



*Graeme Lythgoe enjoying Chatham Island hospitality, April 2021.*

*Photo: Frank Usmar*

Please submit your **May 2023** H&V articles to the editor by **28<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

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## CLUB NIGHT PROGRAMME

Starts 7:30 pm promptly



### 5 April : Ian and John Flux – Remembering Doug.

Doug Flux was a keen tramper, rock climber, kayaker, caver, snorkeler, caravaner, biker - on mountain, trial, and motor bikes, and photographer.

This talk by Ian and John will illustrate his early travels with the family through Africa, Europe, and across Asia, and his many solo tours in Australia, Canada, and America.

### 12 April : Andrew Fisher – Adventures South at Christmas 2022

Andrew will tell us about their trip down south during the Christmas break 2022. They tramped the Wilkin Valley, Kepler Track and an overnigher on the Routeburn.

### 19 April : Jonty Crane – Ethiopia.

Just before Covid struck Jonty Crane spent a memorable fortnight in Ethiopia, visiting rock churches, historic castles, and the Simian Mountains. A three day hike near Lalibela included runaway donkeys, fake guides, families of baboons, pack attacking mice, epic views, rapid dogs, a death, and a birth!

### 26 April : Natalie Robinson, NIWA – Antarctica Field Work

Natalie is Physical Oceanographer working for NIWA, conducting most of her work under ice in the Antarctic. In this talk she will describe Antarctica's role in our changing climate and will share some personal stories from eight seasons on ice.

### 3 May : Robert Tristram – Tramping Adventures.

After bad weather got even worse and prevented continuing the TA south of John Tait Hut in Nelson Lakes, the team of 2 and some extras headed south, walking north from Round Hill.



## FORTHCOMING TRIPS



### 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

7 – 10		<b>Easter</b>		
6 – 10	T2	Carkeek Ridge Hut via Park Forks Tararua FP	Chris Keen	022 652 4002
	RL	Tama Lakes/Ruapehu summit/lots of possible walks	Leader needed or just book in	
Sun 9	D1	A taste of the Eastern Hutt River	Dave Hanley	027 711 2644
Thur 13	D1	Rangituhi (Colonial Knob)	Bernice & Bob	021 994 854
Sun 16	D1	Birchville – Karapoti.	Marina Skinner	021 792 260
22 – 23				
Sun 23	D1	Mid Turere Stream stoat trap check	Maarten Vink	027 304 2995
29 – 30				
Sun 23	D1	Turere Loop from Catchpool	Heather & Marilyn	021 108 8578

### MAY

Sat or Sun Date tba		Wairarapa	Ann Hayman	021 880 097
Tue 2		Te Whiti Riser	Graeme Lyon	021 154 3850
6 – 7	T1	Jumbo Hut	Mel Stoneham	027 361 3423
Sun 7	D1	Hills above Hine Road	Anja & Maarten	564 8851

## FROM THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

April 2023

Just one item from the General Committee this month. Our marvellous trip coordinator, Chris McMillan, is stepping down in the middle of this year.

We are looking at some changes to the role to spread the load for a new trip coordinator. This would involve a small group of people supporting the coordinator with planning, ongoing management and communication of the various trips, collecting trip statistics and liaising about emergency contacts.

The HVTC General Committee would like your views about how the trip coordinator role might look from the end of July, in particular:

Do you think a small group would be useful to support the trip coordinator?

Would you be interested in being part of this group or being the trip coordinator?

Do you have thoughts about how we organise our trips?

Please send Marina your feedback by 16 April. email [president@hvtc.org.nz](mailto:president@hvtc.org.nz)

*Phaedra Upton*

for the General Committee

## NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2023 FMC EXECUTIVE

Federated Mountain Clubs (FMC) is looking for nominations for its Executive.

FMC is particularly looking for people with skills in policy, planning, law, or administration – and who are passionate about outdoor recreation.

FMC President Robin McNeill has decided not to stand again and a new President will also be elected.

To learn more about what the FMC Executive does, and what being on the Executive means, take a look at the [FMC Executive prospective member FAQ](#).

If you're interested, please let anyone on the General Committee know. FMC needs nominations by 5pm on Wednesday 12 April 2023.

## HVTC EMERGENCY CONTACTS NEWS

I am pleased to welcome Jackie West to our Club emergency contacts team. Her perspective and experience as a regular trip leader will be of benefit to club trampers.

Also, I want to remind trip leaders to use our email address [emergencycontacts@hvtc.org.nz](mailto:emergencycontacts@hvtc.org.nz) for sending us trip plans and participant lists. This provides all emergency contacts with information about a trip, which will be most useful if the rostered person is unable to be contacted in an emergency.

*Bob Deller*

For HVTC Emergency Contacts team (previously known as SAR Contacts)

## HALL MAINTENANCE MATTERS

The men's toilets are currently getting a makeover. This work will be carried out as time allows. Doreen and Doc apologise for any inconvenience this may cause to our club members during the makeover.

*Doc Watson*

Clubroom Custodian

## CLUB CENTENARY



### REMINDER ABOUT REGISTERING FOR CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS ON THE WEEKEND OF FRIDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER TO SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2023

As detailed in last month's "H&V", the 3-5 November 2023 celebrations comprise the following:

- 3<sup>rd</sup> November (~ 5 pm to 8 pm): **A Friday Night cocktail party** at the HVTC clubrooms (**free to registered participants**; see below for registration details).
- 4<sup>th</sup> November (~ 2 pm – 5 pm) **Saturday afternoon “mix and mingle” afternoon tea** at the HVTC clubrooms (**free to registered participants**).
- 4<sup>th</sup> November (~ 6 pm to 10 pm) **Saturday night catered dinner at the Kensington Room, Petone Workingmen’s Club**. This dinner, likely a 3-course buffet, will be **at participants’ own expense**. The Saturday dinner also requires pre-registration (see below) and is limited to a maximum of 200 participants.
- 5<sup>th</sup> November (late morning to mid-afternoon) **Sunday BYO picnic/BBQ** at either Catchpole Valley (Wainuiomata) or Kaitoke Regional Park (venue to be confirmed later in the year). This event is also **free to registered participants**.

### Registration:

As noted above, pre-registration for all the planned weekend events that you wish to take part in is essential for planning purposes.

- To register you will need to visit the club’s website ([www.hvtc.org.nz](http://www.hvtc.org.nz)) where you can access a registration form via the home page.
- On the top right-hand side of the home page, look for the centenary logo, the same as that shown at the top of this notice, and directly below it there is some hyper-linked text that you can click on to go to a centenary section of the club’s website.



- On the main centennial page, there is some red text that you need to click on to access the form. Fill in the form as instructed and then hit submit – this sends the form to the 100th committee and you will receive an acknowledgement of your submission.

Further updates on your selected events will be provided to you via one or all of the following: e-mails, notices in Hills and Valleys, and updates to the club's website, as appropriate.



## HVTC CENTENARY WALKS MAY 2023

The Hutt Valley Tramping Club was formed in May 1923. One of the earliest tramps was to Belmont Trig.

As part of the celebrations for the Club's centenary year, on Sunday 14th May 2023 there will be three walks in Belmont Regional Park and one at Petone Beach. The activities are intended to suit current and past members of all abilities.

We will meet at 9.00 am at the regional park entrance at Oakleigh Street, Maungaraki, Lower Hutt for an official welcome and a group photograph.

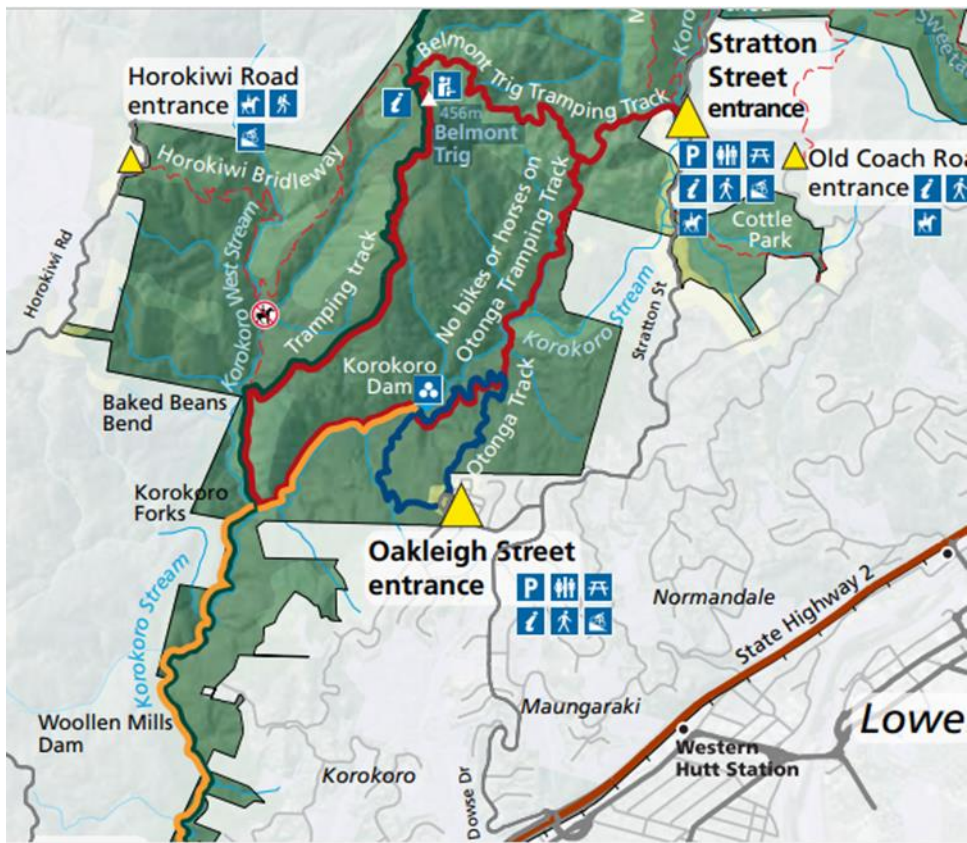
Anyone who wishes to attend the welcome and photograph, without participating in a walk, is welcome to do so.

Attendees are invited to dress in tramping clothing from the 1920's or the decade they started tramping.

Starting around 9.30 am, the following walks will take place:

- A. A loop walk from Oakleigh St Entrance to Belmont Trig via the Otonga track and the four-wheel drive track, returning via Baked Beans Bend (about 4 hours). Leaders: Bob Deller, Jackie West
- B. A return walk from Stratton St Entrance to Belmont Trip via the four-wheel drive track (about 3 hours). Walkers will take private vehicles, ideally with car-pooling, from Oakleigh St. The starting location for the walk will be the car parking area at the end of Stratton St. Leader: Doc Watson
- C. A walk from Oakleigh St Entrance to Korokoro Dam and downstream to Cornish St Entrance (2-3 hours). The Club van will transfer walkers back to Oakleigh St. Leaders: Michael Grace, Sandra Pearce
- D. A gentle stroll along Petone Beach, Hikoikoi Reserve and Hutt River (1-2 hours flexible). Walkers may be split into two or more groups, depending on how far people want to walk. Non-walkers could enjoy a morning tea near the beach or in a local café. Participants will use private vehicles to travel from Oakleigh St to Petone (starting location to be advised later). Leaders: Val, Bruce and Graeme

Saturday 13th May will be the alternative day in case of a poor weather forecast for Sunday.



The Oakleigh St Entrance is well- used at weekends. Car parking inside may be limited, in which case walkers should park on Oakleigh Street outside the entrance.

Each group will have two or more leaders for guidance and safety.

Walkers should carry food (snacks, morning tea, lunch, water, hot drink if desired), a waterproof jacket, a warm hat, and an additional item of warm clothing in case it is cold. Sun protection should be worn or carried too. The tracks are suitable for sports footwear or walking shoes (tramping boots are not necessary).

Event Registration:

- Please email [100th@hvtc.org.nz](mailto:100th@hvtc.org.nz) to express your interest in participating.
- Put 'HVTC Centenary May Walks' in the subject line and indicate which walk you would like to join.
- Please do not use the web registration form to indicate participation in the May walk(s). The registration form on the Club's website is for the November weekend activities only, not for the May walks.

If you know of any past members who might be interested, please tell them about the walks.

This notice is also posted in the HVTC Centenary pages on the Club's website ([www.hvtc.org.nz](http://www.hvtc.org.nz)).

## MEMORIES OF GRAEME

Here, in no particular order, are some club members' memories of Graeme Lythgoe..

### *Ian Little*

One of my memories of Graeme, is my first trip, at Anniversary Weekend 1967, Waipakihi River, in the Kaimanawa Range.

Graeme was the leader of this trip, and after numerous river crossings, I was told to stop splashing water up the back of his legs.

As a 16-year-old, I was only trying to keep up with the guns.

After 50 plus years, he still reminded me to “stop splashing” with a big grin on his face. Ha Ha.

### ***Maarten Vink***

#### **Graeme Lythgoe’s pre-Easter tramps.**

I did my first one of these tramps in 2001. Graeme had been leading them for quite a number of years, exploring a great variety of areas in New Zealand. They were often off the beaten track and were well researched and planned. Tramps were scheduled about a month before Easter on the theory that the weather was more settled around that time. Usually, they coincided with a full moon.

Tenting was preferred to staying in huts, and having a good fire at the campsite for cooking and keeping us warm was done as often as possible. Party gear included an axe for cutting firewood, usually carried by John Fox.

By 2001 there was a well-established routine. The number on the trip was limited to 9 people, fitting in 3 three-person tents, and being a convenient number to fit into the vans booked to transport us to and from road-ends. The dinners were macaroni with peas and flavouring sachets, parmesan and salami. The flavouring sachets were the variable factor from one dinner to the next. Dinner for 9 people was a good fit for the size of billies we carried. There was dessert too. Custard.

These tramps were very popular, so they were often full. An item in the Hills and Valleys said there were places available in the 2001 trip, so I jumped at the chance. This trip had it all. On the first day we travelled by plane, van and jetboat to get to the start of our tramp. We tramped through forests and river flats in the valleys, tented and had camp fires. We stayed in a remote treeless mountain basin with a rock biv during a thunderstorm with heavy rain. We crossed over mountain ranges and the mighty Landsborough River.

On our first night back in civilisation we would go out for dinner together, and a few months later there was a trip reunion in Greytown to view each other’s photographs.

Over the years some things changed. The axe was replaced with a fold-up saw. Photographs changed from slides and prints to digital. The custard dessert was dropped (It took a lot of effort and fuel to get it right without burning). What did not change was the experience of being out in the New Zealand wilderness with a great bunch of fellow trampers.

### ***Jackie West***

Graeme led my first overnight trip with HVTC in the first weekend of December 1973. After being dropped at the saddle on Akatarawa Road on Friday night we walked into Renata Hut. We arrived in the dark and it was raining steadily. Saturday morning was fine and other trips departed for Otaki Forks where the club was holding river crossing instruction on Sunday. The only other trampers in Graeme’s group were Mat Craig and her 12 year old son Bruce. I was hurrying down a ridge trying to keep up with Graeme when I fell and cut my knee. I said that I could see the bone but Graeme responded with “that’s nothing to worry about” but I felt he was saying this to keep me calm. He then set about bandaging my knee. By the time we reached School House Flat I was very weary so Graeme took my pack and carried it on top of his. At Otaki Forks I found space in Parawai Hut while Graeme who only slept in a hut if there was no alternative pitched a tent. Later Graeme who was concerned about my injury told me we were going to see a doctor in Otaki that evening. Graeme had spoken to John Tristram who had driven to the road end with Pat and their two very young children. Graeme, John and I walked out to the Tristram’s car with John piggy backing me over the Roaring Meg stream. I saw a doctor, was stitched up, and spent the night with friends in Otaki.

Graeme was an accountant, a profession noted for careful spending of their own money. During 2009 Chris and I were staying at South Ohau Hut where we spotted an entry in the intentions book, "Ridgway Lythgoe, Wanganui, Graeme Lythgoe, Wellington, Fizz Lythgoe, Greytown." Later I asked Graeme why Fizz was from Greytown to which he said, "As I own property in Greytown I can register my dog there which is much cheaper than Wellington."

Graeme was a wonderful organiser and leader who was willing and able to organise trips such as the 2 Fiordland and Stewart Island Real Journey cruises and the trip to the Chatham Islands all of which attracted 25 to 30 club members. I also had the pleasure of in recent years participating in 3 of his pre-Easter trips so I am grateful that I have enjoyed many great trips in wonderful company thanks to Graeme.

### ***Murray Presland***

#### **Sage Advice**

I had been ski-touring, for the first time, with friends on the Fox Glacier from Pioneer Hut – traversing the neve and climbing several peaks before skiing out down the glacier. It was a wonderful experience! So the following winter I cajoled a group of Club members to fly into the Murchison Glacier with a mountain of skiing and climbing gear, and the intention of ski-exploring and climbing before exiting via Tasman Saddle and down the Tasman Glacier. The group included Graeme and Doug Fowler, both old hands at this ski-touring business. We had a couple of wonderful days skiing the Aida and Mannering Glaciers and climbed a couple of small peaks, then a 3-day nor-west storm set in. It was a beauty – so wild that in order to make the short journey from the hut to the toilet safely one needed to don full storm gear plus crampons and a climbing harness and clip into the rope stretched across the icy 20 m slope outside the door.

Suddenly, around midday, the storm relented; it was quiet; we looked at one another in surprise; packed our gear in half an hour and set off down the Murchison Glacier, heading for Liebig Hut. Somehow we came off the end of the glacier on the wrong side of the river – a daunting prospect as darkness was setting in, it was drizzling and we were not certain where the hut was. Nick and Andrew linked up for the bouldery, murky, very cold crossing but Andrew's shoulder dislocated part-way across and he stumbled out in agony. The remaining four of us chose to cross together; part-way across, at the top-end, I was in chest-deep water supported by Graeme but struggling to keep my feet stable amongst the rocks; Doug, at the other end, was standing ankle-deep on a large boulder. Somehow we staggered out together – all of us miserable, very wet, very cold, and now it was dark. As we searched for torches, Graeme said to me – "Party morale is pretty low, leader. You need to do something!"

It was an excellent reminder about one of the, less apparent, responsibilities one has as the trip leader - a responsibility that Graeme was always aware of!

ps: It all worked out well. We found torches, shared a packet of chocolate biscuits and then, on clambering up onto the tussock river flats, spotted a candle lit in the hut window by the pair of skiers who had come down the valley ahead of us. Though it was about 400 m away we could each feel warmth from that candle!

### ***Graham White***

I had the pleasure of being on many trips which Graeme Lythgoe organised, tramping, cycling and bikepacking.

One was a two-week summer trip in 2016 in the Mt Aspiring National Park and the Cascade Saddle. Snow grass was a terrible hazard along this track. It was as slippery as ice when wet – which was most of the time. The tracks were very narrow with unforgiving drop offs in places. Hazard signs frequently reminded us of the consequences. We were climbing for ages and thought we could see the top which turned out to be exactly half way! One of the members in the team was struggling so his kit was distributed amongst the stronger members in our group and the



very strong ones raced on to the hut to get assistance from other trappers there to come back and help which they did.

After a good night's rest, it was decided to make an early start because the hut was located beside a stream which had to be crossed and was prone to flooding –and it did. The heavens opened up and there was no chance of going back after we had started. The side streams became torrents and the drop-offs more menacing. It was exposed and there was no place to shelter –we had to go on.



By time we reached the Dart Glacier the sky was blue and the glacier looked awesome. This has been a most memorable trip for me with Graeme. This trip was just one example of his knowledge and appreciation of the outdoors and I always felt safe and valued on his trips- be it tramping, cycling and bikepacking.



## IMAGES OF GRAEME











*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.*