

August 2008
Issue 07

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Club members on a SAREX exercise
Photo: Adam Match (PN Sarex | March 2008)

Upcoming club night

Skiing in Canada

7.30 pm, 1st Tuesdays of the month at the RSA, Palmerston North, 200 Broadway Ave

5th August - Skiing in British Columbia, Canada

The August club night will be a winter warmer at the RSA - our new venue. We will kick off with a video presentation of Peter Rawlins and Lynda Hunt's recent ski trip to the Apex, Big Water, Silver Star ski fields in British Columbia, Canada. This will be followed by a chance to catch up with people and enjoy the hospitality on offer. If we play our cards right the bar might still be open.

Notice of change of club night venue:

A reminder that the Manawatu Tramping and Skiing Club is changing to a more central venue and frequency of our club nights as from 5 August 2008.

From this date, the details are as follows:

Venue: RSA Palmerston North, 200 Broadway Ave, Palmerston North

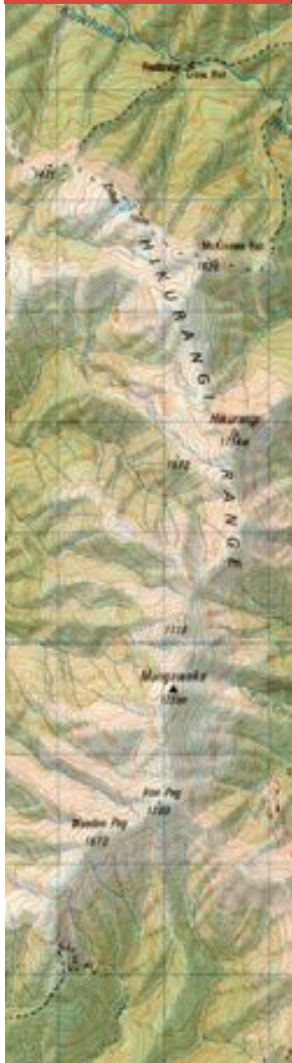
When: First Tuesday of every month (except January) – start 7:30pm

We will continue to provide a range of interesting speakers at our clubnights, and expect that our new central city venue will entice more people to come along.

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President's Report

Club Night Changes

by Howard Nicholson

email mtsc.president@xtra.co.nz or phone (06) 357 6325

I don't mind putting up with cold toes for a few days when the mountains end up covered in snow! The recent phenomenal snow dumps have really given the ski season a welcome kick-start, so what better time to get up to the Lodge than now? The recent cold snap must have kept the snow crispy on the ranges too, so I hope that some of you managed to enjoy a tramp through it.

Maybe you would prefer to stay warm and enjoy some snow as well? Our first club night at our cosy new venue, the RSA at 200 Broadway Ave (about half way between Princess St and Victoria Ave), will feature videos of skiing and mountains - all from the luxury of your padded seat. Remember that from 5 August, we will only have one official club night per month, on the first Tuesday of each month (excluding January).

If you are reading this then you have received your newsletter. If you are reading a paper copy, then have you considered getting your newsletter via email only? Please contact Wei (mtsc.editor@xtra.co.nz) if you want to make the switch; as a bonus, Wei will email you to let you know what's on at the club night as well! Newsletters are also available on our website. Remember the old motto, "...leave nothing but footprints" (so long as they are not big carbon ones...).

As a friendly reminder to some, annual subscriptions are now overdue. So if you have not yet paid, this may be the last newsletter you will receive this year. Of course, we would much rather have you as a member than not, and we do understand how subs can be overlooked. Please check now to ensure that you continue to get the benefits of MTSC membership.

Best of all, enjoy our wonderful Winter!

Trip Card Meeting - 26th August

by Bev Akers

email bev.akers@xtra.co.nz or phone (06) 325 8879

The next trip card meeting will be at 7 pm on Tuesday the 26th of August at Adam's place, 798 Main St. So bring along the list of trips that you want to lead, or phone Bev before-hand to avoid a pitched battle, on the night, with others for the dates you want.

You may have noticed that there are quite a few empty dates on the current trip card, viz. some weekends without overnights and some without Sunday trips, unlike the Wednesday and Thursday trampers who are as strong as ever! That is because people have shown a limited amount of interest in leading trips. Well fatties ;-) you might want to think about getting out there for some calorie-burning exercise so that when summer comes rolling along you won't be. In winter it is important to maintain your fitness so summer tramping is enjoyable, so you can see the sights and have some fun. So come along to Adam's place to give suggestions or phone me with ideas about where you want to go and maybe lead a trip...or two...or three. We need you to make our summer, and perhaps your own as well!. Thanks guys.

Snow Stuff Aug '08

by Ken Mercer

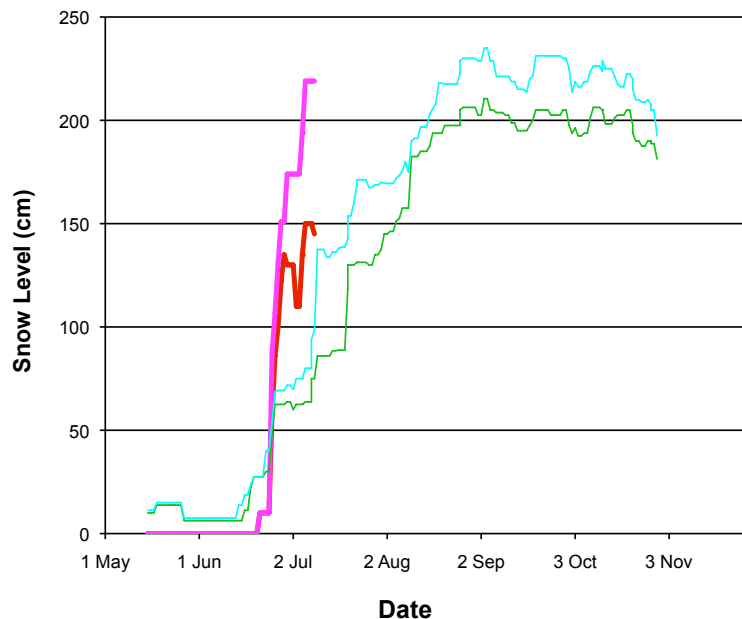
email k.a.mercer@massey.ac.nz

phone (06) 356 7497 pr (027) 364 6475

At both the Whakapapa and Turora ski areas there is a fenced off area where snow levels have been recorded for many years. For the last 4 years I have kept a copy of the published figures and the average is shown, along with this years level. Turora is the higher line in both cases. There's heaps of snow!

On another note I want to encourage the use of the club Transit van for weekend skiing and have booked it for most weekends. If you are staying at the lodge over a weekend and would like to come with us please email, txt or phone me by the Wednesday evening. If we have sufficient numbers we'll leave at a convenient time, probably 5.00 pm, from 9 Eton Place. The cost will be \$40 per person.

Ruapehu Snow Levels



Coming up...

contributed by **Howard Nicholson**

Photo Competition

On the 2nd of September you can see your pictures on the big screen! That's right, it's Photo Competition time once more. The best three pictures in each category will go forward to the interclub competition with PNTMC and MUAC. As in past years, the categories will be:

Alpine (NZ)

Predominantly alpine scenery in NZ (ie above bushline rock and snow)

Scenic (NZ)

Pictorial interest in NZ hills etc (ie predominantly below the bushline)

Natural History (NZ)

NZ flora and fauna or detail, eg geology, ice formations etc)

Topical (NZ)

People or detail related to tramping, climbing, or skiing related activities in NZ

Overseas (Open)

Alpine or scenic; People met while tramping or climbing overseas.

Entries shall not have been entered in a previous Interclub Competition. If possible, please send your digital picture entries, along with a title and/or brief description, to me by the 30th of August, on CD (call me so that I know when to expect them – 357 6325) or email (mtsc.president@xtra.co.nz) so that they can be arranged into categories and tested prior to the night. I can also scan slides if you wish, provided I have them by 30 August.



Ryan working on the renovation of the drying room at the Club Lodge
(Food Carry and Mid Winter Feast Trip | 21-22 June 2008).
Photo: Alla Seleznyova

Minibus Manager's Diatribe

by **Adam Matich**

Unfortunately, in addition to death and taxes, we can also be confident that there will be inflation. The massive increases in the price of fuel, over the last couple of years, have added considerably to the running costs of the Transit Van. So the time has come to pass these increases onto the users so that in five years or so we can again afford to buy you a another nice new van.

As of the beginning of **August**, the new van rates will be a minimum of 45c / km for the vehicle, which means that:

For five people it will cost
9c / km per person

For six or more people it will cost
8c / km per person

Private Cars

I also thought I would take the opportunity to remind people that the recommended rate for travelling in private cars is 10 c / km per passenger.

Inflation Blues



Upcoming trips

TRIP GRADING

The times listed below include tramping, rest and meal stops. In assessing the trip times and grades, terrain, weather and party fitness (a party is as fast as its slowest member) must be considered. As these factors will never repeat themselves, times are only estimates. Contact the trip leader if you are unsure about trip gradings for a specific trip.

ALL	All welcome
EASY	4 hours per day, pace slower than Easy/Med. Does not relate to terrain.
EASY/MEDIUM	5 hours per day at a pace slower than medium.
MEDIUM	7 hours per day at a standard walking pace.
MEDIUM/FIT	8 hours per day at a pace faster than medium.
FIT	Over 8 hours per day at a pace faster than medium/fit.
TECHNICAL	Qualifying requirements to be announced by the trip organiser.

Elder Hut

26-27 July

Medium

Dave Mitchell

329 2803

Unfortunately Dave is unable to take this trip, if you are interested in leading this trip please contact Dave or the Chief Guide.

Wednesday Trampers

30 July

Easy/Medium

Bev Akers

325 8879

Phone for more details.

Thursday Trampers

31 July

Easy/Medium

Please phone one of the regulars for more details.

Not Zeke's Hut Trip

2-3 August

Medium/Technical

Adam Matich

359 2796

I have changed my mind about going to Zekes Hut because I have found somewhere more luxurious. Instead, we are going to Park's Peak Hut for an almost, but not really, easy weekend.

We will go in from Sentry Box Hut which is on the NE side of the Ruahines all the way up near Kereru, which is quite a drive. So we don't want to leave too late in the morning as we need to hurry, hurry, hurry up to the hut by afternoon tea time for pikelets and jam and cream and sloth, and before anyone else gets there.

It is a sometimes steep 700 m plus climb from Sentry Box Hut up onto what I assume is the southern end of the Golden Crown Range. From there we will zoom south for 2 km to Parks Peak Hut. The appeal of this hut is that it is brand new having been finished this autumn, and with any luck there will be lots of snow around for people to un-enjoy.

So we hope to have a nice lazy afternoon and cozy evening, with lots of eating and a proper cooked breakfast the next morning, before we return back to the car by the same route.

The technical aspect of it is that you will have to know how to make pikelets and do me a proper cooked breakfast and be prepared to sleep on the floor if there are other people at the hut as well.

Intermediate Alpine

2-3 August

Technical

Peter Rawlins

356 7443

This course is designed to build on the skills learned in the beginners alpine course. You need to be comfortable with the use of ice axe and crampons, walking in snow, and self arresting. This course will expand on these skills and introduce the use of ropes in an alpine environment. This is a technical course so if you have any specific questions then contact me.

Wednesday Trampers

6 August

Easy/Medium

Don McDonald

357 0222

Phone for more details.

Thursday Trampers

7 August

Easy/Medium

Bryan Evans

323 7614

Phone for more details.

Sunrise Staircase

10 August

Medium

Gary Bevins

325 8879

Hopefully after getting some instructions, we will be able to find the beginning of this track. Its the original staircase track up to Sunrise Hut. Could be a bit of a scout around at times but we know its there, its only a matter of keeping on it. Will eventually get us to Sunrise Hut. Join us on somewhere new.

Wednesday Trampers

13 August

Easy/Medium

Colleen Newth

358 8801

Phone for more details.

Thursday Trampers

14 August

Easy/Medium

Jill Spencer

329 8738

Phone for more details.

Tutuwai Hut

16-17 August

Easy/Medium

Tony Evans

357 4355

Phone for more details.

Jumbo Hut**17 August****Christine Scott****Medium****354 0510**

Jumbo Hut has to be one of my favourite huts in the Tararua's with its magnificent views out over the Wairarapa and the goblin forest you walk through to reach it. I expect it to take 3-4 hours to walk into the hut and less to walk out. We will leave the Police Station at 7.30 am.

Wednesday Trampers**20 August****Rosemary & Ken Hall****Easy/Medium****356 8538**

Mt Thompson subject to weather conditions, please phone for more details closer to the date.

Thursday Trampers**21 August****Ray Pratt****Easy/Medium****328 7884**

Phone for more details.

Mangatainoka Hot Springs**23-24 August****Don McDonald****Easy/Medium****357 0222**

Phone for more details.

Wednesday Trampers**27 August****Ken Rush****Easy/Medium****357 2529**

Ken intends taking a trip up Mount Bruce, please phone him for more details.

Thursday Trampers**28 August****John Thornley****Easy/Medium****356 9681**

Phone for more details.

Otukota Hut**30-31 August****Garry Grayson****Medium/Fit****326 8837**

Unfortunately Garry is unable to take this trip, if you are interested in leading this trip please contact Garry for more details or speak to the Chief Guide.

Climb/Ski Ngauruhoe**6-7 September****Peter Rawlins****Technical****356 7443**

This is a great opportunity for people to use their alpine skills. Ngauruhoe is a relatively straight forward climb requiring just ice axe and crampons. Some people take skis, while others are just there for the climb up and walk down. The trip will be based from Mangatepopo hut and is always a fun trip. Contact me if you have any questions.

Pines-Reed Hill Farm**13-14 September****Adam Matich****Medium/Fit****359 2796**

This trip starts from the Pines road end and ends up at Reef Hill Farm, which is the last gate on your left before you cross the Ruamahanga River on your way north to Mt Bruce from Masterton. It takes about 3-4 hours up the Barra Track to Mitre Flats hut for lunch, after which we

will go another 3-4 hours up the Waingawa River to Cow Creek Hut for the night. That is if it doesn't rain heavily because the North Mitre Stream can be impassable - I fully expect winter to be all rained-out by then though.

The six berth Cow Creek hut was tidied up a couple of years ago, so it should be reasonably comfortable....for an old forestry service hut. There is a nice new bridge at Cow Creek, so next morning we wont have to get our feet wet when we make our way across and up to Cow Saddle. I can't say much for the rest of the day though. The descent from Cow Saddle is not as is shown on the map. It now fairly quickly drops into and follows a new watercourse, and to get down to the Ruamahanga River track we need to cross Cleft Creek and there is another even more substantial watercourse about 3 km further East. Unfortunately, both streams tend towards being wet, especially in winter. At least you wont need a shower when you get home! It will probably be a 6 or 7-hour day out from Cow Creek hut, the last hour being across farmland. Once we pick up the car we will then head back to the Pines to pick up the car we left there and head back home.

An Army Transport borrowed from the populace
(Waiouru Army Museum Trip | 29 June 2008).
Photo: Adam Matich





Bev distracting some Artillery Officers
(Waiouru Army Museum Trip | 29 June 2008).
Photo: Adam Matich

Trip Reports

Te Hoe Track 31 May - 2 June

by Mark Learmonth

If this trip seems familiar it is because a report on it by Jean Garman was printed in the last newsletter. Trip leader Mark also sent one in so I've included his for a different perspective on the trip. Queens's birthday weekend has once again come and gone and for those who choose not to go bush you missed an excellent winter tramping opportunity. This year's trip was the Te Hoe Track within the Whirinaki Forest Park. Most of the track is well formed with only a few sections of uphill Tararua type track.

We started from the Okahu Road end in frosty conditions, by the time we arrived at the first hut Skip's for an early smoko stop, the sun was shining brightly. The track sidles the Whangatawhia Stream. Along this stretch we viewed a Blue Duck padding upstream through some low rapids. Skip's like all the huts in Whirinaki is situated in a large clearing. A pleasant spot to stay, this with the warmth of the sun on our backs it was hard to get the motivation to leave.

Lunch stop was at Rogers Hut, an historic hut with an interesting interior. An hour rolled by basking in the sun before it was decided we should really get a move on to our overnight destination Mangakahiki Hut. This track section along with the following two Mangakahiki-Central Te Hoe, Central Upper Te Hoe the past few years has seen an enormous amount of storm damage with large trees uprooted ever where. The track and area around Mangakahiki hut has been subjected to mud flooding as a result of a side steam log jam and high rain fall within a few weeks of us being there. The last 50 meters was exceptionally muddy, the mudflow passing within a few feet of the back of the hut.

Saturday we headed off around eight to Central Te Hoe hut for lunch. Again we were blessed with beautiful sunny weather; lunch again was of a long duration, soaking in the sun. From Central Te Hoe the track climbs 600 meters over ridges to Upper Te Hoe hut, one particular section which can be very exposed to the elements has a chain anchored to the rock face for safety reasons if required. Upper Te Hoe hut is sited high above the Te Hoe River in a lovely position.

Sunday coming out we experienced a few light showers, but overall was not a bad day. The huts are of a high standard, clean, tidy with dry firewood. The only downside is DOC's obsession in the park to squeeze as many bunks into each hut as they can. Three high bunks are not every one's cup of tea, few people are keen to use the upper two levels as there's very little space between them and prefer to sleep on the floor or outside. The troops who ventured on this trip were Adam Match, Jean Garman, Mark Learmonth and Tony Evans.

Waiouru Army Museum 29 June

by Adam Match

We only got as far as Sanson before complaints from hungry people forced us to stop for a proper breakfast. This ensured our survival until Taihape. The road further north was closed by ice, and so we were able to shelter from the cold in another café...or two, and in some adjacent shops. Fortunately, the weather was inclement and so we were not able to walk off any calories as had been proposed in the trip preview.

By midday the roads were open again and so we headed off to Waiouru where the car-park was covered in slushy snow. Ideal for splashing around in, but a bit cold. We spent around three hours in the museum which covers from the Maori wars to the Vietnam war. There was a good range of fire arms to ogle, displays and photos showing what the trench warfare was like in the Great War, and some larger WW2 vehicles, including tanks, scout, and general transport vehicles. Unfortunately, unlike the noisy Te Papa, the army museum is an old-fashioned one and so we were discouraged from climbing on the vehicles and firing a few dozen rounds through the machine guns to clean the spiders out of their barrels. Bev however, did sidle up to a couple of artillery officers in the hope of distracting them from shelling some recalcitrant, or perhaps more correctly self-determinant,

members of the native population. But they ignored her and carried on with 'business'. Eventually, the frustration of not being allowed to play on the rides took its toll and we retired to Rations Café for a very late lunch before heading back to PN after what was a strangely oxymoronic civilized tramping trip.

We were Garry Bevins, Mark Learmonth, Adam Match, and Bev Akers

Blue Range Hut 3 July

by Stuart Malcolm

The intended high-level trip was replaced by the relative shelter of the above route because of the very adverse weather forecast. Whilst we left Palmerston North in clear still conditions, the trip itself was undertaken in strong winds uphill and persistent rain on the way down. The eight trampers were pleased with the exercise but happy to return home earlier than usual!

More Wed & Thu Trampers Trips

Wednesday Tramps

18th June - Makahika Tramline (13 trampers)

Started from the Levin road end, it took us 2.75 hrs to the Horowhenua Lookout for lunch.

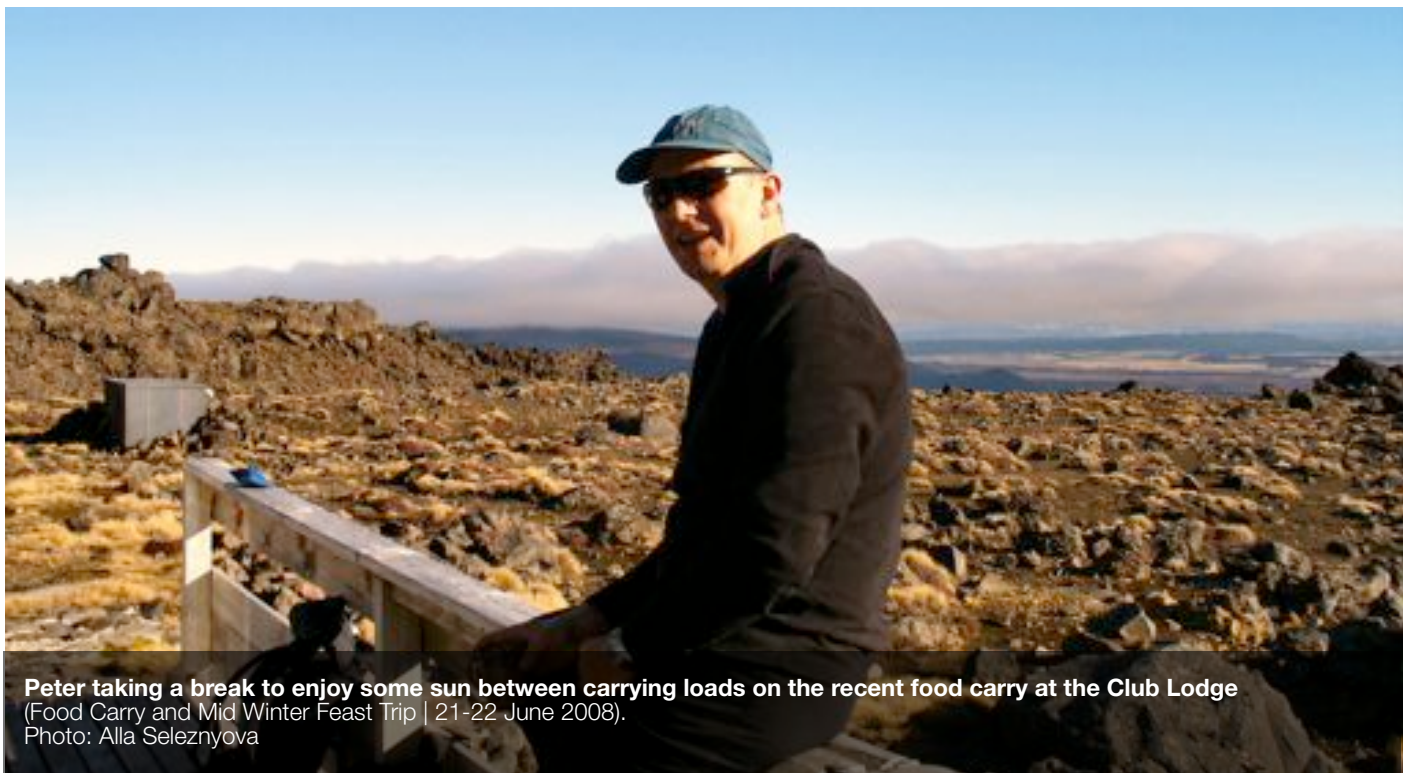
25th June - Mid Winter Feast at Halcombe (18 trampers)

Three hr walk around the back roads of Halcombe, on one of the coldest, wettest days in June. Back to the Cobbs farm shed for our mid winter feast, with hot soup and a barbecue. Plenty of yummy food - Thanks Bernard & Ursula.

2nd July - Hemi Matenga Walkway, Waikanae (14 trampers)

Thursday Tramps

19th June - Manawatu Gorge Track



Peter taking a break to enjoy some sun between carrying loads on the recent food carry at the Club Lodge (Food Carry and Mid Winter Feast Trip | 21-22 June 2008).
Photo: Alla Seleznyova

Club Information

Annual Hut Passes

Buy your Annual Hut Pass through DoC. The full price of an Annual Hut Pass is \$90 but is reduced to \$63 with your Federated Mountain Club (FMC) card discount. Jean Garman will provide you with a form to fill in which will be sent off with your cheque and FMC card (if you have one) to DoC Waikanae who will post you an Annual Hut Pass. Note that MTSC family memberships only pay one FMC sub so only one FMC card (and therefore discount) is available per family. Contact Jean at jeanandivan@value.net.nz or phone (06) 354 3536.

Accommodation at the MTSC lodge on Mount Ruapehu

The lodge is close to Iwikau Village, has power, hot showers, and is stocked with food. The lodge phone number is (07) 892 3860. Lodge bookings can be made between 9:30 am and 9:30 pm on any day. Do not call outside of these hours.



Lodge bookings should preferably be made by e-mail (wildeh@clear.net.nz). If for some reason you cannot e-mail then phone. Please note that bookings are not confirmed until the fees are paid. Payment is to be made in advance by personal cheque, bank cheque or cash (but don't send cash through the mail). There is no internet banking for lodge fees. Contact Liz and Hugh Wilde on (06) 356 9450.

	Members	Guests
Adult	\$25	\$38
Secondary School	\$22	\$35
Primary School	\$19	\$30
Pre-school (3-5 yo)	\$10	\$10

Booking and use of the MTSC Transit 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.



Trip leaders and those planning trips should use this effect club asset. Adam Matich is our minibus custodian and he can be contacted at (06) 359 2796.

Club Equipment

We have 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 rips. Easy to use, works well, and is available for hire from the Gear Custodian. Hire cost for members, \$1 per day. Contact the Gear Custodian: Peter Rawlins on (06) 356 7443.

Articles for the newsletter

Send by the **end** of each month to Wei-Hang Chua at mtsc.editor@xtra.co.nz. Please contact me if you'd prefer to receive your newsletter by email only. Send changes of address to the Membership Secretary at P.O. Box 245, Palmerston North or email mtsc.memsec@xtra.co.nz.

Club website | www.mtsc.org.nz

This includes a list of contact details and a club email address. The club webpage is maintained by Howard Nicholson and is kindly hosted by InSPire Net.

People to contact

If you would like to contact the club with general inquiries, please drop a line 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.

MTSC 2008-09 Committee

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