



*A place to rest on the Aorangi crossing.*

*Photo: Lex Grubener*

Please submit your **June 2026** H&V articles to the editor by **1<sup>st</sup> June 2026**

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## CLUB NIGHT PROGRAMME

Starts 7:30 pm promptly



### **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.

### **13 May : Chris McMillan – South Westland Tramping February 2026**

In February Chris McMillan led a couple of back-to-back trips in South Westland taking in the Copland Valley, part of the Haast-Paringa Cattle Track and the Mataketake Range. Hear about the trips which included hot pools, torrential rain, frog-filled tarns and a hut with a library.

### **20 May : Depika Patel – Changes in Indian Society at a Village Level**

Depika Patel travelled to India in January this year and was amazed by the changes that are happening in India (and Asia) that affect not only the environment but also every other facet of life; socio/economic/political. Her talk focuses on the challenges of economic development versus environmental concerns. She spent time visiting family in a village setting so offers a rural perspective.

Depika is a long-time resident of Kelson, Lower Hutt born and bred, and of proud Indian descent. She attended local public schools, a typical kid of the 80's. Depika has worked in the corporate property sector and owned a small business. She now focuses on giving back to voluntary/community groups, including with John Simes and other HVTTC members in the Parareho Forest Group that is a voluntary group of local residents who work in the Belmont Regional Park. She has been fortunate to travel extensively throughout the Asia/Pacific region and this is the base for her insights.

### **Also 20 May : Sales Table 7-7:30pm**

*It's the Sales Table night again. Contribute to the club's funds for special projects either by providing items to sell or by purchasing. Please bring along your items to sell by 7pm. Purchasers, remember to bring cash. Remember to retrieve your unsold items at the end of the evening. Food items such as baking, jam and relish, vegetables and fruit are consistently the best sellers..*

### **27 May : Quentin Duthie – Big country, big hopes: Price Range and the Gunn, Butler and Whataroa Rivers**

Quentin Duthie will present about his recent tramping trip to the Price Range and Whataroa catchment. This is superb tramping and transalpine country, but also ground-zero for Predator Free South Westland and Zero Invasive Predators work to eliminate possums, rats and stoats using innovative tech. Quentin is a former FMC Vice President and is currently Chair of Greater Wellington's Environment & Climate Committee.

### **3 June : Open Night – members' contributions**

Summer has drawn to a close, so come along and show up to about a dozen images of what you have been doing in the outdoors over the last few months. If you have more photos than that, contact Graeme McVerry at [graememcv2@xtra.co.nz](mailto:graememcv2@xtra.co.nz) for a dedicated talk later in the year, but also perhaps give a taster tonight of what's to come.

## **SPEAKERS REQUIRED FOR CLUB NIGHTS**

Thanks to the recommendations of club members and contributions volunteered by members and non-members alike, only two club night dates 17 June and 1 July remain unallocated through to the AGM at the end of July. However, there is plenty of scope for presentations after that. If you have been involved in activities that you feel may be of interest to members, or know of others who have an interesting tale to tell (especially if you know their contact details), please contact Graeme McVerry at [graememcv2@xtra.co.nz](mailto:graememcv2@xtra.co.nz)



## FORTHCOMING TRIPS



### NOTES

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

<b>May</b>				
1 – 3 May	T1			
	T2			
Sun 3 May	D1	Rangituhi/Colonial Knob	Van	Clare Kelly
		Bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park		Leena Stowell
8 – 10 May	T1			
	T2			
Sat 9 May	D1+	Clay Ridge / Harvaard Spur		Chris/Murray McMillan
Sun 10 May	D1			
		Bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park		Leena Stowell
15 – 17 May	T1			
	T2			
Sun 17 May	D1	Hemi Matenga Circuit		Kate Livingston
		Bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park		Leena Stowell
22 – 24 May	T1			
	T2			
Sun 24 May	D1	Stokes Valley Circuit		Dianna Rickman
		Bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park		Leena Stowell
29 My – 1 June		<b>King's Birthday Weekend</b>		
	T1+	Roaring Stag / Cattle Ridge	Van	Mel Stoneham
	T2			
Sun 31 May	D1	Kohekohe Walk		Doreen Courtenay
		Bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park		Leena Stowell
Mon 1 June	D1	<b>Trip Required</b>		<b>Leader Required</b>
<b>June</b>				
Tue 2 June		Moonlight Walk:- Haywards Reserve / Towai		Kirsten Reid
5 – 7 June	T1			
	T2			
Sun 7 June	D1	Turakirae Head Seals		Mel Stoneham
		Bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park		Leena Stowell

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### THE SALES TABLE : 20 MAY.

*See above*

### ART EXHIBITION

**Abby Brownsword**

This exhibition, 12 – 24 May, looks at various kinds of environmental science through several creative mediums and explores how art can be a communication tool for the promotion and education of environmental science. See page 16

### HUT KEEPERS

**22 July.**

The film Hut Keepers about volunteers maintaining back-country huts will be shown at the club night on Wednesday 22 July. (See Page 15) It will be preceded by nibbles. Entrance by koha to be split between the Back Country Trust and the film's producer Liam Hall. Put the date aside, the showing is likely to be popular. More details next month.

### HVTC 2026 PHOTO COMPETITION IS COMING

**Tania Hatfield**



It's time to start going through your photos in search of the best ones! HVTC will hold its 2026 photo competition in August. Full details (including the various categories) will be given in next month's Hills & Valleys.

*Tania*

[taniajh@xtra.co.nz](mailto:taniajh@xtra.co.nz)

# TRIP REPORTS

## GILLESPIE PASS : MOUNT ASPIRING NATIONAL PARK

February 2026

Mike Wespel-Rose

My wife Zita has a niece Beate, who married Silas last year in Germany. They are both German. As is my wife. This was the civil wedding. In June this year they will have the church wedding and reception for family and friends. In Germany. We will be going. We have been told we need to learn to dance the "Disco Fox". Good luck to us.!

As a between weddings honeymoon, the couple have come for a visit to Aotearoa/ New Zealand for 4 weeks. We accompany them on South Island tour. They are keen, young and fit outdoorsy types, so there will be lots of hiking.

Angelus Hut in Nelson Lakes

Mt Angelus

Avalanche Peak

Muller Hut

Gertrude saddle/Barrier Knob near Milford Sound

Gillespie Pass Circuit

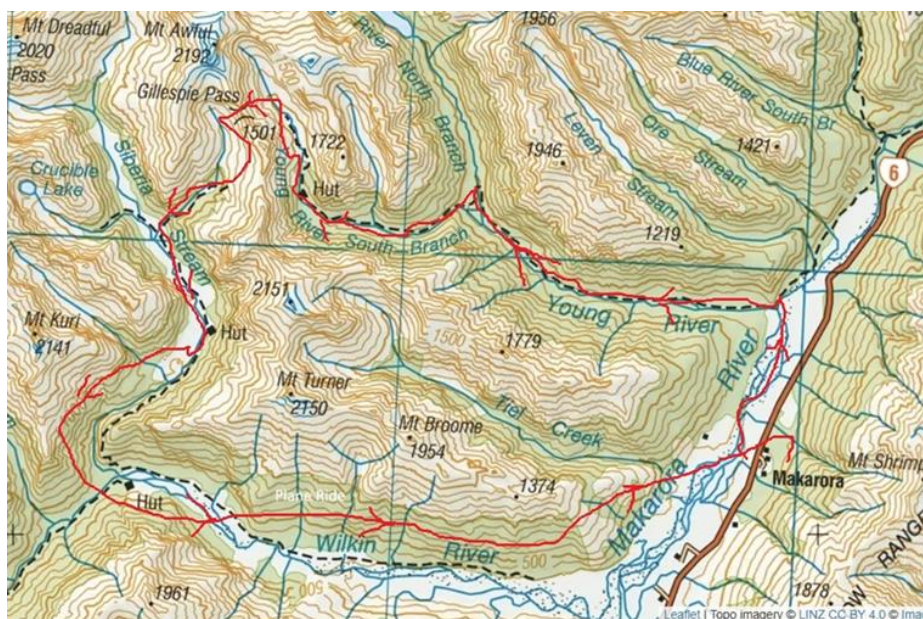
On our first day together, we camp at White Horse Hill at Mt Cook. Overnight we have 130kph winds. That was a rough night.

### The Gillespie Pass Circuit

The Gillespie Pass circuit is 3 days/2 nights. In Young Hut and Siberia Hut.

The weather is not critical on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> days, but I would really like a reasonable day for the pass crossing. However, the forecast for that day is persistently challenging with strong winds predicted.

The day before we start, we stay in an AirB&B in Makarora. Very sweet.



## Day 1

We pack our non-tramping gear back in our car – our new Toyota Yaris Hybrid- and drive across the road to the long term car park. (\$10 donation), We take our packs and head down to the jetty to pick up our jet boat ride. This is a 10 minute ride upstream to the forks of the Young and Makarora River. This saves either an extra 1.5 hour tramp or an attempt at a deep river crossing. For \$30 each we have a fun zoom up the river.

We start up the Young River valley, walking beside or above the river. There are sections where the track climbs steeply and the river thunders through a chaos of great shist boulders. Here the track can be rough. Other sections are across grassy flats with easy going and expansive views of the surrounding mountains. We get to Young Forks and cross the bridge over to the East branch of the Young. A sign warns that there has been a landslide in the west branch that formed a dam. But the security of the natural dam is uncertain. We are warned to move to higher ground should the river appear to rise quickly. And also, to take care in heavy rain. The fear is that the dam could collapse and send a tsunami downstream.

After a lunch with sandflies on a grassy flat , we continue up the east branch, at times climbing steeply above gorge sections. Bird life is wonderfully plentiful, Robins, Tui, Riflemen, Bell Birds.

I have taken some new advice with my pack. From the staff at the Mac Pac shop. 80% of the weight should be on the hips, 20% on the shoulders. So I have pulled my waist strap on super tight. My shoulders feel good but my hips and thighs are starting to ache horribly. I can hardly walk, especially uphill. This feels serious. Maybe I can't go on? How strange. I was OK 2 days ago on the climb to Muller Hut. Is this the beginning of the end of my tramping life. So sad.

But maybe it has something to do with my super tight waist belt. I undo this and try 100% of weight on my shoulders. Yes that's better. A lot better.

We reach Young Hut. 20 places. Very good condition. The first Backcountry overnight stop for our German guests. In our bunkroom in the night there is pneumatic drill sound levels of snoring. Eventually I take my mattress into the main room and get a couple of hours of quiet sleep.

I am still a bit anxious about the forecast weather – gales as we cross the pass. I ask a couple who had come across the day before how it was. Miserable, they said. Really steep and it rained the whole time.

I am still a bit anxious about the forecast weather – gales as we cross the pass. I ask a couple who had come across the day before how it was. Miserable, they said. Really steep and it rained the whole time.

## Day 2

Here at Young hut the next morning, it is cool and calm. We head off at 8.15am. We are not the first.

Young Hut is at 760 metres. The top of the climb is at 1660 metres. 900 metres of climb. First up through forest for an hour. My hips are good. We break out of the forest into the upper Young Basin. With Mt. Cook Lillies and Daises and Mt Awful and other jagged ridges. And a wandering, chuckling alpine stream. Beautiful.

Zita and I were here 10 years ago. I remember the spur feeling steep, a hard climb, and a bit exposed. Today it feels like an interesting, secure and enjoyable climb to the pass. With my waist belt loose my hips are fine. And of course, the view opens out wonderfully.

At the ridge top it is cool, but the cloud base is above us. From the high point at 1660, we start our descent down the other side of the ridge. We can see the Siberia Valley and River far below. We find a sheltered spot among the boulders for an alpine lunch stop.

It's a long way down, following the foot pad along sharp little ridges, through giant boulders, down steep banks of gravel.

We are now into the forest above a new river. We climb high above the river to avoid a gorge. Finally, we arrive on the grass flats of the valley floor. 45 Minutes to Siberia Hut.

Henriette (or call her Henry) , the hut warden, is super friendly. And the sandflies are also welcoming. The hut is full. Tomorrow our plan is to walk the full way out to Makarora. Over 20 kms. Zita and I have done this before. In persistent rain. Some across farmland. Not so enticing really. We reconsider and think we will try and pick up a Jet Boat ride from Kerrin Forks. Just 2 hours walk away from Siberia Hut. But the cost is \$145 each. That's a lot. And no certainty there will be places on the boat.

Then Henrietta the warden says – would we like to fly out, from the air strip 10 minutes away across the river. \$50 each!

Would we!

There is a tourist excursion where people fly in in small Cessna's. From the landing strip, they cross the river and then walk 2 hours back to Kerrin Forks via a good track mainly in the forest, before they take the jet boat back to Makarora. Cost about \$560. So the 2 planes that drop the tourists off here near Siberia hut don't have any passengers on the return flight to Makarora. Henrietta gets it organized.



### Day 3

The planes come in at 9.15. The tourists empty out and we get aboard.

Off we go zooming down the bumpy grass strip across the flats and up into the air. Super views as we float down river in this little flying cocoon. After much too short a time we come in to land on the grass strip at Makarora. That was a great substitute for a day's slog.

We are soon changed and off down the road to Queenstown and maybe an ascent of Ben Lomond the next day. But that is only for the under 60's.

*Mike*

## PAPAROA GREAT WALK : 24TH TO 29TH MARCH

Ann Hayman



Ready to start at Smokeho car park – photo Zita

We were ready to go and loaded onto the minibus by 7am to catch our ferry on the first day, 24th March. The “we” being Ann Hayman (leader), Mike and Zita Wespel-Rose, Doc Watson, Andrew Robinson, Tony Birtwistle, Jo Scott, Jackie and Chris West. Sadly, Neil Parker was packed and ready to go and had to cancel at the last minute due to a nasty and worsening cold. Our ferry journey was a classic sunny stunner leaving Wellington and through the Marlborough Sounds. Fueled with food brought from home, the ferry and Picton Village Bakkerij we travelled to Punakaiki Beach Camp Cabins, checked in and quickly made our way to the Punakaiki Rocks Hotel for a scrumptious dinner. We had arrived and were ready to start walking in the morning.

We left the minibus in the Smokeho car park near Blackball to be picked up that day by the relocation service organized through the Punakaiki Beach Camp, stored safely and returned on our last day to our finishing place at the Camp. The historic Croesus Track to Ces Clarke hut was full of gold mining remnants such as huts and old equipment. We stopped for morning tea at the 1898 site of the second hotel for the miners, with a convenient picnic table. An hour further up the track we made our way to the historic Garden Gully hut, with two sacking bunks and a fireplace, a well restored remnant from gold mining days. We shared the grassy area with wekas while we ate lunch, trying our best not to “share” our food with these speedy cunning birds.

On the track nearby we stopped to watch a South Island Robin, hopping and rushing around, seemingly concerned by us. When it finally darted onto the track to snatch a worm the size of my middle finger, we realized we had disturbed the bird hunting.

The track ascended through beech and podocarp forest, opening to coastal views toward the coast before reaching the historic Croesus Top hut, a few minutes before Ces Clarke hut. The historic hut was another with two sacking bunks and a fireplace in well maintained condition. In contrast Ces Clarke 16 bunk hut, our accommodation for the night, had foam mattresses on four platform bunk areas, gas cooking, water and toilets. Here, and throughout the walk we experienced some of how the gold miners lived 125 years ago and noted the contrast with our current situation. This was informed by interesting talks from the two wardens, and historical poster signage in the huts and along the track. The walk to Ces Clarke hut was 4:45 hours from Smokeho carpark.

Keeping a weather eye open, Ann, Mike, Zita, Andrew and Doc made a late afternoon walk to Croesus knob and saw the panoramic views to the west coast while still visible. This track, and all tracks on the walk were well marked and formed. Croesus knob was less than 2 hours return from Ces Clarke hut, with a long stop taking in the views.



*Croesus knob – photo Zita*

On the advice of the hut warden, due to high winds we left before sunrise for Moonlight Tops hut. We were rewarded with a striking red band on the horizon as the sun emerged from the dark horizon. As the sky turned from red to purple we made our way past the Croesus Knob turn off and stopped to admire the artistic metal sculpture placed dramatically near the southern end of the Paparoa range. Walking on through the alpine scrub and tussock in full storm gear as the wind gathered strength, we found a place in the lee to stop and refuel before walking onto Moonlight Tops hut, a 20 bunk hut. Most of the way we had views of the nearby ranges, despite increasing low clouds and occasional rain. The last corner or two of track to the hut gave us gale force winds as we arrived early, soon after 10am at the hut. Here we warmed up, dried clothes as we stoked the fire, and settled in comfortably listening to the intense wind lashing and shaking the hut.

The track is shared with cyclists and we watched in amazement as during the day not one, but two cycling pairs came into the hut, shivering and wet, stood by the fire, drunk the hot beverage they

were given, listened to the warden saying they could borrow a sleeping bag and bed down, spend an hour deciding what to do and then went back outside to complete their single day cycle of the track. Meanwhile we settled into reading, playing cards, chopping wood and getting to know the Australian group of three who had the same hut nights as ourselves. The warden talk included mention of the great spotted kiwi sometimes seen and often heard around the hut. We heard gold mining stories including the 600 miners who at one time were mining gold from a quartz shoot studded with gold in the Croesus Knob area and in the Moonlight Tops area in the early 1890's. We heard that Moonlight was the name of an early gold miner, and not a reference to the light here at night. We heard the Pike River Mine tragedy story.



Early morning in the "Goblin Forest" – photo Ann

We were advised (by the warden and by DOC email to Ann) the track to Pororari hut would be closed from 2pm to 8pm the following day due to high wind. We set off again before sunrise, considering descent down the Pike River Memorial Track as an option if it was too windy to cross the exposed escarpment. Thankfully, after a sheltered walk through the "Goblin forest" as the light increased, we paused briefly at the start of the memorial track. The wind was not strong enough to stop us, and we

continued over the escarpment, pausing to

take "cloud vista" photos and stopping at the Emergency shelter just on the bush line. Here we refueled prior to descending into the bush and reaching Pororari 20 bunk hut before 2pm, a 5.5 hour journey. On reflection we thought we had all experienced stronger winds in the Tararuas or other tramps and could understand the caution of DOC and wardens closing the track on a Great Walk. Our only regret was missing the views along the tops from the escarpment in this part of the walk, mitigated by the thought of coming back and seeing them another time.

During the evening four marshals joined us and the Australians in the hut and started making dahl and other preparations for the 120 Paparoa Ultra runners expected the next day. On leaving the next day, we checked out through the runner's refreshment stand on the track nearby and started on down the upper Pororari river valley track. Mid-morning the first runner sped past, having left Smokeho car park before sunrise. We put the walkie talkies to good use with Tony carrying the rearguard transceiver announcing an oncoming runner to Doc holding the front radio who responded with a "thank you and over and out", while we all stepped aside to let the athlete past unhindered. The track descended through beech forest interspersed with northern rata, in some places with remnant cobbles from the old track to establish settlement in the upper valley. We received a mighty cheer and megaphone congratulations as the first trampers through the exit flags for the Paparoa Ultra run on reaching the end of the track at Punakaiki.

We were pleased to be reunited with the club minibus safe and sound relocated to the Punakaiki beach campgrounds. After a coffee or walk down the Truman track to the sea we drove to our accommodation at the Buller Bridge Motel in Westport for a shower and a final delicious west coast meal, this time at the nearby Denniston Dog. We celebrated completing a "great" Great Walk" and the good times shared with hiking friends.

Next day we were in Picton for the 2:15 ferry sailing and back in Wellington and heading for our homes by 6pm.

Thank you to everyone on the trip for making the tramp so enjoyable, making the best of the weather conditions and being such good company; truly a great walk.

*Ann*

# MOUNT LOWRY TO BUS BARN DAY TRAMP : 26.4.26

Heather Eskdale



We struck a perfect day for this well-trodden, approx. 15km day tramp. Having postponed due to the cyclone warning a fortnight earlier, it was wonderful to go ahead with it on such a lovely day.

A group of 15 set out from the Cheviot Road entrance with our usual amount of chat and energy. There always seems to be so much to catch up on with each other, even if we did so just last weekend! Lots of laughter and positivity – a great bunch of trampers out to enjoy one of the well-known routes on our local doorstep.

The track up to the ridge line always gets the body into gear and then it's a lovely wander through beautiful bush – with a few gnarly ups and downs just to keep us honest. Our usual morning tea break was on the top of Mt Lowry (688metres) and today, we were treated with a beautiful view down over the Wellington Harbour and surrounds.

We moved onward through the bush in all its glory and with its sneaky little ups and downs!! We noticed some massive trees, no longer able to stand and hold themselves proud and upright. They simply appeared to have just grown “old” and decided to lie down!! No doubt many were assisted by our recent weather behaviours, as there was also significant windfall along the way.

Our clever leaders found a great lunch spot, where we re-fuelled and re-energised before continuing along the well-marked track, dropping down to the valley and following the valley stream before the climb back up to the ridge. A couple of trampers chose to peel off down the Kereru Track and the rest of us continued along the ridge which veered and steered us down the Korohiwa Track, finishing at the Bus Barn.

Fortunately, we waited a mere 20 minutes or so for our bus – just enough time for a snack and a pat on the back! Off the bus back at Lowry Bay, we walked back along the road to the cars and headed for home. It was a great day on all fronts – people, weather, beautiful bush.....we are truly lucky to have the freedom to enjoy our beautiful country with such minimal restriction.

Thank you to all who made the day such an enjoyable one!

## Participants

Jim Cousins, Sarah Taylor, Bev Slater, Debbie Bainbridge, Marina Skinner, Clare Kelly, Sharman Robinson, Jan Arts, Chriselda McMillan, James Herdman, Tony Jaegars, Jackie West, Chris West, Catharina Fisher, Heather Eskdale

*Heather*



# RUAPEHU LODGE RESTOCK 2026

Lex Grubner

The HVTC Whakapapa lodge is all stocked up for the 2026 winter season thanks to a hardy group of 14 adults and some family, who braved the less-than-ideal conditions over the weekend of 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> April.

A very well coordinated trip organised by Kate Brownsword saw a full club minibuss depart the clubrooms at lunchtime on Friday carrying everything except the meat. We arrived at the carpark around 5pm and, as it was very cold but not raining, decided to carry all the toilet paper and tissues up to the lodge with our personal gear. More helpers had arrived in their own vehicles earlier, and dinner was already in preparation. We had permission to bring a 4WD ute up to Hut Flat on Saturday, so the task of moving the heavy supplies across to the lodge was much easier.

Saturday's weather, as forecast, was very wet and windy and predicted to only get worse, so we got stuck in with full wet weather gear and moved all the remaining supplies except the meat that was due to arrive around lunchtime. After lunch it was a few more trips to collect all the fresh and frozen meat. While most of us were lugging supplies to the lodge, an equally important team remained in the lodge labelling and storing everything away. We finished unloading by mid afternoon which was just as well as visibility was down to only a few metres.



The rest of Saturday was spent sorting everything out and relaxing. Come Sunday after breakfast, we had a clean-up, said our goodbyes and returned home.

What a great resource the HVTC has with the Whakapapa Lodge and it offers something for everyone. A base for tramping, rock climbing, skiing, exploring, or just spending some time out with family and friends. An added bonus, many of the supplies you need are already there and don't need to be carried in, courtesy of the restock team volunteers.

*Lex*



## UPDATE ON OUR CLUB ROOMS.

Doc Watson



I thought I'd add this photo of the refurbished window frames including the new paintwork on the Eastern wall of our hall.

It's not too often that club members get to see this part of the hall on a Wednesday night, thus I want to highlight the work that has been completed. Unfortunately, it had become neglected over time and the 5 opening windows had become seized.

After many hours of freeing up the window frames and giving them a coat of paint both inside and out, all five windows can now be opened with ease.

*Doc*

## ABANDONED BOULES



This box of boules (=petanque) has been at the clubrooms for some time with no apparent owner or user.

Anyone know whose it is?

If not it might be sold at the sales table.

Contact Graeme 021 154 3850

## IN MEMORY

### GRAEME STEVENS

9 April 2026

A former Club member, Graeme Stevens, passed away on 9 April age 93. He joined HVTC in 1960 upon his return with a PhD in Geology from Cambridge University.

He rejoined the Geological Survey and became their Chief Palaeontologist (Fossils) and world renowned for Ammonites and Belemnites that became important in oil exploration. Many may have seen the giant Ammonite displayed at Te Papa that was discovered in a cliff on a new road to Kawhia. He led a team that discovered that. A French expedition in the Himalayas unknown to him named a new discovery after him: Stevensite!!

As well as scientific papers he wrote many public books, some of which he donated to our Club library e.g. ; "The Geology of the Tararuas", "Shaky Isles", "New Zealand Adrift" and in particular "Rugged Landscape", the geology of Central New Zealand which became a standard science text book for many Secondary Schools. The Soil Bureau Staff newsletter review stated, "Graeme was able to describe scientific terms in layman's language". He gave many public addresses, including to our Club – he was an expert on the structure of the Hutt Valley/Wellington Faultline and aquifer.

John Simes and Lloyd Homer were close colleagues – Lloyd's photo featured in his books.

He was awarded : QSO, FRSNZ, DSc, PhD.

*Alan Stevens*

### PAM BRUCE

10 April 2026

Memories of Pam Bruce will be included in a future edition of "Hills and Valleys"

### RIDGWAY LYTHGOE

18 April 2026

*Ridgway Lythgoe was the twin brother of Graeme Lythgoe, joining in many of Graeme's HVTC tramps. The following was written by Dave Scoullar, a stalwart of Whanganui TC.*

## Ridgy: A Tramping Club Legend

### By Dave Scoullar

A globetrotter, past (Whanganui) club president and a leader of many hardcore tramps, Ridgway Lythgoe died on 18 April after a long illness. He was 81. Ridgy travelled extensively in Europe, Asia and Africa, visiting more than 100 countries. He went to both the South and North Poles, wintered over in Antarctica and crossed the Sahara Desert twice by landrover.

Trained as a motor mechanic, he was later an instructor at Outward Bound and a Lands and Survey ranger at Ohakune and Pipiriki. He became a club member in 1988 after joining DOC in Whanganui the previous year.

He was later the Whanganui field centre manager for DOC and having him as a club member was valuable when we had requests of or issues with the department.

Originally a Hutt Valley boy, Ridgy was drawn to the Tararua Ranges and made his first tramp there with his older brother at the age of 16. He considered his most memorable tramps to be twice completing Schormann-Kaitoke (SK) trips. This is a demanding task which involves covering all the tops of Tararua Ranges from north to south over a weekend. He also climbed all the 1500ft peaks in the Tararuas in a single weekend.

Ridgy led many memorable multi-day tramps for the WTC including the North West circuit of Stewart Island, the Dusky Track in Fiordland, across the Kaweka and Kaimanawa ranges from Hawkes Bay to Lake Taupo, in Whirinaki Forest Park and in Urewera National Park.

Although his favourite hut meal was an extra hot chilli concarne, we will remember him for his pasta meals — usually the same recipe night after night. For years he was chief sausage sizzler at our end of year BBQ.

An innovator, his favourite tramping gear was Teva sandals and he introduced a number of clubbies to the joys of sandal-wearing.

Asked for his most embarrassing tramping moment in a Trampler profile published in 2009, Ridgy said, “ There has been more than one over the years, especially when I get people lost. The Burn Hut fiasco would be right up there.”

Ridgy won't be remembered for his blunders but for his tremendous contribution to our club. For us he is up there with such legends as Harry Stimpson and Tom Luff.

*Dave*

## MEMBERSHIP MATTERS.

Please welcome Sarah Peters as a new member. We look forward to joining you on club trips.

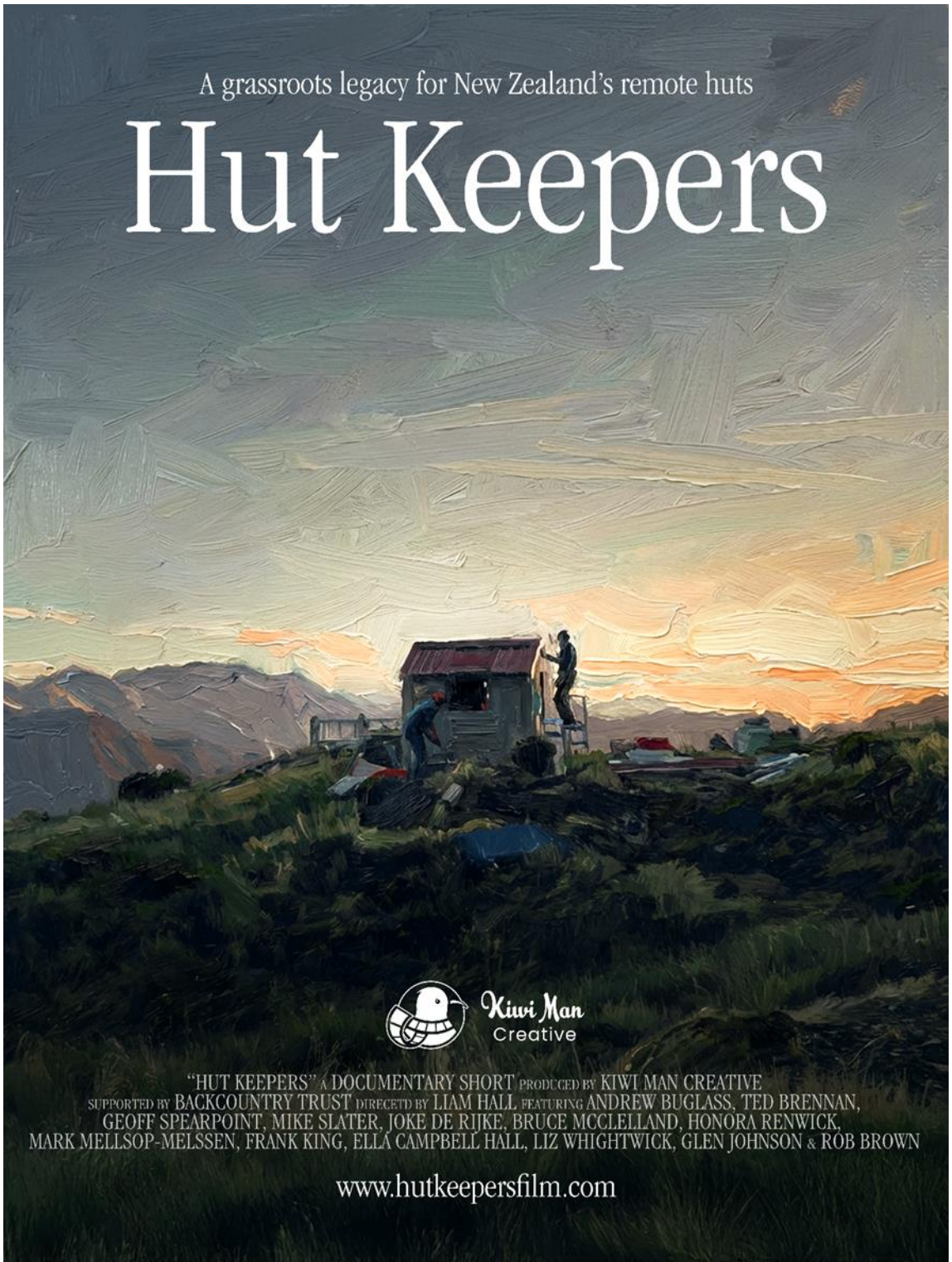
*Doreen Courtenay*

Membership Officer



A grassroots legacy for New Zealand's remote huts

# Hut Keepers



Kiwi Man  
Creative

"HUT KEEPERS" A DOCUMENTARY SHORT PRODUCED BY KIWIMAN CREATIVE  
SUPPORTED BY BACKCOUNTRY TRUST DIRECTED BY LIAM HALL FEATURING ANDREW BUGLASS, TED BRENNAN,  
GEOFF SPEARPOINT, MIKE SLATER, JOKE DE RIJKE, BRUCE MCCLELLAND, HONORA RENWICK,  
MARK MELLOP-MELSEN, FRANK KING, ELLA CAMPBELL HALL, LIZ WHIGHTWICK, GLEN JOHNSON & ROB BROWN

[www.hutkeepersfilm.com](http://www.hutkeepersfilm.com)

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# ART EXHIBITION

Abby Brownsword

*This exhibition looks at various kinds of environmental science through several creative mediums and explores how art can be a communication tool for the promotion and education of environmental science.*

## TRAVERSING MATTER

AN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE ART EXHIBITION



**ABBY BROWNSWORD**  
**DONA PARKER**  
**EMMA FAFEITA**  
**ZOE ELMY**

TE WHARE MANAAKI O TODA  
GALLERY  
287 CUBA STREET  
TE WHANGANUI-A-TARA

OPENING NIGHT 12TH MAY  
5:30PM  
12TH - 24TH MAY  
WEEKDAYS 10AM - 3PM  
SATURDAYS 11AM - 2PM  
CONSERVATION SPEAKERS  
20TH MAY  
UPDATES AT  
@traversing\_matter AND  
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