



A well-known cross, photographed by Mike Wespel-Rose

Please submit your **November 2025** H&V articles to the editor by **31st October 2025**

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

Clubrooms: Birch Street Reserve, Birch Street, Waterloo

Internet: <http://www.hvtc.org.nz> E-mail: info@hvtc.org.nz

President: Marina Skinner	021 792 260	Secretary: Emma Dobbie	027 252 5045
Trip Coordinator: Dennis Page	021 229 9901	Treasurer: Leanne Asher	021 070 4195
Editor H&V : Bruce Miller		027 563 5966	the-bruce@xtra.co.nz



CLUB NIGHT PROGRAMME

Starts 7:30 pm promptly



1 October : Marilyn Sickels – For something different - Rebus Puzzles

What is a rebus puzzle? A rebus is a puzzle that uses pictures, symbols, objects, letters, numbers to represent words or phrases. The solution is found by deciphering the visual clues and combining them to form the answer.

Rebuses have been around for a long time. During medieval times they were used on coats of arms by noblemen and knights to show family names. People often used pictures of objects that sounded similar to their family names. They were also used on other personal objects and buildings to show ownership. This helped illiterate people know to who things belonged.

Come along and form teams to enjoy a fun night of images, words, phrases and symbols to solve the puzzles.

8 October : Bruce Brewer – Pest Control in Northern Akatarawa

Bruce Brewer from the 'Pest Animals' team at Greater Wellington Regional Council and possibly Thane Walls, the ranger for this forest, will be describing the changes that are planned to pest control in part of northern Akatarawa Forest, and how this will have an impact on recreational walkers.

In brief, a part of the forest will change from periodic 1080 operations to a long-term ground trapping operation. This will require a significant number of tracks / routes / traplines to be marked within the forest. A small number of these could be useful for recreational routes, while others will lead to dead-ends. Bruce's talk will cover some of the history of this part of the forest, it's environmental and historic significance, and a description of some of the routes that would be of public interest, as well as the reasons why some routes will be actively discouraged in preference to 'better' routes (sometimes that may mean a safer route, in other cases it will mean avoiding crossing private property boundaries). There is no plan to upgrade these routes to a 'public walking track' standard. If club members wish to be involved in these changes, there will be an opportunity to discuss this too.

15 October : Rosie Doole – Way Out West: Where No Mountain Bikers Had Been Before

On a unique and ephemeral route via farms, beach, and private forests, Trek for Life Aotearoa made its way south from Port Waikato to Kawhia then on to Taumaranui. The trek was "old school" cross-country mountain biking fun, and sharing this adventure through the King Country with both the walkers and horse riders was an uplifting experience. Legends were told and local legends were met. It felt pretty special to be mountain biking way out west in what is undoubtedly a challenging and remote part of Aotearoa NZ.

(TFL continues southward each March and aims to journey the length of NZ while supporting regional First Responders).

Sales Table – sales start 7pm

The Sales Table has returned to the third Wednesday of every month. Bring your cash and your saleable items.

22 October : Marina Skinner – HVTC Constitution Discussion

Come along to share your thoughts and questions about how our new Constitution is shaping up.

The General Committee and a Constitution sub-committee have together updated our current Constitution to meet the requirements of the Incorporated Societies Act 2022.

In early October the General Committee will email you a draft Constitution and invite your feedback.

An Extraordinary General Meeting is planned for Wednesday 19 November to vote on the new Constitution..

29 October : Dennis Page – Commemorating 20 Years of Lythgoe-led Trips (2004-2024)

In 2004, then relatively new HVTC member, Dennis Page, was fortunate enough to gain a spot on Graeme Lythgoe's highly sought after Easter trips. At that time, the trips went for nine nights and ten days and participants had to be used to carrying a heavy pack. The pay-off in carrying a heavy load was that the trips provided a unique opportunity to visit parts of the New Zealand back-country not always feasible to visit on trips of shorter duration. Over the years, as participants aged, various

attributes concerning trip destinations and logistics changed; but the enjoyment, camaraderie, and appreciation of our unique places, remained unabated. Tonight, Dennis will highlight some memories that showcase his appreciation of being a trip participant, not only on the Easter trips but also as a participant on some other Lythgoe-led journeys - both locally and overseas.

5 November : To Be Advised



FORTHCOMING TRIPS



NOTES

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

October				
3 - 5	T1	Trip Required		Leader Required
	T2	4 th -5 th Holdsworth-Jumbo Circuit (Camping)	Van	Chris Keen
Sun 5	D1	Plimmerton to Pukerua Bay		Tony B / Jo Scott
		Bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park		Leena Stowell
Tue 7	D1	Tuesday Night Tops		Emma Dobbie
		Korokoro Stream		Andrew Robinson
10 - 12	T1+	11/12 Penn Creek Hut	Van	Mel Stoneham
	T2			
Sun 12	D1	Dobson's Loop		Leader Required
		Bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park		Leena Stowell
Tue 14	D1	Tuesday Night Tops		Emma Dobbie
		Dry Creek		Andrew Robinson
Thurs 16	D1	Escarpment Walk – 2 Variations		Bob/Bernice Deller
17 - 19	T1	Herepai Hut	Van	Emma/Debbie
	T2			
Sun 19	D1	Pareraho and Beyond		Chris & Murray
		Bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park		Leena Stowell
Tue 21	D1	Tuesday Night Tops		Emma Dobbie
		Makara MTB Park		Andrew Robinson
24 - 27	Labour Weekend			
	T1	Labour Weekend - Kawekas	Van	Ann and Neil
	T2	Labour Weekend - Kawekas	Van	Nick McBride
Sun 26	D1	Trip Required		Leader Required
		Bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park		Leena Stowell
Mon 27		Trip Required		Leader Required
Tue 28	D1	Tuesday Night Tops		Emma Dobbie
		Hill Road (Belmont RP)		Andrew Robinson
November				
31 Oct - 2	D1's	1/2 Exchange with Whanganui TC (Whanganui)	Van	Nick McBride
	T1	Trip Required		Leader Required
	T2			
Sun 2	D1	(Local) Belmont Trig Area		Leader Required
		Bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park		Leena Stowell
2 - 7 (Multi)	T2	Nelson Lakes: 4 passes/3 valleys rescheduled	Ute	Chris Keen

FROM THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

CONSTITUTION DRAFT ON ITS WAY

The General Committee will soon be emailing a draft Constitution for you to review and we'd like to hear your feedback.

With the introduction of the Incorporated Societies Act 2022 we need to update our Constitution. Our current Constitution is a sound foundation and we've transferred many sections to the new draft. But we also need to add some new sections, such as dispute resolution procedures.

Our club night on 22 October will be a chance to discuss the draft Constitution.

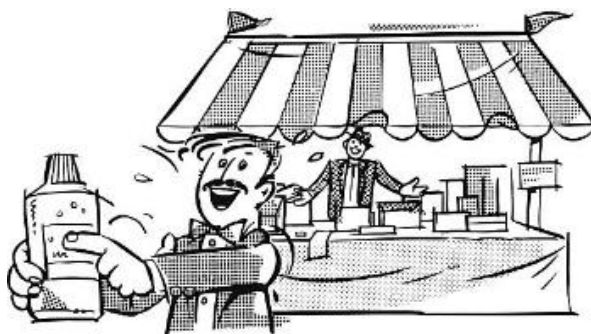
On 19 November we will hold an Extraordinary General Meeting to vote on the new Constitution.

Marina Skinner

President

UPCOMING EVENTS

THE SALES TABLE 15 October.



The Sales Table will be on again this third Wednesday of the month. Thank you to those who contributed to the success of September's Sales Table, by either providing items to sell or making purchases. Let's repeat September's effort and beat the \$123 raised for club funds. Edibles, whether biscuits, cakes, jams, pickles or fruit and vegetables proved the most popular offerings – you need to be there early to pick up some of the delicious home cooking. Among the more expensive items there were great bargains in boots, clothing and tramping gear. Some of those will make a reappearance this month.

Be there early (by 7pm) if you have items to sell, so they can be recorded and arranged for display before the hordes arrive. Please ensure that the items are in tidy condition and clean, and please remove any of your unsold items at the end of the evening..

CASH ONLY PLEASE

Graeme McVerry

for HVTC Social Committee

RUAPEHU ROUNDUP

Hi everyone



The Brownsword-Flux families

It's definitely spring here in the Hutt Valley and Welly but it's still snowing up at Ruapehu!

It was a bit of a slow start to the season but the quality of the snow (both the real stuff and man made) was good, as was the trail making. The Whakapapa staff did a great job shifting the snow around to the right places. Then in late August we had a good dumping of snow - 35cms in one 24 hour period - and suddenly the Knoll T and even the Far West quad chair were open.

The second week of the school holidays looks busy at the lodge but there are still bunks available. And of course the ski field remains open until Labour Weekend.

Which means, as always - it's a great time to book into the lodge for skiing, riding or just having fun in the snow

and on the mountain.

To book your spot, please contact our booking officer Alison Newbald on

Ruapehubookings@hvtc.org.nz

Looking forward to seeing you at the lodge!

Kate Brownsword

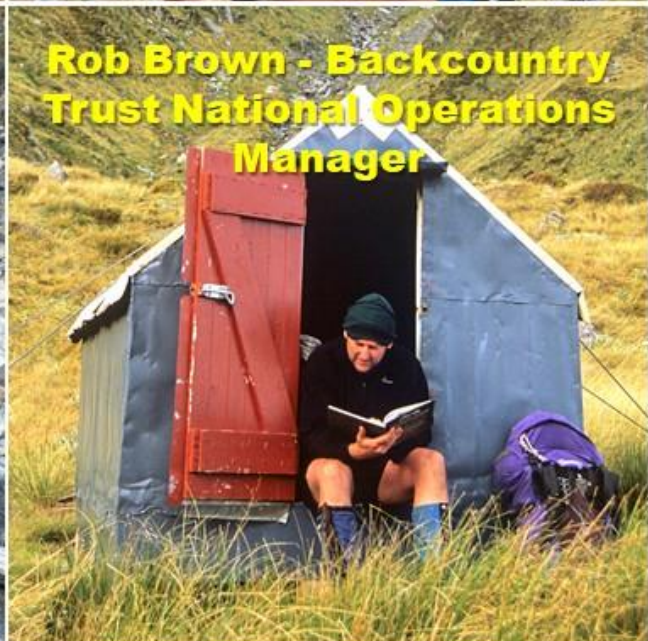
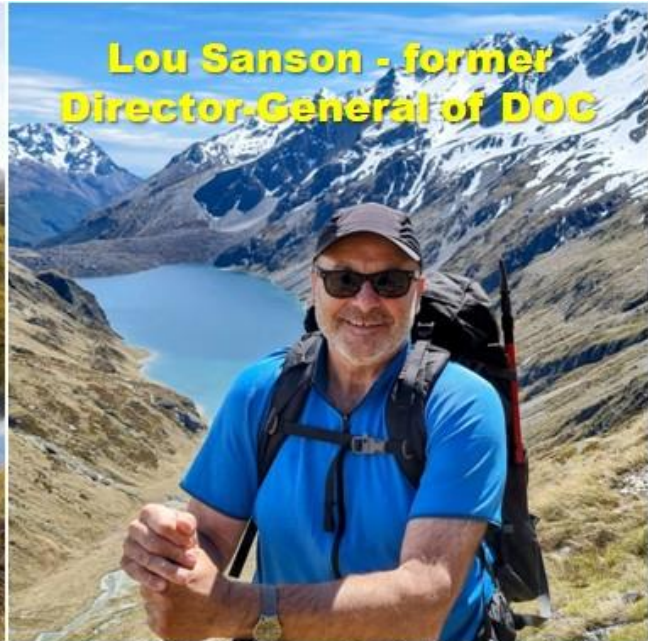
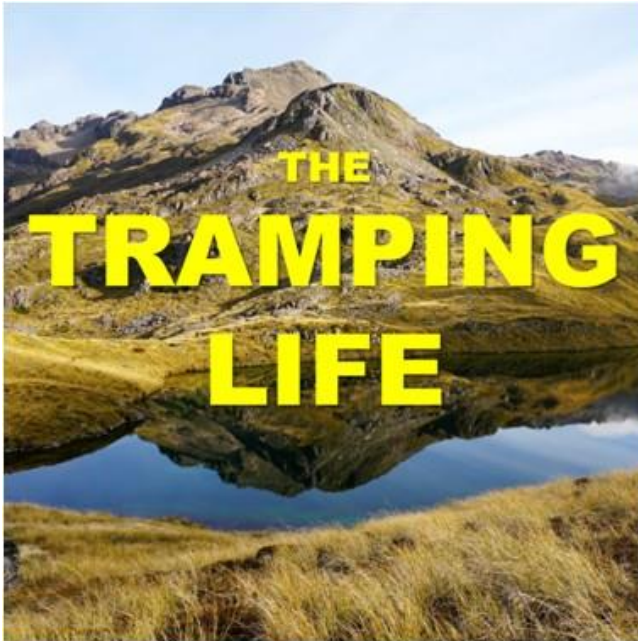
On behalf of the Ruapehu committee



THE TRAMPING LIFE

A podcast by Jonty Crane

Introducing The Tramping Life, a new podcast from Jonty Crane, celebrating tramping in Aotearoa New Zealand. Each episode, Jonty chats with people who share a deep passion for exploring this incredible country on foot - the tracks they love, the huts they return to, the lessons they've learned, and what keeps them heading back into the bush.



New episodes will be released regularly, the first three are with:

- Lou Sanson - former DOC Director-General, on a life spent in the hills
- Rob Brown - Backcountry Trust National Operations Manager, on keeping our hut network alive
- Megan Dimozantos - FMC President, on advocacy, volunteering, and the future of tramping

Search for The Tramping Life wherever you get your podcasts from (and please follow it), or visit www.thetrampinglife.com to listen to the episodes.


Jonty

TNT (Tuesday Night Tops)

Emma Dobbie

Hi all

Lost your mojo down the back of the couch over winter? Roll off the couch and on to the track with me!!

Introducing TNT  - Tuesday night tops!!

I will be offering a two hour tramp around the hills in Eastbourne.

My plan is to walk up one of the many tracks available leading to the tops and if time allows, along the ridge for a bit before turning around and retracing our steps back to the start. Each week we will try a different route.

All fitness levels are welcome!

TNT is informal, turn up at the stated time and place and off we go!

My good intention is to offer TNT weekly until year end however there are some clashes already, so life will sometimes get in the way of this.

Are you keen as mustard? Watch out for my email each Sunday evening for the following Tuesday's tramp, setting off at 6:30pm. Do roll off that couch and join me.

Thanks

Emma

TRIP REPORTS

Toyota vs Ford : 6-7 September 2025

Andrew Robinson

With a lot of overnight rain forecast before the planned trip to Sayer hut I did consider delaying or postponing but in the end I decided to stick with the original plan. I figured that by the time we got to the start of the track the rain would have been gone for a few hours and given it had a fairly small catchment the small side stream we had to cross near the start ought to have dropped enough.

When we gathered at the clubrooms on Saturday morning Rosie suggested we stop at Clareville Bakery on the way, a suggestion I was more than happy to go along with given that Clareville Bakery is an award-winning bakery and stopping there would give the stream more time to drop.

As David was driving us up the Mangatarere Valley Road after our early morning tea I could see that the river was up but looking only slightly discoloured. Never mind, I thought, it's only a side stream that we have to cross: but wait, we're on the true right of the river and the track starts on the true left. From a previous time up the Mangatarere Valley Road I couldn't recall a bridge across the river so I checked the map and spotted what I thought I might: there was a ford, which might not be crossable. As we neared the ford I noticed a parking area we could retreat to if need be and I warned David we were approaching a ford. When we reached it, it looked marginal so David stopped. I figured the best way to assess it was on foot so I got out and waded across. It had a concrete bottom which made it fairly easy even though it was knee deep. Back at the van I measured and the Toyota which has quite a low clearance would potentially have water flowing through it. Given the battery is in the footwell it wasn't a good idea to attempt the ford in the Toyota. David backed back to the carpark where sat for a bit to think about our options. It wasn't long before

the suggestion came, from David I think, that we leave the van where we were and carry on on foot. It was the obvious answer given it was less than a kilometre from the carpark to the start of the track and I had already successfully crossed the ford unassisted.



We all crossed the river without drama, some pairing up, others not, then after ten minutes of road walking we got to the start of the track. Ten minutes up the track we got to the side stream we had to cross. It wasn't as deep or as wide as the ford but with an uneven bed it was trickier. Again there were no incidents which was good. I knew the next obstacle was a short steep and slippery section and when we reached it we found the recent rain had made it extra slippery. Fortunately it only lasted about 15 minutes. Some found the slippery section harder than others and we got spread out. I was leading from the back and

neglected to pass on the message to have a break so it was nearly two hours after we started that we had our first stop. There weren't any complaints as the cold, grey weather wasn't conducive to stopping. That first stop was towards the top of our ascent and our second stop fifty minutes later was just before we started descending. I kept an eye on the tailenders on the descent and by the time we got to the hut the others had a welcome fire going.

There were eight of us and it was a six-bunk hut so I had taken my tent and Mel had taken hers. While I was pitching my tent in a nice dry spot near the hut Maarten brought out one of the spare mattresses from the hut and I was pleased to find it was going to fit. The mattress was one of the new Do ones which are well designed and very comfortable.

Food filled the late afternoon and early evening. We had an assortment of cheese, crackers, and other nibbles then looking at the mountain of chopped vegies for dinner Angela suggested we have fried onions and mushrooms for an entrée. It was a great idea so that's what we did. Dinner was rice-based and the sleeping bag cooking method was new to a few people. A good half hour is usually sufficient sitting time for the rice to finish cooking and indeed it was on this occasion.

It was a bit windy overnight so I was up before the hut occupants and put the billy on. Everyone was up well before the billy finally boiled about forty minutes later.

We set off at quarter to nine and had a couple of breaks on the ascent. We kept more or less together for the ascent but once we reached the top the quicker ones were soon out of sight. I was with the tailenders again and about halfway across the top we had a fifteen-minute stop – lunch for some, snacks for others. When we eventually got to the slippery part of the descent it was marginally less slippery than on the way up but more caution was required because the consequences of a tumble were greater. When we reached the stream it was easier crossing than the previous day but care was still required. Part way along the last part of the track the rain came. I wasn't expecting it though a drop in temperature had hinted at it. The ford when we reached it was down quite a bit but probably not enough to guarantee safe passage for the Toyota so the right decision had been made to leave the minibus at the carpark. The advance party didn't have a key so they had sheltered under trees as best they could until the rest of us turned up. A definite plus of the minibus is it has separate controls for heating and cooling front and back so once we were packed and underway it didn't take long to get warmed up. A comfortable ride in the new minibus was a great way to start and finish the trip.

Trip participants: Angela Hope, David McQueen, Janine Foon, Maarten Quivooy, Rosie Doole, Mel Stoneham, Louise Gibson. Trip leader: Andrew Robinson.

Andrew

3 PEAKS - EAST HARBOUR REGIONAL PARK

Sunday 14 September 2025

Leanne Asher

Meeting for a 7:30am start, we amble across Days Bay Park before heading up the Kereru track. We get into our flow with Chris leading us at the front and Murray keeping us in check at the rear.

Upon reaching the main ridge we head towards the first of the three peaks - Hawtrey Trig.

After photos and a snack, we re-trace our steps to the turn off point. We are on the look out for a tree. Well, that's going to be easy, just a few trees to choose from!

Arriving at a well-marked tree, we commence the trek to Point 360. To get to Point 360 we have to descend and ascend Gollans Valley. We commence our descent following the spur.



Hawtrey Trig

All is going well until there's a voice from the rear "I think we are too far left, we need to go across the gully to the right". They say, "Don't worry though, if we keep going down we will get to the river, but it might not be so good getting down the river".

Back on the intended route, we follow the spur down reaching a fenced area where there is a trial to see what effect the deer have on the foliage outside the fenced area vs. the area protected where no large creatures can enter. To us 'experts' it doesn't look much different on either side of the fence!

From here it's not too much further to the Gollans stream where we will stop for morning tea.

There's one small downhill piece before we are on the valley floor. Two of us decide we are going down the easy way – on our bottoms. One of us could be heard squealing with joy as she slid down on the soft pine needles.

After stopping by the stream for morning tea, it's time for the ascend. Finding a good spot to cross the stream without getting feet too wet we are on our way.

Following the pink markers up the hill, there was a notable change of vegetation on this side of the valley. It was easy to navigate our way until reaching what the uninitiated thought was the top. Here came the bush bashing where we found ourselves crouched down so low that when you looked up all you could see was the person in front's legs.

All of a sudden we pop out into a clearing where we located the trodden path. We continue to make our way up (in no way steep). We could see the mist rolling in. Thankfully it didn't amount to much.



Point 360

Using the Toppo App we pinpointed our position at Point 360 as close as we could.

Having reached the point at 11:05am we set plans to head towards Mt Lowery with a stop along the way for lunch.

Before we set off, our leader asked if anyone else wanted to have a go and take the lead – no pressure Chris. With myself at the front with Suzi close behind, we worked together following the pink markers making steady progress.

We knew we were heading to Mt Lowery, but with no visual markers, there was the feeling of heading in the wrong direction, but trust in the process and confirmation from Murray confirming we were on track, all was well.

Out of the blue we got a view down into the main shopping precinct in Wainuiomata. The bright orange of Mega10 was a welcome sight.

Nearing noon, we stopped for lunch. After the break we continued along and within 10-15 minutes popped out onto the Rata Ridge Track.

We passed by the Easter Orchid patch, all making mental notes that we need to view it next year when all is in flower. Speaking of orchids, our expert Murray notices a species that he very confidently named and indicated that it would likely be in flower in a couple of weeks' time.

We duly arrived at Mt Lowery, the only one of the 3 peaks that is marked. Carrying on to the junction we headed on to the Main Ridge track making our way along to the turn off for the Ferry Road track where we zig zagged our way down, reaching the road and exiting out onto Marine Parade in Days Bay.



Mt Lowery

In total we were out for 6 hours 40 minutes, ascended 3 peaks – Hawtrey at 344mtrs, Point 360 at 360mtrs and Mt Lowery at 381mtrs. The tramp a mix of being on well-formed tracks and using navigation skills when off the main tracks.

Thank you to Chris and Murray for leading us & quietly guiding us as we took turns with navigation.

Tramp participants: Chris, Murray, Heather, Suzie and Leanne.

Leanne



RECYCLING



Don't forget that we are still collecting wine bottle caps and the small aluminium tabs from beer cans or other drink cans with tabs.

The Silverstream Lions Club sells the wine bottle caps and can tabs as scrap Aluminium to any dealer who offers them the best price.



The Silverstream Lions Club collects approximately 25 wine boxes full each year which raises about \$145.00. This includes a substantial number of caps and tabs contributed by HVTC members which Anja passes on to the Lions.

The money raised is for Children with kidney diseases, and a single tear tab is equivalent to one second on a kidney dialysis machine. Other Lions Clubs run the same program.

Thanks to all those who have contributed. Please keep up the good work.

Anja and Maarten.

PHOTOGRAPHIC FILLERS

Mountain House Shelter, 26 September. Bob Deller



Rona Bay wharf, Days Bay wharf, Lowry Bay on a moonlight walk.

Andrew Robinson



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.