



*“Are we there yet?” by Chris Keen*

Winner – FMC Category Above the Bushline with Human Element

Winner – HVTC Scenic Cup

Please submit your **November 2023** H&V articles to the editor by **27<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

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## CLUB NIGHT PROGRAMME

Starts 7:30 pm promptly



### 4 October : Julie Lewis – Treasures, Artifacts, Memorabilia and Mystery Objects

You are invited bring along any artifacts or memorabilia, not necessarily related to tramping, with an interesting history, which you would be happy to share with us. Or, alternatively, any item you may have acquired, the origins of which may be a mystery to you. Hopefully someone may be able to tell us what it is, and a little bit about it.

### 11 October : Kate Brownsword – Ruapehu Lodge update.

A review of the season plus a look back at the building of the new bunk room

### 18 October : Les Molloy – Japan's natural World Heritage: part 2: the Ogasawara Islands and the Ryukyu Island chain

Les Molloy made about 10 visits to wild natural areas in Japan over the 25-year period from 1993 to 2018. Most of these trips were to evaluate Japan's nominations for natural World Heritage, or to advise the Japanese authorities on suitable WH candidates.

This second talk on his travels spans visits from 2006 to 2018 and will deal with the remote islands in the Ogasawara (Bonin) Islands chain, and the Ryukyu Islands (including Okinawa) which extend SE from mainland Japan almost to Taiwan. In addition to their outstanding natural values, both island chains were the sites of bloody battles in the Pacific in the latter stages of WWII – especially Iwo Jima and Okinawa..

### 25 October : John, Ian & Merryl – Remembering Doug

Up until his death in March 2020 Doug Flux was an active HVTC member – involved in climbing, caving, tramping, cycling, kayaking and river activities. Join John, Merryl and Ian for an evening celebrating Dougs' life through his own photographs – adventures within NZ and overseas....

### 1 November : Pete Smith – South American trips over many years

In January of this year Peter & Trish returned to South America for their son, Nigel's wedding in Chile and afterwards explored the Mt Fitzroy area of Argentina. Tonight they will look back on their four visits to South America over the past 46 years and reflect on the highlights of these adventures and look at some of the changes that have happened with travelling over that period.




## 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.

### OCTOBER

Tue 3	 / 	Hutt River Trail – joint ride	Gerard
7 – 8	T1	Cow Creek Hut	Mel
Sun 8	D1	Belmont Trig	
		Manual bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park	Leena
Tue 10		Avalon to Petone circuit	
14 – 15	T1	Maketawa Hut, Egmont National Park	
Sat 14	D1	Kowhai St - Middle Ridge loop	Murray McM
Sun 15		Manual bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park	Leena
Tue 17		Old Coach Road Circuit	Debbie
		Start with easy group branch off and do Bull Run trail.	
21 – 23	LABOUR WEEKEND		
	T1	Mitre Flats and Ascent of Mitre	
	T2	Tararua tramp – Northern Crossing	Nick

Sun 22	D2	Mid Turere Stream	Maarten
		Manual bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park	Leena
Tue 24		Wainuiomata exploration	
		Wainuiomata MTB Park	Debbie
Fri 27	Tramble	Waddington Winder – Te Whiti Riser	Doreen
Sun 29	D1	Cattle Ridge-Butcher-Orongorongo Track	Tony & Jo
		Manual bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park	Leena
Tue 31		County Lane, Buddhist Monastery	
		County Lane, Trentham memorial park, Burtons Bush and beyond	Paul L

## NOVEMBER

3 – 5



HVTC 100th Anniversary Event weekend

## FROM THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

October 2023

### INFORMATION FOR CLUB TRAMPING & MOUNTAINEERING TRIP LEADERS

This is a reminder about the importance of providing your trip plans to the Club's emergency contacts in case of an emergency.

As a rule- of- thumb, this includes all overnight and many day tramping trips.

We will endeavour to contact each trip leader ahead of time so you know who is the primary (rostered) emergency contact for the trip.

If your trip route is expected to have unreliable or no mobile phone coverage, you must carry a club PLB and tell us:

- your trip plans (starting & finishing locations and route)
- the name of each participant
- for any non- members, provide an address and the name & phone number of their next- of- kin

Please email your trip information to [emergencycontacts@hvtc.org.nz](mailto:emergencycontacts@hvtc.org.nz) - it will be forwarded automatically to all of us.

Our phone numbers are published on the trip list (available at <https://hvtc.org.nz/joomla/index.php/en/syllabus>). Please put them in your mobile phone contacts list.

We do appreciate receiving a text message to confirm your trip has finished safely.

For more detailed information on leading club trips, go to the "MORE INFO" tab in the club website.

From your emergency contacts:

Patrick Fotheringham  
Bob Deller  
Tony Jaegers

Dennis Page  
Sharman Robinson  
Jackie West

*Bob Deller*

For the General Committee



# CLUB CENTENARY



## H.V.T.C 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS PROGRAMME

This is an outline of the programme we have organized for the 100<sup>th</sup> Celebrations for those that have pre-registered to attend one or more of the scheduled events. Please note if you have not registered for the Friday and Saturday events, there is no further provision to accommodate additional people as event spaces, particularly those held indoors, are limited due to the carrying capacity of buildings, the need to finalise catering in advance, etc.

### **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov 2023. 5 pm – 8 pm. HVTC Clubrooms mixer and cocktails**

The first event of the celebrations is your chance to mingle over drinks and canapes and to start the reminiscing. For those that have pre-registered and sent in an image, the 'Rogues Gallery' slide show will be screening in two places for your viewing pleasure.

**Please note due to space considerations on the Friday evening, that the static photographic displays will be available for viewing on the Saturday afternoon event.**

### **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> Nov 2023. 2 pm – 4.30 pm. Afternoon Tea at the HVTC Clubrooms**

Official welcome and the cutting of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration cake. Plus, a bonus commemorative planting (TBC). Afternoon tea and coffee plus a selection of sweet slices, club sandwiches and sausage rolls will be provided. Static photo displays and decadal 'roll-over' slide show events (plus other special topics) also available for viewing.

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> Nov 2023. 5.30 pm: pre-dinner drinks and nibbles, ~6.30 pm, Celebratory Dinner (to 10 pm): The Kensington Room, Petone Working Men's Club, Udy Street, Petone.** Forget the Dehy and Mac Cheese we are dining in style at the PWMC. Come along and enjoy the company of old and new friends in a convivial setting. Smart Casual Dress Code required. Cost TBC but likely guide ~\$70 per person. Drinks PYO. **Note this event requires pre-registration and the dinner component to paid in advance (e-mail advice to be sent during October; payment may be non-refundable due to advanced catering requirements of PWMC).**

### **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2023. Bike and Tramping trips and BYO BBQ/Picnic Full details later but based at Kaitoke Regional Park.**

After all that eating and talking it will be great to get out in the outdoors and have some exercise and then to finish off the weekend with a BYO BBQ or picnic of your choice in the lovely bush surrounds at Kaitoke Regional Park. A BBQ shelter has been booked for exclusive HVTC use from 12 pm to 5 pm; some of the walking and biking events will start earlier in the morning (times and meeting points to be advised closer to the event).

*Dennis Page*

(for HVTC 100<sup>th</sup> planning sub-committee)

## CENTENNIAL PUBLICATION ORDERS OPEN

Please order your copy of our publication – *100 years 100 stories* – to celebrate our centenary.

It includes tales of southern crossings, searches and Sunday saunters. Andrew Robinson, Geoff Spearpoint, Murray Presland, David McQueen and Bernice Deller have scoured hundreds of issues of Hills & Valleys and other sources to select 100 stories, one for each year. There are trip reports, newspaper stories, diaries, dramas, some photos and a poem. It's a great way to learn something of the history of the club in easy bites.

The cost is \$20. The club has contributed a subsidy of \$10 to acknowledge the significance of the publication during our centenary year.

The publication will be available at the centenary celebration weekend on 3-5 November, or you can pick it up at the clubrooms afterwards. We can also post a copy. Postage within New Zealand is \$12.

We ask you to order and pay HVTC before the close-off date of Wednesday 11 October 2023.

To order:

1. Please email Pamela Campbell at [pamela.campbell@xtra.co.nz](mailto:pamela.campbell@xtra.co.nz) to request your publication/s. And let Pamela know if you will collect it at the centenary celebration, pick it up at the clubrooms afterwards, or would like it posted.
2. Pay \$20 to the HVTC bank account 03 0543 0036501 00 (General Account). When making your payment please include your name and "100th book" in the details.
3. Add \$12 to the cost if you would like it posted.

Thanks to Andrew, we have a wonderful memento of our club's history.

*Marina Skinner*  
President

## CENTENARY SCHOOL FUND UPDATE

HVTC has awarded three Hutt Valley secondary schools grants from the HVTC centenary school fund.

Wainuiomata High School, Taita College and Hutt Valley High School all received \$1,616 each.

We achieved a total of \$4,850 for the fund, including generous donations from club members and a \$2,000 contribution from HVTC funds.

The grants will be used for:

Wainuiomata High School

- Packs and tarpaulins to lend/use for camping and tramping trips
- Adrenaline forest activity as part of a student leadership course

Taita College

- Tramping clothing and equipment to loan to students for camping, tramping, mountain biking and rafting trips
- Year 10 trip in October 2023 to Waiohine Gorge for rafting and abseiling

## Hutt Valley High School

- Tents, stoves and other equipment for camps for year 9 students and senior PE and geography students

Club members also donated a large range of secondhand tramping clothing and equipment for Wainuiomata High School and Taita College.

All schools expressed their gratitude for the club's support for their students so they can more easily take part in outdoor recreation.

The teachers said they have students who can't afford to take part in tramping, camping and other outdoor activities. Some students don't join activities because they are embarrassed at not having the right clothing or equipment because their family budgets are too tight.

In HVTC's centenary year, I am proud to have shown our club's community leadership and spirit of service to the Hutt Valley.

We'll keep you updated as the schools report back on how they have spent their grants.

On behalf of the General Committee and the centenary school fund sub-committee (myself, Emma Dobbie, Kate Brownsword and Dennis Page), thank you very much for your donated funds and tramping gear to support a new generation of outdoor lovers.

*Marina Skinner*

President

## From Wainuiomata High School's newsletter



## Taita College students and principal Karen Morgan accept tramping gear donations



## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Please welcome new members: Ezra Gray  
Vijay Ahlawat  
James Thompson  
Louise Hickman  
Donald Treloar  
Kwai Chan.

We look forward to enjoying days in the hills with you.

*Doreen Courtenay*  
Membership Officer

## HVTC PHOTO COMPETITION 2023 WINNERS AND RUNNERS-UP

All of the entries in the Club's 2023 Photography Competition were displayed on the big screen at the Club meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> September. Geoff Marshall - a tramper, cyclist, photographer and photography tutor – was an ideal candidate to judge our competition; he gave a thoughtful commentary on each of the images offered. It was a huge task that we asked of him – and the photographers and the members present were grateful for his knowledgeable suggestions for creating winning images. Thank you, Geoff!

Images were offered by 15 Club members in 10 categories – 110 images in total!

Entrants: Andrew Robinson Anja van Kesteren Chris Keen Ian Flux  
Derek Richardson Geoff Wilkin John Flux Jan Arts  
John Rundle Maarten Vink Max Bruce Merryl Park  
Pat Tristram Paul Clark Phaedra Upton

Thank you, all, for offering your images for the judge's critical comment; they were a means for educating all of us in the arts of photography.

The following awards were conferred:

### FMC CATEGORIES:

#### **ABOVE THE BUSHLINE – no human element**

Winner	<b>Phaedra Upton</b>	<i>Lake Clearwater 1</i>
Runner-up	<b>Phaedra Upton</b>	<i>Lake Clearwater 2</i>

#### **ABOVE THE BUSHLINE – with human element**

Winner	<b>Chris Keen</b>	<i>Are we there yet?</i>
Runner-up	<b>Andrew Robinson</b>	<i>Hector Cross</i>

#### **BELOW THE BUSHLINE – no human element**

Winner	<b>Derek Richardson</b>	<i>Reaching Back in Agony</i>
Runner-up	<b>Jan Arts</b>	<i>Stream in Green</i>

#### **BELOW THE BUSHLINE – with human element**

Winner	<b>Derek Richardson</b>	<i>Winter Woodland Stroll</i>
Runner-up	<b>Maarten Vink</b>	<i>In Cloud Forest</i>

#### **NATIVE FLORA AND FAUNA (awarded HVTC NATURAL HISTORY Trophy)**

Winner	<b>Merryl Park</b>	<i>Miromiro – South Island Tomtit</i>
Runner-up	<b>Derek Richardson</b>	<i>North Island Robin</i>

#### **HISTORICAL – historical material; image taken prior to 2020 (awarded HVTC HISTORICAL Trophy)**

Winner	<b>Max Bruce</b>	<i>Bruce Family at Alex Bivvy, 1966</i>
Runner-up	<b>John Rundle</b>	<i>River Crossing Instruction, November 1964</i>

## **CLUB CATEGORIES:**

### **HVTC SCENIC Trophy - from amongst winners in the ABN, ABW, BBN and BBW categories**

Winner	<b>Chris Keen</b>	<i>Are we there yet?</i>
Runner-up	<b>Phaedra Upton</b>	<i>Lake Clearwater 1</i>

### **HVTC PERSONALITY Trophy - illustrates a character**

Winner	<b>Maarten Vink</b>	<i>Victory over the Contorta</i>
Runner-up	<b>John Flux</b>	<i>Climate-strike Recorder</i>

### **HVTC TOPICAL Trophy - tells a story**

Winner	<b>Maarten Vink</b>	<i>In the Turere Stream</i>
Runner-up	<b>Andrew Robinson</b>	<i>Mackintosh Hut</i>

### **HVTC NOVICE Trophy – for first-time exhibitors**

Winner	<b>Geoff Wilkin</b>	<i>Sand and Surf</i>
Runner-up	<b>Geoff Wilkin</b>	<i>Gentle Noises</i>

### **HVTC OVERSEAS Trophy – recent images from outside New Zealand**

Winner	<b>Phaedra Upton</b>	<i>Western Colorado</i>
Runner-up	<b>Maarten Vink</b>	<i>Tunnel Vision</i>

Extra congratulations to each of these photographers! These images (except for two that had been made earlier than the FMC Competition Rules allowed) have been submitted to the FMC 2023 Photographic Competition, the results of which will be published in the November edition of Backcountry2023 – look out for that!

A personal observation: We are, as trampers, climbers, skiers and/or bikers, susceptible to just capturing snap-shot images during our journeys. That's completely understandable – but careful cropping and exposure adjustments are useful tools for highlighting the core of these images. Please do not be afraid to use these simple techniques to generate images with greater impact. However, to create really spectacular images we photographers need to be awake to unusual opportunities – of subject and lighting – and then use the arts of composition – there are a few straightforward rules – to convey a 3-dimensional character on a 2-dimensional medium; to generate a sense of action and motion in an image that is of an instant in time; to capture the emotions of the participants in the scene. Geoff highlighted these ideas and introduced the technical “tricks” in his commentary!

Carolyn Lyon – organised the prizes and engraving of the trophies;  
Murray Presland – organised the presentation of the images, and was responsible for a few errors in managing them!

## **SERVERY DOORS**

The HVTC Social Committee is pleased to advise members that we have installed servery doors in the clubrooms kitchen. This should minimise distractions from workers and kettles during meetings and events held in the hall. Huge thanks to those who supported the Sales tables held by Graeme Lythgoe for many years. The Sales Table fund has provided the funds for this project.

*Doreen Courtenay*

On behalf of the Social Committee.

## **HVTC- THE MARRIAGE CLUB??!!**

When I joined the Club in 1956 the majority of members were in their late teens into twenties with a sprinkling of “Oldies”. Well attended mixed trips, unlike pre WW2 when some Clubs had Chaperones (EG May Vosseler TTC), these were more enlightened days! However, after a day



hot/sweaty or cold/wet/muddy – without deodorants etc – arriving at a Tararua Hut with a typical “Maori Bunk” sleeping shelf it was hard to become amorous – especially if crowded with sleeping bags top & tailed entwined!! But hormones overcame!!

Later, I borrowed the bound copies of H&V newsletters to search for trips I may have been on. The zealous Editors had also noted the engagements of members, plus often the weddings. From October 1957 until October 1968 listed are 63 couples! In the 3 years I was overseas from April 1959 until January 1962 there were 22 weddings. This included our Anne Cooke who married Roger Coventry of TTC. She was told (jokingly!) “You must not marry outside our Club!!”. She was not the only one.

In June 1967 the Editor (Jan Heine) recorded: WHAT EVER NEXT... Another stalwart has bit the dust. After clearing so many hurdles Stevens has finally tripped but he seems capable of continuing with the help of a pacer – Helen McKenzie of Silverstream. Congratulations Alan”.

An interesting aside: In the mid 1960s after a NZ Census it reported a large number of single women and also a large number of single males. Typically, the “NZ Womens Weekly” engaged some high profile Ladies to discover how this could be addressed. They ultimately published their conclusions which finished with :” If all else fails, join a tramping club”!! This article was pinned up on the Club noticeboard which resulted in a series of male only trips. This didn’t last for long and may even have spawned the famous Chooks Trips??!!

*Alan Stevens*



## MEMORIES

**MARGARET ANN MAXWELL (MCNEILL)**  
**(13.09.1936 – 15.07.2019)**

**GRAEME WYNDHAM MAXWELL**  
**(25.04.1930 – 09.05.2021)**

**Felicity Maxwell**



*In the South Island mountains*

As many of you will know, both my parents, both long-time HVTC members, passed away in recent years. Mum was 82 when she died and Dad was 91. The Hutt Valley Tramping Club was such an important part of their lives for over 60 years; Dad was a member for almost 65 years. I have been wanting to acknowledge this in the Hills and Valleys for some time. Now, with the club’s 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary year upon us, providing extra reason to go through the old photos, I feel in a better position to do this, because the photos help fill in their stories.

The HVTC gave my parents, like all of us, the opportunity to join with others who were/are also drawn to the hills. There was great camaraderie, supporting and learning from each other while out there in the back country, sharing billy tea and communal stews, pasta and puddings, tent pitching, river crossings, nights under the stars, stories, jokes,

sing-a-longs, dances, good times and challenging times. And there was that mutual deep appreciation of the places travelled.

Thank you HVTC members, past and present, for all the companionship over the years, and the love and support you showed our family around the very sad and challenging times when they passed away.

## The beginnings

### **Margaret**

Mum (Margaret) grew up on her family farm out at Waimarama, Hawke's Bay. She spent a lot of her childhood and teenage years away at boarding schools in Havelock North. But home was the farm, which was especially isolated back then in the 1930s–1940s, because of the slower motorcars and dirt roads, and primitive telecommunications. She loved her cat Tibs, and riding her horse on the hilly country, and along the wide surf beach looking out to Motu-o-Kura/Bare Island. Leaving college early, after the upset of the sudden death of her father, she made tracks southward, to city life in Wellington, where she worked as a dental assistant at Wellington Hospital.

### **Graeme**

Dad (Graeme) was from the other end of the country. Born in Dunedin on Anzac Day 1930, his father was a school inspector and his mother a school teacher. The family had a few years in Auckland when Graeme was a teenager, but they were all back in Dunedin by the time Graeme commenced his studies, training to be a dentist at the Otago Dental School. Dad's father also died suddenly, about this time. Dad had an introduction to rural life when he worked on farms during university summer holidays. He famously enjoyed his time out at Jim McCaw's (Richie McCaw's (former All Black) grandad's) property in the Hakataramea Valley. In his student days Dad also got a taste of tramping, when he walked the Milford Track (in sandshoes) with his friend John Maunder, and they went on to cross over the Routeburn-Caples-Greenstone to Queenstown. On graduating, Graeme took up a position at Wellington Hospital as a live-in dental surgeon, arriving on 26 January 1954.

## Early days with the Hutt Valley Tramping Club: late 1950s - early 1960s

### **Tramping**



*Heading for the hills*

Membership records show Graeme joined the HVTC in July 1956. He would have been 26 years old. Mum joined almost 3 years later, in April 1959, making her a member at age 22. Dad must have introduced her to the club.

I think the long transalpine Christmas trips in the Southern Alps were highlights for my father. He used to happily name-drop the various river valleys and passes he had tramped through, as we drove down the South Island on family holidays. These trips would have been a bit more challenging than today, with the heavier gear, such as woolen thermals, oil skin jackets, canvas tents and external framed canvas packs.



He must have explored a bit in the Tararuas. On a clear day he would point out HVTC's Powell Hut from the Wairarapa plains, and tell us about Cedric the Ghost, who spooked visiting trampers. He knew about Baines Hut in the Orongorongos. That club hut, now gone, was a place we were to revisit time and again, as a family.



Then there was Ruapehu:

*'In 1960 Graeme and I were in a group of 6 HVTC who put up 2 tents at the head of the Whangaehu Glacier, near Cathedral Rocks on Ruapehu. A good storm arrived in the night and it was found Graeme was on the windward side of our tent and where he provided a good barrier to blown snow encroaching on the tent. He did this without a word of complaint. I was trip leader and appreciated his support in difficult conditions. The camp was successfully evacuated in the morning and we hurriedly escaped down the eastern slopes of the mountain.'* Phil Rundle, 2021

Margaret had at least one HVTC trip to the South Island that I know of. This might have been her first time across Cook Strait.

*'I have fond memories of a wonderful 1960/61 Travers Sabine trip with Margaret who we called Margo back then. It seemed to be fine every day and the trip was a lot of fun. Both Margo and I loved splashing around in the Travers pools. Margo had made herself a cotton sunsuit (or was it a playsuit?) with a tie neck and elastic around the waist and legs. She gave me the pattern for it and I made one also. I do remember us both wearing them on a later trip to Waitewaewae. She was quite into fashion then. Another trip with Margo was up the Waiorongomai. There were also weekend ski trips to Ruapehu with Margo and Graeme'.* Sandra Pearce, 2023.

## Skiing



*Dad on the rope tow at Coronet Peak*

My parents started skiing with the club. Like tramping, skiing was also a bit rougher back then. Skis were wooden, poles of bamboo, boots were leather lace-ups. The club hut was small, with a coal range Mum enjoyed cooking on. Getting up to Ruapehu took more effort.

*'Club ski trips in the 1950's travelled in furniture vans with members sprawled out on or in sleeping bags with some vans having a second floor. Our trips started in Lower Hutt, food was collected from Ted Howicks' digs and then went to Wellington Railway Station for more passengers (I guess Graeme and Margaret would have joined there, FM). The reverse happened Sunday afternoon and it was long, 5 hours or so, as the road between National Park and Ohakune then Waiohuru to*

*Taihape and the Mangawekas had not been upgraded.'* Phil Rundle 2021.

A write-up of the club ski sports in the August 1961 Hills and Valleys (included with this article) shows both Margaret and Graeme getting placings to be proud of. It is no wonder they chose to go skiing at Coronet Peak for their honeymoon, the following winter, 1962. Like tramping, skiing was to become a family passion!



*Mum on the deck of HVTC Ruapehu hut*



*A blue sky day on Ruapehu*

## Family times, mid 1960s and 1970s

My parents had three girls in the 1960s: Jane, Felicity (myself) and Charlotte. By the time we arrived, Dad and Mum had already bonded with many of the club members of their generation, and they were to remain life-long friends. As a family, we joined in on many club activities, and got to know the families of all the old friends. We had memorable times on family day trips, club picnics and anniversaries, overnighting at Baines Hut, and ski weeks at what had by then grown to become the two-storey club lodge on Mt Ruapehu. We also had our own trips and holidays with other club families. And whenever there was a tradesperson needed at home, Dad would call up a friend from the HVTC.

*'From the 1970s onwards I remember The Maxwells (Maxwellingtons) would do a roadie in Blueie Ford Falcon wagon, down the South Island to Glenorchy and Wanaka and we would enjoy days skiing together up Treble Cone, especially enjoying the TC Keas antics. Often Brian would skin up the hill.*

*We would go on hikes together up the local tracks into the hills, to Aspiring hut, Rob Roy Glacier, & bbq fires on the beach a favourite spot of ours was at Glendhu. Graeme and Brian would be in continual hysterics, I recall lots of laughter, stories of old times, trips in the hills. These days were always followed by dinners together by the fire at home. Then the musical instruments would appear. It really was a favourite, happy time of year and we looked forward to their visits in August each year.'* Maryanne Ahern, daughter of former member Brian Ahern, 2003.

## Independence again! 1980s onwards



*Around the Pencarrow Coast*

Mum had long given up dental nursing. She had been learning pottery with the Point Howard Art Society, and went on to take School Certificate and University Entrance art. She had quite a few connections with arty people, so for a while set up her small shop 'Maggie's Arts and Crafts' in downtown Wellington, initially in the room next to Dad's dental surgery in Manners Street. She found time for music, learning the flute and playing in the Hutt Valley Community Orchestra, with Dad playing violin. Many hours were spent working in the large garden at their home in Lowry Bay, and later at the small property she purchased in Wanaka. Mum was content on pursuing her outdoor activities mainly with family. She carried on with day walks and skiing, and

also got herself a mountain bike. She did join the odd club outing and really enjoyed going along with Dad to the Wednesday club nights.

Dad had been keeping fit working in the garden, playing tennis, swimming, and walking in the local Eastbourne hills. He kept up his involvement in community groups. Previously the chairperson of the Muritai Home and School Committee, as we moved on to high school, he got involved in the East Harbour Environmental Association, and the Eastbourne Forest Rangers. Seeing his two oldest girls going off tramping independently, he realised it was his time to get back out there. Of course, this is the phase of his tramping life that I remember first hand, and I was with him on some of these trips.

He really looked forward to these adventures, being a chance to get away into beautiful places and leave the routine of everyday life behind. He enjoyed the company of the groups, always keen to share a story and a laugh.

*'Graeme always had all-the-time-in-the-world to stop and swap long stories and to reminisce with great, and cheeky, good humour.'* Murray Presland 2021



*'Graeme had an easy and relaxed personality and a wonderful ability to form friendships with members from all backgrounds – he was warm and approachable and genuinely interested in people – well read and with a good general knowledge, he could strike up and sustain a conversation with anyone and I think this helped in cementing many friendships with members in the club – recent or long-serving.'* Dennis Page, Club President 2001.

I think he made a bit of an effort to get to places he hadn't been before, such as the Ruahines, lower elevations of Tongariro National Park, the Richmond Range, Stewart Island (late 1990s), and parts of Fiordland.

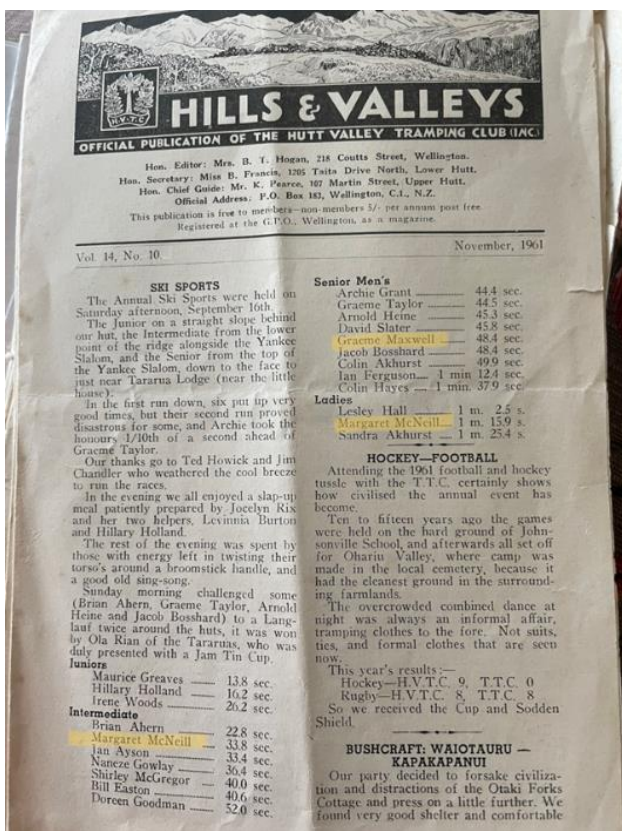
Probably his last big HVTC trips were back in the deep south, cruising on board the Milford Wanderer in Fiordland and Stewart Island. He would have been aged 79 and 82 on those trips.

*'I shared a small cabin on the Milford Wanderer with Graeme on 2008 Fiordland cruise. On land, despite him being 2 years' older than me, he was better able to handle forest travel.'* Phil Rundle 2021.

*'Two of our better memories of Graeme was when he joined us for a week cruising around Fiordland in 2009 and then again around Stewart Island in 2012. We very much enjoyed his company with his fine sense of humour. Both of these trips were on board the Milford Wanderer. They were both very different trips to most of the Club outings and we know he enjoyed them very much.'* Graeme and Michelle Lythgoe 2021.



*On the Milford Wanderer*



*Write-up of the Ski Sports 1961*

And so it was, that the HVTC was woven through Graeme and Margaret's lives. Through their activities with the club, they passed on their love of the outdoors to their family. It is wonderful that Dad kept active for so long. The club was to become the focus of his free time. He loved meeting people from all walks of life, finding interest in everyone's story. As he became less mobile, he continued taking an interest in what the club was up to, and where trips were heading. My parents kept in contact with club members into their final years. Those friendships they made in the club lasted, right to the end.

*Felicity*

\*A 1961 Hills and Valleys article of a Christmas trip in Aspiring National Park which Graeme was on will feature in the next Hills & Valleys.

# RUAPEHU LODGE CLUB CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS



The skiers



Everyone





Fashion statement



Next generation



Next generation



Oldies



Not so oldies



On the slopes



## TRIP REPORT

### EAST AND WEST WHAKANUI TRACK

Sunday 27 August

Kate Livingston

This was a very pleasant outing on a route taking in parts of the West and East Whakanui tracks, starting from Sunny Grove in Wainuiomata. We started with the steady climb of the Whakanui track up to the Mt Kerrow track turn-off, where we had a morning tea break. We then turned left and shortly after that took a track on the right-hand side which, while not marked with DOC orange



markers, was a quite well trodden trail - marked on the Topo maps but not named. This took us over pt 711. It is a trap-line and we saw at least six fortunately recently deceased rats. This undulating track goes through some lovely bush. A light off-and-on drizzle that had accompanied us all the way, sort of held off when we stopped for lunch. However, the light but cool southerly breeze remained with us. Shortly after lunch our track met up with the East Whakanui track and turning left brought us back to the turn off and the track downhill again to Sunny Grove entrance. This trip took us around 4.5 hours and we did 67 kms according to my trip recorder but that was probably because I forgot to turn it off until after I had driven home.

On the trip: Jackie West and Chris West (leaders), Doc Watson, Chris McMillen, Murray McMillen, Marilyn Sickles, Heather Eskdale, Kate Livingston (forgetful scribe).

*Kate*

## WALKING

*"Above all, do not lose your desire to walk. Every day, I walk myself into a state of well-being & walk away from every illness. I have walked myself into my best thoughts, and I know of no thought so burdensome that one cannot walk away from it. But by sitting still, & the more one sits still, the closer one comes to feeling ill. Thus if one just keeps on walking, everything will be all right."*

*Soren Kierkegaard*

*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.*