



# Hutt Valley Tramping Club Incorporated

Birch Street Reserve  
PO Box 30-883, Lower Hutt  
[www.hvtc.org.nz](http://www.hvtc.org.nz)



Centenary walk, Belmont Trig, May '23

Photo: Jan Arts

## Notice of 100<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting Annual Report for 2022-2023

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**The 100<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Hutt Valley Tramping Club Incorporated  
will be held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2023  
in the Clubrooms, Birch Street, Lower Hutt.**

### AGENDA:

1. Apologies.
2. Minutes of the 99<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting. } pages 29-36
3. Matters arising from the 99<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting.
4. Annual Report for year 2022-2023. } pages 2-18
5. Annual Accounts for year ending 31 May 2023. } pages 19-28
6. Election of Officers: As of 30 June 2023 the following valid nominations have been received:

President	Marina Skinner	
Vice-President	Tania Hatfield	
Secretary	Emma Dobbie	
Treasurer	Jim Cousins	
Trip Co-ordinator		
Transport Officer	John Smeith	
General Committee (6)	Chris McMillian	Doc Watson
	Michelle White	Debbie Labett
	Doreen Courtenay	
Vice-President Ruapehu	Kate Brownsword	
Ruapehu Secretary	Bruce Miller	
Ruapehu Treasurer	John Simes	
Ruapehu Committee (8)	Alison Newbald	Sheldon Bruce
	Russell Oliver	Ian McIlraith
	Brendan Quirke	
Social Committee (8)	Cathy Priest	Pamala Campbell
	Doreen Courtenay	Marilyn Sickels
	Carolyn Lyon	Graeme McVerry
	Julie Lewis	

8. General Business.

**Phaedra Upton  
Secretary**

# ANNUAL REPORT for 2022-2023

## 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Report

### General Committee:

The General Committee elected in 2022 met on 10 occasions to 30 June 2023. It does not meet in January each year and will meet in July 2023.

		Number of meetings attended
President	Marina Skinner	10
Vice-President	Tania Hatfield	6
Vice-President Ruapehu	Kate Brownsword	3
Secretary	Phaedra Upton	7
Trip Co-ordinator	Chris McMillan	9
Treasurer	Jim Cousins	10
Transport Officer	John Smeith	8
General Committee	Emma Dobbie	7
	Doc Watson	8
	Graeme Lythgoe (resigned)	4
	Doreen Courtenay	8
	Michelle White	8
	John Evans (resigned)	1

### Ruapehu Committee:

The Ruapehu Committee elected in 2022 met on 10 occasions to 30 June 2023. It will also meet in July 2023.

		Number of meetings attended
Vice-President Ruapehu	Kate Brownsword	10
Secretary	Bruce Miller	10
Treasurer	John Simes	9
Members	Russell Oliver	9
	Sheldon Bruce	6
	Ian McIlraith	4
	Alison Newbald	9
	Brendan Quirke	8
	David Biegel	6

### Social Committee:

Cathy Priest	Pamela Campbell
Doreen Courtenay	Carolyn Lyon
Helen Lukes	Sharman Robinson
Julie Lewis	Graeme McVerry

### Life members:

Ian Ayson	Graham Craig	Mat Craig	Pat Tristram
Graeme McVerry	Ron Pynenburg	Phil Rundle	John Simes
Bruce Miller	Geoff Spearpoint	John Tristram	Dennis Page

## **Appointments made by the General Committee for 2022-2023:**

Assistants to the Trip Co-ordinator	Murray McMillan, Phaedra Upton
Club Emergency Contacts	Patrick Fotheringham, Bob Deller, Tony Jaegers, Dennis Page, Shaman Robinson
Finance Sub-Committee	Jim Cousins, Marina Skinner Kate Brownsword, John Simes, John Smeith, Graeme Lythgoe,
Account Owners	Marina Skinner, Jim Cousins, John Simes, John Smeith
Account Signatories	Marina Skinner, John Simes, Jim Cousins, Russell Oliver,
Online Administrators	Marina Skinner, Jim Cousins, John Simes
Online Authorisers	Marina Skinner, Jim Cousins, John Simes, John Smeith, Russell Oliver
Financial Assurance Practitioner	Ian Hoare
Membership Officer	Doreen Courtenay
Privacy Officer	Doreen Courtenay
E-mail Groups Manager	Doreen Courtenay
Social Committee Liaison	Cathy Priest
Hills & Valleys – Editor	Bruce Miller
Hills & Valleys/ FMC	Doreen Courtenay
Backcountry distribution	
Webmaster	Jan Arts
Facebook Page Manager	Andrew Robinson
Recruitment Co-ordinator	Marina Skinner
Clubroom Custodian	Doc Watson
Gear Custodian	Doc Watson
Clubroom Bookings	Julie Lewis
Librarian and Photo Archivist	Andrew Robinson
Random Footprints Editor	Andrew Robinson
Fanny Bayliss Grants Committee	Mike Priest, Tania Hatfield, Murrey Totton (part year), Mel Stoneham (part year)
Environmental Convenor	Dennis Page
Centenary Sub-Committee	Dennis Page
Convenor	
Centenary School Fund Sub-Committee	Marina Skinner, Emma Dobbie, Kate Brownsword, Dennis Page

## **Club members in related organisations:**

Dennis Page	Member, FMC Youth Scholarship Committee Representative for FMC Central Group reporting to FMC Exec. Trustee, FMC Mountain and Forest Trust
Murray Presland	Representative, Greater Wellington Backcountry Network
Graeme Lyon	Secretary/Treasurer, Wellington Mountain Radio Service
Phil Rundle	Review Accountant - Wellington Mountain Radio Service, Forest & Bird Lower Hutt

**Affiliations:** The Club is affiliated to the following organisations:

- Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand
- Greater Wellington Backcountry Network
- Royal Forest and Bird Society
- Friends of Mana Island
- Ruapehu Mountain Clubs Association
- Remutaka Conservation Trust
- Friends of Baring Head

## Membership

At 31 May 2023, Club membership was 293, a decrease of 2 from the previous year. The distribution of membership by type is given in the table below. During the year, 13 new members joined the Club and 15 members resigned, allowed their membership to lapse or died.

Membership Category	Number at year ending 31 May							
	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Life Member	12	11	12	12	14	15	16	17
Life Spouse	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
Ultra Veteran	12	11	11					
Senior Veteran*	20	20	19	25	24	25	28	29
Veteran*	75	77	80	80	81	79	80	78
General Member	142	145	153	153	155	150	145	162
Student	7	8	5	3	5	4	2	1
Absentee	17	15	17	22	15	12	16	14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>309</b>
New Members	13	20	20	26	27	25	12	25
Resigned / Not Renewed	15	30	18	25	18	27	26	20

\*Senior Veteran: >50 years membership, Veteran: >21 years membership, Ultra Veteran: >60 years membership

The Club noted with sadness that one active member died during the year –

- Graeme Lythgoe, member from August 1964

Graeme Lythgoe joined the Club on 18 August 1964 and was an enthusiastic participant in all aspects of the Club's activities. He was voted a Life Member at the 1994 AGM and has contributed much to HVTC. Joining the General Committee in 1965 as the Treasurer, he has continued to play an important role in various positions over the years such as Chief Guide (1972-73), Vice President (1974-77, 1982 & 2019-21) and President (1983-1986). Graeme was the club Auditor for many years. Graeme also held the position of FMC Treasurer from 1994-2013, when the role of Treasurer disappeared and became a Finance Controller. Graeme was a member of the General Committee for several years and he resigned due to his sudden ill health on 2 February 2023. Graeme always

encouraged club members to participate in activities. He organised groups to plant trees at Baring Head, ran the very successful sales table, Thursday day walks and popular Greytown cycle trips. His ten-day Easter trips began in 1983 and remained very popular every year until this year. Graeme passed away on 14 February 2023 at the age of 78 years.

**Doreen Courtenay**  
**Membership Officer**

## **REPORTS**

### **President's Report**

In our centenary year, we have lots to celebrate, apart from a significant birthday.

We have already started the party, with a centenary get-together at Belmont Regional Park and four walks on 14 May, which attracted almost 100 current and former members.

This was a very happy occasion as we gathered for photos, then headed in different directions to walk, catch up and enjoy a fine autumn day. Thank you to Bob and Bernice Deller and the trip leaders for pulling off an enjoyable event.

Our centenary fund to support Hutt Valley secondary school students to experience outdoor recreation and the natural environment is a positive, community initiative that looks to the future. I hope the grants we make will help foster a new generation of trampers and outdoor and environmental advocates.

Thank you to Dennis Page and the rest of the centenary sub-committee for the many hours of hard work to organise the celebrations. I'm looking forward to the events in early November, and I hope we can attract some new members through a lift in club profile.

It's been positive to see our club – and the rest of Aotearoa New Zealand – return to pre-Covid ways of living. With this comes the risk of exposure to the virus, and it's unfortunate that several members have suffered bouts of Covid illness in the past year.

Overall, our club has been able to resume our usual activities, with a welcome return to multi-day trips and in-person club nights.

In the past year, our trip leaders have run a good number of tramping trips, and a healthy number of members have supported them.

Our biking activity has continued the downward trend of the past several years as fewer leaders have stepped forward and members have found other groups for their biking activity.

A lack of trip leaders is a perennial problem and it's been inspiring to see three members take a new approach to expanding our pool of leaders. Marilyn Sickels and Heather Eskdale worked with Jim Cousins to develop their navigational and leadership skills. It's a great mentoring model that I hope we can share with other members.

We are making important contributions to conservation in our community and further afield, with club working bees at Baring Head, Matiu/Somes Island, Ruapehu and at our new restoration plot beside Te Awa Kairangi/Hutt River at Ava Park.

Thank you to Vice-President Ruapehu Kate Brownsword and the rest of the Ruapehu Committee for their work keeping our lodge running in the difficult circumstances delivered by Covid, a poor snow season and the failure of Ruapehu Alpine Lifts (RAL). I'm grateful for the support David Biegel has given the club to negotiate the complexities of the response to the RAL voluntary administration.

I acknowledge the loss of Graeme Lythgoe in February. Graeme was on the General Committee until shortly before his death, and he served our club and the tramping community for many decades. We are fortunate to have benefited from his outdoor leadership, his professional advice and his hard work.

Thank you to Phaedra Upton for her efficient service as Secretary for the General Committee in the past year.

And thank you to Chris McMillan, who is stepping down as Trip Coordinator after four years, including the difficult Covid years. Chris curated an excellent range of trips, tried new approaches and gave our trip leaders the help and thanks they need.

We asked members for their thoughts about our trips and the Trip Coordinator role, and a common theme was the need for a group or sub-committee to share the load in coordinating trips. The General Committee will work with our new Trip Coordinator (presuming someone steps forward to take over from Chris) to set up a group like this.

I'm grateful for the support of Dennis Page, as immediate past president, who has shared sound advice.

And thank you to our hard-working General Committee and Social Committee members. They – and our other office holders – do so much for our club.

To all our trip leaders and other members who actively contribute to our club:

He rau ringa e oti ai.  
Many hands make light work.

You are the lifeblood of our club.

Ngā mihi nui

**Marina Skinner**  
**President**

## **Trips**

It has been a privilege to again coordinate the outdoor adventures HVTC members enjoy. I think this is the best volunteer position in the club. I encourage you to take on the job at some stage particularly if you absolutely love participating in the activities offered.

In total the club ran 120 trips including 51 day tramps, 41 evening/day rides, 20 overnight or longer tramps, 7 work parties and 1 overnight bike trip.

### Tramping

Trip leaders and keen participants contributed to an enjoyable programme of overnight and longer tramping trips. 20 trips went ahead, the other 10 being cancelled for reasons such as weather, no takers, cancellation of the ferry, and the trip leader being unavailable.

Multiday tramping trips to the South Island explored the Leslie Karamea area, Paparoa Track and vicinity, Stewart Island Southern Circuit, Dusky Track, and in the North Island areas of the Tararua and Ruahine Ranges.

Day tramps, mostly on Sunday with some Thursdays, continue to attract healthy numbers. I would like to acknowledge a successful mentoring partnership that is helping two new leaders come on board with interesting trips in the Remutaka Forest Park. It would be great to involve more people with such an arrangement. Who is keen?

### Instruction

An outdoor first aid course by First Aid Consultants was attended by 8 members. Thanks go to Murray Presland for coordinating it with the Upper Hutt Walking and Tramping Club.

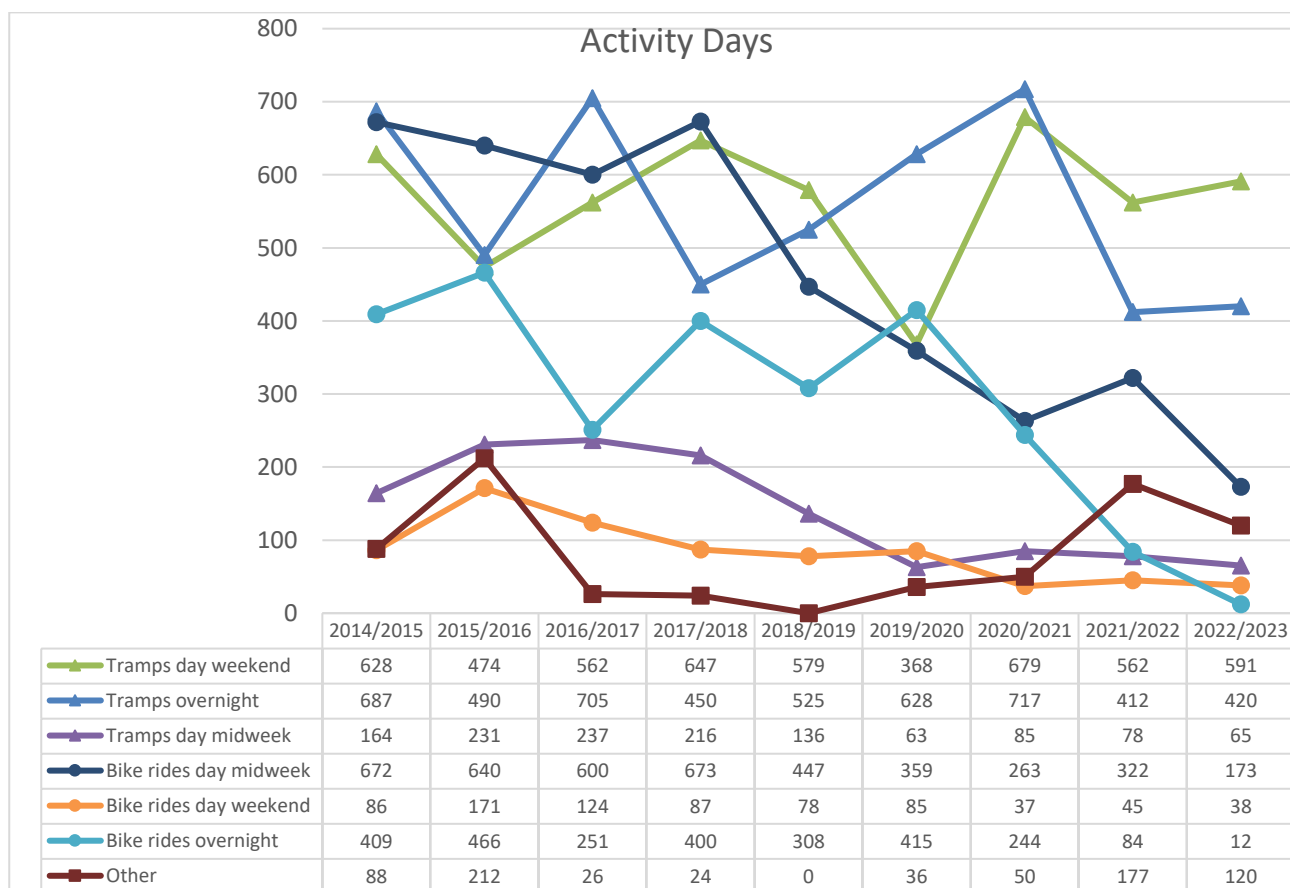
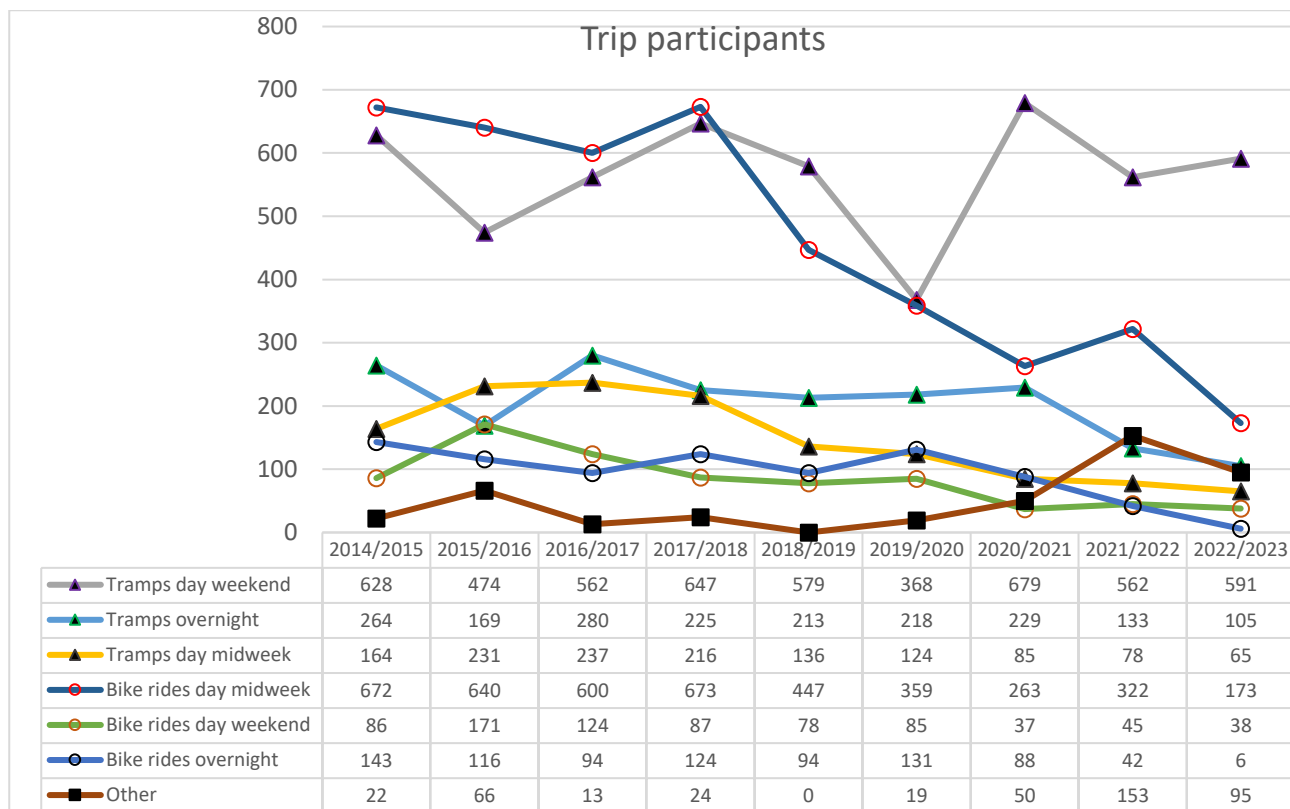
Instruction in basic snowcraft was held from the HVTC lodge on Mt Ruapehu during September. Ably delivered by Andrew Fisher with assistance from Catharina Fisher, Murray Presland, and Derek Richardson, this was participated in by five members.

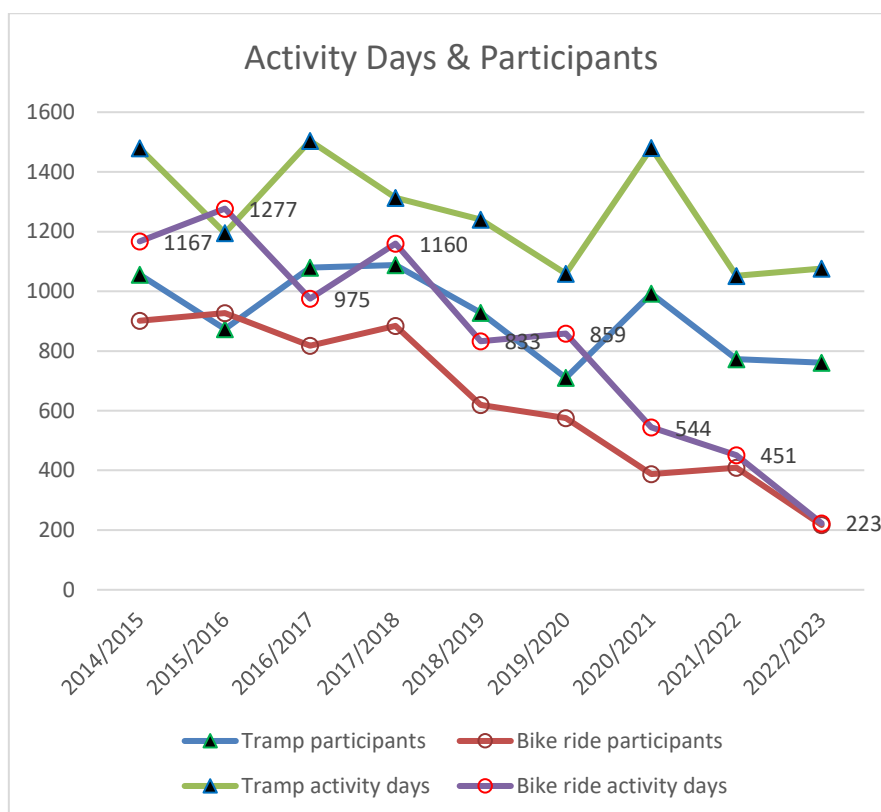
### Cycling

The Tuesday evening daylight saving biking programme is a great success even though numbers have dwindled over the years. It attracts a loyal following who look forward to the weekly ride. For the next programme it is suggested that more of the easy and not so easy rides leave from the same location to enable transport sharing and to encourage people to try the next level of ride.

Multiday cycling within HVTC has virtually ceased. However, if there is enthusiasm amongst members then this previously popular and enjoyable club activity could again occur. This is for all levels of rides.







Many thanks to all of you who put your hand up to lead trips throughout the year. Without leaders we have no trips, and without trips we have no club.

Special appreciation to our Club Emergency Contact volunteers who are available whenever a trip is under way.

I'd especially like to thank Phaedra Upton who ensures the summer rides happen each week, Ann Hayman for putting together the ride roster, and Murray McMillan who provides me with administrative support and the charts of HVTC trip statistics.

The club is always looking for trip leaders so if you can help in any way, please talk to the Trip Coordinator.

**Chris McMillan**  
Trip Coordinator

## Transport

The table below records usage of the club's van over the past 5 years.

Year	Distance travelled (km)	No of trips	No of people travelling	Average No in Van (per trip)
2018-2019	8927	19	172	9.1
2019-2020	7567	20	145	7.3
2020-2021	10188	23	264	7.1
2021-2022	5841	27	220	8.1

2022-2023	3419	14	110	7.8
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During this past year the kms travelled has dropped considerably and van trips have dropped 50% yet average numbers per trip have remained almost the same. This is because most of the trips except for two were in the greater Wellington area. The March South Island trip had to be postponed for a further year due to the inability of the Interislander to maintain its ships.

The van suffered two serious problems after a service at Capital City Ford in September. The company pinched a seal when replacing it, causing engine oil to leak. In April, Doc Watson found the van had no gearbox oil, which damaged the gearbox. The company repaired the van both times at their cost.

I would like to thank Doc Watson for all his help and guidance in these matters.

**John Smeith**  
**Transport Officer**

## **Ruapehu Lodge**

The story of 2022 at the lodge was one of too many rocks and not enough snow, followed by the voluntary administration of Ruapehu Alpine Lifts (RAL). As this report goes to print, the situation with RAL has not been resolved, although there will be further news by the time the AGM rolls around.

In August, the Stuff news website reported: "Worst ski season in decade: Ruapehu in need of good dumping as ski crews working their butts off." Happy Valley was merely a strip of machine-made snow. However - thanks to heroic efforts by the snow grooming team - runs on the upper mountain were open and as Ian Mac always says, "any skiing is better than no skiing." The general reports were that there was fun to be had once you reached the snow!

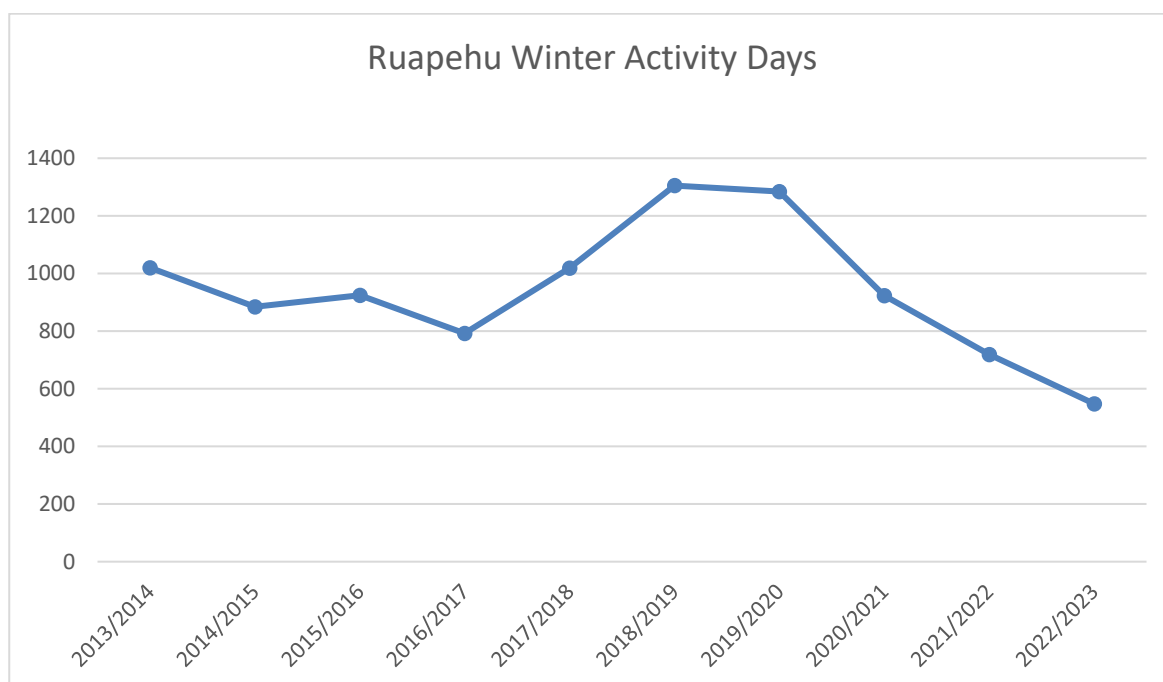
Despite the lack of white stuff, we recorded 584 activity days at the lodge over the winter. The second Ladies' long weekend took place in August, with good food and good company. Vets Week in September probably had the best snow and weather conditions of the season, with the T bars running most days, and fresh snow falling every afternoon and overnight.

The lodge hosted a club alpine instruction course in September for the first time in a number of years.

We were a select group for the October school holidays, but there was still enough snow to ski the T bar runs. We had to walk down to the Sky Waka in order to ride up and access snow but some of us used the extra exercise as an excuse to eat pudding.

This year we again hosted a number of outside groups including Hillary Outdoors, LandSAR, Harrison Grierson, and Tihoi Adventure School. LandSAR ran an avalanche training course which included rescue dogs, the first time we've had four legged visitors at the lodge.

On October 11, it was announced that RAL had gone into voluntary administration.



Lodge use statistics (bed nights)															
	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17	2015-16	2014-15	2013-14	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11	2009-10	2008-9
Member	302	511	633	852	971	654	637	696	535	579	718	593	573	551	558
Non-member	61	90	56	117	85	119	43	74	61	80	64	43	54		
School	70	84	196	100	152	202	46	88	204	163	140	0	104	210	396
MSC + TTC	69	34	56	167	75	24	58	58	74	189	80	119	89	111	186
Summer	46	65	27	23	12	54	29	65	67	95	141	0	151	183	246
<b>Total pay nights</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>968</b>	<b>1256</b>	<b>1295</b>	<b>1053</b>	<b>813</b>	<b>981</b>	<b>941</b>	<b>1106</b>	<b>1143</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>1055</b>	<b>1386</b>
Custodian	119	125	14	48	22	20	8	8	10	9			92	21	
Work party	28	63	82	32		TBA	56	60	52	69	40	411	83	46	44

### Maintenance

Despite the uncertainty, the annual lodge work party went ahead in February, with a focus on tidying, cleaning and doing all those annoying little jobs that get put off when there are bigger projects on the go. The idea was to get the lodge ready for 2023 while keeping a tight hold on spending.

Last summer we postponed the replacement/upgrading of the windows in the ground floor level of the two-storeyed section of the lodge. The replacement and upgrading of the lighting in the kitchen and lounge were also postponed. However, we did carry out essential repairs and maintenance for the integrity and operation of the building.

The maintenance of the lodge this season included:

1. Painting the east wall of the upper-storey section of the building.
2. Purchase of a new electric fan heater for the drying room to replace the existing one that had reached the end of its life. New fan now installed and wiring work modified.
3. Replacement of a section of the soffit lining on the two-storeyed section of the building, required because a storm had cracked, broken and blown away a section of the original fibre cement board on the west wall in the kitchen area.
4. Minor works included replacement of a broken slat on a bunk bed, replacement of simmerstats on stoves, replacement of door hinges on one stove, replacement of thermostat in one bunk room and installation of an additional notice board. Plus the usual clean up and removal of rubbish.

### Finance

The Ruapehu committee has been financially cautious following the Covid years and just as well, given the conditions in 2022. No new projects were triggered, keeping expenses to a minimum. Unfortunately, the cost of insurance rose by \$4.5K (more than 50%) Our insurer of some years could not secure a deal at the last minute, forcing us to go to a new provider (Marsh). We continue to seek a better deal in insurance with some interest from another provider.



Food stock weekend, May 2022.



Out with the teens, October school holidays.



Anja in Vets Week. The lifts were closed but it was an amazing day.

### Appreciations:

We're grateful to Dave Biegel for re-joining the Ruapehu committee with a focus on keeping track of the financial and legal process that RAL are going through and making sense of it for the rest of us. Thank you!

Laura Bruce was our custodian for the 2022 season - thank you once more, Laura!

And thank you to the members of the Ruapehu committee - they are dedicated and hardworking, and have a real commitment to our place on the mountain. You are a wonderful bunch of people. We also have a fantastic group of lodge users and supporters who contribute in all ways to the life of the lodge and to keeping it going. It's hard to overemphasise the amount of time and effort these great people give to the club.

If you haven't been to the club lodge yet, or haven't stayed for a while, we'd love to see you up there.

**Kate Brownsword**  
**Vice-President Ruapehu**

## **Finance**

The 2022-23 financial year has seen most areas of the Club's activities returning deficits for the year. This year's result is \$15,500 below last year's, meaning that we now have seen a 2-year downward trend. This is the prime reason for the subscriptions and various user charges being increased for the 2023-24 financial year.

The Administration Surplus, which includes the deficit from the Clubrooms and Social Activities category, is positive, just. Subscriptions were a little below last year's result, but donations were significantly above. Other Income was much greater than last year's, largely because it included sales of Tararua Calendars (\$2059) and this year's issue of Random Footprints (\$2355). Printing costs were higher than last year (includes \$2302 for Random Footprints), as was General Expenses (includes \$1719 for calendar purchase).

The Clubrooms and Social Activities category showed a higher deficit than last year, mainly due to increases in the costs of social activities, maintenance of the hall, and insurance of the hall. Note that a deficit for this category is normal.

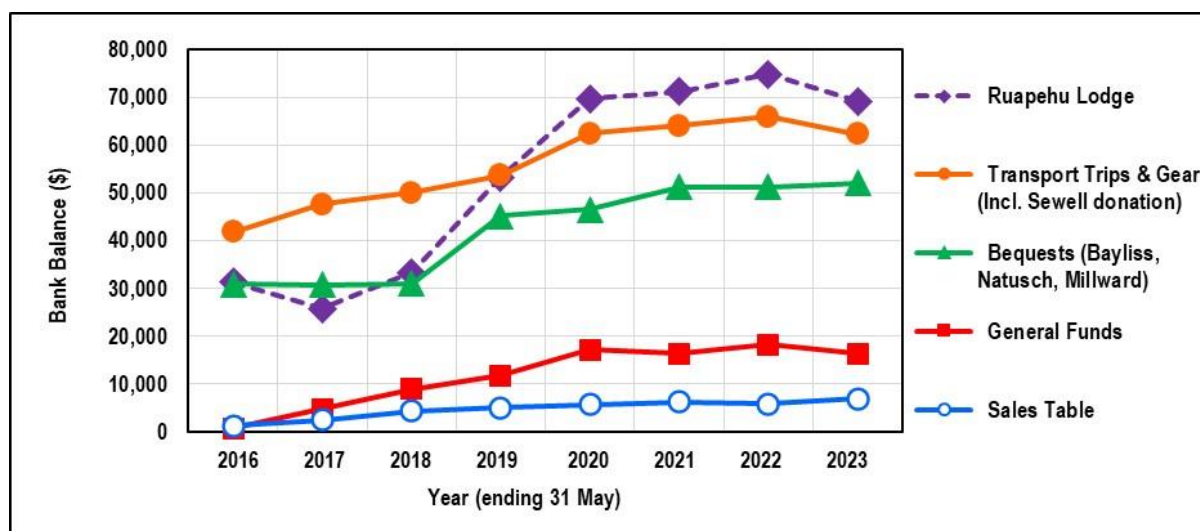
The Sales Table fund currently stands at \$6,851. No projects were funded this year.

Transport Trips & Gear showed a deficit of \$4994, mostly due to a bill of \$4125 for annual maintenance of the van. Funds accumulated for replacement of the van are now \$58,912 (including the Bob Sewell donation).

A combination of reduced income (about \$5000) and increased expenditure (also about \$5000) saw a significant reduction in the trading surplus for the Ruapehu Lodge. The main cost increases were insurance (about \$4000) and DOC fees (\$2600). After allowing for depreciation the result for the Ruapehu Lodge was a deficit of \$14,294.

Long-term trends in the end-of-year positions are presented in the table and plot below for the five main subdivisions of the Club's finances. The trend is mostly upwards for the 2018-22 period, then downwards for the three trading accounts in 2023.

Year ending 31-May ...	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
General Funds (\$ - rounded)	9,000	11,800	17,200	16,300	18,300	16,300
Sales Table Fund	4,400	5,000	5,700	6,200	5,800	6,900
Transport T & G (Incl. Sewell donation)	50,100	53,700	62,500	64,100	65,900	62,300
Ruapehu Lodge	33,400	53,300	69,700	71,200	74,800	69,200
Bequests (Bayliss, Natusch, Millward)	31,100	45,200	46,600	51,200	51,200	52,100



As always, I express my heartfelt thanks to John Simes, John Smeith, Doreen Courtenay and Julie Lewis for their substantial and valuable contributions to managing the financial affairs of the Club. Feedback from Louise Gibson is appreciated, and feedback from Graeme Lythgoe will be missed. And finally, I thank Ian Hoare for carrying out the Financial Review of the accounts. His experience and thoroughness are greatly appreciated.

**Jim Cousins**  
Treasurer

## Social Committee

As in past years the main focus of our committee has been arranging a variety of speakers for the Club's enjoyment at our weekly meetings. We have been privileged to have heard some exceptional speakers over the past year. Again, special recognition and sincere thanks to Pamela Campbell for sourcing and co-ordinating our speakers with such a wide range of topics and her follow through thank you letters.

We are very grateful to all our speakers for the immense amount of time put into compiling their presentations and in some cases travelling a distance to get to our club rooms to give their presentations. Thanks go to Dennis, Mike Priest and Doreen in helping to set up the technical side of the presentations.

Themed open nights were held in June, October, January and March – to all those who contributed photos a big thank you.



End of year was celebrated with a potluck dinner. In June we celebrated mid-winter with an open night, Xmas pud and mulled wine.

The Club's photo competition was held on 24th August. Organisation involved giving notices to members with detailed information on the competition; finding a judge; finding a co-ordinator to collect entries into categories and send them to the judge with time to develop his/her assessment; collecting trophies, cleaning them and later having them engraved. My special thanks go to Shaun Barnett for judging the competition, Graeme McVerry for compiling files into categories and co-ordinating this event, and Carolyn Lyon for organising the cups for the prize winners.

Hosts – Appreciation and thanks to Dennis, Marina, Andrew, John, Mike and Tania. This is an important role advising of forthcoming events, trips and introducing the speakers.

Behind the scenes, suppers are organised, the hall and toilets cleaned on a roster of social committee members. This is especially important as the club rooms are used by a number of outside organisations. Kitchen and cleaning supplies, gifts for external speakers were purchased.

**Cathy Priest**  
**Convenor, Social Committee**

## **Member Recruitment**

For the third year we ran introductory day trips for people interested in the club. Our promotion drew nine new people on the two Sunday trips in the Orongorongo Valley, and one person followed up by joining the club.

The promotion is useful in raising the profile of the club with the aim of attracting new members in the future.

**Marina Skinner**  
**Recruitment Co-ordinator**

## **Clubrooms**

It has been another busy year with many improvements being made to the clubrooms. Firstly, a big thank you goes to Doreen and Alwyn for helping me renovate the men's toilet. It was interesting working in such a confined space, but with good planning around hall usage and our individual time slots it has come together nicely and in time for the upcoming centenary events this year.

Another big job was painting the main hall roof. This was done over the extended summer period, again working around the fine weather.

Russell Oliver did a superb job of making and installing the trophy cabinet to hold our Hutt Valley Sports Award.



During the past year I fitted two up to date door locks, which comply with the latest fire standards. The hall had some major fire safety improvements. These include:

- Improvements to the operation of the fire exit door and the external steps.
- The fire extinguisher was checked and certified.
- The fire hose was replaced with a complete new set up and certified.
- Two new smoke alarms were fitted in the foyer and above the kitchen door.
- A new fire blanket was fitted to the kitchen wall.

Lastly, I would like to thank my son Daniel for giving up much of his time over the Christmas break to help sand and re-oil the timber floor, which required more work than in previous years.

**Doc Watson**  
**Clubroom Custodian**

## **Clubroom Hire**

Our long-term hirers are:

- Lower Hutt Forest and Bird
- Kaumatua Tramping Club
- Wellington Bonsai Club
- OTNZ
- KSK Karate

The club recently accepted a booking from the Wellington Tamya Mini 4WD Club. They meet once a month.

We no longer take bookings for children's birthday parties. I always keep Tuesday evenings free for committee meetings or Tuesday night bike ride events. I have a calendar in the kitchen which I keep up to date with hall use marked to the end of the year.

Although I am stepping down from the Social Committee this year, I am happy to continue with the hall bookings.

**Julie Lewis**  
**Hall bookings**

## **Gear Room**

It's been another well-run year with much support from Murray Presland and many other club members. Thanks for returning club items on time and in good order. This is much appreciated.

Michele Lythgoe has kindly donated some of Graeme's cooking equipment to the club, which is very much appreciated. I am keen to add this to one of our sales table nights. Kevin Cudby has donated two pairs of snow chains for use on private vehicles.

**Doc Watson**  
**Gear Custodian**

## Fanny Bayliss Bequest Grants

This has been a quiet year for the Fanny Bayliss sub-committee with no formal applications having been received for us to assess although there are a couple of ideas that club members are thinking about.

The fund balance has consequently increased and as at 31/5/23 stood at \$33,002.62. This amount is currently invested in a one year term deposit at an interest rate of 5.3% pa. This rate is much improved on the 2.4% pa; 1.15% pa and 1.85% pa that had been received over the previous three years.

Allowing for a retained principal of \$29,000 this leaves \$4,002.62 currently available for distribution to qualifying purchases or proposals.

Guidelines for grants cover:

- Opportunities for club members to expand their experience, competence and enjoyment of the natural environment.
- Improvements to club assets and facilities in line with the Club's overall objectives.
- Ways to support the activities of an individual or organisation outside the Club which promote our Club's primary objective as under Objects 3.1.1 of the Club's Constitution.

Note though that essential or routine maintenance items are outside the scope of the Grants Scheme.

The sub-committee would welcome receiving any appropriate funding proposals which can be submitted to us at any time during the forthcoming 2023/2024 financial year.

**Michael Priest (sub-committee convenor), Tania Hatfield, Mel Stoneham**

## Tramping Huts

The Club maintains association with two tramping huts.

**Waitewaewae Hut:** A formal Community Agreement between the Club and Department of Conservation for maintenance of Waitewaewae Hut ended in 2016. It has been resurrected between the Greater Wellington Backcountry Network (GWBN) and DoC, in 2021, with HVTC giving an undertaking to contribute labour and skills.

In February I joined a GWBN group of 4 volunteers at Waitewaewae. We removed trees and vegetation closing around the hut and heli-pad during the 30 years since the hut was built. The others then set about clearing the track out to Otaki Forks, a task that took 5 days in all. I spent two days repairing and painting the woodshed and cleaning the hut before joining the track team.

The roof and exterior of the hut need repainting – a large task for which funding is being sought. I hope Club members will respond positively when volunteers to carry out the work during next summer are sought.

**Papatahi Hut:** A Memorandum of Understanding between the Club and Department of Conservation, that gave Club members free use of the hut for 8 nights (over 4 weekends)

each year, expired in 2021. A new MOU is being negotiated, slowly. Though it will probably provide for fewer nights of free access, it is clear that, with the hut ageing, DoC will expect a greater contribution of labour to servicing and maintaining Papatahi Hut in the future.

**Murray Presland**

## **Environment Report**

No submissions on behalf of the Club were lodged with external parties concerning environmental issues over the last activity year. Throughout 2022-23, the Club has continued to remain active in including an environmental – public good component in its activities (in both its summer and winter trip fixtures).

Fortuitously, the Club's annual pilgrimage to Ruapehu for *Pinus contorta* eradication was able to proceed this year and a successful expedition spearheaded by John Simes over the weekend of 3-5 March has helped to keep re-invasion on the southern slopes of Mt Ruapehu in check. Visit the club's Facebook page for some images of the successful crew at work and having fun in a very scenic part of the country. The exercise also serves as a useful fundraiser for the club.

The copse of native plantings on the banks of Te Awa Kairangi, near Ava, adopted by the HVTC last year (at the initiative of John Simes) received further attention over the last club activity year. The latest session, led by Marina Skinner on 5th March 2023, saw more weeding and tidying up – activities that are vital to ensure that the small native plants get every chance to become the tall and grand forest giants as nature intended (and which once fully clothed our valley floor). The weeding and maintenance sessions are not onerous and have proven to be a great social (as well as work) occasion and are augmented by sumptuous food for the deserved workers. The short duration of the work and ease of access to the Hutt urban area means that these types of activities are appealing to a subset of our members that are unable to partake in some of the more ambitious fixtures offered on our trip card, thereby keeping them connected with the club in more than just a passive sense.

In the period from July to December 2022, there were several work parties and planting days at Baring Head / East Harbour Regional Park led by Graeme Lythgoe and Murray Presland. The club has had some involvement with this area over a few years and some of the earlier plantings are now starting to become established. The author of this report wishes to acknowledge the many contributions led by Graeme in this realm of club activities – It is nice to think of multiple living legacies left by Graeme in this area of the East Harbour Regional Park. In acknowledging Graeme's (and Murray's) efforts, I would hope that there would be others in the wider club membership that would pick up the baton left by Graeme and who would offer to assist in leading future plantings and work parties to continue the good works already started.

**Dennis Page**  
**Environment Officer**

**Hutt Valley Tramping Club Incorporated**  
**Statement of Financial Performance**  
**For the year ended 31 May 2023**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Subscriptions	12,416	12,729
Donations	1,855	1,270
Other Income	4,564	38
	<b>18,835</b>	<b>14,037</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Affiliation fees	4,672	4,457
Hills & Valleys	444	408
Printing and Stationery	3,903	2,281
Insurance - public & statutory liability	748	748
General expenses	3,887	614
Clubrooms and Social Activities deficit	4,769	3,322
	<b>18,423</b>	<b>11,830</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATION SURPLUS</b>	<b>412</b>	<b>2,207</b>
<b>OTHER INCOME &amp; ACTIVITIES</b>		
Interest, General Accounts	3,103	1,031
Transport, Trips & Gear Account	(4,994)	990
Ruapehu Lodge Account	(14,294)	(4,507)
<b>TOTAL OTHER</b>	<b>(16,185)</b>	<b>(2,486)</b>
<b>(DEFICIT) SURPLUS to Accumulated Funds</b>	<b>(15,773)</b>	<b>(279)</b>

The accompanying notes form part of and are to be read in conjunction with these financial statements.

## CLUB ROOMS AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
<b>INCOME</b>		
Hall and equipment rent	7,385	6,885
Sales Table – Club night income (Note 6)	886	721
	<u>8,271</u>	<u>7,606</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Suppers, socials, awards etc.	1,395	989
Lease HCC	427	427
Power	663	514
Maintenance	1,383	728
Insurance and Valuation (Note 5)	7,773	6,902
Depreciation	1,399	1,368
	<u>13,040</u>	<u>10,928</u>
(DEFICIT) to Statement of Financial Performance	<u>(4,769)</u>	<u>(3,322)</u>

The accompanying notes form part of and are to be read in conjunction with these financial statements.

## TRANSPORT, TRIPS & GEAR (OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES)

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
<b>INCOME</b>		
Trip receipts & hut ticket sales	5,564	9,591
Interest	0	4
Pinus Contorta (DOC)	714	-
	<u>6,278</u>	<u>9,595</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Sundry and Ferry	2,954	4,537
Rentals, private vehicles, and hut ticket purchases	335	-
Vehicle costs - Fuel	1,151	1,113
- Repairs & maintenance	4,472	1,018
- Road user charges & registration	461	195
- Insurance (Note 5) & AA Membership	1,299	1,199
Gear Expenses	112	-
Gear - Depreciation	339	378
Cycle trailer rack - Depreciation	149	165
	<u>11,272</u>	<u>8,605</u>
(DEFICIT) SURPLUS to Statement of Financial Performance	<u>(4,994)</u>	<u>990</u>

The accompanying notes form part of and are to be read in conjunction with these financial statements.

## RUAPEHU LODGE

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Lodge Fees	26,389	31,653
Locker Hire	1,900	1,725
Interest	2,018	629
Donations	2,560	2,110
Other Income	176	1,900
	<b>33,043</b>	<b>38,017</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Food	5,365	5,262
Power	7,579	7,726
Telephone	747	727
Repairs & Maintenance	1,637	2,894
Insurance (Note 5)	12,833	8,327
DOC Service & Site Levies	5,094	3,423
General Expenses	176	-
Council Rates	2,435	2,466
RMCA Services + Building Inspections	2,165	1,967
	<b>38,031</b>	<b>32,792</b>
(Deficit) Surplus before depreciation	<b>(4,988)</b>	<b>5,225</b>
Depreciation	9,306	9,732
(DEFICIT) to Statement of Financial Performance	<b>(14,294)</b>	<b>(4,507)</b>

The accompanying notes form part of and are to be read in conjunction with these financial statements.

**STATEMENT OF MOVEMENTS TO THE ACCUMULATED FUND  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2023**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Balance 1 June 2022	449,239	449,518
(Deficit) for the year	(15,773)	(279)
Balance 31 May 2023	<u><b>433,466</b></u>	<u><b>449,239</b></u>

The accompanying notes form part of and are to be read in conjunction with these financial statements.



**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**As at 31 May 2023**

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>	<b>433,466</b>	<b>449,239</b>
Represented by		
<b>BANK ACCOUNTS (all Westpac)</b>		
General Funds - current a/c	6,050	4,894
General Funds - term deposits (see * below)	21,111	23,283
General Funds - term deposits - transport purposes	53,748	51,785
Fanny Bayliss Bequest - term deposit (Note 1)	33,003	32,229
Natusch Bequest - term deposit	15,088	15,002
Bob Sewell donation - term deposit	5,164	5,093
Transport, Trips & Gear - current a/c	3,419	9,009
Ruapehu Lodge - current a/c	9,223	14,819
Ruapehu Lodge - term deposits	60,000	60,000
	<b>206,806</b>	<b>216,114</b>
<b>OTHER CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
DOC Hut tickets	79	79
Prepayments & Accrued income (Note 2)	21,076	15,464
	<b>21,155</b>	<b>15,543</b>
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>227,961</b>	<b>231,657</b>
<b>LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES &amp; SPECIAL FUNDS</b>		
Creditors (Note 3)	350	-
Fanny Bayliss Bequest	33,444	32,424
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>33,794</b>	<b>32,424</b>
<b>WORKING FUNDS</b>	<b>194,167</b>	<b>199,233</b>
<b>PLUS FIXED ASSETS</b> (Note 4)	239,299	250,006
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>433,466</b>	<b>449,239</b>

\* Includes a \$4000 bequest from the estate of Don Millward.

The accompanying notes form part of and are to be read in conjunction with these financial statements.

## **NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

### **For the year ended 31 May 2023**

#### **STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

##### Reporting Entity

The reporting entity is an Incorporated Society. The financial statements of the entity have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The entity is entitled to use differential reporting exemptions because it is not publicly accountable, because it is not large and has taken advantage of all differential reporting exemptions.

##### Measurement Base

The measurement base adopted is that of historical cost.

##### Nature of Activities

The entity conducts the activities of organising tramping, climbing, skiing, and other outdoor trips to, and for the enjoyment of, New Zealand's recreational and conservation estates.

#### **SPECIFIC ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

Inventories are stated at the lower of cost, using a first in first out basis, and net realisable value.

##### Taxation

The Inland Revenue Department confirmed in May 2000 that the Constitution entitled the Club to an exemption from income tax under their amateur sports promoter rules.

##### Depreciation

In recognition of wear and obsolescence, a portion of the following assets have been written down in value. The rates applied are as follows:

Ruapehu Lodge	2.5% of initial cost
Garage	2.5% of initial cost
Clubrooms	Written down to \$1000 nominal value
Ford Van	Written down to estimated residual value
Tramping Gear	20% of book value
Clubroom Furniture & Equipment	20% of book value
Lodge Furniture & Equipment	20% of book value
Laptops	20% of book value
Old Laptop and Projector	Written off
Cycle rack and rack hoist	10% of book value
HD Projector 4800 Ansi	20% of book value

##### Goods and Services Tax

These financial statements have been prepared on a GST inclusive basis of accounting.

##### Capital Expenditure

There are no commitments for capital expenditure at balance date.

##### Contingent Liabilities

There are no known contingent liabilities at balance date.

##### Changes in Accounting Policies

There have been no changes to these policies.

## 1 FANNY BAYLISS LEGACY

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
This year's movements are:		
Balance 1 June 2022	32,229	32,330
plus: Interest received	774	269
Sub total	<b>33,003</b>	<b>32,599</b>
less: Distribution of funds (Note 7)	-	370
Balance 31 May 2023	<b>33,003</b>	<b>32,229</b>

## 2 PREPAYMENTS AND ACCRUED INCOME

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Interest earned but not received	2,476	849 *
Prepayments	12,260	9,280
Clubroom rentals due	1,300	1,000
FMC Affiliation Fees	5,040	4,335
Totals	<b>21,076</b>	<b>15,464 *</b>

\* Corrected values

## 3 CREDITORS

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Prepaid subscriptions	350	-
Totals	<b>350</b>	<b>-</b>

## 4 FIXED ASSETS

	Additions	Depreciation	2023	2022
	\$	\$	\$	\$
Clubrooms (built 1959)	-	-	1,000	1,000
Garage (built 1985) (incl Cycle rack hoist)	487	498	4,159	4,170
Ruapehu (bunkroom - built 2012)	-	7,517	218,371	225,888
Lodge Furniture & Equipment	-	1,789	7,157	8,946
Tramping Gear	-	339	1,357	1,696
Ford Van	-	-	1,829	1,829
Clubrooms - Furniture Equipment Books	-	288	2,032	2,320
Old Laptop & Projector	-	100	-	100
Laptops	-	214	855	1,069
Audio-Visual Equipment (2016/17)	-	300	1,199	1,499
Cycle rack (purchased 2013)	-	149	1,340	1,489
	<b>487</b>	<b>11,193</b>	<b>239,299</b>	<b>250,006</b>

## 5 INSURANCE

Insurance is held on the Club's buildings, contents, van, and potential liabilities, as follows:

	<b>Buildings</b>	<b>Contents</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Valuation</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>Date</b>
Clubrooms	846,000	45,000	-	May-23
Ruapehu Lodge (valuation \$1,300,000)	615,000	-	-	Apr-18
Broadform Liability	-	-	2,000,000	
Statutory Liability	-	-	1,000,000	
Ford Van	-	-	40,000	

The Ruapehu Lodge is insured with Marsh Insurance with an expiry date of 31 July 2023. All other insurances are current to 31 May 2024. The Clubrooms are insured for replacement, the Ruapehu Lodge for indemnity only. The Ford Van Insurance comprises \$10,000 for the van itself and \$30,000 for a hired vehicle.

## 6 SALES TABLE

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
This year's movements are:		
Balance 1 June 2022	5,839	6,157
plus: Club night income	886	721
plus: Interest on term deposit	126	-
Sub total	<b>6,851</b>	<b>6,877</b>
less: Distribution of funds (Note 7)	-	1,038
Balance 31 May 2023 *	<b>6,851</b>	<b>5,839</b>

\* This amount is held partly in the Club's General Account and partly in a term deposit.

## 7 PURCHASES FROM BEQUESTS AND SALES TABLE FUNDS

	<b>Fanny Bayliss Bequest</b>	<b>Natusch Bequest</b>	<b>Sales Table</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Contribution to member's first aid course	-	333	-
Totals	-	333	-

## ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT TO THE HUTT VALLEY TRAMPING CLUB INC.

I have reviewed the financial statements of the Hutt Valley Tramping Club Inc. for the year ended 31 May 2023 in accordance with the Review Engagement Standards issued by the External Reporting Board.

### *The Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Statements.*

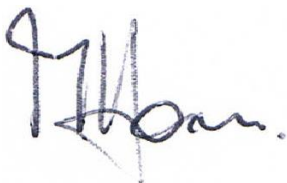
The committee is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements and for such internal control as the committee determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### *The Assurance Reviewer's Responsibility.*

My responsibility is to express a conclusion on the accompanying financial statements. I conducted my review in accordance with International Standard on Review Engagements (New Zealand) ISRE (NZ) 2400. This Standard also requires I comply with relevant ethical requirements.

A review is limited primarily to enquiries of the entity's personnel and analytical review procedures applied to financial data and thus provides less assurance than an audit. I have not performed an audit and, accordingly, I do not express an audit opinion.

Based on my review, nothing has come to my attention that causes me to believe that the accompanying financial statements do not give a true and fair view.



16 June 2023

# Hutt Valley Tramping Club Incorporated

## Minutes of the 99<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting 7.30 pm, Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 Clubrooms, Birch Street Reserve, Lower Hutt

**Present:** 48 members.

The President, Dennis Page, opened the meeting at 7.30 pm.

- 1. Apologies:** received from Phaedra Upton, Tania Hatfield, Neil Hickman, Frank Usmar, Leanne Asher, Max and Pam Bruce, Mat Craig, Graham Taylor, Elaine Richardson, Bob Deller, Helen Lukes, Cathy Priest, Fiona and Richard Moran, Catherine Croucher, Pamela Campbell.

A minute of silence was held to honour the following Club members and former members known to have died during the past year:

**Liz Davis** – member from 2014; died 13 July 2021

**Jan Heine** – member from 1963, Life Member from 1996; died 28 December 2021

**Ian Milne** – member from 2007; died 7 March 2022

**Don Chisholm** – former member; died 8 March 2022

**Pauline Chappell** (nee Wylie) – member from 1955; died 15 May 2022

### **2. Minutes of the 98<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting:**

The minutes of the 98<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting, held on the 28<sup>th</sup> July 2021, having been distributed to members with the 2020-2021 Annual Report, were taken as read.

- No corrections were offered.

**MOVED:** That the Minutes of the 98<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting be confirmed as a true and correct record.

Dennis Page / John Smeith **Carried**

### **Matters arising:**

- None.

### **3. 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Report:**

The Annual Report for 2021-22, having been distributed to members, was taken as read.

- The President thanked all of those who had reported on their areas of responsibility.
- None of the authors of sections of the report wished to speak to his/her contribution.
- No Matters Arising from the Report were raised.
- No Corrections or Additions to the Report were offered.

**MOVED:** That the 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Report be adopted.

Ian Ayson / John Simes **Carried**

### **4. Annual Accounts for Year ended 31 May 2022:**

Annual Accounts for 2021-22, having been distributed to members, were taken as read.

- Dennis thanked the Treasurer, Jim Cousins, and Ian Hoare, as Financial Assurance Reviewer, for the maintenance and preparation of the Accounts.
- The Treasurer offered no comments additional to his written report on the Accounts.
- Pat Tristram observed that there was a discrepancy of \$195 between Prepayments and Accrued Income listed in the Statement of Financial Position and that given in Note 2. Jim acknowledged this, and congratulated Pat as the only person who had noticed this difference despite the Accounts being thoroughly reviewed. Unable to explain the discrepancy at the meeting, he has subsequently determined it arose from a change in

the length of a term deposit holding Fanny Bayliss Bequest funds. More interest - \$195 – should therefore have been recorded as “earned but not accrued” in Note 2.

- Mike Priest noted that two laptops are recorded amongst the fixed assets. Graeme Lythgoe responded that the laptop that drives the Clubrooms audio-visual equipment had been replaced and the older equipment donated for use at Ruapehu Lodge.
- Referring to the item Other Income in the Ruapehu Lodge Account, Murray Presland asked that the minutes record his shame for being a member of a Club that had sought and accepted funds from the Government’s Covid Recovery Fund to support the recreation of members. Tony Jaegers, Pat and John Tristram asked their disappointment also be recorded. Contrarily, Graeme McVerry congratulated the Ruapehu Committee for seeking the funds, commenting that they may be useful sometime in the future.
- Mike Priest asked if the Club maintained a Reserve Fund. The Treasurer noted that funds are set aside for Transport and Ruapehu operations, plus the Fanny Bayliss and Natusch Bequests. These are recorded in the Statement of Financial Position. Funds for maintaining the Clubrooms are built into the Subscription income and accrue in General Funds. All other unexpected expenses will be met from General Funds.

**MOVED:** That the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 May 2022 be adopted.

Dennis Page/ Mike Priest **Carried**

## 5. Election of Officers:

The following valid nominations had been received and notified to members:

Position	Nominated	Proposer	Seconder
<b>General Committee</b>			
President			
Vice-President			
Vice-President Ruapehu	Kate Brownsword		
Secretary			
Treasurer	Jim Cousins		
Trip Coordinator	Chris McMillan		
Transport Officer	John Smeith		
Committee (6)	Graeme Lythgoe		
	Doc Watson		
	Michelle White		
	John Evans		
	Doreen Courtenay		
<b>Ruapehu Committee</b>			
Secretary	Bruce Miller		
Treasurer	John Simes		
Committee (8)	Russell Oliver		
	Sheldon Bruce		
	Ian McIlraith		
	Alison Newbald		
	Brendan Quirke		
<b>Social Committee (8)</b>			
	Pamela Campbell		
	Doreen Courtenay		

	Carolyn Lyon		
	Cathy Priest		
	Sharman Robinson		
	Graeme McVerry		
	Julie Lewis		
	Marilyn Sickels		

As the number of nominations did not exceed the number of positions, the listed candidates were declared elected.

Dennis noted:

- Social Committee has a full complement of volunteers: Marilyn Sickels will join others who are currently serving. He, and the members of the Social Committee, thanked Helen Lukes for her contribution during the past 5 years.
- Ruapehu Committee: All of the present Officers and members have committed to continuing in their roles. In thanking them, Dennis noted that there were 3 spaces remaining unfilled on the Committee, though Kate had assured him that, given the experienced group continuing, the Committee would manage its tasks.
- General Committee: There was a glaring lack of volunteers for Officer roles though members would continue serving. Dennis thanked Jim Cousins continuing as Treasurer, Chris McMillan continuing as Trip Co-ordinator, John Smeith continuing as Transport Officer after taking up this task during the past year, and Doc Watson, Michelle White and John Evans who will continue as members of the Committee. Graeme Lythgoe has chosen to step away from the Vice-President role but will continue as a member of the Committee where his long experience and knowledge is much valued. Doreen Courtenay, adding to her contributions to the functioning of the Club as Membership Officer and member of the Social Committee, will join the General Committee. Dennis thanked all of these members also.

Since nominations closed on 30<sup>th</sup> June, no further nominations had been forthcoming.

The President sought nominations for President, Vice-President, Secretary, and members of the General and Ruapehu Committees from the meeting:

- President: Marina Skinner nominated: Dennis Page / Murray Presland
- Vice-President: Tania Hatfield nominated: Dennis Page / Murray Presland
- Secretary: Phaedra Upton nominated: Dennis Page / Murray Presland
- General Committee: Emma Dobbie nominated: Dennis Page / Murray Presland
- Ruapehu Committee: none forthcoming

Dennis, on behalf of all Club members, thanked all those who had undertaken to manage the activities of the Club through their membership of the General, Ruapehu and Social Committees.

## 6. Notices of Motion:

Two notices had been received and been recommended to members by the General Committee.

1. **THAT** Bruce Miller be elected a Life Member of the Hutt Valley Tramping Club.

Moved: John Simes / Val Erhardt

John noted that, having joined the Club in April 1994, Bruce was quickly volunteered as a member of the Social Committee in 1995 and then the General Committee, 1995-98. More significantly he became Secretary of the Ruapehu Committee in 1999, a post he continues to hold – 23 years of service and continuing. In addition, he has served the Club



as an Assistant Editor, for 3 years, and then Editor of Hills and Valleys for the past 17 years, always reliably delivered on schedule. Bruce has contributed to many environmental projects undertaken by the Club, most notably as organiser of the annual *Pinus contorta* eradication weekends at Ruapehu for many years. He has taken part in many tramping trips, including as an organiser of Friday Rambles, throughout the 26 years of his membership – a remarkable record of service within our Club!

Val Erhardt declined to speak to the motion; Ian Ayson and Pat Tristram enthusiastically endorsed Bruce's nomination for Life Membership.

Following a show of hands and without dissent, **Bruce was declared to be elected a Life Member of Hutt Valley Tramping Club**, with acclamation.

Dennis surrendered the chair to Graeme Lythgoe.

2. **THAT** Dennis Page be elected a Life Member of the Hutt Valley Tramping.

Moved: Graeme Lythgoe / Murray Presland

Graeme noted that, in the 24 years since joining Hutt Valley Tramping Club, Dennis has contributed an enormous amount to many facets of Club activities. Within the year of joining he was elected to the General Committee and he has held positions on that Committee more or less continuously since. Most notable among these have been three periods as Club President - unprecedented and totalling 8 years in this post. It was worth recalling also, that Dennis took the task for the third time when Club members could not produce a candidate and had again served us as President through the past three years.

But Dennis's contribution to HVTC has not been restricted to leadership roles in Club administration – among a few of his other many roles have been – environmental officer since 2009, member and then convenor of the Social Committee for 5 years, co-ordinator of bushcraft instructions for 6 years, assistant for and then co-ordinator of introductory Alpine Instruction courses for 8 years, as well as taking lead roles in strategic reviews and being on the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee.

In addition, Dennis was a member of the FMC Executive for 8 years, including being the editor of the FMC News electronic publication for 5 years, and being the co-founder of and later the Chair of the Youth Scholarships Selection Panel for 11 years. Dennis is still a member of that Panel. Since 2017 he has been a trustee for the FMC Mountain and Forest Trust.

Amongst all these contributions to HVTC and FMC Dennis has led numerous trips, the more notable being extended tramps to the South Island and areas north of the Tararua Range. Many Club members will have enjoyed Dennis's great organisation skills as well as his friendly and outgoing demeanour as a trip leader.

Overall, Dennis has given a large amount of time to many of the major aspects of Club activities. Most will be familiar with his chairing Wednesday meetings for here Dennis is crucial to the smooth running of the evenings as he takes on the tasks of setting up the laptop and being "chief problem solver" when anything goes wrong.

Finally - Dennis's organisational and leadership skills have been very significant in promoting the aims and aspirations of the Club and its members over many years. He always wants to do things well but that is only part of the story. Successful leadership requires excellent interpersonal skills and personal integrity – and this is at the core of everything Dennis does. In addition he is unfailingly courteous and respectful of people. I think he has justifiably won the respect of members by his good stewardship of this Club.

Murray observed that no member since the first President had guided our Club for as many years as Dennis – Alexander Roberts served in a predominately honorary role for 12 years, from 1923 to 1935, and had been knighted during that time. Perhaps Dennis should continue as President for a little longer, and receive a greater award than was being proposed. But long as Dennis's record of leadership has been, the outstanding feature has been the manner of his leading the Club – with thoughtful consideration for all points of view, with courtesy in dealing with guests and members, with care for the natural environment, and dedication to maintaining HVTC as a vibrantly active tramping club.

Doc Watson, Jackie West and Mike Priest warmly supported Dennis's nomination for Life Membership.

Following a show of hands and without dissent, **Dennis was declared to be elected as a Life Member of Hutt Valley Tramping Club**, with acclamation.

Bruce, in expressing his gratitude for the award of Life Membership, said that it was a delight to have his name recorded alongside those of Club stalwarts such as Jan and Arnold Heine. Club members had contributed greatly to his life, endowing it with many highlights, and he offered his thanks to them for all these gifts to him.

Dennis commented that many Club members had shown him thoughtfulness and kindness during his "career" within the Club. This had enabled him to achieve much personally and to reach many destinations that would otherwise have been but dreams. The award of Life Membership was yet another gift from Club members - he appreciated greatly the generosity shown to him.

Dennis resumed the chair.

## **7. General Business:**

1. John Simes questioned the election of only one Vice-President, in addition to the Vice-President Ruapehu, on the General Committee. In response - it has not proved necessary for the orderly conduct of the Club's affairs to have more than one deputy to the President – so the Constitution was amended several years ago to provide this.
2. Given that a considerable number of members are being recorded each year as resigning or not renewing their membership, Mike Priest asked if their reasons for leaving the Club were being sought. In response - there is no formal process.

## **8. President's Address:**

Dennis addressed Club members on the following topics:

1. **Recruitment of new members.** He was grateful for the efforts that Marina Skinner and Jim Cousins have undertaken in the past year to lead and run trips specifically aimed at encouraging new members. He also acknowledged the encouragement that the Trip Coordinator, Chris McMillan, provides in ensuring such activities are listed in the Club's Trip Schedule, plus the efforts of Kate Brownsword and the Ruapehu Committee in encouraging use of the Lodge and associated activities as a portal to attract a younger membership. All these efforts have helped to sustain a membership of ~300 over the last few years.

But we cannot ignore the fact that our membership is aging, and ongoing efforts need to be made by all of us to encourage/recruit new members into the Club - to keep it refreshed and vibrant. At a church service he attended recently, the vicar opined that churches worldwide were only one generation away from collapse and ventured the

reason was that they often looked to serve members' own needs first, failing to focus on those yet to be a part of their community. There may be parallels that we can draw from this message. Perhaps the challenge for us is to explore ways that, by our activities, we serve the needs of those not yet in the club as our first priority so that we are sustained by renewed energy and can keep doing what we like doing. He implored Club members not to just leave it to a Committee – If you have a good idea, let the Committees know and run with it – they will support and resource you to do it!

2. **Volunteering and participating.** This topic is linked to that just discussed. Dennis was exceedingly grateful to Marina, Tania, Phaedra, Emma and Doreen for stepping up to serve on the General Committee; Marilyn, likewise onto the Social Committee; and to all of those who have stayed to continue working on the main committees. Maybe in their doing so, the Club has dodged a bullet or two and bought some time, but his emphasis in this year's President's Report remains unchanged – unless more members offer their service, those that have done so or are doing so will inevitably 'hang up their cloaks' and there may be no replacements. Recruiting and nurturing new members to reinvigorate the Club is necessary but so is ongoing commitment from all members to lead activities in an atmosphere that is welcoming and fostering - so that those who come through the door ask the question 'what is it about this group of people that makes them special and how do I belong?'

As we have learned during 'Covid-times', being flexible and prepared to change our ways of acting – which could include committee structures – might be key in setting up the Club in a way that equips us best to respond to that challenge.

3. **Climate Change / Environmental Stewardship.** Dennis acknowledged the leadership efforts of Graeme Lythgoe, John Simes, Murray Presland, Julie Lewis, Bruce Miller and others who have led, or offered to lead, projects at Baring Head, Te Awa Kairangi, Matiu-Somes and the Pinus contorta working parties over the past year. Some activities were thwarted by powers beyond our control, but most were well supported by Club members, and successful – thank you all!

Wider commendation for the Club's efforts lies in HVTC being awarded the inaugural Sports Hutt Valley Environment Award for 2022 - great kudos to those who have led and participated in these initiatives.

4. **Club's Centenary Celebrations in 2023.** Organisation for a commemorative event on the weekend of 3-5 November 2023 is underway with volunteers confirmed to run a Friday Night Mixer, Saturday Afternoon Tea, Sunday Tramps and a Sunday Barbecue Event. The General Committee has resolved that these events should be free to members. A commemorative publication is also being compiled – but, subject to publication costs, it is not yet determined if this will incur a direct cost to members.

Efforts are in train to secure a venue for a Saturday evening celebratory dinner – an event still to be confirmed but it would be at cost to those who wish to participate. Next, he stressed that just because there are leaders for the events outlined, this must not mean that the events should be left solely to those people to run them – they need help so please offer assistance. Dennis thanked those who have already done so.

Finally, there is scope to run other special events at other significant times in 2023, such as in May and June when the fledgling Petone Tramping Club and Hutt Valley Tramping Club held their first trips. Other events could happen, limited only by our collective imaginations and willingness to volunteer – so please volunteer. He, Dennis, will step down from the General Committee but has offered to help coordinate events, providing

some of the drive to get events off the ground – but these will only happen with the support of plenty of members.

5. **Club Van Replacement:** Following on from the statement about Van Replacement disclosed in the 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Report and as noted in the fifth bulleted point of the Transport Report in the 99<sup>th</sup> Annual Report, the General Committee has been considering options for the replacement of the Club van.

A review was undertaken by John Smeith, with input from John Evans, and four options were presented to the General Committee at its July 2022 meeting:

- Purchase a new van (a like-for-like replacement)
- Purchase a low-kilometres, second-hand van
- Replace the present van with rental vans
- Retain the van until the end of its useful life, for local trips only, and hire a rental van for longer trips (e.g., for the South Island).

Key considerations that fed into the four options presented were:

- What has been the historical usage of the van by Club members?
- What are the future transport requirements of Club members?
- Does the HVTC want to own, lease or have a BYO transport solution?
- If purchasing a replacement vehicle, what are the required specifications?

In addition to the above, and because some safety concerns over the current vehicle had been drawn to the General Committee's attention, an independent assessment of the current van's condition was undertaken by the AA in December 2021. All defects or repairs identified were immediately attended to. The inspection concluded that 'the vehicle was in a fair condition for its age and mileage but may require unplanned maintenance or repair.' The next scheduled service of the vehicle is due in September 2022 and will be at an authorised Ford dealer.

In its deliberations, the General Committee was not in favour of a like-for-like replacement which, based on price scoping, would cost the club in excess of \$70,000. This would be a petrol- or diesel-powered vehicle as there are currently no electric vehicles that would meet the Club's transport criteria, despite aiding our environmental profile. Historical vehicle useage was included in assessing this option.

There was also little support for the purchase of a low-kilometres second-hand vehicle (estimated costs were in the range of \$35,000-45,000) given the limited choices currently available, the comparatively high-mileage already registered on some of them, and our recent van use. Also at issue is that many manufacturers are moving to fewer seated options, which would limit their suitability for Club use.

Of the remaining two options, and given the findings of the AA inspection noted above, the General Committee favoured retaining the current vehicle but, noting its age and condition, being supportive of renting vehicles on longer trips if that were more appropriate. The Committee has also upgraded its tier status of AA membership to provide better support and repatriation for the vehicle and passengers in the event of a breakdown of the existing vehicle.

The Committee noted that assessment of current Club van use and members' expectations was difficult over recent years for a number of factors, including the Covid-19 pandemic. Therefore retention of the current vehicle, provided it continues to meet all roadworthiness and reliability requirements and with options to use rental vehicles where more suitable, is the most pragmatic shorter-to-medium term option for the Club. That decision would not limit the decisions of any future Committees, and indeed it

allows for ongoing review of options as Club members' expectations, patterns of transport use and purchase options evolve.

Graham White, the Club's Transport Officer for 12 years until last year, commended the report. He noted that in recent years the income above expenses for the Club's transport had fallen to ~\$1000/yr but this would need to be ~\$3000/yr to maintain viable funding of any new vehicle – heralding a large increase in Club transport fares.

## **9. President's Awards for 2022 :**

These awards are made at the sole discretion of the President to recognise contributions that have helped our Club run well during the past year.

Dennis said he was very aware that many members work diligently, often behind the scenes, to the benefit of Club members. He felt spoiled for choice in this year and apologised if anyone's omission brought disappointment – he was allowed a limited number of awards.

First, he thanked Nick McBride, Tania Hatfield, Chris and Murray McMillan, Andrew Robinson and Phaedra Upton who had all frequently led trips during the year or had organised Trip Schedules (some undertaking both tasks). He thanked Jim Cousins for his continuing diligence as Treasurer, Graeme Lythgoe for his support as Vice-President and management of the Sales Table, Murray Presland for continuing albeit reluctantly as Secretary, and Shelly Bruce for his long-sustained contributions to the Ruapehu Committee as Bookings Officer for many years and on numerous maintenance projects.

### **2022 Awards:**

#### **Doreen Courtenay**

For many years of service to Club members, and the General Committee, including as: Secretary, Membership Officer, Hills and Valleys plus FMC Publications Distributor, E-mail Groups Manager, Privacy Manager and as a much-valued contributor to the Social Committee. Doreen's philanthropic baking donations for the Sales Table and for leading numerous trips and adventures are also gratefully acknowledged.

#### **Jackie and Chris West**

For continuing contributions to the Club's Trip Schedule, in the leading many day and overnight trips over many, many years. Chris and Jackie's offering to lead these trips has helped to ensure that the Club's Trip Schedules remain vibrant and given opportunities for trip experiences for new and established Club members alike. The Wests' previous contributions to the Club's Membership Officer role, and its numerous duties, are also gratefully acknowledged.

Chris McMillan offered a vote of thanks to Dennis for leading the Club thoughtfully, considerably and well through the past three challenging years – passed with acclamation.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Signed

Chair

Date



Top Kokatahi Hut

Photo: Andrew Robinson – 2022 HVTC Photographic Competition