



Happy HVTC skiers at Whakapapa, Ruapehu: 2 September 2026

Please submit your **November 2026** H&V articles to the editor by **1st November 2026**

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: Ann Hayman 021 880 097

Secretary: Marina Skinner 021 792 260

Trip Coordinator: Mel Stoneham 027 361 3423

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



7 October : Tony Birtwhistle and Jo Scott – Portugal 2 Peneda-Geres National Park

Tony's second presentation will cover tramping in the Peneda-Geres National Park, the only true national park in the country, close to the Spanish border; following the Minho River to the sea then a sojourn along the Atlantic coast famed worldwide for its enormous surf. The journey concludes with a second look at Porto and Lisbon in 37 degrees of heat!

14 October : Andrew Robinson - Describing maps in a library context: Map cataloguing for non-cataloguers

The National Library of New Zealand has large and diverse collections of maps, mostly of New Zealand, the Pacific and Antarctica, including both published and unpublished, print and increasing numbers in digital formats. To make them all findable and accessible they are described succinctly in the library's catalogues. Andrew Robinson will give a version of the talk he gave earlier this year at Geocart 2026 on what goes into a catalogue record for a map to give it the best chance of being found.

21 October : Mary O'Keefe – Life as a consulting archaeologist (small things tell big stories)

Mary's talk will look at some of the projects she's worked on as a consultant archaeologist, what she's found, and how this information contributes to the story of what it means to be a New Zealander.

Mary is a consultant archaeologist, and has run her consultancy, Heritage Solutions, for 30 years. Her work is primarily in development projects such as expressways and subdivisions, planning for archaeology in these projects, and undertaking on the ground monitoring during construction. Her work has taken her to many interesting corners in New Zealand and revealed many fascinating stories. She is also the central filekeeper for ArchSite which is the national database of recorded archaeological sites, which contains over 80,000 sites.

Mary has previously worked for Department of Conservation and Historic Places Trust (now Heritage New Zealand). She is on the NZ board of ICOMOS Aotearoa New Zealand. ICOMOS (the International Council for Monuments and Sites) is the heritage arm of UNESCO. Mary is particularly active in the world heritage space for ICOMOS. Recently she undertook an expert assessment mission for a proposed site in Victoria, Australia, assessing its suitability for World Heritage inscription.

Also 21 October: The Sales Table is back!

Bring along all your goodies for sale to help raise club funds. Biscuits, cakes, fruit and veges sell best (you could say they go like hot cakes!) but there is also scope for clean tramping equipment in good condition and books etc. Larger items can be sold on a commission basis. Bring your good along by 7pm so that they can be displayed when the clubrooms open. Remember to collect unsold goods to take them home.

28 October : Darryl Carpenter - Farewell Spit to Slope Point cycle race February/March 2026

Tour Te Waipounamu (TTW) is an ultra-distance (mountain) bike packing race down the length of the South Island of Aotearoa New Zealand. Starting at Cape Farewell and finishing at Slope Point, the race is 1300+km with over 23,000 metres of climbing. Following a predetermined route, competitors have to ride, push and at times carry their bikes up, down and through some spectacular wilderness areas of New Zealand on a mixture of gravel roads, mountain bike single track, walking tracks, occasional tar seal (a luxury) and vague alpine routes crossing the likes of the Dampier Range, Stag Saddle, the Hawkdens range and the Lammerlaws.

TTW is gaining the reputation as the toughest bike packing event in the world. Now in its fourth (every second) year, the 2026 event proved to be just as hard as previous years. Darryl Carpenter completed TTW2026 and as the oldest competitor, had to draw on his many years of outdoor adventure and expedition experience to reach Slope Point within the 10 days allowed.

Come along for an evening of stories of the good, the bad and the often/occasional ugly of what it takes to prepare, train and then compete in TTW2026.

4 November: Open Night

This is the chance for club members to bring along their own slides and tell us about what they have been up to in the outdoors over winter and spring, since our last Open Night at the beginning of June. Please limit your presentation to about 10 minutes, so others have the chance to tell their story (usually about half a dozen presenters on the evening). If you have a longer presentation, contact graememcv2@xtra.co.nz to offer it as a full-length presentation in the New Year, perhaps using the Open Night as a teaser to interest the audience.

SPEAKERS FOR 2027

Thank you to all those who have contributed presentations in 2026. The Wednesday night programme is now full through to Christmas, but work has just begun on the list of speakers for 2027. Ideally, the aim is to confirm the programme through to the end of March before Christmas.

If you have a talk to offer next year, please contact graememcv2@xtra.co.nz



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 2026					
Tues 6 Oct		Night Walk- TBC			
9 – 11 Oct	T1				
	T2	Toka Biv; Ruahine FP	Minibus	Andrew Robinson	022 692 8102
Sun 11 Oct	D1	Northern Walkway		T Birtwistle / J Scott	021 228 4430
		Bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park		Leena Stowell	027 672 1604
16 – 18 Oct	T1	Omakere Coastal Hill Country Walk and Trail Run- Hawkes Bay Omakere Coastal Hill Country Walk & Trail Run - Waipawa - Eventfinda	Minibus	Debbie Labett	027 209 3721
	T2				
Sun 18 th Oct	D1	Turere Lodge Intro Trip		Mel Stoneham/Marina Skinner (Non-members please contact Marina Skinner 021792260)	021 792 260
	D2	Goat Stream- Intro Trip		Andrew Robinson/ (Non-members please contact Marina Skinner 021792260)	021 792 260

		Bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park		Leena Stowell	027 672 1604
Tue 20 Oct		Night Walk- TBC			
23-26 Oct	T1				
	T2				
Sun 25 Oct	D1	Te Whiti Riser-Wainui Hill/Point Howard		Heather Eskdale	021 1088 578
		Bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park		Leena Stowell	027 672 1604

UPCOMING EVENTS

RUAPEHU LODGE

Kate Brownsword

Mon 5 Oct	Fri 9 Oct	October School Holiday Week 2	Contact Booking Officer (Alison Newbald) ruapehubookings@hvtc.org.nz
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Hi everyone

It feels like spring down here in the Hutt Valley and Wellington but it's still snowing on the mountain!

The lodge is, of course, open for bookings if you want to come for a stay these school holidays.

Ski field operator WHL are working hard to keep the lifts running, and the T bars are going.

Come and enjoy spring skiing and riding conditions on the mountain! Book now on ruapehubookings@hvtc.org.nz

Kate

INTRODUCTORY TRAMPING TRIPS ON 18 OCTOBER

Marina Skinner

We're running our annual introductory trips for people interested in learning more about HVTC on Sunday 18 October.

Mel Stoneham is leading a trip to Tūrere Lodge and Andrew Robinson is also heading to the Ōrongorongo Valley with a climb beside Goat Stream and across to South Saddle.

We've advertised the trips on our Facebook page and put up posters around the valley

If you can, please come along on the trips to help welcome our newcomers.

Marina

TRANSPORT TALES

Bob Deller

“Hello” from your transport officer. It’s good to see our minibus has been popular since it was purchased in July 2025. It has travelled more than 14,000 km from Mt Ruapehu in the north to Lake Moeraki in the south.

I’m keen to maximise its use for day trips. If the minibus could be used, would day trip leaders please ask the Trip Coordinator whether it will be used for the overnight trip on the same weekend. Sometimes, weekend bookings are canceled late in the week.

I have some requests of trip leaders and drivers:

1. Please fill in at least one driver's name and the number of minibus passengers in the vehicle logbook.
2. Fares collected should be based on the **actual** distance travelled by the minibus. Estimated distances (Google Maps) can be used to give people an indication of the fare but not for the final fare calculation.
3. Minibus passengers should pay their fare to the trip leader, not directly to the transport account. There should be only **one** payment per trip to the transport account.
4. Please send me an email after you have deposited the total fares collected in the transport account. Please state how you calculated the amount, e.g ‘n’ passengers x ‘d’ kilometres x 12 cents/ km (or ‘d’ x 60 cents/km if there are only 3 or 4 passengers).

Recently the General Committee approved a document “Minibus Operating Information” which is now available in the “Member Info” area of the Club website. A hard copy will be placed in the minibus glovebox. It provides basic “what to do and how to do” information for drivers.

I urge drivers to read this document before next driving the minibus. In particular, please note the insurance cover conditions & exclusions on page 8.

At present the Transport Subcommittee is reviewing the fare (currently 12 cents/km per passenger). Diesel and insurance costs have risen in the last 12 months. Conversely, the minibus has been used more than expected in its first year, resulting in the fixed costs (rego, insurance) being spread over more kilometres. This highlights the importance of keeping fares low by using our minibus for club activities whenever we can.

Finally, there is now a dedicated email address for the Transport Officer: transport@hvtc.org.nz.

I’m happy to receive transport- related feedback from members.

Bob

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Please welcome

Seirian Borren-Robertson
Madoc Borren-Robertson
Tomer (Tom) Levy
Kelly Ritchie

Katja Starke
Mees Starke-Arts
Paul Arts

as new members. We look forward to joining you on club trips.

Doreen Courtenay
Membership Officer

ULTRALIGHT TRAMPING

Graeme Lyon

What is the advantage of this recent 'fad'?

Personally I'm not going to invest in expensive new gear for my very limited future needs, and I like good boots for rough travel. But we know some people have embraced this, and many TA trampers use light shoes. My nephew designs and sews his own ultralight packs.

So why ? I found this note.

The data are irrefutable: a hiker schlepping a fifty-eight pound (26.3 kg) pack will expend roughly the same energy over ten miles as a hiker carrying a ten pound (4.5 kg) will expend in thirty miles. When it comes to load carrying, location matters, too: weight on the feet - say, boots - requires between four and six times more energy to move than the same weight on one's back. Page 165 in "A Walk in the Park" by Kevin Fedarko (2024)

A highly recommended book, describing tramping in Grand Canyon - desert country where hiking in 40degC means high water need, and if you don't do the distance to the next water, you die.

Graeme

SECONDHAND TENTS WANTED FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Marina Skinner

Taitā College has contacted us to see if any members have lightweight tents they'd like to donate or sell. The college wants to expand its tramping opportunities to more students and needs tents for overnight trips.

They would like two-person tents that are in good condition.

If you have a tent that you no longer need, please drop it in to the gear room by 31 October or contact me at marinaskinner@xtra.co.nz

Marina

TRIP REPORTS

CATTLE RIDGE Sunday 30 August 2026

Jackie West

After two consecutive frustrating Sundays of cancelled tramps due to wet weather fourteen of us cheerfully departed the Catchpool car park in bright sunshine. We briefly paused at the Midway Bridge before continuing on passed the start of the Cattle Ridge track and on to where the track dropped down to the Orongorongo River where we found a suitable spot with sun and shade for morning tea.



Once refreshed we retraced our steps to the climb up Cattle Ridge. All was going to plan when ahead I spied a silvery shape looking like an object from outer space on the track. On close inspection it was a pristine white fadge and while we didn't open it could tell by feeling it that it contained traps packed inside a large plastic bag.

Clare and Leanne who were leading the way found a suitable lunch spot. Once fed we continued on until the junction where the track to the valley began. We regrouped and had a brief discussion whether to continue on to the look out which

had been fenced off for the logging of pine trees on our last visit or just head down. It was the latter that won. We were all safely back at the car park before 2.30pm and pleased to have had some exercise and good company on a sunny Sunday.

On the walk: Heather Eskdale, Marina Skinner, Doreen Courtney, Sarah and Oscar Taylor, Clare Kelly, Maarten Vink, Anja van Kesteren, James Herdman, Jan Arts, Sharman Robinson, Kelly Ritchie and Jackie West.

Jackie

MITRE FLATS: 5th and 6th September

Kirsten Reid

We left the clubrooms early, with a quick coffee stop at Wild Oats in Carterton. At the Pines, we were greeted by two hunters who had enjoyed a successful early-morning hunt.

The Barra Track follows the Waingawa River upstream, with most of the tramping through bush high above the river. We enjoyed good company and plenty of chats along the way.

After nearly five hours, a steep descent brought us down to the river, a swing bridge and a sign pointing towards the hut, just five minutes away. The hut—as huts almost always are—was a very welcome sight. It sits in a beautiful setting, surrounded by a large grassy clearing with views of the river.

The wind and rain picked up during the afternoon, so we settled in for a leisurely afternoon of Bananagrams, relaxing and enjoying each other's company.

There were delicious snacks and an early dinner, while Tony bravely opted to sleep out on the deck despite the wind!

We left the hut early the next morning and walked out in what can only be described as liquid sunshine. As always, it was a great overnight trip with good people and plenty of laughs.

We're so lucky to have the Tararua Forest Park on our doorstep. There's nothing quite like escaping into the hills for a weekend!

Participants: Louise Gibson, Mary Horner, Maarten Quivooy, Tony Jaegers, Kirsten Reid



Kirsten

EAST/WEST WHAKANUI LOOP : 20 September 2026

Jackie West

At 6am it was raining steadily but by 7am it starting to clear and by 8am the sun was shining. I was greatly relieved that the weather turned out as forecast. When I arrived at Woburn Station I found Doreen and Heather picking up small objects and placing them into a plastic bag. Doreen had parked her car only to find the ground covered with glass from a broken bottle. Before leaving Sunny Grove we listened to a bird singing causing to David announcing, "it's spring I have just heard a cuckoo." The sun was shining brightly in a cloudless sky and many of the trees lining the street were covered in blossom so even the usually damp and gloomy Sunny Grove had had been touched by the joys of spring.

We set off for the junction with the McKerrow Track where we stopped for morning tea. Over half the group found somewhere sunny back down the track with some having a bonus view of Wainuiomata. Refreshed we continued walking taking the West Whakanui Track. After about ten

minutes walking we decided the track was the wettest we had seen it with lots of large puddles and water flowing along and across the track.

We enjoyed lunch on the link track between the East and West in a spot with dappled sunshine. The return to the transport was uneventful but I was pleased to spot a tomtit at the end in the short distance between the bridge and the road.

On the tramp were: Heather Eskdale, Leanne Asher, Louise Gibbson, Kate Livingston, Sharman Robinson, Jan Arts. David Barnes, Tony Jaegers, Doreen Courtney, Jude Speir, Kelly Ritchie and Jackie West.

Jackie

BIKE RACK FOR SALE

Andrew Russell

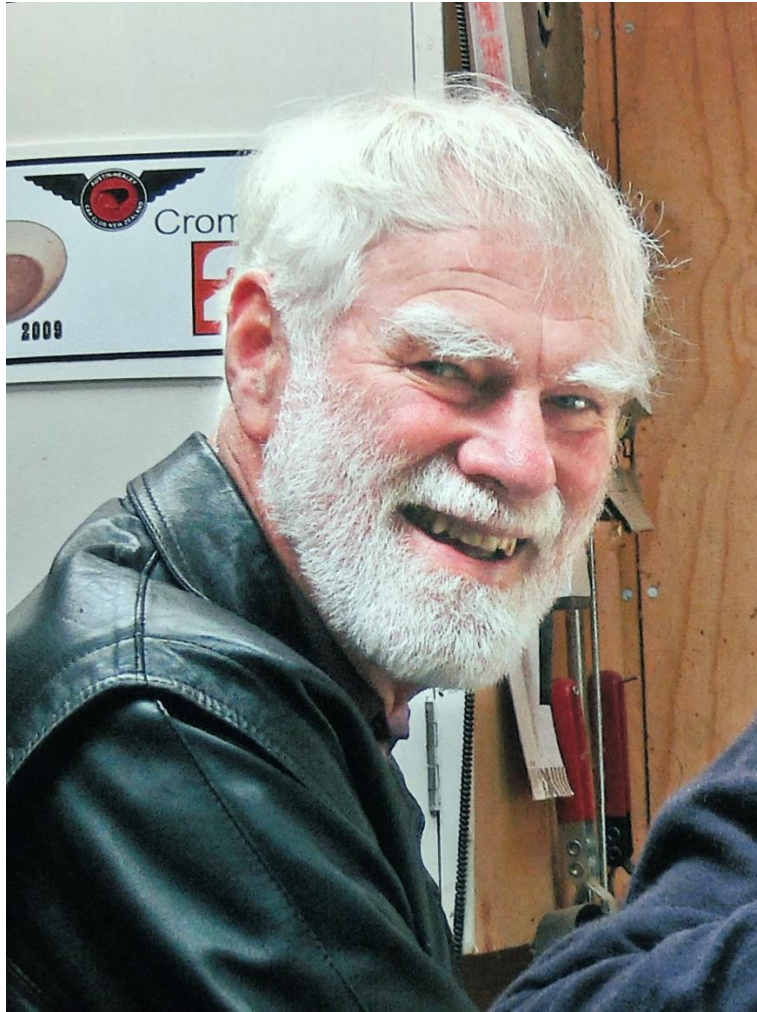
Zero My Bike quad bike rack for sale. Tow ball mount includes stabilisation straps and hex wrench. Adjustable bike mounts to space bikes as needed, ideal for club trips to space different bikes on different trips. Easily folds down when not in use, while remaining tow ball mounted.

I'm thinking \$50 but flexible on price, call or email Andrew Russell on 027 482 8871 or wussells@gmail.com



Andrew

GRAHAM CRAIG
IN MEMORIAM AND WITH GRATITUDE FROM THE HVTC
Dennis Page



Graham joined the Hutt Valley Tramping Club in 1955 (aged about 18 years old) and has had a distinguished membership tenure of some 71 years spanning across eight decades – The club is rapidly running out of gemstone prefix descriptors to append to his milestone anniversary dates! Featured in the Club's centenary anniversary publication '100 Stories, 100 Years,' the rear cover image (Mabin Collection) features a very youthful group photo of young members enjoying the camaraderie up at the club's Ruapehu Lodge – Graham features in the second row, second from the left – It is easy to see why a young Mat (Marianne), then a member of the Levin-Waiopahu Club, was smitten when she first met Graham on the mountain after a group of 'HVTC hooligans' grate-crashed a function in another lodge one evening: Mat joined the Hutt Valleys in 1958 and the rest, as they say, is history...

My tenure at the HVTC spans a paltry 35% of Graham's time so in compiling this tribute, I have had to rely on the input of others to assist – I am grateful to Geoff Spearpoint and Alan Stevens, and to the Finch family who compiled Mat and Graham's Life Membership citation which I have drawn on to paint a fuller picture of Graham's achievements and contributions to club life.

The life membership citation notes that almost from the outset of joining 'Graham was very much involved in every aspect of club activities and quickly undertook important organising and

leadership roles.’ Fellow, and still current, HVTC member, Alan Stevens, recalls many epic and prolonged trips that were organised by Graham in the 1950s that often spanned 2-3 weeks duration. If those attending the HVTC today wanted a sense of the challenges endured and overcome by Graham and his companions, I’d urge reading of the 1958 Chapter (authored by Graham in the May 1959 ‘Hills and Valleys’) reprinted in the HVTC centennial publication ‘100 Years; 100 Stories,’ describing their adventures and climbs in the Gardens of Eden and Allah. Geoff Spearpoint, one of our club’s nationally distinguished members, notes “on that trip you [Graham] you put up a new route on Mt Lambert which became recorded in the NZAC’s Canterbury and Westland Climbing Guide.”

In similar acknowledgement of those early accomplishments, Graham’s life membership citation also adds, as a result of these skills and experiences, ‘Graham always played an important part in promoting instruction in bushcraft, river crossing, and mountaineering, introduced the use of printed notes for the latter, instructed American personnel on basic snowcraft in Antarctica in 1968, was for many years very active in all aspects of search and rescue, and was an instructor on NZ Police training courses.’ Graham remained active on HVTC’s SAR contact list until a well-deserved retirement from that role at the end of 2017.

It was not just direct tramping and outdoor related skills that saw Graham contributing to acts of service to the club: His career and business skills as a builder, carpenter and joiner meant that ‘he played a major role in club construction projects and was most generous in providing his factory facilities free to the club. Graham was one of the main builders of the Kaitoke shelter and of the interior of the clubrooms and supervised the painting and finishing of these rooms.’ When the clubrooms’ interior was renovated again in 2003, Graham was actively involved in that process too. Perhaps concerning the most significant act of service that Graham will be remembered and appreciated for, is the mid-1970s Ruapehu Lodge rebuild (whereby the building’s footprint and useable space was expanded by some 200%). ‘In 1973, owing to pressures outside the club, Graham made positive moves to reorganise our Ruapehu Hut. There were many uncertainties involved. Transporting materials alone was a major undertaking. However, with his building knowledge and organising ability the lodge we now have was built. Graham was on site for a greater majority of work parties. Considering this project was some 320 km away and was added to his responsibilities to his family, his business and his position as club president, the club, on this matter alone, owes a great deal to Graham.’

There is a footnote to the above acknowledgment of achievement up at Ruapehu: In 2011-12, the original bunkroom, having reached the end of its serviceable life, was demolished and replaced. Although not taking a leading role (he was 75 years old at the time), club photographs at the time show Graham at a skill saw, replete with mask and obligatory sawdust coating, crafting new joinery for the interior fit-out, including all of the components for the numerous new bunkbeds.

As well as DIY-practical help to the club, Graham served on the club’s General Committee, he was the vice president for the period 1971-72 and then president from 1973-75. In addition to the SAR roles already noted, Graham also served for a period as a Wellington Regional Water Board ranger. His affinity for the mountains and Ruapehu saw acts of service as a delegate to the WAMC and to the Wellington branch of the Mountain Safety Council of which he later served a period as chairman. HVTC records also disclose active and prolonged service on the Ruapehu Subcommittee, even as recently up to the end of 2013. Graham was also the principal organiser of many of the club’s veteran’s ski weeks.

When I joined HVTC in 1999, Graham's illustrious list of service and length of tenure already cast a long shadow – For a new member, this could easily be seen as intimidating, foreboding and even unapproachable. But even in my early days with the club, Graham and Mat made me very welcome with respect to my integration into club life. Despite being very 'green,' Graham generously allowed me on my first 10-day club trip, an excursion to Dusky Sound, in March 2000, and was a great mentor in all things outdoors and bush-lore. I still have some of his hand-written notes on food and menu planning and I will continue to keep these for easy reference. Graham also willingly served as an instructor when I took on the role of coordinating the introductory alpine skills sessions up at Ruapehu between 2004-2012. On one of those sessions, when a participant had become seriously injured after a fall, Graham and Mat generously accommodated that person (who was living on their own at the time) at their place in Upper Hutt, to ensure full and sufficient time for recovery after their discharge from hospital – Such an act epitomises the humanity and empathy behind the Craig's many acts of service; it's always been driven by a sense of the right thing to do rather than recognition for recognition's sake.

Geoff Spearpoint echoes the above sentiments: "Graham, I enjoyed the many trips we shared in the Tararua Ranges. Always cheerful, understanding and dependable; you were good, easy company. As a younger member at the time, I appreciated your many wise comments. On trips, you were always there, helping out, and when it came to Ruapehu [Lodge], you went 'way beyond' with the building extensions; that must have been quite a toll on you and the family."

The 'toll' that Geoff refers to is also appropriately noted in the Finch account for Mat and Graham's life membership citation which records: 'Inevitably, Mat had to help Graham in many ways with all these responsibilities. This put great pressures on her, especially when Graham was club president, but she always appreciated the importance of this assistance for the club's benefit. The club is, therefore, most grateful to Mat. In spite of all their commitments, Mat and Graham were always active in the club. They became life members in 1977.'

To Mat, Robert, Bruce, Lyndsey and families, on behalf of all members, past and present, of the HVTC, I pass on not only the club's deepest sympathies and condolences to you all, but also the club's immense gratitude and appreciation, for Graham's generous and lengthy acts of service, and yours too, as you shared with us a much treasured and valued member of our wider outdoors whanau.

Kia okioki i runga i te rangimarie, Graham.

Dennis Page

(on behalf of HVTC).



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.