



# beechleaves

Newsletter of the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club

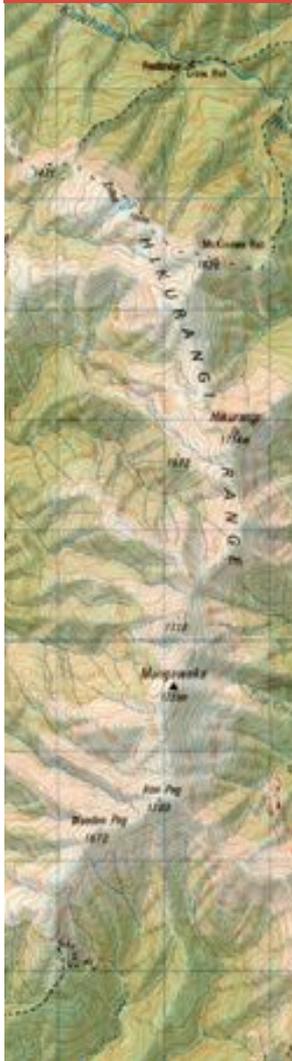
June 2008  
Issue 05

mail:  
MTSC  
P.O. Box 245  
Palmerston North

web:  
www.mtsc.org.nz



**Navigating a crevasse in the alps**  
Photo: Barry Scott



## Upcoming club nights

### Garden of Eden+Powder

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

#### 3rd June - Garden of Eden

Local mountaineer Barry Scott will be giving us a presentation of his trip with five others in January 2008 through the Garden of Allah and Garden of Eden. This was a 10 day trip that started by choppering into the Lambert Tops and exiting down the Perth and Whataroa. Come along to see and hear about this part of the country.

#### 17th June - Powder, more powder!

During the NZ summer the Mercer family skied for a month in the Canadian Rockies. One mountain was Fernie, which gets 8 m of powder snow each year! Ken has some pictures and a few tales to tell.

#### From the editor

Another MTSC year has passed, thanks to all the departing committee members that have made this job easier and welcome to the new. I will be travelling in the tropics in early to mid-June, therefore requests for items for the July newsletter will go out a little earlier than usual. I'll be back to get cracking on the next newsletter so keep those items coming in! Have suggestions or feedback, email me at [mtsc.editor@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mtsc.editor@xtra.co.nz)

#### Contents

Notices .....	page 2	Trip reports .....	page 5
Upcoming trips .....	page 3	Club information .....	page 9

# President's Report

## Winter+Club Website+Thank you

by Howard Nicholson

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

I am starting to get excited - there is a nip in the air, snow is more frequent on the mountains, and our ski lift passes have arrived. Liz and Hugh are already taking Lodge bookings for the season so now is the time to book in your special dates to avoid missing out.

Our club website at <http://www.mtsc.org.nz> contains much information that may help you when planning your trips, including the trip card, leader guidelines, recommended gear lists and general information. If there is more information that you feel should be available then please let me know.

Thank you to the outgoing committee, appointees and everyone else who has organised or participated in club activities last year. John Todd deserves a special mention for once again auditing our financial records and ensuring our documentation is up to scratch. Also, thank you to Ivan Alve for your input into the committee over the past year.

Feedback about having one clubnight per month suggests that people are happy with this idea. We will have more details about this next month, and will give you at least four weeks warning of any change; in the meantime we will continue to meet at the same times and at the same place.

## New Club Members

The club welcomes:

Warren Crawley (PN)

Geoff & Jane Phillips and Family (PN)

John Ridge (PN)

Lindsey Ellingson (PN)

## First Aid Courses

There will be two Outdoor First Aid courses running on the 14-15 June and September 20-21. For further information check out [www.mountainsafety.org.nz](http://www.mountainsafety.org.nz) or email Tom Siegenthaler on [tsiegen@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tsiegen@xtra.co.nz).

## Department of Conservation News



### Camp Fire Chaos

Trampers and hunters, this is a reminder not to breach fire restrictions, and be careful when you are out in the ranges. In late March, a Ruahine Forest Park blaze caused by a camp fire that had not been extinguished properly took a whole day to put out. With heavy logs and materials in front of the fire and really dry conditions, a helicopter had to be used to get water and dump it on the fire. It took Manawatu Principal Rural Fire Officer Tony Groome, a helicopter pilot, 10 Rangiwahia/Apiti volunteer fire-fighters and three Department of Conservation (DOC) staff to extinguish it. DOC-administered areas are always fire restricted. Please use gas cookers if you are tramping or hunting. The lighting of fires in the open is discouraged; permits needed to be obtained for open flames. Anyone wanting a fire permit can apply for one at a DOC office.

(From "Keep Tracking on with DOC" Issue 10 - May 20th 2008 - Palmerston North Area)

### Hut & Track News

There has been a recent review of DOC hut fees, a summary of outcomes is below. In our area this will only affect Rangiwahia Hut but good to be aware of happenings elsewhere:

- Great Walks are free for under 18's
- No change to standard hut fees
- Serviced huts increase by \$5/night for adults only, youth no change, camping no change (= Rangiwahia Hut)
- Most Great Walks adult fee increase by \$5/night (excludes Lake Waikaremoana, Whanganui River Journey and Abel Tasman)

Check the DOC website for specific locations. These changes come into effect from 1 July 2008. When selling hut tickets be aware it is **three** tickets per night for Rangiwahia Hut not two. I'm happy for you to refer to me any people with questions. Let me know if you are not sure about any of this or want more detailed information. Cheers, Margaret.

Margaret Metcalfe  
Dept of Conservation, Community Relations Programme Manager  
Palmerston North Area Office  
VPN 8913  
Phone: 06 3509 703 Mobile: 027 423 5560

# 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.

### Te Hoe Track (Whirinaki)

**31 May-2 June (Queens Birthday Weekend) Medium**  
**Mark Learmonth 355 9143**

Located within the Whirinaki Forest Park the Te Hoe provides access to the more remote rugged areas. Depending on numbers the proposed route likely to be followed is: Saturday early start, Okahu Road end to Mangakahika Hut, stopping for drinks at Skip's Hut and lunch at the historic Rodgers Hut named after the builder's son, born while the hut was under construction 6.5 h. Sunday 7 am start a long day of approx 8 h. Lunch at Central Te Hoe Hut, night at Upper Te Hoe Hut. Monday, later start at 8 am to Pukahunui Road end (4.5 h). As like any other winter trip you will need to be well prepared as it often snows here during winter, some of the ridges we travel over is about 1275 m. One section I believe has plenty of Ongaonga to look out for. Please advise of your interest ASAP. Depending on final make up of party and arrangements we may need to travel up the Friday night in which case we will bunk at Okahu Hut.

### Wednesday Trampers

**4 June Easy/Medium**  
**Kevin & Angela McKinnon 358 9025**  
 Phone for more details.

### Thursday Trampers

**5 June Easy/Medium**  
**Merv Matthews 357 2858**  
 Phone for more details.

### Whakapapaiti Hut

**7-8 June Easy/Medium**  
**Don McDonald 357 0222**  
 Phone for more details.

### Crow Hut (Northern Ruahines)

**8 June Medium/Fit**  
**Dave Mitchell 329 2803**

This day trip starts from the Kawhatau base road end, which is in from Mangaweka. We cross the Kawhatau river in the flying fox, then there is a steep climb (800 m) all the way up to the bush line. We then climb more gradually, making our way along the Hikurangi Range, for a short while, till we reach the turn off down to Crow Hut (1471 m). There is a steep descent (600 m) down to Crow

hut which is next to the Kawhatau River. We may have to plough through some snow on the track above the bush line. It will probably be at least 3 to 4 hours each way, depending on the fitness of the party and weather conditions. People need to have the appropriate gear for this time of the year, just in case. I would like to get away from P.N. no later than 7 am.

### Wednesday Trampers

**11 June Easy/Medium**  
**Patsy Inkpen 323 8030**  
 Phone for more details.

### Thursday Trampers

**12 June Easy/Medium**  
**Carolyn Brodie 358 6576**  
 Phone for more details.

### Holdsworth - Jumbo Circuit

**14-15 June Medium**  
**Tim Swale 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.

### Wednesday Trampers

**18 June Easy/Medium**  
**Margaret Foote 357 8003**  
 Phone for more details.

### Thursday Trampers

**19 June Easy/Medium**  
**Harry & Chris Allardice 323 4390**  
 Phone for more details.

### Food Carry & Mid Winter Feast

**21-22 June All Welcome**  
**Ken Mercer 356 7497**

This is a hot trip, even if the mountain remains stable. Without putting finger to keyboard I have several on my

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

On Saturday night we'll celebrate midwinter in fine style. A little wine is a good idea, whether to drink with your meal or contribute to. On Sunday some may go skiing while others can enjoy a local walk or simply relax.

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

### Wednesday Trampers

25 June

**Bernard Cobb**

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium  
328 8088

### Thursday Trampers

26 June

**Ann Green**

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium  
(06) 374 5208

### Waiouru Army Museum plus...

29 June

**Adam Matich**

We will be leaving P.N. around 8 a.m. and travelling as fast as possible to the nearest enticing-looking cafe for breakfast. Thereafter, our next stop will be in Taihape to walk off a few breakfast calories (if it isn't raining) on the Stewart Reserve hill which is behind the galvanised iron gumboot. I don't think it is a big walk so don't expect to walk off all your breakfast. Then we will make our way to the Army Museum and stay there until I have decided that we are bored and want to go home again, or we get kicked out at closing time (4:30 p.m.), or for other reasons. The museum has a cafe (Rations Cafe), which will do us nicely for lunch. The adventurous people may want to explore the more high-end dining establishments elsewhere in Waiouru. War being a expensive business, it costs money to get into the museum.

Adults	\$12
Children	\$7
Students (ID)	\$8
Family	\$26
Seniors	\$8
RSA's	\$8

And with the cost of transport, breakfast, lunch, and maybe even afternoon tea, you might want to take out a second mortgage. But given the rubbish people waste their money on these days, the day is cheap at twice the price. Either way, this is an opportunity to finally visit the museum instead of just driving past it on the way to somewhere, like I always do!

### Wednesday Trampers

2 July

**Pauline Hall**

Hemi Matenga Scenic Reserve - Waikanae.

Easy/Medium  
329 7707

### Thursday Trampers

3 July

**Stuart Malcolm**

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium  
358 3409

### Forest Lookout Loop

6 July

**Garry Grayson**

Phone for more details.

Medium  
326 8837

### Beginners Alpine

12-13 July

**Brian Webster**

Phone for more details.

Technical  
357 0189

### Rangiwahia Hut

13 July

**Linda Campbell**

The plan is to leave from Feilding around 8.30 am to drive to Renfrew Road and then walk up to Rangiwahia Hut for lunch. It is an easy walk with one steepish section. Weather permitting there should be great views and perhaps even a bit of snow.

Easy/Medium  
323 3836

### Big Hill Station

18-24 July

**Gary Bevins and Bev Akers**

Gives access to the Northern Ruahine Range. Drive to the hut door in four-wheel drive comfort, and spend a week relaxing, tramping, or whatever takes your fancy. Be in early as the Doc Permit has a restriction on numbers.

Medium  
325 8879

### Beginners Ski

19-20 July

**Ken Mercer**

*Please note the date change.*

So you have never skied? Or tried a couple of times and found it hard work? Long slippery feet can be tricky but start now, shuffling around your lawn with an old set, getting used to stepping forwards, sideways, and turning.

Then come up to the lodge where we'll give you a little instruction and you can have heaps of practice. On the Saturday you may not even bother getting a pass (if you're fit you can walk up happy valley faster than the chair!)

I'll do what I can to coordinate transport. Give me a call on the number above or on (027) 364 6475.

Medium  
356 7497

### Elder Hut

26-27 July

**Dave Mitchell**

Phone for more details.

Medium  
329 2803

### Jumbo Hut

17 August

**Christine Scott**

Jumbo Hut has to be one of my favourite huts in the Tararua's with its magnificent views out over the Wairarapa and the goblin forest you walk through to reach it. I expect it to take 3-4 hours to walk into the hut and less to walk out. We will leave the Police Station at 7.30 am.

Medium  
354 0510



Enjoying the view from the tops  
(Herepai Hut Trip | 4 May 2008).  
Photo: Alla Selezynova

## Trip Reports

### Mid King Biv 19-20 April by Jean Garman

The forecast was for a southerly front to come through, so I expected a bit of rain and for it to be a little chilly. The destination was a dog box biv and there were 8 people going, so some camping was going to be involved. How bad could it be??

As we drove south through the Wairarapa the Tararuas were basking in sunshine with not a cloud in sight. As we headed up the sidle track the cloud dropped down over the range and after an hour or so a brief shower of hail preceded the rain which was steady but not intense. A pair of hunters and a dog went cruising past us missing the obvious deer which strolled across the track in front of Mark when there was a bit of a lull in traffic. The hut was reached in time for lunch and a welcome hot drink. We all noticed the moment we stepped outside that the temperature had dropped. Not to worry, after getting our feet wet in the South Mitre stream we had a hill to climb which would warm us up. Not far up the ridge I glanced out to the rain in the valley. It looked a little funny. I didn't know rain could fall that slowly and why was it such a solid white colour. Aw how pretty, it was snowing. To start with we could just see it falling out beyond the trees, then after a while some of it was falling around us, a bit higher up it was settling on the vegetation and ever so

spectacular. A bit higher again and the ground was coated which made following the trail a little harder and my (wet) feet were growing progressively more painful. Near the bush line some crashing through snow covered bushes and tussocks inflicted more coldness on the extremities so by the time the biv was reached getting into dry clothes and a sleeping bag had become a high priority. We drew virtual straws and Peter, Jenny and Mark scored the biv, Kim, Garry and Tony got second place of the flat spot in front of the biv while Adam and I got booted out into the snow laden lumpy surrounds to try and find a couple of body length flat spots. Eventually we settled on using the track and I made a feeble attempt to tie up my fly while what remained of the feeling in my fingers rapidly departed. Dry clothes and into the sleeping bag followed by lots of whinging and moaning as my fingers and toes slowly defrosted. After what seemed like a considerable length of time things had improved to the point where I could get up and tie down the fly properly. In the meantime the others were crowded into the biv keeping relatively cosy with combined body heat and cooking. The outcasts being too far away got to cook their own dinner. It would have been bigger but the can of fish I threw at Adams head inexplicably missed and rolled off down the hill.

After a night of intermittent snow flurries it wasn't a lot warmer the next morning but we got up anyway. All packed up we looked at the cloud draped snow encrusted windswept tops and headed back down the hill. The snow had actually gone from much of the ground and we got progressively warmer as we descended. The hut was reached in time for morning lunch and we skipped on out to the road end with thoughts of icecreams and milkshakes spurring us on. The dairy mans comment of 'what is wrong with you people? Don't you know it's cold out there?' failed to put us off because compared to the previous night Masterton was a tropical paradise. What an adventure. We were Garry Grayson (intrepid trip leader), Peter Luoni, Jenny McCarthy, Mark Learmonth, Tony Evans, Adam Matich, Kim Dowson and Jean Garman.

### Wednesday Trampers

23 April

by Ken Rush

Tramped to Field Hut on a sunny day. All fifteen of us made it to this iconic Tararua Hut. Several members went beyond the hut to get fantastic views.

### Field Hut

24 April

by Jill and Nigel Spencer

On Thursday 24th April 10 Thursday Trampers set off from Palmerston North and headed down to the Otaki Gorge Area to tramp up Field Hut and beyond. We crossed the New Swing-Bridge (very nice) and set off for Field Hut. After a couple of breaks on the way arrived there about 2 1/2 hours after setting out. Some headed

further up to have lunch but cloud rolled in and so no views. Headed back down and on toward home stopping for our usual ice-cream break. We were Gordon, Jake, Royce, Ann, Christine, Graham, Keith, Hugh, Jill & Nigel

### Lake Colenso

25-27 April

by Greg Dobson

We left late on Thursday night to camp on the roadside of Kawhatau rd, so that we could get an early start on Friday. This is definitely the way to go as we wanted to make the most of Autumn's shorter daylight. By 9 am we were at Colenso Trig where we had awesome views of Mt Ruapehu and the Kawhatau valley. We then crossed to the Mokai Patea range and down an unmarked ridge to the Otukota hut track. After a quick lunch at the hut, it was time for the crux of the walk, a 3 1/2 hour trip down the Maropea river to Iron Bark hut. This is a great hut in a sunny, grassy spot only a few metres from the rivers edge, with trout swimming nearby! I'm tempted to come back with a fishing rod next time, anyone for a trout fishing tramp? On Saturday we undertook the walk to Lake Colenso and back, great weather meant that the camera was out to snap plenty of photos. The lake looked magnificent and so peaceful with a few ducks floating on it, lunch was eaten in the nearby hut where we read in the hut book that 2 other club members had been there only a short while earlier, having come in from the east side. We returned to Iron Bark hut via unknown stream because it offered more variety and had great photo opportunities from the ridge above the lake. Sunday was another fine day with no sign of the forecast rain showers that we were expecting, there was a slight North West breeze however



Above: Walking up the Mangahao River  
(Mangahao Flats Work Party | 3-4 May 2008)  
Photo: Ivan Rienks

Above right: Ivan, Dave, Brian, Garry and Adam in front of the well stock woodshed  
(Mangahao Flats Work Party | 3-4 May 2008)  
Photo: Jean Garman

**Right: Blue Fungi**  
 (Herepai Hut Trip | 4 May 2008)  
 Photo: Alla Selezynova



to make our walk across the tops a little chilly. A well earned lunch break was taken beside the tarn below Colenso Trig and then we were off on our last knee jarring downhill home. We stopped for ice cream in Hunterville and reflected on a great weekend away and our plans for learning how to catch trout someday. It was only myself and tramping buddy Josh on this trip. Hope to see more of you guys next time!

### **Mangahao Flats Work Party** **3-4 May**

**by Jean Garman**

Nine people crammed into the minibus which slowly (even with Adam driving) crept up the torturous Mangahao Dams road. Snow was sprinkled on the tops of the visible ridges. The track had been recut in March so it was in relatively good condition and not even that muddy. From the Harris Creek bridge onwards we go to exclaim over drifts of hail under the trees. The front runners got to the hut in time for lunch and were entertained by a little rat running under their feet while they ate outside on the deck. Said rat was later dispatched by Malcolm with a deftly wielded slasher. The rest stopped for lunch along the way and everyone was on board by a little after 2 pm.

The huts perspex windows have been replaced by glass and the effect is quite stunning – you can actually see views from inside the hut instead of just a pale haze. We had been promised that five trees had been cut down around the hut and ringed ready for us to carry, split and stack. Brian had even carried in a very good and consequently heavy splitting axe to handle any tough bits. However while we could find five chainsaw cuts they weren't quite what I would call trees and made a fairly pitiful pile in the wood shed. There were several more trees that could do with clearing from around the hut so we took out another two increasing the pile somewhat. More trees could come down but a chainsaw is needed to drop them without the prospect of damaging the hut. About this time a bit of persistent drizzle started up so a halt for afternoon tea was called. The fire was lit and the minestrone soup was put on to simmer the rest of the afternoon away.

Some people went for a roam around and reported back that there were a couple of good sized trees down in the river below the hut so off we set. Nice dry wood was bow sawed into carryable lengths and lugged back to the woodshed where Brian laid into them with the splitting axe creating long shards that could then be cut down to woodburner length with bow saws. Darkness was approaching so the pace quickened until all the wood we had gathered was split and stacked into the woodshed and we could knock off for the night. Nibbles, drinkies and conversation took over the next hour and just as dinner was about to be served we all ridiculed Doug for imagining approaching lights in the night. To our surprise he was right and 2 people strolled in about an hour after dark. Dinner was scoffed and the chocolate steamed puds mixed up and put on to cook. It was approaching 9 pm by the time they were ready and dished up with a berry compote and cream. A tad rich for that time of night but very yummy all the same. With very full tummies we slowly headed one by one to bed. The morning dawned clear and frosty. A leisurely breakfast was had and the first group started for the road end while the rest did a spot of cleaning and sorted out fire starting material to stack along with the wood in the shed. Eventually everything that could be done was and the rest headed for the road end. The one windfall that had come down since the track cutters had been through was dispatched with a bit of bow saw action and we were all out by about 2 pm. We grooved off back down the road to the melodious tunes of ABBA (thanks Doug) and the obligatory ice cream was consumed in Shannon before heading home.

We were Brian Webster, Adam Matich, Lindsay Elwood, Garry Grayson, Malcolm Thomas, Doug McNeur, Ivan Rienks and Jean Garman.

### **Herepai Hut**

**4 May**

**by Alla Selezynova**

This was a most enjoyable walk! Good weather, great scenery, excellent company. The forest was thick with birds, especially with tuis and wood pigeons. We saw some mushrooms of psychedelic bluish colour. Alan suggested

cooking them for lunch but the rest of us were not so enthusiastic. After a pleasant lunch on a sunny veranda of the hut we wondered further uphill for a panoramic view.

We were Alan Cameron, Tim Swale, Lindsey Ellingson, Sheryl Somerfield and Alla Seleznyova.

### Yeoman's Track

7 May

by Bev Akers

Thirteen trampers started off with one leaving her boots at home, so after a wee wait we were on the road to the Makaroro carpark.

Beautiful crisp sunny day with snow right down to the lower hills. As we arrived 2 cars were leaving, not all keen on the cold water. Today was the day to practice river crossings, linking up in threes. Our feet found it very cold as most of us had only light sandals on to keep our boots dry. Change of footwear and off to Murders Hut (Ellis). Nice and relaxing in the sun but we were running late so it was back to the river and another go at river crossing. The river seemed higher as the snow must be melting with the sun.

This time we decided to link up in 2 groups of 5 and a threesome when we noticed 2 missing. I knew what had happened to them as I had only said back at the last road signpost, that this would be an easy place to go wrong. Sure enough so busy talking, they were heading back towards Murders Hut in a round about way. This was a good wake up call for us to regroup at junctions. All safely back across the river. Then at long last heading home as it was getting late.

Once again the subject of this amazing house up on the hill, with 10 water tanks in a row and a nice driveway, came up in our chatter. We have had fun trying to guess whether its a Lodge or ???? and looking for excuses to drive up to be nosey. But at last we found a car

stopped outside the driveway, so breaks on, and a full interrogation. What a huge surprise we got. Now for all of you who are nosey like us you will have to join us to hear the story.

### Thursday Trampers

15 May

by Rose Strahan

Eleven trampers had a great day up at Herepai with some going on up above the hut for the view and some having lunch in the sun on the hut porch.

### Roaring Stag Lodge

17 May

by Keith Fisher

Seven Thursday Trampers left the van at 9.00 am and we were at the Lodge by 12.00 noon. The sun had not reached the Lodge when we arrived so we lunched at a sunny site closer to the river. The weather was fine but cool and the river and bush looked great. Main highlight was a morepork sitting on a branch over the track on the return leg from the Lodge. We were back at the van by 3.15 pm.

### More Wed & Thu Trampers Trips

#### Wednesday Tramps

23rd April - Field Hut (10 trampers)

30th April - Sledge Track (16 trampers)

14th May - Himatangi Beach - Tangimoana Beach (18)

#### Thursday Trampers

17th April - Zeke's Hut (13 trampers)

24th April - Field Hut (10 trampers)

1st May - Stanfield Hut (9 trampers)

8th May - Herepai Hut (12 trampers)



**Thursday Trip to Stanfield Hut and Beyond**

(Stanfield Hut Trip | 1 May 2008).

Photo: Keith Fisher

# 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 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.



Lodge bookings should preferably be made by e-mail ([wildeh@clear.net.nz](mailto:wildeh@clear.net.nz)). If for some reason you cannot e-mail then phone. Please 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 (but don't send cash through the mail). There is no internet banking for lodge fees. Contact Liz and 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 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.

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](mailto: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](mailto:mtsc.memsec@xtra.co.nz).

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

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

## People to contact

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

### MTSC 2008-09 Committee

President	Howard Nicholson	357 6325 <a href="mailto:mtsc.president@xtra.co.nz">mtsc.president@xtra.co.nz</a>
Secretary	Tim Swale	06 376 6556
Treasurer	Christine Scott	354 0510 <a href="mailto:mtsc.treasure@xtra.co.nz">mtsc.treasure@xtra.co.nz</a>
Chief Guide	Bev Akers	325 8879
Day Trip Convenor	Gary Bevins	325 8879
Membership Sec.	Doug McNeur	359 1893 <a href="mailto:mtsc.memsec@xtra.co.nz">mtsc.memsec@xtra.co.nz</a>
Newsletter Editor	Wei-Hang Chua	021 212 0369 <a href="mailto:mtsc.editor@xtra.co.nz">mtsc.editor@xtra.co.nz</a>
Social Convenor	Geraldine Fovakis	356 4327
Ski Captain	Ken Mercer	356 7497
Lodge Manager	Ryan Badger	027 445 1997
Lodge Booking Officers	Hugh & Liz Wilde	356 9450 <a href="mailto:wildeh@clear.net.nz">wildeh@clear.net.nz</a>
Mini-bus Custodian	Adam Matich	359 2796
General Committee	Linda Campbell	323 3836
	Rob Pringle	354 0218
	Peter Rawlins	356 7443