



Dropping into Turere Stream, 9 June

Please submit your **August 2019** H&V articles to the editor by **2nd August 2019**

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: Phaedra Upton 021 023 26726

Secretary: Murray Presland 562 8194

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



3 July : John Rhodes – Tour de France Part 2

When John set out to bike through the Pyrenees and Alps to Geneva he worried that the 7 weeks he'd allowed himself might not be long enough. However, as it turned out he finished with a few days to spare. Later, when he set out to prepare a talk about the trip for HVTC John worried that $\frac{3}{4}$ hour might not be long enough. And as it turned out back in April, not only did he have no time to spare but he made it only through the Pyrenees. Tonight John will start pedalling again in an attempt to reach Geneva. If you're a trumper, mountaineer, mountain-biker or skier, stay at home. This is about riding a bicycle on tar-seal.

10 July : Graeme Lyon – Coastal Restoration

What dunes do at beaches, why restore them, how to do it, what this project has done.

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

17 July : Open Night

Members please bring along a few slides to share – probably around 10-12 each.

24 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.

31 July : Andrew Robinson – Highlights of 200 HVTC trips

In January 2019 Andrew completed his 200th trip of a day or more with the Hutt Valley Tramping Club. After a few statistics he will share memories of his favourite trips and moments

7 August : Quentin Duthie – The Story of Pareraho Forest

This will be a combo vision - pest trapping, planting, reserve forest and stream care, enjoyment and awareness of history and values, and some advocacy on land management in upper catchment. We're working with HCC and DOC on the pest aspect so will be linked in with the city network.



FORTHCOMING TRIPS



TRIP CATEGORIES

Tramping

T = Overnight or longer tramping trip

D = Day tramp

= Dog Friendly

= Moonlight Walk

Cycling



= Very easy



= Easy






= Intermediate



= Advanced

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		Eastbourne to Baring Head	Derek Richardson	565 1315
6 – 7 TARARUA FOREST PARK : The Pines				
T1		Atiwhakatu Hut	Chris McMillan	569 9019
T2		Mitre Flats	Andrew Robinson	586 2438
Sun 7	D1	tba	Marina Skinner	021 792 260
8 – 12 Ruapehu - School Holidays - Week 1			Booking Officer	027 451 2587
13-14 JULY RUAHINE FOREST PARK : Manawatu				
T1		Rangiwahia hut	Neil Hickman	380 1192
Sun 14	D1	Silversky track – Kaukau	Graeme and Michele Lythgoe	479 6630
Tues 16		Butterfly Creek	Chris McMillan	569 9019
15 – 19 Ruapehu - School Holidays - Week 2			Booking Officer	027 451 2587
20 – 21				
T1				
Sun 21	D1	Hemi Matenga Reserve - Full Circuit (Waikenae)	Tony & Jo Birtwistle	934 9229
27 – 28				
T1				
Sun 28	D1	Dry Creek – Boulder Hill – Kaitangata Cres	Bernice and Bob Deller	938 4685
AUGUST				
Sat tba		Ngati Toa domain – Whitby - Plimmerton	Chris McMillan	569 9019
3 – 4 TARARUA FOREST PARK : Wairarapa				
T1		Roaring Stag Hut	Andrew Robinson	586 2438
Sun 4	D1	Southern Walkway		

UPCOMING EVENTS

SALES TABLE

10 July

Run by Graeme Lythgoe. Bring your cash and your saleable items.

RUAPEHU EVENTS

<i>In</i>	<i>Out</i>	<i>Event</i>	
Mon 8 July	Fri 12 July	July School Holiday week 1	Contact Booking Officer 027 451 2587
Mon 15 July	Fri 19 July	July School Holiday week 2	Contact Booking Officer 027 451 2587
Mon 26 Aug	Fri 30 Aug	Juniors' Week	Contact Neil Hickman 04 380 1192

<i>In</i>	<i>Out</i>	<i>Event</i>	
Mon 02 Sept	Fri 06 Sept	Veterans and All-comers week	<i>Contact Russell Oliver 021 245 9596</i>
Mon 30 Sept	Fri 04 Oct	October School Holiday week 1	<i>Contact Kate Brownsword 027 562 0177</i>
Mon 08 Oct	Fri 12 Oct	October School Holiday week 2	<i>Contact Booking Officer 027 451 2587</i>

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.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE HVTC. **24 July 2019**

As previously advised this year's AGM is scheduled to be held at the clubrooms at Birch Street, Waterloo on the 24 July 2019 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.

If you would like to know more, and would consider filling any 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.

Reminder: PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION **28 August 2019**

The Club's Photographic Competition will be presented on Wednesday 28 August. The winning entries will be eligible for entry to the FMC Photographic Competition, which has excellent prizes! The rules for the Club Competition, and for the FMC Competition, were printed in the June edition of Hills and Valleys. Please remember that you may enter up to 4 images in each category in our competition.

Entries - on disc or USB memory stick or by attachment to an e-mail - must reach Murray Presland (murray.presland@xtra.co.nz) by Friday 9 August.

BITS OF INFO FROM THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

July 2019

Club Committees: There has not been a flood of members offering to help managing our Club over the next year! When you read the Annual Report, delivered with this edition of Hills and Valleys, it will become very obvious to you that:

- The Social Committee has a full complement of people willing to help in producing interesting and entertaining Club meetings every week of the year, plus managing special

functions on occasion, to make supper, and to ensure the Clubrooms are cleaned – all wonderful!

- The Ruapehu Committee, which manages the Ruapehu Lodge at long-distance, needs some more volunteers – several of its members have been engaged there for many years – but especially it needs a Vice-President Ruapehu to take oversight of the operation!
- The General Committee is losing some very significant people. It needs a President, a Vice-President and a Trip Co-ordinator.

I write that the Committees need people to take up these important roles. Actually, it is you – the members of the Hutt Valley Tramping Club – that need to find candidates for the roles that are vital to the Club's continuing to provide the activities for which each of us joined the Club.

Talk to Phaedra or Russell or any of members of the committees over the next 3 weeks leading to the AGM. We are all volunteers and would appreciate your help.

Please volunteer to contribute some of your time, energy and thoughtfulness to running your Club.

Clubrooms Lighting: The fluorescent light fittings in the Clubrooms, at least 20 years old, are beginning to disintegrate. Patrick Fotheringham and Doc Watson have valiantly attempted to keep them functioning – but recommended that we now call an end to that endeavour. Patrick has, very generously, donated and installed an LED light fitting in the main hall so that we could observe its effectiveness. The General Committee has agreed that all the lights in the Clubrooms be replaced with LED lights – the 5 in the main hall and 1 in the foyer with “warm” white lamps; the 3 in the garage area with “cool” white lamps. Thank you Patrick – especially, for your generosity – and Doc for keeping us all well enlightened.

FMC Vice-President: The General Committee chose to cast HVTC's votes in favour of Tania Seward in the election of a Vice-President of FMC for 2019-20 - and Tania has been elected. Having had involvement mostly with building the membership base and awareness, she will complement the President, Jan Finlayson, who is a passionate advocate on back country issues on our behalf. Owen Cox and Neil Silverwood, also candidates for Vice-President, remain members of the Executive.

How I wish we had lots of candidates in our organisation!

Murray Presland
(secretary@hvtc.org.nz)

RUAPEHU ROUNDUP

New Rules And Conditions For Use Of Rangitira Lift At Whakapapa Skifield

Ruapehu Alpine Lifts (RAL) have decided to restrict the use of the Rangitira Lift, at Whakapapa. RAL have advised that people on foot will not be allowed to use the lift for riding up the mountain, all lift passengers must be wearing skis or snowboards, have the appropriate lift pass and be judged competent to capably use the lift. RAL have also banned completely all downhill riding.

Their unilateral decision will obviously have significant implications for those clubs such as ours that have lodges located above the Iwikau Village. During May and June there were a number of meetings between the Ruapehu Mountain Clubs Association (RMCA), RAL and some of the affected clubs. RAL have adopted a very hard-nosed approach to the issue but have made a minor concession by agreeing to run a very restricted trial for the 2019 season.

RAL advised that while they have a strong preference to completely eliminate the risk associated with foot passengers riding the Rangatira Express chairlift altogether, they have however considered the feedback given by RMCA on behalf of Clubs and the inconvenience this will cause for Clubs located at Hut Flat. They now advise that the lift can be configured and operated in 'foot passenger mode' immediately following completion of normal operating hours each day and propose to run a trial during the 2019 season, but they have attached some very stringent conditions to this trial.

It is important that everyone understands the rules and conditions that have been stated by RAL concerning the Trial.

1. Uploading on skis / snow board is allowed with a manageable backpack at any time and remains unaffected.
2. No Downhill traffic whatsoever will be allowed on the Rangatira Chair - the reconfiguration of the chair and queuing makes this unsafe.
3. Uphill foot traffic with or without a manageable pack/bag will only be allowed once per day at the end of the ski-day.
4. Passengers must wear sturdy footwear and report 5 minutes prior to 4pm, or in the event of night skiing (typically Friday and Saturday evenings), then 5 minutes prior to 8pm.
5. There will be a safety briefing which must be attended every day the passenger wants to up-load.
6. This is a TRIAL for the winter season and will be reviewed in mid-August and the end of the season, with the RMCA, RSC and WSC.

RAL have provided a three page document that sets out the conditions for the trial. This extraordinary document is too large to reproduce here but those who wish to ride the lift as a Foot Passenger need to read and understand the conditions. Please contact Russell Oliver by email to (russell@gnawt.co.nz) or Alison Newbald our Booking Officer by email to (Ruapehubookings@hvtc.org.nz), who will provide you with a copy.

Whatever you may think about RAL and their actions please note that while they have agreed to a trial system for this season, albeit in a very restrictive manner, they do have the upper hand and have stated that they will suspend or cancel the trial should the Terms of the Trial be contravened.

- Please pay particular note to clause 2, Terms of this Trial in the RAL document.
- There are significant ramifications, including suspending the Trial should any Club member, their guest or a Custodian demonstrate bad behaviour toward the RAL staff in relation to the Rangatira Trial.
- There are also ramifications should club members, their guests or custodians deliberately seeking to damage RAL's reputation over this trial.

Any feedback from club members, or guests must be channelled through the Ruapehu Committee in the first instance who will forward it to RMCA.

Russell Oliver

Vice President Ruapehu

RECYCLING



Don't forget that we are still collecting wine bottle caps and the small aluminium tabs from beer cans or other drink cans with tabs.

The Silverstream Lions Club sells the wine bottle caps and can tabs as scrap Aluminium to any dealer who offers them the best price.



The Silverstream Lions Club collects approximately 25 wine boxes full each year which raises about \$145.00. This includes a substantial number of caps and tabs contributed by HVTC members which Anja passes on to the Lions.

The money raised is for Children with kidney diseases, and a single tear tab is equivalent to one second on a kidney dialysis machine. Other Lions Clubs run the same program.

Thanks to all those who have contributed. Please keep up the good work.

Anja and Maarten.

TRIP REPORTS

TRUE RIGHT OF THE HUTT GORGE : 24th March

Patrick Fotheringham

As I bent down to tie my boot laces in the Pakuratahi Forks car park, my back suddenly told me that all was not well. I carefully climbed back to vertical against the car while assessing the problem. I was leading the trip and it was going to be a long day, tramping has helped me persuade cramping back muscles into compliance in the past but normally on gentler trips than this. It was a necessarily early start, so there was time to return slowly if things did not work out in the first few hours and there were a couple of escape routes along the way. After a couple of back stretches I felt a bit more mobile and we all set off across the swing bridge.

On the Swing Bridge Track we took a short cut along a fallen tree that had fortuitously joined the ends of a loop in the track. At an unremarkable spot we turned off the track to climb part way up the spur to the north, we picked up the sidle track that would take us to Putaputa Stream. The very few people that walk this track keep it in existence, which also contributes to its characteristic of throwing you off occasionally, even when you are focussed on following it. I was moving in a more constrained way than normal which was also a little more tiring, but being leader I could unilaterally call for a brief stop without question. Another fallen tree forced a slight detour in our final descent into Putaputa Stream. A short walk downstream took us to the Hutt River and morning tea.

So far and so good, I was feeling no better and no worse. We walked downstream toward the next river bend and took a diagonal sidle up toward the spur on the true right. After scrambling over fallen logs and a short step upward we were on the spur, the end of the spur dropped steeply into the gorge below us. Upward was the only way, eventually we picked up some unofficial route markers and some ground trails. The trails took us to the end of the ridge from high point Kakariki,

one marked ground trail headed toward Kakariki another took us southwest which we followed. Shortly after, another ground trail junction had a notably unmarked route to southwest, this is the



one we wanted. When we arrived, the hunter's camp was unoccupied but obviously well maintained. The weight and style of the hardware and furniture suggested they were not carried in by the route we were taking that day. We sat comfortably and ate our lunch.

Navigation was challenging as we descended the spur to the southwest. The spur is broad with shallow gullies and distracting ground trails in all directions. There were a scarce few orange dots on some trees that reassured us we were on the right way down, the GPS revealed our navigational failings. The spur narrowed further down making

navigation easier. The turn off point to a small spur into Kororipo stream is unremarkable but an orange dot identifies it, if you know where to look. I tied a piece of thin red cord around a Rimu tree for future reference.

Climbing out of Kororipo Stream is steep at first, then flattens off at an old camp site equipped with a genuine NZ Railways tarpaulin. A little further on there is an old tram line route that provides good easy travel for most of the way to Temarua. A brief climb over a slip toward the end of the tram line was just what was not needed for tiring legs. Crossing the Hutt River again was the only opportunity we had to get our feet properly wet before arriving at Temarua.

The trip took 8 hours and 57 minutes, four minutes quicker than last year.

Thanks to Mike Priest and Doug Flux for coming along.

p.s. I have installed a slab of plywood under the mattress on my bed, my back feels better now.

Patrick

DUNDAS LOOP : 15-17 March 2019

Andrew Robinson

Finding myself free for the middle weekend of March I was pleased when Mike offered a Dundas loop tramp, a trip I'd done once before but in the opposite direction. I took Friday afternoon off so Mike, Ted, Murray and I could get at least part of the way in to Roaring Stag hut before it got dark. While I was finishing my packing I had the radio on and heard of the events in Christchurch as they unfolded. When we stopped for tea in Carterton on the way north Mike got a bit of an update from his wife Zita but no idea of the casualties. We left the road end at 7:20 and I calculated we might get as far as the second swingbridge before needing head torches. I just made it but the others were wiser and turned theirs on a bit earlier. It was a further two and three quarter hours to Roaring Stag hut which it seems is now popular with not just hunters and trampers but brewers too. We were relieved there was space in the hut for us.



Last climb of the day (AR)

Saturday morning, sadly but not unexpectedly, Murray announced that because of the knee trouble he'd had on the walk in he wasn't up to doing the rest of the trip. At 7:30 we left Murray to have a hut day while we headed off on the steep ascent to Cattle Ridge hut, reckoned by many to

be the steepest ascent in the Tararuas. Cattle Ridge hut had been done up fairly recently and they've done a good job of it. The porch is now fully enclosed which is a great idea. There was cellphone coverage and Mike got an update from Zita. We were shocked to hear of fifty fatalities at the mosque shootings. After a quick morning tea we headed along Cattle Ridge into the wind for twenty minutes then descended the other side of Cattle Ridge. In an hour and a half we dropped 650m of the 750m we'd earlier gained. The descent was in fact steeper than the earlier ascent and both Ted and Mike were a lot faster down it than I was. At the river at the bottom of the descent we had an early first lunch then it was an hour of sidling to our second lunch stop. The final ascent to Dundas hut took a couple hours, for a total of five and a half hours from Cattle Ridge hut. The information panel there had said six hours to Dundas hut so we were pleased to have done it in less than that. The forecast about the wind dropping during the afternoon had been correct so we had a lovely afternoon sitting outside in the sun until the sun disappeared and the temperature dropped noticeably. We shared the hut that evening with a couple of guys we'd played leapfrog with all day.

We chose an early start on Sunday as we had a reasonably long day ahead of us and we didn't want to keep Murray waiting. The early start meant Dundas Ridge was in cloud and we needed our coats on. As the morning progressed, while we were still in the cloud there were increasing patches of blue sky to either side of us and we could see that away from the hills the sky was clear. Fortunately the visibility was good enough for the occasional bit where careful navigation was required. We had first half lunch at Ruapae by which time the sky above us was clear. Mike had earlier reminded me of the one bit of hazardous track with unstable surface and steep drop-offs but we couldn't remember crossing it. We asked Ted and he had crossed it but somehow



Mike and I had missed it. From Ruapae it was essentially all downhill. We stopped for second lunch at Herepai hut where the other two guys caught us up. They had left Dundas hut perhaps an hour after us so would have seen a lot more than us. From Herepai to the Roaring Stag turnoff was three quarters of an hour. At the turnoff was a note from Murray to say he'd passed through at noon so we were two and a half hours behind him. We got back to the car at 4 o'clock for a total track time for the trip of twenty and a quarter hours. Murray had filled the previous day reading a couple of novels and chatting to a couple of French tramps.

Between East Peak and Ruapae (M W-R)

Having now done the loop in both directions I would highly recommend doing it in the clockwise direction (the way we did it this time) if you have a choice. Thanks Mike and Ted for being patient with me when I was a bit slow on the hills and it's a pity Murray that you weren't able to do the whole loop with us.

Trip members: Ted Bannister, Mike Wespel-Rose (leader), Andrew Robinson and Murray Presland.

Andrew

SIGNS OF THE TIMES : Anzac Weekend

Andrew Robinson

With permission to cross Mokai station no longer being given (yet another Ruahine access point gone) I switched to the Tararuas for a four-day Anzac weekend trip. Starting at Poads Road and finishing at Otaki Forks the optimistic plan would take in Maungahuka and Kime. Times on the Doc website made it look quite doable, but given the shorter daylight hours at this time of year the

route via Waitewaewae was probably more realistic. Both John Fox and Keith Thomas were keen to come, but unfortunately Keith got crook a few days beforehand. Fortunately for John and me, Keith was able to help out with transport.

Wednesday evening John and I drove to Otaki Forks where we left John's car and Keith took us to Poads Road. An hour and three quarters of walking took John and me to the site of the former shelter at the end of Gable End Ridge where we found a good spot to camp for the night.

Anzac day and we had a leisurely start. If the website times were correct we had plenty of time to get to Te Matawai hut and hopefully on to Dracophyllum hut. There was a bit of mud on Gable End Ridge but less than both of us were expecting. We made good time until John started to get a bit of cramp. A few extra stops meant it took half an hour longer to get to Richards Knob than the nominal 4 hours the sign at the bottom had said but I was happy enough with that. A late lunch and then we headed for Te Matawai. The sign said 2 hours so I figured that's as far as we'd be going for the day but hopefully we'd get there early enough to have a bit of time to relax before tea. The break didn't help to lessen John's cramp so it took nearly three hours to get to Te Matawai, but at least we got there with about an hour of daylight left.

Although our route would be entirely on Te Araroa for at least the first couple of days I wasn't expecting to meet many, if any, Te Araroans on the trip. What I hadn't thought of was someone doing only part of Te Araroa. There was one person at Te Matawai when we arrived and it turned out he was near the end of doing just the North Island section of Te Araroa. Johan had come in via Mangahao Flats to avoid a lot of road walking and he said that the sign up the hill a bit said 4 hours to Dracophyllum hut. That was wildly at odds with the 2-3 hours I'd got from the Doc website but didn't affect our plans to head for Nichols hut the next day. Later Johan checked his Te Araroa trail information and said it was 4-5 hours to Dracophyllum and a further 4-5 hours to Nichols. I got an updated forecast from Keith and it looked good apart from possible rain and high winds late in the day.



Nearing Junction Knob

Friday John and I left Te Matawai hut at 8:30. Twenty minutes later we got to the sign Johan had mentioned and it said Dracophyllum hut 4 hours, Nichols hut 6 hours. It was a steady climb for two and a quarter hours, including a twenty minute morning tea break. Conditions were ideal for tramping and we heard a stag or two roaring away on an adjacent spur. John had no problems with cramp. When we reached the main range the sign said Dracophyllum hut 3-4 hours and Nichols hut 6-7 hours. I've let the Department of Conservation know about the inconsistencies between the two signs and the incorrect times on their website. Aside from a greasy track, probably generated by a multitude of Te Araroan feet, it was a very enjoyable walk along the undulating ridge to Dracophyllum hut. Carkeek Ridge to our east was looking great so I made sure I took plenty of photos of it. We had a 25 minute lunch stop just after Butcher knob and eventually reached the hut at 2:45. John was a bit concerned about how much longer we had to go to get to Nichols hut but the best option was to keep going, even if we had to do a bit in the dark. Fortunately when I checked my gps it showed less than 5km to Nichols and the route pretty direct so John was happy to keep going. With the route mostly in the bush there weren't many views but there was a bit of variety with a couple of peaks to tick off as we passed and the odd scramble. Finally at 6:15 it got too dark to see without torches so we got them out. Fortunately the remaining track we had to do to reach Nichols was very good. It was spongy to the side of the track so if you inadvertently wandered off it you knew after only a couple of steps that you'd gone astray. We emerged from the bush just before Nichols expecting wind and rain but fortunately all we got was a bit of mist. The mist was disorienting when we reached the top and the track down to Nichols hut wasn't shown on my gps so we initially headed the wrong way. It didn't take long to figure we were probably going the wrong way so we changed direction. John then spotted the hut. Johan

had seen or heard us and put a light out for us. It was much appreciated. Even more welcome was the hot drink he gave us when we reached the hut several minutes later.

The forecast for Saturday wasn't great, with wind and rain, but with it being northerly we wouldn't be heading directly into it and it probably wouldn't be that cold. As we were packing to get ready Johan indicated he would join us but when we were set to go he changed his mind as he was hoping to photograph some more nice views. The wind wasn't too bad on the whole, stinging your face from time to time but not strong enough to blow you over. It was drizzle rather than rain so visibility wasn't great but there were no navigational challenges. The two and a half hours to



Carkeek Ridge from Puketoro

Junction Knob were in line with the Doc signposted times, then it was a further hour to the bush edge after Shoulder Knob where we stopped for lunch. We'd not long finished our brief lunch stop when we met a young couple on their way up. Their original plan had been Maungahuka but given the weather had opted for Anderson memorial hut instead. The weather and the temperature improved as we descended towards the Otaki River and Waitewaewae hut. It was almost sunny by the time we got to the hut. It had taken us nearly 7 hours from Nichols hut and that was with little in the way of breaks. It was perhaps only an hour or so later and the young couple returned, being thwarted by high winds. The four of us enjoyed a pleasant evening in the warm, spacious hut.

Sunday and John had heard enough about the new track that avoids the big slip and Saddle Creek that he didn't take much convincing to take the old route. I wasn't able to convince the young couple to join us. We left at 9 and got to the saddle at 11:30. Only about the first 20 metres down Saddle Creek were unmarked, then there was no shortage of markers. For the first few minutes the track was pretty rough but once the gradient eased a little the track improved significantly. It was good going down the creek with large sections of the track alongside the creek still intact. We stopped for a late lunch at the log hauler. In December last year Doc and I discovered someone had put in a track that appeared to be a diversion below the slip but we hadn't investigated it. John and I thought we'd give it a go. It was initially well marked with reflective markers about every 5 metres then it became a pink tape trail. Towards the bottom of the descent there were bits of rope to hang onto where things got a bit steep but there was nothing too challenging. It took 20 minutes to get down to the Waitatapia Stream which we followed for a few minutes before picking up the trail to go up. The pink tape had run out, replaced by fluorescent pink paint which was easy enough to follow. Again there was a rope on a steep section and 20 minutes after leaving the stream we were back on the main track. The track gets the thumbs-up from me. From there back to the car parked at Otaki Forks was an hour and three quarters. It had been a very fulfilling long weekend and aside from one day of not great weather things had worked out very well. Thanks John for your company and thanks Keith for assisting with transport and weather forecasts.

Andrew





EDITOR'S APOLOGY

The late club member whose life was commemorated in last month's H&V was **Bill Richards**, and not as listed. My sincere apologies to all Bill's family and friends.



Bill Richards : 1947 - 2019

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