

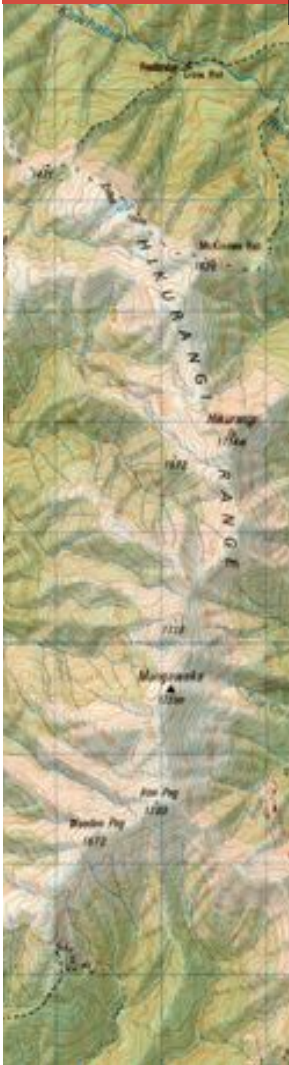
August 2009  
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A break in the pedalling for a group photo and drink on the Rimutaka Incline  
(Photo: Tim Swale | Rimutaka Incline Trip | 21 June 2009)



## Upcoming club nights

### Antarctica + Photo Competition

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

#### 4th August - Antarctica: A Photographic Expedition

Richard Lander, his family and friends spent a month in South America and Antarctica last summer. Antarctica is a continent of contrasts, this trip was a travellers dream with calm seas, sunny skies and photographic scenery to die for. Find out what it was like to kayak amongst icebergs, dance with penguins, brush with leopard seals, watch glaciers carve and see more humpback whales than you would ever see in a lifetime.

#### 1st September - Photo Competition

Competition season between the local tramping clubs is about to start. It is time to get your entries into our own annual photo competition so dig around your recent tramping, climbing, overseas travel photo snaps and get them in to this competition (see page 3 for full details of how to submit these). Apart from being a competition, this is a great time to see what other club members have been taking photos of or just where they have been.

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If you'd like to receive you newsletter by email as a pdf rather than by post then please let me know on [editor@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:editor@mtsc.org.nz).

# President's Report

## Tramping fabrics

by Ken Mercer

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

Cotton is cold, clammy and dangerous in the outdoors and I've long puzzled as to why it should be so. For a while I assumed it had something to do with it not stretching so the fabric would flap away from ones skin, cool down, then feel cold. Although a close fitting garment is desirable, certainly it's lighter, it was a mention in a past FMC Bulletin of the hydrophobic qualities of good fabrics which has enlightened me.

Most of the synthetic fabrics are hydrophobic and actively repel water. On the other hand cotton has some attraction to water - it is hydrophilic. Why should this be a problem?

In the first instance cotton will retain more moisture than synthetic material. Not only will your cotton tee shirt get heavier but it will take longer to dry if you have a chance to hang it in a hut. In a little experiment I ran polypropylene when wet was 54% heavier than dry whereas cotton doubled in weight.

But if you have strong legs what's the problem with carrying an extra few hundred grams? The extra water has two other effects. Firstly it conducts heat much better than the air it has displaced so your tee shirt has lost much of its insulation. Secondly, because the fibers are attracted to the water and the water to other fibers, the fabric closes up further reducing its insulating ability. The two effects combine in a lethal fashion. What was fluffy cotton becomes soggy and thin.

A hydrophobic fabric such as polypropylene or wool will still retain some moisture but the fibers are repelled from the water and each other helping to retain its insulating qualities. If you wear several layers and a waterproof shell you'll be able to enjoy your winter trips. Make the most of them!

For those who are interested here's the results of my little experiment. A slow spin was used to remove much of the water.

## Chief Guide's Report

by Kim Fraser

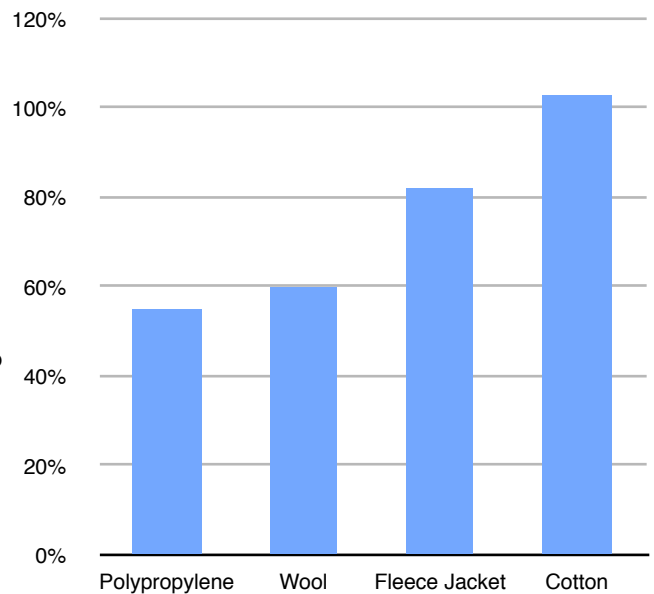
email [dowson\\_kr@hotmail.com](mailto:dowson_kr@hotmail.com) or phone (06) 355 5496

Hi everyone, I guess I should introduce myself as your new chief guide whom Bev has more than happily handed the reins over to, thanks Bev!

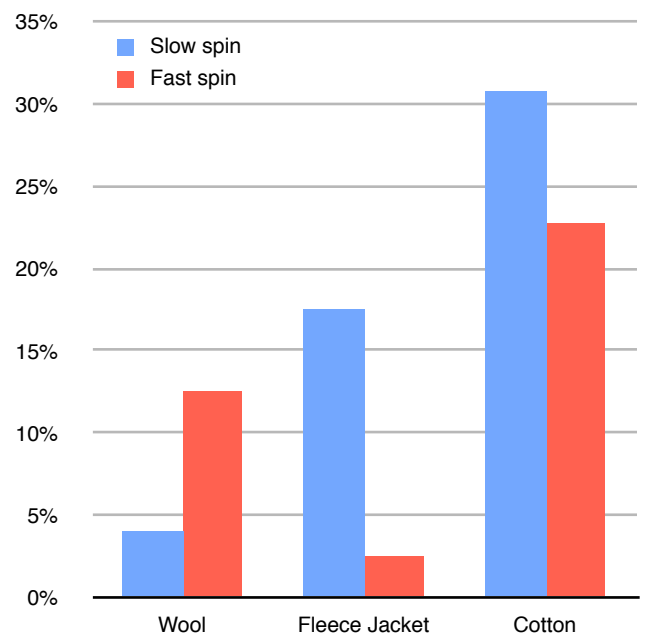
I know many of you probably don't have a clue who I am and that's fine as I probably don't know who the majority of the club is either, I usually try to get out with the overnight trampers but hopefully over the winter months I will get out with some other groups and meet more of the club.

As I'm still new at this role I have no idea on what I'm supposed to be writing in this report I have no idea what to say really, and well I could comment on the amount of

% increase over dry weight



Increase in wet weight compared to polypro



snow there is out there at the moment and how great its going to be for the skiers this season, and how much fun it is to be tramping in the snow when the sun finally shows itself, my mind is really on the flight I'm catching tonight to a happy sticky 32 deg C in Hong Kong so I'd rather not think about snow and all those frosty mornings we've had this week so bring on the sunshine!! See y'all when I get back, Kim Fraser.

## Ski Captain's Report

by Rob Pringle

email [rob.kate.pringle@gmail.com](mailto:rob.kate.pringle@gmail.com) or phone (06) 358 3319

Firstly a big thanks to all those who attended and helped out at the food carry, many hands make light work is never

## MEMBERSHIPS

Thank you to all those members who have paid their subscriptions. If you paid directly into our bank account and have received a reminder notice, please contact me (06 376 8838; membership@mtsc.org.nz). I have not been able to match all the deposits to members. Jenny McCarthy (Membership Secretary)

more true when there's 160kg of potatoes in the car park that are supposed to be in the downstairs chiller.... May your efforts be rewarded over winter with many hot meals in the lodge!!

The snow base on both sides is increasing steadily, and with both now open the pressure is mounting to start counting the number of days had on the mountain, not that it's every a competition....I only keep track of how many I do so I make sure I get my money's worth out of my season pass..... Yeah right.... With this in mind and the ever increasing popularity of heading into the back country, it is at this point in time where we pause to consider our personal safety and the safety of those around us. The club has had now for a couple of season avalanche transceivers which are available for very reasonable rates for those of us wanting to explore more of the mountain that the ski patrol service.

Whakapapa and Turoa ski patrol are also advertising avalanche awareness courses, with various different dates, and locations on the mountain, this course is offered as a pre requisite to their back country avalanche course run later in the year. The course is made up of a one day in the classroom and another on the field. If anyone is interested I have an email with the details on, first course starts 21/22 July at Turoa.

One other thing I would like to touch on before signing off is to make mention of car pooling, often it needn't be a formally organized club trip but a quick ring around before you head up the mountain can often accommodate other peoples desires to get up the hill, and make for a more enjoyable trip to the mountain... Till next month...

## New Members

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

Kingsley Etheridge and family (PN)  
David Harrington and family (Napier)  
David Mathers and family (Whangarei)  
Paul Snelling (Whangarei)  
Geoffrey Beaumont and family (PN)  
Carl Pester (Pahiatua)  
Stuart Brown (Whangarei)  
David Allis and family (Auckland)  
Richard Grant and family (Lower Hutt)

## Snowcraft 2009

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

Some people have shown an interest in a basic snowcraft instruction course, so we will run one on the weekend of 24-26 July. People will gain the skills and confidence

necessary to tramp above the NZ bushline in Winter. We will cover topics such as moving on snow, gear (including ice axe and crampon use), what to do should things go wrong, and snow shelters.

MTSC has not scheduled any further alpine instruction courses this year, however PNTMC has kindly offered to accept people who have covered the basic skills onto their intermediate and advanced courses in August – see:

[www.pntmc.org.nz/courses](http://www.pntmc.org.nz/courses)

Note also that there are two trips to Oturere Hut on this weekend, that will hopefully also encounter snow.

## MTSC Photo Competition

Contributed by Howard Nicholson

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

### Alpine (NZ)

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

### Scenic (NZ)

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

### Natural History (NZ)

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

### Topical (NZ)

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

### Overseas (Open)

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

Entries shall not have been entered in a previous Interclub Competition. If possible, please send your digital picture entries, along with a title and/or brief description, to me by the **30 August**, on CD (call me so that I know when to expect them – 357 6325) or email to [photocomp@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:photocomp@mtsc.org.nz) (after July 15) so that they can be arranged into categories and tested prior to the night. I can also scan slides if you wish, provided I have them by 28 August.

# Upcoming trips

## TRIP GRADING

The times listed below include tramping, rest and meal stops. In assessing the trip times and grades, terrain, weather and party fitness (a party is as fast as its slowest member) must be considered. As these factors will never repeat themselves, times are only estimates. Contact the trip leader if you are unsure about trip gradings for a specific trip.

<b>ALL</b>	All welcome
<b>EASY</b>	4 hours per day, pace slower than Easy/Med. Does not relate to terrain.
<b>EASY/MEDIUM</b>	5 hours per day at a pace slower than medium.
<b>MEDIUM</b>	7 hours per day at a standard walking pace.
<b>MEDIUM/FIT</b>	8 hours per day at a pace faster than medium.
<b>FIT</b>	Over 8 hours per day at a pace faster than medium/fit.
<b>TECHNICAL</b>	Qualifying requirements to be announced by the trip organiser.

## TRIP SAFETY

Trip leaders are reminded that trip intentions can be emailed to [intentions@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:intentions@mtsc.org.nz), although this is not a substitute for leaving full written details with the designated contacts within the club. If you require further information on this please contact the Chief Guide. The club also has tent flies and personal locator beacons available free of charge, the club transit van will always have these so there isn't any reason not to take these on a trip short or long, they way next to nothing.

### Park's Peak

18-19 July

Easy/Medium

Bev Akers

325 8879

I'm really looking forward to visiting this new hut in the Eastern Ruahines. Not yet sure which way we'll go, all depends on the weather at the time. I'm keen on the river crossing and the longer route to the hut as it's been awhile since I've done it. It's all up to us on the day.

### Oturere

25-26 July

Medium/Technical

Jenny McCarthy

06 376 6556

At this stage I have no idea of the route we will take. The destination will be Oturere weather permitting. It will be off track and hopefully there will be some snow. Please phone for more details.

### Oturere

25-26 July

Easy/Medium

John Doolan

027 446 8740

What better way to start the winter by having a weekend in the mountains with like-minded trampers. With a bit of luck there will be some snow hanging around! Oturere Hut is in the Oturere Valley in the Eastern shadows of Mount Ngaurahoe, that's the pointy one in-between Ruapehu and Tongariro.

We will access the hut from the Desert Road (3-4 hours). Lunch will be at the Waihonuhu hut after about 1.5 h, a good place for a cuppa, toilet stop and a good old chat. Then it's a comfortable 2-3 hours to the overnight hut.

We will leave from my home at 7am. No need for tents as the hut sleeps heaps (unless you are so inclined). Contact me at [john.doolan@inspire.net.nz](mailto:john.doolan@inspire.net.nz), 06 355 5495 (work) or 0274 468 740. There no truth to the rumour that I snore!

### Leitch's Hut

1-2 August

Easy/Medium

Mark Learmonth

355 9143

Heading for Whareorino Forest in the North-West King Country. Nice easy winter trip of around 3 hours to Leitch's Hut (sleeps 16). We will travel to the hut by way of the Leitch's Track a clearly marked & easily graded track.

### Tokomaru Waterfall

2 August

Easy

Royce Mills

358 4398

Here's a chance to have a close up look at the Tokomaru waterfall that you have probably seen while driving along SH56 or 57. It's planned as an easy ramble for families or anyone interested in coming along. Bring your camera and your thermos. The farmer has kindly offered his wool shed as a place to have a cup of tea.

### Wednesday Trampers

5 August

Easy/Medium

Ken & Anne Rush

357 2529

Phone for more details.

### Thursday Trampers

6 August

Easy/Medium

Graham Pritchard

357 1393

Phone for more details.

### Mangatainoka Hot Springs

8-9 August

Easy

Tim Swale

06 376 6556

A long drive up to the Kawekas (about 3½ hours) but a wonderful winter walk with hot pools to end the day. The intention is to leave vehicles at the Mangatutu Hot Springs and walk about 2½ hours to Te Pui Lodge. We can drop

off overnight gear and head on up to the Mangatainoka Hot Springs about another 45 mins. upstream for a soak.. A torch will be needed for the walk back to the hut in the dark.

On Sunday if the weather is suitable for tops travel I hope to return via Makino Biv. If not we will retrace our steps back along the Mohaka to the road end and a final dip in the hot pool before leaving for home. Phone or email [theswales@xtra.co.nz](mailto:theswales@xtra.co.nz) if interested.

### **Arawaru (Baldy) Trig**

**9 August**

**Medium**

**Gary Bevins**

**325 8879**

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

### **Wednesday Trampers**

**12 August**

**Easy/Medium**

**Colleen Newth**

**358 8801**

Phone for more details.

### **Thursday Trampers**

**13 August**

**Easy/Medium**

**Merv Matthews**

**357 2858**

Phone for more details.

### **Waikamaka Hut**

**15-16 August**

**Medium**

**Jenny McCarthy**

**06 376 8838**

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

### **Wednesday Trampers**

**19 August**

**Easy/Medium**

**Rosemary & Ken Hall**

**356 8538**

Phone for more details.

### **Thursday Trampers**

**20 August**

**Easy/Medium**

**Carolyn Brodie**

**358 6576**

Phone for more details.

### **North Range Road**

**23 August**

**Bike/Walk**

**Linda Campbell**

**323 3836**

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

### **Wednesday Trampers**

**26 August**

**Don McDonald**

Phone for more details.

**Easy/Medium**

**357 0222**

### **Thursday Trampers**

**27 August**

**Harry & Chris Allardice**

Phone for more details.

**Easy/Medium**

**323 4390**

### **Iron Gate Hut**

**29-30 August**

**Adam Matich**

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

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

All up it is a 3-4 hour trip. Next day we do it in reverse.

The day lengths will not be great, so we will have plenty of time for sloth at the hut on Saturday afternoon and evening.

Don't forget to bring some kindling along to help get the fire started!

### **Wednesday Trampers**

**2 September**

**Liz Flint**

Phone for more details.

**Easy/Medium**

**356 7654**

### **Thursday Trampers**

**3 September**

**Ann Green**

Phone for more details.

**Easy/Medium**

**(06) 374 5208**

### **Ski Ngauruhoe**

**5-6 September**

**Peter Rawlins**

Phone for more details.

**Technical**

**356 7443**

### **Wellington Skyline Walk**

**6 September**

**David Newstead**

Phone for more details.

**Easy**

**(027) 457 6175**

### **Wednesday Trampers**

**9 September**

**Rose Strahan**

Phone for more details.

**Easy/Medium**

**328 9861**

### **Thursday Trampers**

**10 September**

**Stuart Malcolm**

Phone for more details.

**Easy/Medium**

**358 3409**



Having lunch at the nice sunny Rangī Hut  
(Photo: Rod Knight | Triangle Hut Trip | 6 June 2009)

## Trip Reports

### Triangle Hut 6-7 June

by Jean Garman

All week the forecast did not waiver - dodgy on Saturday, nice on Sunday and so it was. As we set off up Deadman's Track there was a little indecision about whether a coat was needed but eventually we all settled on wearing them as even a little dampness when heading into the snow is not desirable. A wee way before leaving the shelter of the leatherwood we paused to put on more layers and eat a bit of food in anticipation of it being too cold to stop till we were down in the leatherwood on the other side. As we got higher the light drizzle turned to snow and some of the wind blasts exfoliated any exposed skin - Rod must have very smooth legs by now.

In the lee of Mangahuia we had a quick check to see if people were still keen for the leatherwood experience - fools. Brian pounced on Jenny's runaway glove before we took a compass bearing and headed off down the ridge. Just above the intense leatherwood belt I walked into a nice patch of snow which being somewhat deeper than anticipated I fell forwards into. As I was floundering around trying to extract myself I suddenly realised that only the top foot was snow and I was in fact wallowing in a tarn and had consequently got quite wet. Several bad words were said. No time to muck around instead it was throw yourself at the leatherwood till it gives way.

Rod was bringing up the rear which was probably a good thing as his sharp eyes meant all the gear Jenny was busily discarding (piece of walking stick, camelback bite valve) were retrieved. A little while later in a slightly less leatherwood dense area we stopped for a quick bite to eat. Numb fingers didn't work very well, thrashing through the

leatherwood was proving to be much colder than being out in the driving snow. More leatherwood. Along the way I started to go slower, I wasn't feeling quite right, I had (shock horror) gone quiet, I couldn't focus enough to help with Brian with the navigation = hypothermia here I come. Things weren't dire yet so we kept on pushing onwards and downwards. As we lost more altitude and got out of the snow things started to feel OK again and much to the disappointment of my companions I was no longer quiet.

When we reached the river we were smeared from head to toe in leatherwood droppings but as the river was up quite a bit we soon washed it all off from about the waist down. Luckily it wasn't too far up river to the hut where we quickly changed into dry clothes, got a brew going and the fire roaring. Being only three o'clock in the afternoon we had plenty of time to drink many rounds of hot drinks, dry off most of our wet gear and get the hut hot enough that several layers had to be removed. By the time the many parts of dinner/dessert were all finally consumed we lay bloated on our sleeping bags and went to sleep. It stayed warm for quite a while through the night but at some time in the wee small hours all the clouds rolled away, we wriggled deep into our sleeping bags and everything outside froze solid.

Not an early start on Sunday as everyone was sleeping so soundly. We had a cunning plan to save our feet some pain once we were up in the snow. We crossed the river boots only and long johns pushed up above our knees (the water was stingily painful) then on with dry socks and plastic bags before putting the boots back on. We hadn't hauled ourselves that far up the hill before the sun was shining on us and one by one most peoples extremities

thawed out. The sun was nice and warm but everything else was very very frozen. Luckily the bit of snow that had fallen on Saturday gave a nice grippy coating on top of the frozen snow/ice so the traction was good most of the way. Only when we got near the turn off to Rangī had the wind blown all the loose stuff away just leaving a hard layer of ice. Those ice axes which had been so annoying in the leatherwood the previous day were now very useful for cutting steps across the tricky bits.

The wind was fair blasting through at the signpost so we quickly scuttled down the ridge to Rangī hut for lunch. Fabulous sitting on the sheltered veranda in the sunshine. The sun kept on shining all the way down although very light snow was also falling. Awesome trip, the bruises should be gone in a week or two. We were Jenny McCarthy, Rod Knight, Brian Webster and Jean Garman.

## Food Carry Aftermath

20 June

by Ken Mercer

On Saturday it was very cold, windy but dry. We marched back and forwards, tallied and stacked the food. Masses of pin-wheel scones disappeared. Cleaning, building, floor insulation and other repairs were done. (Thanks everyone!) We had a feast and were entertained by the beam traverse. Then it was Sunday.

A few more jobs and tidying up didn't take long. Rob, Ryan and their group meandered around to Turora for a first look of the season. Some headed for home and a group of seven thought we'd have a look at the Whakapapaiti track.

Getting the van out of the car park was a little entertaining. There was a small chance of sliding sideways into an adjacent vehicle so we opted to back up the hill to a wider gap. It was icy so a short tow by Neil was much appreciated.

We drove a short distance down the Bruce road to Scoria Flat and headed off on the first section which is part of



Heading along the range

(Photo: Jean Garman | Triangle Hut Trip | 6 June 2009)

the round the mountain track. The weather was clear but still cold although the wind had abated from Saturday. The track, well above the bushline, meandered up a ridge with views of the mountain on our left then descended through a series of switch backs to the Whakapapaiti river. In places the chill wind caught us but it was difficult to tell if it had risen or was channelled in our direction. In places it might have been boggy but instead of mud we had the most marvellous ice formations. Rather than forming a crust over the surface the ice had built up to many inches thick as successive layers of water froze on top. The result was the track was raised

above the surrounding area, or so it seemed anyway. Walking on the ice was next to impossible but generally the ground either side gave much more secure footing, particularly since the rocks were dry. Down towards the river it had been eroded quite deeply and it was a little more difficult to negotiate. The spectacular frost on the sides was some compensation for the slippery base. We had a short lunch stop in the sun at the Whakapapaiti hut and here Sonya and Neil left us and returned back to their vehicle. Below here the valley opened up some and we also had to cross the river in several places. As it was low bolder hopping was successful so our feet remained dry. As the track swung back towards the east there was more ice including impressive stalactites hanging from a bank. After a total of 4 hours we reached the Whakapapa Village where we found the van waiting for us. We were Ken and Mary Mercer, Peter Rawlins, Malcolm Thomas, Lindsey Elwood, Sonya Turk, Neil Harold.

## Biking the Rimutaka Incline

21 June

by Tim Swale

With a forecast of strong southerly winds and showers for the Wellington area I had reservations about our planned ride on the old rail track across

the Rimutakas. After all, in the 1800s several carriages were blown from the track straight over the embankment with tragic results. However our intrepid band of cyclists were not to be deterred. Arriving at Cross Creek it was decided that Nicholas Mels and I would ride over the hill to Kaitoke whilst the other seven went by car to start their ride back from Kaitoke. Nicholas and I would then bring the vehicles back to meet up again back at Cross Creek.

In our main party were Linda Campbell, Adam Matich, Kelvin and Angela McKinnon, Rebecca Sryett and her friend Natasha and Gareth Fergus. The ride from the Kaitoke end is a long gentle climb following the Pakuratahi stream up to the Summit Station where there is large, well kept picnic area with toilets, shelter and a variety of rusting steam engine parts. The recently updated displays do an excellent job of explaining what it must have been in the railway's heyday. Our two groups met each other 10 to 20 minutes before the summit on the Kaitoke side and duly swapped car keys. Nobody was hanging around too long as it was a chilly day so Nicholas and I continued on to collect the cars taking just 2 hours to complete the crossing. The main party after passing the Summit had the best bit of the ride, a fast downhill passing through three tunnels and Siberia Gulley on the way to Cross Creek station. From there it is a grade 2

single track ride out to the car park close to the shores of Lake Wairarapa. The timing could hardly have been better – as Nicholas and I got out of the cars after our drive back over the Rimutaka Hill, Rebecca who was at the front of our larger group, was just arriving. So, with bikes safely loaded it was on to the bakery and café in Featherston for coffee and cakes. A very pleasant end to one of those feel good Winter trips where you are not really looking forward to braving the elements but once out there are pleasantly surprised by better than expected weather and end up having a great time.

### Coppermine Creek 21 June

by Christine Scott

I decided I didn't want to get wet feet going through Iron Gate Gorge so 6 of us headed up to Coppermine Creek to do the 3 hour circuit there. Much closer to home and I hadn't been up there in over 20 years. We had lunch / morning tea on top and then headed back to the carpark where we located a geocache and Liam swapped a baby's dummy Hugh had found on the track for a bullet casing. We were: Mark Learmonth, Hugh Wilde, Warren & Liam Henderson, Dave Pollard and Christine Scott.

### Otaki Beach & Otaki River Walkway 24 June

by Rita Hodson

Wednesday morning dawned cold and frosty with the promise of a lovely day.



**Pretty encrusted Rangiwahia Hut sign**

(Photo: Jean Garman | Triangle Hut Trip | 6 June 2009)



Twenty one trampers headed down to Otaki Beach and River walkway to make the most of the sunshine. After walking along the sandy stoney beach with great views of Kapiti Island we stopped by the beach lagoon for morning tea, and then continued on the river walkway enjoying the sunshine lovely views of river and snow capped Tararuas.

The track continued on under Highway 1 and the main trunk line for another half hour and on the way we came across some hard working volunteers planting native trees doing a really good job.

At the end of the track we stopped for lunch making use of the tables at either end of another lagoon.

We returned the same way taking in the view of the coast and river mouth in the distance. Finished the day with an enjoyable coffee in Otaki and some a look around the Otaki shops.

## Blue Range Track

25 June

by Stuart Malcolm

Nineteen trampers ascended the Blue Range track in cold conditions, but with minimal wind or rain. At the junction near the hut we split into groups. The majority went onto Te Mara peak and most of those returned via the main track, but four descended the SE ridge which was overgrown but helped by GPS - they exited via the Mikimiki track. Another group continued from the junction towards Cow Creek for about an hour before returning. Most of the participants did not go to the hut on this trip.

A good day with differing options - a potential headache for the trip leader to keep a handle on where everybody is, but having experienced trampers in each group makes it possible.

*Right:*

Lunch stop on the Otaki Walkway trip on the 24 June 2009. Photos taken by John Hunt.

## Wed & Thu Trampers Trips

### Wednesday Tramps

June 3rd	Fern walk & Old Coach Rd - Pohangina (12)
10th	Deadman's Track (16)
17th	Sunrise Hut in the snow (16)
24th	Otaki Beach & river walkway (21)

### Thursday Trampers

June 4th	Wharite
11th	Herepai Hut
18th	Rangi Hut
25th	Blue Range Hut / Cow Track / Te Mara Trig (19)

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



# 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\[at\]value.net.nz](mailto:jeanandivan[at]value.net.nz) or phone (06) 354 3536.

## Accommodation at the MTSC lodge on Mount Ruapehu

The lodge is close to Iwikau Village, has mains power, heating, hot showers and is well stocked with food. Members and their guests are welcome. (Lodge phone number is (07) 892 3860).



Lodge bookings should be made by e-mail where possible ([lodge.bookings\[at\]mtsc.org.nz](mailto:lodge.bookings[at]mtsc.org.nz)). If for some reason you cannot e-mail, then phone between 9.30 am & 9.30 pm on any day. Please do not call outside these hours. Please also note that bookings are not confirmed until all fees are paid. Payment is to be made in advance by personal cheque, bank cheque or cash (in person). Don't send cash through the post. There is no internet banking for lodge fees. Contact Liz & Hugh Wilde on (06) 356 9450.

	Members	Guests
Adult	\$25	\$38
Secondary School	\$22	\$35
Primary School	\$19	\$30
Pre-school (3-5 yo)	\$10	\$10

## Booking and use of the MTSC Transit Van

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

1. Book preferably by Thurs day, and certainly no later than 6 pm Friday.
2. Cancel bookings by these times so others needing the van have time to amend travel arrangements.
3. A fly should be carried on every tramp, there is always one in the passenger door of the club van and they are available from the Gear Custodian at no charge. There is a Personal Locator Beacon, in the glove box, for people using the van to take with them.



Trip leaders and those planning trips should use this club asset. Adam Matich is our minibus custodian and he can be contacted at (06) 359 2796 or at work (06) 953 7679.

## Club Equipment

We have two personal locator beacons (PLB), packs, 2 and 3 person tents, fly-sheets, snow mats, sleeping bag cover, gas cookers, size 8 and 9 boots, billies, two bivvy bags and two big tent flies. Ice axes, crampons, and helmets are also available. Food Dehydrator: ideal for drying large and small quantities of fruit, vegetables, and meat for tramping rips. Easy to use, works well, and is available for hire from the Gear Custodian. Hire cost for members, \$1 per day (no charge for PLB). Contact the Gear Custodian: Peter Rawlins on (06) 356 7443.

## Articles for the newsletter

Send by the **end** of each month to Wei-Hang Chua at [editor\[at\]mtsc.org.nz](mailto:editor[at]mtsc.org.nz). Please contact me if you'd prefer to receive your newsletter by email only. Send changes of address to the Membership Secretary at P.O. Box 245, Palmerston North or email [membership\[at\]mtsc.org.nz](mailto:membership[at]mtsc.org.nz).

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

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

## People to contact

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

### MTSC 2008-09 Committee

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