



An unscheduled stop at Shelley Bay.

Photo: Andrew Robinson

Please submit your **August 2017** H&V articles to the editor by **28th July 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 5 July : John Simes – A road trip through USA inspired by song titles

John will discuss a book titled “A road tour of American song titles” by Karl du Fresne a Wairarapa journalist. There will be a few examples of the songs shown and played (just a few as he realises music is not everyone's cup of tea) the book contains an abundance of intriguing stories behind these romantic place names and some of these will be shared, providing both new eyes for parts of the USA and maybe new ears for some of the songs.

Wednesday 12 July : Daniel Watson – Trekking in Bolivia and Peru

Lynda and Daniel spent 4months in Bolivia and Peru summiting mountains, undertaking 10 day solo treks and everything in between.

Wednesday 19 July : Debbie Bainbridge – Old Ghost Road, West Coast

In the North West corner of the South Island of New Zealand a ghost has awakened. A long-forgotten gold miners' road has been revived as a mountain biking and tramping trail – connecting the old dray road in the Lyell (Upper Buller Gorge) to the mighty Mokihinui River in the north. The 85km-long Old Ghost Road traverses majestic native forest, open tussock tops, river flats and forgotten valleys. No ghosts were found!!!

Wednesday 26 July : HVTC Annual General Meeting

Come along and hear all about and have your say on the Club's activities for the last year and the outlook for the next. Election of officers will also be held.

Wednesday 2 August: Maarten Vink: – British Columbia - The Great Outdoors

Maarten and Anja explore forests, trails, lakes, rivers and waterfalls in British Columbia, Canada.



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.

JULY

Sat tba	M1	🚲 Wairarapa	Graeme Lythgoe	021 0232 6726
07-09		Tararua Range - Otaki Forks		
	T2	Waiopahu Hut	Alan Geeves	938 6074
Sun 09	D1	Cornish St - Belmont Trig - Bridle Path	Pamela Campbell	565 1249
10-14		Ruapehu - School Holidays - Week 1	Booking Officer	027 451 0415
Tue 11	☾	Moonlight Walk - Boulder Hill, Kaitangata	Martin Watson	939 0875
14-16		Trip leaders needed		
Su 16	D1	Holloway Rd - Polhill exploration	Michele Lythgoe	479 6630
17-21		Ruapehu - School Holidays – Week 2	Alison Newbald	027 451 2587
22-23		Ruahine Range		
	T2	Sunrise Hut - gourmet	Dennis Page	970 6901
Sun 23	D1	Old Five Mile - Cattle Ridge	Doreen Courtenay	971 2327
28-30		Trip leaders needed		

AUGUST

Sat tba	C1	🚲 Paekakariki - Waikanae	Ray Hyndman	567 2772
04-06		Ruahine Range - Renfrew Road		
	T2	TBA	Andrew Robinson	586 2438
Sun 06	D1	Takapu Road - Cannon Head	Ray Hyndman	563 5966
Tue 08	☾	Moonlight Walk - Mt Kaukau	G + M Lythgoe	479 6630

FROM THE TRIP COORDINATOR

Winter schedules typically have more gaps than the summer schedule, and this year, after a full summer schedule we do have quite a few gaps. A big hole has opened up in July and August and it would be great if some trip leaders could come forward to fill it.

14-16 July is now free because Dennis Page has moved his grade 1 Sunrise Hut gourmet trip back a week to 22-23 July.

28-30 July and 4-6 August no longer have trips as Neil is unable to lead the Girdlestone climb or the grade 1 Rangiwahia trips.

Andrew Robinson is planning a new destination for the 4-6 August trip as Top Gorge hut is not ideal at this time of year.

11-13 August has no trip leaders.

Please consider what you can do to fill any of these gaps. Rangiwahia is an easy grade 1 trip, and it is a good time of year to lead a trip that takes in the lodge.

Your support for the core business of the club, tramping, would be very welcome.



Nick McBride

IN MEMORIAM : ELAINE CRADDOCK

Elaine Craddock, (Peewee) passed away on the 15th of June at Hastings, after a long battle with cancer.

Elaine was a keen club member having joined in the late 50's she will be remembered by contemporary's as a fun loving person having a passion for ballet dancing and tramping, she pursued her tramping interest up until about 4 or 5 years ago.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MOONLIGHT WALK BOULDER HILL **Tuesday 11 July 6pm**

Another opportunity for a night time stroll up to Bolder Hill, Belmont Regional Park

Meet at the carpark off Kaitangata Crescent which is on your left 5 min drive (3.5km) from the intersection of SH2 & Kelson

Arrive a few minutes early for a prompt 6pm departure and be prepared: appropriate footwear, may be soft underfoot in places, warm windproof clothing, torch & snacks

Graham & Linda White have kindly offered their home nearby (37 Timaru Grove off Waipounamu Drive) for a post walk revival with hot soup & homemade bread. Please bring a bowl, spoon & mug to make things easy

The views are worth the climb and we may even see the Moon due to rise 7.06pm!

Martin Watson

021 1640153

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RUAPEHU LODGE

School Holiday week 2 : July 17-21

Second week of the ski holidays is all on - providing the snow arrives.

Come for the week or a few days. If you want to find out more then please contact Alison Newbald on alison.newbald@gmail.com and I'll let you know what is happening.

Alison Newbald



July 2016

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SUNRISE HUT GOURMET TRIP

Notice of change of weekend dates - Now 22-23 July

Thanks to those who have expressed an interest in joining me on the Sunrise Hut Gourmet Trip. Due to an unforeseen double booking at the time the trip fixture card was in production, I

have had to shift the trip from its originally advertised dates of 14-16 July to the following weekend. The trip will now take place on the weekend of 22-23 July.

Sunrise hut is just above the bush line in the eastern Ruahine Ranges and as the name suggests, its aspect makes it perfect for viewing a sunrise if the weather permits. It is reached by a well benched track climbing uphill in 2-3 hours walking.

The trip should be suitable for those new to tramping and wanting to try out an overnight trip. Given the relatively short nature of the walk to reach the hut, I propose departing early on Saturday morning as opposed to Friday night. If we reach the roadend by lunchtime, that will give us time to reach the hut and still enjoy our dinner. There should be time on the following day to explore some of the nearby tops (weather/conditions permitting) before returning to the van and our trip home.

I will advise of the menu closer to the point of departure. For any further queries, see Dennis Page at club or phone 970 6901.

Dennis Page

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE HVTC.

26 July 2017

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

The club continues to offer a great range of activities to members, and this is the result of a lot of work which is often "behind the scenes". There are many ways you can contribute your skills and enthusiasm to the running of the club, and at the time of publication vacancies include Vice President and positions on the General, Social and Ruapehu Committees.

If you would like to know more, and would consider filling one of the above vacancies, have a chat to an existing club officer or committee member.

Nominations for the last few vacancies can be accepted at the time of the meeting

Marina Skinner

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RUAPEHU YOUTH ALPINE INSTRUCTION COURSE

12-13 August



The youth alpine instruction program is for ages 10yo to 18yo and provides introductory level mountain safety skills for experienced skiers and snowboarders to help them make safe judgments while in the mountains. The program is delivered by experienced instructors and is intended to give basic knowledge in the following:

- avalanche and terrain awareness, avalanche beacons
- route planning
- alpine weather
- human factors: get-there-itis, hypothermia, dealing with emergencies
- emergency shelters
- self-arrest: no tools, ski poles, axe
- ice axes –general use, step cutting etc

The program is based at the HVTC Ruapehu lodge and runs on the 12th and 13th August 2017

For further information or to register on the course please contact Rob Thompson at rkdj99@yahoo.com.au or call on 027 594 5443.

Rob Thompson

RUAPEHU LODGE JUNIORS' WEEK **MONDAY AUGUST 28 TO FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 01.**

This year Juniors' Week (previously known as Toddlers' Week) is again being run by Neil Hickman at our Ruapehu Lodge.

At the time of writing this a number of families have indicated interest. The grandparents and parents love the R&R and for the little ones it is an out of this world experience whether it's skiing, tobogganing, wandering or just digging holes in the snow. While it runs for a week, nights can be arranged to suit your time and budget.

For more info contact me and I can email you "All you need to know about Junior's Week".
neil.hickman@xtra.co.nz or ring me Neil 380 1192.

Neil Hickman

RUAPEHU EVENTS 2017			
<i>In</i>	<i>Out</i>	<i>Event</i>	
Mon 10 July	Fri 14 July	July School Holiday week 1	Contact Booking Officer 027 451 0415
Mon 17 July	Fri 21 July	July School Holiday week 2	Contact Alison Newbald 027 451 2587
Fri 11 Aug	Sun 13 Aug	Youth Alpine weekend	Contact Rob Thompson 027 594 5443
Mon 28 Aug	Fri 01 Sept	Juniors' Week	Contact Neil Hickman 04 380 1192
Mon 04 Sept	Fri 08 Sept	Veterans and All-comers week	Contact Ian Ayson 04 904 8858
Mon 02 Oct	Fri 06 Oct	October School Holiday week 1	Contact Kate Brownsword 04 562 0177
Mon 09 Oct	Fri 13 Oct	October School Holiday week 2	Contact Sheldon Bruce 027 451 0415

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 below) then come on up.



Sheldon Bruce
Ruapehu Lodge Booking Officer
Phone: 5868961
Email: sheldon.bruce@opus.co.nz

2017-18 SUBSCRIPTION ROUND

A reminder you have until 31 July to pay your sub without incurring a \$10 late payment fee.

Couples can make one payment, you do not have to pay individually.

A big thanks to those who have already paid.

Jackie West

Membership Officer

HUTT VALLEY TRAMPING CLUB PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION.

Recently FMC made some changes to their photo competition. The changes affect both the time of the year it is held and the categories. To fit in better with these changes the Social Committee have decided to hold our club competition in the first half of next year instead of November. Notice will be posted in Hills & Valleys later in the year confirming the new date along with the list of categories for our club competition.

Please refer to the FMC website for details of their competition. <http://www.fmc.org.nz/photo-competition/>

The new categories are:

- Above bushline (with no human element)
- Above bushline (with a human element)
- Below bushline (with no human element)
- Below bushline (with a human element)
- Historic - no change
- Native flora & fauna - no change

All photos must be taken in NZ.

Doreen Courtenay

Social Committee

INSTEP CRAMPONS

Using a Fanny Bayliss Bequest Grant last year, the Club has acquired several sets of instep crampons for members to use.

The crampons have four points, are small and light and do not need lengthy adjustments to make them fit the instep of your boots. They will not provide the same security as full crampons but will help you cope with hard snow and ice on flat and low-gradient snow and ice slopes, and they are much less dangerous to you and your companions than the 12-points of alpine crampons. So, if

you are tramping in the ranges during winter and there is likely to be snow about – or if you are heading up to Ruapehu Lodge - consider taking a set of the instep crampons.



Zipsin

You can borrow them from the Gear Room. There are 6 sets of Kovea Zipsin crampons available – which we think are great – and 7 sets of (cheaper) Adventure crampons, which perhaps do not provide as much sideways resistance – which may be significant when traversing across a slope.

Of course, you should carry an ice axe too – you can usually chop steps out of trouble and use the ice axe to self-arrest if you slip!



Adventure

Doc Watson

Gear Custodian

TRIP REPORTS

MAUNGAHUKA : 24-26 February 2017

Andrew Robinson

On the day it opened, five of us got to travel on the brand new Kapiti expressway on our way to Otaki Forks. From there, two and a half hours of tramping in the dark took us to Field hut which we reached at 11:30. There were fewer occupants than bunks but most of the bunks without people were strewn with gear. Fortunately there were spare mattresses and plenty of space for us on the floor.

Not quite two hours after leaving Field hut on Saturday morning we turned off the well-worn southern crossing route at Bridge Peak and headed for Maungahuka hut. Speedsters Nick and his nephew Sebastian soon opened up a gap on Murray, Leni and me. We regrouped for morning tea where Murray suggested the faster ones could go on ahead and stop for lunch at the Pakihore Ridge junction. It was a little slower going than anticipated after morning tea so Nick, Sebastian and I didn't quite get to the junction before stopping for lunch. After lunch



The ladder at Tararua peaks

Photo: Andrew Robinson

we got a bit concerned when the Murray and Leni hadn't turned up but it transpired they'd stopped for lunch about the same time as us but out of our sight.

I had worked out earlier in the day that our route took us over the Tararua Peaks (or past them – I couldn't tell from the map) and up a ladder (or down – again I couldn't tell) so was expecting a bit

of challenging terrain. After lunch we had a climb for about 20 minutes that was easier than it looked then another half hour of flat took us to the Tararua Peaks. The first part involved a short, steep scramble up a knife-edge ridge and as Nick had mentioned to me earlier that was the hardest part. After that there were chains for support for those that wanted it until you got to the steel ladder. The ladder was a piece of cake, all 73 rungs of it (down). A few more stretches with chains, some of which were superfluous, then a final climb of Maungahuka. Five minutes after the top of Maungahuka was Maungahuka hut and what a delightful hut it is. It's a well-designed 10-bunker sitting in a fairly sheltered hollow right beside a tarn. Murray had said it's one of his favourites and I could see why.

Murray had been thinking of returning by a different route the following day and had been looking at parts of it on the way to the hut. It would involve continuing north for a bit, descending an untracked spur to Whatiuru Creek, ascending Pakihore Ridge on the other side of the creek then following the track to Penn Creek and out via Table Top and Field hut. Since the forecast was for strong winds and possible rain everyone preferred that option to returning over the Tararua Peaks, even if it meant a longer trip. Late afternoon the outside temperature dropped as the cloud came in and the wind picked up, but inside it stayed warm enough despite there being no heating. We went to bed happy that Murray's alternative route would mean we wouldn't have to contend with the weather the next day

The sky was clear and there was no wind when we set off on Sunday morning. We headed north on the track for quarter of an hour north before heading off northwest down an untracked spur – the wrong one as it turned out, but we only lost about five minutes getting onto the right one. After twenty minutes across tussock we hit a band of leatherwood. At its narrowest it was about twenty metres wide and for once I over estimated how long it would take to get through – only about 7 minutes as opposed to my guess of 10. Once we'd got through the leatherwood the bush was quite open with no bush-bashing required. Although navigation was comparatively straightforward it did require frequent checks of the gps or map because the main line of the spur wasn't as distinct as it looked on the map. It took two and a half hours to do the one and a half kilometres down to Whatiuru Creek, about an hour longer than anticipated by me and I think Murray too. I did some estimates and figured we might just get back to the car in the same amount of time that it would have taken us had we returned the way we came in. With no navigational challenges the steep off-track ascent to the Pakihore Ridge track from Whatiuru Creek took two hours, about what it would have taken if there had been a track. Reaching the track meant the end of navigational challenges. I was still optimistic of getting back to the car well before dark.

After a pleasant lunch stop in the shade, watching clouds come and go over the Tararua Peaks and Vosseler, we headed off down Pakihore Ridge for Penn Creek. That took two and a half hours, by which time I had calculated that we weren't going to be out before dark.

The last half hour of the big climb from Penn Creek to Table Top climb was out of the bush and we were all pleasantly surprised that the forecasted wind and rain hadn't arrived. Once we were back on the main track it was half an hour to Field hut where we stopped for a bite to eat.

The sun wasn't far off setting when we left Field hut and I got some nice photos of the sunset through the trees. About half way back to the car park it was time to put on head torches. We finally reached the car 14 hours after we'd left Maungahuka hut – a long day to be sure, but small price to pay for a great trip.

Trip participants: Leni Mäckle, Nick McBride, Sebastian McBride, Murray Presland (leader), Andrew Robinson.

Andrew

TOTARA FLATS TALES : 27-28 May 2017

Jackie West

The trip was down in the syllabus as going from the Waiohine Road end but with the trip to Tutuwai not running Chris who was keen to see the new track into Totara Flats decided we would go from the Holdsworth end. On Saturday morning 10 of went in the van to the Holdsworth road end while Emma & Shelley who had not been in from the Waiohine end choose that route.

While we were getting organised at the road end a vehicle dropped off 6 female teenagers who were also going to Totara Flats Hut. They were faster than us but we found ourselves leap frogging them all the way to the hut. I signed the intentions book at 10.10am and we were away. Our first stop was morning tea at Rocky Lookout. Soon after there was a light shower, while some stopped to don parkas other kept walking but as the inclement weather persisted most were wearing parkas when they reached the hut. We regrouped at the turn off to Totara Flats but decided it was too early for lunch and we would eat at the start of the new track. It seemed a long way down to the new track but after passing the 6 females having lunch we found our own lunch spot. They passed us again and we continued downhill only to reach Totara Creek. It wasn't where we expected to be but with all the new orange triangles marking the way we had obviously taken the route DOC wanted us to follow.

Across Totara Creek we were regrouping when a large group of young males appeared on the other side. Aware of the limited number of bunks we quickly got moving. On reaching a side creek the 6 females had stopped & Graham stopped with them. One of the girls lost the sole off a boot so they stopped to tie it on. I kept going and was pleasantly surprised on arriving at the hut at 2.45 pm to find it empty. I went in & claimed the small bunk room with mattresses for 10 and then got the billy on. The rest of the group arrived and settled in. Graham choose to put his tent up and Alan claimed a space on the veranda. Emma and Shelley arrived soon after 4 o'clock and took the last two spaces in the small bunkroom. At 5.30 Keith Thomas who was tramping independently arrived from the Waiohine road end via Cone Ridge. He erected his tent and then came in and finished off our left over rice.

On Sunday morning we were away before 9 o'clock. It was fine at the hut but it didn't take long for most of us to put on our parkas as light rain began to fall. We paused at the bridge across Totara Creek which was blocked off. On the far side the foundations had been undermined by recent flooding. So this was why the new track was not in use. As we climbed out of Totara Creek we looked out for the start of the new track. It was easy to see why we had missed it as the start was covered with dead branches and the way down to Totara Creek was so clearly marked with new orange triangles.

We stopped at the junction with the Powell track for a quick lunch and then headed for the van as it was too cold linger. Most of us reached the van at 2 o'clock. On the drive away from Holdsworth I received a text from Emma and Shelley who were relaxing in a Greytown café.

The Totara Flats trampers were: Doreen Courtney, Vera de Grauw, Alan Geeves, Graham White, Emma Dobbie, Shelley Kirk, Chriselda & Murray McMillan, Maarten Vink & Anja van Kesteren and Chris & Jackie West (leaders).



Photo: Jackie West

Jackie

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND TRIFECTA OF TRIPS

3, 4, 5 June 2017 : Pat & John Tristram

Over Queen's Birthday weekend, in anticipation of reasonable or even fine weather, with Pamela Campbell, we planned to run three trips. Two of these had already been postponed due to poor weather and the third was the scheduled day trip for that weekend. As an inducement to get members out on three consecutive days in probably cold and possibly wet and windy weather, we also promised there would be gold medals for those who did all three trips.

Well, we did run three trips! On Saturday the Ride (from Melling to Silverstream with ten participants) met up with seven walkers for morning tea (being joined by Joyce who cycled from Upper Hutt) before a tramp in Keith George Memorial Park. The weather was dry and not too windy. Sixteen headed off to Keith George Memorial Park, taking the underpass under SH2 which had a rather boggy section. Bicycles were locked up and we huffed and puffed up the North Ridge Track with morning tea on the way to the Pylon Road up the top. We followed the road through cut over forest, dropping down behind the Hayward's sub-Station for lunch by Haywards Stream before going upstream to the Waterfall, which meant wet feet for some during the half a dozen stream crossing. Ray (who didn't want wet feet) left us at this point.

The waterfall was admired from below and then a track with a rope and steps was found to go to the top – "for experienced trampers only" – which we gave a go. At the top of the waterfall the track continued up the creek, so Doug and Chriselda carried on to see where it went. (They went on for 400 metres to a set of forks, where there were footprints, but decided at that point to retrace their route and follow us).



The track was good and there are a number of tracks worth exploring through this area of Reserve and Keith George Memorial Park, back to our bikes and the cars, arriving around 3pm. The cyclists returned via SH2 (checking out the new cycleway and tunnel at the SH58 interchange) but then had to retrace their steps to Manor Park and the cycle trail back to Melling. They covered about 24km in a total cycling time of 1 hr 40 mins, with the walkers covering around 11km, a total ascent of 457 metres, a walking time of nearly 3 hours and stop time 1 hr, 30 min.

Those on the trip were: cyclists and walkers – Pamela Campbell, Sue Shields, Ian Milne, Kate Livingstone, Geoff Norton, Ray Hyndman, Paul Haines, Pat & John Tristram; plus walkers – Bruce Miller, Chriselda McMillan, Russell Oliver, Sandra Pearce, Doug Flux, Jackie West and Doreen Courtenay; plus cyclists only Carolyn Lyon and Joyce Skinner.

On Sunday, again with reasonable weather at Plimmerton, 12 of us were led by Pamela around the Coast to Pukerua Bay. The sun was shining, the wind was calm and the sea sparkling. A heron was spotted checking for fish in a still pool, with views of Mana Island close by and the South Island in the distance. Morning tea was had by a very large rock on the shore before continuing around the Coast through driftwood, shrubs and on old tracks. Some of us scaled a cliff and over a fence dropping back down to the beach, while the others saw that it was possible to get through a gate and barrier without the difficulty it seemed to present from further back. At the end of the beach and at a pou we decided to have lunch in the sun at picnic tables, before

climbing back up to SH1. From the shops in Pukerua Bay we followed the walkway/cycleway to the Whenua Tapu Cemetery and Airlie Road where we found the Taua Tapu track which took us over farmland and by this stage into a rather cold southerly breeze. It was a relief to drop down the Reserve Track into Plimmerton and back to the cars. It was still fine in Plimmerton, but drizzling when we came over Haywards Hill. Our distance was 17.5km with a total ascent of 294



metres, a walking time of just over 4 hours and stop time 1 hour 25 minutes.

Participants were – Pamela Campbell (leader), Bruce Miller, Doug Flux, Pat & John Tristram, Chriselda McMillan and Ray Hyndman (who had now done two of the three trips), plus Anna & William Liao, Pam Smith, Carolyn and Graeme Lyon.

On Monday, despite having a similar weather forecast to Sunday, it was decidedly drizzly with a very cool southerly breeze. However there were, to our surprise,

eight others in the Melling car park and so we drove to the end of Normandale Road and walked along the Old Coach Road to have morning tea in the shelter of a bunker! Out into the southerly and a much heavier drizzle than predicted by Met Service, we passed by Round Knob and then headed down the Cannon Head track. Views of the Transmission Gully works came into view and from a pylon 100 metres above the workings in the murk that was coming and going, we were mightily impressed. However, we agreed we didn't need to go down any further and by now getting rather wet and cold we retraced our steps back to the bunker. It was just after midday, so we made a final push to the cars and all went home to eat our lunches after warm showers. Distance was 14km and total ascent 485 metres, over a walking time of 2 hrs 51 minutes and a stop time of just 37 minutes.



Participants were – Doug Flux, Ray Hyndman, Doreen Courtenay, Jackie West, Russell Oliver, Rebecca Collins, Catherine Croucher, Patrick Fotheringham, Pat and John Tristram.

So – while four people qualified for Gold medals, because John and Pat led two of the trips, this gave them an unfair advantage and they politely declined the honour.

Gold Medallists were Doug Flux and Ray Hyndman (who because he also did the ride as well as the three walks, received a Gold Medal and Bar), which were duly presented at Club night on 7 June (and can be seen on the HVTC Facebook page). Silver medallists (who did two trips) were Bruce Miller, Chriselda McMillan, Jackie West, Doreen Courtenay, Russell Oliver and Pamela Campbell (who also received a bar for doing the cycle part).

Many thanks to all the participants – we did a very pleasant bike ride and three good tramps over the three days.

All photos by Pat & John Tristram.

Pat & John

PAEKAKARIKI ESCARPMENT : Thursday 8 June 2017

Graeme Lythgoe

Six of us met at Pukerua Bay Station on a cold crisp morning with bright sunshine promising a good day. Many members have already done this walk which is very popular, being relatively straightforward and a very good track.

It is 10 km long and starts beside the railway line before some short climbs and across two bridges spanning large gullies. We had a stop for a cuppa on this section and then there is the main climb up to the highest point. I was expecting this to be very exposed but it was less so than



I had expected with only short flights of steps nearly always angling down away from the fall line. Not, however a good place to trip or stumble.

At the top there is a place to have lunch but with a cool southerly breeze blowing we continued and enjoyed our lunch on the lee slope looking towards Paekakariki. The

descent consists of more zig zags and fewer steps and is generally less exposed and those who are not so keen on heights would be advised to travel northwards. Once down beside the railway line again, the track passes through some pleasant wooded areas and undulates along to SH1.

A walk back over the bridge and then along Ames Street is a much more pleasant alternative to the main highway. We had a final cuppa sitting in the sun at the station watching a large herd of goats on the eastern slopes beside SH1, before returning on the 1415 train. This track is best done in light winds (especially if NW) and away from high summer.

Photo : Graeme Lythgoe

Enjoying a mainly sunny and very enjoyable outing were: Jackie and Chris West, Doreen Courtenay, Graham White, Murray Presland and me.

Graeme

HOLDSWORTH - JUMBO CIRCUIT : 13-14 June 2017

Murrey Totton

On the program to be led by Neil Hickman. When he couldn't make it an email was sent to all club members asking for a new leader. My name was already on the list to go but I had never led a tramping club trip before and I had never been beyond Powell Hut, so, it took me a couple days to decide. I'm glad I did.

Early Saturday morning we left the Hutt Valley in two vehicles, one from the club room and one from Upper Hutt, to meet at Holdsworth carpark. It was raining and miserable as we left but a forecast promising to improve kept us optimistic for a good second day (when crossing from Jumbo Hut to Powell Hut.) It was overcast at the carpark so choosing what to wear was a challenge. A quick gear check, some toilet stops, and a few photos saw us off by 10:00. We set off ready for showers and a cool wind but the steady pace set by John soon saw everyone warm up. The briefest of stops at Donnelly Flat to adjust clothing and off we went to Atiwhakatu Hut. On

the way we navigated a damaged bridge and a slip. Points of interest were the boardwalks and a new bridge spanning a tributary to Atiwhakatu Stream.

Lunch was unusually quiet at Atiwhakatu Hut - we were the only ones there and I think everyone was mentally preparing for the climb to Jumbo. We had made it this far with no rain but we knew it was about. Wasting no time we were off. Up Raingauge Spur Track to Jumbo Hut; a seven hundred meter climb where the only respite is a change in gradient. The group quickly broke into groups. John led the way never to be seen again. (We had a notion the Tararua Tramping Club were doing the exact same tramp as us, and John's mission was to secure beds.)

On this day Raingauge Spur Track was too much for Sharman and she felt it would be best if she returned to Atiwhakatu Hut. A quick bit of brainstorming between Sharman, Jan, Nick, and myself and a new plan was formulated: Sharman and Jan, taking a spare cooker for their meal, would return to Atiwhakatu Hut to spend the night there. The following day they would take their time returning to Holdsworth carpark. After this Nick and I continued up the spur. The higher we climbed, the wetter it became, and we finished this section with raincoats on. We reached Jumbo Hut at 3:20pm where John and Irene were just starting to boil water for a cuppa.

Six Tararua Tramping Club members shared the hut with us. They reached the hut slightly ahead of John and climbed into sleeping bags to keep warm. Nick had packed kindling so he took charge of lighting the fire. The wood provided by DOC wasn't the driest so it took a while but eventually the fire got roaring and the hut warmed up. The afternoon was spent sharing chocolates and stories while we had cups of soup.

As the afternoon rolled into evening we started thinking of dinner. The plan (to accommodate our group's vegetarian) was noodles, vegetables, and a Malaysian peanut satay sauce. Chicken pieces cooked in a second billy would be there for adding to a meal afterwards. Every cloud has a silver lining - with Sharman (vegetarian) not part of our meal I was able to combine all meal elements into a single billy which made it much easier for serving. By coincidence the Hutt Valley trampers and the Tararua trampers sat down to eat at the same time. For the briefest of moments, as people savoured their first mouthful of food, silence reigned. Soon after, the hum of conversation returned as both groups were very sociable.



The hut was in cloud when everyone went to bed that night. The biggest challenge was getting to the loo. The track was a stream from the afternoon's rain and the surrounding ground was waterlogged and very soft. At midnight the cloud moved away, the wind disappeared, and the sky became clear and crisp (just like the air temperature.) I was able to get some great photos of the Wairarapa. Increasing the camera's exposure settings gave a landscape with Masterton glowing from street lights while stars twinkled above.

Sunday's cloudless sunrise over the Wairarapa was awesome. While everyone else slept I took a few more photos. Eventually the group stirred and had breakfast. After a group photo or two at 8:45 we headed off. Good news; with it being so cold, any puddles remaining from the day before were now iced over so the track was dry. It wasn't long before reaching Jumbo (1405m). The only cloud to be seen was a white blanket over the hills to the west. McGregor and Angle Knob, the Wairarapa, and Mt Holdsworth could all be seen. What a great day for the Mt Holdsworth - Jumbo Circuit. Several photos to record the spectacular view and John, not wanting to get cold, was off.

Travel across was steady. We walked into a 'river' of cloud coming from the west and out of it again. It was very cold in the cloud with the sun obscured. Occasionally I was able to get John to "hold-up" so photos could be taken and we could become a group again. On such a stunning day, to me, it seemed crazy to bolt from point to point without looking at the view. (In comparison, three

women of the Tararua group raced off, the fourth woman travelled on her own, and the leader (Phillipa) was left looking after their sixth member - a sprightly 75 year old.)

Irene and I walked along enjoying the view of Mt Holdsworth getting closer with every step. It was 11:30 when we reached the trig with John and Nick there waiting for us. The trig had ice on it, on one side only, that looked like a sheet frozen by the wind.

[rime is a white ice that forms when water droplets freeze almost instantly on contact with a solid surface. Rime builds up on the windward side of a surface.]

A group photo at the trig and John, not wanting to get cold, was off again. Lunch was scheduled at Powell hut so he was given the task of putting the billy on. Nick followed soon after. Irene savoured the view while I took a few more photos before heading off. Lunch at Powell Hut, in the sunshine and out of any wind, was very pleasant. We still had a way to go so lunch couldn't be too long. Just long enough for a bite to eat and a cuppa.

We had reached the last leg of our two day trip; Powell Hut to Holdsworth carpark. This section with its initial steepness and numerous, very large, steps is possibly the most difficult. The distance from lead person to last person stretched to an unacceptable distance. At Mountain house shelter attention was brought to this and we continued as a group. (The one and only stumble/slip occurred after this on a clay section of the Gentle Annie Track when we were all together.)

Four of the group travelled 24km in 12+hours over two days enjoying great views and returning to the carpark at 4:15 (299 photos later.) Waiting for us at the car were Sharman and Jan with their story. They had had their own adventure.

The Wairarapa sunrise and views from Jumbo and Mt Holdsworth were spectacular. Combining that with great company made this a memorable trip. Thank you to those who joined me. Irene Davies, Sharman Robinson, Jan Arts, John Smeith, Nick Cox, Murrey Totton

All photos by Murrey Totton



Murrey

SOLSTICE PARTY FOR HVTC : 17-18 June 2017

Jan Heine

Any excuse for a night on the Island, especially tied in with working for DOC, is welcome news to HVTC folk. The list was oversubscribed when we had to make the booking late last year, as accommodation is scarce around midwinter Solstice time. But that was sorted when the actual time arrived and the weather was glorious for 17-18 June, a calm sparkling winter day. We 14 settled in before being sorted about H&S, and kitted out in oversized overalls for some. A red nose and bushy red hair would have gained them a job in a circus.

Half went off to paint the Motel Units until the paint got too cold and sticky. The other half cleared and cleaned the bull pens, getting extra dosh for upkeep as they are now historic.

Knock-off time at 4pm gave some time to see Whanganui-o-te-Tara from the summit, but some into preparing the midwinter dinner. Not being used to gas



Paint the motel units

Photo: Bruce Miller

ovens, we had some MasterChef type panics – will anything cook by 6.30 when children's appetites will need filling? The chooks did cook, fell apart, and the baked veg were yummy. Jeff & Otis joined us, while Brodie & Fynn had a Team NZ in un-aerodynamic walnut shell coracles, on a jelly sea. Trifle & fruit salad too.

Our pre-dinner check of the Little Blue penguins was rewarded when they scooted over our feet in their hurry to get home for the night. A very full moon made the harbour magic.



Cleaned the bull pens

Photo: Bruce Miller



Sunset Magic

Photo: Leni Mäcke

Midday back to Education House and after an amazingly efficient clean-up by everyone surely it was left spic & span. Goodbye and thanks to Jeff and family, & Otis. And to the 14 doughty HVTC workers: Margaret Aitken, Liz Davies, Jan Heine, Neil Hickman, Katy Jones, Tony Jaegers, Julie Lewis, Kate Livingston, Chriselda McMillan, Leni Mäcke, Bruce Miller, Elaine & Derek Richardson, John Smeith

Jan

Sunday
7.30am
and up

to the trig, Neil & Katy flapping in their sheets in the sunrise breeze. Thoughts from Chriselda made us think, and a little execrable doggerel sent us back to breakfast.

We all reported for work at 9am when hey ho and off to work we went: half to clean up the Bullock Track, and half to clear the way down to Shag Rock.



Flapping sheets in the sunrise breeze *Photo: Leni Mäcke*

EDITOR'S NOTE

So many trip reports were submitted this month that there was not enough room for them all. Many thanks for this largesse. Apologies to those whose efforts have not been included; they will be in future editions.

Bruce Miller

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.