



Thursday walkers in action

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# COMMITTEE & CLUB CONTACTS

POSITION	NAME	EMAIL ADDRESS
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 Co-ordinator	Ian Seddon	ruapehu@alpinesport.org.nz
Events Co-ordinators	Keri and Eric Horn	kerianderic@alpinesport.org.nz
Wāitakere Hut Liaison	Mike Frith	mike@alpinesport.org.nz

## CLUB APPOINTMENTS

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	Fiona Heenan	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.n
Midis and Midis Plus Co-ordinator	Sherilyn Coney	sconey@xtra.co.nz
Summer Camp Co-ordinators	Mark Roberts	tours@alpinesport.org.nz
	Miranda Hutton	miranda@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
RUAPEHU A-FRAME      PHONE NUMBER		

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT.



*Miranda Hutton, Club President.*

April 2025

Kia ora koutou,

We have good news; the subscription rates are coming down this year! After much research and many calculations, our Treasurer Bruce Dwerryhouse has advised we can make this reduction. This will be particularly welcome for families, as their subscription had crept up to over \$300 and will now be \$200/ year. We would like to couple this with a membership drive, so please spread the word to friends and acquaintances that an ASC membership (with access to three beautiful facilities) is an absolute steal this year.

Talking of our beautiful huts, Nicholas Roberts and a team of keen helpers have been painting and preparing them for the winter season. Keep an eye out for free Whakapapa Season Passes for children aged 10 and under and for seniors aged 75+ available from May. [www.whakapapa.com](http://www.whakapapa.com)

Long-time ASC members from the Seddon Family will once again be looking after our huts this winter with Gemma and Jackson sharing the role of Hut Wardens, with the assistance of their father Ian Seddon. Thank you so much Gemma and Jackson, we look forward to spending time with you at the A-Frame again this year.

Easter is nearly upon us with the Easter Camp at Pirongia booked out with a waiting list. Small People on Big Hills have started with a blast, Thursday Walks are well underway, and the Weekend Day Tramping programme is up and running.

Our AGM is coming up in June. Please put your hand up to volunteer for the club this year. We are looking for a Secretary, an Alpinesport Magazine Editor, and support with Digital Promotions and Social Media. We'd welcome new faces on the committee, particularly the newer family members who can bring their perspectives and help shape the club going forward into the future.

See you at the Club Night this Tuesday, 1st April, to hear Don Baker talk about his walking trip in Britain.

Ngā mihi,

Miranda

# GENERAL NEWS & NOTICES



**Volunteers** are needed to assist with the following tasks, many hands make light work so please put up your hand to give back to the club by helping out with one of the following tasks

- Marketing and Social Media
- Promoting Ruapehu Huts
- Magazine editor
- Secretary

New members needed on the committee, all skills welcome

**Rangatahi Ramblers** - a number of parents in the club have seen a gap in trips available that suit 8-15 year olds. These kids are capable of trips that are more demanding than what is being offered on Small People Big Hills and they are at a stage where they want to hang out with young people of a similar age. If you are interested in helping Greg and Jared get this up and running, please talk to them at Easter Camp or contact Greg on: [gregmunford@gmail.com](mailto:gregmunford@gmail.com)



# Auckland

Buy Tickets

SkyCity Theatre Corner Hobson Street and, Wellesley Street West, Auckland CBD

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



# CLUB NIGHT

## TUESDAY April 1st

St.Marks Hall Remuera Road

7.30pm

**Don Baker will be talking about his walking trip in Britain**

The Club committee have been asked to advise ASC members particularly the “Midis” that:

**Kelvin Barton** died 25 March 2025 at Pakūranga Park Village. His funeral will be 1:30 pm Saturday 29 March 2025 at St Andrews Presbyterian Church, 11 Vincent Street, Howick.

A link to the live stream of the service will be available. If anyone would like it, they may contact Brian Fitzpatrick.

### Small People Big Hills

See Trips section later in the magazine for two more upcoming trips for our younger members. These are easy trips to lead and if you are stuck for ideas there are lots of members who can help with suggestions. However we do need more of the SPBH families to put their hand up to lead a trip as currently its falling on just a few families.

Keen to help, please contact Jared [jared.haslemore@gmail.com](mailto:jared.haslemore@gmail.com)



# RUAPEHU NEWS



If you missed the programme recently on Q&A about the future of the Chateau, you can watch on this link [here](#). Thank you to **Jackson Seddon** one of our Ruapehu Hut wardens for sharing the link with us.



Price freeze for anyone who held a season pass between 2020 and 2024. See details next page....

**The following information has been issued by WHL via email on March 21st, 2025 and relates to anyone who purchased a season pass over the last few years.**

“Kia ora ,

As a valued Season Pass holder, we're excited to offer you an exclusive discount for the upcoming 2025 season. Because you've been part of our community between 2020 and 2024, we're giving you the opportunity to lock in a special price freeze on your Season Pass renewal.

Here's how it works

When our Season Pass campaign launches in May, you'll be able to lock in the 2024 Season Pass price—no increases! To take advantage of this special offer, simply log in to your account and purchase your pass during the sale campaign period. This exclusive price freeze applies only to those who have purchased a Season Pass between 2020-2024 (whether for 1 or more seasons), so be sure to secure your discount. You can explore our 2025 Season Passes online, giving you time to consider the best choice for you.

Important Details

- You must log in to your profile to access the exclusive price freeze.
- The discounted price is locked to the 2024 Season Pass price.
- To take advantage of the discount, your purchase must occur during the upcoming sale campaign.

We want to thank you for being part of our community, and we hope this offer makes your next season with us even more memorable. Keep an eye on your inbox for more details as the campaign launch approaches.

Ngā mihi nui,

Your Whakapapa Whānau

<https://www.whakapapa.com/our-company/news>



# TRIP REPORTS

## City Circuit encompassing City Parks, Grafton Valley & Auckland University

Thursday Walk 27th February 2025

Twenty five members of the Thursday walking group gathered in the Aotea Civic Square on the 27th February to enjoy a walk through parts of the city they rarely visit these days. First stop was under the Mayoral Drive overbridge entrance to Myers Park to view and practice the singing of a waiata which in turn activates a coloured lighting display. Auckland Council's new interactive art work called 'Waimahara' is certainly something different. Our walk continued up the Myers Park valley with its tall mature trees and various sculptures to emerge onto Karangahape Road through St Kevins Arcade. This building and its apartments and its shops, have changed little since the Arcade was built in 1924.

Next stop was to view the new 'Karanga-a-hape' underground Station from the outside, and the many 100 year old buildings on the nearby corners such as the Hopetoun Alpha (previously a Congregational Church), Pitt St Methodist Church, George Courts and Rendalls Dept Stores, and the St John's Ambulance Station.

A return walk along "K Road" took us past the Jewish Cemetery to Grafton bridge and Governor Hobson's grave, then through Grafton Gully's tracks to Whitaker Place, which is the front door to eight multi storied student apartment blocks which are seen from the motorway. Eventually we emerged on to Symonds Street via Elam School of Arts and St Pauls Anglican Church.

After a morning tea break at Auckland University's Student Hub we were given permission to tour through the new \$320 million, eight storied, 26,000 sq metre 'Hiwa Recreation & Fitness Centre'. The building which incorporates two running tracks, a swimming pool, four tennis courts, several other courts for other ball games, a fitness centre, a climbing wall and space for several other sports, was a real eye opener to us all. It was orientation week at the University so we were surrounded by first year students on their own conducted tours.

We then moved on to walk through the original campus, viewing or passing by the Library, the long revered Lippincott designed Arts block, the old Choral Hall, and the extensive tree lined grounds around old Government House, where we were able to dine eating our home made cut lunches!!!! Just as we did when most of us were students!!!!.

Following a well deserved rest over lunch we moved on to do a walk through the new eight storied Arts and Education building followed by a look at the Marae off Alten St., then the Samoan Fale, and finally the School of Business in the Owen Glen Building and the Fisher & Paykel auditorium.

Although the leader had planned a further hour of walking around the Carlaw Park University Student Campus and Lovers' Lane (for old times sake!!) in the lower Domain, members decided to call it a day and leave the rest for another time.

The walk was promoted as one where those participating would see something old, something new, something historic and something different – in this they were not disappointed.

**Warren Whyte (Leader & Scribe)**

## Trip Report

### **HUNUA REGIONAL PARK, COSSEY - MASSEY LOOP**

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

On a stunning autumn day in March twelve intrepid club members enjoyed a delightful circuit walk from the Hunua Falls carpark to the Cossey Dam, where we had lunch before returning down the gorge track to our cars.

Auckland's long hot summer coupled with the delightful Autumn weather meant we were walking along dry tracks on a windless day under clear blue skies. The shade provided by the beautiful Hunua bush with its canopy of mature forest of Punga, Tawa, Totara, Rimu and other NZ native trees has to be experienced to be believed.

The walk up to the dam took a little over two hours, as we had decided that there was no need to rush, as we were there for a pleasant day's outing. We arrived at the Cossey Dam around midday and lunched in the shade looking out on a much depleted lake due to the drier than normal summer period.

Our descent down the gorge track was accompanied by the sound of a reasonable water flow running over the rocky stream bed below in the valley. At no stage were we at all lonely, as we were passed by many runners, day walkers, family groups and the like, coming up the track to the dam. All of these people were enjoying a day out in one of Auckland's premier Regional Parks.

Our thanks go to our leader Marion Browne, our leader and co-leader Susan Stephens, for their efforts towards making the day so successful. Joining them were club members:- Clive & Helen Bolt, Bill Dobbie, Jonathan & Janet Hodder, Theresa Kermode, Bruce & Jane Rogers and Warren & Jocelyn Whyte.



# UPCOMING TRIPS

## WHATIPU TO PARARAHU RETURN

**Saturday April 5th 2025**

Meet at 9.30 am at the end of the Whatipu Road at the Whatipu Beach carpark. Walk over the hills along the Gibbons and Muir tracks to the Les Ward Shelter by the Pararaha Stream for lunch, and return along the beach visiting the Whatipu caves on the way.

See <https://nztramper.com/gibbons-track-muir-track-pararaha-valley-track-to-beach-loop/> for details.

This is a trip which has not been done by our club for some years. It has always been very popular with tramping groups, school groups and family groups. Prior to the 1950's the caves were used for Saturday night dances and social functions. Whatipu area has an interesting history so do join us - we would love to have your company.

Contact leaders: Calin Cascaval and Anca Suvaiala on 022 408 2800 or email [calin@cascaval.us](mailto:calin@cascaval.us) or [anca@cascaval.us](mailto:anca@cascaval.us)



# SMALL PEOPLE ON BIG HILLS – MAUNGAKIEKIE / ONE TREE HILL NATURE WALK AND PICNIC

**Saturday April 5th 2025**

We will explore a loop track around the cone off the main track in the long grass, climb grassy hills, climb trees, find the fairy tree and slide down grassy slopes and end up back at the car park for a shared picnic early dinner. Suitable for all ages. Not pram suitable, little ones in front or backpacks.

Meet at 2:45pm at the grassy knoll behind the Sorrento carpark on the Royal Oak side of One Tree Hill. Please arrive on time as we will leave at for walk at 3pm. We will walk around the cone off the track, it may take between 60-90mins to go around at kid pace and playing as they go.

Bring snacks, drinks, sturdy shoes and warm/waterproof clothing for some off-track exploring this beautiful maunga. Bring picnic dinner and picnic rugs for early dinner picnic (leave in car) after the walk.

Contact Abi to register [abimaeraymond@gmail.com](mailto:abimaeraymond@gmail.com)





## SMALL PEOPLE ON BIG HILLS – TE ARAI LOOP WALK

**Sunday May 3 2025**

Meet at 11am

Join Claire and Harper for the Te Arai regional park walk to Forestry and back. On the way we're going to explore the rockpools to find sea anemones, starfish, crabs and more. Bring togs / wetsuit for a jump in the lagoon at the end. Feel free to bring boogie boards, picnic lunch to stay later at the beach.

Meet at Te Arai beach carpark <https://maps.app.goo.gl/gAhoAT27sEPTToJ51A>

Estimated Duration (excluding travel):

1-2hrs (3km) with stops to explore rock pools along the way

Suitable for all ages

Map and terrain: <https://www.alltrails.com/trail/new-zealand/auckland/te-arai-regional-park-walk>



## THURSDAY WALK – MANGEMANGAROA WALKWAY

**Thursday April 10th 2025**

**Leaders Brian and Sue Fitzpatrick**

# EASTER CAMP—PIRONGIA

## Easter 2025 (update waiting list in operation)

Easter camp will be upon us before we know it and this year we're heading to Pirongia Forest Park Lodge <https://www.pfplodge.org.nz/>.

Another great location not far from Auckland and bordering an awesome bush to explore. Easter camp is a very family friendly weekend away.

Dates: Friday 18 April 9am until Tuesday 23 April 3pm. There is the possibility of extending through Wednesday and Thursday if there is enough interest given it's school holidays.

Cost: \$120 pp for the weekend.

Camping: there are spaces for camping, but this isn't in addition to the bunkrooms.

Spaces are limited so book in quickly by emailing [janeprestonnz@gmail.com](mailto:janeprestonnz@gmail.com). Bookings will be confirmed with payment.



# TIRITIRI MATANGI

**Sunday May 4th, 2025**

## **Outbound:**

Ferry departing Auckland from the Explore Booking Kiosk at Viaduct Harbour at 8.30 am, via Gulf Harbour (departing 9.25am) and arriving at Tiritiri Matangi at 10.20 am.

The Explore Booking Kiosk is located at the end of Quay Street in Viaduct Harbour. It's diagonally across from the New Zealand Maritime Museum. Please meet at 8.10am at Explore Booking Kiosk .

## **Return:**

Departing Tiritiri Matangi at 4.00 pm, via Gulf Harbour (arriving 4.25pm) and arriving at the Viaduct Harbour at 5.20 pm.

## **Booking:**

You can book online (<https://www.exploregroup.co.nz/>) or by telephone (0800 397 567). The cost is \$95 return irrespective of whether you are boarding at the Viaduct Harbour or at Gulf Harbour.

Those with Gold Cards will get a 10% discount by using the promo code – SUPER10.

<https://www.exploregroup.co.nz/about-us/special-offers/supergold-card-holder-deals/>

As we will be doing one of the guided tours by a Supporters Volunteer, we need to pay for this when booking our ticket (\$10 ea.). Book early to ensure there is a space for you and let me (**Carolyn Blackford**) know as soon as you have booked.

## **Walks:**

The plan is to take a tour guided by a Supporters Volunteer (payment of \$10 ea. as mentioned above). As the tide won't be favourable for the Kawarau Track we will do the Wattle Track and then the (unguided) East Coast Track after that. Here's a link to the guided tours, for your information.

<https://www.tiritirimatangi.org.nz/guided-tours/>

See map of walking tracks on next page





Feel free to contact me on **022 651 6066** or **cblackfordcarolyn@gmail.com** if you have any questions

Many thanks **Carolyn Blackford** Tiritiri Matangi walk leader

# ASC SNOWCRAFT COURSE 2025—RUAPEHU

**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 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](mailto:mark2005roberts@yahoo.co.nz)



## **WAIHEKE ISLAND COASTAL WALK**

**Sunday 8th June 2025**

**Leader Susan Stephens — details to follow later**

## **NGATUHOA LODGE WEEKEND**

**Labour Weekend 2025**

**More details closer to the time**