

PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING AND MOUNTAINEERING CLUB INC.

P.O. BOX 1217, PALMERSTON NORTH

Newsletter - May 1999

*****THIS ISSUE*****

NEWS:

**1999 Snowcraft Course dates, Annual Photo comp details,
and last call for trips on the July-Dec Events Card,
.....aaaaaaaaaand – **SUBS NOW DUE !!!****

TRIP REPORTS:

**Maharahara X-ing, Cattle Creek, SAR Management Course,
Herepai Hut, Deadman's/Rangi**

CLUB NIGHTS

MAY 13	“Down on the Coast”	Harley Betts
MAY 27	Video night + BYO slides	John Phillips & co.
JUNE 3	Committee meeting	Peter Wiles' place
JUNE 10	“Ruahine Spotlight”	Tony Gates
JUNE 24	Annual Photo Competition	Murray Woodcock

Club nights are held for all club members and visitors on the second and last Thursday of each month at the **Society of Friends Hall, 227 College Street, Palmerston North**. All club nights commence at 7:45 pm, winter or summer. The PNTMC Committee meets on the first Thursday of each month.

At the club night: Please sign your name in the visitors book. There is a door fee of 50c which includes supper.

UP AND COMING TRIPS & EVENTS

Trip Grades

Grades of trips can depend on many factors, most especially the weather and state of the track. As a guide, a reasonably proficient trumper would be expected to cover the graded trips in about the following times:

Easy (E): 3-4 hrs

Medium (M): 5-6 hrs

Fit (F): about 8 hrs

Fitness Essential (FE): >8 hrs

(T) refers to technical trips requiring special skills and/or gear.

Beginners should start with Easy Grade trips.

May 13 Thursday trampers
Keith Domett 04 394-5208

**May 13 Club Night: Harley's photo trip
"Down on the coast" Harley Betts**

Harley will be showing images from a number of coastal areas around New Zealand, all collected during short walks taken over the last year or two. Photographing New Zealand's scenery doesn't just involve going to mountains and lakes - some of it can be discovered literally "on the back door step" simply by following side roads out to the coast and walking from there. So come along all you mountaineers and see why you should also be getting some sand between your toes!

May 15-16 Waitomo Caving M
Janet Wilson 329-4722

Leave Friday evening. For those into a bit of a challenge and something different, this is it! No experience needed but a reasonable level of fitness. Staying at the Hamilton Tomo Group hut in Waitomo township, exploring a few caves in the region. Helmets and lamps will be for hire, but bring your own overalls, stout gloves and gumboots! *Note: Bookings closed 7th May.*

May 16 Comet Range F
Peter Wiles 358-6894

Depart 7am. The Comet Range is a small range between the northern extremity of the Ruahine Range and the southern aspect of the Kaweka Range. Access is from a turn-off, off the Napier-Taihape road. On a clear day good views of both these ranges can be gained as well as onto the

Central Plateau. A good waterbottle is recommended, as water may be scarce on the range. (The alternative is a 700 m descent to the Taruarau River - an option if we feel inclined.)

May 20 Thursday trampers
Anne Green 06 394 5208

May 22-23 Kime - Penn Creek F
Dave Grant 357-8269

Depart 6am from Foodtown for the Otaki Gorge road end, then head up through bush via Fields track, onto the tussock tops to Kime hut. Weather permitting we will backtrack slightly and head north along the tops to Maungahuka hut for the night. On Sunday we will come out via Penn Creek hut and the Penn Creek track along the Otaki River. A primo chance to stretch your legs for the weekend. Total distance about 28km (or less if we don't go to Maungahuka!!)

May 23 Tony's Tararua day M
Tony Gates 357-7439

Lets see now . . . the Tararua Ranges look nice and sunny today, so its time to get some mud on the tramping boots, and poke around the valleys of the Wairarapa. This will be a medium day tramp (about 6-8 hours of reasonable tramping, with a decent lunch break), departing PN approx 7am (remember, short days, and we wanna get back to the cars before dark). We will wander up towards the very pleasant beech and podocarp forest of Jumbo and Baldy area from the Holdsworth Lodge road end. A good spot, with views of the tussock tops beyond.

May 27 Thursday trampers
Jill Spenser 329-8738

May 27 Club Night: Videos + BYO Slides

Some of you may have noticed John Phillips wielding a video camera on some club trips in recent years. He will show videos of trips up into the snow in the North Island (Egmont Summit & Sawtooth Ridge) as well as a club trip to Nelson Lakes National Park in Easter 1997. Bring along your slides from recent trips too, for a bit of variety between videos.

May 29-30 Waterfall hut M/F
Warren Wheeler 356-1998

Depart 7.30am. Waterfall Hut is just off the Kawhatau River in the middle of the Ruahine Forest Park and yes, a short walk up the Creek there is a splendid waterfall. We'll be heading up the farm-and-forested western flanks of the Hikurangi Range from the Mangakokeke Road-end, past Purity Hut above the bush-line and turning off at Iron Peg along Hawkes Bay Ridge and down Pinnacle Creek to the beauty 6-bunk hut. Camping by the creek is a clear-night must-do option. Return via a loop to Mangaweka, the highest spot in the park at 1733m with panoramic views of TNP and the impressive visage of Te Atuaoparapara, 1687m. Sounds good because it is!

May 30 Purity - Wooden Peg E/M
Kath Lyttle & Dave Larsen 329-8054

Depart 7-30am. Come along for a day walk up through some nice bush (after the grunt up the farm hill) in the western Ruahines, capped by a lunch break up in the tussock and snow, with great views over to Ruapehu and inland over Waterfall valley. Meet up with Warren's weekend crowd for the walk back down.

June 3 Thursday trampers
Vina Cottam 354-5045

June 3 Committee Night
Peter Wiles' place

Queens Birthday Weekend
June 5-7 Longview Longweekend E/M
Laurence Gatehouse 356-5805

This is a last minute change to the trip card, in lieu of Terry's cancelled Richmond Range w/end. We plan to use Longview Hut as a base and to do trips out from there. The possibilities for trips are legion but what exactly we do will depend on the weather and people's inclinations. Longview is a pleasant fairly modern hut with views east over Hawkes Bay and can be reached by routes of differing length and so can be tailored to your ambition/fitness level.

Long weekend daytrip
Nothing planned but if you have a suggestion and leader contact Terry Crippen 356-3588

June 10 Thursday trampers
Wendy Sedcole-Harper 329-1726

June 10 **Club Night "Ruahine Spotlight"**

Tony Gates

Tony Gates and friends will present a slide show of one of this club's favourite tramping spots, the mighty Ruahine Ranges. There will be some pickies of frequently visited huts and valleys, and plenty of those out-of-the-way scenic gems. For those who have never seen the central gorges of the beautiful Pohangina River (in summer), then now is your chance. Also featured are winter tramping shots of Sawtooth Ridge, the Mokai Patea Range, and Rangi.

June 12 Maharahara variation F
Derek Sharp 326-8178

Depart 8am. A jolly jaunt into Derek's favourite: the Southern Ruahine leatherwood belt (only its along the tracks this time!). Take the usual route from Opawe roadend on the west side, and over Maharahara summit, but veer south to Keretaki Hut, and down Raparapawai Stream to the eastern edge of Ruahine Forest Park. Very picturesque if there is some snow about on the leatherwood tops.

June 13 Field hut / Tabletop E/M
John Phillips 358-1874

Depart 8am. A leisurely day-trip from Otaki Forks up the western part of the 'southern crossing' in the Tararuas. In to view the historic Field Hut and up onto Table Top for lunch and some views. Back down the same route to Otaki Forks.

June 17 Thursday trampers
Brad Owen 358-3467

June 19-20 Rangataua & TNP all
Sue & Lawson Pither 357-3033

A very informal weekend at Sue and Lawson's cottage up at Rangataua, in a great location for choice of activities. Daywalks, half-daywalks, skiing, mountain climbing, you name it! If you are interested, give Sue or Lawson a ring and they will coordinate transport from PN to Rangataua.

June 19-20 Hauhangatahi, TNP M/F
Maree Limpus 025 395 883

Depart 6am (my god this woman's keen). This sounds like something really different. Hauhangatahi is the large flat-topped hill by the highway south of National Park township & lies in a designated wilderness zone within Tongariro NP. Follow the old access track from Erua up the western flank and onto the broad sloping tussock top, with grand views west over the Whanganui River basin to Egmont, and east to Ruapehu. A

camping trip, with the drop back down via an alternative untracked route, navigation-weather permitting.

June 24 Thursday trampers
 Ellie Kidd 329-0832

June 24 **Club Night: ANNUAL PHOTO
& SLIDE COMPETITION**

A club highlight of the year, with plenty of different categories & awards. Our judge for many years, John Cleland, will not be available this year, but local photographer Murray Woodcock may be available on the night – we'll keep you posted.

See article below under "Notices" for details.

356-5805; or Peter Burgess 354-3533) as soon as possible, if there is any doubt that you will be unable to run your trip as scheduled. This is so that alternatives can be arranged, put in the newsletter, or passed on at club night.

Trip participants:

If you are interested in going on a trip, please advise the leader **at least three days** in advance.

Trips often leave from the Foodtown carpark in Fergusson Street unless the leader arranges otherwise.

A charge for transport will be collected on the day of the trip, the amount depending on the distance travelled and vehicles used. Leaders should be able to give an estimate in advance.

For general information on the scheduled or alternative tramps please contact one of the trip co-ordinators Terry Crippen (356-3588), Laurence Gatehouse (356-5805), or Peter Burgess (354-3533).

Trip leaders:

Please discuss with the trips co-ordinator (Terry Crippen 356-3588 or e-mail:
terry_crippen@clear.net.nz; Laurence Gatehouse

***** OVERDUE TRIPS *****

Enquiries to: Mick Leyland (358-3183), Liz Flint (356-7654), or Laurence Gatehouse (356-5805)

NOTICES

ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER

All kinds of articles, whether trip reports, interesting information & anecdotes, book reviews, or even a product review, are welcome for inclusion in this newsletter. If it is a small article, hand-written is okay (deliver to John Phillips at home address: 87 Victoria Avenue) but if handwriting is all you can do, don't let it put you off even large articles.

If you *do* have access to a computer, by far the most convenient way is to e-mail it to me, at my work address. Regular contributors please note that **my work e-mail address has changed** due to the regional council re-branding, and is now:

john.phillips@horizons.govt.nz

This does not mean that the old e-mail address doesn't work – all e-mails to the old address will

be automatically forwarded to the new address for a period of time.

If you are e-mailing scanned photos, still send your scan files to:

postmaster@horizons.govt.nz

where all incoming scan files are processed by a software package and forwarded on to me. **Any photo scan files e-mailed directly to me will be automatically rejected** by the system, so make sure you send them to the 'postmaster' address at my work.

I use Microsoft Word Version 7.0. If you use any other software, give me a ring on 357-9009 (work) or 358-1874 (home) and I may be able to indicate whether it is compatible or not. If in doubt, try sending any files as an ".RTF" (Rich Text Format) file, which can sometimes be easily

converted from one software format to another, or the safest bet is to just cut-and-paste your text directly into your e-mail message.

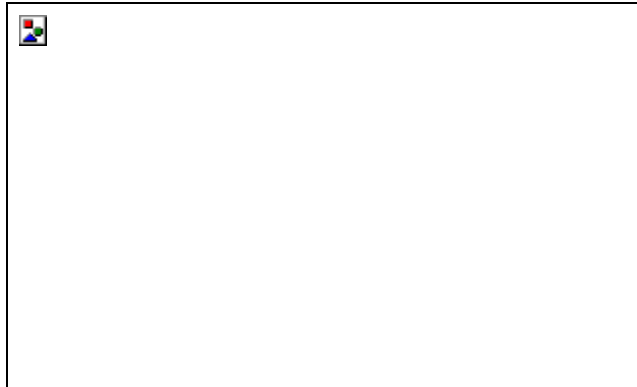
The deadline for anything to go in each month's issue is the FIRST THURSDAY of the month.

FROM THE EDITOR . . .

Well the days are getting shorter, and while it marks the end of yet another summer of memorable tramps for many of us, it also marks the beginning of another new season – and boy-oh-boy am I looking forward to getting up into some snow! There's nothing quite like a couple of early dumpings - like the last few weeks' - to whet the appetite too.

For you fellow winter trampers, it feels a bit like we were robbed last winter – while our more cold-sensitive friends relished a relatively warm winter, it was a bit weird for some of us – like going straight from one summer to the next.

Already some members have been taking advantage of the early snow, and not always for tramping – witness some of the accompanying photos.



Skiing the Ranghi tops [Photo: Tony Gates]

Some encounters were not exactly planned too – Derek Sharp & Co set out on a late summer's 4-day circuit from Makaroro to Ruahine Corner in mid-April and found themselves wading knee-deep through snow by the halfway stage!!! Derek's photo of Ruahine Corner Hut just says it

SUBS NOW DUE!!!

Please send your cheque to PNTMC at PO Box 1217, or pay Peter Wiles, our Treasurer, at club

all. (This photo shows what I was *trying* to imagine while collapsed on the same verandah last January in the blistering afternoon heat!)

For those fairly new to tramping, or not-so-new but always wondered what this tramping-in-snow stuff is all about, I can highly recommend the club's Snowcraft courses (see details elsewhere in this section). These are really excellent value, and the course instructors are our own members who have a wealth of experience between them.

Even if you're not into donning crampons and ice-axe, winter can still be a wonderful time to tramp, whether among snow-laden trees, or via short walks to accessible snow-tops like Ranghi and Sunrise, to name a couple.



*The 'mountain cedar' trail to Ruahine Corner
[Photo: Derek Sharp]*

Please keep the trip reports coming in for the newsletter – they have been a little more scarce of late, as you can tell from this issue. Trip leaders: use your short-lived powers of delegation to appoint a trip report writer at the end of a club trip! Please keep the photos coming in for inclusion too – don't be shy!

And a jolly good winter's tramping to you all.

John Phillips

night. Subs are unchanged at the bargain price of \$30 ordinary and \$35 family.

The NEXT SIX MONTHLY EVENTS CARD

The Events card for July to December of this year is just about finalized. Laurence, Peter and I have had such excellent response (after a little pressure from us of course) that some keen people may have been missed for leading trips. But its not too late. We can do some final fine tuning if you contact us with that real special trip you want to lead ASAP. Likewise if you have some brilliant ideas for club night let Maree know. The Events Card will come out with the June Newsletter.

Trip coordinators are Terry Crippen 3563-588 (email terry_crippen@clear.net.nz), Laurence Gatehouse 356-5805, and Peter Burgess 354-3533. The new club night convenor is Maree Limpus 025 395-883 (home) or 358-9004 (work).

1999 SNOWCRAFT COURSES

The Club will be running three Snowcraft training weekends again this year. SC1 is for Beginners and those wanting confidence for tramping and basic survival in snow conditions; SC2 is Intermediate and includes basic rope work for alpine tramping; SC3 is Advanced and includes more skills for mountaineering.

The three weekends combine into a comprehensive Snowcraft Course with each weekend a prerequisite for the next. SC1 and SC2 will be preceded by Introductory Briefing sessions on the Tuesday night before each weekend.

The weekends will be run similar to club trips to provide an authentic atmosphere. Instructors will team up with 2-3 students for instruction and generally the same groups will prepare their own meals and share other hut chores.

Cost will be \$70-\$140 for each weekend to cover costs for transport, accommodation, food, gear hire, and club instructors.

1999 PNTMC Snowcraft Programme

SC1	31 July-1 August MTSC Ruapehu Lodge, Whakapapa
SC2	14-15 August MTSC Ruapehu Lodge, Whakapapa
SC3	28-29 August Kapuni Lodge, Egmont

27 July SC1 Introductory Briefing at the PN Fire Station, Cook St
10 August SC2 Introduction to Rope work, Climbing Wall, Rec Centre, Massey University.

If these dates do not suit you may like to consider the courses run by NZAC Wellington, or MTSC or MUAC here in PN.

Further information contact Warren Wheeler 356-1998 or Terry Crippen 356-3588

ANNUAL PHOTO COMPETITION

Yes its that time of year again! We've seen glimpses of some real winner photos & slides from club members over the past year, so come along and enjoy them, and bring your own!

The club's annual photo competition will be held at the club night on Thursday, June 24. The usual rules for the competition apply:

- Slides/prints must not have been entered previously
- All entries must be related to tramping, skiing or climbing
- All slides must have a cross on the bottom left-hand corner of the mount for normal viewing (ie. top right-hand corner when loaded into the carousel)
- All slides and photos must be labelled (on back for photos!) with author's name, and entry category chosen from list below. NOTE: Slides and prints not marked prior to judging in the manner outlined here WILL BE REJECTED (sorry but this is essential to facilitate smooth running of the event).
- Limit of 3 slides per person per category, but no limit on prints.

Categories:

1. *Alpine (NZ)*. Predominantly alpine scenery in NZ (ie. above bushline)
 2. *Scenic (NZ)*. Scenes of natural pictorial interest in NZ hills, coasts, etc. (ie. predominantly below the bushline)
 3. *Natural History (NZ)*. NZ flora & fauna, or detail of interest eg. geology, ice formations, etc.
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Ruahine Corner Hut – April 1999

[Photo: Derek Sharp]

4. *Topical (NZ)*. People in tramping, climbing, or skiing related activities in NZ.

5. *Overseas Alpine or Scenic*. Related to tramping, etc. overseas or Scenic

6. *Overseas People*. Climbers or people met while tramping, climbing overseas.

Formats: Slides, black-and-white prints, colour prints. Prints do not need to be mounted. Prints may be judged as one group or separated at the judge's discretion, depending on numbers.

The system for judging winners is a democratic one – a show of hands, after the guiding advice of our guest photographic expert.

THANKS TO JOHN CLELAND

John has been our guest judge for our annual photo competitions for many years now, but is unavailable this year. Many thanks for your years of involvement with the club, John.

We may have Murray Woodcock available in John's place on the night. Murray is an avid young local photographer – he is into tramping, and you may have seen him in Bell's on

Broadway, or seen his work on display recently at the Manawatu Art Gallery.

MSC COURSES

Bushcraft Skills Part 2 (Intermediate) May 29-30. For those who already have a basic knowledge of gear and trip planning, map and compass work. A weekend away and a Sunday afternoon beforehand (May 23rd). Contact Noel Bigwood 357-0116 for registration.

Outdoor First Aid, also May 29-30. Excellent course for learning basic first aid, practical and in tramping/outdoor situations. Contact Dianne Siegenthaler 357-7237 for registration.

FOR SALE

- Goretex Mountain Jacket *North Face*, 2-layer Goretex / Nylon shell. Exc. condition. Medium size.
- Nylon wind parka, alpine sports. Size Medium, good condition.
- Polarfleece jacket, 200 weight, good condition.
- GPS, Garmin GPS 38 Personal Navigator, hardly used. Exc. condition (with idiot book).

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- Fluoro yellow safety raincoat, reflectorized Milair fabric. Totally waterproof and breathable. Ideal for cyclists, size Medium.

No reasonable offer refused on any of the above.
Phone Warren Soufflot on 353-0224 (hm) until 28th May, 358-7056 (wk) after 28th May.

ACCESS TO SEAL COLONY AT TURAKIRAE HEAD (WELLINGTON)

A formal access agreement between DoC, Hutt City Council, and Orongorongo Station has resulted in formal access allowing people to walk

from Wainuiomata Coast Rd carpark across a private bridge and along a signposted route to the reserve. Safe access to the seal colony was temporarily cut by the station owner in 1997 because some people were damaging fences, driving over farmland and harrasing stock.

No dogs, vehicles, motorcycles, bikes or firearms will be permitted on the track. Anybody venturing on to the inland side of the fence will be trespassing.

TRIP REPORTS

MAHARAHARA CROSSING

Sunday, 21st March by Kevin Pearce

Before us was a high, steep, dark green, forested, cloud-capped mountain range, the Southern Ruahines. A daunting sight for the faint hearted - we were going to try to cross to the other side on foot. Could our puny steps get us over? We steeled ourselves, made final adjustments to clothes, packs and boots, and We were startled by the leader suddenly jumping into his car and driving off! It is not common for leaders to abandon their parties, let alone so early in a trip. Was it an omen?

We could only go on, leaderless. An amble over farmland led to the forest edge, a short gentle forest slope, a much steeper one, then more moderate slopes but always up. The cloud dissipated as we climbed and the view westward and northward expanded. Soon we were in the leatherwood and, not long after, at the first summit. The track had just been cleared, save for a short section of ripe hook grass. A small figure manifested itself on the second summit ahead. It was our leader, come to guide us eastward to his relocated car, and to drive us home.

At the end, we were back home where we had started, hungry, a little tired, our gear a little worn but satisfied. Somehow, crossings give greater satisfaction than there-and-back trips.

Those taking part were John Barnett, Caroline Brody, Martin Lawrence and Kevin Pearce.

CATTLE CREEK

28 March by Pauline Coy

I had to do just one more 'Mick's trip' before leaving. I had been into Stanfield many times but not Cattle Creek. The weather was perfect - almost too hot. The track is very overgrown; even the track to Stanfield is now covered in Buddleia. This is not a noxious weed in UK - but looks like it is becoming out of control in NZ. After Stanfield, and in the creek, the grass was head high. We saw the sign to 'the Lost Track' (?) and could just make out the track.

A welcome lunch stop at the hut and then the grunt up to the ridge and back along the tops. Photo stops for pictures of the hut - I'll remember the Ruahines for the splash of forest hut orange in dark green valleys. We stretched out along the tops and, as Rose had hurt her knee coming up the river, Mick stayed behind with her and we arranged to wait at the Cattle Creek sign / junction.

We waited - and waited. Graeme went back to look; didn't return. Marion went back; didn't return. The rest of us went back and called. Mick answered - he was just about 100 yards away. Yes, even the best of us can take a wrong turn when the track is overgrown (he's not going to like me for this!). To cut about 30 minutes out of the story, we eventually all caught up with each other, and in fading light headed down to Stanfield and the carpark. Marion had been due back in PN at 5 pm it was now well after 6 pm.

It was a great day. Mick always manages to plan something different so it was a typical 'Mick's trip' - perhaps not the one he originally planned but one I'll remember. Thanks Mick and for all those other memorable tramps.

The lost tribe were; Graeme, Neil, Duncan, Marion, Rose, Mick and Pauline.

SAR MANAGEMENT COURSE

10 -11 April by Terry Crippen

Following on from the SAREX and the Search Methods training weekend that club members have been on recently, I was the club nominee to attend the regional Search and rescue management course, held in Wanganui. There were club and police personal from Hawkes Bay, Levin, Wanganui and Taranaki as well as PNTMC and MTSC. It was geared towards Search advisors, Field controllers and SAR team leaders.

Lots of new methods: determining the urgency of a possible search, pre-planning for searches, scenario analysis, establishing search areas, search methods (eg confinement, passive search, segmentation), POA's, PODS, ROWs etc. The 300m team - very frequently the lost party is found very close to the last place they were sighted or where last known to be. Lost person behavior - different types of people (children, experienced trampers, young trampers), all react differently when lost - so search methods need to be tailor-made. And much more.

It was run by Emergency Management Ltd. Highly worth while. Some of the techniques can be used at our Overdue trips contact level, and of course by team leaders and team members in SAR's.

HEREPAI HUT

Sunday, 18th April by Neil Campbell

On the Friday and the Saturday NZ was hit with the first blast of winter weather. Fortunately Sunday turned out to be a fine autumn day. We left Palmerston North at 8am and arrived at the Putara road end at about 9.30am. The track is in good condition although fairly muddy in places. We reached the hut by about 11.40am. After a stop for drinks and nibbles we walked further up the track. Once we were beyond the treeline the views were very good although the relatively light wind was pretty cold. Back at the hut we had lunch in the sun. We left the hut and headed back

to the car at about 2pm. We finished the day with an icecream stop at Eketahuna.

We were: Neil Campbell, Liz and Arthur Flint and Carolyn Brodie.

DEADMAN'S / RANGI

April 25 by Pauline Coy

Again great weather. Also good to see lots of new trampers. The 'more leisurely trampers' - Trish, Monica, Theo, Pauline, and 2 dogs took the direct route; the others went then more roundabout way via Deadmans.

We met at Rangi and had a leisurely lunch, with lots of goodies supplied by all. It was lovely to be able to say goodbye to everyone at such a great place and thanks for all the happy times in the hills.

Enjoying the goodies were Llew and Jenny, Trish, Monica, Theo, Fiona, Glyn, Gina, John, Richard, Marion, Mick, a Canadian guy (sorry didn't get your name) and Pauline.

<p>I'm off to Greymouth to work at the hospital - I'll send my address when I can organise some accommodation there but our contact address in Nelson is: 6 Newman Avenue, Brightwater, Nelson, (03) 542 3994. Contact us if you need a bed / floor for the night!</p>
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Club Patron	: Lawson Pither	357-3033
President	: Warren Wheeler	356-1998
Vice President	: Terry Crippen	356-3588
Secretary	: Sarah Todd	326-9265
Treasurer	: Peter Wiles	358-6894
Membership Enquiries	: Liz Flint	356-7654
	: Warren Wheeler	356-1998
Gear Custodian	: Mick Leyland	358-3183
Newsletter Editor	: John Phillips	357-9009 (work)
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e-mail articles to:	john.phillips@horizons.govt.nz	
Trip Co-ordinators	: Terry Crippen	356-3588
	: Laurence Gatehouse	356-5805
	: Peter Burgess	354-3533
