



"Heaphy Track Inland" by Jan Arts
Winner – FMC Category Below the Bushline with no Human Element
Winner – HVTC Scenic Cup

Please submit your October 2024 H&V articles to the editor by 28th September 2024

HVTC Postal Address: PO Box 30-883, Lower Hutt: Clubrooms: Birch Street Reserve, Birch Street, Waterloo Internet: http://www.hvtc.org.nz E-mail: <a href="mailto:info@hvtc.org.nz">info@hvtc.org.nz</a>

**President:** Marina Skinner 021 792 260 **Secretary:** Emma Dobbie 027 252 5045 **Trip Coordinator:** Dennis Page 021 229 9901 **Treasurer:** Jim Cousins 586 2135

Editor H&V: Bruce Miller 027 563 5966 the-bruce@xtra.co.nz



# CLUB NIGHT PROGRAMME Starts 7:30 pm promptly



# 4 September : Josh Nicholls - HVTC centenary school grant

Hutt Valley High School was one of the recipients of a HVTC centenary school grant last year.

Assistant Head of Physical Education Josh Nicholls talks about how the grant supported students to experience outdoor recreation and the natural environment.

# 11 September: Les Molloy – The Long March through China's outstanding natural World Heritage

The Long March was the epic 1934-35 retreat of the Chinese Communist Party's armies from Jiangxi in the SE to Shaanxi in the NW. 60,000 set out on the 3000 km journey; but only 8000 survived the ordeal, as they had to travel through some of the wildest mountains, swamps and rivers in China. Les has long been fascinated at all the CPP propaganda around the Long March, as many of the places he has evaluated for World Heritage listing lay along, or close to, the route/s of the Long March. His talk is an illustrated blend of the history of the Marchers' ordeal and the natural world heritage values (geodiversity/biodiversity) of these outstanding places

# 18 September: Graeme and Carolyn Lyon – Walking in Tasmania.

Graeme and Carolyn Lyon spent 21 days touring this island state west of here, earlier this year and walked or tramped almost every day. They will show you some of the sights.

## 25 September: Andrew Robinson - Eye-Q Test 6

Andrew Robinson brings you another quiz night that will test your powers of observation. There will be the usual spot-the-difference, something for the hut baggers, maybe some pictograms, but beyond that, you'll have to wait and see (as it were).

#### 2 October: Hera Cook - What do we see when we look at the bush?

Many New Zealanders love the bush but, beyond finding it beautiful, we know little about the impact of human settlement on our forests and the swift changes currently taking place. This talk examines how Hera came to understand what she was seeing and learnt about forest dynamics, the impact of pest animals and the current situation. It suggests how we might encourage greater awareness among a wider audience and analyses the major obstacles standing in the way of doing so.

Hera trained as a historian in the UK and returned to New Zealand so she could go tramping and see her whanau. After 12 years as a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Public Health, Otago University of Wellington and a lot of tramping, she has started writing about the bush and related issues.



#### **FORTHCOMING TRIPS**



#### NOTES

Where there is no leader given for a trip, please email <a href="mailto:tripcoordinator@hvtc.org.nz">tripcoordinator@hvtc.org.nz</a> to volunteer to lead a trip, either as shown or an alternative.

September						
7 - 8	T1	Waiopehu Hut	Leader Required			
	T2	Poutaki Hut (Gwavas Consv'n Area, Ruahine FP)	Andrew R			
Sun 8	D1	East-West Whakanui	Jackie and Chris			
		Manual bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park	Leena			
13 - 15	RL	Ruapehu Lodge 75 <sup>th</sup> Celebrations, Whakapapa	Kate B			

14 - 15	T1	Pauper's 75 <sup>th</sup> – Whakapapaiti Hut	Leader Required	
	T2	Tongariro/Ngauruhoe Alpine Explore	Leader Required	
Sun 15 D1		Northern Walkway Tony & Jo		
		Manual bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park	Leena	
Tues 17		Moonlight Walk - Belmont-R'kghorse-Kilmister	John Simes	
21 - 22	T1	Longview Laze-about	Leader Required	
	T2	Howletts Hut Hoolie	Leader Required	
Sun 22	D1	Baring Head area	Neil P	
		Manual bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park	Leena	
Day	/light Sa	aving starts 2.00 am Sunday 29 September. Clock	s go <u>forward</u> 1 hour.	
28 - 29	T1	Totara Flats via Wall Whare (Hut Booking req'd)	Leader Required	
27 - 29	T2	Herepai Peak Bagging	Andrew R	
Sun 29 D1		Bus Barn – Lowry (or vice-versa) Mel		
	Manual bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park		Leena	
October				
Tue 1	Ø₹.	Hutt River Trail North of Belmont Domain	Leader Required	
	Á	Hutt River Trail North of Belmont Domain	Debbie	
5 - 6	T1+	Field Hut & Sheridan Creek	Chris, Jackie & Mel	
	T2	Kime (Hut) 'Krusin'	Leader Required	
Sun 6	D1	Hawkins Hill Explore	Heather & Rob	
		Manual bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park	Leena	
Tue 8	Ø₹.	Ride South from Burdan's Gate (Eastbourne)	Helen and Paul	
	Á	Ride South from Burdan's Gate (Eastbourne)	Leader Required	

# FROM THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

# VACANCY: CLUBROOM BOOKING OFFICER

We're still looking for a new booking officer for our clubrooms since Julie Lewis is stepping down from the role after several years.

Julie has managed the regular bookings and occasional ad hoc bookings. These provide an important income stream to offset the costs of the building.

Please contact me if you'd like to know more about the role – marinaskinner@xtra.co.nz or 021792260.

> Marina Skinner President

# HVTC PHOTO COMPETITION 2024 WINNERS AND **RUNNERS-UP**

The 2024 HVTC Photo Competition was judged by well-known tramper, cyclist and photographer John Rhodes. Thank you, John, for contributing your time and expertise in formulating your valuable comments and deciding on the winning entries and runners-up.

John presented the entries along with his well-considered comments at the club night on 28 August. He demonstrated his suggested improvements with edited versions of some of the shots. There were several themes running through his comments – the use of layering and the beneficial effects of diagonals in composition, and zooming in or cropping to highlight the important features.

The efforts of all entrants were recognised by presenting chocolate bars to all who were present, followed by trophies to the winners. Carolyn Lyon was also worthy of a chocolate bar for collecting the trophies from last year's winners, cleaning and polishing them and arranging engraving.

The winning and runner-up entries in the FMC categories qualify for entry to the FMC competition.

#### **Entrants**

Thirteen photographers submitted a total of 94 entries across ten categories.

Maarten Vink Andrew Robinson John Flux Phaedra Upton

Lex Grubner Anja van Kesteren Sharman Robinson Jan Arts Graeme Lyon Max Bruce David Barnes Emma Dobbie

Michele Lythgoe (submitted entries in historic category photographed by Graeme Lythgoe)

Winners and runners-up

## **FMC CATEGORIES:**

#### **ABOVE THE BUSHLINE – no human element**

Winner Phaedra Upton Ohau 2

Runner-up Phaedra Upton *Hakatere tarn* **ABOVE THE BUSHLINE – with human element** 

Winner Andrew Robinson Makarora and Wilkin Valleys

Runner-up Phaedra Upton *Hakatere* **BELOW THE BUSHLINE – no human element** 

Winner Jan Arts Heaphy Track Inland

Runner-up Maarten Vink Stern Creek

**BELOW THE BUSHLINE - with human element** 

Winner Andrew Robinson A walk in the park
Runner-up Lex Grubner Matthews descent

SCENIC CUP (best of the 4 categories above)

Winner Jan Arts Heaphy Track Inland

NATIVE FLORA AND FAUNA (awarded HVTC NATURAL HISTORY Trophy)

Winner Jan Arts Curious Seal

Runner-up Anja van Kesteren Weka

HISTORICAL -

Winner Michele (submitter) and Graeme (photographer) Lythgoe

Christmas Trip 1967 clothing styles

Runner-up Max Bruce Ruapehu Hut 1950

## **CLUB CATEGORIES:**

**HVTC PERSONALITY Trophy** 

Winner John Flux Garbage collectors

**HVTC TOPICAL Trophy** 

Winner Andrew Robinson Rain - what rain?

**HVTC NOVICE Trophy** 

Winner Emma Dobbie Kapiti in the Grey

**HVTC OVERSEAS Trophy** 

Winner David Barnes Hawker



Some of the competition winners, together with the judge and the competition organiser.

# **UPCOMING EVENTS**

UPCOMING EVENTS AT RUAPEHU LODGE							
In	Out	Event					
Mon 09 Sept	Fri 13 Sept	Club Week 3	Contact Booking Officer (Sheldon Bruce) 027 451 0415				
Fri 13 Sept	Sun 15 Sept	75 <sup>th</sup> dinner at the lodge	Contact Kate Brownsword 027 562 0177				
	Cun 10 Copt	Uni students and young professionals' weekend	Contact Abigail Brownsword 027 431 7737 (text please)				
Mon 30 Sept	Fri 04 Oct	October School Holiday week 1	Contact Booking Officer (Sheldon Bruce) 027 451 0415				
Mon 07 Oct	Fri 11 Oct	October School Holiday week 2	Contact Booking Officer (Sheldon Bruce) 027 451 0415				

Booking can be done by contacting the Booking Officer Sheldon Bruce by:

- Email to Ruapehubookings@hvtc.org.nz, or
- Phone to 027 451 0415 and leave a message if there is no reply.

Since my last article Whakapapa has had some fresh snow followed by a lot of rain so the snow conditions remain variable and lean. But there is still some good skiing to be had so come on up. Contact me on <a href="mailto:Ruapehubookings@hytc.org.nz">Ruapehubookings@hytc.org.nz</a> or 0274510415.

The lodge continues to be used with a Tararua Tramping Club group followed by a Hillary Outdoors Avalanche course that was hosted and catered by Sheldon Bruce and Alan Findlay. There is a currently a Corporate Social Club group in residence.

There is plenty of space to use the lodge for the remainder of the season and we also have the following trips organized:

## 2 September to 6 September - Club Week 2

As you read this you will most certainly be feeling a warm glow with the thought that some intrepid club members are currently enjoying a week away in the lodge which will hopefully include some skiing.

# 13 September to 15 September – Lodge 75th Celebration

The big weekend on the Ruapehu Lodge calendar. The first Ruapehu Hut was built in 1949 so we have now hit the big 75. A weekend of fun with plenty of skiing and riding to celebrate. I have about 26 booked already but there is still room so get your names on the list. If you want any more information about the 75th please contact Kate Brownsword on 0274317737. The Young Professionals Weekend planned for the following weekend has now been combined with the 75th so please come up to enjoy this event.

## 30 September to 4 October - 1st Week of the School Holidays

Deb Ryan is the leader of this trip. Contact Deb on <a href="debryan6011@gmail.com">debryan6011@gmail.com</a> or 0212256368 to get more details. A nice little group is starting to come together for this trip.

## 7 October to 11 October – 2nd Week of the School Holidays

Let me know if you would like to lead this trip. You can't beat spring skiing at Whakapapa so this is a fantastic time of the year to get parents and children enjoying the slopes together.

This list doesn't mean that you have to go on an organised trip. There are plenty of other opportunities to use the lodge throughout the winter season for skiing, climbing, ski touring or just relaxing. Just pick a time, contact the booking officer (details listed above) then come on up.

That's all for now. **Sheldon Bruce**Ruapehu Lodge Booking Officer

LODGE 75TH CELEBRATION
FRIDAY 13 SEPTEMBER TO SUNDAY 15 SEPTEMBER

## Please contribute your memories

As you know, we are celebrating 75 years of the club lodge on Ruapehu on 13-15 September with a weekend of activities on the mountain and a dinner on Saturday 14th.

One of the events planned for that weekend is the creation of a memory book with the theme, "My best memory of the lodge".

Many of you will have spent time at the lodge over the decades and will have enjoyed or endured memorable events, be it skiing, climbing, tramping, alpine activities or just time with friends. There have been bluebird days and some epic storms too!

Please - send me your memories and contributions, either written or a photo and I will ensure these are added to the memory book during our 75th weekend. I'll bring the book back down the hill after the weekend and along to club to share. You can contact me on

the.brownswords@xtra.co.nz

#### Join us

We have a few spaces still left at the lodge on 13-15 September if you would like to join us for the weekend. Cost is \$25 for the Saturday night feast, \$15 for those aged 14 and under, plus your usual lodge fees for the weekend. This price includes Friday night dinner too if you are at the lodge on Friday.

#### **Datashow**

If you happen to have a datashow that we could take to the lodge for the 75th, please get in touch with me; or alternatively a large tv screen. We'd like to show the 100th skiing rollovers again.

# **Buffs/neck gaiters**

To mark our 75 years we have produced neck gaiters or buffs in HVTC blue with the club logo - please see attached photos, they are pretty fabulous!

These buffs are great to keep the sun/wind/rain off your neck and lower face whatever outdoor activity you are doing. Wear it over your cap and it will keep your hat on your head in the wind, and will also keep your headphones in place! And of course, it's totally the right thing under your helmet on the ski field or while biking.

Price - \$20 each. Please email Brendan Quirke on quirkeb6@gmail.com with your orders, and deposit the cost into the HVTC Ruapehu account, 03-0543-0036501-03. The buffs will be available to pick up from Brendan at the club rooms on Wednesday nights, or we can post them to you. If you require postage, please add \$6.20 to your order and let Brendan know your address.



Kate Brownsword For the Ruapehu Committee

# GEORGE KENDALL - finally at rest.

Tony Birtwistle

George's daughter Jane and her family travelled to the South Island and buried half of George's ashes in the snow within sight of Mount Cook – which he'd climbed. The remainder were taken to the Roaring Billy Falls in the Mt Aspiring National Park (George also climbed Mt Aspiring at some time). On the entrance to the river there is a seat and not far from there some of George's ashes remain under a rock with an inscribed plague. The rest of the ashes were scattered into the river opposite the falls. I'm sure George would welcome anyone travelling in the area to drop by!



# CROSSING TIMOR-LESTE ON FOOT

# Jonty Crane

Being the first group to attempt to cross Timor-Leste on foot in six years, what could possibly go wrong?! The biggest July storm in recent years didn't help, but this was an incredible hike, up with the best I've done on five continents.

The Timor-Leste Coast2Coast hike was established in the 2010s by Timorese tour operator Eco Discovery for Australian operator No Roads. Over eight days you walk from the capital Dili, across the highest (Mt Ramelau) and hardest (Mt Kablaki) mountains in the country, before reaching the south coast at Betano Beach. The trip last ran in 2018 for Australian operator Earth Trails, with an easier route.

Walking the dusty roads of Dili isn't particularly exciting so we started on the outskirts of the city near Fatisi. As would be the case for the next three days it was basically uphill, 1,000m a day. Timor-Leste grows some of the best coffee in the world, and we saw plenty of coffee beans growing, being hand-picked, and dried along the hike. Other sights included someone carrying a wardrobe on their back (with a mattress on top and sizeable music speaker in hand!), and an intrepid motorcyclist with five mattresses strapped to the back of their bike!

We spent the first night camping by Seloi Craic, a beautiful lagoon surrounded by rice fields, where we could buy fresh vegetables for dinner. We enjoyed varied scenery walking across Aileu before reaching the 2,369m Mt Maubo. This lies on the border between Ermera and Ainaro, and is marked by an impressively large concrete cross. It also gave us our first views of the stunning 2,986m Mt Ramelau.

The plan was to summit it the next day but an unusually large storm swept across Timor-Leste that night, sinking an Indonesian freighter in the Wetar Strait, and flattening our campsite with torrential rain and wind at 2am!

Luckily we had a support vehicle with us and were able to get the crew and our things safely to nearby Hatu Builico, which at 1,950m is the highest settlement in the country. After a rough night we needed a day of rest and opportunity to dry our things, as literally everything got soaked... Thankfully the bad weather lifted and we went for an enjoyable explore around Hatu Builico, which

was home to traditional Timorese thatched buildings, local markets, a Portuguese colonial era administrative building, and an impressively large new church.

The weather was so good that we decided to head up Mt Ramelau that afternoon to watch the sunset from the highest point in the country. Most people summit at sunrise, starting to hike about 3am, so for sunset we had the mountain to ourselves. The summit is topped with a statue of the Virgin Mary, gifted by Italy in 1997. About 25,000 people a year climb Mt Ramelau, 99% of whom are Timorese, with thousands summiting in March



and October to commemorate the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Timor-Leste is one of the most Catholic countries in the world, second only to the Vatican.

Summiting Mt Ramelau was the literal high point of the hike, but the next three days were probably even more scenic. Particularly the hike from Hatu Builico to Lepulau, which wasn't in the original plan, but we had to adjust due the bad weather. Thankfully there are so many trails that it is possible to get pretty much everywhere in Timor-Leste largely avoiding roads. On the way we visited the astonishing Dokomali Falls, probably the best waterfall in the country.

The penultimate day we used the support vehicle to make up distance, just walking the most scenic sections through Manufahi down to the south coast, which included a refreshing natural swimming hole, photogenic landscapes, the huge Caraulun River, and finally Betano Beach, where Australian troops landed (and were evacuated from) during WW2.

We finished the trip with a day walk toward the summit of Mt Kablaki, which was possibly the hardest and scariest day. At 2,459m Mt Kablaki is the fourth highest mountain in Timor-Leste, but it is covered with shoulder high long grass, rocky sections, few paths and high exposure risk. Our local guide made good use of his machete, but a lot of bush bashing was still required. The views were phenomenal though!

A huge thank you to our guide maun Julio and the wonderful crew at Eco Discovery who made this adventure possible.

Visit <a href="www.youtube.com/@ExploringTimorLeste">www.youtube.com/@ExploringTimorLeste</a> for videos of the hike.

Tonty

# TRIP REPORT

# TUTUWAI HUT: 10-11 August

## Andrew Robinson

When I only had one taker for my trip to Poutaki hut in Hawke's Bay I decided to do something closer to home. With fellow hut bagger Lyneke from the Wanganui Tramping Club who is house sitting for Maarten and Anja we decided on a trip to Tutuwai hut that would bag three huts for Lyneke and one for me. Tania had a trip scheduled to Cattle Ridge and her trip was going to drop us off and pick us up on their way but come Saturday morning her trip was down to just Tania and Ruth. It was an easy decision to combine the trips and we opted to do my trip, the easier though slightly longer of the two.

It was only a thirty-five minute drive to the start at Kiwi Ranch Road and we were tramping by 9 o'clock. First up was the Puffer which was wet and muddy. We stopped for morning tea a bit after the saddle in a patch of weak sun. All morning it threatened to rain but never actually did. The descent to Smith Creek was very greasy but we all managed to stay upright.

We reached Smith Creek shelter just before 12, a little early for lunch and an unappealing place to stop anyway. At quarter past 12 we got to Marchant Stream which was up a bit so the wire did help with the crossing. We stopped for lunch just after the swingbridge. Our lunch spot had no sun but at least it was sheltered and had a convenient log for sitting on.

About three kilometres upstream from the swingbridge we had a small diversion to bag my one hut, Joe Gibbs memorial hut. Nearing the hut I tried the direct approach which proved too steep but Lyneke who tried sidling soon picked up a trail that eventually led us to the hut. Like most

informal huts it had a dirt floor, lots of makeshift fittings and furniture and was a little bit damp but it would be welcome shelter in the wind and rain.

From Joe Gibbs hut it was an hour and twenty minutes to Tutuwai hut which was empty when we arrived. On the flats below the hut were some woolbale-sized bags of firewood that had been helicoptered in and once we'd settled in Ruth suggested we go and retrieve some of the firewood. The blocks of firewood were huge and there was no axe so we only did a couple of loads.



Joe Gibbs memorial hut

A young couple turned up about 8 o'clock that night having tramped in the dark for a couple of hours. I think it was a case of leaving late rather than moving too slowly that had meant they were late getting to the hut

We got up about 7 o'clock Sunday morning, with the young couple not stirring before 8 o'clock and when we left at 8:40 they still weren't up. For a bit of variety the plan was to head downstream for a while then cross the river to hopefully pick up the track on the true right that starts near the bottom end of block XVI and continues through to the swingbridge. Half an hour downstream at Slip Stream I spotted a potential crossing place. The water didn't look too deep though with it being a bit bouldery there might be some holes. The next potential crossing might be somewhat further down so I thought I'd try where we were. I got across okay and judged the others would be able to manage it too. I crossed back and helped Lyneke across while Tania and Ruth paired up. I thought they'd wait until Lyneke and I had crossed but they followed and got into a slightly awkward spot with one on each side of a large rock. I went back and gave them a hand and they were fine except Tania was wet almost up to her middle. At least we were going to be in the sun for the next while.

We continued along the riverbed but after twenty minutes the river forced us onto the bank and into the bush. The going wasn't too bad and twenty minutes further on we picked up the bottom of the block XVI track. The track we wanted branched off the block XVI track shortly after and while it is shown on the map it probably gets very little use and proved hard to follow. Some of the techniques I'd picked up over time for following tracks in the dark came in handy but when we lost the track it was tricky finding it again. Fortunately the bush was fairly open so when we lost the track we could usually spread out until one of us found it again. When we hit a side stream (Kotukutuku) we dropped down to the river again and found a sunny spot for morning tea, more or less opposite Joe Gibbs memorial hut which was out of sight well above the river. After morning tea we kept to the riverbed rather than trying to find the track in the bush. When the flats came to an end we were faced with three options: cross the river, scramble up a steep bank and try to find the track or retrace our steps a bit and try to find the track and its diversion above the bank. The river where we were didn't look suitable for crossing and the bank looked too steep so we headed for the likeliest place the track would go. Where a side stream (Blue Rock Stream) came down to the flats we spotted a track of sorts in about the only possible place to go. There was what appeared to be a rough track so we scrambled up it. When the track petered out there was a choice of climbing higher to try to get onto a terrace of sorts or trying to sidle the steep slope. Lyneke tried the sidle while I tried the climb. Lyneke said she thought she was on the track though

she couldn't see any markers. My gps indicated the track was above us whereas Lyneke was saying we were too high. Eventually I worked out I had an older version of the map on my gps which I confirmed by checking the map on my phone which was newer. We regrouped and tried sidling which worked for a bit but then decided the best option was to try to get onto the ledge which was just above us. The ledge was just over head height and I tried about three places before I found somewhere to scramble up. Ruth and Tania were able to pass their packs up to me which made it easier while Lyneke made it up under her own steam. It had reached lunch time and we were fortunate that we had a flat spot with a bit of sun where we could eat our lunch. After lunch we carried along the terrace where the going wasn't too bad and then it was time to descend to the river. I found a route that was steep though not too bad if you took it slowly. Back



Recrossing the Tauwharenīkau River to the true left

down almost to river level I thought we'd find the track again but we didn't. When the ground started to get swampy someone wisely suggested it was time to stop looking for the track and cross the river again. We wended our way to the river through the shrubbery and when we reached the river we were able to cross easily enough without the need to pair up. It was a relief to get back onto the regular track even if we still had about four and a half hours to go to get back to the van.

It took us fifty minutes to get to the swingbridge then a further 10 minutes to get to the wire at

Marchant Stream where the stream was somewhat lower than the previous day. We had an early afternoon tea in the sun by the river but decided to stick to the track rather than try the riverbed to get to Smith Creek shelter. When we reached the shelter I used the loo while the others carried on. We regrouped just before the last climb then it took us half an hour to get to Puffer Saddle. There was noticeably less water on the track than the previous day. From the saddle I calculated we might just be able to get to the van without torches. The track was still greasy so we couldn't rush things, but we made it, just. It had been a long day at nine and a quarter hours but at least we didn't have a long drive home.

Trip members: Andrew Robinson, Lyneke Onderwater, Ruth Crawford and Tania Hatfield.

Andrew

\_\_\_\_\_



Ohau 2

# IMAGES FROM THE PHOTO COMPETITION



Christmas Trip 1967 clothing styles



Curious seal



Makarora and Wilkin Valleys

The views expressed in the articles in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of the Hutt Valley Tramping Club. Any queries or comments should be directed to the writer of the article. Contributions to the Hills & Valleys are welcomed and encouraged but all are accepted on the understanding that the Editor has the authority to make minor changes if deemed necessary, refer back to the contributor for amendment, or return the contribution for amendment by the Writer.