

UPCOMING CLUBNIGHTS

7.30 pm, 1st Tue of the month, Rose City Aquatic Club Room, 50 Park Road, Palmerston North

5 JULY 2011 | 2 AUGUST 2011

JULY: Skiing in Kashmir anyone? A slide show presentation of skiing in Gulmarg, Kashmir to be accompanied by a showing of "AZADI: Freedom", a cultural documentary as seen through the eyes of skiers. Set in the disputed region of Kashmir, an area deemed the "most dangerous place in the world" during the violent militant insurgency of the 1990's. What director Anthony Bonello & crew find in 2010 is an aesthetically beautiful landscape & a people eager for Kashmir to once again become "a paradise on earth." Whilst exploring the mountains surrounding the world's highest skiable gondola, the crew meet vibrant local characters, ski picturesque forests and thin alpine air.

AUGUST: In the summer of 2010/11, Peter Rawlins, Lynda Hunt, Preston Hatcher & James Littlejohn went to Japan for three weeks of mind blowing powder skiing. Their experiences have been compiled into a multimedia presentation to rival the likes of Warren Miller. Come & hear all about the fantastic stories of snow, sushi & sake.

New Members

Mariusz Skorupski

Natalia Martin

Leonie Lowndes

Grant Rudman

All prospective members are encouraged to go on a club trip or attend a club night before joining. This is a great way to meet current members who can nominate you.

Prospective members must be nominated by a Proposer and a Secunder who are current MTSC members and have been so for at least one year. New memberships are usually confirmed at the next monthly committee meeting.

For further information or an application form please visit: www.mtsc.org.nz

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If you would 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. For change of contact details please email the club membership secretary at membership@mtsc.org.nz as well as copying the message to editor@mtsc.org.nz.

The deadline for newsletter contributions is @ the 1st week of the month. Please include a date with trip reports & images. Photos are welcome and will be included where possible - remember to include an appropriate caption for the photo, including names of people.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
KEN MERCER
 president@mtsc.org.nz
 PHONE (06) 356 7497 or (027) 364 6475



The skiing season is about to start & I have a little tale from the past to regale you with, which, as the participants are safely out of NZ, shouldn't cause embarrassment. It happened at Turoa & concerned a group of work colleagues including the husband & child of one of them. I'll call them Jane, Joe & Junior. It wasn't a nice day & most of the party were sledding in Alpine Meadow. I had a day pass & came down at lunchtime to find the others had retreated to the café. I suggest that Jane should borrow my coat & pass (naughty I know) & have a ride up the chair. All goes well & Jane duly returns with a smile on her face. Joe & Junior should have a go too & if a pass is bought for Junior, Joe can take him up, again using my pass. Off they all go but are a bit quiet when they get back, & my coat is a little grubby. Several days later we find out what actually happened. Joe is a bit nervous of the chairlift but determined Junior will get on safely & this he successfully does. Unfortunately Joe misses the chair & Junior is about to head up the mountain, alone, so Joe's instinctive reaction is to grab the back of the chair to stop Junior disappearing. Joe does so, hanging on tightly, no doubt taking the lifties by surprise. By the time they punch the stop button Joe's hanging meters from the ground & a long ladder must be found to rescue him. Enjoy winter & look after your guests!



SKI CAPTAIN
 Howard (tom between
 two loves) Nicholson.

The lodge is stocked with food and has had a final tidy-up in time for the start of the ski season in July, thanks to those who travelled from Hamilton, New Plymouth, Wellington and Palmerston North for the June work party. Thanks also to Rob Pringle, Ryan Badger, and Ken and Mary Mercer for doing the shopping.

There is a flash new cafe at the Knoll on Whakapapa and the High Noon Express at Turoa has been strengthened. A club promotion day will be held in the temporary Knoll Ridge Cafe on 23-24 July. If you would like to help out then please contact me.

The snow is coming and soon we will be into another great season on the mountain - see you up there soon!



No.3 Line Hut by R.Ellis. See page 6 for trip report.

CLUB NEWS & NOTICES

Don Maclaine resignation from MTSC – Liz Flint writes a response:

We are sorry to receive Don's recent resignation letter. For some years Don was a regular Thursday trumper and his sense of humour appreciated by all who tramped with him. I well remember Don's first 'bundu bash' from Awatere hut up the river and up to the old Coach road (below Longview). How he worried - there was no track and to be led by two females confidently showing him our route on the map did little to appease his apprehension at being led up the garden path. Don continued to tramp even when health issues arose by coming up with solutions which enabled him to continue. Don enjoyed his tramping and he passed this enjoyment to many others. I think he enjoyed the age mix offered on the tramps and was always willing to share any knowledge and personal experiences he had on the range of subjects often chatted about on a uphill slog or lunch stop. At time of going to press, the estimate is Don is in his mid-late nineties!

JUNE FMC Newsletter:

The June FMC newsletter is able to be downloaded / read as a pdf file from:

www.fmc.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/Newsletter/Club1106.pdf

Help yourself to some great articles & useful information – leave it where it can be read by others if you print it out!



FMC 80th Anniversary Conference

11-12th June. Held at TePapa, the conference was a gathering of representatives & interested parties from the length & breadth of the country. The primary aim of the weekend was to highlight & discuss issues facing the organisation in order to chart a path ahead as one.

In the current socio-political environment with limited resources in every direction, this is critical.

After an opening mihi from Joe Harawira, Andy Foster (Wellington City Council) was next with a strong representation for living there & Hon Kate Wilkinson Minister of Conservation made some platitudes about campsites, access & conservation management strategies. Dr Les Molloy & Craig Potton had some comments to make about Department of Conservation (DoC) income from concessionaires, helihunting & recent negotiations about Urewera National Park.

Dr Jan Wright, Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment made a keynote speech on Posterity or Prosperity, focussing on topics such as 1080 & the amount paid by DoC concessionaires. She did not take the chance to declare an investigation into concessionaire income but merely intent to.

Some 4500 organisations (including your club!) contribute only about \$13 million p.a. – which seems to a simple club newsletter editor a rather paltry sum.

Following lunch, Kevin O'Connor, DoC Deputy Director General briefed the conference on how the Department is moving toward experience based rather than assets based focus (anyone for a new conservation experience of using section 4 land for a spot of resource extraction...?). However, there were some glimmers in the speech & a degree of realism around current government thinking.

A controversial address was given by Marc Christensen who argued for more use of offsetting. To come up for afternoon tea, Dr Kay Booth made a sharp speech, pushing the need for a mindset change from seeing conservation as a cost to one of investment.

Returning refreshed, we were entertained by a political party session made up of Louise Upston (National MP Taupo), Ruth Dyson (Labour MP for Port Hills – “it’s all our fault”), Kevin Hague (Green list MP living on West Coast) & United Future Environment Spokesperson Doug Stevens (who acquitted himself well, I thought).

Sunday morning was split in 2 – initially with an NGO panel conversation featuring FMC, Bushwalking Australia, Forest & Bird, Outdoors NZ, Whitewater NZ & Greenpeace. Breaking out to discuss 4 themes – Volunteering, Youth, Access & Wilderness values, these were tied together after lunch & the conference finished with an address from Hugh Logan, retired DoC Director General, who was warmly received, & definitely sides with the good guys now he can pick them.

Photo Competition - 6 September

It's time to get snapping and sorting - the annual photo competition is only a couple of months away. Winners of our competition go on to the interclub competition three weeks later. Last year the major prizes were donated by Macpac and several people received day packs; Macpac, Bivouac Outdoors and MTSC donated the lesser prizes. This year we expect to have at least a bag of lollies up for grabs - tempting, huh? The categories are:

Landscapes - Pictorial interest in NZ, no people.

Above Bushline - Predominantly alpine scenery in NZ, e.g. rock and snow, tussock, etc., may include people.

Below Bushline - NZ. Predominantly bush, scrub, lowland to sub-alpine areas, may include people.

Natural History - NZ flora and fauna or detail, e.g. geology, ice formations, animals, plants etc.

Topical - People or detail related to tramping, climbing, skiing etc. in NZ

Overseas - taken overseas - open category: e.g. landscape, people, natural history, etc.

Further details can be found on the club web site, or you can call Howard Nicholson on (06) 3576325.

FMC 80th AGM, TePapa 11 June

Several proposed rule changes were made by the Executive for the 80th AGM. Your club made a motion to amend the wording of one of those proposed. In fact it was the only club to do so.

The FMC Executive wished to be able to set the subscription rates instead of having this voted upon at an AGM. The timing of such changes, the amount, & finally the perceived loss of ownership were concerns that were addressed by the proposed MTSC amendment.

The proposed changes from the FMC Executive were passed & then the amendment to the wording of this was voted upon after a surprising amount of interest & discussion by several other clubs. The vote that passed was to keep the rule changes as originally worded & not to adopt the MTSC motion.

In addition to the MTSC, four other clubs voted for the amendment, demonstrating clearly to the Executive that there was some discomfort at the change & that the rule changes need to be handled carefully to allay this.

Other business was the adoption of the previous AGM minutes, election of the Executive & the passing of a motion to actively support the concerns of several clubs about access to huts with Annual Pass – examples being Pinnacles (Coromandel) & Welcome Flat (West Coast) amongst others.

Garden Bird Survey 25 June-3 July. Why not take part in this year's Garden Bird Survey?

To do so you simply need to watch birds in your garden for one hour sometime between 25 June to 3 July & record the highest number of each species you see or hear at any one time during the hour. You don't have to watch your whole garden, just part of the garden will do. You can even do the survey from the luxury of your kitchen or living room, looking out the window at the garden. Full survey instructions, a bird identification poster, and downloadable survey form will be available at www.landcareresearch.co.nz/research/biocons/gardenbird/ soon. There will also be an online data entry form available which you are encouraged to use to help reduce the number of volunteers needed to enter data sent in by post. By participating in the survey you will help build up a picture of how both native and introduced birds are faring in our gardens over the years. Let's see if we can make this year's survey even more successful than last year's record breaking one. [2011 Garden Bird Survey | Forest and Bird](#)

UPCOMING TRIPS

25-26 June – Mangahao Flats

This Easy-Medium trip will take in some local scenery in the Ruahine ranges nearby & makes a lovely weekend. Bev Akers is leading the trip, call her on (06) 3258879.

29 June (Wed) John Hunt	324 0339
30 June (Thu) David Grant	357 8269
2-3 July Ruapehu Ramble Brian Webster	TECHNICAL 357 0189
3 (Sun) Steam Engine to Taihape Adam Matich	FUN 359 2796
6 July (Wed) Rita/Arthur Hodson	323 5491
7 July (Thu) Judy Swainson	358 4082
9-10 July Beginners Ski Weekend Ken Mercer	EASY 356 7497
10 (Sun) Burton's Track Gary Bevins	EASY 325 8879
13 July (Wed) Margaret Gillingham	356 8812
14 July (Thu) Geraldine Fovakis	356 4327
17 July (Sun) Ski Turoa Hugh Wilde	TECHNICAL 356 9450
17 July (Sun) Ross Peak, Sth Ruahine Dave Harrington	FIT 839 5766
20 July (Wed) Alison Jefferies	358 4895
21 July (Thu) Graham Pritchard	357 1393
24 July (Sun) Oroua trapline check Tim Tyler	EASY/MEDIUM 356 6008
27 July (Wed) Chris Brunskill	354 2511
28 July (Thu) Merv Matthews	357 2858
31 July (Sun) East Holdsworth Jenny McCarthy	MEDIUM 376 8838
3 August (Wed) Bev Charlton	356 0094
4 August (Thu) Carolyn Brodie	358 6576

Trip Grading

The times listed below include tramping, rest & stops. In assessing the trip times & guides, terrain, weather & party fitness (which is as fast as the slowest member) must be considered. Consult the trip leader if you are unsure about the trip grading for a particular trip.

FAMILY	All welcome, casual pace, any age
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 Med/Fit
TECHNICAL	Qualifying requirements to be announced by the trip organiser

Weekday trips generally range between Easy & Medium/Fit, so call the leader for details on these to plan a daytrip to suit your preference & ability.



Purity Hut on 6 June. K.Fisher. Report on page 6. Permission from the landowner is required to cross private property in order to access this hut. However, I'd want a call if it was my land too...Editor.

TRIP REPORTS

"...And what did you do at the weekend?" (Part II), LandSAR Operation 14 May 2011. By Howard Nicholson

Last month I wrote about a Search & Rescue operation in the Tararua Ranges, highlighting that MTSC members are often involved in field teams & search management. One week later we were called out again, this time heading into the Ruahine Ranges to search for 2 overdue trampers.

Thoughts about dinner were starting to form when a text message arrived. Two 19 year old people were missing near Tunupo in the western Ruahine Ranges, & hasty teams - searchers to be immediately deployed in the field - were being called. LandSAR is an emergency response & in our house the family also gets involved. Leftovers were microwaved & gear retrieved from the garage, while I packed enough gear & food for up to three days of searching. SAR operations often occur in bad weather & a poor forecast meant we had little time to spare.

Our team was assembled at the Police Station in less than an hour. Extra gear (radios, tents, more spare clothes) was packed & soon we were heading to Ohakea to board an RNZAF Iroquois helicopter. We were dropped off at the Heritage Lodge carpark while the Iroquois made a reconnaissance along the Ngamoko Range. A light was spotted high on the side of Tunupo, but the high winds prevented the helicopter from getting close to it; at least we now had a good idea of the lost party's location.

The Iroquois picked up two of our team & tried to drop us off on the Tunupo Track above the bushline. After several attempts at trying to stay in one place, it was clear that the wind was too strong to allow us to be winched or hover-unloaded onto the track. Previously, our team of four had arranged the gear to allow us to split into two self-contained teams if required, so at 11:30pm Jean & Ivan started the slog up the track towards Tunupo.

Our plan was to approach the lost party from two directions; the ground team was still 3 hours away from the top of Tunupo, but if we could land high on a ridge on the Pohangina River side of the range, then we could be there sooner. The flight up the river was "interesting". Night vision goggles (NVGs) allow the pilots & crew to see what's going on, but John & I had to make do with our own inadequate eyes. I have a lot of respect for the very capable pilots & crew involved in SAR, so when they made the decision not to attempt a landing, we were happy to turn around & head back to the carpark.

Now it was our turn for a walk. As we reached the bushline, a radio message from Jean & Ivan announced that they had found the lost party & that they would all attempt to walk out over Tunupo. They were on their hands & knees as they crawled over the top, & soon we could see their torches through the clag as they descended the track; it was 3:00am & luckily the forecast rain had not yet reached us. By 6:45am we were back at the carpark, in time for a fiery sunrise & looking forward to a sleep.

Why had the party become lost? They had tramped up to Iron Gates Hut & onto the Ngamoko Range tops, where strong winds made travel difficult. Cloud disoriented them, & without a proper map & compass (along with experience using them) they were unsure of their location by nightfall. Some of their other gear was inadequate for the trip in my opinion.

I note that any trip may be delayed by conditions such as weather, snow & river levels; but what happens next is entirely dependent on you & the resources that you have available.

Adequate gear (good torch, waterproof & warm clothing, shelter, food, etc.) must be taken on all trips, including day trips. A personal locator beacon can take the search out of search & rescue, & MTSC provides 2 PLBs at no charge to club members; we encourage people to get into the outdoors but to also minimise their risks.

Our team was Jean Garman, Ivan Rienks, John Falconer (Central Districts Field & Game) & Howard Nicholson. Peter Rawlins was in the management team & several other club members were on standby & ready to go. Feel free to contact one of the people mentioned above if you would like to find out more about SAR.



View from the winch by A.Stewart. Otaki SAR Operation

Rangiwahia & Beyond – Plan B, May 8

Linda Campbell

The plan had been to go to Rangiwahia Hut & beyond but due to several unexpected events it was decided to cancel the trip. Then on the Sunday morning a decision was made to check out the No.1 line track near Pohangina.

This is a short track which took a little over an hour to walk. There are a few short steepish climbs as you go. Some very large trees along the track add interest & as the track climbs there are several great views out to the west. Shortly before the track finishes there is a great lookout spot with views up to the main range & back out towards the coast. It was here we found the 'giant's' seat.

After a bit of a struggle for the shortest member of the group we all sat on the seat to eat lunch & admire the view. After lunch we realised the reason the seat was so high was that it was just sitting on the ground & had not yet been set in place! This is a great walk if you do not have a lot of time but want to stretch your legs. Thanks to Tim Swale & Mary & Ken Mercer for their company.



High Chair on No.1 Line Track. L.Campbell



People queuing in the rain for food – report will be in August after someone writes it! Image H.Nicholson.

Thursday 6 June. Purity Hut by Keith Fisher

18 trampers headed off from the van about 9.20 in fine weather with some mist around the tops. Most of the group were at Purity Hut 2 hours later. There was a cold wind on the exposed ridges as we gained altitude so the smart trampers decided to stay at the Hut. Of those who headed off 2 made it to the Wooden Peg area & the rest gave into the icy wind & headed back to the Hut for lunch. The tops had clouded over anyway. The rest of the day was uneventful apart from the van driver being breathalysed at a police check point at Mangaweka on the trip home. The driver passed. Photo on page 4.

Thursday 19th of May 2011, end of No.3 Line - off East Pohangina Rd, by Richard Ellis

As this was my first time as leader I wanted to take a chance on a trip that no one else in the group had been on & that is quite difficult as most of the group have been tramping for some years & have covered more of the country than I have. So I was a little nervous as Thursday approached & I was thinking that this might be a bit boring as we were going to be mostly on open farmland.

With 19 on the list we headed for Pohangina East Rd & then up No.3 Line to Stuart's Davison's farm. Parking at the house we headed up through a pine plantation, slipping on needles as the terrain got steeper. Once through the trees we climbed a ridge just north of Tokeawa Stream, following a fence line. After passing a recently built mobile phone tower we entered scattered bush where we paused briefly & muffins were shared round. Soon after this we gained a high point (682m), where we could see Stuart's hut on the edge of the bush but one ridge further south.

After some discussion we headed down a steep spur & the group spread out as each person found the easiest way down to the stream below. On nearing the stream it became evident that we needed to be on another spur which had easier access down into the stream. So we sidled round & headed down to the stream. Once across we split into 3 groups with each taking "the easiest route". Eventually we gained the ridge & slid under the electric fence wire & onto the farm track & on up to the hut.

Here we had another snack break before heading on up higher into some bush until we came to a clearing where there were no obvious tracks. So we retraced our steps back to the hut for lunch & to admire the view out over Manawatu. From the hut we stayed on an obvious farm track leading down past the huge Hereford bull & on to the pines. After exiting the other side of the pines we dropped down steeply into the stream & crossed then back to the flat paddocks near the house. It was a short drive back to town after the usual stop for ice-creams.

I realised that a great day can be had exploring in the hills & getting good exercise without travelling far from home.

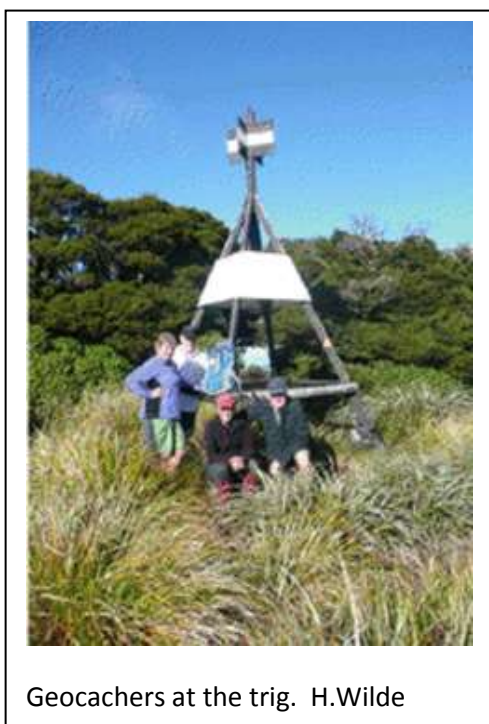
An image of No3 line Hut is on page 2.

20-21 May Neill Forks Hut by Adam Matich

Jenny's birthday trip left town early for the 2 hour drive to Wall's Whare from where we crossed the new suspension bridge & started walking up the Waiohine River. It took us 2 ¾ hours to reach Totara Flats for lunch in the sun near the site of the old "new" Totara Flats Hut. This track is not really a wet weather route, as a couple of the stream crossings could be rather difficult after heavy rain. After lunch we walked up the grassy alluvial fan to the hut site & then headed west into the forest to climb the spur up to point 957 on the Cone Ridge track. The bottom end of the spur is slightly supplejack-infested for about 15-20 minutes, but not enough to cause tears of frustration. In the forest at the base of the spur we also came across a line of netting traps used to catch falling leaf litter? Travel up the spur was easy, the forest being open & the terrain not too steep. It took us around 2 hours to climb 760m up to point 957 where we didn't discover the Cone Ridge Track. Despite what the map might imply, the track sidles along the western side of 957, so it was necessary to go up & over, but only by a little bit. We only had a few hundred metres travel up the Cone Ridge track to the intersection where we turned right to head NW down the sometimes very steep track to Neill Forks Hut which we reached after a 6 ¾ hour day.

Even though it was her birthday trip Jenny was commanded to do the fire lighting, because she is the most experienced & despite the lack of kindling & wet wood Jenny bothered the fire into life in the new wood burner. The old open fire place was a waste of time as it didn't draw & so it used to be difficult to warm up the hut with the door open to clear the smoke. Another improvement in Neill Forks Hut is the built-in porch. Our birthday trip eats lasted from arrival to bed-time, & why not, as "The Rapture" was forecast for the following day, so we didn't need to worry about getting fat from over eating as we were confident we would be in paradise the next day. Besides, wasting food is a sin. But then gluttony is a sin too, but probably the lesser of the two evils.

There was a bit of rain over night, but Sunday turned out to be another calm clear day. But we were still on earth & so dejectedly, continued on with our lives. At Neill Forks we crossed the Neill, where Jean & Ivan disgraced themselves by taking off their boots to keep them dry. What a couple of big girlies! We then headed NW up the spur to the Neill Ridge. This 750 m climb took us just over 2 hours on the remnants of the old track. Despite its lack of maintenance for in excess of a decade, the track was still mostly followable. It would be a different story, however, trying to follow it in the downward direction. Once on the Neill Ridge track we rattled along to make Cone for & early lunch (3 ½ hours). After lunch we had another 3 hours travel through Cone Saddle & then back down to the fairly full Wall's Whare car park (7 hour day). The sky attempted to rain on us, but only managed a couple of spits until we were somewhere north of Masterton. We were Jenny McCarthy, Brian Webster, Ivan Rienks, Jean Garman & Adam Matich.



Geocachers at the trig. H.Wilde

Kapakapanui 29 May 2011

Four of us left Palmerston North at 0700 Sunday & met up with two of Royce's geocaching friends from Waikanae (Jill & Jim) at the roadend. Apart from completing the round trip, the objective was also to 'bag' 4 geocaches hidden along the track. The weather was really very good, so much so that when we eventually reached the top we could see Port Nicholson & bits of the South Island as well as Kapiti Island & some of the Tararua peaks to the east. Even a glider ventured quite close to Kapakapanui such was the weather. It was probably a bit cold for thermals though (of the meteorological kind). We reached the top by midday going around anticlockwise, & after the obligatory photos & very necessary lunch, set off down to the hut on the way planting Jill's new geocache (at a location only to be discovered by the initiated, & not revealed here). By this stage we had 'found' the 3rd geocache on the track, leaving only one to find lower down. (I'm recording here that for once I found the geocache before Royce did). As if on cue, the weather had deteriorated quite soon after lunch, with clouds beginning to obscure the peaks to the east & the temperature noticeably falling. The southerly had arrived! We reached the hut an hour from the trig, by which time the weather on top had improved. Finding the 4th cache not far from the hut completed the mission for the geocachers & we arrived back at the car soon after 3.30. All up, with stops etc, we did the round trip in about 6.5 hours. Those on the trip were Royce, Maren, Glen, Hugh & from Waikanae Jill & Jim.

4th June Roaring Stag by Adam Matich

The weather forecast frightened us away from the advertised trip to Dundas Hut, so we decided upon a low level overnighiter in the sheltering forest. From Putara road end we headed the short distance along the track towards the Herepai-Roaring Stag intersection to the first swing-bridge. A couple of minutes after crossing the bridge we found a very open section of forest heading up from the track on our right. We left the track & climbed west up onto bump 650 (2724715E, 6054500N, 260 series map). A little way up the climb we found ourselves on a marked trail, & once on the flat top the pink-tape markers became more numerous. We followed the trail NW into the saddle, dropped west into the river & headed a few hundred metres downstream to a confluence (2723850E, 6054740N). There we headed SW & then SSW for 20-30 metres after the second confluence (2723800E, 6054705N) to pick up the base (2723790E, 6054675N) of the Bottles Track which heads up to meet the Herapai Hut Track at around 2723740E, 6054005N.

The Bottles Track is a bit overgrown, & it is about time the Thursday Trampers tidy it up a bit. Even so, we were heading up-hill & for the most part managed to stay on-track. At the top of the Bottles (2 hr from road end) we dog-legged left on the Herepai Track & located the faint trail of the track that heads SW down into Ruapae Stream. A section of this trail disappeared some years ago when it slipped into a stream that has formed in the adjacent gully. It was not difficult to drop down the slip into the stream & follow the stream down to Ruapae Stream for an early lunch, even though it was untidy in places. After lunch we made our way down the friendly Ruapae Stream which we really only left just before reaching Roaring Stag Hut to head through the forest at the tight bend 100 m upriver from the bridge. The river being low, we didn't bother with the bridge & arrived at the hut rather earlier than we wished (1:30 p.m.) after only a 4 ½ hour day.

There was no one at the hut to entertain us for the afternoon, & so we decided to change our overnighiter to a day trip & head back out again by the normal route. 2 ¾ hours saw us back at the road end (8-hr day), still without encountering anyone else & before the rain arrived.



Jenny McCarthy at Roaring Stag-Herepai jcnct. A.M.

Wednesday 1 June: Mt.Holdsworth, by A.McKinnon

On a perfect morning 27 trampers left for Mt Holdsworth - there was a good frost on the other side of the Tararuas. On arrival we split into 3 groups. Chris Brunskill to Powell Hut, John Hunt took a group to the Shelter & looped down to the Atawhakatu Track & I took a group to Atawhakatu Hut.

We all had successful days with good weather returning safely as the day clouded in. My thanks to the drivers; Patsy, Bev, Chris, & the group leaders for an excellent day.



Looking north from Ratapu - David setting his GPS down to take a reading as trig has disappeared. A .Matich

Roaring Stag Lodge, 28th/29th May by Tim Swale

With enthusiasm already dampened by persistent rain our group of three arrived at the Putara Road end to find six vehicles including a minibus already parked up – bugger! Oh well, at least we had a tent. Whilst Fabian & I pulled on our rain-jackets, David set off with his umbrella, pointing out that with no wind he would be far more comfortable on the sweaty climb up to the saddle. The Mangatainoka was running a little high & discoloured so we hoped that the creek crossings just before Roaring Stag would be ok to cross. We passed Les from Dannevirke as we laboured up the hill & then caught up with six ladies from Guides/Mountain Safety Council at the saddle. By now the rain had just about stopped but it was quite chilly in the wind so we delayed our lunch stop until we had dropped a bit further down the track into a more sheltered spot.

The track to Roaring Stag is always a bit muddy but with the amount of rain that had fallen during the week it was a veritable quagmire. Nevertheless, progress was quick & we were soon across the two creeks just before the hut & arriving in bright sunshine at this delightful hut on the banks of the Ruamahunga River. Once everyone had arrived we had twelve people which meant we fitted perfectly into this twelve bunk hut. After a brew it was still early so I took a little walk up the Cattle Ridge track. I had only been going about 20 minutes when I disturbed a wild pig on the track. I'm not sure which of us was the most surprised but it scarpered up the track & into the bush before I could get the camera out.

Back at the hut & with the outside temperature dipping, the fire was lit, quickly heating the hut to a sleep inducing toasty warmth. A very pleasant evening with great company & a round of cards, before retiring to bed.

Wanting to get the most out of the day on Sunday we were up & getting breakfast before it was properly light. As the sun came up on the Tararua tops & the rich morning light gave everything a most appealing glow it almost seemed a shame to be heading out. However, we were soon on the track, with the climb up the ridge quickly getting the circulation going & warming up chilly hands. In a little under three hours we were back to the car & then home for lunch.



Dave Newstead arriving at Roaring Stag Lodge. T.Swale

Thursday 26th May: report by Nigel Spencer.

18 set off from Palmerston North intending to go for a tramp to Herepai hut. On stopping at Mangamaire to pick up Ann we decided to put plan B into action & head to Kiriwhakapapa & Blue Range hut, as the weather was not looking too good toward Herepai.

On arriving at Kiriwhakapapa road end & hearing the stream thundering down behind the shelter we put plan C into action & headed off on the MikiMiki track. The rain was relentless & the track had plenty of water flowing on it. We headed up to the saddle for a short break then on down the other side to the stream crossing. It was no longer a stream but a raging river. Staying for a short break we returned to the shelter & had lunch in the dry.

The shelter & surrounds have all been done up & are very nice now. Arrived back in Palmerston North about 3pm. Great tramp enjoyed by all in the rain.

WANTED TO BUY:

Macpac Esprit pack, phone Anna, c/o Glenn Prendergrast, 06 3567487.

CLUB INFORMATION

Annual Hut Passes

Buy your Annual Hut Pass through DoC. The full price of an Annual Hut Pass is now \$122.60 but is reduced to \$85.60 with your Federated Mountain Club (FMC) card discount. For further information or for the forms to complete contact Jean at jeanandivan@value.net.nz or call (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 emailed to Liz and Hugh Wilde lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz. If you cannot email, please phone (06) 356 9450. To confirm your booking, payment must be made in advance by cheque, or cash (in person) to 179 Cook St, Palmerston North 4410. Internet payment is not available for lodge fees.

	Members	Guests
Adult	\$26	\$39
Secondary School	\$23	\$36
Primary School	\$20	\$31
Pre-school (3-5 yo)	\$11	\$11



Red Fungi on ridge north of Ratapu. A.Matich

Booking and use of the MTSC Van

The normal run-of-the-mill things you need to do if using the Transit Van are:

1. Book preferably by Thursday, and certainly no later than 6 pm Friday.
2. Cancel bookings by these times so others needing the van have time to amend travel arrangements.
3. A fly should be carried on every tramp; there is always one in the passenger door of the club van and they are available from the Gear Custodian at no charge. 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 trips. 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.

Club website | www.mtsc.org.nz

This includes a list of contact details and a club email address. Back issues of Beechleaves can be found on the site and it is updated regularly with new information.

The club webpage is maintained by Howard Nicholson and is kindly hosted by **InSPire Net**, a locally based company.

People to Contact

If you would like to contact the club with general inquiries, please write 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.

Alternatively an email to the below addresses will suffice.

MTSC 2010-11 Committee

President	Ken Mercer	06 356 7497 president@mtsc.org.nz
Secretary	Tim Swale	06 376 6556
Treasurer	Christine Scott	06 354 0510 treasurer@mtsc.org.nz
Chief Guide	Kim Fraser	06 355 5496
Day Trip Convenor	Bev Akers	06 325 8879
Membership Sec.	Jenny McCarthy	06 376 8838 membership@mtsc.org.nz
Newsletter Editor	Tim Tyler	06 356 6008 editor@mtsc.org.nz
Social Convenor	Linda Campbell	06 323 3836
Ski Captain	Howard Nicholson	06 357 6325
Lodge Manager	Ryan Badger	027 445 997
Lodge Bookings	Hugh & Liz Wilde	06 356 9450
Mini-Bus Manager	Bev Akers	06 325 8879
General Committee	Liz Flint Bob Hodgson	06 356 7654