



Photo: Lex Grubner

Please submit your **December 2024/January 2025** H&V articles to the editor by **1<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

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## CLUB NIGHT PROGRAMME Starts 7:30 pm promptly



### **6 November : Monique Bon and Mathew Denys – Humboldt range and Darran Mountains and FMC scholarship application**

Wellington Tramping & Mountaineering Club members Monique Bon and Mathew Denys will talk about their respective FMC Simon Bell Memorial Scholarship funded trips.

Monique led an Easter tenting expedition to the Humboldt Mountains which included evocatively named locations like Valley of the Trolls, Sugarloaf Pass, and the renown Lakes Harris and Wilson.

Mathew headed into the Darran Mountains with the intention of reaching spot point 2024 near Lake Turner, where they experienced exposed terrain, impressive waterfalls, and precarious campsites.

They will provide trip reports, plenty of photos, some take aways, and information regarding the FMC scholarships which are open for all HVTC members to apply for.

### **13 November : Paul Clark – Northwest Passage in Canada**

The Northwest passage was first completely sailed in 1905 by Roald Amundsen. Basically, it links the East and the west of Canada by sea. It can only be traversed in summer because of thick - heavy sea ice. The area is sparsely populated, it takes wilderness to a totally new dimension.

Also, by default it is difficult to access by either sea or floatplane. In summer it is popular for extreme rock climbing , fishing, and some hunting. Main access is by floatplane. It is big country, remote and it takes a long time to get anywhere. And if you are climbing ,fishing and or hunting, and remember polar bears are not averse to the odd human sandwich. Paul traversed part of it by sea last year, heavy sea ice prohibited doing a lot of the passage, nature doesn't always cooperate.

Paul joined the club in 1969, first club trip was a Christmas trip lead by Phil Rundle to Nelson Lakes over Christmas -New Year 1968-69. Tramped and climbed with the club actively till the late eighties. Also spent about 4 and a half years as NZ Forest Service deer culler. Was the first New Zealander to climb in Russia since the revolution .Spent the whole of August 1976 climbing in the Caucasus mountains and climbed Mount Elbrus and other peaks. And with Dave Dittmer spent the whole of the summer of 1977 climbing in the European Alps. Also was on the North Island Face Rescue team for a few years. Doesn't tramp much anymore, still does some hunting and skiing. Has skied a lot in the USA, usually with an ex-club member John Featherstone.

Also, some in Canada and Europe.

### **20 November: Neil and Andrew –HVTC International Film Festival.**

The 14th (and final?) film festival features four-footed furry friends, the fast and furious, a flying Frenchman, a fan favourite and four or five further fings. Phew.

### **27 November : Paul Maxim – Comprehensive History of NZ Mountaineering book**

The history of mountaineering in Aotearoa New Zealand has never been written-up, and Paul Maxim has discovered why – because it's a really big job! For the past seven years, Paul has been working on the history, now 80% complete, and on 27 November will talk to us about his approach, the problems, the challenges, the people who have helped, and the rewards. He will also have a few copies of the new edition of his Bill Denz biography for sale (\$45 cash/internet banking).

Paul is a long-time member of the Wellington section of the New Zealand Alpine Club and the Tararua Tramping Club (Life Member) and has on many occasions visited HVTC clubrooms and ski lodge to 'talk shop'. He has tramped, climbed and skied throughout Aotearoa and around the world for over 40 years.

A talk not to be missed!

## 4 December : John Featherstone – Skiing and Hiking Adventures in the US, Switzerland and France

John will give us a show that highlights some spectacular scenery at ski areas in the US, France and Switzerland. A couple of amazing hikes in National Parks in the US will also be presented.

John was born in Stratford New Zealand in 1944. He earned a B.Sc. and a PhD at Victoria University in Wellington and has been a scientist and University administrator for 50 years. He was active in the Hutt Valley Tramping Club from 1966 to 1980, He was very active in HVTC being involved in club trips, social activities, bushcraft instruction, alpine instruction, helping with renovation of the Ruapehu club hut, and was a vice president and president of the club. He emigrated to the US in 1980 and continued to be an active rock climber, mountaineer and skier. He lives in both the San Francisco bay area and New York City with his wife, Yasmi. They both continue to be active skiers and hikers, with a passion for archaeology.





### FORTHCOMING TRIPS



#### NOTES

Where there is no leader given for a trip, please email [tripcoordinator@hvtc.org.nz](mailto:tripcoordinator@hvtc.org.nz) to volunteer to lead a trip, either as shown or an alternative.

November			
2 - 3		New Members Walks Weekend (Marina)	
Sun 3	D1	Cattle Ridge - Orongorongo	Mel / Marina
	D1+	Goat Stream – Orongorongo (with off-track)	Andrew R
		Pedal-powered bike ride 2hrs – 9:30 from Avalon Park	Leena
Tue 05		Totara Park - McCurdy's Castle	<b>Leader Required</b>
		Cannon Point – Clark Creek	Wil
9 - 10	T1	Love Your Huts – Powell (Booking Required)	<b>Leader Required</b>
	T2		
Sun 10	D1		<b>Leader Required</b>
		Pedal-powered bike ride 2hrs – 9:30 from Avalon Park	Leena
Tue 12		Waiwhetu Stream – Taita Cemetary	Helen and Paul
		Korokoro Stream	Russell
16 - 17	T1	Love Your Huts – Mangatoetoe (Aorangi FP)	Andrew R
	T2		
Sun 17	D1	Pylon to Puffer	Doreen
		Pedal-powered bike ride 2hrs – 9:30 from Avalon Park	Leena
Tues 19		Makara MTB Park; easy	<b>Leader Required</b>
		Makara MTB Park; harder	Andrew R
23 - 24	T1	Love Your Huts – Wairongomai (Remutaka FP)	Dennis Page
	T2		
Sun 24	D1	Clay Ridge - McKerrow	Jackie and Chris
		Pedal-powered bike ride 2hrs – 9:30 from Avalon Park	Leena
Tues 26		Remutaka Incline Cruising	Doreen
		Remutaka Incline Hard-out	Wil
31 - 01	T1	Waiopehu Hut	Emma / Debbie
December			
Sun 01	D1	Dobson Loop	<b>Leader Required</b>
Sun /Mon 2	T1+	Love Your Huts – Papatahi overnighter	Jackie and Chris
Sun 01		Pedal-powered bike ride 2hrs – 9:30 from Avalon Park	Leena

Tue 03		Catchpool to Baring Head Lighthouse	<b>Leader Required</b>
		Catchpool to Pencarrow Lighthouse	<b>Leader Required</b>

## FROM THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

### FEEDBACK WANTED ON PLAN TO BUY A NEW VAN

**Marina Skinner**

The General Committee is looking for feedback from all members about a proposal to replace our van.

In my email to you all on 24 October I updated you about the transport review that a sub-committee completed over winter.

The General Committee has accepted the sub-committee's recommendation to buy a new or secondhand van and to sell our current van.

The sub-committee – myself, Doc Watson, Ann Hayman, and Andrew Robinson – reviewed information from other tramping clubs, the results of a survey of HVTC members, several transport options, and prices of new and used vans.

Among the survey results, 68 percent of survey respondents said they would be likely to use a new van and 67 percent said they would be interested in driving if we had an automatic van.

After reviewing all the information, the General Committee considers a newer van would make travel on club trips safer, more comfortable, reliable, and appealing with a lower carbon footprint. This could motivate our active members to join and lead more trips and might translate into attracting and retaining new members.

Our fund to replace the van has grown to more than \$61,000. This is currently about \$8,000 short of the total needed to buy our preferred new van, a 2024 Toyota Hiace ZX automatic minibus. There is a 12-month wait for delivery of this model and we could seek other funds, including external grants, to cover the shortfall during the waiting period. Or we could buy a secondhand van within our transport fund budget.

Please send me any feedback or questions by 4 November, ahead of the General Committee calling an extraordinary general meeting to vote on the proposal. I'm also happy to send you a copy of the sub-committee's report.

[marinaskinner@xtra.co.nz](mailto:marinaskinner@xtra.co.nz) or 021792260

*Marina Skinner*

President



## UPCOMING EVENT

### NOTE FOR YOUR DIARY:

John Featherstone, who lives in the USA, will be visiting NZ in December and is giving a presentation to the club on 4 December on his Skiing and Hiking Adventures in the US, Switzerland and France. John has kindly invited members to drinks and savoury nibbles at the clubrooms at 6:45pm before his talk. Pamela Campbell will send out a reminder a week or so beforehand and will be asking please for your RSVP for catering purposes.

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Please welcome new members Emma Browne, Merryn and Richard Polley.. We look forward to enjoying days in the hills with you.

*Doreen Courtenay*  
Membership Officer



## GREATER WELLINGTON BACKCOUNTRY NETWORK Achievements in 2023-24 Murray Presland

GWBN is an organisation that enables volunteers to contribute to hut and track maintenance tasks in the Tararua, Aorangi and Remutaka Ranges. It has agreements with the regional Department of Conservation to maintain 7 huts directly (several more are maintained under agreements between regional clubs and DoC) and to maintain 422 km of tracks – using the energy and enthusiasm of volunteers as much as possible.

Derrick Field, the Chairperson of GWBN, reported to the Annual General Meeting, held in September, the tasks, listed below, that have been completed during the past year. It is an impressive effort – nearly 3000 hrs contributed by volunteers to maintain huts and tracks in the region. These are the foundations of our recreation! Derrick's drive has been phenomenal. But very little of this would have been achieved had we all just left it to DoC to undertake – it does not have sufficient money or manpower. Each of us, as members of HVTC, is a member of GWBN. It behoves each of us to contribute as much as we are able to GWBN's programmes!



# Summary of Hut & Track Maintenance - 2023-2024

Monday, 22 July 2024

Project	Progress	Costs	Number Volunteers	Days Worked	Total Hours	Kms Progress
<b>Huts</b>						
Equipment and admin costs Huts	Completed	\$65		0.0	0.0	0.0
Repair roof leak Dorset Ridge Hut	Completed	\$1,829	2	2.0	34.0	0.0
Install 2nd water tank Nichols hut	Completed	\$2,225	3	2.0	87.0	0.0
Repairs and repaint Alpha hut	Completed	\$9,047	7	5.0	365.0	0.0
Repair water supply at Kime hut	Completed	\$558		0.0	0.0	0.0
Cow Creek hut clean and site clearance	Completed	\$0	1	1.0	7.0	0.0
South Ohau hut clean and site clearance	Completed	\$0	1	1.0	13.0	0.0
Nichols hut clean and site clearance	Completed	\$0	1	1.0	3.0	0.0
Te Matawai hut clean and site clearance	Completed	\$0	1	1.0	5.0	0.0
Mangahao hut site clearance	Completed	\$0	2	1.0	8.0	0.0
Dorset Ridge hut clean and site clearance	Completed	\$0	2	1.0	14.0	0.0
Roaring Stag hut site clearing	Completed	\$0	5	1.0	20.5	0.0
Mitre flats site clearing	Completed	\$0	1	1.0	4.0	0.0
Dracohyllum hut site clearing	Completed	\$0	2	1.0	8.0	0.0
Cattle Ridge Site clearing	Completed	\$0	1	0.0	4.0	0.0
Site clearing Dundas hut	Completed	\$0	1	1.0	4.0	0.0
<b>Totals For - Huts</b>		<b>\$13,723</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>576.5</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Project	Progress	Costs	Number Volunteers	Days Worked	Total Hours	Kms Progress
<b>Tracks</b>						
Nicholls-Pukematawai track cutting	Completed	\$1,691	6	4.0	244.0	9.5
Dora track cutting	Completed	\$3,976	5	4.0	156.5	7.0
Gentle Annie clearing and widen	Completed	\$0	4	5.0	92.5	4.3
Waiopahu track cutting	Completed	\$1,731	3	4.0	126.0	12.0
Track Equipment Maintenance	Underway	\$5,126		0.0	0.0	0.0
Marchant Ridge track cutting	Completed	\$0	2	1.0	24.0	12.0
Waiotauru Hut-Otaki Forks cutting	Completed	\$0	2	5.0	35.0	8.0
Mikimiki track cutting	Completed	\$0	2	4.0	34.0	21.4
Mangahao Valley to Dams	Completed	\$5,923	7	15.0	258.0	14.6
Kaitoke-Smiths Creek track cutting	Underway	\$0	1	2.0	22.0	2.0
recut Dundas to Cattle Ridge	Completed	\$5,926	9	9.0	302.0	5.4
Roaring Stag hut Track recut	Completed	\$0	7	4.0	120.0	4.6
Girdlestone saddle track recut	Completed	\$0	5	3.0	135.0	3.0

Roaring stag to Cattl ridge recut	Completed	\$4,037	6	3.0	162.0	3.0
Waingawa river track windfalls	Underway	\$1,518	2	2.0	20.0	4.3
Mitre track windfall clearing	Completed	\$0	2	1.0	14.0	1.0
Mitre Flats to Pinnacles saddle windfalls	Underway	\$0	2	2.0	15.0	1.5
Pinnacle spur cutting	Completed	\$1,242	3	2.0	39.0	2.5
Waingawa track bridge-install mesh	Completed	\$0	1	1.0	9.0	0.0
Baldy remarking	Completed	\$0	1	1.0	13.0	1.5
Recut College creek track	Completed	\$0	4	1.0	24.0	1.3
Waitewaewae Raft Installation and windfalls	Underway	\$3,450	3	1.0	36.0	0.0
SH2 Summit to Pylon road recutting	Completed	\$0	5	7.0	144.0	3.1
remark Neill Winchcombe track	Underway	\$0	1	2.0	17.0	7.2
Kiriwhakapapa Loop	Completed	\$0	3	3.0	30.0	1.3
Mark, recut Six Disks track	Completed	\$0	4	1.0	36.0	1.5
SH2 to Ruamahanga track	Completed	\$0	3	1.0	30.0	5.5
Pylon Road to Mt Frith	Underway	\$0	9	3.0	138.0	2.7
Maymorn to Kapakapanui recut	Underway	\$0	2	2.0	6.0	4.0
Training	Underway	\$2,588	5	4.0	95.0	0.0
<b>Totals For - Tracks</b>		<b>\$37,205</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>97.0</b>	<b>2,377.0</b>	<b>144.2</b>
<b>Totals For - 2023-2024</b>		<b>\$50,928</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>116.0</b>	<b>2,953.5</b>	<b>144.2</b>

## RECIPE

### SUNFLOWER SEED BREAD

Heather Eskdale

Makes 1 loaf. A protein-packed loaf, free from refined sugar, dairy and gluten.

1  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups sunflower seeds

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup chia seeds

$\frac{1}{2}$  cup pumpkin seeds

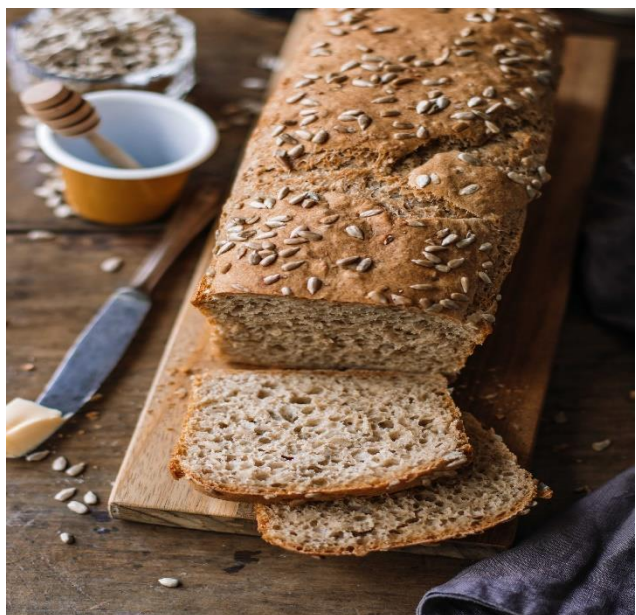
$\frac{1}{4}$  cup sesame seeds

$\frac{1}{4}$  cup psyllium husk

$\frac{1}{4}$  cup tahini

1 tsp sea salt

1  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups cold water



1. Put sunflower seeds, chia seeds, pumpkin seeds, sesame seeds, psyllium husk, tahini, sea salt and water into a large bowl. Stir to form a thick paste.
2. Pack mixture into a greased standard loaf tin, pressing it down firmly with a spatula. Bake for 1 hour at 180 degrees Celsius.
3. Remove to cool on a wire rack before slicing. Lasts up to a week, stored in the fridge.

## TRIP REPORTS

### ORONGORONGO VALLEY HUT BAGGING

Saturday 24 August 2024

Andrew Robinson

It had been raining and windy the previous night but the forecast for the day was good. I met Doc at the clubrooms and we picked up Tony in Wainuiomata on the way. We met Lyneke at the Coast Road entrance to Remutaka Forest Park, about a fifteen minute walk from where she was house sitting for Maarten and Anja. Nearing the carpark when we crossed the ford the stream wasn't up so that was a good sign.

Moving on after lunch we had been walking for fifteen minutes when much to my surprise we came to the West Whakanui Track. I had been so engrossed in Leanne's traveller's tales of sailing amongst the Greek Islands and adventures in Vancouver that I was not aware we were on the East Whakanui Track. When we returned to Sunny Grove at 2.30 it was as sunny as when we departed in the morning, so the photographers had their cameras out to photograph the flock of tui in the kowhai.

Having been in and out to Turere Stream and beyond twice previously this year, that part of our route went seemingly if not actually a bit quicker. A short section of track nearing the stream had been rerouted to avoid the muddiest bit and we were grateful for that. When we reached the stream we got to see the Orongorongo River and while it was a bit discoloured we knew that a couple of women we'd met on the way in had crossed it earlier in the day, so we were good to go. The first objective was to get to the two huts furthest down the river and we had two main options for getting there. One was by the 4WD track that started about a kilometre downstream on the true left and the other was by the riverbed. We opted for the 4WD track so we then had to decide where to cross. We chose to delay the crossing as long as possible by heading as far downstream as we could on the true right. Tony led the way as he was most familiar with the area and also a good route-finder. We did a bit of bush-bashing through some supplejack but it was worth it as we got onto a nice section of river flats. When they ran out it was time to cross. It was suitable for crossing where we were, but we took the precaution of linking up to cross. After we'd crossed we continued along the riverbed, passing a couple of huts that we left for bagging on the way back. We soon picked up the 4WD track where we met a guy who owned one of the huts and he told us the Department of Conservation faced a bit of a dilemma. They would prefer there were no



privately owned huts in the park which is all conservation land, but the hut owners maintain the 4WD track that Doc makes good use of and Doc couldn't afford to maintain it if they had to do it themselves.

I calculated we had about a kilometre of the 4WD track to a pair of huts on our way to the furthest huts. We got there sooner than expected and would have overshoot them if one of the others hadn't spotted a track down to a pile of firewood. I checked my GPS and concluded that that way lay the hut. We found Zac's hut easily enough but then had a bit of fun finding the next one, Nikau hut. It was only about 70 metres away, but we ended up going down to the river to get across the small side stream and then back up the other side which took ten minutes all told. Back on the 4WD track we had another 2.5 to 3 km to the furthest of the huts. We reached Tane hut just before noon, so we had our lunch in the sun sitting on the banks of the nearby Peak Stream. The stream was about 20 metres from the hut, but the streambed is filling up with shingle and I think the stream will eventually reach the hut.

After lunch White Horse Inn was five minutes away so if we headed home from there we'd have had a successful day. In terms of hut bagging however, we'd only just got started, having bagged four of possibly twenty or so within reach for the day. Having decided we'd return via the riverbed we had another decision to make about getting to the river – via the stream or the bush. Via the bush was the shorter route distance-wise so we took it. By the time we found ourselves in thicker bush than expected it was going to be quicker to persevere than retreat, so we pressed on. It probably cost us about five minutes, but it added a bit of variety. When we reached the river there were plenty of river flats and when we had to cross it was easier than earlier in the day, so we didn't need to link up. We travelled up the river for about an hour then got into some rapid-fire hut bagging, bagging Paua hut and six others in the next hour. Things slowed down a bit where there was not much of a track on the high route from Wai Whare to the next cluster of huts. We decided to persist, rather than back tracking, which meant we would have to give the solitary hut on the other side of the river a miss, but it probably wouldn't be too much of a diversion to visit it as part of a non-hut bagging trip.



Journey's end hut

When we reached Journey's end hut, we had a break then bagged another six huts in forty minutes, ending with Johnstones hut. We unintentionally missed Waikapai hut and at that point decided it was time to call it quits as we still had about an hour and a half to walk back to the carpark. We crossed the river for the last time and at Turere bridge we met the two young women who had given four of us afternoon tea on the Waitangi Day hut bagging trip. Five minutes after the bridge there was time for one last hut, Mac's hut which we'd done first back on Waitangi Day. From there we just managed to get back to the carpark without needing to get out our head torches. I'd advertised the trip as likely taking 6-8 hours but in fact we were out for 10. There were no complaints from the participants. For the record we bagged 20 huts in the day.

Trip participants: Doc Watson, Lyneke Onderwater, Jony Jaegers, Andrew Robinson (leader and scribe)

*Andrew*

# TUTUWAI HUT

5-6 October

Jackie West

For a while Chris had been talking about leading a trip up Sheridan Creek which was the first weekend HVTC trip he did and was led by Doug Fowler. When we saw that Mel was leading a weekend trip to Field Hut Chris rang her and had a talk. It was decided the three of us would lead the Field Hut trip and incorporate Sheridan Creek in the weekend travel. As time went by the Wests took over leadership which didn't upset Mel because she was very busy at work so had one less thing to worry about. As the weekend approached the trip had eight participants, but the weather forecast was not suitable for creek travel.



On Saturday morning as we picked Mel up from home, I received a text from Dennis Page the EC for the weekend who wanted to know what we were doing to which I replied that we would decide before we left the clubrooms and let him know.

Fortunately, it didn't take the group long to agree to go to Tutuwai Hut from the Walls Whare road end.

We were dismayed by the number of cars at the road end

but Tania found space to park the van. The Waiohine River was up and discoloured but fortunately the sun was shining and the bush on the true right displayed splashes of white from the flowering native clematis. We regrouped once we had crossed the bridge where a man who had been the sole occupant of Tutuwai on Friday night warned us about the bogosaurus that lay ahead. We departed for Tutuwai Hut just after eleven o'clock. Neil enjoying being out in the bush took off but as the track levelled out and it was after midday and we had had no morning tea there was a need to stop. Fortunately with cell phone reception at a higher altitude Ann was able to ring him and get him to stop so we regrouped for lunch. Our next break was at Cone Hut before heading to Tutuwai arriving to an empty hut at four o'clock. We were soon joined by others until the hut was nearly full. The forecast rain finally arrived about seven o'clock.

When I woke on Sunday morning, I was greeted by Doreen who asked if I had felt the earthquake. It turned that Chris and I were the only ones in the hut who didn't feel the five am 5.7 shake in Cook Strait. Our group was the last away leaving at nine o'clock. As we prepared to leave there was a particularly heavy down pour which fortunately soon eased off before we left. We made steady progress walking out so it was decided that it would be best to leave eating lunch until we returned to the van. The last people were out by one thirty. After changing and having lunch we

drove away having had an enjoyable weekend tramp and relieved that what rain that fell was not nearly as much as had been forecast.

Those who went to Tutuwai: Ann Hayman, Neil Parker, Doreen Courtenay, Tania Hadfield, Doc Watson, Mel Stoneham and Chris and Jackie West (leaders).

*Jackie*

## WEEDING AT BARING HEAD OCTOBER Murray Presland.

### Part 1: The Pumphouse Enclosure

Over past few years, we – members of Valley Tramping Club – have contributed time, energy and enthusiasm to the replanting programme on/around Baring Head (now a part of East Harbour Regional Park), led by Paula Warren of the Friends of Baring Head Trust. One project was to sort out how to build enclosures resistant to the onslaughts of the strong winds and to the depredations of rabbits in the lower Wainuioma Valley pastureland – and then establish rarer plant species within them. We recently returned to check on progress.

My goodness! In the enclosure near the Pumphouse, ragworts were about 1m tall, grasses were thick and there was little sign of the pachystegia, muehlenbeckia and other plants we had tenderly planted 2 or 3 years ago. This group of 7 energetic, but conscientious, weeders got stuck in – slaughtering weed plants but carefully preserving the dozen or so plants from the “nursery” that had survived. The felt mats intended to limit weed growth and preserve moisture around the plants had disintegrated but, with the rocks and logs used to retain them in place, added to the jumble that needed to be negotiated. That task was all completed in a couple of hours, but clearly we should have been tending this enclosure plot much more frequently!



The second enclosure was across the ridgeline and down to the south coast beach. We set off cross-country, climbed over many more fencelines, some of them twice, than any of us were aware existed on Baring Head – and descended a steepish gully to the coast to a sheep enclosure that we had attempted more recently to establish plants within. This experiment had been a failure almost in its entirety. Many plants, with protector tubes had been washed away in the gully stream, some protectors had been flattened by wind and the plants eaten. One valiant plant, sheltered by a huge tussock, had survived and flourished up as far as the top of the protector tube – so these can work and we have learned more of the threats to plant survival in that part of the Park. However, it turns out this was not our intended target enclosure so we will have to return soon!

During the walk back along the beach a smattering of horned poppy was observed – and an eradication raid on these is planned for next month.

I am very grateful for the contributions of all who have joined work days at Baring Head. The group on this occasion - not supervised by Paula Warren and thus unrewarded by the cakes she always brings! - consisted of Jackie and Chris West, Elaine Richardson, John Fox, Doc Watson, Martin Watson and Murray Presland. I hope that no-one allows the weeds to flourish in your home gardens as those we found at Baring Head had done, and you will be welcome to join future work days out there to improve revegetation of the Park.

## Part 2: The Real Second Exclosure

Armed with a better description of its location (we had been about 90 degrees off-course!), another group of HVTC members set out to weed around rare plants in the second, "raoulia", exclosure at Baring Head a couple of weeks later. It was to be located near a stream descending from the lighthouse terrace down to the Fitzroy Bay shore – so we chose to bike out from Burdan's Gate (south of Eastbourne), armed with an array of weapons. A beautiful, sunny day with a light northerly breeze made for a delightful ride, but finding the destination proved a challenge! We rode to the boundary of the private land – nothing. We explored up the described stream gully – an adventure, but nothing. We decided to have morning tea – good idea, but still no plants to weed.

I was preparing to abandon the task when Elaine called out "Is it these plants over here?". There they were! A dozen plants with protector tubes, several blown down, plenty of weeds, many of the clematis eaten down to stumps by rabbits but struggling to survive, and some flourishing muehlenbeckia. Hurrah! We released all the surviving plants, re-erected the protector tubes and buffered them against local gales – and set off homeward. The northerly wind had intensified – so I have great admiration for the two participants on pedal-only-powered bikes who valiantly rode back without complaint. Thank you Elaine Richardson, Doc Watson and Paul Haines for your cheerful diligence!

The next planned foray to Baring Head will be a wander along the beach exterminating horned poppy, lupin, angelica, boxthorn etc – in early November.

*Murray*

## SERIES 2 OF HUT BAGGING TRIPS ROARING STAG - 19TH, 20TH OCTOBER Debbie Labett



With 9 enthusiastic trampers we set off towards our weekend adventure in the Northern Tararua Forest Park.

8am departure on Saturday from the clubrooms, travelled by club van picking up Mimi and Debbie from Silverstream and Bev from Birchville

entrance on our way through to the Wairarapa.

First stop Clareville Bakery for real coffee and a choice of sweet or savory treats to get our energy levels up.

Drive to Putara Road end in the Mangatainoka Valley took approx 2 hours. Located inland from Eketahuna

Parked up the van, unloaded packs, boots poles, allocated club gear for each person to carry their share.

Start of hike really scenic along side the Rumaunga river

During start of trip we crossed 3 swing bridges 2 shorter ones plus a super long one, which took extra time as only one person at a time permitted.

There were a few slips, several muddy bog patches which we tried to avoid.

Bev and I both got to experience our boot being sucked into the bog.

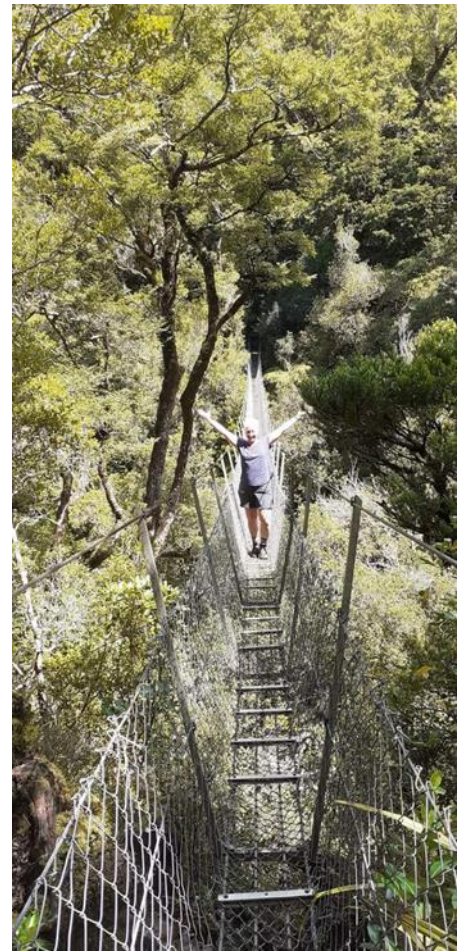
Walk to hut involved lots of up and downs, had a couple of breaks along the way , lunch stop at the junction, well deserved after the steep climb up Herepai ridge, especially a challenge for those of us who have not carried a full pack up hills for a while. I felt we made good time to the junction.

Well worth the effort, was a wonderful sight when we arrived to a beautiful Hut located right by the river ,stunning views.

Lovely crown and umbrella ferns along the way, arrived at Hut with muddy boots, at least the sun was shining.

Upon arrival at the hut there were 2 couples, we shared with a newly wed couple. the other couple camped by the river.

Dinner, shared meal which consisted of spicy chicken, fresh salad fillings sweet chilli sauce wrapped in warm tacos, followed by peaches, which was meant to be served with jelly which sadly had not set in time, some of us had it for breakfast.



Present on the trip Tony Birtwistle, the only male accompanied by 8 females being , Jo Scott, Emma Dobbie and Debbie Labett (leaders) Jo Ann Watson, Raewyn Roberts, Rosie Doole, Bev Slater, Mimi Hodis.

This was my first trip into Roaring Stag. I enjoyed it, due to the stunning location with bush and river view.

We were unsure if we would secure a bunk as it is a standard non bookable Hut, turns out we all got a bed, Rosie wanted to sleep out on the deck, she told me it was very pleasant. As a backup we carried in tent poles and fly in case no room at the inn.

Walk out was hard on my knees, I am defiantly going to invest in some walking poles, took our time walking out with stops, a small group of

us commented on the lack of bird song lots of Matai trees and perhaps 1 bird was heard

Thanks to Tony and Emma for sharing the driving, very safe drivers. Nice stop at Mt Bruce for afternoon tea.

Thank you to my co-leader Emma and for all the participants for supporting this club weekend trip

Watch this space for our #3 of the Hut Bagging trips

*Debbie*

## JUNE PATRICIA GREEN

19 May 1931 - 17 September 2024

Pat and John Tristram



June and Des, 1991

Club members who knew and tramped with Des and June Green in the late 1950s and 1960s will be sad to hear of June's passing recently. June and Des joined HVTC in September 1956, in the year following their immigration to NZ and became very active in the Club's activities at the time.

John remembers them both as surrogate parents of the young folk, some living away from home, who enjoyed a good party, but kept an eye out for them by providing food, floor space to sleep and making sure they got home safely.

June and Des became NZ citizens in 1960. In 1962 their first son, Clive was born, followed by Craig in 1963. June's tramping activities were somewhat curtailed after that as she focused her wholehearted support to Des, Clive and Craig in whatever they were doing.

Although June wasn't into tramping, Des certainly was and June was very willing to support him and friends with transport, meals and the myriad of things that go to making a trip run smoothly. Des was the 'ideas' man with the plan for a trip, but June was right behind him with making sure we were well fed and transported to and from where we wanted to go.

This was particularly apparent when Des, Phil Quinn, John and I did a trip to Olivine Ice Plateau in 1986/87. Logistics for this trip were very finely tuned, right down to June making a special muesli for our breakfasts. Muesli was still a very new breakfast food (tramping breakfasts usually



Photo: Matt Craig

consisting of porridge (with sultanas and brown sugar) or rice (with dried apricots) designed to see one through until lunch time). June's muesli was deemed very good and certainly much better than what could be bought at the time – but the jury was still out as to whether it was a good breakfast to tramp on all morning.

At her funeral, Craig, Clive and grandchildren spoke of how much June meant to them as well as to her many friends. She had a great sense of humour and a laugh that was unmistakable when something took her fancy. She was a great believer in just getting on with things, whatever happened. Craig outlined her sporting injuries which gave her some celebrity status at Wellington Hospital – broken hip at age 90 (playing table tennis), broken nose at 92 (playing bowls) and even broken ribs trying on some trousers in a clothing store.

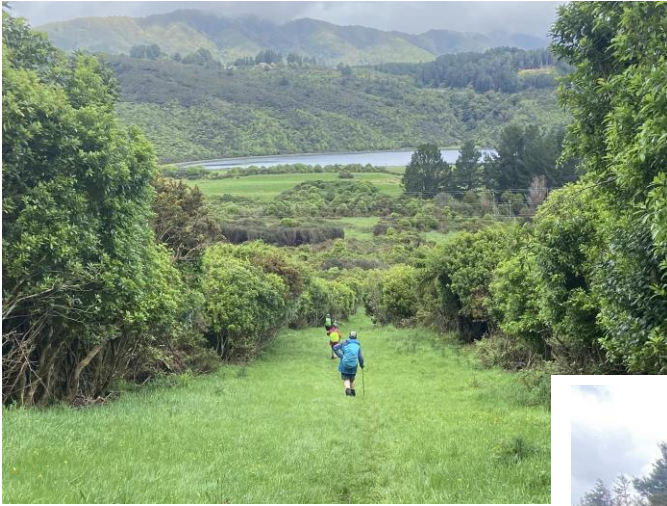
It was just days before she had another fall and just over three weeks ago from her passing, that some of us enjoyed lunch with June being her usual bright self. We were therefore sad to hear of her fall and even more upset at her passing. Our thoughts are very much with Clive, Craig and their families at this time.

*Pat and John*

## PHOTOGRAPHIC FILLERS

Here are a numbers of images from recent Sunday tramps, borrowed from Facebook.





*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.*