

Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

www.pntmc.org.nz

P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North

Newsletter - October 2007

Club Nights

Club nights are held at 7:45pm on the second and last Thursday of each month at the Society of Friends Hall, 227 College Street. All welcome! Please sign the visitor's book at the door.

11 October

Club Night: Gear Auction.

Time for a spring clean? See Notice on page 3. Any queries, contact Warren Wheeler 356-1998.

16 October (Tuesday) – 7.30pm

Interclub Quiz: hosted this year by MTSC at Manawatu Aero Club, off Airport Drive. Come along and support our team at a fun night out.

18 October

Committee Meeting at Mick's place – 7.30pm.

25 October

Club Night: Out of Africa

Dave Grant

Come along and hear Dave Grant speak about his lengthy trip through various National Parks of Africa where wildlife encounters abound. He and Gaewyn visited Namibia and the Fish River canyon, the Namibia desert (Sosussvlie dunes), Etosha National Park, on to the Okovango Delta, Chobe in Botswana and finally the Victoria Falls in Zambia. These are but a few of their adventures so don't miss this talk and wonderful images out of Africa.

Upcoming Trips

Trip Grading

Trip grades depend on many factors, especially weather and terrain. A reasonably proficient trumper should be expected to do the trips in the following times:

Easy (E): 3-4 hrs
Medium (M): 5-6 hrs
Fit (F): about 8 hrs
Fitness Essential (FE): over 8 hrs
Other grades: Technical skills required (T) & Instructional (I)

Trip participants

Contact the leader at least 3 days in advance. Trips leave from Countdown car park. A charge for transport will be collected on the day. Leaders will give an estimate in advance.

Trip leaders

Please advise a trip coordinator, as soon as possible, if 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.

Overdue Trips

Note to partners, parents or friends of members:

If a club trip is late returning, please do not worry unduly as there is probably a good reason for the delay. If you are in any doubt, please phone one of the Overdue Trip Contacts or Trip Coordinators:

Mick Leyland	358-3183	Terry Crippen	356-3588
Janet Wilson	329-4722	Warren Wheeler	356-1998

6-7 October

Tongariro Xing-Ngauruhoe M
Tim Kannegieter 353-1965

We plan to depart PN 9.00 AM Saturday, an easy walk somewhere on the way, then stay at Mangatepopo Hut for the night. Sunday will allow us an early departure for a Tongariro Crossing, to Ketetahi. There could be a little snow left.

7 October

Sledge Track extended M
Barry & Christine Scott 354-0510
(combo trip with MTSC)

This is a nice close trip to town, to the head of the Kahuterewa Valley. We will probably just be doing the short Toitoti loop, but others are welcome to do the longer loop onto South Range Road and along the ridge looking down into the Wairarapa. (Estimated time 7 hours). Highlights of the trip will be mine shafts, views over both the Manawatu and Wairarapa, tussock flats and native bush. We will leave the Police Station at 7.30am.

13-14 October

Leon Kinvig M
Craig Allerby 323-7913

We plan to leave Countdown carpark at 8.00 AM, and tramp up Knights Track, over the Ngamoko Range, then drop down to the Pohangina Valley, staying at the riverside Leon Kinvig Hut. Return the same way.

14 October
Manawatu Gorge track E
Trevor King 325-8874

A classic local trail, with a new lookout in the middle, and a great café at the Woodville end. The mud should have dried out a little by now (yeah, right!).

Labour Weekend Nelson Lakes
19-23 October
Climbing M/F, T
Terry Crippen 356-3588

This trip is now fully booked, but if you want to put your name forward as a reserve then contact Terry.

20-22 October
Lake Angelus M
Tim Kannegieter 353-1965

Lake Angelus Hut rests on the shores of Lake Angelus. Lake Angelus, at 1610 metres, is perched high on the ranges between Lakes Rotoiti and Rotorua in Nelson Lakes National Park. Walking along Lake Rotoiti on either Lakehead or Lakeside Track combined with Cascade Track. Heading off either Thursday or Friday of the October long weekend, depending on the group. Need to book early as we have to book ferry, transport, accommodation. Contact Tim.

22 October (Monday)
Ohau Valley shelter site E
Duncan Hedderley 354-6905

Meet 8.00 at Countdown for a walk in the hills behind Levin and below Waiopahu. A good spot.

27-28 October
Whangaehu Hut M
Tony Gates 357-7439

This is a NZAC hut overlooking the Desert Road set in a great location for activities on Mt Ruapehu, be they tramping, climbing, skiing, or just relaxing in the hut. Crampons etc required. Depart Saturday morning, early.

28 October
Field Hut E/M
Neil Campbell 359-5048

We depart at 8am from Countdown car park and drive to Otaki Forks in the Western Tararuas. From there, we walk up through attractive Tararua forest to the historic Field Hut. If the weather is nice we will go a bit higher than the hut for excellent views from the tussock tops.

3 November (Sat)
Sunrise Hut M
John Feeney 354-2940

Leaving 7.30 AM, this trip will go to the popular Sunrise Hut, and hopefully up and over Te Atua O Parapara, then Waipawa Saddle if weather and trip members allow.

3-4 November
Te Matawai Hut M/F
Janet Wilson 329-4722

The plan is to leave PN at 7.30am for the Poads Rd end near Levin. We will either go in via the river and Yeates Track if conditions allow, or up the hill via the Gable End Ridge Track and Butcher Saddle. Once at the hut, there is the option of carrying on up to Pukematawai for some really good views, before heading back down to the hut for the night. Come out Sunday via the same route options.

Notices

Temporary change of editor

This newsletter was edited by Tony Gates – thanks Tony. Anne will be back to edit next month's newsletter.

Articles for the newsletter

Send by the 20th of each month to Anne at dahlia44@xtra.co.nz or to 44 Dahlia St, Palmerston North.

CORRECTION – MEMBERSHIP LIST

The club membership list should continue to include Harley Betts, 06 326 9447.

Apologies for this omission.

The Next Trip Card

For the period January- June 2008, is currently being planned. Janet Wilson or Terry Crippen will be looking for leaders and trip ideas soon. If you have any suggestions, or a trip you want to lead, then get in early and give them a call.

Interclub Photo Competition Results

Here are the results from the Inter-Club Photo Competition, hosted by MTSC on 18 September 2007. The images were judged by Harley Betts; who gave a brief critique of each image to provide positive suggestions on possible improvements to aim for in future. You can find examples of Harley's own work at www.harleybetts.com.

<i>Category</i>	<i>Rank</i>	<i>Club</i>	<i>Photographer</i>	<i>Image</i>
Alpine	1 st	MUAC	Romeric Vincent	"Geoff"
	2 nd	MTSC	Adam Matich	Tahurangi, Mt Ruapehu
	3 rd	PNTMC	Terry Crippen	White Valley, Arthur's Pass National Park
Scenic	1 st	MTSC	Adam Matich	Poutaki Hut, Whakarara Range (Hawkes Bay)
	2 nd	MTSC	Richard Lander	Stream, Milford Track (Fiordland)
	3 rd	MUAC	Leith Williams	Beach, Abel Tasman National Park
Natural History	1 st	MUAC	Andrew Thomas	Karearea (NZ Falcon)
	2 nd	MTSC	Jean Garman	Baby hare, near Arete
	3 rd	PNTMC	Martin Lawrence	Fungi
Topical	1 st	MTSC	Jean Garman	A resting Brian (Brian Webster)
	2 nd	MTSC	Jean Garman	Kirwans Hut, Westland
	3 rd	MUAC	Andy Gifford	"Hello Train...", Manawatu Gorge
Overseas/Open	1 st	MUAC	Jackson Wong	"Glacial Lagoon"
	2 nd	PNTMC	Bruce van Brunt	Hidden Garden (South Korea)
	3 rd	MTSC	Richard Lander	Reed Flute Cave (China)

Andrew Thomas's pic of a Karearea (NZ falcon) also won the best overall picture, as judged by those present on the night. He won a gas stove head, courtesy of Bivouac (Fergusson Street, Palmerston North).

Thanks to MTSC for hosting this years competition and congratulations to the winners.

PNTMC Gear Action

It is time to clear out the closets and garage and prepare for the PNTMC gear auction. For those intending to put items up for auction we have the following rules:

- The proceeds from items that sell for less than **\$5** will be regarded as donations to the club.
- The club will charge **\$2** for items that sell between \$5 and \$10.
- The club will collect a **15%** commission for items that sell for over \$10.

Please show up at **7.30pm** on the club night so that the auctioneer can list the items and note the reserve. For those intending to buy: Bring lots of money and leave extra space in the car to take home the tent, boots, and ice axes you never knew you needed. This is a great way to raise funds for the club and lose/acquire gear.

Trip Reports

Pohangina Walkways 22 July 2007 by Janet Wilson.

On a Sunday morning in July, a cheerful group gathered at Janet and Graham's house at Pohangina. Here we arranged the transport and drove up the valley to the Fern Walk. We enjoyed the pleasant 2 hour walk out of the wind in the bush, and did some botanising with Craig's help. The track has some nice view points and we had morning tea at one of these.

We drove to the picnic area near Camp Rangī Woods where we had a quick, cold lunch break. Then it was back to the Old Coach Road walk, which is another loop of about 1 - 1 1/2 hours. The track follows the river bank for part of it and alot of fresh erosion was evident. A flood had recently been through parts of the walk and the new silt was soft and slippery.

After that, it was back to the house to sit by the fire, and enjoy carrot cake (thanks Anja) and chocolate brownie.

We were Richard Lockett, Craig Allerby, Anja Scholz, Fay Butts, Graham Peters and Janet Wilson.

Snowcraft 3 17- 19 August 2007
by Mathew Penn.

With some old and some new we headed east this time to taste the Taranaki delight – Egmont. The forecast for the weekend was mixed, but we were anticipating good weather for a decent play on Sunday. We stopped in Wanganui for dinner – fish and chips for all. We figured we must be onto a good thing as this had to be one of the busiest takeaway shops in Wanganui on a Friday night. Plenty of locals, and a queue waiting to place their orders meant sitting outside in the cold – plenty of practice for the mountain!

This trip was different than previous snow craft courses. Our first stop was to Konini Lodge where we would bunk the night at 1,400m and make an early morning ascent to The Egmont Alpine Club's Kapuni Lodge. The Konini Lodge is certainly a great facility, with lots of space and easily within reach of much that Egmont has to offer. On top of this, you park your car at the lodge and walk in the front door! After a prep session on the weekend weather, avalanche risk and route plan that saw us pouring over meteorological maps we bedded down for the night.

The weather for our early morning start was encouraging and we headed off mildly pessimistic that we would get some reasonable weather. The climb up brought mixed weather however as we stopped at the Hilary Step memorial. A pretty good idea of the weather for the weekend. Our early morning start saw us at Kapuni before 9am with very little snow around. We organized the equipment we would need on the mountain after setting ourselves up in the lodge, and headed on up the mountain in search of snow.

The weather forecast for Saturday was pretty much on the mark – ordinary! The slope we were working on was nice and clear, with only the odd piece of loose rock to watch for. The run off was long and was certainly a change from what we were used to on Ruapehu, but it also meant that we were able to put in a number of full length pitches for practice. The weather conditions held, but it was pretty wet. However, we were all pretty busy testing out our skills on some long steep slopes and managing to stay reasonably warm, so it was decided to put lunch back and carry on while the weather was amenable. This meant that we were able to put in another hour or so on the slopes before heading back down to the hut.

There was no luxurious drying room as in the MTSC lodge on Ruapehu, but there was a big entrance area for all our wet gear, and a lovely big solid fuel fire which we put to good use. We soon had a roaring fire going to sit down in front of for lunch, and a big pot of tea on the boil on the gas hobs. Our early start meant that we had already achieved a lot for the day and it was still early.

With such a nice warm environment we were able to spend some time testing our prussiking cord and climbing the rope inside the lodge, as well as escaping the system. Both seemed to be popular, with many eyeing the climbing rope while working out how to escape the system. Terry then set a task for us to plan a trip from conception to reality to the alps. This proved highly entertaining and was surprising how much time was spent on seemingly small pieces of the puzzle before it seemed in no time at all it was time to prepare dinner. After our main meal it was time to bed down as we had another early start in the morning for our final day.

This saw us head out again to practice more anchor techniques and setting pitch on pitch up the mountain. We certainly did improve, but it's deceiving how much a 50m rope weighs after it's been dragged across snow in the rain! Conditions had changed somewhat and we now put on crampons to cope with the change. After many pitches, Terry called us all back together to tell us to un-rope and pack our climbing gear to head on up Egmont. This seemed quite odd after spending so much time roped up to be climbing 'free-style' on the same slopes.

As we headed higher visibility closed in so much we were pleased to still be able to see our feet! However we did arrive at our destination at about 2,000m to Syme Hut to be greeted by snow and ice and more snow! Shin was really pleased as this meant that we got to use the snow shovels that we had carried around for 6 weeks to dig out the door – we were standing at about the height of the door handle! Yes there is a hut in the photo, but not much of it to be seen under the snow and ice; it was a good opportunity to see sastrugi though.

Inside the hut was a good spot for lunch even though there was no view out the windows. We were joined by one hardy member of the Egmont Alpine Club (who had just come up for a walk) for lunch who had a thermometer on his GPS and could tell us it was now 0°C with all us in the hut to warm it up! It was much colder than that outside... Not your typical back country hut, our local also told us he had arrived at the hut recently to find the window blown in by the ice, and snow and ice covering the floor of the hut! After lunch we headed back down to Kapuni lodge to pack up for our trip home.

Thankfully the trip down isn't as long as the one up, and this had us back in the car park in good time. After finding the busiest fish and chip shop in Wanganui on Friday night we found the busiest ethnic takeaway in Wanganui on Sunday night at Doner Kebab!



Snowcraft on Taranaki (photo Mathew Penn)

A great weekend had by all and some great skills learned as a bonus. Lots of thanks to our experienced instructors – see you on the mountain.

Matthew Penn, Terry Crippen, Andrew Lynch, Mike Archer, Shintaro (Shin) Fukuhara, Murray Gifford, Matthew Penn, Yuki Sakai, Chris Tuffley

Howletts Hut 25-26 August 2007 **By Murray Gifford.**

Day1: We were up early for a 6.00am start. The weather looked promising, the forecast for a high, clear blue skies over the Hawkes Bay, but cloud on the Ranges. Kashmir Rd was long and winding, thru marginal farming land and lots of regenerating bush areas. Finally at Kashmir Farm Tony nosed the car into an overgrown parking area, site of old the forestry camp. We were about 2 or 3 km north of the DOC entry to the park. Tony guided us up over farmland for the first 20, thru the Moorcock stream, then into “Taranua tears” country, up 300m thru steep farmland, the morning sun reigning down on us, the packs at full weight, hot and sweaty. Finally at about 850m the farmland gave way to bush, the track levelled and we sidled down to a tributary of the Tukituki River. A good spot to take on some water, refresh a bit and Tony said Midge's sidle track next. (Never did find out at who Midge was). The alternative route cuts about an 1hr off the track in and climbs about 150m vertical height lower than the DOC track. 20mins sidle brought us to the main track on the ridge and another 20 steep down into the Tuikuki. Markers for the track washed away and lying in the riverbed, lots of gravel at the junction. Time for a photo, and view up the valleys.

Into the gorge we headed with a dozen cold river crossings and finally into another junction and Daphne hut, nestled just out of the sun on the true left of the North Branch. Tony made a brew, bite to eat and relax in the sun. Back across the river, dried out the socks and up into the bush on the Daphne spur. A solid 2 hrs up, 800m vertical climb, steep at first, but more gentle in the middle, very pleasant. Finally with the wind whistling in the stunted trees, we donned parkas and mitts and left the bush into typical Ruahine sub alpine territory. The ground hard and frozen, the wind strong and buffeting, upwards thru a couple of basins. Tony stopped to collect dead leatherwood for the fire and we all packed it up to the hut. Onto the ridge above the hut, the tops were shrouded in cloud, snowline at about hut level, the winds strong, still glorious out in the Bay. Onto to Howletts Hut at 1360m about 2.00pm, a welcome brew, lit the fire, put on the cast iron pot and decided to wait and see if the later afternoon would see any clearance for a trip up onto Tiraha. The weather deteriorated and we spent the afternoon in sleeping bags reading all of Tony's hut literature and keeping warm.

Day 2: Sunday was no improvement, the wind's stronger, not a view to be had on the tops, decision to avoid Sawtooth, home via the tops and Longview. We kitted up and headed out, the winds blowing us off our feet on the ridge, the clouds still covering most of the tops, so a further decision to just head back down. Down, down, back to Daphne, basked in the easterly clear skies and sun, so a wander up the riverbed for

Ruth, check out the hunting spots and relax for Tony and I. Out came the cameras. Almost felt like summer in the floor of the valley. Tony and Ruth were keen to go out via the Tukituki river, but this meant a 7 km walk back along the road at the end, so I volunteered to go back to the car and collect them from the Mill road end. I decided to see the DOC route out, climbed back up to 1000m, but still in the bush, so only an odd glimpse of the views and the tops. Finally to the junction, well marked, Longview 45min south, carpark 1.5hrs. The track is a long way down, half in regenerating bush with wide views up to Moorcock saddle. Pleased I was going down, not up. I understand why Tony was keen to use the shorter route in. Back at Moorcocks stream I found an old farm access track on the true left and avoided the 3 km road back to the car, rejoining the track in and final bit of farm land to the car. Tony and Ruth had made good time down the Tukituki and were waiting for a ride.

We were Tony Gates, leader (by the way, I have a 3kg cast iron kettle to go Howletts, can you please carry it Murray) Ruth Garland (MUAC and hunter), and Murray Gifford (sherpa with the pot).

Manawatu Gorge Track 26 August 2007
Leader/writer: Fiona Donald.

It was a wet, windy and cold morning when the leader set off to the Countdown carpark - far too early - and there I waited and waited until everyone had arrived at a leisurely time of 8.15 am. After some discussion and with some weighing up the pros and cons of going from the Palmerston North or Ballance end - we decided to walk from the Ballance end of the Gorge to Palmerston North. Trevor, David and Fay met me at the Palmerston North end where we all proceeded in David and Fay's car to Ballance. As we drove through the Gorge I noticed that there was a large grey bank of cloud with hardly a pinprick of blue sky in sight and Trevor proceeded to talk to us all about some items he was attempting to find in Fiji and might be put into a museum.

When we got to the start of the track we all had a quick read of the Board then proceeded onwards. It turned out that as we came to a turn-off to Klein Track and Windy Lookout that David had been down these tracks and no-one else seemed interested in going down them. The highlight was the new lookout platform at the half way mark! We stood there (it was very windy and cold) the three free models so that Trevor could photograph us and finish his film. We returned to the main track for an extended morning tea with hot chocolate and mallowpuffs and savouries provided by the leader. We met a couple of other trampers including Margaret Riordan and had a quick chat. Well fortified, we pushed on, at a leisurely pace, so that we all had time to appreciate good conversations and to finally emerge into the carpark

in blue sky and warm temperatures. We were David and Fay Butts, Trevor King and Fiona Donald.



On the new lookout, Manawatu Gorge Track.

Whangaehu Hut 1-2 September
By Chris TuffleyDid I mention the wind?

A message from Rachel and Mike, already up at Tukino-confirmed the forecast of high winds before Terry, Malcolm, Murray and I had even reached Waiouru. "It's windy as blankity," reported Terry. "Oh well, we're going anyway." 3pm in Waiouru felt a little early for dinner, but we weren't sure what time we'd make it to the hut, and an early dinner cooked for us sounded better than preparing a late one after a hard walk. Ditto changing in Waiouru, rather than up at the ski field. So on went thermals, jackets, boots and gaiters before we all piled back into the car. The Tukino road was clear of snow, and in short order we were experiencing the wind ourselves, being buffeted back and forth as we set off to Whangaehu.

For all that the walk went fairly quickly, and we joined Rachel and Mike at the hut just as darkness fell. The wind was roaring round the hut, so we didn't bother making plans or setting alarms for the morning.



Mike, Murray, Malcolm, Rachael, Chris; on the Summit Plateau of Ruapehu (photo Terry Crippen)

After a restless night, I think we all slept poorly. I woke to a square of red sunshine on the wall, and sat up to admire the sunrise. As the sun rose, the wind

lessened, and, breakfasted, we decided we ought to go out for a walk. The four of us from Palmerston North headed out ahead of Rachel and Mike, and wandered up the Whangaehu glacier.

The East Gully of Mathiao looked inviting, but we soon found it was too windy even for that and quickly retreated. Sidling round below Mathaio we found a relatively sheltered spot for a bit of lunch, then headed on up to the Summit Plateau.

Snaking ghosts of spindrift added another dimension of beauty to the great white amphitheatre-like expanse, but it was a scene best admired with your back to the wind, to spare your cheeks the frequent blasts of flying ice.

We continued on to give me my first view of Crater Lake, then chose Dome and Dome Shelter as the highest point of our meander, the wind having forced us to retreat from Pyramid. The view from the top of Dome was fantastic: aside from the gusting wind it was a beautiful sunny day, and the white cone of Ngauruhoe was visible beyond the northern peaks of Ruapehu.

Dropping back down off Dome, we met Rachel and Mike briefly at the top of the Whangaehu glacier, then continued on down to the hut, at last walking with our backs to the wind. After dinner, the roar of the wind outside somehow managed to crank itself up a notch, and the hut shook with the gusts.

With the hut perched on top of a bluff, and a trip to the loo requiring crampons as it was, we decided that perhaps we'd better all try to hold on for the night. We passed some time reading the hut's old Reader's Digests, until it was finally late enough that we could respectably turn in, then settled down for another restless night.

Mercifully, the wind lessened with sunrise again, relieving our fears we wouldn't be able to walk out. It was still too windy for climbing though, so we decided to just head home. Venturing out, Terry got the outer door open after clearing the spindrift in the boot room only to discover a half inch thick sheet of ice still blocking the way, that had to be cleared with an iceaxe!

We packed up, paid a quick visit to some students who'd built themselves a spacious snowcave at the base of the bluffs, then followed the poles back out to Tukino and the road home.

We were Mike Courtney, Terry Crippen, Murray Gifford, Malcolm Leary, Rachel Schmidt, and Chris Tuffley

Tunupo 16 September **by Craig Allerby**

Christine arrived at our agreed departure time of 8am and we set off to the Western Ruahines with the day looking promising. We arrived at the carpark at around 9am and with Tunupo, Toka and the rest of the Ngamoko Range looking nice and clear. We headed off into the wilderness.

It was great to have the warm spring sun shining down on us and wasn't long before we reached the track turnoff to Tunupo. With the track climbing up then flattening out many times we made good steady progress. Listening to Christine talk about her interesting trip to the USA most recently we didn't notice the weather sneaking up on us, and before long it started to rain.

We met a couple of hunters coming down who had spent a good night camping just off the top of Tunupo. As we got closer to the top the wind picked up and had a bit of a bite to it, so we dropped off the ridge and put on another layer of clothing.

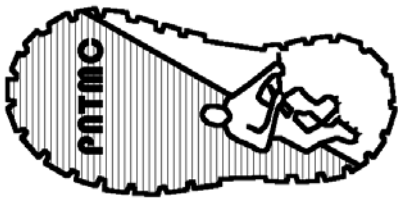
Onward and upward along a narrowing ridge with a steep dropoff to the southeast we reached the top of Tunupo at just after 12pm. We dropped off down the side for a more sheltered spot for lunch. The rain had stopped and we began to get hopeful the sun would appear but unfortunately it did not!

So we headed off back down, slipping over several times each with a very wet and greasy track to contend with. Descending back down into the forest the weather was improving and when we finally got down and popped out onto the track to Heritage Lodge the sun was shining again!

With a quick detour to the new Heritage Lodge for a look we sat down on the spacious verandah and soaked up some sun for a while. Time to head back to the carpark and as we reached the farmland oh no! - the rain was back again. Still a great day out!

We were Christine Cheyne and Craig Allerby

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www.pntmc.org.nz

PNTMC Roles 2007

Club Patron	Lawson Pither	357 3033
President	Warren Wheeler	356 1998
Vice President	Terry Crippen	356 3588
Secretary	Anja Scholz	356 6454
Treasurer	Martin Lawrence	357 1695
Webmaster	Peter Wiles	558 6894
Membership Enquires	Warren Wheeler	356 1998
	Anja Scholz	356 6454
Gear Custodian	Mick Leyland	358 3183
Newsletter Editor	Anne Lawrence	357 1695
Trip Co-ordinators	Janet Wilson	329 4722
	Terry Crippen	356 3588
	Warren Wheeler	356 1998
Snowcraft Programme	Terry Crippen	356 3588
Club Night Convenor	Penny Abercrombie	358 7007

For electronic links, go to www.pntmc.org.nz