

Socialising and practising your English in Palmerston North

Massey University Clubs <http://musa.org.nz/clubs/directory/>

- There are a number of clubs which allow students to socialise and practise their English. These include the Debating Society, International PostGraduate Mature Students, Viva Choir, Wildlife and Conservation Club.

Meet Up http://www.meetup.com/cities/nz/palmerston_north/

- This is an international organisation, which allows people to set up social groups to meet and share common interests. The contacts are made online. As these groups are not regulated, you are recommended to take care; consider, for example, going together with another student and think carefully before sharing your contact details.

Toastmasters <http://www.tmclubs.org.nz/palmerston-north.html>

- An international organisation for public speaking. The Palmerston North branch meets on the first and third Monday each month at 7.30 pm at 435 Church Street. There are also fortnightly sessions at 11 am in the Public Library. You are welcome to visit for free as a guest; if you join, the starter pack costs \$25 and the monthly fee is \$14.

Book Clubs & Library Events <http://tinyurl.com/PNIlibraryevents>

- A book club is a group of five to twelve people who agree on a book to read and then they meet (sometimes at the house of a member; sometimes in a restaurant or library) and discuss the book (and sometimes share a meal). One local club meets on Thursday evenings at 7 pm – contact Zoe at writing.by.sojourner@gmail.com. Palmerston North Public Library holds regular talks and workshops on a wide range of topics, as well as providing resources and advice about practising and developing your English.

Voluntary Work <http://www.mmcnz.org.nz/home> <http://www.vrcmanawatu.org.nz/>

- There are many different kinds of voluntary work. Befriending means visiting an elderly person once or twice a week and having a chat. Others include helping at a charity shop, community group, local theatre or playgroup and conservation work. This could be a way of meeting people, becoming involved in some local community service and adding to your CV.

English language partners <http://englishlanguage.org.nz/palmerston-north/learn-english>

- This is a voluntary organisation which helps new migrants to develop their basic English skills. Students could volunteer and take a short part-time training course and then start helping a local migrant with their basic English. Volunteers don't need perfect English – about half of the volunteers are themselves migrants or international students.

Rotary or Lions Club <http://www.pnrotary.co.nz/index.php>
<http://www.lionsclubs.org.nz/Clubs/202D/Zone-2>

- These are international community service organisations. Rotary meets on Mondays at 12 pm at 354 Main St. There are several Lions Club branches. The 'Evolve' branch has a young membership and meets on the third Monday of each month at 6.30 pm at the Empire Hotel (corner of Main and Princess Streets).