

UPCOMING CLUBNIGHTS

7.30 pm, 1st Tue of the month, Rose City Aquatic Club Rooms, 50 Park Road, Palmerston North

6 NOVEMBER 2012 | 4 DECEMBER 2012

New Members

All prospective members are encouraged to go on a club trip or attend a club night before joining. This is a great way to meet current members who can nominate you.

Prospective members must be nominated by a Proposer and a Seconder who are current MTSC members and have been so for at least one year. New memberships are usually confirmed at the next monthly committee meeting.

For further information or an application form please visit: www.mtsc.org.nz



Climbing Mt Ngaruhoe for 20 minutes of fun... image K.Mercer

Contents

Committee Reports	page 2
Club Notices	page 2
Upcoming Trips	page 3
Trip Reports	pages 4-7
Club Information	page 8

Calling all social climbers... end of year social and prize-giving night: 4 December

Bring a plate along and enjoy some festive cheer as recognition is made of the contribution of some of the volunteers that help run the club. Organised this year by Ken Mercer 06 3567497 and Tim Swale 06 3766556.



Jean Garman in the South Island.

Double billing on 6 November - Jean Garman & Adam Matich

Jean Garman will talk about a week-long tramp, involving both on and off track sections, to the south of the Lewis Pass Road. This is another area with a wide range of tramping opportunities, something for everyone from gentle to challenging.



As far as tramping is concerned, Arthur's Pass has potential to keep trampers occupied for many weeks.

Adam Matich will talk about 2 weeks spent in Arthur's Pass National Park. 2 day trips, 2 overnights, a multiday trip & tiring shopping expeditions in Christchurch & Greymouth were enjoyed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT LINDA CAMPBELL

president@mtsc.org.nz
PHONE (06) 323 3836



I have had some very useful feedback from my October presidents report which I would like to share with you.

"Your recent editorial was a timely one. After reading it I checked with a pharmacist on the dose of chewable aspirin to be administered post heart attack. His answer was 300mg, he also confirmed that chewable aspirin is also called soluble aspirin. Soluble aspirin is available in three strengths including 300mg per tablet. I bought a pack of 24 chewable, take anywhere no water needed, foil packed Disprin brand aspirin for \$7-99." Chewing the aspirin ensures it gets into the bloodstream quickly - in 4 to 5 minutes – and this is enough to make a difference and of course minutes count when you are having a heart attack. Even small doses of aspirin can inhibit the growth of a blood clot allowing some blood to flow. I understand that even if the person is already on medication for a previous heart problem they should still take aspirin. Administering aspirin is something that should be done even before activating the PLB if someone is having a heart attack or if you suspect they are.

I have never carried aspirin before but it is certainly something I will include in my first aid kit from now on.

November 2012 Chief Guide's Report:

"Worn Out Boots" Tony Gates is a very experienced member of the PNTMC. Although I've never tramped with him I have noted his enthusiasm for historical detail, in particular that recorded in hut log books. He has now translated his interest into a book, "Worn Out Boots". Tony describes some of his back country experiences which cover most of NZ, from where he grew up hunting in the Orongorongo, to Ruahine skiing, mountain running and overseas in Patagonia. It is well written, entertaining, and I've thoroughly enjoyed reading it.



A packed lunch on Kapiti Island. Image M.Learmonth

CLUB NOTICES

Newsletter notes

> If you would like to receive your newsletter by email as a pdf in full colour and earlier than by post then please send an email request to editor@mtsc.org.nz.

> For change of contact details please email the membership secretary at membership@mtsc.org.nz and copy the message to editor@mtsc.org.nz.

> The deadline for newsletter contributions is @ the 1st week of the month. Please include a date with trip reports & images. Photos are welcome and will be included where possible – remember to include an appropriate caption for the photo, including names of people.

> Renewing Club membership is cheaper if you get an electronic copy. Contact Membership secretary for details.

> Articles and images submitted may not be included in the next issue for editorial and space reasons, although every effort is made.

For Sale: "Worn out boots" four decades enjoying the New Zealand mountains

Local trumper and outdoor enthusiast Tony Gates has recently published his memoirs. As the title suggests, he has spent a considerable time in the mountains of New Zealand, much of it in the Tararuas, Ruahines, Kawekas



Haast, 1984. Image T.Gates

and other places. Worn out boots is a personal journey through some areas that MTSC members may well know.

\$30.00, 150 pages, soft cover, with b/ w and colour photos. Contact the author at kiwi@leatherwood.co.nz or on facebook.



The Kerry Scott Story - A History of the Tongariro Power Development

is being supported by The Rotary Club of Palmerston North. The movie will be shown from 7 pm on Thursday 8th November at the Palmerston North City Library Sound & Vision Zone, Ground Floor George Street, Palmerston North
 Tickets: \$15, bookings advised. Tickets are available at Stephen Parsons House of Travel, GQ Clothing, Taylor-Jensen Fine Arts or (06) 358 1938. A John Ball Production jbproductions@ihug.co.nz

UPCOMING TRIPS

Trip Intentions:

The club has an email address for leaving trip intentions: intentions@mtsc.org.nz

Intentions sent to this address will not be acted upon UNLESS a party is reported overdue (e.g. by a family member, flatmate, friend, etc.). The email should include: a list of participants and their contact details (e.g. mobile, contact person phone number); a brief description of the intended route/destination; starting point (e.g. name of road end); start date; date/time due out; vehicle rego; and any other relevant details.

The email is sent to several MTSC members and will be provided to LandSAR if the party is reported overdue.

Trip List

04 Nov (Sun) Paul Carroll	021 02586052
6-7 Oct Snow Camping Peter Rawlins	Technical 356 7443
4 Nov (Sun) Rangiwahia Hut Linda Campbell	Easy 06 323 3836
17-18 Nov Lodge Workparty John Lyttle	Family 0274 336 307
18 Nov (Sun) MTB/Café ride Kumeroa Tim Swale	Easy 06 376 6556
24-25 Nov Leon Kinvig Hut Bev & Gary Akers	Medium 325 8879
1-2 Dec Pureora Forest Waihaha/Mt Titiraupenga Medium Mark Learmouth	355 9143
2 Dec (Sun) Kiriwhakapapa Tim Swale	Medium 06 376 6556
8-9 Dec Top Gorge Jean Garman	Medium/Fit 354 3536

Trip Preview: Lodge Painting Weekends:

John Lyttle is planning to have two work parties to complete this task and would appreciate you emailing your interest in attending the dates of **17-18 November 2012 and 16-17 February 2013**. Painting is weather dependent so if the weather is bad on these dates it will be postponed to the next weekends. Painting skills an advantage but we would appreciate anybody willing to help out. John can be contacted on johnmiltonlyttle@gmail.com

Trip Grading

The times listed below include tramping, rest & stops. In assessing the trip times & guides, terrain, weather & party fitness (which is as fast as the slowest member) must be considered. Consult the trip leader if you are unsure about the trip grading for a particular trip.

FAMILY	All welcome, casual pace, any age
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 Med/Fit
TECHNICAL	Qualifying requirements to be announced by the trip organiser

Trip Preview Rangiwahia Hut, Sunday 4 Nov

This lovely walk is suitable for the family. It is a trip to bring the children or grandchildren on. The plan is to follow the well defined track that goes to Rangiwahia Hut which is situated above the bush line on the Whanahuia Range. We will have lunch before returning the way we came. Linda Ph 027 333 4493,

The weekday trip list is not currently available for November. They range between Easy & Medium/ Fit. Call the leader for details on these to plan a daytrip to suit your preference & ability. Bev Akers the daytrip convenor can advise who is next week's leader - 06 3258879.

TRIP REPORTS

Kaiparoro Crossing, 27 Sept 2012 by Merv Matthews

This was quite an adventurous trip exploring some unknown territory. An early approach was made to the two landowners concerned and permission was readily granted. We began near the end of Putara Road, through private property and up a farm track to a large private hut. After morning tea at the hut we continued through a disused deer trap and then entered the Tararua Forest Park where we followed a faint trail previously marked by an earlier exploratory team of four. It was mostly easy walking through some spectacular bush, see photo. However, at one point we lost the trail and scouted around in circles for a while before we finally emerged from the bush on to the tussock tops and headed south to the Kaiparoro trig for lunch. From the trig it was an easy one-hour walk (via the track which DOC proposes to close) out to the Kaiparoro roadend where Graham was waiting with the minibus.

Herepai - Wednesday 26th September by John Ridge

Warm and sunny, a great Spring day - 3 cars and the minibus met at Eketahuna to continue in convoy to Tararua Forest Park south-west of Putara in the upper part of Mangatainoka Valley. Our party numbered 26 trampers and we divided into 2 groups for our ascent to Herepai Hut. This tramp leads into the headwaters of the Mangatainoka River along a densely forested track that has a deep-forest feel to it. Group A took the most used route whereas Group B who were looking for something with more of a challenge chose to tackle the Bottle Track. Both routes pass through dense bush with abundant bird life to enjoy. After the second swing bridge we regrouped and had morning tea. Outer clothing was shed for the middle stage of our tramp, the steep climb to the T-intersection; another water stop and a chance for everyone to have a break before following the undulating ridgetop track until the hut suddenly appeared before us and the first peaks of the Tararua main range. The deck proved to be a great place for lunch whilst we could enjoy a rest and appreciate the views. After lunch both groups descended at a leisurely pace by the most direct route. Once alongside the river it was most rewarding to hear the water rushing over the boulders, it kind of energises weary limbs. On the homeward journey we stopped for refreshments in Eketahuna, great coffee & cake though some prefer ice-cream. Thanks to car drivers Bev, Arthur & Liz (good to see you back) Arthur & Rita & van driver Chris.



Pukeatua Track
Wednesday 19th September 2012
by Patsy Inkpen

Twenty five trampers left from the South Mangona Road car park, opposite the Mangona Walkway, Waikanae, in misty, drizzly conditions, with some fine breaks later. We did a 'there and back' with a time to be back at the van. This was the first time for the Wednesday group to tackle this track.

The track proceeded along a four wheel track, ^{through} over a stream, and up, and up, and up, with a few saddles in between to give the other leg muscles 'a rest'. Up through a pine plantation up through a series of bush clad ridges - to a height of six to seven hundred meters for us. The highest point on this track is Pukeatua 812m, which none reached. Pine tree clearance could be seen in the distance, south side. Some of the track is private land. The track is clearly marked with ^{blue} white poles and/or orange triangles. Not many birds heard. Several goats were seen. Bait stations were marked.

Coffee stop on the way home, was in an interesting old villa, cafe, nestled among the trees, with memorabilia, chooks, pottery, farmyard tour, ~~for~~ prior to reaching Reikorangi Road. Nice scenes.

Mitre Flats Hut, Wednesday 17 October by Anne Rush

Few of the 24 member group had been to Mitre Flats which was estimated to take 3 - 4 hours. One super fit man took 2 1/4 hrs! Four got within 20mins of the hut within the 3 hours they had allowed. The track crosses a well formed farm track and follows the Waingawa River to some very pleasant river flats. From there the bush starts and the track, which follows high above the river gorge, is undulating, rocky at times, and strewn with tree roots. The most fearsome moments were huge gusts of wind which blew people along the farm track and almost off their feet.



Mt Ngaruhoe skiers. Image K.Mercer

MANGAHAO FLATS HUT, Easy/Medium, 22-23 September 2012 by Nicola Wallace

4 of us & 3 dogs piled into the Hilux and were soon nearing the Mangahao Dam roadend. I was pleased to see the road surface had been improved since I was last up there @4 years ago. Just after we parked, several other vehicles arrived, and our hearts sank as we saw they contained kids galore. It turned out they were a party of 11 with tents and they were heading to Te Matawai Hut. Some of the kids were small and we wondered how they'd get on. We left the vehicle @9.45am, walking an undulating but fairly civilised track till we reached a large, boggy patch and got slightly off track for a bit. We also stopped to trim some vegetation, part of our track maintenance duty. It took @1.5hrs to reach the large swingbridge over the Mangahao River and we ate morning tea in calm, sunny conditions on the far side, drying damp shirts on a new bridge pylon. The river was now on our right and the track became much more rugged. A vertical "step up" 7ft high was our first obstacle. The dogs were passed up by hand. It was OK for us humans to get up, as there were roots to grab. That obstacle surmounted, the track became very rugged and gnarly, with no margin for stepping error. It was a case of carefully and steadily grinding on till we reached the old Harris Creek Hut site, which we got to 2hrs after morning tea. Sadly there are no hut remnants left and we proceeded over Harris Creek bridge to lunch on a flat riverside spot. Looking back the way we'd come, we saw Jean's group approaching and they checked in with us before carrying on. After Harris Creek the track was easier, but being flatter and lower, much boggier. Thankfully, Barra Creek is now bridged, as I was told about a woman swept away to her death while crossing a few years ago. Along the way we kept meeting Jean & co. doing track maintenance. After negotiating many boggy bits, we got to a decision point - proceed via the river or over a slip. We chose the river, while Jean's group went over the slip. After 2 crossings of the crystal clear Mangahao, we were back on track. Walking through grassy flats provided one of the

loveliest bits of the trip and we duly arrived at the hut 6 hours after leaving. My first view was of two hunters having a smoke on the veranda. First thing was to remove those wet boots and socks - what a relief! Then the others arrived and Jean went into work party mode. She headed off to do a sterling job of cleaning the toilet while we concentrated on windows - Garry the outside, Bev & I the frames inside, followed by Jean cleaning the glass. Alex searched for decent firewood saying there was no good wood - it was all rotten and only good for compost! Nevertheless, he soon had a healthy fire going. Later he rigged up a lovely little LED lantern above the table. It was very bright & homemade! Loud thumps on the veranda had us fearing the arrival of kids, but it was just a possum which Dave H later saw during his night spent on the deck. It was hot sleeping in the hut on the top storey(No Snoring section). Only a little snoring was heard from below. The temperature dropped and in the morning, socks left outside overnight were frozen stiff like sheets of cardboard. At 6.30am I walked down to the flats below the hut & crunched around in the crispy frost. I wondered how the dogs had slept in their kennels. Even though I thawed the socks, they and the wet boots were agonisingly cold on the feet. I was glad to get going at 8.40am, retracing yesterday's steps. Bev & I tried to keep out of the worst bog but after a while I submitted happily to its squelchy wetness as my feet thawed out. We were all looking forward to morning tea at Harris Creek. Just before the bridge, we spotted a picnic table we'd missed seeing yesterday, so we stopped there. It was an ideal good weather campsite - lots of room, close to the river. For the next 2hrs we ground through the gnarly section. One of yesterday's "step ups" was now a very difficult "step down" & Alex gave a welcome hand to those who needed it. Finally, the last drop off, the dogs got down by themselves then it was plain sailing to the big Mangahao swingbridge. We lunched by the river, then it was into the water. The plan was to rejoin the track near the no.1 reservoir, as Bev said it would be muddy by the reservoir. The wide riverbed was composed mostly of medium sized stones - not boulders, not shingle. We crossed the river numerous times, but it was a warm, sunny afternoon and this river section was enjoyable. Alex commented on how there were no fish in the river, despite it's apparent purity. Finally, Gary led us up a short, steep bank, and we rejoined the track at the top. From there it was only about 10 minutes back to the car. It had been a very good trip, with fine weather, and an excellent hut. I wouldn't recommend that people do this tramp on their own, due to the rugged nature of the track. Jean can tell you about all the accidents and resulting injuries that have happened on it. When I go back, I'll definitely go with a group. Many thanks to the others for their great company. We were: Bev Akers (leader), Gary Bevins (driver), Alex Handcock (firestarter) and Nicola Wallace (scribe).

Ski Mt Ngaurahoe, Saturday 1 September by Mary Mercer

Whiffs of sulphur were the only indication of the recent Te Maara eruption at the Mangatepopo car park though I guess the fact that local iwi wanted people to sign in before venturing onto the Tongariro Crossing track was another clue (The track had been re-opened by DOC as far as Red Crater only the day before). The day was cool but sunny and still as we marched along the boardwalk. The bases of Tongariro on our left, Pukekaikioire and Ngaurohoe on our right were bare rock but Tongariro's flat top and Ngauruhoe's cone looked magnificent higher up with snow glistening in the sunshine. Towards the top of Devil's Staircase we reached snow and eventually Peter called a halt while he, Ken and Natasha put on their skis & skins and I donned snow shoes. The snow on Ngauruhoe was nice, softened by sun, but firm and relatively easy to walk on most of the way up the northern face. As the slope increased the skins were swapped for crampons while I stuck with snow shoes. These worked well until about 80% of the way up & we came across sastrugi. Luckily the sun had done its work here too and the ice was relatively soft but the snow underneath was somewhat inclined to slip away under the snow shoes – definitely a bit off putting when you looked down the almost 2000 feet to flatter ground! Eventually we clomped our way onto some better snow but near the crater the sunshine was totally negated by a howling gale. We hastily rearranged our footwear, posed for a pic on the crater rim, donned our skis and headed down. Apart from a short traverse across more sastrugi, the snow was perfect for skiing. Once Natasha had convinced herself that she could make the turns we had a fantastic, but all too short run down to the track where we stopped for a rather late and leisurely lunch back in the warm sunshine. Was the 2hr walking up on bare earth then another 2+ on snow worth the 20min ski down? ...Definitely yes! We signed back in at the carpark 8hrs after we set out, pleasantly tired after a fantastic day. Thanks to Peter "machine" Rawlins our leader, Natasha our Canadian recruit and Ken our photographer.

Mangahao Flats Work Party 22-23rd September by Adam Matich.

The fast party took one of the many long routes into the hut from the top dam. We crossed the dam wall, followed the Puketurua Track to Baber Forks and commenced rock-hopping up Baber Creek. Unfortunately, David had been reading a route guide and so the exit from the top end of Baber Creek was a little unconventional. We didn't climb out of the stream bed until we were 100m higher than usual, so it got tighter and tighter until the way ahead was blocked by windfalls. We climbed a small waterfall to our left and were able to get onto the spur which climbs to the high point just west of the saddle (3hrs). From here we took the SW-heading spur that drops into Dick Creek, which we travelled part way down before climbing into the forest on the true left.



Jean Garman heading up Baber Creek. Image A.Matich

We made our way down to the Mangahao River track and the Harris Creek swing bridge (75 min) where the relaxed group were recovering in the sun after their after lunch boil-up. Track-clearing work meant that we leap-frogged with the relaxed group until we reached the active slip at the Big Bend in the river. The other group chose to do the river crossing while we engaged the slip. Entry onto the down-river side of the slip is difficult so a rope was attached to a couple of trees to give people something to hold onto. On the up-river side of the slip we put a rope where the track up and over the top of the slip drops back down onto the main track. By the time this was all done the other group had done the remaining track clearing to Mangahao Flats Hut. As people didn't get to the hut until around 4:30 there wasn't a huge amount of time to do work party things. We managed a small amount of fire wood and a good clean of the hut - windows, horizontal surfaces, gutters – before dinner rolled around. There was a good frost next morning so people weren't entirely eager to get up, but the relaxed group left by 8am whilst the advanced group did another 2hrs work, clearing vegetation from the helipad and from in front of the hut. We headed back down-river in the river and discovered that it was no longer possible to reach Harris Creek with dry shorts as there were two chest-deep wades. It was clouding over by the time Harris Creek hut site was reached so we climbed out and took the track down to the swing-bridge. From there on everyone stayed in the river, as the track is rubbish, and we caught up to the relaxed group a couple of minutes before the top dam. The track into Mangahao Flats might be easy-medium time-wise, but some parts of the track require a degree of experience, balance, and confidence as there are some spots where it is possible for the clumsy or hapless to fall injuriously. We now think it is really a Medium-grade track. We were David Harrington, Adam Matich and Jean Garman.

Reserves Around Hunterville - Wednesday 8th August by Andrew Brodie

The weather forecast indicated possible rain later in the day but this did not stop 23 coming on the trip. First we tackled Pryce's Rahui Reserve near the Rangitikei River south of Hunterville. It is rather overgrown and swampy but has some very large trees such as matai, kahikatea and the biggest kowhai I have ever seen in the wild. Some of the boardwalks are a bit dodgy but these are to be fixed. We sat and enjoyed the sun just outside the reserve for morning tea in the company of some friendly fantails. A short trip up State Highway 1 then took us to the nearby DOC managed Bruce Park – most of us had driven by hundreds of times so it was good to actually stop here.



Wednesday trampers at the original entrance to Bruce Park. Image by A. Brodie.

A figure-8 loop track gives you a good leg stretch for about 20mins and includes the memorial to Robert Cunningham Bruce who gifted several patches of bush to the district. Nearby is the imposing original entrance to the park before the highway was re-aligned. Next stop was Laird's Reserve 10km west of Hunterville. To get this reserve you have to climb up a farm track and again we could enjoy the sun while we ate lunch before entering the reserve which contains some very imposing trees such as rimu, kahikatea and matai. Finally we went to Sutherland Puriri Reserve at the junction of Mangahoe and Turakina Valley Roads. This is the largest Forest & Bird Reserve in the area with a circular track that passes some Maori food pits & takes just over an hour. We could not see any puriri so were not sure why the reserve had that tree in its name. The reserves are looked after by a small but dedicated group from the Rangitikei Branch of the Forest & Bird Society and are well worth a visit if you have not been to them before. The added bonus for trip leader was finding several new geocaches! Just as rain set in, a short break was made near Marton for coffee and a bite at the Sugar Plum Café on SH1 – thanks to Jill for persuading us it was worth a visit. Thanks to Chris Brunskill for driving the van and the others who took their own cars.



Thursday trampers set off up the ridge from Mikimiki saddle to Te Mara trig, Blue Range: Image J. Brock

Mikimiki - Blue Range Circuit Thursday 20 September by Graham Pritchard

It was June 2005 when the Thursday Trampers last tramped this circuit which provides a longer but interesting variation on the more usual up and back trip to the TeMara highpoint (1104m) on Blue Range. Sixteen took part on this occasion. The route involves climbing up the long untracked ridge leading from the saddle on the Mikimiki track to TeMara trig. I delegated leading the way to Gordon Clark with Merv Matthews doing the GPS tracking. The ageing leader brought up the rear. The earlier stages of the ridge route are through mature red beech forest with crown fern ground cover and a few little patches of mingimingi scrub to push through but nothing serious. At the higher levels the red beech gives way to open silver beech forest with a lovely ground cover carpet of moss and filmy ferns (and no mud!). The rain held off until we were well up the long ridge but got more serious by lunch time at the trig point. Compared to last time, there was evidence of more traffic along this ridge route by way of a reasonably defined narrow trail of sorts (in places). The other difference was the much greater incidence of tree fall and wind damage but again nothing very serious. The only tricky bit on the whole circuit was the relatively short section from TeMara trig down to meet up with the well-formed DOC track from Blue Range Hut to Cow Creek Hut which later connects back to the official Blue Range Hut track. There are 2 options for joining up with that track, both on reasonably well-trodden trails but with no view points and poor visibility this can lead to some confusion so it is important for any group to stay together. Weather aside, it was an interesting variation. We were glad of the luxury of a spacious shelter to change in and dry out back at the Kiriwhakapapa carpark.

CLUB INFORMATION

Annual Hut Passes with FMC discount

An Annual Hut Pass is reduced to \$85.60 with your Federated Mountain Club (FMC) card discount. For further information or for the forms to complete contact Jean at jeanandivan@value.net.nz or call (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 emailed to Liz and Hugh Wilde lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz. If you cannot email, please phone (06) 356 9450. To confirm your booking, payment must be made in advance by cheque, or cash (in person) to 179 Cook St, Palmerston North 4410. Internet payment is not available for lodge fees.

	Members	Guests
Adult	\$30	\$45
Secondary School	\$25	\$40
Primary School	\$20	\$35
Pre-school (3-5 yo)	\$10	\$10



A young member making the pilgrimage to the Lodge.
Image J.Lyttle

Booking and use of the MTSC Van

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

1. Book preferably by Thursday, and certainly no later than 6 pm Friday.
2. Cancel bookings by these times so others needing the van have time to amend travel arrangements.
3. A fly should be carried on every tramp, there is always one in the passenger door of the club van and they are available from the Gear Custodian at no charge. 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. Ken and Mary Mercer are interim minibus custodians and can be contacted at (06) 356 7497.

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 trips. 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.

Club website | www.mtsc.org.nz

This includes a list of contact details and a club email address. Back issues of Beechleaves can be found on the site and it is updated regularly with new information.

The club webpage is maintained by Howard Nicholson and is kindly hosted by **InSPire Net**, a locally based company.

People to Contact

If you would like to contact the club with general inquiries, please write 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.

Alternatively an email to the below addresses will suffice.

MTSC 2012-13 Committee

President Linda Campbell	06 323 3836
	president@mtsc.org.nz
Secretary Tim Swale	06 376 6556
Treasurer Arthur Flint	06 356 7654
	treasurer@mtsc.org.nz
Chief Guide Ken Mercer	06 356 7497
Day Trip Convenor Bev Akers	06 325 8879
Membership Judy Swainson	
	membership@mtsc.org.nz
Newsletter Editor Tim Tyler	editor@mtsc.org.nz
Social Convenor Bob Hodgson	
Ski Captain Howard Nicholson	06 357 6325
Lodge Manager John Lyttle	
Lodge Bookings Hugh & Liz Wilde	06 356 9450
Mini-Bus Manager Bev Akers	06 325 8879
General Committee	
Royce Mills, Bev Akers, Ryan Badger	