

How did Chatham Island get its funny shape? Find out on 20<sup>th</sup> March.

Please submit your **April 2024** H&V articles to the editor by **31<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

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**6 March : Debbie Labett – Old Ghost Road**

# THE OLD GHOST ROAD

Ghosts and Goblins

These are 2 things they did not see.

They did see the Boneyard, come along to find out more.

Paul, Debbie and 2 friends did a 3-day Mountain bike packing adventure into the magnificent Mokihinui Valley, starting at the mosquito mega of Lyell finishing at Seddonville.

Set off in search of views and adventure into the wilderness, They also have a video to share.  
Hope to see you there.

**13 March : Open Night**

Please bring around 15 or so of your photos to share with the members.

**20 March : Hamish Campbell – How did Chatham Island get its funny shape?**

This talk will present an up-to-date understanding of the geological history of the Chathams as part of Eastern Zealandia and in so doing will explain the unusual shape of Chatham Island in particular. Hamish will also touch on key aspects of the human history that have 'shaped' life in the Chathams as they are today.

Hamish Campbell is a retired Wellington-based palaeontologist and geologist but is still actively involved in research as an Emeritus Scientist with GNS Science. His association with the Chatham Islands has been a 'constant' since he first went there with an Otago University archaeological project in 1975, spanning his entire career as a research scientist with the New Zealand Geological Survey and GNS Science (1978-2019). He has been leading geology field trips and tourist groups to the Chathams on an annual basis since 2002. Accordingly, he is 'almost a Chatham Islander'...!

**27 March : Bharat Pancha – Mera Peak and Langtang in Nepal**

In 2019 Bharat climbed 6,470m Mera Peak, one of Nepal's most alluring trekking peaks, reached via a culturally stimulating journey through remote picturesque villages and forests. This year, on a trek to Langtang, Bharat and his party visited a village destroyed by the 2015 earthquake.

**3 April : Chris and Jackie West – Offa's Dyke Path, Wales**

At the start of September 2023 Jackie and Chris West walked the 285 km Offa's Dyke Path which roughly follows the Wales/ English border from Sedbury in the south to Prestatyn in the north. The start of their 16-day journey coincided with a 6 day heatwave followed by rain and cooler weather so come and find out how they coped.





## FORTHCOMING TRIPS



### NOTES

Where there is no leader given for a trip, please email [tripcoordinator@hvtc.org.nz](mailto:tripcoordinator@hvtc.org.nz) to volunteer to lead a trip, either as shown or an alternative.

March			
Sun 10	D1	Orchid Hunt	Murray Mc
<b>Sat 9 – Fri 22</b>	T1	GIL Memorial Trip – Sth Island (trip full, waitlist)	Dennis
Tue 12		Petone Wharf car park to Moera	leader required
		Petone Wharf car park to Moera	Debbie
16 – 17	T1		
15 – 17	WP	Ruapehu Lodge work party	Ian M
Sun 17	D1+	Puke Ariki Traverse, Belmont Regional Park	Marina
Tue 19		Explore Wainuiomata from Waiu Street	leader required
		New track that has opened in Waiu park	Debbie
Sun 24	D1+	Karapoti Rata	Murray Mc
Tue 26		Silverstream to Buddhist Monastery	Jackie
		Silverstream Kindy to Kingsley Street tops	Debbie
29 Mar – 1 Apr		<b>Easter</b>	
26 – 31	T1	Heaphy track (trip full, waitlist)	Marina
	T1		
Sun 31	D1	Mt McKerrow	
April			
<b>Daylight Saving ends 3:00 am Sunday 7 April. Clocks go backward 1 hour.</b>			
Sun 7	D1	Wainuiomata Hill - ECNZ Track to Taita	David B

### Note

Cyclists please note that Tuesday 26 is the final ride for summer. You are invited to a shared pot luck BBQ at our house after the ride. You can choose to bring a salad or dessert and any fancy meats. I will supply sausages, meat patties, coleslaw, beetroot, tomatoes, fresh rolls and a few nibbles. BYO drinks. Cost is \$10pp. Please let me know by the Sunday night prior to Tuesday 26th if you intend to join us. This is for catering purposes.

*Debbie.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### RUAPEHU LODGE WORK PARTY 15 - 17 March 2024

Hi everyone

The annual Ruapehu lodge work party will go ahead on 15-17 March 2024. Fun jobs this year include cleaning, tidying, stocktake, changing the mattress covers and generally getting the lodge ready for the winter season.

So - please come and join us!

While it's work, we also have plenty of laughs and a good dinner on Saturday night.

For those looking to get a head start on their fitness before an Easter trip there should be opportunities to tramp up and down the hill to the Top o the Bruce to dispose of rubbish and recycling.

If you're keen to help, please contact Ian McIlraith on [ian@speyside.co.nz](mailto:ian@speyside.co.nz)

*Please note Ian's response may be delayed as he is currently overseas.*

*As the lodge will be open that weekend, if you wish to come up and enjoy the mountain but not participate in the work party, the usual very cheap summer rate of \$35 per night applies and there are plenty of yummy roasts in the freezer to be eaten! Book with the Booking Officer in the usual way at [Ruapehubbookings@hvtc.org.nz](mailto:Ruapehubbookings@hvtc.org.nz).*

*Kate Brownsword*

## FROM THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

### HELP NEEDED TO REVIEW CLUB VAN AND WEBSITE

The General Committee is taking a fresh look at our club van and our club website this year.

We are looking for members interested in joining two small groups to review the van and website.

For the club van, we have questions about whether the van meets the needs of members. Over recent months it has been little used and is becoming increasingly expensive to maintain.

For the website, we would like to find out whether the website meets the needs of members and non-members looking for information about the club.

Please contact Marina Skinner by 17 March at [marinaskinner@xtra.co.nz](mailto:marinaskinner@xtra.co.nz) or [021 792260](tel:021792260) if you'd like to be involved in either group or if you have questions.

*Marina*

## CENTENNIAL FINANCIAL SUMMARY

The following table is a brief summary of incomes and costs associated with various components of the Club's centenary celebrations. Only those managed through the General Account are covered here. Pleasingly, the overall net cost of \$6,577.42 is well within the original budget of \$10,000. Grateful thanks are hereby extended to those members who put so much time and skill into managing the activities. (Note: a negative net cost means a surplus)



**Centenary School Fund Grants**

Income - Member donations	\$2,850.00
Income - Fanny Bayliss Fund grant	\$2,000.00
Costs - Payments to Schools (three)	\$4,848.00
Net Cost to HVTC	-\$2.00

**Cloth Badges**

Income - Cloth Badges (member payments)	\$735.00
Costs - Cloth Badges printing & postage	\$699.25
Net Cost to HVTC	-\$35.75

**Centenary Book**

Income - Centenary Book (member payments)	\$3,227.00
Costs - Centenary Book printing & postage	\$4,363.15
Net Cost to HVTC	\$1,136.15

**Centenary Dinner at PWMC**

Income - Centenary Dinner (member payments)	\$7,710.00
Costs - Centenary Dinner	\$7,312.02
Net Cost to HVTC	-\$397.98

**Social Activities: Friday Evening, Saturday Afternoon, Sunday**

Income – Social Activities	\$0.00
Costs – Social Activities	\$5,877.00
Net Cost to HVTC	\$5,877.00

**Overall Net Cost to HVTC (General Account)                      \$6,577.42**

*Jim Cousins*

for the General Committee

## TONY BIRTWISTLE IS TAKING HIS BIKE OVERSEAS

Tony is taking his mountain bike overseas when he revisits the UK this May.

This is a new experience for him. He'd appreciate any advice for him e.g. packing the bike, airline process, handling a big box which has no handles (along with other baggage)! Etc.

You can contact Tony on 021 228 4430

*Tony*



## HOUSE SITTER NEEDED



We are looking for a house sitter on our rural lifestyle property on Coast Road near the Catchpool entrance of the Remutaka Forest Park in Wainuiomata. We have 6 pet sheep that need a little bit of looking after. We will be overseas from 6th of August – 16th of September and would like you to arrive at our place a day or two before we leave.

If you are keen, please sent an email to [vankesteren@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:vankesteren@slingshot.co.nz) or phone 027 417 9496.

Thanks

*Anja & Maarten*

## CAN YOU IDENTIFY?

**Wendy Napier-Walker**

The club has received the following request from Wendy Napier-Walker, the daughter of a former member, Trevor Napier.

*"Dear Hutt Valley Tramping Club,*

*I understand that my father, Trevor Napier, was a member of the HVTC?*

*I have come into possession of some photos that he took as he was a keen photographer, and wonder whether the attached photo might be of some early members of the Club?*

*He could have been a member from c 1935 - 1948, with the exception of 1943-1946 as he served in WW2. He was a keen tramper and skier.*

*I would be interested in hearing back from the Club.*

*May thanks*

*Wendy Napier-Walker"*



Any readers with information can contact Dennis Page via [dennismpage@gmail.com](mailto:dennismpage@gmail.com) and that he will forward it to Wendy.

## **TRAMPERS SEED & NUT BREAD**

### ***A recipe from Clare Kelly***

Preheat oven to 160°C

70g dried figs/apricots chopped  
90g linseeds  
85g sunflower seeds  
100g pumpkin seeds  
45g hazelnuts v rough chopped  
45g almonds v rough chopped  
50g Brazil/walnuts v rough chopped

Place all ingredients into a bowl & set aside.

50g sesame seeds (FOR TOPPING)

4 eggs  
75ml canola /veg oil  
1 Tablespoon honey  
1 teaspoon salt

Mix the four above ingredients well then add nuts & seeds. Mix very well to completely combine.

Set aside 15 minutes then stir again.

Scrape into oiled or paper-lined loaf tin (approx. 22cm x 10cm).

Place in middle of preheated oven for approximately 60 minutes. Check for colour and doneness (pressing gently in middle).

Remove from oven and cool in tin for 5 minutes before cooling on a rack.

Cool completely before slicing thinly. Ideal for multi day tramps as lasts well. Ideal with cheese and relish.

Any questions message Clare on 02102788079.

*Clare*

## **A MOUNTAINEER'S MEMORIES**

**Neil Hickman**

### **Ngauruhoe traverse**

The plan I put to Murray was a simple one. Murray was to lead a trip of some 7 people to snow camp on the north crater of Mt Tongariro. I intended to solo climb the south face of Mt Ngauruhoe, traverse over the summit and up onto Mt Tongariro to join Murray and the crew.

So on a dull grey day I found myself trudging the ochre and russet landscape from the Chateau carpark to the Tama lakes turnoff. The lakes came and went and I zig zagged the foothills of Ngauruhoe to begin the ascent. The weather was cool so I donned a warm fleece, parker, overtrousers, balaclava and mittens. Solo climbs in an unforgiving landscape certainly heightens one awareness but also adds a slight edge of anticipation, concentration and nervousness. No companion to compare opinions with on safety or help to summon rescue. You are on your own buddy. About half way to the summit a few drops of snow fell. Nothing to be afraid of – just aware that New Zealand's weather is incredibly fickle. I took comfort in the fact that the weather was coming from behind me and I was well prepared and dressed for adverse conditions.

About halfway to the summit the snow began to thicken. Large dollops rather than gentle flakes. Typically, the lack of visibility then began to develop and with that the wind increased. Within minutes I was in a full-blown blizzard with visibility down to about 2 to 3 metres and driving snow hammering me from the rear. If I continued upward the weather would be colder and more into serious territory. If I carried on, I was probably at least an hour from the summit. Once there and over I would be in the lee and sheltered. If I turned back, I would have an hour down the mountain and two or three hours to the Chateau. Turning around I recoiled, being hit face on to the full fury of the southerly storm. Out of the question.

In situations like this nervousness is heightened. From where I was ascending, the right side of Ngauruhoe's summit crater has a plateau and a lip from the original crater. Adversely the left side of the crater has no plateau - one just reaches the top of the slope and if not careful, risks an immediate plunge some 50 metres into its toxic crater. J. C. Bidwill in March 1839, commented after his ascent from the north-west that "The crater was the most terrific abyss I ever looked into or imagined ..." Out came my map and compass. (No GPS those days.) Very important that I emerged onto the crater's flat plateau on the right-hand side.

Mini avalanches were almost non-stop now and kept filling my mouth, nose and blocking my snow goggles. Reading my map was becoming exceedingly difficult. Wet gloves and snow on the compass made for almost impossible reading. I could only progress perhaps 5 minutes when I would need to recheck my direction. Always requiring a slight redirection. Snow in front of me was building up to my waist. Upward and onward became the law. On my right I sensed a deeper blue. Reaching out I was stunned to touch a snow wall. What is this? I know. It is the lip of the original

crater. Bingo! Another step and I was on level ground. I don't think I had ever experienced such relief and euphoria before. Racing across the summit plateau I was at the top of the north face within minutes. I was out of the terrible conditions and now it was just a simple hi-speed bum slide down to the north crater. Reaching the bottom, a climb up to meet Murray was now out of the question. Time now to head for Mangatepopo hut and dinner. No cooker so dry rice was something to look forward to. Luckily being able to cadge the use of a resident's cooker.

Murray also had his hands full building a snow dome on the plateau of the north crater. The blizzard had hit his party and the wet snow had collapsed their efforts. Michael confided in Murray that he wanted to shelter over by the trees where he could hear the birds singing. Time for reasoned thinking and appointing Brent and two others to head east until they came to the poles indicating the route to Ketatahi hut. With their arms around Michael this little band of mountain warriors headed for the safety. Ahead, Brent and his crew forged ahead through the blizzard until Brent shouted, 'there's one.' It was. Just a tiny red tip of the metre long pole poking above the snow.

Back at the Chateau carpark next day, I was just unlocking my car when Murray biked up. "Boy, am I glad to see you". "Likewise," I replied. "More than just another day in the office?"

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## **A Little Hole in the Snow.**

It peeves me at times when someone who knows I enjoy climbing in the mountains, chips in with a "Isn't that dangerous?" We don't think too much about that. So is driving up to the mountain. But then I tend to get reminded about my dubious safety record. Cracked ribs, cracked pelvis, broken jaw, collar bones (twice), wrist, and worst of all, a crushed vertebra.

This was a case of 3 lemons. Three of us were traversing the north slope of Mt Ruapehu on our return to the club lodge. I was leading a snowcraft group of two. Fizz Maxwell and Yan Arts. It was about 4.00 in the afternoon. The snow was beginning to chill with a glaze on the surface. I was wearing my plastic climbing boots fitted with Grivel crampons. Both Jan and Fizz were wearing leather boots fixed with club crampons. In those earlier days the club crampons were not ideal for leather boots. Leather boots bend and the bar holding the front and back of the boots is under pressure. In which case snapping can occur. And in our case did occur. Fizz was the first victim. With a "crack" the bar snapped. After some discussion we decided that with the lodge just an hour away, with our arms around Fizz and with caution we could limp ahead. First lemon. Luck was not on our side. 10 minutes later another "crack" Jan's crampon had snapped. Second lemon. Gingerly Jan took a step forward. Cramponed boot on the uphill leg and just his boot on the lower foot. Two steps later "woops" and his leg goosestepped. In his excitement Jan threw his arms in the air. Letting go of his torch it now tumbled down the slope like an exploding firecracker. Third lemon and time for a discussion. It was really impossible for Fizz and Yan to proceed. So, as we were in a safe-ish area, we decided that they could begin to dig a snow cave shelter while I went ahead to the lodge. For helpers, and two sets of plastic boots and crampons. It was my first experience of Ruapehu and I was a little concerned where it was exactly. It was now getting dark.

So it came to pass that I overshot and found myself on a ridge looking down into Waterfall gully. Very carefully I began traversing around the slope heading for our lodge. Now the nasty bit. My ice axe in my left hand and supporting my balance and ready to use in case of self-arrest. Not the "Ello, ello, ello" type from Mr Plod. But arresting any fall should I have the misfortune. I was being extremely careful as I was aware that about 25 metres below me was a bluff. A cliff, say equal to that of a 3-story building. Well, long story short. The point of my ice axe was not as sharp as it could have been. It slipped. And I fell on it. The good news was that I was in the classic position for self-arrest in a split second. The bad news was that the snow was now hard ice. I was now sliding down towards the gully at high speed listening to the scream of ice axe v's hard ice. I came to a halt. An immediate sudden halt. So immediate that it almost jerked the axe from my grip.

I lay there, shaking like a leaf and panting. What had stopped my plummet of nasty consequences? I looked down at my axe. My saviour. The top of an ice axe – the business end –

has a blade for cutting steps and a pick for uphill thrusting. This small pick had popped into a hole. A hole about the size of my little fingernail. Caused by a small stone warming in the sun and melting the ice. Rather insignificant considering the size of the mountain. If there was a time when the angels up there were watching over me – this was it. Thank you and bless you.

PS: These days I carry a few metres of cord to affect a tie-on repair job. And that's been used more than once.

*Neil*

## TRIP REPORTS

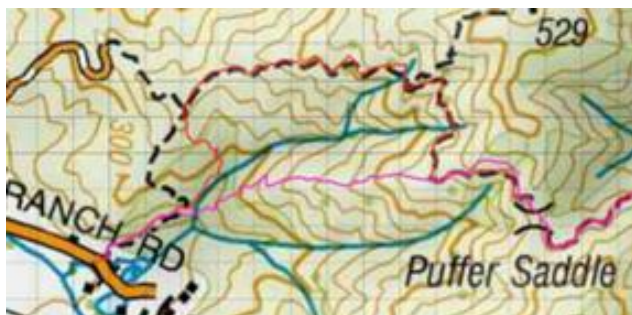
### TUTUWAI HUT 25-26 November 2023 Mel Stoneham

After a week of crap weather forecasting we decided to move our start time to 12pm. Meeting at the clubrooms in the rain, Me, Dave H and Jim all decided we were a bit crazy. Driving out to Marchant Road entrance we saw some sun. Jackets off and packs on we started out to tramp. Jim thought it would be a good idea to take the Puffer Track up. We lost the track, so a quick GPS check and a bush bash up the hill back onto the main track.

Since the weather had improved, we decided to stop at Smith Creek shelter for a longer break. Then off again. We had another group catch us at Marchant Stream and after crossing Jim lent a hand to make sure the other group made it safely. We arrived at Tutuwai Hut just before 7pm. Me and Jim camped out so once the tents were up and Dave had finished chopping some wood we sat down to dinner. The rain/drizzle arrived and stayed all night.

When we woke up on Sunday it was still very drizzly but after packing up and fluffing around the drizzle cleared and we were off again. Around 11 am the sun was out. Jim told us of a great spot for some lunch and we bathed in the sun. Another spot of soaking up the sun and we headed up to the entrance of the Puffer Track. Then took the Puffer Track back down to the car. I mentioned to Jim that I was rather glad we didn't walk up it as it is a bit steep. Was a great weekend away and soo glad the weather played ball. Thanks Dave H and Jim for the company!!! Total tramp times as per Jim Sat 5.56hr 16.1km Sun 6.25hrs 15.5km

*Mel*



# GOLLANS VALLEY

## Sunday 18 February 2024

Chris McMillan

Sunday 18 Feb at 8.30am when we started out was warm and calm with temperatures rising to 23 degrees as the day progressed. Fortunately, the Gollans Valley where we walked felt cooler with predominantly beach tree cover and the cooling effect of the Gollans stream.

13 HVTC members set out from Days Bay up quiet Ferry Road to the Ferry Road track which led to the main ridge. Continuing North until nearly at Mt Lowry we found the chosen spur and descended to the Gollans Stream reaching it a metre or so upstream from the cairn and carved wooden sign marking Top Forks where we stopped at 10.15 for morning tea. The spur is well padded, open and easy to navigate with markers for a trap line.

Following the stream down to the S-bend which is – you guessed it – in the shape of an S was easy going with frequent crossings on slippery rocks. Some people managed to avoid the water altogether with well balanced foot placement but really it was no hardship walking through the water which barely reached over the toe of my boot, the level low after a dry period. Kiekie and Supplejack areas were mostly avoided.

The S-bend area would be lovely as a camping spot and it looked as though people do camp there, it being open and fairly flat. It was perfect for our relaxed long lunch stop at about 12.30.

At the S we crossed the stream and then walked on a narrow section with stream on both sides – this is part of the S shape. Then a steep descent back into the stream (photo Jackie) and heading South to the base of the next spur which was ascended to the main ridge. It was again straight forward to follow on a footpad. At the top after confirming the direction to head (leader had the wrong idea)



we were soon at the top of the Kereru Track which took us back to Days Bay and for some an ice cream at the Pavilion. Approximate elapsed time 6.5 hours plus ice creams.

Some Earina Autumnalis Orchids in flower were spotted. however many more to come soon on the Orchid Hunt trip.

Thanks to everyone who came along for your good company, for looking out for the group, for tail-ender, for route finding, for generous feedback, for input to the discussion about overnight trips – they are wanted by many.

We were: Chris Mc (leader), Murray Mc, Heather, Tom, Chris W, Jackie, Bob, Bernice, Leanne, Sharman, Jim, Mike, Jude.

*Chris*

## AVA PARK CONSERVATION PROJECT : 2 MARCH 2024

### Images by courtesy of Mat Craig

Weeding and mulching. Who is the only person standing around doing nothing?



*The views expressed in the articles in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of the Hutt Valley Tramping Club. Any queries or comments should be directed to the writer of the article. Contributions to the Hills & Valleys are welcomed and encouraged but all are accepted on the understanding that the Editor has the authority to make minor changes if deemed necessary, refer back to the contributor for amendment, or return the contribution for amendment by the Writer.*