

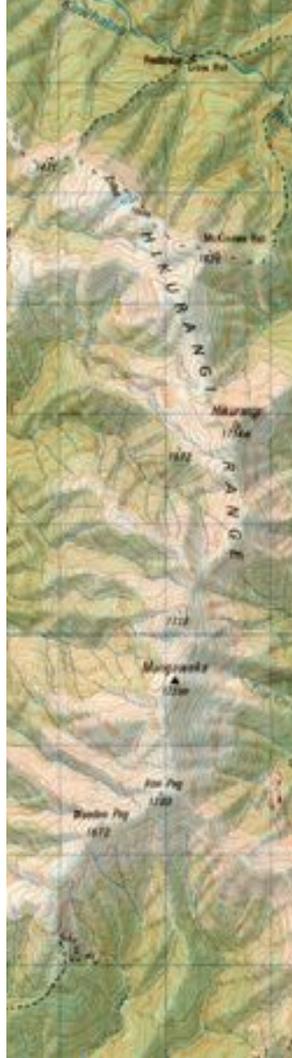
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Three monkeys up a tree
(Photo: Adam Matich | Arawaru Trip | 9 August 2009)



Upcoming club nights

Interclub Photo Competition + Club Quiz

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

24th September - Interclub Photo Competition

This year, PNTMC is hosting the Annual Interclub Photo Competition on 24 September 2009 at 7.45 pm, at the Quakers Hall, 227 College St, PN. The images will be judged by Paul Gummer, lecturer in photography at UCOL. There will be prizes for the top three placings in each category. PNTMC looks forward to welcoming members from MUAC and MTSC to this prestigious event. Come along and see where people in our region have been travelling and what they've been doing. Come support our club.

6th October - Interclub Quiz

The Interclub Quiz is a traditional competition between the clubs to see who has the best outdoor general knowledge. This year, our club is hosting the quiz. The competition will be held at 7.30 pm at our clubrooms. Come along for what is an entertaining night, if not to participate then to cheer on fellow club members.

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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.

President's Report

by Ken Mercer

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

In the days when I was kayaking most weekends a colleague, Charlie, arrived at work after a weekend's tramping somewhat bemused. He'd stayed Saturday night in a hut with two mates, Adrian and Bevin. All were experienced trampers although Charlie probably had the edge on the others and was a little fitter. Next morning Charlie was still pottering around when the others were ready to leave so they set off a few minutes ahead of him.

The track went through a small patch of bush before ascending an open ridge. It took Charlie 10 minutes to get through the bush and there he expected to see the others climbing the ridge but they were nowhere in sight. He waited a few minutes scanning for any sign of them but there was none so he dropped his pack and carefully returned along the track, wondering how they could have passed.

The hut was still and quiet and he was now quite worried, and again traversed the track to no avail. The pair seemed to have vanished into thin air. There were tracks leading into the bush from the hut but no sign that they'd exited and climbed the ridge. Fortunately, soon afterwards, Adrian and Bevin appeared from the bush. They'd been chatting as they marched along and somehow stumbled on a well marked track which wasn't on the map and Charlie hadn't noticed. They thought it was ducking around a knob but instead led down a spur and they descended some distance before concluding it couldn't possibly be right.

It was a simple error which was easily fixed but it could have had a different outcome if Adrian and Bevin were less experienced or not attending to their map or indeed if the error was not so obvious. It is the trip leader's responsibility to ensure no one is "lost" from a trip – clearly a more difficult task with a larger group!

And now for a bit of self indulgence. I recently bought a pair of MSR snowshoes [1] and have used them several times but are still learning their limitations. One of these is steep downhill where they tend to turn into skis so boots alone are more secure. Another is sidling the edge of a slope. Here their width makes it difficult to keep ones foot vertical. On soft snow they're superb including climbing and descending the waterfall at Whakapapa. On ice they feel very secure but of course there's no way they'll out climb crampons.

Last Sunday afternoon Jeremy Preble and I went for a meander up to Paretaitonga. I was on my snow shoes while Jeremy, who had already ascended the same peak the day before, was using skins on his skis. It was a fantastic day and we enjoyed lunch with a view which included the crater lake, the summit plateau and, in the distance, Ngauruhoe, the Kaimanawas, the Kawekas, and the Ruahines.

The Whangaehu glacier beckoned in the east so we shot across to it. The snow consisted of fine packed crystals which westerlies had drifted into position. There were a few small lumps near the start but further down the surface was as smooth as a groomed trail but much nicer to ski on. The glacier itself is about 200m wide with a uniform gradient. We descended three or four hundred vertical meters, Jeremy carving tight turns while I went for great sweeping arcs. The climb back up to the plateau took an hour and was hard work.

The route down to the ski field is via the Whakapapa glacier which had been a bit icy so, rather than clatter over it, we traversed up the eastern side of the Paretaitonga ridge as it descended toward the north. It had a similar wind drifted snow but was much steeper than the Whangaehu. Individually we dropped down with several turns then cut across to the more familiar runs on the upper ski field, discovering at delta corner that Mary, Peter and Lynda had spotted us on their final run and were waiting.

[1] see <http://cascadedesigns.com/MSR/Snowshoes/Steep-And-Challenging/Lightning-Ascent/product>

Chief Guide's Report

by Kim Fraser

email dowson.kr@hotmail.com or phone (06) 355 5496

While Ken gets to tell the lovely stories its my job to be slightly more serious which is a little unlike me. I'm sure those of you reading the story of Charlie, Adrian and Bevan can identify some things that were done right by members of the party and some things that were most certainly mistakes.

A number of search and rescue events have been brought to our attention already this winter and while the outcomes have been mixed we decided that a quick reminder was due

just to keep everyone safe. When Planning any trip into the outdoors be it a club trip, with a group of friends, group of strangers or a solo trip the same amount of care needs to go into the planning stage of the trip regardless of the type of trip, who's on it, and its duration. Risk management is also part of this planning. In assessing the risks and making a plan you will increase the chances of you making the right decision should things start to go 'pear shaped'. Our club website has guidelines for trip leaders on it and I urge every one to read it. Also if you're not planning on leading a trip I recommend you read it anyway as knowing what trip leader's responsibilities are and all the things they need to do, you can make their job much easier, especially

SUMMER TRIP CARD

The summer trip card is looking very empty and more trips are needed so anyone wanting to add a trip to the trip card to please get in contact with me 06 355 5496 or email dowson_kr@hotmail.com.

Kim Fraser (Chief Guide)

if you're a more experienced member of a large group. These guidelines are located on the 'trips' page on the MTSC website.

The main points for leaders planning a trip are:

- Don't leave planning to the last minute!
- Get up to date information and advice on the trip (from DOC, experienced club members etc)
- Check the suitability of the trip to the potential participants. If changes are made to the original plan, keep within the fitness level and ability of the group.
- Check the weather, consider alternative routes (there are links to the Metservice and the Victoria uni site – Metview (while both forecasts have limitations they are both worth checking)
- Take suitable clothing and equipment and know its limitations i.e. PLB vs. cellphone, mountain radio for longer trips for weather updates. Advise group members if anything special is needed. Be prepared for the worst possible conditions.
- Leave details of your trip and participants with a responsible person, the guidelines list some suitable places to leave these details.

Going back to our story of our tramping trio we know that Adrian and Bevan should have waited for Charlie to get himself sorted and they should have left as a group. They were chatty and having a jolly old time which is great but they weren't paying enough attention to where they were going and missed the junction that took them onto the wrong track. However, they must have sat down at some stage before setting off and studied their route for the day and were able to make the assessment that the track they were on was leading down instead of up. While it is great taking a step back and letting someone else do the hard yards in planning a trip you need to do more than just go along, there are responsibilities that you as a party member need to be aware of and they are:

- Make sure you know the plan for the day, routes, times destination etc.
- Carry a map and compass or GPS and know how to use them.
- Use your location and awareness skills while walking, i.e. where you are, how far you have travelled, remember landmarks. If you become separated from the group can you possibly work out where you are?

While all this stuff is nothing new to most members, remember that it is easy to get complacent and the 'she'll be right' attitude just doesn't cut it sometimes. What can be a lovely trip you've done many times before can be potentially fatal should the conditions change and you've not taken that into account.

Ski Captain's Report

by Rob Pringle

email rob.kate.pringle@gmail.com or phone (06) 358 3319

Another month has rolled by and spring is here and the weather is starting to settle, there have been some beautiful days had up the mountain over the last month, during this time kate and i had the opportunity to introduce some canadian hitch hikers to life in NZ, and skiing on Mt Ruapehu. They were wonderful skiers, and we spent 3 half days racing around the back country on Turoa and Whakapapa trying to find all the fresh snow we could find. These guys spent 8 weeks traveling around south island ski fields incl some smaller club fields not to mention having ski'd in Canada for between them a total of 24 years, and left by saying the Mt Ruapehu was by far the best skiing they'd done in the country. It served as a reminder to me the asset which we have sitting on our back door step and how we should look after and treasure this. Although the end of the ski season is in sight, it's a great opportunity to introduce someone new to the mountain, and the lodge is a great place to base yourselves. If during the week your looking for a little entertainment of a less physically demanding nature, a night on the couch with Warren Miller's new film 'Playground' should be available at your local video shop. Till next month, take care, keep skiing.

New Members

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

Rachael-Anne Waldrom (PN)

Venkata Peram (PN)

Shailesh Agrawal (PN)

Michael Oliver (PN)

Rad Khan (PN)

Amandine Balandier (PN)

Proposal to extend Te Araroa Trail along Oriwa Ridge, Tararua Forest Park

Contributed by Jean Garman

There is a proposal to extend the Te Araroa walkway using the current track system through Waiopahu hut to Waiopahu peak, putting a new track down the Oriwa ridge and a new bridge across the Waitewaiwai river, then using the track system from Waitewaiwai hut out to Otaki Forks. If you want further information on this and/or to put in a submission (closing date 18 September 2009) check out <http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/consultations/current/proposal-to-extend-te-araroa-trail/>



Tararua Ranges from Rongotea Road (Photo: Kate Pringle | Entry in club photo competition)

Magnificent Mayor Island

Weekend Trip 13/14 February 2010

Would you be interested in a weekend tramping around Mayor (Tuhua) Island February 13/14?

This really is one trip you don't want to miss out on. Tuhua Island lies 22 nautical miles from Mount Maunganui.



Tuhua is a dormant shield volcano with a large caldera.

The volcanic crater contains two lakes both near sea level. It's been a wildlife refuge since 1953 and contains the largest concentration of pohutakawa forest in NZ.

Tracks lead through impressively tall forest to both lakes plus round the rim of the crater. This private Maori owned island is administered by the Tuhua Trust Board. At present the island is closed to the public, however in previous summers it has normally been open to limited numbers who have obtained landing and camping permits.

I have twice before visited the island and really keen to go again. The scenery is magnificent, the views on the crater rim track of the Islands interior and coastline are quite stunning.

The weekend would start by taking a charter boat leaving around 8 am from the Mount to Tuhua, taking a little over 2 hours. On arrival set up camp for the weekend (tent or cabin option available) then until we are picked up around 3pm Sunday you can explore, go tramping, relax or do what you please for as long as you wish.

As permits are limited and the island is very popular with both boaties & trampers I need to purchase them as soon as they become available in October. I assure you this will be a weekend to remember. As the owners say it's a privilege not a right to visit this magnificent Island.

If you are keen please advise me of your interest as soon as possible. I can be contacted in the evenings on (06) 355 9143 or during the day on (027)224 960.

Club Photo Competition

Contributed by Howard Nicholson

These are the results of the club photo competition held on September 1st. Thanks go to Keith Dobson, Head of Art and Photography at Awatapu College, who was our guest judge.

The best three entries from each section will go forward to the Interclub Photo Competition, which this year is being hosted by Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club. You are all welcome (and encouraged!) to attend this, to be held in the Society of Friends Hall, College Street, Palmerston North, at 7.45 pm on Thursday 24 September 2009.

Section	Photo	Photographer
Alpine	(1) Wooden Peg	Kim Fraser
	(2) Beyond the fence at Mt Hutt.	Jean Garman
	(3) Ice and mist on the Whanahuia Range.	Jean Garman
	(4) Heading up to Wooden Peg	Jean Garman
Natural History	(1) Between a rock and hard place.	Jean Garman
	(2) Fern	Kim Fraser
	(3) Dragonfly	Howard Nicholson
	(4) Doves	Richard Lander
Overseas	(1) Inca	Richard Lander
	(2) Yangshuo	Duncan Fraser
	(3) Saguenay Fjord, Quebec	Christine Scott
Scenic	(1) Purity sunset	Kim Fraser
	(2) Routeburn	Richard Lander
	(3) Matt by water	Kate Pringle
	(4) Milford Sound	Ivan Rienks
Topical	(1) End of the Routeburn	Richard Lander
	(2) Checking out the route, Kaimanawas	Jean Garman
	(3) Track marker	Jean Garman

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.

TRIP SAFETY

Trip leaders are reminded that trip intentions can be emailed to 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.

Skiing at the Lodge

12-13 September **All**
Christine Scott **354 0510**

Come and have a weekend in the snow - you don't have to be a ski bunny to come on this trip - anything goes as long as you like snow. We will leave at approx 5.30 pm on Friday night.

Whakapapaiti Hut

12-13 September **Easy**
John Doolan **(027) 457 6175**

This is an easy graded trip with the add-on of an overnight stay on the western slopes of Ruapehu. No big hills to climb! Suitable for those wishing to have their first night in a hut in the snow (there should be snow the way winter is heading this year).

The hut will be warm once the log fire is roaring and the toilets have tiled floors! There is a bunk room for the snorers and a big platform sleeping space for the rest of us. The sign post says 2-3 hours but if there is a bit of snow on the way, it might be more like 3.5 hours.

We will leave from 24 Montana Way in Milson at 8.00am and travel to the Whakapapa Visitor Centre via the coffee shop at Ohakune for morning tea. If we are on the track at 12 we will be able to be in the hut, fire going, rested and socializing by 4 pm.

Book your spot by e-mailing me at john.doolan@inspire.net.nz or hopefully catching me on 027 446 8740. Bound to have a full van on this popular trip so don't delay, first in get the best beds.

Wednesday Trampers
16 September **Easy/Medium**
Pam Wilson **357 6247**
Phone for more details.

Thursday Trampers

17 September **Medium**
John McLeod **323 5785**
Phone for more details.

Explore the valley beyond the Pinnacles

19-20 September **Technical/Ski Touring**
Rob Pringle **358 3319**

A day trip exploring the valley behind pinnacle ridge is planned to see what lies beyond, There is a rumor of a skiable route back to the area behind meads wall with a short walk out for those that are interested in a wander. Ski touring gear was going to be taken in case the route out does not make it's self known, may head out slightly lower depending on snow levels.

Cow Creek Hut

19-20 September **Technical/Ski Touring**
Doug McNeur **359 1893**

Due to a conflict with annual leave, Doug will be unable to lead this trip. Apologies to anyone affected.

Wednesday Trampers

23 September **Easy/Medium**
Judy Callesen **357 0192**
Phone for more details.

Thursday Trampers

24 September **Medium**
John Thornley **356 9681**
Phone for more details.

Te Atuaoparapara

27 September **Medium/Technical**
Jenny McCarthy **(06) 376 8838**

I will not be able to take a trip this weekend. I am willing to take it on another weekend. Please contact me if you were interested in this destination.



Ptarmigan at Brown Pass (Photo: Dave Barker | Entry in club photo competition)

Sunrise Hut
27 September
Royce Mills

Easy/Medium
358 4398

We are combining transport with Jenny's more adventurous trip to Te Atuaoparapara. Sunrise hut is a popular destination, and deservedly so, as the track is well graded and the bush and views are pleasant.

If weather permits we can head up to Armstrong saddle, and perhaps on to spot height 1499 m from which excellent views of the Ruahine Range can be seen.

Thursday Trampers
1 October
John Hunt

Medium
324 0339

Phone for more details.

Eastern Hutt Hut
3-4 October
Gary Bevins

Medium
325 8879

Phone for more details.

Wednesday Trampers
7 October
Chris Brunskill

Easy/Medium
354 2511

Phone for more details.

Thursday Trampers
8 October
Bryan Evans

Medium
323 7614

Phone for more details.

Camping in the snow
10-11 October
Peter Rawlins

Technical
356 7443

Phone for more details.

Wednesday Trampers
14 October
Patsy Inkpen

Easy/Medium
323 8030

Phone for more details.

Thursday Trampers
15 October
Jill Spencer

Medium
329 8738

Phone for more details.

Orongorongo Valley
17-18 October
Linda Campbell

Easy
323 3836

Linda is unable to take this trip. If you are interested in leading this trip please contact Linda and the Chief Guide.

Longview Hut
18 October
Hugh Wilde

Medium
356 9450

Phone for more details.

Wednesday Trampers
21 October
Margaret Gillingham

Easy/Medium
356 8812

Phone for more details.

Thursday Trampers
22 October
Ray Pratt

Medium
328 7884

Phone for more details.

Around Mt Taranaki
24-26 October
Adam Matich

Medium
359 2796

We will be leaving PN bright and early, possibly as early as



Wednesday trampers at the new Atiwhakatu Hut (Photo: Andrew Brodie | Atiwhakatu Hut Trip | 29 July 2009)

Trip Reports

New Atiwhakatu Hut III

29 July

by Andrew Brodie

Nine of us set off to meet up with the group of Wednesday trampers who had left the day before for an overnight trip to the new Atiwhakatu Hut (see last month's newsletter). We started tramping a bit before 10 am and stopped for a snack stop by the big swing bridge about halfway there. After a short break we were on our way and soon after crossing the last swing bridge on the route we knew we were almost at the hut as those with a keen sense of smell could detect there was a fire nearby.

The trip to the hut took us just on two hours at a not too demanding pace. When we arrived all was deserted but soon after Lorraine and Pam emerged from the bush having been a bit upstream after doing the housework. Then the rest of the group arrived on a bit of a high having just been for a quick trip up to Jumbo Hut. We joined them for lunch on the veranda and heard of their adventures going up and down the icy slopes. A quick return to the car park ended a very pleasant day. We were Marion Beadle, Patsy Inkpen, Marie Inkpen, Angela McKinnon, Anne Rush, Pauline Hall, Margaret Gillingham, Sue Pither and Andrew Brodie.

Sunrise Hut or Waipawa Saddle?

30 July

by David Grant

Ten of us left Palmerston for the eastern Ruahines, under an overcast sky but with the promise of fine weather on the other side of the ranges. Sure enough, we broke through into sunny weather on the Takapau Plains although the Ruahines were still in heavy cloud.

Leaving the van at the road end, we set out up the Sunrise track, soon putting on raincoats as we hit the drizzle on entering the cloud layer. We branched off onto the Waipawa Forks track and sidled down to the river. At this point, with a reasonably low water level in the river but a drizzle still misting down, we had the option of turning back and climbing up to Sunrise hut or carrying on up the Waipawa towards the Saddle. Six took the Sunrise, and five the Waipawa option, agreeing to meet back at the Sunrise track junction at 2pm. The Waipawa Saddle group meandered up the valley through the drizzle, not reaching the Saddle, but sighting it through the mist before turning back to return to Waipawa Forks hut for lunch, sitting on the porch steps in the now increasingly sunny weather!! A very pleasant spot apart from the large quantities of rat droppings on the bench and floor in the living area of the hut.

The Sunrise group had an enjoyable tramp up to Sunrise Hut for lunch, although once out of the bush they had to brave very strong winds to reach the hut. And believe it or not, the two parties rendezvoused back at the track junction within two minutes of each other!! From there it was an easy stroll back to the van and the anticipation of an ice cream on the way home.

Leitch's Hut

1-2 August

by Mark Learmonth

We set off on an overcast Saturday morning from Palmerston North but were to find it wouldn't stay that way for long. It rained most of the way to Leitch's road end Saturday morning before brightening up for a short period. After only a few hundred meters out came the

jackets, we were protected well from the worst effects of the rain by the excellent bush cover. Leitch's track is a good safe all year round family bush tramp of 7.5 km, not many large trees but pleasant bush all the same. The hut stands in a large open clearing with two bunkrooms, running water inside with a wet back.

It was nice to arrive at the hut to find plenty of good dry stacked firewood.

A leisurely 9 am start for Sundays return walk. It's a fair way to go to Whareorino Forest, but well worth the effort. Will head back there some day but will take one of the longer routes in next trip. Our party consisted of Adam, Mark & Brooke (out from Canada on holiday).



Thursday trampers
(Photo: Dave Grant | Sunrise/Waipawa Trip | 30 July 2009)

Parakirae Trig 5 August

by Ken and Anne Rush

The van was not available so four car loads went to Nikau Scenic Reserve just north of Paraparaumu. The walk up through the reserve was steep and slippery, but short.

The 17 trampers went along the tops through a subdivision then into the Paraparaumu Scenic Reserve. The descent into the next valley was also very steep and slippery but the regenerating bush was very beautiful. All the way down we had the songs of native birds to keep us company. There seems to be an abundance of them in this patch of bush.

After crossing the stream at the bottom the group split into two. Most went up through more regenerating bush and some farmland to the Parakirae Trig. The others walked back down the valley and along the road to where the cars were parked and brought them back to meet the others, saving them a 2 km walk along the road. It was a great day with magnificent views.

Many thanks to John Hunt who got permission to go on the farms and guided us through this new territory.

Mangatainoka Hot Springs 8-9 August

by Tim Swale

This is without a doubt my favourite winter walk and despite the long drive to get to the start of the track north of Puketiritiri, it never fails to impress with its great scenery, cosy hut and relaxing hot pools. This year I had

arranged to combine a Club trip with a Duke of Edinburgh's Award Bronze Expedition for a couple of girls from Tararua College.

Our first stop was at Heavens Bakery in Taradale for morning tea/lunch before continuing on to the road end at Mangatutu Hot Springs. From here the DofE group of five were given hand held radios and sent on their way to find the hut. Meanwhile our Club group of Alla and Ilya Seleznyova, Peter McLeod, Ding Liping, Linda Campbell, Ben Swale and I followed at a leisurely pace up the Mohaka valley stopping many times to take photos and enjoy the scenery. The weather is often much more settled in the Kawekas than around the Tararuas and this

weekend was no exception with bright sun requiring the application of sunscreen and little by way of warm clothing. However, out of the sun it was a different story with a frost still on the ground at Te Puia Lodge when we arrived there in late in the afternoon.

After a cup of tea, heavy gear was left at the hut and we made our way up to the hot springs by the new, much safer route that avoids the previous spur track. Despite a full hut we were still able to get into the hot pools without a wait and relax under a clear sky with a million stars sparkling overhead.

Sunday morning dawned bright and clear but with a sharp frost that froze the water tank and covered even the tree tops with a glistening layer of ice. Our DofE group needed a bit more of a challenge so headed up the 500 vertical metres to Makino Hut for morning tea with Linda, Ben and myself as shadow party. Our Club group meanwhile decided to go back down the river valley and have a soak at the Mangatutu Hot springs while we completed the loop. The hand held radios were particularly good for keeping in touch in thick bush as we were able to check on the DofE group's progress and make sure they were still on track. We passed Makino Biv and then down to the Makahu Saddle where we rejoined the road back down to the cars. Amazingly despite the hot sun the shaded parts of the road were still white with frost mid afternoon. Timing was perfect with the hot pool party emerging well cooked within minutes of the DofE group arriving back at the cars. Altogether a wonderful weekend with weather that even for this area was exceptional.



Ben Swale on the ascent trampers
(Photo: Tim Swale | Mangatainoka Trip | 8-9 August 2009)

Arawaru Trig 9 August

by Gary Bevins

We headed into Gordon Kear Forest, leaving one vehicle just inside the locked gate, to greet us on our exit. Everybody piled into the other ute and continued thru the forest to the eastern boundary in the pines.

A track thru the pines, then bush, lead to a clearing, with a hidden side track on it. This track lead to a hunters hut, where we stopped for a break and some photos. We returned to the clearing and started on a track, hoping it was the route to Arawaru trig. Unfortunately it was not the correct route. So after a lot of compass work, various discussions and several tracks later, we came across a junction with a signpost of sorts, pointing to Arawaru trig.

We arrived at the trig for lunch. It was a great day, which gave us 360 degrees views, over this part of the range. It is quite a few years since I have been to the Trig and it is hard to believe how overgrown the area has become.

On the return trip, a marker led to another side track, revealing another hunters camp. Made from an old tarp, it is in a state of disrepair. As we were leaving the bush north of where we entered, we had to find another track, on our route home. After a bit of playing around on different tracks going in the wrong direction, we finally got it right. The bush was left behind, and we travelled thru pines, until we hit a forestry track, which took us back to the waiting vehicle. With all the track finding and navigation, time had got away on us, as we had spent nearly 7 hours on the hill.

We were Brian, Adam, Bev, Gary and Dave, who had driven all the way from the Hawkes Bay, to put another

mark on his map. And I almost forgot, the old campaigner Jemma, with two of her recruits, Mindy and Fay.

Kiritaki Hut 13 August

by Merv Matthews

It was a perfect day for tramping - cool at first, then warmer with clear skies and no wind. Sixteen Thursday Trampers took the ridge track via Grant Trotter's property on Fairbrother Road, reaching the hut in 3.75 hours. Parts of this "unofficial" track were quite overgrown in places - normally it is kept open by local hunters - but generally it was fairly easy to negotiate. Two of the party who became separated from the rest of the bunch briefly veered off the track and followed some blue markers down a spur for a while, but soon realized their mistake and scrambled back to the ridge. After lunch in the sun outside the "SeaMac Motel", four of the group chose to return via the stream while the rest returned the way we had come.

Waikamaka 15-16 August

by Jenny McCarthy

The ice axes were left in the car, the warm weather of the last 2 weeks had melted lots of the snow and the forecast was for rain. We took great care to keep our feet dry as we made our way up the river to the Waipawa Saddle. The visibility was not good a lot of the time, with the cloud blowing away occasionally to give wonderful views of the hills. We had a play in the snow before making our way to the hut. A good fire, yummy food, reading and crosswords made for a pleasant afternoon/evening. We had arrived at the hut before the rain started; it continued during the night and was still raining in the morning. The stream was up and discoloured but it was still possible to travel back up to the saddle and down the Waipawa River. At Waipawa Forks we decided we needed some more exercise so went up the track to the sunrise track and then down and along the swamp track back to the car. We were Adam Match, Jean Garman and Jenny McCarthy.



Lunch in the sun
(Photo: Keith Fisher | Kiritaki Trip | 13 August 2009)

Longview Hut 20 August

by **Hugh Wilde**

Eleven of us went on this trip to Longview. Despite being winter and an extremely light dusting of snow from the night before, the track was clear and apart from some very small drifts above Longview Hut we didn't get into the snow. That is, apart from two members (Carolyn and John) who couldn't resist sampling the snow drifts on Otumore. It seems that rain

during the previous few days washed the snow away. Today, though the weather was generally clear but with some cloud over Otumore and scudding across the ridge to Daphne Hut.

After a late morning tea at the hut we all went on to Rocky Knob, roughly another half hour on from the hut and had lunch in the shelter of the rock. After that it was all downhill to the minibus and then home at a very reasonable hour. A great day enjoyed by all. Hugh Wilde + ten other Thursday Trampers.

North Range Road 23 August

by **Linda Campbell**

We met at the car park at the top of the Pahiatua Track ready for the 25km ride along the gravel road which meanders along under the wind turbines and then down to come out almost opposite the Cafe Beyond the Bridge. The weather was great and the views wonderful. At times during the ride we were fortunate to have clear views of both Mt Taranaki and Mt Ruapehu.

There were ten of us with a huge range of experience and ability in the group. The experienced people were patient and helpful to those with less experience which made the trip a great club experience. Some of us learned more about mountain biking and thanks to Royce nearly all of us learned something about Geocaching which is a modern day treasure hunt that is carried out with the use of a GPS.

After a lovely lunch at the Cafe Beyond the Bridge the drivers were taken back to the cars at the



Royce Mills (fluoro) showing us the finer points of geocaching.
(Photo: Wei-Hang Chua | North Range Road Trip | 23 August 2009)

top of the Pahiatua Track to retrieve their vehicles. The drivers then returned to the cafe to collect their bikes and passengers before heading home. Thanks to Tim and Ben Swale, Li Ping Ding, Wei-Hang Chua, Royce Mills, Nicholas Mels, Kathy Corner, Barbra Cowan and Georgina Morrison for a great day.

Arawaru Trig 27 August

by **Merv Matthews**

Arawaru is a prominent high point (767m) in the northern Tararuas with panoramic views of the Manawatu and Wairarapa, that is, when not shrouded in cloud. It is a relatively easy tramp with most of the altitude gained by driving up Scotts Road. Ten Thursday Trampers accessed it through the entrance to the Gordon Kear forest and then through private property (permission required). The sparsely-marked track meant the occasional search for the now-faded paint spots, and it could certainly benefit from a bit of track-clearing in places.

When we emerged from the bush on to the open tops we were greeted with fierce winds as predicted, but we chose to press on through the leatherwood to the trig, took a photo or two, and then sped back into a sheltered spot for lunch. Apart from a brief shower at lunchtime the forecasted rain kept away and we were back out to the farmland by 1:30pm.



Is that Gary modelling a fine pair of red crocs outside Iron Gate Hut? Great hut footwear.

(Photo: Adam Matich | Iron Gate Hut Trip | 29-30 August 2009)

Iron Gate Hut 29-30 August

by Adam Matich

The large numbers of vehicles at the road end boded ill for our weekend - five cars and a rented minibus, with trailer attached. But the weather was OK and we couldn't turn around and go elsewhere, because neither Ben nor Mark had been to Iron Gate hut before and we just knew the whining and whinging would be unbearable. We were also supposed to be checking the stoat traps, but as we weren't being paid for that, it was only a minor consideration. After 30 minutes and one dead rat (in stoat trap 8) we reached Alice Nash Heritage Lodge, which is significantly tidier than its deservedly burnt down predecessor. The new hut has a nice deck on which people can sun-bath like beached whales waiting for the local Iwi to turn up and harvest them, a feature that was sadly lacking, previously. The nice new hut aside, the story told by the hut book was pretty grim. The big tramping party comprised 21, presumably, and hopefully, mostly unhappy teenagers, many of who were supposed to be sending their Saturday night at Iron Gate Hut. Oh well, we could always walk back to Heritage Lodge. In the dark if needs be! The horror awaiting us at Iron Gate hut aside, it was a pretty good day. Although the track isn't as nice as it once was, and we only scored another six rats, and no stoats. I don't know why DoC calls them stoat traps. There is a big slip in one of the stream crossings, which adds 15 minutes to the day.

Eventually we arrived at the hut (4 hours) to find that all our fears were unfounded. There was no one else there and so we got to have a nice afternoon in the sun on the verandah watching Bev feeding the sandflies. Well, she will wear blue! Eventually however, one of the Duke of Edinburgh parties turned up sometime near dark. But we had occupation rights to the hut and so were merely looking forward to their tales of misery, hardship, and privation. They never eventuated because they weren't townies, but came from Waipukurau, where it appears teenagers are more comfortable dealing with the

malevolent outdoors. We weren't even crowded in the hut as the teenagers were required to camp outside while the shadows got to stay in the hut and keep us mildly entertained until a little bit too late into the evening.

Next day the weather was even better again, calm and sunny, and we managed to get away before the other group. The day ended up being positively warm, but it was easier going down-hill back to the road end. We discovered that it is possible to travel down the nuisance-slip, and encountered one of the other groups from Waipukurau near its base. We made our way back to Heritage Lodge (3.25 hr) where we met another group of the big party, and they were also distressingly bright and cheery, even after being scratched and having rocks falling on them, so we disconsolately stomped off back to the road end again. It is a sad day when you encounter three groups of teenagers who aren't sullen and miserable. This country is going to the dogs!

Wed & Thu Trampers Trips

Wednesday Tramps

Aug 5	Nikau Scenic Reserve Track to Papakirae Trig - Waikanae (17)
12	Rangi Hut. The big slip took us about 40 minutes at an average pace. We didn't find it too difficult but it's certainly easier going to the hut than the return down off the slip as it's a gravel surface - less tree roots. The small slip closer to the waterfall needs some attention though. (16)
19	Mangoane Walkway (16)
26	Karori Sanctuary (12)

Thursday Trampers

July 23	Herepai Hut (13)
Aug 6	Apiti Track (14)
13	Keretaki Hut (16)

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@value.net.nz or phone (06) 354 3536.

Accommodation at the MTSC lodge on Mount Ruapehu

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



Lodge bookings should be made by e-mail where possible (lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz). 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 Match 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@mtsc.org.nz. Please contact me if you'd prefer to receive your newsletter by email only. Send changes of address to the Membership Secretary at P.O. Box 245, Palmerston North or email membership@mtsc.org.nz.

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 2009-10 Committee

President	Ken Mercer	356 7497 president@mtsc.org.nz
Secretary	Tim Swale	06 376 6556
Treasurer	Christine Scott	354 0510 treasurer@mtsc.org.nz
Chief Guide	Kim Fraser	355 5496
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Ski Captain	Rob Pringle	358 3319
Lodge Manager	Ryan Badger	027 445 1997
Lodge Booking Officers	Hugh & Liz Wilde	356 9450 lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz
Mini-bus Custodian	Adam Match	359 2796
General Committee	David Newstead	025 576 175
	Geraldine Fovakis	356 4327
	Linda Campbell	323 3836
Imm. Past President	Howard Nicholson	357 6325