

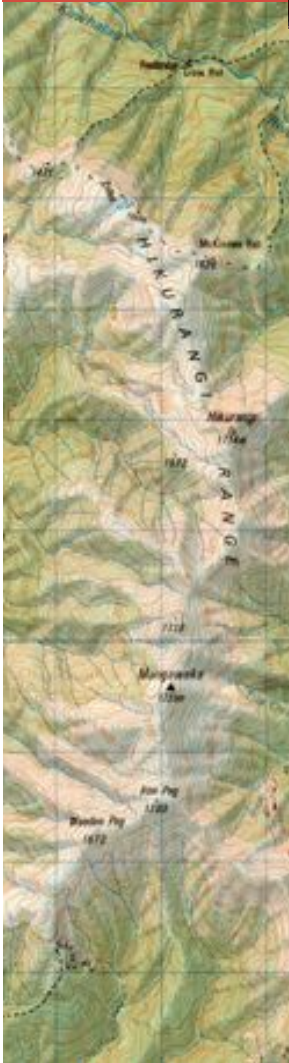
September 2009
Issue 09

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Taking time for morning tea on the track
(Photo: Kim Fraser | Oturere Hut Hut Trip | 25-26 July 2009)



Upcoming club nights

Photo Competition + Inter Club Quiz

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

1st September - Photo Competition

Competition season between the local tramping clubs is about to start. It is time to get your entries into our own annual photo competition so dig around your recent tramping, climbing, overseas travel photo snaps and get them in to this competition (see page 2 for full details of how to submit these). Apart from being a competition, this is a great time to see what other club members have been taking photos of or just where they have been.

6th October - Interclub Quiz

The Interclub Quiz is a traditional competition between the clubs to see who has the best outdoor general knowledge. This year, our club is hosting the quiz. The competition will be held at 7.30 pm at our clubrooms. Come along for what is an entertaining night, if not to participate then to cheer on fellow club members.

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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.

President's Report

Gloves + Winter trips

by Ken Mercer

email president@mtsc.org.nz or phone (06) 356 7497

Pilots talk about two buckets which all new pilots start with. One is experience and it starts out empty and gradually fills. The other is luck which is initially full and can be emptied only once. The idea is to gain experience without running dipping into the luck bucket too often.

I acquired some experience last weekend when I tried some gloves I bought a while back to use as inners. They're called Inferno and made of polyester which all sounded quite promising. Unfortunately once they were wet they were COLD and I was wishing I had my old knitted polypro gloves. I was also carrying my skiing mitts which I was hoping to not abuse grasping onto rocks and trees. Eventually I relented and used them. The cost of that experience was minimal.

I gained some other experience earlier on that trip (with Jean) whilst we negotiated the ridge SE of Iron Peg. I've seen blizzard conditions many times in the security of the ski fields but not in the tops of the Ruahine's. The challenge is to keep moving to stay warm, which we duly did. Actually I find it quite satisfying to be beating the elements when appropriately dressed. Although I contributed a couple of grid references from my GPS I'm ashamed to say most of the navigation was done by others, with maps, compasses, and dead reckoning. It is easier to let an expert make the decisions.

Just over a day later we were called out to assist with the search for Dr Seddon Bennington and Marcella Jackson who became lost at the same time we were in the Ruahines. I'm not going to speculate here on what might have gone wrong for them but the storm conditions we had encountered were certainly a contributing factor and their bucket of luck ran dry. I hope my own experience bucket keeps ahead of my mistakes and I can avoid relying on luck to come home.

Ski Captain's Report

by Rob Pringle

email rob.kate.pringle@gmail.com or phone (06) 358 3319

Winter is now into the swing of things, with the usual antics of unpredictable weather, and our usual crews of weekend warriors pounding the slopes. The snow base is steadily growing on both sides with neither field breaking the 2m mark yet, however it's still early days.

One of the things i'd like to mention this month is the need to take care on our roads, more frequently i am seeing restrictions on the mountain road that are requiring light 4wd's to use chains, this should be taken as a warning, just because it's 4wd doesn't make it invincible, it is the stop start nature of mountain traffic that presents the problem, you may have traction fine while you are moving, but having to stop in the wrong place on the road can make it awkward getting started, It may be worth a quick browse on trademe for a second hand pair of chains you can throw in the boot to save yourself from an interesting parking spot and a long walk!

Hopefully all who purchased season passes are making the most of them and starting to clock off the days, i know some of you have got your money's worth out of them already, Keep up the good work and look forward to seeing you up there.

Stay safe, till next time, Rob.

Snowcraft 2009

Contributed by Howard Nicholson

email dowson_kr@hotmail.com or phone (06) 355 5496

MTSC has not scheduled any further alpine instruction courses this year, however PNTMC has kindly offered to

accept people who have covered the basic skills onto their intermediate and advanced courses in August – see:

www.pntmc.org.nz/courses

New Members

The club welcomes the following new members. We look forward to seeing you out on a tramp or up at the lodge.

Brendon Donald (PN)

Gavin & Yvonne Butterfield & family (Levin)

Rebecca Fryett & Gareth Fergus (PN)

Leigh & Rachel Smethurst & family (PN)

David Pollard (PN)

John Anson & Michelle Wheatley (PN)

Warren & Marie McGrath & family (PN)

Louise Olsen & Cameron Burton (PN)

Michael & Teresa Pickford & family (PN)

Blair & Nicky Hiscoke (Wellington)

Thomas Underhill & Hyacinthe van Veen & family (Wellington).

MTSC Photo Competition

Contributed by Howard Nicholson

On 1 September 2009 you can see your pictures on the big screen! That's right, it's time for the MTSC Photo Competition once more. The best three pictures in each category will go forward to the interclub competition with PNTMC and MUAC. As in past years, the categories will be:

Alpine (NZ)

Predominantly alpine scenery in NZ (ie above bushline rock and snow)



The new Atiwhakatu Hut

(Photo: Keith Fisher | Atiwhakatu Hut Trip | 2 July 2009)

Scenic (NZ)

Pictorial interest in NZ hills etc (ie predominantly below the bushline)

Natural History (NZ)

NZ flora and fauna or detail, eg geology, ice formations etc)

Topical (NZ)

People or detail related to tramping, climbing, or skiing related activities in NZ

Overseas (Open)

Alpine or scenic; People met while tramping or climbing overseas.

Entries shall not have been entered in a previous Interclub Competition. If possible, please send your digital picture entries, along with a title and/or brief description, to me by the **30 August**, on CD (call me so that I know when to expect them – 357 6325) or email to photocomp@mtsc.org.nz so that they can be arranged into categories and tested prior to the night. I can also scan slides if you wish, provided I have them by 28 August.

Walk the Wild Side of the Gorge

Contributed by Brent Barrett

Isn't it time you enjoyed a date with nature? Stretch your legs and mind this winter with a day walk through the gorgeous Gorge, guided by our top field botanists. Whether you're new to the area, an experienced trampler just wanting to know your native plants a bit better, or you're just getting into walks in the hill country, this is a challenging and fun day out you're sure to enjoy. Forest & Bird Manawatu invites you to join our fun and convenient adventure on Sunday 16 August, with return bus service from Palmerston North that takes you to the Ashhurst track end and collects you on the Tararua end outside the Beyond the Bridge Café. You will be guided by Forest & Bird members Adrian Cookson and Vivien McGlynn, both with an expert knowledge of the plant and animal life of the area, and some good knowledge of the geological and modern history as well. You will be prepared for a 4 to 6 hour walk, and bring your own lunch, suitable clothing, and strong footwear. The trip is limited to 40 people, and run in association with the Department of Conservation. Tickets are just \$16 including all transport and a full day of fun, available from the Palmerston North iSite on palmerstonnorth@i-site.org or (06) 350 1922. Postponement date 30 August. *Editor's note: this walk is run at a leisurely pace so there will be plenty of stopping to look and talk about plants and animals, it won't be a race so dress appropriately.*

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.

TRIP SAFETY

Trip leaders are reminded that trip intentions can be emailed to 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.

Mangatainoka Hot Springs

8-9 August

Tim Swale

Easy

06 376 6556

A long drive up to the Kawekas (about 3½ hours) but a wonderful winter walk with hot pools to end the day. The intention is to leave vehicles at the Mangatutu Hot Springs and walk about 2½ hours to Te Pui Lodge. We can drop off overnight gear and head on up to the Mangatainoka Hot Springs about another 45 mins. upstream for a soak.. A torch will be needed for the walk back to the hut in the dark. On Sunday if the weather is suitable for tops travel I hope to return via Makino Biv. If not we will retrace our steps back along the Mohaka to the road end and a final dip in the hot pool before leaving for home. Phone or email theswales@xtra.co.nz if interested.

Arawaru (Baldy) Trig

9 August

Gary Bevins

Medium

325 8879

We travel up Scotts Road to the locked gate, entering Gordon Kear Forest. An old farm track takes us to the bush edge. When we find the beginning of the track, battle our way to the Trig. From leaving the vehicle to the Trig should take about 3 hours. We can return via a different route, hopefully it will be a day of approximately 7 hours. This is if we can manage to stay on the track, if not who knows, so you had better bring a torch just in case.

Wednesday Trampers

12 August

Colleen Newth

Easy/Medium

358 8801

Phone for more details.

Thursday Trampers

13 August

Merv Matthews

Easy/Medium

357 2858

Phone for more details.

Waikamaka Hut

15-16 August

Jenny McCarthy

Medium

06 376 8838

The weather will determine the route to Waikamaka. We will be going up to the Waipawa Saddle. If the weather is good we will go up to the Johns and around the tops towards the Rangī Saddle and down to the hut. We will go to the hut by the direct route if the weather is unpleasant. If its awful the destination could change.

Wednesday Trampers

19 August

Rosemary & Ken Hall

Easy/Medium

356 8538

Phone for more details.

Thursday Trampers

20 August

Carolyn Brodie

Easy/Medium

358 6576

Phone for more details.

North Range Road

23 August

Linda Campbell

Bike/Walk

323 3836

This is an interesting 25 km ride or walk from the top of the Pahiatua Track to Balance Domain. It takes about six hours to walk and three hours to ride. It is mostly gravel road with some 4WD track. It is quite exposed now that much of the forest has been cut down so appropriate gear needs to be carried. At the completion of the ride or walk there will be a stop at the café for coffee and cake.

Wednesday Trampers

26 August

Don McDonald

Easy/Medium

357 0222

Phone for more details.



Heading up to Wooden Peg

(Photo: Jean Garman | Pourangaki Trip | 11-12 July 2009)

Thursday Trampers

27 August

Harry & Chris Allardice

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

323 4390

Iron Gate Hut

29-30 August

Adam Matich

Iron Gate Hut is in the Western Ruahines somewhere beyond Apiti and the tramp in is a medium-grade trip because there are lots of ups and downs, some stream crossings, and some slips.

We start off from the Heritage Road end and pass through Heritage Lodge (30 min), which was renamed to something else I can't remember when it was rebuilt after the fire, and then from there we take the side track all the way up and down along the Oroua River to Iron Gate Hut for the night.

All up it is a 3-4 hour trip. Next day we do it in reverse. The day lengths will not be great, so we will have plenty of time for sloth at the hut on Saturday afternoon and evening. Don't forget to bring some kindling along to help get the fire started!

Medium

359 2796

Wednesday Trampers

2 September

Liz Flint

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

356 7654

Thursday Trampers

3 September

Ann Green

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

(06) 374 5208

Ski Ngauruhoe

5-6 September

Peter Rawlins

This is a great opportunity if you have never climbed Ngauruhoe. Each year we get some people who just want

Technical

356 7443

to climb and others who want to ski down as well (it is not that hard a ski).

We will base ourselves at Mangatepopo hut for the weekend and, weather dependent, climb Ngauruhoe on the Saturday and Tongariro on the Sunday. You will need ice axe and crampon skills. I will be away in the South Island the week before so ring me on 027 678 0747 or email me on p.rawlins@massey.ac.nz

Wellington Skyline Walk

6 September

David Newstead

Phone for more details.

Easy

(027) 457 6175

Wednesday Trampers

9 September

Rose Strahan

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

328 9861

Thursday Trampers

10 September

Stuart Malcolm

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

358 3409

Skiing at the Lodge

12-13 September

Christine Scott

Come and have a weekend in the snow - you don't have to be a ski bunny to come on this trip - anything goes as long as you like snow. We will leave at approx 5.30pm on Friday night.

All

354 0510

Whakapapaiti Hut

12-13 September

John Doolan

This is an easy graded trip with the add-on of an overnight stay on the western slopes of Ruapehu. No big hills to climb! Suitable for those wishing to have their first night in a hut in the snow (there should be snow the way winter is heading this year).

Easy

(027) 457 6175

The hut will be warm once the log fire is roaring and the toilets have tiled floors! There is a bunk room for the snorers and a big platform sleeping space for the rest of us. The sign post says 2-3 hours but if there is a bit of snow on the way, it might be more like 3.5 hours.

We will leave from 24 Montana Way in Milson at 8.00am and travel to the Whakapapa Visitor Centre via the coffee shop at Ohakune for morning tea. If we are on the track at 12 we will be able to be in the hut, fire going, rested and socializing by 4 pm. Book your spot by e-mailing me at john.doolan@inspire.net.nz or hopefully catching me on 0274 468 740. Bound to have a full van on this popular trip so don't delay, first in get the best beds.

Wednesday Trampers

16 September

Pam Wilson

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

357 6247

Thursday Trampers

17 September

John McLeod

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

323 5785

Explore the valley beyond the Pinnacles

19-20 September

Rob Pringle

A day trip exploring the valley behind pinnacle ridge is planned to see what lies beyond, There is a rumor of a skiable route back to the area behind meads wall with a short walk out for those that are interested in a wander. Ski touring gear was going to be taken in case the route out does not make it's self known, may head out slightly lower depending on snow levels.

Technical/Ski Touring

358 3319

Cow Creek Hut

19-20 September

Doug McNeur

Phone for more details.

Technical/Ski Touring

359 1893

Wednesday Trampers

23 September

Judy Callesen

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

357 0192

Thursday Trampers

24 September

John Thornley

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

356 9681

Te Atuaoparapara

27 September

Jenny McCarthy

As this could be long day we will be leaving PN at 7am.

We will walk up to Sunrise then through the Armstrong saddle and up onto Te Atuaoparapara from there down to the Waipawa Saddle down the river and back to the car.

We will only be able to do this if the weather cooperates.

The technical covers the possible need to use crampons and ice axes if the snow stays around this long.

Medium/Technical

(06) 376 8838

Sunrise Hut

27 September

Royce Mills

We are combining transport with Jenny's more adventurous trip to Te Atuaoparapara. Sunrise hut is a popular destination, and deservedly so, as the track is well graded and the bush and views are pleasant.

If weather permits we can head up to Armstrong saddle, and perhaps on to spot height 1499m from which

Easy/Medium

358 4398



A possum at Waihohonu Springs

(Photo: Adam Matich | Oturere Trip | 25-26 July 2009)



Ngauruhoe behine Oturere Hut (Photo: Adam Matich | Oturere Trip | 25-26 July 2009)

Trip Reports

Apiti Track

1 July

by Pauline Hall

There were 21 trampers on this trip. We started off from Norswood on an overcast day. This track was originally meant to go over the ranges to Apiti but it was never completed.

The track was muddy to start with as it crossed farm land. We entered virgin bush and it rose gently up hill. After about two hours we reached a grassy bank where we had hoped to have great views over Hawkes Bay. Unfortunately it was showery and overcast so we had no view. We split into two groups some went on and other made their way down.

We can recommend the cafe at Norsewood for their home made cakes and pies. When 20 of us walked in they were unfazed and we all got served promptly.

Leader: Pauline Hall

Atiwhakatu Hut

2 July

by Keith Fisher

We headed off for the new Atiwhakatu Hut in good weather. It had been opened 2 weeks previously. Usually we have Thursday in the hills to ourselves but this week there were several other groups checking out the new hut. It looked a great hut. 12 beds, double glazing plus a wood burner. With the sun behind the hills it was rather dark inside. Some bench seats outside would be a good idea. After that we headed off for the swing bridge that crosses the river just before the climb over the range to Mitre Flats Hut. After lunch at the swing bridge we headed back to the van. There were 14 of us and the tramp took us just under the 6 hours.

Pourangaki Hut

11-12 July

by Jean Garman

There seems to be a lack of winter overnight tramps on the trip card which may explain why 10 people lined up to go on this one. The forecast was looking OK for Saturday but appalling for Sunday but still they wanted to

come. My suggestions that if the snow was good (ha ha) we might make the hut mid-late afternoon and if it wasn't that they'd better have their torches handy put off no one. My threats of it being a six bunk hut and some people would have to sleep outside had no effect. In the end it took a spousal ruptured appendix to drop our numbers to nine.

As we drove up on Saturday morning the ranges were in full view under a high overcast sky, it looked to be a stunning day with not a breath of wind. The lack of wind caused the sweat to flow freely as we made our way up to Purity Hut where we stopped for an early-ish lunch and a hot drink. It was actually comparatively warmish outside the hut with still not a breath of wind to stir the odd tussock leaf sticking up through the snow. Other people at the hut had been up to check out the trig so we had a good set of footprints to follow through the snow all the way to Iron Peg. Ken took pleasure in using his snow shoes but as it was pretty good footing for the rest of us in very dry snow I am not convinced they gave him an advantage under these conditions.

From Iron Peg things weren't quite so easy. The cloud that was lapping in from the east was covering the Hawkes Bay ridge, there were no longer any footprints to follow and a biting cold wind started to rime people's clothes/packs/eyebrows. Our lead team of Janet, Graham and Ivan put in a sterling effort in navigating along the ridge, at times in a complete white out where care was needed to not physically mis-step and fall off the ridge. Walking sticks can be very useful for poking in front of you to figure out where the ground is. The navigation (map and compass backed up with Ken's GPS) was right on the ball, when we reached where we thought the turn off should be (sign well and truly buried) the murk peeled back at the last minute and we could see the ridge down. We could also see that the sun was in the process of setting - where did the time go? At the bush edge we stopped for a quick nibble and to get out torches then carried on down.

The snow carried on for a fair distance under the trees which enhanced the light from our torches even if it was rather slippery/icy in places. Unfortunately it didn't go all



Malcolm, Jean and Jenny plodding up to Wooden Peg
(Photo: Rod Knight | Pourangaki Trip | 11-12 July 2009)

the way to the bottom and things got a lot slower further down. On reaching the stream the lead team spotlighted a hind, while 2 held her in the thrall of their head torches the third tried to sneak round behind to grab her. Unfortunately both the deer and Graham proved to be unlucky. While Graham did manage to grab a back leg the back leg turned out to not be all there and his hand slipped off the bony remnant. The 3 legged deer beat a much panicked and rather ungainly retreat. Eventually we all had struggled up the final climb and made it to Pourangki hut, the last getting through the door some time after 7 pm. It used to be a 6 bunker but luckily when it was upgraded it was changed to platform beds so there were 8 mattresses making it not too bad a squeeze for the 9 of us. Not surprisingly there was no one else there and in fact according to the log book nobody had been there since April. Many hot drinks were consumed before dinner was cooked and dispatched and an attempt on desert was made. Every one was finally chased off to bed a little before 10 pm.

It snowed in the night. It was snowing hard in the morning and the wind was roaring somewhere above us so after a long and thoughtful discussion we moved to plan B. Plan A had involved not getting our feet wet (a very desirable thing in winter) but the gale force winds and almost certain white out on the tops meant plan B aka the freezing cold river was a safer option. The water was cold but not too unbearable although the waist deep wade didn't go down well with anyone. We even spotted another deer, it was lying down in the river completely naked (skin but no hair). It hadn't been shot so showed what a hard winter it was being for the local animals. Rod pocketed the eye teeth which apparently are more tusks that teeth and as such made of ivory. It took 2 ½ hours to reach Kelly Knight and the bridge was a very welcome sight as the very frequent river crossings were starting to take a toll on the less well padded members of the party. We stopped in at the hut to put on a few more dry clothes and have some food and a hot drink before carrying on

out to the farmland. As the farmer had warned the paddocks were a tad muddy (torn up ex-turnip paddocks) then it was just a long slog back through the race to the cars. While the race was still solid enough to drive on there was nowhere solid to park off the race or even turn around so we hadn't been able to use a vehicle to shorten this part of the trip but at least it wasn't snowing/raining. Thanks to everyone for being so staunch on what proved to be a rather longer and wetter trip than anticipated, winter trips can be a bit unpredictable and that can be half the fun... We were Jenny McCarthy, Janet Wilson, Graham Peters, Rod Knight, Greg Dobson, Ken Mercer, Malcolm Thomas, Ivan Rienks and Jean Garman.

Paengaroa Reserve 22 July

by Rita Hodson

Paengaroa Reserve by the village of Mataroa is an inland island of 107 ha about 8km north west of Taihape. It is managed by DOC for the concentration of rare plants that grow there.

20 trampers walked around the main DOC trap line (about 3 hours noting the rare plants and some of the larger trees still in the reserve, slippery in places but we all got through.

The weather stayed lovely and sunny (in an otherwise wet Manawatu) and we all enjoyed the day.

Oturere Hut 25-26 July

by Kim Fraser (Leader of easy/medium group)

Our trip started before sunrise on what promised to be a clear day and an unusually fine weekend, by the time we arrived in Taihape for a much needed breakky stop the weather was looking pretty good and the amount of snow on the lower part of the mountain was looking a little disappointing. After our scenic drive around Mt Ruapehu to deliver the fitter party at their Mangatepopo roadend,

then finally round to our Waihohonu carpark we were pretty eager to get going before the sun disappeared. The icy, watery, muddy track to the new Waihohonu hut only claimed one of our party but she was still smiling after she pulled herself out we carried on to lunch and hot drink at the new hut, then a rather pleasant, sunny stroll saw us arrive at Oturere hut in time for afternoon tea and relaxing while waiting for the other party to arrive. Sunday morning we woke to a bumper frost (well i thought so it was probably rather mild in Tongariro terms) and a leisurely start saw us crunching through pretty frosty formations and bathing in sunlight most of the trip back but this time one of the mostly frozen streams claimed at least one member of the party. At morning tea time the two groups split into a mix of fit and medium trampers who wandered up the the springs for a looksy and the rest of us continued along the track then onto a modest off track route to meet the other party at the old Waihohonu hut for lunch in the sun before returning to the van. We were Kim Fraser, Adam Matich, Lorraine Cook and Nicola Wallace.

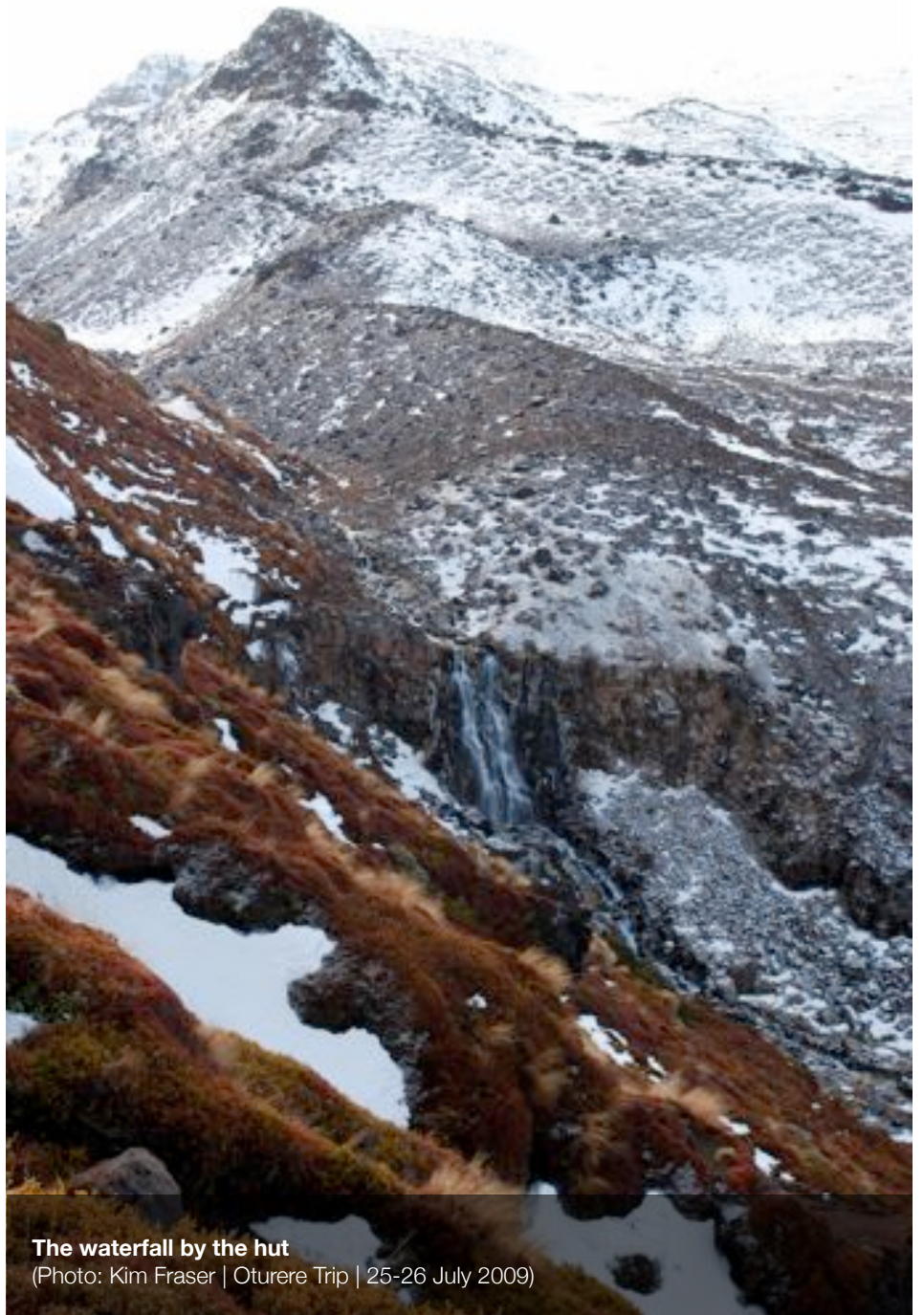
Oturere Hut

25-26 July

by **Jenny McCarthy (Leader of Medium/Technical group)**

Thank you to Kim's group for dropping us off at the Mangatapopo road end before continuing around to the Wihohonu road end.

It was a perfect winters day sun and no wind. We set off for our first objective Pukekaikioire none of us had been up onto the peak before, other people had though there was a padded track up along the ridge. At the top we stopped to enjoy the view, take photos, eat lunch and put on our crampons. the snow was very firm and icy. We descended from the peak and then sidled around towards the flat area above the Tama Lakes. Once down to this area we removed our crampons which made travel much faster. We went across country to intersect the track that was coming down from Red Crater to Oturere



The waterfall by the hut

(Photo: Kim Fraser | Oturere Trip | 25-26 July 2009)

Hut. this involved a couple of ups and downs that always seem bigger at the end of the day. Once we had descended into the Oturere Valley we made our way down to the hut... We got there with a little bit of daylight to spare. The other group were there waiting and we soon had a hot drink ready for us. We were Jenny McCarthy Jean Garman David and Debbie Harrington.

Sunday we all made our way to the Waihohonu road end via the old Waihohonu Hut. I went with Kim, Nicola and Debbie and we followed the track until we could see the hut we then went across country and managed to get across the streams with dry feet. After lunch in the sun on the lawn of the hut we made our way back to the van.

New Atiwhakatu Hut II

28-29 July

by **Bev Akers**

Eleven of us were off to spend a night at the new hut, but first we had to stop off at Masterton. I wanted Subway for my tea, which turned out to be quite an education for others, being their first time having Subway. Pam ordered a 6" for her tea but coz it looked so nice, it was eaten on the spot. Liz reassured Pam that

she had enough tea in her pack for 2. Some bought Subway while others had organized their own food for tea.

But we needed a coffee fix and lunch, so on to a café towards the end of town. Liz directed us to the café that Peter Jackson used (catering for his workers, while building his home) – so the story goes, ah Liz. Finally we got to Holdsworth car park with only 4 vehicles there, so we felt confident that we would have a bed.

All of us excited about being on an over nighter, had a very enjoyable 2½ hr walk in to the hut. Arrived at 4 pm as the guys were cranking up the fire. Looked very cozy and we were the only ones there - yah ! This is a great hut, with easy access for all, with a chance to experience hut life. But we found it rather dark inside though.

We all enjoyed our drinks, meal and Dave's fruit cake. Out came the cards. There was a corner of Bridge players, a group talking about their cats, who shower with them, while I took to the bunk after a hectic day.

After awhile they retired to bed, but some, not mentioning any names, continued to entertain with various tones and pitches through the night. It was all too much for Dave, who moved out onto the deck.

Don must have wet the bed, as he was up early, boiling the Billy. By 8 am, nine of us were on our way up the Raingauge Spur track to Jumbo Hut for morning tea, while 2 stayed back at the hut and took a short walk up stream. Snow on the track before the bush edge made it rather chilly. Brew at the hut, but soon after, returned back down to Atiwhakatu.

By the time we arrived back down after the steep descent, we were greeted by nine Wednesday day trippers – real gathering of the clang.

For a brief time, there were all 20 at the hut, then in drips & drabs all headed out to car park. We passed a group of youths, plus their leaders going in for the night. They were most impressed that these guys had gone to Jumbo for a cuppa this morning. Our age group between 53 – 78 yrs, pretty good really.

Made it back to Mt. Bruce Café, just in time for a coffee (4 pm). We were; Ivan Alve, Liz Flint, Margaret Foot, Lorraine Green, Rita & Arthur Hodson, Don MacDonald, Pam Wilson, Dave Pollard, Mike Oliver & Bev Akers

Wed & Thu Trampers Trips

Wednesday Tramps

July	1	Apiti Track (20)
	8	Tunupo Track (14)
	15	Back Track (18)
	22	Paengaroa Reserve - Taihape (19)
	28-29	New Atiwhakatu Hut (overnight)
	29	Atiwhakatu Hut

Thursday Trampers

July	2	New Atiwhakatu Hut
	9	Hemi Matenga Track
	16	Makahika Track (Shannon end to lookout)
	23	

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



Lunch at the Old Waihothonu Hut

(Photo: Kim Fraser | Oturere Trip | 25-26 July 2009)

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 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@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@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@mtsc.org.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 2009-10 Committee

President	Ken Mercer	356 7497 president@mtsc.org.nz
Secretary	Tim Swale	06 376 6556
Treasurer	Christine Scott	354 0510 treasurer@mtsc.org.nz
Chief Guide	Kim Fraser	355 5496
Day Trip Convenor	Bev Akers	325 8879
Membership Sec.	Jenny McCarthy	06 376 8838 membership@mtsc.org.nz
Newsletter Editor	Wei-Hang Chua	021 212 0369 editor@mtsc.org.nz
Social Convenor	Rochelle Beaumont	
Ski Captain	Rob Pringle	358 3319
Lodge Manager	Ryan Badger	027 445 1997
Lodge Booking Officers	Hugh & Liz Wilde	356 9450 lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz
Mini-bus Custodian	Adam Matich	359 2796
General Committee	David Newstead	025 576 175
	Geraldine Fovakis	356 4327
	Linda Campbell	323 3836
Imm. Past President	Howard Nicholson	357 6325