

E- Magazine December 2024 www.alpinesport.org.nz

Important Message from Santa!

Please help the hardworking Summer Camp elves by booking and paying your first two nights camp fees this week so they can work out how many porta-loos we actually need.

Merry

Christmas ALPINE SPORTS CLUB

Alpine Sports Club Inc, PO Box 131 Shortland Street, Auckland 1140. Email: secretary@alpinesport.org.nz

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT.



December 2024

Kia ora koutou,

December is here, with many Pōhutukawa already in flower and beautiful sunny days on the horizon. The club had a wonderfully busy November with successful trips to Omana Regional Park, Tawhitokino Bay, Ngamuwahine Lodge, Piha and two upcoming trips this weekend – a daytrip to Riverhead Forest and an overnight kayaking trip to Lake Tarawera.

Miranda Hutton, Club President.

It is heartwarming to see the club in action with many members enjoying the outdoors together.

If you are intending to come to the **Summer Camp** in Ohakune, please register with Peter Jemmett now <u>pmc.jemmett@xtra.co.nz</u> and pay your deposit. We need to know our numbers for the port-a-loo bookings.

Also, if you'd like to come to our **Christmas Lunch** on the 15th December at the Waitākere Hut, please book with Bruce Rogers 0274993211, or 09 4142021 or <u>bj_rogers@xtra.co.nz</u> by Monday 9th December for catering purposes. See advertisement later in the magazine.

Don't miss our **December Club Night**! Tuesday 3rd December 7.30pm at St Mark's Hall, Remuera. We have an award winning film about the Tararua Ranges, as well as the presentation of ASC annual awards and a delicious supper.

If you are looking for a book-a-bach this Summer, why not visit our **Ruapehu A-Frame** instead? The A-Frame makes a fabulous base for groups, birthdays and events and there are countless beautiful walks and mountain bike trips nearby. The freezer still has plenty of food which needs to be eaten, and the club would welcome some bunk-night usage over the summer.

Looking to 2025, we would love some new volunteers to join the committee in June. Areas we would like help with are club promotion, trips and social media, as well as legal advice around our Ruapehu Huts. Please contact me for more information president@alpinesportsclub.org.nz

We have an Easter Camp at Pirongia Forest Park Lodge booked for 2025 and a weekend at the fabulous Ngatuhoa Lodge booked for Labour Weekend 2025.

Keep those exciting trips and tramps coming, spread the word and encourage your friends and work colleagues to join ASC.

All the best wishes for the festive season.

Meri Kirihimete,

Miranda Hutton



Alpine Sports Club welcomes the following new and returning members this month:

New member Tom Chignall

Returning member Sheila Jeaffreson

GENERAL NEWS & NOTICES



PLEASE NOTE CHANGE TO RSVP CONTACT DETAILS

WELCOME to The Alpine Sports Club Christmas Party.

Place: Wāitakere Hut Date: 15th. DECEMBER

Time: Come early—lunch planning 1:00 pm.

See note in green box below re walking in, if you would like a longer walk Cost: \$20.00 per Adult, Children \$5.00 each. Finance: Money will be collected on the day. Please bring the correct amount.

CHANGE TO RSVP: Please RSVP by Monday, 9th December, for catering purposes. **Email to:** Bruce Rogers 0274993211, or 09 4142021 or <u>bj_rogers@xtra.co.nz</u>

You have the option to arrive via the normal route through the Anawhata rd gate or if you want a longer walk, please join us for a walk along the Cutty Grass Track to the Wāitakere Hut arriving in time for the Banquet. Walk starts from the Cutty Grass Track and Scenic Drive intersection at 11.30 and returns after lunch. Car parking on the Scenic Drive. Please contact :

Bruce Rogers 0274993211 or 094142021 or <u>bj_rogers@xtra.co.nz</u> if you would like to join the walkers.

CLUB NIGHT TUESDAY 3rd December 2024

7:30 pm, St Mark's Parish Hall, Remuera Road

We will be showing the award winning and newly released film

Tararua S-K

This film will bring back many memories for members who have tramped in the Tararuas over the years. Many thanks to the filmmaker Andy Carruthers for allowing us to screen this 27 minute film in a group setting by special arrangement. If you would like to see the film or share with others it can be rented at <u>https://tararuask.com/</u>.

Upcoming Overseas Trip - 10 to 24 May 2025

Over the past few years a number of club members have enjoyed one or more overseas walking tours with Phillip Donnell's, **Footsteps Walking & Travel Club**.

His most recent trip was "New England in the Autumn" which was enjoyed immensely by the ASC Club members who went.

In May 2025 Phillip is leading a two week trip to **Samoa** spending one week on Upolu and the other week on Savai'i doing the best day walks on both Islands. This is a small group tour for 12 people.

Several ASC club members have already registered to go however there are still one or two slots to be filled. If you are interested in visiting Samoa here is an opportunity not to be missed.

If interested please contact Phillip by email <u>footstepsanz@gmail.com</u> and he will send you the trip, information brochure. Alternatively feel free to talk to me in the first instance should you have any queries.

Warren Whyte ph 09 528 4824

ASC member Garth Barfoot , 88 years young completes New York Marathon



Left: Garth with his medal for finishing. Right: With friend Lay and daughter Kiri. Photo: Supplied: Kiri Barfoot

Garth has done it again, you can listen to his interview with RNZ from November 6th here:

https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/533020/kiwi-garth-barfoot-88-completesnew-york-marathon



NAU MAI, HAERE MAI

Welcome to our 24/25 Summer Season



Kia ora,

As we write, the temperature currently presenting at 2000m at our Whakapapa mid-station is a balmy 14.9 degrees celsius.

Summer is here!

And with that, **today we launch our Whakapapa Summer Season** – our invitation to all to **explore our world-class adventure playground at its most**

From tomorrow until 27 April 2025, weather dependent, **we will operate the iconic Sky Waka gondola every day** apart from Christmas Day. That of course taking you on a **1.8km journey** up Whakapapa's rocky face, with views extended out across the Central Plateau and down to the volcanic terrain below.

At 2020m, guests will be welcomed again to the **Knoll Ridge Chalet**, to refuel and refresh. New this season is our 'Burger & Bevvy' combo, a \$20 meal deal with your choice of gourmet burger and cold beverage – bound to satisfy. We are also bringing back our take on a traditional high tea – our 'Tea at 2020m' – best shared against the almighty backdrop of the Ngā Tohu Pinnacles range.

This summer, we are offering a full 10 km of trails so you can explore even more of our unique volcanic terrain on foot. This spans six trails, starting at just 20 mins return to a full 2.5-hour hike, north and west of the Knoll Ridge Chalet. The Skyline Trail of course the jewel in our crown, taking you to up to 2300m, arguably the best 'short' walk in the Tongariro National Park.

This winter just gone, a record 40% more sightseers visited us to ride the Sky Waka gondola and, in many cases, achieve that bucket list experience of simply touching snow. Through some Whakapapa Whānau trickery, this experience will extend into the summer, as we set up a designated snow play area outside the Knoll Ridge Chalet.

2024 Winter Season Pass holders – as a thank you for your commitment to us in Winter 2024, we offer you a **50% discount on Sky Waka gondola passes**, all summer long. **Also new this season is a Summer Season Pass** available to anyone – just \$99 an adult, or \$49 youth, for unlimited rides on the Sky Waka gondola.

In looking back at the winter just been, and touching on the note above to the significant growth we have seen in sightseeing aboard the Sky Waka gondola, we are buoyed by the fact that even in a subpar snow year, **Whakapapa continues to grow and develop**, showing its potential as a real world-class adventure playground, with a diverse range of alpine experiences for all to enjoy.

We often draw inspiration from Whakataukī, Māori proverbs, and find the below especially fitting as we draw from our winter growth in sightseeing, our promise of a revitalised summer offering, and the continued work by many parties to secure a future for Whakapapa, not only as a business, but as a community.

Ka whāia te wāhie mo takurua ka mahia te kai mō te tau If you look for firewood in the winter, you will have plenty of food all year round

Looking forward, **next week we'll take our first step into Winter 2025, with school group bookings opening** on Monday 2 December. **We remain committed to the next generation of snow sports enthusiasts**, and supporting schools to experience Whakapapa, in particular those that fall within our local rohe (region).

We look forward to updating you on our next steps as soon as they come to hand.

Ngā mihi nui, **Your Whakapapa Whānau**



upper mountain, getting it in place and ready for Winter 2024.

Two big days on the rivers of the Central North Island—my experience volunteering as an NZOIA model client.

Fiona Heenan

(sorry for the lack of photos, I was too busy paddling my canoe!)

Stacey's head popped up out of the chilly waters of Lake Taupo, he swept the sodden dreadlocks away from his face, a grimace and then a massive grin "I think I prefer my own awa, this is waaaay too cold for me". We were on day one of a two day NZOIA Canoe assessment, part of a cohort of six model clients and three aspiring instructors being assessed by the New Zealand Outdoor Instructors Association assessors. I had seen these requests for model clients come through from time to time but this was the first time I had been free to partake.

The day had started that morning at the southern boat ramp at Tokaanu, the model client group consisted of four young maori men who were working as guides on the river and wanting to upskill particularly around rescues, their uncle Stacey and myself. Being the older two in the group, Stacey and I were paired up in one Canadian canoe.

Day one started on Lake Taupo concentrating on paddle strokes, capsize recovery and eddying off practice. After lunch we moved to the Tongariro river to work on rescues and moving in white water. We shuttled the boats to a put in and worked our way down the river, stopping to scout rapids and do rescue drills along the way. It was quite a full on day with plenty of swimming and I was pretty tired that evening. As we would be on the Whanganui river for the second day, I opted to camp at Ohinepane campsite for the night – this is one of the Whanganui River Great Walk campsites that you can actually drive into. I shared the site with just two other campervans and had a very pleasant evening.



Day two started at Taumarunui Campground on the banks of the Whanganui River with river rescue practice learning some handy tips with prussiks to manage the pull angle on stuck canoes.

Our instructor Mel was excellent and it was a great session. We then took to the water and each aspiring instructor took the group for 90 minutes, coaching us down the river and running skills sessions on the way. Lunch was a stop on the river bank at Cherry Grove and a much appreciated chance to refill water bottles as we were fortunate to have amazing weather over the two days. Through out the day the assessor paddled in and out of each group making notes on the instructor's performance. Prior to us joining them, the aspiring instructors had spent a full day on the river with the assessor demonstrating their own paddling skills and ability.

We finished the day at Herlihy Bluff, using the rescue techniques learned earlier to rope the boats up the bank to the waiting van and trailer, then it was back to Taumarunui for a debrief and fare wells. The whole group was very positive about the experience, everyone had learned quite a bit about reading the river and what to do when things go wrong . I had also very much enjoyed the company of my fellow paddler who willingly shared his vast knowledge of the Whanganui River as we paddled along.

If you are interested in being an NZOIA model client you can view the calendar here <u>https://www.nzoia.org.nz/qualifications/course-calendar/model-client-</u><u>calendar</u>.

There is no charge for the instruction but sometimes a small equipment hire cost if you can not provide your own. Please be aware that once you've signed up and then been contacted and confirmed for an Assessment, NZOIA need your commitment to actually turn up on the day however you can register your interest first and then see what is offered to you. Full details and FAQs are available on the NZOIA website.

Kayaking this summer?



Many members have sit on top kayaks for recreational use. Did you know that there is a free safety course available through KASK (Kiwi Association of Sea Kayakers) and Maritime New Zealand.

This will take place in Auckland on December 8th—if you can not make that date, there is an excellent series of videos covering similar content on their website, see link for full details of course and videos .Kayak Safety Course



Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand

BIRD FLU What you need to know

Kia ora ,

The Department of Conservation is preparing for a potential outbreak of bird flu, also known as Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). We are sharing some important information with you, so we can all be prepared and know how to act to help protect our native wildlife.

What you need to know?

HPAI or bird flu is a highly contagious virus that can infect, and be fatal, for all species of birds, seals and sea lions. At the moment, the virus is spreading around the world, but as far as we know it has not reached New Zealand. To help detect the arrival of the virus and minimise the risk of spreading, we all need to look out for the signs of the disease.

If you see:

- · three or more sick/dead wild birds or marine mammals in a group or
- signs of weakness, tremors, paralysis, blindness, lack of coordination, difficulty breathing or diarrhoea

please report it immediately to the Biosecurity New Zealand Hotline 0800 80 99 66. If you are in an area with no reception, please note the GPS coordinates or precise location. Take photos of the animals and count the healthy, sick and/or dead ones.

Once HPAI is spreading among wildlife populations in New Zealand, it will be here forever with periods of high outbreaks. Where a significant outbreak occurs, access to the sites may be restricted or, as a last resort, it may be closed while the outbreak is managed. This is to reduce stress on wildlife and the likelihood of humans (and their pets) from catching and spreading the disease.

DOC expects this would be more likely to happen at breeding colony sites, ponds and waterways with high bird populations where the area is accessed easily by a significant number of people. HPAI is less likely to greatly affect forest birds.



Gamer Greeting Display photo by Geor

Other ways you can help:

- Keep your pets away from wildlife.
- · Stay away from nesting birds on rivers and in coastal areas.
- · Keep your shoes and gear clean when visiting the backcountry or agricultural areas.
- Don't touch, handle or collect dead or dying birds.

While Biosecurity New Zealand is coordinating the response on a national level, DOC is preparing response plans for all regions to reduce the spread of the virus and to protect native species. This might include vaccination of certain bird species, breeding programmes, predator control, providing undisturbed habitats for birds and following strong biosecurity measures.

While mammal infections with the virus are possible, human infections have been rare.

We encourage you to share this information with your family and friends and save Biosecurity's Hotline number on your phone.

For more information about avian influenza, please visit the <u>Department of Conservation</u> or <u>Ministry for Primary Industries</u> web pages.

Ngā mihi,

FMC team

TRIP REPORTS.

Ngamuwahine Lodge Weekend

15th to 17th November Report by Sara Lyons

10 families with ages ranging from 3 to 80.

We had been looking forward to this trip for ages! A weekend in the Kaimai forest with bush walks, a river to swim and play in, but most of all, a chance to catch up with ASC friends.

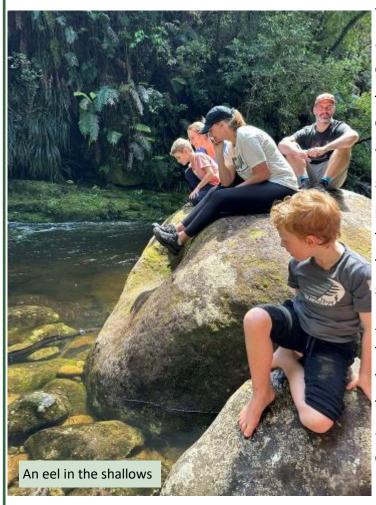
On Friday 15th, we woke up to torrential rain, the kind of rain that makes you wet through even when you just nip out to the car. With some trepidation, we packed our things and set off. Apparently, the rest of the weekend was going to be dry and sunny.

The Lodge was amazing! There were so many rooms to explore and lots of outdoor space, including the all important undercover seating. We chose our bunks, unpacked, and had dinner. Our girls were busy playing so we had time for a glass of wine and a catch up with friends. Some of us had an early night whilst others were still on their way. I think everyone was in bed soon after 10pm?



Saturday morning and the weather forecast was right! The rain had stopped! After breakfast, the whole group set off on a bush walk. The track was a bit muddy and slippery in places but ASC families are tough and we took the trips, slips and slides in our stride.

We climbed up and we clambered down until..... OH NO! A RIVER! A wide, deep river. We stopped. A few adventurous adults assessed the situation. It might be possible to cross to the other side but ASC members are responsible and we all decided we couldn't go over it and we couldn't go through it. So, we had to go back! But lunch first, of course.



We spread out along the river bank and on the large rocks. We watched a group of adults wade across the river – we had definitely made the right decision.

We saw an enormous eel in the shallows. The children jumped and played on the rocks until it was time to head back. Everyone got back to the lodge safely, and very hungry. A second lunch was required.

After lunch, it was time to investigate the river again, only this time with wetsuits and boogie boards. One family had brought a small kayak and another family had an inflatable dinghy.

As always, with 'responsible' adults ready to help, the children were let loose.





They had an amazing time. All ages, all abilities, shared the boat, the kayak, boogie boards and more. Lifejackets were swapped as necessary. Children helped each other to climb out of the boat onto a large rock, then to climb back into the boat. They all had a go at rowing the boat and paddling the kayak. I love watching ASC kids playing together. They share so many qualities and characteristics and they have great imaginations.



Dinner was pizza! It was time for the men to do the cooking. They wheeled out the pizza oven and the children waited patiently until their pizzas were ready to eat.

Some families barbecued sausages, burgers, and steaks. The meal was rounded off with toasted marshmallows. Sunday morning and more sunshine. Chores were done after breakfast then a few families headed home early and some went to the beach. A group of us stayed at the lodge. The children went back to the river to play. Some adults supervised them whilst others finished packing. Then, sadly, it was time to leave.



It was a fantastic weekend. The lodge and surrounding area exceeded our expectations. Our girls wanted to stay there for ever! It was hard to say farewell to our friends but summer camp is just around the corner :)



Womens Overnight Trip—Tawhitokino Regional Park

15th to 17th November Report by Jeanine Scholey

After a short 45 min walk we arrived at the campsite; a beautiful, secluded stretch of white sand beach backed by regenerating bush and farmland.





Once we set up camp there was plenty of time to relax with a walk on the beach or reading a book or even some knitting.

A few of us enjoyed a refreshingly chilly dip in the sea.

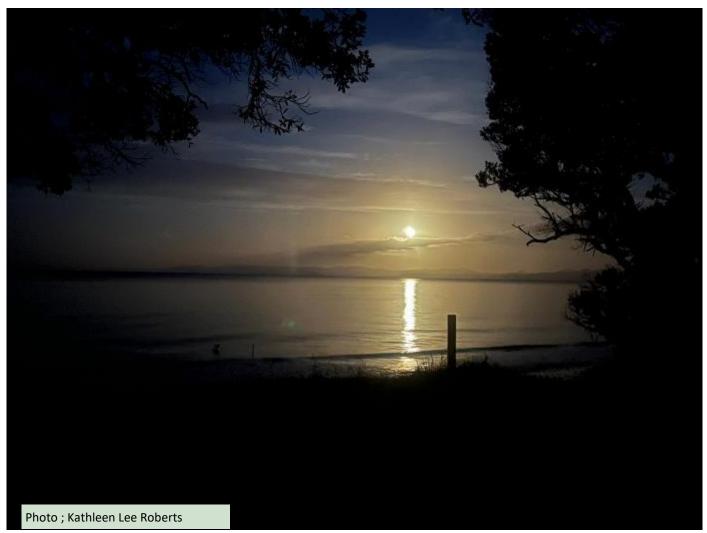
That evening we were delighted with a spectacular full moon.

It was the best kind of camping for our last **WON** of the year.

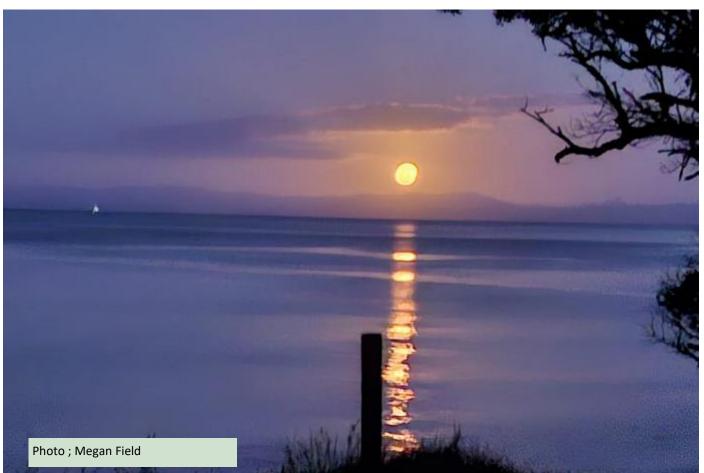


This is the view from the Tawhitokino Campsitre, less than an hour from central Auckland. It is often empty as has to be approached at low tide but is worth the effort of planning your visit as is a piece of paradise close to the city.





Tawhitokino Moon Rise



Sunday Walk – Maraetai, Omana, Beachlands, Motukaraka Island Walk

3rd November 2024

Eighteen of us set out from Maraetai Park on a fine sunny morning (3 cars had already driven to Beachlands Reserve to provide for an easy pick-up at the end of the walk).



We followed the coast along Te Pene Reserve and Omana Beach, then walked up to the lookout in Omana Regional Park for morning tea. The panoramic view across the harbour to Waiheke and Motuihe islands, Rangitoto and the Coromandel Peninsula was stunning and one of our party who knew the

area commented that they'd never realized how extensive the view was from that high point.



Keeping to the coast as much as possible we stopped at Te Puru Park at a pou called "Nga Hau E Wha" – the four winds, and then on to the human sundial (analamatic sundial using a human as a gnomon to tell the time) on the walkway from Te Puru to Beachlands. Shelly Bay Reserve. Then it was back up to the road until we reached the sea stack (known as Snapper Rock) at the coastal end of Pohutukawa Rd.



We walked through the western part of Beachlands (referred to as 'Auckland's under-the-radar seaside escape' in an article in Stuff), past Sunkist Bay, and then down to Beachlands Reserve.

Our timing was as planned to cross to Motukaraka Island; an hour or so either side of low tide avoids getting footwear too wet. We walked/climbed to the top but there don't appear to be any obvious spots to get a clear view of the mainland.





Unfortunately we didn't have sufficient time to circumnavigate the island but hopefully we can sometime during the summer.



We returned to the cars after a very enjoyable sociable day – thank you all for your company:

Warren and Jocelyn Whyte, Rosemary Wakeman, Anca and Victor Suvaiala, Jonathan, Janet and James Hoddard, Clive and Helen Bolt, Don Baker (all photos) Elisabeth Jobbins, Theresa Kermode, Susan Stephens, Linda Webber, Brian and Sue FitzPatrick, and Carolyn Blackford (scribe).



Maraetai, Omana walk Photo : Don Baker

Many thanks to all our members who stepped forward during the year to lead a monthly Saturday or Sunday trip.				
Wit	hout your support we would not have had such an interesting variety of trips.			
•	Waitakere Montana Heritage Trail – Bruce & Jane Rogers			
•	Pukekohe's four summits – Warren & Jocelyn Whyte			
•	Waharau Regional Park, Firth of Thames – Brian & Sue Fitzpatrick			
•	Rangitoto – Murray & Jeanette Davidson			
•	Mangere circuit and summit climb – Elisabeth Jobbins			
•	Scandretts Regional Park, Warkworth – Don Baker			
•	Port Waikato – Maria Bullock			
•	Te Rau Puriri Regional Park, Kaipara – Bruce Dwerryhouse			
•	Maraetai, Omana, Beachlands coastline – Carolyn Blackford			
•	Riverhead Forest – Bruce & Jane Rogers			
	Thanks			

UPCOMING TRIPS

LAKE TARAWERA HOT WATER BEACH

30th November to 1st December, 2024

Either sea kayak across the lake or tramp the 15km Tarawera trail to camp at Hot Water beach. Contact Mark & book your campsite via the Doc website Hot Water Beach Campsite . We will be leaving Auckland Saturday morning returning Sunday afternoon.

Leader Mark Roberts mark2005roberts@yahoo.co.nz

Tarawera Trail Map



SATURDAY WALK-RIVERHEAD FOREST

Saturday November 30th, 2024

Meet 9.30 am <u>sharp</u> at Barlow Rd entrance to Riverhead Forest for a tramp along a mixture of forestry roads, tramping and cycling tracks.

It may be muddy depending on the weather therefore boots advisable.

Exact location of start will be advised following registration - Barlow Road entrance is off

Ararimu Valley Road

Please book with leaders: Bruce and Jane Rogers mob 027 499 3211 or email

<u>bj_rogers@xtra.co.nz</u>

ASC SUMMER CAMP-OHAKUNE

Thursday 26th December 2024 to Friday 3rd January 2025

Duration: Thursday 26th December 2024 - Friday 3rd January 2025

Our Campsite: Is in a long grassy paddock beside a fresh water lake 15 minutes drive from Ohakune. Approximately a 5-hour drive from Auckland

Bring: Everything you need for camping and staying safe in the outdoors. Bring your own food and gas stove for cooking on. There will be a local water supply which we recommend treating or boiling.

Toilets: There will be a selection of Port-a-loos for use at camp. There will be a cleaning roster for the toilets. Members may bring their own chemical toilets for which they will be responsible for.

Rubbish: All (non food) rubbish needs to be taken off site. Food scraps and compost can be disposed of at our campsite.

Food & Petrol: Ohakune, our closest town, is a 15 minute drive away. Ohakune has petrol stations, cafes and a supermarket.

Dogs & other pets are not allowed at camp. No radios or stereos.

Bookings and advance partial payments are required : Please contact Peter Jemmett for further information : pmc.jemmett@xtra.co.nz

EASTER CAMP-PIRONGIA

Easter 2025

NGATUHOA LODGE WEEKEND

Labour Weekend 2025



Playtime by the river on the Ngamuwahine trip.