



The 2017 Pinus contorta eradication group preparing to spread out before the next sweep. Photo: John Simes

Please submit your **May 2017** H&V articles to the editor by **28th April 2017**

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WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAMME



Starts 8.00 pm promptly

Wednesday 5 April : HVTC – Extraordinary General Meeting

The General Committee is calling the meeting to seek approval for changes to the club membership and subscription structure to more equitably share club costs among all members. The changes enact a successful motion at the 2016 HVTC annual general meeting endorsing fairer rates across single and partnered member subscriptions, and for additional payments to be levied for members receiving extra services, such as printed communications.

Wednesday 12 April 2017 : Graeme Lythgoe – Auction and Supper

Graeme and Ron will be running an Auction night instead of a sales table. Please bring along any suitable items and these will be auctioned off with proceeds going to the club. There will be no pickups/drop-offs and items need to be able to fit into a vehicle. Donors will be requested to take home any unsold items. After the Auction there will be a shared supper, so please bring a small plate of food.

Wednesday 19 April 2017 : Janie Cook – Europe by Bike: 7 separate cycle tours

Over the course of *a summer* (or *the 2015 summer* if you think the date is important), Janie Cook and her husband Graeme devised their own bike trips. The longest was a month in Norway, starting from the northernmost point in Europe. Their southernmost was the Croatian coast. They also made two Alpine crossings, two river trips and a wandering in Tuscany, riding about 5000km.

Wednesday 26 April 2017 : Helen Lukes – Italy Part 2

"Snow-capped peaks, turquoise-green rivers, and an Adriatic coastline inspired by Venice. Throughout Slovenia, culinary and cultural sophistication hides behind a rural, rustic charm." So said Mark Baker of Lonely Planet, and so agreed the group who cycled there after the first Italian part of their European trip last year. Helen will expand on the charms of the country and that of Croatia before they returned to Venice.

Wednesday 3 May 2017 : Peter Smith – USA National Parks around Colorado

In April and May of 2016, Peter Smith and Trish Gardiner-Smith visited 20 national and state parks and national monuments in the United States. In the first part of their trip they explored the Colorado Plateau and some of the magnificent landscapes of the Grand Canyon, Mesa Verde, Canyonlands, Arches and Bryce Canyon.



FORTHCOMING TRIPS



LEGEND


T = Overnight or longer tramping trip


D = Day tramp

M = Mountain biking or cycling trip

O = Other

C = Cycle

 = Dog Friendly

 = Moonlight Walk

NOTES

Where there is no leader given for a trip, please contact the Trip Coordinator to volunteer to lead a trip, either as shown or an alternative.

APRIL

07 – 09

RUAHINES – Pohangina Valley

T2	Leon Kinvig Hut	Keith Thomas	027 535 6176
	Ruapehu Lodge re-cladding	Russell Oliver	021 245 9596
Su 09	D1 Orange Hut	Alan Geeves	938 6074
Tu 11	☾ Moonlight walk - Butterfly Creek	C + M McMillan	569 9019

13 – 17

EASTER – Mt Richmond Forest Park

	Easter at Ruapehu	Alison Newbald	027 4512 587
T1+	Pelorus - Bryant Range - Tinline	Jan Heine	562 8833
		<i>Trip Fully Booked</i>	
C1	🚲 Cycle Hawkes Bay	Pat + John Tristram	569 6705
		<i>Trip Fully Booked</i>	

21 – 25

ANZAC DAY (+ Monday) – Tararua Range

T2	Middle Crossing	Andrew Robinson	586 2438
22 – 23	Ruapehu Lodge re-cladding	Russell Oliver	021 245 9596
Su 23	D1 The Three Peaks	Pamela Campbell	565 1249
Thu 27	D1 🐕 Cattle Ridge - Old 5 Mile (dog friendly)	Graeme Lythgoe	479 6630

28– 30

TRIP LEADERS NEEDED

Su 30	D Mt McKerrow - Middle Ridge	Chris + Jackie West	528 4697
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MAY

Sat tba

M1	🚲 Round the Bays	Graeme Lythgoe	479 6630
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05 – 07

TRIP LEADERS NEEDED

Sun 07	D1 Colonial Knob - Mt Kaukau	Emma Dobbie	027 252 5045
Tue 09	☾ Moonlight walk - Te Whiti Riser	Graeme Lyon	938 4538
Thu 11	D1 🐕 Dobsons Loop (dog friendly)	Graeme Lythgoe	479 6630

UPCOMING EVENTS

SATURDAY 8 APRIL 2017: ABBA NIGHT AT CLUB ROOMS

The HVTC Social Committee, along with Michele L and John S

welcome you to join us for a night of dancing and rollicking good fun on Saturday 8 April 2017 at the Birch Street clubrooms, from 7.30pm on.

Most of us will be dressing up, and there's lots of choice. You could either come in ABBA gear, OR 70's disco, OR maybe something in the Swedish flag colours (gold and blue)!



You may win a prize ☐☐ – judges will be looking at 5 different categories: highest heels, grooviest outfit, weirdest outfit, best 70's hair and widest trouser cuffs.

If you don't fancy getting dressed up, you are very welcome to join us in your normal gear.

AND... all of this wonderful entertainment is FREE – we just ask that you bring a small plate of finger food for supper, and a drink of your choice (plus your glass).

As we say in Sweden – “Var där eller vara kvadratiska”

APPLICATIONS FOR FANNY BAYLISS BEQUEST GRANTS.

Do you think there is equipment or facility that the Club needs or an activity that would benefit members? Your idea may fit the criteria for a funding grant from the Fanny Bayliss Bequest Grants Scheme. For over 20 years a generous bequest of \$29,000 from Fanny Bayliss has assisted the Club financially. Our Grants policy is that funds in excess of principal amount are available for distribution. This year it amounts to \$2,921. A subcommittee is tasked with assessing applications and making a recommendation to the General Committee.

To make an application (in writing please):

- provide us with (a) an overview of what the money will be spent on (b) how much money is being requested and (c) how it will benefit the Club – using the guidelines below
- send it to Kate Livingston (kt.livingston@gmail.com) by 30 April 2017.

Guidelines for assessing the grants (from the policy document) are that the project for which funding is sought will:

1. Provide an opportunity which expands members' experience, competence and enjoyment of the natural environment, and/or
2. Improve Club facilities in furtherance of the Clubs' objectives (see 3.1 of the Constitution), and/or
3. Support activities which promote the Club's primary objective (see the Constitution).

If it is for routine maintenance it will be outside the scope of the grants scheme. We look forward to receiving applications.

Kate Livingston

(Convenor of the Fanny Bayliss Grants sub-committee)

ORDER FMC PACK LINER OR SAFETY GUIDE



Keep your gear dry with a tough FMC pack liner in a tasteful shade of white.

And pop in a copy of *Safety in the Mountains*, the practical booklet that all trampers should own.

The club is doing a bulk order of FMC pack liners and *Safety in the Mountains* guides at the special FMC price.

FMC liners	\$2.20 each
Safety in the Mountains	\$8 each



To order, please email Marina Skinner at marinaskinner@xtra.co.nz or see her at Wednesday club night by 26 April.

The Can-Do Kiwi Couple



→ TOM HALLIBURTON AND JANE MEHAFFEY STOPPED BY ADVENTURE CYCLING HEADQUARTERS at the end of July 2016 while traveling west on the TransAmerica Bicycle Trail. The two Kiwis had planned to do a road trip in the U.S. by car but decided on a bicycle tour after a friend told them about his journey on the TransAm.

"My wife became visually impaired many years ago," Tom wrote, "and other health issues precluded prolonged walks for her. Ten years ago, when our children had grown up, I was concerned that we were drifting apart, living separate lives, in part due to her vision and health issues. I decided to buy a tandem to see if she enjoyed cycling as a shared activity. Despite serious muscle pains on the first few rides (which she never mentioned until much later) she loved cycling with me."

A year later, the two cycled 1,000 miles in 21 days from Land's End to John O'Groats in the UK. Back in New Zealand, they did numerous trips ranging from day trips to three-week adventures. At age 61 and 63 respectively, Tom and Jane relied heavily on Adventure Cycling maps on their 93-day TransAm trip.

"Planning was especially important as we had to manage my wife's health issues," wrote Tom. "In addition to being visually impaired, she is diabetic – requiring insulin injections – and has a transplanted kidney that requires a variety of medications twice daily to prevent it from rejecting. Her two cases of cancer were not a concern, as I was confident that these had been cured, but insulin needs to be kept cool to remain effective." The two used an evaporative cooling pouch, hung in the breeze outside a pannier, which kept the insulin cool for two days at a time after being soaked in water. A friend of theirs in California kept a bulk supply of insulin, along with Jane's other medications, and would have a fresh two-week supply sent "general delivery" to the travelers at pre-determined locations.

"Were we riding to prove cancer, an organ transplant, blindness, or diabetes were not obstacles to adventure? Not really. We knew that with a little planning, and willingness to adapt, none of these are problems." Having completed their journey, when asked if their expedition changed them, Tom wrote, "I gained a renewed respect for my wife's patience, tolerance, and mental toughness. After four months of being close together, and 4,807 miles, we're still married." The two plan on returning to the U.S. someday soon to tackle the Northern Tier together.

From Adventure Cycling's National Bicycle Touring Portrait Collection. © 2017 Adventure Cycling Association.

TRIP REPORTS

RIMUTAKA CYCLE TRAIL : 4-5 February 2017

Pat Tristram

For quite some time I'd been keen to cycle this trail from Melling, stay the night somewhere on Western Lake Road and finish at Melling the following day. Waitangi Weekend looked a good time to do this and with accommodation booked for ten at the Western Lake Bach, the trip was on. Initially I was keen to do it with no support vehicle, taking our food and gear for an overnight trip. Fortunately this idea was stymied when Robyn was unable to cycle the entire trip and suggested driving sections of the ride to support us. This offer was gratefully accepted as it meant we could take more food – e.g. happy hour nibbles and dessert. It was just unfortunate that Frank injured his knee a couple of weeks before the trip and became Robyn's passenger.

So, eight cyclists (Pat, John, Michael, Geoff, Michele, Graeme, Frieda and Leena) after loading up the Usmar's car, were ready for a 9am departure from the Melling (skateboard) car park. John

had thought to let the Cycle email group know of our intentions and we were joined here by Sandra and Ray. The weather was fine and warm – some summer at last – but with the requisite northerly! We reached Harcourt Park for morning tea around 10.40 and were joined by Jean and Bob, as well as Robyn who had biked back to meet us at Moonshine, and Frank. Bob had caught the train from Waterloo to Upper Hutt and with his new (Christmas present to himself) electric bike planned to come through to Featherston. He kept up no problem, although had a close encounter with a tree over a bank when he had to stop quickly on a steep section of the Trail after talking to Poppy (the alpaca). He was extricated with some difficulty, but no harm done and we were soon on our way again.

Continuing on to Te Marua and into the Mangaroa Valley to turn left up the hill to come onto part of the old rail track and through the tunnel into Tunnel Gully Reserve. (Jean and Sandra left us at Maymorn Station). We turned left again at the T junction and while Ray headed down SH2, the rest of us followed the old road through to the Kaitoke car park and onto the Rimutaka Incline.

Lots of walkers and cyclists and we were pleased to reach the Summit close to 2pm for a rather latish lunch. Through the Summit tunnel and to the tricky bit at Siberia Corner and then a rattling, jolting ride down to Cross Creek Station site and out to the Cross Creek car park. Here we met Robyn who had biked up the road from the Wairongomai campsite and said farewell to Bob who was cycling to Featherston (into the head wind) to catch the train back to his car at Waterloo.

We enjoyed a tail wind for this section to Wairongomai where we had afternoon tea before the final 10 km to our accommodation, which we reached around 4.45pm. (78km and 832 metres total ascent). While the accommodation was booked for ten, in reality it suited three couples rather better and was also lacking decent sized pots for cooking and sufficient plates and bowls (especially). However, we managed a great pasta bolognese and when our host arrived shortly after 8pm, she recommended we walk to the top of Battery Hill, which we did in the fading light, but had great views to Lake Ferry, the Rimutaka range and surrounding countryside bathed in the late evening sun.



We had heard that Phaedra was doing a reverse trip to ours and as we departed 8.15am the next morning, wondered how she had got on. One hundred metres down the road we met her and were very impressed to hear she had left Kelson at 4pm on Saturday and arrived at Corner Creek campsite around 8pm. She was now heading off to complete her trip via Cross Creek, the Incline, etc. back to Kelson.

It was good travel in the early morning, although there was a rather large hill before the drop down to Corner Creek and the DoC campsite, which was being well utilised. The signpost indicated 1.5km to the Mukamuka Stream. It certainly seemed further than this as the four wheel drive track rose and fell on a rough surface. We met Russell at the Mukamuka Stream (he had left Burdan's Gate at 7am) and he told us of a good morning tea spot looking across to Windy Point, which was most welcome. This part of the Cycle Trail is quite rough with some large areas covered in sand that are virtually impossible to ride as well as many small ups and downs. So it was with some relief we reached the Kotumu Stream fan, although were surprised to see a sign that said it stretched for 2km and is "rough in places". It was quite good until the last 300 metres where the only bit of stream is flowing and then back onto the 4WD track to Barney's Whare. There were people in residence, so we carried on into an ever increasing head wind to the Orongorongo River and then up the road to the East Harbour Regional Park. Although the wind wasn't as strong as it had been the previous Tuesday for John Smeith's bike ride, some of us still had to walk the section through "Kyber Pass" as the wind fair whistles though that section of road.

We were ready for lunch at 1pm just over the bridge crossing the Wainuiomata River and under some karaka trees before the final push to the top and the rough drop down to the Baring Head coast. Past the shipwreck, the lakes and at the lighthouse, Gill Atkinson joined us for the push back to Burdan's Gate where we she and Russell hopped in their cars and drove to Days Bay to



meet us for afternoon tea/icecreams. We met Paul at Eastbourne and he happily turned around to join us on our final welcome break before the last push around the Bays and back up the Hutt River Trail to Melling, arriving around 4.30pm, having covered 62km and 711 metres total ascent. (Phaedra had done her trip in around 24 hours door to door!) We enjoyed our many stops.

Thanks to those who indulged me by joining me on this trip – John Tristram, Michele & Graeme Lythgoe, Frieda Collie, Leena Stowell, Geoff Norton, Michael Grace, Robyn and Frank Usmar (it would have been a much harder trip for us without

their support), plus Sandra Pearce, Ray Hyndman, Bob Sewell, Jean Cookson, Russell Oliver, Gill Atkinson and Paul Haines.

Pat

MOKAI PATEA COLENZO HUT : 03-06 February 2017

Nick McBride

Sick of running into tourists on every track and missing out on a hut bed despite booking months in advance? Well, you won't have that problem in the northern Ruahines. The downside, however, is somewhat more rugged terrain than any typical tourist is going to set out on.

I was joined by HVTC members Andrew Robinson, Keith Thomas and Sebastian McBride and WTMC member (and ex-HVTC) Shay Bendall and Jessie Go from the NZAC on a trip along the Mokai Patea range, up to Colenso Hut and out via Iron Bark Hut. No tourists were encountered on this trip.

The trip began with a walk across farmland in the beautiful Rangitiki not far out of Taihape.



Just off Rongotea

Photo: Nick McBride

Tranquility is interrupted by a brutal 400 m climb to the start of the Mokai Patea range. The range itself appears on the map to be broad and flat, but is actually on a slow upwards rise. It is little tramped so there is no footpad, but rather an energy draining spongy, damp surface. No complaints about the fine views, but I found the hot weather, lack of recent tramping and heavy pack (including, unnecessarily, a spare fuel bottle and fly) left me feeling short of my best.

Rongotea at 1568m is the highest point on the Mokai Patea. Once it was reached we began the first of many steep, toenail-destroying descents to Wakelings Hut. The hut was a welcome sight and the cans beer left by a hunter in a container of

water were also welcome.

The next morning was taste of things to come with an immediate ascent out of the valley the hut was located. An excellent wide track through pristine forest was pleasant respite until another

steep descent down to Maropea Forks hut. Here we met a woman fishing and a helicopter pilot who had flown her in. We admired the machine, which appeared to be almost brand new. Also new is Maropea Forks hut, which is only two years old and very nicely located next to the river.

The 400+ metre climb out took a bit of resolve. Once the worst was over the track leveled and became rather overgrown, reflecting its fairly limited travel and low priority on DoC's maintenance list. Another steep descent took us to the Unknown Campsite. We were a bit hot and tired and contemplated staying there with the tents we had unnecessarily taken with us. An option would have been to travel down the river the next day to Iron Bark Hut. However, we decided to stick to the plan and headed up the stream looking for the track to Colenso

Some sloppy thinking saw some of us prematurely leave the creek bed to find the track and get stuck in thick bush. Keith reminded us a large orange triangle would be the right clue. Sure enough he located it and we commenced our final steep climb for the day. This was followed by one of the steepest descents down to the turnoff to Colenso Hut. It did give us some iconic vantage points of Lake Colenso itself.



Maropea Forks hut

Photo: Nick McBride

We stopped by the lake on the way to Colenso Hut, which was a deep green hue and well populated with mallard ducks and black swans. Arriving at the hut after ten hours of tramping should have been a chance to relax, but crowds of sandflies made that difficult. At night mosquitos buzzed around our ears and, given how warm it was, sleep did not come easy.

A DoC employee from Palmerston North doing some volunteer trapping joined us at Colenso.

The next day was fine and still. Getting from Colenso Hut to Iron Bark involves another ascent before a very steep drop to the river before Iron Bark Hut. Like other tracks in the area, the descent is not accurately shown on the Linz topomap. Iron Bark Hut is also in excellent condition and little used.

It goes without saying our final push involved a steep climb to get out of the bush. We had permission to cross the north side of Mokai Patea peak. In the blazing sun this final push felt particularly tough. Two black toenails and blisters didn't make the final, almost vertical descent off the peak over grassland easy. Shay, however, had lost none of his amazing downhill agility and made easy work of it.

Back at the car, we were able to reflect on a rare trip that went off exactly to plan. The weather was fine and largely still, we had plenty of space in the huts and did not meet crowds of tourists. The bush in the northern Ruahines is much better quality than other parts of the park I have been to, and we saw the famous Lake Colenso. However, it was a tough effort I found, even compared with the Tararuas despite the climbs not being quite as long. I was worse for wear afterwards but all the party agreed it was well worth it.

Nick

MT. CLIMIE : 5 February 2017

John Evans

After an unsettled early summer with several wet & windy weekends, it was welcome to find sunny conditions for a Sunday walk on Waitangi weekend. At 9:00 four humans and two dogs converged at the Tunnel Gully Recreation Area top car park for a trip onto the spine of the Rimutaka range. An early-ish start avoided high temperatures on the long uphill of Climie track, and soon we were enjoying gradually expanding views as height was gained. This was a first trip out with HVTC for

Pippa, who had no difficulty with a steady upward tempo, with Archie and Cleo padding happily along for encouragement.

On top of North Climie there was no-one about, but as we continued to our lunch-stop on Climie proper we met a couple of people enjoying the panorama - a fine prospect down the Hutt Valley to Wellington Harbour - hazy, but also visible were the Kaikouras and Marlborough Sounds- closer to hand were Kapiti Island, and looking back Northwards the Tararua range, as well as clear views across Wairarapa. On the descent we cut down into the bush via the 'steep route', this was a welcome respite from the gravel track, and took in the lovely little waterfall on Tane's Track to finish our trip. Thanks to all for coming along.

Those on the trip: Pippa Burns, Doug Flux, Donna Reid, John Evans, Archie & Cleo.

John

PINUS CONTORTA ERADICATION WEEKEND.

3rd to 5th March 2017

John Simes

As usual we really enjoy this weekend as it seems to tick a number of boxes for us all. No one fears getting left behind because they can not keep up. If your work rate is above average you can perform to your hearts content especially when in an area with lots of pines to pull or chop. (Grant and Keith were particularly energetic) The work is satisfying both exercise wise and because there is a good environmental aspect to it. There is a commitment to the challenge and you get to see things that a faster pace would not allow. On top of that we get to work with DOC staff who share many a good story and who appreciate our involvement. This year we worked with Danial Van der Lubbe who heads the weed control programme at Ohakune. Danial is a keen hunter hence the ready supply of venison each year. Back steaks at that! With him this year was Matt Howell who is new to DOC and whose primary work is whio surveys. Matt is Ngati Tuwharetoa and he was very generous with delightful stories about past times of his iwi and other matters of tikanga maori. His parting gift was to hongi us all so it's fair to say he was pleased to be with us. The other treat was that joining our 11 were 7 from Whanganui Tramping Club. This added another new and friendly dimension to the weekend.

The area we were in is called Tufa. We camped in the beech forest just adjacent to Karioi forest on the South slopes of Mt Ruapehu. Some of the area is densely swathed in waist high hebe and other shrubs and this proved to be exhilarating to work in as there were occasional quite sizeable trees to be dealt with. Pruning saws did the trick here. Seedlings are near impossible to see in this terrain and so return visits will be needed every few years. Where it becomes impenetrable DOC called us off and helicopters and herbicide will deal with that some other time. The slopes fairly quickly thin out as you gain altitude and so there is always plenty of barren (but attractive) ground to cover where pine plants these days are few and far between. They are also seedling size in these areas and so hard to spot from a helicopter. Foot cover is the best way to do this ground.



Barren (but attractive) ground.

Photo: Bruce Miller

Historically there were groves of Pines in the gullies on this land and today you can still see the withered trunks of large trees that were felled maybe 20 or more years back. On this weekend we collectively accounted for the demise of 490 trees, a much higher tally than in recent years.

From time to time club members have heard kiwi in the more bushed area where we camp. We did not hear them this trip but in several spots kiwi foot prints were seen in the sandy areas near bush. As well, unusual plants such as orchids are sometimes seen on the slopes in areas that must surely have good snow cover in winter. It is always a good trip for the botanically inclined.

Many club members have done this work over the past 35 plus years. Chain saws have been replaced by gloves and pruning saws but the work will need to go on for a long time to come. Danial indicated that he is applying for a large sum from MPI in order to deal with some of the more difficult areas, presumably by helicopter.

Thanks to John Smeith, Jan Heine, Elaine and Derek Richardson, Grant Roberts, Phaedra Upton, Keith Thomas, Irene Davies, Alan Geeves and Bruce Miller for a great weekend.



Orthoceras novae-zeelandiae Photo: John Simes

John

WALKING QUOTATIONS

There is an intense but simple thrill in setting off in the morning on a mountain trail, knowing that everything you need is on your back. It is a confidence in having left the inessentials behind and of entering a world of natural beauty that has not been violated, where money has no value, and possessions are a dead weight.

Paul Theroux

There is this to be said for walking: it's the one mode of human locomotion by which a man proceeds on his own two feet, upright, erect, as a man should be, not squatting on his rear haunches like a frog.

Edward Abbey

It is good to collect things; it is better to take walks.

Anatole France

RAMBLERS' VIEWS

Here is a small selection of the sights and views enjoyed by the Friday Ramblers over the last 12 months. Can you identify them?



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