



Please submit your **December 2020/January 2021** H&V articles to the editor by **28th November 2020**

HVTC Postal Address: PO Box 30-883, Lower Hutt:
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President: Dennis Page	970 6901	Secretary: Murray Presland	562 8194
Trip Coordinator: Chris McMillan	569 9019	Treasurer: Jim Cousins	586 2135
Editor H&V: Bruce Miller	563 5966	the-bruce@xtra.co.nz	



CLUB NIGHT PROGRAMME

Starts 8.00 pm promptly



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

John Featherstone joined the HVTC in 1963 and was active as a tramp, 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.

11 November : HVTC 2020 Film Festival

Neil Hickman and Andrew Robinson bring you a kaleidoscope of the Great Outdoors. The bizarre, the terrifying, the unusual and the downright silly. Now in its 10th year this promises to contain the odd clip that will stay in your mind for ever. Come, sit back and enjoy.

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

18 November : Gerard McGreevy – Biking in France

25 November : Chris Morris – Wairakei Geothermal Power

Since moving up north from the Hutt Valley thirty years ago, Chris Morris has been an engineer at Wairakei Power Station. It is more than a lot of big pipes and steam clouds. He will show how the history of the place is important as it led the world in geothermal development and is now regarded as a working museum with most plant near pension age and still running.

2 December : Tony Birtwhistle – Trip to Austria

Last year Tony and Jo headed to Austria and, after a couple of nights enjoying the city of Salzburg, undertook a 6 day 'hike' taking in the sights and sounds (cow bells) of the Salzkammergut region. This area of lakes, mountains, valleys and picturesque towns/villages provided some good exercise and great scenery. Find out why the trip nearly didn't happen and the area's connection with the 'Sound of Music'.



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.

NOVEMBER

Thur 5		Makara Circuit	Graeme Lythgoe	479 6630
7 – 8	AORANGI FOREST PARK - PINNACLES			
	T1	Pinnacles - Washpool	Sharman Robinson	586 5060
6 – 8	T2	Aorangi Crossing	Andrew Robinson	586 2438
Sun 8	D1	Remutaka FP off track adventure	Marina Skinner / Jim Cousins	021 792 260
Tue 10		Pt Howard – Belmont and return	Paul Haines	589 7484
		Korokoro Stream	Phaedra Upton	021 023 26726
14 – 15	WHANGANUI/REMUTAKA FOREST PARK – CATCHPOOL			
13 – 15		Whanganui Bike Ride	Graeme Lythgoe	479 6630
14 – 15	T1+	Mt Mathews	Murray Presland	562 8194
Sun 15	D1	Eastbourne Hills	Marina Skinner	021 792 260
Sun 15	D2	Goat Stream Circuit	Jim Cousins	586 2135
16 – 18	T1	Cone – Totara Flats (3 days)	Chris McMillan	569 9019
		Te Whiti Riser	Paul Wolstenholme	021 150 7222
Tue 17		Te Whiti Riser -Waiau MTB	Andrew Fisher	027 449 3661
	D1	Walk	Margaret Aitken	566 2731
Thur 19	D1+	Dobsons Circuit	Graeme Lythgoe	479 6630
21 – 22	INSTRUCTION / DAY WALK / RIDE			
	Instruction	Introduction to Bushcraft	Dennis Page	970 6901
Sun 22		Belmont Regional Park	Ann & Neil	589 6265
Sun 22	D1	Makara	Tony & Jo	021 228 4430
Tue 24		Totara Park – McCurdys Castle	Michele Lythgoe	027 359 1377
		Cannon point – Clark Creek	Mark Mills	027 405 1188
26 – 27	T1+	Papatahi Overnighter	Graeme Lythgoe	479 6630
28 – 29	TARARUA FOREST PARK – KIRIWHAKAPAPA			
	T1	Cow Creek		
27 – 29	T2	Arete Forks hut	Andrew Robinson	586 2438
Sun 29	D1	The Two Peaks - Karori	Pamela Campbell	021 857 953

DECEMBER

Tue 1		County Lane Northwards	Michael Grace	021 150 0012
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Silversky Crofton Downs

Thur3

D1+

🐾 Colonial Knob – Kaukau

Graeme Lythgoe

479 6630

5 – 6

TARARUA FOREST PARK – HOLDSWORTH

Fam Atiwhakatu Hut adventure

Emma Dobbie

027 252 5045

T1 Help carry gear to Atiwhakatu & campout

Sun 6

D1-

Explore Matiu Somes Island

Julie Lewis

021 293 2118

Appreciation for our Trip Leaders

A huge thanks to Dennis Page, Chris & Jackie West, Paul Wolstenholme, Ann Hayman, Jan Heine, Michele Lythgoe, Tony Birtwhistle (2), Jo Scott, Paul Labett, Graeme Lythgoe, Murray McMillan, Michael Grace, Phaedra Upton, Chris McMillan, Nick McBride, Graham Craig & Bruce Miller for organising and leading trips during October. Occasionally unforeseen events lead to the cancellation of a trip. Appreciation to Murray Presland, Pat Tristram & Graeme Lythgoe for organising a trip even though it didn't go ahead.

Filling in the gaps in the Trip Schedule

It is so helpful when you offer to organise/ lead a trip where there is a gap in the trip schedule. Give yourself a pat on the back if you are one of those people who did. Please do look ahead at what's on offer for December, January and beyond and put yourself forward if something is missing – either what's suggested or any other trip. Assistance can be provided if you are unsure about anything. Just ask!

Chris McMillan

tripcoordinator@hvtc.org.nz

UPCOMING EVENTS

HVTC 2020 FILM FESTIVAL

11 November

Neil Hickman and Andrew Robinson bring you a kaleidoscope of the Great Outdoors. The bizarre, the terrifying, the unusual and the downright silly. Now in its 10th year this promises to contain the odd clip that will stay in your mind for ever. Come, sit back and enjoy.

SALES TABLE

11 November

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



CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY



Xmas Party

Wednesday 16 December 2020

6.00pm onwards at Club Rooms

BBQ / BYO

Bring your own cutlery, plates, bowls etc

TWO SUNDAY TRIPS FOR MEMBERS AND PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

Sunday 8 November and Sunday 15 November

Kia ora trampers

HVTC is running two Sunday trips in early November for people interested in joining our club. The trips are on the trip list and are open to all members as well. We are doing some advertising in the Hutt News and on Facebook and we have some A4 posters.

Our membership recruitment sub-committee of the club is trying these day trips to attract new members instead of the information evenings we've run in the past.

Please invite along anyone who might be interested in joining our club. We will have information sheets for them, and everyone will need to sign up before the trips.

The two trips are:

Sunday 8 November Leader: Jim Cousins Orongorongo off-track exploration

Sunday 15 November Leader: Marina Skinner Eastbourne hills on-track tramp

For both trips, we will meet at the clubrooms, before car pooling to the track start.

The usual HVTC-post emails will be sent out ahead of each trip.

Jim and I are looking for some volunteers who would be prepared to accompany any newcomers needing to turn back or take alternative routes. Please contact us if you can help.

marinaskinner@xtra.co.nz

snisuoc@xtra.co.nz

And if you can help distribute posters around the Hutt Valley, please contact me.

Many thanks for your help - and please join us on these trips if you can.

Marina

FROM THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

November 2020

Safety Incidents: There have been a couple of incidents on Club trips recently from which we can all learn to take care. Please store the lessons from these into your actions.

Driver Fatigue: The sole approved driver of the van, returning from Tongariro, created a near-miss incident due to fatigue. Another driver took over immediately.

- It is strongly advised for there to be 2 approved drivers in a group for journeys longer than 2 hours.
- Drivers should not drive for periods longer than 2 hours; each driver must always be alert to the onset of fatigue and take a break as soon as he/she becomes aware of inattention.
- Other occupants of the vehicle have responsibility for maintaining the driver's alertness also.
- It is permissible for non-approved drivers to drive the van – but always with care, for it handles differently from a car.

Gas canister fire/injury: A Clubmember (the group leader) suffered burns to face and arm when gas from a leaking canister/burner ignited. The plb was activated and she was evacuated by helicopter to hospital.

- Making the connection between gas canister/fuel tank and burner requires care. Because gas/fuel may escape, the connection should be made away from sources of ignition, preferably outside.

- b. Gas and liquid fuel fires are best extinguished by starving them of air - use blankets, clothing (preferably not synthetic fibre), a billy, an ash bucket (but not if it contains coal dust).
- c. Burns are best treated with copious water – to remove heat from the injury.
- d. Patients may suffer shock, in addition to the injury. Do not hesitate to activate the plb to summon help.

Heine Book Sale: As Jan leaves her home in Days Bay, she needs to dispose of many of the books in the huge collection that Arnold and she have acquired. There are many fascinating volumes! Many have been shipped to Christchurch for sale through Barking Mad Books (Colin Monteath). However, about 60 cartons of books have been relocated to the Clubrooms, where we have undertaken to organise a Book Sale in the next few weeks.

Although many of these books had been sorted into categories, others had simply to be packed into boxes – so our first task is to sort these into the categories. The second task is to divide them into price brackets and label them with stickers. Then we can set up the Book Sale for a weekend, publicise the event and provide the people to run it!

Please contact me if you are able (happy! and keen!!) to help with any of these tasks – initially to complete sorting the books. (Murray Presland ph 562 8194; e-mail murray.presland@xtra.co.nz). Be warned – you may be tempted to read and/or purchase many!

Greater Wellington Regional Parks Management Plan: Dennis has reviewed the Draft Management Plan for Regional Parks during 2020-30 and submitted comments on behalf of Hutt Valley Tramping Club. His submission is supportive of the Plan's focus on conservation, recreation, community and climate change and the emphasis placed on providing access. While supporting the aspiration to develop a variety of trails to cater for the diverse range of activities (walking, tramping, trail biking, 4WD and horse riding) anticipated for regional parks, the submission cautions against the development of trails in places that are more remote and have a high intrinsic value as less tamed/less modified 'wilderness areas' (noting that Wellington is unique in having such area close to urban developments). The submission also warns of the need to control the spread of introduced pest plants, such as asparagus fern, into the forests of the Parks.

Please ask if you would like a copy of the submission. We can also provide a copy of the Draft Management Plan.

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

Murray Presland
(secretary@hvtc.org.nz)

MISSING BILLIE

Dear club members.

Could you please keep an eye out for a missing billie.

It's a small 3 Litre billie, one of four that we purchased some time back from the Kaumatua Tramping Club, you may recognize this one, as it has both Kaumatua markings and our club markings on it.

Could you please let me know if you come across this at the bottom of your pack.

Many thanks
Doc Watson
Gear Custodian.

TRIP REPORTS

QUOIN-ALPHA 18-19th September 2020 John Evans

A fine Saturday morning saw Chris McMillan, Kirsten Reid, Archie and myself meet at 8am at Upper Hutt station. We left a car at Marchant road-end, and drove to Kaitoke for the trip over Quoin ridge to Alpha Hut. By 8.30am we were puffing our way up the Norbett Creek track in an unhurried sort of way. We reached the 4WD track to Hutt Forks after an hour or so – some fine views back down to the Hutt Valley before the descent to the river, which was in a healthy flow after a couple of stormy days previously.

We crossed the footbridge and worked our way along the river then up to the spur leading to Quoin through wonderful forest – some mighty trees were admired in the locale by Kirsten in particular. During our lunch-stop at about 900 metres, it occurred to me that we still had a lot of work to do, and it was already 1pm. Quoin is an inspiring part of the park, but we saw only one person in a 4x4 on the track to Hutt Forks all day.

So - now of the 'fragile plants' part of the ridge, and again a different route was taken this time through the bush than the last – once more blood was drawn, though less than on my previous HVTC Quoin tramp (with Keith Thomas in June 2016). Archie thought this bit was great fun! It was approaching 4pm by the time we reached Quoin's flat summit, and high cloud encroached from the South-East, with a cool steady breeze encouraging us to add a layer or two, though the views were still excellent – the cloud was now covering the higher Taranaki tops.

Some parties are slower than others, this was the case here – but the advantage of familiarity (and having a tent) reduced my anxiety about darkness and potential route-finding problems. I thought that as long as we knew we had reached summit of Alpha we would be fine even in the dark. Next was the excellent ridge between Quoin and Alpha with its tussock, bushy sections and some rocky outcrops – this took us getting on for 3 hours to traverse – eventually on the final ascent the cloud enveloped us and darkness fell shortly before we topped out on Alpha, with a few small snow patches around at 6.45pm.



Chris McMillan on the Quoin-Alpha ridge, getting late in day...

Helpfully the clear and well-trodden path of the Southern Crossing is only a short distance from the top of Alpha - and when it appeared in our headtorch beams we could relax somewhat. We followed the red flashing light on Archie's collar down to Alpha Hut at around 7.30pm. A solitary,

sleepy hunter was our only companion, and the night was rather cold (never any dry wood at Alpha, it seems!). Nonetheless a good sleep was had by all after dinner.

During the night the cloud cleared, and Sunday dawned chilly and bright – a beautiful day for the long tramp over the Hell's Gate, to Omega and along the much-maligned Marchant – this was another long-ish, slow-ish day, but considerably easier than our first. There were some really splendid views towards Mount Hector and the Winchcombe ridge with beautiful morning light, plenty of rests for snacks and enjoyment of conversation with some good company in the marvellous Tararua range as we wound our way gradually along and down to the road-end.

John

SAYER HUT

26 September 2020

Andrew Robinson

When I had to cancel my trip to Waterfall hut at the start of September because of high winds (note to self – don't schedule a Ruahine trip with anything above the bushline in September) I decided to do a Tararua's day trip instead later in the month. A trip to Sayer hut from Mangatarere Valley Road looked about the right length though I didn't know if I'd get many takers. I needn't have worried because I ended up with a total of 7 participants.

Saturday morning five of us left the clubrooms at 7:30, we picked up two more on the way and got to the road end at 9:15. The DoC sign said 2-3 hours to the hut, consistent with what the DoC website said, but my homework suggested it would take 3-4 hours to get to the hut. We set off at 9:30 and followed a stream for five minutes. Fortunately at the crossing the stream was low enough to cross without getting wet feet. The climb started once we'd crossed the stream and as is usually the case was initially quite steep. It was also quite slippery, but after about 10 minutes the gradient eased a little and the mud ended. For the rest of the way the track was in good condition which surprised me given it is presumably not greatly used. It was in better condition than a lot of more heavily used and maintained tracks elsewhere in the Tararua's. At our first stop Graeme brought out some milkshake lollies and offered them around. I tried one tentatively and

was relieved to find that it didn't stick to my teeth like the milkshake lollies of old used to.

Our next stop was for morning tea at 11:10 near the top. We had been in bush pretty much the whole way since the stream, which meant we'd had little in the way of views, but on the plus side we were sheltered from the wind which was strong at times. Ten minutes after we resumed we reached the highest point where there was a clearing just off the track, with reasonable views of Mt Holdsworth, High Ridge and Cone Ridge. The descent from the high point to Sayer hut was slightly steeper than



Lunch at Sayer hut

the ascent from the road end had been. We passed several large rimu trees on the way down that I meant to get an approximate measure of their girth on the way back, but I forgot. We eventually got to Sayer hut just before 1 o'clock. It's in a sheltered location and the sun was shining so it was

a very pleasant lunch spot. The hut is a spacious six-bunker, formerly a private hut, but now administered by DoC. There are several old signs in the porch, including a couple advertising local sawmills and the look of them suggests the hut dates from the 1950s, but later I think it was Kirsten who looked it up and found it was in fact built in 1909.

The trip out was uneventful and a little quicker than on the way in. I somehow missed the giant rimus on the ascent. Thankfully the track has next to nothing in the way of dips in it so you don't climb more than necessary. When we got to the stream just before 5pm we met a couple just heading in. It was a strange time to be heading in, given it would be dark before they got to the hut and the forecast for the following day being strong winds and heavy rain. The walk had taken us seven and a half hours so I was pleased that I'd estimated correctly at 7-8 hours. The walk was good preparation for those of us heading off on long trips after Christmas and was enjoyed by all.

Trip participants: Anne-Marie Kay, Graeme Lythgoe (accompanied by Dash), Kate Livingston, Kirsten Reid, Mike Priest, Tony Jaegers and Andrew Robinson (leader).

Andrew

BUTCHER-CATTLE RIDGE TRACKS

4 October 2020

Jackie West



Chris and I decided to do the Butcher-Cattle Ridge loop when we received Emma's email saying that she was unable to lead the tramp and wanted someone else to do take over so we promptly volunteered.

The group left the Catchpool car park at 9.40 am and went up the Butcher track taking a right hand turn to the lookout. While enjoying morning tea sitting under pine trees we were serenaded by a rooster from the nearby house. We then proceeded along the Cattle Ridge track where recently track clearing had been

carried out.

After a short walk on the Orongorongo Track we turned left on to the old Five Mile track & after 5 minutes walking approached an attractive open area under beech trees where there is a memorial to Ian Diment and is also a pleasant spot for lunch. Back on the Orongorongo Track I decided to visit Mac's hut as the track leading to it is opposite the Five Mile Track and is not known by many in the club. While we inspected the outside of the hut Jim informed us that his first tramp in the Orongorongs was when he was a university student and knowing there were lots of huts was surprised to find they were all locked and ending up spending the night in the Mac's Hut woodshed. A place that doesn't look at all inviting now.

We returned to the car park soon after 3 o'clock with the Tristrams finding a geocache on the way out and everyone having a brief stop at the Midway Bridge. An uneventful tramp but twenty-one trampers had a pleasant day out.

Those joining us on the tramp: Marina Skinner, Clare Kelly, Bruce Miller, Pauline Prendergast, Pat and John Tristram, Chris McMillian, Rob Buxton, Heather Eskdale, John Smeith, Bo Yoa Lee, Anja van Kesteran, Vera de Graauw, Paul Haines, Catherine Croucher, Patrick Fotheringham, Anne Marie Kay, and Debbie Bainbridge.

Jackie

TARN AND YOUNGMAN STREAM HUTS

12-13 September 2020

Alan Geeves
(former HVTC member, now a member of Rangiora Tramping Club)

(Tarn and Youngman Stream Huts are in the Puketeraki Forest Conservation Area in Canterbury.)

2 days before this trip a small southerly storm went through which although it had cleared did raise the question of whether Tarn Hut was going to be a viable option on this trip. As a result a plan B was formulated of just Youngman if it looked like there was too much snow. In the end plan B was not required.

The 3 of us met at 8am and drove through Oxford and over into Lees valley then across a farm track to the carpark at the start of the track. Quick cuppa and work out which hill was which to decide what the snow looked like. All the hills had patchy cover but it didn't look bad so we decided the trip would go as planned although the ice axe did get to hitch along just in case.



After about an hour's walk along a farm track we reached the turn off to Tarn hut. This follows a steep ridge to 1200m then along the tops to Tarn Hut at 1270 meters for lunch. We were walking in patchy snow from about half way up this track but it was never more than 15cm of soft powder. Tarn Hut is a lovely little hut next to a small half frozen tarn and brilliant view over Mount Thomas etc. to the coast. The wind had started to pick up by then so it was good to have shelter for lunch.

Then onwards and upwards in a moderate gale to the top of Lilburne Hill at 1405 metres and down the other side to Youngman hut at 700 metres. About half way down we were surprised to see

someone going the other way. He was doing the loop as a day walk. We found out later from some people that had stayed at Tarn that he got there at 4pm so he would have had a long day by the time he got out.

We got To Youngman Stream Hut about 4pm just as a group of 3 hunters were about to go out for a quick hunt so we had a quick brew and then had dinner before they got back. They had already

lit the fire so it was very cosy with a total of 6. I've just read the DoC advisory about hut capacity during COVID and we should not have had more than half the bunks filled. Oops too late.

Sunday morning dawned cloudy but dry and we headed back down the track back to the car. We met a group of 3 who had stayed a Tarn overnight but their car was still at the start of the farm track as it couldn't navigate the ruts so we gave them a lift to the car then out to Oxford for lunch.

Beryl, Diane, Alan

Alan

ONE OF TOM'S POEMS

First Light

*It's just before dawn
Hills are vague outlines
against the sky
The lake is still
its surface black
like liquid velvet
Then, slowly,
tentatively
Dawn lifts her head
Scans the land
and likes what she sees
From her palette,
she hues the sky
and tints the tops
Giving form to shadow
and colour to form
There is a master artist
at work
and she's called nature*

Tom Anderson

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.