



APRIL 2021

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Off track to the Stanton Memorial,
Mt Ruapehu - photo by Jenny Hudson

The Alpine Sports Club Inc (est 1929)

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NOTICES

Club Night - 7:30 pm, Tuesday 6 April 2021

St Mark's Church Parish Hall, Remuera Road



On our April club night Fiona Heenan will talk about her 1050km cycle trip across the centre of the North Island as part of the Kopiko Bikepacking event in 2020. This event saw half the riders starting at Cape Egmont and half at East Cape, following a very indirect route to reach the other coast.

A Big Thank You to Pub Charity...

...who came to our rescue with a grant for the full cost (more than \$16,000) of an essential yet expensive upgrade to the fire alarm control panels that help keep us all safe at the A Frame and Bunkhouse. The work has now been completed and a Warrant of Fitness issued.



Congratulations to Gillian Mellsop

Gillian Mellsop has been asked to be interim Director of Human Resources for Unicef, a wonderful testament to her abilities.

She will be living in New York for six months while she carries out the duties entailed in such an important role. Gillian was to have spoken at the ASC May meeting but now we will have even more to hear when she returns.

The Club congratulates Gillian and wishes her well during this worthwhile and exciting experience.



In Memory of Peter Wakeman 1941 - 2021



Although Peter's first love was sailing, he became associated with ASC through his wife, Rosemary. Together they have been on many adventures with ASC - on foot, in kayaks or by bicycle. They were also regulars at the monthly Club meetings where they could often be found doing supper duty. In recent years they have been stalwarts of the Thursday Walkers group and Peter continued to come out on Thursday walks until just a few months before he died. The Club extends its sincere sympathy to Rosemary and her family on the loss of Peter, who died on 14 February after a year of battling cancer.

RMCA meeting 1 May 2021

The RMCA Forum will be held on Saturday 1 May at the DoC information centre at the bottom of the Bruce Road, Whakapapa. A detailed agenda will be sent out in the next couple of weeks.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This year continues to be like no other owing to the Covid – 19 pandemic; many trips have been cancelled and also a club night owing to the pandemic.

But we did manage to hold a very successful BBQ picnic on 2 February 2021 at our usual spot in Cornwall Park. Around 50 odd members attended and it was a great time.

And many thanks to all those who assisted in and participated in club events since the previous magazine. In particular I would like to thank Bart Schroder, and those who have assisted him in the repair and maintenance work done on the Bunkhouse and A Frame lodges. You will see some photos of the newly painted Bunkhouse in Bart's report 'Ruapehu Ructions' and it looks fantastic!

Thanks too, to various club members currently working on: upgrading the ASC web site, and improving the computerised Club Membership Records, specifically in the areas of day to day business transactions such as membership records and hut bookings.

Trips and Tramps:

As usual, there is a great range of trips and tramps to participate in, so make the most of them. Many of them look very interesting, and somewhat different, especially the one which meets in Point Chevalier and cycles out to Muriwai and returns the next day! Thanks Jodi Reddell.

Subscriptions Due

Finally, you will find subscription and bunk rates set out in the back pages of this magazine, and a tax invoice for the 2021 - 22 year. Fees are due by the end of April and early payment is always appreciated.

Scott White

Trip Reports

SMALL PEOPLE ON BIG HILLS - NORTH HEAD/MAUNGAUIKA

Monday 1st February 2021, Auckland Anniversary Day

A happy bunch of seven families met in the February sunshine to explore North Head/Maungauika. The party of 13 adults and 11 children climbed up to the big guns and enjoyed beautiful views over the Waitematā Harbour.



There were many boats on the water in anticipation of the Anniversary Day Regatta. The children eagerly raced through the underground tunnels and climbed on the historic disappearing gun before walking



around the maunga to a beautiful little beach near Krarkin Point - our picnic destination. The tide, the temperature and the weather were perfect. We settled down in the shade and sun and enjoyed an idyllic hour or so of beach play and swimming.

Why don't we come here more often, we asked one another? Join us on the next SPBH's trip! See our Facebook Page and Alpinesport Magazine to keep up to date.

Leader and scribe: Miranda Hutton

BUSHCRAFT WEEK-END FOR YOUNG ASC MEMBERS

**Saturday 13 February-
Sunday 14 February 2021**

Ten children and their parents stayed at the Waitakere Hut on a sunny February weekend to learn basic bushcraft skills.

ASC member and Girl Guide instructor Sue Grant led the course with help from ASC members Clive Bolt and Jane and Bruce Rogers. The first activity was learning how to build an emergency shelter in the bush. The children got into groups of two or three and, with some adults' help, foraged for dead sticks and branches to construct their shelter.



Next was learning how to put up an emergency fly, with children once again getting into small groups to put up the fly. Not sure about how the

other groups found it, but my children and I had some heated discussion about how to keep the wind and water out!

After lunch, all the children and parents gathered around the table to learn about a compass's parts and function from Clive and Sue.



Clive then led an orienteering activity which took the young explorers to the Leonard Hut and a quick history lesson.



Sue teaches some basic first aid



One of several mummies - the children extending the lesson to see how much of themselves they could cover in bandages.

Dinner time was more exciting than usual, with each family cooking on small gas cookers on the deck. Sue and Clive readily shared their tips on the best and worst of dehydrated food.



The children spent the evening roasting marshmallows (with one family generously sharing their bag of marshmallows the size of small apricots!) and playing in the bunk rooms - three-tier bunks always a novelty.



Getting the fire started

The morning brought more sunshine, and after breakfast, a fun two-hour walk in the bush following the bait lines. Once back at the hut, everyone pitched in to pack up their gear and clean the hut before leaving. A great time was had by all (and just in time before the third lockdown announced). A big thank you to Sue and her assistants for volunteering their time!

Highlights of the weekend from the children:

Caleb, 6 "The best part was walking through the bush"

Mia, 12 "I learned how to cook my own meal on the stove"

Atom 8 "The best part was learning how to use a compass"

Blythe 11 "I liked everything"

Charlie, 11 "I learned orienteering and how to use a compass and map. What I found was tricky was going through all the cutty grass on the walk we just did"

Sia, 12 "I learned how to use a compass, I haven't used one before. It was challenging when we were all trying to put up the bivvy, I was tripping up everywhere."

George 6 "My favourite bit was eating and the compass walk"

Clara, 7 "we learned how to fold raincoats in a really cool way, we learned how to roll them up and fold them into our hoods, it was useful for saving space in your pack. The best part was when I could see the hut because we had been on like a two-hour bush crash."

Thomas, 9 "I like the bushwalk and the marshmallows the best. I like eating."

Jake, 9 "I like going on all the walks and learning how to do lots of stuff. The most challenging thing was doing the bushwalk, it was really dense."

Scribe: Kate Sewell

SMALL PEOPLE ON BIG HILLS – WAITAKERE OVERNIGHT ADVENTURE

**Saturday 13 - Sunday 14
March 2021**

Designed for pre-schoolers and their siblings, this overnight trip booked out within 20 minutes of going on Facebook.

Seven keen families with 11 children between them aged 2 - 7 met at the ASC Waitakere Hut on the Saturday afternoon; some having already picnicked at Piha Beach. The children helped carry their gear to the hut then happily explored their surroundings.

Just the day before Joe Scott-Woods and his team had cleared the track to the hut, mown the lawns and completed many other tasks. The hut is such a gem and a well maintained club asset.



The newly erected net was a great hit - thank you Joe, Paul, Brian and team!



singalong time - 'Alice the Camel'

SPBH - Piha Beach Picnic Saturday 13th March 2021

"Are you here for Small People on Big Hills?" It was great to meet some new families and enjoy an easy adventure at Piha. Four families met at the Marawhara Stream carpark and walked a short

way through stunning native coastal nikau forest.



down to Piha beach

SPBH - Arataki Visitor Centre and Beveridge Track Sunday 14 March 2021

Six families met at the Arataki Visitor Centre on a gorgeous Sunday for a bushwalk. After watching the film downstairs at the Visitor Centre, we set off along the Beveridge track.

Do you see any tigers or snakes? We marvelled at the slow-growing nikau palms and the feel and smell of the tropical nikau grove. After a 10 minute walk, the children settled down to devour their snacks and play in the stream. You don't need to go far to have an adventure! Dams were built and stones thrown. We then walked back to the beach for a swim and picnic with another family there. It was a perfect day to enjoy the beach in sun, gentle waves and mild breeze. Families: Hutton/Voll, Kosidradzka, Waterworth, Baya, Horn. Leader: Miranda Hutton



The bush was beautiful and so were the views of the Lower Nihotupu reservoir.



THURSDAY AND SUNDAY WALKS

Our regular Thursday and Sunday walkers have been able to enjoy fabulous weather and explore some interesting places in between lockdowns. Here are some of the photos and comments:

Pt Erin/Westhaven - Sunday 7 March 2021

The children enjoyed spotting silver ferns (ponga), bushman's toilet paper (rangiora) and tea tree (manuka and kanuka).

We took a short detour to look at Jacobson's Depot from where the Rainforest Express used to depart. The 10 children, ranging in age from 3 to 9 quickly formed friendships and connections, chatting to each other and discussing various subjects while they walked along.

At Mackie's Rest we continued along Exhibition Drive. Some legs were getting tired, but we knew it wasn't much further. We reached Shaw Rd 1hr 45 mins after we left and the children relaxed in the old horse paddock while the drivers completed a car shuffle.

Families: Horn, Molnar, Musson, Hutton/Voll, Vaseegaran. Leader: Miranda Hutton

It was a beautiful cloudless day when we started from Pt Erin down Curran Street. A shared pedestrian/cycleway took us along the foreshore past numerous fishermen and under the Harbour Bridge.

From there we followed a fantastic boardwalk around the marina with its myriad of boats including old traditional yachts, until we came to the pedestrian bridge over the motorway near the start of Westhaven Drive.

One section of the pavement was adorned with embedded silver shells and street art, and alongside it some great seating and sculptures with fantastic views across the marina.

A pedestrian bridge took us to a walkway directly and only about 2 metres from the cars on the motorway. But a fantastic 'plastic' transparent wall kept the noise to a minimum. Up the stairs at the Shelley Beach Road off-ramp and across the road, we were back to our starting point.

It was a great walk, some participants stating that they did not even know this pathway existed. A trip well worth doing - I can recommend it!

Scott White (Leader and scribe)
Miranda Hutton, Annette Voll, Shane Riddle, Clara (7), Luke (4), Benedict (5) Jo Yu and Gillian Trotman.

Kaipara-Mataia Coastal Walkway - Thursday 11 February 2021



Otara Creek - Thursday 11 March 2021

Recently 31 Thursday walkers enjoyed the varied scenery during a walk through the Otara Creek walkway, an area unfamiliar to many.



Of particular interest was the new bridge opened in 2020. It is the latest addition to the Auckland Outdoor Public Art Portfolio.



RUAPEHU RUCTIONS - BY BART SCHRODER

First of all, let's thank the people that got down to the work parties this year.

The Bunkhouse (the new name for the Ruapehu Hut) has had quite a transformation from tatty to freshly painted.

People came down from Auckland three times in January, February and March. Lockdowns and weather intervened, but thanks to our dedicated people the job is nearly done. We've called out to most of them in an email to the club.

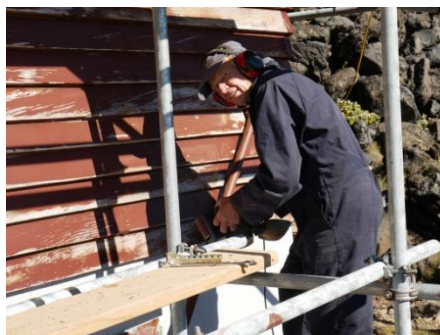


Warren Whyte organized *Ruapehu in the Summer*, and 14 stalwarts attended, had a darnn good time, walked to the Stanton Memorial amongst other notable walks, and came back buggered.

Having done that, some of them were press ganged into painting – thanks very much!



Jane, Peter and Jenny got stuck in to painting on the A Frame side while prep work was under way on the rest by Bruce, Simon, Ben, Maria, Jonathon and James.



Meanwhile, much of the catering was left in the willing hands of Janet

and Kate, who barely left the kitchen! A special thank you to them for the wonderful morning and afternoon teas complete with scones and cakes, and the delicious dinners they created for us.



The painting was finished off by Warren Whyte, Lloyd Lin, Eleanor and Dick Lane, and Johann Schoonees, with a huge push over two beautiful days.

All the same there was still a lot to do, and it was done!

While we were at it, we did some work on strengthening the deck. It now has posts holding up the hut side of the deck, and work around the stairs and the far end of the deck to make things stronger.

Thanks Brian, Scott, Ian, Russell, and Johann!

Finally, the A-Frame hosted a small team competing in the Goat. Craig and Johann did the running, with support from Jackie and co. This



is just one of the brilliant ways in which we can use the hut.

Editor's Note: A huge thank you for the enormous contribution made by Bart to organising the work programme, building and painting supplies, work parties and food supplies - as well as being on the tools himself.

RUAPEHU IN THE SUMMER

by Jocelyn Whyte

The offer of a whole week of walks, instead of just Thursday, in Tongariro National Park was taken up by 14 club members and, fortunately Auckland's brief lockdown had been lifted in time for it to happen.

Those who came early to join the weekend work party were treated to two days of clear blue skies with Mt Taranaki visible in the distance and all the ranges and valleys in between clearly defined.

Skyline Walk

On Monday the tramping began with a ride up to the Skyline Café on the Sky Waka and then up the Skyline Walk to just above the Pinnacles (see photo, back cover).



The rugged, rocky geology of the snowless mountain was quite different from its winter appearance of snow and ice. Instead it was a scene of stark

cliffs, boulders piled just where they fell in an eruption, rocky lava flows scoured smooth by water and scored by glacial ice. From above the Pinnacles we looked down on Ngauruhoe and the bleak desert below – *Lord of the Rings Mt Doom and surrounds.*

The reward for our effort was, of course, a coffee at the cafe before we caught the Sky Waka back down to Iwikau Village. For some of the group, walking for 3 hours was not enough so they went on to the Silica Springs walk, which has a nice balance of open country and bush.

The Stanton Memorial

Peter was keen to revisit the Stanton Memorial, off the Round the Mountain track, a 5 - 6 hour return trip, so on Tuesday a party of ten set off at 9 am and reached the memorial by lunchtime.



They then decided to return across country by compass bearing but had not counted on the number of ridges and valleys that had to be crossed. They finally returned to the A Frame at 7 pm, very tired but elated, having done a 9 ½ hour tramp - not bad for (mostly) 70-80 year-olds.



Stanton Memorial destination - the plateau above the bluffs

Says Peter *"My memory here of previous visits was of easier crossings with snow in the valleys. Not this time! It was*



clearly taking longer than I could recall and we needed to choose carefully how to descend the rugged, steep sections.

The last obstacle was the valley that is seen from the kitchen in the A-Frame. We had to follow the ridge line to the end by its dry stream bed. Up the other side and we were a short distance from the Manawatu Lodge. It had a most welcome path up to the access road and the path to our A-Frame. Our day had turned into a 9 ½ hour slog, though the group remained in good spirits. It was a testament to the fitness of the group in difficult terrain. Being welcomed back with dinner on the table was most appreciated."

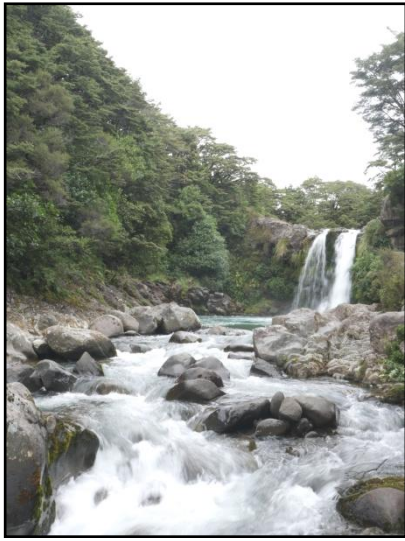
Meanwhile, the four who opted out enjoyed the Whakapapanui River walk, a beautiful bush stroll parallel to the Chateau road, and were home in time to have dinner ready when the more intrepid trampers returned.



Dieuwke and Peter ascending the slopes above the waterfall

Taranaki and Tawhai Falls

Everyone opted for a short, easy trip on Wednesday, so we walked the upper track to the Taranaki Falls and back along the lower track and still had enough energy to drive down the road to the Tawhai Falls, apparently the site of *Gollum's cave in LOTR* and certainly very picturesque. Along the path we spotted real heather as well as the heath that is much more common in the Park.



Tawhai Falls

Old Coach Road

With energy levels high again on Thursday we drove to Horopito and walked the Old Coach Road to Ohakune. This historic 15km, 5 hour walk has some wonderful original forest with 300+-year old rimu and other forest giants, remains of the original cobblestones still embedded in the road surface, abandoned railroad steel viaducts and modern concrete ones, and plenty of interpretive signage. Some had done it before but it was well worth a repeat visit.

By Friday our numbers had dwindled and those left packed up to leave, too, but not before taking advantage of the still-fine weather to get a bit more paint on the Ruapehu hut, seeing the weekend work party had been cancelled in the face of a bad weather forecast. All in all, it was a very satisfying week in more ways than one and a very pleasant interlude before yet another lockdown was announced two days later.

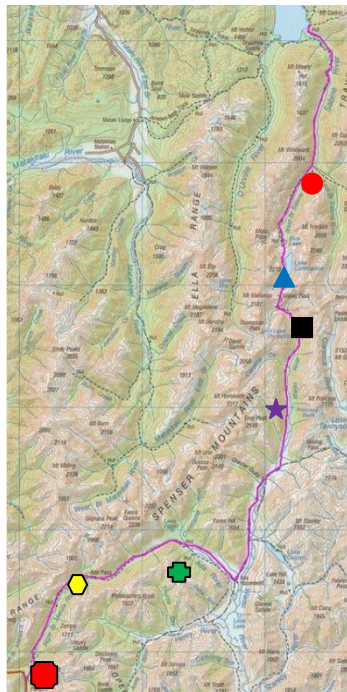
Participants were: Brian Bargh, Maria Bullock, Sandra & Bruce Dwerryhouse, Cathy & Mike Frith, Dieuwke (Duka) Gers, Jenny Hudson & Peter Loveridge, Jane & Bruce Rogers, Gillian Trotman, Jocelyn (Scribe) & Warren (Organiser) Whyte.

WAIAU PASS

March 2021

We four club members (Jackie Ponting, Christina Richter, Scott Houghton and Bart Schroder - scribe) set off to walk from the head of Lake Rotoroa in Nelson Lakes National Park to Lewis Pass via the Waiiau Pass. It's about 77km, we took 7 days over it, with a spare day in case of bad weather.

I am always amazed how easy it is to get onto a track which seems far away – just board a flight at 8:35 am to Nelson, a plane ride, a shuttle ride, and a boat ride later you are at the start of the track at about 2pm ready to tramp! A bluebird day, the ducks were happy



and we got to

share DOC's excitement at flying a drone to kill weeds. Brilliant.

After about 5 hours we got to the West Sabine hut ●. I have to admit I was not track fit, and by the end I was looking forward to getting to the hut! It was pretty full, with quite a number of TA (Te Araroa) walkers. So by the time they got to this area, they were as fit as. They had all evolved a system of eating, and were doing longer distances each day than us. Some had come over the Travers Saddle from St Arnaud that day!

I had made the stupid decision to 'scientifically' work out how much food I should take, based on what other people said you needed (about 22,400 kJ per day).

I'd taken that amount and it worked out to be about twice what I needed (16 days' worth). Ah well – in a bind I could have fed the rest of the troops for a few days.

On Day 2, we decided to head for the Blue Lake hut for lunch (about 3½ hrs) and then camp beside Lake Constance ▲ (another 2 hours). The hut was a welcome refuge from the sandflies, and we met a bunch of mates up for a weekend away.



We wandered off to see the beautiful Blue Lake with the clearest water in the world.

This is filtered by a very slow journey through the moraine wall from Lake Constance. It was very clear! And it also had rock snot (Didymo) all through it. So sad. We saw Didymo in creeks and rivers all the way to Lewis Pass, undoubtedly transported on trampers boots, and by the ubiquitous ducks and geese.



After Blue Lake, there was a fair bit of climbing up over the moraine wall holding back Lake Constance, and then up past the bluffs that drop dramatically down to the lake. Having got to the top, we thought the down would be a doddle, but far from it! It might be a bit hard to make out, but there is a track launching itself steeply down. We planned to camp at the head of the lake, and that turned out to be a good spot.

Here's three of our party – Scott, Jackie and Christina, with our tents amongst the tussock. Not too many sandflies, but quite a few geese



Of course one of our main missions was to walk over Waiau Pass, the subject of Day 3. A gorgeous day and we were ready to roll!



The arrow shows where Waiau Pass is. In the old days, you had to find it. Now that it is part of the TA, it is well poled, with a track here and there, even in the rock. There were fantastic views back to Lake Constance. We stopped for morning tea, and to dry out our dewy tents in the morning sun.



After about 2½ hours Christina and I reached the top with a fair degree of celebration. A bit of a slog, but not too terrible. The feeling of peace in the mountains was huge.



We watched Scott and Jackie make their way up the hill way down there (arrowed), and were glad we were not being lashed by rain and wind.

Next we had to walk down, which turned out to be steep ... and steeper, with a bit of down-climbing to keep us on our toes. My quads started suffering (it's about 700m vertical descent), and we had to head all the way down to the Waiiau River valley in this photo.

Along the way we met a Dutch couple, leap frogging each other several times. Interesting conversation ensued. This is one of the things about doing a TA route – there are people from all over. I would not



have thought there would be so many people. Quite a few are retired, and this is a way to enjoy the outdoors without Covid.

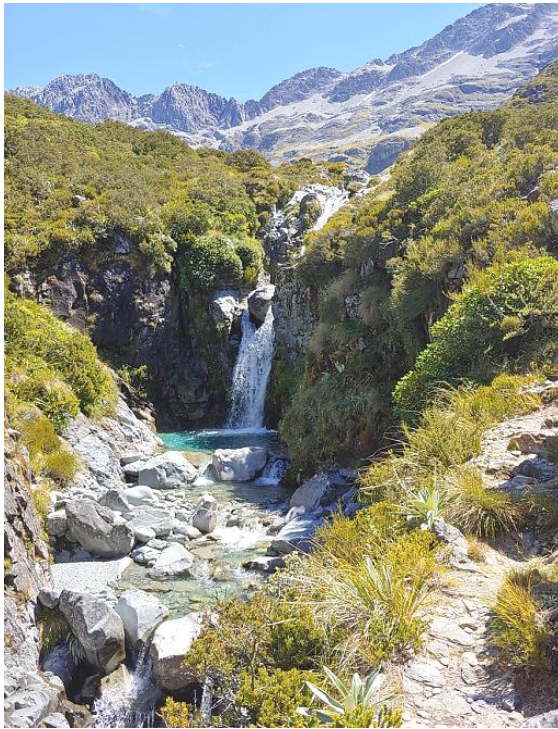
I became quite entranced by the interplay between rock, cloud and sky. Pity this is not in colour (have a look at the web version), but it shows the steep bit we came down, all cracked and broken rock, with a fine feathering of high cloud.



At lunch I noticed that the feathering had converted itself into striped pressure waves, something I have not seen much before.

]

We met the Dutch couple again at the start of the Waiau Uwha River, delicious to drink! On the way down to Waiau Forks ■ we passed beautiful waterfalls, and stunning terrain.




The track continued on down, and we made camp at the beautiful Waiau Forks, in what has become a defacto camp site. (It could do with a loo – maybe DOC could help?). It took us about 6 hours from Lake Constance with breaks.

Having completed the primary objective, the next mission was to get to Lewis Pass. The weather forecast (now already 4 days old) had warned of impending heavy rain in a couple of days, and we were keen to get somewhere roomy to wait it out.

On Day 4 we set off for Waiau Hut ★ kindly donated by Timaru farmer Robert Birks, to give back to the tramping community. He'd been tramping in the area for 40 years. He paid the entire \$155k cost, with the hut owned and managed by DOC. We found the 6-bed hut a welcome sight after 3 hours tramping, and we decided to have a short day.



We were there first; soon enough another couple turned up, and then at least another 5 people. Sadly, some had to camp outside, or keep on going. We played games (Killer Monopoly and various other card games which involved shafting me at every turn), ate well, and enjoyed the place.

On Day 5, with a foreboding sky behind us, we set out for Christopher Hut , 5 hours walk over river flats with some clambering up and over avalanche debris, and crossing a few side creeks. We arrived with wet feet, just as the rain was setting in. Along the way we saw the Ada horses, and met up with some TA'ers. Christopher Hut was a good size, the fire was warm, the card games vicious, and the food good. Soon we were joined by a couple riding the local St James bike trail. As the rain became fierce, we were tucked up warm and dry!



On Day 6, we dithered. Should we use our rain day or not? We fed the fire, played games, ate, snoozed, all the while the rain kept coming and going. Christina and I gathered firewood, and split logs. The day dragged on. At 2 pm, we decided to go anyway. Christina, being smart, put on leggings. We headed off with about an hour of fine weather, with views of fine tops back to Ada, but then the rain came down, and I quickly regretted not getting the

leggings out from the bottom of my pack (and why was I keeping them there anyway???), as my legs started to resemble ice blocks.

Towards 6 pm we arrived at the Ada Pass Hut 🟡. A couple already had the fire on, but it was barely putting out any heat. We were soaked, and covered every surface with wet gear that puddled on the floor. We eventually got the fire going and I learned more ways to be shafted at cards, including the use of one unmentionable card!

We had thought we might use up our spare day and walk up to Three Tarn Pass but by morning the tops were covered in cloud and fresh snow. That's



Three Tarn Pass where the snow is. Beautiful though it looked, we decided to do a runner, and go and soak in the Hamner hot pools.

So 3½ hours later we were at Lewis Pass 🟠 having passed by Cannibal Gorge hut without too much hardship, on an overcast day. After some interesting hitch hiking we all made it safely to Hanmer and the Kakapo Lodge, Hot Pools, and a good dinner and beer. What more could one want to end a brilliant trip!

HISTORIC ACCOUNT - NELSON LAKES - TRAVERS AND MALINGS PASSES

Excerpts from an account of an epic trip by Scott White and others from AUTC some 50 years ago make for interesting reading in our modern world.

On 26 December, all except Wayne met at Auckland Station, catching the Limited to Wellington. The rest of the carriage was entertained by seat-swapping, pillow fights, and girls being thrown over the seats. Wayne spent the night allegedly under a bush in Government House grounds and met us on the 27th.

Very early in the trip Margot acquired the name Hay-stack, since no less than three people got hayfever from sleeping near her hair.

The tramp began on the 28th, when we ambled along the edge of Lake Rotoiti and up the Travers as far as the Arnst River. We had a much needed respite from packs when we stopped by the swiftly flowing Travers River to watch two paradise ducks teaching their young to swim.



The next day was a long slow drag to Upper Travers Hut. Virginia's botany book got damp and the roll was unfurled between its pages to dry it off. The following day, instead of climbing Travers - too much snow for a party without ice axes - we rested. Margot started the day with a tramp across the flats to get a snowball and laboriously carried it back to the hut

with the intention of throwing it at John. Unfortunately for Margot, John noticed her pilgrimage and was ready with a billy of water. Margot missed, but John didn't!

John started the day making milk but was never allowed to again when the shaker top flew off and covered Virginia in milk powder from top to toe.

An early start next morning, up Travers Pass by 9:30 am after climbing out of the sleeping blue-shadowed valley. Down the other side, steep scree slopes slowed us. When we finally made camp (with four TTC types), New Year's Eve was celebrated with half a bottle of sauterne (originally destined for Scott's 21st later in the trip), shared among 12. Colleen and Scott made a hot curry - putting in 4 times as much curry powder as was needed. Neil remarked as he went to wash his bowl that he could hear the water sizzle in it.

All were most impressed with the Sabine Gorge and spend most of the next day bush-crashing along the river bank by which time one leg felt longer than the other.

Next morning we sidled along and up, up, up in the snowgrass with deceptive pits, wild spaniard and 'dead sheep' (*Raoulia* and *Haastia* say the botanists) towards Clarence Pass. Lunch at the top, gazing at the steep snow slope leading to the Clarence River. Overtrou were donned and we zoomed down 600 ft in 30 seconds. Shortly afterwards Neil tried the same trick again and nearly came to grief. Slept in the tussock on a beautifully fine night. The Clarence River, threading between golden tussock banks in a wide glacial valley, was a sight to behold in the early morning light next day. Down to Lake Tennyson, stewed gooseberries for pud.



Next came the crossing of Malings Pass, down the picturesque Waiau River Valley and up the Ada to the mouth of the Christopher. Scott was very disappointed when he didn't see three bolts of lightning at midnight on 5 January, but at 6 am was presented with 32 balloons which were duly blown up, forcing most people out of the tent. Owing to bad weather (the first of the trip - an omen?) we moved everything we needed for the day of birthday celebrations to a nearby shepherd's hut. Too small to sleep in, but ideal for eating - apple fritters for breakfast, smoked fish, steamed pud, birthday cake, champagne, sauterne and after dinner mints.

Our route next took us into the flat yet scenic Ada Valley, past several small lakes. Ada Pass would be unnoticeable but for the change in river direction and the bog in which we again applied *White's principle*: never go round if you can go through it.

Our final day was uneventful until it became necessary to cross the river through Cannibal Gorge. However, thanks to the continual rain since Scott's three bolts of lightning, the river was well up and much too deep to cross without a river-rope. It was then that Dan Boone came into his own. He set a tomahawk to a large tree and after several false starts the tree leapt into the air and landed neatly across the worst 2/3rds of the river. Thus, with the aid of Wayne's waistloop for the remaining third, we crossed and chundered happily out to the road at Lewis Pass.



Too much snow on the Waiau Pass meant our route became: Nelson Lakes, L Rotoiti -Travers Pass - Sabine River - East Sabine - Clarence River - L Tennyson - Malings Pass - Waiau

Party: Scott White (leader and scribe - aka "his obesity"), Brian Truman (Whaka), John Silvester (SK), Margot Woodward (Hay-stack), Wayne Russell (Dan Boone), Colleen Beaumont (Camp Mummy), Neil Carter, Virginia Spencer (Morals Officer)



Trips and Tramps

Editor's note: we still need to be vigilant regarding Covid-19, so please check the website or trip leaders whether restrictions apply.

Madills Farm & St Heliers	Thurs	25 March 2021
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Starting at 10.30am at Madills Farm Baddeley Ave Kohimarama just behind the Melanesia Road shops. There is plenty of parking and also there will be a number of toilets on the route. We plan to navigate Madills Farm then via Towhai St to Long Drive, through Dingle Dell to St Heliers, along Tamaki Drive, up Cliff Road and around to Glover Park. Karaka Bay is possible depending on time and weather then back to St Heliers by a route yet to be decided by us, then around to Madills Farm along the waterfront.

Leaders Margaret Bell & Gaye Steele. Margbell420@gmail.com, steeleo@xtra.co.nz

Lake Tarawera Trail	Sat - Sun	27 - 28 March 2021
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Walk the Tarawera trail, camp at hot water beach on Lake Tarawera, cost \$15 adults, \$7.50 child, although appears to be a minimum charge of \$30 per site. Camp sites booked at <https://whakarewarewa.com/experiences/hot-water-beach-campground/>.

Walk back on Sunday, or option to catch water taxi. Option to kayak for experienced kayakers also. Contact Leader Tracey Laga t.laga@xtra.co.nz

Micro Adventure - Muriwai	Sat - Sun	27 - 28 March 2021
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Meeting in Point Chevalier. Saturday afternoon. Cycle along the bike cycle path to Westgate, then on road to Muriwai to campground. Camp overnight. Option for surf lessons on Sunday morning and family day at the beach (if your family comes to pick you up) or cycle back. Designed for fit adults with competent bike skills.

Contact Jodi for more info and to register jodireddell@yahoo.com Muriwai surf school: [Home - Muriwai Surf School](#)

Easter at Lake Okataina, near Rotorua	Friday - Tuesday	2 - 6 April 2021
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Come and explore the Rotorua area with other ASC friends this Easter! Beautiful bushwalks, pristine Lake Okataina, lots of mountain biking possibilities, exciting thermal activity and a HUGE Easter Egg Hunt for the children.

ASC has booked the Okataina Outdoor Recreation and Education Trust Centre for our exclusive use. It is a 90-bed lodge with bunk-room style accommodation. Bring own linen and food. Communal kitchen with oven, microwave, etc. Over thirty ASC members have already booked to come, ranging in age from 2 - 78 years.

Email Miranda to book your place miranda@alpinesport.org.nz

Thursday walk - Rangitoto	Thursday	8 April 2021
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9.15 am boat from Auckland - Pier 4. Calls at Devonport at 9.25 \$39.00 return. Walk to summit, bypassing caves, then down to McKenzie Bay with the lighthouse for lunch.(Swim optional). Return by coastal scoria road back to wharf (5 kms approx). Total - 14 kms approx. Last boat returns at 3.30. Leaders Mike & Cathy Frith mandcfrith@gmail.com

Putauaki (Mt Edgecumbe)	Sunday	4 April 2021
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A day trip leaving from Miranda's Lodge at 9 am; stay at Lake Okataina (but open to members who might wish to make their own accommodation arrangements elsewhere). Climbing to the summit of Mount Putauaki/Edgecumbe takes about 2 hours up and around 1.5 hours to come down.

As access is through private land each car is required to obtain a permit prior from <https://permits.maoriinvestments.co.nz/>. If time allows we will also visit Tarawera Falls (a separate permit can be obtained on the day from the I-site visitor centre In Kawerau).

Leader Mark Roberts mark2005roberts@yahoo.co.nz

Small People on Big Hills – Maungawhau (Mt Eden)	Sunday	11 April 2021
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Find the treasure on your maunga! Join Freya (4) and Lydia (almost 2) for a Nature Scavenger Hunt on Maungawhau (Mt Eden). Meet at the playground at the base of Mt Eden (Normanby Rd) at 10.00am for an explorative walk up to the summit. Bring a snack and a drink to enjoy at the top and then return to the playground for lunch.

Contact Catherine to register interest catherinelydiahird@gmail.com.

Mt Pirongia	Sat - Sun	17 - 18 April 2021
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Up to the summit of Mt Pirongia via the Tirohanga Track on Saturday, a night in Pahautea Hut and return on the Sunday via Mahaukura Track. A challenging but rewarding tramp with stunning views of the mountain and the Waikato below. 8 - 11 hours/12km return. Children welcome.

An extended option could involve leaving on Friday afternoon/evening and spending a night at the foot of the mountain before heading off earlier on the Saturday morning, if this is of interest. Around 2 hours drive from Auckland.

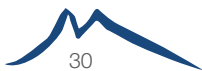
Contact: Lukas Adam lukas.p.adam@gmail.com

Thursday walk - TBA	Thursday	22 April 2021
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Leader Gillian Mellso gmellsop@gmail.com

Moerangi Track - BOOKED OUT	Fri - Sun	23 - 25 April 2021
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Women's Overnight Adventure. Contact Ellie Jones Email ellie31jones@gmail.com



Women's Adventure - Mercer Bay	Overnight	Sat - Sun	1 - 2 May 2021
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Women of all ages are invited to join us for the Mercer Bay loop walk with stunning coastline views followed by a night at the ASC Waitakere hut. The theme for the evening will be a "Taste of tramping". We will invite everyone to bring along their favourite meals - or ones they have been looking for an excuse to try. So we can test and rate the best meals for our next tramping adventure. Open to members and non-members. Cost: ASC member \$15 Non-member \$30. Contact Jeanine Scholey janscholey@gmail.com

Maungatautari Weekend	Mountain	Fri - Sun	7 - 9 May 2021
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Drive down on Friday to the Mighty River Domain beside Lake Karapiro where we are staying at the chalets which have bunkroom accommodation. Bring your own bedding and food. Fully equipped kitchen. Adults \$32 and children under 12 yrs \$26 per night.

On Saturday we will drive to Pukeatua on the south side of the mountain and walk to the summit and return, either via the hard or easy tracks. There is also an option to visit the Southern Enclosure, cost \$25 for adults and \$12 for children. Saturday evening possibly a meal out in Cambridge or self cater at the camp. Sunday go to the Waihou River Trail and walk to the Blue Spring. Return to Auckland in the afternoon.

If interested could you please contact the leader before 28th Feb 2021 so that accommodation bookings can be made.

Leader : Bruce Rogers bj_rogers@xtra.co.nz

Small People on Big Hills - Waiheke Adventure	Sunday	23 May 2021
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Jump on the 9.30am ferry from Auckland City for a Waiheke adventure! Clara (7) and Lukas (4) can't wait to explore the island's bush and beaches, and probably stop for an icecream along the way too. Bring food, drink, warm and weather-proof clothing. Adult return \$35, Child 5 -15 \$21, Child under 5 Free, Family deal \$113. Contact Miranda to register your interest miranda@alpinesport.org.nz

Eastern Beach – Bucklands Beach circuit	Thursday	27 May 2021
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Leader Helen Bolt helen.bolt@xtra.co.nz

Small People on Big Hills - destination TBC	Sunday	20 June 2021
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Details to follow later.

RECURRING WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Thursday Walks – Walks are held on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of every month (except January and December). For further information contact Clive Bolt cbolt@xtra.co.nz. For details of other proposed multi day trips see the Club’s Bulletin Board under “Tramping and Trips” where members seek others to join them or help in planning in trips.

RUAPEHU BOOKINGS (by website only)

Book by selecting the 'Online Booking' option on the Club website and follow the instructions. Likewise, for changing or cancelling a booking, or applying for a refund, follow the website instructions. To contact Booking Officer, email: bookings@alpinesport.org.nz

**Subscription Schedule & Invoice for year ending
31st March 2022**

Annual Subscriptions for period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022			
Membership category	\$NZ	\$ Ext n	Code
<i>Individual</i>			
Member, under 65	120		A
Member, 65 and over	70		B
<i>Couples</i>			
Couples, both under 65	230		C
Couples, one under 65 & one 65 or over	180		D
Couples, both 65 or over	125		E
<i>Family</i>			
Family membership, 2 adults & children (under 22) <i>Entitles children to membership rates at Ruapehu</i>	260		F
Family membership, 1 adult & children (under 22) <i>Entitles children to membership rates at Ruapehu</i>	145		G
Junior member (under 22)	65		H
<i>Other</i>			
Life member	No fee		I
FMC membership (highly recommended) entitles you to qtlly magazine 'Backcountry', discounted DoC hut fees, discounts on clothing & sports goods at over 40 companies listed on back cover of 'Backcountry'	25		J
Donation towards upkeep of our club's Ruapehu & Waitakere lodges			K
TOTAL PAYABLE by 30th April 2021 please		\$	

Standard Bunk Night Rates 2021 - 2022 (per person, per night)

Season = >	Winter Season 1 June to 31 October		Summer Season 1 November to 31 May		Anytime
Member rate	A Frame or Bunkhouse No work party	A Frame or Bunkhouse Work party discounted rate	A Frame or Bunkhouse No work party	A Frame or Bunkhouse Work party discounted rate	Waitakere Hut Own food
Adult	\$46.50	\$41.50	\$33.50	\$30.00	\$15.00
Junior (5 and under)	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
Junior/Family member (6 - 16)	\$22.50	\$19.50	\$17.50	\$17.00	\$10.00
Junior/Family member (17 - 21)	\$30.00	\$26.50	\$21.00	\$18.50	\$10.00
Adult Guest	\$77.50	n/a	\$38.00	n/a	\$30.00
Junior Guest (21 and under)	\$46.50	n/a	\$26.00	n/a	\$15.00
Day visits	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$10.00

Note: the season bunk pass has been discontinued.

- **WORK PARTY DISCOUNT:** if you attended a Ruapehu work party, the discounted rates will be loaded against your membership in the booking system.
- **DISCOUNT:** Stay 4 nights between Sunday night to Thursday night and get a 10% discount on the Standard Bunk Rate.
- All A Frame and Ruapehu Hut bookings must be paid immediately once booked
- Bookings may be moved no later than three nights before the first night of your stay (e.g. Friday night must be moved by end of Tuesday) Refunds are at the discretion of the Committee.

BOOKING AND PAYMENT METHODS

To make a booking and payment for the Ruapehu lodges

Go to Club website www.alpinesports.org.nz, click on “Mt Ruapehu Ski Lodge Bookings” and follow the prompts. You will need either your Credit Card or Bank Account number beside you.

Payment methods for subscriptions

1. Internet Banking (Preferred)

FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS pay by **internet banking** to our **subscription account 12 3237 0007167 61**

Enter details to appear on the club bank statement as follows

Particulars	Reference Code	Reference
Your initial & surname	A to K (from chart above)	Subscription

2. Credit Card

Pay through Club website www.alpinesport.org.nz. Log into website and enter your password. If you have not created a password before follow the prompts on the screen by starting by entering your current email address.

Once you have created a password you can then login.

Click on “Shop” tab, then click “Memberships & Donations” tab then select your membership category and “add to cart”. Click “FMC” tab and then “Donations” tab and “add to cart” if you wish. Click “check out” when finished and then pay with credit card if you have one available. If you require assistance please contact Justine Checketts via email (membership@alpinesport.org.nz) and she will help solve any problem.

3. ASB Branch

Or you can make payment at any ASB branch using the same details as in (1) above.

Waitakere Hut ONLY: Contact Joe Scott-Woods, for ALL bookings and payments.

ALPINE SPORTS CLUB, PO BOX 131, AUCKLAND 1140 www.alpinesport.org.nz

Scramble on the Pinnacles - Ruapehu in the Summer

photo credit: Jenny Hudson



registered as a magazine at the CPO, Wellington, NZ