



“Cone Tops” by Lex Grubner

Winner – FMC Category Above the Bushline with Human Element

Winner – HVTC Scenic Cup

Please submit your **October 2026** H&V articles to the editor by **4th October 2026**

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CLUB NIGHT PROGRAMME
Starts 7:30 pm promptly



2 September : Jonty Crane – Mongolia

Jonty has just returned from an 11-day hike in the Kharkhiraa and Turgen mountains in western Mongolia. Led by adventurer and author Tim Cope, the group hike followed traditional nomadic routes through vast steppe, alpine valleys and high mountain passes, with camels carrying gear between camps. Jonty will share encounters with nomadic families, and what it was like to hike through this remote and incredible landscape.



9 September : Robert Tristram – Te Araroa: Auckland Airport to the Cape

Robert will talk about another section of his south-north Te Araroa trek. In August he talked about the southernmost section. This time is about the northern-most part, covering the Te Araroa Auckland and Northland sections from Auckland Airport to Cape Reinga (also areas that are less visited by the club). These sections have some urban walking through Auckland, beaches, kauri forests, farmland and the rugged Raetea Forest.

16 September : Les Molloy - The 25-year campaign to protect the Olivine Range, Red Mountain and the Olivine Wilderness

Dr Les Molloy has a background in soil science (DSIR) and a lifelong interest in mountaineering -- and national park, wilderness and other protected area identification and management (including 10 years in the Department of Conservation and 20 years advising UNESCO on natural World Heritage identification).

In the 1960s and 1970s, Les's passion was exploring the more remote parts of the Southern Alps and Fiordland, especially the mountains eventually protected as the Olivine Wilderness Area.

Les has spent much of his life advocating for better protection for our mountain wilderness, particularly as a member of FMC's executive, through his several books, and through membership of government quangos like the National Parks Authority and the Nature Heritage Fund. He was closely involved in the nomination of all of New Zealand's (three) listed World Heritage sites.

His talk canvasses how his mountaineering developed into a concern to protect our precious remaining wilderness from commercial exploitation, especially mining, logging and the damming of wild rivers. In particular, he will illustrate FMC's long campaign to have Mount Aspiring National Park enlarged to include the Olivine Range and Red Mountain, and then for most of this mountainous wilderness to be eventually designated as the Olivine Wilderness Area.



Tempest (L) and Typhoon (R) on the Olivine Range

16 September : No Sales Table tonight

A combination of poor support in August and the non-availability of the organiser has led the Social Committee to cancel September's Sales Table. Look for it to be back in October.

23 September : Tony Birtwhistle and Jo Scott – Portugal 1 Lisbon, Porto and the Douro Valley

In June this year, Tony and Jo spent two weeks in Portugal sightseeing and enjoying self-guided day tramps with local company, Green Walks Portugal. Tony's first presentation (aided by Jo of course) will focus on the whys and wherefores of choosing Portugal and Green Walks plus the wonderful sights of Lisbon and Porto. Errant taxi drivers, a general strike, using a phone-based navigation App for the first time and a challenging language only made the adventure more enjoyable, if somewhat challenging. Tony will finish with the first instalment of the walking – the Douro Valley region famed for its wines

30 September : John Simes – What is it with John and native trees?

John had been reflecting on his lifelong passion for native trees when he was asked to give a talk to a Johnsonville gardening group in June on raising them. For the talk he focussed on some of the methods and how he goes about discovering, often by accident or good fortune, what to do or where to find material. He subsequently decided to refocus his presentation for a talk at HVTC as it gives him the opportunity to say thanks for the many occasions over the decades he has been helped by club members.

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!



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.

September 2026					
4 – 6	T1	Mitre Flats	Van	Kirsten Reid	
	T2				
Sun 6	D1	Southern Walkway		Heather Eskdale	021 108 8578
		Bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park		Leena Stowell	027 672 1604
11 – 13	T1				
	T2	Cow Ck Hut via Ruamahanga Gorge	Van	Andrew Robinson	022 692 8102
Sun 13	D1	Belmont Quarry		Derek Richardson	027 558 4573
		Bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park		Leena Stowell	027 672 1604
18 – 20	T1				
	T2				
Sun 20	D1				
		Bike ride 2hrs - 9.30 from Avalon Park		Leena Stowell	027 672 1604
25 – 27	T1				
	T2				
Sun 27	Daylight Savings Starts (Clocks Forward 1 hour)				
	D1				
30 Sep/5 Oct	T1+	Te Pua-a-Tane (Whirinaki FP)	Van	Mary Horner	027 345 7905

HVTC PHOTO COMPETITION 2026 WINNERS AND RUNNERS-UP

The results are in! Many thanks to our judge Sam Harrison for judging all the entries, and helpful comments on how a bit of photo editing can elevate a photo from good to great.

Winners and runners-up

FMC CATEGORIES:

ABOVE THE BUSHLINE – no human element

1st place	Andrew Fisher	<i>"The view from Chaos"</i>
2nd Place	Tania Hatfield	<i>"Cloudy Tops"</i>

ABOVE THE BUSHLINE – with human element

1st Place	Lex Gruber	<i>"Cone Tops"</i>
2nd Place	Andrew Fisher	<i>"Just Another Campsite"</i>

BELOW THE BUSHLINE – no human element

1st Place	Andrew Fisher	<i>"Sunbeams and Goblins"</i>
2nd Place	Ann Hayman	<i>"Rimu Twins"</i>

BELOW THE BUSHLINE – with human element

1st Place	Lex Gruber	<i>"Washpool Hut."</i>
2nd Place	Ann Hayman	<i>"Goblins in Goblin Forest"</i>

LONG EXPOSURE

1st Place	Lex Gruber	<i>"Kime Hut"</i>
2nd Place	Lex Gruber	<i>"Cone Tops LE"</i>

NATIVE FLORA AND FAUNA

1st Place	Andrew Fisher	<i>"The Sentinel"</i>
2nd Place	Jan Arts	<i>"Kereru in the rain"</i>

CLUB CATEGORIES:

OVERSEAS

1st Place	Andrew Fisher	<i>"A Stirling Day"</i>
2nd Place	Andrew Fisher	<i>"Snowgum"</i>

PERSONALITY

1st Place	Sharman Robinson	<i>"Madame President"</i>
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TOPICAL

1st Place	Ann Hayman	<i>"Goblins in the Goblin Forest"</i>
2nd Place	Ann Hayman	<i>"This tubeless tyre sucks"</i>

The Scenic Cup was awarded to Lex Grubner for his Cone Tops photo. (See front page)

Thanks to everyone who submitted entries, that is what helps makes this a good competition. There were no entries for Historical, Novice, or Print categories this year.

The winning photos in the FMC categories (Above Bush line - no human element; Above Bush line – with human element; Below Bush line – no human element; Below Bush line – with human element; Long Exposure; and Native Flora and Fauna) have now been submitted into the FMC Photo Competition.

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COMING UP AT RUAPEHU LODGE

Kate Brownsword

We are running the Spring Ski Week, Mon 7 to Fri 11 Sept. For information and bookings, please contact Rachel Bruce on ral.s.bruce@xtra.co.nz or 027 486 8961.





There's plenty of winter still to be had up at the club lodge on Ruapehu. Skiing, riding, walks, alpine fun, and enjoying the views, food and company!

ADDITIONAL EVENTS			
Mon 21 Sept	Fri 25 Sept	October School Holiday Week 1	Contact Booking Officer (Alison Newbald) ruapehub bookings@hvtc.org.nz
Mon 28 Sept	Fri 2 Oct	October School Holiday Week 2	Contact Booking Officer (Alison Newbald) ruapehub bookings@hvtc.org.nz

Of course the lodge is open throughout the winter season, so please, come up and enjoy the mountain and our lodge's famous views and hospitality, even if you are not a skier. Enjoy some good company with the option of walks and gondola rides! Whole week or just a couple of nights. Contact booking officer Alison Newbald on ruapehub bookings@hvtc.org.nz for availability and to book.

Hope to see you up there!

Kate

TRIP REPORT

STANFIELD HUT - 8/9 August 2026

Andrew Robinson

From the end of Tamaki West Road to Stanfield hut via the river route takes only a couple of hours so to make it worth the three-hour drive to the start the plan was to take the long route in via Traverse hut and Takapari Road. The minibus with six occupants and the Brownswords vehicle with its two occupants were at the road end by the appointed time where there were at least three

other vehicles. That meant taking tentage for all in case the hut was full. There had been snow during the week but that looked to be all gone so at least we wouldn't be needing crampons.

The leader fluffed around so we were later than anticipated getting away. When we had our first stop at 12:30 we still had a good hour or so to go to Traverse hut but the consensus was to make it a short stop and carry on to the hut for lunch. It was nearly 2 o'clock by the time we reached the hut which is accessible by 4WD from the Pohangina Valley - we had heard motorbikes on the climb up to the hut. The hut was in good condition for one accessible by 4WD but it was a bit gloomy.

After a half-hour lunch we headed north on the 4WD track that is Takapari Road. Although it was hillier than it looked on the map we made good time to the turnoff to Stanfield hut. From there the track through leatherwood was overgrown and a bit greasy so poles came in handy. After a short descent the track levelled off at an alternative track to Stanfield that I had decided against taking as it might require river crossings. There was a sign saying the track we were on was no longer maintained but it looked good enough to continue following. There was a trap line along it so it still gets occasional use. After an hour and a



Takapari Road

quarter we got to where the track descends to Stanfield hut. An ancient sign said $\frac{3}{4}$ hours to Stanfield hut which I thought a bit optimistic given we had 600 metres of descent but we still ought to be able to get to the hut before dark. The top part was the steepest and I was hopeful that once we'd done that the track would improve but it didn't really. On the positive side from time to time we could see the hut at the bottom of the spur and there was no sign of smoke from the chimney. Hopefully the occupants of the other vehicles had gone a couple of hours further on to Cattle Creek hut. Eventually the darkness caught up with us and we had to get out head torches. The last fifty minutes of what turned out to be a two-hour descent was done by torch light. On arrival at the hut there was only one other occupant so there were bunks for whoever wanted one. The fire was going so the hut was pretty warm which had some of us tossing up between sleeping in a tent or staying in the hut and not getting much sleep. Nick and Kate found a good spot for their tent but a shortage of other tent sites meant Doc was the only other person to tent.

The following morning it rained at breakfast time which suggested it was going to be a wet trip out but that was the only rain we had. From the hut it was easy going down the river to the Homes Ridge track on the true left. Opposite the Homes Ridge track was the track we could have taken the previous day and saved ourselves perhaps three quarters of an hour. Never mind, we'll know for next time if there is one. There didn't seem to be any point in taking the Homes Ridge track so we stuck to the river. Towards the end we did have to make our way through some vegetation but most of the time there was pink marker tape to follow which made it pretty straightforward and we got back to the car park in under two hours – somewhat quicker than the seven and a half hours on the way in.

Trip participants: Nick Brownsword, Kate Brownsword, Janine Foon, Louise Gibson, Chris Keen, Kirsten Reid, Doc Watson, Andrew Robinson (leader).

Andrew

A PUZZLE



Who knows when this photograph was taken?

IN THANKS

GRAHAM CRAIG



Thank you to all who have sent us cards, emails and calls and who attended Graham's funeral, which was a great turnout.

Apart from his family, the tramping club was Graham's life, and we as a family are deeply grateful for your recognition of his years with the club, and of him as a person. Your support is very heartening. Thank you all.

Mat, Bruce, Lyndsey and Rob Craig