



Occasional windfall

Photo: Bob Deller

Please submit your **February 2026** H&V articles to the editor by **30th January 2026**

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CLUB NIGHT PROGRAMME Starts 7:30 pm promptly



3 December 2025 : Dennis Page – History of the Remutaka Incline (film)

Many of you will have walked or cycled the Remutaka Rail Trail. Come along tonight to learn of the history of the Remutaka Incline from a video to be shown by Dennis Page.

10 December 2025 : Annual Christmas pot luck dinner 6pm start



This evening will be our annual Christmas pot-luck dinner at the clubrooms beginning at 6pm.

Please bring your own food and drink and any plates and cutlery that you require.

There will be spot prizes for the best fancy dress costumes that catch the eyes of our judges.

This will be our final night for the year – looking forward to seeing you all.

January 2026

Back to standard 7:30pm start, doors open at 7pm

14 January 2026 : Welcome back mix-and-mingle

The first club night of 2026 will be informal, a chance to chat with friends about what they did over Christmas and New Year. The usual hot drinks and biscuits will be served.

21 January 2026 : Open Night

Come along and show up to about a dozen images of what you have been doing since the last Open Night at the beginning of November. If you have more photos than that, contact Graeme McVerry at graememcv2@xtra.co.nz for a dedicated talk later in the year, but perhaps give a taster tonight of what's to come.

28 January 2026 : Jackie & Chris West – Walking the Cotswold Way



In September 2025 Jackie and Chris West walked the Cotswold Way in England. This is an area known for its quaint villages and picturesque fields with hedgerows. There are hills with panoramic views but also exposed to wind, rain, thunder and lightning all of which the Wests experienced before the trip ended with a visit to Bath hospital.

Jackie and Chris West will present another talk on 11th March about Walking the Thames Path.

4 February 2026 : TBA





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.

DECEMBER 2025				
Tue 2	D1	Tuesday Night Tops		Emma Dobbie
		Bike ride to be confirmed		
5 - 7	T1	6/7 Paua Hut, Orongorongo Valley	Van	Debbie/Emma
	T2			
Sun 7	D1	Day Trip required		Leader Required
		Bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park		Leena Stowell
Tue 9	D1	Tuesday Night Tops		Emma Dobbie
		Bike ride to be confirmed		
12 - 14	T1+	13/14 Camping on Cone Tops	Van	Mel Stoneham
	T2			
Sun 14	D1	Baring Head Rocks and Environs		Neil Parker
		Bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park		Leena Stowell
Tue 16		Bike ride to be confirmed		
19 - 21	T1	Trip Required		Leader Required
	T2			
Sun 21	D1	Day Trip Required		Leader Required
		Bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park		Leena Stowell
Tue 23		Bike ride to be confirmed		
CHRISTMAS – NEW YEAR HOLIDAY PERIOD (26 DEC 2025 – 11 JAN 2026)				
	T1	Trip Required		Leader Required
28 Dec-11Jan	T2	Christmas-New Year Multiday Hopkins/Huxley	Van	Andrew Robinson
				
03 - 07 Jan	T1+	Holdsworth to Kaitoke	Pvt T	Mary Horner
Sun 11 Jan	D1	Blue Range Hut (GWBH Bucket Delivery)	Pvt T	Dennis Page
		Bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park		Leena Stowell
12 JANUARY 2026 ONWARDS (POST NEW YEAR HOLIDAY PERIOD)				
15 - 17 Jan	T1+	Papatahi / Mt Matthews (Love Your Huts)	Van	Mary Horner
Jan TBC	T2	Maungahuka Hut	Van	Mel Stoneham
Jan TBC	T1	Trip TBC	Van	Debbie
16 - 19	WELLINGTON ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND (NOTE VAN IN USE AS ABOVE)			
16 - 19	T1	Trip Required		Leader Required
	T2			
Sun 18 Jan	D1	Cannon Point - Karapoti		Leader Required
		Bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park		Leena Stowell
Mon 19	D1	Day Trip required		Leader required
23 - 25	T1	Waiorongomai Hut (FMC LYH/GWBH)		Leader Required

	T2			
Sun 25 Jan	D1	Phillip's Stream		Doreen Courtenay
		Bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park		Leena Stowell
FEBRUARY 2026				
30 Ja – 1 Fb	T1	Mangatoetoe Hut (FMC LYH/GWBN)		Leader Required
	T2			
Sun 1 Feb	D1	Cattle Ridge		Tony B / Jo Scott
		Bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park		Leena Stowell
6 - 8 Feb	T1	(Waitangi Weekend) Ruapehu Lodge Trips	Van	Debbie/Emma
Sun 8 Feb	D1	Clothes Optional; Wainuiomata Water Catchment		Patrick Fotheringham
	D2	Hutt Gorge Tubing		Leader Required
09 – 22 Feb	T2	South Westland – Welcome Flat/Mataketake	Van	Chris and Murray
Sat14-Mn16	T1+	Mitre Flats / Cow Creek Crossover	Pvt T	David B/Debbie L'B

UPCOMING EVENTS

HVTC ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY 2025



We are hoping you can join us at our Christmas Party on Wednesday 10 December.

Timing for the event:

6:00 pm mix and mingle (nibbles provided by the club)

6:30 pm main meal commences. Please bring a pot- luck contribution for the dinner, your own beverage, a glass, cutlery and plates

And what delights do we have in store:

- A competition for the best Christmas- themed costume or head gear (no bribing the judge 😊)
- Some fun entertainment
- The raffle is to be drawn and winner announced
- Lots of yummy food.... and last, but not least:
- A great time to catch up with friends before the end of the year.

RUAPEHU LODGE WORK PARTY

13 - 15 February 2026

Kate Brownsword



The first Ruapehu Lodge work party of 2026 is scheduled for the weekend of 13 – 15 February.

Here is your chance to help with the maintenance that keeps the lodge running for you. The "après work" facilities are outstanding. So come and join in the fun.

We are looking for 10-12 able bodied persons to undertake thorough spring cleaning of the lodge, food stock take, changing mattress covers etc. Extensive maintenance skills are not a requirement.

If you are interested, please contact Kate Brownsword on ph. 027 562 0177 or the.brownswords@xtra.co.nz.

As the lodge will be open that weekend, if you wish to come up and enjoy the mountain but not participate in the work party, the usual very cheap summer rate of \$40 per night applies and there are plenty of yummy roasts in the freezer to be eaten! Book with the Booking Officer in the usual way at Ruapehubookings@hvtc.org.nz.



PINUS CONTORTA ERADICATION WEEKEND.

6th to 8th March 2026.

John Simes



The Department of Conservation is again keen to join with HVTC and Whanganui Tramping club to assist with the more than 40 year continuous effort of eradicating wilding pines in Tongariro National Park. DOC make a substantial contribution to transport and food and provide a wonderful camping spot in Ohakune with excellent modern facilities to make for a very pleasant weekend. The work is on the southern slopes of Mount Ruapehu, where we get to go off track in some spectacular landscape in our quest for mostly rather tiny pine seedlings. We work as volunteers to DOC so are in their hands for a rewarding weekend with a difference. We travel in the club van to Ohakune from the clubrooms at midday on Friday the 6th and return after lunch on the Sunday the 8th. Final details will be posted to the HVTC email address in late January but happy to be contacted now with questions or a commitment to join the trip and book your van space.

John Simes

027 464 1824 or john.e.simes@gmail.com

SUMMER AT RUAPEHU



Summer is here and it is, of course, a great time to visit the club lodge and enjoy time on the mountain. We're exceptionally lucky to be able to have our own place at the heart of NZ's only Dual World Heritage area, and on the slopes of a volcano.

The club is planning to run tramping trips from the lodge at Waitangi weekend and Easter 2026. Keep an eye on your email/Hills and Valleys for more information and how to sign up.

We would love to have more people staying at the lodge, summer and winter. It's a great spot to base yourself for walks all over the national

park. Whakapapa, the ski field operator, has laid out 10km of marked walks from quick 20 minute bursts to 2.5 hour walks this summer, starting at either the base area (Top of the Bruce) or the top of the Sky Waka gondola. For more details and a trail map, go to <https://www.whakapapa.com/summer/short-walks>

NZ residents get discounted prices on the Sky Waka gondola. See whakapapa.com for details.

And finally:

Summer prices at the lodge are \$40 per person per night. To book your mountain getaway, please contact club booking officer Alison Newbald on ruapehubbookings@hvtc.org.nz

Looking forward to seeing you up there!

Kate Brownsword

On behalf of the Ruapehu Committee

SUNDAY TRAMPS

Most of you will have received an email from the Sunday Trip Committee with a syllabus from the start of February to 3 May. There are a number of trips with "Leader Required" which you are welcome to put your name to. If you want to lead a different tramp from what is on the syllabus you can change the tramp but please contact the club's trip coordinator Dennis Page and let him know.

Sunday Trip Committee

Heather, Doreen and Jackie

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Please welcome Hassan Mohammadpour and Paul Mulrooney as new members. We look forward to joining you on club trips.

Doreen Courtenay

Membership Officer

SOME HANDY TRIP CHECKS FOR YOUR HOLIDAY TRIPS FROM THE TRIP COORDINATOR

With the onset of the summer holiday break period nearly upon us and a healthy number of extended trips looming on the fixture card, it seems appropriate to draw members' attention to a few points to help make trips run more smoothly and be enjoyable for everyone.

Help your trip leaders out (they are doing you a service by creating an event that you clearly wish to be on) – Adhere to their instructions, especially around trip and route directions and when requested to wait at track junctions etc. The leader may be leading from the back, has an added responsibility for the whole party, and may wish to check-in at important juncture points on the trip. The separation and spreading out of party members can lead to increased risk of accident and injury, or becoming lost, and this can lead to more serious consequences later, especially if the party fails to reunite and regroup. If there are areas of track washout or windthrow that have obscured/confused the route, pause and wait for everyone to get there – Don't assume, if you are in front and have successfully navigated the hazard, that everyone behind you will if they are not in sight of you (or have differing levels of confidence or agility). Wait at important crossing points; especially rivers if they are rising or if they are particularly large (and ask: 'do I/we really need to cross?').

Be mindful of the slower and less fit members in the party – Ideally the group should move at a pace that is respectful of the slower members of the group. Be especially mindful if navigating off track and especially up creeks; even closely travelling groups can have members 'disappear' out of sight around

heavily vegetated corners or when circumventing small sections of bluff – Wait for party members to become visible again before moving on. With the tendency for fewer fitter-grade trips being led/undertaken, easier graded trips may be comprised of members of varying levels of fitness and expectations – If you are fitter, you may need to curb some of your ambitions if you sign up for an easier grade trip (if that frustrates you, feel free to sign up for/lead a trip that matches your level – you will more often than not find you have others that are keen to join you). Avoid scenarios of ‘get-there-itus’, especially on the return journey to the minibus – If you are cold from waiting, put a layer on and have a snack while you wait for others to catch up – If you reach the transport without a key, you will only be waiting somewhere else in the cold...

On the above two paragraphed matters, make use of the club walkie talkies to stay in contact between the front and back sections of the group; but don't let these devices lead to a false sense of security – There is still a chance that the party can get too strung out and the separation may be too great for everyone to be aware of who is where (or for the devices to remain in reception). If you have to duck off the track for a comfort stop, make sure someone knows about this and can wait and keep all the party in contact.

Alert your trip leader to any medical conditions you have, or if you are recovering from serious illness, injury or medical procedures – and take appropriate first aid or medicines to cover your condition (plus a bit extra in case of a delayed completion date) – The club first aid kits should be taken but won't cover every contingency. Trip leaders should advise the SAR contacts of party members with medical conditions since, if a PLB is activated, it's one of the questions the RCC will ask of the SAR contact on duty (discretion is assured). Ensure that you carry with you and drink sufficient water – be aware of sections of the route where water may not be readily available/accessible and plan for this fact. Take a sunhat, sunscreen, insect repellent and antihistamines with you as well as your usual storm gear.

Ensure that a club PLB is taken and advise the SAR contacts of this and other relevant details - not only party member names and distress contacts, but also of detailed route notes (including alternatives and escape routes) and where vehicles are being parked (including makes, models, colours and registration details), plus expected return date and a ‘panic date.’ Advise the SAR contacts when the trip is completed and all are out safely. If you take a personal beacon with you, advise the distress contact for that beacon to pass on full trip information (including the distress contact's contact details) so that the club's SAR contacts can be kept in the loop – otherwise, they are unable to assist in the event that the private beacon is activated.

Enjoy your tramping, respect the weather and conditions, and be prepared to modify your plans if necessary – The destination will still be there for another time if the first attempt is unlucky...

Nga mihi nui

Dennis

A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO ALL HVTC MEMBERS & FAMILIES

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.