

Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc.

www.pntmc.org.nz

P.O. Box 1217, Palmerston North

Newsletter September 2016



Weekend after the heavy snow at Sunrise Hut, Ruahine Forest Park

[Woody Lee]

Club Nights

All are welcome to our club nights. These are held at 7:30pm on the second and last Thursday of each month at the Society of Friends Hall, 227 College Street, Palmerston North.

8 September

Mt Owen or Bust

Warren Wheeler

In February Warren joined Christchurch based club member Annett Patzold on a trip to Mt Owen in Kahurangi National Park. With a good weather forecast and well marked tracks what could possibly go wrong?

29 September

Sub-Antarctic Islands Cruise

Anne & Martin Lawrence

Anne and Martin will tell us all about their boat trip down to Campbell Island, the Auckland Islands and the Snares with a group of like minded conservationists. The islands are UNESCO World Heritage Sites with some of the richest wildlife in the Southern Ocean.

Upcoming Trips

3-4 September

Tutuwai Hut

E

Michael Allerby

323 8563

Leave PN at 8.00am and head down the Wairarapa until we reach Waiohine Valley Road end. Tramp off up on the Mt Reeves track to Tutuwai Hut (serviced) nestled beside the Tauhirenikau River and back out the same way Sunday.

4 September

Aussie Bush Walk

E

Peter van Essen

355 9076

Due to the political turmoil across the ditch the Aussie Bush Walk has been postponed until the New Year (actually I have double booked myself but political turmoil sounds better). So more about this trip in the next programme.

7 September (Wed)

Evening for Snowcraft participants

10-11 September

Snowcraft 3 (either day)

Bruce van Brunt 328 4761

11 September

Te Maari Craters

M

Warren Wheeler

356 1998

This day trip takes us to see the steaming craters on the northern side of Mount Tongariro. Hopefully they will be quiet enough for a close look. Depart 6.30am.

16-18 September

Climbing Hopeless NLNP FE/T

Grant Christian 354 5843

Catching the boat across the lake and walking into Hopeless Hut on Friday. Climbing Mt. Hopeless on Saturday if conditions are suitable. Walk back out to boat on Sunday.

17 September (Sat)

Rimutaka InclineMTB& walk M

Richard Lockett 323 0948

Exploring the old railway line over the Rimutaka Range from the Wairarapa side over the top at Summit and if you're on a bike down to Kaitoke and return, 25 kms and if you're walking returning from Summit, 12kms. Torches required for the tunnels. Summit tunnel 500 metres long. Leaving Milverton Park 7.30am.

24-25 September

Sayers Hut

M

Richard Lockett

323 0948

Hidden away on the opposite bank of the Waiohine River from Totara Flats, a rustic old historic hut with lots of charm. In and out via

Holdworth and Totara Flats Hut. Leaving Milverton Park 7.30am.

Daylight Saving Starts 25 September

25 September

A-frame/Tamaki Circuit

M

Dieter Stalmann

0274509460

We'll start from the Tamaki West road end, and make our way up to the Travers A-frame hut. From there we will either return to the car-park, or make our way via the Stanfield hut back.

1-2 October

Climbing Ruapehu

F/T

Grant Christian

354 5843

Lots of options on Ruapehu. Where we go will depend on what people want to do. Be in first and let me know what you would like. Good chance to practice those snowcraft skills.

2 October

Ngauruhoe

M/T

Warren Wheeler

356 1998

Our commemorative trip of the "Grandstand View" when Ruapehu erupted in 1996. An easy zig zag up the west face to the summit crater. Crampons and ice axe are required. Depart 6.00am. We will have a breakfast stop along the way.

8-9 October

Mid Poh Hut

M

Craig Allerby

323 7913

This hut is nestled beside the Pohangina river and maintained by PNTMC. A opportunity to inspect the condition of the hut and give a good spring clean! Some rubber gloves could be useful! Depart 7.30am.

9 October

Rangi Hut

E/M

Woody Lee

357 2390

A popular, easy tramp to the tussock tops of the Whanahua Range in the Ruahine FP. Rangiwahia Hut sits above the bush line and you will get a stunning view of Mt Ruapehu. An arched wooden bridge, a pretty waterfall and a couple of viewpoints are extra features before you reach the hut. Depart 8.00am from Milverton Park.

Trip Grading

Trip grades depend on many factors, especially weather and terrain. A reasonably proficient tramer 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
Terry Crippen	356-3588

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

Reminder – Club Nights start 7.30pm

Doors now open at 7.15pm and the meeting starts at 7.30pm. You can now also have a warming cuppa when you arrive and still have a cuppa and cookie after the meeting.



PNTMC's Snowcraft Programme starts in August this year. 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.

10 Aug Wed evening	SC1 Intro and briefing
13 or 14 August	SC1 Mt Ruapehu
24 Aug Wed evening	SC2 Briefing & intro to rope work
27 or 28 August	SC2 Mt Ruapehu
7 Sept Wed evening	SC3 Briefing & rope work
10 or 11 Sept	SC3 Mt Ruapehu

Snowcraft Fees

The fees for each of SC1, SC2, SC3 are: \$60 if PNTMC member, or \$70 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.

Applications Closed 4 August

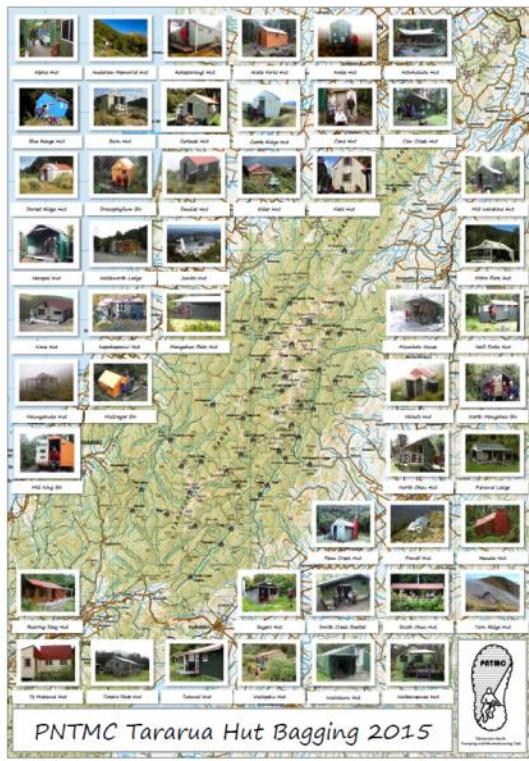
Late Applications may be accepted

Applications (returned application form and fee) closed Thursday 4 August but Late

Applications may be accepted. Application forms are available on the Snowcraft link at www.pntmc.org.nz or on the noticeboard at Club Night.

For more info contact
Bruce van Brunt 328-4761.

Tararua Hut Bagging Poster



Size	Members	Non Members
A2	\$8	\$12
A1	\$16	\$24

Post and tube is about \$15 extra depending on where it is being sent.

Also available is a similar Ruahine Poster.

Sale proceeds go towards our maintenance of Mid-Pohangina and Ngamoko Huts.

Contact Warren 356-1998.

New Members

Welcome to Duncan Hill and his son Toby Kleinsman-Hill (aged 12yrs) who have been enjoying our Snowcraft Course this year.

PNTMC Jubilee Book

Old Boots & Packs - The First 50 Years of the Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club (PNTMC) will interest and amuse mountain users, historians, photographers, hut baggers and tree huggers. Read about current and past members' exploits, which include climbing our highest peaks (sometimes with boots on the wrong feet) and powering a car on white spirits cooking fuel.



Order your copies directly from the editor Doug Strachan 353-6526 and get ready to put your feet up with this great read, all for only \$35.

(Also makes a nice gift to friends and family who might otherwise wonder why you enjoy tramping so much!)

Digital Radio Proposal

Adam Kenning is helping to develop a proposal for a Radio/GPS service for all those using the Tararua Forest Park and Aorangi Forest park areas. The service would provide additional safety and calling options by offering Voice services like the existing Mountain Radio Service does, but with the added safety feature of GPS tracking and various other digital features.

- Digital Channels can carry 2x conversations at the same time, Offering a Emergency channel and a communication channel on the one repeater.

- Digital Radios have built in GPS, Man down, lone worker and most have Bluetooth.

- Radios can be tracked using GPS for safety and if radios are stolen. Avoiding having multiple devices to take each trip.

- Digital radios can be remotely controlled e.g. mics opened, radios stunned. Helpful if someone is injured they can be spoken to or listened to without having to touch the radio.
- Digital radios can be setup to make calls to phones/cellphones and phones/cellphones can be set up to call individual or groups of radios.
- Digital radios can text radio to radio.
- Can make Group or Private calls from any radio. Can see what radio is making the call or missed calls. So you can talk to your group or to everyone in that area
- Radios all come programmed with a Simplex channel (radio to radio) that can be used anywhere in the North island.

Two sites (Mt Hector and Mitre) would provide fairly good coverage although there would still be blind areas in some valleys and shadow zones on ridges. See the coverage map here:

<http://teletronics.co.nz/index.php/mountain-radio-coverage/>

The PNTMC Committee has already expressed an interest in finding out more about the proposal and felt that other members or groups might be interested as well.

If there is sufficient interest then Adam will arrange a public meeting for Teletronics to come and explain their systems and various ways to get it up and running for the Community.

Contact adamkenning@hotmail.com if you would like to support the idea or find out more.

Trip Reports

30 July 2016 Shorts-Knights Circuit Raj Palanisamy

Have you ever been in a situation that you need to have a break, need to get out and feel free, need to console yourself that you can do better and need to overcome the overwhelming urge of proving to yourself that you can face the challenge? I am sure you did. I was in that condition on Thursday morning after having a gala time on Wednesday, 27th

July and started to browse through the trip card to find a remedy. I found solace and felt a sense of belonging in being a part of a wonderful social group - when I saw Mike Allerby's trip, my mind apprehended "Oh there is a way out!"

Perhaps not, there were weather warnings all over the MetService webpage trying to discourage my idea of venturing out. Sometimes if you were in a mood to endeavour out in the bush, the Mother Nature affectionately puts a hurdle in front; the place the trip card invites you to might not enthuse you or the social element would put you off instantaneously (!). Nevertheless I was in a disposition to face whether it is rain or shine. Dialled Mike to find out the trip he would have planned and committed a month or so long ago was still in his agenda. Ping.....my mobile phone smiled at me with a bright face within a minute saying "Of course if you are interested Raj". With that welcoming statement I promised him that I would pack my bag and wait for his confirmation. Friday 5 pm I got the assurance that we were going out, even for an hour walk if the weather was not conducive. Being me a modern world handicap (lack of transport) the brothers came all the way from Fielding to pick me up from Palmerston North at 7 am in the morning (Thank you Mike).

Craig Allerby was playing the role of weather guru warned us that the dark cloud in the range might interfere with our walk. Despite this, they expressed their willingness to try to proceed and test our luck. Needless to say, I was happy to carry on. The road we travelled ahead towards Colyton (Taonui Road) was very familiar to me for some reason. In many occasions I was told off that I do not have geographic sense whatsoever, but I recognised this road very well and applauded myself!! We reached the car park at 8.20 am and started walking towards the bush and the limestone cliff induced our imagination of the history of the landscape. The weather looked all right but still we were cautious which track we should choose to avoid the anticipated drastic weather forecast to be tackled with on that day. Craig suggested at the junction that we would be better off if we took the Shorts track, so we did. The track was sheltered and also it was gentler slope than the Knights track. I mentioned before in one of my earlier trip reports about how good the Allerby brothers are in identifying the plants that must be commended (my respect goes to Peter van Essen as well in that aspect). Though I am good at tropical plant taxonomy I am learning

tremendously about the local flora whenever I go with them.

Lots of branches and even a few big trees fallen on the track showed the wild weather that has passed through this season. We did not feel the force of the wind till the bush line canopy reduced a bit. We looked at the tops which were misty and decided to proceed further half-mindedly. Once we reached the top we started seeing speckles of snow among the plants which excited us. When we climbed a few metres further up the whole landscape looked beautiful. The snow had not completely covered the plants but every part of the shrub and grass was encapsulated with ice. Moreover the ice accumulation on the windward side of the plants had formed beautiful shapes and looked amazing.

The wind picked up as the terrain changed to exposed ridges and forcefully tested our body's gravity spot. We forced ourselves to move on and felt the cold on exposed parts of our face and I could feel the pain due to the icy wind. We reached the top of Toka peak (1519m) just before 12 noon. After taking a few photos (posing still for a photo in the wind was a hard task for a small framed person like me) we started descending via Knights track that tested our knees.

Mike rescued a weta stuck under the snow on the path - we thought it was perished but when I lifted him from the snow and put it on the grass it started moving.

The weather was not posing any threats and was very calm all the way to the car park. We were happy that the day's task of covering the Toka Loop was successfully accomplished. However when we drove home the wind picked up slightly and started raining. Would that affect the rural life? Not so, even we witnessed two young girls riding their horses on the road very proudly without minding the falling rain.

In my short tramping saga, I realised that one can't have everything one wishes for, even for tramping, especially one "like me", an amateur tramer (!). So many factors influence not to have that tramping wish. Because, I was told I didn't have professional gear to start with, then I didn't have fitness, now I don't have much experience in tramping. So here I am preparing myself to become an experienced tramer so that people can accommodate me in their trips. Oh wait, what is the threshold to be an experienced tramer anyway?



Weta released from icy trap

24 July 2016 Hunerville Walks Sally Hewson

"The trips not still going is it?" I asked Martin after hearing the weather forecast for Sunday. Gales and heavy rain were a good excuse to pike out and have a good lie-in on Sunday morning. But it was. So at 8am we met at Martin and Anne's. By then the rain had stopped and the gale was just a stiff breeze.

Our first stop was at Bruce Park a few km before Hunerville. We followed a figure 8 track through a pocket of forest that contained many tall trees. This was not secondary growth but original forest that had been spared the axe by a Robert Bruce. Our next stop was in Hunerville for a rejuvenating coffee and a few carbs. Then we headed westwards onto Ongo Road and Mangahoe Road, then turned into the Turakina Valley.

Sutherlands Bush is a 60 hectare block managed by Forest and Bird. We followed yellow markers to the site of some old Maori food storage pits, then blue markers that took us right around the perimeter of the reserve. The track was rough, but very well marked, and there were lots of labels to identify the bushes and trees. There were some very impressive specimens, and by the end of the walk we could tell our matai from our miro.

There was a great range of vegetation, in particular fungus and lichens. Anne and Sally had a great time getting up close and personal to photograph the little purple, orange and yellow blobs. We named one particularly large squishy brown toadstool the "poo fungus" as that was exactly what it looked like. A bit further on we found a whole colony of them –

ranging in age from young and firm, to old, brown and floppy.

The track skirted around cliffs above the Turakina River, which was running quite high, and flowing a latte brown colour. The wind was quite gusty, but luckily the rain didn't come to much. A bit later on Yvonne and Sally's Health and Safety Assessment of the Dangers of Walking under Trees in High Winds nearly came true. There was a "whump" which sounded like an epiphyte hitting the ground. A few seconds later there was the sound of loud splintering and CRASH!!! It sounded quite close, so we walked briskly on. A little bit further on something else came down, but soon we were safely back at the car. The monsoon did arrive an hour or so later, but by then we were back in Palmy.

On the trip were Martin and Anne, Woody, Yvonne and Sally.

31 July 2016
Herepai Hut
Woody Lee

It was cloudy and windy when we left Palmerston North in the morning but soon calm and blue sky appeared when we drove onto SH2.

It was the first time to see an empty car park at the road end, which meant we would be the only trampers in the area.

The day was a gear trial day for Dieter as he had recently purchased new boots and a multiday pack. He later found that his new gear was perfect for his tramping.

We had a quick break for a snack after crossing the second swing bridge. It hailed the day before and we could still see hailstones in the small puddles.

Richard went ahead and waited for us at the track junction to Roaring Stag Hut so we could walk together from there. We stopped at the small opening on a steep hill for looking down the Ruamahanga River before reaching the hut. I wanted to enjoy the scenery but we didn't stay long due to cold winds.

We had a nice lunch break with hot drinks. I tasted a piece of home-made bread Dieter's wife had baked, which was nice.

I spotted one change in the hut. New windows with double glazing had been installed. Now you can enjoy the mountain views from inside the hut.

We were Richard Lockett, Dieter Stalmann and Woody Lee.



Lunch break at Herepai Hut.

6-7 August 2016
Sunrise Hut
Esther Pothuis

The forecast for the weekend of 6 - 7 August was considered horrible by some, but exciting by others. We (Warren, Rick, and Esther) decided to take the positive mind-set and consider the predicted downpours to be a good thing if that meant snow.

At the car park near the Sunrise Track we saw some youngsters that looked kind of shocked and defeated by the weather they endured up at Sunrise Hut. That was some extra motivation to go up.

The first half of the way up was a real disappointment in terms of snow. It was wet and sometimes muddy. The higher we went the nicer the snow became. Some people had walked the track before us, so when we followed their footsteps it was an easy walk. A misstep meant being knee deep in the snow.

At the hut we decided to go have a look at the lookout, which meant going through untouched snow. After ploughing through it waist deep we had a nice look at the clouds. Back at the hut me and Rick had to conclude that this last bit of ploughing led to us having wet socks. Luckily the hut was rather full so that it was warm and cosy inside, which was finite as there was not too much wood. The people in

the hut thought there was too much snow to reach the woodshed. We took this as a challenge and we went to the woodshed through knee- or waist deep snow to get wood. Inside the hut we were treated as heroes and got offered cheese crackers multiple times to commute their guilty feelings.



Sunrise Hut in deep snow

The next day we were greeted by clouds, bits of blue sky, sometimes sun, and fresh snow. It was a perfect winter wonder land. To extend our great journey we decided to do a small loop from the lookout to the woodshed and back to the hut. The way up through the heavy snow was easiest when advancing in a rolling manner or crawling like a baby to spread pressure and to not sink too deep into the snow. On top of the hill next to the woodshed my fears that the subsurface was not rocks but bushes was confirmed when I fell down 1.5 metres. I did not see a way back through the bush as there was too much snow and too many branches, so I climbed back up after which I decided to slide back down on my stomach. We obviously did not make it to do a round trip to the woodshed, but I would like to consider it a brave attempt.

After this it was time for our descent. We said farewell to the kiwi shelter Warren had dug with his bare hands (*and hearth shovel – Ed.*) that morning. It had become a local tourist attraction as many other people at the hut ventured a look inside followed by posing for the obvious peeking out of the hole picture.

The trip down was wonderful, through the most beautiful fresh powdery snow. The trees had a difficult time keeping it together, under the weight of the snow many branches were broken off so that every now and then we had to climb over branches. After Warren made a snowman and after taking the Swamp Loop we were back at the car park.



Wonderful trip down



A few fallen branches blocked the way

The car appeared to have survived the cold, but later at Norsewood it just would not start. There even was a bit of smoke coming from the ignition. After a push start it nonetheless got us back home safely.

We were Rick van den Bosch, Esther Pothuis, Warren Wheeler.

14 August 2016 Sunrise Hut Julie McMinn

I had heard from a number of people that Sunrise was a great walk to do. So, when this walk came up with Woody I was very pleased to tag along. Early on Sunday morning, 3 car loads of keen walkers travelled over to the Hawkes Bay region to embark on the Sunrise Hut walk. Warren Wheeler led the group which consisted of Club members (Kathy, Doug and Woody), a Korean Family and friends of Woody. The drive over was approx. 2 hr 20 mins and we had great views of the snow dusted Ruahines.... where we were heading!

We all gathered at the carpark and met the Choi family: Seoung Jin (8yrs), Da Eun

(5mths), grandparents and parents. Da Eun was carried by Mum and Dad in a back pack. She was wrapped up warmly as the wind was very cold at the carpark.

We started the walk around 10am and headed to the Triple X hut first. We then carried on up the track and once in the bush we were sheltered from the wind. The trees and bush framed wonderful views of the snow-capped hills we were venturing into and back out over the plains of the Hawkes Bay region.

The weight of the snow and the wind the week before had caused the branches of the trees to break off littering the pathway. There was also a large tree that had recently fallen over the track that we had to clamber over.

Kathy and Warren pointed out the young rimu trees with their weeping foliage and the peeling bark of the totara. Somehow I completely missed the native mistletoe on the uphill trek. However, Warren pointed it out to me on the way downhill.

We trekked through snow from about half way making the tramp a little slower than expected. Once at the top we emerged from the bush and there was Sunrise Hut. The views over the Hawkes Bay are spectacular. Although the sun was out, the wind was very biting and the snow was in places well above our knees.

We stayed warm, out of the cold wind, inside the hut for our lunch. Someone made a snowman and Seoung Jin enjoyed making a snow sculpture with Warren and a cave.

After lunch Warren led a few of us out the back of the hut and we attempted to traverse the Armstrong Saddle. The wind was buffeting strongly and the bad weather from the Manawatu side of the ranges was causing the clouds to race across the top of the hills. We didn't get far along the saddle walk when we wisely decided to turn back as some of us felt inexperienced, didn't have the appropriate gear and it looked like the weather was closing in rapidly.

We were sheltered from the westerly wind in the bush on the way back down and made good time back to the carpark. On the drive home Warren asked if the day met my expectations. Yes, it did. I enjoyed the great views from the Sunrise Hut, loved walking through the snow, relished my time with nature in amongst the trees and bush and appreciated the good company.



Choi family at Sunrise Hut [Woody Lee]

(see remainder of group on front page)

Old Logos #1 - 1972



**PALMERSTON NORTH TRAMPING
& MOUNTAINEERING CLUB (INC)
P.O. Box 1217 Palmerston North**

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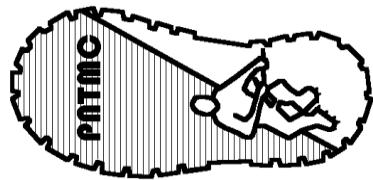
COMING EVENTS.

29th June. CLUB NIGHT

At the Society of Friends' Church Hall, 227
College St., at 7.30 p.m.
Mr. John Newson, warden

*Palmerston North
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PNTMC Newsletter
September 2016

What's inside this month?

- Snowcraft – late applications
- Digital Radio Service Coming
- Ruahine Winter Trip Reports
- Frozen weta on Short-Knights Track
- New double glazing at Herepai Hut
- Gales at Hunterville Scenic Reserves
- Big snow at Sunrise Hut
- Old PNTMC Logos #1 - 1972
- Coming trips and more

Articles for the newsletter

Send by the 20th of each month to Warren Wheeler
the newsletter editor, via the club website
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Get out and about with us!

PNTMC Contacts

President	Bruce van Brunt	328 4761
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Treasurer	Warren Wheeler	356 1998
Webmaster	Peter Wiles	358 6894
	Martin Lawrence	357 1695
Membership Enquires	Warren Wheeler	356 1998
Gear Custodian	Grant Christian	354 5843
Newsletter Editor	Warren Wheeler	356 1998
Trip Co-ordinator	Janet Wilson	329 4722
Snowcraft Programme	Terry Crippen	356 3588