



*Tramping against the wind, Hawkins Hill 16 July.*

*Photo: Bob Deller*



Please submit your **August 2023** H&V articles to the editor by **29<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

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## CLUB NIGHT PROGRAMME Starts 7:30 pm promptly



### **2 August: Catherine Croucher – Te Araroa: the bottom bit.**

NOBO; EFI; Bluff to the Rangitata River; 680km; 44 days, November 19, 2022 to January 2, 2023; 5 days off. Catherine lost 8.5kg and yes, Patrick did some of it with her. Her new phone not only survived rough treatment, but also took quite good pictures.

### **9 August : Sam McColl – Slips, tumbles, and falls; the natural hazard every trumper knows.**

Sam McColl is a landslide researcher at GNS Science in Lower Hutt. As a geomorphologist (someone who studies landscapes), he researches why gravity sometimes succeeds in collapsing hillsides and studies the consequences to people and environment. He will share some examples of New Zealand's remarkably unstable landscape, and explain why landslides are New Zealand's most deadly, costly, and disrupting natural hazard. A further consideration will be given to how climate change may be increasing the activity and hazard of landslides.



### **16 August : John Simes – A field trip with Ngai Tu Hoe into Te Ureweras**

John will talk about a field trip into Te Urewera country he did with his GNS and VUW colleagues in 2017. This trip was with and at the invitation of Tu Hoe. The objective was to find dinosaur bones maybe, but more importantly to instill the joy of discovery into the youth of Tu Hoe who have been working out what is the way forward after their treaty of Waitangi settlement.

### **23 August : Open Night**

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

### **30 August : Tony Jaegers – Snowboarding in Japan**

In February of this year Tony went snowboarding at Shiga Kogen, Japan's biggest winter resort.



### **6 September : HVTC Photo Competition 2023**

Geoff Marshall - trumper, biker, photographer and tutor - will review the entries in the HVTC Photo Competition 2023, offering his comments then awarding first and second places, plus commendations, in the many categories of subject available. Club trophies will be presented and winning entries in FMC categories will be forwarded into the FMC Photo Competition 2023.






## FORTHCOMING TRIPS



### NOTES

Where there is no leader given for a trip, please contact the Trip Coordinator to volunteer to lead a trip, either as shown or an alternative.

### AUGUST

Tue 1		Butterfly Creek	Chris McMillan	027 434 2114
5 – 6	T1			
4 – 6	T2	Tongariro Crossing (ono)	David Hanley	027 711 2644
Sat or Sun	D1	Mt Marchant	Bernice & Bob	022 656 8309
Fri 11	WP	Baring Head Planting (or Sat 12)	Murray Presland	022 656 8309
12 – 13	T1			
	D1	Day walk needed		
Fri 21	WP	Baring Head Planting	Murray Presland	022 656 8309
14 – 18	Ski	Club Week 1	Sheldon Bruce	027 451 0415
Thu 17		Greytown to Featherston and back	Bernice & Bob	022 656 8309
19 – 20	T1			
	D1	Day walk needed		
26 – 27	T1			
Sun 27	D1	West Whakanui – East Whakanui	Jackie West	528 4697
28 – 01	Ski	Club Week 2 (Uni & young professionals)	Sheldon Bruce	027 451 0415
Mon 28	WP	Baring Head Planting (or Sat 26)	Murray Presland	022 656 8309
Tue 29		Moonlight walk	Leader please	

### SEPTEMBER

01 – 03	Ski	Centenary dinner at the lodge	Kate Brownsword	027 562 0177
02 – 03	T1			
	D1	Day walk needed		
04 – 08	Ski	Club week 3 (Vets and Allcomers)	Russell Oliver	021 245 9596
09 – 10	T1			
	D1	Day walk needed		



## UPCOMING EVENTS AT RUAPEHU LODGE

I am happy to report that the snow has arrived and the Whakapapa Skifield is all go. No excuses now. Let's get up there and carve some turns. Our custodian Laura is in residence and looking forward to your company. There's plenty of space in the lodge in the next few weeks and we have the following club trips organized:

### 14 August to 18 August - Club Week 1

No one has put their hand up for this week yet but feel free to book with me ([Ruapehubookings@hvtc.org.nz](mailto:Ruapehubookings@hvtc.org.nz)) and I'm sure we can get a group together.

### **28 August to 1 September – Club Week 2**

This trip has been set up as the 'Uni and Young Professionals' week but everyone is welcome. There are currently about ten people booked and young professional Dave Biegel (0275107482) will be leading the trip.

### **1 September to 3 September – Centenary Dinner**

The big weekend on the Ruapehu Lodge calendar. A weekend of fun with plenty of skiing and riding to celebrate the club's centenary. This is going to be a great event with currently 28 people booked and the opportunity to book at least another 20 people using bunks in the Tararua Lodge.

### **4 September to 8 September – Club Week 3**

This is the 'Vets and allcomers' week led by Russell Oliver (0212459596). Plenty of space just now so get your names down for a fantastic ski week at the peak of the season.

### **11 September to 15 September – Club Week 4**

The last official club week before the school holidays. Feel free to book with me ([Ruapehubookings@hvtc.org.nz](mailto:Ruapehubookings@hvtc.org.nz)) at any stage.

### **25 September to 29 September – School Holiday Week 1**

This trip is already looking pretty full. If you're thinking of coming up for the school holidays the second week may be a better option.

### **2 October to 9 October – School Holiday Week 2**

Kate Brownsword (0275620177) is leading this trip and expecting a big turnout so get your names down.

That's all for now.

*Sheldon Bruce*

**Ruapehu Lodge Booking Officer**

## **EXTRA SPECIAL EVENT AT THE LODGE 1 – 3 SEPTEMBER**

Come and join us for a celebration weekend at the club's Mt Ruapehu lodge!

To mark the club's 100th birthday, please join us on 1-3 September for:

- a great weekend of skiing/riding. This is traditionally one of the peak weekends of the season. We're going to try to do 100 laps of the ski field.
- a chance to catch up and spend time with friends and fellow club members, and to enjoy being on the mountain
- a celebration dinner on Saturday night, starting with mulled wine and nibbles, and including 100th birthday cake.

*Dress formal (shirt and tie).*

We are producing special edition T shirts for the weekend. They are white with royal blue logos and printing, with the HVTC 100th logo on the front left and a line drawing of our club Ruapehu lodge on the back. T shirts cost \$35 each. You will have received an order form with my email of 26 July which details how to place an order. There is also an order form on the final page of this edition.



Of course there are many fantastic outdoor opportunities around the mountain, so if you would like to come up for the weekend but prefer not to ski, we can help you to organise day walks or other activities. Please contact Kate Brownsword on [the.brownswords@xtra.co.nz](mailto:the.brownswords@xtra.co.nz) if you are willing to organise an alternative activity.

Cost: Standard lodge fees will apply, plus \$20 for Saturday night dinner, \$10 for those aged 14 and under. There will be no requirement to bring nibbles/vegetables for Saturday night, just yourselves and your tipple of choice.

As we're preparing a fantastic feast, we do require that you pay for the dinner and your lodge fees by Weds 23 August. Payment can be made to the Ruapehu lodge bank account 03 0543 0036501 03. Please make the reference 'cent dinner'.

Please book now for this great weekend with Sheldon Bruce on [Ruapehubookings@hvtc.org.nz](mailto:Ruapehubookings@hvtc.org.nz) or 027 451 0415.

Couple of points to note: This is usually one of the peak weekends of the ski season, so please consider coming to the lodge on Friday 1 Sept, as there may be limited/no car parking available on the Saturday. On Saturday 2 Sept, we are only accepting bookings at the lodge for those attending the dinner. We have 30 beds available at our lodge, plus 19 at the Tararua lodge.

We could also use your help! If you are able to help out over this weekend, please contact me on [the.brownswords@xtra.co.nz](mailto:the.brownswords@xtra.co.nz)

Looking forward to seeing you on the mountain!

*Kate Brownsword*

For the Ruapehu Committee

## FROM THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

August 2023

### Annual General Meeting - Committee positions:

The following had indicated they were willing to help manage your tramping club for the 2023-24 year – and were declared elected:

President	Marina Skinner	
Vice-President	Tania Hatfield	
Secretary	Emma Dobbie	
Treasurer	Jim Cousins	
Trip Co-ordinator		
Transport Officer	John Smeith	
General Committee (6)	Doreen Courtenay	Doc Watson
	Chris McMillan	Michelle White
	Debbie Labett	
Vice-President Ruapehu	Kate Brownsword	
Ruapehu Secretary	Bruce Miller	
Ruapehu Treasurer	John Simes	
Ruapehu Committee (8)	David Biegel	Alison Newbald
	Sheldon Bruce	Russell Oliver
	Ian McIlraith	Brendan Quirke
Social Committee (8)	Pamela Campbell	Graeme McVerry
	Doreen Courtenay	Cathy Priest
	Debbie Labett	Sharman Robinson
	Carolyn Lyon	Marilyn Sickels

## LOCKING AND UNLOCKING THE CLUB VAN

Just an update regarding the door locks on the van. I have recently cleaned and lubricated all the door locking mechanisms, including the electrical contacts on the sliding door.

I am satisfied with the results, but as you may have noticed the printed icons on the key remote have worn off.

As a reminder, press the left button twice to lock all doors and press the right button twice to open all doors.

Without the remote, Turn the key twice to the left in succession to lock all doors. As for unlocking all doors, turn the key twice to the right in succession .

Note. One press or one turn of the key only locks / unlocks the front of the van.

*Doc Watson*

On behalf of the Transport Officer

## CONSERVATION APPOINTMENT FOR DAVID BARNES

Congratulations to club member David Barnes on his recent appointment to the Nature Heritage Fund Committee.

The Nature Heritage Fund is a contestable Ministerial fund that was established in 1990 to help private landowners, local government, community groups, and others to permanently protect high-value ecosystems. The fund is administered by an independent committee appointed by the Minister of Conservation.

*Marina Skinner*

President

## CENTENARY CONGRATULATIONS

We have received warm congratulations on our 100th birthday from Lower Hutt Mayor Campbell Barry and the Masterton Tramping Club President Tony Spittal.

Tony said longstanding members of MTC have memories of working closely in the huts of the Tararua range and tramping with HVTC.

Campbell Barry said: "On behalf of Lower Hutt, I extend my gratitude for your contributions to outdoor recreation. Your passion and enthusiasm has inspired many members of the community."

*Marina*

## A SLICE OF HISTORY : TARARUA S-K HVTC STORY

**Alan Stevens**

After the screening at HVTC of the Andy Carruthers doco "Tararua S-K" that listed amongst the credits Dick Cowan & my effort in 1963 I thought I should put into context how this came about. Both the doco and recent book give credit to Dave Capper for the first traverse in October 1963 whereas Dick and I were in January that year.

When WTMC published their first orange S-K history booklet in 1997, which did not mention us, I wrote to the Editor, Lindsay Cuthbertson describing our trip and I attach a copy of this. Current members will understand how ill-prepared we were and how rugged the route was, few tracks and huts compared to today.

95 Tirohanga Road  
Melling  
Lower Hutt

25 February 1998

Lindsay Cuthbertson  
Wellington Tramping and Mountaineering Club  
P O Box 5068  
Wellington

Dear Lindsay,

I found the booklet published by WT&MC on the Schormann - Kaitoke Epic a most enjoyable read, chronicling some great efforts by many of my tramping friends. It rekindled clear memories of our attempt in January 1963 which, whilst over a 3 day holiday weekend, appears to be regarded as the forerunner of the challenges that followed. Therefore, to add to the history of this Tararua Classic I thought I should write a brief description.

The HVTC "Hills & Valleys" Vol.15, No 11, December 1962 Trip Syllabus shows: "January 18-21 1963, Anniversary Weekend, Schormann Track - Ngapuketuru Stream, depart Waterloo Clubrooms 8pm." So off we went on a long weekend river trip in the Northern Tararuas and slept that night at the roadend. Next morning up the track to the Main Range and a magnificent vista of the whole countryside bathed in perfect weather.

Having been back in NZ only 12 months after an extended OE I had heard the mutterings around the hills and trampers watering holes about the "S-K" and being a trumper/harrier it had aroused my interest. One of my Christmas trip companions, Dick Cowan, was in the Anniversary Weekend party and we made the decision at the Main Range junction to "have a go for Kaitoke". So unpremeditated and unprepared for a tops trip we borrowed a primus and said we would meet the Club truck at the Pukuratahi Bridge late Monday afternoon. The major items we did not have were a waterbottle and extra pairs of sox - with dire consequences.

We made good time until late morning around Dundas when the heat and lack of water caught up with us. When Dick lay down to slurp up some foul liquid in an animal wallow I knew we had to find shade and water. (The modern high level Dundas Hut came much later) So we dropped way down to the Bannister Basin Hut to rest up until it cooled somewhat. The resident cullers of course thought we were mad. After regaining the Main Range we pushed on until darkness came and we slept out on Butchers Knob, with Dick bashing down the Otaki side to fill our billy.

Sunday was our really long day. Starting by crashing along the trackless ridge of Dracophyllum Knob, falling thru the leatherwood etc. No Nicholls Hut there in Jan 63, so next stop was Andersons Biv. Late that afternoon I recollect zigzagging up the northern side of Maungahuka so stuffed that each traverse only gained a few feet. But the target was the brand new Maungahuka Hut where we collapsed on to the Dunlopillo mattresses and cranked a brew to consider our options. To stay here would mean abandoning Kaitoke and coming out at Otaki. We **had** to make Vosseler Hut that night.

In the gathering gloom we headed off, hauled ourselves up the chain on the Tararua Peaks, then along the never ending Main Range. Our torches were failing, so were used sparingly - mainly to carefully look around clumps of tussock etc. for footprints to ensure we remained on the ridge - hard to do in the dark! After an interminable time up & down over McIntosh, Vosseler, Boyd Wilson etc I saw silouhetted against the starry sky the stake that marked the junction with Bridge Peak. We'd done it and collapsed

\* Primus ex Roger Newman who took Dick's axe

thankfully into Vosseler Hut. The cullers couldn't comprehend where we had come from - Butchers Knob was way out of their territory.

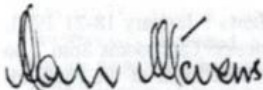
My memory of Monday was lurching around the Southern and down the Marchant on badly blistered feet, due to the lack of extra socks. Whenever we found water we filled our boots to give some lubrication. I recollect wearing sandals to the office for a few weeks as a consequence!

So, whilst it did take us a 3 day weekend, we did use the more challenging Main Range route and without any preplanning, preparation or support.

Thankyou to all responsible for compiling the booklet. Together with Peter Jagers history of the Trampers Marathon they make a valuable addition to the history and folklore of the hills we enjoy. It is hard to believe those speedy trips were so long ago, but ones body certainly reminds one of that fact when foolishly attempting something similar these days!!

Congratulations to the Tongue and Meats for attaining their 50 years. If the celebrations were anything like the parties we held in the 1960s they would have been most memorable. Please give my regards to all my contemporaries.

Sincerely



Alan Stevens.

On page 8-9 of the S-K book, the Introduction by Megan Sety explains that quite early it was determined (presumably by T&M!) that the criteria for the S-K was "that one had to work a full Friday, cannot start before 5pm and must be back at work by 8am Monday". Later it was changed to be completed within 48 hours.

So it means that the trip by Dick Cowan and myself in Anniversary Weekend, January 1963 was outside that criteria – set much later....!

*Alan*

## TRIP REPORTS

### STRATTON ST-TAKAPU RD

Sunday 25th June 2023

Bob Deller

Twelve Club members gathered at the car park at the end of Stratton St, keen to make the most of such a lovely day. After a short walk back down the road, we started up the steep initial ascent of Middle Ridge. This blunted our initial enthusiasm, but it wasn't too long before we reached Cannons Head where we stopped for morning tea at a sheltered and sunny spot with a good view down Cannons Creek to Titahi Bay and beyond.

We then followed a fence line that sidled around the true- right side of the valley. This route was a bit muddy in places and we encountered several carcasses of long- dead sheep and cattle (in future I would avoid this part of route). After a while we reached the northern spur from Cannons Head and descended grassy slopes into Cannons Creek about 400 metres upstream from the Transmission Gully motorway overbridge. At our crossing point the banks of the stream had been planted- out with native shrubs which were flourishing.

Judging by the length of the grass, the amount of regenerating native vegetation and the absence of farm stock, it appears the upper catchment of Cannons Creek has been retired from grazing.



Having climbed onto the spur on the true- left side of Cannons Creek, we found a nice sunny spot for lunch near some large macrocarpa trees. It's never pleasant tackling a hill climb after lunch, but the views from the Takapu Ridge track made it worthwhile. Upon reaching the main ridgeline and joining the Puke Ariki track, we could relax knowing the hardest walking was behind us. We followed the track around to Belmont Trig where about half the party elected to do a short side-trip to the summit. Then came a pleasant descent, although on tiring legs, to Stratton St and back our vehicles.

Those who enjoyed the lovely winter day were Jackie, Chris, Anja, Maarten, Valray, Lex, Marilyn, Heather, Louise, David, and Bob & Bernice (leaders).

PS: The map shows our moving time, not the total elapsed time which was a little over five hours.



*Bob*

## VISIT TO WANGANUI TRAMPING CLUB

30 June-02 July 2023

Nick McBride

The biannual and reciprocal trip up to Whanganui proved as popular as ever, with 13 signing up this year (initially 14, but one person had to pull out with illness). We all stayed at the Whanganui River Top Ten holiday park, four of us sharing a bunkroom, and the seven of us who drove up in the club van had dinner on the Friday evening at the very popular and convenient Boatshed Restaurant.

Saturday morning we met at the Wanganui Tramping Club's new base, which is a space they rent at the Whanganui Race course. Since we last visited they had parted company with the Deerstalkers Association, whose hall they used to borrow. Part of the new digs was a garage space, and in the garage was a brand new Toyota Hiace 10-seater van, which the club had just purchased for \$60,000. Air conditioning, a large screen on the dashboard (presumably with ApplePlay), plenty of storage space and a reliable brand and model, we were filled with envy and dreams. The WTC had replaced one of their much less reliable LVDs with what looked like the ideal tramping transport.

Van inspection over, we got into our transport and drove to the road end for the Saturday walk. This was a track starting at a small private mountainbike park called That Place. The location was also know as Oscam's farm, and a short walk across some paddocks took us to the Te Awa Whanganui, the Whanganui River. We were immediately joined by the Oscam's dog, named Flo, who accompanied us on the entire walk. Flo was super-energetic, and no doubt the owners were

happy someone was exercising her. A memorable moment was a flat-out sprint between Flo and a hare she was chasing for about 300 metres down the straight 4WD track. The hare won on this occasion, but cannot rest easy whenever Flo is on the loose.

WTC obliged and Laurel Stowell took us to Turakina beach, near the small township of Koitiata. We were met by two locals, Kev and Trev, who gave us a rundown on the local history and the attempts to restore the dunes and wetland. They mentioned Jo Anson, the coordinator for the Wetlands Restoration Project, who was scheduled to meet us all at 1:30pm.



At the other end of town, was the ever moving mouth of the Turakina river, which could cause flooding and cut off access between the village and the highway.

On the upside, the town was taking a lot of pride in its dune and wetland restoration. Trev described the drones they had hired to spray pampas grass that was littering the dunes.



Kev took us for a walk to a bird hide. We were supposed to walk further up the beach, along a stretch of Te Araroa trail, but the high tide made this infeasible. This led to the problem of how to fill in a few hours until we were scheduled to meet Jo. The answer, according to Laurel, was a walk into the local plantation, now known as Earnslaw forest and shown on the map as Santoft forest.

This involved a straight walk along a forest walk for about 4km until we reached the Koitiata stream and

stopped for lunch. Exotic forests are not the most exciting places, so it was good to add some variety on the return leg by following a path alongside the stream, and then a muddy vehicle track before re-joining the forest road for about a kilometre. Laurel's plan worked to perfection because we arrived outside the community hall at 1:30 to be greeted by Jo Anson and Kev, who had also arranged cups of tea and coffee.

Jo kindly gave us a talk about the great work the Wetlands Restoration Project was doing to trap pests and plant natives. It was truly inspiring to hear of this community effort and the efforts of the leaders such as Jo and Kev, in a small township none of us were very familiar with prior to arriving. We certainly wish Jo, Kev and the community the best and thank them for their time and generosity.

Joining me on this trip was: Mel Stoneham, Marina Skinner, Pam Smith, Helen Kettles, Derek & Elaine Richardson, Clare Kelly, Bob and Bernice Deller (Saturday only), Jackie West, Anja Van Kesteren, Marteen Vink

*Nick*





# MĀNAWATIA A MATARIKI - HAPPY MATARIKI

14 July 2023

Marina Skinner

HVTC joined Pareraho Forest Trust and the Kelson Community Association on a pre-dawn walk to see the Matariki stars and sunrise from Boulder Hill on 14 July.

At 4.30am about 30 adults and children gathered at a small reserve in Waipounamu Drive, Kelson, to open a new gateway to Pareraho Forest, which covers the hills above Speedy's Creek.

The Pareraho volunteers restoring the forest have created a network of tracks, and we took one trail down to the creek. A nifty plank across the creek kept our feet out of the water.

We climbed through the regenerating forest and out on to the paddocks below Boulder Hill, hoping that the cloud might lift for the stars to appear.

At Boulder Hill we put on extra layers and sheltered from the freezing northerly behind the big rocks. 6.30am was a good time to tuck into breakfast and coffee.

One of the Pareraho Forest crew explained that some iwi, including our local Te Āti Awa ki te Upoko o te Ika a Māui, mark the rising of the single star, Puanga, rather than the Matariki cluster, as the Māori New Year. This is because Puanga is higher in the sky and easier to see than Matariki in areas surrounded by hills.



No stars twinkled for us but the sunrise lit the clouds in beautiful shades of purple and crimson.

We headed back in the emerging daylight and stopped at a Matariki Grove to plant a few native plants.

We were back at Kelson by 9am.

For a non-morning person like me, 4.30 was an early start. But it was a special way to mark our Māori New Year, particularly with members of our wider community.

Trip participants: Phaedra Upton, Leanne Asher, Emma Dobbie, Andrew and Catharina Fisher, Elaine and Derek Richardson, and leader Marina Skinner.



*Marina*



# HVTC RUAPEHU LODGE CENTENARY TEE SHIRT ORDER FORM

The HVTC Ruapehu Lodge committee is producing a tee shirt to celebrate the club centenary and to coincide with the celebration weekend at the lodge on 1 & 2 September 2023.

Key points:

- The tee shirts will be white with royal blue logos and printing. Current intention is to have the centenary logo on the front left with printing on the back including a line drawing of the Ruapehu Lodge.
- Tee shirts will be produced by A1 Embroidery in Petone who will use AS Colour Staple Tee-5001 shirts. The shirts are available in sizes XS to 3XL. You can visit the AS Colour website to check out sizing.
- For the purposes of the centenary weekend, if you are attending, it is suggested you buy one size larger than normal so the tee shirt can be worn over ski gear to generally let mountain people know what is going on.
- Tee shirts are \$35 each and can be purchased by people not attending the centenary weekend. For those attending the weekend the shirts will be available for pick up at the lodge.

ORDER FORM	
Name:	
Number of shirts:	
SHIRT (number)	SIZE (XS to 3 XL)

Please complete the order form, scan and return to Emma Dobbie at [cocoblu68@gmail.com](mailto:cocoblu68@gmail.com) by Friday 4 August.

Payment can be made to the Ruapehu Lodge bank account 03 0543 0036501 03. Please make the reference 'tee shirts'. Payments should be received by 11 August.

*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.*