

April 2010  
Issue 04

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**Adam, David and Jenny looking at the top of Te Hekenga.**  
(Photo: Jean Garman | Triangle Loop Track | 6-7 February 2010)

## Upcoming club nights

### Trip Card Meeting+DoC+Minibus Training

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

#### **11th March - Winter Trip Card Meeting**

There will be a Trip Card meeting on Thursday the 11th of March (7 - 8.30 pm) at Howard's place (26 Epsom Rd, Palmerston North). If you can't make it but want to lead or suggest a trip please ring or email Kim on 355 5496 / [dowson\\_kr@hotmail.com](mailto:dowson_kr@hotmail.com)

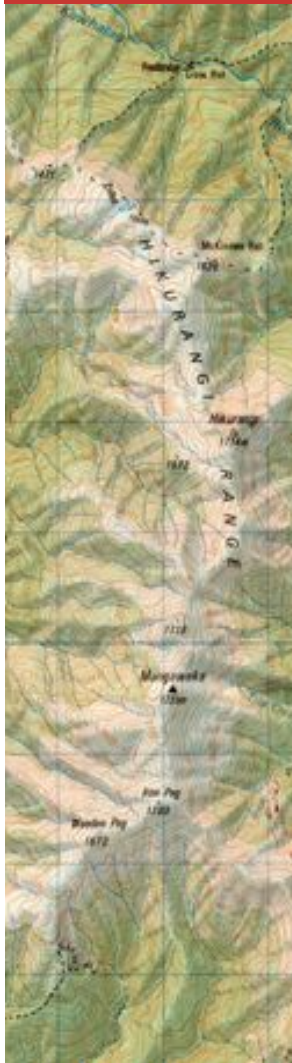
#### **6th April - The Department Of Conservation In The Manawatu Region**

Jason Roxburgh, the Area Manager for DOC be speaking to us on what DOC is about and what they are doing in the Manawatu.

#### **Attention MTSC Minibus Drivers.**

#### **30th March - MTSC Minibus Driver Refresher Course (Extra Club Night!)**

The Committee invites you to a driving refresher course to be held at an extra club meeting night on Tuesday 30th March, to be given by an experienced professional driving instructor. This refresher course is primarily intended for all MTSC Minibus drivers, but all members are welcome to attend. In fact it will be beneficial for all club members to attend for two good reasons: firstly, our instructor will be giving out useful tips for anybody who drives, particularly on hilly country roads; and secondly, it is desirable that all minibus passengers have some idea of what our drivers should (or should not) be doing whilst driving up to 12 people and their equipment in a vehicle significantly wider, longer and heavier than a car. (Did you know that 12 adults and their day packs weigh around one ton, and with the empty vehicle weight of around 2.5 tonnes, the all-up load is 3.5 tonnes?). The safety of our members is a priority for the Club, and all drivers and potential drivers are urged to attend this course. So please come along and hear what our instructor has to say. Everybody will learn something. For further info please contact Hugh Wilde, Ph 356 9450.



# President's Report

by Ken Mercer

email [president@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:president@mtsc.org.nz) or phone (06) 356 7497 or (027) 364 6475

I've received quite a lengthy email from "C" who describes in great detail the "adventure" her group of four had whilst on the club trip to Mayor Island. It's a tale of dehydration, wasps, cramp, and a very long, but fortunately warm, night. The rest of the party alerted SAR and conducted a limited search in the evening. With an early start the following morning they found the group before 8am, allowing SAR to stand down.

Trip leaders in the MTSC like people to enjoy their trips and clearly that didn't happen this time. So what went wrong? One mistake was setting off on a six hour tramp with only 600 ml of water between four people. Not smart, but even experienced trampers can find themselves thirsty as happened when a team on a recent SARX climbed from a stream without first topping up their supplies.

I think also the trip was seen by the entire party as cruisey and some of the usual "do you have everything?" didn't happen. After all it was summer, the weather was good and how could one get lost on an island? However, "be prepared" applies to a stroll and our trip cards have a list of things to carry. Some are for comfort and others for contingencies. Although the group had a map they were ill equipped to spend the night out.

But they're not alone in making mistakes. We've just had a glorious weekend climbing Taranaki, along with several hundred others. A few of them were foolish enough to climb in jeans but the one who takes the cake was descending from the top wearing jandals!

It's still lovely weather. Do make the most of it, be prepared, and don't rely on luck to get you home!

## Chief Guide's Report

by Kim Fraser

email [dowson\\_kr@hotmail.com](mailto:dowson_kr@hotmail.com) or phone (06) 355 5496

I am starting to make preparations for the winter trip card, hopefully this newsletter on gets out on time but there will be a trip card meeting on Thursday 11 March 7:00pm at Howard's place - 26 Epsom Road, Palmerston North. If you miss the meeting please ring or email me your trips or ideas and we'll sort something from there. With that thought Winter is approaching (hopefully its arrival will be later due to its late exit last year) which means good chance of bad weather disrupting plans just like any other time of year, but with careful planning and a little common sense a sudden change in weather should ensure that everything works out. Just remember always plan and carry gear for the worst possible conditions, and just because you are experienced it doesn't make you immune to things going wrong so think twice before you consider packing lightly even if it is only an easy or short trip.

## Lodge Work Party

by Ryan Badger

email [farmboy\\_ryan@hotmail.com](mailto:farmboy_ryan@hotmail.com) or phone (027) 445 1997

As many of you will know the last two Christmas breaks have seen bunkrooms 1-4 and the drying room get a major re-vamp and they are now looking really good! However with a few of us being a bit busy during the Christmas just been we decided to have a break from what had become the annual lodge work party. The remaining rooms 5 and 6 are still on the cards for this year with the aim of having them completed for the up and coming ski season so we've formulated a plan!

Starting Easter Friday we are holding a work party at the lodge with the intention of gutting, relining and installing new bunks in the remaining two bunk rooms. There will also be plenty of painting to be done outside if the weather is up to it and just a general clean and tidy up. This won't be an all work and no play trip however as we have penciled in a walk to the crater on Sunday for those who are keen.

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If you'd like to receive your newsletter by email as a pdf in full colour rather than by post then please send an email request to [editor@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:editor@mtsc.org.nz).

If you have a change of contact details please email the club membership secretary at [membership@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:membership@mtsc.org.nz) as well as copying the message to [editor@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:editor@mtsc.org.nz).

**Items for the newsletter:** The deadline for newsletter items is the end of the month. Please include a date with trip reports. Photos are appreciated, any number of images at a resolution of 1024x768 or greater if possible. For example a 2 megapixel image is 1600 x 1200 pixels. Please include the date and an appropriate caption for the photo.



The come home date hasn't been set yet as we will play it by ear but at a guess it will either Thursday or Friday the following week.

So if you are free any time between the 2nd - 8th or 9th of April and would like to lend a hand with demolition, painting, cleaning, cooking, or building then please let me know, We would love to see you there!

## Item Found In Minibus

A small black leather wallet containing what appeared to be 'house keys' was found on Wednesday 24 February in the back of the minibus. Please contact the minibus custodian if this is your's, or contact Dave Pollard.

## Members In The Kaweka Challenge

Contributed by Tony Gates

MTSC competitors in the Outdoor.co.nz Kaweka Challenge 2010. Yvette Cottam and Royce Mills enjoyed near perfect conditions on this classic mountain run, as the photo suggests (just Royce in this photo along with fellow competitors). For those who know this area, the Kaweka Range provides excellent terrain for many activities, and those crazy enough to enter the Kaweka Challenge can enjoy it at a more rapid pace than usual. Both Royce and Yvette are regulars here.



## More GeoCaching Information

Contributed by Royce Mills

For those that enjoyed our introduction to geocaching at Ashhurst Domain here are a few tips to take it further.

Go to the website [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) Go to "Getting started" and register.

You will need to choose a user name (these are generally geeky and obscure e.g. I am edvern).

There is no cost, and there are no traps. Being a user will enable you to see a lot more information and allow you to search for nearby caches.

There are plenty of caches to find on local walks - the Gorge track and the Sledge track for instance. Further afield there are caches on the Maharahara track, Sixtus Lodge area, Longview hut, Purity hut, Sunrise hut to name a few. There is a generous sprinkling of them in the Tararuas as well. There are heaps in Palmerston North city - some of which involve some walking, others will take you to secret spots that you may not have visited before.

A reminder that you will need to work in lat / long. If you need to change it will be Menu > Setup > Units (or something similar, depending on your model of GPS) Change to: hddd mm.mmm

Have fun, and a warning, geocaching can be very addictive!

## Didymo

Contributed by Jean Garman

*The following is taken from an email from David Moss (Technical Support Officer - Freshwater Aquatic Pests, Department of Conservation)*

The North Island is still didymo free, so it is timely to remind your members that the "Check Clean Dry" process is still vitally important in keeping the North Island didymo free.

With the rapidly approaching Easter break, being a traditional time for South Island trips, I would like to draw your attention to some new "tramping and hunting" based information and resources that MAFBNZ have available.

MAFBNZ are the lead agency for Didymo awareness and response. Their website <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/didymo> has the most up to date information on how to decontaminate items that have been exposed to freshwater. It also has maps of where didymo is currently found (but that should be treated as indicative only, because testing on rivers is carried out at different time intervals). It is best to assume that all freshwater you enter may have didymo in it, and that the next river has none. MAFBNZ have specific tramping sized spray bottles (250 ml), eco friendly detergent for decontamination, brochures and some treats for those following the "Check Clean Dry" method.

It would be sensible for each club to hold a supply of equipment suitable for decontaminating equipment while on a trip and also to consider how to decontaminate equipment when it returns from the South Island.

Specific didymo information is on the DOC website <http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/threats-and-impacts/biosecurity/didymo/> that also links to some areas that have specific didymo controls to protect special areas (Fiordland and Stewart Island).

# 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.

### Wednesday Trampers

10 March

Ivan Alve

Please call for more details.

Easy/Medium  
356 3123

### Thursday Trampers

11 March

John Thornley

Please call for more details.

Medium  
356 9681

### Totara Flats

13-14 March

Duncan Fraser

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium  
355 5496

### Wednesday Trampers

17 March

John Hunt

Please call for more details.

Easy/Medium  
324 0339

### Thursday Trampers

18 March

Bryan Evans

Please call for more details.

Medium  
323 7614

### Hikurangi Stream

20-21 March

David Harrington

Starting from the road bridge at the confluence of Hikurangi Stream, we will follow the stream up for its full length. Easy travel to waterfall at 615899 (BK36) then expect plenty of waterfalls, deep pools, steep sidings and leather bashing and a long day to arrive just south of Hikurangi high point. Sunday is back down track to cableway and down the Kawhatau River to start. Please avoid wet shorts!

Fit  
(06) 839 5766

### Kiritaki Hut

21 March

Hugh Wilde

We'll leave the Police Station at 8 AM Sunday morning. Kiritaki Hut is in the Eastern Ruahines a bit north of Woodville. We will do a round trip, up through the bush, returning to the roadend via the stream.

Medium  
356 9450

### Wednesday Trampers

24 March

Lorraine Green

Please call for more details.

Easy/Medium  
354 6158

### Thursday Trampers

25 March

Jill Spencer

Please call for more details.

Medium  
329 8738

### Waterfall Hut

27-28 March (Note date change)

Jenny McCarthy

We will be going to Waterfall hut via the Waipawa Saddle the Three John and Rangi Saddle, weather permitting. On Sunday we will come out via Waikamaka hut unless anyone wants to make other suggestion.

Medium/Fit  
(06) 376 8838

### Burtons Track

28 March

Mary Mercer

This track runs south from the Gordon Kear Forest on Scotts Road, initially along the Kahuterawa Stream then into Tararua Forest Park and along the Tokomaru River, eventually to a car park off Mangahao Road. The Tokomaru River is crossed twice so wet boots will be hard to avoid. The track is a 17 km stretch of the Te Araroa Walkway. The walk should take about six hours but the

Medium  
356 7497

car shuttle will take quite some time so we will need to make an early start.

**Wednesday Trampers**

**31 March**

**Margaret Gillingham**

Please call for more details.

**Easy/Medium**

**356 8812**

**Thursday Trampers**

**1 April**

**Keith Fisher**

Please call for more details.

**Medium**

**357 1724**

**Northern Kawekas**

**2-5 April**

**Kim Fraser**

Please call for more details.

**Medium**

**355 5496**

**Te Matawai Work Party**

**10-11 April (Note date change)**

**Jean Garman**

Its that time of year again for our annual trip to Te Matawai hut to at the very least hack and slash the vegetation, chop the firewood and scrub the hut. Not all the details are sorted out yet but there may be a limit on numbers in which case preference is given to regular work party attendees. Guaranteed to be lots of good food and company.

**Hard Work**

**354 3536**

**Fenceline Walk/Geocache**

**11 April**

**Christine Scott**

The Fenceline Loop is a 1.5 – 2 hr return trip that passes through regenerating forest above the campground and gives some good views of the Waitotauru Valley. We will also visit a geocache on the way so bring your GPS if you have one. We will leave the Police Station at 8am.

**Very Easy**

**354 0510**

**Makawakawa Stream**

**17-18 April**

**David Harrington**

From Pohangina Valley East Road follow Makawakawa stream up past Diggers Hut and on into the headwaters which may involve waterfalls, deep pools, steep sidlings and leatherwood bashing. Out via Takapari Rd and ridge track down to Diggers and down stream. Another option is from Takapari Road, down ridge track to Diggers and up Makawakawa headwaters which would make a shorter trip.

**Fit**

**(06) 839 5766**

**Roaring Stag Hut**

**24-25 April**

**Duncan Fraser**

Please call for more details.

**Easy**

**355 5496**

**Mangaweka Trig**

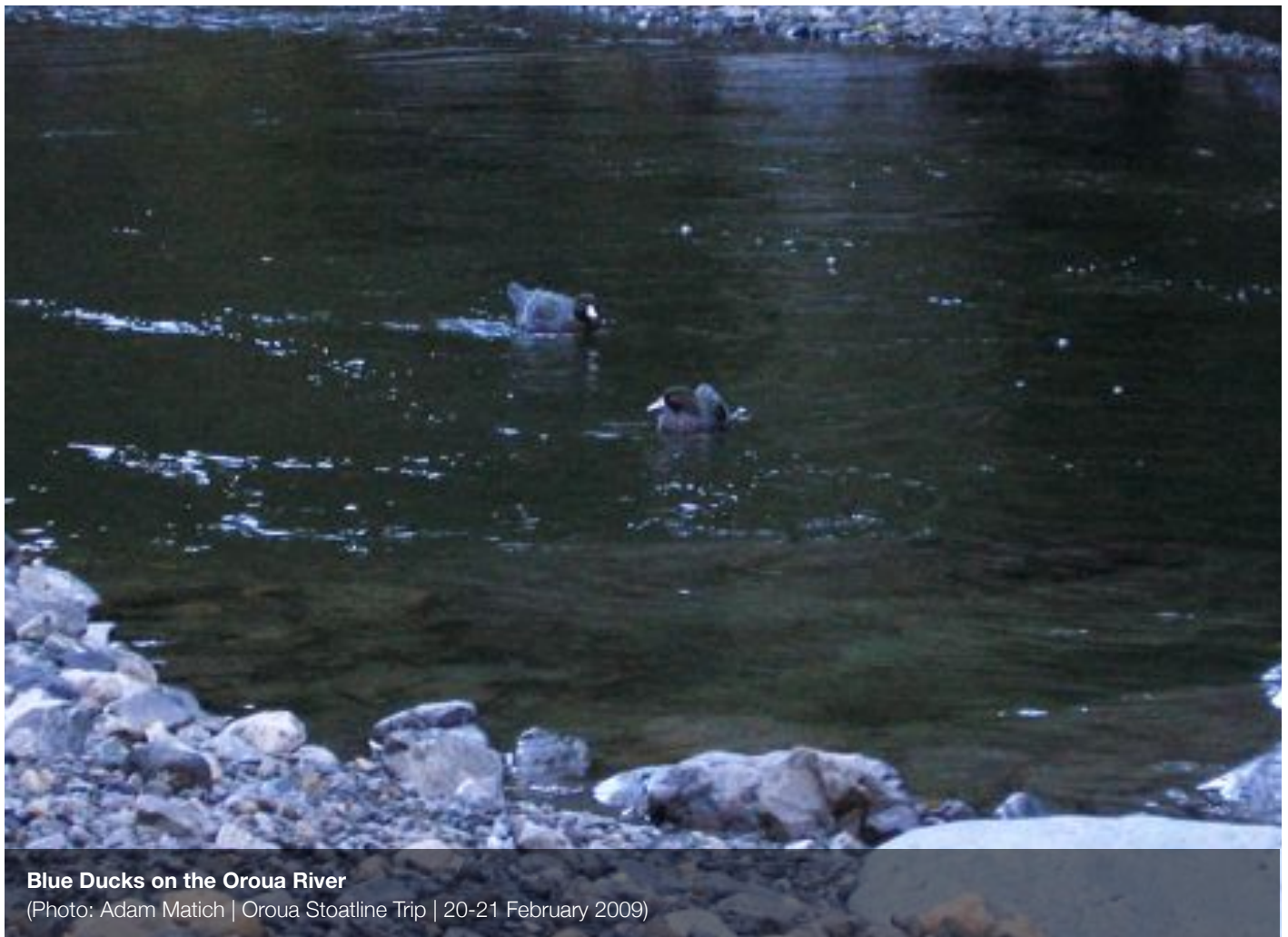
**25 April**

**Hugh Wilde**

Please call for more details.

**Medium**

**356 9450**



**Blue Ducks on the Oroua River**

(Photo: Adam Matich | Oroua Stoatline Trip | 20-21 February 2009)





David, Jenny and Adam heading down Deadmans Ridge on a sunny Sunday afternoon

(Photo: Jean Garman | Triangle Loop Trip | 6-7 February 2009)

## Trip Reports

### Parks Peak / North Ohau Hut 30-31 January

by Bev Akers

Due to the lousy weather forecast (rising water levels) for the eastern ranges - Hawkes Bay, we diverted the trip to the western Tararua's. Good choice as the weather was hot and dry.

My - that car park at Poads Road, in from Levin, gets a lot of traffic. Car park was full on Saturday morning when we arrived. Someone has spent a lot of money there and a very nice loo at that.

We had a hot walk in passing three groups heading out from South Ohau Hut. It takes about 1 hr from the car park to the river, another hour up the river to the confluence of the North & South Ohau Rivers. Time for a brew (lunch) then another hour we reached the hut. A hunter arrived for an evening shoot but no joy, found us more fun to talk to.

Next day we headed out early before the rain but it was still very hot. Passed more people on our way out - popular place.

Back at the car park it showed 25 degrees, by the time we got back home the easterly was in full force (cold). Great company - Li ping, Tony Evans & myself.

### Triangle Loop 6-7 February by Jean Garman

For about the first time this summer the forecast for the weekend was good so on a Friday evening four of us

inhaled our dinners and left for the Rangi car park. As we set off up the hill we were pleased to be in the shade as it was a hot sticky evening. When the exertions of the slip detour came into play the heat made Kim feel rather unwell. Much to our surprise we reached the hut before it got dark and spent the night with 2 hunters and their dog. They were off chasing deer before it got light while we had a marginally more leisurely start. Kim was still not feeling great so decided to bail and be kind to her body for the weekend for a change.

Around 7.30 am three of us headed off up the ridge. There was a bit of light mist around but that had burned off by the time we crested the range and we were very grateful for the few clouds around which gave us occasional shade. A gentle breeze was also present so most of the time the temperature was bearable. We had an agreement with David to meet up with him on Te Hekenga about or before 2pm. He had blasted into Triangle hut on Friday afternoon and was planning to travel light up the 'nasty' headwater branch of the Oroua river. I assumed this would take him some time and was looking forward to gentle stroll around the tops with a long rest on top of Te Hekenga watching him struggling up to meet us. While we did have a nice stroll round the tops both parties converged on the saddle to the west of Te Hekenga at more or less the same time. We had lunch there then sweated and panted out way on to the top. On the way up we had spied a deer silhouetted on the ridge line down to triangle and were most disappointed that we

didn't have our cameras at the ready when we reached this area as a fawn bolted from about 10m in front of us. The ridge provided easy travel with some tarns along the way to top up the water supplies. I had heard there was a bit a route along the ridge but we were happy to find that there was actually a reasonably cut track through the leatherwood – not to the standard of a doc track but its infinitely better pushing past leatherwood than pushing through it. Once in the bush there was no trail but a relatively straightforward ridge lead us down to triangle hut. We whiled away the rest of the afternoon (after cleaning up the shredded food packets and mouse droppings in and around the hut) and had a good nights sleep.

In the morning Jenny decided she didn't want to play in the cool water and opted to take the track and meet us on Mangahuaia. The rest of us splashed off down the river to the up and over track then followed the spur up. The route up the spur was a bit more over grown than I remembered so was a bit scratchy pokey. At the top Jenny was waiting for us, as she had been for over an hour. We carried on down the Deadmans track having lunch once a decent patch of shade was reached and were back at the car park by early afternoon. A stop was ordered for ice creams at Cheltenham and we were home mid afternoon in time to get the washing done and have a nap. We were Jenny McCarthy, Adam Matich, Kim Fraser (some of the time), David Harrington (a bit more of the time) and Jean Garman.

### **Peka Peka Beach 10 February by Rosemary Hall**

The day was perfect for our walk along the beach, not too hot, not too cold. 21 of us took part in the walk, which was between Te Horo and Waikanae. Some of the group having had plans for a swim opted not to after crossing the cold water in the creek.

We walked northwards for one hour and had a pleasant stop for a snack before retracing our steps back to the carpark. We then walked one hour south to a delightful café called the Drift. We had yummy coffee and cake. The weather was bright and sunny at this stage making for a pleasant walk back along the beach to our transport.

We had the mandatory stop for icecreams on the way home. After



**Dried out and ready to walk at Atiwhakatu Hut.**  
(River Camping Trip | 13-14 February 2010)

arriving at the carpark a frantic search was made for Pauline's missing car keys. We searched high and low, tipped her bag out and rummaged in the bushes to no avail. Well, what to do... Message left with hubby on answerphone, car left in carpark and Pauline went home with Rosemary and Ken for a coffee. During our chat, Pauline suddenly remembered something and her hand went down the front of her blouse and Eureka out popped the car keys. There they were all the time tucked in her boobs as snug as a bug. We women are so lucky to have such secure areas for our treasures!

### **River Camping 13-14 February by Howard Nicholson**

The forecast was dodgy to say the least, but that wasn't enough to deter two families from committing to the trip. I am sure we all had second thoughts as we travelled through driving rain to Masterton, where we had a bakery stop to stock up on energy for the tramp that was to come.

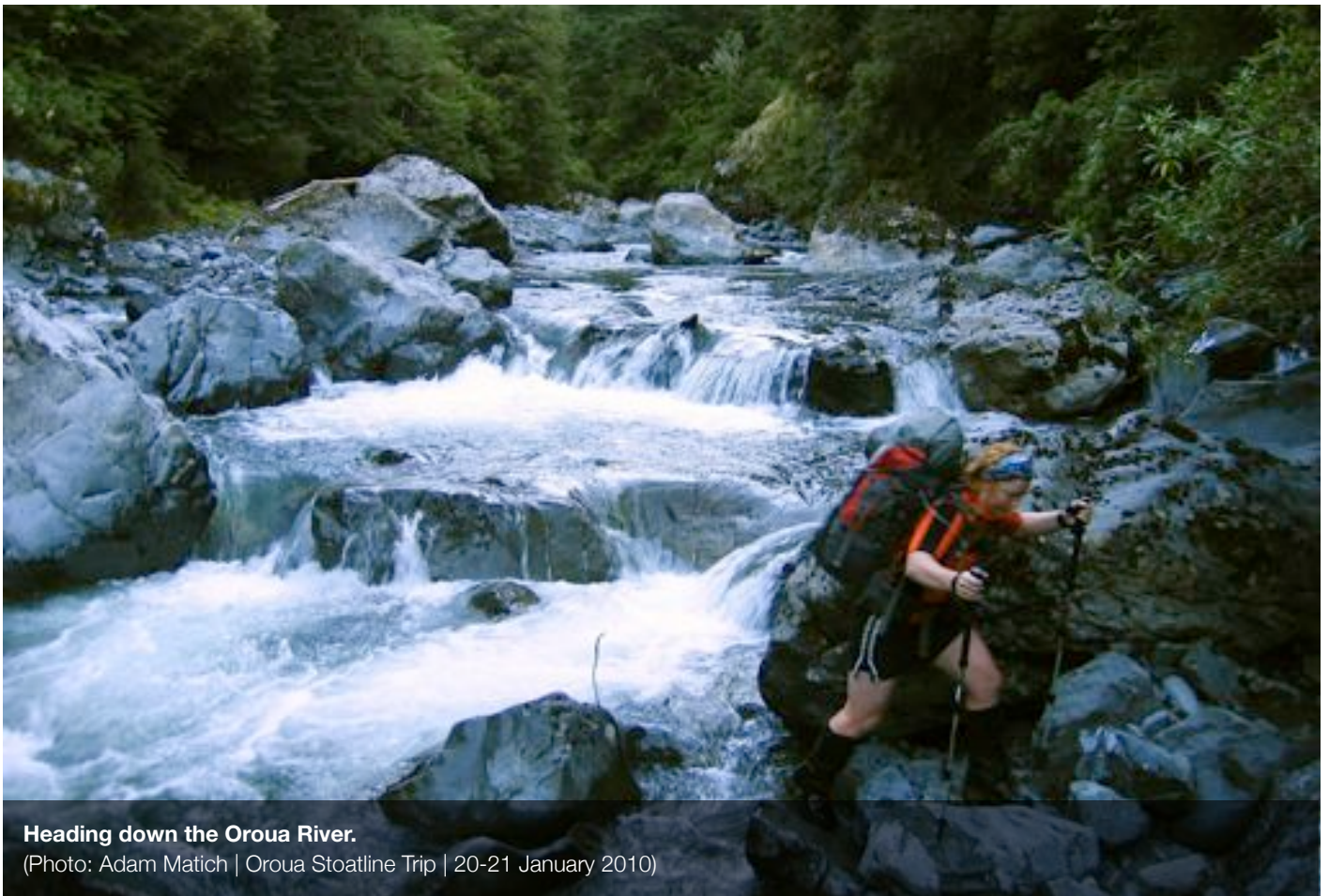
The rain was spilling over the ranges from the west, at times driven horizontally by ferocious winds that gusted down the Atiwhakatu Stream valley. It is amazing how much protection a 1500m-high mountain range and some quality bush can provide; we were well protected from the brunt of the weather, but I will admit that we were all quite wet.

For the record, we did set up the tent fly! We pitched it on the upstream side of the wobbly Holdsworth Stream swing-bridge, but we were too wet to break out the marshmallows, so we enjoyed a soggy lunch and continued up valley. Being wet did not seem to bother us much as this was a warm day, but even so, after nearly 4 hours on the track we were pleased to arrive at the new Atiwhakatu Hut. There are few huts within family-friendly distance of a road-end, so I am pleased that the Atiwhakatu Hut was rebuilt at its original location. We took the opportunity to dry our clothes and toast our marshmallows around the fire. Many battles of Last Card were won and lost, books were read, and tales - tall and true - were told into the night. Most people had a good night's sleep despite the snorts and snores from 22 sleepers.

The rain had ceased in the early evening, and we were greeted by a beautiful day on Sunday morning. After more conversations over breakfast, we reluctantly packed up for the return tramp. We had quite a different trip back to the road-end, just enjoying the sunshine and tramping without raincoats through the bush. A short three hours later we were taking off our gaiters and climbing into overheated cars.

This truly was a family trip with 3 generations being represented. Thank you all for yet another enjoyable trip in the hills. We were: Carol Myers, Kerry-Lee Probert, Ryan, Jordan (10y) and Harry (6y) Neill, Sue, Howard, Hugh (12y) and Tara (10y) Nicholson.





**Heading down the Oroua River.**

(Photo: Adam Matich | Oroua Stoatline Trip | 20-21 January 2010)

### **Awatere Hut 17 February by Bev Akers**

The weather was to improve as the morning went on - Yeah right! We had absolutely no views till we got closer to the river. DOC, we found the track confusing when climbing up onto the ridge from the carpark. Not a triangle in site but waratahs and concrete posts going in two different directions with worn tracks. In drizzle mist we ended up trying both directions, but the comments made were, "no triangles" until you reach the bush. Once again people turned in 2 different direction heading out.

We had to make an arrow to point down hill. Just needs some Triangles please, as it is classed as an easy trip for beginners (1 hour to Awatere Hut). Its a lovely tramp and the hut is good for a relaxing overnighter and a river to play in. The rain got heavier but some still ventured up stream for a little more exercise, while others headed back up hill. All drowned rats by the time we got back to the carpark. Very thankful for the wee shelter for all 21 of us to take turns to change under.

Back down the road to collect one car which couldn't make it up the hill. The bus did very well to get up both hills with 12 people inside or was it just good driving on your part Dave. Cuppa at Norsewood just before they close at 4 pm.

### **Takapari Road 18 February by Ann Green**

13 Trampers left the Tamaki West road end in steady rain, by the time we reached the A frame hut the sun had come out. This hut is now very basic, no mattresses and the

toilet has gone. Eleven of us continued north along the Takapari road with good views in all directions, then down the Rimu track. This is no longer maintained but all the markers are there and it is only a little overgrown in some places. There are some magnificent rimu trees near the river. We then walked a little way up river, crossed and returned to the road end along the Holmes Ridge track.

### **Oroua Stoatline 20-21 February by Kim Fraser**

After making some phone calls and some blackmail and violent arm twisting at the last minute I had a well organised team of stoaters (even if they were a little unwilling), to clear the traps for the weekend. We had 2 weekend teams - one team checked traps to Triangle Hut, the other went up Irongates Stream, returning to Iron Gates hut for the night, then covered the river back to Tunipo creek. Our Saturday team covered Umutoi and Tunipo Creeks, and our sunday team wandered up the tunipo track and down to the campground.

Our catch for the weekend was: 48 rats, 7 stoats, 5 mice, 1 bird and 16 unidentified animals. and 3 blue duck were seen and one heard. We were Kim and Duncan Fraser, Adam Matich, Jess Costall, and Pete and Heidi Hutton.

### **Tongariro National Park 24 February by Pauline Hall**

We departed Palmerston North at 7.30 am on a perfect day. After stopping at Taihape for a comfort stop, we arrived at Ohakune at 10 am. There we did The Forest Walk which took approximately one hour. We then



proceeded up the Turoa Ski field Road for 9 km to the start of the Blyth Hut track. This was the lower track which would take four hours to the hut. The ski field road was closed from this point upwards as DOC were repairing a bridge.



We tramped for an hour on well formed track which went gradually uphill and then stopped for lunch. Ten out of twelve of us went further up the track to an opening with glorious views of the mountain. We met back at the bus at 2pm and at the bottom of the road we found a pool where Lis - the brave one - dived into the icy waters. Some paddled but Lis was our heroine.

After coffee/ice-creams in Ohakune we headed home arriving in Palmerston North at 6pm. Thanks to David Pollard our bus driver. Photo by Marie Inkpen.

### **Pretender 28 February by Adam Matich**

A rather hot day (for the Manawatu) being forecast, we decided we didn't want to spend it on the tops in the sun, and so canned the Pretender trip in favour of something in the shade. Given the lazy, shiftless nature of most of the membership, there were only two of us going anyway and so it was easy to move the trip from the Ruahines to the Tararuas, and to leave somewhat earlier than normal, in order to avoid the heat of the afternoon. We started off from Putara Rd to head up towards Herepai hut, and on the way met someone coming down, who warned us about the high winds up on the tops. Good thing we had bloused-out on the tops travel. Morning tea/first-lunch was held at the beginning of the Bottles Track (105 min), which is to be found just before turning west to drop into the saddle before Herepai Hut. As per usual, we didn't spot the sign on the tree a few metres before the start of the track, but actually did manage to spot the track itself instead. The sign is a sheet-metal cut-out of three bottles painted a nice camouflage brown. After our break, we headed on down, losing the track in a couple of places as it is occasionally a bit overgrown and vague, but 30 minutes saw us down in the steep little side stream that drains off Herepai Peak. We dropped down to the confluence with the upper Mangatainoka River and decided to rock-hop down to the footbridge as it was a hot day and there was a good breeze in the valley. This section of travel took us about an hour, and it is not easy

travel. Not dangerous, but not a bridle-path either. There were a lot of boulders and log-jams to climb over and it was difficult to keep ones feet dry. We almost missed the bridge as well - you need to keep looking up quite high - but were lucky to spot it when almost directly underneath and so climbed up the old trail to track where we stopped for second-lunch before the final 2-km ramble back to the road end after a 4.5 hour day. Plenty of time to get home for a nice afternoon nap! We were Jenny McCarthy and Adam Matich.

### **Wed & Thu Trampers Trips**

#### **Wednesday Tramps**

Jan	27	Fishers Track - Tupapakuria Falls - National Park Also Ohakune to walk the old Hapuawhenua Viaduct (13)
Feb	3	Mikimiki Tramway (12)
	10	Peka Peka Beach (21)
	17	Awatere Hut - Eastern Ruahine's (21)
	24	Old Blyth Hut Track - Ohakune (13)

#### **Thursday Trampers**

Feb	4	Sledge Track Crossing
	11	Sunrise Hut
	18	A-Frame Hut - Rimu Track

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



**Descending into the crater.**

(Photo: Adam Matich | Mayor Island | 12-14 February 2010)

# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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\[at\]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@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:membership@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 2009-10 Committee

President	Ken Mercer	356 7497 <a href="mailto:president@mtsc.org.nz">president@mtsc.org.nz</a>
Secretary	Tim Swale	06 376 6556
Treasurer	Christine Scott	354 0510 <a href="mailto:treasurer@mtsc.org.nz">treasurer@mtsc.org.nz</a>
Chief Guide	Kim Fraser	355 5496
Day Trip Convenor	Bev Akers	325 8879
Membership Sec.	Jenny McCarthy	06 376 8838 <a href="mailto:membership@mtsc.org.nz">membership@mtsc.org.nz</a>
Newsletter Editor	Wei-Hang Chua	021 212 0369 <a href="mailto:editor@mtsc.org.nz">editor@mtsc.org.nz</a>
Social Convenor	Rochelle Beaumont	354 4929
Ski Captain	Rob Pringle	358 3319
Lodge Manager	Ryan Badger	027 445 1997
Lodge Booking Officers	Hugh & Liz Wilde	356 9450 <a href="mailto:lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz">lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz</a>
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