

beechleaves

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 3. April 2020

CLUB MEETINGS

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.

All upcoming club nights and tramps have been postponed until the restrictions imposed by the New Zealand Government to control COVID-19 have been eased sufficiently.

Updates will be provided on the MTSC web site as appropriate. Meantime stay home and keep healthy.

Fortunately we are allowed to leave home for exercise provided we keep a 2 metre distance from others.



*Photo by Jean Garman
Clearing windfalls on Mangahao Track*



*Photo by John Brock
Escarpment track*

REPORTS AND NOTICES

MTSC President: Rob Pringle

president@mtsc.org.nz

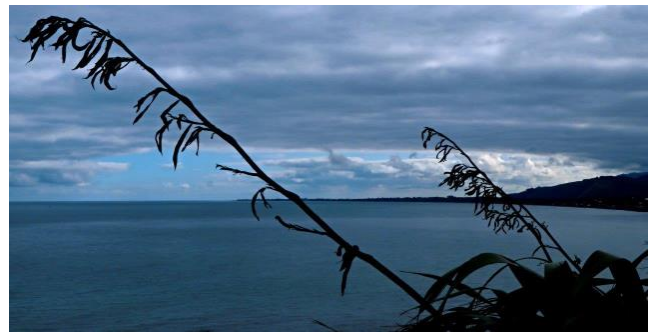
What a time to be writing a report for the club newsletter. As I type New Zealand is experiencing spread of the Covid-19 virus at an alarming rate.

First and foremost, I think it's important to heed to the advice issued by the government. <https://covid19.govt.nz/> provides a lot of information in an easy to understand format. It's well worth taking a look at if you haven't already. If you're feeling unwell, please stay home, and please seek appropriate medical response – over the phone for first contact.

With an active yet aging demographic, many of you will be in the category of high risk, and a quick scan of the membership database suggests that there's no one able to play the 'Winnie' exemption card, for better or worse. [*Winston Peters is allowed to continue working as Deputy Prime Minister even though he is 74 years old. Ed*]

For now this means:

- 1) We have elected to cancel Club Nights until further notice.
- 2) Club trips, work parties are cancelled; we will keep an eye on the food carry and advise as the situation evolves.



*Photo by John Brock
Escarpment Walk*

As a committee, and personally, support of club members is a key driver for us. An email has been circulated to the Wednesday

and Thursday trampers outlining practical offers of support. This initially started as an offer to collect and deliver groceries to any who felt the need to self-isolate. This offer goes for anyone within the club who would like it. Please feel free to email me directly; details on the club website.

While physical isolation seems to be the best thing we can do to beat this, staying in touch, and looking after our wellbeing in general is also really important. Now may be a great time to upskill around technology and enable yourself to stay in touch with friends and loved ones. The committee has taken the step back from meeting face to face monthly, and will move these meetings to a digital format. This will allow us to continue governance of the club in line with current recommendations.

No doubt things may have changed between writing this, and Beechleaves going into print, but keep an eye out for one another. If you know of anyone that could use a hand, please don't hesitate to reach out and let someone know.

Stay safe out there and will see you via Skype soon.

Rob

Minibus Sign-Writing

We plan to sign-write the sides and back of the new minibus and are looking for creative ideas. As a minimum the club's name and website address are needed but there is scope for printing (good quality) photos too. The space available on the back doors is 700 x 300 mm with an additional 180 mm above the windows. On the sides there is a 1400 x 600 mm panel while, towards the back, there is a similar area with the wheel arches intruding 150 mm from the bottom.

Please email suitable pictures or a complete design to Ken Mercer.

Committee Update for March 2020:

Membership:

No new membership applications were received in March. Membership renewals will be sent out shortly so that income is all received from April and will be in the club's 2020/2021 financial year.

Minibus:

Ken Mercer reported that he has installed the old luggage shelf back in the new minibus. The vehicle is now insured and as breakdowns and other minor problems are covered under the warrantee, AMP's roadside assist is not required.

The club is to be canvassed for ideas about the signwriting on the new minibus.

General:

To future proof systems and in the interests of transparency the committee is discussing the needs for and evaluating options to have a new computer-based accounting system. Concurrently and linked to this is the development of a less manual lodge booking system. There was considerable discussion around this topic, which will continue when the Treasurer is in attendance. (Ewen Cameron was in apology for this meeting).

Lodge:

To finish off work that has been started John Lyttle reported that another work party is being planned. The Food Carry is programmed for mid-June, but an interim stocktake is needed to ensure that a group using the lodge over Easter has sufficient food for their needs.

FMC:

John Beech, our current FMC representative reported on recent meeting at which the DoC concession process was described. John also reported that: Irongate hut has been replaced, Toka biv has been refurbished; Pohangina access is closed; Coppermine Creek remains closed and is unlikely to reopen.

Social:

Linda confirmed club night speakers/activities she has arranged up to and including October.



*Photo by Jean Garman
Mangahao Dam Spillway*



Hut Tickets for Sale

Hut tickets can be purchased from Howard Nicholson at club nights. \$5/ticket for adults and \$2.50 for youth (11-17 years). Information about Back Country Hut Passes, valid for 6 or 12 months, as well as the use of hut tickets is available on the [DOC web site](#).

*Photo by Roger Athersuch
Peter and Lynda with mountain
bikes at Huka Falls*

UPCOMING TRIPS

All tramps and work parties have been cancelled until the restrictions imposed by the New Zealand Government to control COVID-19 have been eased sufficiently to allow nonessential travel and group interaction.

TRIP REPORTS

Thursday 20th February, 2020: Escarpment Track

Trip Leaders and Reporter: Jill and Nigel Spencer
Photos John Brock

Eleven keen trampers left Paekakariki at 9am, heading south, following the track inland from the road, then climbing gradually toward the top. The weather and views were brilliant. After a break to catch our breath we descended down the Stairway to Heaven, then through some bush, crossing two swing bridges. Lunch was had at a trestle table, then onto Pukerua Bay to catch the 1pm train back to the cars. Some of us walked along the beach to finish the day off with ice creams. Enjoyable day had by all.



22nd – 23th February, 2020 Mangahao Flats Work Party

Trip Leader, Reporter and Photographer: Jean Garman

Despite a summer of endless sunshine the night before the work party it rained in the Tararuas. It was only drizzling very lightly when we arrived at the No 1 dam but the

deafening roar and huge plume of spray coming from the dam spillway told a different story. We cut many little windfalls alongside the dam then had to link up and pick a careful route to cross the normally ankle deep stream at the head of the dam. We carried on cutting windfalls as we went, lunching at the picnic table after Harris Creek. We all had to take the inland route around the slip as, although the Mangahao River was dropping rapidly, it was still too swift to considering crossing. We reached the hut mid afternoon; it always seems to take longer on a damp day, so 'Nibbles part 1' was indulged in to give everyone energy for the rest of the afternoon. The usual clean up of toilet, windows, gutters, tank



Jenny descending the inland route around the slip

filter, hut surrounds, replacing some broken window catches and gathering firewood was carried out before it was time for 'Nibbles part 2' and a glass or two of wine/beer. The traditional smoked chicken salad for dinner was followed up by spiced meringues with Greek yogurt and baked rhubarb for dessert (see what you miss out on). Sunday dawned fine and the river had dropped even further. A good chunk of the morning was spent finishing off little jobs and collecting, cutting and splitting even more firewood before the last packet of chippies was consumed and it was time to walk out. A more pleasant endeavour on a nice day. We could avoid the inland track, crossing the river instead and even had the energy to tackle almost all the windfalls that had been considered too large for bowsaws the day before.

We were Dave Mitchell, Jenny McCarthy, Adam Matich, Ivan Rienks and Jean Garman

Wednesday 26th February, 2020: Field Hut

Trip Leader and Reporter: Harold Pettersson

Photographer: Bev Akers

Twelve trampers in the club van left Memorial Park at 8am for Otaki Forks. There they met an independent traveller and three others in a car from Feilding. At 9-30am we set off on the tramp.



From the Ōtaki Forks carpark, the track crossed the Waiotauru footbridge and climbed steadily through kamahi and beech forest for 2 – 2.5 hours to the historic Field Hut at 900 m, not far below the bushline. The day was particularly hot and this, with the strenuous climb, meant that not everyone actually reached the hut. However some trampers did proceed towards Table top (at 1047 m). In hindsight an earlier start in a cooler part of the year may have been a better choice for this trek to enable more opportunity to reach Table Top and thus get the sweeping views from there.

All returned to the car park by 3.30 pm. We called in to the Otaki BP, for coffee or ice cream, and returned to Memorial Park by 5.30. Thanks to Robbie and Bernard for driving vehicles.

Thursday 27th February, 2020: Parks Peak, Northern Ruahines

Trip Leaders and Reporters: Gillian and John Thornley

Photographers: Chris Mercer and John Brock

Twelve of us, enough to fill the new van, took the two hour trip to the end of the Wakarara Road. The old route, down the grassy bank slope is now replaced by a walk down the gravel road to the site of the former timber mill site. There was no sign of the lively settlement there had once been! We recalled the legal battles over a proposed Ruatahuna dam and were grateful that nothing massive can now drown this natural

amphitheatre, though smaller irrigation schemes are currently being negotiated. Once we crossed the Makaroro River, easily done in drought conditions, we took the upper old road to the right - not the clearer route back to the river flats - which joined an old timber road. This led, after 15 minutes, to Yeomans Track, clearly sign posted. After half an hour, we found the left turnoff to Parks Peak. After initial lower slopes of beech remnants and younger new growth, the gradient steepened through taller beech and some young rimu. On past tramps, in winter rains and snow, the surface became swampy and slippery. On this trip it was comfortably dry and firm. But the steep gradient was no less steep!



Gillian and Audry with Ruahine Ranges in the distance

After an hour and a half of slog, we came to the ridge top. Because of healthy growth on the tops, it was a further 45 minutes before we came to a rocky clearing at 1170 metres where we admired the view and ate



lunch. We were down to the van by 3.30 pm to end our 15 kilometre tramp, and had ice creams and cool drinks at the Ongaonga Store. (Ryan Maori dictionary: ongaonga = edible nettle). Thanks to Chris and Tony who shared the driving. The twelve of us: Gillian and John Thornley, Syd Easton, Audrey Shepherd, Judith Tonson, Margaret Mathieson, Tony Evans, Chris Mercer, John Salisbury, John Brock. William Laing and Suzanne Clark.

29th February - 1st March, 2020: Bushcraft Course – Tamaki West

Trip Leader, Reporter and Photographer: Tim Swale

After weeks of drought conditions and severe water restrictions in the Dannevirke area, our group of twelve trampers were expecting little or no water in the headwaters of the Tamaki stream. It was rather ironic, therefore, that we were loaded up with about three litres of water each despite the fact that it was raining! At the road-end picnic area we made good use of the shelter for introductions and a look at trip planning, weather forecasts, etc. This time both Metservice and yr.no were trumped by MetVUW which correctly predicted that the rain would be all over by 1 pm. With raincoats on, we crossed the stream without getting our feet wet and climbed up to Holmes Ridge. By the time we had finished lunch, the sun came out and we were able to pack the raincoats away. We continued on using our maps to navigate and used a distant cell phone tower to the east to pinpoint our position by resection. Once down in the valley our route was to take us upstream to Stanfield Hut. There was only a trickle of water in the creek and before long it dried up completely. At Stanfield Hut we had a lengthy stop for afternoon tea and to discuss hut etiquette, types of stoves and campsite selection in preparation for our night out.

A few hundred metres north of Stanfield hut we found a flat area next to the creek (which had started to flow again) with enough room for our collection of tents and flies. We all got to work setting up camp, with the four boys from Tararua College building themselves a bivi from blue tarps, far enough away from the rest of us so that we did not have to listen to their chatter all night! After dinner we practised navigating with compasses and looked at methods of emergency communication for trampers. With the evenings drawing in it was not too long before people headed off to their respective accommodation and settled down for the night. It was a lovely calm night and we fell asleep to the sound of moreporks and the gurgling stream nearby.



The morning dawned fine and clear and by about 9am we were ready to head away. Our first stop was Stanfield hut, before continuing on downstream back towards the road end. It was a slower trip than expected as, although there was very little water, the valley is quite choked with buddleia and our youngest member, Daniel, at just 8 years old, needed a few stops to regain his energy. Nevertheless, this is a beautiful valley and a gorgeous place to be on such a lovely day. Our little practise at linking up to make a river crossing seemed a bit lame with the water being no more than ankle deep, but hopefully it was a reminder of a very useful technique. Back at the road-end picnic area we had our

final debrief before heading home after a very pleasant weekend in the bush.

Our team for the weekend were Helen Peek, Robbie Green, Adelle Singleton, Dianne, Riley, Katelyn and Daniel Fountaine-Cody, Luke, Harley, Vegas and Ryan from Tararua College and Tim Swale.

Wednesday 4th March, 2020: Escarpment Walk

Trip leader, Reporter and Photographer: Richard Lander

A van load and three carloads of keen trampers left Memorial Park in threatening weather with both rain and cloud. Luckily the MetService forecast and rain radar was accurate and by the time we reached Paekakariki the showers had cleared and there was definite improvement in the weather. We parked at Paekakariki train station (Tilley Road carpark) and, as the wind was coming from the south, the majority decided to train to Pukerua Bay and walk the Escarpment from south to north. As we caught the train after 0900 hrs, most used their Gold Card for a free train ride. A smaller contingent decided to walk in both directions, so they set out from Paekakariki and retraced their steps after reaching the old abandoned Muri Station.

The Escarpment walk is part of the Te Araroa Trail with spectacular views out towards Kapiti Island and the coast. The graveled track was easily walkable with trainers or walking shoes. It was slightly breezy at the summit but a great place to stop for lunch. We were all back to the cafes in Paekakariki by 1500 hrs. for coffee and orange & almond muffins. Thanks to Robbie for driving the van and for the other drivers who volunteered their cars.



6th - 8th March, 2020: High Ridge

Trip Leader, Reporter and Photographer: Jenny McCarthy

To get an early start on Saturday morning we camped at Donnelly's Flat on Friday night after burgers in Masterton and with a cheese cake for dessert at the camp site.

We were on the track just after 8am for the climb up to Powell Hut. The steps don't get any easier; we vowed not to use that route again but I am sure we will forget that resolution after a few months. A breather at the hut and upwards to the High Ridge turn off where we left Adam snoozing in the sun while Dave, Jean

and I climbed up to the trig on Mount Holdsworth. The views were wonderful, but the little detour cost us an hour which we could have made use of at the other end of the day. Back down to the turn off for lunch before heading to Totara Flats via High Ridge and Flaxy Knob. The first part of the ridge was open tussock and then the foot trail led us into the forest for a short time and then out of the forest again. Where to from here? A sharp left turn back into the bush and we were on the trail in the forest again. It was wonderful goblin forest and we didn't lose very much height down to Flaxy Knob: no flax in sight but quite open trees instead. This caused much discussion as to how it had looked last time as we were remembering a more scrubby area with a bit of flax as described in an old trip report. It was definitely the right spot as it had a sign pointing to Totara Flats. We found the old tin and permalat markers,



along with pieces of plastic, very helpful to stay on the very steep route down. It was 6pm before we were setting up our tent flies on the Totara Flats under the Kanuka and trees.



Sunday morning was a slightly slower start. We went up the new track to the junction with the Gentle Annie track and then followed the old track back towards the Holdsworth road end, having lunch on the original Rocky Knob. There were lots of different trails in the forest and we did well with our choices until we were close to the bottom when we went too far right and ended up in the Gentle Annie Stream. But no tears as we were able to get to the lookout track without getting our feet wet. Over the course of the weekend we were often aware of the sweet but slightly cloying perfume of the Easter Orchids.

We were Jean, Jenny, Adam and Dave

Wednesday 11th March, 2020: Whareroa Farm/ Orange Hut

Trip leader and Reporter: Bob Hargreaves

Photographer: Andrea Hall

Twenty five Wednesday trampers had relatively road works free and smooth journey to Whareroa Farm, located at Mackay's crossing. The forecast for good tramping weather was correct and raincoats stayed in our packs. We split into three groups, linked by the club radios. Groups one and two headed for Orange Hut in the Akatarawa forest. Group three were destined for a more leisurely "ramble". We all took the Catchment View trampers track up to Campbell Mill road. The farm map describes this track as steep and so it proved. 17 trampers made it to Orange hut and reported the streams on Hydro Valley road were at a low level. Meanwhile the rambling group, after briefly exploring Titi



Road, wound their way down Campbell Mill road and then took the northern horse track back to the van. The Orange Hut groups returned via the Catchment View track. All trampers were back at the car park by 3.00pm before proceeding to the Otaki BP station for refreshments.

Thanks to van driver, Robbie, and car drivers Coralie, Marion and Carolyn.

As an aside there was mention of Whareroa Farm on RNZ (7/02/2020) when Kim Hill interviewed Brett MacKenzie (of Flight of the Conchords' Fame). Amongst his many endeavours Brett MacKenzie is part of the Urban Hut Club, a Wellington organisation that has recently erected six miniature huts on the Kapiti Coast, including one at Whareroa farm. I think we all missed this hut! Next time "from the crossroads near the caravan, look south up the hill towards the Nikau palms and Matai bush".

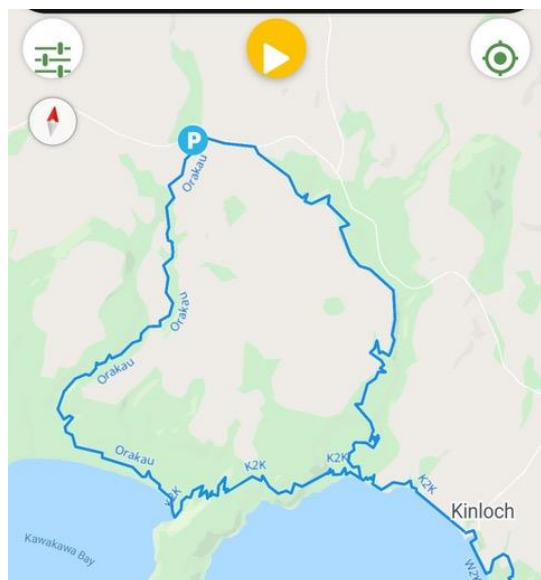
13th - 15th March, 2020: Mountain Biking Taupo

Trip leader: Peter Rawlins

Reporter: Lynda Hunt

Photographer: Roger Athersuch

We pitched our tents at dusk on our arrival in Taupō and awoke to a beautifully sunny Saturday morning. We jumped in the car and drove to Kinloch so we could complete the Great Lakes Trail circuit. We rode 3k towards Kawakawa Bay then took a left turn onto the Otaketake track. We played leapfrog with a group on electric bikes for a while on an undulating track before arriving at the Whangamata car park and shelter (15k to this point). The next leg was to return to the lake on the Orakau track. This is one of my all-time favourite tracks, almost all downhill with lots of fun undulations and twists and turns on a very well formed track. We reached the Kawakawa Bay shelter in time for lunch. Roger took his GoPro into the lake



to capture a little footage of this magic spot and his swim. After lunch we headed up Te Kauwai saddle on the K to K track then enjoyed the downhill ride back into Kinloch. We devoured a delicious late lunch at L'arte café before driving back to the campground for a relaxing evening.

Sunday dawned fine again and we decided to drive to Huka falls and ride the Aratiatia Loop. This was a really enjoyable option and we were pleasantly surprised to see the return track has been re-routed, since our last visit, to cover some really interesting terrain.

Two very enjoyable rides on excellent tracks. Thanks go to Peter for organising the trip and to Roger for great company and some terrific photos / GoPro video.

Wednesday 18th February, 2020: Mt Urchin

Trip leader and Reporter: Rod McKenzie

Photographer: William Laing, Andrea Hall

Twenty four trampers arrived at Waiouru around 9 am in the van and five cars to find the outside temperature was 8 degrees. After a quick coffee we were off up the Desert Road heading towards a break in the clouds where the sun was showing through. After turning on to Kaimanawa Road, 15 km south of

Turangi, we arrived at the Mt Urchin car park (around 800 m) to find full sun and a temperature of 12 degrees with no wind. The prospect of a great day to come.

The group divided into three (fast, medium and slow) and all were underway on the uphill climb by 10.30. The track winds its way up through beech forest to the tree line about 200 m below the summit. With ideal conditions everyone made good



progress. The fast group made the summit (around 1400 m) in about one and half hours, the medium group were there in around two hours and four in the slow group stopped just above the tree line for lunch. The view from the summit was fantastic (see photo below), a full 360 degrees in full sun with a slight cooling breeze. Most of the medium group lunched on the summit while the fast group proceeded across the tops till they sighted the Waipakihi river.



All groups retraced their steps and were back down to the carpark by 3pm leaving for home soon after. A stop for vehicle fuel in Taihape also allowed members to also refuel on coffee or icecream and reflect on a wonderful day out in the back country.

Thanks to all drivers and Sue for choosing the destination.

A Hosts View of the Manawatu Walking Festival

About six years ago I was one of first the local volunteers who responded to a request for assistance with the running of the first Manawatu Walking Festival (alias the MWF). People from a range of local organizations came forward. I responded as an enthusiastic member of the MTSC. The aim of the festival is to facilitate participants to walk a carefully chosen and graded set of

walks. Some walks are themed, and guided appropriately by experts, others, are just rewarding walks. An example of a themed walk would be the walk through the Manawatu Gorge guided by a knowledgeable member of the Forest and Bird society otherwise the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand Inc.

Each year, about half of the participants come from outside of the Palmerston North region with the other half being local people. Conversation with festival participants has revealed a range of reasons for joining the walks. These include the provision of transport and local guides plus a few people who use the walks as a first step towards their improved fitness. Some groups of participants are also “festival followers” who go from area festival to area festival.

I had several reasons for responding to the call for volunteers. First and foremost I enjoy walking and tramping, I also enjoy meeting new people and by acting as a guide or host, also the thought that I could assist some in their quest for improved fitness and to meet the challenge that an unaccustomedly long walk can bring.

The walks that I have led or guided include: the first walk in the festival each year, that is the beach walk, the 10km from Foxton Surf Club to Himatangi or vice versa, Rangiwhahia Reserves, the FernWalk alone and in combination with the Pettifar/Gilchrist tracks, also known as the Old Coach Road and finally the North Range Road from the Pahiatua track to Balance at the end of the Manawatu Gorge.



Photo Niamh Dunne
Taranua wind mills from
North Range Road tramp

I have enjoyed them all but the Pettifar/Gilchrist tracks tramped in a wet southerly was character building! A walk that I have consistently enjoyed is the Foxton Beach Walk of 10km. This always takes place on the Friday evening of the Festival with a start on the beach at about 5pm and arriving at just as dusk starts to fall about 7-30pm. The fish and chips on arrival always go down very well with all the participants that have varied in number over the years between 65 and 30. Two years we had to push start the large diesel bus but after a good feed this was readily achieved.

The longest walk or tramp that I have led follows North Range Road from the Pahiatua track to Balance at the end of the Manawatu Gorge. This year we tramped a little over 20km on a hot sunny day. Last year we added an extra 3km as the drop off coach driver was reluctant to take us to the turning point on the road. This walk is well worth undertaking for the spectacular views across the Manawatu to the mountains of Taranaki and Ruapehu as well as views along the ridge line and the multitudinous wind mills. This year my cohost was the genial John Salisbury. My cohost on the walk last year was Denise Brunskell who, sadly, has since passed away; I am sure that she was with us in spirit!

Over the six years that I have volunteered for the Festival I have met some interesting and, yes, a few dull people, so could share many stories. One of the most satisfying was from the second or third festival. One of the participants was a Kiwi of Indian descent whose family had come to New Zealand when she was still a school girl. As an adult then in her late twenties she had never before had either a beach walk or a nature walk of such a length. I was happy to have guided her and sorry that she had missed so much of what is to be enjoyed in New Zealand.

I hope and plan to volunteer for the Festival in 2021 and encourage more volunteers to join me.

Bob Hodgson



Contact Details

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

Committee 2019 - 2020

| | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|--|--------------|
| President | Rob Pringle | president@mtsc.org.nz | 020 426 2176 |
| Secretary | Tim Swale | secretary@mtsc.org.nz | 06 376 6556 |
| Treasurer | Ewen Cameron | treasurer@mtsc.org.nz | 0220341180 |
| Chief Guide | Ken Mercer | chief.guide@mtsc.org.nz | 027 364 6475 |
| Membership | Sue Nicholson | membership@mtsc.org.nz | 06 357 6325 |
| Newsletter Editor | Mary Mercer | editor@mtsc.org.nz | 027 372 5375 |
| Lodge Manager | John Lyttle | lodge.manager@mtsc.org.nz | 027 433 6307 |
| Mini-Bus Manager | Ken Mercer | minibus@mtsc.org.nz | 027 364 6475 |

General Committee: John Beech, William Laing, Richard Lander, Howard Nicholson, Peter Rawlins

Appointees

| | | | |
|-----------------|---|--|--------------|
| Lodge Bookings | Hugh & Liz Wilde | lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz | 021 054 2560 |
| Gear Custodian | Peter Rawlins | gear@mtsc.org.nz | 027 678 0747 |
| Ski Captain | Howard Nicholson | ski@mtsc.org.nz | 027 294 1941 |
| Social Convenor | Linda Campbell | social@mtsc.org.nz | 027 333 4493 |
| Wednesday Trips | Bev Akers | bevakers@xtra.co.nz | 06 325 8879 |
| Thursday Trips | Merv Matthews | merv6817@gmail.com | 06 357 2858 |
| Facebook | Ivan Rienks, Rob Pringle, Karen Tutt, 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 <https://www.facebook.com/MTandSC>

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 021 054 2560. To confirm your booking, payment must be made by cash to 179 Cook St Palmerston North 4410 in person or internet payment (please email to confirm before depositing) Westpac account number 03 1521 022035300.

| | Members | Guests | The lodge phone number is (07) 892 3860. |
|---------------------|---------|--------|--|
| Adult | \$40 | \$58 | |
| Secondary School | \$32 | \$48 | |
| Primary School | \$26 | \$42 | |
| Pre-school (3-5 yo) | \$13 | \$13 | |

Booking the MTSC Van: For bookings: Contact Ken Mercer 027 364 6475. Cancellations 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.