



Taranaki from the ASC Hut, Ruapehu (Tom Chignell)

Contents

[President's Report](#)

[Notices](#)

[In Memoriam](#)

[Upcoming Trips](#)

[Trip Reports](#)

[Annual Reports](#)

[Club Contacts & Appointments](#)

(Click on the section name to go straight there!)

President's Report



Kia ora koutou,

This magazine is a bumper issue, covering May and June as we missed last month. A huge vote of thanks to Fiona Heenan for her work as Alpinesport Editor for the last couple of years and a welcome to Tom Chignell who has stepped into the role. Please send any information for the magazine to Tom at media@alpinesport.org.nz.

To post a trip, please go to the website [What's On](#) page and click on the link Planning a Trip? Click here to have it published

Club trips have continued throughout April and May with enjoyable weekend trips to Whatipu and Tiritiri Matangi, two Small People on Big Hills trips and ongoing Thursday Walks. The campers who attended Easter Camp had great fun and were happy with the facilities and location of the Pirongia Forest Park Lodge. Look out for upcoming trips including Marshmallows in the Bush on King's Birthday Saturday 31 May and two trips on Sunday 8 June; a walk on Waiheke Island and a bike ride from Glen Innes to Orakei Basin. We still need more trips, so keep the ideas flowing and put your hand up to lead a trip.

The Ruapehu Food Drop was a huge success, with all our food being carried up to the A Frame in beautiful weather. Thank you, Gemma, Jackson and Ian Seddon, for organising this and to everyone who took part. We're excited and relieved Whakapapa Holdings Limited (WHL) has been granted a 10-year concession to run the Whakapapa ski field. Jackson and Ian attended the recent Ruapehu Mountain Clubs Association (RMCA) meeting at Whakapapa and caught up on the new plans for the slopes and how they will be managed. WHL will help clubs advertise to new members. We would like plenty of new members to join to use our A-Frame and Ruapehu Huts on and off season. Surely our new membership rates will be irresistible?

The June/July school holidays have already received lots of bookings at the A-Frame for Whakapapa Winter Wanders, a busy family time at the huts, skiing, snowboarding, sledging and enjoying activities on and around the mountain. Our wonderful Hut Wardens, siblings Jackson and Gemma Seddon, will be on site during the whole ski season, so start planning your trips now. Remember to book your FREE Season Pass for any child 10-and-under. Tell your family and friends! This amazing deal is only available until Sunday 8 June.

<https://www.whakapapa.com/passes/season-passes>

Club Nights have been very successful this year, with Sue Fitzpatric and team organising wonderful speakers and events. Our AGM next week on Tuesday 3 June will be followed by Bart Schroder and Brian Duffy talking about their Round the Mountain race.

Ahead of the AGM, the committee still needs two crucial roles to be filled. At the point of writing, we still need a Tours Officer and Honorary Secretary. Both roles require attending a monthly committee meeting. The Tours Officer needs to ensure trips are up and running and the Honorary Secretary needs to field incoming emails and prepare agenda and minutes for the committee. Please let me know if you would like to join the committee. Your time would be greatly appreciated!

To close my column for the month, I would like to acknowledge the sad passing of Pat Scott-Woods. She was a much-loved wife, mother, grandmother and club member. We send our condolences to the Scott-Woods family.

Ngā mihi nui,

Miranda Hutton

Notices

Annual General Meeting

Notice of Annual General Meeting and Club Night

7:30 pm, Tuesday 3 June 2025

St Mark's Church Parish Hall, 95 Remuera Road

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of AGM held on 4 June 2024 and matters arising
3. President's Report
4. Treasurer's Report and Financials for the year ended 31 March 2025
5. Committee Reports - Ruapehu, Waitakere, Trips and Tramps, Membership
6. Election of Club Officers for forthcoming year: President, Vice-Presidents (2), Secretary, Treasurer, Ruapehu Co-ordinator (split into 2 roles of Buildings and Operations), Tours Officer, General Committee (3). *Note: The elected committee will have the power to co-opt others if necessary.*
7. Appointment of Accounts Reviewer
8. General Business

See Minutes of AGM 4 June 2024 in [Annual Reports](#) section.

Welcome to New Members

We warmly welcome the following new members:

- Hanna Berndt and Mathilda (7)
- Albertien Chignell plus Eliot (20) and Philip(17) Chignell
- Rachel Church and Laurie Broom (11) and Ruby Broom (8)
- Helen Morgan and Imogen Morgan-Whittaker (6)
- Melissa Ousey and Helen Sebastian with Lily Ousey-Sanders (7)
- Tracey Tillick and Philip Thomas with Finley (7) and Marlow Tillick (4)
- Natasha Utting and Marigold Utting-Moa (6) and Soren Utting-Moa (10)
- Jinglin Wang and Fang Fang have rejoined ASC with children Millicent (7), Carson (5) and Felix (1)

Mountain Film Festival World Tour

A reminder of this amazing programme which comes to Auckland in June. Click [Banff NZ](#) to find out more



Auckland

[SkyCity Theatre](#) Corner Hobson Street and, Wellesley Street West, Auckland

Sun 8th June, 4:30pm - [Ruapehu Programme](#)

Fri 13th June, 6:30pm - [Ruapehu Programme](#)

Sun 15th June, 4.30pm - [Tasman Programme](#)

Wed 18th June, 6:30pm - [Ruapehu Programme](#)

Wed 25th June, 6:30pm - [Tasman Programme](#)

Snowcraft Course

July 26-July 27, 2025

Come and learn the skills required for above the bush travel and alpine crossings. An introductory course focused on gaining the skills and confidence for moving on snow and ice including ice axe and crampon use, self arrest, use of basic avalanche equipment. This is based at our cosy Ruapehu Hut but Saturday night will be spent higher up the mountain at the Alpine hut on delta corner.

Course includes one evening introductory session approximately 1 month prior to the course which will cover gear options. Cost \$350 per person (members) or \$500 non-member (includes main meals and accommodation). Transport is not included but will be co-ordinated between participants, travel down Friday evening back Sunday afternoon/early evening. Participants need to have or hire a helmet, ice axe and crampons (\$25/ set for the weekend).

Contact: Mark Roberts mark2005roberts@yahoo.co.nz

Whakapapa & The Chateau



Photo: Wikimedia Commons

If you missed the 16 May article in the NZ Herald on developments at Whakapapa you can read it [here](#).

Tim – Man of the Mountains

Tim Barfoot was the eldest of four brothers, but he followed a different path. From earliest time he fell in love with mountains and the rivers of our beautiful land. Apart from this he spent over forty years in a notable but unsung role in the family real estate firm. In his later years as a member of Amnesty International he wrote letters to release political prisoners who were held unjustly or without charge.

If you missed the book launch on 3 May, you can still order the book for \$20 per copy by contacting Chris & Pat Barfoot. The entire proceeds are to be shared between Alpine Sports Club and Amnesty International.

In Memoriam

Pat Scott-Woods – 1942-2025

Pat and Joe met and were married in England and decided to emigrate to NZ in the late 1960's. With a background in Girl Guides and Scouting, both were keen on outdoor activities, and already members of the Victoria League, and the Auckland Tramping Club when I first met them in 1969.

They settled in Mt Albert and Pat established and ran her own dressmaking business from their home. It was through Pat and Joe that I began my own long membership with our Club.



*Joe & Pat in 1971 at
Marcia & David Roberts' Wedding*



*Pat & Joe at Sandfly Point at the end of the Milford
Track tramp in 2009, completed with a great group
of ASC friends*

In 1970, I was at St Helen's Hospital, not far from Pat and Joe's Mt Albert home, on a 6-month Midwifery Course when Pat was admitted to the Labour Ward. I was alerted, and checked progress during my meal break - there I learned baby Paula had just been born. Joe had been sent home so I quickly phoned him to say "come back, someone is waiting to meet you!!"

It was on an ASC tramp early in 1970 David and I met, and in 1971 Pat made my bridesmaid's dresses, and joined us at our wedding celebration. Pat continued dressmaking, and curtain making over the years, while busy raising their four children. She changed to making flags in later years, and designed

and made one with the Club Logo for Alpine Sports Club, flown at the Annual Summer Camps for many years.

Pat and Joe became members of Alpine Sports Club themselves, and Joe has spent years as the Club Waitakere Hut Officer, taking phone bookings which, no doubt Pat also handled. He has managed maintenance jobs around, in and on the hut and the ongoing access track maintenance. Pat has had to share her husband over the years to the service of the hut, and as someone wrote in the Visitors' Book - "An asset to all. This place is cared for with love".

Pat and Joe have enjoyed their lovely Coromandel Peninsula Opito Bay holiday home with their children and growing families, shared with Club members to tramp in the nearby hills and to lead along bush tracks to hidden bays.

Pat has been a lovely companion on numerous Club walks, tramping the Pararaha Stream, and many Waitakere tracks before the Kauri die-back closures. Pat and Joe have been on South Island trips, many of our Club tramps and weekends away, enjoying regular Thursday walks, and made a number of trips overseas. Pat has been a dear friend to many of our members. It was with great sadness we learnt of her recent ill health due to cancer. When I phoned, I had a lovely phone conversation with her and admired her fortitude and acceptance of the situation. She had Paula home from London, and Ian came back from Germany where Pat and Joe had visited him and his family in recent times. Daughter Rachel and their son Brendan remained in Auckland, with a niece from the UK also settling here. Pat was surrounded by her loving family and passed away peacefully at home.

We will miss Pat, and extend our sympathy to Joe and to all their local and overseas family, specially their four children Paula, Rachel Doyle, Ian, and Brendan. She will have left you with lovely memories to treasure after the pain of parting fades, and she will be remembered fondly too by our Club Members now, and in the years ahead.

Marcia Roberts, on behalf of Alpine Sports Club members, May 2025.

Upcoming Trips

Saturday 31 May 2025 - Small People on Big Hills - Marshmallows in the Bush
– Miranda Hutton (miranda@alpinesport.org.nz)

Join Clara (11) and Lukas (8) for a cosy day at the club's Waitākere Hut. Come anytime from 10.30 am. We will be roasting sausages, toasting marshmallows and making scones as well as going for walks in the bush, gathering firewood, trying out some orienteering skills, identifying plants and making bivvies. Whittle yourself a stick for toasting marshmallows. Bring food to contribute. Wear sturdy shoes and bring a raincoat. Members or invited guests of members are welcome. Contact Miranda to register your interest.

Sunday 8 June 2025 - Glen Innes to Orakei Bike Ride - Jared Haslemore

Join us for a cycle from Glen Innes Station along the bike path to Orakei. Meeting by the station entrance near the traffic lights, we will cycle pass horses up to Sunhill before crossing the road to ride down the Meadowbank Valley, and over the Orakei causeway. There is a playground along the way and at Orakei we can stop for a bite to eat and/or drink before riding back to GI. If the wheels have fallen off then there is the option of the train back to GI.

Sunday 8 June 2025 - Waiheke Island Coast Walk: Palm Beach to Matiatia Wharf - Susan Stephens

The walk will be approximately 9 km and there is quite a bit of up and down and steps but by starting at Palm Beach there is more downhill than up. Please bring walking poles if you usually use them and wear sturdy walking or tramping shoes as the track maybe muddy in places.

We will leave from Downtown, Auckland on the 9am ferry. Please arrive no later than 8:30am to get in the queue for the ferry. On arrival at Waiheke, please go quickly to Bus 502 which leaves outside the ferry building at 9:55am.

Once we arrive at Palm Beach we will walk to the park beside the beach and have morning tea before we start our walk. This park has plenty of picnic tables and good toilets, the next toilets are not until Sandy Bay.

We start with an uphill walk through bush, the entire walk is mainly beside the sea or through bush reserves. After walking along Oneroa Beach we will return

to the ferry via the Oneroa Forest Path, the alternative option is to catch the bus from Oneroa beach to the ferry. We will return on the 3pm ferry.

You will need to bring your **AT card**. Please let me know if you will be joining us on this walk.

Thursday 12 June 2025 – North Shore Walk - Gillian Trotman & Jocelyn Magness

This is a one-way walk returning by bus to the start. Meet at the north end of Milford Beach by the toilets for a 10 am start. The walk has several hills as the streets and cliff path follows the coastline to the north. There is a flat beach section from Campbells Beach to Mairangi Bay - morning tea stop and toilets. Continue along the beach to Murrays Bay then cliff path and some street walking to Browns Bay for lunch. Return to Milford beach by 856 bus so remember your **AT Hop Card**! Please let Gillian/Jocelyn know if you are coming.

Thursday 26 June 2025 – Duder Regional Park - Mike & Cathy Frith

Meet at 10.30 am at Duder Regional Park - 10 kms from Clevedon heading towards Maraetai on North Road. Walk is mainly over undulating farmland, beach and bush to an old pa site. Although a relatively short walk at just over 6 kms it has some steep sections. Toilets at beginning only.

27 June – 8 July 2025 – Whakapapa Winter Wanders – Glen Munford

Join us for one of two jolly jaunts to experience Whakapapa Winter Wanders on Mt. Ruapehu during the June/July school break.

Embrace the wintery wonders of Ruapehu with ASC members - whether it be in celebration of Matariki, Winter Solstice, a nostalgic northern-style 'Christmas' or just the great, white (we wish!) outdoors!

Come down for some fun with friends and/or all the family and experience the wonders of NZ winter with snow play, igloo-building, sledding, snow sports, games, feasts and general communal cosiness.

The hut will be open throughout and our lovely Hut Warden Gemma is back as custodian.

Please save the date and get booking your bunks on [www.alpinesports.org.nz] for either/all of the following dates:

Friday 27 June – Tuesday 1 July or Friday 4 – Tuesday 8 July

We'll operate the usual first-come; first-served approach to bunk bookings. However, we kindly request that you only book for current members - so all ASC families have a chance to plan for the school holidays. We'll open to none members' bookings from 1 June.

For the real Snow Hounds, feel free to extend your holiday plans to make use of the quieter mid-week period or the whole two weeks!

Any questions, please get in touch with Greg (Subject: 'Whakapapa 2025').

Thursday 17 July 2025 – The Landing Restaurant, Riverhead

Catch the Ferry at Z Pier to the Landing Restaurant Riverhead. Cost \$43 return. Precise details closer to the time. Return by ferry arriving in Auckland at approx. 4 pm, but you can also drive to the restaurant if you prefer. The ferry is covered so you will be warm on the trip.

Please book with Sherilyn Coney.

The invitation includes all Midis, Thursday walkers and any other club member who wishes to join us.

Sunday 27 July - [Rangatahi Ramblers](#) - Auckland Coast to Coast Walkway

Meet at 9.30 am Auckland Ferry Terminal, Downtown. Come and walk the epic Coast to Coast Walkway with Rangatahi Ramblers Clara (11) and Lukas (8) [Coast to Coast Walkway](#) Bring lunch, snacks, water and money (for treats on the way). Meet younger SPBH walkers on Maungakiekie/One Tree Hill at 2 pm to finish in Onehunga in the late afternoon for a shared takeaway dinner (optional). We will pass through the Auckland Domain, Maungawhau/Mt Eden and Maungakiekie/One Tree Hill on our way to Te Mānuka-Hotunui/Manukau Harbour. The route is 16km long. Members and non-members welcome. Contact Miranda for more information miranda@alpinesport.org.nz

Trip reports

Sunday 16 February 2025 - Small People on Big Hills – Tawharanui Ecology Trail – Jared Haslemore

Had a great time on this walk with the weather playing ball. No rain and not too hot!

We set off from the carpark at 10:45 headed clock wise. As soon as we passed the beach and headed up the hill we were rewarded with an inquisitive saddleback flitting around within meters of us.

Crossing into the farm we ran into an artist painting. She told us that just after you go into the bush again there was a morepork/ruru sleeping and that in the fields there was a takahe with chick's! We climbed the hill with the kids eventually blowing their cobwebs out before stopping at the entrance of the forest for a snack. Unfortunately no takahe were spotted.



After our bite to eat we carried on and no more than 10 m into the forest we spotted the morepork. First time seeing one of these in the wild and the kids loved it. We continued on with the kids enjoying looking for cicada shells.

After finishing the walk we headed back to the beach for a picnic. Once lunch was eaten, we all enjoyed having a splash in the waves. The kids were just full of giggles. The tide had been on its way out so the caves were now exposed.

The kids made their "concrete" factory and had a blast. Wrapped things up about 3 pm and headed home. A blast had by all.

Saturday 5 April 2025 – Whatipu Gibbons Track - Călin Cașcaval

The April Sunday walk was held on Saturday at [Whatipū Gibbons track](#). We chose to follow the track up the hill from Whatipū beach to the [Pararaha Campground](#) and return on the beach. The choice of day was fortuitous, as the weather was gorgeous, sandwiched between two rainy days.

The track is quite long -- 16.74km to be exact. 24 club members decided to take on the challenge. We started with a 2 km climb to the ridge. On the way there are several look out points to rest and enjoy the view -- ocean waves, beaches, and cliffs.



This was the steepest part of the walk, and the benches placed strategically at the lookout points were a welcome sight.

We stopped for morning tea after about an hour of climbing, when we got on the ridge. From there on, the track was mainly flat, before reaching Pararaha Valley, which is a fairly steep descent. The track is extremely well maintained, with new stairs and gravel grading. On this track, the landscape changes continuously, and includes an amazing range of vegetation.

We had lunch at the Pararaha Campground site, sharing the grounds with another large group.

The Friday before it had rained quite heavily, causing some members to raise concerns over crossing the Pararaha Stream. However, the fancy bridge built over the stream makes it a pleasure.

From there on, it's sand dunes and beach. The track roughly follows the Pararaha Stream to the sea. It feels that the sea is right there, but it is a good 30-40 min walk through the dunes. The wild landscape is quite unique.



Once we reached the beach, the group spread out enjoying the sun, the water and the open views, and pushed forward to the end without a break.

Saturday 5 April 2025 – Small People on Big Hills – Maungakiekie Nature Walk & Picnic – Abi Raymond

Trip leaders - Madison Baya-Raymond (3), Lucy Baya-Raymond (6) and Abi Raymond (Mum)

For our April SPOBH adventure, a group of whānau gathered under the warm afternoon sun to explore the beautiful slopes and grassy tracks of Maungakiekie / One Tree Hill.

We kicked things off at the grassy knoll behind the Sorrento carpark, with tamariki buzzing with excitement and backpacks full of snacks. Setting off at 3 pm, we ventured off the main track, winding our way through the long swish-swishy grass and around the edge of one of the craters — laughter echoing as little feet ran ahead and curious eyes searched for the paths ahead.

The iconic hollow fairy tree was a favourite stop, where imaginations ran wild and giggles filled the air. We stumbled upon hidden chocolates (a sweet surprise!). We continued around the cone, slid down grassy hills on our bottoms, and the kids were having so much fun.

After about 90 minutes of wandering, adventuring, and play, we returned to our starting point for a shared picnic dinner under the fading light. As the sun dipped behind the horizon, tamariki continued to climb trees, run, and explore

- fully immersed in free play among the trees for another few hours while the parents got to relax.

Four hours in nature did wonders for our nervous systems. Regulated, reconnected, and restored — adults and children alike left with full hearts and muddy shoes.

See [final page](#) for photos of this trip.

Thursday 10 April 2025 – Mangemangeroa Walkway – Brian Fitzpatrick

Mangemangeroa means “valley of the mangemange”, a twisting climbing fern used by Māori to tie raupō thatch to mātuka-framed whare (huts) and for making hīnaki (eel traps).

Mangemangeroa Walkway goes along the eastern side of the Mangemangeroa tidal estuary and then up the valley between Howick and Whitford from Shelley Beach. There are views over to the estuary to lifestyle blocks in Whitford. The walkway was damaged by Cyclone Gabrielle in February 2023. In January 2025 the it was closed for a month for restoration work. We had previously visited the walkway in April 2022. This was an opportunity to check out the restoration work.



At a time when Auckland had been experiencing wet weather we were fortunate to have a fine day. The walk includes steps and some short steep sections - but the breathtaking views and bush experience make the effort well worthwhile. For most of the walk our 25 members were in single file. When

we started the tide was completely out. As we went up the valley we passed under the Mangemangeroa Bridge. One of our group recalled an earlier trip when Alan La Roche, former club member and Howick Historian, told how during World War II the bridge was booby trapped. In the case of an invasion from the Firth of Thames explosives would cut the road into Auckland.

The walkway ends at Hayleys lane where we found a pleasant area for lunch. After lunch some of the group decided to avoid the steep parts of the walkway and walked back along the road to their cars. The rest of us retraced our steps to Shelly Beach.

Friday - Tuesday 18-22 April 2025 - Easter Camp - Pirongia Forest Camp – Jane Preston

We had a full house with 50 amazing kids and parents, and it was an unforgettable experience for everyone involved. The weekend was packed with exciting activities. We took a memorable walk to a trig, offering a steep climb, stunning views and a great sense of accomplishment for all who participated.



The kids had a blast with pony rides, and the evening spotlight activity was a hit, adding a touch of adventure to the night. We gathered around bonfires and roasted marshmallows. The lodge came with a great collection of outdoor activities including orienteering and outdoor obstacle challenges, challenging everyone to work together and navigate through.

There was a visit to Kawhia Beach, where everyone enjoyed the beautiful scenery and digging holes to sit in the warm water. A cohort of kids spent hours playing board games, particular thanks to Jared for being Quest Master in a very long game of Hero Quest, and Catan was popular with the adults during the evening. We even managed to celebrate a special birthday.

And it wouldn't be Easter Camp without the Easter Egg Hunt! Always a hit with the kids. Overall, it was a weekend filled with laughter, new connections, and new experiences. We can't wait for next year at Lake Okataina.

Sunday 4 May 2025 – Tiritiri Matangi Tramp – Carolyn Blackford/Jenny Hudson (photos)

Tiritiri Matangi (translated as 'looking to the wind or 'wind tossing about') Island is a 220 ha scientific reserve, wildlife sanctuary, and conservation project. It is managed by the Department of Conservation in conjunction with the community group [Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi Inc.](#) It became a recreation reserve in 1971 and a comprehensive replanting programme began in 1984.

The *Explore* ferry departed for Tiri from the Viaduct Basin in sunny, clear and calm conditions and picked up three of our group from Gulf Harbour, making a total party of twenty-three.

At Tiritiri Matangi wharf we were assigned in small groups to volunteer guides. The meander from the wharf up to the Visitor Centre via the Wattle Track was magical; our guides were very knowledgeable about the island wildlife enabling us to see most of the native bird species that have been translocated to Tiri as part of the ongoing restoration project, including: kakariki/red-crowned parakeet; tīeke/North Island saddleback; hihi /[stitchbird](#); [North Island kōkako](#); toutouwai/North Island robin; titipounamu/[rifleman](#), pōpokatea/whitehead; kererū/New Zealand pigeon, as well as seeing korimako/bellbirds busy at the sugar water feeders. We also saw wētāpunga/Giant wētā.



Several of us visited the Lighthouse lookout before stopping for lunch outside the Visitor Centre.

One of the volunteers then led us to the start of the East Coast Track where she was planning to spend some time playing a hand-carved Māori flute (Kōauau). The focus of the East Coast Track was the views out to the Coromandel and Aotea/great Barrier Island. We then branched off westwards near the Fishermans Bay Track in order to reach the Kawerau Track. An extensive system of boardwalks led us through some of the oldest bush on the island – massive Pōhutukawa trees and birdlife. A young man alerted us to a [takahē](#) foraging just ahead of us – very special as there are only two pairs of adult takahē and at least one chick on the island and are classified as *Nationally Vulnerable*. We continued along the Kawerau Track until we descended to the stunning coastal views and walked along the sandy Hobbs Beach Track to Tiritiri Wharf.

Saturday 10 May 2025 – Ruapehu Food Drop – Jackson Seddon

A team from the Alpine Sports Club completed a successful food drop to the hut to support the upcoming winter season. Under the coordination of Jackson, the group transported and stored food supplies and essential items at the hut. The effort ensures smoother logistics and increased safety for winter trips ahead.



All supplies were weatherproofed, clearly labelled, and stored with care to protect against wildlife and moisture. The team worked efficiently and showed great collaboration throughout.



A big thank-you to all who contributed to the drop – Carolyn Blackford, Sara Lyons & Andrew Holter (with intrepid daughters Tamsyn & Lowenna), Ian & Jackson Seddon, Tom Chignell, Manny, Motu, and Maria (3 enthusiastic ring-ins!) - your efforts have set the club up for a strong and well-supported winter.

Thursday 22 May 2025 – Glendowie Walk – Tony Sullivan

33 walkers started from Glover Park on a fine, cool day. First stop was the cliff pathway which gives a panoramic view of the harbour. Then on to Churchill Park which has recently been denuded of pine trees. In their place is an ocean of wood chip. In the 1930s a golf course operated there for a while but the ground was too boggy in the winter. The site of the clubhouse, demolished only about 5 years ago, is a beautiful picnic spot looking out to Motuihe and Waiheke provided a good stopping spot.



An early morning view from the picnic spot

We headed SW to Riddell Road and the clifftop path (very uneven) which passed the Glendowie boat club. Crossing Roberta Reserve we entered Tahuna Torea. In that Reserve we saw the Māori fishing pond. They constructed a low rock dam which allowed water (and fish) to flow over it at high tide but trapped the fish as the water level lowered.

Lunch was taken looking over the Tamaki estuary to Bucklands and Half Moon Bay.



Next stop was the duck pond (no ducks) at the end of West Tamaki road. Back through the centre of Tahuna Torea to the comfort stop in Roberta Reserve (what relief). This time we followed the stream along the western boundary of Churchill Park and so onto Glover Park and the finish line (about 10½ km walk).

Annual Reports 2024-2025

President's Report

Miranda Hutton

Kia ora koutou,

I am pleased to report that the Alpine Sports Club has had another successful year with our three huts being well looked after, our finances in order, the large events of Summer Camp, Easter Camp and the Waitākere Christmas Lunch taking place as planned and the committee working hard behind the scenes.

A huge thanks to everyone on the committee. Thanks to Carolyn Blackford for her time as secretary and to Greg Munford on tours. We extend huge gratitude to Jenny Hudson who is stepping down after five years on the committee. Jenny has acted as Honorary Secretary for four years, Alpinesport Editor for three years and Vice President for 1 year. On top of these duties, Jenny has submitted many funding applications on behalf of the club, overseen the amendment of the rules and creation of the new Club Constitution so ASC complies with the Incorporated Societies Act, reviewed our insurances each year, and tackled difficult questions about the club's future planning. Jenny's commitment, hard work, eye for detail and broad knowledge of the club will be greatly missed. Thank you so much for your contribution, Jenny.

Thanks also to those with club appointments. Your work behind the scenes contributes to the successful running of the club. Thank you to Clive Bolt for your support with the website and for attending monthly meetings. Clive's broad knowledge of the club and of the running of the committee is invaluable. Thank you to Jane Adams for your work with funding. A big thank you to Fiona Heenan for producing the Alpinesport Magazine for the past two years. Fiona's timely and efficient completion of the magazine each month helps club members stay up to date and informed. Welcome to Tom Chignell who has stepped forward to take over from Fiona as Alpinesport Editor.

Thank you to Bruce Dwerryhouse for his work as Treasurer and for bringing the accounts up to the new Incorporated Societies Act Tier 4 requirements, including creating and adopting a new Statement of Service Performance for the club. Thank you to Don Baker for his work reviewing these accounts and making sure all areas of accounting are covered. It is so important we are fulfilling our financial and legal obligations, and your efforts help the club run smoothly in this area.

Another big achievement last year was the adoption of our new Constitution. This was the result of a combined effort from several club members, with Brian FitzPatrick and Jenny Hudson taking the lead. The constitution was finally adopted this March after an official name change to remove the word “The” from our name. Thanks to Elizabeth Jobbins for acting as the club’s solicitor in this matter and others. We are now officially the “Alpine Sports Club Incorporated” across all our banking and legal documents. Thank you to all those who contributed to these changes.

Another challenge appeared this year with Vector Power requesting access to our Waitākere property to complete upgrades to the power poles. This involved a negotiation with an easement being requested and various legal questions back and forth. Brian FitzPatrick, along with Mike Frith and Elizabeth Jobbins were able to address the club’s concerns and find a solution. We thank all those involved in this process and resolution.

Taking care of our Ruapehu Hut Buildings, Nicholas Roberts put in a huge effort to organise and take part in two successful Working Bees this summer. This involved high ropes work, painting the precipitous roof of the A-Frame as well as other jobs. Thank you to the Seddon Family; Ian, Jackson and Gemma for their contribution to Ruapehu Huts Operations. They have organised the food drop, been on-site as Hut Wardens, and completed many small and large tasks to ensure our huts run smoothly on the mountain.

Huge thanks to Mike Frith for his work as Waitākere Hut Officer. Mike is a member of the committee, runs the Waitākere Hut booking system, organises regular hut maintenance days and leads the Baiting Team. Thanks to everyone on the Waitākere Hut maintenance crew and everyone in the baiting team. Our hut in the Waitākeres is a gem and the bush and wildlife around it is beautiful. Your efforts keep this precious property well cared for.

Thank you to Sue Grant and Clive Bolt for running Children’s Bushcraft courses again this year. Valuable lessons learned and memories made for the next generation of trampers and adventures. Thank you to John Mackay for staying informed around access to the Waitākere tracks, Kauri Dieback research, and the latest views of the Council. These are contentious issues, with many viewpoints, and it is useful to have your knowledge at our disposal.

A huge thank you to Sue FitzPatrick and Fiona Heenan for your inspiration in finding interesting speakers and activities for Club Nights during the past year. We heard about climate change and Auckland’s cliffs, interesting stories about NZ bats from a “batman”, the Tour Aotearoa from a passionate cyclist, heard inspiring trips reports from members, saw some interesting films and had a fun quiz night in November. Thank you to all club members who spoke or

contributed to the content of Club Nights, and thanks to the supper team for the delicious suppers.

Trips and tramps have been going strong with the Thursday Walkers and Weekend trips leading the way with regular trips. Thank you to Clive Bolt and Warren Whyte for your organisation of these, and to everyone who led a trip. Thanks to the Women's Overnighter team of Kate Waterworth, Arna Bryant, Abi Raymond, Claire Caiger, Catherine Hird, Joane Morton and Jeanine Scholey for putting on wonderful weekend getaways. Small People on Big Hills are seeing a renaissance this year, thanks to the efforts of Jared Haslemore.

Thank you to Mark Roberts and Carol Christie for your instruction at Snowcraft last winter. Thanks also to Mark Roberts and Jenny Hudson for finding and running the Summer Camp at Ohakune. Holding a camp on the central plateau was an adventure and offered members new opportunities to experience summer in the Tongariro National Park.

Club Membership is holding steady this year, with excellent new membership rates giving families an affordable option to stay in the club, despite rising living costs. Thank you to Jeanette Davidson for her care contacting each member individually. Your personal touch makes a difference to new members and to membership retention.

I would also like to thank my Vice Presidents Jenny Hudson and Johann Schoonees. Your support, providing a listening ear or wise council, has been much appreciated.

Ngā mihi mahana,

Miranda Hutton

ASC President

Minutes of AGM 4 June 2024

Jenny Hudson

Annual General Meeting and Club Night - Tuesday 4 June 2024

St Mark's Church Parish Hall, 95 Remuera Road, Remuera

The meeting commenced at 7:45 pm.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Joe and Pat Scott-Woods, Paul Lyon, Nicholas Roberts, Greg Munford, Bart Schroder, Jocelyn Whyte and Garth Barfoot.

2. Minutes of AGM held on 6 June 2023 and matters arising

Warren Whyte said he had read the minutes and in his opinion, there were no matters in contention. Moved by Warren, seconded by Clive Bolt that the Minutes be adopted as a true and correct record. CARRIED.

3. President's Report

Miranda's report was pre-circulated in the June Alpinesport. However, she spoke to it so she could acknowledge the significant contributions made by many club members to the functioning of the Club. She thanked retiring committee members Jackie Ponting (Treasurer) and Maria Bullock (Vice-President) for their hard work. She welcomed Bruce Dwerryhouse for stepping into the Treasurer's role and announced that Ian Seddon has agreed to become the acting Ruapehu Hut Operations officer, noting that Ian's children Gemma and Jackson are welcomed back as our hut wardens for the coming ski season. Paul Lyon was thanked for his role in co-ordinating much of the maintenance at Waitakere Hut.

Miranda made a special mention of Joe and Pat Scott-Woods who, with a 24-year record of managing Waitakere Hut bookings, were stepping down this year. While there had been some discussion by the Committee as to whether bookings could in future be made through the website, it had been decided that this was impracticable and the present manual system would continue. Mike Frith has agreed to take on responsibility for bookings.

Other members who were mentioned and thanked by Miranda included: Don Baker, Lloyd Lin, Nicolas Roberts, Gemma Seddon, Fiona Heenan, Sue FitzPatrick, Warren Whyte, Clive Bolt, Martin Nelson.

Johann Schoonees thanked Miranda for the wonderful job she has done as President.

4. Treasurer's Report and Financials for the year ended 31 March 2024

Jackie Ponting spoke to her pre-circulated report and annual accounts, which had been reviewed by Don Baker. Updated accounts were displayed at the meeting following minor amendments recommended by Don. In response to a question, Jackie explained that the main difference between the two versions was in correcting some of the Ruapehu costs after Don's review.

The main points mentioned by Jackie were:

- We had no Covid issues this year and we made a profit of \$18,000 but there is still considerable uncertainty over the ski fields. This has meant we have carried out only essential maintenance on the huts.
- We received \$28,000 in subscriptions, boosted by external group bookings - particularly St Kentigern's who use the A-Frame in November.
- A burst pipe in the Bunkhouse resulted in the hut being out of action for several months during the ski season while repairs were carried out.
- Other unforeseen expenses include the downstairs hot water cylinder which has reached the end of its life and needs to be replaced before the start of this year's ski season. Considerable efforts have been made to obtain grant funding towards the \$10,000 cost but we have been unsuccessful.
- Income from the Waitakere Hut had been boosted by contractors working for Auckland Council, who used the hut mid-week for several weeks.
- Jenny Hudson was thanked for her efforts in negotiating more favourable insurance premiums from another insurer for the current year. However, our insurance costs continue to rise.

Jackie proposed that the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 year be approved, seconded by Dick Lane. CARRIED.

5. Committee Reports - Ruapehu, Waitakere, Tours, Membership

The pre-circulated reports by Nicholas Roberts (Ruapehu), Joe Scott-Woods (Waitakere), Tours (Greg Munford) and Jeanette Davidson (Membership) were taken as read.

6. Election of Club Officers for forthcoming year:

President, Vice-Presidents (2), Secretary, Treasurer, Ruapehu Co-ordinator (split into 2 roles of Buildings and Operations), Tours Officer, General Committee (3).

NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEE

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| President | Miranda Hutton |
| Vice-Presidents | Johann Schoonees Jenny Hudson |
| Secretary | Carolyn Blackford |
| Treasurer | Bruce Dwerryhouse |
| Ruapehu Co-ordinator | Nicholas Roberts (Buildings) |
| Tours Officer | Greg Munford |
| General Members | Jeanette Davidson (Membership Secretary) Mike Frith (Waitakere Hut) |

Miranda proposed that all nominations be accepted by acclamation. This was CARRIED unanimously on a show of hands.

As noted above, Miranda was pleased to announce that Ian Seddon has agreed to take on the Ruapehu operations role in an acting capacity (by Committee appointment) and will communicate with the Committee as needed by zoom, email or phone.

Miranda also acknowledged her appreciation of Clive Bolt's ongoing involvement in the Committee by appointment and the contribution he has made on a range of issues.

7. Appointment of Accounts Reviewer

Miranda proposed that Don Baker be appointed as Accounts Reviewer for 2024 - 2025, which he accepted.

8. General Business

DRAFT CONSTITUTION

Our Constitution has been redrafted to align with the requirements of the Incorporated Societies Act 2022 and was pre-circulated prior to the meeting.

Brian FitzPatrick introduced the main amendments and highlighted some of the more important changes e.g. To become a member, an applicant must agree in writing.

There were no issues in contention at the meeting.

Brian moved that the Constitution be adopted, seconded by Clive Bolt.
CARRIED unanimously on a show of hands.

The meeting ended at 8.25 pm and was followed by a slide show presentation of Tracy Laga's recent Travers-Sabine experience, when she had to set off the PLB after her tramping companion Fleur broke her ankle.

Treasurer's Report

Bruce Dwerryhouse

With the re-registration of the Club under new the Incorporated Societies Act and the adoption of the External Reporting Board's Tier 4 (NPF) Standard, some changes to the presentation of the financial report to members have been made this year. All financial transactions included in the report (except for the comparative costs for the previous year in Note 3) are recorded on a cash basis, as elected and permitted under the Tier 4 Standard, instead of the accrual basis of accounting used and reported on previously. The Standard also includes a new requirement to produce non-financial information in the form of a Statement of Service Performance to be included and published within the Annual Performance Report to members. This statement defines and details what the key activities of the Club are and reports on what was achieved during the past year, related thereto. In our instance, in general, this is by way of member participation in Club activities.

The financial highlights for the year were:

- The Club made an overall operating cash surplus of \$15,124 for the year compared to the previous year's surplus of \$24,823. The decline was due to less income from Ruapehu Hut fees and falling membership subscriptions. Offsetting this in part was a decrease in our insurance costs with the switch from replacement cover to indemnity cover over the Ruapehu A-Frame Hut.
- The Club's cash holdings improved to \$175,826 from \$160,702 with \$171,541 held in term deposits compared to only \$68,133 held at the end of the previous year. Funds surplus to requirements are now invested and/or re-invested as they mature on a monthly basis.

The two Ruapehu Huts combined however continued to operate at a cash loss, being \$26,889 for the year compared to the previous year's cash loss of \$28,088. Unfortunately very little use is made of the Bunkhouse, but the Club still has pay for the fixed charges and electricity costs incurred. The hut

operations at Ruapehu are only sustainable with the continued support of members' subscriptions and from any grants and/or donations received. This situation may not be maintainable in the longer term so a solution needs to be found now for the Club to be kept solvent in future years.

The combined loss on the Ruapehu Huts for the past two years was financed as follows:-

| | Current Year | Last Year |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|-----------|
| Charitable Grants | \$10,000 | \$10,000 |
| Members' Subscriptions | \$16,889 | \$18,088 |
| Total | \$26,889 | \$28,088 |
| Percentage of Subscriptions Applied | 66% | 64% |

Waitakere Hut continued to operate profitably with a small surplus of \$419 for the year compared to a large surplus the previous year of \$7,760, due to a one-off booking of the hut for several weeks.

The financial management of other activities within the Club continued smoothly with no adverse increase in costs occurring.

Membership report

Jeanette Davidson

The latest breakdown of the club membership is as follows:

| Category | 26 May 2025 | 22 May 2024 |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| Members 65 plus | 132 | 143 |
| Members under 65 | 30 | 23 |
| Family membership 1 adult (& children) | 10 | 5 |
| Family membership 2 adults (& children) | 60 | 58 |
| Junior members | - | - |
| Life members | 18 | 18 |
| TOTAL Adult Members | 250 | 247 |

The club has gained some new members – namely family membership with one or two adults and children. We warmly welcome them and hope they will enjoy the variety of club activities offered.

A small number of members who resigned this year were either:

- unable to participate in club activities either through ill health or living elsewhere in NZ, or
- committed to other activities.

Members who had not paid their subscription by the end of April 2025 were contacted via email allowing them one more month's grace to pay their membership. I hope these members will consider continuing with the club. In early June I will be finalising the membership email directory. It will include current members only.

If you intend to resign, please email membership@alpinesport.org.nz

Saturday/Sunday Walks

Warren Whyte

Many thanks to all our team of members who stepped forward during the year to lead a Saturday or Sunday trip in the first weekend of a month. Without your support we would not have had such an interesting variety of trips.

Numbers have been reasonably consistent month by month with between 18 and 25 members participating. As will be seen from the following list we have enjoyed visits to a wide variety of places which has made the walking/tramping programme all that more enjoyable.

2024

- Mar Waitakere Montana Heritage Trail – Bruce & Jane Rogers
- Apr Pukekohe's four summits – Warren & Jocelyn Whyte
- May Waharau Regional Park, Firth of Thames – Brian & Sue Fitzpatrick
- Jun Rangitoto – Murray & Jeanette Davidson
- Jul Mangere circuit and summit climb – Elisabeth Jobbins
- Aug Scandretts Regional Park, Warkworth – Don Baker
- Sept Port Waikato – Maria Bullock
- Oct Te Rau Puriri Regional Park, Kaipara – Bruce Dwerryhouse
- Nov Maraetai, Omana, Beachlands coastline – Carolyn Blackford
- Dec Nil - cancelled due to weather

2025

- Feb Riverhead Forest – Bruce & Jane Rogers
- March Cossey – Massey Circuit Hunuas - Marion Browne

Thursday Walks

Clive Bolt

Thursday walks are run on the second and fourth Thursday of each month, in and around the city, taking advantage of the local knowledge of the club members, mostly veteran members, living in different parts of the city.

The system is flexible so that trip leaders only need to finalise their details a week or so before their trip. There is a cloud based trip schedule so that members can see what dates are available and a central database of members that usually take part to notify the group of upcoming trips. Any club member can join the group by emailing their details to thursday.walks@alpinesport.org.nz.

There were 20 scheduled walks planned for 2024. 19 were completed with an average attendance of 24 members. One walk was cancelled due the weather and was rescheduled into the 2025 programme.

There was an end of year walk with luncheon organised by Sherilyn Coney that attracted 32 members.

The programme continues into 2025 with 22 scheduled trips, including two social events.

Other Tours Report

Miranda Hutton

The popular Women's Overnighter events, started by Fiona Heenan in 2019, have continued this year. Four events were held: 22 June Winter Solstice at the Waitakere Hut, 17 August at Huia, 12 October in the Waitakeres and 16 November at Kawakawa Bay

Small People on Big Hills were re-started by Miranda Hutton in 2019. After a quiet period in the previous year, 2025 has started with a blast and plans for more trips are well underway. We held four trips in the last year: 24 November - Piha Coast, 16 March - Wenderholm Perimeter Path Orewa, 16 February – Tawharanui, and 5 April - Maungakiekie.

The ever-popular Summer Camp and Easter Camp were added to with another couple of trips this year. 15 November - Ngamuwahine Lodge Weekend, 30 November - kayak trip Lake Tarawera Hot Water Beach, 26 December – 3rd January - Summer Camp at Ohakune, 18 - 22 April Easter Camp at Pirongia.

Sue Grant assisted by Clive Bolt held two Children's Bushcraft events in the last year on the 13 April and 12 October. The children learned valuable lessons about navigation, survival in the bush and general tramping skills.

A successful Snowcraft Weekend was held with Mark Roberts and Carol Christie as instructors on the 2 August 2024.

Ruapehu Operations Manager Report

Ian Seddon

Reflecting on the 2024 winter season, overall operations of the Ruapehu huts ran smoothly. Minor inconveniences were quickly addressed, and both the A-Frame and Ruapehu Huts were consistently maintained to a high standard.

There were a handful of updates and improvements over the previous year to



the huts. New toasters replaced the previous toaster as the timer stopped working. The 50 year old hot water cylinder was replaced with a smaller but reliable new one, and was carried up by volunteer backpackers (see picture below). Last winter season we also trialled Starlink Wi-Fi at the A-Frame, which now works successfully. Although we would prefer everyone to enjoy each other's company offline and spend time away from devices at the A-Frame, it had come to our attention that some members would like the option to work away from home, and can now do so online. The landline phones at both Ruapehu Hut and the A-Frame have now been

disconnected. This decision was made due to infrequent use and to reduce ongoing costs. To get in contact with the hut wardens, please email:

aframe@alpinesport.org.nz

Thankfully, the school holidays and weekends were busy and there were a couple of group bookings that gave good revenue to assist the ever increasing costs imposed on clubs by the Department of Conservation.

Gemma and Jackson shared the responsibilities of hut wardenship last season. Gemma began in June, with Jackson joining in late August after completing his first Camp America experience. Their combined efforts ensured the huts remained clean, safe, and welcoming for all visitors. Jackson remained on the mountain throughout the summer season (December to April), continuing his support of hut operations while residing in the bunkhouse. His presence ensured consistent maintenance, visitor assistance, and efficient monitoring of hut conditions. This continuity meant access to the huts was available without the need to collect a key from Auckland. Although summer tends to be quieter than winter, it delivered exceptional conditions for trampers and overnight stays.

Gemma returns as hut warden on 17 June, fresh from her travels in South America. Jackson heads off to Camp America on 1 June and is expected to return in late August to resume his warden duties. We are optimistic about consistent snow coverage this year, thanks to the new snow-making machines from WHL.

We hope for more members to come this season, especially mid-week as this is a quieter period and ski rates are cheaper. In case of road closures managed by DOC, members are welcome to stay at Tongariro River Retreat until conditions improve.

A big thank you to Nicholas Roberts for his valuable contribution to this work. His efforts were instrumental in ensuring the facilities stayed in good shape. With Jackson based on the mountain over summer, we were also able to respond quickly to minor issues, including internal repairs, hut cleaning, and general upkeep. These efforts mean the huts are well-prepared for the seasons ahead.

Looking ahead, next summer could benefit from additional painting on the opposite side of the A-frame roof, as well as some spot painting on the Ruapehu Hut to keep things weather-tight and visually tidy.

A recent RMCA (Ruapehu Mountain Clubs Association) meeting featured a presentation by Travis (Whakapapa Holdings) and Libby O'Brien (DoC). Members are encouraged to read the meeting notes available on the [RMCA website](#).

Looking to the future, Claire Jackson will hopefully be helping us market the huts and other mountain activities. With support from the team and wider

community, we're excited about the opportunity to share what Mt Ruapehu has to offer with more visitors - through improve outreach, engaging content, and better visibility. For Upcoming Events happening at Mt Ruapehu, visit the [Whakapapa website](#).

A big thank you to everyone who visited and used the huts this past year. Your respect for the environment and facilities, and your support of the Ruapehu hut system, make it all worthwhile. We appreciate your care and enthusiasm for the A-Frame and Bunkhouse. Here's to another successful and snow-filled season ahead!

Waitakere Hut Report

Mike Frith

The Waitakere Hut continues to be well used by club members and club organised groups. The club weekend for Afghan women was so successful the Afghan men were keen to have their own weekend.

Children's Bush Craft weekends were popular and the hut was also used for club members' birthdays.

Some outside groups using the hut have decided to become members.

The hut is also used as a base for ASC members volunteering to re-stock bait lines to protect the kokāko.

Outside Groups:

- St Cuthbert's College - makes use of the hut for its outdoor education, as do various scout and guide groups.
- Arataki rangers, Hawke Sea Scouts, and Taiaotea Air Scouts.
- Auckland University Tramping Club - used the hut for two weekends as they worked re-baiting rat stations in the area.

Club Contacts

| Position | Name | Email |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| President | Miranda Hutton | president@alpinesport.org.nz |
| Vice President 1 | Jenny Hudson | jenny@alpinesport.org.nz |
| Vice President 2 | Johann Schoonees | johann@alpinesport.org.nz |
| Secretary | POSITION VACANT | secretary@alpinesport.org.nz |
| Treasurer | Bruce Dwerryhouse | treasurer@alpinesport.org.nz |
| Membership Secretary | Jeanette Davidson | Membership@alpinesport.org.nz |
| Tours Officer | Greg Munford | tours@alpinesport.org.nz |
| Ruapehu Buildings Co-ordinator | Nicolas Roberts | ruapehu@alpinesport.org.nz |
| Ruapehu Operations Coordinator | Ian Seddon | ruapehu@alpinesport.org.nz |
| Events Co-ordinators | Keri and Eric Horn | kerianderic@alpinesport.org.nz |
| Waitākere Hut Liaison | Mike Frith | mike@alpinesport.org.nz |

Club Appointments

| Role | Name | Email |
|---|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Website and database | Clive Bolt | clive@alpinesport.org.nz |
| Fundraising Officer | Jane Adams | jane@alpinesport.org.nz |
| Wāitakere Regional Park Liaison | John Mackay | john@alpinesport.org.nz |
| Alpinesport Editor | Tom Chignell | media@alpinesport.org.nz |
| FMC magazine distribution & Advisor | Warren Whyte | wandjwhyte@xtra.co.nz |
| Club Gear for Hire (PLB'S) | Murray Davidson | ddjhmjnz@gmail.com |
| Club Gear for Hire (climbing and snowcraft) | Brian Duffy | bwd742@gmail.com |
| Thursday Walks Co-ordinator | Clive Bolt | thurs-day.walks@alpinesport.org.nz |
| Midis and Midis Plus Co-ordinator | Sherilyn Coney | sconey@xtra.co.nz |
| Summer Camp Co-ordinators | Mark Roberts | tours@alpinesport.org.nz |
| Club records archivist | Jenny Hudson | email@alpinesport.org.nz |
| Ruapehu bookings | Justine Checketts | bookings@alpinesport.org.nz |
| Ruapehu hut wardens | Jackson & Gemma Seddon | aframe@alpinesport.org.nz |

Maungakiekie Nature Walk & Picnic

