



A film by Liam Hall, being screened in the clubrooms on 22 July. Doors open at 7:00pm (see overleaf).

Please submit your **August 2026** H&V articles to the editor by **2nd August 2026**

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

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

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Editor H&V : Bruce Miller 027 563 5966 the-bruce@xtra.co.nz



CLUB NIGHT PROGRAMME

Starts 7:30 pm promptly



1 July : 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.

8 July : Jonty Crane – Hiking in Greece and Gran Canaria

Jonty spent three weeks hiking in the Canary Islands and Greece, walking the trails of Gran Canaria, Crete, and the Menalon Trail in the Peloponnese. Along the way he walked through deep gorges, volcanic landscapes, spectacular coastlines, ancient ruins, limestone mountains, and fertile plateaus. Highlights included exploring ancient ruins, mountain villages, and a near absence of other hikers, while less welcome experiences included being chased by a three-legged dog and enduring the worst storm to hit the Canary Islands in 13 years.

15 July : Rebecca Thornley – Hiking and exploring Norway – Jotunheimen and Lofoten

Ever thought about adventures in Norway? Rebecca Thornley will be presenting outdoor experiences from her trip to Norway in 2025. With endless opportunities for outdoor pursuits, Rebecca will share adventures that are accessible from various Norwegian cities, and hiking in Jotunheimen National Park and the Lofoten Islands.

An avid explorer, Rebecca passionately embraces every opportunity to get out in the wilderness, both in NZ and overseas. Through adventures, Rebecca has developed a deep appreciation for nature, and a corresponding keen interest in environmental management. When she is not in the outdoors, Rebecca can be found working as the General Counsel for the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment - a role which allows her professional pursuits to complement her private interests.

15 July: Sales Table

After a break last month, the Sales Table is back tonight. Please bring your items for sale by 7 o'clock to allow the table to be set up before the buyers arrive. Food items, whether fruit and vegetables, jams and relishes, or biscuits and cakes are most popular, but books and clean tramping gear and clothing in good condition are also welcome. Remember to collect any of your items that are unsold at the end of the evening.

22 July : Light refreshments followed by the film Hut Keepers – reservations essential

There will be a special showing this evening of the film **Hut Keepers** by kind permission of its producer Liam Hall. The film celebrates volunteers maintaining New Zealand back country huts.

Entrance by gold coin koha with proceeds to the Back Country Trust and Liam.

Light refreshments will be provided by the Social Committee from 7pm, with the film of approximately 50-minutes duration starting at 7:30pm. Please be there early to allow the showing to start on time.

Reservations are essential because seating is limited, and numbers need to be known in advance for catering. RSVP to Pamela at pamela.campbell@xtra.co.nz by Sunday 19 July for your place, if not booked out earlier. Please let Pamela know if you need to cancel so your seat can offered to those on the waiting list.

29 July : HVTC Annual General Meeting

See details in notices from the General Committee in June and July 'Hills & Valleys'.

5 August : Michael Flyger – Te Wai Takamori o Te Awa Kairangi

Learn about aspects of this project that is transforming Lower Hutt. It includes flood protection work, the Melling Transport Improvements, and Hutt City Centre urban revitalisation.



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.

July				
3 – 5 July	T1	Trip required		
	T2			
Sun 5 July	D1	Red Rocks Track		Leader Required
		Bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park		Leena Stowell
9 – 12 July		Matariki (Fri 10 July) Holiday Weekend		
	T1	Trip required		Leader Required
	T2	Kaweka Ranges: Makahu-Ballard-Te Puia	Van	Andrew Robinson
Sun 12 July	D1	Destination TBA		Diana Rickman
		Bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park		Leena Stowell
17 – 19 July	T1	Trip required		Leader Required
	T2			
Sun 19 July	D1	Wainuiomata Water Catchment		Nick McBride
		Bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park		Leena Stowell
24 – 26 July	T1	Trip required		Leader Required
	T2			
	D1	Trip required		Leader Required
Sun 26 July		Bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park		Leena Stowell
Tue 28 July		Moonlight Walk: TBA		
August				
31 Jul – 2Aug	T1	Trip required		Leader Required
	T2			
Sun 2 Aug	D1	Trip required		Leader Required
		Bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park		Leena Stowell
7 – 9 Aug	T1	Stanfield Hut, Ruahine FP	Van	Andrew Robinson
	T2			
Sun 9 Aug	D1	Trip required		Leader Required
		Bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park		Leena Stowell

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Congratulations to HVTC member Nick McBride, who was recently re-elected as a member of the Federated Mountain Clubs (FMC) Executive Committee. Thank you to Nick for contributing your expertise and representing HVTC on the Executive.

On 13 June I attended the online AGM for FMC. The Vice-President, Liz Wightwick, who chaired the meeting gave an update on behalf of the new President, Allan Brent, who was unable to be there.

He is concerned about the sustainability of the volunteer Executive Committee, especially with the current pressures on conservation and outdoor recreation. Allan plans to reset FMC's focus on recreation. The Executive Committee will shift to mainly online meetings and one in-person meeting a year.

The Executive will also be looking at working more closely with members, including clubs. I think it would be useful if FMC can support greater connection between clubs so we can better learn from each other.

One glaring example of the pressures on conservation and outdoor recreation is the Conservation Amendment Bill, which will prioritise economic use of public conservation land.

On Thursday, Conservation Minister Tama Potaka announced that he would remove one of the most controversial parts of the Bill, which would have made it easier to dispose of conservation land.

But the economic development and other concerning aspects of the Bill won't change.

HVTC's Environmental Convenor, Derek Richardson, is working on a submission on behalf of the club.

Anyone can make a submission by 11.59pm on Thursday 2 July here: [Conservation Amendment Bill Submission - New Zealand Parliament](#)

Forest & Bird has useful online resources and FMC has joined other recreational organisations in opposing the Bill: [Outdoor Recreation Sector Unites Against the Conservation Amendment Bill - FMC](#)

Thank you for your support.

Ngā mihi nui

Marina Skinner

President

FROM THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - Wednesday 29 July, 2026

The Annual General Meeting of the Hutt Valley Tramping Club will take place in our clubrooms at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 29 July, 2026. The General Committee warmly welcomes your presence at this meeting.

An important function will be the election of Officers and members to the General, Ruapehu and Social Committees.

Nominations for all positions on these committees will be received by the Secretary until Wednesday 1 July.

The General Committee still requires a Vice-President. There is also a vacancy for a General Committee member.

The Ruapehu Committee has one general vacancy as does the Social Committee.

We need our members to fill the above positions so that we can continue the activities offered within the Club. Please talk to any of the present members of the committees about any of their roles and duties. You are welcome to contact Marina (ph 021 792 260).

Nomination forms are available at the clubrooms and from the Secretary.

Any Notices of Motion for consideration at the AGM should be provided to the Secretary before Wednesday 1 July.

The formal Notice of the Annual General Meeting will be distributed to members by email on or before the 15th July. Included in this email will be the Annual Report and the Performance Report, which includes our Annual Accounts.

Regards

Emma Dobbie

HVTC Secretary

UPCOMING EVENTS

THE SALES TABLE : 15 July.



See above

REMINDER 2026 HVTC PHOTO COMPETITION - ENTRIES CLOSE 26th JULY

The deadline for entries for the 2026 HVTC photo competition is fast approaching. Don't miss out - have your entries in by the closing date of 26th July.

Full details of the categories and conditions of entry are given in the June Hills & Valleys. Remember placing first or second in an FMC category in the club competition is the only path for HVTC members to enter the nationwide FMC competition. There are also HVTC only categories. Except for the historic category, entries must have been taken since 1 September 2024.

You may enter up to 4 images in each category, and 12 in total. The FMC competition requires file sizes between 1 MB and 5 MB, and this is a good guide for the HVTC categories too. Please submit as .JPG or .TIF files. Reread the article in the June H&V for details on the categories and the required naming conventions.

The images, and comments, will be presented by the Competition Judge on the club night of Wednesday 26th August 2026, with cups awarded to the winners in most categories.

Please submit your digital images to Tania Hatfield (taniajh@xtra.co.nz) as email attachments or through Google Drive. I'll also accept entries on USB data sticks at club nights but won't be there every week. My laptop doesn't have a drive to read CDs or DVDs.

The deadline for entries is midnight Sunday 28th July – to allow time to collate entries, for the judge to deliberate and for cups to be engraved. • The entries must satisfy the following filename format: Code (given below) Photographer Caption e.g. ABN Joe Blogs Crater Lake

Please take the time to name your photo files in this format - and provide a text listing in the same format, either in your email or as an attachment. A few minutes of your time saves me hours of work renaming and tabulating the files.

WINNERS OF CUPS LAST YEAR

Please return the cups to the Social Committee by the end of July to allow time for cleaning and engraving.

Good luck for the competition.

Tania Hatfield

Organiser, 2026 HVTC Photo Competition
taniajh@xtra.co.nz

UPCOMING EVENTS AT RUAPEHU LODGE

<i>In</i>	<i>Out</i>	<i>Event</i>	
Mon 29 June	Fri 3 July	July School Holiday Week 1	Contact Booking Officer (Alison Newbald) ruapehubookings@hvtc.org.nz
Mon 6 July	Fri 10 July	July School Holiday Week 2	Contact Booking Officer (Alison Newbald) ruapehubookings@hvtc.org.nz
Mon 24 Aug	Fri 4 Sept	Club Uni Trip	Contact Kate Brownsword the.brownswords@xtra.co.nz ph.027 562 0177
Mon 07 Sept	Fri 11 Sept	Club Spring Ski Week	Contact Rachel Bruce ral. Bruce@xtra.co.nz ph. 027 486 8961
Mon 21 Sept	Fri 25 Sept	October School Holiday Week 1	Contact Booking Officer (Alison Newbald) ruapehubookings@hvtc.org.nz
Mon 28 Sept	Fri 2 Oct	October School Holiday Week 2	Contact Booking Officer (Alison Newbald) ruapehubookings@hvtc.org.nz

Booking can be done by contacting the Booking Officer Alison Newbald by:

- Email to Ruapehubookings@hvtc.org.nz , or
- Phone to 027 451 2587 and leave a message if there is no reply.

So, time to start planning some trips up the mountain whether it be for skiing, climbing or just rambling around enjoying the fantastic mountain environment.

This list doesn't mean that you have to go on an organised trip. There are plenty of other opportunities to use the lodge throughout the winter season for skiing, climbing, ski touring or just relaxing. Just pick a time, contact the booking officer (details listed above) then come on up.



SPRING TRAMP TO NELSON LAKES: EXPLORE THE RAGLAN RANGE

October 31st - November 6th

Chris Keen

A mix of tracks and open tops, this T2 tramp will take us past - Hellfire Stream - Misery Stream - Lost Stream - Branch River & Lees Creek.

Raglan range is an amazing set of valleys to explore with beautiful valleys, thick beech forests, tarns to swim in and tussock tops to admire the views.

Most days will include 6-8 hours walking with great camping spots, mixed with some huts.

Currently we have 4 trampers booked, so there is space for a couple of others to join us.

Please contact me if you are interested on 022 652 4002 or keen2print@gmail.com

Chris

RUAPEHU ROUNDUP

John Simes

The stats have come in for last season. After an excellent summer usage the lodge has managed an operating surplus on 690 bed nights. This pretty much mirrors what happened last season with not quite enough winter activity to make ends meet, but with the very welcome efforts by the club to boost summer use. Quite a crew helped to increase this summer occupancy over previous years, and we are very grateful to those who organised and the many who participated.

On the maintenance side Russell Oliver has again worked wonders with the ancient windows in the foyer work room. These are now replaced with new sashes, modern double glazed units and new window furniture. There just remains the lady's bathroom for this window replacement task to be completed and Russell has plans to achieve this over the coming summer. A small team of enthusiasts are also working on a replacement for the now aged water pump. The planned new pump will not be visible as it will be a submersible pump and lodged in the bottom of the water tank. No more pesky priming of the pump to get the lodge up and running although the shut off valve procedures in the bathrooms will still all be the same. All this work helps maintain our lodge status as one of the tidiest and best maintained lodges on the mountain. A great tribute to our enthusiastic volunteers.

John

SHAUN BARNETT - A WILD LIFE

Podcast

A special episode of The Tramping Life podcast has been released to mark the second anniversary of Shaun Barnett's passing.

The episode features memories and reflections from Kathy Ombler, Geoff Spearpoint, Peter Laurenson, Robbie Burton, Chris Maclean, Craig Potton, Jock Phillips, Kemi and Nico, Alistair Hall, and Darren Pegram. Together, their stories paint a picture of a life well lived and of a man who helped shape tramping in Aotearoa.

Shaun was one of New Zealand's most respected tramping writers, photographers, editors and advocates for the backcountry.



He died in June 2024 at the age of 55, following a year-long battle with brain cancer. His passing was felt deeply throughout the outdoor community, not only because of what he contributed, but because of how he lived and how he treated people.

Over a career spanning more than three decades, Shaun was editor and later roving editor of Wilderness magazine, editor of FMC's Backcountry, and the author or co-author of several seminal books, including Classic Tramping in New Zealand, Tramping in New Zealand: A History, Sheltered from the Storm, and A Bunk for the Night. Alongside this work, he gave generously to conservation, mentoring, advocacy and community life.

His writing was meticulously researched, deeply informed by history, and grounded in a

genuine love of people and place. His knowledge of New Zealand's tracks, huts, landscapes and tramping history was extraordinary, and he shared it with humility, warmth and quiet generosity.

The Tramping Life is available on all major podcast platforms and at www.thetramplinglife.com .

Jonty Crane

TRIP REPORTS

ROARING STAG

Overnight Trip - King's Birthday Weekend 2026

Kirsten Reid



The original plan for the weekend was a two-night trip with a day walk to Cattle Ridge. However, when Mel was unable to lead the trip, Mary and Kirsten quickly came up with an alternative adventure – an overnight tramp to Roaring Stag Hut. This allowed everyone to get a few jobs done at home on Saturday while still making the most of the King's Birthday weekend with a great walk in the bush. In the morning, we were off smartly having

enjoyed hot coffee and our own breakfasts. We enjoyed the meander up the river to Cone Hut and stayed left to climb for just under an hour before enjoying the ridge before descending into Waiohine Gorge. We purposely stopped for lunch before the descent as the bush was so lovely and we were still enjoying each others' company.

Mary, Darren, Louise, Valray, Lex, Doc, Diana and Kirsten piled into the club van and headed for the Putara Road end, with a mandatory coffee stop at Wild Oats along the way. Arriving at the car park, we found it packed and immediately started wondering just how busy the hut might be!

Despite it being the first weekend of winter, the weather was remarkably warm. The walk in was a pleasure, following the river and crossing the swing bridges while enjoying the stunning scenery. We met plenty of trampers heading out as we made our way up the climb to the Roaring Stag/Herepai Hut track junction, where we stopped for lunch. With blue skies overhead and beautiful bush all around, it was the perfect afternoon to continue on to Roaring Stag Hut.

On arrival, Mary, Darren and Doc set up their tents while the rest of us claimed mattresses in the hut. To our surprise, there was only one other person staying overnight, leaving plenty of room for everyone. The afternoon rolled into evening with pre-dinner nibbles, plenty of conversation and lots of laughter. Mary treated us to her now-famous kransky and pumpkin risotto, which was a definite highlight of the trip. After a relaxed evening enjoying good company, we finally called it a night at “tramper’s midnight”.

Rain had been forecast for Monday, so we packed up expecting a damp walk out. Instead, we were treated to another warm and pleasant day. The return journey was relaxed and enjoyable, giving us more time to appreciate the beautiful bush and each other’s company.

Once again, it was a trip filled with great people, plenty of laughs, and the simple joy of escaping into the outdoors for a small adventure. The club van continues to be a fantastic asset, making the journey part of the fun as we travel together.

A huge thank you to everyone who came along and helped make it such an enjoyable weekend. And Mel – we did look up towards Cattle Ridge and agreed that we’re still very keen to give it a go another time!

Kirsten

BURN HUT - A TRAMP OF TWO HALVES

13th and 14th June 2026

Kirsten Reid

After introductions and a catch-up at the clubrooms, Andrew, Doc, Janine, Chris and Kirsten set off for Shannon. As tradition dictates, the journey included a stop for coffee, and for some, a pre-tramp pie!

From Shannon we followed the long, winding road into the hills behind the Mangahao Power Station. Opened in 1924, Mangahao was New Zealand’s first large hydroelectric power station. The road was in excellent condition—far better than on previous visits—and before long we reached No. 3 Reservoir.



Our plan was to complete a loop walk, starting from the Mangahao Lower No. 2 Reservoir and returning to the van on Sunday morning.

After parking, we walked along the road back towards the Lower No. 2 Reservoir. Although it felt a little odd walking back past where we had just driven, it was a pleasant and easy start to the trip. Crossing the dam, we entered the bush and followed the river through calm,

picturesque scenery. Before long we reached the junction and began climbing through beautiful

forest to the ridge. The day was overcast, but we still enjoyed occasional glimpses of the surrounding landscape as we made our way to Burn Hut.

Burn Hut is a well-designed six-bunk hut and, best of all, it's free. While it lacks a veranda, it has a useful foyer area for removing wet gear and storing packs above floor level.

On arrival, we were greeted by two very friendly young trampers who welcomed us with oversized bags of lollies. It may well have been the best hut welcome any of us have ever received!

Doc and Andrew set up their accommodation outside, while Janine, Chris and I claimed the last available bunks inside. We settled in for the evening and were entertained by our two young hosts and their dad. They enthusiastically shared stories of their adventures in the Tararua Range and were equally keen to hear suggestions for future trips.

After a delicious dinner, we headed to bed. During the night the wind strengthened and the rain arrived, signalling the end of the calm first half of our tramp. Andrew eventually joined us inside the hut, making himself comfortable on a mat in the foyer. Meanwhile, brave Doc managed to last the entire night outside!

Sunday dawned wet and windy. After assessing the conditions, we decided that completing the planned loop was not a wise option, as the river section could easily become unsafe. It proved to be a very good decision.

Dressed in full wet-weather gear, we all headed down together. The ridge was blustery and exposed, but we soon began descending towards the river. Chris generously offered to head ahead via the road and retrieve the van, an offer the rest of us were extremely grateful for.

The difference in the river from the previous day was remarkable. The calm, gentle water we had walked beside on Saturday had transformed into a fast-flowing torrent. We were thankful for first bridge that carried us safely across the first stream. As we negotiated the other two crossings, I was particularly grateful for the experience and expertise of Doc and Andrew.

Approaching the dam, we heard the warning siren indicating a water release. It certainly got the heart rate up! We were relieved to be crossing the bridge while the siren was silent—only for it to start again moments later.

Back at the road end, we enjoyed lunch while waiting for Chris and the van to arrive. None of us were disappointed to miss the final road section. Dry clothes soon replaced wet tramping gear, and we began the journey home.

Despite the rain, it was a wonderful adventure shared with great company. The beautiful bush, changing conditions and good humour throughout the weekend reminded us how fortunate we are to belong to a club filled with skilled, generous and supportive people. Thanks Andrew for leading.

This was my second visit to Burn Hut, and I'm still waiting to experience the spectacular sunrise, sunset and panoramic views that appear in all the Google photos. Maybe next time!

Kirsten

BARING HEAD PLANTING - 2026

Murray Presland

Planting seedling plants, shrubs and trees usually begins later in winter/early spring, giving the plants opportunity to establish root systems before the flush of growth occurs as soil and air temperatures rise in spring. This year's plantings out at Baring Head seem to have begun a little earlier than usual, but we have already taken advantage of a couple of warm, windless days to get around 400 *Muehlenbeckia astoni* into soil along the Fitzroy Bay beach - 7 HVTC volunteers on 11 June and 9 volunteers on 18 June.



Paula Warren (the Boss, Friends of Baring Head) and John Fox grubbing off the grass to make plots for planting. This is the really hard work!



Lots (6) of planters in action!

HVTC members have been making valued contributions to the development of East Harbour Regional Park at Baring Head since Graeme Lythgoe initiated the activities. In May 2026 an HVTC group biked out from Eastbourne to attack the horned poppy infestation along the Fitzroy Bay beach - that needs to be continued around to the Wainuiomata River mouth before the plants flower again - and some taupata seedlings have arrived recently, ready for planting. There will always be more "work" which we can contribute to out at Baring Head - and you will all be welcome to volunteer!

Murray

FLAPJACKS

A recipe from Clare Kelly

- 175g butter
- 175g golden syrup
- 175g brown sugar
- 250g whole oats
- 100g mix of nuts/ seeds/ dried fruit
- ½ lemon or orange, finely grated zest only
- 1/2 tsp ground ginger
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon

1. Preheat the oven to 150C/130C Fan/Gas 2 and line a 20cm/8in square baking tin with baking paper. Grease paper.
2. Melt the butter in a medium pan over a low heat. Add the golden syrup and sugar to the butter and heat gently. Once the sugar is dissolved and the butter is melted, remove the pan from the heat and stir in remaining ingredients.
3. Pack the mixture into the baking tin and squash down. Bake for 40 minutes.
4. Once cooked, remove from the oven, leave to cool for 15 minutes, then turn out onto a chopping board and cut into squares

Clare



Matariki (the Pleiades star cluster)

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.

Hut Keepers film - about volunteers maintaining back country huts

Entrance by koha with proceeds to the Back Country Trust and the film's producer Liam Hall

Doors open 7.00pm - Light refreshments will be served so please be there on time

7.30pm Movie starts - Duration 51 minutes

8.30pm approximately - Tea, coffee will be served

RSVP to Pamela at - pamela.campbell@xtra.co.nz by Sunday 19 July 2026 if not full earlier.
Book early because this showing is likely to be popular and there is a limit on numbers. Please let Pamela know if you need to cancel so your place can be offered to someone else.

One-off showing by kind permission of Liam Hall