beechleaves

Newsletter of the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club



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

Issue 6. July, 2021



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.

7.30 pm Tuesday 6 July, 2021: Whio Recovery Project by Janet Wilson

The Oroua Blue Duck (Whio) Protection Project started 13 years ago. Janet's presentation will be an update on how this project and others in the Ruahines have expanded and progressed over the years. She received a Queens Service Medal (QSM) in the 2021 New Year's Honours in acknowledgement of the amazing work she does to protect this very special rare bird which features on our \$10 note.

7.30 pm Tuesday 3 August, 2021: Photo competition organised by Richard Lander

Time to pull out your camera, head for the hills and take a few photos for the <u>annual photo competition</u>. Last year we had some fantastic images and a fun night voting for our favourites. Our sponsors have kindly donated prizes for the best images in each category. With your permission the best images will be entered into the interclub and FMC photo competitions. Entries to be sent to Richard Lander (<u>photocomp@mtsc.org.nz</u>) by the 28th July 2021.

7.30 pm Tuesday 7 September, 2021: Interclub Quiz night

This year we are hosting the Interclub quiz night at our usual (Rose City Aquatic) clubrooms. Tim and Linda will host the evening and would love to see as many club teams of 4-6 people as possible. There will be six lots of twenty questions. Topics will be revealed later. There will be sweet treats for all especially winners and tailenders!

Note from Social Convenor

Our club nights are very much part of who we are as a club. Each month we try to have a speaker who may be of interest to our local membership. We had a fantastic, informative presentation from an ex-president, John Beech, in June. John is an elected member representing us on the Federated Mountain Clubs committee. It was good to hear how our FMC subs are used and the issues that FMC fight for on our behalf.

In July our speaker is Janet Wilson who received a Queens Service medal for her voluntary work around the protection of Whio and leadership of the Ruahine Whio Protection Trust. Please mark Tuesday 6 July on your calendar. If you would like to come and hear Janet's presentation and you live in Feilding but need a ride please contact Linda on 027 333 4493 to arrange a ride.

If you have any ideas for club night presentations please also contact Linda on 027 333 4493 or at lindammc@xtra.co.nz





MTSC President: Tim Swale

president@mtsc.org.nz

It seems that winter is finally here after a relatively warm and dry autumn. Hopefully this will herald the arrival of a much-anticipated dumping of snow on the ski-fields which so many of our members are hanging out for. At the time of writing, the annual Lodge Food Carry weekend is almost upon us which should see the freezers and food stores re-stocked along with a good spruce up of the lodge ready for the ski season. A big thank you to Howard Nicholson and his team for making this happen.

Meanwhile, the mid-week tramping groups go from strength to strength with a regular programme of trips to a wide range of destinations. I have been out on a couple of Wednesday tramps recently, firstly to Blue Range / Mikimiki with 26 attendees and then Tunupo with 22. There is a wonderful atmosphere on these tramps and at the after-match functions at cafes on the way home. The efforts of our club members in organising and leading these trips is greatly appreciated. As well as actually leading the trips, there is a huge amount of work that goes into compiling member groups, co-ordinating the email communications and keeping everyone connected. It is a real strength of our club that we have people prepared to step up to these roles.

Being new to the role of MTSC President, I thought it would be a good opportunity to look again at our long term plan and see where we should be heading over the next year or so. There are already several areas that we are trying to make easier for our hard worked volunteers regarding accounting, membership and lodge bookings, but as always, good things take time. The committee will be considering a range of ideas at the next few meetings so would appreciate your thoughts on where you think we should be heading going into the future. Please feel free to email me at president@mtsc.org.nz

Club Awards

At the May, 2021 AGM, awards were announced for two very well deserving club members:

Beechleaf Ewen Cameron for services to the club and his work as Treasurer.

Most Spirited Tramper Maurice McDonald.

Andy Brooke QSM

Congratulations to Andy Brooke (a long time member of MTSC) who was awarded a Queens Service Medal (QSM) for his services to Search and Rescue in the recent Queens Birthday Honours. Andy, a serving Police Officer, has been involved with SAR since 2004 and became the officer in charge of the Palmerston North LandSAR Group in 2008. He has been involved in countless searches over the years, including some for our own members who have been injured or have become geographically embarrassed! His commitment to training people in the outdoors through SAR, Mountain Safety Council and more recently Outdoor Training New Zealand has meant that a huge



number of people have been upskilled in the outdoor environment as a result of Andy's efforts.

Subscriptions

I have sent out reminders for subscriptions, which are now overdue. If you have not received your invoice, please contact me directly.

Sue Nicholson, MTSC Membership Secretary MTSCmembership@outlook.co.nz



July Wednesday Tramps				July Thursday Tramps				
					01	Garry Grayson	027 2695934	
07	John Salisbury	021 160 2869			08	Mary & Ken Mercer	027 364 6475	
14	Evan Davies	06 357 6288			15	Christine Scott	06 354 0510	
21	Jenny Williamson	06 328 6857			22	John & Gillian Thornley	06 356 9681	
28	Ian Brookes	06 358 7974			29	John Brock	06 329 4834	
July Weekend Tramps								
3-4	Mangatainoka Hot Springs Linda Car			np	bell	Easy	027 333 4493	
14,17-18 July	Snow Skills Howard			ard Nicholson		Technical	027 294 1941	

Trip Intentions: The email address for leaving trip intentions is 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 is sent to several MTSC members. This information will be provided to Land SAR/RCC only if the party is reported overdue or a MTSC-owned 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.

3rd - 4th July, 2021: Mangatainoka Hot Springs Easy Linda Campbell 027 333 4493

The trip involves a long drive with a stop at a café in Taradale on the way. From the Makahu Road end we follow a track up the Mohaka River. In a few places the track climbs quite steeply and in other places we walk around riverside rocks overlooking the river. There are plenty of good spots to take in the views of the river and hopefully see whio in their natural environment. It takes about three hours to reach Te Puia Lodge where we will hopefully stay for the night. (This lodge, which sleeps 26, has become very popular but is not yet a bookable hut.) We will leave our overnight gear in the hut and walk about 40- 45 min further up the river to reach the springs. There are now three new tubs with valves to control water flow and empty the tubs, surrounded by a lovely decking. There is a camp site adjacent to the pools.

Te Puia Lodge is a serviced hut with heating and cooking facilities so you will need three hut tickets or an annual hut pass. More adventurous people might like to stay in a camping ground next to the spring. Don't forget your togs, a towel and, most importantly, a torch, to make it safely back to the hut.

This trip is a weather dependent trip as there is a ford to cross which becomes impassable after/during heavy rainfall.

17th-18th July, 2021: Snow Skills Howard Nicholson 027 294 1941

The format of the MTSC Snow Skills trip to Ruapehu will be different from past years, starting with a pre-course evening scheduled for Wednesday 14 July to cover off some theory, issuing of gear and fitting of crampons, etc. After travelling to the MTSC Lodge on Friday night, Saturday 17 July will be a practical introduction to the basic skills required for tramping above the bushline. Sunday will be focused on safe travel in glaciated

areas. Participants are welcome to join in only for the pre-course evening and Saturday if they wish. This trip falls in the middle of the school holidays, so make contact with me early so that we can be sure of having enough beds available - numbers may need to be limited.



23rd May, 2021: Te Ahu a Turanga Manawatū Tararua Highway

Reporter and Plotter: Bob Hodgson

In the company of Bernard and several hundred others, I recently did a most interesting tramp, following the

route of the Te Ahu a Turanga Manawatū Tararua Highway.

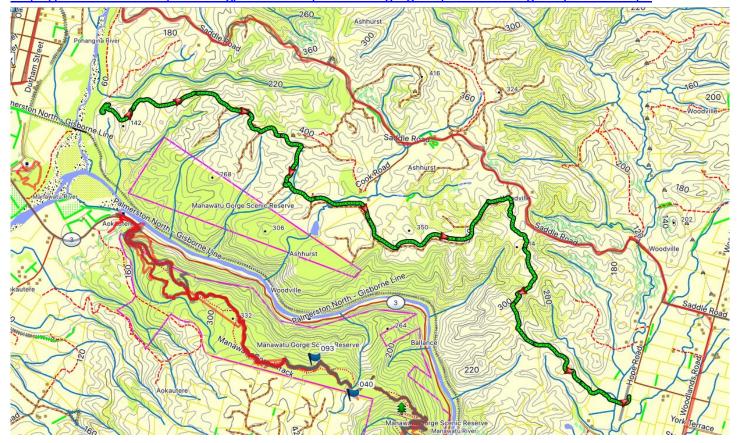
Note that it was <u>not</u> a walk along the actual path of the new road. The route of the walk incorporated some highway sections under construction, newly formed machinery access roads, some farm tracks, sections of existing Meridian Wind Farm service roads and even a steep tramping track down and up a muddy gully and a pine plantation. The short video referenced here gives some impression of the scale and challenge of this ~\$600 million project.



Earthworks are filling in a section of gully near Ashhurst where the new highway will run.

DAVID UNWIN/STUFF

https://www.stuff.co.nz/motoring/300239984/manawat-gorge-replacement-highway-takes-shape



Over the millions of years as the Ranges were uplifted, the Manawatu River progressively maintained its route. Unfortunately, the Gorge is not stable. Rather than cutting **through** the landscape, the new Te Ahu a Turanga

Manawatū Tararua Highway (mostly) makes its way **over** it. I assume that as the ranges continue to rise up so will the new road!

We drove over Saddle Road to Hope Road where we checked-in, signed health and safety statements and were directed to the queue for the bus to take us back to the start of the route near the bottom of the Saddle Road at the Ashhurst end. Note that we did not start from the vicinity of the Gorge Walk car park as this would have required us to cross the Manawatu River on a bridge only now under construction!

At various places along the route of the road we came across impressive rows of parked-up earth moving machines and dump trucks but as it was a Sunday the only staff we met were route wardens watching for any



struggling participants. The wardens were located at roughly half km intervals with some sitting in four wheel drive vehicles and some hardy souls sitting out. The final descent was on scraped bare surfaces so care was needed. There was a friendly atmosphere between the participants but from a trampers perspective, many were inadequately shod and clad so it was fortuitous that the weather did not deteriorate into heavy rain.

The 13km walk took us four hours including a lunch stop, and proved to be an enjoyable and interesting experience. I would like to repeat it in a year or so, to witness progress. It is also good news that the project when complete is to include walking and cycling tracks. Thanks to the Woodville Lions and the construction consortium for having the imagination to organise and allow the event to take place.

Wednesday 26th May, 2021: Aruwaru Trig (from Naenae Road)

Trip Co-Leaders: Carole Kennerley, Margaret McKenzie with assistance from Darlene Westrupp

Reporter: Margaret McKenzie Photographer: Cheryl Dawson

It is our belief that there should be more co-leadership of our Wednesday tramps to help take the full responsibility off only one leader, as has usually been the case. Carole took names and arranged the transport before the day and Margaret was leader on the day with the help of Darlene. The three of us had done the reconnoitre for the trip together. The day for us, the leaders, turned out to be more relaxed than it would have been otherwise so we think this idea should be utilised in the future.

Twenty trampers headed out and over the stream right at the beginning, with some changing into their boots on the other side. We morphed into three groups as we climbed the first steep part of the track to Arawaru Trig. On the way we encountered the original designer of the track, Ian Argyle, who still spends time doing track maintenance. He was clearing the stream that runs alongside the track, of rocks and debris. The appearance of new steps were welcomed on this climb.



Despite there being a beautiful full rainbow arching over us on the way to Naenae Road we had a fine day; the



cloud blew away and our chosen lunch spots were quite nice and sunny. On the climb up in the bush we found small fungi coloured powder blue. This year there have been many different coloured fungi on our paths and it may

be that a warmer winter has contributed to bringing many of these to life. Overall, we had an enjoyable day with no mishaps, despite some steep muddy spots on the track. Many thanks to Marion, Christine and Cheryl for bringing their cars and the van driver....me!



Thursday 27th May, 2021: East Holdsworth Loop

Trip Leader: Judy Swainson Photographer: Royce Mills

Five keen Thursday trampers headed up to Powell Hut for an overnighter. While it was extremely cold, a clear crystal night enabled us to view the spectacular moon eclipse. Thursday dawned crisp and clear and we approached Mount Holdsworth with caution due to icy conditions. We traversed the tops to East Holdsworth turn off and descended steeply to Atiwhakatu track. We arrived back at the carpark to join the group celebrating 80th birthdays of four of our members. Plentiful food and cuppa were enjoyed by all.

The intrepid five were Royce, Judy, Suzanne, Christine and Pam. Note: Jenny, Jean, Adam and Tony did the Jumbo Circuit, also stayed in Powell and met us at the Trig.

80th Birthday Celebrations

Photographer: John Brock







Wednesday 2nd June, 2021: Kohitere Forest

Trip Co-Leaders: Bob Hargreaves and Marion Beadle

Reporter: Bob Hargreaves Photographer: Cheryl Dawson

Twenty one trampers were set to depart from Memorial Park when Murphy's law intervened. One of the cars



refused to start. Enter always helpful Rod who quickly volunteered his car. The transfer was made and we were off to Levin. We arrived at the Trig walkway entrance and were ready to tramp just after 9.00am. We split into three groups with co-leader Marion taking the lead group, a radio and having a handy tracking device on her phone allowing the avoidance of wrong options in the forest. It was an ideal day for tramping, not too hot, not too cold, just right!

After a steep walk up to the trig point of 370+m we were a little disappointed with the partially obstructed view of Levin and surrounds, due to the growth in the pine trees. But not to worry: there were better views to come said some. Then it was time for morning tea at a convenient table at the next track junction

We then proceeded in a northerly direction along a forest road that followed the ridge line with the main overhead transmission lines to our right. Along the way much better views of Levin and Lake Horowhenua emerged. (As an aside Lake Horowhenua is one of the most polluted lakes in N Z but there is a recent good news story about the lake. The government has purchased an adjacent farm located upstream from the lake and intends to return part of the farm to a wet land, thereby further reducing nutrient inflow into the lake.)

We had a leisurely lunch and then turned for a mainly downhill return journey on the forest roads which were Class 1 by tramping standards. Various downhill drop offs and jumps constructed on the nearby slippery mountain tracks convinced the leaders to leave this option for a summer tramp.

By 1.30pm we were all back at the parking area but most were not quite ready to take off our boots. The nearby Waiopehu Bush Reserve is a lovely example of lowland N.Z. native forest and so, for 15 minutes extra walking, trampers experienced the contrast between regimented mature pine forest and the way the land once was.

Then it was a short drive to the Masonic Village Café for refreshments where all the coffees are double shot and the service was good. We sat outside to enjoy the mild temperature and ponder Village life.

All in all a fairly easy tramp with lots of chat and social interaction.



Thanks to Margaret for driving the van and to drivers Rod, Jenny and Ian. Also to co-leader Marion for keeping us on the right tracks and to Cheryl (photo) and Bob (GPS data).

Wednesday 9th June, 2021: Blue Range Hut and Mikimiki Track

Trip Leader and Reporter: Robyn Laing

Photographer: William Laing

Twenty six of us plus Elke (the dog) left Papaioea/Palmerston North on a bright sunny day, to traverse the Pahiatua track and over Mt Bruce to a popular haunt for us all at Mikimiki. Sixteen of us turned right and set off for the Blue Range hut while a further nine joined Elke and William to cross the Mikimiki saddle and continue down to the stream, which was flowing a little more swiftly that usual. Of course, we are in midwinter so that was to be expected. Elke plunged gamely in and practiced her dog paddling when she dropped into a deeper

hole. The two legged followers waded over and continued on to the end of the bush at the second bridge where they stopped for lunch and then, after a suitable rest, retraced their steps up to the saddle and down to the park.

In the meantime, the Blue Range Hut Groupies set off at a cracking pace to make sure they got a seat at the table for lunch. Well that's not quite the whole story. I hadn't been out for six weeks because of my bike misadventure, and wisely chose to be the Tail end Charlie. Quite quickly there was no further sight of this group until the trip leader finally reached the hut. Some of our group were more interested in reaching the signpost, and taking photos than getting to

the hut. So they



Robyn with Maurice, recipient of "The most spirited tramper" award



A brave winter orchid

stopped for lunch there or a little further along. Bev showed us an alternative track to miss the very muddy steps, which we are still not totally convinced was the real alternative, but when we came back down the muddy steps, we realised that Bev knew a thing or two. Thanks Bev: sorry we doubted you!

We were all back by 3.00, in time to go to Pukaha/ Mt

Bruce for a very cheerful afternoon tea and, for some, generous slices of

cake. Sadly, Elke was not invited inside but seemed quite happy to rest up in the car.



Thankyou Margaret for driving there and Wendy for sharing the driving. Thank you Rod, Anne Rush, and Dan Lynch for car driving.





10^{th -} 11th June, 2021: Ruapehu Rambles

Trip Leader and Photographer: Ken Mercer

Reporter: Judy Swainson et al

Eleven of us gathered at the Station Café in National Park at 10.15 am Thursday morning. Coffee and cake were enjoyed by most though Norman had hoped for a stop at the Ohakune Chocolate Eclair Shop. Then our leader said we had to go tramping. After a short drive up Kurua Road, we began a pleasant walk along the Tupapakurua

Falls Track, built by the combined efforts of the community and DOC. As requested by hand written signs, some of the blokes carried buckets of gravel



further along the track. The bush is beautiful and, though the clag meant we missed out on seeing Taranaki, we had a stunning view of the waterfall. The

track is well made til the third lookout is reached. From there, four brave souls ventured down the final, precipitous section of the track, not deterred by the fact that a short section had fallen away and a rope installed as a hand hold. Twenty minutes of descent took them to the base of waterfall. Lunch was enjoyed at the higher waterfall viewing point in two stages with the first group entertained by the sound effects echoing up from the group at the base. The whole 7.5 km trip, including stops, took 4 hours.



On arrival at the MTSC Lodge on Mt Ruapehu, the renovations were noted and appreciated. A big thank you to all who have put in hours of work to upgrade the building. Nibbles and wine were shared and then, thanks to Mary and helpers, our evening meal.

Our destination on day two was the Stanton Memorial. Ken led us on an off-track route which included canyons, rock climbing, bluffs to negotiate and many beautiful waterfalls to view: an alpine adventure, made more satisfying by beginning and ending at the Lodge. The mist even lifted during our lunch break, after we had crossed the Whakapapaiti

Stream, so we could see some of the snow-covered peaks of Mt Ruapehu. From there we went across country to join the Round the Mountain track at our second crossing of the Whakapapaiti Stream. After climbing straight up the zig zag section of the track we branched off again, along the ridge in the general direction of the lodge. Though it didn't look far, we had to make three more steep

descents down 'cliffs' to cross dry stream beds. Finally, after we climbed out of the last one, we discovered we were right next to the lodge. It took us seven hours to traverse the 8.2 km.

Thanks to Ken and Mary for organizing these two days and a tramp with a difference. Also, thanks Ken for driving. We were (L to R) Mary Mercer, Wendy Williams, Royce Mills, Leonie Lowndes, Norman Cooper, Judy Swainson, John Salisbury, Marion Beadle, Carolyn Brodie, Ken Mercer and Tony Evans in front of the Stanton memorial rock.



Sunday 13th June, 2021: Stanfield Hut

Trip leader, Photographer and Reporter: Tim Swale

The trip to Stanfield Hut in the Ruahine Range, near Dannevirke, is one of my favourite local walks as it features a variety of terrain including ridge and river travel, great views and a cosy back country hut for the lunch break.



the three Bears feeling but, whilst we made ourselves at home on their beds and moved some of their food from the table, we refrained from drinking their beers!

The return to the road end was by the same route. In summer the river route is lovely but in winter dry feet are appreciated. Our group of 12 all made it safely back after a very pleasant and social day out, finally wrapped up by a coffee stop at the Windfarm Café in Woodville.

Being only about two hours each way it makes a great trip for new trampers and, as such, it was good to welcome along a number of people who are looking to see what our club has to offer. We were fortunate with the weather; low river levels, cool and breezy, but no rain. After a short but steep climb we were on Holmes Ridge where the track is wide and easy going with extensive views across the Tamaki valley towards the main range. Once we dropped down into the stream it was only a short distance up to the hut. A pair of hunters had made the hut their home for the weekend but were out. There was a distinct Goldilocks and

Thursday 17th June, 2021: Tunupo

Trip Leader, Photographer and Reporter: Darlene Westrupp

Nineteen trampers left Memorial Park at 7.30am, not deterred by a weather forecast predicting rain all day.



When we arrived at the Petersons Road car park, our proposed destination — Tunupo trig - was nowhere to be seen, lost in very low cloud. We headed off regardless. It was a day of two halves, walking in intermittent drizzle and then, after about 11.00 am, not so much drizzle but still plenty of low cloud. It was nearer the end of the day when the sun tried very hard to show herself and finished off with a rainbow.

Nevertheless, four intrepid trampers – Jean, Garry, Adam and Alistair - braved a biting cold wind on the tops and made it to the trig. The rest of us gave up at varying parts of the track and

returned to the car park like Brown's cows. Tramping times ranged from around 5 hours to 6.5 hours. All in all though, everyone was pleased with the day. It was great to have Judith T and her grandson Darcy able to come along. Thank you to Gill and John T who acted as her "minders". A huge thanks also to van driver Tony and car drivers Carolyn and Adam.



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 Passes, valid for 6 or 12 months, as well as the use of hut tickets is available on the DOC web site



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

Committee 2021 - 2022

President	Tim Swale	president@mtsc.org.nz	022 134 8384
Secretary	Howard Nicholson	secretary@mtsc.org.nz	027 294 1941
Treasurer	William Laing	treasurer@mtsc.org.nz	022099 7988
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: Bev Akers, Linda Campbell, Richard Lander, Blair Petersen, Rob Pringle, 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	Peter Rawlins	ski@mtsc.org.nz	027 678 0747
Social Convenor	Linda Campbell	social@mtsc.org.nz	027 333 4493
Wednesday Trips	Bev Akers	bevakers@xtra.co.nz	027 274 6265
Thursday Trips	Syd Easton	eastonps@inspire.net.nz	06 356 7462
Facebook	Ivan Rienks, Rob Pringle	e, 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 and two bivvy bags. Ice axes, crampons, and helmets are also available. We have three 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 internet payment (please email to confirm before depositing) Westpac account number 03 1521 022035300 or by cash to 179 Cook St Palmerston North 4410 in person.

	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. 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.