://www.mtsc.org.nz)



**Owen Mills with the first catch of the day**  
(Photo: Royce Mills | Te Potae Stoat Trail | 25-26 April 2009)

## Upcoming club nights

### AGM+What to pack+Gear sale

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

#### 19th May - Annual General Meeting 2009

The AGM will be held at 7:30 pm at the RSA, 200 Broadway Ave, Palmerston North. See page 2 for more details, and don't miss out on the pre-AGM club dinner as well.

#### 2nd June - What To Take In Your Pack and Gear Sale

Looking inside people's packs and what they take on a trip is always fascinating. Tonight we are going to have a look into several people's packs and see what they take and why. If there is one piece of equipment that you can't do without in your pack then please bring it along to talk about. We thought we would also have a gear sale. This has been a bit of a club tradition but we have not had one for a number of years. Bring along anything that you feel you would like to sell, clothing packs, tents ... This is a good way for families to outfit their kids or for someone to find that perfect piece of clothing that they thought they would never find. We will have some tickets for you to write the price on and your name. Please be realistic about the price of your item. Times are tough all round.

#### Contents

Notices .....	page 2	Trip reports .....	page 6
Upcoming trips .....	page 3	Club information .....	page 12

If you'd like to receive you newsletter by email as a pdf rather than by post then please let me know on [editor@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:editor@mtsc.org.nz).



# President's Report

## Club Lodge + New Committee

by **Howard Nicholson**

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

Hard to believe that another year in the life of MTSC has passed. It soon will be time to dust off the skis, climbing gear, and down jackets and head for the snow. At least you will have a warm, comfortable lodge to relax in at the end of the day, if you happen to be at Whakapapa, or a dry comfortable hut if you visit our well maintained huts in the Tararuas. Where ever you end up, please keep safety in mind so that you can tell us about it afterwards!

This is my last term as President, as we have a maximum 3-year limit on this role. I have seen a lot of good work carried out by club during this time, and I wish the incoming President and committee all the best for the coming year. I hope to see you in the hills sometime soon!

### Annual General Meeting 2009

A new committee needs to be elected, including a new president as I have served for the maximum three terms allowed by our constitution. Your vote is important so please be there if you can.

### Join us for a feast!

We also invite you to join us at 6:30 pm, prior to the AGM, for dinner at the RSA. A meal from the RSA Carvery costs only \$14, dessert \$5, or you can choose a meal from their menu. All Welcome – See you there!

### Chief Guide's Report

by **Bev Akers**

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

I'm standing down as Chief Guide, as it's healthy to have a change on a committee. I've been involved with the trip card since Dave Barker moved overseas and to those of you who remember him you much be old.

Our club trips have now added security due to the addition of the new locator beacons. They have been going out on most trips along with the club fly. Safe tramping, dry boots and sunshine.

### Lodge Work: Helpers Needed

by **Ryan Badger**

A couple of us are heading to the lodge for the weekend of the 16th of May. Ken and myself will be attending a meeting with other lodges run by RMCA for most of the day Saturday however there are plenty of jobs to be done at the lodge and we are quite keen to get through a few of them over the weekend as well. The list includes:

- 1) Re-varnish the top half of the basement stairs.
- 2) A second coat of varnish on the mens bathroom.
- 3) Clean and/or paint the toilets (starting to look grotty).
- 4) A second coat of varnish on the storage units in the newly relined rooms 1 and 2.
- 5) A good clean around the exterior of the lodge.
- 6) A good clean and sort out in the basement.
- 7) A full food stocktake.

I'm sure there are probably more jobs that could be added when we got there. If you have the weekend to spare then book it in! We would love to see you there. I can be contacted on my mobile (027) 445 1997 or emailed at [farmboy\\_ryan@hotmail.com](mailto:farmboy_ryan@hotmail.com) if you have any questions.

If we have enough people we will look at taking the mini bus up. Also as this is a lodge work party your travel, food and accommodation for the weekend is free!

### Considering any skiing in Canada?

Club members Chriselda and Murray McMillan have recently returned from a fantastic skiing experience at Big White, Sunshine and Lake Louise in Canada. They would be delighted to pass on any information to any club member interested in travelling there. They can be contacted by phone on (04) 569 9019.

### Reel Earth Environmental Film Fest.

Club members may have heard of publicity surrounding this environmental themed film festival that is running from May 16-30. Some club members may be interested in this particular film during the festival (6pm, 17 May at Downtown Cinemas):

#### **TARA - Journey to the Heart of the Climate Machine France / 2008 / 90 min**

An extraordinary tale of eight men on a scientific mission to gather data crucial for understanding climate change. Expedition leader, New Zealander Grant Redvers, will introduce the film's Australasian premiere here at Reel Earth, bringing you the chance to hear it first hand from the Kiwi adventurer who is rapidly writing his name into the history of polar exploration, discovery, and challenge. Filmed under the most extreme conditions, 'TARA' brings you inside the drama as these eight adventurers drift for 16 months, purposely trapped in the icy clutch of the polar north.

Called the TARA Polar Drift Expedition, their purpose was to observe the air, ice, and ocean, and establish a web

of oceanographic beacons during the International Polar Year (2006-2008). All that, and survive! Their measurements will help to determine if perennial polar ice is in the process of disappearing, and if so, why. During the expedition, TARA (formerly Sir Peter Blake's 'Seamaster', now refitted for polar travel) was trapped in ice and drifted more than 4000 km across the North Pole, from the north of Siberia to the Fram Strait between Greenland and Spitzbergen.

After the session, you will have the opportunity to meet Grant Redvers. Grant will also be present at the gala opening of Reel Earth's 5th Season, 16 May at the Regent on Broadway. Emcee for the gala is famed actress Robyn Malcolm, best known for her role as Cheryl West on TV3's Outragous Fortune.

6 pm Sunday 17 May // Downtown Cinemas, Palmerston North.  
For more information on the film festival visit [www.reearth.org.nz](http://www.reearth.org.nz)

## Upcoming trips

### TRIP GRADING

The times listed below include tramping, rest and meal stops. In assessing the trip times and grades, terrain, weather and party fitness (a party is as fast as its slowest member) must be considered. As these factors will never repeat themselves, times are only estimates. Contact the trip leader if you are unsure about trip gradings for a specific trip.

<b>ALL</b>	All welcome
<b>EASY</b>	4 hours per day, pace slower than Easy/Med. Does not relate to terrain.
<b>EASY/MEDIUM</b>	5 hours per day at a pace slower than medium.
<b>MEDIUM</b>	7 hours per day at a standard walking pace.
<b>MEDIUM/FIT</b>	8 hours per day at a pace faster than medium.
<b>FIT</b>	Over 8 hours per day at a pace faster than medium/fit.
<b>TECHNICAL</b>	Qualifying requirements to be announced by the trip organiser.

### TRIP SAFETY

Trip leaders are reminded that trip intentions can be emailed to [intentions@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:intentions@mtsc.org.nz), although this is not a substitute for leaving full written details with the designated contacts within the club. If you require further information on this please contact the Chief Guide. The club also has tent flies and personal locator beacons available free of charge, the club transit van will always have these so there isn't any reason not to take these on a trip short or long, they way next to nothing.

#### Beehive Creek

17 May

Christine Scott

Easy  
354 0510

This easy walk (2-3 hours/4 km) is located on the Pohangina Valley West Road about 33 km north of Palmerston North. The walk follows Beehive Creek through a mixture of native bush and exotics with several crossings of the normally shallow creek. It then climbs over hilly farmland to reach the Pohangina Valley West Road. Hopefully we will have a couple of cars to save a walk back down the road to the start point. Suitable for families and anyone wanting an easy day out. We leave the Police Station at 8 am.

#### Wednesday Trampers

20 May

Chris Brunskill

Easy/Medium  
354 2511

Phone for more details.

#### Thursday Trampers

21 May

John Thornley

Easy/Medium  
356 9681

Phone for more details.

#### Butterfly Creek (Wellington bays)

24 May

David Newstead

Easy  
027 457 6175

Leaving from PN Police Station at 7:30 am. This is the first of a series of Easy- (not to say social-) grade trips to explore some of the tracks and walkways round Wellington Harbour. There will be another Sunday trip later in the year and one on a Wednesday. For this and the later Sunday trip we have booked the mini-bus; for the Wednesday we will take the train (Capital Connection). The plan for the 24th May is to drive down to Eastbourne arriving about 9:30. We then take the track through the forest to the top of the ridge behind Eastbourne (good views) and carry on round to drop down to the Beehive Creek picnic spot (maybe lunch there, if the timing and weather are right). From there we make our way back to the mini-bus via the Eastbourne waterfront (and a suitable cafe). Back to PN around 6:30 pm.

#### Wednesday Trampers

27 May

Mona Webb

Easy/Medium  
323 4212

Phone for more details.





**Greg and Duncan checking out the old hut books at Shute's Hut**

(Photo: Kim Fraser | Shute's Hut Trip | 25-26 April 2009).

### Thursday Trampers

28 May

John Hunt

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

324 0339

### Ngaawapurua Hut

30 May-1 June

Gary Bevins

We will take a whirly-bird into Ngaawapurua Hut. From there several routes take you out to different road ends. You can head to Harkness, Tussock, Boyd, Oamaru then Poronui. A safe option in marginal weather. The preferred route is via the tops. Harkness, Te Puke, Mangaturutu, Makino and out, or Harkness, Te Puke, Tira Lodge, Ballard, Middle Hill and out. Whatever happens we will be visiting plenty of huts and having lots of fun. Depending on where we fly from approximate cost of helicopter will be \$140 each. Please give me a call by the 15th May so I can organise the chopper and the weather.

Medium+

325 8879

### Wednesday Trampers

3 June

Lorraine Green

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

354 6158

### Thursday Trampers

4 June

Bryan Evans

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

323 7614

### Triangle Hut

6-7 June

Jean Garman

A Saturday morning start will see us heading up Deadmans track from the Rangi car park. At the top we have two options; we will either take the hunters track

Medium/Fit

354 3536

down to the doc track that climbs over the bump between Irongate and Triangle then head up river or we will take a different spur that comes down closer to Triangle Hut but unfortunately has no track through the leatherwood. Wet feet and leatherwood scratches guaranteed for both routes. Sunday will be up the track to the Whanahua Range and out through Rangi Hut.

### Irongate Hut

7 June

Christine Scott

From the carpark on Table Flat Road it is less than an hour into the Alice Nash Memorial Heritage Lodge which was built to replace Heritage Lodge in 2007. From there it is 40-50 min down to the Oroua River Flats (a lovely spot for picnicking and camping). We then go downstream to the Iron Gate Gorge and back up through farmland to the carpark. An easy 3-4 hour tramp. We leave the Police Station at 8 am.

Easy

354 0510

### Wednesday Trampers

10 June

Patsy Inkpen

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

323 8030

### Thursday Trampers

11 June

Jill Spencer

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

329 8738

### Purity Hut - Mangaweka Trig

13-14 June

Bev Akers

There is a steepish climb up to the hut in the Western Ruahines, which we will do in our own time (roughly about 2 hrs). Then it's time to take in the views and relax

Easy/Medium

325 8879

in this nice newish 6 bunker hut. Sunday we'll head up to Mangaweka Trig, carrying only a day pack. It will be one of those glorious autumn weekends and an easy overnighter so we won't need to leave too early on Saturday morning.

### Wednesday Trampers

17 June

Margaret Foot

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

357 8003

### Thursday Trampers

18 June

Ray Pratt

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

328 7884

### Mid-Winter Feast and Food Carry

20-21 June

Ken Mercer

At last daylight saving has ended and we've had a southerly or two. As I write there's not much snow on the mountain but it will come. Then there will be skiing and happiness and hunger. Food! We need to move a mountain of food into the lodge, as well as spruce it up.

We'll drive up Friday night with a load of frozen meat. Groceries will be delivered on Saturday and all need to be carried across to the lodge. For the carriers boots, packs, and possibly storm gear will be needed. Checkers and stackers are also needed in the lodge and there are a number of maintenance jobs for handy people too but the most important job is baking pinwheel scones for morning tea!

On Saturday night we'll celebrate midwinter in fine style. On Sunday some may go skiing while others can enjoy a local walk or simply relax. Call me on the number above or 027 364 6475

Those who take part in the food carry receive one nights accommodation free and there's also free transport in the minibus if you are one of the first ten people who want to leave from Palmerston North. Be in quick as space is limited by the size of the lodge.

Glutton

356 7497

### Revised Rimutaka Incline

21 June

Tim Swale

I rode the Rimutaka Incline recently and met a lady who provides track transport from Cross Creek to Kaitoke for

Mountain bike or easy walk

06 376 6556



Mountainbikers readying for a tunnel  
(Photo: Tim Swale).

\$10 per person if we can get a minimum of 10 people. As there are a few people who have already expressed an interest in the trip but don't want to ride both ways I thought it would be a good idea to take up this offer. The 18 km ride is a lot of fun with a number of tunnels and bridges, some awesome views and newly installed information panels. Suitable for pretty much anyone who can ride a bike.

### Wednesday Trampers

24 June

Bernard Cobb

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

328 8088

### Thursday Trampers

25 June

Stuart Malcolm

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

358 3409

### Takapari Road to Diggers (Walk & Mountain bike)

28 June

Gary Bevins

The idea is to take a 4wd or two up Takapari Road with Mountain Bikers and Trampers. Drive to the locked gate by A-Frame, drop off the Mountain Bikers to pedal back down. The Trampers will be dropped at the start of the diggers track, head down to the hut and out across the farmland to the roadend. Depending on numbers, there will need to be a driver or two, to take the vehicles back to the roadend. Give me a ring by Wednesday so I can organise transport, etc.

Medium

325 8879

### Beginners Ski Weekend

4-5 July

Ken Mercer

This is a good opportunity for budding skiers to get together, enjoy company at the lodge, and learn how to handle long slippery feet. A tip for absolute beginners: borrow an old set of skis and shuffle around your lawn. (I have an ancient video I'm happy to lend which goes through the basics). I'll do what I can to coordinate transport. Call me on the number above or 027 364 6475.

All

356 7497

### Pourangaki

11-12 July

Jean Garman

In winter rivers and nasty cold places so the plan is to not get our feet wet. On Saturday we will climb up past Purity, travel along the Hawkes Bay ridge then down a spur to Pourangaki hut for the night. Sunday will see us climbing onto the Whanahuia range then dropping to Kelly Knight and back to the car. Other options include doing it in the other direction and a possible untracked variant between the Whanahuia range and Kelly Knight.

Medium/Fit

354 3536

### Powell Hut

12 July

Alla Seleznyova

According to DOC, Powell Hut is "a popular winter destination for fitter day visitors because it is probably the quickest route by which the snow-covered tops of the Tararua Range can be reached". This is exactly why I chose this trip. Last winter, Jinny (Andersen) and I had an

Easy/Medium

355 0862



exhilarating experience of walking up to Powell Hut through a forest covered with snow. The view from the Mountain House Shelter reminded me of Russian winters. When we reached the hut the fresh snow was up to our knees and it kept falling. The temperature around the hut was well below zero and a hot cup of soup never tasted so good. If this sounds like fun to you join me on this trip.

Powell Hut is located in Mount Holdsworth area, northwest from Masterton. A return trip from the car park to the hut should take about 6 hours including lunch and photo stops.



**Alla on the 2008 Powell trip**  
(Photo: Jinny Andersen | Powell Hut Trip | Winter 2008).

## Trip Reports

### Punga Hut #1 Stream

5 April

by Gary Bevins

We headed away for Scotts Road at 7.30. Leaving the vehicle we followed the fence line pass the Te Araroa walkway exit, and onto the summit. We crossed the fence, wandering into Punga Hut. Two local hunters were in residence at the hut. One had been in the original hut building team, the only one still capable, or alive, to make it to the hut.

We headed south-west until we hit the headwaters of the No. 1 creek. Sidling on the true left, we crossed a couple of gullies, then wandered thru the bush above the creek. The area had been burnt 30 years ago, so is open in places. Bush-lawyer has taken over and we ended up with very scratched legs to prove it. We dropped back into the creek for a short time, having to climb out again, to avoid a waterfall. The route pass the waterfall, down a gut, was better than I expected and we were soon back in the main watercourse. Except for the fact that we all got wet undies, at a rather deep hole, the travel was relatively easy,

### Park's Peak

18-19 July

Bev Akers

Easy/Medium

325 8879

I'm really looking forward to visiting this new hut in the Eastern Ruahines. Not yet sure which way we'll go, all depends on the weather at the time. I'm keen on the river crossing and the longer route to the hut as it's been awhile since I've done it. It's all up to us on the day.

### Oturere

25-26 July

Jenny McCarthy

Medium/Technical

06 376 6556

At this stage I have no idea of the route we will take. The destination will be Oturere weather permitting. It will be off track and hopefully there will be some snow. Please phone for more details.

### Oturere

25-26 July

John Doolan

Easy/Medium

027 446 8740

What better way to start the winter by having a weekend in the mountains with like-minded trampers. With a bit of luck there will be some snow hanging around! Oturere Hut is in the Oturere Valley in the Eastern shadows of Mount Ngaurahoe, that's the pointy one in-between Ruapehu and Tongariro.

We will access the hut from the Desert Road (3-4 hours). Lunch will be at the Waihonuhu hut after about 1.5 h, a good place for a cuppa, toilet stop and a good old chat. Then it's a comfortable 2-3 hours to the overnight hut.

We will leave from my home at 7:00 am. No need for tents as the hut sleeps heaps (unless you are so inclined). Contact me at john.doolan@inspire.net.nz, 06 3555 495 (work) or 0274 468 740. There no truth to the rumour that I snore!.

as the water level was low. Arriving where the Te Araroa walkway crosses the No. 1 stream in less than two hours. A bit of a climb up to the fenceline and down the other side and we were back at the vehicle. A day of approximate 6 hours. We were Adam, Kim, and Gary.

### Spion Kop

15 April

by John Hunt

Spion Kop is a rather distinctive cone shaped hill on the slopes just below a Tararua ridge which lies to the west of Makaretu Stream, (west of the Waiopahu track) behind Ohau. (Not many in the group of 18 knew about it.)

We drove in via the southern extension of Arapaepae Rd, Muhunua East Rd, and up Tangimoana Rd. where we parked our vehicles on property owned by Mrs. Chea Artz.. With her permission, we followed a farm track up the grassy/scrubbed hillside (some gorse in places), paused for a "cuppa" about half way, then on up to the "Kop" (= a small conical hill) for an expansive view before reaching the main ridge and heading north along it



to a point where we thought a track descended to the Makaretu Stream. While the others finished their lunch, some of us went further along (to where the ridge bent more to the west, and picked up the start of a clearly marked track.

We returned to the vehicles after a total time of about 5 hours. Historical Note :- This Ohau landmark known as "Spion Kop" was named after a Boer War battle (on 24th Jan.1900) for supremacy of a similarly located feature near the Tulega river in Northern Natal (South Africa). Of the 20,000 British (lead by Lord Kitchener) and 8000 Boers, (lead by Gen Botha,) 243 were killed with 1500 casualties.



**Wednesday Trampers atop Spion Kop**  
(Photo: John Hunt | Spion Kop Trip | 15 April 2009).

## McKinnon Hut 18-19 April

by Royce Mills

Three of us headed off for this trip - Nicola Wallace, Owen and Royce Mills.

Our tramp got off to a bad start, as we were walking from our car down to the cage to cross the Kawhatau river, we took the wrong track down to the river instead of to the cage. A few paces down the track Royce stood on a wasps' nest in the bush and all three of us were instantly beating off aggressive wasps attached to our legs and arms. We all got multiple stings - luckily none of us are

allergic to wasp stings. The next adventure was crossing the river by cage which certainly gave us all an adrenalin rush. Then it was a steady uphill grind through the bush, and out on the tops at last. It was a perfect day to be in the golden tussock, it was calm and mild with great views of the Mokai Patea range and the eastern Ruahines. We arrived at McKinnon hut at 4pm and had the hut to ourselves, enjoying the comforts of this traditional hut. It was the first time any of us had been to this hut and the views from it were outstanding.

In the morning we awoke to a white frost which soon melted away as the sun warmed things up. We decided to

make the most of the good weather and make a side trip to climb Hikurangi (1714 m). We retraced our steps uphill from the hut and after an hour we "summitted".

Unfortunately cloud and mist started to blot out the views. On the way back down, working our way through untracked thigh deep tussock, Royce tripped and did a face plant into some Spaniard - ouch! Not too much bleeding luckily. A few minutes later she realised that she had lost her cap when she fell. Luckily she had been tracking on her GPS and was able to zoom in and retrace her steps exactly back through this deep tussock and find the cap in the hole. A happy



**Owen Mills crossing the Kawhatau river by cage**  
(Photo: Royce Mills | McKinnon Hut Trip | 18 April 2009).





### Heading towards McKinnon Hut

(Photo: Owen Mills | McKinnon Hut Trip | 18 April 2009).

outcome! Heading downhill things cleared and several photo stops were taken on the open tussock tops before we stopped for lunch at the bush edge. The steep downhill through the bush was followed by crossing back on the cage - we were all "pros" by now. As we took the short bush walk back to our car a stray wasp gave Owen another sting to add to his collection.

Back home, we checked out McKinnon hut on Google Earth. We found it - this was a most interesting way to review a great tramping weekend.

### Blue Range and Mikimiki 22 April

by Ken Rush

Eighteen Wednesday trampers enjoyed the tramps - 9 each to Blue Range and Mikimiki. The weather was frosty and fine. It was four hours return to Blue Range and lunch was on the on the rock in cloudless, windless, sunny conditions. A bonus was seeing a New Zealand falcon which landed on a dead tree about four metres away and eyed us for about 4 minutes. The Mikimiki group went almost to the road end because the creek was very low. The scenery on this route is beautiful. Everyone in the group enjoyed afternoon tea at Mt Bruce cafe. Many thanks to Don MacDonald for driving the van.

### Walls' Whare to Woodside 22 April

by Adam Matich

After abandoning one car at the end of Waiohine Valley Road (the Woodside Railway Station Road End), we drove around to the end of Waiohine Gorge Road (Wall's Whare). Once across the new swing bridge and onto the Cone Track we only had to cross the tiny little stream

before we picked up the old track that heads S and then SW to meet the Mt Reeves Track at 2709245E, 6018830N. Someone has been doing some maintenance (including earthworks), because the beginning of the track was very easy to find, and follow. The track headed S across Coal Stream and then climbed the spur all the way to the junction with the Reeves Track (2 hr). There were a couple of marked side tracks on the way up, so it is a good idea to know where you are heading (stay right each time). The two mystery tracks branch off at 308, and a little bit before 745 is reached. Possibly they provide scope for doing a loop back to Wall's Whare.

Lunch was had not long after we joined the Reeves track, in a sheltered spot as it was slightly damp, and then we headed on up to Mt Reeves, 3 hr from Wall's Whare. We only really had each other to look at up there, and it was still slightly damp, so after a brief loiter we headed on back and at the intersection headed S to Rocky Knob and the Woodside Road end. This was all very easy to follow as the Mt Reeves Track is an official, maintained DoC track. The very southern end is a bit crumbly as the track passes through a little section of gorse and then through some pine trees. But once on the farm land it is easy, apart from the biting fences. We found ourselves back at the car after a 5-hour day, after which we again had to make our way to Wall's Whare to pick up the other car. We were Jenny, Rob and Adam

### Shute's Hut

25-26 April

by Duncan Fraser

We three left palmy on Saturday at 7 am with the missus instructing me to stop at Taihape for coffee and breakfast. Her breakfast a sausage roll and danish pastry. For those



of you who dislike driving gravel roads you will be pleased to know that the tar seal on Napier/Taihape road is currently being extended. Will certainly help the poachers we saw checking out Ngamatea Station get away quicker. We arrived at Comet road end at ten to start the walk in. Along the top we were surprised to see some fresh pig rooting, and encountered two moreporks as well. It took an hour to reach the start of our descent into the Taruarau River. An hour of toe crunching descent saw us at the river and to check out a few pools for later. We then headed up to Shutes hut for lunch and to unpack. After lunch we all headed back to the river for fishing and photos. Fished for a few hours, caught some good fish and lost some good fish and took a couple of tiddlers for tea. The evening was spent enjoying reading the hut books which go back to 1956. Just reading these books is worth the trip in and out. Sunday saw us leaving for home a bit before 9, needed to be fully rested for the climb out. It was a blessing and relief to stop climbing after just over 1 1/2 hours. We reached the car for lunch, although was again instructed by the missus to stop at Taihape. Certainly a trip well worth the effort, should have done it earlier. I will definitely be back in cicada season if not sooner. We were Duncan & Kim Fraser, Greg Dobson.

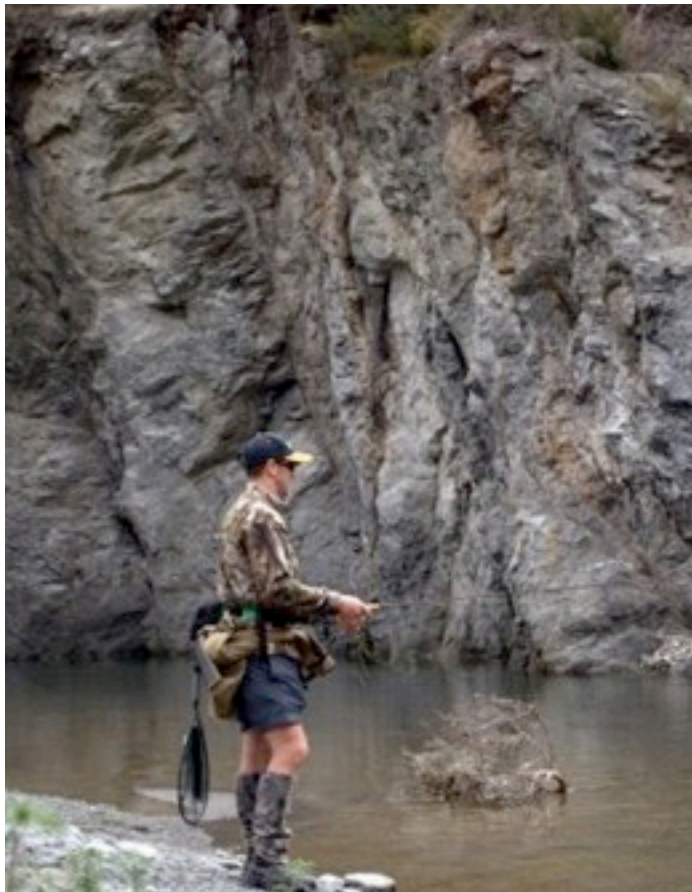
### **Te Potae Stoat Trail** **25-26 April** **by Royce Mills**

We weren't at all sure whether this trip was going ahead until the last minute. A cyclonic storm was forecast to track down the North Island, but we got the OK from the helicopter pilot on the Friday evening and hastily did our

last minute packing. Early on Anzac day morning we drove to the Mokai station road end, past the Mokai bungy jump. We were helicoptered out of a paddock and whisked up into the hills, five minutes later we touched down at Ruahine corner hut where our pilot dropped off our overnight gear. Just think of the possibilities if MTSC had its own helicopter.... Then we were quickly up again to our drop off point on the Ohutu ridge. Barry and Howard set off on the southern circuit of the stoat trail back to Ruahine hut, via Waiokotore Biv and Potae. Owen and Royce walked the northern route along the stoat line which met up with an old 4 wheel drive route through the tussock. It was a perfect tramping day, just clagging in a bit towards evening.

Between us we carried 7 dozen eggs in plastic cartons. The traps alternate between being baited with eggs, and non-baited. We removed dead stoats and rats from traps as necessary and recorded our finds - the species of rat (Ship, Norway or Kiore), sex and condition ("fresh", "rotten", "very rotten"). We'll leave the last category to your imagination... At each baited trap we refreshed the eggs. Interestingly, almost as many pests were caught in unbaited traps. There was a noticeably high proportion of catches close to streams.

A pleasant night was spent at Ruahine Corner hut and the next morning dawned bright and sunny - all the cameras were out. We worked as a foursome for Day 2 via Potae and down to Colenso hut. Once we reached the streams the rate of catches kept us particularly busy. As the Mangatera river widened it became more challenging to find some of the boxes in the long grass. We arrived at



**Duncan fishing, a Morepork spotted while heading over Komata, trout for tea (clockwise)**  
(Photo: Kim Fraser | Shute's Hut Trip | 25-26 April 2009).





**Shute's Hut at night**

(Photo: Kim Fraser | Shute's Hut Trip | 25-26 April 2009).

Lake Colenso hut in time to stroll down to the lake and take photos in the late afternoon sun.

All up, from 200 boxes checked, we found 8 stoats and 21 rats. DOC commented on the high rate of catches we found. The whole weekend was captured in detail on Howard's video camera - watch for the coming movie release.

On Monday morning's helicopter ride out we enjoyed fantastic views of the lake and also the impressive cliffs of the Rangitikei river before we were returned to our paddock. Driving out, we stopped for a coffee at the Mokai bungy, and watched some jumps. This certainly is a spectacular site to visit, just a few minutes drive off SH1 on a sealed road.

We were Barry Scott, Howard Nicholson, Owen and Royce Mills.

### **Wednesday Trampers** **29 April**

**by John Ridge**

Heavy rain warnings forecast for the Tararuas on Tuesday which seemed to last most of the night were indeed a concern, so in the interest of safety our planned trip to Field Hut was cancelled. Plan B was to do the Manawatu Gorge Walk, starting at the Ashhurst end and tramping to the far look-out and return.

Thirteen trampers set off in the rain which eased to drizzle and eventually stopped. Upgrading work continues on this interesting and increasingly popular walk and much of the track is now gravelled, however some sections

not yet completed were very muddy and offered us a few challenges.

Our walk was enjoyed by all despite some disappointment at not being able to do the first choice. There will be another chance !

### **Longview-Daphne Track** **30 April**

**by Ann Green**

Eleven trampers started up the Longview track from the end of the Kashmir road then before turning down to the hut turned North on to the open ridge. This not marked, except for a few cairns, but fairly easy to follow taking care not to go down one of the spurs. The entrance to the bush and the way to the Daphne track is marked by a large triangle.

We stopped here for lunch and the clouds came down and it began to rain. We went down the daphne track and back to the road. 3 fast walkers went on ahead and drove the minibus back and met us halfway.

### **Manawatu Gorge** **3 May**

**by Ken Mercer**

Six trusty souls met at the Ashhurst car park at 9.30am. 10 minutes earlier in Palmerston North it had been a beautiful calm day with blue skies but in Ashhurst it was raining. We could scarcely believe our eyes. Not to worry though, after a short car shuttle the cloud had gone and we meandered up the creak then climbed the hill.

We stopped for snacks and lunch at both lookouts and found a new track to the edge of the farmland where the majesty of the wind turbines to the south may be enjoyed. My GPS later disclosed we'd climbed 350m which is about three times as much as I would have guessed. Soon after 2pm we were back in town where the lawns patiently waited.

### **Maharahara Crossing** **7 May**

**by Royce Mills**

It was a particularly wet and cold week, so we were very lucky to have a "one day window of weather opportunity" for our Thursday tramp.

We enjoyed views through the day as we traversed for 6 hours from east to west. Hats and gloves were needed though, as there was a keen wind chill.

As we descended to the Pohangina valley we watched with interest a topdressing plane working regularly below us. Just after we emerged from



the bush, and were walking down through the farmland, the plane suddenly rose in front of us, brushed over a fenceline, and gave us all a good dusting of lime.

The final excitement came when one of our group accidentally grabbed an electric fence outrigger as he was crossing a small creek on the farmland. The electric shock threw him into the creek and he arrived back at the van dripping wet.

Thanks very much to Graham Pritchard who accompanied us almost up to Matanginui, then brought the van around to meet us at Opawe road end.

There were 9 in the group.

### Wed & Thu Trampers Trips

#### Wednesday Tramps

April 1st Manawatu Gorge  
 8th Herepai Hut (11)  
 15th Spion Kop (18)  
 22nd Blue Range Hut/  
 Mikimiki Track (18)  
 29th Manawatu Gorge (17)

#### Thursday Trampers

April 16th Field Hut  
 23rd Rangī Hut

The number of trampers in each trip is listed in brackets.



**Thursday trampers work their way through leatherwood**

(Photo: Dave Grant | Maharahara Crossing | 7 May 2009).

## Department of Conservation News



### From the pages of the Department of Conservation website

A quick update on some local issue and news:

#### Mountainbikers tearing up the Manawatu Gorge Track (30 March 2009)

A lot of sweat and metal has gone into the Manawatu Gorge track over recent months, with plenty more to come. But some mountain bikers are tearing up the track as Department of Conservation staff labour to upgrade it. In total, four hundred and sixty cubic metres of metal will be carted and spread along the popular 10 kilometre walking track before spring, in a bid to upgrade it to a more accessible, user friendly "walking" standard. "We are trying to make the track more appealing for city people, so it is easier for them to get a taste of the bush" says DOC ranger Lyall Goggin. "But a few mountain bikes have done a considerable amount of damage, so that we have to spend a lot of time repairing parts of the track we have already upgraded".

Metal is yet to be spread on four and a half of the ten kilometres of track. The project is scheduled to be finished by June, but progress is slowed because staff have to spend their time repairing the damage caused by mountain bikes. It is not yet known if there is similar damage in other parts of the track. "I'm not looking forward to seeing the rest of the track" says Mr Goggin.

Department of Conservation area manager Jason Roxburgh urges track users to give mountain bikers a friendly reminder that the Manawatu Gorge track is a walking track only.

# 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\[at\]value.net.nz](mailto:jeanandivan[at]value.net.nz) or phone (06) 354 3536.

## Accommodation at the MTSC lodge on Mount Ruapehu

The lodge is close to Iwikau Village, has mains power, heating, hot showers and is well stocked with food. Members and their guests are welcome. (Lodge phone number is (07) 892 3860).



Lodge bookings should be made by e-mail where possible ([lodge.bookings\[at\]mtsc.org.nz](mailto:lodge.bookings[at]mtsc.org.nz)). If for some reason you cannot e-mail, then phone between 9.30 am & 9.30 pm on any day. Please do not call outside these hours. Please also note that bookings are not confirmed until all fees are paid. Payment is to be made in advance by personal cheque, bank cheque or cash (in person). Don't send cash through the post. There is no internet banking for lodge fees. Contact Liz & 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 Thurs day, and certainly no later than 6 pm Friday.
2. Cancel bookings by these times so others needing the van have time to amend travel arrangements.
3. A fly should be carried on every tramp, there is always one in the passenger door of the club van and they are available from the Gear Custodian at no charge. There is a Personal Locator Beacon, in the glove box, for people using the van to take with them.



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 two personal locator beacons (PLB), 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 (no charge for PLB). 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 [editor\[at\]mtsc.org.nz](mailto:editor[at]mtsc.org.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 [membership\[at\]mtsc.org.nz](mailto:membership[at]mtsc.org.nz).

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

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

## People to contact

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

### MTSC 2008-09 Committee

President	Howard Nicholson	357 6325	<a href="mailto:president[at]mtsc.org.nz">president[at]mtsc.org.nz</a>
Secretary	Tim Swale	06 376 6556	
Treasurer	Christine Scott	354 0510	<a href="mailto:treasurer[at]mtsc.org.nz">treasurer[at]mtsc.org.nz</a>
Chief Guide	Bev Akers	325 8879	
Day Trip Convenor	Gary Bevins	325 8879	
Membership Sec.	Jenny McCarthy	06 376 8838	<a href="mailto:membership[at]mtsc.org.nz">membership[at]mtsc.org.nz</a>
Newsletter Editor	Wei-Hang Chua	021 212 0369	<a href="mailto:editor[at]mtsc.org.nz">editor[at]mtsc.org.nz</a>
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	<a href="mailto:lodge.bookings[at]mtsc.org.nz">lodge.bookings[at]mtsc.org.nz</a>
Mini-bus Custodian	Adam Matich	359 2796	
General Committee	Linda Campbell	323 3836	
	Rob Pringle	354 0218	
	Peter Rawlins	356 7443	