



*Almost 100 current and former club members (count them).*

*Photo: Jan Arts*



Please submit your **July 2023** H&V articles to the editor by **30<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

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](mailto:info@hvtc.org.nz)

**President:** Marina Skinner 021 792 260

**Secretary:** Phaedra Upton

021 0232 6726

**Trip Coordinator:** Chris McMillan 569 9019

**Treasurer:** Jim Cousins

586 2135

**Editor H&V:** Bruce Miller 563 5966 [the-bruce@xtra.co.nz](mailto:the-bruce@xtra.co.nz)



## CLUB NIGHT PROGRAMME

Starts 7:30 pm promptly



### 7 June : Bob and Alison Maysmor – North Korea

It was like visiting another planet! A fascinating but controlled insight to a dangerous rogue state. Fortunate to get in but so happy to get out again! Bob and Alison's time was spent in Pyongyang, a visit to the DMZ (De-militarised zone) and Kaesong, Mt Myohyang and a repeat performance of the remarkable Mass Games in the Mayday stadium.

### 14 June : Todd Stevens – Ivory Lake Hut

Alan Stevens' son, Todd, a well known cross country & marathon runner, in early March ascended the Waitaha River – regarded by Mr Explorer Douglas in the 1890s as the most difficult on the West Coast.

A recent "Wilderness" magazine featured on the cover Ivory Lake Hut – one of the most inaccessible huts in NZ. Todd and 4 others battled their way up the gorges, high sidles, bush bashed 2 x 14 hour days etc to Ivory Lake hut, below the glacier at the head of the valley. Next day 3 decided to return down the river, Todd & his cousin Peter climbed higher, over Ragged Peak and around the hairy tops etc reaching a hut at 10pm. Next day, with heavy rain, to avoid the rising river, they bashed down the ridge, eventually out to the road. The others were stranded at a hut so called a chopper to get out.

### 21 June : Julie and Vera – Baking Competition

A baking competition with 4 categories, a prize for each category. Refer to email reminder for more details. Entries to be home made. No cooking will be done in the hall. While judges are making their decisions, we can share some memories from our early tramping days and what sort of food we took on multi day tramps. Perhaps there has been some evening meals that didn't turn out as planned, or some gourmet.



### 28 June : Pete and Trish Smith – Africa Overland

Fifty years ago Peter drove his landrover, with friends and others, from London to Capetown. The talk will describe why he did the trip, the preparation work in the planning and getting equipment and the many challenges that had to be overcome on the way.

### 5 July: Derek and Elaine Richardson – Kayaking Around New Zealand

As total kayaking novices, Derek and Elaine have been discovering the pleasures of life on water and waves. Every summer they dust off their kayak and explore unusual aquatic corners of Aotearoa. Their trips included both day and multi-day 'pack-paddling'. Places visited include the far north down to the Sounds in the south.







## 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.

### JUNE

Sun 11	D1	Ecclesfield Reserve	Jackie West	528 4697
Mon 12	WP	Baring Head Planting	Murray Presland	022 656 830
Thur 15	D1	Zealandia Trails	Bernice & Bob	021 994 854
17 – 18	T1/2	Turere Lodge overnighter - Day walks Sat	Chris McMillan	027 434 2114
Fri 23	WP	Baring Head Planting	Murray Presland	022 656 830
24 – 25				
Sat or Sun	D1	Stratton St Takapu Rd return	Bernice & Bob	021 994 854

### JULY

30/6 – 2/7	T1	Visit to Wanganui Tramping Club	Nick McBride	021 410 551
Sat 1		With WTC - Oskam's Farm		
Sun 2		With WTC - Turakina Beach		
1 – 2	T1	Zekes Hut	Andrew Robinson	586 2438
3 – 7	Ski	Ruapehu Lodge – school holidays week 1	Alison Newbald	027 451 2587
Tue 4	☾	Moonlight Walk	Emma Dobbie	027 252 5045
Fri 7	WP	Baring Head Planting	Murray Presland	022 656 830
8 – 9	T1			
Sun 9	D1	West Whakanui – East Whakanui	Jackie West	528 4697

## FROM THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

June 2023

## YIKES! WE NEED A TRIP COORDINATOR

We are still looking for new people to help our club run smoothly.

We especially need a Trip Coordinator. This is a critical role – and we can't function well without someone. We are looking at having more people to explicitly support our new Trip Coordinator, and I appreciate the people who have already put up their hands for this.

But we need someone to take on the general coordination. Please contact me if you are interested.

We also welcome other new people to join our General Committee, Ruapehu Committee and Social Committee.

At our AGM on 26 July we'll elect new members for all three committees.

Please contact us for more information about what's involved:

- Marina Skinner, General Committee [president@hvtc.org.nz](mailto:president@hvtc.org.nz)
- Kate Brownsword, Ruapehu Committee [the.brownswords@xtra.co.nz](mailto:the.brownswords@xtra.co.nz)
- Cathy Priest, Social Committee [cathy.priest@xtra.co.nz](mailto:cathy.priest@xtra.co.nz)

*Marina Skinner*

President

# CENTENARY FUND TO SUPPORT SCHOOL STUDENTS

To help celebrate our centenary year, we have established a one-off fund for secondary school students to take part in outdoor recreation and to enjoy the natural environment.

Grants from the fund will aim to encourage young people to have the outdoor experiences and to appreciate the natural environment in the way club members have for the past 100 years.

We particularly want to provide opportunities for students who might not otherwise be able to afford to join outdoor recreation activities.

The General Committee sees benefits for the students and for our community in students' physical and mental health and personal resilience. The students could also become our outdoor recreation and environmental advocates of the future.

We are asking current and former club members if they would like to make a donation to the fund as a way to mark our centenary.

The General Committee has provided a \$2,000 base fund from the club.

## Why establish a one-off centenary fund?

Grants to secondary school students will add a future focus and a community focus to our centenary commemoration.

Celebrating 100 years of our club is an important time for current and former members to get together and look back at our achievements. It's also a good time for us to look ahead and reflect on how we see the future of our club, and how we might extend our influence so that a younger generation recognises the value of outdoor recreation and the natural environment.

The grants to students are an opportunity to show the club's community leadership and spirit of service to the Hutt Valley, and to raise our profile and build on our reputation.

We would like to share HVTC members' skills and experience with schools, which is an opportunity to increase our community connections and raise awareness of our club.

Short-term benefits to the club include opportunities to publicise HVTC to the families of successful schools and to the wider public, which could attract new members.

There are longer-term benefits in fostering trampers and potentially HVTC members of the future. The fund supports HVTC's objectives to encourage outdoor recreation and to foster an awareness of environmental issues affecting outdoor recreation.

## Managing the fund

A sub-committee of the General Committee is managing the fund. The members are Marina Skinner, Kate Brownsword, Emma Dobbie and Dennis Page.

The sub-committee is inviting schools to apply for the fund and will award the grants in August.

## How to support the fund

If you would like to make a donation to the fund, please make a payment to the HVTC general account:

03 0543 0036501 00

Reference: Centfund and your surname

## More information

Please contact me at [president@hvtc.org.nz](mailto:president@hvtc.org.nz) for more details, including the criteria for the fund.

I'm interested in your questions or comments.

*Marina Skinner*

President



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### BAKING COMPETITION - 21 JUNE



Dust off your baking tools and blow the cobwebs off your recipe books. Julie and Vera are hosting a Tramping inspired Baking Competition.



There are four categories and all items must be home made. All entries are to be prepared at home, as there will be no baking in the hall.

1. Easy High Energy Snacks -eg muesli bars, scroggin, bliss balls
2. A Savory Lunch Item - eg crackers, savory loaf, muffin
3. Hut Friendly Dessert - ingredients easily prepared and cooked in a hut - eg billy baked cake, creek chilled dessert, fruit crumble and custard
4. An Old Favourite - Tararua Biscuits with a Twist - add your own special ingredients - spice, dried fruit

Categories 1,2 & 4 need to be pocket sized and practical to carry. Label your entries if they meet any specific dietary needs - gluten free, vegan.

Please enter a minimum of 6 pieces for judging. Leftovers can be sampled at supper!

Judges' decisions are final.

Prize for each category and a Special Award for the most imaginative presentation.

Be creative, with recipes, ingredients and presentation. Start practicing NOW.

While our judges are doing their bit, we will have an open session for anyone to share their tramping adventures and food related stories from when they first started tramping.

*Julie and Vera*

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### BARING HEAD Planting programme 2023

HVTC Clubmembers, encouraged by Graeme Lythgoe's enthusiasm and energy in the past 4 years, have made large contributions to the winter/early spring planting and weeding programmes being undertaken by the Friends of Baring Head in the lower Wainuiomata Valley, up on Baring Head and along the South Coast beaches beneath. In the approaching 2023 planting season Paula Warren, who oversees the programmes, would like to use us particularly to place rarer plants into more difficult sites, perhaps on steeper slopes and into rockier soils. I hope you will all continue to contribute your energy and skills to the project, because your work is greatly appreciated by Paula and FOBH.

I have, tentatively, agreed a schedule of two days each month – June to September – mostly on Mondays and Fridays because that is when Paula is most free from her work commitments and able to spend time supervising our labours. The planned work days have been listed in the Club Trip Schedule but they may well change to accommodate the supply of plants, the weather, availability of people, etc. I will keep you in touch with what is happening with e-mail messages on hvtc-post but meanwhile please set aside the first few days of the 2023 programme and be ready for new and different adventures at Baring Head!

<b>June</b>	Monday 12 June	Friday 23 June
<b>July</b>	Friday 7 July	Monday 24 July

Many thanks!

*Murray Presland*

( [murray.presland@extra.co.nz](mailto:murray.presland@extra.co.nz) 022 656 8309 )

<b>RUAPEHU EVENTS 2023</b>			
<i>Please note all events will only go ahead if the Whakapapa ski field is operational this winter.</i>			
<i>In</i>	<i>Out</i>	<i>Event</i>	
Mon 2 July	Fri 7 July	July School Holiday week 1	Contact Booking Officer (Alison Newbald) 027 451 2587
Mon 10 July	Fri 14 July	July School Holiday week 2	Contact Booking Officer (Alison Newbald) 027 451 2587
Mon 14 Aug	Fri 18 Aug	Club Week 1	Contact Booking Officer (Sheldon Bruce) 027 451 0415
Mon 28 Aug	Fri 1 Sept	Club Week 2 (Uni & young professionals)	Contact Booking Officer (Sheldon Bruce) 027 451 0415
Fri 01 Sept	Sun 03 Sept	Centenary dinner at the lodge and 100 ski/board laps	Contact Kate Brownsword 027 562 0177
Mon 04 Sept	Fri 08 Sept	Club Week 3 (Vets and allcomers)	Contact Russell Oliver 021 245 9596
Mon 11 Oct	Fri 15 Oct	Club Week 4	Contact Booking Officer (Sheldon Bruce) 027 451 0415
Mon 25 Sept	Fri 29 Sept	October School Holiday week 1	Contact Booking Officer (Sheldon Bruce) 027 451 0415
Mon 02 Oct	Fri 09 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.

# 2023 HVTC PHOTO COMPETITION

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023

All Club members are invited to submit their favourite/best recent images into the 2023 Club Photo Competition. As well as providing an evening of wonderful and surprising images, the comments of an experienced photographer – the Competition Judge – are an excellent opportunity to learn more about making good photos. Don't hide your best images – and if you have not entered any before, there is a novice category for those who have not previously entered a photo competition.

**Entries will be accepted up until Sunday 6th August – but please aim to submit your chosen images earlier than last minute!**

Our Club Competition is largely aligned with the FMC Photo Competition, with some 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 2021, except those in the historic category.
- 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 in this format - and provide a text listing in the same format, either in your email or as an attachment. A few minutes of your time saves me hours of work renaming and tabulating the files.

The images, and comments, will be presented by the Competition Judge on the club night of Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023. Cups are awarded to the winners in most categories, though the four FMC Landscape categories are coalesced into one Scenic category.

## IMAGE CATEGORIES:

There are 7 categories in the FMC photo competition:

– see the definitions below from the FMC website

**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**

There are 5 HVTC categories:

**TOP TOPICAL** (tells a story)

**PER PERSONALITY** (illustrates a character)

**OVS OVERSEAS** (from your recent travels, since 1 January 2021)

**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 2021. 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

### SCANNING OF SLIDES/PRINTS FOR HISTORIC CATEGORY

In this year of the Club’s Centenary we hope that members will search through their older photos and submit images in the Historic Category HIS. Few photos from this era will have been taken in digital format, so I am prepared to scan transparencies and prints submitted for this category. Please ensure that these are in good condition and have been cleaned to remove dust. It would be appreciated if these are submitted a week or more ahead of the closing date – ie before Sunday 30 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 2021 qualifies, the historic category is really 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 shown - rather than purely scenic shots that could equally well be taken in 2022.

Please submit your digital images to **Murray Presland** ( [murray.presland@xtra.co.nz](mailto:murray.presland@xtra.co.nz) ) as email attachments or through Google Drive. I will also accept USB data memory sticks, cd or dvd discs, and historic slides/prints (for scanning) at Club nights.

The deadline for entries is **midnight Sunday 6 August (a week earlier for slides/prints)**– to allow time to collate entries, for the judge to deliberate and for cups to be engraved.

Good luck for the competition!

*Murray Presland*

Organiser, 2023 HVTC Photo Competition

## RUAPEHU ROUNDUP

### Lodge Restock

By now we would normally have either had our restock weekend or be about to with a cheerful crew ready to pounce on a load of supplies and haul them up to the lodge. In these uncertain times we have held off with the restock until such time as we can be more confident that there will be an operating ski field. We hope to know more some time this month as the season is now very close. As soon as we do know things are progressing an impromptu restock weekend will be organised. So if you may be able to help keep an eye out for an email from the Ruapehu Committee for the details or let one of us know in advance.

*John Simes and Russell Oliver*

### Mt Ruapehu/Ruapehu Alpine Lifts - Update - 4 June 2023

As at 4 June there is still uncertainty regarding the future of the Ruapehu skifields including this year's winter season, however there is progress.

Although PwC are the appointed Ruapehu Alpine Lifts (RAL) administrators the government via MBIE's regional economic development and investment unit has been leading the search for a solution. It is understood MBIE have received at least four proposals, including one from the community based Ruapehu Skifields Stakeholders Association (RSSA). Turoa Alpine Limited involving a local consortium of Ohakune and wider stakeholders wants to run Turoa as a public company. Little is known about the other bidders as much is covered by non-disclosure agreements. The lack of information has caused a lot of frustration including the lack of consultation with key stakeholders such as DOC and Iwi, difficulty in planning for the season, the fear that the skifields will end up in private ownership and how life pass holders (LPH's) will be treated.

PwC need to hold a watershed meeting no later than 20 June where proposal/s are put to creditors. It appears LPH's are likely to be the largest creditor class by both number and by value for voting.

PwC will be communicating directly with creditors including proposal/s, meeting, voting and proxy details. RSSA has undertaken to review all proposals with a view of providing a recommendation.

If you are a LPH it is important that you are receiving communications from PwC

<https://www.pwc.co.nz/services/business-restructuring/voluntary-administration/ruapehu-alpine-lifts-limited/receivership-enquiries.html>

Our club has several LPH's who stand to lose the use of their passes. Some members have only recently purchased their pass costing several thousand dollars. At best it appears LPH's will need to contribute further funds to enable future use.

Meantime RAL under PWC administration and with MBIE funding continues to prepare for the upcoming season, however they are understandably experiencing staff retention and recruitment problems. MBIE funding was only intended to last until the beginning of the season and the season pass campaign, a critical source of funds, has yet to be launched.

It is expected that during the next few weeks the future of the skifields will become clearer. The snow has started to fall and our lodge is ready to go (winter provisioning will occur once we have certainty the lifts will run). We will report on progress when possible.

*David Biegel*

for the Ruapehu Committee

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Please welcome new member Poonam Ahlawat. We look forward to enjoying days in the hills with you.

*Doreen Courtenay*

Membership Officer

## HALL MAINTENANCE MATTERS - MEN'S TOILET

It gives me great pleasure to announce that the newly renovated men's toilets are officially open.

What you see now couldn't have been achieved by one person alone. I would like to take this opportunity to pass on a special "thank you" to Doreen and Alwyn for all their hard work during the renovations. We had some interesting time constraints to work within but managed very well by alternating our working shifts to achieve a great result in the end.

*Doc Watson*

Clubroom Custodian

## HVTC CENTENNIAL TRAMP

We were very lucky to have some club members who have been in the club for a very long time at the official centenary photo shoot. Between them they have spent many years in voluntary service for the club and it was lovely that they were able to attend.



From left standing: Alison Ayson, Ian Ayson, Graham Craig.  
From left sitting: Mick McParland, Pam Bruce, Max Bruce, Phil Rundle, Mary Rundle, Mat Craig.

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To kick off the HVTC Centennial year celebrations, Graeme Lythgoe had the idea of the club retracing one of the early club tramps, to Belmont Trig. HVTC was formed in May 1923 and so it made sense for this Centennial tramp to be held in May 2023. Several trips were mooted in order to cater to as many past & present members as possible. Thanks must go to Bob Deller for his organisation of the day and to all the trip leaders.

Almost 100 current and former members met at Oakleigh Street, Belmont Regional Park. The day started with a welcome by president Marina Skinner, then a Centennial group photograph complete with the HVTC 100<sup>th</sup> Banner was taken by club member Jan Arts (up a stepladder!). We then split into 4 groups – 2 groups took different routes to Belmont Trig (Walk A & B), one group did the Te Whiti riser (Walk C) and one group went to Petone waterfront (Walk D). Their stories are below.

## THE A TRAMP



*Sunny Baked Beans Bend*

*Photo: Jan Arts*

Following the taking of the centennial photos and organising the gathering spot for each walking group Bob strategically positioned himself to count the numbers on the A Tramp as they all followed me as I took the track down to the Korokoro Dam. Counting the numbers was essential because we had a large group with the participants only finalised as we departed. I led the group to the four wheel drive road where the first of the B Tramp were approaching from their start at Stratton Street. We mulled around chatting until Bob who was leading from the back emerged from the bush.

Andrew then led the group up to Belmont Trig. It was cool and breezy at the top so everyone had morning tea sitting on the leeward side while enjoying a piece of Andrew's baking. We then made our way down to a sheltered and sunny Baked Beans Bend for lunch. After lunch we all walked out to Cornish St where some cars had been left before we gathered at Oakleigh St. Bob had worked out a shuttle roster to get people back to their cars at Oakleigh St which had to be resorted at Cornish St because we now had more trampers than when Bob prepared the roster. Thanks to Bob for being a wonderful organiser so we could all have an enjoyable tramp catching up with old friends and admiring the retro tramping gear that many wore.

A Tramp participants: Bob Deller (leader) Andrew Robinson, Ann Hayman, Neil Parker, Carolyn & Graeme Lyon, Cathy & Mike Priest, Felicity Maxwell, Clara & Rory Maxwell Lamb, David Barnes, Geoff Spearpoint, Grant Roberts, Heather Eskdale, Rob Buxton, James Herdman, Jan Arts, Sharman Robinson, Jo Scott, Tony Birtwistle, Jo'ann Watson, John Simes, John Smeith, Kate & Nick Brownsword, Leanne Asher, Marilyn Sickels, Murray Presland, Tania Hatfield, Tony Jaegers, William Liao, Merryll Park, Ian Flux, Lex Grubner, Rob Brown, Clive Green, Gen Gage, Mariner Skinner, Jim Cousins, Chris & Jackie West (Leader) and Owen Spearpoint & Pascale Michel who went to the trig.

*Jackie West*



## TO THE TRIG AND BACK AGAIN (WALK B)

What a great turn out the club had on Sunday to celebrate the centenary walks. Many thanks to all the organisers involved, especially Bob Deller who had to contend with many last minute changes outside his control. Bob diligently came up with many solutions to keep all walks on track, so to speak.

Marina did a wonderful job of informing the large crowd gathered at Belmont Regional Park of the club's history in this area and didn't she look the part.

Once the group photos were taken, our group of fourteen drove down to the end of Stratton Street to start our walk up the now four wheel drive track to the trig.

*Doc Watson*

It's a bit of a slog up the first bit of the 4 wheel drive track but the leaders suggested a break at the beginning of the route back to the Oakleigh St entrance. When we got there, we met up with Group A. So the 2 groups got a bit mixed up at this point with members of both groups able to catch up with a few old tramping friends. Some of Group B even got to be part of the Group A photo at the top of the trig. It was the usual windy conditions up there and even a slight scatter of raindrops as the tail end Charlies arrived at the top. Everyone was hunkered down trying to keep as warm as possible while they munched on lunch. One group were completely hidden away from the main group but Ann popped up now and again to keep communication going.

We had 3 over 80 year olds - Ian, Alison and John in our group, and it was great for them and us to get up to the top of Belmont Trig – the view was wonderful, despite the wind. And there was a reward – Doc had kindly made us chocolate chip cookies.

Photo time and we had an offer from a cyclist named Mike to get a photo of us all. We had the banner and it was a bit of an effort to get arranged in the wind but we did it. Mike promised to email the photos to us and sure enough he did. Thanks Mike.



*Reached the trig!*

*Photo: Mike the cyclist*

The AB group, namely Owen and Pascale, who did a bit of tramping with both groups, left us at the signpost on the way down. Their car was at the Oakleigh St entrance.

From then it was up to a true bit of HVTC teamwork and we all got back down to Stratton St.

Thanks to the group who came up to the Trig with us.

Ann & Dick Corin, Ian & Alison Ayson, John Flux, Anja van Kesteren, Maarten Vink, Chris & Murray McMillan, Emma Dobbie, Pat Tristram, Michele Lythgoe, Bernice Deller (leader) and Doc Watson.

*Bernice Deller*

## WALK C

The original plan was to walk from Oakley Street down to Cornish Street but as the bridge near the dam was closed for an upgrade this wasn't going to work.

Another thought was to by-pass the bridge by scrambling down the bank and wade across the Korokoro Stream but this idea did not have much appeal. Of course, this had nothing to do with the average age of the group or not wanting to get wet feet!





Instead, we opted to meet up at the sports pavilion at Te Whiti Park after the photography session for a leisurely morning tea then go up the Riser. As seating at the park is limited those on the walk were asked to "byo" and that worked out well.

We hoped for a sunny day and yes indeed, that was the case.

After 20 minutes or so enjoying coffee and good

conversation "away in 10" was called and soon after that we headed up the Riser noting how, over recent years, the regenerating bush had hidden the ugly scarring made when the track was first cut.

It is very apparent that the Riser is a popular place for runners, walkers and bikers. It was awesome to see so many out enjoying the day; Mums and Dads, little kids, big kids and us, a group of enthusiastic seniors out on a mission!

Perhaps everyone's favourite part of the track, about halfway up, is the cantilevered boardwalk, a pleasant place to stop and to admire the impressive beech trees.

We found a good spot on the ridge out of the wind for lunch wondering if our fellow trampers up at the Belmont trig had a similar fortune and were enjoying their day out as we were.

We were back at the cars by mid-afternoon and we guess, like us and all on the other trips, went home thinking how well the day went for the Club,

Thank you everyone for your company.

On the trip were Mary & Ian C, Bruce & Freida, Pamela, Paul & Helen, John T, Jean, Anna L, Geoff N, and Michael & Sandra (leaders).

*Michael & Sandra*

## PETONE BEACH GET-TOGETHER (WALK D)

While three other groups exerted themselves in the Belmont and Eastern Hills, a more sedate group of club members gathered in the sunshine on Petone seafront. Three generations of the Bruce family combined their Mothers' Day celebrations with the club's centenary. Long-time club members who had not seen each other for some time stayed and conversed together, enjoying fresh coffee from the coffee cart for as long as the weather remained fine. The other half of the group ambled and chatted eastward among the family groups and dog-walkers, as far as the children's play area where they stopped for a hot drink and a bite to eat. They then ambled and chatted back to the starting point, where they found that almost everyone else had departed. A pleasant time was had by all.



*Sunshine on the Esplanade*

*Photo: Frank Usmar*

Trip Participants: Adam Bruce, Alan Stevens, Bruce Miller (leader), Frank Usmar, Graeme McVerry (leader), Graham Craig, Helen Stevens, Jo Barclay, Larry Barclay, Laura Bruce, Margaret Aitken, Marianne Craig, Mary Rundle, Max Bruce, Mick McParland, Pam Bruce, Patrick Fotheringham, Paul Wolstenholme, Phil Rundle, Rachel Bruce, Robyn Usmar, Sheldon Bruce, Val Erhardt (leader).

*Bruce Miller*

## TRIP REPORTS

### EASTER ORCHID HUNT - EAST HARBOUR RP

26 February

Lex Grubner



On Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2023, 7 HVTC members led by Murray McMillian, went looking for *Earina autumnalis* in the hills above Lowry Bay. More commonly known as the Easter Orchid, the theory was they should be in full bloom at this time of the year. The forecast was for showers but fortunately they did not eventuate and we had a fine day. There had been some drizzle and rain on the Saturday but the tracks were still in great condition. Murray told us that we would know long before we saw the flowers that they were there as they gave off a “robust smell”. We started at Francis Bell Reserve at the end of Cheviot Road in Lowry Bay. We walked up Cheviot Road track and then what was described as “an alternative track” to the main ridge.

From Main Ridge Track we joined Rata Ridge Track prior to Mt Lowry. Then down Rata Ridge track and Fern Gully Track into Wainuiomata. Back up Lees Grove track and retrace our route out. We all had no problems detecting the very strong and distinctive smell of the Orchid, which was so powerful that sometimes the flowers were so far off the track that no one could find them even after exploring around the area. The tracks were surprisingly quiet for a Sunday possibly due to the forecasted rain and from memory only one or two people went past us while we had lunch beside Lees Grove track. A great trip all round with the bonus of lots of beautiful Easter Orchids in full bloom.



Lex

### TURERE RIDGE LOOP

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April

Heather Eskdale



Chattering and laughing from the outset, 14 Club members stepped out from Catchpool carpark onto the Orongorongo Track for the start of our 18km Turere Ridge Loop Tramp. Kind weather and good company set the tone for an outstanding day. The bush was its usual stunning self and we enjoyed an easy pace to a lovely beech-clad terrace above the river for our morning tea stop. Refuelled, we continued over Humpty Bridge and along Big Bend track for a short distance, before taking a left turn just

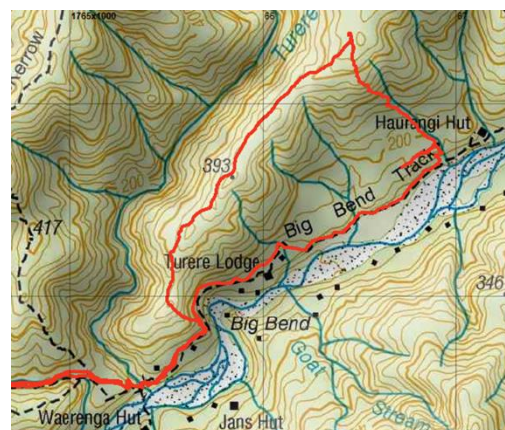


shy of Haurangi Hut. Here began our rather stiff, bold climb (or slog/scramble - depending on your perspective!!) up a challenging spur toward Turere Ridge. This spur is marked, quite randomly in places, with blue tape, likely put there by private hut owners. We took a short detour along the top of a spectacular cliff, to view 3 of these private huts – Plateau, Ruawai and Trypan – before slogging on! While there is no worn and significant track, there are hints of foot and animal traffic. Needless to say, wits have to be kept alert! The climb is a challenge and the earlier chatter dulled to more “snatched gasps” indicating less than jubilation, for the approx. hour and ten minutes taken to reach the ridge and a welcome - very welcome - lunch break among the crown ferns.

With renewed vigour, we set off south-west along the gently undulating Turere Ridge for about an hour before reaching “Jim’s Campsite” and taking a left turn, descending down another steep spur, an animal track close to the cliff edge, before connecting once more with Big Bend track. A short walk took us to Humpty Bridge and a quick afternoon tea break. The final stage was simply retracing our steps, back along the Orongorongo Track and out to the carpark by 5.00 p.m. Some weary, but satisfied bodies pushed themselves together for the group photo before heading home. All up, approximate stats were 700m elevation gain, 18km distance and 6 hours walking time.

Special mention to Sarah and Poonam, joining us on their first HVTC tramp. What an admirable effort –this was a strenuous first outing and you both get huge thumbs up from us all.

Thank you to everyone for the wonderful company, encouragement and laughs – and especially, THANK YOU JIM. Your mentoring for our trip has given us the confidence to step out of our comfort zone and we are so appreciative of the guidance and experienced wisdom you have shared as we planned this trip. Your presence to give the “subtle laugh or cough” as a wrong turn was taken, are so reassuring and confidence building. Thank you.



Trampers on this trip:

Jim Cousins, Marilyn Sickels, Sarah Turk, Poonam Ahlawat, Cathy Priest, Mike Priest, Bob Deller, Bernice Deller, Marina Skinner, Valray Climo, Lex Grubner, Ethan Climo, Mel Stoneham, Heather Eskdale

*Heather*

## MOONLIGHT WALK

2 May 2023

Graeme Lyon

The first moonlight walk happened this year early in May, when daylight had just ended after 5.30 pm. Our group assembled at Whites Line East at 6pm and soon crossed the Te Whiti Park sports field under floodlights as soccer players practised near the gym building.

Although the moon was nearly full, it was barely visible in the cloudy sky, but we were in almost calm air that was very mild, about 19C. The climb up the Te Whiti Riser was steadily made with our group of 9 making a good pace. We soon met a few walkers returning down the trail including Jean who decided not to join us. The track was in generally good shape with few muddy patches. The gentle slope makes an easy walk. Nearing about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way we were passed by 3 cyclists riding by headlights. Only one returned past us so the others may have headed for the Wainuiomata road or mountain bike tracks.

At the top, we rested around the table at the end of the Summit Road track and all gratefully enjoyed sampling Carolyn’s cake. The views of Wellington, Taita, Naenae and Wainuiomata were

clear although there was a cool breeze which discouraged a long stay. Again the cloudy sky diffused the moonlight.

Most of us then headed south along the recently graded ECNZ road and down the southern track exit back to join the others at the top of the upper zigzag.

And down back to the park just as the sports players turned off the floodlights about 8.30pm.

All in all, it was a pleasant hike and appreciated by the participants: Andrew R, Andrew F, Cat, Cathy, Mike, Paul, Frank, Robyn and Graeme Lyon (leader).

*Graeme*

## HVTC 100 30 May Andrew Robinson

To mark the club's 100th birthday, on May 30 14 club members did a moonlight walk in the eastern hills. After gathering at Te Whiti Park half the group set off up Te Whiti Riser while the other half drove to Waddington Drive to do the Waddington Winder. Access to the Waddington Winder was across an unbridged stretch of Waiwhetū Stream which all except one managed to jump across without getting wet feet. The track was narrow and sometimes muddy and slippery but those who hadn't done it before were keen to do it again in daylight some time.



The Waddington Winders reached the top after an hour and were joined a few minutes later by the Te Whiti Risers. After a quick snack and some photos we all descended on the Te Whiti Riser where there was as much mud as there had been on the Waddington Winder. From Te Whiti Park at the bottom we all headed for the clubrooms where we were joined by two others for a celebratory cuppa and cake.



Te Whiti Risers: Doreen Courtenay, Vera De Graauw, Bob and Bernice Deller, Marina Skinner, Pat and John Tristram

Waddington Winders: Andrew Robinson, Andrew and Catharina Fisher, Doc Watson, Ian Flux, Merryl Park and Tom Halliburton

Extras: Carolyn Lyon (thanks for putting the jug on for us) and Pam Smith

*Andrew*

### **Editor's Apology**

My apologies to John, Patrick and Andrew for not being able to fit their contributions in this edition. Look out for them in the next edition.

*Bruce*

*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.*