



“Arches” by Alan Goldsworthy at Gibbs Farm



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



November 2025

Kia ora koutou,

Summer is nearly here! Who needs Book-a-Bach? Summer rates at our huts on Ruapehu are excellent, and you could host your friends for a getaway with the best sunset views around.

Alternatively, get cosy at our own bush-hut in the Waitākeres with tui and kōkako for company, a log burner (for that festive feel) and the delights of

Piha and Anawhata down the road. Or sign up for the unforgettable fun of Summer Camp where ASC members of all ages come together for 9 days of camping bliss, beside the chattering Rangihau river near Coroglen in the Coromandel. Summer Camp is a place where lifelong friendships and memories are made.

The November Club Night is going to be a laugh! Fiona Heenan has written a cracker of a Quiz. Join us for this light-hearted Quiz Night and supper.

Take note of the social events in December, with a picnic and swim at Okahu Bay on Sunday 11 December and Christmas Lunch at the Waitākere Hut on Sunday 14 December. The December Club Night on the 2 December will include speaker Phillip Donnell talking about walking in Samoa, followed by the annual awards and a special Christmas supper.

Make sure to note the February Ruapehu Work Party dates in your diary and watch out for notice of the May Food Drop. We need all hands-on-deck to keep our mountain assets maintained and well stocked. The Waitākere Hut will also have an autumn work party, with more information in the new year.

Finally, please take a few minutes to fill out our Membership Survey before the 30 November deadline. We want to hear your opinion, what you love about the club and any suggestions to help the club run more smoothly.

Ngā mihi,

Miranda

Notices

Club Meeting

7:30 pm, Tuesday 4 November 2025

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

It's the **2nd Annual ASC Quiz Night!**

Get ready to be quizzed about all matters outdoors and tested on your general knowledge at our very own table quiz this month. The quiz has six categories: Famous Explorers and Expeditions, The Great Walks, Flora and Fauna, Name that Hut, and The Oceans.

New and Returning Members - Jeanette Davidson

We warmly welcome new members:

- Fleur Bracey
 - Susie Davies-Colley with Ella (9) and Thea (7)
 - Ian Yu (husband to Nan Li, a current member)
 - Elijah Laga and Shantae Berryman with Donnavyn Laga (2)
-

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 to plan your summer stay.

Membership Survey – November 2025

We want to hear your voice!

In November ASC will be conducting a member survey.

The intent of the survey is to better understand our membership, what you like and don't like, how you use club facilities, and how we communicate with you. It is also an opportunity for you to give us your feedback on what you want from the club. We believe that the survey will give great insights and enable the Committee to better serve the needs and wants of the members.

In the coming days, all individual members, and the membership holder of family memberships, will receive an email with a link to the survey. We kindly request that once received, you promptly complete the survey online. Please don't print it out and fill it in with a pen or pencil, as your response will not be recorded.

If you are completing the survey as part of a family membership please consult your family members when completing. They might have a different view than you on some things.

The survey should take you about 10-15 minutes or so to complete. So grab your tablet and favourite beverage and tell us what you think.

Here is the link to the survey – [ASC Membership Survey](#). The survey will close at the end of November.

All going well, we intend to run this survey each year so that we can track progress and provide insights to any incoming committee.

Thursday Walks

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

If you are interested in joining, please send an email to Clive Bolt at Thursday.walks@alpinesport.org.nz

River Safety Month 2025

Do you know the signs of an unsafe river?

The first step in river safety is knowing when a river is **unsafe** to cross.

1. **Too fast?** - Is the river moving faster than normal walking pace?
2. **Too murky?** - Is the water brown and dirty?
3. **Too messy?** - Logs, branches or other debris in the water?
4. **Too loud?** - Do you hear roaring water or rolling rocks?

If you answer yes to **any** of these questions, **don't cross**. Remember: *If in doubt, stay out.*

This advice and lots more can be found on the [Mountain Safety website](#).

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
-

Upcoming Trips

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

Meet at 10.00 am near Warkworth for a walk through the coastal reserves and around the shoreline to Scott's Landing, Mahurangi East Regional Park. From there we will walk across the causeway to Casnell's Island to explore the old Pah site and bush reserve. We will return to Scott's Landing for lunch and then hike back up the ridge on bush tracks to the cars.

This is not a long walk, so it is suitable for all ages, but either firm shoes or boots should be worn for walking on the rock shelf shoreline and poles are also recommended.

Register with Don Baker. Don will text or email you back with details of the meeting point. Where possible it would be a good idea to car pool.

Thursday 13 November 2025 – Oakley Creek – David Addis

Meet at 10am at the end of the cul-de-sac in Howlett St, Waterview. Oakley Creek was devastated by Cyclone Gabriel with 3 bridges washed out and to date only one has been replaced. We will wander through the newly created Heritage Area of Waterview Park, cross Great North Rd by the overbridge, then duck and dive through Oakley Creek bypassing the 2 washed out bridges to Harbutt Reserve. After lunch we will retrace our steps back to Howlett Reserve. This is a slightly shorter walk than some recent ones.

There are toilets near the start and again at the lunch stop.

Thursday 20 November 2025 – Gibbs Farm – Warren Whyte

Opportunities to visit the amazing, internationally renowned, Gibbs Farm outdoor collection of NZ and international large scale sculptures are limited, and mostly confined to charitable events.

Here is your chance to combine conviviality, exercise, art appreciation and philanthropy on a great day out, at this spectacular spot on the Kaipara Coast.

The NZ Plunket Society have extended an invitation to members of various clubs including the Alpine Sports Club and their friends to join with them on Thursday 20th November 2025 for a visit to this spectacular park.

For Club members of 20 or more in a group the entry fee is \$100 per person, which includes a delicious packed lunch. The full price of every ticket sold goes to support Plunket Services in our community. To walk around the full

sculpture circuit for a close up view takes about three to three & half hours however the sculptures can be viewed at a distance for those people looking for a shorter walk.



Dismemberment by Anish Kapoor

If interested in helping a good cause then please register with Jocelyn or Warren Whyte before 10th November. Arrangements for payment, carpooling, etc can then be made.

Please note that the Group entry fee of \$100 per person only applies for groups of 20 or more persons. For individuals or groups of less than 20 the entry fee is \$120 per person.

Thursday 27 November 2025 – Christmas Lunch – Ihumātao – Sherilyn Coney

Meet at 10.15 at the end of Ihumātao Quarry Road, off Oruarangi Road, for a guided one and a half hour Hikoī of the Ōtautaua Stonefields by a member of the local Marae.

Lunch will be in the Kaitiaki Village Centre at the end of Ihumātao Quarry Road. Tea and coffee will be provided. Please bring Christmas lunch to share, you won't need to bring a chair. Come just for lunch if you prefer which will start at approximately midday.

You will need \$30 IN CASH, to be collected when you arrive.

Book with Sherilyn Coney. Please don't come if you don't book before Friday 21st!!

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

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](#)

Sunday 14 December 2025 – Christmas Lunch **Advance Notice**** – 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.

Friday 26 December 2025 – Saturday 3 January 2026 - Booking and Deposit Instructions - Summer Camp 2025 – Coroglen – Peter Jemmett

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 (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.

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)

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

Thursday 26 February 2026 – Riverhaven Artland – ** Advanced Notice**** -**

Brian Fitzpatrick

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



Bushcraft Weekend



Manukau Coastal Walk

Trip Reports

Thursday 25 September – Mt Wellington and Panmure Lagoon – Karen Yates

There was promise of sun and rain for this Thursday Walk up Maungarai, Mt Wellington but what we got was intense wind. Up at the trig, we could readily identify the three craters and see a vast vista of Auckland but because of the wind, we did not remain there for long.

Mt Wellington is a young volcano, only 10,000 years old but the tallest of all Auckland's volcano, 100 meters from the base. Immediately below lies the neatly laid out Stonefield Housing Complex - formerly a Winstone's Quarry

The group of 16 walkers weaved their way through the traffic, to the path around the Panmure Lagoon. Once we found shelter from the wind, it was very pleasant.

At our lunch stop, below Waipuna Lodge we could enjoy the warmth of the sun, the blue of the Lagoon's water and the green mountain.

Continuing our walk on a well-maintained, popular track, we took a short detour to visit the white shag colony besides the Estuary. The shags were nesting, and it was delightful to see them feeding their chicks.

To complete the 9 km walk, we crossed the newly erected and very smart foot bridge over the estuary. In all, it was a good walk. Much talking took place as we walked, adding to the pleasant experience. Thank you to all who participated and to Boyd Miller, for sharing his knowledge of volcanoes.



Lunch in the Sun



and shade!

Saturday and Sunday 27/28 September 2025 – Children’s Practical Bushcraft Weekend – Getting crafty with Sue Grant – Natasha Utting

My son Soren and I were lucky enough to attend the ASC Children’s Practical Bushcraft Course late September hosted by the ever-knowledgeable Sue Grant, up at the Waitakere Hut. We had no idea what to expect but figured it was an opportunity for some mother-son bonding alongside other like-minded ASC families and perhaps the chance to learn a thing or two along the way.

Expectations were exceeded – right from the first bash into the bush for bivvy building. The kids gathered giant fronds and sticks and fashioned snug(ish) nooks among the punga, under watchful weta eyes. Sue demonstrated how to choose a location and fasten an emergency fly shelter.

Back at the hut, we all got a lesson in compass points before venturing back into the bush with orienteering compasses at the ready, to learn the art of off-trail navigation. Turns out you can’t easily walk in a straight line in the bush!

Between bushcraft lessons, the kids’ imaginations ran wild. The cargo net became a hypothetical town, complete with leaves as currency and taxes paid to Soren, the self-appointed mayor.

Meanwhile, learning continued for the adults, as Sue taught us how to read topographic maps...scale, contours, legends, distance and elevation. Who knew? Quite useful things maps - as it turns out.

As the day chilled, kids were ushered inside. Survival training took a dastardly turn and became ‘zombie apocalypse training’. With kids committing fully to their roles, parents were dared to enter the darkened ‘zombied’ dorms—always to much shrieking and laughter.

Some subjects were more serious. Best way to cross a river (tip - suss it out first!) The very real risk of hyperthermia and how to prepare, first aid administration.... Using the Southern Cross to find the south celestial pole, an analog watch and the sun to find north... So much to take in.

Roasted marshmallows provided excellent sustenance for adults and little zombies alike as it turned out.

If you’ve got a child and an appreciation of the outdoors, I can’t recommend Sue’s bushcraft course highly enough. Her guidance is a true north, or is that magnetic north? Either way, skills to guide the kids (and us) through a lifetime of adventures.

Thursday 9 October 2025 – Karaka Lakes – Bruce Dwerryhouse

Our walk started at the far end of the Karaka Lakes residential area and took us past the picturesque lakes where we watched the resident ducks and swans. We enjoyed the view from the bridge near the main lake spillway, but were surprised at its high flood level in relation to the adjoining properties..This easy mostly flat walk then followed the local streets and the link road through to Park Green where we picked up the coastal track which lead us to our morning tea stop at a cafe overlooking the estuary.



Muddy moment!



Bottletop Bay

Lunch followed shortly thereafter as we continued on the coastal track, following the shoreline of the Pahurehure Inlet for a further short distance..We then headed back towards the cars where a few of the group departed while most of us continued walking on to Bottle Top Bay, The name is believed to come from the large number of beer bottles left on the ground after speed boat races in the 1960's. It was a relatively short, pleasant walk along the road and through the esplanade to this quiet, peaceful spot, known for its boat ramp.



Karaka Lakes

Sunday 12 October 2025 – Manukau Harbour Coastal Walk (Onehunga to Lynfield) – Warren Whyte

The unsettled spring weather patterns we have experienced this year caused the postponement of the Manukau Coastal walk planned for the 5th October to the following Sunday 12th October. How lucky we were, as the later date turned out to be ideal tramping/walking weather for our walk from the Orpheus Reserve in Onehunga, along the Manukau Harbour coastal tracks, to the Manukau Reserve in Lynfield.

Luckily the tide was fully out at the start of our walk so we opted to take the shortcut route over the mudflats to the picturesque Taylors Bay, thus avoiding a hilly section of the trail. On the other hand, the term “mudflats” lived up to its name and many of us ended up with very muddy boots. From Taylors Bay there was a short climb up through a residential area, then down again to a small sandy beach called Granny’s Bay. The track then followed a hilly section of the coastline through a selection of attractive coastal forest, including a section of mature fully flowering Kowhai trees. We detoured away from the Hillsborough cemetery, which occupies a large area of the coastline, as we made our way towards Aldersgate Reserve, Wesley Bay and Waikowhai Park, which was our lunch stop in a lovely grassy spot with extensive views over the Manukau Harbour.

Fully sustained, we tackled the 350-step staircase up to Cape Horn Road, and then the trails through more open, scrappy forest down to wild and windy

Wattle Bay, where we paused for a rest before zig-zagging our way up through another section of delightful bush to Manukau Domain, from where we were able to catch a bus back to our cars at Onehunga.

And so ended a most enjoyable day out for the 24 members who participated being:-

Brian Bargh, Carolyn Blackford, Marion Browne, Don Baker, Clive & Helen Bolt, Jeanette & Murray Davidson, Bill Dobbie, Bruce Dwerryhouse, Elisabeth Jobbins, Janet & Jonathan Hodder, Barbara Lamont, Jocelyn Magness, Bruce Rogers, Joe Scott-Woods, Susan Stephens, Anca & Victor Suvaiala, Rosemary Wakeman, Linda Webber, Warren (organiser) & Jocelyn Whyte..

Thursday 23 October –Pukekohe 3 Summits Walk – Graham Russell

Thirteen members visited Pukekohe to walk on part of the five summits walk with nine arriving by train, two by car and Margie Bell and I met everyone at the station at 10.30am.

From there we walked up into Roosevelt Park where there is a beautiful stand of bush mainly consisting of totaras and some puriri trees. This is the first of the summits and as we descended we passed a perfect example of a tuff ring.



Tuff Ring in Roosevelt Park

From there we walked through the nice sub-division of Anselmi Ridge where there is a small lake. A perfect place for a morning tea stop. Then the climb up onto the next summit called *The Rock*, giving a wonderful view of the expansion that has taken place in Pukekohe. We then walked past Ryman's *Possum Borne* retirement home up through some bush onto Cape Hill our third summit. We decided it was too windy for a lunch break there so went down to Ernie's Reserve where there is a large duck pond with tables and seats. After lunch, a search for toilets added another couple of kms to our walk.

We then followed the Whangapouri Creek along a well-established track, through Kennelly Park and back on to streets for a short part of the walk ending up at my home in McNally Road. At close to 14 km the walk was a tad

long leaving us a bit stretched at the end. We had definitely earned the cup of tea before returning by bus to the station.



Friday October 24 to Monday October 27 (Labour Weekend) - Ngatuhua Lodge— Eric Horn

Once again, Ngatuhua Lodge delivered on its reputation for being one of the best family weekends in the ASC calendar - this year with an even longer trip thanks to Labour Day.

10 families braved the holiday-weekend traffic (and perhaps the North Island's most complicated gate lock system) to escape to this outdoor paradise in the Kaimai Ranges.

We had a fantastic time exploring the surrounding bush walks, including a trip to Ngatuhua Falls and a beautiful walk down the Milk Bottle Creek Track.

Saturday afternoon saw every kid (and most of the parents) out on the Lodge's kayak lake - a first-time for many of the younger children, followed by a wood-fire BBQ (on a fire that allegedly burned for over 30 hours).

Sunday was the tubing adventure that everyone was waiting for, with 25 brave explorers questing down the river with a perfect mix of rapids and lazy pools.



Tubing at Ngatuhua

A big thanks to Jared for doing all of the trip organisation without actually getting to be there for the weekend! And it was great to see so many new families coming along on this trip.

Horn, Harrison, Thomas, Musson, Li, Morton, Jackson, Berndt, Corbett/Haslemore, and Eagles families

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
Thursday Walks Co-ordinator	Clive Bolt	Thursday.walks@alpinesport.org.nz
Midis and Midis Plus 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



Ngatuhua