



Hills & Valleys

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE HUTT VALLEY TRAMPING CLUB (Inc)



Tupop Dan in Karakoram Mountains from Hunza River.

Photo: Les Molloy

Please submit your **August 2020** H&V articles to the editor by **31st July 2020**

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: Dennis Page 970 6901

Secretary: Murray Presland 562 8194

Trip Coordinator: Chris McMillan 569 9019

Treasurer: Jim Cousins 586 2135

Editor H&V: Bruce Miller 563 5966 the-bruce@xtra.co.nz



CLUB NIGHT PROGRAMME

Starts 8.00 pm promptly



1 July : Les Molloy – Travels in the Karakoram Mountains of Pakistan

The spectacular Karakoram Mountains of Pakistan are the most rapidly-rising mountain range on Earth and contain several 8000m+ peaks, including K2 the world's second highest mountain. Les's talk will mainly illustrate a trek he led around Nanga Parbat in 1997. Nanga Parbat (8126m) is the world's 9th highest mountain and has a notorious reputation because of its difficulty and high death toll of climbers.

The talk will cover his several other journeys through the Karakoram and will cover the dangerous instability of the landscape, the different cultures of the mountain people, as well as outline something of the convoluted political history of the region – including the bitter division of Kashmir in 1947 and the subsequent three Pakistan-India wars over Kashmir (the ceasefire Line of Control runs through the Karakoram's Siachen Glacier, the world's highest military conflict zone).

8 July : Ron Cameron – Canadian Rockies and Alaska's Inside Passage

In August 2019 Ron and Hetty travelled overland through the Canadian Rockies on a small group tour (Ron & 7 ladies!!!!) from Calgary to Vancouver. Afterwards they flew to Sitka in Alaska where they boarded a small cruise ship (54 Passengers) and sailed through the inside passage to Juneau.

Come and see the stunning scenery and amazing wildlife, including video clips of bears and other sea life, followed by a "shooter".

15 July : Jackie and Chris West – Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro and Albania

The second module of the FMC Balkans tour visited the above countries visiting ancient cities and sights as well as walking trails in national parks and various mountain regions.

22 July : Nina Sawicki – Eastern Nepal

29 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.



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		Easy bike ride round the bays	Graeme Lythgoe	479 6630
4 – 5		TARARUA FOREST PARK : The Pines		
		T1 Waiopehu Hut		
		T2 Te Matawai Hut		
Sun 5		D1 Lowry to Hawtrey	Murray Presland	562 8194
Tues 7		Pt Howard/Cheviot Rd Track	Derek Richardson	565 1315
6 – 10		Ruapehu - School Holidays - Week 1	Booking Officer	027 451 2587
11 – 12		RUAHINE FOREST PARK : Kashmir Road		
Sat 11		D2 Waitohu Stream to Mick and plane crash site	Andrew Robinson	586 2438
Sun 12		D1 Visit to the seal colony at Turakirae Head	Anja van Kesteren	564 8851
13 – 17		Ruapehu - School Holidays - Week 2	Booking Officer	027 451 2587
18 – 19		TARARUA FOREST PARK : Waiohine		
		T1 Totara Flats		
		T2 Neill Forks		
Sun 19		D1 Walks in the Ecclesfield Reserve of Silverstream	Jackie West	528 4697
Sun 26		D1+ Dobson's Loop	Murray Presland	562 8194
Wed 29		Annual General Meeting		
AUGUST				
Sat tba		Martinborough-Ponatahi	Helen & Paul	589 7484
1 – 2		TARARUA FOREST PARK : Putara		
		T1 Roaring Stag Hut	Leader wanted	
		T2 Cattle Ridge Hut	Dennis Page	970 6901
Sun 2		D1 Lees Grove – Bus Barns	Leader wanted	
Tues 4		Boulder Hill	Martin Watson	021 164 0153
8 – 9		TARARUA FOREST PARK : Kaitoke/Holdsworth		
		T1 Tutuwai Hut		
		T2 McGregor Biv via Jumbo	Mike Wespel-Rose	027 562 6341
Sun 9		D1 Paekakariki Escarpment	Dennis Page	970 6901

Appreciation to our Trip Leaders 24 May – 21 June

Note that trips resumed on Sunday 24 May after a long break due to Covid-19 requirements. A huge thanks to our lovely trip leaders Michele Lythgoe, Tony & Jo, Chris McMillan, Murray Presland, Pamela Campbell, Graeme Lyon, Nick McBride, Emma Dobbie for organising and leading trips during the period 24 May to 21 June.

July Trip Schedule – We now have trips to enjoy during July!!

Thanks to those of you (you know who you are) who filled the vacant spaces in the July schedule. Your help is appreciated! July is now full of interesting and varied trips for everyone to enjoy from the easy to the less easy. Note that the July trip list is somewhat different to the original schedule.

August Trips – leaders needed

Please contact Trip Coordinator if you can help fill our schedule.

Leaders are needed for Sundays: 2nd Lees Grove to Bus Barns or your choice and 30th Gentle Annie Saddle or your choice; plus weekends: 1-2 T1 Roaring Stag Hut; 8-9 T1 Tutuwai Hut; 29-30 Powell Hut.

Chris McMillan
tripcoordinator@hvtc.org.nz

THANKS

Thank you to all the offers of help to support members of our club at alert level 4 and 3. There were many more offers of support than those requiring help. Let's hope we have all that behind us now and we can get back to our core business quickly! Thanks once again for everyone's kindness at a difficult time.

Emma Dobbie
(For the General Committee)

I would like to express my personal appreciation for the efforts of Dennis Page, Murray Presland, Rosie Doole, Emma Dobbie, Pamela Campbell, Chris McMillan and all the unknown others who kept the club up and running during the shut-down and the subsequent movements through to the lower alert levels. "The Hutt Valleys kept looking behind and checking on their group!" Good on you all.

Bruce Miller
(For the club membership)

UPCOMING EVENTS

SALES TABLE

8 July

Please bring along items that you wish to donate to this effort. Home baking and preserves are especially welcome. Garden produce is also popular so bring along all the excess from your vegetable garden. Everyone else bring some cash to purchase some goodies with.

RUAPEHU EVENTS

<i>In</i>	<i>Out</i>	<i>Event</i>	
Mon 6 July	Fri 10 July	July School Holiday week 1	<i>Contact Booking Officer 027 451 2587</i>
Mon 13 July	Fri 17 July	July School Holiday week 2	<i>Contact Booking Officer 027 451 2587</i>
Mon 24 Aug	Fri 28 Aug	Juniors' Week	<i>Contact Neil Hickman 04 380 1192</i>
Mon 31 Aug	Fri 04 Sept	Veterans and All-comers week	<i>Contact Russell Oliver 021 245 9596</i>
Mon 28 Sept	Fri 02 Oct	October School Holiday week 1	<i>Contact Kate Brownsword 027 562 0177</i>
Mon 05 Oct	Fri 09 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.

RUAPEHU LODGE JUNIORS' WEEK **MONDAY 24 TO FRIDAY 28 AUGUST**

This year Junior's Week is again being run by Neil Hickman and John Simes at our Ruapehu Lodge. At the time of writing this, about 4 families have indicated interest. This is thanks to Covid-19 giving us the coast clear, and in spite of increases of prices by RAL, and light snow at this stage.

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 LODGE VETERANS & ALL-COMERS WEEK **MONDAY 31 AUGUST TO FRIDAY 04 SEPTEMBER**

**Planning on a great ski week at Mt Ruapehu?
Come join us this year**

This trip is guaranteed to provide:-

Great food & wine

Great weather

Great snow for skiing walking or just looking at from the upper deck

Great company especially if you join us.

But the trip is not only for vets to come on, everybody is welcome. A good chance to bring friends along to experience the clubs facilities, taste the pleasures of the mountain and enjoy the skiing and perhaps join the club.

New to the club and or skiing you are welcome. Let a few of us older, mature, well perhaps experienced, members show you the ropes so to speak. Come along and find out what a great asset the club has on the mountain.

DECIDE NOW

SAY YES TO A SKI WEEK AT OUR RUAPEHU LODGE

For Vets week initially contact Russell Oliver, russell@gnawt.co.nz or 021 245 9596.

Russell Oliver



2020 HVTC PHOTO COMPETITION **2 SEPTEMBER 2020**



The always keenly contested HVTC Photo Competition will be held this year on 2 September. Start searching through your photos now, as entries must be submitted over the next month.

All Club photographers, whether experienced or wishing to receive tips on how to progress, are invited to submit their favourite/best photos taken in 2019 or 2020 for the HVTC Photo Competition. The competition includes a novice category for those who have not previously

entered a photo competition, while for the club's top photographers the club competition is the only path for HVTC members to enter the nationwide FMC competition closing later in September.

Our Club Competition is aligned with the FMC Photo Competition, with some additional categories that are special to HVTC. The photographer must be willing for entries in the FMC categories to be forwarded to the FMC competition. HVTC will submit the top two entries selected by the club competition judge in each of the FMC categories to the FMC competition.

A condition of the FMC competition 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. As a guideline, an image file size of 1 MB is about the minimum of acceptable quality – and much beyond 3MB has detail that cannot be displayed on a typical screen. The FMC competition requires file sizes between 1 MB and 5 MB. Please submit as .JPG or .TIF files.

The images, and comments, will be presented by the club competition judge on the HVTC club night of Wednesday 2 September, with cups awarded to the winners in most categories.

FMC CATEGORIES and RULES

There are 7 categories. For full details of the FMC competition see <https://www.fmc.org.nz/photo-competition/>

- A. **ABOVE BUSHLINE** (with **no** human element)
- B. **ABOVE BUSHLINE** (with a human element)
- C. **BELOW BUSHLINE** (with **no** human element)
- D. **BELOW BUSHLINE** (with a human element)
- E. **HISTORIC** (photographed before 2019 rather than a recent photo of an historic feature)
- F. **NATIVE FLORA & FAUNA**
- G. **LONG EXPOSURE**

Rules for FMC categories

1. Definition of a "human element"

The definition of a "human element" is flexible but the general intention is: Where the photo contains as anything other than as a very minor feature: 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 after 1 Jan 2019. 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 a 'historic' photo. Photos for the historic category must be taken before 1 Jan 2019. 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. The following photos are not eligible for entry:

- Those which have been previously published (apart from in FMC club magazines and the photographer's personal publication online).
- Those which have won any prize in any other photo competition (apart from FMC club competitions).

7. 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.

There were no entries to the club competition last year in the long exposure and historic categories, so photos in these categories are especially encouraged. Celebration of HVTC's rich heritage through historical photographs is particularly encouraged in the lead-up to the club's centenary in 2023.

ADDITIONAL HVTC CATEGORIES

- H. **TOPICAL** (tells a story)
- I. **PERSONALITY** (illustrates a character)
- J. **OVERSEAS** (from your recent travels)
- K. **NOVICE** (for those who have not previously entered a photo competition)
- L. **PRINTS** (mounted please, suitable for display)

The Rules on post-processing are as in FMC Rule 7 above.

SUBMITTING ENTRIES

You should submit your images to **Graeme McVerry** (graememcv@xtra.co.nz) as an email attachment, or on a disc or memory stick marked with your name to Graeme or any member of the Social Committee at club nights.

Each image file should have a title – and you should prefix the title with the letter (**A – L**) that denotes the intended category into which your photo is being entered.

The deadline for entries is **Wednesday 5 August 2019** – to allow time for the judge to deliberate and for the cups to be engraved to be presented to the winners on the night of the photo competition.

Graeme McVerry
for HVTC Social Committee



RETURN OF CUPS FROM LAST YEAR'S PHOTO COMPETITION

Could those awarded cups in last year's competition please return them to Helen Lukes, Carolyn Lyon or Liz Davis at a club night up to 5 August.



FROM THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

July 2020

Subscription: Invoices for your 2020-21 subscriptions have been delivered to all members. If you haven't yet done so - **please renew your subscription promptly now!** You can do this most simply by depositing the subscription directly into the Club's bank account, using your name as the reference.

If you wish, or need, to change any of the details attached to your membership, and displayed on the invoice, please contact the Membership Officer, Doreen Courtenay

(hvtc.membership@gmail.com).

If you have decided to resign your membership of HVTc, please let Doreen (hvtc.membership@gmail.com) know – it will save us hassling you later.

Annual General Meeting: The Club's AGM is scheduled for Wednesday 29th July. The formal notice of the meeting and the Annual Report for 2019-20 is being distributed to all members along with the July edition of Hills and Valleys.

Candidates are needed for General and Ruapehu Committees: You will see, in the Notice of the Annual General Meeting, that more candidates are being sought – to make these Committees, and your Club! Run without overburdening those who have already volunteered. Please choose now to give some of your time, thought and energy to keep the Club running effectively.

Talk to Dennis Page (ph (04) 970 6901 or 021 229 9901) or Russell Oliver (ph 021 245 9596) (or any member of the Committees) about roles on each of the Committees. Contact the Secretary (Murray Presland, ph (04) 562 8194 or 022 656 8309) about nomination for any position. **Please, please offer your help!!**

Marking Tracks on Topo Maps: Pete McDonald, from Otago, believes that the symbols used to mark tracks on the 1:50,000 NZ Topo Maps could be much more informative. Many countries depict the nature and use of their tracks much better than Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) does. As an example he displays the following legend from the Bavarian Topographic maps:

Markierte Wander- und Radwanderwege			
	Hiking trail on footpaths and unpaved paths. Wanderweg auf Fußwegen und unbefestigten Wirtschaftswegen		Cycle trail on footpaths and unpaved paths. Radwanderweg auf Fußwegen und unbefestigten Wirtschaftswegen
	Hiking trail on roads and paved paths. Wanderweg auf Straßen und befestigten Wirtschaftswegen		Cycle trail on roads and paved paths. Radwanderweg auf Straßen und befestigten Wirtschaftswegen
	Steep track. Steig		Mountain-bike track. Mountainbikeweg
	Difficult climb. schwieriger Steig		
	Hiking and cycling trail on footpaths and unpaved paths. Wander- und Radwanderweg auf Fußwegen und unbefestigten Wirtschaftswegen		
	Hiking and cycling trail on roads and paved paths. Wander- und Radwanderweg auf Straßen und befestigten Wirtschaftswegen		
	Hiking and mountain-bike track. Wanderweg und Mountainbikeweg		

Pete is petitioning Parliament, asking LINZ and the Walking Access Commission to redesign the track symbols used on New Zealand maps:

Petition request – *That the House of Representatives ask Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) and the New Zealand Walking Access Commission (NZWAC) to redesign, in collaboration, the track symbols used on New Zealand's Topo50 maps (both printed and digital).*

Petition reason – *The present NZ Topo50 track symbols date from 1977 and do not, I believe, adequately serve the information needs of today's wide range of track users. I think the track symbology of the Bavarian Umgebungskarte 50 series is a state-of-the-art model that New Zealand could adapt. Before such a LINZ–NZWAC collaboration can proceed, it may be necessary for the government to amend LINZ's mandate to require LINZ to consider more deeply than at present the mapping needs of recreational track users.*

Petitioner Name – *Pete McDonald* Closing date – 31/12/2020 12:00:00 a.m.

You can support the petition by going on-line to:

https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/petitions/document/PET_97833/petition-of-pete-mcdonald-ask-linz-and-nzwac-to-redesign

The General Committee welcomes your comment on any Club issues at any time!

Murray Presland
(secretary@hvtc.org.nz)

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Welcome to Belynda Jack and Kerrie Howard who have recently joined our club.

Doreen Courtenay
Membership Officer

FMC SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR HVTC MEMBERS

In 2010, thanks to a generous donation to FMC from the Maerewhenua Trust and with additional support from the FMC's Mountain and Forest Trust, a Youth Scholarship Scheme aimed at encouraging the 'under 30's' to get out and tramp and explore the more remote places in New Zealand was established. Initially set up as a 3-year trial, the scheme has proven very popular, especially with members based in university clubs, and is now in its tenth year. However, despite seeing a large cohort of young and eligible members of the HVTC up at our Ruapehu Lodge and knowing that many members in other cohorts of the club have teenage or 'twenty-something' offspring, until last year, FMC had never received an application from HVTC. I've been involved with the scheme since its inception in 2010. I write this small article as a means of encouraging more applications from our club!

So, what's it all about then? Basically, the scheme seeks to encourage the under 30's to go out and explore the country's mountains, hills and valleys on a trip of five nights or more duration. We seek to make it easier for you to do this by giving successful applicants a financial leg-up to help them plan and execute the journey – An epic trip just like the old timers of years gone by (only they didn't get a leg up!).

Did you say financial leg up? I did. You can get up to \$1,000 to spend on expenses that assist your trip (the expenses have to relate to things like party gear and transport, not individual kit to augment your own personal tramping attire). You get a full year in which to use the money, so you can plan a time that suits. And there are 10 x \$1,000 awards up for grabs, so provided you meet other criteria, your chances of getting an award are reasonably good.

So, what's the catch with free money? We do require you to write a good application telling us about the exciting journey you have planned and how you and your mates will benefit – And on the trip, we'd like you to take plenty of pics and incorporate them into a report, which you will

provide us with post-trip, so we can promote the awards and encourage others to apply in later years. Giving a talk to your local club or a neighbouring club is also strongly encouraged.

But I don't have much experience with doing longer/epic journeys: Fear not – The good news is that you can take over 30s with you if you need mentoring – this is encouraged. As long as you, the applicant, are under 30-years at time of application and in your submission, you tell us about your party's composition and how you can benefit from inter-generational skills transfer etc., the age of other party members is not an issue. You do have to plan and write the application yourself, and lead the trip, but getting help from others is perfectly OK.

Boo! Hiss! That's discrimination!! What about us older folks; can we get an award too? Well, um, actually you can. In addition to the 10 'youth' awards described above, there is also a Simon Bell Memorial Award that is open to applicants of all ages – Many of the criteria are the same and your proposed trip should encapsulate the spirit of exploration and adventure that Simon sought on his trips into the hills – see the FMC website for criteria details, to learn more about Simon, and to download an application form...

Where? Website? What? Go to: <https://www.fmc.org.nz/scholarship/> for more details for both awards.

So, when do I have to hand my application in by then? The closing date is **18 September 2020!** That means a good few months to plan, consider, compose and send...

So, the author has been on the selection panel for a while? What do selectors look for when picking prize winners? We look at a number of factors: We check the basic criteria are complied with (this should include a referee's report), the age of the applicant and the difficulty of the proposed journey. We also look at the novelty of the journey and the background reasons as to why the journey was picked. In addition, we consider how the party members might be challenged and how their own personal growth/skills will be enhanced from doing the trip – We also look at how their club as a whole might benefit (e.g. if the applicant gains confidence by completing their proposed journey, they might go on to led other trips for their club and inspire others to do the same). By means of a couple of examples: A very young person with few skills who wants to do a few nights on Te Araroa might get an award, but an older person that clearly has some skills might not if they want to do the same – Use your imagination! We had an applicant a few years back that wanted to visit the Findlay Glacier in the Olivines because it was named after his Grandfather and he wanted to view it before climate change shrank it to oblivion. The remoteness of the journey, coupled with a good story behind the journey, along with well thought-out plans for safety and escape routes, made it an easy application to say yes to.

There's tonnes of Doc Estate out there to explore – You can do it on foot, kayak, bike etc., or a combination of several modes. The Scholarships Page on the FMC website (and Wilderlife) lists some past awards with write ups to hopefully inspire you. Go for it and follow in the footsteps of Powell, Heine and Spearpoint and do your club proud! Feel free to contact me for more details or help if interested.

Dennis Page

For FMC Mountain and Forest Trust / Scholarships Selection Panellist



Jasper Robert Sewell, known as Bob, died on 25th of May 2020 aged 92. He has been a regular attendee at tramping club meetings for many years and his happy smile made friends with many. As with many older members, a leg injury reduced his ability for tramping but, in recent years, his purchase of an electric bike renewed his enthusiasm for cycling. Thanks to Frank Usmar for the photo.



His most recent tramping was with a friend Eric Sears of Nelson and Eric's photo shows him at Flora Hut, Kahurangi National Park in 2017. His comment about the sign was 'that was a very good year' – the year of his birth as well as the hut's.

Bob did considerable tramping in years past. A work colleague said his first field trip in New Zealand, after moving from Europe, was into the Paparoa Ranges with Bob in 1965. Probably a big influence on his joining HVTC was Jim Finch who worked in the same section of Chemistry Division of DSIR where Bob was an expert analyst with a spectrograph.

After graduating with a BSc at Canterbury, Bob became a meteorological officer in Rarotonga, and was keen on electronics and radio, regularly using Morse code to talk to friends throughout the world as an amateur. After Rarotonga, where he met his late wife Jean, he joined DSIR at Gracefield and settled in Wainuiomata, going to work by motor bike for many years. He continued his enthusiasm for electronics as a ham radio operator and even built himself a television set.

Our president Dennis Page has written: "As many of you will have been aware, Bob's health had deteriorated over recent months, though until very recently, this had not stopped Bob from attending club meetings, partaking

in cycling trips and even dialing in to recent on-line zoom meetings. We also note with considerable gratitude a very generous gift made to the club recently from Bob and the family comprising a donation to help towards club transport funds. Bob's was the voice of the mountain radio service in the central regions that offered many outdoor trips contact and reassurance of support from the outside world when people ventured into remote back-country areas. Bob will be greatly missed, not only by his beloved family, but also by a whole host of friends and contacts from the wider outdoor community. I know all of you will join with me in passing on our club's deepest condolences and sympathies to the family, including his son and daughter, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

The HVTC Annuals record the presence of Bob on trips in the early 1970s, to the Cobb Valley, and with his son Peter into the Wangapeka Track.

Bob was a founding member, in 1973, of the Wellington Mountain Radio Service which own portable radios and hire them to tramping, hunting and climbing parties and youth groups. The Mountain Radio Service was set up by tramping and amateur radio clubs, and Bob was a member of both clubs in Lower Hutt. He had been part of the Amateur Radio Emergency Corps and involved in search and rescue and joined others to set up the mountain radio service.

The first radios were locally designed, in the days before cell-phones and global positioning satellites, and provided the only practical portable communication in the hills and mountains of New Zealand. The current radios are still the best for this use, due to their light weight and efficient transmission modes that allow communication from anywhere in New Zealand, from Stewart Island to North Cape. The radios have often been proved absolutely essential for safety, allowing emergency calls from remote places. However these radios rely on someone listening at the base station back in civilisation. And that is where Bob has been the Wellington stalwart. As a trumper and a radio amateur (ham), Bob



had been a base station operator for most of the last 35 years. In addition, since 1994 Bob has been the manager of the service for the Hutt Valley, supplying radios, with other district agents, for the Wellington region (which extends from Wellington to Whanganui, Palmerston North and the Wairarapa). All service members are volunteers and unpaid. The base operator, such as Bob, is the contact with next of kin at home, and when necessary, with the police and the search and rescue services. Bob's knowledge of the mountains as a trumper often allowed the police and rescue services to be able to decide the best access route to an emergency especially in bad weather. The operators work on a roster, with someone every evening sending out the latest weather forecast, listening and talking to field radios. Bob often was often the duty operator every second week, but he also listened in for non-scheduled calls at other times in the day. Fortunately communication is not often needed for emergencies, but trampers sometimes want to arrange a change of transport plan when their route or timetable changes.

As manager, Bob received phone and email bookings for the portable radios, and arranged that they are delivered to an agent for pickup by the trampers wanting them, or couriered to the users. On return, all are checked for aerial faults and batteries changed if needed. The work involved in juggling users needs for up to 20 or 30 radios coming and going was huge. Bob has expertly carried out all these different aspects, and deserved public commendation. He received the Award of the New Zealand Mountain Safety Council in 2002: "In recognition of your outstanding contribution to the work of the New Zealand Mountain Safety Council" and in recognition to his services to the Mountain Radio Service. In 2007, Lower Hutt City awarded him a Civic award.

Graeme Lyon

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.