



## The Mahu Whenua Self Certification Checklist

*\*Please read the below guidelines before booking. This is to ensure your group is fit, experienced and able to handle any adverse conditions or situations that may arise.*

*The Mahu Whenua Traverse is a multi-day ski-touring trip that crosses steep and difficult alpine terrain. This traverse requires a high degree of fitness, navigation, hiking and skiing ability. The Traverse is outside of patrolled ski areas and multiple hazards may exist including avalanches, rockfall, weather, temperature and varied surfaces underfoot. Due to the variation of terrain and snow conditions, a significant portion of the traverse may have to be navigated on foot (as opposed to skis). Your group requires the knowledge and experience to negotiate these dangers (or hire a guide to go with you).*

### **Please confirm the group:**

- 1) Has the Avalanche Safety Skills to assess and negotiate this difficult alpine terrain
- 2) All the members have a Transceiver (with spare batteries), probe and shovel and have recently practiced avalanche burial scenarios
- 3) Ice axe and crampons compatible with ski/snowboard boots will be carried
- 4) Has appropriate backcountry experience including having completed an avalanche awareness and snow safety courses
- 5) Has strong off-piste skiing ability
- 6) Has reviewed the navigation details on the Club's website, and has a navigation plan using compass/maps/gps that will be reliable in adverse weather conditions
- 7) Is prepared to spend one or more nights in the open should the weather turn; considering the effects of hypothermia, frostbite and survival skills
- 8) Have a PLB and arranged to use one of the Club's Satellite Messaging devices (2 SOS rescue devices minimum)
- 9) Will review local avalanche advisories and weather forecasts before starting the Traverse
- 10) Have a defined leadership structure that ensures everyone is well prepared for the trip, promotes a good safety culture and good decisions along the way
- 11) Will advise your intentions with a dependable person including an overdue time at which authorities will be alerted
- 12) Before departure, will advise the club's ops manager of a daily plan for the traverse and send a message from the club's satellite messaging device should intentions change whilst on the trip
- 13) Will pack adequate food for the duration of the trip (plus emergency), and clothing, reflective of NZ's winter climate