April 2007 Issue 3

Palmerston North

www.mtsc.org.nz

Thursday trampers at Top Maropea Hut Photo: Keith Fisher



Upcoming club nights
Hump Ridge Track+Sea Kayaking

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

3rd April - The Hump Ridge Track

Our Social Convener Linda Campbell will be speaking to us about her Hump Ridg Track trip. Starting from Tuatapere at the bottom of the south island this is a trip full of variety from walking along the beach, climbing to alpine areas through beautiful bush, kilometres of broad walk and Hectors Dolphins swimming and frolicking in the bay.

17th April - Sea Kayaking

Ken Mercer will be speaking to us on different aspects of sea kayaking. Ken will be covering the type of equipment required, and some of his experiences in Queen Charlotte Sound and Lake Waikaremoana.

NOTICE OF MTSC AGM

The Annual General Meeting of Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club Inc. will be held at Manawatu Districts Aero Club Rooms, Airport Drive, Palmerston North, at 7:30p.m. on 15 May 2007. All Welcome.

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President's Report Lodge Work Party + Club Activities

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

Naming names

The goodwill and efforts of several members ensures that the club runs smoothly month after month. Although the result is obvious, the effort behind this is sometimes hidden. Here are a few examples from the past month, but please note that this is by no means an exhaustive list:

- Your newsletter arrives in you mailbox each month, thanks to the contributors (keep the articles coming), Wei-Hang Chua (who spends several hours each month putting it together), and Bev Akers and Gary Bevins (delivery preparation).
- How does the new trip card look? You can thank Tony Evans (chief cajoler and information gatherer), Bev Akers, Adam Matich (typesetter and "style guru"), and every trip leader.
- The Lodge at Ruapehu remains weather-tight, thanks to Ryan Badger (re-roofer and long-jumper) and Ken Mercer (painter and colour consultant) who have organised the recent work parties, and to the participants who have done so much to keep the Lodge in shape for the winter (see work party articles).
- Our clubnights continue to inform and entertain (Linda Campbell).

And so the list goes on. Your efforts are appreciated by all!

"You really should get out more often..."

Even the most fussy of trampers and skiers will find a trip to their liking on the bright(!) new trip-card! Booking a trip is as easy as calling the trip organiser a few days in advance.

Have fun in the mountains!

Chief Guide's Report

by Tony Evans

I would like to thank all of you who have volunteered to lead trips on this winters trip card which will be available by the time you read this. So please support the trip leaders by going out on their trips and enjoy your tramping.

Snow Stuff

by Ken Mercer (Ski Captain)

Joe average is probably a bit grumpy with the southerly which is currently battering the country. Skiers, on the other hand, will be eagerly anticipating more cold spells and the ski season. On Radio NZ Bob McDavit, who dislikes being referred to as a weather ambassador, is predicting plenty of snow – I hope he is right!

RAL have announced their rates for this year. For the upper mountain the daily pass will cost \$80 for adults and \$44 for youths. The early bird season passes this year, available only during April, are still good value and will cost \$389 and \$219 including the online discount. If you anticipate skiing for more than 5 days you should consider one.

I've done a little digging and, in the last three years, the daily rate has increased by 5 or 6% and the season pass rate by 6% and now 15%. Consequently the payback time has increased from 4.4 days to the current 5 days.

It seems the season passes are becoming less of a bargain. New this year are 5 year passes which seem to offer good value at \$1550 for adults so in year 5, or earlier if the trends continue, you "ski for free". They're a bit less of a commitment than the life passes, which are again available, now costing \$3975.

Local Trivia - do you know?

Contributed by James Gordon

A query from an old member who is doing some research: John Carnahan who I believe was a member in the late 1940s asks: where is Brown's Flat - upper Tiritea? So budding historians please send your answer to James at jmgordon@xtra.co.nz.

Official Hut Opening

Contributed by Ian Patterson

Thought some of the members may like to know that the official opening of the new Alice Nash Memorial Heritage lodge is planned for 1.30 pm Sunday 8th April (Easter Sunday).

NZDA Manawatu are still completing work on the lodge at present with painting and plumbing progressing nicely. We hope to poly the floor etc. in the coming weeks.

Everyone is welcome to join us on the 8th.

Queen's Birthday Weekend

June 2-4: Don McDonald is looking for travelling companions to zoom down to the Picton

Ferry, zoom across the waters, jump on a much smaller boat, zoom out to the top of the peninsular, get dropped off (on land), and walk the track back for three days, then catch the boat / ferry/ bus back home.

Each night will be spent in a well furnished lodge (own catering or supplied), no big packs to carry (just a small day pack) and lots of great photo opportunities.

Sounds too good to be true? Call Don McDonald on 06 355 0222.

Did you know Personal Locator Beacons are changing?

Contributed by Jean Garman

The older 121.5 MHz personal locator beacons are in the process of being superseded by the more reliable 406 MHz beacons. This change has been publicized in a nationwide campaign. The NZSAR Council along with Colmar Brunton (the poll people) now want to evaluate the effectiveness of the campaign in the outdoor community by means of an online survey.

You are invited to participate in a short online survey that will take between 5 and 10 minutes to complete. If you would like to participate in the survey, please click on the link below.

http://survey.cbrak.co.nz/NZSAR1

All eligible respondents who complete the survey will be entered into the draw for one \$500 gift voucher or one of five \$100 gift vouchers from Kathmandu. Any queries regarding this research should be directed to Andrew Robertson at Colmar Brunton,

andrew.robertson@cbrwn.co.nz or phone (04) 913 3008.

For Sale



DoC hut tickets - discount rates to members. Contact: Howard Nicholson on (06) 357 6325.

Tent - MSR Zoid 2 tent. Rather large one man but cozy two man tent for sale. Weighs only 2.1 kg. Near very new & well looked after so to you its only \$250 - Phone Gary or Bev 06 3258879.

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
 MEDIUM
 MEDIUM/FIT
 FIT
 TECHNICAL
 5 hours per day at a pace slower than medium.
 7 hours per day at a standard walking pace.
 8 hours per day at a pace faster than medium.
 Over 8 hours per day at a pace faster than medium/fit.
 Qualifying requirements to be announced by the trip organiser.

Wednesday Trampers

28 March Easy/Medium Bev Akers 325 8879

Phone for more details.

Thursday Trampers

29 March Easy/Medium Peter Carver 354 4479

Phone for more details.

Waiopehu Hut 31 March - 1 April

31 March - 1 April Easy/Medium Hugh Wilde 356 9450

Waiopehu Hut, situated in the headwaters of the Oroua River east of Levin is our destination this weekend. Depending on who wants to come and how many, we'll either continue with the weekend trip or make it a day trip instead. In any event the idea is to have a look at the 'new' hut. Phone for details of start time. Field Hut and Table Top 1 April

1 April Easy/Medium David Newstead 025 576 175

We will be leaving from the (new) Palmerston North Police Station, Church Street, 7:30 am. We have an approximately one and a half hour drive to Otaki Forks car park (at about 150 m). Its about an 8 km trudge up to Table Top (at 1047 m), first over farm land, then up an open ridge, onwards and upwards through re-growth kamahi with bigger stuff as we get nearer to Field Hut. It should take about three and a half hours at easy-medium pace, and about the same back after lunch. Phone on the number above or on my work phone 350 4649.

Wednesday Trampers

4 April Easy/Medium Rita Hodson

Please phone one of the Wednesday regulars for more details.

Mikimiki - Blue Range Loop

5 April Easy/Medium Graham Pritchard 357 1393

Following in the footsteps of Adam Matich's trip in March but a new route for Thursday trampers. Tramp to the Mikimiki saddle, then off-track following a long ridge to Te Mara trig on Blue Range and return via the Blue Range track. A bit more demanding for us oldies than the usual Blue Range trip despite Adam's comments in last month's Beechleaves.

Maungahuka Hut

6-9 April Medium
Doug McNeur 359 1893
Phone for more details.

Blue Range Hut
8 April Easy/Medium
Christine Scott 354 0510

The Blue Range Hut track leaves from the Kiriwhakapa Road end (not far from Mt Bruce Bird Reserve in the Wairarapa). According to "Tararua Footprints" it is only 1 hour 40 minutes into the hut although one hour of this is steady up hill. We will leave the Police Station at 8 am.

Wednesday Trampers

11 April Easy/Medium Jill Spencer 329 8738

Phone for more details.

Thursday Trampers

12 April Easy/Medium Merv Matthews 357 2858

Phone for more details.

Tongariro Crossing

14-15 April Medium Linda Campbell 323 3836

Note: Unfortunately Linda didn't realise this trip coincided with the Oxfam 100k trail walk which she is taking part in. If someone else is prepared to take the trip please contact Linda otherwise it will be postponed until later in the year.

Te Matawai Work Party

14-15 April Medium Jean Garman 354 3536

Leaving Palmy at 7.00 am we will take the shortest feasible route in, either up the Ohau River or Gable End Ridge if the river is up. We should be at Te Matawai by early afternoon in time for several hours of vegetation clearance and firewood cutting to try and fill up the new wood box which will hopefully be installed by then. An evening of good food, a few liquid refreshments and conversation (no guarantees on the quality)

will follow. Sunday will start with hut cleaning and we will leave to walk out by what ever route the group decides late morning.



A view of the tops on the main range of the Rimutakas on the way to the never-reached Mt Matthews

Photo: Adam Matich

Tapokopoka Trig Trip | 24-25 February

Herepai Hut

15 April Easy/Medium Ade Beech 354 9310

Phone for more details.

Wednesday Trampers

18 April Easy/Medium Dave Warnock 357 4140

Phone for more details.

Thursday Trampers

19 April Easy/Medium Carolyn Brodie 358 6576

Phone for more details.

Rangiwahia Hut

21-22 April Family Ken Mercer 356 7497

"Rangi" hut is in the western Ruahine's, north east of Kimbolton. It is a lovely hut just above the bush line which is usually a day trip, in and out. On this occasion however, we'll take it easy and stay overnight. On Sunday those with enthusiasm and energy can walk up to Mangahuia which is at a similar altitude to the Lodge on Mt Ruapehu. It is a two ticket hut which means hut tickets will come to \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. We'll travel at a "family" pace too, including the detour around the slip!

Jumbo-Holdsworth Loop

21-22 April Medium Dave Allan 323 9734

Meet Palmerston North Police Station at 8.30 am on the Saturday. Cappuccino/latte stop at Masterton before a cruisey trip to Atiwhakatu Hut for lunch. We will have all afternoon(for those that will need it) to grind our way up to Jumbo Hut for the night. Next morning travel on to Mt Holdsworth and Powell Hut for morning tea/early lunch and back to carpark by early afternoon. At this time of year the weather is usually fine with very good views along the tops for those that have not been on this trip before. Contact Dave by the April 19th if interested.

Mountain House Loop

22 April Easy Sue Tuohy 353 3303

An easy tramp - about 4 hours. We will make our way up to the Mt House Shelter for lunch, back down to Akiwhakatu Stream and out. Leave Palmerston North 8.30 am.

Diggers Hut (Joint PNTMC trip) 25 April (ANZAC Day) Easy/Medium

Warren Wheeler 356 1998

Depart 9.00 am from the War Memorial in the Square. From Arbons Rd in the mid-Pohangina Valley it is a gentle uphill slog across farmland to the Ruahine Forest Park boundary. We then follow the bush track along the wide ridge before dropping steeply to Diggers Hut for lunch be-

side the Makawakawa Stream. Anyone wanting an Easy Trip would slog their way up again and out the same way. The Medium alternative is a more adventurous rock hop down the picturesque stream. Either way - We Will Remember Them. Contact Warren to find out more.

Wednesday Trampers

25 April Easy/Medium Bernard Cobb 328 8088

Phone for more details.

Thursday Trampers

26 April Easy/Medium Harry and Chris Allardice 323 4390

Phone for more details.

Roaring Stag Hut

28-29 April Easy/Medium John Doolan 355 2100

If you have never heard or seen a roaring stag, this is your best opportunity.

We are off to spend a night in Roaring Stag hut. RSH is to the west of Eketahuna. We will walk up a valley until our progress is stopped by a 400 metre hill. But who's in a hurry anyway? We will just amble up and then 300 metres down to RSH. Time on the track? About 3-4 hours. Trip is graded easy/medium so we will go at that pace or slower. Interested? E mail me at john.doolan@inspire.net.nz or day time at work on 06 355 5495.

Roaring Stag Hut

29 April Medium Christine Scott 354 0510

Roaring Stag Hut is about 2.5 hours from the Mangatainoka Rd end (also called Putara Rd) not far from the Mt Bruce Bird Reserve. We pass through some lovely beech forest before climbing steeply up to to the ridge to the junction of Herepai and Roaring Stag. From there it is about an hour (or less) down to Roaring Stag Hut. We will leave the Police Station at 8 am.

Thursday Trampers

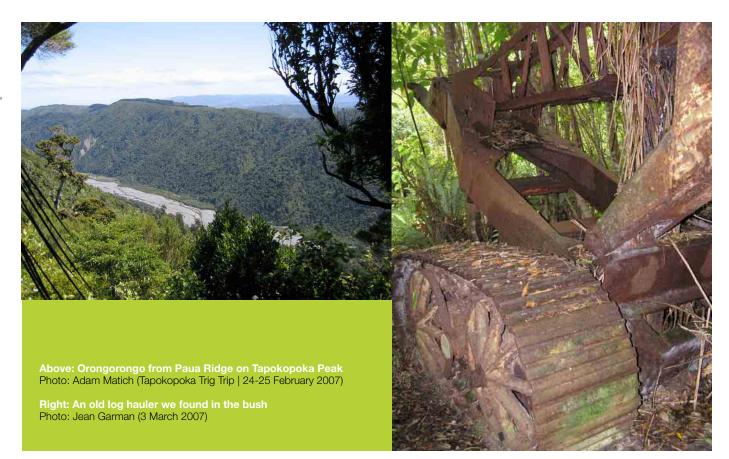
3 May Easy/Medium Ann Green (06) 374 5208

A Frame, Stanfield hut back along Tamaki West stream.

Leon Kinvig Hut

5-6 May Medium Jean Garman 354 3536

We will travel to Leon Kinvig from the Kashmir Road end and back again. There are three possible routes - along the ridge line through Longview, through Awatere/Makaretu and via the Pohangina River/Longview. Which ones we use will be decided just before or on the day.



Trip reports

Sunrise Hut - Armstrong saddle 21 February

Leader: Mona Webb Sixteen trampers.

Top Maropea Hut 22 February

by Keith Fisher

Eight trampers

With a number of the Thursday Trampers exploring the South Island we were a select group that left the van at 9.55 am and reached Top Maropea Hut three hours later. The weather was perfect for a day in the hills. The views were great with a light breeze behind us as we climbed back up from Top Maropea Hut. The return trip to Sunrise was just under the hour. This is a good trip on a fine day with varied scenery. Sunrise Hut - Armstrong saddle

Lodge Re-roof Part 2 22 February

by Ryan Badger

With my little incident with my leg causing the team to be one man down and therefore being unable to complete the roof on both sides of the lodge, we needed to put another team together to complete the other side. A HUGE thanks to Gary Bevins, his team of three guys and Bev Akers who stepped up to the challenge. We all dragged ourselves out of bed well before the birds rose and headed for Whakapapa. By the time we got to Ohakune we were all a little peckish so stopped in at the local Cafe' for a good old kiwi cooked breakfast! Stopping at the Whakapapa Visitors center to pick up the key for the 4wd track we found the news

travels quite fast in rural areas and now being known as "the guy who fell off the lodge roof and broke his leg" I had become quite famous and even had a story in the local rag.

Finally arriving at the lodge we made a start. Gary and the team (including Bev!) worked like clock work and things progressed well (I should mention at this point that I was there purely in a supervisory roll and sat myself on a deck chair in a prime spot just to make sure that everything went to plan). The weather couldn't have been better, there was a slight breeze most of the day and the sun was out just enough to warm things up nicely.

By 5 pm the end was near and after putting on the finishing touches and having a quick clean up we were on our way home. Arriving back in Palmerston North around 9 pm, it had been a long yet very successful day.

Thanks heaps again to Gary and Bev who gave up their time and drove their vehicles, also to Gary's team of workers, Stu, Ashley and Ben, most definitely a job well done!

A-Frame Hut 25 February

by Rod McKenzie

A warm clear and calm morning greeted us when at 9.30 am, we arrived at the Tamaki West road end. After a two hour climb we were at the A-Frame Hut for a morning tea break. As there was absolutely no wind and the views were great we decided to head north along the Takapari Road towards the Takapari peak. It was a very pleasant walk along the road and we arrived at the base of Takapari soon after 1 pm. We agreed that there was insufficient time to climb to the trig but a lunch stop was needed. After the

lunch break we headed back down into the valley and called at Stanfield Hut. Travelling back along the Holmes Ridge we were back at the cars soon after 4 pm, completeing a loop.

A stop at Woodville on the way back to Palmerston North rounded off a great day in the south eastern Ruahine Range.

We were Robert Bruce, Alan Cameron, Dave Allan and Rod McKenzie.

Field Hut - Table Top 28 February

Leaders: Rosemary and Ken Hall

Seventeen trampers.

North Ohau Hut 1 March

by Bev Akers

Four trampers.

Most of the Thursday tramping group were down in the South Island, tramping in two different places. So we had a nice quiet day with two getting all the way to the nice new hut. Its a good summer river trip with nothing difficult but need low water.

Ohuinga - The Mystery Mountain 3-4 March

by Howard Nicholson

Why is it a mystery? Well, I didn't make it. In fact, I didn't make it out of the house, due to a knee injury just hours before the trip was due. However, we will try again, maybe nearer the end of the year.

Stanfield Hut 4 March

by Tim Swale

This delightful little circuit in the eastern Ruahines is one of my very favourite local walks. It covers a variety of terrain starting with a short but steep climb, a ridge walk with superb views, bush and river travel and a cute back country hut thrown in. Long enough to feel you have had some exercise but short enough to get home and paint the roof in the afternoon! After weeks of hot, dry weather it came as some surprise that there was any water at all in the Tamiki Stream. However the Southern Ruahines must have been getting water from somewhere as water levels were hardly down on normal which made for a refreshing splash back down the stream to the car. I can't remember a tramp when we chatted so much – must have been too easy! Thanks to Harold Petterson and Nigel Kerr for their very entertaining company.

Heritage Lodge & Tunupo Track 7 March

Leader: Chris Brunskill

Twenty two trampers

In to check out the progress of the new lodge - looking good. We have already decided on an over nighter at the lodge for our Wednesday Xmas Cheer

Kiritaki Hut 8 March

Leader: Merv Matthews

Nine trampers.

Lodge Work Party 10-11 March

by Ken Mercer

A new standard has been set for prospective new members! Ian Harding, who isn't quite a member, joined the Bidlake and Mercer families to work on the lodge. It was something of a trial by fire with the whole back wall to scrape, sand, fill, prime, and paint. The weather was superb and progress good so we continued with the front of the lodge, above the deck, as well.



Photo: Gary Bevins Lodge Work Party 10-11 March 2007



Te Mara Lunch Photo: Jean Garman Mikimiki Saddle-Te Mara Loop 11 March 2007

By the end of the weekend the 10 litre bucket was empty and two coats of paint in place. And our waist-lines? Well, not only did Ian work like a Trojan but his heavy pack was full of food including such delicacies as smoked chicken, savoury muffins, pigs-in-a-blanket, and half his veggie garden.

Also, thanks to the party two weeks earlier, we had a new word: propinquity. Entirely appropriate!

Mikimiki Saddle - Te Mara Loop 11 March

by Adam Matich

We headed south-west, from the Kiriwhakapapa road end, along the Mikimiki Tramway for an easy 50 minutes, including the climb up to the saddle (2722930E, 6039875N). We didn't stay here long as there were wasps that seemed unwholesomely interested in Jean, who had been stung by something earlier. The route was north-west up the spur with its sometimes obvious trail, delineated by fresh paint marks on the trees. They were hardly necessary as all we needed to do was keep heading uphill. The ones marking the downhill route may, however be important.

The forest was open and the travel easy, and given what a warm day it was we were glad (and a bit smug) to be under the trees and applauded the light breeze. It was also a change to be able to sit down at our rest stops and not get wet bums as is most often the case. It took us only 90 minutes to climb almost 600 m to the peak (1104 m) where we stopped for lunch in the shade, fortunately. The flies joined us but the day was too nice to get too irritable with them.

After our lunch we headed north-east of Te Mara and down onto the Blue Range Track, which takes longer than it looks on the map. A little bit of caution is necessary when coming off Te Mara as there is also a trail that heads north-west onto the Cow Saddle track. The orange paint people have marked the route down to the Blue Range track so it is necessary to be inattentive in order to get it wrong......Not a hard thing to do! So we rocked on down

back to the car in about 2 hours, passing a couple of suffering day-trippers who were going uphill. We took advantage of it being ice cream weather. We were Dave Allan, Kathy Corner, Jean Garman, Garry Grayson, and Adam Matich.

Gorge Track 14 March

Leader: Rose Strahan

Three hardy soul did the Gorge Track expecting the worst conditions, weather wise, but all was fine just a little windy.

Totara Flats Hut 15 March

Leader: Gordon Clark

Seven trampers.

Took them about three hours to get to the hut for lunch.



Dragonfly resting on a walking pole Photo: Alla Seleznyova Powell Hut Trip | 21 January 2007

Club Information

Annual Hut Passes

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

Accommodation at the MTSC lodge on Mount Ruapehu

The lodge is close to Iwikau Village, has power, hot show-

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



Note that bookings are not confirmed until the fees are paid. Payment is in advance by cheque or cash. Contact Hugh & Liz Wilde on (06) 356 9450.

	Members	Non-members
Adult	\$21	\$33
Secondary School	\$18	\$30
Primary School	\$15	\$26
Group prices	on application	on application

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. Check the oil, water, and tyres.
- 4. Fill in the travel sheet (km, people, and dollars).
- 5. 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 cost effect club asset. Neville Gray is our minibus custodian and he can be contacted at (06) 357 2768.

Club Equipment

We have packs, 2 and 3 person tents, fly-sheets, snow mats, sleeping bag cover, gas cookers, size 8 and 9 boots, billies, two bivvy bags and two big tent flies. Ice axes, crampons, and helmets are also available. Food

Dehydrator: ideal for drying large and small quantities of fruit, vegetables, and meat for tramping rips. Easy to use, works well, and is available for hire from the Gear Custodian. Hire cost for members, \$1 per day. Contact the Gear Custodian: Peter Rawlins on (06) 356 7443.

Articles for the newsletter

Send by the 15th of each month to Wei-Hang Chua at mtsc.editor@xtra.co.nz. Please contact me if you'd prefer to receive your newsletter by email only. Send changes of address to the Membership Secretary at P.O. Box 245, Palmerston North or email info@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 2006-07 Committee

President	Howard Nicholson mtsc.presiden	
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Chief Guide	Tony Evans	357 4355
Day Trip Convenor	Bev Akers	325 8879
Membership Sec.	Mark Street mtsc@in	353 7442 spire.net.nz
Newsletter Editor	Wei-Hang Chua 02 mtsc.editor	
Social Convenor	Linda Campbell	323 3836
Ski Captain	Ken Mercer	356 7497
Lodge Manager	Ryan Badger 02	7 445 1997
Lodge Booking Officers	Hugh & Liz Wilde wildeh@	356 9450 clear.net.nz
Mini-bus Manager	Neville Gray	357 2768
General Committee	Bev Akers Roger Athersuch Darlene Westrupp	325 8879 353 0434 354 5764
Imm. Past President	Christine Scott	354 0510