

Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

www.pntmc.org.nz

P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North

Newsletter July 2015



Bright sun at Kapakapanui Hut

[Craig Allerby]

Club Nights

All are welcome to our club nights. These are held at 7:45pm on the second and last Thursday of each month at the Society of Friends Hall, 227 College Street, Palmerston North.

9 July

Wet and Wild Westland

Jean Garman

Just before Easter this year Ivan and Jean spent 9 days down on the West Coast exploring the area in behind Hokitika. This fascinating area has a real feeling of wilderness and the comfort of a hut for the night, while some well-placed bridges are a real advantage. More trips are planned already.

30 July

Ball Pass and Beyond – Getting Out with MS

Nicholas Allen

In August last year, Nick did a winter crossing of the Ball Pass. Having been diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis and reliant on a mobility scooter only four years earlier, this climb represented a pivotal moment, spawning a dream and helping to realise what was possible.

Upcoming Trips

4 July (Saturday)

Coppermine Creek E

Terry Crippen 356-3588 or 027 643 3637

8am start. An enjoyable and interesting walk up the old Coppermine bridle track to the rerouted track along the stream to the Magazine tunnel, then up to the old mine site itself.

5 July

Beach Walk E

Tina Bishop 06 363-5660 or 0274 803 342

Avoid the summer crowds with a winter walk at Foxton Beach, starting with the pine trails behind the dunes to the north of the township, then south along the beach to do some bird spotting at the estuary. Depart late (around 9.00am) from PN.

11-12 July

Mid Winter Celebrations All

Warren Wheeler 356-1998

The venue this year is Janet and Graham's shed, which is about the same elevation as Waiouru so there may be snow around – an ideal opportunity to try out your alpine tent if you wish to camp outside. You can also camp warm inside, although mattresses are limited. Dinner will be a BYO BBQ and our theme is "Bush Shirts and Gumboots". For entertainment we will have a Gumboot Throwing Competition. Come for all or part of the weekend – there are plenty of day trip options to suit your enthusiasm and fitness e.g. Tunupo peak, Iron Gates Gorge and stoat line checking.

15 July (Wed)

Snowcraft 1 evening for participants

Registrations close 9 July. See Notices.

18 or 19 July

Snowcraft 1 I

Terry Crippen 356-3588 or 027 643 3637

Registrations due 9 July. See Notices for details.

18-19 July

Cattle Creek Hut M

Graham Peters 329-4722

Departing PN 7.30. A classic Ruahine winter tramp at relatively low altitude. Walk in via Holmes Ridge, the Tamaki River and Stanfield Hut. Out down the river so expect wet feet both days.

19 July

Rangi E/Family

Doug Strachan 353-6526

This is arguably the best day walk in our area and will hopefully have lots of snow to play in at the hut, if not on the track up as well, with wide views to snow clad Mt Ruapuhu over lunch.

25-26 July

Climbing F/T

Grant Christian 354-5843

Walk to the summit plateau on Whakapapa side and climb the slopes under Tukino & Te Heuheu. Plans may alter depending on weather and snow conditions.

26 July

Branch Road Walkway E

Janet Wilson 329-4722

An easy local walk on a winters day. Good views of the Ruahines, Depart my home at Pohangina 8.30. Back for a late lunch followed by a short visit to our newest local walkway.

29 July (Wed)

Snowcraft 2 evening for participants

See Notices.

1 or 2 August

Snowcraft 2 I

Terry Crippen 356-3588 or 027 643 3637

See Notices.

1-2 August

Neill Forks M/F

Chris Tuffley 359-2530

A nice upgraded Forest Service hut to visit in the middle of the Tararuas. We go in via Holdsworth road end, Totara Flats and the magnificent forest along Cone Ridge.

2 August

Te Mari Crater M

Warren Wheeler 356-1998

Depart 6.30am. Te Maari Crater erupted in 2012 and damaged the Ketetahi Hut. Activity has now settled down enough for us to see what it looks like.

Trip Grading

Trip grades depend on many factors, especially weather and terrain. A reasonably proficient trumper should expect 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 (T)	
Instructional (I)	

Trip participants

Contact the leader at least 3 days in advance. Trips leave from Milverton Park. A charge for transport will be collected on the day.

Gear for trips

Minimum gear for day trips is appropriate footwear, pack, lunch and snacks, waterproof jacket, overtrousers, gloves, warm hat, torch, toilet paper, matches or a lighter, sunblock, first aid kit, and a survival bag or space blanket. Each person needs to be equipped to survive overnight.

Personal Locator Beacons – Free for trips

The club has purchased two PLBs for members' use. If you want to take one of these on a trip, contact Martin or Anne Lawrence on 357-1695. Note that this applies to any trip you are going on - it doesn't need to be a club trip.

Trip leaders

Complete the trip intentions form and leave with one of Overdue Trip Contacts or drop into 44 Dahlia St or email to pntmctrips@gmail.com with the date and trip name in the subject line. If you are unable to run your trip as scheduled, advise a trip coordinator as soon as possible so that alternatives can be arranged.

Overdue Trips

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:

Janet Wilson	329-4722
Martin and Anne Lawrence	357-1695
Malcolm Parker	357-5203

Articles for the newsletter

Send by the 20th of each month to Warren Wheeler, the newsletter editor, direct or via our web site <http://www.pntmc.org.nz/mail/>

Notices

PNTMC 50th Anniversary 2015

Plans are under way to celebrate the club's 50th anniversary and Camp Rangī Woods at Totara Reserve has already been booked for the last weekend of November 2015.

A Jubilee book is also being prepared as a record of events and activities over the years.

If you have any ideas or are interested in assisting then please contact Dave Grant who is heading the organising sub-committee of Terry Crippen, Peter Darragh, Doug Strachan and Martin Lawrence (Treasurer).

We would like to invite past members to join in the celebrations so if you know of anyone please let them know or give Terry their contact details.



PNTMC's Snowcraft Programme starts in July. It has two aims; to equip people with the necessary skills for safe tramping in snow; and to pass on the fundamental skills of mountaineering. It will be running as day trips to Mt Ruapehu with an evening session mid-week prior to each day trip.

15 July Wed evening

SC1 Intro and briefing

18 or 19 July SC1 Mt Ruapehu

29 July Wed evening

SC2 Briefing & intro to rope work

1 or 2 August SC2 Mt Ruapehu

12 August Wed evening

SC3 Briefing & rope work

15 or 16 August SC3 Mt Ruapehu

The fees for each of SC1, SC2, SC3 are: \$50 if PNTMC member, or \$60 if non-member. These cover weeknight venues, day transport, group gear hire, and instruction. Individual gear hire, if needed, is an additional cost for non PNTMC members. Pass the word round to friends you may think are interested.

Applications (returned application form and fee) close **Thursday 9 July**. Application forms are now available on the Snowcraft link at: www.pntmc.org.nz or on the noticeboard at Club night. For more info contact: Terry Crippen 356-3588 or 027 643 3637; or Bruce van Brunt 328-4761.

Avalanche Awareness Courses are also being run by Hillary Outdoor, with one suitable for climbers likely on the weekend between SC1 and SC2 (25-26 July).

Tararua Hut Bagging

Following the success of our previous Ruahine hut bagging and peak bagging competitions, PNTMC is running a new hut bagging competition focused on the Tararuas.

The challenge started on 1 July 2014 and will run over the 12 months until 30 June 2015.

3 points per visit to Tararua hut, bivvy, shelter, Holdsworth Lodge etc – as long as they are on DOC website. **Only 1 point for 2nd and 3rd visits, not 3 points.**

1 extra point if the visit is on a club trip.

1 extra point if you stay the night. (One hut only per night) Camping outside crowded huts counts.

1 extra point for a first visit.

All other DOC huts in the country - 1 point per visit (no extra points)

All huts maximum of 3 visits to count for points.

Please take photos to record the visit, as well as for producing a new poster. As our Ruahine hut bagging poster was a huge success, the club would like to produce a similar one for the Tararuas.

Hut bags, email to jwilson@inspire.net.nz.
Hut images, martin.lawrence.nz@gmail.com

Progress Update from Janet

Final scores will be tallied up when the competition ends on 30 June. A lot of late

entries are still to be added so there is no update this month, except that it is very close for 3rd, with Graham Peters on 107 points and Woody Lee on 105.

Remember to send hut photos to Martin.

Trip Reports

17 May

Hardings Park Circuit Peter Wiles

A full car left Milverton for the short journey up the Kahuterawa Valley. We had a brisk walk up the stream under overcast skies. Then came some harder work up the hill and at the junction at the top we turned right to head along the Toe Toe Loop Track. When we poked our heads out onto the Toe Toe Clearing there was drizzle in the air, so we retreated a few metres into the bush for our morning tea and a rest.

Once mobile again, the drizzle had eased and the sky was a bit clearer but it was obvious that there was a strong wind from the east along the skyline ridge beyond. We decided to take the direct route to the Platinum Mines rather than the longer H2 route to the top and down the park boundary road. When we arrived at the Red Rocks vantage point it was a bit early for lunch so we set off again to check out the mine shafts. We were back at the rock by midday to soak up some nourishing sun and take in a most pleasant view to add to our well-earned lunch.

After lunch we headed back down the track back to the car and the short drive into town.

Party: Kathy, Brendon, Quang and Peter.



Stinkhorn fungi lurking beside track

6 June
Rangi Hut
Peter Wiles

The land owner would not give permission for us to visit Purity Hut (closed for lambing). Never mind, we headed back to Rangi instead. We had a brisk walk up to the hut in mist with some light drizzle. There was minimal view at the hut and no snow. Fortunately, the hut was still warm from the remnants of the fire left by a recently departing party. It was a bit late for morning tea and a bit early for lunch. So we settled for brunch, put an entry in the logbook and wandered back down (still in mist and drizzle).

Peter and Quang.

24 May
Kapakapanui
Raj Palanisamy

It was a beautiful fresh morning and the surroundings were gleaming in the sunlight as it had rained in the previous night. A group of seven of us were heading towards Kapakapanui peak on Sunday the 24th of May. Our team leader was Craig Allerby. We were all gathered at Milverton park at 7.30 sharp and started our journey in two cars. By the time we reached the Ngatiwa Road it was around 9 am. That car park was a beautiful spot among few residential farm houses filled with birdlife, in fact at a glance we have seen rosella with beautiful red and green feathers, tui singing and a flight of magnificent wood pigeon. We all dressed up for the trip and started our tramp. Within 10 minutes we came across the Ngatiwa River. Janet was justified in saying that she was always little hesitant to come to this track as we had to dip our foot in the water at the beginning and we carry on the rest of the trip with wet socks. So we did, not one time but 3 times so we were all completely drenched below the knee, but it was fun and we proceeded.

It was a steep climb all the way up but we were fast and proved the time estimate on the sign board was wrong. Despite the brisk climb with occasional appreciation of our beautiful surroundings we were chatting away about all different topics.

Christine being a veterinary surgeon we discussed science on the way and learnt the similarities between animal and plant metabolism. She was also telling us about the

harsh life in the Canadian province of Quebec where she comes from; how it goes -30°C most of the times in the winter and the associated "winter blues" and in summer it reaches 40°C, and how they cope with shifting seasons to their extremes.

Brendon being a would-be traveller was keen on learning things about his travel towards Southeast Asia and his ambition about his further travel in future.

We also clearly noticed nature's ecological markings changing the tree species as they start from kamahi acting as a pioneer species which is eventually succeeded by the silver beech (*Nothofagus*). Amazingly the beech trees are covered with lush green moss as if they were wearing perfectly fit outfits for the occasion. Sadly I did not have much time for botanising this time; however I learnt about a new species from Michael that is pukatea (*Laurelia novae-zelandiae*). Interestingly this tree is the only species we share with South America, *Laurelia* has only two species, one in New Zealand and one in Chile.

The sun was playing hide and seek with us and let us see the view of Kapiti Island and the tip of the South Island just for a glance that lasted a second! Mist was trespassing through the forest along with the chill wind that made us cover up ourselves with all the clothing carried for the trip! We reached the Kapakapanui Hut around 12 noon. Sun was shining and we sat outside for lunch. It was cold but the brightness among the forest made us feel happy.

We started off after lunch in a different route towards Ngatiwa Road. The track was steeper equally to the way we climbed, but we all arrived safely to the road end but the bonus was we had to cross the river at least six times! But hey, we all are heading home for warmth, so who cares about the wet feet anyway!! Thanks Craig, for the Whittaker's Chocolate with Manuka Honey, (I know you have fallen for the Nigella Lawson's Chocolate Advertisement!!). Great trip, appreciated.

We were Craig Allerby (trip leader), Michael Allerby, Janet Wilson, Richard Lockhart, Christine Theoret, Brendon Corner and Raj Palanisamy.

**29 May - 1 June Queen's Birthday
Tarawera Explorer
Graham Peters**

After years of coastal Queen's Birthday trips, Janet decided for this weekend to indulge her desire to visit Lake Tarawera and two of its attractions – the lake outlet and the hot water beach. As well there was the raptor rehabilitation reserve run by the Wingspan trust for us to visit if we had the time and inclination. As well as the usual suspects, Warren, Richard, Janet and myself, we were joined by Cathy, Tina, John and Brendan.

As per tradition we headed away on the Friday, all meeting at Richards place in Feilding with the plan being a road trip to the lake outlet campsite via Murupara, Galatea and Lake Aniwhenua. After a lunch under sunny skies beside the Rangitaiki River and a minor deviation into Murupara, we carried on to a stop on the dam at the outlet to the Lake Aniwhenua. As if on a dam crawl, some of us stopped at the lookout for the Matahina dam, further down the Rangataiki before rejoining the others at the Kawarau information centre. Here we had to pick up permits for access to the lake outlet via forestry roads.



Tarawera Falls emerging from cliff [WW]

The Tarawera Stream is known for its unusual waterfall, the water of which disappears into cracks and holes in the rock above the fall and reappears part way down the 60m cliff face. The decision was made to drive and then take the short walk to the bottom of the fall and then on the morrow take the longer walk from the lake to the top of the fall. The campsite was more popular than anticipated but being quite large nowhere near crowded. It's obviously popular with fishermen, some who visit regularly and often and are very ready to chat.

Saturday morning was atmospheric with mist down on the hills as we set off to visit the top of the fall. We're told that the Tarawera Stream is unusual in that the trout go downstream to spawn. Upstream of the bridge at the campsite, where fishing is prohibited, many trout are to be seen. Downstream, where the folk are fishing we saw none.

Back from the walk we headed off with the plan to have a scenic lunch somewhere on our way to the water taxi that would take us to the hot water beach. By Lake Okataina we did indeed have a very scenic lunch.

I was interested to go back to the hot water beach. I'd canoed across there sometime late 70's or early 80's with PNTMC folk Colin and Chrissie Elliot, Ian Millar and Anne Flux. Then it was undeveloped and we canoed to take the track up Mt Tarawera. Quite a contrast now with little campsites marked out. Fortunately it wasn't full so we weren't cheek by jowl with other campers and people had the space to be friendly. Some chose to take advantage of the hot water which seemed to take a bit of temperature control.



Te Rata Beach (hot water beach) [WW]

Being a tramping club, we chose to walk out via the relatively recent track back to our vehicles. It was reasonably cold and windy in exposed places so we didn't hang around and having a hot brew at lunch was worthwhile.

Towards the end of the walk we had the choice of a shortcut to the roadend or a slightly longer walk to the carpark some way back. Going via the shortcut which most of us took we crossed the Wairoa Stream on a fish trap. As suggested by the name, this traps fish which are then selectively bred from. After picking up the vehicles, we headed the short distance to the Blue Lake Motorcamp.

For dinner we decided to head in to experience Rotorua by night. In this we were aided by Warren, who at some stage lived there, and Richard, who had spent family holidays there. After visiting the gardens by the Museum, which was the old Bath House, we wandered through the noisy, crowded bar/restaurant mall and admired the bicycle art?work tree. We moved on and found a kebab eatery a little way from the madding crowd that provided a very satisfactory meal. Being Rotorua, we were keen to visit a thermal area. Under Warren's direction we ended up at Kuirau Park – a large thermal area in the middle of Rotorua where we spent quite some time wandering around and taking advantage of the thermal paddling pools.



Footbath at Kuirau Park [Warren Wheeler]

Monday the weather wasn't so flash. There was the option of heading straight back or visiting the Wingspan Trust. They put on a flying demonstration in the afternoon which would mean a bit of a late drive back. After a drive which included inspecting the DOC campsite at Lake Okareka and lunch at Redwood Park, we all headed out to Wingspan. Here they take in injured and such like raptors and either rehabilitate for release or, if that's not possible, house them. After looking around the avaries we had the falconry demonstrations. The birds are free flying and impressive to watch in action. All that was left was the drive home. Despite the holiday traffic, with a stop in Taihape for tea, this was incident free.



A bird in the hand

[Janet Wilson]

6-7 June 2015

**Roaring Stag Lodge – with extras
Nicola Wallace**

Six of us squeezed into Woody's van, and left Milverton Park just after 8am. The weather was fine on the way down to Eketahuna, and we disembarked at the Putara Road end under cloud, at about 9.30am. It was chilly at the carpark, but humid, so I deliberately underdressed as I knew I'd soon warm up.

Soon after crossing the first swingbridge, we encountered quite a slip that had come down over the track, looking like it had started a fair way up, leaving some big boulders exposed. Further along, the sun made an appearance through the trees as we climbed towards the Herepai/Roaring Stag track intersection. I heard the calls of kakariki and tui, and the occasional wings of a kereru, but otherwise, the bush was sadly quiet. But on the way up, I passed some gorgeous bright red toadstools growing on the track, as well as passing a rata in flower. At the intersection, we ate lunch, before Warren, Kathryn, Woody & I headed off to bag Herepai Hut, with Andrew & young Chris heading straight down to Roaring Stag.

Warren set a brisk pace, and about 40 mins later we reached Herepai Hut. The first thing I noticed was that the veranda had deteriorated further from when I'd last seen it, and a step was broken. Other than that, all was well. Mist was blowing across, making it hard for Warren to get a good photo, and necessitating lots of posing! On the way back we stopped for more fungi – bright yellow ones this time. It must be the right time of year for coloured fungi.

We had a very pleasant but uneventful trundle down to Roaring Stag Lodge. Once down to the bottom of the hill, light rain started, and we

reached the hut at about 4pm. Andrew & Chris had been there for about an hour, and had two others for company. It was a bit drizzly for pleasant exploring, but I did take a wet dusk walk across the swingbridge at about 5pm. Later, two more bods arrived, making a total of 10 at the hut. The after dinner conversation turned to interesting occupations, and the best after-dinner drink to bring on a tramp. The wood was damp, so the fire never got going properly, but its smouldering was enough to keep the hut warm.



Roaring Stag Lodge from the swingbridge

I slept on the veranda, which was nice and warm, if slightly breezy on my face. No sound but that of the Ruamahanga River – lovely.

The morning brought a little sunshine, and after a post-brekkie exploration of the campsites and swimming hole on the other side of the river, we departed, heading first for the Hidden Lake. Warren navigated us there with practiced expertise, and it didn't seem as far as last time, a couple of years ago. Crossing the Ruapae Stream on the way brought us out into the full-on sunshine. It was a really lovely day. We circumnavigated the lake, and had a good look for the eel, but didn't see him this day.



Hidden Lake with hiding eels

Getting back to the main track seemed longer on our return journey, and little Chris (who is only 10), was doing a great job of leading us through the crown ferns, while following Warren, who was a short way ahead, navigating. We came out on the main track again, and stopped for late morning tea. There followed the long walk up the gentle hill, and just like the day before, we lunched at the track intersection. It was still chilly, as it always is here, and we were soon on our way.

The swingbridge at the bottom of the hill, seemed more “swingy” than usual, and the bridge was visually in need of a bit of maintenance. The sun was still shining as we reached the carpark at about 3.30pm, after a very good weekends tramp, and unexpectedly good Sunday weather.

Thanks to Warren for leading us to the Hidden Lake, Woody for the transport, and all for their company.

We were:

Warren Wheeler (trip leader), Andrew Kelly, Chris Kelly, Kathryn Palmer, Woody Lee, Nicola Wallace.

6-7 June 2015

**Roaring Stag Lodge
Chris Kelly [age 10]**

In the weekend I went to **Roaring Stag Hut** !!!!!!! it was so fun. We went over two swing bridges and a slip then climbed a **BIG!!!!** hill. Then the path broke into two parts. On the way down to the hut I spotted a spiker, so me and dad walked off the path to have a look. **THEN!!!!!!!** , we saw a hind. The spiker and the hind were both red deer.

The hut was nice it had a wood burner and running water. It was **nice!!!** and warm. Before we went to bed we played Monopoly cards. I slept like a log but my dad did not get any sleep at all.

In the morning instead of going straight back to the car we went over another swing bridge to look at a campsite. My dad is not scared of heights but he is scared of edges and last time I checked swing bridges are clarified as edges.

On the way back we left the path again to go to the Hidden Lake. It took us about two hours to get there and back. We had to walk along the path for a little bit to find our packs and by that time it was snack time.



That's me, under the hut sign

After our snack we got up and put our bags back on and kept on walking and a little while later I got a big headache we had to stop and grab some pain killers but dad did not have any so we asked Warren for some. Lucky he had some so by lunchtime I was fine. We had some lunch and carried on walking.

Then we walked down the **BIG!!** hill we walked up then walked over the slip and both these things we did yesterday. We meet a guy going for a walk then we crossed the last swing bridge and I knew we were on the home stretch. When we got back to the car dad found the pain killers in the bottom of the pack. It was a good weekend - it was **SO FUN!!!** Thanks every one who came.

Book Review

Lydia Bradey, Going up is Easy

By Lydia Bradey with Laurence Fearnley
Penguin books, 2015; 272 pages.

Reviewed by Terry Crippen

Having known Lydia for a few years now and knowing that she is quite an outgoing and outspoken person, I expected this book to be a very good read. And it was!

It is based on her dairies, letters and interviews and recordings with Laurence. The structure of the book is set up as chapters on significant climbs and expeditions that Lydia has done, starting off with her ascent of Everest in 1988; on her own without oxygen. Other chapters include; New Zealand activity, Yosemite, Cho Oyu, Gasherbrum, Bhutan, K2, etc.; and Tutoko.

The 1988 Everest climb was a very controversial climb as she did it without a permit, after things had gone wrong with the particular expedition which consisted of Lydia, Rob Hall, Gary Ball and others.

Later on in the book she doesn't mince her words when describing what happened. After an attempt on K2 they, and Lydia in particular, teamed up with a Slovak expedition who were attempting Everest also.

While Lydia was making her solo climb of Everest, Hall and Ball and the rest of their expedition packed up and headed back to Kathmandu.

After her successful climb and getting back to Kathmandu she was "totally pissed off" (using her own words) regarding what Ball and Hall (and NZAC) said about her attempt – they basically said that she didn't get to the top.

Eventually over the years that followed the truth come out with the help of people like Grahame Dingle, Ed and Guy Cotter, Barbara Chinn, Nick Craddock; the Slovak team and Elizabeth Hawley; that she had been successful.

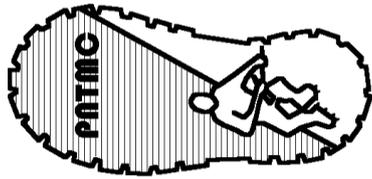
Even the Nepalese Authorities were quite lenient with Lydia. She has since climbed Everest two more times.

Lydia has done many big climbs overseas, as well as NZ ones. She is quite outspoken when it comes to commenting on what happened inside expedition parties. She was climbing in the 1980s and 1990s when there were a lack of top notch women climbers. She is also quite candid about her personal life in the text.

There is a good set of colour plates and each chapter starts with an image related to the particular climb. There is a good glossary for non-mountaineers and a chronology of her climbs.

Lydia has recently had a hip replacement – and she put an image of the old socket joint on Facebook – it looked like a mashed up very red plum pudding! This summer she is off to Antarctica, a skiing trip to the South Pole.

All in all a very enjoyable book to read.



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PNTMC Newsletter July 2015

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Articles for the newsletter

Send by the 20th of each month to Warren Wheeler the newsletter editor, via the club website <http://www.pntmc.org.nz/mail/>.

Get out and about with us!

**Sender: PNTMC
PO Box 1217
Palmerston North**

PNTMC Contacts

President	Bruce van Brunt	328 4761
Vice President	Dave Grant	328 7788
Secretary	Anne Lawrence	357 1695
Treasurer	Warren Wheeler	356 1998
Webmaster	Peter Wiles	358 6894
	Martin Lawrence	357 1695
Membership Enquires	Warren Wheeler	356 1998
Gear Custodian	Warren Wheeler	356 1998
Newsletter Editor	Warren Wheeler	356 1998
Trip Co-ordinator	Janet Wilson	329 4722
Snowcraft Programme	Terry Crippen	356 3588