



*Uganda's Rwenzori Mountains*

*Photo: Jonty Crane*

Please submit your **December 2023/ January 2024** H&V articles to the editor by **3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023**

HVTC Postal Address: PO Box 30-883, Lower Hutt:

Clubrooms: Birch Street Reserve, Birch Street, Waterloo

Internet: <http://www.hvtc.org.nz> E-mail: [info@hvtc.org.nz](mailto:info@hvtc.org.nz)

**President:** Marina Skinner 021 792 260  
**Trip Coordinator:**

**Secretary:** Emma Dobbie  
**Treasurer:** Jim Cousins

027 252 5045  
586 2135

**Editor H&V :** Bruce Miller 563 5966 [the-bruce@xtra.co.nz](mailto:the-bruce@xtra.co.nz)



## CLUB NIGHT PROGRAMME

Starts 7:30 pm promptly



### 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.

### 8 November : John Palmer – Rock Climbing on Kalymnos in Greece

John Palmer, Past President of NZ Alpine Club and one on NZ's leading rock climbers and authors will speak about his trip earlier this year to the Climber's Mecca of the island of Kalymnos in Greece.

On Kalymnos, one of ~6000 Greek Islands, you will find one of the best rock climbing areas in the world. Prior to development of the island's vast array of limestone cliffs for climbing, Kalymnos was a sleepy island near the Turkish coast, known for its fishing villages and sea sponge trade. Now, with over 4200 established rock climbs (and counting), the island is a major destination for climbers from all over the world. With hundreds of towering walls covered in huge tufas and stalactites, a Mediterranean climate, crystal clear water, sandy beaches and great food, it is easy to see why it has become so popular. From beginner to expert, there is something for every climber in Kalymnos.

### 15 November : Simon and Marg Glover – Machu Picchu – 27 years of change – or maybe not

For years Marg talked about her magical experience walking the Machu Picchu trail in 1979 and how she would like to share that with her nearest and dearest.

27 years later she returned with husband and son, fearing that the magic she had experienced would be spoilt by the huge numbers walking the trail. Anything but, only this time she didn't have to carry a full pack with tent, food etc. and the meals that the team of porters and guides provided were some of the best she had tasted in Peru.

### 22 November : Jonty Crane – Tackling the Rwenzori Mountains in gumboots

Jonty Crane hiked in gumboots through endless mud among diverse landscapes and exotic flora in Uganda's Rwenzori Mountains, and summited the 5,109m Mt Stanley, Africa's third-highest peak.

### 29 November : Neil and Andrew – November HVTC Film Festival

Andrew Robinson and Neil Hickman present tonight their annual HVTC Film Festival. Taking a change from outdoor adventures, which we have screened for many years now, we have chosen special clips from National Geographic. The focus is the intuition and intelligence of the 4 legged variety. In researching, some clips just blew us away, and had us laughing out loud. Join us tonight and leave with a smile on your face.

### 6-December : OPEN NIGHT – Theme: TBC photos Centenary??



## 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.

NOVEMBER			
3 – 5		HVTC 100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event weekend	
Tue 7		County Lane, Bartons Bush	Jackie
		County Lane Totara Park bridge Moonshine bridge	Debbie
Fri 10	Tramble	Dry creek	Doreen



Sat 11	D1	NPV No Private Vehicle Trip	Derek
Sun 12	D1	East Harbour Regional Park	
Sun 12		Manual bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park	Leena
Tue 14		New cycle trail from Cornish Street	Ann H
		Korokoro stream via Belmont regional park	Paul L
Fri 17	Tramble	Pareraho Forest tracks	Doreen
18 – 19	T1	Washpool Hut	Leader required
	T2	Aorangi Crossing	Chriselda
Sun 19	D1	Makara Walkway	Tony & Jo
Sun 19		Manual bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park	Leena
Tue 21		Mana Pukerua Bay Cycleway	Tony B
		Rangituhi Trails	Paul L
25 – 26	T1	Tutuwai hut	Mel
25 – 1	T2	Trains track – Matemateaonga track – Whanganui river	Andrew R
Sun 26	D1	Wind Turbine – Hawkins Hill exploring	Heather & Rob
		Manual bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park	Leena
Tue 28		Waiwhetu Stream – Cemetery	Leader required
		BRP Hill Road Bull Run	Andrew Fisher
<b>DECEMBER</b>			
2 – 3	T1	Totara Flats hut	Leader required
Sun 3	D1+	Wainuiomata Hill - ECNZ Track to Taita	David B
		Manual bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park	Leena
Tue 5			
			
9 – 10	T1	Camping on top of Cone	Mel
	T2	Neill Forks	Andrew R
Sun 10	D1	Avalon Park – Boulder Hill (return)	Marilyn / Heather
		Manual bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park	Leena

## FROM THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

### UNLOCKING AND LOCKING THE GARAGE DOORS

Just a friendly reminder about unlocking and locking the garage doors.

When taking the van out of the garage (The side door key is attached to the van key) The side door can then be fully opened and held in place by the latch.

To open the roller door, slide the locking bar out from the timber framing, then pull the chain down allowing the roller door to be raised up to its stop. (The Door Will Stay Up By Itself At This Stage).

Once the van is outside, the roller door can then be lowered by carefully manipulating the chain with both hands to control the lowering speed. Slide the locking bar back into the timber framing.

As for closing the side door, simply unlatch it from its holder and close the door, it will self lock without requiring a key,

When returning the van, it's pretty much the same procedure, apart from placing the van keys in the drop box of the gear room back door. then unlatch and close the self-locking side door.

*Doc Watson*

Clubroom Custodian

## VAN REFUELING RECORDS

**Van Drivers:** When refueling the van please put the receipt with the Fuel Card in the Glove box. It is very difficult to reconcile the invoice when one is missing.

*John Smeith*

Transport Officer

## DONATION OF NEW ICE AXE

I would like to take this opportunity to let you know that Paula Warren, most of you will know her as Chairperson of Friends of Baring Head, has kindly donated a new ice axe to our club. I say new because apparently it's only been used once on Mount Hikurangi.

It is in great condition and extremely light weight, it's a STUBAI Brand and now labelled as HVTC 18.

Once again, a big thankyou to Paula Warren.

*Doc Watson*

Clubroom Custodian

## CLUB CENTENARY



## BIKE AND TRAMPING TRIPS AND BYO BBQ/PICNIC SUNDAY 5TH NOVEMBER 2023.

After all the eating and talking of the previous two days, 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. The shelter is opposite 'Area 4' in the campground. If you wish to go straight to the BBQ shelter, follow Waterworks Road from the entrance to the park until it drops around a hook curve to the left. Do not cross the one lane bridge but keep turning left into the campground/picnic area - look for 'Area 4' and our shelter is opposite this. The park ranger will put a sign up on our shelter for us.

## ACTIVITIES ON OFFER

### (1) Pakuratahi River Walk and (possibly) Swingbridge Loop

Park your vehicle close to the **BBQ site** (see directions above) and join me in a gentle amble along the leafy walk beside the Pakuratahi River to its junction with the Hutt River, passing the site of Rivendell along the way. Crossing the Hutt River via the swingbridge we will wander through the attractive bush to the flume. If it is possible cross the flume we can complete a loop, otherwise we will return the same way.

Bring lightweight walking gear, sunhat & sun block, insect repellent, warm clothing and parka.

The walk should take less than 2 hours, so if we set out at **10:30am** we can be back at the BBQ in plenty of time for the picnic.

If you are interested, please text me at 027 563 5966 or email me at [the-bruce@xtra.co.nz](mailto:the-bruce@xtra.co.nz) or just turn up at the departure point.

*Bruce Miller*

### (2) Tramp Te Marua to Kaitoke

**Trip Plan** We will be walking from the Te Marua lakes end to the barbecue site at Kaitoke arriving about 12.30pm. The barbecue starts at 12pm so by the time we arrive the barbecues should have heated up ready for your sausages. We will stop for morning tea on the way.

**Meeting Place** We will leave Upper Hutt Station at **9am** to car pool or else meet us at the Te Marua lakes car park at **9.15am**. Drivers and possibly passengers will be driven back to their cars in the club van or by car from Kaitoke.

**Bring** Food and drink for morning tea and the barbecue. Sunhat & sun block, insect repellent, warm clothing and parka. Wear sturdy shoes as the last time I walked the track in September it was the muddiest I have ever seen it though it might have dried out a bit by November.

If you are coming contact Jackie West at 0274739199 or 5284697

Or [jackieandchris@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jackieandchris@xtra.co.nz)

*Jackie West*

### (3) Easy Bike Ride, Remutaka Rail Trail

Helen and Paul will lead this ride prior to the Club's picnic/BBQ at Kaitoke Regional Park. Be ready to leave the Rail Trail carpark at **10am**. Morning tea will be at the summit where there are toilets and picnic tables. There will be the option to go further to see the Siberia bridge installed in 2020. We will return the same way to collect the cars, then drive to the picnic site.

Distance approx 24k. Suitable for all bikes.

#### **What to bring:**

A balloon for your bike.

Bike light for the tunnels.

Puncture repair kit.

Personal 1st aid, sunscreen and hat.

Morning tea.

Picnic food and drink. The Club has booked a BBQ site so food can be cooked. Sauces will be provided.

Folding seat if desired.

Please let us know if you plan to join us. Ph 589 7484

*Helen and Paul*

[helen.weaves@gmail.com](mailto:helen.weaves@gmail.com)

# CENTENARY STORIES ON OUR WEBSITE

Marina Skinner

Several Life Members and other longstanding club members have shared stories about their time with HVTC in the centenary section of our website.

## [Centenary stories](#)

We asked all Life Members and others who have been club members for more than 60 years to tell us about their lives in the outdoors.

They look back at some of their most memorable moments with the club – the highs and the lows. And they talk about the friendships they have made and what the club has meant to them.

Stories are from Ian Ayson, Mat Craig, Thora Jones, Bruce Miller, Dennis Page, Sandra Pearce, Ron Pynenburg, Mary and Phil Rundle, and Pat and John Tristram.

We'd love to hear more stories from club members, no matter how long you've been with the club. Please email [marinaskinner@xtra.co.nz](mailto:marinaskinner@xtra.co.nz) with your story.



*A photo from one of the website stories.*

*From left, Arnold Heine, Phil Rundle, Gordon Howitt and John Rundle at Harihari, Easter 1955.*

*Marina*



# PLANTING TO MARK OUR BIRTHDAY

Marina Skinner



*From left, the Brownsword family, Bernice and Bob Deller, and John Simes.*

We are marking our centenary with a small planting outside the clubrooms.

It is made up of native plants and features a nikau palm and two silver ferns – the symbols of our HVTC logo.

The planting signifies the importance of native plants to our tramping community and is an enduring way to mark our 100th birthday.

Kate Brownsword and John Simes have planned, designed and organised the planting.

On 28 October the Brownsword family, John and Bob and Bernice Deller prepared the area between the garage and the clubrooms. They planted *Muehlenbeckia astonii* and red-leaved horopito at the back and sides.

Spaces have been left for the three feature plants, which will go in at the afternoon centenary event on 4 November.

*Marina*



## PINUS CONTORTA WEEKEND 1-3 MARCH 2024

### LEADER NEEDED



Dear All

I expect to be away at the time of our annual *Pinus contorta* eradication weekend next March, so this is a call out for a leader. We are booked with Danial van der Lubbe of DOC Ohakune for the first weekend of March 2024. I will happily guide you through the details of running the trip.

Please contact me if you are interested in leading this trip.

*John Simes*

027 464 1824

[john.e.simes@gmail.com](mailto:john.e.simes@gmail.com)

## MORE MEMORIES

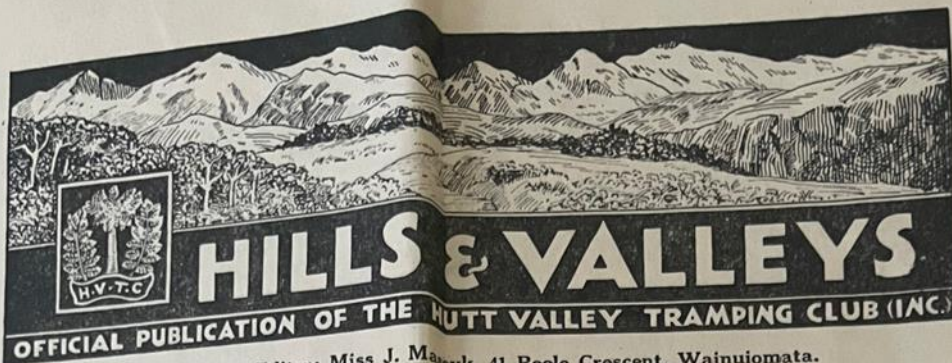
### DART AND MATUKITUKI HVTC TRIP, SUMMER 1961-62

Felicity Maxwell



L to R John Rundle, Jenny Maseyk Rundle, Ian Wallis, Graeme Maxwell, Arnold Heine, Lloyd Homer, Dick Corrin.





Hon. Editor: Miss J. Maseyk, 41 Poole Crescent, Wainuiomata.  
 Hon. Secretary: Miss S. Akhurst, 31 St. Ronan's Avenue, Lower Hutt.  
 Hon. Treasurer: Mr. D. Campbell, 42 Chapman Crescent, Naenae.  
 Hon. Chief Guide: Mr. K. Pearce, 107 Martin Street, Upper Hutt.  
 Official Address: P.O. Box 183, Wellington, C.1., N.Z.  
 This publication is free to members—non-members 5/- per annum post free.  
 Registered at the G.P.O., Wellington, as a magazine.

Vol. 15, No. 4.

May, 1962

### DART AND MATUKITUKI

Because of the similarity between two of the Christmas trips scheduled for last summer the parties undertaking them combined. Originally the intention was for both groups to keep company up to the Whitburn Glacier and then one party of three men and an orange tent hoped to journey from Bay Col into the Joe River, whilst our party of three men and a girl aimed at crossing from the saddle into the Arawata. Eventually, however, due entirely to unfavourable climatic conditions, neither party accomplished these ambitions; but instead enjoyed the presence of each other for the remaining time.

So now we are seven except for eating and sleeping. Little climbing was able to be done but following along the Dart River, up and down the Whitburn and along the Matukituki River was an interesting cross country route.

Our adventures began at the Christchurch bus depot on the Saturday morning when we discovered that everyone else off for the mountains had buses awaiting them, but we seven somehow had been omitted although our fares had been accepted some time previously; this caused slight consternation on both sides for an hour at least until an ancient autobus was assembled and a kindly fellow gave up his rest day (on triple time of course) to help out the G.T.B.

Accompanying the packs and ice axes in the bus boot were two large

sacks of vegetables, one of which rolled out before we had driven a quarter of a mile through Christchurch, this was not realised until a car indicated to our driver what had happened. Hastily we reversed, regained the sack and raced on for another 15 minutes only to stop on the outskirts of the city at a house to deliver Christmas presents; but this did not take long and then we absolutely thundered along to Pukaki where we caught up the other buses. A transfer into a more modern bus was made.

All Sunday was taken up travelling from Queenstown to Dan's Paddock our first camping ground and also the place where we first met the Dart River.

The Dart supports several bluffs and sometimes these can be waded around but it was our misfortune to have to climb over most we encountered. The valley was wide enough to give a good view of the snow peaks as we neared them, and often as we emerged from the bush we came upon a large grassy flat, the most impressive of these was Cattle flats. A well marked track prevailed along the true left of the river, and this we followed for four days through red beech forest until reaching the junction of the Whitburn and Dart Rivers.

We managed to cross the Dart by use of a rope, the water was chest deep, icy, turbid and swift, but the event was without complications although late in the morning. After lunch we followed high above the true left of the Whitburn River until we



came upon the Whitburn Flats where we spent a few days snooping around.

It seems that twenty or thirty years ago there were ways of easy access onto Boys Col but now this is not so. Once whilst looking for a route high on the snow grass slope opposite our camp we saw a young deer fall 300 feet to its death, obviously no track for us to follow.

Leading into the Whitburn Glacier was exciting, high rock cliffs surrounded, and big boulders confronted one as a pleasant obstacle to work around. I had the feeling of entering something rather mysterious and volcanic. Once off the moraine we saw the saddle and were inspired. The glacier was ice, all snow having disappeared much earlier, so crampons were most useful. Half way along the glacier we camped on some rocks, and here we remained for several days, experiencing a storm and general bad weather. Avalanches continually crashed off Lydia, whilst exalted games of five-hundred and switch reigned. Conditions for photography were good but climbing was impossible, so we contented ourselves with morning walks.

The weather cleared, and we cleared out; back to the Dart, on this occasion crossing it at a natural bridge. Three huge boulders in the gorge provided stepping stones but the first two were not in leaping distance so the boys constructed a magnificent bridge from two tree trunks supported at each end by horizontal branches, all joins were securely bound with rope. Excitement mounted and so did my apprehension as the bridge was lowered onto the rocks. Progress across was by side-stepping, leaning into the bridge on all fours, feet on the lower rung, hands firmly grasping the other.

Dart Hut not far away was our destination that day and the next when the great wash took place, string singlets, socks, shirts and shorts. Arnold was responsible for our supplies of fresh meat and often he would go off for lengthy periods, sometimes returning with venison. Leaving the hut we tramped along the Dart River to the glacier from whence we followed a snow grass ridge to Cascade Saddle. Above the saddle curved Plunket Dome and thousands of feet below lingered the Matukituki Valley.

Cascade Saddle is covered by snow

grass so that great care must be taken whilst traversing it. For the first part it is flat and offers glorious views of Rob Roy before rising steeply to the Pylon from which it drops rapidly to the bush line. The distance was long and the effort wearying so it was with relief that we took off our boots outside Aspiring Hut.

Pearl Flats must be the most delightful place in the Matukituki, so it was not surprising that some of us remained there one afternoon instead of trudging up to French Ridge Bivouac, the others up to French Ridge Bivouac and spent a few hours around that area, enjoying the sights at least of the peaks we had entertained ideas of climbing.

Too soon we found ourselves leaving the wonderful hills and heading for home, but already ideas for next Christmas were developing.

People participating on the tramp were Arnold Heine, Lloyd Homer, Richard Corin, John Rundle, Graeme Maxwell, Ian Wallis and Jenny Maseyk.

J. A. MASEYK.

### EASTER SOUNDS 1962

Owing to the paucity of contributions from the much wider travelled members of our club your editor's husband has again been bludgeoned into telling a few fishy tales. The leader of the trip and the author of this article cannot be accused of stretching things as he caught nothing, and broke his rode into the bargain.

Let us get one thing clear, this trip to the Sounds each Easter is now definitely a fishing expedition. To be sure a certain lip service is paid to tramping and some people have actually been seen going for a stroll but they usually end up on a lilo.

This year the trip could boast four chief guides (one current) and odd secretaries and president. With this kind of talent the trip could hardly fail to be well organised—except for one thing. Our chef, Mac MacKenzie had to call off at the last moment and while Ted Howick endeavoured to fill his place it wasn't quite the same. Cooking fish is a full time occupation.

*Felicity*



# THE TRAMPERS SPORTS

Alan Stevens

When I joined the HVTC in 1956 the Sports Weekend was well established. The genesis would have been the 1923 Eastbourne Carnival which had a 25 mile (40km) "walking" marathon from Eastbourne across Gollans & Wainuiomata Valleys, over the 5 Mile Track, up the Orongorongo River bed to Matthews Stream and return. Entrants had to be 18, wear proper tramping boots, have a pre-race medical and carry a 20lb (9kg) sealed pack. There were 21 entrants/ 17 finishers, at least 3 were from TTC, fastest time 5hrs 34 minutes.

In spite of widespread public interest there was criticism within the TTC of this "stop watch" tramping. During that decade they held an annual picnic sports meeting at the Catchpool Flat – the start of the 5 mile track. The keen harriers and others in the Club decided to have a proper Trampers Marathon and set down rules : organised by TTC, who provided the Handicapper; 2 ½ lbs boots; and the course from the Catchpool along the 5 miles track, down Jacobs Ladder, down the Orongorongo River, up the Baker Spur, over the saddle and down the Butcher Track to the finish across the Catchpool Stream (near the modern car park), approx. 10 miles.

The first race was held on 29 November 1930. The 10 finishers were all TTC with the fastest 1hr 39.49sec. For the 2nd race in 1931 entrants could come from any Club associated with the WAMC (Wellington Associated Mountain Clubs) which resulted in 14 runners from HVTC, TTC, VUTC & Levin. It became an annual event, with Doug Sinclair TTC setting a record of 1hr 22.27sec in 1936 which stood for 21 years until broken in 1957. By 1939 there were 29 runners, numbers dwindled during WWII and in 1945 3 heroes braved inclement weather & flooded river.

Tramping grew in popularity, as did the social Sports Weekend and the Trampers Marathon, a junior race from the river back along the 5 mile to the Catchpool, organised by WT&MC; for the Ladies a Billy Boiling contest, a social campfire at night and picnic sports on Sunday. NZR buses commenced a weekly Friday evening Trampers bus service from Hutt Station (then the main line), pickups at Prince Edward Theatre (cnr Cambridge Tce & Whites Line East), Homedale, down to Jacksons farm where a steel fence stile led across his paddocks up over the fearsome Gut Buster track to the Catchpool, most using their carbide lamps (Stinkers!) to light the way! Many private huts were built in the Orongorongo Valley as well as Club ones, including our Baines at Matthews Stream. There was a return bus late on Sunday afternoon.

Great planning & organisation went into this mid-February weekend for the large numbers who made the trip, especially using the large furniture truck used to carry members and gear. The Chief Guide had to prepare the entries for the Marathon with notes to guide (or try to mislead!) the Handicapper. Club rules of "no grog on Club Trips) were blissfully ignored and a compulsory stop at the Wainui Pub along Moores Valley Rd. was made to fill our flagons of beer! This added to the heavy load over the Gut Buster, as often one had to add the gear of a prospective girlfriend!

The Catchpool was a hive of activity as each club had their traditional campsite on the clearings amongst the bush, fireplace to be made & wood collected. Around 1pm the Handicapper nailed the start list to a prominent tree and all rushed to find their handicap – sometime good, but mostly tough!! Great excitement when the first runner departed with the scratch man last to depart some 50 minutes later. After the ladies Billy Boil competition and the arrival of the Junior Marathon all



walked down the track to the finish area to watch the runners coming down the steep, gorsey, rutted Butcher Track to the finish.

After refreshments, then a meal came the campfire. Clubs took it in turns to stage that in the natural bowl, not only the fire but especially pride in the song sheet which had many creative ditties that became part of folklore. The MC/ Leaders had a major role – usually great personalities. Afterwards carousing continued around each club's campfire (or Tilley lamp!) with much conviviality and fraternising.....! The CTC always brought their Priest, usually Father John Temm, a lovely man, who conducted a service the next morning. I was told that it was the most interesting Mass they attended!

On Sunday all went back over the hill and out onto Jackson's farm paddocks for the picnic sports, all manners of usual events and some typically trampers – especially the obstacle race which included a jump off a high bank into a pool in the river.

The WAMC, apart from their main role in coordinating our joint involvement in matters relating to the local hills etc. and from organising the Sports Weekend, also staged the famous annual Trampers Ball initially at the Majestic Cabaret, then the Overseas Passenger Terminal. All wore their "glad rags" and one could only purchase double tickets !!!! This was to deter single males! More inter Club fraternisation! HVs & T&Ms organised a joint preBall – very select!



Inevitably changes came. Six Ladies were gladly welcomed into the Marathon in 1979 including our Jan Heine, part of the largest field of 63 runners. During the 1980s numbers started to dwindle, also supporters; new tracks were cut along the top around the pine plantations, a road was made into the current car park and the new Orongorongo Track replaced the 5 mile. The 64th and last marathon was held on 11 March 1995. To quote the late Peter Jagger (TTC, marathon runner then handicapper, historian

and Editor of The Trampers Marathon history) : "It was a great pity that this unusual event came to an end. All the Wellington Clubs over the last 10 years have not given it their support as they used to, particularly as helpers and it has been left to TTC to host". The last race had 31 finishers, of which 2 were from HVTC.

Some brief HVTC Marathon statistics:

9 x individual winners; 10 x Sinclair Shield Team ( 4 person); 9 x women;

12 x fastest time (including Frank Cox 1937-57); 2 x race record (Alan Stevens)

Most Marathons: Tom Clarkson 22; John Tristram 17; Alan Stevens 14; Don Millward 13; John Rundle 10; Phil Quinn 10.

A comment: In 1957 I first entered in the Marathon having only been to Baines once and not seen the course. When I saw the handicaps I found I had only 30 seconds on the existing scratch man Keith Wood, TTC, also a well known harrier and Wellington representative. John Rundle had a received a call from the handicapper who asked if I had any running ability, as he knew my father, also A.Stevens, a champion runner and resident in Waterloo. I had fastest time on each 3 legs, chased by Keith but then he won the down hill and broke the 1936 record by 3 seconds!

I am greatly indebted to the late Peter Jagger TTC for his comprehensive 98 page history of the Marathon he self published in 1998. He similarly produced a number of other publications about local features in especially the Tararuas. As he lived in Korokoro he knew many of us well and in retirement cut a number of new tracks in the region. The book is in the HVTC library.

*Alan*



### HEREPAI-RUAPAE MATARIKI WEEKEND

14 - 16 July 2023

Andrew Robinson

The car park was chocker when we reached the end of Putara Road so while we were squeezing the van in the five of us discussed options. One was to go somewhere else, but, hopeful that everyone was heading for Roaring Stag hut rather than Herepai hut like us, we decided to stick with our original plan. If worse came to worst and Herepai hut was full we could always turn around and go home.

It was cold and windy with occasional spits of rain at the car park so I thought it advisable to put a tent in my pack in case we had any trouble on the way to the hut. Over the first hour to the second swingbridge we met several people on their way out - eleven by Chriselda's count. They had been for a walk to mark Matariki, but apparently six or seven others were headed for Herepai hut. With five of us and Herepai being a ten-bunk hut some would be sleeping on the floor. Oh well, that's the way it goes sometimes. We had lunch at the second swingbridge then it was an hour of uphill on a muddy track to the track junction then another hour to Herepai hut. About twenty minutes before the hut we identified the start of the bottles track that we might take on the way back. There were ten other people at the hut so after some consideration we decided to stay. There was a site for a tent about thirty metres from the hut, but it wasn't ideal so I went looking for other options. I didn't find anything more suitable than the existing site, but then noticed that the ground next to the hut was flat, apart from some large, dead-looking tussock clumps. I used the back of the axe from the woodshed to attack the clumps and David tried the pruning saw, but I soon found using my boot was the best method. I used the axe to get rid of the few tree roots and when Doc gave me a hand it didn't take long to get the job done. Even better, I found a couple of sheets of plywood behind the woodshed that made a great floor. David and I shared the tent while Chriselda, Murray and Doc squeezed into the hut. The other hut occupants were two groups of four guys in their twenties I'd say, along with an older couple - older than the guys that is, maybe not older than us. With up to fifteen of us at a time in the hut it was just as well that everyone was very courteous. A couple of the young guys seemed quite impressed by what us oldies had been up to and the fact that two of us were tenting.

Saturday morning was fine with less wind than I was expecting. The plan was to head up to Ruapae then instead of heading south as is the norm, heading north to visit some peaks and do some of what used to be the first part of the S-K. The weather would determine how far we went. It was cold, but we soon warmed up with the climb up the spur. The first part was in the bush with occasional views of the hills to the west then we popped out onto the tussock which gave us views of farmland to the east. Ahead of us the top of the spur and our potential route later in the day was mostly cloud covered. An hour from the hut we reached the peak called Herepai, a little later than expected given we only had day packs. We had a quick morning tea stop then continued on to Ruapae at the top of the spur. The route was a little more up and down than I remembered, but still pretty easy going. The wind gradually picked up and I suspected it would be too windy to go much further once we reached the top. When we reached the top just over two hours after leaving the hut it was indeed very windy so we weren't going to be going very far. Five minutes north was far enough then we sidled southeast to pick up the track we'd come up on. Not far back down the track we found a sheltered spot but it was too early for lunch so we carried on for about another fifteen minutes to another spot that was almost as sheltered. When we resumed after lunch the wind had clearly picked up and it was expected to get stronger so it was going to be a testing descent. Indeed I nearly got blown over a couple of times and I think one of the others did get blown over, but there were no bluffs to get blown over and it wasn't raining so it wasn't too

uncomfortable. The descent was quicker than the ascent and we got back to an empty hut just after two o'clock. After claiming bunks we had a free afternoon.

One couple turned up about four o'clock and then a group of three turned up just on dark. One of that group had a couple of dogs so he set up his tent, not on the nice new tent site, but on the old one a bit further from the hut. Thankfully no one else turned up.

It was very windy overnight and still windy in the morning. We also had rain overnight so we abandoned the idea of taking the bottles track out – it would likely mean getting wet from the foliage even if it wasn't raining and also the route was a bit longer. As it turned out the rain stayed away and the wind had blown the trees dry. I'm not sure why but our walking time downhill on the way out was more than our uphill walking time on the way in. We were in no hurry so it didn't matter. With the shortish walk out it meant we had time for a café stop at Mt Bruce on the way home, a leisurely way to finish a leisurely trip.

*Andrew*

## MID-TURERE STREAM : Sunday 22 October

Maarten Vink

"Is everyone having fun?" asked Anja after lunch beside the Turere Stream.

"We're always having fun" replied Murray. And it certainly looked like everyone was enjoying themselves, in spite of the cool, showery conditions. It must have been the great company, scenery, exercise and fresh air.



Our tramp had started, like so many, with a good uphill climb. As we approached the top, we were rewarded with a good view over Wainuiomata and beyond. The view was quite hazy due to the drizzle. Then it was along the Whakanui track and down a spur called Jacek's Spur by the stoat trappers. We admired the lush green look of the forest, especially a carpet of kidney ferns which benefitted from the wet conditions. We were a colourful bunch in the forest with many of us having brightly coloured parkas and pack covers.

After lunch we headed upstream. The scenery was nature at its best with crystal

clear water running between rock and gravel banks and overhanging vegetation. It was mostly easy travel with ankle deep stream crossings. Then there were a few deeper pools, sometime associated with logs in the stream. These could be quite a challenge, especially one place where a contortionist's skill was needed to squeeze under a branch before climbing over a log lying across the stream.

We were following a stoat trap line with 16 trap sites. Each site has a DOC 200 stoat trap in a wooden box (baited with an egg) plus a Good Nature A24 gas operated resetting trap (with a caramel based bait). The DOC 200 traps regularly had animals in them, which turned out to be long dead rats. Stoats are occasionally caught on this line, but not today. The A24 traps target rats but often there is no sign that they have killed any. That seemed to be the case again, but on the



third to last trap site there was a freshly killed rat under the A24. Then the same result at the next two traps. A rare event. Total for the day was 8 rats in the DOC 200's and 3 under the A24's.

The consensus of the trip recorders was that we had climbed 860 m and walked 13 km by the time we got back to the cars at Sunny Grove. A good leg stretch. The happy bunch of trampers were; Heather Eskdale, James Herdman, Tony Jaegers, Kate Livingston, Chris and Murray McMillan, Jude Spier, Mel Stoneham, Anja van Kesteren and Maarten Vink (leader and trap-checker).

*Maarten*

## **RIMUTAKA INCLINE**

### **(Hills & Valleys December 1965)**

Three people caught the 8.52 a.m. railcar to the Wairarapa on a damp and nasty Sunday morning. The party increased at various stops through the valley and seven people sorted themselves out on the platform at Featherston, fitted themselves into taxis, and returned to the road-end on the way into Cross Creek. This happened to be a farmyard where a companionable pigdog puppy of mixed ancestry attached himself to the party. The leader finally persuaded the pup to go home as we went through Cross Creek, then on up the incline which is an easy walking grade. It is difficult to realise that rack railway was needed as the grade is too steep for conventional locomotives. The formation is in good order and is used as an access road by the farmer nearly up to the summit where a bridge has gone. A bit of scrambling was needed to get down to the creek bed and then up the other side. We lunched at the Cross Creek end of the Summit Tunnel. The weather was grey and misty but improving, definitely better than it had been in Wellington. Boiling the billy over two primuses instead of lighting a fire caused some raised eyebrows but the resulting brew of coffee was drunk without complaint. As on some other recent Sunday trips there was too much food and people were actually refusing good food freely offered.

After lunch we waded through the Summit Tunnel. This was slightly eerie by torchlight with water a foot deep over soft silt, with the occasional lump of wood embedded in the silt, just for variety. The Kaitoke end of the tunnel had recently been cleared by a bulldozer, otherwise there would probably have been too much water to get through.

From there on it was a pleasant stroll down the route, which again is being maintained as an access road, to the main road at Kaitoke, and so down to Te Marua for milkshakes and ice-creams before catching the bus to Upper Hutt at 4.55 p.m. On the trip were: Glenys Collins, Ivan Estcourt, Jo Flavin, Christine Jenkins, Margaret Jones, Gilbert McCaul and Jim Rea.

*I. Estcourt.*

*(Submitted by Andrew Robinson)*



## LESLEY FERGUSON 1933-2023



Lesley who passed away at Wellington hospital aged 90 joined the HVTC in 1957 and always felt a strong affiliation to the club.

My first memories of Lesley are of ski trips at our Ruapehu Lodge in the late 1950s/early 1960s and while she was with Ian, I think it was later they married. She was a very kind generous person and with Ian you were always made welcome at their comfortable home which showed Lesley's artistic sense near Paraparaumu beach. While having a bad form of arthritis later Lesley still enjoyed some tramping and took part in "chooks trip" outings when she could.

They also had a holiday home at Mission Bay on Lake Taupo and Lesley had such fond memories of the congenial one room bunking at Ruapehu I understand they altered their bach to suit! About a month before she died she had a quick trip with son Stuart to the mountain for old times sake.

After Ian died in 2017 Lesley spent her last years at Seven Oaks Retirement Village not far from her old home.

She is survived by her two sons, Richard and Stuart.

*Sandra Pearce*

*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.*