



Iwikau Village from the Hut (Nicholas Roberts)

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President's Report



July 2025

Kia ora koutou,

Following a successful AGM on 3 June, our new committee has officially taken the reins and is already helping to shape an exciting year ahead for the club. A warm welcome and big thank you to our new office holders: Briar Gregory (Secretary), Claire Jackson (Marketing), and Jared Haslemore (Tours Officer). We also extend our thanks to Tom

Chignell, our new Alpinesport Editor, and to all the committee members and office holders who work behind the scenes to keep the club running smoothly.

With the winter school holidays just around the corner, our Ruapehu huts are stocked and ready after a successful food drop last month. Gemma Seddon will serve as Hut Warden to kick off the season, with her brother Jackson joining later in the winter.

One of the best ways you can support the club this winter is by booking bunk nights at our huts—or by encouraging schools and community groups to visit as guests. The huts are fantastic venues for family holidays, birthday parties, or special events. Just three fully booked weekends at the Bunkhouse (Ruapehu Hut) are enough to cover its operating costs for the season.

Another great way to contribute is by leading a trip—whether it's a short walk or a bigger adventure. Huge thanks to everyone who has already volunteered. Check out the Trips and Tramps list to see all the upcoming activities you can get involved in.

Finally, don't miss our next Club Night on Tuesday, 1st July. Club member Gillian Mellsop will be sharing stories from her travels in Iraq—an evening not to be missed!

Mānawatia a Matariki.

Happy Matariki,

Miranda Hutton

Notices

Club Meeting

7:30 pm, Tuesday 1 July 2025

St Mark's Church Parish Hall, 95 Remuera Road

In October and November 2024, Gillian Mellsop travelled through Iraq with a small Irish tour group. At Club Night, she'll share stories from her journey through this fascinating country—often referred to as the land between two rivers, the Tigris and the Euphrates.

While Iraq's history has frequently been marked by conflict and turmoil, it has also seen long periods of peace during which remarkable civilisations flourished. These cultures made lasting contributions to human knowledge and achievement. The ancient cities, historical sites, and intellectual advances that emerged from this region over thousands of years have had a profound impact on the world.

Welcome to New Members

We warmly welcome the following new members:

- Tracey and Richie Musson with Kiara (10), Lew (8) and Jack (3)
- Catherine Bear with Jamie (4) and Mila (7) Cubillos
- Jaz Singh
- Penelope Goertzen
- Nan Li with Weiya Yu (11) and Zhuoya Yu (9).

Apologies to Marlow Tillick's for mis-spelling his name in the previous edition of Alpinesport!

Jeanette Davidson

Ruapehu Lockers

Book a locker at our Ruapehu huts for the season. \$30 annual fee. Contact Lloyd Lin for more details at ruapehu@alpinesport.org.nz.

Whakapapa Ski Area



Photo: Nicholas Roberts

Whakapapa Ski Area is offering a range of skiing and snowboarding courses this winter that may be of interest to our younger members. The [Whakapapa Development Programme](#) caters to all levels—from beginners as young as three years old to skilled young skiers looking to take their abilities to the next level.

Upcoming Trips

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

Meet at 10:30 a.m. at Duder Regional Park, located about 10 km from Clevedon on North Road heading toward Maraetai.

This scenic walk takes you over rolling farmland, along the beach, and through bush tracks to an old pā site. Although the distance is just over 6 km, there are some steep sections, so a reasonable level of fitness is recommended.

Please note: toilets are available only at the start of the walk.

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

Join us for one (or both!) of our jolly jaunts to experience the magic of Whakapapa Winter Wanders on Mt Ruapehu during the June/July school holidays.

Celebrate the wintry beauty of Ruapehu with fellow ASC members—whether you're marking Matariki, the Winter Solstice, a nostalgic Northern Hemisphere-style Christmas, or simply enjoying the great (hopefully snowy!) outdoors. Bring your friends and family for some classic Kiwi winter fun! Think snow play, igloo-building, sledding, snow sports, games, hearty feasts, and plenty of cosy communal time at the hut.

Our Ruapehu Hut will be open throughout, with the wonderful Gemma returning as Hut Warden to welcome you. Book your bunks now at www.alpinesports.org.nz for one or both of the following dates:

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

For the true snow hounds, feel free to extend your stay into the quieter mid-week period—or even the full two weeks!

Got questions? Reach out to Greg (please use the subject line *Whakapapa 2025*).

Thursday 10 July 2025 – Thursday Walk

Contact Clive Bolt if you are interested.

Sunday 13 July 2025 – Dacre Cottage to Stillwater - Jonathan & Janet Hodder

Note the later start time of 11:00 a.m. This allows for the outgoing tide and gives time for those wishing to attend their local church.

Meeting Point is at the DOC carpark at the end of Ara Weiti Road—approximately 45 minutes from Auckland city centre. To get there, take the Oteha Valley Road off-ramp from the Northern Motorway (at Albany). Turn right onto Oteha Valley Road, then left onto East Coast Road. Continue along East Coast Road and watch for the Penlink roadworks. Look out for the right-hand turn onto Ara Weiti Road. Follow this to the end—you'll see a public carpark on your left, just before the entrance to the gated subdivision.

The walk takes us to the historic Dacre Cottage and continues along the coastline to Stillwater. Return route options will depend on the weather.

Bring sturdy boots and long pants (some low-lying areas may be muddy, and pampas grass on the return route can be scratchy)

And if you are wondering why we're not doing the full coastal walk? This is due to DOC track closures related to Kauri Dieback protection measures.

To book your place, please contact the walk leaders, Janet & Jonathan Hodder on 027 483 0252.



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 is open to all Midis, Thursday walkers and any other club member who wishes to join us.

Thursday 24 July 2025 – Thursday Walk

Contact Clive Bolt if you are interested.

Sunday 3 August 2025 **NEW DATE - [Rangatahi Ramblers](#) - Auckland Coast to Coast Walkway – Miranda Hutton**

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). 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.

27/28 September 2025 – Children's Practical Bushcraft Weekend – Sue Grant

9.30 am Saturday to approximately 2.00 pm Sunday. Waitākere Hut, Anawhata Road. Aimed at 7-11 year olds with accompanying adults. Club members only. Limited numbers. Cost: Pay only for your overnight stay at the hut.

Contact Sue Grant. You will need to provide contact mobile phone numbers for the accompanying adult(s) and for a named off-site emergency contact person.



Outdoor cooking



Navigation

Trip reports

Saturday 31 May 2025 - Small People on Big Hills - Marshmallows in the Bush – Miranda Hutton

Five happy children and three adults met at the Waitākere Hut for a cosy day on King's Birthday Weekend Saturday. Having been organised at short notice, the small numbers made for a delightfully relaxed atmosphere. The children kept busy building and stoking the fire, whittling the perfect sticks and cooking damper and marshmallows over the embers. We shared yummy food for lunch including home baking and sausages. The weather was rather on-and off, but the children spent time climbing in the net and playing outside. Jo and her boys went home in the late afternoon while we stayed overnight. The next day we met Linus Harder-Barfoot and tramped Rose Track and the Marawhara Track down to Piha. The devastation of the Marawhara Stream was hard to look at and it will take a very long time for the valley to recover. It wasn't safe to swim at Piha, but the children had a wild time leaping about in ankle to knee-deep waves.



Participants: Miranda (leader and scribe), Annette, Clara with her friend Jasmine, Lukas, Jo, Braden and Cory.

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

It was a crisp, clear winter's morning in Auckland when 22 ASC members gathered at Glen Innes train station to try out the cycle path to Orakei station. After some brief bike assembly by the Horns, we set off, passing under the tracks through the pedestrian tunnel and beginning the gentle climb up the hill. While the youngest member of the group enjoyed a free ride, the rest of the kids put in a supreme effort, with most of them riding all the way up to

Sunhill.



At Sunhill, we were joined by six more ASC members and had a chat with the working bee team, who were there to help maintain the path. This group included our local Council and Ward representatives, Deslie and Sarah. The working bee team were delighted to see people out enjoying the path, and a few of our crew gladly accepted their offers of free cheerios and coffee.

After a short break, we continued across the road, past the Meadowbank Pony Club, and on to the playground for our next stop. The playground was a great spot for the kids to stretch their legs and arms, enjoy some chit-chat, and—inevitably—take a few bush wees (a reminder that more public toilets along the route would be helpful). With lunchtime approaching, we decided to get moving again.



The group continued across the causeway at Orakei Basin, eventually reaching our destination—Orakei. It was wonderful to see so many Aucklanders out on the cycle path, making the most of the stunning weather.

After a quick look at the two local drinking spots, we settled on the Beach Club, where we could sit outside, soak up more sunshine, and enjoy a well-earned drink and bite to eat. While the adults relaxed with coffees, shandies, and beers, the kids made the most of the loungers and had fun chasing crabs among the mangroves.

At 1 p.m., we set off back to Glen Innes. A few chose to take the train, while the rest rode back. It was the best turnout yet for the SPBH group this year!

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

Twenty-three club members boarded the 9 am Downtown ferry for our Waiheke walk on Sunday, 9 June. It was a cool morning but became an absolutely beautiful sunny day with very little wind. On arrival at Waiheke we made our way outside the ferry building to the bus bound for Palm Beach, where we had morning tea at the Palm Beach Reserve before starting our walk. We walked up through the bush on the edge of the Mawhitipana Reserve to the top where there is a lovely view of Palm Beach. Further on we walked through the Mackenzie Reserve to Enclosure Bay where we met by chance a conservation diving group who were counting crayfish off this coast. At this beach, we also saw a mobile sauna in a converted gypsy caravan - looking for business.



Mawhitipana Bay

Next we walked past Sandy Bay, then along the coast until we came to the Newton Reserve. From here the track took us to Little Oneroa Beach where we had lunch in the sunshine.



Alison Park (Susan Stephens)

After lunch we walked along Oneroa Beach, across the township and into Alison Park. We then made our way along the Oneroa Road to Mataitai Forest path, taking the high track and boarding the 3 pm ferry, having walked just over 9 kilometres, with quite a bit of up and down and steps.

Thursday 12 June 2025 – Coastal Walk from Milford to Browns Bay - Gillian Trotman & Jocelyn Magness

Twenty walkers gathered at the North end of Milford Beach. It was lovely to have two new walkers, Glenn and Raquel. We set off over the Inga bridge to Beach Rd and up the hill to the pathway towards Castor Bay.



From Castor Bay we followed the clifftop to the site of Rahopara Pa, one of the last surviving headland Pa on a promontory. The Pa is situated beside J.F. Kennedy Memorial Park where we saw the gun emplacements and tunnels that are the remnants of the batteries constructed during 1941 and 1942 as part of Auckland's World War II defences. Castor Bay was one of three gun batteries whose purpose was to defend the northern approaches to the Rangitoto Channel; the others were at Whangaparaoa and Motutapu.

The Observation Post at Kennedy Point was designed to look like a seaside kiosk with 3 residential houses behind it to deceive the Japanese into thinking it was a seaside settlement. The houses were for the observers and staff.

According to David Addis, after the war the 3 houses were handed over for State Housing, and in the late '50s and early '60s Jackie, his wife, grew up in the only remaining house, running wild around the cliffs and beach. Her father taught at Westlake Boys' High School. Their house is awaiting restoration.

Back to Beach Rd to Campbells Bay and along the pipeline to Mairangi Bay where we stopped for morning tea. Continuing along the pipeline to Murrays Bay and then along a clifftop path to Rothesay Bay Reserve. At this point, we took an unintended detour via the street to the pedestrian path to our destination.

Lunch at Browns Bay and the 856 Bus return to Milford.

It was not an arduous walk and very scenic on a lovely sunny day with just a couple of showers so we ended up dry and happy.

Club Contacts

Officers	Name	Email
President	Miranda Hutton	president@alpinesport.org.nz
Vice President	Johann Schoonees	johann@alpinesport.org.nz
Vice President	Jeanette Davidson	membership@alpinesport.org.nz
Honorary Secretary	Briar Gregory	secretary@alpinesport.org.nz
Honorary Treasurer	Bruce Dwerryhouse	treasurer@alpinesport.org.nz

Elective Members	Name	Email
Ruapehu Buildings Co-ordinator	Nicolas Roberts	ruapehu@alpinesport.org.nz
Ruapehu Operations Coordinator	Ian Seddon	ruapehu@alpinesport.org.nz
Waitākere Hut Liaison	Mike Frith	mike@alpinesport.org.nz
Membership Secretary	Jeanette Davidson	Membership@alpinesport.org.nz
Marketing	Claire Jackson	marketing@alpinesport.org.nz
Tours Officer	Jared Haslemore	tours@alpinesport.org.nz

Club Appointments

Role	Name	Email
Website and Database	Clive Bolt	clive@alpinesport.org.nz
Alpinesport Editor	Tom Chignell	media@alpinesport.org.nz
Waitākere Regional Park Liaison	John Mackay	regionalpark@alpinesport.org.nz
Waitākere Bookings	Mike Frith	mike@alpinesport.org.nz
FMC Distribution & Advisor	Warren Whyte	fmc@alpinesport.org.nz
Fundraising Officer	Jane Adams	funding@alpinesport.org.nz
Ruapehu Promotions Officer	Brian Duffy	hire@alpinesport.org.nz
Ruapehu bookings	Justine Checketts	bookings@alpinesport.org.nz
Ruapehu hut wardens	Jackson & Gemma Seddon	aframe@alpinesport.org.nz
Summer Camp Co-ordinators	Mark Roberts and Miranda Hutton	mark@alpinesport.org.nz
Club Gear for Hire (climbing and snowcraft)	Brian Duffy	hire@alpinesport.org.nz
Club Gear for Hire (PLB'S)	Murray Davidson	hire@alpinesport.org.nz
Club records archivist	Jenny Hudson	email@alpinesport.org.nz



Cory (7) and Lukas (8) enjoy the ropes course at the Waitākere Hut