



Horseshoe Basin, Mt Arthur

Photo: Nick McBride

Please submit your **February 2020** H&V articles to the editor by **1st February 2020**

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WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAMME

Starts 8.00 pm promptly



.4 December 2019: Ruapehu Enthusiasts – 70 Years on the Mountain

2019 is 70 years since a number of keen and enthusiastic club members began work on a hut on Ruapehu. Now more grandly referred to as the Ruapehu Lodge it has grown and changed and seen many great club trips. A group of lodge enthusiasts will recount 70 years of history through pictures, stories and art.

11 December 2019: Chris and Jackie West – Ecuador

In April Chris and Jackie enjoyed a three part trip to Ecuador visiting the Galápagos Islands, the Napo Wildlife Centre on a tributary of the Amazon followed by travelling the Avenue of the Volcanoes.

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

18 December 2019: Christmas Party

A pot luck meal starting at 6:30pm at the clubrooms. Bring your own plate, bowl, cutlery and glass plus your potluck contribution and drink of choice. The Club will provide juice.

15 January 2020: Margaret Aitken – India

22 January 2020: Sally Bain – Educating Residents About Trapping

Sally has spent the past 5 years with the help of her community designing a sustainable trapping scheme throughout Eastbourne and the Bays residential area, with the cooperation of councils and residents and support from MFE. Monitoring has become a way of life and sharing of knowledge and learnings has become stable throughout most parts of the community. Monitoring thanks to Greater Wellington Regional scientist and GIS mapping system has become very informative.

29 January 2020: Bernice Deller – Celebrating Jan Heine

One of our life members has a special birthday today so we are combining the New Year pot luck dinner with a birthday celebration and a cake. Come along at 6:30pm and bring your pot luck dish and whatever you fancy drinking, a plate and bowl, some utensils and a glass. Let's keep the workload for the social committee to a minimum and bring along something to put your dirty dishes in and take them home. We will also show a few photos.

5 February 2020: Helen Lukes and Pam Smith – European Trip 2019, Part 3: Baltics to Russia

Beginning in Vilnius, capital of Lithuania, the group joined up with others from around the world to bike and bus through the forests, lakelands, historical sites and seascapes of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, finishing in Tallinn. 8 of the group then became tourists, travelling by train to St Petersburg and Moscow.





FORTHCOMING TRIPS



TRIP CATEGORIES

Tramping

- T = Overnight or longer tramping trip
 D = Day tramp
 = Dog Friendly
 = Moonlight Walk


Cycling

- = Very easy
 = Easy
 = Intermediate
 = Advanced

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.

DECEMBER 2019					
MANAWATU MTB					
7 – 8		Arapuke MTB Park	Murray Presland	562 8194	
		Burttons Track	Murray Presland	562 8194	
TARARUA FOREST PARK – Holdsworth					
7 – 8	T1	New Powell Hut	Marina Skinner	021 792 260	
Sun 8		Paraparaumu – Waikanae River	Neil Hickman	380 1192	
Sun 8	D1				
Th 12 – Fr 13	T2	Ascent of Mitre	Graeme Lythgoe	479 6630	
REMUTAKA FOREST PARK - Catchpool					
14 – 15	T2	The Peak	Bob Deller	938 4685	
Sun 15	D1	Puke Ariki	Marina Skinner	021 792 260	
21 or 22	D2	Eastern Hutt Marchant	Graeme Lythgoe	479 6630	
NEW YEAR TRIPS					
Dec 27 – Jan 5	T2	NW Kahurangi NP	Andrew Robinson	586 2438	
Dec 27 – Jan 5	/ T1	West Coast Heartland	John Smeith / Pamela Campbell	027 244 2498 021 857 953	
Dec 27 – Jan 5		Timber Trail & Mountains to Sea	Rene Davies / Leena	021 056 6442 027 672 1604	
Dec 28 – Jan 4		Summer at Ruapehu Lodge	Nick Cox	022 545 7316	
JANUARY 2020					
NELSON LAKES					
9 – 13	T1	Hukere Stream - Lake Angelus - Speargrass	Marina Skinner	021 792 260	
	T2	Travers - Sabine			

TARARUA FOREST PARK – Ohau				
11 – 12	T1	You choose		
Sun 12	D1	Ohau Gorge	Murray Presland	562 8194
WELLINGTON ANNIVERSARY				
17 – 20	T1	Mt Somers Walkway, Canterbury	Dennis Page	970 6901
	T1	Holly Hut, Egmont NP	Neil Hickman	380 1192
	T2	Pouakai Circuit Egmont NP	John Smeith	027 244 2498
Sun 19	D1	Lower Waiohine Gorge	Murray Presland	562 8194
Th 23 – Fr 24		Greytown overnighter cycling	Graeme & Michele	479 6630
TARARUA FOREST PARK				
25 – 26	T1	Ruamahanga camping	Jim Cousins	586 2135
	T2	Alpha Hut	John Evans	020 4166 4410
Sun 26	D1	Tauherenikau flats & swim		
Sun 26	D2	Mt Tauherenikau		
FEBRUARY 2020				
TARARUA FOREST PARK – Waiohine Gorge				
1 – 2	T1	Cone camping	Jan Arts	586 5060
	T2	Marchant Ridge - Bull Mound - Tauherenikau	Jackie & Chris	528 4697
Sa or Su	D1	Pt Lower Tauherenikau Gorge	Graeme Lythgoe	479 6630
Sa or Su	D2	Full Tauherenikau Gorge	Russell Clayton	577 1742

BIKING SCHEDULE				
for Tuesday Evenings - 6.00 pm				
Date	Grade	The Ride	Leader/s	Phone
December 2019				
3	Easy	Silverstream River Trail	Debbie Bainbridge	027 209 3721
	Interm.	Silversky Crofton Downs	Graeme Lythgoe	478 6630
10	Easy Int/Adv	Mana - Pukerua Bay cycleway Makara Peak MTB Park	Tony & Jo	021 228 4430
17	Easy Interm.	Wallaceville Hill - Silverstream Stokes Valley - Silverstream	Pat Tristram Graham White	569 6705 565 1168
January 2020				
7	Easy	Petone start - Wn - Somewhere (tbc)	Geoff Norton	567 6456
	Int/Adv	Mt Victoria - Hataitai ZigZag	Murray Presland	562 8194
14	Easy	Colonial Knob Lookout	Debbie Bainbridge	027 209 3721
	Int/Adv	Colonial Knob area	Paul Labett	027 344 2906
21	Easy	Te Marua - Twin Lakes	Debbie Bainbridge	027 209 3721
	Int/Adv	Te Marua - Goat Rock Trig tracks	Murray Presland	562 8194
28	Easy Int/Adv	Redwood Station to Bothemley Park Aro Valley - Polhill - South Coast	Pat Tristram	569 6705

UPCOMING EVENTS

SALES TABLE

11 December

Please bring along items that you wish to donate to this effort. Home baking and preserves are especially welcome. Garden produce is also popular so bring along all the excess from you vegetable garden. Everyone else bring some cash to purchase some goodies with.



XMAS PARTY

6.30pm onwards at Club Rooms

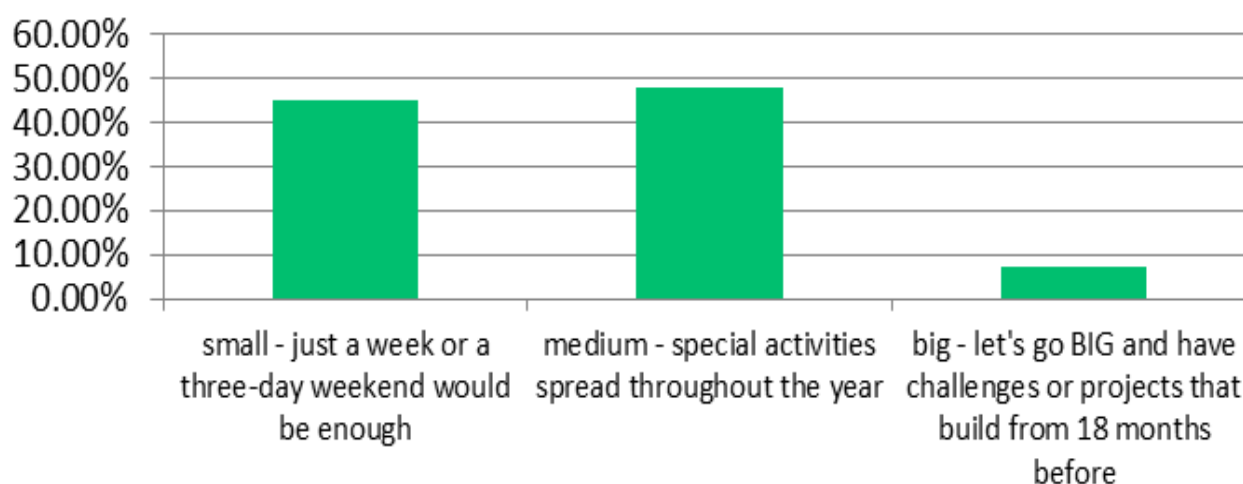
Pot Luck Dinner / BYO

Wednesday 18 December

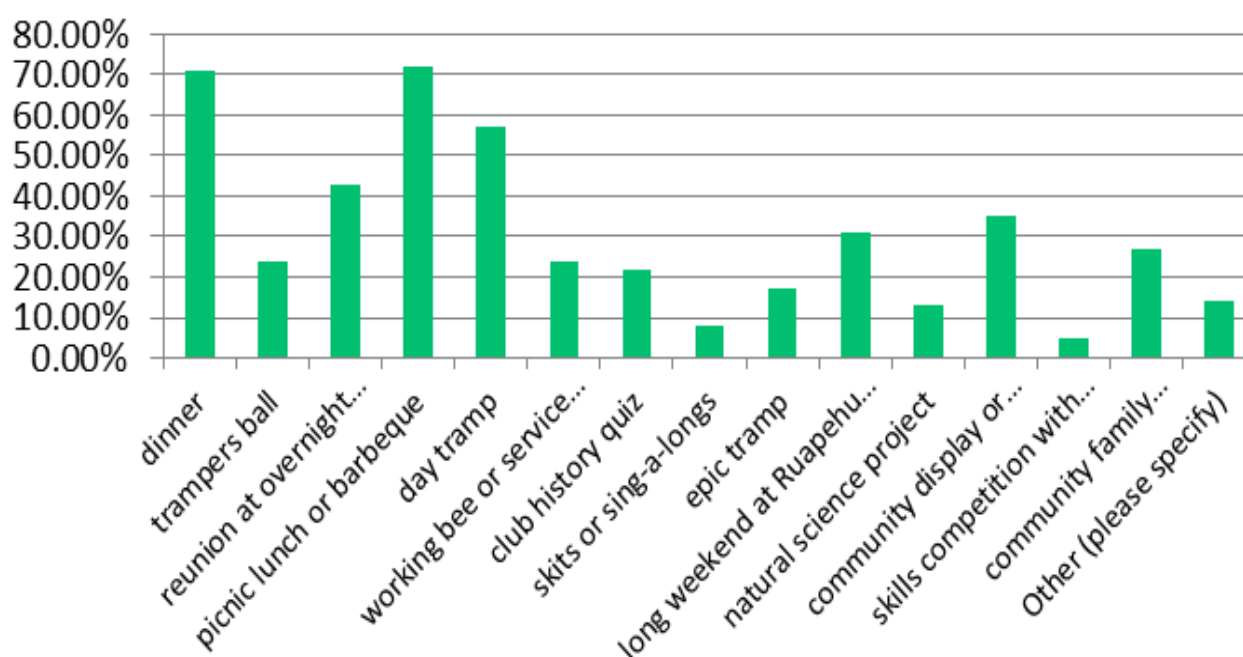
Bring own cutlery, plates, bowls etc

Club Centenary Survey: It is difficult to summarise all of the information that has been collected in the Survey that 100 members responded to – but a few graphs will give the flavour of Clubmembers' wishes for celebrating the Club's Centenary in 2023.

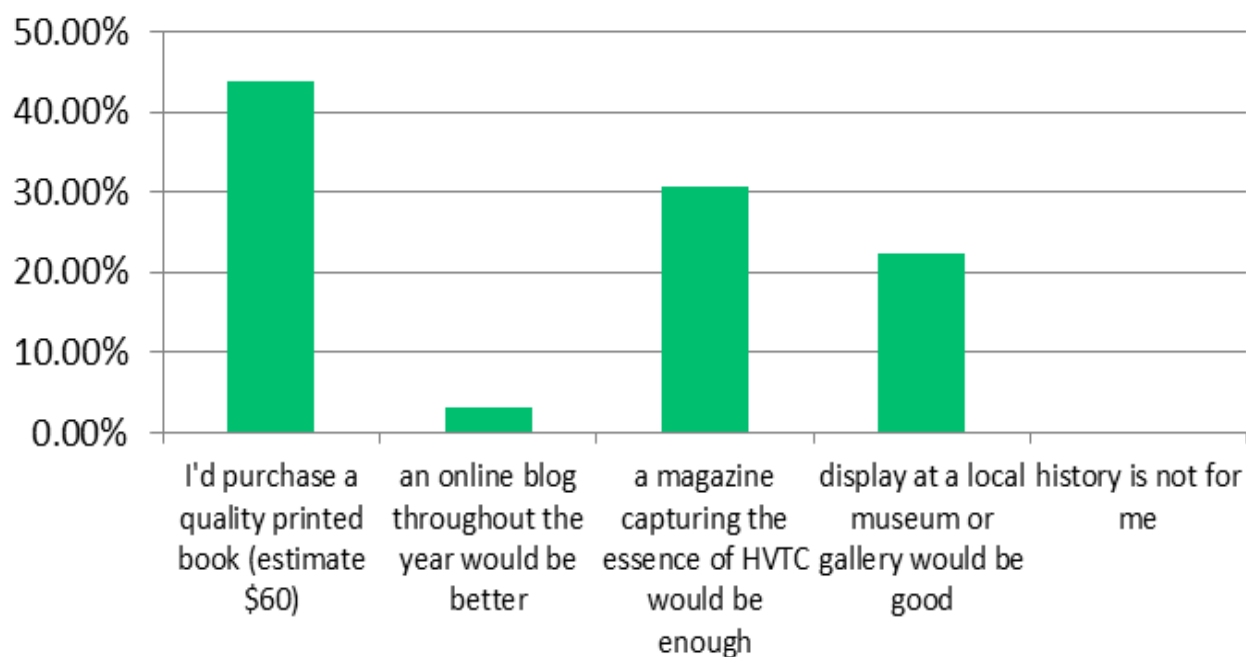
How big should the celebrations be?



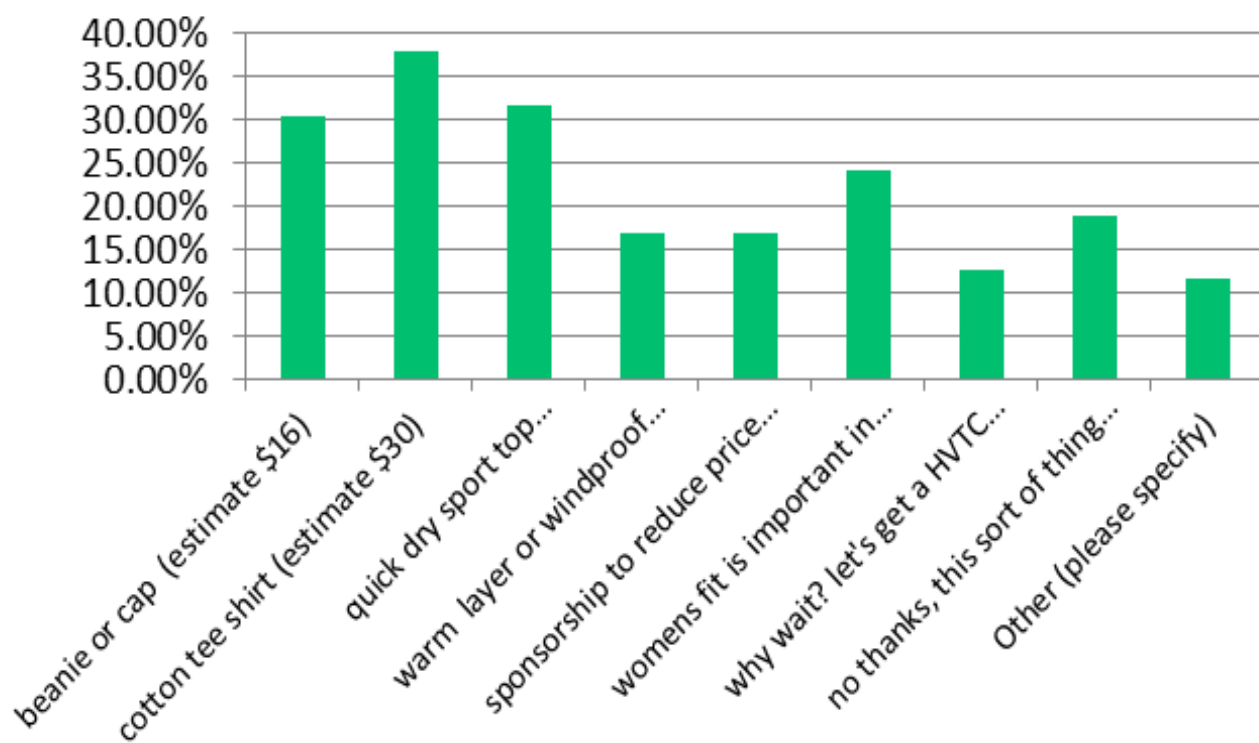
What activities would you like to participate in to celebrate?



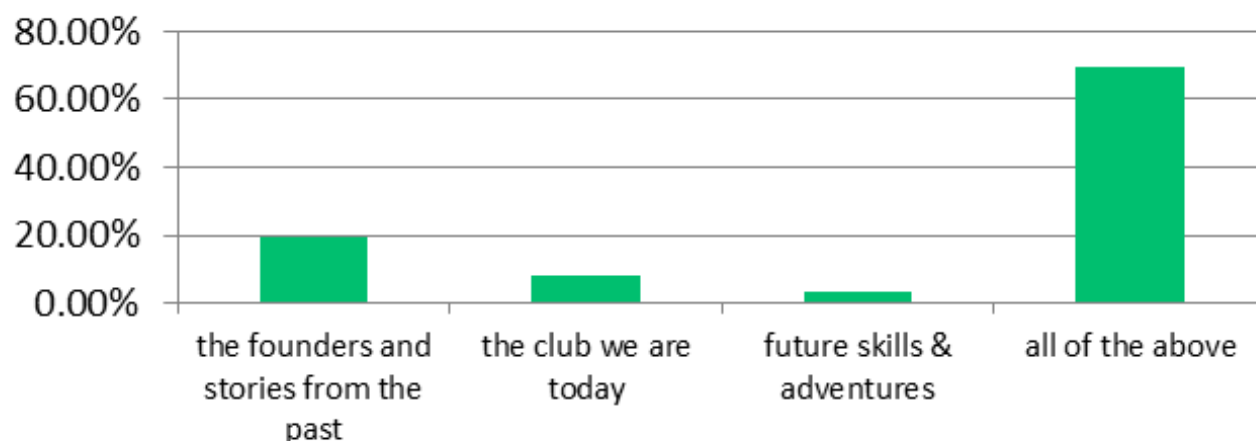
If the history of the club's first 100 years was collated, how should it be presented?



Should we have some HVTC logo clothing? .



In summary, what is the most important part of our centenary to celebrate?



Thank you to all of you who filed your ideas in the survey - there is also much valuable information in the comments that were added in the responses. The General Committee now has confidence in setting up a programme for the celebrations and in finding groups of Clubmembers to manage the events.

Remutaka Kiwi: A recent newsletter from the Remutaka Conservation Trust reminds us of the purpose and efforts their volunteers have committed to successfully reintroducing kiwi into the Wellington region. One hundred years ago kiwi numbered in the millions but the most recent estimate of the population is 68,000, declining at the rate of about 1,400 each year. About 20% of the kiwi population is under management and, where predators are controlled, 50-60% of chicks survive. In unmanaged areas 70% of young kiwi are killed by stoats and cats, and only 5% survive to breeding age. A 20% survival rate for kiwi chicks is all that is required for the population to increase.

The Conservation Trust released 32 kiwi into the Turere Stream catchment in 2006 and 2009. Now there are 120-150 kiwi and they are dispersing outside the Turere catchment – but they remain protected by a regularly maintained network of more than 2,000 traps covering 7,000 hectares of native forest.

Ferg's Climbing Wall: Members of HVTC have been offered a concession for climbing sessions at Ferg's Kayaks, Shed 6 on Queen's Wharf in Wellington, on Tuesday evenings (5 pm to close) - \$12 per person – and at any other time - \$15 per person - provided you have your FMC membership card issued by HVTC. The wall is open 11am- 8:30pm (Mon-Fri), late nights Thursday (until 9pm) and 10am-6pm (Sat-Sun), with extended hours during school and summer holidays. Gear can be hired (climbing harness and shoes) and experienced staff can show you the basics of belaying and climbing. As well as a full 30 rope top-rope climbing gym there is a separate lead climbing room and a bouldering area. Go on, go in - and give it a go!

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

Murray Presland (secretary@hvtc.org.nz)

RUAPEHU ROUNDUP

In September, HVTC hosted the Wellington inter-club races at Whakapapa ski field on a boiling hot bluebird day. The course was set on Bilbos, on the true left of the Valley T-bar.

The results were as follows:-

Individual men

1. Adam Bruce, HVTC 15.22 seconds
2. Rob Griffiths, WTMC 15.64 seconds
3. Edward Radcliffe, TTC 17.38 seconds

Individual women

1. Charlotte Fyson, Aorangi 17.74 seconds
2. Eleanor Milner, TTC 18.88 seconds
3. Georgie Griffiths, WTMC 19.11 seconds

The HVTC women's team came second overall, and the HVTC men's team came first overall.

The HVTC individual results were as follows:-

Adam Bruce 1st overall men's

Sheldon Bruce 6th

Angus Thompson 9th

Ian McIlraith 10th

Dave Biegel 11th

Kerei Thompson 15th

Rachel Bruce 4th overall women's

Abigail Brownsword 5th

Grace Davidson 10th

Libby Wilson 11th.

We hosted 60 club members to drinks and nibbles at the lodge afterwards.



Race organiser Ian McIlraith with fastest woman, Charlotte Fyson of Aorangi Ski Club



Ian McIlraith with fastest man Adam Bruce of HVTC.

BIRTHDAYS

Max Bruce



Max shared a celebration of his 90th birthday at a recent clubnight. Many happy returns Max.

Roman Howard Sevealii



Congratulations to Kerrie Howard and July Sevealii on the recent birth of her son, Roman Howard Sevealii. A healthy 7lb 7oz (3.4kg). A future member of the HVTC?

THE GREAT UNKNOWN

The launch of Geoff Spearpoint's new book – an account of trans-alpine journeys he has made over the past 50 years – was a very enjoyable event, held at the Club on Wednesday 20th November. Delightful introductions from Johnny Mulheron and John Nankervis were responded to by Geoff – who hopes that the descriptions of his amazing journeys in the Southern Alps will encourage more of us into exploring. Many adventures are awaiting!

Mary and Paul, of Schrödingers Books, were delighted by the reception they received from everyone at the launch, and look forward to your visiting the new book shop – with your voucher if you purchased a copy of Geoff's book! Schrödingers Books is at 137 Jackson St, Petone.



THE BIRCH STREET RESERVE CLUBROOMS OFFICIALLY OPENED, 14 NOVEMBER 1959

Our tramping club rooms have just passed their 60th Anniversary and with the Club's centenary just four years away, we felt this milestone of such an integral part of our Club should be acknowledged. In Hutt Valley Tramping 1966* (the first Club Annual of the series that has now become Random Footprints) there is much information of the Social activities, the building of the Clubrooms and transport, which has been repeated (with photos) in the Hutt Valley tramping golden jubilee 1923 – 1973* publication.

It is hard to imagine HVTC without its Clubrooms and how in the early days of the Club, tramping trips and social events were arranged. Not many people had their own vehicles then, or telephones, let alone cell phones and computers, so public transport, notices and letter writing were the way to let people know what was happening.

The first AGM in 1924 was a tramping trip - Korokoro to Belmont with the "purpose of adopting the Rules drafted by the Committee". Tramping reminders were posted in shop windows ("Parrant Bros.' Fruitshop, Lower Hutt, Miss Galvin's Confectionery, Petone and Hutt Cabinet Co. shops in Lower Hutt and Petone").

In 1933 monthly club nights began (in much the same format as our current meetings) and were held at the Lyceum Buildings in Lower Hutt every fourth Tuesday. These were so successful that in 1934 they became fortnightly, alternately between Wellington and Lower Hutt.

At the 1947 AGM a recommendation was passed for the Club to acquire its own Clubrooms and over the next few years potential sites were looked at for building as well as fund-raising to cover the costs. Early in 1955 the Club made an application to the Lower Hutt City Corporation for a section of Reserve land and were offered part of the Birch Street Reserve. Local residents protested, but following a meeting with Club members, their support was gained.

Fund raising was an interesting part of the story as although nearly £2,000 was raised in raffles, garage excavation, gorse clearing, etc. (often much effort expended for small returns) there were a couple of scientific jobs that helped raise funds. One was over a nine month period in 1956 / 1957 with a trip every Sunday to Terawhiti Point where a chart was removed from a tide recorder and the mechanism rewound. The recorder was collecting data for the Cook Strait Power Cable. Another big job was stringing a geophone telephone line five miles (8 km) from the Chateau Tongariro to Mt Ngauruhoe with progress of nearly 2km being made, each weekend trip. This at a time of few privately owned vehicles meant that public transport had to be used, or covered trucks,

although an Air Flow articulated truck was a favourite for Ruapehu and longer distances, as mattresses were put on the floor for sleeping on these journeys.

In 1957 an architectural sub-committee designed the Hall and with a total of £3000 raised, building was commenced in November 1958, with a building contractor doing the work to the weatherproof stage and members the finishing work. The Club rooms were duly opened by the Mayoress of Lower Hutt, Mrs P Dowse on 14 November 1959.



1966: Arnold Heine (President) addresses a club night at Birch Street clubrooms.

HVTC library photo 420.

The opening of the Clubrooms reduced the work load considerably of the Social Committee (who had had to find places to hold club nights as well as organise suppers and speakers in different venues) and the Gear Custodian (as gear could now be kept in one place rather than the residences of various people). It also gave a single venue for club nights and social occasions.

Club transport (another whole story in itself) had an impact on the Clubrooms when it was unanimously decided to purchase our own Club truck in 1982. A 3 tonne Mitsubishi Canter seating 21 people, was purchased in July 1982. However, suitable garaging for the vehicle became an issue and the General Committee was tasked with looking at options at the 1983 AGM. A Special General Meeting in November 1983 supported building a garage onto the Clubrooms and once plans were drawn up and local body approvals gained, building got underway Labour Weekend 1984 and was completed in July 1985 by club members. A separate room for the Library, which had previously been in cupboards in the Hall, was incorporated into the extension.

The Club truck provided transport for Club trips until 2000 when a Motion to that year's AGM proposed the Truck be replaced with a 12 seater Ford Transit Van. Numbers using the truck had been declining and with drivers required to have a Passenger licence and annual medical check, having sufficient people willing to do this had also become an issue. The Ford Transit Van was purchased in February 2001. A bike rack purchased in 2012 was able to be stored at the end of the garage, although it was a bit tight getting the van in. As a result a hoist was installed around 2015 to store the bike rack when not in use.

The Clubrooms maintenance officers have done a grand job of looking after the Clubrooms over the years.

With weekly Club nights at least 11 months of the year, plus pot-luck dinners and other Social functions, this Club facility surely gets the most regular use by many of the Club's members. Anniversary celebrations since 1963 have centred on the Clubrooms with usually the formal part of the event being held there. Other functions have included significant birthdays, anniversaries and memorials for Club members. With the Club rooms the major focal point of the Club, it's very hard to imagine us not having this place of our own.

However, we don't ever appear to have celebrated the Anniversaries of the actual Clubrooms to the best of our knowledge. Maybe because they have been such an integral part of the Club, we just take them for granted.

So here's to 60 years of the HVTC Club rooms. May they, and HVTC, continue to prosper for at least another 60 years.

Pat & John Tristram

TRIP REPORTS

AORANGI FOREST PARK 30 August-1 September

Andrew Robinson

The plan for the weekend for Keith, Grant and I was to do an Aorangi crossing, starting at the Putangirua Pinnacles and finishing south of Ngawi. With the two ends 20km apart we were going to put a bike in the back of Keith's ute and drop it off at the southern end before we drove back to the pinnacles to start. Murray rang a couple of days beforehand volunteering to pick us up from the southern end, an offer which was gratefully accepted. The first day would be a long day so we drove over to the pinnacles campsite Friday night, with a stop in Featherston where I had the best fish burger I've had in a long time. There were three or four vehicles at the campsite and a bonfire or two so we camped well away from them.

Saturday morning with us not having to drop a bike off we had time for a side trip to see the pinnacles from below. The side trip took 25 minutes and was well worth the detour. We had a bit of a climb after the pinnacles to the pinnacles lookout. The angle of the sun made it hard to get a good photo. As we continued Grant was going somewhat slower than he normally does so at the next junction while Keith and I waited for him to catch up we discussed our options. When Grant turned up he explained he was suffering from the lingering effects of a recent illness and not having done much recent tramping. We decided to keep going until morning tea time then reassess things. It soon became clear our plan for a crossing was too ambitious this time around so when we stopped we decided Keith's idea was the best one - head back to the vehicle, drive to the southern end of the track then head for Mangatoetoe hut and maybe Kawakawa hut. Fortunately where we stopped we had cellphone coverage so we were able to let Murray know he wouldn't need to pick us up and let Tony our SAR contact know of our change of plans. We had a decent morning tea break then headed back to the vehicle via the bit of the loop track we hadn't done. On the descent we had a good view of Tapuaenuku and met a fairly constant stream



of day walkers. When we got back to the start there were 20 or more cars in the carpark. We had lunch there then drove south along the coast to the Mangatoetoe Stream. The walk in to Mangatoetoe hut up the Mangatoetoe Stream is virtually flat but finding the best route up the scrub-covered streambed was tricky at times. We got to Mangatoetoe hut at 2:40 which I calculated might just give us time to get to Kawakawa hut before dark if things went well. I was contemplating pushing on when a hunter turned up from Kawakawa hut and said there were three people staying at the hut. Since there was no one with us at Mangatoetoe hut we decided to stay where we were and do a day trip to Kawakawa hut the next day. Keith went for a bit of a wander, I mucked around in the stream and later the three of us tidied the hut up a bit. It was a very still evening and despite being 4km inland we could hear the waves breaking on the beach.

Sunday we were able to leave a lot of our gear at the hut to pick up on our way back. The route to Kawakawa hut is up a stream, over a significant saddle then down another stream. At the saddle my gps unexpectedly indicated a building about 50m away and so did Keith's. 50m wouldn't take long so we went to have a look and found a private hut on private land with all the mod cons, including indoor plumbing. I hadn't realised we were so close to the edge of the forest park. Back to the saddle then a descent that got pretty steep towards the bottom. The rest of the route to Kawakawa hut initially involved a bit of boulder hopping, then it got a bit easier, particularly where



Mangatoetoe Stream

the track was on the bank rather than the streambed. A late half-hour morning tea at Kawakawa hut and then it was time to head back. We stopped for lunch where the track leaves the stream and begins with a steep climb. We had a couple of stops on the steep section, then when the gradient eased off we agreed to make the saddle the next stop. When Keith and I reached the saddle we expected Grant to be along shortly. We'd been there for ten minutes, wondering where Grant had got to, when we heard a distant call. No response to Keith's call in return so we left our packs and headed back down the track. It was several minutes before we met up with Grant who was

waiting at what he had taken to be the saddle but wasn't. Needless to say for the remainder of the trip we stuck closer together. On the last leg from the Mangatoetoe hut to the road we managed to find more bits of track than we had on the way in so instead of it just feeling quicker on the way out it actually was somewhat quicker. Back at the vehicle we were only 3 or 4 km from Cape Palliser and the southernmost tip of the North Island so we did a quick side trip which again proved to be well worth the effort. After saying hello to the seals it was two hours back to Lower Hutt after what turned out to be quite a full and interesting weekend.

Andrew Robinson (leader), joined by Keith Thomas and Grant Roberts.

Andrew

ROARING STAG HUT

4-5 August 2019

Andrew Robinson

I had looked at a couple of forecasts for the weekend and both were predicting some rain and high winds. Since the route is mostly in bush I figured we'd go anyway. Five of us left the clubrooms at 8 on Saturday morning. On the drive up the Hutt Valley to pick up the Wests the van didn't sound too healthy so when we got to where they were waiting in Silverstream we decided to return the van to the clubrooms and go in cars instead. Seven of us left the clubrooms at 9 on Saturday morning. It was a two-hour drive to the start of the track to Roaring Stag hut at the end

of Putara Road. I think the delayed start had given the weather a chance to settle because for the entire four and a bit hour walk it was fine with no wind. It was cold, with snow on the surrounding peaks, but plenty of blue sky when we could see it through the trees. The hut is popular so we were pleased to have the hut to ourselves. It rained overnight, sometimes quite heavily, but it had stopped by the time we left and it stayed fine all the way out. Given all the rain the track was quite wet and the temperature got as low as 3 degrees. With no open sunny spots along the way we opted to have our lunch at the car park where it was quite warm as long as the sun was out. We were all pleasantly surprised at how the weather had turned out significantly better than forecast and that helped make for a good weekend

Trip participants: Chris and Jackie West, Jan Arts, Sharman Robinson, Rosie Doole, Keith Thomas and Andrew Robinson (leader and scribe)

Andrew

KARAPOTI CLASSIC

24 August

Andrew Robinson

Graham White, Keith Thomas, Phaedra Upton and I set out on the Karapoti Classic route on the 24th of August. It is done as a race in March each year with the race record for the approximately 45km ride being two and a half hours, but going by the previous two times I had done the route



Devils staircase

as a club ride I expected it would take us a more modest eight hours. It was quite cold and there was a bit of drizzle when we started but I figured we'd soon warm up. After heading west up the Karapoti Gorge we turned north to head up the true left of the Akatarawa River west branch. The first of three big climbs, about two thirds of the way to Deadwood, seemed steeper and longer than last time.

Somewhere along the ridge before Deadwood I did a face plant on a rocky section. Fortunately I didn't do much more damage than a fat lip. We stopped for lunch just before the first main downhill and with the drizzle gone we had a pleasant time sitting in the sun. The first half of descent through the Rock garden wasn't rideable, for us at least. At the bottom we crossed the Akatarawa River then headed west

up the Devils staircase which I doubt anybody can ride up, but it wasn't as long as the earlier big climb. Continuing west along Titi Road, we reached Whakatikei Road and headed south on the second main downhill and the best part of the ride, about 10km on reasonably smooth 4WD track. The third big climb, northeast up the Pram track, was made more difficult by sticky mud. From the top it was all downhill back to the start, south on the rest of the Pram track, across the river again then east down the Karapoti Gorge. On the way in we'd taken care to avoid the huge puddles in the gorge, but on the way out, with muddy bikes and wet feet, straight through was the quickest option. We finished just on dusk, having taken eight and a half hours, not a bad time given the winter conditions.

Andrew

MT ARTHUR - SALISBURY HUT: Labour weekend

Nick McBride

Labour weekend is the best time of year for tramping, and this year we headed back to Kahurangi, this time to tramp the Mt Arthur-Tableland region.

This is a very popular and accessible tramp for those in the Nelson region, so we left on Thursday night to Picton to get a start on the crowds. The next day we headed to the Flora carpark but stopped at the European Bakery in Motueka for coffee. Motueka's popularity with the retirement community was evident at the European Bakery where we stopped for coffee.

The ride to Flora carpark is so steep that I ran out of gear in the van and was unable to restart the van without reversing the van and stalling. Fortunately, Russell is a much more proficient driver and he took over driving duties for the remaining few kilometres with no issues.

Friday was an easy one hour walk to Mt Arthur Hut, which we had to ourselves. There was light snow outside at times, so we settled in with the fire going. I reacquainted myself after 18 years with the game of bridge with Chris, Murray and Elaine.

The next day was fine but windy as we headed towards Mt Arthur. It was too windy to go up to the peak so we crossed the snow-filled Horseshoe basin before scaling Gordon's Pyramid and heading down to Salisbury Lodge, enjoying fine Kahurangi views the entire way. The lodge was full, but unusually for a trip to a National Park almost all occupants were locals.



Later that afternoon we went to check out Sphinx Valley Cave. The entry is at the end of a very pretty valley. To get to the cave itself one had to climb down some slippery rocks in a small waterfall. Andrew, Russell and Derek were the only ones who attempted this and reported that the cave itself was underwhelming so the rest of us did not regret risking the slippery rocks.

On Labour Day we walked up to the Tablelands and the junction with the Leslie Karamea Track. It took my mind back to 1989, which was when I last stood at that spot nearing the end of the L-K track with the Canterbury University Tramping Club. We finished the trip by walking down the Salisbury Track, checking out the rock shelters, before spending a night at Flora Hut.

A great location, generally good weather and a fine group of trampers made for another successful Labour weekend trip to the upper South Island. Time to start planning for next year!

Trampers: Nick McBride, Pia Garces, Kate Livingston, Chris McMillan, Murray McMillan, Russell Oliver, Derek Richardson, Elaine Richardson, Andrew Robinson.

Nick

WHAKANUI TO CATCHPOOL

27th October 2019

Tania Hatfield

Three of us were dropped off at Hine Road and we walked to Sunny Grove while the other 2 did the car shuffle so that we had a getaway car ready at the finish line. The 3 of us walking decided that Hine Road is surprisingly long when the length of it is walked. On the plus side, it was lined with in-bloom cherry blossom trees which were quite lovely indeed to look at as we walked along.

The weather for the day was cool and the further up the Whakanui track we went, the windier it got and the more layers we started putting on. We had an interesting stop at the junction of the old track vs. the "new" zig-zag track. The old track from this end now looks like a trapping line so it was interesting for those of us with newer knowledge to hear that the trapping line track was the older track. Down the Whakanui we went to the Orongorongo River. I refilled my water bottle at that point so can confirm the water was not warm. After a welcome stop there, we followed the wet weather track to the humpty bridge and out via the main track to our getaway car.

This was a enjoyable leg stretch with good company, helped by good tracks to walk on.

Trip Participants: Graham (leader), Bruce, Kathy, Marilyn, Tania

Tania

PINNACLE RIDGE DEVIATION

Friday 15 November 2019

Graeme Lythgoe

We set off in sunny conditions. The tops were socked in all day with gale force drizzly westerlies, but we had sun most of the time and remained dry all day. Apart from a very recent large windfall before Donnelly's Flats the track to Atiwhakatu Hut was in excellent condition.

We had brunch there. Then upstream and across the river to find the marked spur up to the ridge. The river was only slightly high and the climb did not take long. We stopped at the next junction - thirty minutes along the ridge - to have a second lunch, nestling down out of the wind. The unofficial track down into the gorge follows a very pleasant spur through beech and other forest. At the end it is necessary to walk down the river a little way, until one can see the track on the TR, before crossing. The whole tramp took about 6 hours.

This is an ideal moderate day tramp with great variety and is ideal if it is wet/gale/claggy in/on the west/tops.

Those enjoying the day were: Mike Priest, John Fox, Paul Labbett, Chris and Jackie West, Murray and Chris McMillan, Murray Presland, Dash and me.

Graeme

WAIIOPEHU

2-3 November 2019

Kate Livingston

This was the weekend that the All Blacks came third, Invercargill had a heat wave and three of us tackled the routes to and from Waiiopehu hut.

We left on Saturday morning. The weather was dry and warm gradually turning to dry and hot. The track up the ridge to Waiiopehu hut is a steady and gentle climb and vegetation kept us mostly shaded from the sun and protected from the wind which was quite strong down on the plain of Levin. However, during the previous week there had been rain and track was muddy - really muddy, but still not as muddy as the Gable End track we were to meet the following day as we headed out.

On the way up we stopped to explore the site where the former Waiiopehu hut used to be before it was replaced in 2002 with the present hut built further up the ridge. I recalled that one of my first tramps with HVTC in the early 1990s had been a Chooks Trip and we overnighted in the old hut. I

seem to remember 'rats' were a bit of a theme. Several women elected to camp out on the helicopter pad. The 'H' on the pad can be faintly seen in the photo taken on the current trip.



We had fine views across to Mt Taranaki and Mt Ruapehu to the north west and Tararua peaks to the east. As the weather was mild the hut did not have its legendary freezer quality about it. There were three other tramper groups and one dog staying overnight. Next morning we set off via Twin Peaks across to Gable End Ridge gaining wonderfully expansive views in all directions as we went.

Two of the three of us were geo-cachers- Tania patiently indulged Pat and Kate as they occasionally diverted from the track to rummage around in the surrounding bush. The caches

placed on these two tracks were imaginative which made the finds exciting. However, all of this did mean our timing for going up and coming down were longer than they otherwise would have been. Thank you Tania. We didn't get back to the cars till around 5.00pm. On the way out we took opportunities at little side creeks along the river track to remove from our boots as much of the ankle deep mud as possible, the other 'theme' of our tramp.

Kate

JOURNEY TO THE CENTRE OF ZEALANDIA ± 300 METRES

Nick McBride

On Saturday 23 November 2019 four HVTC members met six Wanganui TC members for a journey to the centre of Zealandia, or, in other words, the centre of New Zealand including its undersea continental shelf as well as the land mass above the sea. This is New Zealand's actual territory as recognised by the UN. The location is marked by a plaque on the Reeves Track, about a kilometre short of Mt Reeves itself.

The plaque, however, is not quite at the centre of Zealandia. The actual centre is about 300 metres south and also about 100 metres vertically below the plaque. DoC decided for health and



safety reasons to put the plaque on the track itself. Keen geocachers and purist geologist may be interested in finding the real centre and its geocache.

The plaque itself is designed by Billy Apple, best known for his work in the pop art movement of the 1960s and conceptual art in the 1970s. He approached GNS Science about creating an artwork based on a survey pin to mark the centre of the land and marine territory. DoC helped install the plaque earlier this year.

The track to the plaque Mount Reeves crosses some farmland and pine plantation before it joins regenerating native bush. An initial climb is followed by easy ridge travel. The group decided not to look for the geocache and were happy where DoC had placed the plaque.

Apart from appreciating the new plaque we enjoyed spending time with our WTC colleagues, some who are now familiar faces based on shared activities in the past two years. We also enjoyed seeing the flock of kereru eating broom leaves at the forest edge.

Nick McBride (leader), Jan Heine, Chris McMillan, Murray McMillan.

Source: "Proof we are truly shelf-centred", by Jamie Morton, *Whanganui Chronicle*, 22 April 2019, originally published in the New Zealand Herald; geocaching information forwarded to me by John Tristram.

Nick

THIRD TIME LUCKY? RUAHINE FOREST PARK

November 16-17

Andrew Robinson



Mid Pohangina hut

The second time I tried to get to Waterfall hut in the Ruahines we had to turn around at Waipawa Saddle because it was too windy. The forecast for the third weekend in November was for strong winds so rather than have a third go at getting to Waterfall hut I figured having a third go at getting to Mid Pohangina hut was a better idea. It was just Doc Watson and me and we left Lower Hutt Saturday morning. Crossing the farmland at the start of the track we met a couple of hunters and had a bit of a chat. I asked about the river crossing just before Mid Pohangina hut and was told it was waist deep. The river was running clear and low so I figured we stood a good chance of being able to cross at the crossing when we got there, even if the

forecasted rain arrived before then. It was quite windy but we were told we'd soon be out of the wind and indeed we were. The track sidles its way up the Pohangina River and I was expecting it to be like most sidle tracks with quite a bit of up and down and in and out as it crosses side streams. I was pleasantly surprised that that was not the case. I hadn't been expecting views so was also pleasantly surprised that there was a succession of grassy knolls which gave good views up and down the valley. We stopped for lunch after we'd been going for two and a half hours at what turned out to be the last of the grassy knolls. It was still very windy out of the bush and there was the odd raindrop but looking at the way the clouds were going it appeared that the rain might actually bypass us. The track continued to be pretty good after lunch with just a couple of scrambles at side streams, but track markers were a bit sparse in places and we did end up off track a couple of times. The wind kept up but the rain stayed away. We reached the crossing after a short and very steep descent to find that the river was somewhat less than waist deep - about calf deep. Although the hut was only 250 metres away it was up and over a big bump so we took 20 minutes to get there. It was satisfying to reach the hut seven hours after we'd started, grateful that the rain had stayed away and that we had the hut to ourselves. The two previous entries in the hut log book were in September and August so the hut doesn't seem to get a great deal of use. Earlier this year on my second attempt to reach Mid Pohangina hut we had changed the destination to Piripiri hut, going by the large number of vehicles in the carpark. I checked the log book for that weekend and indeed Mid Pohangina hut had been occupied, though with fewer people than the number of vehicles in the carpark would've suggested.

Sunday was much the same as Saturday weatherwise, with strong winds and with rain that threatened but didn't come. The hills seemed a little steeper on the way out and despite having fewer stops it took as long on the return journey as on the way in. On the drive back to Lower Hutt we saw that there had obviously been heavy rain elsewhere so we did very well weatherwise. All up we were very pleased with the choice of destination. Thanks to Doc Watson for joining me on another Ruahine exploration. Andrew Robinson (leader).

Andrew

KIME HUT

28 - 29 November 2019

Graeme Lythgoe

The fickle spring weather had gone and we were enjoying really settled weather for several days, but would it hold? Five of us set off in calm, sunny and warm conditions from Otaki Forks. It was hot work climbing up to the bush which at least protected us from the worst of the heat but with little wind it was still very warm. We had lunch at Fields and enjoyed the refreshingly cold tank water. Once out on Table Top the sun beat down but there was a cool breeze which made things tolerable. The whole range was mainly clear and so very dry underfoot with virtually no mud after no rain in the last ten days - ideal for my sandals! There were two other solo trampers at Kime which we reached after a total of 7 hours from the Forks. There was some evening clag but it was a mild night, and the hut was very cosy especially now that Kime 3 is fully insulated - such a marked contrast to the first two.



On top of Mount Hector

The early morning mist soon cleared to another warm, sunny day with gentle breezes. After breakfast we headed to the Hector summit from where we had superb views while we lay in the sun and identified the various peaks and other places. Back to the hut for a quick tidy-up and then on with our packs for the descent. This was also hot work but much better than ascending. Again we had lunch at Fields and enjoyed some relief in the cooler bush. Our descent took about 6 hours including all stops. Five SOBOs (South Bound Te Araroa walkers) arrived just as we were leaving and asked for a ride out. There were no other vehicles in the carpark so they were very lucky. We took them to Waikanae where we stopped for thickshakes etc - most refreshing!

Thanks to Murray and Chris McMillan, Murray Presland and John Fox, for accompanying me and a special thank you from Dash for all the sticks thrown etc.

Graeme

ANOTHER HISTORIC IMAGE



1980: HVTC Clubrooms, view from east.

Photo by Max Bruce

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