



5-Minute Creek.

Photo: Mike Wespel-Rose

Please submit your **May 2026** H&V articles to the editor by **24th April 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: 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 April : Marilyn Sickels – Rebus Puzzles are Back

Let's get together for a fun night of picture brainteasers requiring lateral thinking to interpret the images. Come along and work in teams of 6 people to solve the puzzles, and there is a prize for the winning team.

8 April : Ann Hayman & Neil Parker – Asian Travels

Ann Hayman and Neil Parker visited Thailand, Borneo and Vietnam in one trip last year. Hear about these travels including yoga in Koh Yah Noi Thailand, wildlife and culture in Sarawak and Sabah, and a classic Intrepid Travel tour from Ho Chi Ming City to Hanoi.

15 April : Andrew Robinson – Hopkins-Huxley New Year 2026

From the end of December Andrew Robinson led a group of seven on a two-week long trip to the middle of the South Island to explore the Hopkins and Huxley river valleys and to visit the historic East Ahuriri hut. Come along and find out which of the trip's objectives were met and which weren't and the reasons why

Also 15 April : Sales Table 7-7:30pm

It's the Sales Table night again. Please bring along your items to sell by 7pm, either as a donation for the club to sell, or for a fee for costlier items where you would like to recoup some of the cost. Remember to retrieve your unsold items at the end of the evening. Food items such as baking, honey, jam and relish, vegetables and fruit are consistently the best sellers. Purchasers, remember to bring cash.

22 April : Graeme McVerry – Rafting the lower reaches of the Grand Canyon 50 years ago

Graeme was fortunate as a non-geologist to tag along in March 1976 on Caltech's Spring break field-trip to the Grand Canyon for graduate students in geology. The trip was led by renowned Colorado Plateau geologist and astro-geologist Gene Shoemaker, who trained the Apollo astronauts for their walks on the Moon (and much later co-discovered a disintegrating lump of rock as it hurtled through space and televised its impact into Jupiter). On the way to the Grand Canyon, several detours were made on dirt roads to study geology related to the evolution of the Canyon far to its west in the Mojave Desert. The group then gradually descended on the only road to reach the Colorado River within the canyon's 450 km length, passing through about 1.4 billion years of the Earth's geological history. After reaching the Colorado River, they rafted to Lake Mead through the final 90 km of the magnificent Grand Canyon, studying rocks, identifying strata and tackling a few rapids along the way.

29 April : Lex Grubner – A thousand-kilometre journey to the head of the Amazon River

In ancient times, the few explorers who ventured into the Amazon River told exaggerated tales of mythical creatures and strange tribes which the general public had no choice but to believe. Hear and see what it was like to travel up the Amazon river to Manaus, almost 1,000km inland via small cruise ship as part of a 23 day trip from Rio de Janeiro in Brazil to Miami USA. Do Piranha fish really rip the flesh off your leg as soon as you touch the water, or is this just one of the tales?

6 May : Jonty Crane – Exploring remote trails in Ladakh, Indian Himalaya

Jonty shares an epic three-week journey through Ladakh in the Indian Himalaya, following remote trails to ancient monasteries and palaces. The hike included around 40 river crossings, breathtaking (literally) mountain scenery, and an ending that didn't quite go to plan.

Contact Graeme McVerry graememcv2@xtra.co.nz ph 021 464349



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.

April				
<i>Daylight Saving ends 3:00 am Sunday 5 April. Clocks go backward 1 hour</i>				
3 – 6 Apr		Easter		
	T1	More trips from Ruapehu Lodge	Van	Mel Stoneham
2 – 6 Apr	T2	Rangiwahia-Howlett's-Irongate (Ruahines)	Pvt T	Chris Keen
Sun 5 Apr	D1	Belmont Regional Park explore		Leader Required
		Bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park		Leena Stowell
10 – 12 Apr	T1			
	T2			
Sun 12 Apr	D1	Lowry Bay – Bus Barn		Heather Eskdale
		Bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park		Leena Stowell
17 – 19 Apr	WP	Ruapehu Lodge Food Restock	Van	Kate Brownsword
	T1			
Sun 19 Apr	D1+	Giant Rata, Karapoti		Chris/Murray McMillan
		Bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park		Leena Stowell
24 – 27 Apr		ANZAC Weekend (Pub. Hol., Mon 27 Apr)		
Sat 25 Apr		ANZAC Day Event		
	T1			
	T2			
Sun 26 Apr	D1	Clay Ridge/Mt McKerrow		Leader Required
		Bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park		Leena Stowell
Mon 27 Apr	D1	Trip Required		Leader Required
May				
1 – 3 May	T1			
	T2			
Sun 3 May	D1	Rangituhi/Colonial Knob		Mel Stoneham
		Bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park		Leena Stowell

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Kia ora koutou club members

If you've ever considered joining the club's General Committee, this could be your year.

Several committee members plan to step down from their roles at the annual general meeting on 29 July. Happily, many intend to continue on the committee to support the club and provide continuity.

There's plenty of time before we will be looking for nominations but feel free to contact me or any other General Committee members for more information.

Call for life member nominations: Over the years, we have honoured members who have given special service to the club by making them life members. Ahead of this year's AGM, please send

me any suggestions for people you consider have made an outstanding contribution to the club. The General Committee will assess the nominations and make any recommendations for everyone to vote on at the AGM.

Please email me with your suggestions by 30 April.

Sales table fund: We've been raising money at our Wednesday club nights for several years and the fund now tops \$6,000. Thank you to everyone who has brought items for sale and to everyone who has bought them. Thanks also go to the sales table organisers, especially the late Graeme Lythgoe for many years and more recently Social Committee members.

It's worthwhile to come up with spending ideas from time to time. If you have any thoughts about ways the fund might benefit members, please let me – or anyone else on the General Committee – know and we will be happy to consider them.

Thanks again to everyone who has led or taken part in a club trip over the past month. I'm hoping for more golden weather to take us through autumn.

See you out there soon.

Ngā mihi nui

Marina Skinner

President

RUAPEHU

Can you carry a load?

We are going to restock the club lodge on Ruapehu with food for the coming year on 17-19 April. This year the task should be made easier as we have a permit to drive the food up to Hut Flat.

Can you help us? We need a few more people to carry food in their packs from Hut Flat across to the lodge. We will be leaving the clubrooms at lunchtime on Friday 17 April.

If you can help out, please contact me on the.brownswords@xtra.co.nz

Thanks

Kate Brownsword

On behalf of the Ruapehu Committee

ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

John Simes

Ava Park tiny forest patch.

It has been a while since I have reported on this club activity. I had hoped to arrange a summer evenings activity down there, but the summer conspired against that. A few things have happened down there however. A small group of us turned up one midweek day late last year with crowbars and a bunch of wind resistant plants. Such as ngaio and *Olearia solandri* and planted them along the stopbank margin where growth has been poorest. This area has taken a hammering from the wind at times, so this is an attempt to create a wind break for the rest of the plants. Thanks to Bob Deller, Mike Priest and my friend James Courtier for helping on the day. We have discovered that some of the area has a rather thick base course layer about half a metre down, hence the need for deeper holes and crow bars. They seem to be doing OK so far but need

another year or two before they will make any difference. I also keep that margin under control with a weed eater a couple of times each year so as to avoid any risk of contract mowers coming too close to any new plants.

Anyone is most welcome to organise a weeding expedition down there at any time. A focus on blackberry, gorse and broom (all quite small plants) would be a good way to go. It is my intention to arrange the usual winter session down there with a general tidy up and maybe some additional plants.

John

HVTC PHOTO COMPETITION 2026 - ORGANISER AND JUDGE REQUIRED



It's time to start thinking about HVTC's annual photo competition again. Both an organiser and a judge are required for this year's competition.

The organiser's role requires no expertise in photography, just a willingness to provide the time to advertise for entries, record those submitted in the various categories, pass them on to the judge, and submit the place-getting entries to FMC. The organiser is not involved in the judging, so is eligible to submit their own entries to the HVTC competition. An organiser is sought from among club members. Many of you have enjoyed either entering the competition or viewing the photographs on the competition night, so how about volunteering to ensure that this year's competition takes place.

The judge does require photographic skills, preferably with experience in taking photos of tramping, cycling or mountaineering or at least of outdoor activities to appreciate the constraints that apply to tramping photography. The club has successfully used both club members and external judges in the past. So if you have the expertise, think about putting yourself forward as a judge. FMC allows the club to submit entries from a club-member judge additional to those that qualify through the HVTC competition. Alternatively, please suggest a club member or external photographer who you think could handle the role. Before submitting a nominee for judge, it is preferable to chat to them to determine that they are willing and available in the period required for judging from late July to mid-August. The judge usually puts together a digital presentation of the entries for a club night in late August, commenting as they feel appropriate (not required for all entries) and selecting the winners and place-getters in all categories.

The competition is usually held in late August, in time to submit the winning and second-place entries in various categories to the FMC nation-wide competition. That may seem some time away, but at least a reminder of the upcoming competition is required in the May Hills & Valleys, with a full announcement in June, to allow members to submit entries in time to be judged. Please volunteer for either role or make suggestions for the judge by mid-April. If no names are forthcoming, I'll be contacting regular entrants in recent years seeking their availability.

Graeme McVerry. HVTC Social Committee
graememcv2@xtra.co.nz or see me at a club night.

MT EDGAR THOMSON - A LONG DAY

Dave Hanley

In February this year I stayed at the NZ alpine club's Unwin lodge near Mt Cook village for a few days. Mt Edgar Thomson 2379m on the Ben Ohau range is very close by, and the east ridge grade 1+ route had been recommended to me. At 1800m of ascent I was going to take my time to avoid (delay?) exhaustion, though the approach is fortunately short.

After an oversleep it was near 8am before I peddled away down highway 80 on the foundling bike that lives outside the lodge. A bit of bike pushing on the access road but less than an hour bike/pushing to the Hoophorn stream.

The stream is good travel to 1000m, then it's south up the scrubby tussock to a saddle on the east ridge of Edgar Thomson. One or two cairns gave initial hope but the Climbz website's description of "follow the tussock terrace" description proved optimistic (I see no terrace?). I took my time as it was already hot from the late start, and route finding around the scrub did not encourage speed, with some hiding under shady rocks to cool down. A very long narrow slip interrupts the slope and was a tad sketchy to cross, otherwise just a matter of dodging the shrubbery and following goat tracks. A stream reappeared at 1300m and had me kicking myself for carrying water up to here, but it's February so it's hard to know where water will be.

A leisurely stop at the saddle near point .1488 already had me thinking where I would probably be bivvying on the descent, fancying nice tussock as I only had a bivvy bag & no mat. The East ridge rises 950m from the saddle so maybe 4 hours more up at today's wobbling pace, and the morning is pretty much gone but no worries the weather is perfect.

It is easy going with barely any scrambling until the ridge steepens about 1950m, where the route description says sidle onto the south face then link snow fields up the face. So, it's crampons on and off a couple of times before it's all snow for the last 200m.



South face snow

The angle is easy 30-35 degrees, the snow is nice old firm stuff, the glide cracks are small and open, the sun is pretty much off the snow as it's late afternoon, and there are trickles of melt water to drink from with my straw.

There are quite a few hoofprints in the snow and the occasional chirping sound.

Near the summit four Thar are peeping over the slope from above. I have accidentally herded them up the ridge. I don't suppose they mind the view at 2300m either. Good views of course, though it's not a dramatic summit. It looks a long way down to the Tasman river valley where my bike is, yet Cook is 1400m higher again.

The snow descent is good but a little cautious in case things are freezing up, I'm tired and the runouts are too rocky for glissading. Off the snow back on the ridge is easy descent but dusk is coming on back at the saddle and the legs are not very springy. A scree run immediately east of the saddle is too tempting so it's off into the gloom on a random descent route back into Hoophorn stream. I figure the lower I get the warmer the night out will be, then my mindset changes to bugger it let's get home to bed. You can maybe guess what's coming.

So it's 11pm...the scree went well but the rocky stream bed drops into a steep gorge a hundred metres or so above the Hoophorn stream (probably why the route guide said go elsewhere), so I had to bail out. I am thrashing? (probably too vigorous a word) a sidle though scrub trying not to fall off wee steep bits and sketching across slips that drop into unknown darkness. Nothing too serious (I think, it was dark), but very slow. The good travel of the morning does not apply in the Hoophorn stream either on wobbly legs in the dark, so that's slow too, as is the bike ride. A camper at the road end thought I might be in distress (why? it's only 1am).

I loved my bed back at Unwin lodge, and the hitch-hiking back to Christchurch in the morning went amazingly well.

Dave

CLIMIE RIDGE

1 March 2026

Jackie West

I first went up Climie Ridge in the mid-1980s on a trip led by the Tristrams. It was fine when we started but after a few hours it began raining and the temperature plummeted. We stood trying to shelter under trees as we quickly ate lunch. By the time we popped out of the bush onto the road it was snowing. The next time was on a trip led by Patrick Fotheringham during the 1990s. Fast forward to the 2020s when John Evans led a trip which Chris and I were not able to go on. After reading John's account in the Hills and Valleys we decided to give it a go by ourselves as part of getting fit for some tramping trip we going on. We first led Climie Ridge as a club trip in 2022 and then again in 2023 and 2025. This year Chris was unable to go but I led the tramp with five other people with me who had been on the 2025 tramp.



Having been on Heather's Lowry/Lees Grove tramp the previous Sunday and seen three large trees that had been blown over during the violent storm on Monday 16 February I warned the group as we left the cars that we could come across a few windfalls. The day was fine but windy so we found a sheltered spot for morning tea. It wasn't until after we had crossed the section with short scrubby vegetation and great views towards the Mangaroa Valley and were back in the tall trees that we came across the windfalls. Two large beech trees high on the ridge and exposed to the northerly had tumbled over leaving their roots exposed and taking a few smaller trees with them.

Fortunately we found no more windfalls from the storm. We dropped down on the leeward side of the ridge for lunch and afterwards continued our journey to the road arriving at two o'clock. After a stop for a chat began what is for me the worst part of the tramp the journey down Climie Road and back to the cars.

The Climie Ridge climbers were: Heather Eskdale, Clare Kelly, Ann Hayman, Neil Parker, Jim Cousins and Jackie West leader and writer.

Jackie

PINUS CONTORTA ERADICATION WEEKEND AT MOUNT RUAPEHU 6-8 MARCH 2026

John Simes



Pine control

The pine eradication weekend went very well this year with well over 2000 trees pulled or cut. We had 10 members contribute to the effort and all enjoying the added comfort of the journey in the new van. The glamping option seems to be a winner for efficiency all round so is here to stay. It saves DOC hiring and towing a loo to the previous site along with a quite a few litres of water. We also get a better, more relaxed evening rest with time to chat after dinner on the ample deck space of the DOC operations centre in Ohakune. DOC are interested in reinstating the BBQ concept for the next occasion as this come a little cheaper than buying takeaways for the group. I note that DOC do seem to be getting better at working us in an area of higher need with less distance covered than in some years over the last decade or two. This works well as we get older! And as I have mentioned in the past, the efficiency of us doing it this way rather than them doing it by helicopter is a win, hands down. Let's keep doing it for another 45 years!

John

SEARCHING FOR THE LOST GENTLE ANNIE TRACK 12 March 2026

Bernice Deller

It was a slow start to our trip as we had a few pick ups to organise in the midst of heavy rush hour morning traffic, but we finally started our tramp at about 10:30 from Holdsworth Lodge.

We were repeating a trip run quite few years ago by Graeme Lythgoe and which four of our group had been on ie Chriselda, Murray, Foxy and Bob. They had ended up in Gentle Annie Creek on that occasion and Bob was hoping that we could avoid that scenario on this trip.

After crossing the bridge over the Atiwhakatu River and walking 50 metres or so, we turned left at the signposts and headed for Carrington Ridge.

We had been warned that it was mostly steep uphill until a lookout point about an hour or so up the track. When we got there, we decided to have a break. It was a beautiful day and we could see Powell Hut, Mt Holdsworth and up the Atiwhakatu Valley. We also saw a Karearea enjoying itself on a beautiful sunny day, swooping above the trees.

We carried along up the spur before dropping down to Gentle Annie Saddle and then up the other side to meet the Carrington Ridge Track. The bush was beautiful with lots of young seedling trees coming up alongside the track. I noticed lots of young lancewoods, in particular.

We had lunch at the intersection of our track and Carrington Ridge Track. It was a lovely spot and we were very grateful to have a longer rest and to refuel as by this time it was about 1:30pm.

After lunch we tramped further along the Carrington Ridge Track to Point 801, which is the intersection of the Carrington Ridge track and the original pre 1980 Powell Hut Track. We stopped for photos and some reminisces and then followed the Gentle Annie Track for a while.



Some of the old track was the kind of unbenched track that we all know from tramping in the Tararuas but there was an open area that Felicity remembered from the old days. It is pictured above middle.

We had a bit of trouble finding the track from the Old Rocky Outlook and we now think that perhaps we should have followed Foxy's suggestion of trying to find a way from the track before the Old Rocky Outlook. However, we took a different route and ended up going in the wrong direction. Bob was determined that we shouldn't end up in Gentle Annie Stream so we then bush bashed to our left for 15 mins or so until we found the Gentle Annie Track again. (above right)

By this time it was getting late so after a while and when the Gentle Annie track petered out, Bob decided to hop back onto the "new" track.

As we walked along the new track we came across many tree uprootings from the last storm, and another that was absolutely huge. It would have truly scary being in the bush on the day that these happened.

We got back to the mini-bus at about 5.30. It had been a lovely day's tramping in beautiful bush and great to do such an interesting trip so close to Holdsworth Lodge. We are planning to go again and to use the "new" track as access and to see if we can check out the route from the Old Rocky Lookout and then down from the point where we accessed the "new" track.



Thanks to everyone who came on the trip:

Doc Watson, Chris and Murray McMillan, Clare Kelly, Felicity Maxwell, John Fox, Jackie West, Bob and Bernice Deller.

Bernice

KAPAKAPANUI D1+ DAY TRIP SATURDAY 14TH MARCH Ann Hayman

Nine eager day trippers left the clubrooms in the minibus soon after 7:30am and were ready to start walking from the Ngatiawa road end (elevation 160m) east of Waikanae by 9:00am. Here we were joined by Kate. For seven of us this was our first Kapakapanui trip, two had tramped it decades ago, and only one in recent years. During the tramp, one or two expressed feeling a bit apprehensive prior to the walk because of the length, altitude gain and not knowing what to expect along the way.

It had rained consistently overnight, and the clouds slowly cleared as we drove over Transmission Gully. The day was sunny, with a light and sometimes cool wind in places.

The well-marked Kapakapanui loop track can be walked clockwise or anti clockwise. We took the clockwise option after the first fifteen minutes crossing the Ngatiawa river several times. The route heads up steeply for the first half of the way to Kapakapanui hut, easing off closer to the hut. We



Kapiti Island behind Hassan, Heather, Neil and Leanne

Photo: Ann Hayman

stopped for morning tea on route and reached the hut soon after midday for a welcome lunch stop.

Setting off for Kapakapanui trig around 1pm, the high point at 1102m, we encountered deep mud in places along the gently rising track. The view along the top ridge and near the trig made all effort worthwhile. We saw Kapiti Island and the clear blue sea and sky to our west. In another direction, the coast stretched northward

into the distance. We took our time to admire the view and refuel with food and drink.

From the trig it was all downhill, 942m, steeply in some places. We stopped twice to rest and refuel and kept a steady pace, taking care with foot placement as we made our way back down to the Ngatiawa river. A game of naming song titles with a colour in them helped take our mind of starting to ache bodies, and ease our way through the last hour of descent.

We arrived back at the minibus before 6pm, all delighted, smiling and happy to complete this harder than usual day tramp.

On the trip; Anna and William Liao, Andrew Robinson, Leanne Asher, Hassan Mohammad Pour, Heather Eskdale, Kevin DOC Watson, Neil Parker, Kate Livingston, Ann Hayman (leader)

Ann

ASCENT OF FIVE-MINUTE CREEK

Wednesday 18th March 2026

Mike Wespel-Rose

Three major side streams, each with a major bridge across it, drain into the Atiwhakatu from the true right between Holdsworth Lodge and Atiwhakatu Hut. They are:

- Holdsworth Creek
- Gerald's Creek
- Five-minute Creek.

Only the first is named on maps.

Just last week, four of us explored Holdsworth Creek up to the giant (height uncertain) waterfall, McGregor Falls.

I have been on a couple of great trips up Gerald's Creek.

But never up Five-minute Creek.

I asked around. Who had been up Five-minute Creek? So called because it is the creek five minutes before Atiwhakatu Hut. It drains into the Atiwhakatu from the large basin between the East Holdsworth and Jumbo spurs.

There was little feedback. Someone said they heard that hunters went up there. Another that they had been up there once and travel was OK. No obstacles that would prevent further progress up stream. I could not find any trip reports about this stream.

About halfway between the bottom of the stream and the top of the range there is a major fork in the stream. Out of this fork rises a spur that ascends to point 1367m on the range top, between Jumbo and East Holdsworth. A while ago I had contemplated this spur from the ridge above Jumbo. It appeared to me to be a most appealing route to ascend.

So I put this trip on the Wednesday trip list. It was listed as exploratory. There was no certainty we would get to the fork and up the spur. We might be forced out of the stream earlier and then need to take another route to somewhere on the East Holdsworth Track. Also, the length of time for the trip was uncertain. I wanted it to be advertised as a M/F trip but was encouraged to make it a fit trip. It is generally pretty difficult to get participants on fit trips.

For the first day of the planned trip, there was heavy rain forecast. Not a day for traversing an unknown stream or being on the tops. So I postponed it.

The next trip date was 18 March.

I ended up with four hardy souls. Lynne White, her son Matt, James Herdman and myself. Three or four others were interested but not available on that day.

We started walking at 8:45 a.m. from the Holdsworth Road end. The Atiwhakatu was low. Firstly we walked up the Atiwhakatu Valley, crossing other streams we had explored in the past.

At the third major creek and just five minutes from Atiwhakatu Hut we arrived at our creek. Map contours suggested easy going for the first while. However the going was pretty choked with scrub and wind falls and broken country. So we moved from terraces into the stream itself.

Going up valley was intriguing and exciting. At times easy – and then all of a sudden – another waterfall that presented a problem to find a way up or around. We alternated between stream banks, taking great care when we were in the water where the wet rocks were as slippery as ice. The way ahead would look straightforward, and then there would be a waterfall in a narrow vertical-sided gorge. But there was always a way around. Great, great fun. We passed the two significant side streams. And then, suddenly, we were at our fork. A good moment. Heading for point 1367m on the ridge above was realistic.

Out of the stream and into the forest. And onto the spur. Not well defined to start with, but we just needed to keep heading uphill – another 700 metres.

Early on the grade was steep and there were windfalls and big fallen trees to negotiate. Later the angle of the spur eased, and the forest became less cluttered. Travel became sweet and attractive – apart from the continuous climbing.

Questions now arose.

We could hear the wind thrashing the forest canopy above. How tough would the wind be above the tree line?

And would the leatherwood band be a problem at the bush edge?

As we emerged from the bush it was great to see that the leatherwood band would be easy enough to find a way through. It could have been much worse.

We had about 150 metres to climb to our high point. The ridge now steepened and narrowed. And the strong wind now battered us about well enough.

We had a little rest in the lee of the top ridge. Then we were onto the Jumbo/Holdsworth ridge track. The wind was challenging but manageable for our little group (I felt). The clouds were racing over East Holdsworth ahead. Down we went to the deep saddle, where there was some wind shelter. Then the significant climb back up to East Holdsworth Peak. At times the strong wind was from behind and gave us a welcome push up hill.

The party had had enough wind experience for the day so we turned off and headed down East Holdsworth Track. Entering the bush we were pleased with our escape from the buffeting.

The long downhill was eased by interesting conversation. And I think the track has been recently maintained and cleared.

Back at the Atiwhakatu River, we turned right for our last hour of walk back to the car. We stopped at a side stream for water. I had forgotten to fill my water bottle earlier in the day and had survived on just 300 ml until this point. Silly me.

We arrived at the car park at 6:50 p.m. That made it a 10hr 10 min day. And I'm not generous with breaks.

Lynne asked me, would I lead this route again?

Absolutely. I thought it a little beauty of a trip. But I would check first for low water flows and moderate winds on the tops. And I would carry a full water bottle.

Group members James Herdman (HVTC) Lynne White (TTC) Matt White (non affiliate) Mike Wespel-Rose (Leader, TTC, HVTC)

Mike