

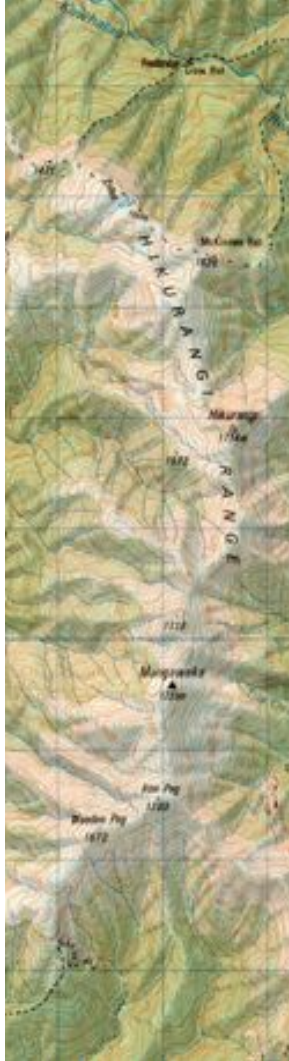
April 2008
Issue 03

mail:
MTSC
P.O. Box 245
Palmerston North

web:
www.mtsc.org.nz



Waiting to be winched out by the helicopter
(SAREX | 8-9 March 2008).
Photo: Adam Matich (he's magic because he is in the photo as well)



Upcoming club nights

Outdoor First Aid+Hypothermia

7.30 pm, 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at the Manawatu Aero Club Rooms, Airport Drive

1st April - Outdoor first aid skills

Part one of a brief look at outdoor first aid. Everyone who ventures into the outdoors needs basic outdoor first aid skills. You never know when you are going to be faced with a sick or injured trumper. You may have to look after someone for several days until help arrives.

Tom Siegenthaler will be speaking to us about general first aid in the outdoors in particular CPR. This is a really great opportunity for a beginner to learn about issues specific to our activities in the outdoors and for others to brush up on their skills.

15th April - Dealing with hypothermia

Part two of our brief look at outdoor first aid. Tom Siegenthaler will talk about hypothermia and how to deal with hypothermic people. Conditions can change quickly in the outdoors and hypothermia is always a threat in inclement weather, something which has unfortunately claimed ill prepared or unlucky trampers in our very backyard. Tom's talk will provide you with an introduction to how you can be prepared and what to look out for. The club sponsors members to attend bushcraft and first aid training so if you want to take these things further speak to the Chief Guide.

Contents

Notices page 2
Upcoming trips page 3

Trip reports page 5
Club information page 10

President's Report

Size of the Committee + Club Nights + Notification of AGM

by Howard Nicholson

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

A couple of ideas have been floated recently:

One: Should we reduce the size of the Committee? Sometime back in the eighties (last century) some roles that were previously appointments became committee positions, largely because there were topical issues that needed regular committee involvement. This is no longer the case, and so some of these positions could convert back to being appointments again. This in no way degrades the importance or necessity of these roles; the position holders already spend considerable time performing their roles, so the additional requirement to attend committee meetings each month is removed.

Two: Should we hold our club nights only once per month? Currently, the Social Convener arranges interesting speakers for two meetings a month; however club night attendance is variable, ranging from about 12 to 50 or so. Maybe we would get a consistent turnout of more people if we only had one club night per month. Linda raised this in last month's newsletter and would be keen to hear from you.

What do you think about these ideas? Please give me your feedback, so that the committee can make informed decisions on these issues.

The end of our financial year marks the start of preparations for the Annual General Meeting. As usual, the committee positions will be up for grabs, so please consider how you may be able to help with running and setting the direction of the club. Contact an existing committee member for further information.

The AGM will be held at 7.30pm on the 20th of May 2008 at the Manawatu Districts Aero Club rooms, Airport Drive, Palmerston North. See you there!

New Club Members

The club welcomes:

Erin Temperton (Feilding)

Debbie Fincham, Malcolm, Tim Ben & Rosie Clark (PN)

Chief Guide's Report

by Bev Akers

Phone (06) 325 8879 | Email bevakers@xtra.co.nz

Thank you Adam once again for organizing the Trip Card to the printers. Thanks to all of you leading trips so its possible for you others to get out there. There must be a trip on the new card for you so please support our leaders, as they love the company.

First Aid Courses

Please note that in April, there will be two club night meetings on First Aid. So please take advantage of this opportunity to freshen up on these skills. Also there are various other courses run by the Mountain safety Council through the year. Look up on the web under www.mountainsafety.org.nz

Snow Stuff: Boarding

by Ken Mercer

There is a general impression that snowboarders are young and skiers are more mature, perhaps a consequence of snowboarding being newer. Of course exceptions abound and I've spoken to many boarders, old and young, about the relative merits and difficulties but only received vague answers. The most encouraging was an Australian man who had skied for years but took up boarding 5 years ago when his knees became unreliable.

The Mercer family recently had a "full on" skiing holiday in the Canadian Rockies. We purchased a family

season pass (ouch!) which arrived with a book of vouchers that included free ski or snowboard rental for a couple of days. This, coupled with the uncrowded beginners slopes and superb snow, had me lining up for a board.

Actually the decision was a little harder than that because it meant I couldn't ski for a day! Also I was shocked to discover that wrist guards weren't part of the deal, or even available to rent. Very backward compared to NZ. Would I be able to avoid landing on my hands?

My daughter Christina has snowboarded on Ruapehu for a couple of seasons and was able to give a little advice. I had no intention of getting a lesson at that early stage and found the whole process of gaining some sort of skill fascinating. For example, I started with what I've always



referred to as “bulldozing” but is generally called slide slipping. One faces down the hill and uses the uphill (heel) edge to control the descent. If your toes are raised it digs in, lowering them you slide down. Simple, but now balancing comes from toe movement which is a bit different to everyday life.

This little skill took 20 minutes or so and became a building block for a “falling leaf” which added some directional control. Twisting the board by pushing the toes on one foot forwards results in that side slipping so the board turns down the hill. Slipping left then right has a falling leaf effect.

By the end of the day I was able to slip left and right both on the heel edge and, facing the slope, on the toe edge (much harder for me). I could turn down the hill and use the edges to carve back up again. Each skill used and reinforced the previous ones and eventually I was able to link several turns, travelling down the hill with a shoulder leading and switch from edge to edge. The tricky thing is that swapping edges at the wrong time results in a very fast fall! My bruises only lasted a few days!

So how does learning to snowboard compare to learning to ski? Already knowing about edges helped me understand the mechanics of the process but acquiring the appropriate reactions was something I, like anyone, had to go through. Learning to control a pair of skis is probably a more difficult as there are two sets of edges to control, together! Of course I once managed at some point so it can't be too hard!

Am I now a boarder? Skis slide more easily so one will often find snowboarders unclipping and skating up a slight rise while skiers glide past. A boarder's trailing foot must always be released from their binding before going up a lift then they fiddle around at the top to do things up again. It is a good thing to try but I'll be a skier for a while yet.

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.

Te Matawai Hut Work Party

29-31 March

Jean Garman

Leaving Saturday morning and back by late Sunday afternoon by whatever route seems most appropriate on the day. The primary objective will focus on firewood (get rid of all those destructive urges), cleaning (bring out the inner Martha Stewart) and constructing a seat (for all

Party
354 3536

Season Passes

Once again RAL has “early bird” season passes on sale during April. If you, or a friend, are thinking of getting into skiing or boarding it is well worth buying early. The adult price is \$409 which is only a 2.5% increase on last year and compares to the later price of \$719. After 5 days you'll be skiing “free” with an early bird pass. Full details are on the website: <http://www.mtruapehu.com>

New Club Tent

by Peter Rawlins

The club has recently replaced its aging Macpac Olympus with a nice new Macpac Citadel tent. It is a three season tent and genuinely holds three adults in comfort. It has two entrances and a large vestibule to put your packs in. The total weight is 3.7 kg and it can be easily split

into three parts to be carried amongst the group. Good tents cost money and this was not exception. It was,

however, on sale, down from \$1100 to a mere \$820. Accordingly we have set the hire charge at \$6 per night. I think you will agree that this is very reasonable. We also

have tent flies, billies, cookers, packs, ice axes etc so give me a ring if you need to hire anything.



those creative impulses). The secondary objective will focus on eating, drinking and in general being merry.

South Ohau River

30 March

Bev Akers

Bit of farm walking till we get to the bush, then its a bush track till we get to the river. You can take it what ever

Easy/Medium
325 8879

speed you like up the river till we meet up with the work party group coming down from Te Matawai. You do need to enjoy river travel or just come along till we reach the river for a swim.

Wednesday Trampers

2 April

Pam Wilson

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium
357 6247

Thursday Trampers

3 April

Ray Pratt

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium
328 7884

Roaring Stag Lodge

5-6 April

Christine Scott

The idea of this overnight trip is to make full use of the weekend by mowing the lawn and weeding the garden on Saturday morning (yeah, right), walk into Roaring Stag Hut in the afternoon, have a very pleasant evening meal at the almost new hut, sleep it off and then return to Palmerston North on Sunday morning. It is a 3-3.5 hours from the Mangatainoka Rd end (also called Putara Rd) into Roaring Stag Hut in the northern Tararuas. We will leave Palmerston North at mid day.

Easy/Medium
354 0510

Zekes Hut

6 April

Adam Matich

Zekes Hut is on the eastern face of Hihitahi Peak, which unsurprisingly is in the Hihitahi Forest Sanctuary on SH1 about 16 km north of Taihape. It is estimated, by DoC, to be a 6 hour trip in and out. We park just off the main road and tramp 30 min across farmland before entering the bush. There is about a 380 m climb up and over Hihitahi Peak (90 min), which is open-topped, and an 80 m drop down the eastern face to the hut. Zekes Hut was replaced maybe a year ago and is 5-10 min further on than the old hut was, about 45 min from the top of Hihitahi. After our lunch break we will head back out the way we came in. We will probably leave PN from my place (798 Main St) at around 7.30 am on Sunday.

Easy/Medium
359 2796

Wednesday Trampers

9 April

Jill Spencer

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium
329 8738

Thursday Trampers

10 April

Keith Fisher

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium
357 1724

Waiopahu Hut

12-13 April

Bev Akers

About a 4 hour continuous gradual climb through bush till we reach the leatherwood where we find our hut. Wonderful views of the western side and nice new hut. Sunday, for those who are keen we hope to do the circuit up over Twin Peaks and down Cable End Track back to

Easy/Medium
325 8879

the car park. Depending on the weather of course. Easy laid back break away from home.

Waitewaewae (YTTY)-Thompson Loop

13 April

Jenny McCarthy

We will be leaving Palmerston North at 7.30 am. Our transportation will be left at the Manakau Road end, and the trip will begin with a 750 m climb over 3 km towards the YTTY peak we then turn to the SW and travel along the tops to Thompson for 4.5 km then down the 4WD track to the road end. This trip is going to require some off track navigation in the bush.

Medium/Fit
06 376 8838

Wednesday Trampers

16 April

Liz Flint

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium
356 7654

Thursday Trampers

17 April

Royce Mills

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium
358 4398

Jumbo Loop

19-20 April

Dave Allan

Due to a family commitment I am unable to take this trip. I am looking for someone to lead this trip if possible. If you would like to take this trip, please contact me.

Medium
323 9734

Mid King Biv'

19-20 April

Garry Grayson

Hoping to leave P.N. at 7.30 am bound for 'The Pines' road end at Masterton. I think about a 3 hr walk in to Mitre Flats Hut from here for lunch stop. Now for the 'sweaty' bit!, we'll make our way up the South Mitre Stream for 15 min until Baldy Creek is spotted on our left, from here a climb up the spur to about 1150 m and with a bit of luck may locate the Biv' somewhere in this vicinity! Bearing in mind it has sleeping space for I think only two, it may be an outdoor experience for the remainder of people (if there is any!). The following day's route out will be negotiated at breakfast, if conditions are alright, a short 'hop to the top' around South King, then back down to Mitre Flats via Baldy and Barton Track could be an option. Each day may be around 7-8 h.

Medium/Fit
326 8837

Wednesday Trampers

23 April

Ken Rush

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium
357 2529

Thursday Trampers

24 April

Nigel Spencer

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium
329 8738

Lake Colenso

25-27 April

Greg Dobson

A wonderful trip is planned to this hidden lake deep in the Ruahine Ranges, We will take the Colenso trig route in

Medium
027 374 5620

which has awesome views of Mt Ruapehu, bring your camera for this one.

Wednesday Trampers

30 April

Margaret Gillingham

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

356 8812

Purity Hut

17-18 May

Bev Akers

Nice easy overnighter to a new hut in the western Ruahines. Sunday, the intention is to venture further on to the tops and maybe to the highest point in the range, Mangaweka trig.

Easy

325 8879

Holdsworth - Jumbo Circuit

14-15 June

Tim Swale

Medium

06 376 6556

This popular tramp on the eastern side of the Tararuas offers a range of scenery from lowland forest to open tops and makes for a very rewarding weekend trip. The plan at this stage is to walk up the Gentle Annie track from Holdsworth Lodge, stopping at Powell Hut for lunch before following the ridge across to Jumbo Hut for the night. The next day it is a steep descent down Raingauge Spur to the Atiwhakatu Stream which we will follow back to the road end. Because the tops are so exposed, full storm gear should be packed.



Above: Wednesday Trampers

Photo: Pauline Hall (Te Mata Peak Trip | 27 February 2008)

Left: Maungahuka Loop on Aokaparangi Peak

Photo: Adam Matich (Neill Forks Trip | 15-16 March 2008)

Trip Reports

Blyth Hut

20 February

by Rosemary and Ken Hall

The continued fine weather brought people out of the woodwork with 24 presenting for the trip to Blyth Hut situated on the Turoa side of Mt Ruapehu.

We left Palmerston North at the earlier time of 7.30 am with a rendezvous at the "carrot" just outside Ohakune for the bus and three cars.

Blyth Hut is one of the nicest and most leisurely of tramps with a great variety of scenery. It has a nice section of boardwalking at the beginning and it was interesting to see some snow still clinging to the mountain even with the extended hot summer months. Chris Brunskill, whom we can always rely on for a leg up the steep ridges, was there to help the intrepid rock hoppers across the stream - thank you Chris. After a pleasant walk through the bush we enjoyed a spell in the

sun scattered amongst the rocks before heading up to Lupton Hut for a "look-see". It is a delightful little hut and owned by Wanganui College and no doubt well used year round. There was very little water in the pools so sadly skinny dipping was out. I noted Lynne taking an interest in one shute that leads to a deep pool but no doubt feeling disappointed that she couldn't take the plunge due to the lack of water!

We noted the change of route up to the Blyth Hut. I think the old way was more terrifying come down as you skidded and hung on to the rope whooping and hollering and hoping like hell that nobody was going to come crashing down on top of you - them was the days eh!

After a most enjoyable lunch stop, some of the group ventured up the track above the hut but there wasn't enough time to explore further. However it was suggested that we come back via the skifield and down

the road to our transport on our next trip, so will have to suss out how long that will take. After a monstrous ice-cream in Ohakune, we arrived back in Palmerston North just after 6.00 pm. New Zealand is indeed a beautiful country and so accessible for us to enjoy.

Te Mata Peak - Havelock North 27 February by Pauline Hall

In perfect weather conditions 10 trampers had an enjoyable day. We met two local trampers who hosted us and who proudly gave us some history of the area. There were great views over Hawkes Bay. Ice-creams at Dannevirke on the way home.

Martinborough Fair and Putangirua Pinnacles 1-3 March

by Alla Seleznyova

Eight people were interested in this trip. But in the last minute, most of them pulled out for different reasons with only two of us left: my friend Sheryl and I. And in spite of a bad weather forecast we were very determined. We spent a very pleasant day at the fair, met up with Tim Swale who was there with his visitors, and headed to our accommodation at the Lake Ferry Holiday Park. It started drizzling in the evening when we settled for dinner at a nice and cosy pub at the Lake Ferry hotel. I woke up in the middle of the night from strong gusts of wind shaking the cabin. It turned out that some tents in the park were flattened by the wind at 4 o'clock in the morning leaving people with nowhere to sleep! However the day came calm and sunny. We went to the Pinnacles and then to the lookout and the 4WD loop track to the field centre. The views were stunning. We could see some thunder clouds in the distance, but where we were, it was hot and sunny. We had a very pleasant drive back through a peaceful countryside.

Cone Ridge 6 March by John Thornley

It was a 12 hour trip there and back, with seven of the total party of eight reaching Cone 'summit' just a little

higher than 1000 m. The dampish micro-climate from the saddle to the top supports a Lord of the Rings landscape, and made the hour and half climb well worth it! Eight of us could walk the new swing bridge at the same time!

Climbing Ruapehu 8-9 March

by Christina Mercer

After a ambitious aim to be packed and on the road by six so we could pick up Marian by about 6:15, we ended up being about 10 minutes late, but we weren't worried, as we didn't have to be anywhere at a specific time. We stopped for tea in Taihape, before continuing up to Mt Ruapehu. We got there at about 10, so we quickly unpacked, sorted breakfast out (cereals, sausages and porridge), and went to bed for the night.

The next day we got ourselves up and ate breakfast in a leisurely fashion before heading out to get our lift tickets. We took the double chair up one by one, then the express quad up as a foursome. We then walked up the Knoll Ridge T-bar line, which was mainly on big rocks (with a few loose rocks here and there). When we got to the top of the T-line, we stopped for morning tea, before continuing to the top of the mountain on a virtually untrodden trail, with Dad guiding us. As we were getting to the rim of the Summit Plateau, it started getting rather windy, so we were glad to take a break over the other side out of the wind and admire the lahar-covered Plateau. We then headed towards Dome Shelter along the ridge. On getting to the next high point along this ridge, we decide to head to the shelter across the Plateau. Surprisingly, the shelter had been repaired, so there was no visible damage from the October eruption. We sat down and had lunch there, after a photo session.

We then started getting cold due to a freezing wind, although out of the wind it was quite warm, so we headed down the well worn track back to the bottom. We had a couple of rests on the way down, before deciding to go down the Far West T-bar line and directly to the club lodge, instead of catching the lifts down, since the lifts stopped at 4p.m. My feet started killing me, so I slowed down a bit as the downhill wore on, so in the end we split into two groups so we could have dinner at a reasonable



Left: Putangirua Pinnacles
Photo: Alla Seleznyova
(Putangirua Trip | 1-3 March 2008)

time. The groups consisted of Marian and Mum in the front group (who took a roundabout route), and Dad and I in the slower group. When we finally got to the lodge, Dad and I found dinner almost ready, so we rewarded ourselves with a sit down, which my feet were pleased about. We had dinner, then sat around and talked for a while, before heading to bed at a reasonable hour.

The next morning we had an even more leisurely start, and did several chores in the lodge like stocktaking, before packing up and heading home doing a quick walk into Tawhai falls on the way. We were Marian, and Ken, Mary and Christina Mercer.

**SAREX
8-9 March**

by Christine Scott

Strong winds over the Tararua's meant that we couldn't be choppered into Mangahou Flats Hut for the intended work party to paint the hut, so five of us opted to join the local Search and Rescue training exercise (SAREX) being held in the Gordon Kear forest at the top of Scott's Rd. We formed one team of 4 while our 5th member joined up with the PNTMC team. Other members of the club helped make up the "lost party" of four hunters who had failed to return from a hunting trip, and the management teams who were directing the search from their base at PN Police headquarters.

By 8.30 am we were out at the Advanced Base located in a woolshed near the top of Scotts Rd. After a briefing on all that was known on the "lost party", picking up gear (two radios, GPS and track and clue kit) we had some helicopter training with one of the airforce Iroquois. Six

at a time, we went up in the chopper, were winched down one by one, then winched back up again. I have to say I was pretty nervous about being winched – it was definitely outside my comfort zone – but the winching was done with the chopper not too far off the ground and in an open paddock. By the time I was back up in the chopper I was dead keen for another go.

There were eight teams of four involved in the search for the lost party. Our first task was to be choppered into Awarua trig doing an aerial search of a young pine forest on the way in. The area around the trig was covered in waist high leatherwood so the chopper just hovered above the track while we all jumped out. After a quick lunch we followed the track down from the trig checking for foot prints or other signs of other people being there. Two track junctions later we had nothing to report apart from gun shots away in the distance and were re-tasked to be choppered to the Tokomaru stream. We found a very small clearing in the bush which enabled the chopper to locate us and winch us up. Our drop off point at a bend in the Tokomaru stream was surrounded by steep hills covered in bush so the chopper did a number of circles slowly dropping lower and lower testing out the wind gusts then slowly settled lower and lower, the crew making sure they kept the rotor and tail clear of bush until it was hovering just above the stream. While it hovered we were able to jump out onto a rock in the middle of the stream. Unfortunately we were completely out of radio contact here on both the HF and UHF radios. The PNTMC team was choppered into this point too and one of their members managed to make radio contact by climbing high up the ridge behind us. We were then tasked to make



Left and above: Photos from SAREX
Photo: Adam Matich (Left), Tony Groome (Top), Geraldine Fovakis (Above)
Pauline Hall (SAREX | 8-9 March 2008)

our way up the Tokomaru stream to Burtons track. After a few wades through chest deep water we reached Burtons track and some big grassy flats where we were once again able to make radio contact with base.

By this stage it was time to pitch camp for the night and we heard over the radio that two of the lost party had been found and that we were to be choppered to them in the morning to help stretcher one of them out. So after a delicious meal and a good nights sleep we were back up in the chopper again and being winched down to the “injured lost party”. Four other teams were also there so it was very much a team effort carrying a heavy policeman through the thick bush and out to a four wheel drive track. From there the “two hunters” were choppered back to base but due to a low cloud cover which rolled in the rest of us had to walk the short distance out. The other two hunters walked out and the search was over apart from the de-briefing.

An awesome weekend and I would recommend anyone who may be interested in joining up with Search and Rescue to put their names forward and participate in a range of training exercises and also of course the real thing.

We were: Kear Team 5 (Jean Garman, Adam Matich, Geraldine Fovakis, Christine Scott). Other club members were Team 4 member: Brian Webster , missing party: Hugh Wilde, Peter Rawlins & Nicole Brooke, management team: Howard Nicholson, Andy Brooke and Doug McNeur.

Bushcraft Weekend 15-16 March by Tim Swale

It's hard to imagine that just half an hour's drive south of Palmerston North there is access to a wilderness area of dense bush covered hills and deeply incised streams that are devoid of people and give you the impression that you really are off the beaten track. It was in this area beyond the locked gate of the Gordon Kear Forest that Bev and Gary took us for a wonderful weekend in the bush to learn new skills and share ideas about moving safely and comfortably through the bush.

Fortunately, Gary had a key for the gate into the forest and so we were able to drive a good way in towards the Burtons Track before having to transfer packs to our backs and start the journey on foot down to the Tokomaru River. The intention of the exercise was of course to sharpen our bushcraft skills so rather than just follow the DOC arrows we spent a lot of time reading the map, working out compass bearings and becoming more aware of our surroundings.

Down at the river we searched out the ideal campsite, eventually settling for an idyllic grass covered spot on the edge of the bush where we watched a large eel exploring the pool opposite. Bev and Gary who it turns out are real lightweight tramping aficionados, gave us the run down on what gear to carry so as to cut down on weight and therefore make the whole bush travel thing more pleasant. We were very impressed and came away with some



Above: Brushing up on the navigation skills
Photo: Tim Swale (Bushcraft weekend | 15-16 March 2008)



Above: Sunbathing by the river

Photo: Tim Swale (Bushcraft weekend | 15-16 March 2008)

excellent ideas. After pitching our flies and setting up bivvy bags we brewed tea and made a meal. It was interesting to note that the tea made straight from the river tasted so good compared to the tainted tap water that we are forced to drink in Pahiatua. By 8.30pm we were all tucked up in bed dozing to the sounds of the gurgling stream and moreporks calling to each other in the forest.

The next morning after a hearty breakfast we packed up our gear and headed off down the river. Once again we followed the map intently and used compasses to establish which streams we were passing by. We also practiced river crossings techniques and discussed at length pack floating, although in the end nobody seemed too keen to get in and actually go for a swim! A cup of tea on a sunny shingle beach seemed a much better idea so out came the billies again and we spent the next half hour or so discussing our cholesterol levels and the sins of processed foods etc.

At last it was time to head back up the hill, a bit of a grunt, but nothing to spoil a truly wonderful weekend. After a leisurely lunch on the grassy slopes at the top of the hill we headed down to the cars and away.

Our thanks go to Bev and Gary who made this such a special weekend. We were ; Bev Akers, Gary Bevins, (and their very well behaved dog Gemma) Lyn McCurdy, Greg Dobson, Linda Campbell and Tim Swale.

More Wed & Thu Trampers Trips

Wednesday Tramps

- 20th Feb - Blyth Hut, Mt Ruapehu (25 trampers)
- 27th Feb - Te Mata Peak, Havelock North (10 trampers)
- 5th March - Waihohonu Hut, Mt Ruapehu (15 trampers)
- 12th March - Harris Creek track, Mangahao (13 trampers)

Thursday Trampers

- 21st Feb - Irongates Hut (12 trampers)
- 28th Feb - Murders (Ellis) Hut (13 Trampers)
- 6th March - Cone Peak, Walls Whare (8 trampers)

Club Information

Annual Hut Passes

Buy your Annual Hut Pass through DoC. The full price of an Annual Hut Pass is \$90 but is reduced to \$63 with your Federated Mountain Club (FMC) card discount. Jean Garman will provide you with a form to fill in which will be sent off with your cheque and FMC card (if you have one) to DoC Waikanae who will post you an Annual Hut Pass. Note that MTSC family memberships only pay one FMC sub so only one FMC card (and therefore discount) is available per family. Contact Jean at jeanandivan@value.net.nz or phone (06) 354 3536.

Accommodation at the MTSC lodge on Mount Ruapehu

The lodge is close to Iwikau Village, has power, hot showers, and is stocked with food. The lodge phone number is (07) 892 3860. Lodge bookings can be made between 9:30 am and 9:30 pm on any day. Do not call outside of these hours.



Note that bookings are not confirmed until the fees are paid. Payment is to be made in advance by personal cheque, bank cheque or cash. There is no Internet banking for lodge fees. Contact Hugh & Liz Wilde on (06) 356 9450.

	Members	Guests
Adult	\$21	\$33
Secondary School	\$18	\$30
Primary School	\$15	\$26

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.



Trip leaders and those planning trips should use this effect club asset. Adam Matich is our minibus custodian and he can be contacted at (06) 359 2796.

Club Equipment

We have packs, 2 and 3 person tents, fly-sheets, snow mats, sleeping bag cover, gas cookers, size 8 and 9 boots, billies, two bivvy bags and two big tent flies. Ice axes, crampons, and helmets are also available. Food Dehydrator: ideal for drying large and small quantities of fruit, vegetables, and meat for tramping rips. Easy to use, works well, and is available for hire from the Gear Custodian. Hire cost for members, \$1 per day. Contact the Gear Custodian: Peter Rawlins on (06) 356 7443.

Articles for the newsletter

Send by the 15th of each month to Wei-Hang Chua at mtsc.editor@xtra.co.nz. Please contact me if you'd prefer to receive your newsletter by email only. Send changes of address to the Membership Secretary at P.O. Box 245, Palmerston North or email mtsc.memsec@xtra.co.nz.

Club website | www.mtsc.org.nz

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

People to contact

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

MTSC 2007-08 Committee

President	Howard Nicholson	357 6325 mtsc.president.xtra.co.nz
Secretary	Tim Swale	06 376 6556
Treasurer	Christine Scott	354 0510
Chief Guide	Bev Akers	325 8879
Day Trip Convenor	Gary Bevins	325 8879
Membership Sec.	Jenny McCarthy	06 376 8838 mtsc.memsec@xtra.co.nz
Newsletter Editor	Wei-Hang Chua	021 212 0369 mtsc.editor@xtra.co.nz
Social Convenor	Linda Campbell	323 3836
Ski Captain	Ken Mercer	356 7497
Lodge Manager	Ryan Badger	027 445 1997
Lodge Booking Officers	Hugh & Liz Wilde	356 9450 wildeh@clear.net.nz
Mini-bus Custodian	Adam Matich	359 2796
General Committee	Geraldine Fovakis Ivan Alve	