



'Ready for Landing' by Kirsten Reid

Winner – FMC Category, Above Bushline with Human Element

Winner – HVTC Scenic Cup

Winner – HVTC Novice Trophy

Please submit your **November 2020** H&V articles to the editor by **31st October 2020**

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the-bruce@xtra.co.nz



CLUB NIGHT PROGRAMME

Starts 8.00 pm promptly



7 October : Melissa Clarke and Emma Dobbie – Machu Picchu/Bolivia

Our Intrepid Journey on a well worn tourist path in South America - Come and hear some of the highlights of Melissa Clark and Emma Dobbie's trip in 2018 - celebrating a big birthday. .

14 October : Andrew Robinson – Ambulances and Cliffs

Whether there's a fence at the top of a cliff or not, sometimes you have to call an ambulance. Andrew Robinson has been on his fair share of club trips that have had a SAR callout and will share some insights on what happens once a callout is made. There may be time to talk about fences at the top of cliffs as well.

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

21 October : Peggy Munn – Lathrop/Zit trip – NZ's West Coast

In March 2019 six members of the Tararua Tramping Club headed down to the West Coast hoping to do the Lathrop Saddle/Zit Saddle crossings. The weather was dodgy and we got a bit hungry.

28 October : Ross Jamieson – Matiu/Somes Island

San Francisco has Alcatraz, Sydney its Cockatoo and Fort Denison Islands and New York, Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty. However, none of these are capital city harbours, nor have Matiu/Somes's extraordinary speckled presence in the tale of its surrounds.

Wellington's has no better place to centre its story than Matiu/Somes. Maori folk lore, Pa's and middens; immigration, delousing, navigation, pandemic hospital; WW I, and WW II prison, gun emplacements; woman's liberation in the Armed Forces; secret military research, seismic events; animal quarantine; hostage and leper detention; native plant restoration, endangered insect, reptile and bird recovery; and Iwi ownership with State stewardship.

4 November : John Featherstone– Trekking, Climbing and Skiing in USA

John Featherstone joined the HVTC in 1963 and was active as a trumper, climber and officer of the club until he moved to the US in 1980. He will present some of the highlights of his trekking, climbing and skiing adventures over the last 40 years in the US, Canada, Switzerland, Peru, Egypt, Italy and Nepal. This meeting will be via Zoom.



FORTHCOMING TRIPS



TRIP CATEGORIES

Tramping

D Day walk or evening stroll

T Overnight or longer tramp

 Dog Friendly

Grade 1 Relaxed pace with plenty of rest stops. All terrain types may be encountered, occasionally off-track. Duration depends on the terrain and conditions, but is usually for no more than 6 hours per day.

Grade 2 Steady walking pace with regular snack and drink breaks. Terrain may vary from flat river valleys to ridges above the bush line. Off-track travel may be involved. Up to 8 hours walking time per day, depending on conditions.

Grade 3 Brisk pace with few drink and snack breaks. Terrain encountered is as for grade 2 trips but the distance travelled is usually much further. More than 8 hours walking time per day.

Family Family trip. Very relaxed pace with plenty of rest stops. Suitable for small children.

WP Working Party. Overnight or for a day. Voluntary work on HVTC Ruapehu Lodge or a conservation project.

Cycling (helmet essential)



Very Easy. Smooth surface, broad track, basically flat. Any bike will do.



Easy. Quiet roads and/or smooth gravel tracks; occasional hills. Medium to wide-tired bike recommended.



Intermediate: Usually includes off-road sections that may be rough and/or narrow; good-sized hills. Mountain bike recommended.



Advanced: Off-road on loose surfaces, steep climbs, lots of obstacles. Mountain bike necessary.

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.

OCTOBER

10 – 11

MATUI SOMES/TARARUA F P – WAIOHINE

WP	Matiu Somes Work Party (max 8)	Jan Heine	562 8833
T1	Tutuwai Hut	Murray Presland	562 8194

Sun 11

D1-	Mt Kaukau		
D1+	Skyline Walk: Mt Kaukau - Karori	Tony & Jo	021 228 4430

Tue 13

	Eastbourne to Baring Head	Tony Birtwhistle	021 228 4430
	Belmont RP Hill Road	Paul Labett	027 344 2906

Thur 15

	Greytown - Gladstone	Graeme Lythgoe	479 6630
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17 – 18

ELECTION SAT/DAY WALKS SUN

Sun 18

D1-	Hutt River Ramble		
D1+	Our lockdown walk	Murray McMillan	569 9019

Tue 20

	Belmont Domain Southwards	Michael Grace	021 150 0012
	Cannon Point	TBC	
		Phaedra Upton	021 023 26726

24 – 26

LABOUR WEEKEND

22 – 27

T1	Abel Tasman Inland Track	Chris McMillan	569 9019
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22 – 28

T2+	Richmond Ranges Alpine Route	Nick McBride	021 410 551
Cli	Rainbow Valley	Murray Presland	562 8194

Sun 25

D1	Trips wanted for each day of Labour Weekend		
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Tue 27

	Melling – Waiwhetu Stream	Pat Tristram	569 6705
	Blue Mountain Circuit (anticlockwise)	Graeme Lythgoe	027 430 0492

31 – 1

DAY WALKS

Sat or Sun

D1+	Puke Ariki Traverse		
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NOVEMBER

Tue 3

	County Lane Explore Silverstream	Jackie West	027 473 9199
	Belmont – Hill Road – Regional Park	Phaedra Upton	021 0232 6726

Thur 5

	Makara Circuit	Graeme Lythgoe	479 6630
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7 – 8

AORANGI FOREST PARK – Pinnacles

T1	Pinnacles - Washpool		
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6 – 8

T2	Aorangi Crossing	Andrew Robinson	586 2438
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Sun 8

D1	Remutaka FP off track adventure	Marina Skinner / Jim Cousins	586 2135
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Appreciation for our Trip Leaders

A huge thanks to Jim Cousins, Chris Mc, Martin Watson, Emma Dobbie, Andrew Robinson (2), Michele Lythgoe, Nick McBride, Tania Hatfield (2), John Evans, Leena, John Smeith & Phaedra Upton for organising and leading trips during the period 28 August – 30 September and to Mike Wespel-Rose, Helen & Paul, Andrew Robinson & Julie Lewis who would have if they could have.

Summer Trip Schedule

Thanks to the many members who have volunteered to lead/organise trips and to offer Instruction. There is a good range of activity available to suit all.

If you would like to volunteer to lead a trip that is listed without a leader or if you wish to offer any alternative or additional trips please contact me.

Organisers/leaders are wanted for: Sun 11/10 Short walk suggested is Mt Kaukau; Sun 18/10 Short walk suggested is Hutt River Ramble; Labour Weekend walks and/or rides on each day; Sat 31/10 or Sun1/11 day walk suggested is Puke Ariki Traverse. Please contact Trip Coordinator.

Chris McMillan

tripcoordinator@hvtc.org.nz

UPCOMING EVENTS

SALES TABLE

14 October

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 you vegetable garden. Everyone else bring some cash to purchase some goodies with.

HVTC PHOTO COMPETITION 2020 WINNERS AND RUNNERS-UP



Thank you to all those who made the time and effort to submit entries for the 2020 HVTC photo competition. There was a bumper turnout of 120 images from 22 photographers. Well done! The competition was presented by Zoom on September 2. The reversion to Covid Level 2 dictated this format if the club was to meet the deadline for the FMC competition.

Thank you also to Neil Hickman, his daughter Louise and Murray Presland for their assistance in scanning some of the historic entries. Murray also helped the judge with the Zoom presentation. I appreciated the willing assistance of the rest of the Social Committee with tasks such as collecting entries, collecting the cups from last year's winners and cleaning and engraving them, providing publicity and purchasing the prizes, as well as providing valuable feedback on the format of the competition and prize giving. Thank you, team.

Finally, thank you Andrew Fisher for judging the competition, a much bigger task than anticipated because of the volume of entries and coping with the difficulties presented by the shut-down.

The winning and runner-up entries listed below will be available soon under Photographs on the club website <http://hvtc.org.nz/joomla/index.php/en/> . First and second places in the FMC categories A-G qualified for entry to the nationwide FMC competition.

With the strong core of excellent photographers in the club, it was pleasing to see that new talent is emerging, with the winner of the Novice Competition featuring in the open categories as well.

Congratulations to all of you.

FMC Category A - Above Bushline No Human Element

No award

FMC Category B – Above Bushline with Human Element

1st place - Kirsten Reid - Ready for Landing

2nd place - Abigail Brownsword - Three Ski

FMC Category C – Below Bushline No Human Element

1st place - John Flux - Manakau - Seaward Kaikouras

2nd place - Andrew Robinson - Sand Sculpture

FMC Category D – Below Bushline with Human Element

1st place - Derek Richardson - Lake Kaniere

2nd place - Abigail Brownsword - Fern Walkway

Scenic Cup - best of categories A-D

Kirsten Reid - Ready for landing

FMC Category E – Historic

1st place - Phil Rundle - PVC Rules

2nd place - Graeme Lythgoe - Flora Hut 1965

FMC Category F – Native Flora and Fauna (HVTC Natural History Trophy)

1st place - Abigail Brownsword - Lancewood Silhouette

2nd place - John Flux - Red crown parakeet

FMC Category G – Long Exposure

No entries

Category H – HVTC Topical Trophy

1st place - Jeanette Rybinski - Enclosed view

2nd place - Derek Richardson - This way to nowhere

Category I – HVTC Personality Trophy

1st place - Jeanette Rybinski - Mischief written all over him

2nd place - John Flux - Hey! You'll break it

Category J – HVTC Overseas Trophy

1st place - Phaedra Upton - Pack Animals Bhutan

2nd place - David Barnes - Elephant Seals, Maquarie Island

Category K – HVTC Novice Trophy

1st place - Kirsten Reid - Ready for Landing

2nd place - Jeanette Rybinski - Nepal wonder

Graeme McVerry

Social Committee

Bequest of Don Millward: Hutt Valley Tramping Club has recently received a very generous bequest from the estate of Don Millward, who died in December 2019. Don, who will be remembered with affection, awe and gratitude by many members, had been a member of the Club since 1949 and was elected a Life Member in 1982. In addition to a generous sum Don has gifted his photo albums, adding to the archive of Club activities over his long membership, and also two books from his collection that will be of interest to HVTC members: The Mt Hector Memorial Cross and the Tararua Peaks Chain Ladder (both authored by Peter Jagger and now deposited in the HVTC library). Our gratitude for these gifts has been conveyed to Don's family.

Greater Wellington Regional Parks Management Plan: The Wellington Regional Council began a review of all the Regional Parks it manages in 2018. A Draft Plan covers management of Akatarawa Forest, Battle Hill Farm Park, Belmont Regional Park, East Harbour Regional Park including Parangahau Lakes and Baring Head, Kaitoke Regional Park, Pakuratahi Forest, Queen Elizabeth Park and the Wainuiomata Recreation Area for the ten years 2020-2030. A summary flyer and copies of the full plan can be found at local Libraries or downloaded from <https://haveyoursay.gw.govt.nz/parksplan> (the complete plan is a big document – 275 pages!) Our Club intends commenting on those aspects of the plan that directly impinge on our activities. Your input to the comments is welcome. Dennis and John Simes have undertaken to review the section dealing with Belmont Regional Park; Murray with the section on East Harbour Regional Park; John Evans with the section on Kaitoke Regional Park. You may contact them with your views, or undertake to review parts of the plan dealing with areas you are knowledgeable about. Submissions on the Plan close on 23rd October.

Activity Survey: During 17-30 August the Club ran an internet survey of members' views on the activities the Club offers. We appreciate greatly the responses received from 84 members. These are being assimilated by the Trip Co-ordinator and the Membership Committee to ensure that the presentation and range of activities offered meet members' expectations. There is much interesting information amongst the results, some of which is tabulated below. You are welcome to ask for a full copy of the survey.

Q1 Which types of activity would you do with HVTC in the next 12 months?

Answered: 84 Skipped: 0

day tramp	78.6 %
tramping	76.2 %
rock climbing	6.0 %
camping	33.3 %
skiing/snowboarding	25.0 %
biking on country roads and paths	53.6 %
mountain biking on single track	34.5 %
bike packing	22.6 %
mountain climbing	11.9 %
river gorge tubing	27.4 %
working bees with good access	51.2 %
not active in club trips in the coming year	3.6 %

Q2 Where do you want to go with the club?

Answered: 82 Skipped: 2

locally but off track	69.5 %
outside the region	68.3 %
South Island	57.3 %

backcountry trips that I would not do by myself	70.7 %
tourist spots without the tourists	36.6 %
easy trips on well-formed tracks	42.7 %
scenic without big hills	26.8 %
explore Wilderness Areas, without huts	30.5 %
same as usual	26.8 %

Q5 I'm looking for trips that are graded...

Answered: 78 Skipped: 6

	Easy (eg T1)	Easy – Medium (T1+)	Intermediate (eg T2)	Fit (eg T3)
day tramps	16.4 %	50.8 %	31.3 %	1.5 %
tramping	17.5 %	44.4 %	33.3 %	4.8 %
biking	31.4 %	29.4%	29.4 %	9.8 %

Q6 Are the trips offered by the club long enough?

Answered: 72 Skipped: 12

Yes, what's offered suit me	73.6 %
Some weekend trips should be 2 nights	36.1 %
More trips of medium length (3-4 nights) please	22.2 %
More long trips - a week or more, 3-4 times a year	16.7 %

Q8 Do you want more tramping trips offered on weekdays (Monday to Friday)?

Answered: 78 Skipped: 6

Both day and overnight tramps	28.2 %
Overnight tramp only	2.6 %
Day tramp only	20.5 %
No	21.8 %
Not applicable	26.9 %

Q12 Would you participate in any of the following outdoor skills training in the next 12 months if the club organised it?

Answered: 46 Skipped: 38

first aid	54.4 %
on road bike skills	26.1 %
mountain bike skills	26.1 %
river crossing	37.0 %
bushcraft and navigation	54.4 %
above the bushline	37.0 %
leadership and decision-making on trips	30.4 %
the club van - driver familiarisation session	26.1 %

Q14 The club communicates about trips in a variety of ways. Select those you use most regularly.

Answered: 81 Skipped: 3

Trip schedule card	54.3 %
Trip schedule on HVTC website	29.6 %
E-mails	92.6 %
Newsletter - Hills &Valleys	63.0 %
Facebook	8.6 %
Announcements at clubnights	33.3 %

Q17 What do you value most about HVTC trips? Tick the ones that you like.

Answered: 78 Skipped: 6

Good company	89.7 %
Expertise of experienced participants and opportunity to learn	65.4 %
Quality conversations	39.7 %
Well planned trips	66.7 %
Safety systems for emergencies are built in	47.4 %
Cost effective	52.6 %
Shared transport/ driving	59.0 %
Interesting locations	79.5 %
Cancelled if wet	23.1 %

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

Murray Presland (secretary@hvtc.org.nz)

TRIP REPORTS

WELLINGTON CITY SCULPTURE WALK

Sunday 6 September 2020

Graeme Lythgoe

Eighteen of us braved an unkind forecast to take a short tour to view and learn about some of the Capital's sculpture works. However the weather stayed fine (though very windy) until the end and everyone agreed they had learned of art works that they did not realise existed or had not noticed before.

Starting at the Railway station our route took us along the water front and then across to the Civic Centre where we had lunch. Then it was back along Willis Street and the Golden Mile. In all we viewed and were told about **19** sculptures.

The by now, more enlightened viewers were:

Anja and Maarten Vink, Bruce Miller, Kath Hollis, Helen Lukes and Paul Haines, Pauline Prendergast, Charlotte and Nicholas Hargreaves, Julie Lewis, Marilyn Sickels, Sandra Pearce and Michael Grace, Murray Presland, Jean Cookson, John Smeith, Graeme and Michele Lythgoe (leader).



Looking at the statue of Kupe

Photo: Jean Cookson

Graeme

WINTER TONGARIRO CROSSING

11 - 13 SEPTEMBER 2020

Nick McBride

A winter Tongariro crossing is, in my experience, more interesting than the mega-popular summer crossing and a great introduction to easy alpine tramping.

Having led trips on that route in 2017 and 2018 (no trip in 2019 while I recovered from knee surgery), I decided on a variation in 2020 which was to ascend Mt Tongariro itself and then drop down the other side to take the Hardman's ridge back to Mangatepopo car park where we had started.

On Friday evening everyone turned up in time, but we were 40 minutes delayed in heading out because of a green Jaguar car parked in front of the garage door. Doc Watson (who turned up at the club to do some maintenance) and I surveyed the neighbours who were unable to help. Nor could we find a towing company prepared to remove the car. One we called does not do that kind of business and the other said we need a pre-existing service contract and a warning sign before we could act. We also tried the City Council, who sent two parking attendants down to check it out, one who was very grumpy at being called out so close to C.O.B at the end of the week. After a lengthy call back to his boss, it was determined the Council could not help because the car was not on Council land. We pointed out that the Council was our landlord so in fact the car was on Council land, but this was to no avail.

Finally, a man appeared from the nearby auto workshop and after declaring "I told him not to park there" drove the car away so we could finally get on our way. Unfortunately the long delay meant we ran into the notorious bottleneck before Pukerua Bay that we might otherwise have avoided if we got away in time.

We arrived at Mangatepopo Hut at midnight and it was already full with skiers and others, who were not too excited about finding space for us. It was a very windy night, which made for a disturbed night's sleep in the crowded hut.

In the morning, we found fresh and very dry and powdery snow lightly covering the valley. After dropping our overnight belongings into the van, we headed off on the Tongariro Crossing route. It was very windy but otherwise bright and clear.

After crossing the dramatic south crater, it was time for crampons as we climbed out of it. There were plenty of other trampers, but unsurprisingly, compared to other years, many fewer overseas tourists. We did meet one stylish dressed Frenchman above the South Crater, who admitted his footwear may not be the most appropriate.

DoC has removed the sign to the Tongariro ridge and summit, and we had noticed earlier that the sign to the Ngauruhoe summit was also removed. This is to discourage climbers from ascending the summits, after appeals from local iwi to respect the upoko (i.e. head) that the summit represents.

Despite the sign to the Tongariro summit being knocked down, it is very clear which way to go, and a few other trampers had already headed that way as well, not that the very icy surface left any footprints to follow. Showing respect to the guidelines we headed up the ridge but stopped just short of the upoko. While it may be an understandably sensitive issue for many trampers who aim for peak-bagging, our party did not feel that our journey was harmed by stopping short of the summit itself (at the point marked 1961m on the topomap). We were able to take in the

magnificent views of the surrounding summits and could look out to all the major neighbouring ranges (as far as the Ruahine range, and Taranaki Maunga).



The way back involved heading north to drop off Tongariro before heading south-west and then west along the Hardman's ridge, until just short of Mangatepopop Hut, when we descend the ridge. A track could occasionally be discerned through the volcanic rock and soft-soil terrain. By the time we returned to the Mangatepopo valley the light snow that I mentioned earlier had melted.

At seven hours at moderate pace, with a few rests, this was not a long expedition, but was a great winter tramping experience and a good way to gain easy experience using crampons.

Saturday night was spent in comfort at the lodge. Many thanks to Inge who had prepared the evening meal. The snow around the lodge and Top of the Bruce was the lightest I have ever seen in that time of the year. At the lodge, Natalia found some old Club journals that had reports of trips she had joined back in the 1990s taking in major alpine terrain in the South Island. I had clearly underestimated her experience prior to setting out on this trip!

The following day we took in a walk to Taranaki falls before leaving the mountain at midday and arriving back in the Hutt Valley in good time.

Thanks to those who joined me on the trip and made it such a success: Pia Garces, Natalia Levine, Mark Mills, Marina Smith.

Nick



Lancewood silhouette

WAITEWAEWAE HUT GRADE 1 TRIP.

18 to 20 September 2020

A bit more than we bargained for...

Sharman Robinson and Tania Hatfield

Sharman

It should have been straightforward. Our party had left Lower Hutt on Friday night and stayed at Parawai Lodge, the only people in this very clean and well-groomed hut, when the talk in the hut shifted to talk of a rat problem, there were some creative ways of ensuring that our food remained our food.

... we left at roughly 7.45 am to walk to Waetewaiwai Hut....

It should, I repeat, have been straightforward.

But there is an alternative track that avoids a rather large, previously perilous but passable historic slip. A sign suggested this alternative track would only add another hour to the trip....

We learned to be a little suspicious of the times on the signs.

I remember the trip to the hut being long but not unpleasant.... Just a bit of a slog...and something about around 5 hours...

It would take us 8 and a half hours.

We were a party of eight, so that always takes a little longer than a smaller party, and we did attempt to stay together and that slows down the faster trampers but also means more rest stops....what we didn't account for was the constantly upward yet undulating nature of this detour, and the degree of water and windfall on the track with more streams to cross than I remember. The plateau whose name suggested some reprieve I renamed the bog.... Counting the number of obstructions on the track on the way out we got up to 76 or was it 78.... All in all, a lot. All of which required that we either clamber around, or under or over.... At least one required taking off our packs.

When we had the choice of dropping into the Otaki River close to the hut (the DOC sign said 20 mins) or sidling above and alongside the river for the last segment (30 mins) we chose the sidle. We dribbled into the hut from around 4 pm ish...cold and tired.... And heartily happy to be in a large warm and dry hut.

What a difference a moment makes.

With the party in the hut and settling in, I was startled by a cry. I looked up to see Tania drop her burning cooker on the floor, There was a stunned moment - a lot of activity - a whoosh of flames in the middle of the hut... I'm not quite clear what happened first or next, but water spread the flames...And the three sacrificed items of clothes only spread the flames as well. Sam had the presence of mind to say firmly, "No water. No water."

We needed something to damp the fire and suffocate the flame.... There was a polar fleece blanket, no.....clothing had already not worked that well...there truly was an absence of any really suitable material. Unsuitable would have to do. Metal....The billy was too small....and fire spilled out around the bottom.... The bucket beside the fire got upended and plonked on top of both the gas cylinder and flames... while it also did not fully enclose the fire, it proved enough for Sam to push it out of the hut, over the verandah and into the wet high grass around the hut...where the fire burned and extinguished. And we could breathe a sign of relief...

And then he cried that now we could throw water over the floor. And we did.... A lot

This may have taken only a moment of time, but it seemed to take longer....and now Tania could be attended to.... Seems she had been connecting her gas cylinder to the cooker and another cooker already lit and on the bench had set hers on fire. Had her gas cylinder been leaking? Had she been closer than she realised to the other cooker? How far can a flame jump from one cooker to another? We asked these question later....and none of us could answer them....

Tania was in shock with burns to her face and arm... She was sat down, - her burns were mopped with cold water continuously. The billy proved useful to catch the dripping water.

With an 8 and a half hour walk in, and the prospect of this on the walk out, the next decision was whether to activate the PLB.

Done....

PLB activated. Walking out with burns would not have been either fun or healing.

We waited for the flip flip of the chopper.

With the windows thrown open for ventilation and while attempting to sweep the water off the surprisingly unmarked floor and out of the hut, a solo tramper turned up and asked if we had had a flood.

Meanwhile Tania, supported, was moved away from the sleeping mats and the growing damp around the beds to the table..... She continued to have cold water applied to her burns, while others rounded up her belongings and packed them in preparation for the chopper. She was shaking, both from the shock and maybe from the cold.... And understandably was distressed but calm. Someone gave her some pain relief from the first aid kit.

By the time the chopper circled overhead her gear had been assembled.... She had been dressed in her jacket...

A paramedic was lowered on a line to a flattish area in front of the hut. And arrived like an angel with her calm presence and her supportive words. The burns to Tania's face were checked, asked whether she had had any medication and,. "Yes, you were right to call in the chopper." She would try and take out Tania's pack, and she and Tania would then be lifted up into the chopper. She needed someone to hold onto Tania (Clare stepped up) at the point that the line came down and while she was sorting out the gear. She gently talked to Tania explaining what they would be required to do.

And first the pack and then Tania and the paramedic together rose off the ground, and into the chopper and away they flew, the flip flip getting softer,,,,then disappearing... quiet...

Our party was now leaderless, van driverless, one cooker down and variations on stunned. About this time two beautiful and tired young Turkish women turned up at the hut...

All this took time so our delicious dinner might not have quite rehydrated to Clare's standards, and we needed to be circumspect about how much hot water we heated leaving enough gas for the morning. There was a bit of banter about how the chick peas could rehydrate inside us over the next 24 hours and fuel us up the hill. It helped once the fire in the fireplace began throwing out some heat. It was paradoxically hard to light, but by using pages from old FMC bulletins, and perseverance, we finally succeeded, heating us and drying out both our clothes and the hut.

The whole team was ready to leave the hut by 7.30 am the following day, sidling once again along the track above the hut.

The second day the weather was better, the track seemed faster. We got out in 7 hours....

So I am left with a few things from this weekend.

- Dealing quickly with a gas fire., and I see this as a club training issue. We all carry this kind of cooker nowadays, so knowing they are extinguished by removing the oxygen and not to use water on them is critical.
- The surprising lack of anything useful in the hut to extinguish this sort of fire easily....not true for all huts though, according to Doc Watson.... thank heavens for the good enough bucket although it did not fully cover the fire.
- How our light weight tramping gear synthetic or otherwise (at least two of the three items thrown on the flames were natural fabrics) was insufficient to suffocate a fire such as this.

- I've since bought a fire blanket for home use, and wonder if these might become party gear?? but they are not light.....
- I'm know I'm going to be scanning a hut for potential emergency resources from now on.

Sharman

Tania

I remember when starting to screw the cooker onto the full gas canister that lots of gas leaked out, far more leaking gas than I've ever seen before when assembling a cooker.

My big learning here is to **assemble cooker outside away from others**.

I wrote an incident report for the general committee and mentioned my ignorance of how to put out such fires. This is something I'd like to learn more about and I see it as a learning issue for the club.

I'm healing well, the burns were only superficial and no other side effects. The doctor in the E.D. said I was very lucky and I'm thanking my lucky stars for that.

Tania

Party: Tania Hatfield (leader), Murray McMillan, Anne Marie Kay, Belynda Jack, Sam Visvalingham, Rosie Doole, Clare Kelly, Sharman Robinson

WILDING PINES: THE WRONG TREE IN THE WRONG PLACE

Rowan Sprague, Coordinator of the New Zealand Wilding Conifer Group

Wilding pines are pine trees which have self-established where we do not want them to grow; they are the wrong tree in the wrong place. If unmanaged, wilding pines could spread to cover 25% of New Zealand's land area by 2050. About three-quarters of New Zealand's rare ecosystems, including alpine herb fields, coastal dunes, and wetlands, are threatened by the spread of wilding pines.

When wilding pines invade an area, they cause drastic changes in the ecosystem's soil nutrient cycling, hydrology (including water yields), and biodiversity. Wilding pines also have detrimental effects on the economy and production by invading valuable farmland.

Control of wilding pines has been going on for decades – often led by passionate volunteers keen to protect the natural environment from these invaders. Nowadays, control of wilding pines is ramping up across the country. In May this year, Central Government announced \$100 million towards wilding pine control over 4 years. When wilding pines are a massive issue across New Zealand, this money will go a long ways towards tackling wilding pines.



Wilding pines invading a geothermal ecosystem in the Waikato.

The New Zealand Wilding Conifer Group is an independent advocacy group working with communities to raise funds for and awareness of wilding pine control. We also facilitate information sharing about latest research and good practice. The New Zealand Wilding Conifer Group aims to represent all those involved in wilding pine control and research. Our members are government agencies, regional councils, community groups and trusts, landowners, and Crown research institutes.

For questions about wilding pines or the NZ Wilding Conifer Group, please contact Rowan Sprague, coordinator of the NZ Wilding Conifer Group at:
rowan@nzwildingconifergroup.org

If you'd like to sign up for our mailing list for our webinar series about wilding pines (we have one 30-minute webinar a month), please email:
webinars@nzwildingconifergroup.org



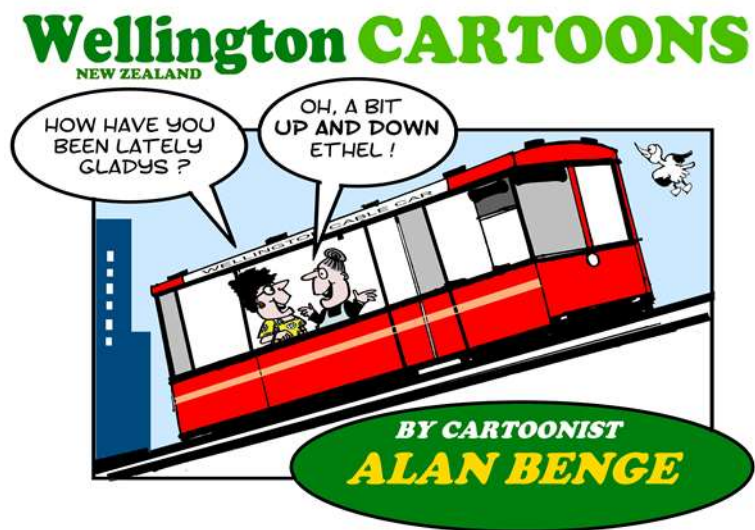
If you see a seedling wilding pine, try and pull it up!

If you are interested in where we know wilding pines are across New Zealand, please check out our public map [here](#). To take a photo and report a wilding pine you see, please use [iNaturalist](#). You'll need to create an account if you haven't already, and I find iNaturalist very easy to use – please email me if you have any questions!

Rowan

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Lake Kaniere

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