

Palmerston North



From: Map 260-U22 (LINZ)



# **Upcoming club nights**Cycle Touring+The Middle East

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

### 3rd March - Cycle touring in Europe

Eight countries in four months, from the Netherlands to the Mediterranean and north to Normandy. Just two cycles, one tent and lots of fitness. Steve Glasgow and Jenny McCarthy will be speaking about their Euro velo tour on two wheels. No doubt there will be some great weather and sights in this trip. Come and find out how many wine bottles you can fit into cycle panniers.

### 1st March - Travel in the Middle East

Alison McGee will be giving a presentation on her trip through the Middle East.

#### **Contents**

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

Just a reminder that if you'd like to receive you newsletter by email as a pdf then please let me know on mtsc.editor@xtra.co.nz.

You can also let me know if you'd just like to receive it by email and not by post.

# **President's Report**

# Club Nights + Lodge Maintenance + Summer Trip Card

#### by Howard Nicholson

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

Club nights have kicked off again and I look forward to hearing the many interesting speakers that are lined up to talk. Generally, we have try to vary the content throughout the year, mixing in a few competitions along the way, but always the topics are of interest to outdoor-types like yourselves. If you have a particular topic that interests you, or if you would like to give a talk yourself, then please let the Social Convenor, Geraldine Fovakis, know.

Check out the website for more information on upcoming work parties. The Lodge renovations are progressing a treat, so a big thank you to those who have helped already or are about to. Or for a bit of recreation, may I suggest going on a tramping trip? The Summer trip card has lots to offer for people of most abilities; again thank you to the leaders for putting them on the card.

See you soon!

# Trip Card Meeting - Tue 24 February by Bev Akers

There will be a get together at Adam's place to get ideas and suggestions of trips for our new Winter Trip Card. Its a very informal get together of Skiers, Trampers, Climbers & Mountain Bikers, who all contribute to our wonderful event card. Call in on your way home from work or pop round after tea to taste Adam's coffee. Its a good place, if you are new, to meet some of us and chat over coffee. The get together will start at 7 pm on Tuesday the 24th of February at 798 Main St. If you can't make it then phone in with ideas, ring Bev or Adam at (06) 325 8879 or (06) 359 2796 respectively.

# **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.

Maropea Forks

14-15 February Medium Peter Rawlins 356 7443

This trip is to a beautiful location in the eastern Ruahines. We will take in a loop that includes Sparrowhawk Bivy and Te Atua Mahura. There will be approximately 8 hours tramping each day.

Toka Peak

15 February Medium Dave Allan 323 9734

Phone for more details.

**Wednesday Trampers** 

18 February Easy/Medium Rosemary & Ken Hall 356 8538

Phone for more details.

**Thursday Trampers** 

19 February Easy/Medium Keith Fisher 357 1724

Phone for more details.

Mangorewa Track and Mayor Island

21-22 February Medium Mark Learmonth 355 9143

Mayor Island trip replaced with previously postponed Pureora Forest Park tramp.

The intention is to leave around 7 am on Saturday morning for Waihora Lagoon car park situated 3 km along Waihora Road off State Highway 32. We will then tramp into Waihaha Hut via the Waihora track. This area has wonderful stands of large Rimu trees the greenness or variety of the ferns quiet different to elsewhere plus there is a fair amount of bird life to be seen. On return to our transportation we will head for DOCs Kakaho campground and set up camp for the night. Sunday morning will require an early start. We will travel a short distance to Pureora's Link Road car park. From here we will take the track which alternately leads to the summit of MT Titiraupenga. Roughly 8 hours return. Note you will only be required to carry day-packs. For those of you who don't like carrying overnight packs this is a wonderful opportunity to view some of this parks hidden wonderland plus if you don't wish to travel the full



distance each day that's fine to. All you need to do now is pick up the phone, ring me at home or on (027) 200 4960 and confirm your place.

Hauhangatahi 22 February Linda Campbell

Medium 323 3836

Phone for more details.

Wednesday Trampers 25 February Pauline Hall

Easy/Medium 329 7707

Phone for more details.

Thursday Trampers 26 February Royce Mills

Easy/Medium 358 4398

Hauhungatahi circuit – I plan to start at the Mangahuia campsite, accompany the group to the summit, then direct the group down the Erua track while I bring the van around to meet them at the track end.

Cascade Hut - Fishing 27 February-1 March Duncan Fraser

Medium 355 5496

Phone for more details.

Honeycomb Rock

1 March Easy/Medium Alla Seleznyova 355 0862

I haven't done this walk. The DOC leaflet describes Honeycomb Rock as a spectacular outcrop on the Wairarapa coast, so named because of the remarkable celllike weathering pattern which gives the rock a honeycomb appearance. A fur sea colony is located about halfway along the walk, on rocks adjacent to the Honeycomb light. A few metres to the south of the rock is the wreck of the Tuvalu, a Fijian trader, which ran aground here on its maiden voyage on 11 January 1967. Honeycomb Rock Walking Track is entirely within the privately owned Glenburn Station, about 60 km east of Masterton. The track is flat and easily negotiated, following the coastline across farmland. It can be muddy in places so suitable footwear should be worn. Walking time is approximately 5–6 hours return.

Wednesday Trampers

4 March Easy/Medium Judy Callesen 357 0192

Phone for more details.

Thursday Trampers

5 March

5 March Easy/Medium Nigel Spencer 329 8738

Phone for more details.

Sawtooth
7-8 March
Fit
Kim Dowson
355 5496

Phone for more details.

Waiopehu Hut

7-8 March Easy/Medium Ivan Alve 356 3123

Phone for more details.

Stanfield Hut

8 March Easy Tim Swale 356 3123

Phone for more details.

Wednesday Trampers
11 March Easy/Medium
Ivan Alve 356 3123

Phone for more details.

Thursday Trampers
12 March Easy/Medium
Gordon Clark 359 2500

Phone for more details.

Ikawatea Forks Hut
14-15 March
Adam Matich
Phone for more details.

Medium/Fit
359 2796

Mangaweka Trig
15 March Medium
Hugh Wilde 356 9450

Phone for more details.

Wednesday Trampers
18 March Easy/Medium
Rose Strahan 328 9861
Phone for more details.

Thursday Trampers

19 March Easy/Medium
Hugh Wilde 356 9450

Heaphy Track
20-25 March Easy/Medium
Don McDonald 357 0222

Phone for more details.

Phone for more details.

Atene Skyline
22 March
Linda Campbell
323 3836

I expect to leave Feilding about 8.00am. This track is approx 35 km up the Wanganui River Road. There may be

a short vehicle shuffle otherwise a short road walk. The track goes up from the river and follows the ridge line.

Wednesday Trampers
25 March Easy/Medium
Judy Callesen 357 0192
Phone for more details.

Thursday Trampers

26 March

David Grant

Phone for more details.

Easy/Medium

357 8269

Te Matawai Work Party
28-29 March
Medium/Fit
Jean Garman
354 3536

An early start will see us scurrying into Te Matawai by the quickest route possible so we can spend the afternoon cutting firewood, clearing vegetation, cleaning the hut and anything else that seems appropriate at the time. When knock off time is reached there will be a long round of nibbles, tipples and free flowing conversation followed by a supper scrummy dinner and desert. Sunday will see more cleaning and any last minute jobs finished before leaving the hut around mid morning aiming to be out mid afternoon by what ever route is decided upon by the participants at the time.

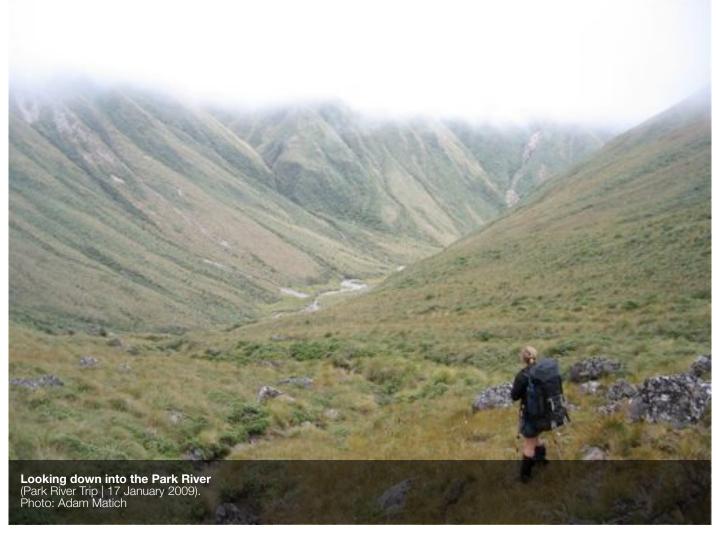
Burn Hut
29 March
Dave Allan
Phone for more details.

Medium
323 9734

McKinnon Hut
18-19 April Medium
Royce Mills 358 4398

I have viewed this hut from a distance, but have never visited it. Here's a chance to cross the Kawhatau River by the infamous cage and have an overnight stay high in the western Ruahines.





# **Trip Reports**

### Full Park River 16-19 January

### by Adam Matich

This being a substantial trip, we necessarily left on Friday afternoon to make our way up the Ohau River system to Te Matawai Hut (5 hr). The river was very low and so we made good time up to the new South Ohau hut for dinner which fortified us for the 540 m climb up the Yeates 500 track to Te Matawai Hut for the night. The new South Ohau hut is a very tidy affair with good views down the river from the veranda and a really large supply of firewood thanks to Levin-Waiopehu work parties. Next morning we awoke early, because a long day was expected, and headed 530 m up to the saddle between Pukematawai and Arete (13/4 hr) from where we dropped into the headwaters of the Park River. The descent from the saddle was quite easy and it wasn't until we were 200 m down that a little bit of care was required. It was necessary to stay on the true right to avoid a slightly bluffy/waterfally section. The little spur we ended up on had a steep 10-min drop through scrub and then we were in the river proper.

The upper end of the Park River was very easy travel, it being surprisingly flat in places. There were no camp sites. From the saddle to Park Forks was a 6½ hr journey (770 m, 10 km), and we were rather under whelmed. It is not a particularly challenging or exciting river. There were one

or two deep wades, which trip leader was forced to lead the way through so the rest of the group could work out where not to tread. Only once did she actually start to float in a little gorgy bit. Otherwise there were a couple of easy waterfalls and one spot where we sidled (easy) through the bush to avoid a very large drop caused by a house-sized boulder that blocks the water way. Generally it was a continuous slog, with the boulder hopping increasing as we approached Park Forks where we had afternoon tea before our 640 m climb up to Nichols Hut.

The track up to Nichols starts 40 m upstream of Park Forks and is marked by a "single" DoC track marker. The rest of the track up to the bush line is variously marked with old track markers. Not long after starting our climb we lost the track, but eventually wandered back onto it and didn't loose it again. Because we were feeling old and tired, it took us over 21/2 hr to make our way up to Nichols Hut where we finished our 11 hr day. It rained over night and was drizzly the next morning with a cold wind on the tops. However, we had no trouble finding our way up and around to Junction Knob (13/4 hr) and 1100 m down the sometimes steep track to the Waitewaewae bridge (2 hr). From there we headed up-river to the YTYY - Otaki Forks, which took a while. Initially, there was a steep sidle on the track to the old YTYY Hut site, which is very sodden. The new hut is in a much better place. Then we wandered confusedly across the flat

terrace looking for the forks. We found the YTYY River at the confluence of Boyd Wilson Creek and were so depressed by its colour, depth and flow that we settled down for a disgruntled lunch. We were never going to cross that to pick up the base of Oriwa Ridge.

Trip leader wanted to sidle a km or so up river to look for an easier crossing. The sidle was commenced, but got a little steep and so Adam started climbing onto a higher terrace. People were so dazed and dispirited that they didn't notice that the climb kept on until it was too late to bother dropping back down to the river. Besides, the trail up the spur on the true left of Boyd Wilson Creek was invitingly easy to follow. We managed the 600 m climb (2 hr) to the top of the ridge in time for a short afternoon tea, just north of 947, before heading north towards Mick. Most of the route along the tops was pretty good, there being a faint trail, except for the sections shown on the map as being "open". They are brush and leatherwood. The trail is still there, but it was necessary to force our way along it through the invasive vegetation, it taking us 2 ½ hours to reach Mick at around 5:30 pm.

It was cold and windy and we needed to decide where to go next. Despite what some maps say there is not a logging/4WD track north to 860 and then west down the

spur into Waitohu Stm. Two of the party had travelled that route previously, and while the bottom end of the spur does have a logging track on it, it fades out higher up and we were not confident of navigation down the spur in the dim light. However, David knew that there was a well marked trail heading south from Mick towards the Hydrology Station and then west, from an intersection 200 m north of said station, down to the logging track system only 10 minutes away from Waitohu Lodge (N2699381, E6041974). So after a very uncertain phone call (poor reception) to the

chief guide to arrange for rescue from Waitohu Valley Road next morning, Brian led the way on a compass bearing, with the people behind noting the track markers and we found ourselves at Waitohu Lodge by around 7 p.m. (12 hr day).

Waitohu Lodge is unkempt and smelly, with broken windows and a rather leaky chimney. Jean and David elected to sleep outside, but Brian and Adam were made of sterner stuff and were quite happy to brave nocturnal assaults by the rodent community. It was a late dinner that night and so people were glad to turn in to the sight and sound of lightning and thunder, and of rain on the roof.

Our last day dawned rain-less and increasingly sunny and we were able to tramp for less than 2 hr down the logging track system, past Ringawhati, to Waitohu Stm. Then out along the road past the Quarry to Waitohu Valley Rd, where Gary picked us up less than 30 min later and ferried us back to our vehicle at Poads Rd. We managed the Park River and got lots of new red lines on our maps, some of which we fully intend to never travel again. Oriwa Ridge will have to wait for lower river levels.

We were: Jean Garman, David Harrington (HTC), Brian Webster, and Adam Matich.

# Makaretu River Camping 24-25 January

### by Howard Nicholson

The weekend promised to be hot and it certainly was. Soon after crawling out of the air-conditioned comfort of the car, we pushed ourselves 100m or so above Moorcock Saddle to the open ridgeline above the North Branch Makaretu River. It was a relief to reach the relative cool of the bush and to stop for lunch by a stream nearly 200m below the ridge.

After a short break at Awatere Hut we headed downstream, noting a few reasonable campsites before

finding the "perfect" site. Nestled on a terrace next to the river, the fly was pitched on the superbly flat site and firewood gathered. The kids wanted to cook over an open fire, and soon the blackened billy was bubbling away. Marshmallows were roasted, toasted or cremated to personal preference, and devoured with delight.

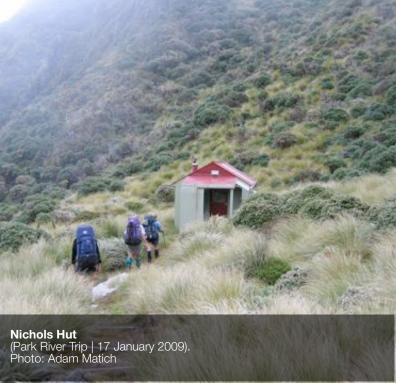
In the morning, it was blue above, and I am pleased to say this was not just the colour of the fly. There was no condensation and no wind - perfect!

There was also no rush, so after a bit more local exploration, rescuing bumble bees and

generally admiring Nature, we packed up and headed back up the river at about 11am. Sue had the great idea of "bashing" up a creek to the track, which was fine except for numerous overgrown logs that we had to negotiate; this was a little frustrating for the shorter folk.

Next was the hot hop over the hill, and back to the Moorcock Saddle carpark. Stopping at the Tinkerbell Dairy in Dannevirke for ice creams was a pleasant finish to a very enjoyable and relaxing trip.

We were Hugh, Tara, Sue and Howard Nicholson.



# Dorset Ridge Hut 31 Jan - 1 Feb

#### by Jean Garman

Well it had to happen sooner or later – Jean has finally scared all the boys away so it was just 2 girlies (Jean and Jenny) who headed into the hills to check out the improved Dorset Ridge Hut. A pleasant stroll on a balmy Friday evening brought us to Mitre Flats hut just after dark. With the threat of a hot day on Saturday we were on our way by 7am, bouncing up the South Mitre Stream trying to keep our dry feet. The ridge up to North King was open and easy to follow upwards but would require a bit more care if trying to come down. Near the bush edge we found pieces of the wrecked plane that had been moved in under the trees but we failed to find the impact site supposedly somewhere along the bush edge. Out of the trees it was a blue skies forever hardly a breath of wind sort of day and from the top of North King we could see most of the Tararuas. The bright red roof of Dorset Ridge hut, our destination for the night, was clearly visible but still many hours of walking away. We strolled along the ridgeline making use of a handy tarn along the way to fill our depleted water bottles. Spent a bit of time on top of Girdlestone trying to spot any other trampers strolling the ridgelines on this fabulous summer day but it appeared we were alone. It wasn't until we were almost at the hut that we spotted a fellow tramper sitting on one of the comfy chairs in the shade outside. The repairs and addition to the hut make it a very pleasant

place to hang out. The added porch has sink/water, cooking bench and a good area for hanging wet clothes to dry – all very practical. There are even solar powered lights - most handy in the loo at night. The last time I looked at the night sky (somewhere around midnight) there was a glorious array of stars on show but by the time the sun came up it had disappeared into a soft murky dampish mist. The track down to Dorset Creek was well enough marked that we didn't go too far astray and I was able to keep my feet dry when hopping across the creek to climb up the spur to South King. The route was marked with bits of tape and cairns which would make it easier to follow coming down but it was easy enough to pick your way up without them. On clearing the bush edge the world was still in a state of grey and we put on coats as a cool wind was pushing wet mistiness at us. Much to our surprise as we descended towards Baldy the mist started to break up and by the top of Baldy we had walked out of the cloud bank that still firmly covered the main range. The wind chose this moment to become considerably friskier and we were quite pleased that it was only a short drop to the shelter of the trees. The track down was marked with a mixture of blazes, permalat and disk markers and pretty easy to follow in all but a few places, although it was still a dramatic contrast to pop out onto the orange triangle highway between Atiwhakatu and Mitre Flats. In the valley the weather was positively pleasant again and Jenny decided that the river might be preferable to the track for the last leg back to the car.





Finally I had to get my feet wet but it was well worth it for a very pleasant splash and wade down a very pretty piece of river. When the river is low it takes roughly the same amount of time as the track and on a nice day is well worth the wet knickers. We were Jenny McCarthy and Jean Garman.

### South Ohau Hut 31 Jan - 1 Feb

#### by Bev Akers

Our meeting place - Shannon Cafe for morning tea. Feeling contented we drove on to the Poad Road carpark to be greeted by at least 8 vehicles parked. ? which hut are they all at - nothing we can do about it.

Off we toddled, all 9 of us plus 3 dogs. Took us about an hour in the heat, to reach the river for lunch. It wasn't too long after we set off upstream that the boys found a wonderful swimming hole. Compulsory swim for all of us. Even Fay (hunterway dog) had her back pack off to join in with the other 2 water dogs, for a swim. Next, the young guys were jumping off a large rock into the water. This, Leo (from Japan), had to try. Then along came Emma (alone tramper) who joined in. She also was heading our way.

Time was ticking on, so we sent a message with Emma to inform anyone at the hut that a crowd of 20 school girls where heading their way.

The rest of the trip up river was pretty easy going. We reached the hut after 5 hrs of enjoying the water.

Yah, no one at home but Emma. So we settled in for a relaxing night.

Two young guys (from Wellington) who are relatively new to tramping arrived rather wet. They had come down from Te Matawai / Arete via the Dowling Falls way. They took a shine to the campfire area down below the hut, so set up camp for the night with a fire to dry off beside.

Good atmosphere down there with us all joining in with the young guys.

By Sunday morning only one lonely camper was left sleeping next to the, still burning fire, even though it had been drizzling since early morning. He slept on the ground in only a sleeping bag. His comment was " if you can't sleep on the ground in summer, you will never survive in Antarctic." So out came all the advice in gear -fly, bivy bag etc. Four slept on the deck but by morning some had wet sleeping bags from the driving drizzle.

All 12 of us departed the hut via the river, still drizzling, so there wasn't much in the way of events till we reached the first day tramper. We were on the beginning of the last leg out on the sidle track when Sue Tuohy and her group from MTSC arrived. Unfortunately because of the rain, we were a long way ahead of ourselves so we couldn't join them in a swim or lunch as planed.

Really enjoyable social trip, even the dogs enjoyed it until it was time for one of them to take a turn to wear the back pack - well done Piper.

We were Linda, Daryl & Errin Rowan, James Robson (chimney sweep), Rochelle & Geof Beaumont with Piper (GSP), Leo from Japan, Gary Bevins with Jemma (GSP), & myself Bev Akers with Fay (hunterway)

# South Ohau Hut 1 February

### by Sue Tuohy

Well what was meant to be a stroll up the river on a hot summers day didn't quite turn out that way. Eight of us ventured off over the farmland into the misty hills, we had rain and some heavy showers. Didn't make the hut this time, its not easy river travelling in the rain. However, it was warm with no wind and we all had a good day. Looking forward to seeing the new hut another time.

# **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 (mtsc.bookings@xtra.co.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	<b>\$</b> 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:

 Book preferably by Thurs day, and certainly no later than 6 pm Friday.



- 2. Cancel bookings by these times so others needing the van have time to amend travel arrangements.
- 3. A fly should be carried on every tramp, there is always one in the passenger door of the club van and they are available from the Gear Custodian at no charge.

Trip leaders and those planning trips should use this 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 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 **end** of each month to Wei-Hang Chua at mtsc.editor@xtra.co.nz. Please contact me if you'd prefer to receive your newsletter by email only. Send changes of address to the Membership Secretary at P.O. Box 245, Palmerston North or email mtsc.memsec@xtra.co.nz.

# Club website | www.mtsc.org.nz

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

# People to contact

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

MTSC 2008-09 Committee				
President	Howard Nicholson mtsc.presiden			
Secretary	Tim Swale	06 376 6556		
Treasurer	Christine Scott mtsc.treasure			
Chief Guide	Bev Akers	325 8879		
Day Trip Convenor	Gary Bevins	325 8879		
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Ski Captain	Ken Mercer	356 7497		
Lodge Manager	Ryan Badger 0	27 445 1997		
Lodge Booking Officers	Hugh & Liz Wilde wildeh@	356 9450 @clear.net.nz		
Mini-bus Custodian	Adam Matich	359 2796		
General Committee	Linda Campbell Rob Pringle Peter Rawlins	323 3836 354 0218 356 7443		