



Please submit your **December 2022/January 2023** H&V articles to the editor by **3<sup>rd</sup> December 2022**

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## CLUB NIGHT PROGRAMME

Starts 7:30 pm promptly



### **2 November : Craig Stevens – Frozen oceans: exploring beneath Antarctica's ice shelves and what it means for the seas around Aotearoa New Zealand.**

Craig is an oceanographer based in New Zealand with a joint position at NIWA and as a Professor at the University of Auckland. His research focus is on extreme ocean environments like Antarctic oceanography, tidal turbulence, marine heatwaves and greenhouse gas uptake in the Southern Ocean. A past President of the New Zealand Association of Scientists, Craig has participated in 14 Antarctic field campaigns and nearly 50 ocean experiments.

### **9 November: The 2022 HVTC Film Festival.**

Now in its umpteenth year, Andrew Robinson and Neil Hickman bring you an extraordinary kaleidoscope of the more extreme adventures found in the outdoors. Danny McCaskill returns with a quieter adventure and Reinhold Messner talks briefly on what it's like to climb the world's highest mountains without oxygen. Plus many more especially selected to make you feel inadequate and just a mere plebe in the hills.

### **16 November: Anja and Maarten Vink – Rakiura/Stewart Island**

Maarten and Anja spent 10 days in March exploring some of the tramping, scenery, history and wildlife on the third largest island of Aotearoa. Find out how they planned their trip and whether or not they saw any kiwi.

***Sales Table run by Graeme Lythgoe. Bring your plants and edible items for sale, as well as cash to purchase some goodies with.***

### **23 November : Merryl Park and Ian Flux – Cycling in France. The end of the Halcyon Days.**

Join Ian and Merryl for a 3000km cycle around Western Europe's largest country. In the autumn of 2019, before we had heard about covid or lockdowns, we visited the unpopulated regions of France on a journey of exploration. Our route was a meandering one, chosen to visit families of ex-WOOFERS (Willing workers on organic farms). Beginning north of Paris, we meandered to Alsace, Mouth, Lyon, Clermont Ferrand, the French Pyrenees and Bordeaux ending our cycling at La Rochelle. We experienced the wettest autumn in 28 years, incredible hospitality, great food and lots of free camping, not always by choice but because there was just nowhere to stay.

### **30 November : Graeme McVerry – To 80° North: Bergen to Spitzbergen**

Graeme McVerry describes another of his tourist cruises to the Arctic (he dare not call it an expedition after Jocelyn Turnbull's recent epic presentation about her crossing of Greenland). This time it was from Bergen through the western fjords of Norway, along the Lofoten Islands and on to Spitzbergen. Then followed three days' ship- and zodiac-cruising and hiking in the south-western fjords of this largest island of the Svalbard archipelago. After a day exploring Longyearbyen, he embarked on a local cruise further north, past ever-more spectacular glaciers to Mofen Island, a walrus refuge at 80°North.

### **7 December : Natalie Robinson, NIWA – Antarctic Field Work.**

Marine physicist Dr Natalie Robinson of NIWA, specialises in polar oceanography and is currently on field work in Antarctica – we look forward to an update on her recent work.





## FORTHCOMING TRIPS



### NOTES

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

### NOVEMBER

5 – 6	T1			
Sun 6	D1+	Puke Ariki Traverse	Marina Skinner	021 792 260
12 – 13	T1+	Kime Hut	Tania Hatfield	022 053 5604
12 – 13	T2	Waititipia (862) Waitewaewae TFP	Andrew Robinson	586 2438
Sun 13	D1			
13 – 20	T1	Paparoa Track & more	Marina Skinner	021 792 260
Thu 17	D1	Escarpment (Kapiti)	Graeme Lythgoe	479 6630
18 – 20	tbc	Papatahi Hut – booked Fri & Sat		
Sun 20	D1	Eastern hills	Ann Hayman	021 880 097
Sat 26		Around the Campfire	Bernice & Co	027 688 1320
Sat 26	D1	½ day tramp at same location	Dennis Page	021 229 9901
Sun 27		tbc – day tramp at same location		

### DECEMBER

3 – 4	T1			
Sun 4	D1	Skyline Ridge	Emma Dobbie	027 252 5045
10 – 11	T1	Ruamahanga Gorge to Cow Creek	Andrew Robinson	586 2438
Sat or Sun	D2-	Kaitoke Warren Saddle – Golden Rd – 592	Murray McMillan	569 9019

### BIKING SCHEDULE

for Tuesday Evenings – 6.00 pm

**Helmet essential**

### NOVEMBER

Date	Grade	The Ride	Leaders	Phone
1	Easy Interm	Turakirae Head	Andrew Robinson	586 2438
8	Easy Interm	Melling Hutt Valley Tiki Tour #1 Wainuiomata MTB park	Pat Tristram Andrew Robinson	569 6705 586 2438
15	Easy Interm	Makara MTB Park	Andrew Fisher	022 312 1713
22	Easy Interm	Old Coach Road Circuit Belmont tops	Michele Lythgoe Andrew Fisher	027 359 1377 022 312 1713
29	Easy Interm	County Lane - Buddhist Monastery Wrights Hill	Jackie West Paul Labett	027 473 9199 027 465 4640

### DECEMBER

6	Easy Interm	Polhill to Red Rocks	Andrew Fisher	022 312 1713
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SALES TABLE

16 November

Please bring along plants and edible 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.

## FROM THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

**From the General Committee:**

**October 2022**

John Evans has had to step down from the general committee due to increasing work commitments. The club would like to thank John for his work on the committee over the last couple of years and we still hope to see him out and about in the hills and valleys. This leaves a spot vacant on the general committee. If anyone is interested in getting involved, please get in touch with Marina or anyone else on the committee.

The committee discussed the ongoing covid situation. As noted in the previous H&V, we will follow government guidelines. The possibility of monitoring the CO<sup>2</sup> concentration in our clubrooms during meetings, especially during the winter, was raised but none of the committee know anything about these – do we have a club member who could advise us about this? If so, please get in touch with Marina. Thanks

Big thanks to Russell Oliver for the fabulous trophy cabinet he has installed in the clubrooms.

When I was last secretary, I put up paper copies of the minutes from our meetings in the clubroom for members to have a look at if they wished. As a committee we are doing much more electronically so I don't necessarily print out the minutes. If you'd still like to have them in the clubrooms or would like to see an emailed copy – please let me know –

[phaedra.upton@gmail.com](mailto:phaedra.upton@gmail.com).

Phaedra Upton - [secretary@hvtc.org.nz](mailto:secretary@hvtc.org.nz)

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Please welcome new members:- Abigail Brownsword  
Shayne Peyroux  
Donna Symes

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

*Doreen Courtenay*  
Membership Officer

# IAN MILNE MEMORIAL SEAT

## 2.30pm, Sunday 11 December 2022

Pamela Campbell, Pat & John Tristram

**Belmont Trig Seat** – At Ian’s funeral service in March, Richard Willis spoke about a seat being erected at Belmont Trig, something he and Ian discussed whenever they walked up to the Trig. After discussions with Greater Wellington Regional Council a standard design of a steel frame, galvanised and powder coated, with a Jarrah seat has been finalised and a location for the seat has been determined and it will be installed in the near future.

The cost of the seat and installation will be around \$2500, with an inscribed plaque extra. A number of people who knew Ian have indicated they would like to make a contribution to this project and these can be made direct to Richard’s account COOP BANK AC 02-1242-0732057-001 Please include your name and Ian Milne seat in the details so it is readily identifiable to Richard. Any surplus funds will go towards the purchase of some native shrubs, as permission has been granted to plant them within the gorse, close to where the seat will be.

There will be a small **DEDICATION CEREMONY ON SUNDAY DECEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> AT 2.30PM** on the summit of Belmont Trig. The easiest way up is to park in the carpark on Stratton St, Normandale and walk up the 4 wheel drive track. Slow walkers will take about 45minutes, so we suggest we meet at the gate at 1.30pm. The ranger has offered to take Janet up in his truck.

We hope those who tramped with and knew Ian will mark this date and join his family and friends for this event on 11 December.

*Pamela, Pat and John*



## RUAPEHU ROUNDUP

Kate Brownsword



Thank you all of you who came to the meeting on Weds 26 Oct to hear about what's been happening at the lodge this year, and to hear more details of Ruapehu Alpine Lifts voluntary administration.

The Ruapehu committee will of course be keeping a close eye on developments on the mountain, and will keep all club members informed as we know more.

In the meantime, the lodge is available for summer trips, and is a great place for some R and R in warmer weather! If you'd like to head up there, please contact our bookings officer Alison Newbald on [Ruapehubookings@hvtc.org.nz](mailto:Ruapehubookings@hvtc.org.nz)

*Kate*

## GREATER WELLINGTON BACKCOUNTRY NETWORK

Murray Presland

The Greater Wellington Backcountry Network (GWBN) is a new organisation that seeks to harness the energy and enthusiasm of volunteers in the Wellington Region to help maintain huts and tracks in the Tararua, Aorangi and Remutaka Ranges. There is no membership fee; organisations can join as corporate members (HVTC has already done so!) though each will have only one vote in any decision; but more significantly, each of you can, and should!, belong as an individual member. That will help GWBN greatly to demonstrate the level of interest, concern, enthusiasm amongst those who recreate in the Wellington ranges when it seeks to raise grants for projects.

### Why has GWBN been formed?

There are 52 huts (6 of which must be booked with the Department of Conservation (DoC)) that are available to the public in the three ranges and more than 350 km of tracks that need to be maintained. DoC is not able to do this by itself so, over the past several years, has sought nationwide to expand partnerships and contributions from volunteers. (The most well-known group is Permolat on the South Island West Coast, members of which have taken responsibility for resuscitating and maintaining about 70 huts and bivs in that region since 2003.) Much of the funding for materials and transport comes from DoC or, more recently, from the Back Country Trust (BCT). BCT was established in 2014, supported by DoC, Federated Mountain Clubs, NZ Deerstalkers Association and Trail Fund, funded primarily with an annual grant from DoC. It has funded the repair and maintenance of over 200 huts and 1000 km of tracks since its inception.

A bit more history: Clubs in the Wellington region were early to the task in forming the Tararua-Aorangi-Remutaka Huts Committee (TARHC) in 1990 – providing a mechanism for sharing out hut-ticket revenues according to maintenance needs amongst the 16 groups that “owned” or had an association with one or more public huts in the three ranges. It has been funded \$9000 annually (more recently \$10,000) from the regional DoC Office (Whakaoriori), but in recent years enthusiasm amongst club members for volunteering has diminished and TARHC had accumulated about \$28,000 in unspent funds.

Derrick Field became chairperson of TARHC in 2020 and immediately set about galvanising volunteer effort amongst those who enjoy their recreation in the Greater Wellington ranges. (He had been active well before that with a group of ex-Forest Service employees in maintaining huts – for example Arete Forks and Renata huts – and in opening up old hunters' tracks in the upper Waiohine valley.) The major change in initiating GWBN has been to open up membership to individuals with an interest in conservation and recreation in the local ranges. It will provide assistance – funding, equipment, management advice and logistics organisation – for any individuals or groups with projects to maintain huts and tracks.

GWBN has been established with an operating Committee consisting of:

Chairman     Derrick Field

Vice-chairman     Brett Gillies

Treasurer     Owen Cox

Secretary     vacant

Members     John Duggan, John Taylor, Allan McComb, Adrian Regnault, Mike Thrupp

They are elected as individuals, not as representatives of any tramping, hunting or other club.

### **What has GWBN achieved so far?**

GWBN has negotiated a Community Agreement with DoC for the maintenance of 5 huts (including Waitewaewae Hut) directly; organisations that belonged to TARHC have agreements to maintain about 40 more huts and bivs. During last summer and projected into this summer, GWBN has supported funding of major work on Dorset Ridge, Nichols, Andersons and Alpha Huts. The summer of 2021-22 was not ideal for getting people and materials into these sites but the projects are expected to be completed this summer along with work at Te Matawai Hut. Other work has had to be deferred a bit because of a hiccup in funding sought from BCT but it is hoped that a major project at Waitewaewae, painting the roof and exterior to keep that hut in good condition, will be funded in 2023-24.

GWBN has taken up a Community Agreement with DoC covering 310 kms of tracks and a regular maintenance schedule for years out to 2028-29 established. More than 120 kms of tracks has been maintained in 2021-22; funding and equipment for which has been successfully sought from trusts and commercial firms.

### **What is HVTC's role now?**

HVTC has had a long commitment to building and maintaining huts in the Tararua and Remutaka Ranges - at Waitewaewae since 1934; at Powell on Mt Holdsworth since 1938; and at Baines, in the Orongorongo Valley, since 1944.

Baines Hut was rescued from Matthews Stream, and demolished, in 2010. The Club's attachment was transferred to Papatahi Hut, for which we are negotiating a new Community Agreement with DoC, but expect that a greater contribution to the hut's maintenance will be required.

The Club surrendered its commitment to maintaining Powell Hut in 2015 when it became a serviced (bookable) hut under direct DoC management.

The Agreement to maintain Waitewaewae Hut was allowed to lapse at that time also but maintenance visits have been occasionally carried out subsequently. In 2021 HVTC opted to transfer responsibility for maintaining Waitewaewae to TARHC, and now GWBN, because this simplifies the bureaucracy in dealing with DoC. However we now have an informal undertaking with GWBN to contribute to maintaining that hut. Last summer/autumn a couple of visits were made to the hut to make minor repairs and then to thoroughly clean the interior of the hut, to thoroughly clean mould from several mattress covers, to cut back vegetation from around the helipad and along the northern aspect of the hut, to clean clearlight roofing over the deck, to clear the guttering (that feeds water to the water-tank), to clear drains around the hut, and an attempt was made to kill off mould, lichen and moss from the deck and the "undercarriage" of the hut. All of the necessary materials were flown into the hut for us. Some track clearing was undertaken during the tramp in to and out from the hut.

Such work is rewarding. It maintains the Club's connection with our pioneering members, who were all volunteers; it is (mostly) enjoyable; it contributes to the experiences of others recreating in the Wellington Region backcountry; and it repays those in other locations who have willingly contributed their time, energy and expertise to keeping recreational opportunities available to us! I hope that members of HVTC will continue to contribute their skills to maintaining this little corner of the Tararua Range to the benefit of all members of the public who visit the Upper Otaki Valley and Waitewaewae.

HVTC is a member of GWBN, with one vote. We will get plenty of assistance from GWBN in organising work parties at Waitewaewae.

### **To join Greater Wellington Backcountry Network**

I hope that all the members of our Club who recreate in the Greater Wellington ranges or who have an interest in those ranges will also register as members of GWBN.

Go to the website <https://tarhc.org.nz/> ; look under join-us.

What you get:

- Membership is free;
- The website has a large archive of reports of work that has been undertaken;
- There is an e-mail Discussions Forum through which you can stay aware of work being planned and opportunities to volunteer your skills, energy and/or time.
- Membership demonstrates the magnitude of volunteer interest in the local backcountry, helping GWBN when it seeks grants of funds for projects and for equipment.

**Do it today!**

*Murray Presland*

(HVTC representative to GWBN; and individual member)

## **TRIP REPORTS**

### **HEREPAI HUT - "I Thought it Would be Easy."**

**17 - 18 September 2022**

**Patrick Fotheringham**

I had been to Herepai Hut before and over the Three Bottles track. To do something new, I looked at going along a nice looking smooth contoured ridge that started on the true left at a side stream fork in the Mangatainoka River below Ruapae Falls. There is private land to the north of the ridge along with some scrubby looking regeneration, so rather than returning more directly to the road end I elected to head south from point 655 to a bridge over the Mangatainoka River.

Five brave people, and me, signed up for the trip. We started walking from the Putara carpark at about 10am on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October. There were plenty of others in the car park, this brought one of my trip provisions to fruition. By taking tents for all of us, everybody else subsequently went to Roaring Stag Hut, we had Herepai Hut to ourselves.

After the first bridge, there is a sign indicating dire consequences for trespassers, so we stayed on the track. A little further on a slip on the true right had pushed the river over the track on the true left. The washout is easily traversed but it looks like the track will need to move slightly. There were a few other washouts and tree falls in testament to the recent heavy rain.

We had lunch just short of the junction with Roaring Stag Track. More people went past, on their way to Roaring Stag Hut. Some seemed doubtful of our assurances that the junction was close, but we mostly didn't fess up about having GPS and mapping on our phones. Later, it was second lunch, or was it early afternoon tea, at Herepai hut. The hut had been recently refurbished as was in good shape.



Most of us walked a little beyond the hut to get some views above the bush line, but still in the scrub. You don't have to walk far to get a view almost right down Ruapae Stream. We could see where Roaring Stag Hut was but not the hut itself. Walking a bit further gave us views to the north. I continued on alone for a time and got thoroughly blown around for my trouble. I also found a memorial cross for Stan Evans on Herepai peak. I have subsequently found many references to the cross but little on who Stan was. I tried taking photos there but holding the cell phone still enough proved challenging.

I ended up as chief cook that evening and with help from the others we soon had a traditional mac cheese quietly cooking in Jackie's sleeping bag. Dinner seemed to be met with general approval, especially with the chopped fresh (5\$ each) capsicum topping.

That evening, I established a verbal contract with the rest of the party that we should be on our way by 10am on Sunday. As it turned out, we were away by 9am. A short distance from the hut, the Three Bottles Track has a metal cut out sign in the shape of three, very old style, beer bottles. The track goes northwards down a spur to meet with the Mangatainoka River. It meanders a little bit then near the end it dives

off to the west to end at a stream fork very close to the Mangatainoka River. At the river, we took a break and I had a look around. In the end I decided to blunder directly up the river bank to the north east, this shortly brought us up into good open bush travel. Navigation was easy, if we weren't going up we weren't going the right way. We eventually found a good ground trail marked in places with traditional, but remarkably new looking, painted baked bean tin lids.

Slightly beyond point 655, the highest point on the ridge, we had to make a decision. Continue to follow the nicely marked and very walkable track to the left that headed in the general direction of the car park or dive off into the untracked wilderness to the right. As we headed right the few ground trails disappeared and we made our way, directed more or less southwards by compass, on the broad ridge. A little way down there was castle-like rock outcrop that would look really impressive if you were 100mm high. Names were suggested, some not complimentary, for the outcrop.

The ridge appeared to narrow as we negotiated the tributaries of the small creeks that clawed at the sides of the ridge. Sometimes a groove would follow the ridge line before finally diving off to the left or right. The ridge crest started to zigzag between the competing creek tributaries and became very hard to follow. The compass gave us a sense of direction but we were scrambling in and out of creek beds all the time. An absence of ground trails indicated the animals also wandered fairly randomly around there. At the steepest part of the ridge descent, the crest was just a narrow rib before dropping to a flat area. All the time the tree canopy presented a smooth veneer to anybody looking from above. I felt that all the scrambling around was exploring the limits of an easy trip, but we were in no hurry and turning back was not an attractive thought.

Finally, the ridge straightened out with noticeably taller trees growing on the crest and we could hear water on both sides. Then I saw the bright red jacket of someone crossing the bridge below us. We waited briefly at the bridge for lunchtime. Other people went past on going on day trips and those returning from what must have been a busy night at Roaring Stag Hut.

On the way out we engaged in some minor track clearing around the washouts and some fallen trees to make travel easier. As we approached the bridge near the Putara car park I kept an eye out for the track coning down from near point 655 but could not find it.

On the trip were: Chris and Jackie West, Ann Hayman, Graham White, Catherine Croucher and Patrick Fotheringham (leader).

*Patrick*

# CONE SADDLE - CONE RIDGE - TOTARA FLATS

8-9 October 2022

Chris McMillan

A trip of many opportunities: getting out and doing what we love; walking beside snow; re-evaluating progress and situation and changing plans.

I had been wanting to do this trip for a while so with Labour weekend approaching and the need for extra fitness and pack carrying training, I had offered this trip. Initially 5 punters indicated their keenness to join me but this number slowly dwindled until there were just the 3 of us. It meant the trip was on.

The previous days had brought snow and strong winds so we were pleased to know that the weekend would have fine weather; no rain, light winds increasing a little on Saturday and a little stronger for Sunday. A perfect weekend.

Leaving at 7am from the Hutt we started walking from Waiohine Gorge Road end at a little before 9am in cool temperatures. As we ascended there were more and more snowy patches to the side of the track making for a magical scene. The steep track is in great condition – cleared, open, easy to follow. Outer garments were removed as we warmed, and snacks including eggs consumed. Stops were found in warming sunshine. The gentle breeze was icy. The saddle was reached at 11.30am where a sign showed Cone Peak to be 1 hour 40 mins distant. Soon the track became more rugged – a real tramping track, easy to follow and in good condition – and steeper. During the next break one of us realized their parka had been left at home. Considering the good weather forecast and that holes could be cut for arms and head in a black rubbish bag, this wasn't considered a problem at that stage. As the track became more taxing a stop near spot height 812 for a sustaining and energy giving lunch was taken at around 1pm. During that break I assessed how we were going based on the time taken to reach this point and so estimated another 1.5hours to reach Cone Peak and then based on our pace we would still have another 6 or more hours to go. Impossible. That together with a missing parka, one of the party with severely painful knees, flagging energy, and an icy wind made the decision to turn back and head to Cone Hut an easy one to make. All agreed with this new plan. An empty Cone Hut (5 mattresses on a platform with space for one person above on own sleeping mat) was reached at 3.30pm so we opted to stay there rather than go to the more popular Tutuwae a couple of hours distant. Later we were joined by a very pleasant young couple. Dinner was coconut rice with sultanas and cashew nuts added and a colourful selection of vegetables.



The next morning was clear and sunny. Different return routes had been considered the previous day including via Reeves which was discounted. After leaving just before 8am and heading up to



the saddle the decision was made to descend to the Lower Waiohine track and the river. There were a few windfalls and a slip or two. The track is not well used so was a more interesting descent than had the return been the same way as we had come. At 11.30 at the junction we met other groups and learned that Totara Flats hut had been full that night with several noisy dogs who really wanted to be inside with their owners. The

change of plan had worked well for a quiet night as otherwise we would have been camping with the dogs. The Waiohine Track is one of my least favourite. It's muddy, full of roots, lots of ascents and descents to get over slips or in and out of creeks, and this time a fair number of windfalls. We were pleased to finally arrive back at the car park at 2.00pm.

We were: Chris McMillan (leader), Jackie & Chris West.

*Chris*

## MOUNTAIN HOUSE CIRCUIT

Thursday 20 October 2022

Graeme Lythgoe

There were possible showers forecast but the day dawned bright and sunny. We met up at Holdsworth road-end and got away about 1000 hours. There is a substantial work programme underway to improve the Donnelly Flat Loop Walk with metal and board walks being carted in by various mechanical vehicles. After that it was peace and quiet along to the turnoff. The climb has three stages – steep, gentle and fairly steep again. We stopped after the steep stage for a rest and a cuppa. It h–d clouded over and there was a trace of moisture in the air.



Photo: Bernice Deller

After looking at the old hut site we gained the main track just as it was starting to rain more steadily.

We headed down to the shelter for lunch and were glad we had done so as it rained heavily for about 30 minutes. The

rain eased and we headed down the track. We had intended to finish the exploration of the old Gentle Annie track but despite it now being fine, the bush was dripping and we decided to leave it for another day. By the time we reached the road it was bright and sunny.

Stats: Distance 12.5 kms, Vertical height 686 m, Time 3hr 45 mins.

Party: Heather Eskdale, Doreen Courtenay, Bernice and Bob Deller, John Fox, Graeme and Dash Lythgoe.

*Graeme*

## DISPOSAL OF EMPTY GAS CANISTERS

We have found a company in Upper Hutt that will take empty canisters for recycling so are happy to collect these on club nights.

Our only request is that they are completely “burnt out”-we have a tool that screws onto the canister which can then be used to puncture same but the instructions say to not proceed if there are any signs of escaping gas.

Chris & Jackie West

## DOC DETAILS

### **Totara Flats Hut moving to online booking**

Totara Flats Hut will become bookable online via the DOC website on 1 November 2022. Bookings will be required all year.

Trampers wanting to stay at the hut will need to register and book on the DOC website prior to setting out. Trampers should carry proof of their booking with them.

More information will be added to the DOC webpage closer to the time.

### **Closure of Grace’s Stream Campsite**

DOC has decided to close the Grace’s Stream Campsite in the Remutaka Forest Park, to protect visitors from dangerous trees.

DOC has assessed that the popularity of the site has been its downfall, with high numbers of visitors causing damage to the forest through soil compaction. This has led to many trees dying and an increased risk of treefall in the campsite.

Ultimately, DOC is not able to manage the risks at site so the Department has decided to close the campsite and remove all facilities there.

There is a DOC toilet on-site that will be removed, and signage will go up before the summer holidays advising visitors of the dangers of camping there.

*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.*