



Hills & Valleys

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE HUTT VALLEY TRAMPING CLUB (Inc)



Weather Change

Photo: Gavin Watson

Please submit your **October 2018** H&V articles to the editor by **28th September 2018**

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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

5 September – Hidden New Zealand.

A film chosen to highlight our beautiful New Zealand scenery, outdoor activities and native flora and fauna.

12 September – Open Night

Bring along images from your outdoor activities and trips. Please restrict the number you show in consideration of others.

19 September : Rene Davies – A Taste of Self-Guided Walking in Japan .

Fancy a tramping trip along ancient, mountainous pilgrimage trails, pausing by shrines deep in the forest and staying in Japanese inns, where the weary walker can soak in a hot bath or *onsen* before partaking in a traditional Japanese evening meal. Rene will share the highlights of three self-guided walking tours, completed in March, on the Island of Honshu covering sections of the Kumano Kodo and Nakasendo Trails, and the Ancient Capitals tour, incorporating Asuka, Nara and Kyoto.

26 September : John Simes – The Raukumara Christmas trip 1984

John will revisit a 1984 club Christmas trip to the Raukumara Peninsula, an area we have seldom been to. Come and see how short the shorts were in those days and where the party of 11 got to. They started close to Mount Hikurangi, went west to the Motu River and then wended their way North into the head of the Raukokere River and finally out to the Hikurangi base. John will use modern technology courtesy of Google Earth to make this trip from the dark ages a thoroughly modern talk.

3 October : Graeme Lythgoe – South East Asia

Last year Graeme, together with Michele and two others, visited five countries in SE Asia. The first was a re-visit to Burma after a 37 year gap, then Chang Mai (Thailand), Luang Prabang (Laos), and the length of Vietnam before finishing at Siem Reap in Cambodia. Graeme will talk about these places and show images of their trip.



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.

SEPTEMBER			
Sat tba		Days Bay – Baring Head	Phaedra Upton 021 023 26726
7 – 9 TARARUA FOREST PARK: Putara			
	T2+	Dundas Loop	Keith Thomas 027 535 6176
Sun 9	D1	Southern Walkway	Kate Livingston 021 073 1953
14 – 16 TARARUA FOREST PARK: Kiriwhakapa			
	T1+	Cow Creek Hut	Kate Livingston 021 073 1953
Sun 16	D1	Skerrets Crk.-Nikau Crk	Phaedra Upton 021-0232-6726
21 – 23 RIMUTAKA FOREST PARK: Catchpool			
	T1	Papatahi Hut (booking required)	
Sun 23	D1	McKerrow-Middle Ridge	Jim Cousins 586 2135
28 – 30 WHANGANUI: Waitotara Valley			
	T1	Trains hut	Andrew Robinson 586 2438
Sun 30	D1	Red Rocks	Dennis Page 970-6901
OCTOBER			
Sat tba		Around Lake Wairarapa	John Smeith 586-2704
1 – 5 Ruapehu - School Holidays - Week 1			
5 – 7			
	T1	<i>Leaders required</i>	
Sun 7	D1	Escarpment track	Alan Geeves 938 6074
8 – 12 Ruapehu - School Holidays - Week 2			
			Booking Officer 027 451 0415

UPCOMING EVENTS

RUAPEHU EVENTS 2018			
<i>In</i>	<i>Out</i>	<i>Event</i>	
Mon 01 Oct	Fri 05 Oct	October School Holiday week 1	<i>Contact Kate Brownsword 04 562 0177</i>
Mon 08 Oct	Fri 12 Oct	October School Holiday week 2	<i>Contact Booking Officer 027 451 0415</i>

OCTOBER SCHOOL HOLIDAYS (START 01 OCTOBER)

Ssssh don't tell anyone!

The best kept secret on the mountain

Bluebird days - and few people on the mountain. Families are thinking about summer sports and the child-free stay away because it's the holidays. For the last few years we've had a week or more of bluebird weather at this time and few queues.

Come and join us at the lodge with the best view and newest facilities.

School holidays 1st week : 1 - 5 October

a number of spaces still available

contact Kate Brownsword 562 0177 or 027 562 0177 or email the.brownswords@xtra.co.nz

School holidays 2nd week : 8 - 12 October

a number of spaces still available

contact the Booking Officer on 027 451 0415 or email sheldon.bruce@opus.co.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 below) then come on up.



Sheldon Bruce

Ruapehu Lodge Booking Officer

Phone: 5868961

Email: sheldon.bruce@opus.co.nz

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EKETAHUNA BIKE RIDE

23 - 25 NOVEMBER



We will be leading this weekend ride based at Eketahuna Inn and would like names of people to fill the 18 beds - 2 twin and 7 double - which have been pre-booked. There are 2 day rides planned in the area and there is the option of a visit to the local cheesemaker and model railway.

Helen Lukes and Paul Haines

email helen.weaves@gmail.com

ph 589 7484

NEW CLUB SECRETARY

Thanks go to Murray Presland, who has taken on the role of secretary for the General Committee. The committee is very grateful to Murray for contributing to the smooth running of the club.

His contact address is secretary@hvtc.org.nz

A NEW HVTC FACEBOOK PAGE



We've launched a new Hutt Valley Tramping Club [Facebook page](#) that's open to all Facebook users.

The page will be listing club nights, other events and trip photos to show people what we're up to. We hope it will encourage people who are interested in joining the club to come and meet us.

The page is separate from the club's Facebook group, which is purely for members and former members.

We will make sure that anyone in photos posted to the new public page gives their permission for them to be used.

Please contact the page administrators, Marina Skinner and Phaedra Upton, if you have photos or trip news you'd like to share beyond club circles.

And please help us spread the word about the club by liking our [new page](#).

Thanks for your help.

Marina Skinner

2018 CLUB PHOTO COMPETITION RESULTS

Congratulations and many thanks to all those members who submitted images – there were 137 of them, a huge task for the judge, Tim McMahon of the Wairarapa Camera Club, to assimilate! He was very enthusiastic about the high standard of the images, but also gave many helpful suggestions. In addition, thanks go to Murray Presland for collecting and collating the entries and forwarding them to Tim in good time.

For entry into the FMC Photographic Competition:

A ABOVE THE BUSHLINE (with no human element)

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | <i>Weather Change</i> | – Gavin Watson | |
| 2 | <i>Golden Morning</i> | – Ian McIlraith | |
| | Commended : | <i>Dragon's Teeth</i> | – Ian McIlraith |

B ABOVE THE BUSHLINE (with a human element)

- | | | | |
|---|------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | <i>Destination uncertain</i> | – Nick McBride | |
| 2 | <i>Breasting the slope</i> | – Ian McIlraith | |
| | Commended : | <i>Not lost, yet</i> | – Jan Arts |
| | | <i>Trampers against the wind</i> | – Derek Richardson |

C BELOW THE BUSHLINE (with no human element)

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | <i>Colours of the Earth</i> | – Gavin Watson | |
| 2 | <i>Into the light</i> | – Jan Arts | |
| | Commended : | <i>Lake Stanley</i> | – Ian McIlraith |
| | | <i>Nature's Ramparts</i> | – Neil Hickman |
| | | <i>Baring Head</i> | – Geoff Norton |

D BELOW THE BUSHLINE (with a human element)

- 1 *Camp at Soper Shelter* – Ian McIlraith
 2 *A really, really hot day in the Cobb Valley* – Michele Lythgoe

Commended : *Misty Path* – Pat Tristram

E HISTORIC

- 1 *Cupola Met Station, September 1964* – John Flux
 2 *Dart Hut, Christmas 1965* – Graeme Lythgoe

F NATIVE FLORA AND FAUNA

- 1 *Cheeky!* – Ian McIlraith
 2 *Okay - your tern* – Gavin Watson

Commended : *New Zealand dotterel* – John Flux
Gametophytes and sporophytes – Ian McIlraith

HVTC Trophies were awarded as follows:

SCENIC: from FMC Sections A, B, C, D *Weather Change* – Gavin Watson

NATURAL HISTORY: *Cheeky!* – Ian McIlraith

TOPICAL: *Uh...Oh...* – Nick McBride

Commended : *Running Repairs* – John Flux
Up and down, again – John Flux

PERSONALITY: *Jan and Friend* – Ian McIlraith
 Commended : *New Zealand Geographic – why do you ask?* – Ian McIlraith

OVERSEAS: *Hampi Sadu* – Ian McIlraith
 Commended : *Tenacious colour at 5000m, Nepal* – Phaedra Upton
Kerala Fishermen – Ian McIlraith
Quiet grazing, Dolpo, Nepal – Phaedra Upton
Storm Cloud, Nandi, Fiji – Sharman Robinson
Rural Myanmar – Michele Lythgoe
Marigold Compost, Goa – Ian McIlraith
Indian Tea – Ian McIlraith

NOVICE: *Colours of the Earth* – Gavin Watson
 Commended : *Sea Surge* – Gavin Watson
Destination uncertain – Nick McBride
Bunnies at Sunset – Gavin Watson

Tim, and we, offer our congratulations to all of these entrants, plus our thanks to Tim for his generous and helpful commentary.

Helix Lakes - for the Social Committee

HVTC OPEN NIGHT FOR NEW MEMBERS

HVTC will hold an open night on Wednesday, 31 October, at the clubrooms for people interested in joining the club.

The evening will include an expo-style format, where newcomers can see outdoor-related demonstrations – for instance, cooking delicious dehydrated meals, gear packing and first aid – and chat to members. We'll also show some slides to give potential new members an idea of the terrific places our club trips could take them to.

If you're interested in helping to plan or participate in the open night, please contact Marina Skinner at marinaskinner@xtra.co.nz or 021792260. She'd love to have help with this event, which we hope will attract new members to the club.

CAR ROOF RACK FOR SALE



Sportrack roof rack, for skis, and other long objects.

As new, used once, not likely to be used again.

Dimensions: 1.5m X 1m X 40cm deep. \$100 ono (or other offer).

Arnold Heine 562 8833 or email janheine@xtra.co.nz

TRIP REPORT

ROARING STAG HUT - TARARUA FOREST PARK

14-15 July

Irene Davies

Our party of four set off from Lower Hutt at 8.30 am on Saturday for our mid winter's walk to Roaring Stag Hut. Our leader, Dennis Page, had enticed us to come with promises of a Bambi Stew on Saturday night. While Dennis and Graham White had been to this hut before it was a first visit for Keith Thomas and me.

The original Roaring Stag Hut was built by members of the New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association over four years and was completed in 1963. The hut has been popular with hunters for decades. In 2005 the Association in partnership with DOC, replaced the old hut (by then called Squeaky Rat Hut) with a modern new design. The hut is set in lush bush dominated by northern Rata in the north-eastern Tararua Range. (Source: S.Barnett, R.Brown, G. Spearpoint, "A Bunk for the Night" Potton and Burton, 2016.)

The weather forecast promised us fine weather on Saturday with conditions deteriorating with rain on Sunday. It was quite overcast when we left Lower Hutt but the clouds were beginning to disperse when we reached Carterton. The mood of the party lifted accordingly and even more so when Dennis agreed that we could stop for coffee *en route*. After some discussion we agreed to stop at the Clareville Bakery outside Carterton. Upon sampling the bakery's delicious fare we were on our way.

We arrived at the Putara Road end, the starting point, at 10.45 am and set off at 11.10 am. (NB I was going to say we set off without further ado but the GPS suggests that there was quite a bit of 'ado' before we left.) There were about five cars at the start and we were unsure if there would be spare bunks in the hut. The first part of the trip is a pleasant walk on a track alongside the Mangatainoka River which took less than an hour. After crossing a second swing bridge the track rises quite steeply to the top of the ridge where we stopped for lunch at 1.00 pm.

Although it was a fine, still, sunny day the forest through which we tramped was eerily silent. Perhaps there was the odd twitter of a bird but if so it was barely noticeable. We wondered if the seeming lack of bait stations was a contributing factor to the absence of birds.

From the saddle the track descends quite gently, apart from a short steep section at the end, to the Ruamahanga River and Roaring Stag Hut. We arrived at the hut at 3.55 pm. There were only two hunters in residence when we arrived. However, a party of five trampers arrived just as it was getting dark. So we had 11 people in this twelve bunk hut and with the wood fire burning it was quite cosy.



For our mid-winter treat we had Dennis' Bambi stew which was the *pièce de résistance*. It had been cooked in red wine with spices and was mouth wateringly tender. His Bambi stews are not to be missed even if they do involve a 4-5 hour tramp beforehand. Since I'd carried in masses of milk powder Graham and Keith excelled themselves by making super rich chocolate mousses for dessert.

As forecast, Sunday dawned looking overcast and threatening. With heavy rain expected later in the day we decided to head back rather than spend time looking for the hidden lake. It was an easy ascent back to the top of the ridge. We had lunch beside the Mangatainoka River just before we reached the car at 1.45 pm – thus concluding a most enjoyable and one could say gourmet tramp.

My thanks to my much faster tramping companions who had to slow down for me.

Our party comprised: Dennis Page, Leader, Graham White, Keith Thomas and Irene Davies.

Irene



Quiet grazing

Phaedra Upton



Destination uncertain

Nick McBride

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