

## UPCOMING CLUBNIGHTS

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

**7 AUGUST 2012 | 4 SEPTEMBER 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 Secunder 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](http://www.mtsc.org.nz)

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If you would like to receive your newsletter by email as a pdf in full colour rather than by post then please send an email request to [editor@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:editor@mtsc.org.nz). For change of contact details please email the club membership secretary at [membership@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:membership@mtsc.org.nz) as well as copying the message to [editor@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:editor@mtsc.org.nz).

The deadline for newsletter contributions is @ the 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

**August 7 – John Hunt** will be introduced by Linda Campbell and will give a talk based on his lifetime of tramping. He has agreed to give a talk with the title of "Now and Then" in which he will compare tramping when he started with how things are now. "Things" include access, tracks, maps and technology, huts and gear.

**September 4 – Photo competition.** Last year Richard Lander won 5 out of 6 categories – this year the heat is on with several members having travelled overseas and other categories having a good chance of being hotly contested. Submit entries to Howard Nicholson, check the website first.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT LINDA CAMPBELL**

[president@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:president@mtsc.org.nz)  
PHONE (06) 323 3836



Our Wednesday & Thursday trampers are keen & enthusiastic groups of people & numbers are high on all their adventures. There have been some concerns expressed to the committee about low numbers going on weekend tramping trips but I have to say the last three I have been on have been quite well attended. Not as well attended as the mid week trips perhaps but nevertheless good sized groups that ranged from teenagers up to 'more mature' people.

At the moment there are a limited number of people putting their hands up to take weekend trips which of course limits the range of trips taken. I am sure there are many reasons for this but please do give some thought to making yourself available to lead trips. More easy trips that only last a few hours and are very suitable for young children have been suggested. Such trips make a great outing for children, parents and grandparents alike. An example of an easy trip could just be a walk along the bridle trail or an organised walk along a beach.

- The Kaiparoro Track (West of Pukaha/ Mt Bruce)
- The Mt Ross Track in the Aorangi Forest Park (end of Ruakokoputuna Road.)

These tracks will have their markers and structures (eg: bridges) removed & will no longer be maintained by DOC after November 2012. In addition gas supplies will be removed from Tutuwai, Totara Flats & Mitre Flats huts.

Personally I have always found it strange that DOC should supply gas for cooking. I have never relied on it being available and I don't have a problem with its removal. However, taking out bridges will trade maintenance costs for safety with DOC playing the part of Pontius Pilate.

Removing the track markers makes no sense at all. On behalf of the club I am replying to the letter objecting to the closures and others may wish to do so too:

**Garry Foster, Wairarapa Area Office, PO Box 191, Masterton.**

Jean Garman and other representatives from many clubs in both Hawkes Bay and Manawatu recently attended a further meeting with DOC Manawatu Rangitikei Area Office. Collectively we have been charged with prioritizing which Ruahine huts and tracks should continue to be maintained by DOC, an unenviable task stemming from severe funding cuts. We are hoping that the closed tracks can be kept useable with occasional maintenance from the clubs.

For some time a small pruning saw has been a useful addition to the safety equipment in my pack and I have often trimmed annoying windfalls. I encourage faster trampers to follow suit. Clearing the trail is a useful way to wait for the rest of the party to catch up and allows the DOC workers to attend to more important jobs.

### **CHIEF GUIDE'S REPORT**

**Ken Mercer 06 356 7497**

The committee recently received a letter from DOC Wairarapa, advising they are closing the following tracks:

- Block 16 track between the Tauherenikau River and Marchant Ridge (including the track down the true right hand side of the river)
- Ruamahanga River Track between SH2 & Cow Saddle

If you live in Feilding and would like a ride to a club night please contact me on 323 3836 or 027 333 4493. I very seldom miss a club night and I am happy to take up to three people with me. Linda Campbell.

## CLUB NIGHTS & NOTICES

### Photo Competition - Tuesday 4 September 2012 - 7:30pm

It's time once more for the annual photo competition. Winners of our competition go on to the interclub competition in October. There will be some prizes as always - a bag of lollies, or maybe some fantastic tramping gear as in past years.

The categories are:

**Landscapes (NZ)** - Pictorial interest in NZ, no people.

**Above Bushline (NZ)** - Predominantly alpine scenery in NZ, above bushline, e.g. rock and snow, tussock, etc., may include people.

**Below Bushline (NZ)** - Predominantly bush, scrub, lowland to sub-alpine areas, may include people.

**Natural History (NZ)** - NZ flora and fauna or detail, e.g. geology, ice formations, animals, plants etc.

**Topical (NZ)** - People or detail related to tramping, climbing, skiing etc. in NZ.

**Overseas** - Photos taken overseas - open category: e.g. landscape, people, natural history, etc.

Further details, including an email address for sending your entries, can be found on the club web site, or you can contact Howard Nicholson on (06) 357 6325.



Our next trips meeting is not far off – **TUESDAY 21 AUGUST** so please give some thought to a trip you would be happy to organise. If you are unable to come along but are available to take a weekday or weekend trip please email chief guide Ken Mercer: [ken.mercer.nz@gmail.com](mailto:ken.mercer.nz@gmail.com) or [chiefguide@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:chiefguide@mtsc.org.nz) with your preferred date and your trip idea. The trip card meeting on Tuesday 21 August will be a dinner meeting from 6.30pm at the Rose and Crown, 743 Main Street, Palmerston North. All welcome.

The club lodge is a great base for all sorts of fun outdoor activities and is available during the summer months. Hugh and Liz Wilde may be contacted at [lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz](mailto:lodge.bookings@mtsc.org.nz) for more information.

### Trip Intentions:

The club has an email address for leaving trip intentions: [intentions@mtsc.org.nz](mailto: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. This information will be provided to LandSAR only if the party is reported overdue.

## UPCOMING TRIPS

### The trip list

28-29 Jul Cow Creek	Medium
Jenny McCarthy	06 376 8838
01 Aug (Wed) Bev Charlton	356 0094
02 Aug (Thu) Keith Fisher	357 1724
04-05 Aug Mangatainoka Hot Springs	Easy
Tim Swale	06 376 6556
8 Aug (Wed) John Ridge	357 3744
9 Aug (Thu) Royce Mills	355 8556
11-12 Aug Lwr Matkuhia Hut	Medium
Mark Learmonth	356 9143
15 Aug (Wed) Suzanne Clark	356 8322
16 Aug (Thu) Gordon Clark	359 2500
18-19 Aug Waihohonu Hut	Med/Technical
Adam Matich	359 2796
22 Aug (Wed) Mike Oliver	355 5320
23 Aug (Thu) Hugh Wilde	356 9450
26 Aug (Sun) Kiriwhakapapa off track	Medium
Tim Swale	06 376 6556
29 Aug (Wed) Alison Jeffries	358 4895
30 Aug (Thu) David Grant	357 8269

01-02 Sep Ski Ngauruhoe	Technical
Peter Rawlins	356 7443
02 Sep (Sun) Atiwhakatu Hut	Family
Linda Campbell	06 333 4493
05 Sep (Wed) Bernard Cobb	328 8088
06 Sep (Thu) Judy Swainson	358 4082

### 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.

<b>FAMILY</b>	All welcome, casual pace, any age
<b>EASY</b>	4 hours per day, pace slower than Easy/Med. Does not relate to terrain
<b>EASY/MEDIUM</b>	5 hours per day at a pace slower than Medium
<b>MEDIUM</b>	7 hours per day at a standard walking pace
<b>MEDIUM/FIT</b>	8 hours per day at a pace faster than Medium
<b>FIT</b>	Over 8 hours per day at a pace faster than Med/Fit
<b>TECHNICAL</b>	Qualifying requirements to be announced by the trip organiser

Weekday trips generally range between Easy & Medium/Fit, so call the leader for details on these to plan a daytrip to suit your preference & ability.

18-19th August, Waihohonu Hut - Medium/Technical. Adam Matich 359-2796. We will head from the Chateau to Upper Tama Lake, from where we will pass through the saddle to the upper end of Waihohonu Stream. We will then either follow the stream down past Waihohonu Springs, or a short distance down the stream climb out on the true-right and follow the spur down to the Oturere-Waihohonu track and ultimately the very-new Waihohonu hut which is now on the Waihohonu-Whakapapa Track. On Sunday we will probably head back via the normal route. Depending upon the conditions, it may become a technical trip, possibly requiring crampons or ice axes. The terrain is not severe, so it would have to be icy to necessitate using that hardware.

## TRIP REPORTS

### Lodge Food Carry and Workparty - 16-17 June 2012

The adage "many hands make light work" was proven once more at the recent Lodge workparty at Ruapehu. In the week leading up to the work party, a beast was butchered to provide a year's worth of meat, and a shopping spree of epic proportions was undertaken to get enough food for the 3000 or so meals that will be made at the lodge this year. A maintenance plan was updated and repair materials purchased. People volunteered to come or pulled out of the trip for various reasons. In the end, 22 people from around North Island converged at the lodge for a weekend of work, fun and food.

Seventy or so return trips from the lodge to the carpark saw an estimated 300kg of meat, countless tins, mountains of dry goods, drinks, eggs, veges, and cleaners carried in to the lodge where the receiving crew sorted and packed the goods into the appropriate places. Thankfully, the biting southerly gales abated by mid morning so each trip was made in improving weather.

After the food was taken care of, many maintenance and cleaning jobs were undertaken and by lunch time on Sunday the lodge was looking quite spiffy! Rocks were shifted, roofing snow boards were replaced, guttering repaired, electrical fittings replaced, walls painted and a general pre-season clean-up was done.

Everyone pitched in which meant that the work got done with minimal fuss. I wish to especially thank: the Badger family for organising the meat and providing a covered trailer; Mary and Ken Mercer for their time and patience during the late night shopping; and John Lyttle and all of the people who gave up their weekend, and donated their expertise and hard work. Their efforts ensure that our lodge remains the exceptional value that it is, ready for you, dear reader, to enjoy.

We were: Linda Campbell; Mohan Udyawer; Anne Henderson; Carl Pester; Valda and Robin Lane; Peter Bowker; Peter Marley; Ivan Rienks; Bob Hodgson; John, Thomas and Sebastian Lyttle; Rob and Isaac Pringle and Jess Thomas; Mary and Ken Mercer; and Sue, Hugh, Tara and Howard Nicholson.



**Snowboarding with John and Rob on the recent Lodge food carry and workparty. Image H.Nicholson**

### A Trip of Three Halves - Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May by Andrew Brodie

The weather forecast was for rain and more rain but this did not stop twenty plus Wednesday trampers setting out for the Branch Road Walkway – we won't mention the four that pulled out at the last moment! However, as we got out of the van and cars the rain stopped. As a result we had a pleasant day with attractive views of mist-enshrouded hills. On the way up we stopped for a break where Margaret Foot shared some "significant" birthday chocolates. At the top of the track we split into 3 groups. The largest group set off back down Ridge Road to complete the circular trip. A group of eight led by John Hunt did areconnoitre down through the forest and then out onto farmland. This required the permission from two landowners. They had some fun finding the way in parts but did make it out to the van not too much later the other groups. The third small group decided to take a leisurely trip back down the track giving trip leader the chance to locate two new geocaches. On the way home we stopped at Ashhurst for coffee. Thanks to Chris Brunskill for driving the van and the others who took their own cars.

## Matemateonga Track, June 1-4, by Mark Learmonth

Our weekend started mid day Friday heading off to Pipiriki to meet Wanganui Jetboat Tours at 3pm for a 40minute-jetboat ride up the Whanganui River to the start of the track. On arrival in Pipiriki it was rather cool so we donned on our winter woolies for the ride ahead. From the drop off point it's a steep climb to the top of the range & onto the first hut Puketotara @1 hour away. Possibly the best viewpoints are seen on this section. Expansive views of the river, valleys & the Tongariro Mountains unfortunately the light was not conducive to good photography. The initial idea was to go back to certain points in the morning and take photos problem was the weather did not oblige. We awoke to fog, mist with light falls of rain thrown into the mix and no wind. That was our weather for the next 2 + days. Visibility was generally not great so there were no views to be seen one could only take stock of the immediate surroundings that being beside or near the track. From Puketotara hut the group split into two groups. Faster & slower. I choose to tag along with the slower group. This worked out quite well as by the time we arrived at the following hut the fire had been lit and the hut was nice and warm. Even though the track is pretty much flat the group had some amusing moments with its share of falls & spills with Andrew & specially Caroline biting the dust so to speak numerous times, lucky without being injured. Main problem was when walking on the boardwalks now and again they stepped on the extremely slippery black moss to the side of the chicken wire laid on the boards to walk on. It's surprising when you take a closer look at the surroundings you are passing to what you may discover especially hidden away in the dark shady spots. Linda who enjoys finding and photographing Fungi had a field day. I did not realize so many different colors and forms existed. At one stoppage point I counted up to seven different species. There was some bird life seen especially Robins and in places on the track there were fossilized seashells. 10am Monday saw us at the Kohi Saddle road end & our awaiting transportation home. We stayed at three of the four huts Puketotara , Ngapurua , Omaru and had an early lunch at Pouri. All four are in excellent condition. Total track distance from the Whanganui river drop off point to the Kohi Saddle finishing point is 42km following the original Whakaihuka road build in 1911 & then abandoned. A really easy all conditions track except for the initial 40 minutes climb up from the river its so flat distances, times don't matter to much. Suitable trip for most people. We were a team of eight. Many thanks to our drop off and pick up drivers Brian Webster & Sharon Mitchell.



**Margaret Foot handing out chocolates on the Branch Rd walkway. Image J.Hunt**

## Sledge Track + H1, H7 & H8 - Thursday Trampers 12 July 2012. Merv Matthews.

Last year, in order to make a change from our usual Sledge Track route we made use of bait-lines H1 and H2 which gave us a 6½-hour round trip through a previously unexplored area of bush. On the latest trip, we checked out another two bait-lines, H7 and H8. H8 was not really a track but just a rough route, though well marked with red triangles. It was really slow going. When we arrived at the intersection with H7 and H9 we turned left and entered what was obviously a former hunters' track because old paint spots were visible all the way and the track was easy to follow. We emerged at the rocky knob near to the platinum mines. Those who had not previously viewed the mineshafts formed a separate group and were shown their location by Merv. The rest made their way back after taking a little-known shortcut across to the quickest way back. Elapsed time was eight hours and there were a few tired muscles as a result. We have a better route planned for the next exploration.

## Roaring Stag Lodge/Herepai Hut on Thursday 14 June by Keith Fisher

16 trampers left the road end at 9.00 am in improving weather conditions. After the hard grind of the climb up to the branch in the track we regrouped and decide to break into 2 parties. 8 headed off to Herepai Hut and 8 to Roaring Stag Lodge. The Herepai party lunched above the bush line in the sun with no wind and enjoyed great views.

The Roaring Stag party lunched in the sun at the Lodge with the river and bush as their background. Both great lunch sites - all thanks to the weather.



## All You Can Eat at Blyth Hut, 23-24 June. By Adam Matich

We headed off to the upper Blyth hut car park on the Ohakune Mountain Road, but sailed right past to the Massey University Alpine Club Hut another 3 km up the road. Some people wanted to sidle around the mountain, through the tussock and four stream crossings to drop down the spur to Blyth. The other half of the party looked at the poor visibility, felt the chilliness, and remembered that the MetService was forecasting Armageddon, and decided we would drive back down to the upper Blyth car park. It took us only 75 minutes to walk into Blyth hut through the protective forest. Those of us with good balance didn't even get our feet wet on the stream crossings, and it didn't rain. A full 10 minutes climb above Lupton hut saw us at Blyth hut for a not very late lunch. The adventurous party made it there before us and another group who were already there had lit the fire (good wood-burner and lots of dry wood). It proved not too difficult to while away the afternoon as trip leader had supplied two newspapers, the crosswords therein providing plenty of angst and intellectual insecurity. Two batches each of pikelets, jam and cream and of mulled wine also helped. Dinner was nachos, followed by chocolate cake doused in cranberry syrup and hot custard. Fortunately, the catering was not overdone (unlike on previous trips) and so no one felt seriously ill afterwards & we still had room for a cooked breakfast the next morning.



**Blyth Hut. Image A.Matich**

Unfortunately, the MetService had over-forecast again and so we didn't get to see the world end from the comfort of our warm hut. It rained between 5 and 6 a.m., but that was about it and we didn't need our rain coats on the way out. The brave group took the long route out, down the mountain on the Blyth track, while the cowardly/lazy three left later and returned directly to the upper Blyth car park to pick up the vehicle. It was a reasonable effort at sloth and indulgence and we were home in time for afternoon tea! We were Dave Mitchell, Nicola, Mark Learmonth, Jean Garman, Brian Webster, and Adam Matich.



**Brian Jean Dave and Mark whiling away the afternoon in Blyth Hut. Image A.Matich**

## 21 June 2012 Thursday tramp - Kaiparoro plane crash site

The walk to find this plane crash site starts at the end of Kaiparoro Road near Mt Bruce. The very first thing you have to do is cross the Makakahi River which was cold and knee deep at its deepest. The wise and well-prepared members of our group brought some spare shoes with them to cross the river. Unfortunately for one of our group, after crossing the river she realised that she had left her pack behind! She had to make three crossings of the river even before setting off.

A steep climb followed, up a bulldozed track through pine trees, then into the bush. After about 1 1/2 hours we came out into open scrub at the Kaiparoro trig (808m). We stood about in cold, drizzly conditions for a morning tea stop. Now to find the crash site ... Merv Matthews had a GPS waypoint to lead us there. We headed cross country through scrub, back into the bush and had a few hesitations along a ridge as various ribbons - probably marking bait lines - led us off course at times. We persevered and found ourselves on a strong foot track that matched Merv's GPS track. We started to find some scattered wreckage and zeroed in on the GPS waypoint to find a cross and a considerable amount of wreckage strewn about on a steep ridge. Photos were taken and we stopped here for lunch.

Walking out took about 1.5 hours. This time we followed the strong foot track all the way back to near the trig clearing and retraced our steps down to the Makakahi river crossing - the bonus was finishing with clean boots! Trip leader: John McLeod, 17 in the group - trip report by Royce Mills.

Merv Matthews wrote an article about the crash in 2002. This article is reprinted on the following page.



## The tragic story of Flying Officer Leary and the crash of RNZAF Oxford NZ2124 in the Tararua Ranges.

The story begins at Wigram on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July 1952 when Flying Officer Mike Daniell, a flying instructor at Wigram, obtained permission to use a twin-engined Airspeed Oxford to fly from Wigram to Ohakea. On arrival at Ohakea he then planned to travel to Masterton by bus or train so that he could attend a wedding the following day. However, a late arrival at Ohakea meant that he missed his connecting transport so he decided to stay the night at Ohakea.

Next morning Daniell elected to fly NZ2124 to Masterton, and he departed with Pilot Officer Stuart McIntyre from No. 14 Squadron, who was to bring the aircraft back to Ohakea. Encountering bad weather near Eketahuna the pilots returned to Ohakea and landed soon after 11.00 a.m. Later in the day the weather seemed to have improved so he persuaded another pilot, F/O David Leary, age 27, to make a second attempt. This time they made it to Masterton, whereupon Leary immediately took off again bound for Ohakea. Before leaving he commented that if he could not get across the ranges he would head south to Palliser Bay and return to Ohakea via the west coast.

The aircraft failed to return to Ohakea and an overdue procedure was initiated. Reported ground sightings were investigated, some as far north as the Pohangina Valley, but nothing was found and the search was abandoned on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July.



A year later, on 24<sup>th</sup> July 1953, deerstalkers hunting on Mt Kaiparoro (7 km north-west of Mt Bruce) came across the wreckage of NZ2124 on a forest-covered ridge south-east of the summit. Next day the deerstalkers led a party, comprising members of the police, RNZAF officers, and members of the Masterton Tramping Club, to the site.

The remains of the pilot were buried at the site following a burial service led by Wing Commander J R S Agar, and the grave is marked by a white cross suitably engraved with the pilot's name.

The Court of Enquiry concluded that the pilot headed north from Masterton but it seemed he then turned back, possibly due to bad weather conditions, and found himself in the Makakahi Valley heading towards the ranges. From the reading of the direction indicator of the crashed aircraft and the lie of the wreckage, it appeared to investigators that the pilot attempted to fly out of the valley by making a turn to starboard, but hit the ridge on which the wreckage was found while in a steep turn.

Last month, almost exactly fifty years after the crash, I led a group of twelve "Thursday Trampers" to a south-pointing ridge on Kaiparoro in search of the crash site. I became interested in finding it after reading the story in a book entitled "Missing! Aircraft missing in New Zealand 1928-2000", and I chose a ridge which seemed to fit the description given in the book. However, we failed to find it. A week later a smaller group comprising Neville Gray, Gordon Clark and myself tried again. In the meantime we had located two versions of the Tararua ParkMap which showed the location in two different places on another ridge much further to the west. Armed with a GPS with the two spots loaded in as waypoints we searched again, but neither place turned up any sign of wreckage. Finally, we scrambled down a third ridge, situated between the two already searched, and this time – success! The largest pieces of wreckage were the two radial engines, the rest being mostly small pieces of twisted metal spread over 100 metres or more down a steep slope. After 50 years the cross marking the grave is still in good condition.

The site is best approached from the Kaiparoro summit. From the trig follow a bearing of 170° true (146° magnetic) to the forest edge. This should place you at the top of the south-pointing ridge. There is no obvious entry into the bush, just push through and keep to the highest point of the ridge as you progress down. After a few minutes you should pick up a faint trail and some paint spots on trees. Follow the paint spots all the way to crash site which will be found on the western slope of the ridge. The exact spot is 633 metres south and 116 metres west of the Kaiparoro trig, or GPS grid location E1817689 N5490648. Please respect the site and leave everything as you find it – souveniring is frowned upon!

**Footnote:** The paint spots referred to in the article have nearly all disappeared, but replaced by the occasional strip of red tape. A better route from the main track can be found about 20 metres before breaking out of bush on to the tussock tops.

## CLUB INFORMATION

### Annual Hut Passes

Buy your Annual Hut Pass through DoC. The full price of an Annual Hut Pass is now \$122.60 but 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 koala taking a nap in Noosa N.P. Image T.Tyler**

### 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](http://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
	<a href="mailto:president@mtsc.org.nz">president@mtsc.org.nz</a>
Secretary Tim Swale	06 376 6556
Treasurer Arthur Flint	06 356 7654
	<a href="mailto:treasurer@mtsc.org.nz">treasurer@mtsc.org.nz</a>
Chief Guide Ken Mercer	06 356 7497
Day Trip Convenor Bev Akers	06 325 8879
Membership Judy Swainson	
	<a href="mailto:membership@mtsc.org.nz">membership@mtsc.org.nz</a>
Newsletter Editor Tim Tyler	<a href="mailto:editor@mtsc.org.nz">editor@mtsc.org.nz</a>
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	