



Walking the Bryant Range; Richmond Range in the background.

Photo: Leni Mäckle

Please submit your **June 2017** H&V articles to the editor by **2nd June 2017**

HVTC Postal Address: PO Box 30-883, Lower Hutt:

Clubrooms: Birch Street Reserve, Birch Street, Waterloo

Internet: <http://www.hvtc.org.nz> E-mail: info@hvtc.org.nz

President:	Frank Usmar	569 5996	Secretary:	Marina Skinner	021 792 260
Trip Coordinator:	Nick McBride	021 410 551	Treasurer:	Jim Cousins	586 2135
Editor H&V:	Bruce Miller	563 5966		the-bruce@xtra.co.nz	



WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAMME



Starts 8.00 pm promptly

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.

Wednesday 10 May 2017 : Robyn & Frank Usmar – Italy Part 3

Continuing on with the trilogy and final part of our cycling journey we bid farewell to Venice, island hopping by ferries to return to the mainland of Italy where our route takes us through many historic towns along the way to Florence then on to Rome. From fields of sunflowers, flocks of flamingos, armed guards and a visit to the Vatican, along with many other things of interest, while the temperatures rose to the high 30's.

Wednesday 17 May 2017 : Marina Skinner – Waikaremoana - a taste of summer

Lake Waikaremoana was a stunning centrepiece for a club trip in February this year. The party of 11 completed the great walk around the lake from Whanganui landing to Onepoto over four sunny days. Trip members will present their Urewera adventure, some high points and some lows.

Wednesday 24 May 2017 : Mary Culpan – 50 Backcountry Huts in a year.

After her 49th birthday in July 2016, Mary started thinking about the coming year...her 50th year. It seemed like an occasion to be celebrated and marked in a memorable way, so she set herself a challenge...50 back country huts in a year. She made a few rules to guide herself.

1. The huts had to be more than an hour's walk from the road end.
2. They had to be 50 "different" huts.
3. She didn't have to stay the night, but needed to get a photo.

She started on New Year's day 2016 with a run up to Kiwi Saddle hut in the Kawekas. During the year she visited huts in the Tararuas, Nelson Lakes National Park, the Ruahines, Kawekas, Aorangi Forest Park, Rimutaka Forest Park, Pureora Forest Park and Tongariro National Park. Of the 50 huts, 28 were new to her. She loved the challenge but is now scratching her head thinking "what's next".

Wednesday 31 May 2017 : Daniel Watson – Tripping through South America.

In February 2017 Daniel and his partner Lynda completed a 9 month trip through South America, from Argentina to Colombia. They had a once in a lifetime experience teaching English, experiencing local culture, visiting heritage sites, trekking through the Andes and meeting people from all corners of the world. Highlights were visiting the highest mountain outside Asia, Aconcagua 6,962m, the two 10 day treks in Peru and summiting Huayna Potosi at 6,088m in Bolivia.

Wednesday 7 June 2017 : Graeme Lyon – Kermadec Islands Cruise

In March 2016 Graeme Lyon went on a 7 day cruise north from Tauranga to the Kermadec Islands. He was lucky to enjoy great weather and tramped with the DOC rangers on some of the tracks on Raoul Island as well as doing boat tours of other islands. He will show and describe some of the highlights.





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.

MAY

Sat tba	M1	 Round the Bays	Graeme Lythgoe	479 6630
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
12– 14	TARARUA RANGE – Holdsworth			
	T1	Jumbo - Holdsworth		
Sun 14	D1	Wainui Water Catchment – Pack Track	Nick McBride	021 410 551
19– 21	TARARUA RANGE – Holdsworth			
	T2	McGregor and the Broken Axe Pinnacles	Nick McBride	565 4473
Su 21	D1	Stratton Street – Takapu Road	Pat + John Tristram	569 6705
Thu 27	D1	 Mt Reeves Circuit (dog friendly)	Graeme Lythgoe	479 6630
26– 28	TARARUA RANGE – Walls Whare			
	T1	Totara Flats Hut	Chris + Jackie West	528 4697
	T2	Mt Reeves – Tutuwai	Alan Geeves	938 6074
Sun 28	D1	Plimmerton – Pukerua Bay	Pamela Campbell	565 1249

JUNE

Sat tba	M1	 Days Bay – Wainui – Baring Head	Phaedra Upton	021 0232 6726
02– -05	QUEENS BIRTHDAY RUAHINE RANGE – Tamaki West Road			
	T2	Piripiri Hut	Andrew Robinson	586 2438
	M1	Ride or walk	Pat + John Tristram	569 6705
	D1	Melling – Keith George Memorial Park		
Tue 06		 Moonlight Walk – Western Hills	C + M McMillan	569 9019
Thu 08	D1	Paekakariki Escarpment	Graeme Lythgoe	479 6630



UPCOMING EVENTS

SALES TABLE

10 May.

As always, the second Wednesday of the month is the day for the Sales Table. Please bring along items that you wish to donate to this effort. Home baking and preserves are especially welcome. Garden produce is also popular so bring along all the excess from you vegetable garden. Everyone else bring some cash to purchase some goodies with. Prices are always reasonable.

Graeme Lythgoe

=====

HVTC RUAPEHU LODGE

2017 FOOD RE-STOCK AND LODGE SPRUCE-UP WORK PARTY

9 –11 JUNE 2017

Enthusiastic volunteers are needed to reprovise our Ruapehu Lodge. As usual, on arrival at Iwikau we will be loading the food onto the chairlift, then riding the chairlift to Hut Flat and helping to shift the food around the head of Tenants Gulley to the Lodge. The use of the chairlift is, of course, weather dependent

Apart from shifting the food, we have many projects within and around the Lodge itself which are much less strenuous.

Everyone is welcome, the more the merrier. A number of people are needed during the day on Friday 9, to travel to the mountain before the chairlift closes for the night.

Everyone interested please contact: - John Simes Phone 04 565 0259, e-mail j.simes@gns.cri.nz
Before Friday 2 June

John Simes

=====

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE HVTC.

26 JULY 2017

This year's AGM, the 94th, is scheduled to be held at the clubrooms at Birch Street, Waterloo on the 26th July 2016 commencing at 8.00 pm sharp.

Our club couldn't operate without our committed members who volunteer their time to lead club trips and social events, and contribute in many other ways.

With the AGM coming, there's the opportunity to consider joining the General Committee, the Social Committee or the Ruapehu Committee, which runs our lodge. Or you might have skills that you would like to share with the club, without joining a committee.

If you're interested in becoming a committee member or contributing in other ways, please contact President Frank Usmar (usmar@actrix.co.nz) or Secretary Marina Skinner (marinaskinner@xtra.co.nz) or members of either committee.

Secretary Marina Skinner will have nomination forms at club nights in May and June. The closing date for nominations is 28 June.

Club's constitution:

If for any reason you haven't been able to download a copy of the constitution from the club's website and you require a printed copy please do not hesitate to let me know and I will get one to you.

Marina Skinner
Club Secretary

ENERGY CONSUMPTION AT RUAPEHU LODGE

An Important Message.

The club lodge is connected to the power grid through the utility "The Lines Company" and the energy used is provided by "King Country Energy". In the rugged central North Island the infrastructure necessary to deliver power is expensive and the population is small to pay for that. Lodge power expenditure is typically a modest \$1900 per year and the lines charges are a whopping \$7000 per year at present. If we took no action the line charges would rise to \$11,000 per year relatively soon. This charge is determined by our "peak load" or the amount of juice we suck out of the system at times of highest usage.

The lodge committee decided to see what could be done to reduce peak load. During peak load (typically somewhere between 5pm and 9pm but also in the morning sometimes) The Lines Company can operate a ripple control to reduce their overall peak load. Any user can hook up to this ripple control in order to lower their individual peak load and hence their lines charges. The down side is some inconvenience as things might not be as warm as preferred at times of peak load control.

A year ago we got our own ripple connection. We connected water heating, drying room heating, bunkroom heating and half the lounge heating. We have had one season to experience the cost in comfort and learn of future financial benefits. The benefit is we reduced our peak load substantially so that our lines charges for the next year will be about \$5000. This is a very satisfactory result indeed. Our next step is to ponder what adjustments can be made to ameliorate the discomfort experienced by lodge occupiers especially in the colder period of July and August.

One option will be to install a black box that monitors load on a number of circuits and when something is turned off voluntarily (oven for instance) that enables something else to turn on if it is needed. The black box would cost about \$2000 so we will take some time to delve carefully to ensure it will make a meaningful difference before we commit.

Another option might be to reduce what is connected to ripple control but we would prefer to take a more sophisticated approach if possible. Alternatively an oil filled column heater might be made available for more immediate comfort in a specific area rather than trying to heat the whole lounge. This however, would of course add to our peak load.

In the mean-time there are some simple precautions one might choose to take to help cope with the situation.

- 1) If you're planning on an early night, pre-war your bunkroom before the ripple control turns the bunk room heating off.
- 2) Pre-war the lounge.
- 3) Bring warmer indoors clothing in anticipation of a cooler experience.
- 4) Consider more physical activity during periods of ripple control. Yoga, dancing and table traverses warm you up much more than supping whiskey or reading a book.
- 5) Congregate in a more confined area if there is just a small number of you.
- 6) Do not be concerned about the drying room if your clothes are wet. The heating will come on later and run all night and along with the dehumidifier will do a great job with your wet gear.

None of these measures would have been suggested or activated without the excellent support of our electrical gurus. They are Bob Deller, Patrick Fotheringham and Neil Parker. Thanks for your support guys!

And thanks in anticipation to all members for understanding the issue and working your way around it.

The Ruapehu Lodge Committee

RECYCLING

I am collecting wine bottle caps and the small aluminium tabs from beer cans or other drink cans with tabs. I give these to a Lions group who collects large enough amounts of these to earn money from recycling them. The money earned goes to charity. I will take a bucket to club nights for people to put their caps and tabs in.

Anja van Kesteren.

RUAPEHU ROUND-UP

Following receipt of a very generous donation in 2016 the Ruapehu Lodge Committee was in a position to undertake some of the larger maintenance work on the two storied section of the Lodge.



Sand-blasted cedar cladding

The weatherboards on the upper story north face had previously been replaced due to deterioration of the original timber cladding. The replacement cedar weatherboard cladding however had also not stood the test of time in this harsh environment to the point where the timber was severely eroded through being blasted by sand, ice and rain and lost up to 5mm of the original thickness in some areas. This then contributed to much warping and splitting. Numerous attempts had been made over the years to seal the cracks but it had reached the point where this was no longer a practical solution. It was decided to replace the cedar boards with treated pine and paint them to match the weatherboards on the other three side of the building and to give the timber the

protection from the elements that was lacking on the unpainted cedar. Obviously we still have the

same extreme weather conditions but with regular painting it is hoped that we can improve the durability.

Work on the recladding started on 8/9 April and was completed on 22/23 April. With only some minor finishing works to be completed. The Ruapehu Committee wishes to acknowledge and thank those who worked hard or contributed to the completion of this rather overdue project.



Completed 23 April

Work has also started on the repair and remediation of the concrete block cladding around the base of two-storied section of the lodge. These concrete blocks are rather porous and under freeze/thaw conditions have experienced some deterioration.



Grinding off the paint

Previously the blocks were painted to eliminate this but the adhesion of paint was only partially successful and so significant areas have cracked and lifted. Visitors to the lodge will notice that we have made a start on grinding off the paint on the north face of the building, which is quite a time consuming and tedious operation. As well as experimenting with the most effective method of removing the old paint we have also trialed a concrete sealant product and repaired some of the mortar. We are hopeful that through this remediation we can improve the durability of the concrete blocks.

The next major repair project to be planned is the replacement of the glazing in the lower story of the original part of the building. However that's something to be considered next year.

The Ruapehu Committee has been working to mitigate against rapidly rising costs of insurance and power, and it is bracing itself for future costs associated with a major upgrade of the sewage scheme. Last season our bed nights were down slightly due to adverse weather conditions and the cancellation of bookings

from outside groups. While we can deal with minor ups and downs in our income we do face a challenge in financing some of the major repairs and maintenance. We therefore would like to see some greater patronage from club members, both summer and winter, to help us avoid the necessity of increasing our lodge fees to cover costs. Here's hoping for a great ski season this year.

Ruapehu Alpine Lifts (RAL) have continued their work of upgrading the facilities on the ski field. Last season we saw the replacement of the two rather antiquated two-seater access chair lifts on the area known as the Rock Garden with a new high speed four-seater lift which will provide much improved access to the field. This year RAL are replacing the Waterfall Tee Bar with a four-seater chair lift which will benefit those beginner/intermediate skiers and boarders who found getting onto the tee bar a bit challenging. Big changes are also under way down at Happy Valley where the chairlift, which provided access down into the valley, is being replaced with two multi-story type elevators. This will provide a much safer alternative for those first time visitors who previously struggled with the task of managing their skis, poles, lunch and children etc. Another moving carpet style elevator is being installed to get people back up the slopes. Separation is being provided between the toddlers who might be playing or tobogganing and those beginning skiers and boarders who may be slightly out of control thereby avoiding the risk of collisions.

New snow making equipment is currently being installed in Happy Valley and will be extended to the Rock Garden and to Tenants Gully.

This new equipment differs from that previously installed by using a different technology whereby a snow slurry is manufactured in a plant located adjacent to the bottom of the Rangitira lift. Slurry can then be pumped around the ski areas and discharged through nozzles into stockpiles from where it can be spread out with the snow cats. This new technology allows the production of a good base in temperatures that are above freezing meaning that the beginner areas can be established much earlier in the year and maintained better and for longer. RAL are working towards a start of the skiing season on 1 June.



Equipment being installed in Tenants Gully

A new roadway has been constructed into the top of Tenants Gully as part of RAL's new snow making ventures which will provide better and safer access into this area and allow skiers to spread out across the mountain and relieve the congestion on the Rock Garden. Next year RAL are expected to install a new gondola and restaurant, so Whakapapa will no longer be the poor cousin to Tuaroa.

So with the new developments from RAL and an excellent lodge we encourage you all to start planning your trip to the mountain this winter, it should be a better experience for your children and grandchildren or for yourself if you haven't been for a while. Even if you don't quite feel up to racing down the slopes any more don't forget that you can still enjoy a good coffee and stunning vistas up the mountain and enjoy the experience of hut life at the Lodge.

Keep an eye out for the following events at the lodge. There will be the usual food restock weekend. This is a popular event where the lodge gets restocked with food for the entire season. This will be on the weekend of 9-11 June. School holidays are from 10-21 July so this is a good time to book you and your young ones into the lodge. Rob Thompson will again run a snow familiarisation weekend for our younger members on the weekend of 12-13 August. We have a Juniors' week scheduled from the 28th of August that Neil Hickman will be running. A great favourite with the real youngsters! The week of 4-8 September is scheduled for our regular veterans' week, it is really an All-comers' week with fun for all ages. Finally there will be the October school holidays starting early October. Do make the most of these occasions but of course there are many other options over the course of the season to appreciate our winters sporting opportunities from the club lodge.

(All photos by Ian McIlraith)

The Ruapehu Committee

TRIP REPORTS

EASTER ON THE BRYANT RANGE : 13 - 17 April 2017

Irene Davies

Nine keen trampers signed up for Jan Heine's Easter trip to the Bryant Range, near Nelson. The trip promised some fine walking along the Range as well as excellent opportunities to explore the geology and the plants of this unusual area.

Of course the weather at Easter is always unpredictable. But this year as Easter approached it began to look rather dire. Early on, three of us, somewhat alarmed by suggestions that some in the party might catch the 3.00 am Friday ferry to Picton, decided to catch the 9.00 am ferry on the

Thursday before Easter. However, sanity prevailed and the rest of the party finally chose to catch the 3.00 pm ferry. These bookings were made well before Cyclone Cook made its presence felt.

As the Cyclone was bearing down on Wellington and the MetService was suggesting that people should defer their travel plans if possible, the decision was made at the Club meeting on the Wednesday evening before Easter to continue with the trip. On Thursday morning the storm was expected to hit Wellington and Cook Strait at 6.00 pm. Those of us who left at 9.00 am thought that it was quite likely that the rest of our party might not be able to leave Wellington at 3.00 pm. Our trip across the Strait was extremely smooth; perhaps the calm before the storm, we thought.

The Cyclone moved more slowly than expected and the rest of our party boarded the ferry at 3.00 pm and had an uneventful trip across to Picton. Interestingly, staff of the Interislander ferry took pity on three of the older and leaner members of the party, namely Jan, Bruce and Grant, and offered to give them a lift onto the ferry in a golf buggy(!) - a lift which they courteously accepted. If only the person in the buggy could see what they were doing for the rest of the weekend!

Most of the party was united at the “Toot ‘n’ Whistle” in Picton on Thursday evening. In view of the recent heavy rain and further rain predicted overnight Jan decided that some changes had to be made to our planned route. On Friday we were to have walked from the Pelorus Road End to Middy Hut. However, as the Pelorus River and its side creeks were in flood, Jan decided that we should start from Nelson and walk straight up to Rocks Hut.



Windy Point

Photo: Phaedra Upton

Most of our route to Rocks Hut followed the old Dun Mountain Railway, which was built to exploit minerals (copper and chromite) discovered on the eastern slopes of Wooded Peak, a 1111 meter summit nearly 3 km northwest of Dun Mountain and separated from the Mountain by Coppermine Saddle. Both mountains are prominent features in the Mineral Belt, a strip of barren country that extends through the ranges of eastern Nelson from near Lake Rotoiti to D’Urville Island and which is composed largely of serpentinite rock. The belt is covered in stunted vegetation through which reddish brown or dun coloured rocks protrude. (Source: Johnston, M., *Nelson’s First Railway and the City Bus*, Nikau Press, 1996)

The section of the Mountain Railway between Nelson and Wooded Peak operated intermittently between 1862 and 1872. The gentle gradient made the ascent through forest a pleasure and we were surprised by the number of original wooden railway sleepers that remained in place on the old line. While the day was heavily overcast there was no significant rain. However, we were pleased to stop in at the Third House Shelter for lunch as it was quite cold.

Rocks Hut was already quite full when we arrived, so six of us decided to camp outside in our tents. The following day we set off on a day trip to find the “Monster Mine” that was marked as derelict on the map. As we were eating lunch about 120 meters above the mine site we met two hunters who said they had searched the area thoroughly and were unable to locate the mine. At this point most of us lost enthusiasm for continuing the search and decided we’d rather head back for a hot cup of tea in the hut. However, Phaedra, Keith and Jan were made of sterner stuff and set off downhill in search of the mine. They turned up at the hut an hour after the rest of us, also having failed to find the mine, or maybe it’s past dereliction. Perhaps more important than the missing mine were the missing teabags!!! They had been missing for some time and we were

running dangerously low. However, some bright soul finally found them lurking in a bag marked "raw sugar". Just what lengths will tea bags go to dodge being boiled?

On Sunday we set off from Rocks Hut and arrived at the Dew Lakes sign by lunchtime, via Dun Mountain and Little Twin. We scrambled to get our tents up before the rain set in for the afternoon. While some of us holed up in our tents Grant and Keith went up the hill to look for the lakes shown on the map. They couldn't find them and concluded they don't exist at the location shown on the map.



Bryant Range scene

Photo: Bruce Miller

Sunday evening Jan performed miracles cooking a superb meal in the rain under a pocket handkerchief fly. We're still wondering where she found a fly THAT small.

Much of our tramp was on the Dun Mountain Ophiolite. An ophiolite is a suite of rocks that were once part of the Earth's oceanic crust and mantle and which have been uplifted above sea level by tectonics. During the Cretaceous the Dun Mountain Ophiolite was part of the sea floor that was being subducted beneath the edge of Gondwana. It is made of up several igneous rocks with high concentrations of iron and magnesium.

Dunite, named because of its colour, is made up of olivine - a magnesium iron silicate which is lovely and green but in the air rusts to the orange brown colour we see at Dun Mountain. Serpentine and other talc like minerals are also found, and it is for these that they are named. *Ophio* is Greek for *snake* (ὄφις), and *lite* means *stone* from the Greek *lithos* (λίθος), after the serpentinites found in many ophiolites. Some mineralisation, a bit of copper and chromite, was found in the late 1850s and was mined by the Dun Mountain Copper Mining Company.

The Red Hills in west Aspiring National Park are also of this rock formation, and the dislocation of the two areas led Harold Wellman to realise the presence of a gigantic fault, the Alpine Fault, a junction of two great tectonic plates.

Monday dawned fine and clear to our immense relief. We took our time having breakfast in the sun and then headed down to Maungatapu Saddle. The silence of the Saddle was temporarily



Monday dawned fine

Photo: Irene Davies

shattered by a couple of quad bikes. We continued down the road and stopped for lunch by a stream near Murderers' Rock, not very large for ambushing and killing five people on a Cobb & Co coach in 1866. Refuelled we walked briskly down to the Mount Richmond Road where we cooked up a final brew and swatted sandflies while we waited for our transport. It was a good end to a thoroughly enjoyable walk.

The Team included Jan Heine (leader), Bruce Miller, Leni Mäckle, Chriselda and Murray McMillan, Grant Roberts, Phaedra Upton, Keith

Thomas and Irene Davies.

Thanks to Phaedra Upton for providing the paragraph on the geology of the area.

And thanks to the 8 who organised their travel and their leader so well. (NB This final comment provided by our leader, Jan.)

Irene

CATTLE RIDGE - OLD FIVE MILE : 27 April 2017

Graeme Lythgoe

The day was fine and five of us piled into Graham’s car for the trip to the Catchpool. The climb up on to Cattle Ridge took 45 minutes and then we turned right to the lookout for morning tea, while we enjoyed the views of Wellington.

Travel along the ridge was pleasant and once back on the Five Mile Track Jackie took us to Macs Hut. Despite it being close to the track and having been there for decades I never knew it existed. It had a table outside and we sat and enjoyed lunch in the peace and quiet. We scrambled around a bit looking for the start of the old Five Mile Track but once on it we had no trouble following it. We took the Middle Ridge option and arrived at the car park at 3pm - 5 hours all up.

Those on the tramp were Jackie and Chris West, Graham White, Doug Flux, Dash and Graeme Lythgoe.

Graeme

PHOTOGRAPHIC FILLER

Ruapehu Cladding Replacement





All photos by Ian McIlraith

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