



Dinner for fifteen at the Royal Hotel

Please submit your **July 2022** H&V articles to the editor by **1st July 2022**

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President: Dennis Page 021 229 9901. **Secretary:**
Trip Coordinator: Chris McMillan 569 9019 **Treasurer:** Jim Cousins 586 2135
Editor H&V: Bruce Miller 563 5966 the-bruce@xtra.co.nz



CLUB NIGHT PROGRAMME

Starts 7:30 pm promptly



1 June : John McCrystal – Mapping NZ and his “Singing the Trail” book

John will introduce his book 'Singing the Trail' (Allen & Unwin, 2019) which is the story of New Zealand as told through its maps.

John McCrystal of Wellington has been working as a freelance writer since 1996, contributing to most of New Zealand's leading newspapers and magazines and writing, co-writing and ghost writing over 50 non-fiction titles on an eclectic collection of subjects, ranging from corporate histories, a history of motoring in New Zealand, the history of Auckland's Eden Park to (in his latest book) a collection of the stories of notable local and international shipwrecks.

8 June : John Rhodes – History of the Holdsworth Area

Who was Joseph Holdsworth? Where is Paradise Camp? Where did Hans Thomsen live? Why is Mountain House so called? When was the fire at Rocky Lookout? Where's Doodlem Buck? How many tons of timber, iron and windows did HVTC members carry up the hill to build Powell Hut? Answers to these questions, and more, in this talk!

15 June : Graeme Lythgoe – First three Christmas tramps 1965-1968

Graeme's first 3 Christmas trips were all over 3 weeks in length and covered three different areas of the South Island. Come along and hear what extended tramps were like in the 60s - possibly the golden era of NZ tramping.

Sales Table run by Graeme Lythgoe. Bring your cash and your saleable items.

22 June : Social Committee – Open Night - Winter Photos

Christmas pudding, mulled wine to celebrate

29 June : Melody McLaughlin – Control of dogs and kiwi avoidance training for dogs

6 July : Paula Warren – Update on Baring Head Restoration

Much has been achieved at Baring Head since the last time we had a presentation on the project, including a lot of work by club members. Paula will give us an overview of the park and the work, outline the progress made in restoration, and explain the changes in park rules and GWRC intentions that affect both restoration and recreation.



FORTHCOMING TRIPS



TRIP CATEGORIES

Tramping

D Day walk or evening stroll

T Overnight or longer tramp

Dog Friendly

Moonlight Walk

Grade 1 Relaxed pace with plenty of rest stops. All terrain types may be encountered, occasionally off-track. Duration depends on the terrain and conditions, but is usually for no more than 6 hours per day.

Grade 2 Steady walking pace with regular snack and drink breaks. Terrain may vary from flat river valleys to ridges above the bush line. Off-track travel may be involved. Up to 8 hours walking time per day, depending on conditions.

Grade 3 Brisk pace with few drink and snack breaks. Terrain encountered is as for grade 2 trips but the distance travelled is usually much further. More than 8 hours walking time per day.

Family Family trip. Very relaxed pace with plenty of rest stops. Suitable for small children.
 WP Working Party. Overnight or for a day. Voluntary work on HVTC Ruapehu Lodge or a conservation project.

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.

JUNE

11 th or 18 th		Pencarrow Coast to Baring Head Lighthouse	Geoff Wilkin	022 301 1080
4 – 5	Queen's Birthday			
	T1	Trip required		
	T2	Top Gorge hut	Andrew Robinson	586 2438
Sat or Sun	D1	Kohekohe flowers Tawa bush	Graeme Lyon	021 154 3850
Sun 12	D1	Trip required		
Tues 14		Boulder Hill	Phaedra Upton	021 0232 6726
18 – 19	WP	Matiu Somes Solstice	Julie Lewis	021 2932 118
Sun 19	D1	Trip required		
		<i>Winter solstice Tue 21 Jun</i>		
		<i>Matariki Fri 24 Jun</i>		
24 – 26	T1	Trip required		
Sun 26	D1	Kaitoke Ridge	Marina Skinner	021 792 260

JULY

tba		Hutt Valley biketrails & backstreets	Leena	027 672 1604
tba	WP	Ava Park planting	John Simes	027 464 1824
2 – 3	T2	Waiohine Gorge Rd to Neill Forks hut	Andrew Robinson	586 2438
Sun 3	D1	Colonial Knob tba	Tony & Jo	021 228 4430

UPCOMING EVENTS

SALES TABLE

15 June

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 your vegetable garden. Everyone else bring some cash to purchase some goodies with.

RUAPEHU EVENTS 2022

In	Out	Event	
Mon 11 July	Fri 15 July	July School Holiday week 1	<i>Contact Booking Officer 027 451 2587</i>
Mon 18 July	Fri 22 July	July School Holiday week 2	<i>Contact Booking Officer 027 451 2587</i>
Mon 01 Aug	Fri 05 Aug	Club Week 1	<i>Contact Booking Officer 027 451 2587</i>
Mon 22 Aug	Fri 26 Aug	Club Week 2	<i>Contact Booking Officer 027 451 2587</i>

Mon 29 Aug	Fri 02 Sept	Club Week 3 (Uni & young professionals)	Contact Booking Officer 027 451 2587
Mon 05 Sept	Fri 09 Sept	Club Week 4 (Vets and allcomers)	Contact Russell Oliver 021 245 9596
Mon 03 Oct	Fri 07 Oct	October School Holiday week 1	Contact Booking Officer 027 451 2587
Mon 10 Oct	Fri 14 Oct	October School Holiday week 2	Contact Kate Brownsword 027 562 0177

This list doesn't mean that you have to go on an organised trip. There are plenty of other opportunities to use the lodge throughout the winter season for skiing, climbing, ski touring or just relaxing. Just pick a time, contact the booking officer (details listed above) then come on up.

2022 HVTC PHOTO COMPETITION **24 AUGUST 2022**

The time has arrived again for the annual HVTC photo competition. All Club photographers are invited to submit their favourite/best recent images. Early notice is being given to avoid a last-minute avalanche of entries, with acceptances closing on Sunday 24 July. Don't be put off if you are not an experienced photographer – there is a novice category for those who have not entered a photo competition previously.

Our Club Competition is largely aligned with the FMC Photo Competition, with additional HVTC categories. The club competition is the only path for HVTC members to enter the nationwide FMC competition. The winning two entries in each of the FMC categories will be forwarded to the FMC Competition. Entrants must be willing to have their images placed on the club's Facebook page and printed in Hills & Valleys, and for winning entries to be forwarded to the FMC competition. A condition of FMC entry is that the images can be used in publicity material for promoting the objectives of FMC. The winning entries in the FMC competition are published in the November issue of FMC's Backcountry magazine.

You may enter up to 4 images in each category. An image file size of 1 Mb is about the minimum of acceptable quality – and much beyond 3Mb has detail that cannot be displayed. The FMC competition requires file sizes between 1 MB and 5 MB. Please submit as .JPG or .TIF files. All images must have been taken since 1 January 2020, except those in the historic category.

This year the entries must satisfy the following filename format: Code (given below) Photographer Caption **e.g. ABN Graeme McVerry Crater Lake**

Please take the time to name your photo files and provide a text listing in the same format, either in your email or as an attachment, suitable to copy to a spreadsheet of entries. A few minutes of your time saves the competition organiser hours of work renaming and tabulating perhaps 100+ files.

The images, and comments, will be presented by the Competition Judge on the club night of Wednesday 24 August 2022, with cups awarded to the winners in most categories.

SCANNING OF SLIDES FOR HISTORIC CATEGORY

As part of the build-up towards the HVTC Centenary in 2023, members are encouraged to submit photos for Category HIS Historic. Few photos from this era will have been taken in digital format, so I am prepared to scan transparencies submitted for this category. Please ensure that slides submitted are in good condition and have been cleaned to remove dust. There may be some pre-selection of entries for digitisation to limit the number of slides that I need to process, and it would be appreciated if they are submitted a week or more ahead of the closing date of 24 July to allow

time for scanning before being passed on to the judge. For historic shots, please provide a brief background (two or three sentences, including naming the photographer if it was someone other than you), as well as a title.

Although nominally any image taken before 2020 qualifies, the historic category is intended for photos earlier than about 2000, either of specific events (e.g., hut building or openings) or scenes that are clearly from another era, because of the gear, clothing or activities, rather than purely scenic shots that could equally well be taken in 2022.

FMC CATEGORIES

There are 7 categories – see the definitions below from the FMC website for details

ABN	ABOVE BUSHLINE (with no human element)
ABW	ABOVE BUSHLINE (with a human element)
BBN	BELOW BUSHLINE (with no human element)
BBW	BELOW BUSHLINE (with a human element)
HIS	HISTORIC
NFF	NATIVE FLORA & FAUNA
LE	LONG EXPOSURE

HVTC CATEGORIES

TOP	TOPICAL (tells a story)
PER	PERSONALITY (illustrates a character)
OVS	OVERSEAS (from your recent travels, since 1 January 2020)
NOV	NOVICE (for those who have not previously entered a photo competition)
PR	PRINTS

Rules (from FMC website)

1. Definition of a “human element”

The definition of a “human element” is flexible but the general intention is: Where the photo contains: people, a hut, a track sign/marker, bridge, ice axe and anything else that has been introduced by humans into the environment then we would define that as having “a Human element”. But if a photo has what could be called a Human Element but that element is very small, inconsequential and not a feature in the photo then you could count it as “No Human Element”.

2. Entries for the contemporary categories must be taken since 1 January 2020. Any photos taken prior to this date will automatically be entered into the historic category.

3. Definition of “historic”

The intention for the historic category is for entrants to go back through club and individual archives to select “old photos” rather than “photos of old things”. As an example, a recent photo of a hut built in the 1950’s is not a ‘historic’ photo. However, a photo of the same hut taken in the 1960’s certainly is an ‘historic’ photo. The aim is to catch the essence of past eras. The prize for any winning photo from a club archive by a deceased member will go to the club. The prize for any winning photo from an individual archive by a deceased person will go to the person who entered the photo, whether through a club or as an individual supporter.

4. Definition of “Long Exposure”.

The intention of the long exposure category is for photography of scenes that the naked eye cannot normally comprehend. These shots would require a very long exposure and the use of a tripod. The category is intended for highly technical images of shots taken at night, (including star trails), or in extremely low light situations such as caves or canyons. The category is not intended for normal dusk/dawn photography, or images where a long exposure is used to ‘blur’ the image (such as flowing water, or movement of the subject).

5. All photos must be taken within New Zealand, which is defined as within our Exclusive Economic Zone. This includes the following islands: North, South, Stewart, Chatham, Kermadec, Sub-Antarctic.

6. Rules on post processing:

- Adjustments for exposure, white balance, contrast & levels are allowed
- Cropping is allowed
- Stitching for panoramic shots is allowed
- Removal or insertion of features not in the original image is not allowed

Please submit your digital images to **Graeme McVerry** (graememcv2@xtra.co.nz) as email attachments or through Google Drive. I'll also accept USB data sticks or historic slides for scanning at club nights. My laptop doesn't have a drive to read CDs or DVDs.

The deadline for entries is **midnight Sunday 24 July (a week earlier for slides)**– to allow time to collate entries, for the judge to deliberate and for cups to be engraved.

WINNERS OF CUPS LAST YEAR

Please return the cups to the Social Committee by the end of July to allow time for cleaning and engraving.

Good luck for the competition.

Graeme McVerry
Organiser 2022 HVTC Photo Competition

FROM THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

June 2022

Annual General Meeting – Wednesday 27 July, 2022

The Annual General Meeting of the Hutt Valley Tramping Club will be convened in the Clubrooms at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 27 July, 2022. This is the best opportunity for all of us together to review the functioning of the Club. Please attend!

An important function will be the election of Officers and Members to the General, Ruapehu and Social Committees.

- Nominations for **all of the positions** on these Committees will received by the Secretary from 1 June through until Thursday 30 June.
- Dennis Page will not seek re-election as President; Graeme Lythgoe will not seek re-election as Vice-President; Murray Presland will not volunteer to continue acting as the Secretary. The General and Ruapehu Committees have functioned without full complements during the past year – but this is not healthy and should not continue.
- Please offer your enthusiasm for the continuation of activities offered within the Club by offering to help manage the business of the Club. Please talk to any of the present officers /members of the committees about any of their roles and duties. You are welcome to contact Dennis (ph 021 229 9901) or Murray (ph 04 562 8194).
- Nomination Forms are available at the Clubrooms and from the Secretary (past).
- Any Notices of Motion for consideration at the AGM should be provided to the Secretary before Thursday 30 June.

The formal Notice of the Annual General Meeting, together with the Annual Report, including the Annual Accounts, will be distributed on 6 July, 2022.

HVTC Centenary Celebration

The following notice of the programme for celebrating the Club's Centenary in 2023 was sent by e-mail to most Club members on 21 May. It is repeated here to ensure that everyone is well-informed.

The Hutt Valley Tramping Club was formed in May 1923. It was a stuttering start. Formed initially as the Petone Tramping Club, it held its first trip to Belmont, in the Western Hutt hills, on Sunday 13 May 1923 but was reformed after 3 trips as the Hutt Valley Tramping Club, initially a

branch of the Tararua Tramping Club, on 31 May 1923. The second "first" trip was along the Eastern Hutt hills from Wainuiomata Saddle to Stokes Valley.

It is a great achievement to be able to celebrate 100 years of enabling Club members to enjoy recreation in the back country of New Zealand. The General Committee has sought members ideas about celebrating this centenary - but you should remember that, as with all volunteer-managed organisations, events only happen because someone volunteers to make them happen! Now we need your help to celebrate!

The General Committee has sought ideas and leadership from members. We are confident that the following events will occur:

Centenary Trip - Sunday 14 May 2023 -

Day Trip to Belmont Trig - to be organised by Graeme Lythgoe

Celebration Weekend - 3-5 November 2023

Friday evening - Reception and Display of Archival Material - organised by Gerard McGreevy

Saturday afternoon - Official Celebration and Afternoon Tea - organised by Bernice Deller and Michele Lythgoe

Sunday trips and lunch - Barbeque (at Kaitoke or Catchpool) - organised by Dennis Page

Publication

100 Years of Enjoyment and Achievements - edited by Andrew Robinson

All of these leaders will need your help to bring the events to fruition - please volunteer!

Of course, other events may spring up to celebrate the achievements of the Club during our Centenary Year- we hope so! - **but they will happen only if members offer to make them happen!**

The General Committee welcomes your ideas!

Dennis Page (President) president@hvtc.org.nz

Murray Presland (Secretary, sort of) secretary@hvtc.org.nz

There has been some reaction to this programme and response to our appeals for help. Be aware that, in a volunteer organisation, nothing happens unless individuals volunteer. Please offer your ideas, enthusiasm, leadership and assistance!

Covid-19

The General Committee is sure that, although we have all settled into the Orange settings, everyone remains aware that the virus is highly infectious and can cause serious illness. You are reminded of the following precautions:

- **Please do not join tramping or biking groups or come to the Clubrooms if you are unwell** – to protect others from infection. Please obey the isolation restrictions if you know you are a close contact of someone with covid-19.
- We expect that all those attending Club events are **fully vaccinated against Covid-19**.
- **Please wear a mask in enclosed spaces** - in the Clubrooms, except while eating and drinking during supper, and in the Club van – to protect yourself and others from infection.
- On tramping trips, be cautious about contact with other groups with whom you share accommodation.
- Although contact tracing is no longer being pursued, several Club members who have attended Club events and become close contacts shortly after have notified Dennis of their circumstance – THANK YOU! Dennis has, and will, let members know if there is a subsequent possibility of the virus spreading amongst members.
- It is no longer necessary for Trip Leaders to file a list of participants with the President, but anyone should let him know if he/she develops the symptoms of infection shortly after any trip.

- It remains a safety requirement for Trip Leaders to file a list of participants and the trip intentions with the Club Emergency Contacts if it is known that the group will be out of cell-phone contact during any trip. In these circumstances a Club plb should be carried.
- The Trip Co-ordinator appreciates the Trip Leader letting her know promptly the participant numbers and of any safety incidents for each trip.

Murray Presland (once upon a time - secretary@hvtc.org.nz)

RUAPEHU ROUNDUP:

As Hills and Valleys goes to press, a group of dedicated volunteers is restocking the lodge for the coming season. We have about 40 pack loads of food and other items, including freshly laundered mattress covers and a new window, to carry up from the road end to the lodge.

Highlights of this year's restock include:

- 24 kg cheese
- 180 tins of fruit
- 80 tins of tomatoes
- 100 sachets of Raro
- 90 packets of biscuits
- 10 litres of washing up liquid
- and 250 bin bags.

There will be snow underfoot but the forecast is good for Saturday, after a brisk -6C overnight. We are ready to welcome you all at the lodge! Please do come and stay, whether you are a skier or snowboarder, climber or trumper, or just looking for some time away in a peaceful environment with fabulous views - and plenty of pork roasts in the freezer.

Kate - on behalf of the Ruapehu committee.

SEARCH & RESCUE UPDATE

Most members will be aware of the Club's Emergency Contact team (previously called "SAR Contacts").

We are very pleased to announce that Sharman Robinson has agreed to join us. This will restore the team to five persons.

If a Club personal locator beacon (PLB) is switched on or a tramping party fails to return from the hills, our role is to liaise with NZ Police, NZ Rescue Coordination Centre (RCC) and with HVTC trip participants' nominated emergency contact persons.

We now have a group email address emergencycontacts@hvtc.org.nz. We ask that **trip leaders** use it to provide the names of trip participants and other essential information (see below). Emails to this address will reach all five of us.

Reminder

Trip leaders: At the very least, we need to know who is on the trip, together with non-members' emergency contact names and phone numbers, and the starting and finishing locations and planned route of your trip. For overnight or longer trips, please tell us the make, model, registration number and parking location of your vehicle(s).

Trip participants: When you sign-up for a tramp, please inform the trip leader of any medical or physical condition that could affect your ability to complete the trip safely. Discussion with your trip leader will be treated confidentially. **Leaders** should also inform the Club's emergency contacts prior to the trip.

It is likely this information will be requested by NZ Police or RCC when search and/or rescue is initiated.

Prospective trip participants should note that trip leaders have the right to refuse to take you if they are not satisfied about your fitness or experience.

We also ask **trip leaders** to inform the **rostered emergency contact person** as soon as practicable after the party has commenced the journey home (an SMS/text message is ideal). Then we do not spend the evening deciding whether/when to inform NZ Police that a tramping party may be missing.

Also, we would appreciate being informed when a scheduled trip is cancelled.

We hope you have enjoyable and safe outdoor excursions with the Club.

Club emergency contacts:

Bob Deller, Patrick Fotheringham, Tony Jaegers, Dennis Page & Sharman Robinson

Bob Deller

SHELTER TENTS

The photo shows one of our two lightweight Stoney Creek brand shelter tents purchased last year with a grant from the Fanny Bayliss Bequest Grants Scheme. They weigh around 1.36kg and very comfortably sleep 2 with plenty of space for gear. The shelters are open at one end but can be pitched with the opening much lower than that shown. The sides reach ground level offering good protection from wind. Please do consider taking them on your next trip not only as sleeping accommodation but as an emergency shelter for many.

Chris



TRAMPING MATS



I will be doing a bulk order of these at the end of June. Cost will be \$6per mat. If you are interested in getting one please email melanie.stoneham@gmail.com so I can get an idea on how many to order.

They take about 2-3weeks to arrive once arrived I will bring to Club night for selling. Will get a range of colours.

Mel

WEEKEND CYCLE HUTT VALLEY/REMUTAKA INCLINE/FEATHERSTON AND RETURN

26th and 27th March

Ann Hayman

This is a tale of a truly local ride, with fourteen cyclists meeting up to start at Melling or connecting with the group further north on the Hutt River trail. Most came on bikes from home, leaving the car behind. At County Lane Silverstream, we picked up our final members, and Chris West stowed overnight bags he kindly offered to take to Featherston by car.

Our morning tea stop was at Harcourt Park, amongst the ducks and water birds. Biking on steadily past Te Marua, through Tunnel Gully to Saddle Road, a trio detoured over the Goat Track, and the group met for lunch at the ford on the Remutaka incline cycle track a few kilometres past Kaitoke. From here it was on to the Summit, over Siberia bridge and through to Cross Creek. The track from here to the road end was exciting for some, cautious for others, as rain over previous months had exposed more rocks and made a few minor slips. Staying together throughout, we made a Geocache historical stop on the road before arriving at Featherston and settling into our accommodation at the Featherston Motel or the Empire Hotel.



A highlight of the weekend ride was dinner for fifteen at the Royal Hotel. With a menu for all tastes, we were seated at a large table in the “red” room, with the ceiling to floor curtain pulled partly across for our own private dining room. First built in 1868 as a hotel with horse stable facilities for travelers to Wairarapa, it was extensively rebuilt in 1893 after a fire. The décor is well maintained giving an early 1900s feel to the room.

After a comfortable night at our accommodation, and our own breakfast, we headed back over the Remutaka cycle trail, feeling dubious about the ominous weather which forecast rain in the afternoon. We split into groups according to speed, to keep moving and warm at our own pace. We counted ourselves as lucky experiencing rain for only thirty coming down from the Summit tunnel and sitting in the sun at the Te Marua convenience store with hot drinks and snacks while we quickly dried off in the sunshine. The ride back along the Hutt River to home seemed long especially for those going all the way to Melling and beyond to Petone or Eastbourne. The distance starting from Melling around 66km, and Korokoro 70km each day. For Eastbourne riders, add another 15 kms, for Silverstream take off similar.

The timing of the ride coincided with ending many Covid restrictions and starting to get back to our new normal. A strong contrast to nearly two years earlier when a similar HVTC ride from the Hutt River to Tauherenikau on the weekend of Feb 29th and March 1st, 2020, was one of the last group trips before Covid restrictions and a full lockdown curtailed activity. We didn't know what was ahead at that time in 2020. Now in 2022 we hope the worst of Covid is over.

All expressed enjoyment of the weekend ride, and for many, a level of satisfaction in traveling the distance on cycles. On the trip were Neil Parker, Jackie West, Pat and John Tristram, Debbie Labett, Kate Becker, Leena Stowell, Jocelyn Turnbull, Frieda Collie, Tania Hatfield, Hank Schouten, Tim Hilton, Paul Johansen, Ann Hayman (leader), Chris West (bag carrier and joined us for the Featherston overnight stay and dinner at the Royal)

Ann

AKATARAWA SADDLE TO RENATA & WAIOTAURO

ANZAC Weekend April 2022

Andrew Robinson

With the new Waiotauru hut, built in 2019, being the one remaining Doc hut in the Tararuas I hadn't visited, I decided on that as the destination for my Anzac weekend grade two tramp. The club doesn't often access the Tararua Forest Park from Akatarawa Saddle, but with awkward access from Otaki Forks at present, the saddle seemed a good way to get to Waiotauru hut. After some prompting from Chriselda I expanded my rather mundane original plan and came up with one that included an off-track section and the possibility of also bagging the non-Doc Snowy hut. I got four takers in Doc Watson, Tony Jaegers and Andrew and Catharina Fisher, then managed to get Murray Presland and John Simes as drivers to drop us off and pick us up respectively, since Akatarawa Saddle is not a safe place to leave a vehicle unattended.

Six of us left the clubrooms at 7 o'clock Saturday morning for the one hour drive to Akatarawa Saddle. At 8:20 the trampers farewelled Murray and set off on the first leg, 10 km of 4WD track to Maymorn Junction. Once upon a time the club truck used to drive to Maymorn Junction and Andrew had once driven a Vauxhall Viva there, but these days it requires a dedicated 4WD vehicle. Walking a 4WD track can be tedious at times, but this one wasn't. There was the puzzle of how vehicles would have tackled some of the obstacles, such as deep ruts, steep climbs and places where one side of the track went up while the other side went down. Fresh tyre marks showed vehicles were obviously still getting through. Other points of interest were several mudholes, numerous vehicle wrecks and a reasonable number of viewpoints. The map shows about the first four kilometres as a road then the rest of the way as a four-wheel drive track. The reality was the track was actually better once the "road" ended.

We got to Maymorn Junction just after 11 o'clock and had a late morning tea. After that it was half an hour mostly downhill to Renata hut. We were enjoying lunch in the sun at the recently refurbished hut when a rather timid dog appeared, followed shortly by its owner. The owner, David, on his first overnight tramp in many years, was obviously disappointed when he found we were headed for the four bunk Elder hut. He was somewhat relieved to hear we had tents. The dog gradually overcame its timidity and was quite friendly in the end.

The track from Renata hut to Elder hut meanders a lot, but is not challenging, with just a couple of steepish sections before the peaks Renata and Elder. We had a break at Renata which is about a third of the way to Elder and has good views over a large area. It felt like we might be in for some rain, but fortunately it stayed away. Although the rain stayed away, the wind picked up a bit, the temperature slowly dropped and we ascended into mist so it was a relief to get to Elder hut four and a half hours after leaving Renata hut. As expected, David was there with his dog, so Tony and Andrew and Catharina pitched their tents, while Doc and I took a bunk each. Although it is small, Elder hut is quite well laid out so there was sufficient room for the six of us, counting David, to cook and eat tea. It was about when we were having tea and well after dark when another trumper turned up. She was fortunate that there was a spare bunk for her, though she was prepared with a tent if need be.

Sunday morning we awoke to cloud, though it wasn't actually raining. From the hut we headed east along the track for about twenty minutes before heading north off track to follow a spur that would take us down to spot height 666 and then hopefully Snowy hut by the Eastern Waiotauru/Snowy River. I'd read several accounts of people taking that route and it sounded fairly straightforward. There were bits of marker tape and a ground trail of sorts to begin with which was a promising start. Navigating down a spur is harder than up it, but with four of us keeping an eye on the map and compass or gps we managed to stay pretty much on the right line. The intermittent bits of marker tape were reassuring. We had a couple of stops to take a layer off as the weather improved and we reached spot height 666 after two hours of off-track travel. We had a late morning tea there and nothing untoward happened. After morning tea the gradient eased and we picked up the pace a bit, to the point where we slightly overshot the spur down to Snowy

hut. We headed for the top of the spur and stopped there for lunch while we considered whether to leave our packs there while we did a side trip to Snowy hut or to take our packs to the hut with us. After lunch we went for the latter. There was no sign of a track down to the hut so Tony led us as best he could. With 250 metres horizontal and 180 metres vertical to the hut it was going to be steep, but Tony found a manageable route. It took us half an hour.

Snowy hut has a couple of bunks, but mattresses for 5. It was built in the 1980s according to a photo on the wall. It seems to be getting a few visitors these days.



From the hut we had a few options: directly back up the spur we came down after lunch; head downstream and try to find a better spur to get back onto the ridge; head downstream for a kilometre or two and try to pick up an old logging track on the true left; or head down the river all the way to Waitotauru Forks. The first option wasn't really a goer so we headed downstream where the travel was quite good and we ended up following that for about a kilometre and a half until we got to the first side stream on the true left. Downstream from there didn't look good

and I had some route notes that indicated a trail up the side stream so we headed up the side stream. About ten minutes up someone spotted a marker on a slip on the true right, then opposite it spotted a rope. It was a fairly easy scramble out of the stream, then lo and behold, we were on an old logging track. Despite all the trees now growing on it, it was clearly a track and easy to follow. For the next couple of hours we followed a succession of logging tracks with just the odd brief deviation, but it was mostly well marked at those points and the route notes were excellent so what could have been a bush-bash or a wet trip in the river was a pleasant experience. The hardest part was the last quarter of an hour or so on a steep descent from the end of the old logging road to the existing track up the Southern Waitotauru River. It took us two and a half hours from where we left the side creek to get to the existing track. We had a further 3 km to get to Waitotauru hut which I estimated we might just reach before dark. There were fresh tyre marks which meant it ought to be easy going to the hut, but also meant we might find the hut occupied by 4WDers. As we neared the hut we started to look for possible camping sites and there were some but I decided it best to keep going. I knew we had to cross the river at some point, but when we came to a crossing that wasn't shown on my map and there was still a track on the side of the river we were on I figured we'd cross further up. We carried on for about five minutes before we worked out we should have crossed at the crossing. By then it was time for torches but at least we knew we were only 10 minutes or so from the hut. We eventually got to the hut at quarter past six and were pleasantly surprised to find the hut empty.

The new Waitotauru hut is built on the footprint of the old one and is similar in design. It's a fairly large building with just four bunks in it and some bench space. It was good to be able to spread ourselves out and take out time cooking tea. The hut has a wood burner but I think it would struggle to heat the large space on a cold night. Fortunately it was a mild night.

Monday we had about 17 km of 4WD track back to Akatarawa Saddle. The 7 km to Maymorn Junction was all uphill. There were a couple of places where a side stream is eroding the track and may eventually lead to the track no longer being accessible by 4WD. There were more abandoned vehicles, one of which Doc wasn't able to identify after successfully identifying all the other wrecks we'd encountered. Five and a half hours after we left Waitotauru hut we got to Akatarawa Saddle, fifteen minutes before our pickup time. At the saddle was a car with two of its tyres slashed. It probably belonged to the couple we had met earlier in the day and we felt sorry for them. Five minutes after we arrived John Simes turned up in the club van so that was good timing. Everything had gone pretty much according to plan which made for a very successful weekend. Special thanks to Murray and John for helping with the driving.

Andrew

CLIMIE RIDGE

Sunday 1 May

Jackie West

I first went up Climie Ridge in the mid-1980s on a tramp led by the Tristrams. It was a very cold day midwinter's day and on the way up it started raining steadily but as we gained height the rain turned to snow. During the 1990s I went on a tramp lead by Patrick but then Climie Ridge did not seem to appear on the club trip schedule until John Evans led it last year. Chris and I were unable to go with John but while getting fit for our Wangapeka tramp decided to give it a go and because we enjoyed it and as it was close to home we did it a second time. This led to us deciding to lead it as a Sunday tramp.

The group of 17 keen trampers left the car park at the bottom of Climie road and had a short walk to the start of Tane's track which we left after about five minutes and began a steep climb up the ridge. The track has not been maintained for years and while we have never seen anyone else on it someone has sprayed orange paint markings on trees for the first half of the track. We had been going for less than thirty minutes when Graham decided that it was steeper than he remembered, and it would be best if he turned back. Bob who was at the rear with him volunteered to go back with Graham. Fortunately, Climie Ridge has cell phone coverage as a number of texts were sent as plans changed with Bob taking Graham to his car at Upper Hutt station and then returning to walk up the road to the ridge track. A big thank you to Bob for accompanying Graham out.



The rest of us continued on up. Higher up the ridge is very exposed with the track heading south and being very exposed has its own unpleasant climate cooler and wetter than the road. In the most exposed spots, there are no trees just low growing scrub where we had good views of the Mangaroa Valley and the northern part of Upper Hutt. We also experienced the full force of a strong northerly wind which had everyone donning warm clothing. We stopped for lunch about twelve thirty dropping to the leeward side of the track from where we had glimpses of the Wairarapa through lichen covered the trees.

We hadn't been tramping very long after lunch when the front runners met up with Bob walking in from the road. At a certain point on the ridge some of the installations on the Climie road can be seen giving the impression the road must only be fifteen minutes away but the ridge is deceptive with a few twists and turns and flax bushes and other vegetation to clamber over before after at least an hour later there is a sudden metre drop from the track onto the road. A few people walked up the road to the first installation and admire the view but most put off by the strength of the wind headed down hill to the cars which were reached at three o'clock six hours after setting off.

Climie Ridge climbers: Marilyn Sickels, John Smeith, Leanne Asher, Bob and Bernice Deller, Clare Kelly, Vera de Graauw, Heather Eskdale, David McQueen, Sharman Robinson, Jan Arts, Ann Hayman, Neil Parker, Natasha Donaldson, Graham Craig and leaders Chris and Jackie West.

Jackie

QUEEN CHARLOTTE TRACK

10th to 14th May

Lex Gruber

Having only been day walkers through our working lives we have been building our fitness and endurance to allow us to do multi-day walks and see much more of the country. In March we participated in an overnight tenting trip to Totara Flats with the HVTC which gave us some confidence we were making good progress. Having spent a lot of time in the Marlborough Sounds on boats, we decided that the Queen Charlotte Track would be a great option to tackle. Firstly, it is easy to get to, and secondly there is great flexibility around transport and accommodation options. Essentially you can either stay in combinations of the several lodges along the track, or camp at a combination of several tent sites, or do some sort of mix of the two.



We decided to go with a 4 day walk option staying at Furneaux Lodge, Punga Cove and The Portage. This is easily arranged with one of about four local tour companies in Picton and it includes boat transport to the start and end points, the lodge accommodation, Lunches and luggage transfers between the lodges. This means you only need a day pack for the walk itself. We did the walk over the 10th to 14th May and were lucky that the rain came through on the 9th and gave us a fine week. On the first day the boat leaves you at Ships Cove at 10am with a 17km walk to

Furneaux Lodge taking about 4 ½ hours walking time. The maximum altitude is around 200m and the track is in excellent condition with evidence of a lot of recent works. There were only five of us in total staying at the lodge (all track walkers) and after dinner we went for a short walk to look at the glow worms behind the lodge.

Next day was the most relaxed with only 12km to Punga Cove over 3 ½ hours walking, and we started with a short detour up to a 1,000 year old Rimu tree behind Furneaux Lodge before heading along the track. The other detour along the way is the remains of an Antimony mine and the mine track which eventually goes all the way up to the road is well worth spending some time exploring. Elevation is less than 100m over the whole section and it is more strenuous walking up and down the pathways at Punga Lodge which is built on a steep hillside.

The third day is from Punga Lodge to The Portage and is the most strenuous covering 23km with a 6 ½ hour walking time and elevations up to about 450m. We left at 7.30am as soon as we could collect our lunch and only had about 1 ½ hours of light at The Portage to look around which is one of the trade-off's for walking this time of the year. The other thing we found is that we were in the cloud and mist until late morning on our third and fourth day which meant we didn't have the views of the Sounds but it did give us another perspective of the surrounds instead. The Portage has unfortunately become quite run down compared to the other accommodation options and it was great to see builders working away there.



The fourth and last day covers 20km with a 5 ½ hour walking time and with the boat leaving the jetty at 3pm, we picked up our lunches at 7am so we were not under too much pressure to walk

instead of being able to stop and look at the scenery. As it was, we didn't arrive at Anakiwa until 2.30pm. Overall the GPS showed we had walked 93.76km over the 4 days in total. The track was very quiet and we met only a handful of people on the track about ½ of who were over from Australia on holiday. You can see how much work it is to keep the track open with evidence of all the slips and diversions/rebuilds along the way, and in how quickly some of the steeper sections become rutted and a bit slippery especially with the dew this time of the year. The other interesting thing is we spent almost 15 hours stationary looking at flora, fauna and the view, on top of the 22 hours of actual walk time which had to be factored into the time schedules for each day. trap boxes along the trap line made the trail up to Mangahua fairly easy to follow. The stags continued to roar and we came across a deer wallow in the forest, as well as lots of colourful mushrooms and fungi. The forest and bush were stunning - the colours and textures were just beautiful!

Participants: Lex Gruber and Valray Climo.

Lex

IN MEMORY

PAULINE CHAPPELL née WYLIE. 1930 - 2022



Pauline Chappell, who died recently at Waikanae has been a club member since 1955. During the 1950s her name appeared regularly in Tararua hut logbooks, often in company with Don Millard and Spud Murphy. They were a very active tramping trio, covering a lot of ground. In the 1960s and 70s Pauline was an active participant in many of the "Chooks" trips. In later years, when no longer actively tramping, she was always up to date with Club events and meetings through the "Hills and Valleys", and in 2017, discovering that there was going to be a speaker (David Barnes) talking about tramping in Dunedin's backyard, she was determined to attend. She no longer had a driver's license, and getting to the Club meeting involved a train trip from Waikanae to Wellington to Waterloo and return. She did it; not bad for a lady in her mid eighties. Dunedin had been a very happy tramping ground for her when she lived in there, furthering her nursing training.

Pauline nursed at Hutt Hospital, rising to a very senior position, and when she and her husband, Jack, moved to Waikanae, she worked in the mental health area in the Horowhenua, work well suited to her personality.

Pauline was a warm and compassionate person, generous with her time, with a gentle self-deprecating manner. She will be remembered with affection by many of us older members.

Mat Craig

At last, the sale of the

COLLECTION

of **MOUNTAIN** and **EXPLORATION BOOKS**

(mostly)

AUCTION: Friday 17th June, 2022

- books on view from 5.30 pm; auction from 7.30 pm

BOOK SALE: Saturday 18th June, 2022

- from 9.30 am

HUTT VALLEY TRAMPING CLUB

Birch St Reserve, Waterloo, Lower Hutt

hosted: Les Molloy, Patron of FMC
Dave Bamford, NZAC
Dennis Page, President of HVTC

- Most of the late Arnold Heine's wonderful book collection, more than 1,500 books, will be sold.
- All of the proceeds of the Auction and Sale will be donated to the Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand (FMC) Mountain and Forest Trust.
- Arnold's unique book collection is strong in mountaineering and exploration – ranging from the Himalaya and Tibet, through Central Asia and Siberia, Europe, North America, to the Pacific.
- There are many out-of-print books on New Zealand's mountaineering history, tramping, hunting, geology, ecology, conservation and culture, as well as guidebooks.
- Some books are signed by A J Heine and some have a Heine Library bookplate.
- **AUCTION - from 7.30 pm on Friday 17th June, 2022** - of 103 lots of rarer books - on view from 5.30 pm. A catalogue of the lots is available from <mailto:secretary@hvtc.org.nz> . Absentee bids accepted by e-mail to <mailto:secretary@hvtc.org.nz> until Wed. 15th June.
- **BOOK SALE - from 9.30 am on Saturday 18th June, 2022** - of all remaining books. These books will not be on view until 9.30 am on Saturday morning.
- **VENUE: Hutt Valley Tramping Club, Birch St Reserve, from Birch St, Waterloo, Lower Hutt.**

Note: Some seriously rare/collectable books from Arnold's Library - mostly Polar and Himalayan - are being sold through Colin Monteath's Barking Mad Books website:

https://colinmonteath.photoshelter.com/gallery/ARNOLD-HEINE-POLAR-MOUNTAIN-BOOKS/G0000ZDc8Budxcdg/C0000CrD_31

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.