



What we are looking forward to.

Please submit your **August 2024** H&V articles to the editor by **3<sup>rd</sup> August 2024**

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|                                  |             |                               |              |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>President:</b> Marina Skinner | 021 792 260 | <b>Secretary:</b> Emma Dobbie | 027 252 5045 |
| <b>Trip Coordinator:</b>         |             | <b>Treasurer:</b> Jim Cousins | 586 2135     |

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



**CLUB NIGHT PROGRAMME**  
Starts 7:30 pm promptly



**3 July : Andrew Robinson – New Year Trip 2024**

Andrew Robinson led a grade two multi-day trip over New Year in Lake Sumner Forest Park southwest of Lewis Pass. The trio of trampers traipsed up the Hope River, crossed the Doubtful Range and Devilskin Saddle to come out down the Nina River. The two bivvies along the way were amongst the highlights of the trip.

**10 July : Andrew Labett – K2 Base Camp and over the Gondodoro La Pass**

Twenty five years ago Andrew embarked on a journey to Pakistan to walk to K2 base camp and over the Gondogoro la. He will be talking about this experience and sharing his photographs of this epic trek.

Andrew has trekked in Pakistan, Nepal, Mongolia, South America and Scotland during his world travels. He studied photography in 1995 and has worked as a press photographer, freelance photographer and now is a school photographer across the lower North Island.

**17 July : Ian Flux and Meryll Park – Secretary Island Kokako hunt. March 2023**

Secretary Island is a 9 thousand hectare predator free Island at the head of Doubtful Sound. North Island Kokako were transferred to Secretary Is. in 2009/10. Initially the kokako found territories and breeding was confirmed in 2012. Subsequent to this, the population seemed to crash at the same time as South Island robins and blackbirds also crashed in numbers. In March 2023 we spent 10 days on Secretary Island trying to find any kokako that might have survived after kokako song was reportedly heard by several people.

**24 July : Chriselda McMillan – Dusky Track Trip March 2023**

A party of six tramped from Lake Hauoko to Lake Manapouri on what is purported to be the toughest track in NZ. A fantastic club trip away, they encountered the most glorious scenery, hundreds of tarns, looming high points, 3 wire bridges, mud, chains and ropes at times to assist. Come along to hear about this fabulous 8 day trip.

**31 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.

**7 August : Open Night**

Please bring around 15 or so of your photos to share with the members.






**FORTHCOMING TRIPS**



**NOTES**

Where there is no leader given for a trip, please email [tripcoordinator@hvtc.org.nz](mailto:tripcoordinator@hvtc.org.nz) to volunteer to lead a trip, either as shown or an alternative.

| <b>July</b> |    |   |          |
|-------------|----|---|----------|
| 6 - 7       | T1 |   |          |
| Sun 7       | D1 | Pareraho, Boulder Hill                        | Doreen   |
|             |    | Manual bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park | Leena    |
| 13 - 14     | T1 |   |          |
| Sun 14      | D1 |   |          |
|             |    | Manual bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park | Leena    |
| Tues 16     |    | Butterfly Creek                               | Chris Mc |

|               |   |   |          |
|---------------|---|---|----------|
| 20 - 21       | T1  | Cow Creek                                     | Tania    |
|               | T3  | Moonlight Southern Crossing                   | Andrew R |
| Sun 21        | D1  | Wainuiomata Water Collection area (tbd)       | Nick     |
|               |  | Manual bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park | Leena    |
| 27 - 28       | T1  |   |          |
| Sun 28        | D1  | Southern Walkway                              | Heather  |
|               |  | Manual bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park | Leena    |
| <b>August</b> |   |   |          |
| 3 - 4         | T1  |   |          |
| Sun 4         | D1  | Colonial Knob                                 | Mel      |
|               |  | Manual bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park | Leena    |

## FROM THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

## PLEASE VOLUNTEER FOR ONE OF OUR COMMITTEES

The Annual General Meeting of the Hutt Valley Tramping Club will be at the Clubrooms at 7.30pm on Wednesday 31 July.

We will be reviewing the year's activities and electing Officers and Members to the General, Ruapehu and Social Committees.

Several members of the General Committee and the Social Committee are standing down this year. We are looking for:

- Vice-President
- Treasurer
- General Committee members
- Social Committee members
- Ruapehu Committee members

Please contact me at [marinaskinner@xtra.co.nz](mailto:marinaskinner@xtra.co.nz) or 021792260 by Wednesday 3 July if you'd like to stand for any positions on these committees.

And please let me know by 3 July if you have any notices of motion for consideration at the AGM.

The formal Notice of the AGM and the Annual Report, including the Annual Accounts, will be sent to members by 17 July.

*Marina Skinner*

President

## VACANCY: CLUBROOM BOOKING OFFICER

Our fabulous clubroom booking officer, Julie Lewis, is stepping down from the role after several years looking after the people who hire our hall.

Julie has done an outstanding job of managing the regular bookings and occasional ad hoc bookings. These bookings provide an important income stream to offset the costs of the building.

Please contact me if you'd like to know more about the role – [marinaskinner@xtra.co.nz](mailto:marinaskinner@xtra.co.nz) or 021792260.

*Marina Skinner*

President

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### REMINDER - 2024 HVTC PHOTO COMPETITION Entries close Sunday 28 July - but please do it sooner!

The close of entries for the 2024 HVTC photo competition is fast approaching – half the submission period has passed by already. Don't miss out and have your entries in by the closing date of 28<sup>th</sup> July. Don't be put off if you are not an experienced photographer – there is a novice category for those who have not entered a photo competition previously. Remember those historic photos you retrieved for the centenary celebrations or have come across since - this year's judge is especially keen on tramping history.

Full details of the categories and conditions of entry are given in the June Hills & Valleys. Remember placing first or second in an FMC category in the club competition is the only path for HVTC members to enter the nationwide FMC competition. There are also HVTC only categories. Except for the historic category, entries must have been taken since 1 January 2023.

You may enter up to 4 images in each category, and 12 in total. The FMC competition requires file sizes between 1 MB and 5 MB, and this is a good guide for the HVTC categories too. Please submit as .JPG or .TIF files.

The images, and comments, will be presented by the Competition Judge on the club night of Wednesday 28th August 2024, with cups awarded to the winners in most categories.

Please submit your digital images to Graeme McVerry ( [graememcv2@xtra.co.nz](mailto:graememcv2@xtra.co.nz) ) as email attachments or through Google Drive. Yes, there is a "2" in the email address. I'll also accept entries on USB data sticks at club nights, but won't be there every week. My laptop doesn't have a drive to read CDs or DVDs.

The deadline for entries is **midnight Sunday 28th July** – to allow time to collate entries, for the judge to deliberate and for cups to be engraved.

#### WINNERS OF CUPS LAST YEAR

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

Good luck for the competition.

*Graeme McVerry*

Organiser, 2024 HVTC Photo Competition

## **UPCOMING EVENTS AT RUAPEHU LODGE**

| <i>In</i>   | <i>Out</i>  | <i>Event</i>                                  |  |
|-------------|-------------|---|--|
| Mon 08 July | Fri 12 July | July School Holiday week 1                    | <i>Contact Booking Officer (Sheldon Bruce) 027 451 0415</i>  |
| Mon 15 July | Fri 19 July | July School Holiday week 2                    | <i>Contact Booking Officer (Sheldon Bruce) 027 451 0415</i>  |
| Mon 26 Aug  | Fri 30 Aug  | Club Week 1                                   | <i>Contact Booking Officer (Sheldon Bruce) 027 451 0415</i>  |
| Mon 02 Sept | Fri 06 Sept | Club Week 2 (Vets and allcomers)              | <i>Contact Rachel Bruce 027 486 8961</i>                     |
| Mon 09 Sept | Fri 13 Sept | Club Week 3                                   | <i>Contact Booking Officer (Sheldon Bruce) 027 451 0415</i>  |
| Fri 13 Sept | Sun 15 Sept | 75 <sup>th</sup> dinner at the lodge          | <i>Contact Kate Brownsword 027 562 0177</i>                  |
| Fri 20 Sept | Sun 22 Sept | Uni students and young professionals' weekend | <i>Contact Abigail Brownsword 027 431 7737 (text please)</i> |
| Mon 30 Sept | Fri 04 Oct  | October School Holiday week 1                 | <i>Contact Booking Officer (Sheldon Bruce) 027 451 0415</i>  |
| Mon 07 Oct  | Fri 11 Oct  | October School Holiday week 2                 | <i>Contact Booking Officer (Sheldon Bruce) 027 451 0415</i>  |

Booking can be done by contacting the Booking Officer Sheldon Bruce by:

- Email to [Ruapehubookings@hvtc.org.nz](mailto:Ruapehubookings@hvtc.org.nz) , or
- Phone to 027 451 0415 and leave a message if there is no reply.

There has been a lot of media attention on the Whakapapa Skifield over the last few months that has probably been a bit distracting. The key thing to know now is that Whakapapa is all go this year and being run by the fantastic Ruapehu Alpine Lifts team on behalf of the company receiver, Calibre Partners. The mountain already has a good coating of snow, and Happy Valley opened for learners on Matariki weekend with the upper mountain expected to start opening in mid-July, depending on snow cover.

So, time to start planning some trips up the mountain whether it be for skiing, climbing or just rambling around enjoying the fantastic mountain environment. A bit of a change this year; we don't have a fulltime custodian as Laura Bruce has decided to have a change and live in the 'lowlands' (National Park), whilst still ski instructing for RAL. There is plenty of space to use the lodge throughout the season and we also have some great trips organized:

### **8 July to 19 July – July School Holidays**

Depends on how the snow is building up but if you're keen, feel free to book with me ([Ruapehubookings@hvtc.org.nz](mailto:Ruapehubookings@hvtc.org.nz))

### **26 August to 30 August – Club Week 1**

A week trip opportunity pretty much at the height of season. What could be better. No one has put their hand up for this week yet but feel free to book with me and I'm sure we can get a group together.

### **2 September to 6 September – Club Week 2**

Put this one in your diary. This is the traditional Vets Week. Rachel Bruce is the leader and is promising fun, sun, good skiing and great company. Contact Rachel on [ral.bruce@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ral.bruce@xtra.co.nz) or 0274868961.

### 13 September to 15 September – Lodge 75th Celebration

The big weekend on the Ruapehu Lodge calendar. The first Ruapehu Hut was built in 1949 so we have now hit the big 75. A weekend of fun with plenty of skiing and riding to celebrate. Get your names on the list. And better still, the week before the 75th is **Club Week 3** so why not take a few days off and turn it into an extended spring skiing trip. If you want any more information about the 75th please contact Kate Brownsword on 0274317737.

### 20 September to 22 September – Young Professionals Weekend

Abigail Brownsword (Text 0274317737) is leading this trip that is aimed at the youngsters (see below). Party time!

### 30 September to 11 October – October School Holidays

I'm still sorting leaders for the school holiday weeks and hope to have something to tell you by next month. If you're interested in leading one of these weeks, please contact me on 0274510415 or [Ruapehubookings@hvtc.org.nz](mailto:Ruapehubookings@hvtc.org.nz).

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.

*Sheldon Bruce*

Ruapehu Lodge Booking Officer

## UNI STUDENTS AND YOUNG PROFESSIONALS' WEEKEND AT HVTC LODGE RUAPEHU FRI 20 TO SUN 22 SEPT



For uni students, 'YoPros' (young people working) or anyone who identifies as young at heart!

Come and spend the weekend hanging out with fellow ski bums.

There will be skiing and awesome food, accompanied by witty commentary on everything.

Contact Abigail Brownsword

Text 027 431 7737 or email [abigail.brownsword@outlook.com](mailto:abigail.brownsword@outlook.com)

# RUAPEHU ROUNDUP

Kate Brownsword

It might be raining and a bit gloomy outside at the end of June, but the snow is coming and with it the promise of great days of skiing, snowboarding, climbing, tramping and enjoying the view at Ruapehu!

We've put together a calendar of events for this winter season at the lodge, but remember you are welcome to book in and come up at any time – the lodge belongs to all club members. This year the lodge has its 75th birthday, and the Ruapehu committee is working on plans to mark this event.

If you are planning a trip to the lodge, please book in the usual way with our booking officer Sheldon Bruce on the phone number above or by emailing [ruapehubookings@hvtc.org.nz](mailto:ruapehubookings@hvtc.org.nz)

## Restock weekend, 7-9 June

Fifteen keen club members and friends lugged approximately 800kg of food from the Top of the Bruce to the lodge on the first weekend in June, ensuring that there will be plenty to eat when you come to the mountain this winter. Highlights of this year's restock include 100 sachets of Raro, 100 tins of chopped tomatoes, and 25 frozen chickens. The weather on Saturday 7th was beautiful, ideal for four or five trips up and down the hill with laden packs, but it clagged in completely on Sunday. Luckily we had finished bringing food up Saturday afternoon, so Sunday was spent completing a number of maintenance jobs and celebrating Pim's birthday. We also completed a fire evacuation drill. Thank you all who gave up their weekend to ensure the lodge is ready for the ski season and beyond.

Thankyou also to our chefs Inge and Alison who kept our spirits up with good food!

Participants: Bruce Miller, Russell Oliver, Sheldon Bruce, David Biegel, Patrick Fotheringham, Alison Newbald, Alan Findlay, Rosie Doole, Charles, Dawn Hooper, Pim and Inge de Boer and family, and Nick and Kate Brownsword.

*Kate*

## TRIP REPORTS

### WATERFALL HUT, RUAHINE FOREST PARK

APRIL 25-28

Andrew Robinson

The road was very quiet on the morning of Anzac Day as I drove the club van over the Remutaka Hill and I only had to pull over once to let a vehicle pass. In Featherston we had to wait several minutes at temporary traffic lights in place for their Anzac Day parade. There was traffic management in place for parades at another two or three towns.

When we got to the Sunrise hut carpark it was packed. We double parked while everyone used the loo then drove a further ten minutes to our carpark.

Our route for the day was mostly up the Waipawa River which had changed significantly since I was last there in 2017, mostly due to cyclone Gabriel I expect. Masses of gravel had been

washed into the river bed in many places making for some easy travel. We stopped for lunch at the turnoff to Waipawa Forks hut and when we carried on up the river the flats that were previously covered in scrub were now largely bare. It was sometimes a scramble to get onto the flats because the river was sometimes a couple of metres below the flats but as the river was a bit bouldery it was worth the effort to get onto the flats. At the head of the valley the river steepened considerably and the banks disappeared so it was harder going. We caught up with another couple of trampers who like us were heading to Waikamaka hut. It was quite windy, about as windy as it was 10 years ago when the group I was leading on the same route had turned back at Waipawa Saddle but I felt more optimistic this time. We stopped for afternoon tea where we hit the bush. We still a bit of a climb to get to the saddle but I knew it was only half an hour away. It wasn't long before we were out of the bush and into scrub and tussock. We were slightly sheltered from the wind so I couldn't be sure but it felt like the wind was ever so slightly less than earlier in the day. That was a positive sign for getting over the saddle. We had a short break just before the saddle then steeled ourselves for a bit of a battle. Sure enough, popping out onto the saddle the wind was much stronger but with a bit of effort it was possible to stay upright. The worst of it only lasted a couple of minutes during which time we nearly got blown over a couple of times. We saw a waterfall where the water was being blown upwards but we didn't have to go that way and were able to carry on. The descent to the headwaters of the Waikamaka River was steep and a little bit exposed but not too challenging. The route continued down the Waikamaka River with the route sometimes in the river and requiring caution but there were no mishaps. We reached the hut in five hours which made it a shortish grade two trip but plenty of interest and enough of a challenge.

It rained as expected in the morning but it gradually cleared. It was fine when we set off at 1:30 and we headed up a tributary of the Waikamaka River. Apart from a short stretch near the hut the route for the first half hour as far as the first forks was mostly in the creek. At that point we had to put our coats on as it started to rain. The next half hour was mostly beside the creek which made for slightly easier going. As we neared the final climb to Rangi Saddle the route wasn't clear and there were several possibilities. We took what was not the most direct route but probably ended up as the best route. The final ascent to the saddle took half an hour and it was pretty windy but not as windy as the Waipawa Saddle. The descent was on a pretty uneven surface so we couldn't go very fast but it didn't take long to get out of the worst of the wind. We hit the bush about halfway down and had a brief stop to put more clothes on. Being in the bush and descending we gradually warmed up. We reached the bottom a bit sooner than expected which was good news and on top of that the creek we had to descend looked good going, like the better parts of the Waipawa River. We had about 1.5 km to the hut which I guessed would take an hour. We approached one corner that looked like it might be the start of a gorge but thankfully it wasn't. When we reached the Kawhatau River it was up a little because of the rain, not enough to stop us crossing but enough to fill our boots with water. We had nice easy river flats for the last half a kilometre to Waterfall hut which I had finally got to after ten years of trying. There was one occupant in the hut, Matt who had spent the previous night with us so there was enough room for us all in the six-bunk hut. Although it hadn't rained heavily we'd all got quite wet so it was nice to have somewhere dry to spend the night.

Despite getting through about a kilogram of food on day two, at the start of day three my pack was heavier because it was still wet from the rain. I'd had some ideas of extras we could do somewhere along the line, as had Dave, but despite beautiful weather in the morning on day three there wasn't much enthusiasm apart from Dave for doing some extra. Dave came up with an option I was happy to accommodate so we went with that. Dave joined us for the descent of Kawhatau River and the ascent of Rangi Creek as far as where the track leaves the creek. We all had a pleasant stop in the sun shortly before we separated. While Dave headed further up Rangi Creek, Chris, Doc and I did the climb up to Rangi Saddle in the same amount of time it had taken to descend. It was a bit windy at the saddle but just over it we found a reasonably level sheltered spot in the sun. We took the opportunity to get a few things dried out and while we were sitting there the couple who we'd shared Waikamaka hut with on the first night turned up on a day walk. When they descended we made a note of their route for later. We had our lunch then waited for



an hour to see if Dave turned up. He didn't turn up so we started on the descent. The sky clouded over and the temperature dropped so it was a good thing we'd decided to get moving. I checked behind us every now and then for any sign of Dave but didn't see any. I eventually decided that he was still probably as much as an hour behind us. We went the way the couple ahead of us had gone and found a route of sorts which had a couple of marker poles but it was deeply rutted in places and there was a lot of Spaniard grass so it was not as good as the route we had taken on the way up. When we got back to our original route it was an hour back to the hut. Just before the hut the other couple had set up their tent leaving the hut to us. Dave turned up an hour after us and he had missed out on a sunny lunch spot but otherwise enjoyed his excursion. That evening we had the fire going which got the place warm but not hot.

We had another fine day for our last day and didn't have a very long day ahead of us so we took our time. Our route was the reverse of our first day with a couple of minor deviations. About an hour after leaving Waikamaka hut we carried on up the river past the point where we had met the river on our way in. After a few minutes we reached a decision point – scramble up a scree slope and onto the track or retreat to where I'd seen the track on our right. I gave the scree slope a go and made it with a hold-on-tight scramble at the top. It turned out to be the route Dave had taken on the way in. Doc and Chris came up after me and I was able to give them a hand on the tricky bit. Dave tried heading further upstream but retreated when the surface became too slippery. We had morning tea at the saddle then descended through the scrub. We were just about to enter the short patch of bush when I spotted a potential route down a scree slope. I was pretty sure it was a viable route but I asked Dave if he would mind checking out the start of it. Being taller and fitter than the rest of us he was happy to oblige. He got to where he could see most of the way down and called us to follow. We had fun descending the short scree slope but then, as I thought might happen, we came to a steep drop. It looked doable without a pack so I lowered my pack and let it drop maybe 30 cm. It was then a relatively easy scramble down for me. From the bottom I took the others' packs then helped them down. The diversion probably wasn't a shortcut but it was a bit of fun.

Descending the upper part of the Waipawa River we got an appreciation of how much we'd climbed on the way in. It might not have been much quicker going down but it was definitely easier. Once the river levelled off somewhat it was pretty much plain sailing the rest of the way. We stopped for lunch about a kilometre from Waipawa Forks hut then when we got to the turnoff to the hut we had a short break. We got back to the van after a leisurely five hours forty minutes, longer than we'd taken on the walk in to Waikamaka hut but a shorter moving time. We'd only averaged five hours a day but only Dave felt underdone.

There were still several cars at the Sunrise hut carpark when we stopped to use the loo on the way through. We were looking forward to a café stop in Waipukurau on the drive home but by the time we got there the cafés had all closed so we had to make do with the BP Wild Bean Café. No complaints though because although the ambience was utilitarian the food was good. No complaints about the weekend either. The weather wasn't always the best but the bad weather was outweighed by the good weather and we achieved our main object while enjoying some interesting and varied scenery.

Trip participants Chris McMillan, Doc Watson and Dave Hanley. Andrew Robinson (leader).

*Andrew*

## **WAIIOPEHU HUT 11-12 MAY**

**Mel Stoneham**

After an easy van ride up to the end of Poads Road were we meet Kay and still had the sun even though it was a bit chilly. We started up the Te Araroa Trail, then up the Waiopehu Track. It was a bit of a slog with us all trying to decide if we warm, cold, needed more layers on or take layers off.

Since we were all a bit undecided, we just stopped for short breaks and was more focused on keeping our energy levels and ourselves warm. Once at the Hut the views were amazing and even though the hut has no fire place it was definitely warmer than outside. The hut is very busy and a new log book is definitely required. After dinner we were treated to a fantastic display of the Aurora (Southern lights), clear skies and Mel pointed out some constellations. On Sunday we too the Te Araroa Trail back down. Now this track was a muddy one. It was great fun trying to keep the boots clean or watching someone go knee deep in mud. Once we got to the bottom we took the Ohau Gorge track which Tania had been told the slip was passable. Tania did say there was no more mud but she was wrong! When we reached the slip Mel was the guinea pig to see if it really was ok to cross. Down Mel went keeping close to the cliff face and only really finding one hard part, the rest followed. With lots of direction and encouragement we all made it over the slip. Was a fantastic over night trip with great company. Thanks Tania, Mel, Sam, Kay and Anne-marie for the company, laughs and conversation.



*Mel*

## **TURERE LODGE WEEKEND HUT BAGGING**

### **18-19 MAY 2024**

### **Andrew Robinson**

I went in with Jim's group of 11 and when we got to the lodge Jim headed off on his trip while Chris and I waited for Tony's group. When Tony's group turned up, Tony, Jan and Jo'ann joined us for some hut bagging.

We headed up Big Bend track and after about 15 minutes took a trap line heading in the general direction of Te Arvon hut. 10 minutes of climbing and sometimes scrambling got us onto a terrace above the Big Bend track and another five minutes took us to the hut. From there to Hebron hut was about 200 m in a straight line according to my gps but it took twenty minutes following a route of sorts that avoided a descent into a gully. Hebron hut was a private hut that ended up in Doc hands some years back but Doc has abandoned it. We found it still upright but in a sorry state.

From Hebron hut we carried on along the terrace to some huts I'd visited on Waitangi Day. The closest of them was about 300 m away and we started off well on a distinct trail but somewhere along the way we either lost it or it had fallen into disuse. Our efforts to find the easiest way led us on a circuitous route that took us 20 minutes to Tryfan hut. We had afternoon tea there and then we took the well-used trail to the huts further along the terrace then down the steepish track to the river. By that time it was after four o'clock which spelled the end of hut bagging for the day.

On the Sunday I had Chris with me again and we were joined by William. We headed up Big Bend track for 10 minutes then headed for Sunnybank hut on the other side of the river. There was a steep bank with a possible route up it but I guessed we'd probably find easier access further downstream. We headed for Goat Stream and there I spotted a cairn which led us to a trail that took us to Camp Two hut and then Sunnybank hut. Along the way we saw that there was indeed a route from the river up the steep bank but it would have been a scramble. After returning to Camp Two hut we headed up to Goat Stream hut. We explored upstream from Goat Stream hut for a possible route to Flag Inn on the other side of Goat Stream but it didn't look likely so we went downstream. We had to go a reasonable distance before we could get up the other side and were then faced with supplejack but Chris found a way through and then around it to Flag Inn. From there we found a trail leading towards Lofty Lodge which almost disappeared in a couple of places

and went downhill for a bit when Lofty Lodge was uphill but after only five minutes we got there. It was definitely one of the tidier huts in the valley. The descent to Xanadu hut just above Big Bend took ten minutes then it was time to head back to the carpark which we reached four and a half hours after leaving Turere Lodge.

Andrew Robinson. Fellow hut-baggers: Chris McMillan, Tony Jaegers, Jan Arts, Jo'ann Watson, William Liao

*Andrew*

## AVA PARK WORKPARTY IN EARLY JUNE

John Simes

June 8th was a perfectly fine Saturday morning for a work party at our patch of local conservation mahi at Ava Park. 10 participants was a creditable gathering considering there was a Ruapehu work party and a cycle trip on at the same time. Thanks to you all for your effort. Not much needs to be done now that we have a hundred new plants in the ground and two truckloads of mulch distributed. The strategy was to get a mass of new plants into the sparsely vegetated middle section. By planting rapid growing and wind tolerant Hebe and Coprosma in there it is hoped to provide the cover for more substantial trees in the minimum time. Let's see if that works. In the meantime, there is plenty to be pleased about with good growth from larger species around the bushy margins. Stop and admire if you're passing!

*John*

## FIELD HUT

Murray Presland

Heritage New Zealand has informed us that it has bestowed Category 1 Historic Place status on Field Hut, despite our commenting that this may hinder its maintenance and perhaps replacement as a functioning tramping hut. This status means the hut is recognised as a place of **outstanding** historical and cultural significance. Enjoy your stay there!

## STAR GAZING AT MEL'S PLACE!!!

Mel Stoneham

During Waiopahu tramp there was discussion of me doing a night of star gazing at my place through my telescope. I know Kay is very keen to come so want to open it up to other members of the club also. I am hoping to run this on Saturday 3rd of August. Weather depending. If it is postponed I will just keep doing Saturday nights till the weather is good. If you are interested, please email me at [melanie.stoneham@gmail.com](mailto:melanie.stoneham@gmail.com) then I can let everyone know full details

## FOR DISPOSAL

Phil Rundle

Zera Bike Beam for hanging drop frame bikes from bike racks, never used. Free to good home.

email – [therundles@xtra.co.nz](mailto:therundles@xtra.co.nz)

# HELEN MCLEOD

MAY 1934 - JUNE 2024

Pat Tristram (with help from Malcolm McLeod, Mat Craig and Sandra Pearce).

Long term Club members will be saddened to hear that Helen passed away recently, just three weeks after her 90th birthday. Helen (and Malcolm) have been long time members of HVTC with Helen joining the Club in April 1959 and Malcolm some nine years earlier.



Helen grew up in Masterton, moving to the Hutt Valley in the 1950s where she worked as a kindergarten teacher. She flatted for a time with Mat Craig, Mat's sister Bev, and Mary Rundle. Malcolm recalls an early trip that Helen was on to the Tauherenikau Valley where he was tail end charlie. Helen was towards the end of the group and so they got chatting. They have been married for 64 years, initially living in Upper Hutt while raising two boys – Lewis and Alistair – and then moving up the Kapiti Coast when Malcolm retired some 30 years ago.

Helen was a stalwart on the early Chooks Trips when the women of the Club took themselves off for a weekend each year (many leaving the menfolk in charge of small children) for some exercise, good company and great food. This was a time that many lifelong friendships were forged by the women of the Club and these trips were looked forward to

by those who weren't able to get out very often for weekends.

Helen had many interests but particularly in the performing arts, organising groups in singing and routines which were very popular and often called upon to perform. Helen was a key player in arranging the routines, the practicing and making sure everything went to plan. On their move to the Kapiti Coast she was instrumental in setting up The Coasterettes who also did many performances throughout the area.

Tributes were paid to Helen at her funeral by Malcolm, Lewis, Alistair and grandson Jonathan. The Coasterettes and members of the Coasters Musical Society also gave a musical tribute 'Love Changes Everything' while the photographic memories were being shown. They were truly inspirational. They were meant to have been present at Helen's 90th birthday, which became a rather reduced affair because of Covid in the hospital wing where Helen was living. However, the nurses made arrangements so a small celebration could take place with a birthday cake, wine and birthday cards which were read to Helen. An occasion Malcolm was truly grateful for.

*Pat*



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