

*“Red Cloud Confrontation in Landscape” by Leon van den Eijkel at Gibbs Farm  
(Photo: Tom Chignell)*



*Thank you to Pub Charity for their financial support of the Ruapehu Huts' insurance this year.*

## **Contents**

[President's Report](#)

[Notices](#)

[Upcoming Trips](#)

[Trip Reports](#)

[Club Contacts & Appointments](#)

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

## President's Report



December 2025

Kia ora koutou,

Christmas is nearly upon us! The tui are singing and the pōhutukawa are in flower. Book your spot at Summer Camp and join us for a beach and river-filled New Year. See notices later in the magazine for how to book.

There are plenty of enjoyable Club activities to take part in before Christmas. December Club Night on Tuesday 2 December with speaker Phillip Donnell includes our annual awards and a special Christmas supper. The Ōkahu Bay Picnic on Sunday 7th December and the Waitākere Hut Christmas Lunch on Sunday 14 December are a good chance to catch up with ASC friends, meet some new ones, and spread the holiday cheer. If you're looking for more activity in January, you could join Rollo for the epic Goat race or book yourself and friends into one of our beautiful bush or mountain huts.

Thank you to everyone who has filled out the Membership Survey. It is due by the 30 November, so jump in and fill it out if you haven't already. The committee really appreciate your feedback.

As the year draws to a close, I would like to thank everyone on the committee and those with club appointments for the time and energy they give to the club. A huge thanks also to all our trip leaders. Our strength is in our wonderful members and the exciting adventures they dream-up and invite others to share in.

Congratulations to Fiona Heenan, our very own Guinness World Record holder!!! See the article on Fiona's epic sailing trip later in the magazine.

On a sad note, our thoughts and condolences go to the Barfoot family on their loss of long-time club member Chris Barfoot. Our thoughts are also with Scott White and family as he battles cancer. We hope your families can wrap around you during these difficult times.

All the best wishes to everyone for the holiday season.

Meri Kirihimete, Miranda

## Notices

### Christmas Club Night

- Including annual awards and Christmas Supper.



7:30 pm, Tuesday 2 December 2025

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

#### **Fourteen Days Walking in Samoa**

Our guest speaker, Phillip Donnell, well known to many club members through his walking group "Footsteps", will be speaking on a trip he led earlier this year to Samoa. Three of our club members participated in this trip. His illustrated talk will be followed by our special Christmas supper coordinated by Bruce & Jane Rogers.

Come along and talk about your plans and travels over supper with your fellow club members.

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### **New and Returning Members - Jeanette Davidson**

We warmly welcome new members:

- Lisa and Karl Sammons with Archie (7)
- David Lamont (past member) with Brigid O'Keefe and Remi Lamont (8)
- Monica Greco with Daniela (8) and Michaela (6).

## Chris Barfoot – in memoriam

31 October 1930 – 31 October 2025

It is with sadness that we farewell Chris Barfoot, long time Alpine Sports Club member, avid trumper and explorer, keen outdoor enthusiast, poetic appreciator of the natural world and helpful club member.

Chris was an active member of the club for most of his life, meeting his wife Pat in the club and bringing his three children Stephen, Nicola and Luke on club trips and to Summer Camp every year. Chris and Pat must have attended about 50-years of Summer Camp, including finding the site, organising, and running the camp between 2006 and 2012.

Chris was in his element creating a bonfire (if permitted) and was an avid organiser of the New Year's Day Games. Chris loved music and was always ready with his harmonica in his pocket for a quick tune. He and his brother



Garth were known for their lusty renditions of “Morning has Broken” sung early in the morning from a hilltop near camp.

Chris was a keen off-track trumper and experienced navigator. One of his hallmark traits while bush-crashing was to climb a tree to get a view, to confirm his location. He was also an advocate for the natural world and was instrumental in creating the wetland reserve Tahuna Torea in Glendowie, preventing it from becoming a rubbish dump.

Chris was a much loved and respected member of the Alpine Sports Club and will be greatly missed. Our condolences go to all the Barfoot family.

- Miranda Hutton

## Scott White

We are sorry to let you know that Scott White, long time club member and twice Club President has recently been moved into hospice care as he is suffering from a terminal form of cancer. Members who would like to visit Scott may do so at the EDEN CARE CENTER, 28/32 View Road, Mt Eden, 1024. The most suitable visiting times are 10 am to 12 noon or 2 pm to 5 pm each day.

- Warren Whyte

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## Summer Camp

Booking fees are now due. See information later in the magazine for instructions on how to book.

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## Membership Survey

responses are now due, please fill this out if you haven't already.

[Click Here to complete the 2025 survey](#)

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## Thursday Walks

Walks are held on the second and fourth Thursday of each month (except January) somewhere in the Auckland area.

If you are interested in joining, please send an email to Clive Bolt at [Thursday.walks@alpinesport.org.nz](mailto:Thursday.walks@alpinesport.org.nz)

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## Guinness Record for Fiona Heenan



She's done it! Yachtswoman and ASC Club member Fiona Heenan has set a Guinness world record for the longest distance sailed single-handed by a woman in a dinghy.

She reached her goal when she and her boat Laser Record passed the 600km mark of her designated route at Cape Karikari about lunchtime on 7 March 2025.

Heenan's epic trip began in Auckland on February 17 and largely took in Northland's east coast.

Heenan said the trip was not just about making history – it was also about making a difference. The dual purpose was to raise money for the Auckland branch of Sailability – a global, not-for-profit organisation with branches throughout New Zealand that aims to provide sailing opportunities for people with disabilities.

Heenan said the voyage itself brought in just over \$1000 for the charity but she hoped to generate more donations by giving talks about her adventure to various clubs during the next few months.

You can make a donation to Sailability Auckland [here](#).

[Reporting thanks to Sarah Curtis at the Northern Advocate].

## Summer A-Frame Adventures – Claire Jackson

Swap your snow gear for tramping boots and come enjoy the A-Frame Hut in its summer glory. Peaceful, family-friendly, and tucked away from the crowds, it's the perfect base for exploring the mountains at a slower pace. Open to ASC members and their guests only, you might even have it all to yourself. Summer stays are just \$35 per night for members, including food. Great value for families looking for an easy weekend getaway.

Things to do:

- Walk to **Tama Lakes** or take on the **Tongariro Crossing**
- Cold plunge at **Tawhai Falls** (Gollum's Pool) or in the **Waihonunu Stream**
- Try out the climbing crags around **Meads Wall** and **Whakapapa Gorge**
- Kids can catch their own trout at the **Tongariro National Trout Centre**, or visit **Dinosaur World** in Raetihi
- Foodies, don't miss **The Station Café** at National Park - 4.9 stars and set in a beautifully restored railway building

What's on around the mountain:

- **The Goat Tongariro Adventure Run** – 17 January 2026
- **Tussock Traverse** – 28 March 2026
- **Ring of Fire Volcanic Ultra & Relay** – 27–29 March 2026

Pack your sunnies, your tramping boots, and that book you've been meaning to read.

Summer at the A-Frame is about easy adventures, big views and leaving with your cup full for the year ahead. Pick up a hut key from Auckland before you go, or from Ian Seddon in Turangi. Contact [bookings@alpinesport.org.nz](mailto:bookings@alpinesport.org.nz) to plan your summer stay.

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## **Ruapehu Hut Working Bees – Nicholas Roberts**

For your diary, the weekend dates for the next three working bees at Ruapehu are:

- 14/15 February
- 21/22 March
- 28/29 March

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## **Waharau and Whakatīwai Regional Park – Carolyn Blackford**

RNZ has announced that Waharau and Whakatīwai Regional Park has re-opened - see [Regional Park opens after pest control](#). Note though that the Regional Park brochure advises that unfortunately the tracks connecting Whakatīwai to the Hunua Ranges and Waharau Regional Parks are currently closed due to kauri dieback disease - [Waharau and Whakatīwai Regional Park Flyer](#) .

Carolyn Blackford is inviting anyone interested in doing a recce with her sometime in January to get in touch. It could also be an opportunity to discuss leadership guidance for anyone who's considered leading a tramp but possibly isn't quite sure what's involved.

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## Upcoming Trips

**Sunday 7 December 11am-3pm – Christmas Picnic – Okahu Bay – Jared Haslemore**

This is an open invite to all ASC members and those interested in ASC to come and have a pre-Christmas picnic at Okahu Bay. There are toilets, changing rooms, BBQ's, and picnic tables.

High Tide is at 10am so there will still be plenty of time to enjoy the water. Bring your paddle boards and kayaks or rent them from Fergs next door.

Please RSVP on [Facebook](#) and/or to [tours@alpinesport.org.nz](mailto:tours@alpinesport.org.nz)

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**Saturday to Sunday 13-14 December 2025 – Kids Lightweight Overnighter - Hot Water Beach Campsite, Lake Tarawera – Claire Jackson**

Join Claire, Harper (8) and Jayde (12) for an overnight adventure at Hot Water Beach Campsite, Lake Tarawera.

We're keeping it simple - at 9 am we'll load our bags, tents, and chilly bins onto the water taxi so they're taken straight to camp.

Then it's lighter going with a daypack along 15km of the scenic Tarawera Trail. Expect 5–6 hours of walking (for fit kids) with plenty of spots to stop for a swim and take in the lake views. The trip suits a mix of walking abilities - you can walk in, walk out, do both, or take the water taxi one way.

Arrive at camp, soak in the natural hot pools, have a relaxed dinner, and watch the sunset over the lake. On Sunday morning, we'll cruise back across the lake by water taxi to end the adventure (see Facebook page for details).

Keen to join? Contact Claire Jackson. You can book your own campsite at [Hot Water Beach Campsite, Lake Tarawera](#)

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**Sunday 14 December 2025 – Christmas Lunch – Lesley Hawke**



It's that time of the Year once again.

WELCOME to The Alpine Sports Club Christmas Party!

- Place:** Waitākere Hut
- Date:** Sunday 14 December
- Time:** Come early—lunch scheduled for 1:00 pm.
- Cost:** \$20.00 per adult, children \$5.00 each.
- Finance:** Joe will collect money on the day.

Please bring the correct amount.

Please RSVP by **Monday, 8 December**, for catering purposes, to Bruce Rogers indicating number of adults and children attending.

Bruce is leading a walk to the Hut down Cutty-grass Track. If you plan to walk the track, please tell Bruce to expect you.

If you are able help prepare the food or carry to the hut please arrive about 11am at the hut car park.

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**Friday 26 December 2025 – Saturday 3 January 2026 - Summer Camp 2025 – Coroglen – Peter Jemmett**



Come and join in the tradition! This year's camp is in a gorgeous valley in the Coromandel. Just over 2-hour's drive from Auckland and up-river from the famous Coroglen Tavern (fish-and-chips, ice creams, beer). The campsite has two spacious fields and is next to a beautiful native-bush fringed stream. The stream has multiple swimming holes and will be perfect for aqua-tramping and floating down the river on boogie boards. Coroglen is in easy reach of multiple tramping and mountain biking possibilities, Hot Water Beach, Hahei, Cathedral Cover, Cook's Beach, Whitianga and Tairua.

The property has a Glamping site for one lucky couple (including tent, queen bed, hot shower, bbq and own toilet) at \$160/night + cleaning fee. Otherwise, campers need to bring everything they need for camping and cooking for themselves. Port-a-loos will be provided. There is a tap with stream-water.

A range of trips and activities are offered every day. Highlights include Summer Camp traditions such as the children's sing-song, New Year's Eve talent show and New Year's Day games (including three legged race, egg and spoon, running, cycling and tug of war). Summer Camp is a highlight of the calendar.



### **Booking and Deposit Instructions:**

You need to be an ASC member to book a spot at Summer Camp. However, extended family and guests of members may attend, as usual. There are two steps to follow with all bookings. These are requested to be completed as soon as possible, but no later than **30 November 2025**:

#### **1. Contact Peter Jemmett**

To book, contact Peter Jemmett via email. Please provide Peter with the names of all campers, ages of children/ teenagers, expected arrival and departure dates and contact phone numbers while at camp.

#### **2. Pre-pay your first two nights immediately**

To confirm your booking please immediately pay your family's first two night's camping fees by bank transfer into the club's bank account shown below.

Account Number: Alpine Sports Club Inc: 12-3237-0007167-01

Particulars: Expected Arrival/Departure Dates e.g. 26Dec 3Jan

Code: Enter the number of deposits paying e.g. 1x30 1x46 2x6 for the deposit for one adult member, one adult family guest and two children 5+ years for two nights each

Reference: Enter your family name e.g. Brown or Brown-Smith

These deposits will be non-refundable as we need to prepay our fixed costs.

|                                | Per Night | Deposit Required |
|--------------------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Per Adult Member               | \$15      | \$30             |
| Per Adult Non-Member           | \$23      | \$46             |
| Children 5-18 years            | \$3       | \$6              |
| Children Under 5               | Free      | -                |
| Day Visitors<br>(over 4 hours) | \$3       |                  |

All rates include a daily \$3 portaloos surcharge.

A camp information sheet will be emailed to you after receipt of your booking.

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## **Saturday 17 January 2026 - Tongariro GOAT Adventure Run - Rollo England**

Join Rollo as he takes on the GOAT in January 2026. Its a little pricy at \$259 per person but he's done it 3 times before and says it's worth every cent.

Intent is to stay at the A-Frame which makes accommodation really reasonable and is right next to the start for logistics.

Ideally looking for 1 person per 3 runners that would be keen to pick up the runners from Turoa ski field early afternoon following the run.

The course itself is about a half-marathon in distance but includes scrambling over rocks, some solid climbs, waterfalls, and (depending on rain) river crossings. All that at altitude! Tough but EPIC!

Rollo isn't planning on training much for this. What's an extra hour when you're out there enjoying the mountains anyway.

If you're interested show your interest by getting in touch with Rollo.

[\(rolloengland@gmail.com\)](mailto:rolloengland@gmail.com)

<https://thegoat.co.nz/>

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**Sunday 15 February 2026 - Waiheke Island Coast to Coast** – Marin Browne and Susan Stephens

This is an interesting summer-time Waiheke Island walk from Rocky Bay to Onetangi a distance of 8.5 km. Catch the 9.00 am ferry to Waiheke then a bus to the start at Rocky Bay. After lunch have a swim at Onetangi should you wish.

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**Thursday 26 February 2026 – Riverhaven Artland** - Brian Fitzpatrick

Check out [Riverhaven Artland](#) and slot this date in your diary for 2026!

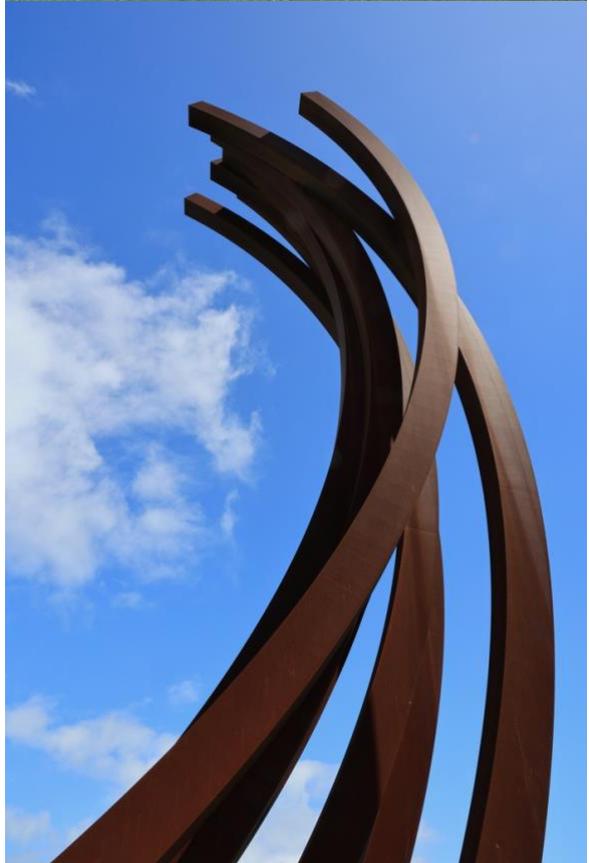
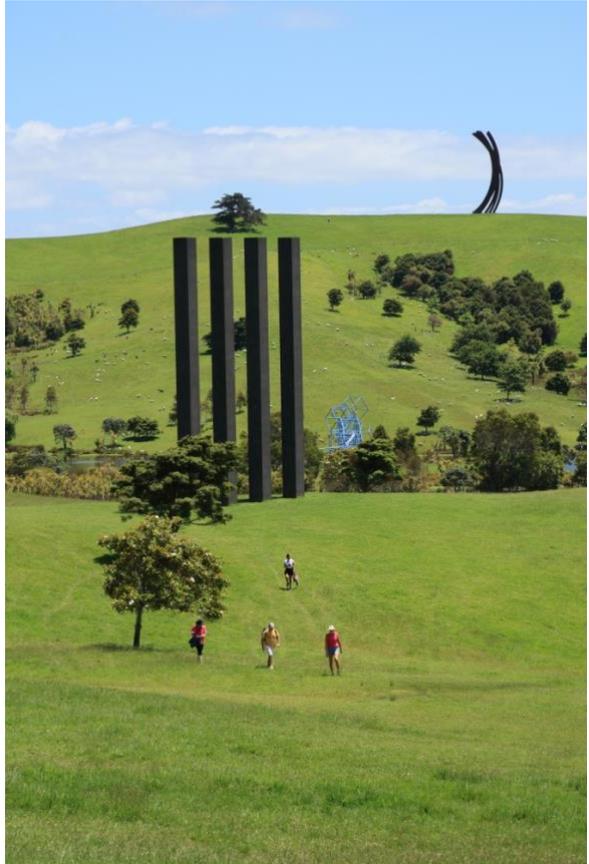
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**Sunday 15 March 2026. Tawharanui Regional Park** - Jonathan and Janet Hodder

A day trip with a difference. An afternoon walk in the park followed by a BBQ tea and early evening walk Kiwi spotting. Enjoy a summer evening outdoors. More information in the February edition of Alpinesport.



*Gibbs Farm Sculpture Park (Photos: Calin Cascaval)*



*Gibbs Farm Sculpture Park (Photos: Tom Chignell)*

## Trip Reports

### Sunday 2 November 2025 – Mahurangi Harbour Coastal Walk – Don Baker

Most of the early settlement of New Zealand by Europeans was connected either with whaling or with trade in timber. The British Navy came to the Mahurangi Harbour seeking spars, and the settlement in Brownes Bay (Pukapuka) in Western Mahurangi in 1832 was the first full time European settlement in the Auckland area.

In April 1840 Governor Hobson sent Felton Mathew south to survey Mahurangi Harbour for establishing a new capital for NZ. Mathew's report was favourable but on reaching the Waitemata Harbour, he recommended that as a better option.

Shipbuilding commenced around the Mahurangi Harbour, the first recorded vessel having been constructed in 1849. Thomas Scott, a ship builder, purchased the land in 1852, establishing his business there and opening an inn.

History would show that the industry thrived for over 20 years. The Scott Homestead was built in 1877 by his son. The Scott family used the homestead as a holiday house until 1971, when it was purchased by Auckland Regional Authority.



Fifteen members joined our Sunday Tramp, a 10km hike around the Scotts Peninsular shoreline. There are a large number of mansions and holiday homes

hidden among the bushy hillside, many with riparian rights making access to the coastline difficult other than at the road end. However after several reconnaissances, I found a route to the western shore about 5km from the road end. The shoreline is a combination of sandy beaches, mudflats, and rocks. The Burton Wells Scenic Reserve is a small forested headland midway along this stretch of coast.

At Scotts Landing we checked out the old homestead and the huge old macrocarpa trees along the shoreline.



After a quick regroup we headed over to Casnell Island which has a causeway joining it to the mainland so no wet feet. It has been some 20years since I have been here and after a bit of bush crashing, our intrepid explorers climbed over and under fallen trees, finding the almost non-existent track to the southern end cliff tops. The views extend to Mahurangi Harbour entrance, Whangapāroa Peninsular with the top of Rangitoto in the distance. Then lunch in the long grass beside giant Pohutukawa trees the girths of which are usually only associated with kauri trees.

We retrace our steps back to the mainland and then follow the eastern rocky shoreline of the peninsular in a race to beat the incoming tide. We reach a sandy beach locally known as Marriage Bay because the first wedding on the River took place here in 1854. A large house known as the Cantyre House was built and in 1867 the Post office was located here. The large Norfolk Pine on

the beachfront was planted by Sir George Grey whilst Governor. A fire destroyed the original homestead in 2003 but the Cantyre Estate as it became known has been redeveloped.

We beat the tide round the next headland to a sandy estuary where there are a cluster of yachts and dinghies lying on their sides waiting for the tide to refloat them. We pause here in the sunshine to enjoy the peace and tranquility, before climbing through the bush on a path that leads us back to the main road and we emerge from the bush about 200m from where our cars had been strategically located that morning.

Apart from a dozen people fishing or picnicking at the road end at Scotts Landing, we had not passed or seen another soul all day. It is still possible to enjoy a remote experience less than an hour from the Harbour Bridge.



**Thursday 13 November 2025 – Oakley Creek – David Addis**

23 of us met at Howlett Reserve for a walk along the 'remains' of Oakley Creek. Cyclone Gabrielle devastated the Creek nearly 3 years ago. 124 tons of fallen tree trunks have been airlifted from the Creek and 3 bridges were washed out. To date only one has been restored. In fact many of the tracks are still blocked off with railings but these have been pushed aside by the locals. We took advantage of these openings and ducked and dived our way along the Creek. The damage and erosion was clear to see.



Oakley Creek originates in the Mt Roskill area and the present suburbs of Mt Roskill, Sandringham and Wesley were wetlands. Māori would navigate their waka almost to Mt Roskill and fed off the eel and freshwater crays. They also made use of the flax, and raupo on the banks and hunted for weka. The draining of the wetlands, initially for farm land and then housing, has led to constant flooding ever since.



It was good to spot the plaque to Beverley Joy Price who was an ASC member and great influencer of the development of walks such as this one in Oakley Creek and who sadly died in the Mt Erebus crash in 1979.

Our first stop was at the waterfall, in full flow after the recent rain. This is the only waterfall in the Auckland Isthmus.

In 1845 Edwin Oakley took advantage of the waterfall and the surrounding flax to build a flax mill. Since then the creek has been called Oakley's Creek rather than the Māori Te Auaunga, but we now know it as Oakley Creek.

The bridge by the waterfall was still out so it was necessary to backtrack and walk through the old Carrington (now Unitec) grounds to the playing fields at Phyllis Reserve and the playground at Harbutt Reserve.

Showers, some heavy, had been forecast, but arrived earlier than expected, forcing us to lunch in the shelter of the local sports club.

The only way back was by the same route and the rain continued, not stopping until we arrived at the cars of course!

That was the 1st damp walk for the Thursday walkers for very many months, but we were still smiling at the end.



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### **Thursday 20 November 2025 – Gibbs Farm – Warren Whyte**

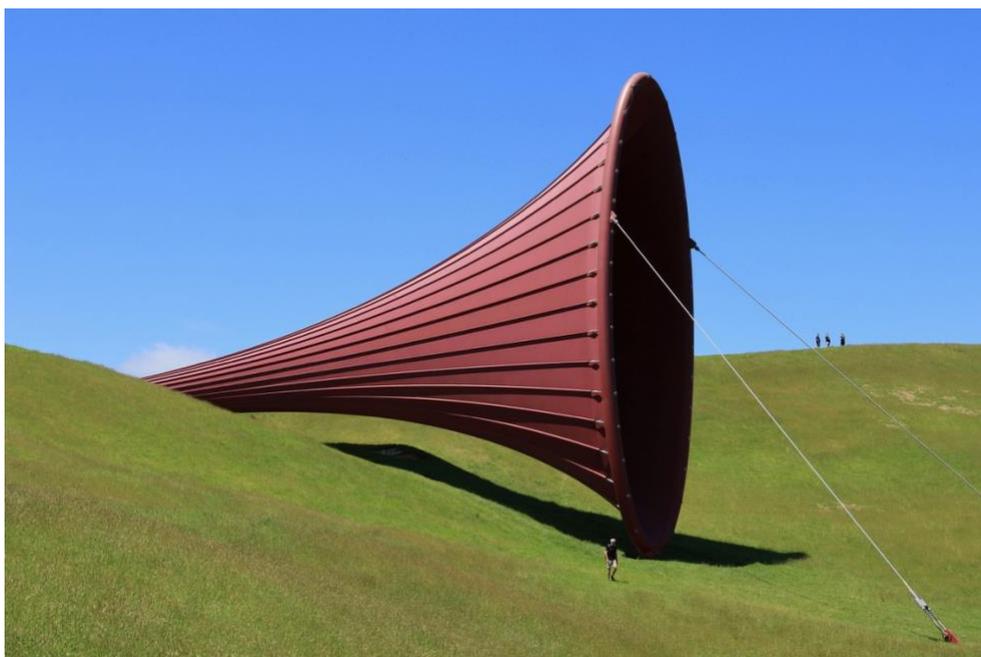
Following three days of heavy rain, we were gloomily anticipating that our club trip to Gibbs Farm was going to be with umbrellas, raincoats, gum boots and whatever other wet weather gear we could find. Then surprise, surprise, we arrived on the Kaipara Coast, several kilometres north of Kaukapakapa, to the most beautiful sunny spring day imaginable. Thus began a wonderful three and a half hours of walking around a circuit on Gibbs Farm Sculpture Park, which looks out over the largest harbour in the Southern Hemisphere, the Kaipara Harbour.

For club members who have never visited the park, there are twenty-three impressively large sculptures, and an interesting selection of eighteen different species of animals and birds, spread over a vast, beautifully landscaped, farm park. In the centre is a magnificent water fountain visible from all over the farm, and which could possibly be the largest water fountain in NZ. It runs through a programmed series of patterns.



*"88.5° ARC x8" by Bernar Venet (Photo: Calin Cascava)*

Our group set off on the circuit together, but very quickly they were diverting, digressing, following their own routes and whims. Some were taken by the sculptured giraffe that shared a paddock with two live ones. Others spent time composing a shot of Jacob's Ladder with Texan long-horn cattle in front. Still others revelled in wide sweeping views that took in numerous sculptures. Several hunted for the track that led to Arches, in the sea. Surprisingly, most gathered at the same lunch spot, on the highest point. And all safely re-assembled by the cars at closing time.



*"Dismemberment, Site 1" by Anish Kapoor (Photo: Tom Chignell)*

Our 24 enthusiastic participants were: Carolyn Blackford; Margaret Brown; Marjorie Buxton; Calin, Anca, & Victor Cascaval; Tom Chignell; Leila Corban; Mike and Cathy Frith; Dieuwke Gers; Jackie Hillman; Andy Martin; Gillian Mellsop; Urs & Marianne Reinhard; Pam Robbie; Diane Rolls; Philip, Esther & Susan Steven; Rosemary Wakeman; Warren & Jocelyn Whyte (Leader and Scribe). Viv & Nancy Milne and John & Diane Syme had also booked but were unable to come.

Plunket was grateful for the \$2,500 that our ASC group contributed to their funds.



## Club Contacts

| <b>Officers</b>    | <b>Name</b>       | <b>Email</b>                  |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| 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  |

| <b>Elective Members</b>        | <b>Name</b>       | <b>Email</b>                  |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| 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           |
| Thursday Walks Co-ordinator                 | Clive Bolt                      | Thursday.walks@alpinesport.org.nz |
| Midis Co-ordinator                          | Sherilyn Coney                  | midis@alpinesport.org.nz          |
| Club Gear for Hire (climbing and snowcraft) | Brian Duffy                     | hire@alpinesport.org.nz           |
| PLB hire for club trips                     | Murray Davidson                 | hire@alpinesport.org.nz           |
| Club records archivist                      | Jenny Hudson                    | email@alpinesport.org.nz          |



*"Floating Island of the Immortals" by Zhan Wang (Photo: Tom Chignell)*