# eechleaves

Newsletter of the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club



P.O. Box 245, Palmerston North 4440 www.mtsc.org.nz https://www.facebook.com/MTandSC

**Issue 8: September 2017** 



Club meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of the month at the Rose City Aquatic Club Rooms, 50 Park Street, Palmerston North (next to the Lido). Meetings begin at 7.30pm.

# Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September: Club Quiz Night

**Quiz Masters: Bob Hodgson and Linda Campbell** 



MTSC members and friends are asked to form teams of five to complete in the annual club quiz. Teams forming from the various club groups, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Weekenders, Ski Bunnies, etc strongly encouraged. We will also form a few scratch teams from individuals on the night.

As in previous years topics will include but not limited to Hut Identification, New Zealand Native Trees and Scrubs, Geography of Parks, Reserves and Tracks, Bird Calls, Kiwiana, SAR and General Knowledge.

There will be spot and team prizes.

Please come along and join the fun, also good practice for the inter club quiz on Thursday 14th September. PS Cell Phones not allowed.

#### Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September: InterClub Quiz Night – Hosted by PNTMC Society of Friend Hall, 227 College Street 7:30pm

Come along to uphold the honour of MTSC, the more the merrier (and the better chance of us doing well).

# Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October: Club Photo Competition

- Categories: 1. NZ Landscapes, no people
  - 2. NZ Above the Bushline, predominantly alpine scenery (rock, snow, tussock, etc), may include people
  - 3. NZ Below Bushline, predominantly bush/scrub (lowland to sub-alpine areas), may include people
  - 4. NZ Natural History, NZ flora, fauna or detail (geology, ice formations, etc)
  - 5. NZ Topical, people or detail related to tramping, climbing, skiing, hut and camp life, etc in NZ
  - 6. Overseas, photos taken overseas

Submit entries to Howard by Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September

- using Dropbox or OneDrive (preferred) email photocomp@mtsc.org.nz to be sent a link
- by email to photocompmtsc.org.nz

Unless you notify us otherwise, by entering this competition you grant MTSC the right to: use submitted images for MTSC publicity purposes; submit your entries into the local interclub competition; submit you entries into the Federated Mountain Clubs photo competition.

#### Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October: InterClub Photo Competition – Hosted by MUAC **MUSA Lounge, Massey University** 6:00pm

This year MUAC is hosting the Interclub Photo Competition where the best photographs from the MTSC, PNTMC and MUAC photo competitions go head to head to see which are the best overall. There will be some stunning images.





#### MTSC President: John Beech

#### president@mtsc.org.nz

Hi all, it's been a quiet month and I haven't got a lot to report on. This Winter has been cooler than last and there has been a fair bit of snow falling including a big dump in the first week of the school holidays. I am sure the skiers will be appreciating the conditions up the mountain. Lots of snow is a boon for the ski fields but too much can do a lot of damage in the bush. After the big fall in July I headed up to Rangi for a look but unfortunately only got to the first farmhouse on Renfrew Road to find the road closed. I returned back the way I came and resorted to a walk into Heritage lodge. There was considerable snow damage on the track from the car park to the lodge. Although

it was picturesque, the amount of snow has provided a headache for DOC to clean up. I'm sure the weekly day trippers have found the same in their travels. On the Ruahine User Group Forum, a few have commented that they have been cleaning up as much as they can. Once again it is encouraging to see the tramping community pitching in to help out.

I recently spent 3 days in the southern Tararuas with a Duke of Ed group. We had a mixture of typical Tararua weather with fine weather 2 out of the 3 days and rain and flooded rivers on the third. It was a good experience for the students who got to see the bush in all its moods. In particular, they had to demonstrate their resilience after 3 reasonably demanding days with the last being in pouring rain with one stream crossing requiring a link up. My hope is that these students will learn to love the outdoors as do the rest of us in the club and outdoor community.

Over the spring, DOC will be undertaking a big pest control operation in the northern Ruahines. This will greatly enhance the ground based operations and result in a significant reduction in pests. Whio are one of those special birds that are unique and inhabit very specific habitats so we look forward to the benefits to them and other species.

My final comment is to do with the upcoming election. Obviously, we all have our political preferences and I am not about to tell you who to vote for. However, I would encourage all of us to examine the various political parties' policies so we have an understanding of their priorities for the conservation estate.

As the winter continues, I encourage you all to head up the mountain or into the hills.

John

## First Tracks - Ski Captain Howard Nicholson

There is always something new to try or skills to learn. MTSC recently held a Technical Ski Improvement Weekend based at the lodge. This was useful opportunity to try some current techniques and to put those new skills into practice. For many, this was our first foray into Happy Valley for many a year, but to be fair, this was while we waited for the upper mountain to open. Thank you to Peter Bowker and John Lyttle for leading the sessions. There is another similar trip scheduled for September.

If anyone is interested in ski racing, there are a number of events being held on the mountain in the coming weeks. Let me know if you want to hear about these events.

The new Delta Quad chairlift at Whakapapa, replacing the Waterfall T-bar, is now open.

Springtime on Ruapehu usually produces good ski conditions, and the warmer weather makes trips with young ones more enjoyable for everyone. See you up there soon...

Howie Nicholson

#### 2017/2018 Summer trip card

Yes it's time to work on the summer trip card. Dream of the trips you would like to do over summer's warm, dry and long days. Please feel free to visit the link below and fill in the details of the trips you are willing to lead.  $\frac{\text{https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1zyO0Ca9XtASuP7hchVNoV-}}{\text{VpzdbFvhtEMYV\_juFiCjI/edit?usp=sharing}}$ 

#### INPUT FOR TRIPS ON THE SUMMER TRIP CARD WILL CLOSE OFF ON THE 10<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

We welcome Andrew, Christine, Danielle, Ryan & Jasmine Brown, Kate Elm, Shane, Stephanie, Elysha, Taliyah & Eliana Harvey and Eteta Trueman to the club.



September Wednesday Tramps			
Date	Leader	Phone	
6	John Ridge	357 3744	
13	Dennis Jensen	329 3229	
20	Russell Poole	022 658 0661	
27	Robert Bruce	329 7858	

September Thursday Tramps			
Date	Leader	Phone	
7	Bryce & Raewyn Buddle	353 5163	
14	John McLeod	323 5785	
21	John & Gillian Thornley	356 9681	
28	Brian & Ruth Evans	323 7614	

September Weekend Trips				
Date	Trip	Grade	Leader	Phone
2 - 3	Totara Flats	Easy	Linda Campbell	323 3836
9 - 10	Climb and Ski Ngauruhoe	Intmed. & 个	John Lyttle	027 433 6307
16 - 17	Weekend in the Snow	All	Ken Mercer	027 364 6475
23 - 24	Maropea Forks Hut	Med/Fit	Jean Garman	021 176 0209
23 - 24	Technical Ski Improvement	Intmed. & 个	John Lyttle	027 433 6307
30 - 1	Weekend in the Snow	all	Carl Pester	021 131 6264

**Trip Intentions:** The email address for leaving trip intentions is <a href="intentions@mtsc.org.nz">intentions@mtsc.org.nz</a>. 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 is sent to several MTSC members. This information will be provided to LandSAR/RCC only if the party is reported overdue or a PLB is activated. The email should include: a list of participants and their contact details; a brief description of the intended route and possible alternative routes; starting point; start date; date/time due out; vehicle registration; and any other relevant details.

# 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> September: Totara Flats Hut

Easy Linda Campbell 027 333 4493 lindammc@xtra.co.nz

This is an easy walk in the Tararuas starting from the Holdsworth Road end. We will amble along up the track to the hut which is situated on river flats above the Waiohine River. The bridge on the Totara Creek Track (between the junction with the Gentle Annie Track and Totara Flats Hut) is closed. There is however, an alternative marked track which involves river crossings so we will get our feet wet. Not long before the hut there is a long swing bridge over the Waiohine River. The flats are large and interesting to wander along for those who want a bit more exercise.

# 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> September: Climb/Ski Ngauruhoe

#### Intermediate & up John Lyttle

027 433 6307

This trip is a physical challenge with an approximate 6km (each way) walk carrying your ski equipment on the Tongariro Crossing to the base of Ngauruhoe then a 400m ascent using crampons and an ice axe that you will need to have some proven competency with. This trip has a few ducks to line up to happen with the need for a reasonable snow level, low avalanche danger and reasonable weather. As an option of walking to the Crater Lake and/or skiing over to Turoa and back could be a possible alternative. Please indicate your interest in this trip ASAP.

# ${\bf 16}^{\rm th}$ – ${\bf 17}^{\rm th}$ September: Weekend in the Snow

#### All Ken Mercer 027 364 6475

This weekend is designed to encourage and support members or potential members who would like to experience skiing or boarding or just like to be in a relaxed group enjoying a weekend in the snow. We are there to help, both with the lodge and finding your way around Whakapapa ski field. We go up Friday night and return Sunday. Carpooling or club van depending on numbers.

# 23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> September: Maropea Forks

Medium/Fit Jean Garman 021 176 0209 trampski.cave@gmail.com

While there might still be some snow  $\odot$  there will definitely be cold water and wet feet, but to make up for this it is a really lovely hut to visit. We will aim to vary our in/out route (at least a little) but this trip is weather dependant due to the river travel.

#### 23<sup>rd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> September: Technical Ski Improvement

#### Intermediate and up

John Lyttle

027 433 6307

Technical Ski Improvement: These weekends focus around the technical aspects of the physical side of your skiing, your equipment and the different disciplines of skiing now available. We will also go over some basic on the mountain skills. It will be run by fellow skiers that jointly have decades of experience and while we won't be instructing you in your skiing, we will discuss and review each other's style and form, with input provided as to what may make a difference in your technique. This interaction is free for members.

For me personally, after 38 years of skiing I'm always on the lookout for ways to make my skiing easier and my technique more refined by ensuring that it's still fun. Looking for a better way has helped me keep my passion for skiing going. While this is more for the intermediate to advanced skier, beginners and snowboarders will also get some benefit from this course. Numbers are limited so please let me know if you wish to attend one or all of these weekends ASAP.

#### 30<sup>th</sup> September – 1<sup>st</sup> October: Weekend in the Snow

All Carl Pester

06 376 8002, 021 131 6264

pesters@slingshot.co.nz

This weekend is designed to encourage and support members or potential members who would like to experience skiing or boarding or just like to be in a relaxed group enjoying a weekend in the snow. We are there to help, both with the lodge and finding your way around Whakapapa ski field. We go up Friday night and return Sunday. Carpooling or club van depending on numbers.

# Labour Weekend 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> October: The Red Hills: Richmond Forest Park Medium/Fit Adam Matich 022 3588062

This will be an extended (Friday-Tuesday) Labour Weekend trip starting at Red Hills Hut, on the first day, after the ferry trip and a bit of a drive. The bare-bones trip will see us go through Porters Creek Hut to Hunters Hut on day two, an easy five hours to Top Wairoa Hut on day three, a looooong day down the desolate Red Hills Ridge back to Red Hills Hut on day four, and a return home on day five. If the party make-up is more lunatic fringe, then we will also include Beeby's Hut in the route. I will be booking the ferry late August, so if you are interested contact me before then.

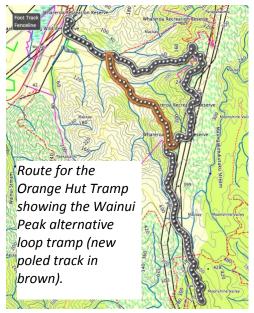


# Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July: Wednesday Trampers enjoy Whareroa Farm Park & tracks to

**Orange Hut and Wainui Peak** 

Report: Bob Hodgson Photos: William Laing

Thirteen MTSC Wednesday Trampers assembled at the Whareroa park entrance for a 9:25am start in the mild overcast conditions that were to persist



for the day. We were all dressed



Kapiti in winter's soft light

for winter, so brows were soon moistened as we toiled up the usual grass track up to the top road. The view across to Kapiti Island was unusual for the muted tones of sky and sea. A little way up the road we all gathered then a group of five set off at a sparkling pace intent on having lunch and turning at the Orange Hut. For them the round trip was approx. 20km with a total climb of 534m (360m to the top then 174m down to the hut then up again). They also used an estimated 3334 kcal.

At the entrance to the pine forest, the remaining eight trampers split into two groups. A group of three set out to explore a route up to the Wainui Peak (774m) and estimated they got within less than an hour's tramp from the peak with the suggestion of a return for a visit to the peak in summer with less exposure to cold winds. The remaining group of five tramped some distance down from the peak into the pine forest then turned to liaise for a lunch with Jenny who had travelled from Wellington

and was guided to a rendezvous by cell phone. This group, plus the Wainui Peak explorers, made their down from the top road by a recently opened poled ridge top route. This route was signed as "steep" which it was, but found to be only a little steeper than the route up to the road used earlier. This area of the park is no longer grazed making the stream a source of drinking water, as used in the visitor facilities at the car park. It made a pleasant alternative descent loop with total distance tramped of 11.5km.





Morning Tea stop in the pine forest

Crossing the Ford in surprisingly low flow

By about 2:30pm all trampers had safely returned to the car park and then suitably changed and spruced up, made their way to River Cottage for coffee and cakes.

This was an enjoyable winter tramp with no rain, little mud and low streams.

Thanks to trip leader Anne and van driver Chris.

## Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July: Sunrise Hut in the Snow

Report: Royce Mills Photos: John Brock

Just seven Thursday trampers today. We enjoyed perfect tramping weather, calm with high cloud and good views. We reached the snow with about half an hour to go on the way up to Sunrise hut. The snow was quite hard and icy, so care was needed. It was too icy to continue on past the hut so we had a quick look at the view of the high mountains above, then took a leisurely lunch and wandered back down to the car park.

We stopped at Ongaonga for a pleasant coffee stop to break the journey home. Thanks to John Brock our leader, and photographer, today.



In the snow - John Doolan, Chris Mercer and John McLeod

# Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July: The Iron Gates Hut Track

Report: Bob Hodgson

Photos: William, Judith & Maureen

23 hard core Wednesday Trampers assembled at the car park in chilly (7°C) but fine conditions and at 9:15am and after the trip leader's briefing that ended with "and boys and girls all to be back here by three thirty" we set off to make the 100m descent to the curved wooden bridge constructed almost 40 years ago by NZ Army Engineers. The grass track down was unusually muddy having apparently been churned by previous trampers. Tramping up 78m from the bridge and then down 28m by 10am brought us to the Alice Nash Memorial Hut and diffuse sunlight for morning tea.



Heritage Hut in context





Up and over the Army bridge

Morning Tea in the sun at Memorial Lodge

For the first thirty minutes or so beyond the hut the track was easy going then rapidly deteriorated to fully comply with expectations raised the DOC description of it as "advanced tramping." The track down to the Cumberfield Creek was very steep and eroded in places requiring special care. The stream was readily crossed but the track up even more hazardous and demanding. The compensation for the effort needed to tramp the track was the mature bush and magnificent views up and down the Oroua River. The track did not improve beyond this climb up but the hard core persisted and some reached the Tunupo Stream before turning, having had to negotiate several fresh slips. On the final one, a tumble was taken resulting in a bloody cut on the chin that required first aid of a splendid head bandage but did not disable the recipient. There were many muddy bums but apart from the cut chin, all returned safely to the car park as the day started to cool and the weather deteriorate.



This was good hard winter tramping on a reasonable day so it was a happy throng that then reassembled at Ian's Home in Cheltenham for an afternoon tea that featured soup, slices and coffee.

Thanks to trip leader and van driver Chris, our other drivers Bev, Bob and Dennis and to Ian and helpers for their hospitality.

# 29<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> July: Technical Ski Weekend

Report: Ken Mercer Photos: Ken Mercer

The first ski instruction weekend was a great success with 11 experienced skiers keen to improve. Techniques have changed over time and our instructors had a range of videos to show in the evenings and exercises to perform. Saturday dawned cold and clear but very windy. Happy Valley, where we started (!), was somewhat sheltered. Various lifts opened throughout the day and we progressed to the Waterfall Express and the Valley.

We also videoed each other which was difficult with the cold and wind. No, it wasn't all lessons – we also had our share of runs. On Sunday the weather was perfect, clear with no wind. We skied until the morning coffee break then attempted to emulate the experts in the Knoll Gut with several more exercises. For an example we practiced, keeping our shoulders perpendicular to the fall line, something we all know we should do but often don't.





Watching educational videos at the lodge

Everyone watcvhing Roger getting the feel of one exercise

Many thanks to John Lyttle and Peter Bowker for giving us so much time, encouragement, and advice.

# Satuday 5<sup>th</sup> August: Sunrise Hut

Report: Pak Lam Yu

Photos: Jenny, Adam & Pak

This was my first winter tramp and it turned out to be an exciting experience. We moved the tramp one day forward (as recommended by weather guru Jean Garman). It worked out well. As we drove through the top of the Saddle Road to the other side of the ranges, we encountered some very special scenery, with a blend of sunlight, fog, and mist. It was a calm morning and the windmills were mostly very still. It gave me some lovely pictures to start off the day.





Enthusiastic departure

Picturesque snow on beech trees

After Dannevirke and Ongaonga, we drove through some sheep farms. Just before we arrived at the Waipawa Forks car park, a flock of wild turkeys crossed the road in front of us. It was an interesting encounter. We were the only car when we arrived at the car park shortly after 10am. A farmer with two sheep dogs on a quad bike drove past and waved to us. The elevation of the car park was about 650m. It took us 2.5 hours to get to Sunrise Hut (1300m) on very good, sheltered track. Along the way, there were interesting natural lessons to be learnt e.g. the semi-parasitic native mistletoe, the difference between black and read beech, the birds in that neighbourhood.



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Snowy Sunrise Hut

All rugged up for a look at Armstrong Saddle

We did not get clear blue sky at the top; instead a winter landscape welcomed us. We quickly put on our rain jackets, gloves and beanies. The Sunrise Hut has been extended (20 bunk beds) and is in new condition. After lunch, we had a look at the nearby Armstrong Saddle, which was a white landscape, so will be back another time to go further along that path.





Enjoying the snow up round Armstrong Saddle

The downhill tramp took us only 1.5 hours to get back to the car and it was rather effortless. We dropped by to have a quick look at the Triple X Hut which was only 15 min from the car park. There was a family there having some kind of afternoon tea party. Adam complained that he had not done enough work for the day, but we all ended up getting something to eat or drink at Dannevirke. All in all, it was a great winter tramp; thank you Jenny for the idea and organising everything; Adam for doing the driving.

Photo link: https://goo.gl/photos/B9RqMo9kEATeQXtJ9

Trip members: Jenny McCarthy (leader), Helen Peek, Adam Matich, Steve Glasgow, Pak Lam Yu

# Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August: Mania Track Wednesday Wandering Warriors

Report: William

Photos: Maureen & William

Warriors because we tackled the snowed-felled bush and vanquished it! A few weeks ago there was a heavy snowstorm in the Rangiwahia area. This broke and bent the bush, blocking the track, especially along the poled access route across the farmers land. The farmers Brett and Jenifer Walker gave us permission to clear the fallen scrub so an advance party of Wednesday walkers left in the van at 7:30am to get a head start on clearing the track. Two cars left a little later for a total of 18 trampers.

The advance party, armed with saws and loppers progressed across the fields of mud and water to the scrub area where many of the small trees and bushes had fallen across the track.





Dressed for the weather and equipped with track clearing tools

Chris making good use of his loppers

These were attacked with vigour and a track was cleared to the border of the Ruahine Forrest Park. Peter appeared to want to continue down the access route past the entrance and had to be restrained. At this point the rest of the party caught up and we progressed in single file along the track, led by intrepid lopper wielders to clear the debris from the track.

It was slow progress along the track, the trampers immediately behind the loppers having to clear the track of cut branches and upend heavier logs. Thus it was a slow walk taking about three hours to reach the camp site/fire place at about 12:00pm for lunch





After a quick misty and cool lunch we retreated back down the track climbing over those fallen branches too large for the trampers to move.

We arrived back at the road head around 2:00pm, changed and were soon on our way back to Ian Ritchie's for afternoon tea and very nice it was too. Soup after a tramp is particularly satisfying.

On the drive back a farmer told us that the Mania road was closed, even though there were no notices at the beginning. He suggested that driving on a closed road was endangering your vehicle insurance. The road was a bit potholed in places, with some very minor slips and a few fallen branches on the edge. However it was quite drivable and safe and we thank Chris and the car drivers for their driving.

Mania with a short first 'a' has several meanings including slippery; example E hoa mā, kia tūpato, kua mania te auheke nei i te ua. / My friends, be careful, this slope is slippery from the rain. While mānia with 'a' long first a means an open plain or levelled. While the track is not steep until after the campsite, the terrain is rugged and by no means an open plain. However, slippery fits the track well. The mud was deep and water flowed freely. However, the bush was lovely, although a bit quiet with little bird song. It was misty and slightly rainy but the bush was green and sheltered us from the wind. It appears that the trip was enjoyed, and doing a little work was a welcomed change from the usual tramp.

Thanks to the drivers, Chris, Ann, Judith/Peter. Special thanks to Brett and Jenifer Walker for being so cooperative with us. And extra thanks for tea and for Angela' hospitality and to those who brought food.

# Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August: MTSC Wednesday Trampers Return to Tunupo

Report: Bob Hodgson

Photos: William, Maureen & Judith

25 Wednesday Trampers set out for the Tunupo car park and Heritage Hut in the unpromising conditions of light rain with the ranges almost invisible through the rain and mist. As we travelled north, the bottoms of ranges became progressively more visible.





The Day Was Better Than This!

"Red Coats Descending"

It was a day for long coats but never the less, milder than on our recent tramps to Iron Gates Gorge and Wainui. It was exposed at the car park as we started our tramp at 9:20am but more comfortable as we made our way down the track, a descent of 100m to the high arch bridge.

By the time that we reached the turn off for the Tunupo track, most of us had taken off a layer or two. In spite of all the recent rain the track was not excessively muddy; just muddy in parts! The bush was beautiful in in its full green winter bloom on this lovely track the only disappointment being the near complete lack of birdsong.





A beautiful agglomeration

Spot the twenty year old visiting Scott?

As the morning wore on, the weather lifted until about noon then slowly deteriorated. All trampers ate lunch and turned soon after noon. About half of the trampers turned at about 1024m. With some of the fast group making it well into the tussock at about 1250m. With the specified return time of 3pm, none made it to the trig as would be the case with an earlier start and a specified 4pm return in summer.

All trampers were safely out to the car park by 2:45pm and it was a happy and well exercised band that again converged on Ian and Angela's home in Cheltenham for hot soup plus cakes and slices.

Thanks to trip leader Judith and our drivers for a good winters tramp.



#### Contact Details Postal Address: MTSC, P.O. Box 245, Palmerston North

#### **Committee 2015 - 2016**

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President	John Beech	president@mtsc.org.nz	06 354 9310
Secretary	Tim Swale	secretary@mtsc.org.nz	06 376 6556
Treasurer	Arthur Flint	treasurer@mtsc.org.nz	06 356 7654
Chief Guide	Ken Mercer	chief.guide@mtsc.org.nz	06 356 7497
Membership	Sue Nicholson	membership@mtsc.org.nz	06 357 6325
Newsletter Editor	Jean Garman	editor@mtsc.org.nz	021 176 0209
Lodge Manager	John Lyttle	lodge.manager@mtsc.org.nz	027 433 6307
Mini-Bus Manager	Ken Mercer		06 356 7497

**General Committee:** Bob Hodgson, Howard Nicholson, Linda Campbell, Karen Tutt, William Laing **Appointees** 

Lodge Bookings	Hugh & Liz Wilde	lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz	06 356 9450
Gear Custodian	Peter Rawlins	gear@mtsc.org.nz	06 356 7443
Ski Captain	Howard Nicholson	ski@mtsc.org.nz	06 357 6325
Social Convenor	Bob Hodgson	social@mtsc.org.nz	06 356 2915
Wednesday Trips	Bev Akers	bevakers@xtra.co.nz	06 325 8879
Thursday Trips	Merv Matthews	merv6817@gmail.com	06 357 2858
Facebook	Ivan Rienks, Karen Tutt	t, Howard Nicholson	facebook@mtsc.org.nz

#### **New Members**

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 confirmed at the next monthly committee meeting. Prospective members are encouraged to go on a club trip or attend a club night before joining. For further information or an application form please see the club website.

#### **Club Equipment**

Hire equipment: we have packs, 2 and 3 person tents, tent flies (small and large), snow mats, gas cookers, size 8 and 9 boots, billies, food dehydrator and two bivvy bags. Ice axes, crampons, and helmets are also available. We have two personal locator beacons (PLB) for which there is no charge. Contact the Gear Custodian: Peter Rawlins on (06) 356 7443.

#### Website www.mtsc.org.nz

This contains club information, photos, contact details and back issues of this newsletter, Beechleaves. The club website is maintained by Howard Nicholson (06) 357 6325 and is kindly hosted by **Inspire Net**, a locally based company.

Facebook <a href="https://www.facebook.com/MTandSC">https://www.facebook.com/MTandSC</a>

#### Accommodation at the MTSC lodge on Mount Ruapehu

The lodge is close to Iwikau Village, has power, heating, hot showers and is stocked with food. Members and their guests are welcome. For Lodge bookings email Liz and Hugh Wilde lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz or phone (06) 356 9450. To confirm your booking, payment must be made by cheque to 179 Cook St Palmerston North 4410, by cash in person or internet payment (please email to confirm before depositing) Westpac account number 03 1521 022035300.

	Members	Guests
Adult	\$36	<b>\$51</b>
Secondary School	\$29	\$44
Primary School	\$24	\$39
Pre-school (3-5 yo)	\$11	\$11

The Lodge phone number is (07) 892 3860.

#### **Booking the MTSC Van**

For bookings: Contact Ken Mercer (06) 356 7497. Cancelations should be made as soon as practicable to accommodate other potential users. A tent fly (in the passenger door) and a Personal Locator Beacon (in the glove box) are available for use free of charge on trips.