



*Lake Rotoiti and Mt Robert, Nelson Lakes National Park (Photo: Tom Chignell)*



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

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## President's Report



February 2026

Happy New Year!

I hope you have had an enjoyable summer so far? The ASC Summer Camp at Coroglen was a great success, with 122 campers and many day-visits from members and friends. See trip reports later in the magazine for more detail.

I would encourage everyone to sign up for a Working Bee at Ruapehu this February and March. The dates are 14th/15th February, 21st/22nd March, and 28th/29th March. If you are interested, contact Nicholas Roberts at [ruapehu@alpinesport.org.nz](mailto:ruapehu@alpinesport.org.nz) .

Take note of the upcoming weekend trips - camping at Ngatuhua in February and Easter Camp at Lake Okataina, near Rotorua, in April. Looking ahead to Winter, you can make the most of the Whakapapa Season Pass deals with a FREE ski pass for children 10 years and under and other great deals if you book before 30th April. <https://www.whakapapa.com/passes/season-passes> .

Thursday Walks have already started, and Warren Whyte has lined up an excellent selection of Weekend Walks for 2026 with the help of many trip leaders.

Pop these dates in your diary and you'll have a busy schedule.

Looking forward to seeing you at the February Club Night BBQ in Cornwall Park next week, Tuesday 3rd February from 5.30pm/6.00pm.

Ngā mihi

Miranda

## Notices

### Club Night/Annual BBQ

5.30 pm/6.00pm, Tuesday 3 February 2026, Cornwall Park.

Meet at the gas BBQ's on Grand Drive, Cornwall Park.

We're having our **February BBQ** at Cornwall Park at the usual spot. Meet at the gas BBQ's on Grand Drive. Best entrance is from Campbell Rd as there are carparks. Members tend to bring a picnic including something to share. If you bring meat, you can cook your own on the public BBQ's. It's no problem to bring a bottle of wine. If you would like to sit, bring a picnic blanket or a folding chair. Kids are welcome. The Park closes at 9pm.

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### New and Returning Members - Jeanette Davidson

Welcome to Amanda Gummer who is a returning member.

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### Membership Survey etc

Thank you to all that filled out the member survey at the end of last year. It has been a busy summer break so we haven't had a chance to dive into it fully yet but initial glances have shown some interesting insights . We had 86 responses and while this isn't all members it's a pretty good sample. While most of our respondents are based in Auckland/Tamaki, results show that people are living across the motu and even overseas. Most of our respondents are our seniors 65+, with the next group in the 35 to 65 range. It looks like respondents are pretty happy with the club, with 97% of respondents positive about the club in conversations and 94% of respondents think that ASC represents good value for money. About 50% of respondents are using Facebook yet only 25% are aware of the [Facebook page and group](#). We encourage you to join those groups to keep up to date with information and sharing of photos. Only about 50% of respondents are aware of the [ASC website](#). We are aware that it's looking quite dated and are in discussions regarding a refresh. For the moment the trusty newsletter (this) is the most popular form of media communication with almost everyone using it.

Respondents were also very positive about the content, giving it an average of 4 out of 5 stars. We still have a lot to dig into regarding the Waitakere and Ruapehu huts, and events. Again thank you to those that took time to fill out the responses and providing this valuable information to the committee. If you are interested in shaping the future of the club ask about getting involved with the committee in 2026.

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## ASC Communications Groups

To aid in communications for organised events we have created a Whatsapp group with channels for various events. This can be a bit more responsive than email especially when you are trying to find the group at the trailhead! Please install WhatsApp on your smart phone and join the ASC group by scanning the following QR code.



You can then subscribe to channels to get information on events that you are interested in.

Alternatively, send an email to [tours@alpinesport.org.nz](mailto:tours@alpinesport.org.nz) with your phone number and you can be added to the group.

Jared Haslemore

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## Weekend Walks

Many thanks to all our members who stepped forward during 2025 to lead a trip. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

- February - Riverhead Forest - Bruce & Jane Rogers
- March - Cossey - Massey track starting at Hunua Falls - Marion Browne
- April - Whatipu to Pararaha return - Calin Casçaval
- May - Tiritiri Matangi - Carolyn Blackford
- June - Waiheke Northern Coastal Walk - Susan Stephens
- July - O'Kura to Stillwater return - Jonathan Hodder
- August - Auckland's Coast to Coast - Susan Stephen / Marion Browne
- September - Mahurangi River to Scotts Landing - Don Baker
- October - Manukau Harbour Coastal Walk, Onehunga to Lynfield - Warren & Jocelyn Whyte
- November - Gibbs Sculpture Farm - Kaipara Harbour - Warren Whyte
- November - Mahurangi Coastal Walk - Don Baker
- December - Waitakere Hut Christmas gathering - Bruce Rogers & Warren Whyte

Warren Whyte

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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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## 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:

- **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

If you are interested, contact Nicholas Roberts at [ruapehu@alpinesport.org.nz](mailto:ruapehu@alpinesport.org.nz).

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## Club Night Organiser Needed

Do you have ideas for speakers or activities for Club Nights?

We are looking for a new volunteer to organise speakers for the monthly Club Nights, starting from July 2026. The job entails setting-up 10 months'-worth of activities to fill the club calendar, not including the months of January and February. If you are interested, please get in touch with Sue Fitzpatrick.

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## Tramping Coordinator Needed

Do you like long walks in the bush?

Staying overnight in back-country huts?

Been on some epic walks that you want to share with others?

Always looking for new places to explore in New Zealand?

We are looking for one or two of our members to take on the role of hiking coordinator. If interested please contact Jared at [tours@alpinesport.org.nz](mailto:tours@alpinesport.org.nz)

## Upcoming Trips

**Thursday 12 February – Opanuku Stream – Jeanette Davidson**

Details to follow by email.

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

We will catch the 9.00am ferry to Waiheke. Please be at the ferry terminal no later than 8.30am. Upon arrival at Matiatia we will take the 502 bus to Rocky Bay which departs at 9.55am sharp. The walk initially follows the coastline then through the Whakenewha Regional Park, one of the highlights being the nikau grove. There are a few stream crossings so poles could be handy. We finish at Onetangi so bring your togs for a swim. The walk is approximately 8.5km long.

We will return to Matiatia by bus to catch either the 3 or 4 pm ferry. Don't forget your HOP Card!! For any further info and confirmation of attendance please contact either Marion or Susan.

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**Friday – Sunday 20-22 February 2026 - Ngatuhua Camping Trip – Jared Haslemore**

40% full with space for 26 more people.

Join us for summer camping at the beautiful Ngatuhua Lodge Camp Site. We have exclusive use of the camp site over this weekend. Located 400m from the main lodge facility, the camp site contains a large field for tenting, two long drop toilets, large covered BBQ area, a three person cabin, outdoor fireplace with a wetback heater, a marshal heater for a hot shower and filtered drinking water.

Note there is no power or cell phone coverage on site.

The camp site is situated on DOC land and is surrounded by several DOC marked hiking trails boasting beautiful waterfalls, ancient trees and unique wildlife. Ngatuhua do not allow hunting to be conducted from their premises or permit users to bring their dogs with them.

Activities that are included in this booking are; Jumping and swimming hole areas, kayaking, raft building, battle pole and kayak canal areas and all hiking trails.

This trip is limited to 40 people. Bookings are \$15pp per night. Please register through [tours@alpinesport.org.nz](mailto:tours@alpinesport.org.nz).

Please include:

- whether you are a member of ASC,
- your name and the number of people in your party,
- the number of nights you are staying for.

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

[Riverhaven Artland Sculpture Park](#) is a private property on the banks of the Clevedon River, just north of Clevedon. There are over twenty sculptures (more are being added on a regular basis) in the park. For more information click on link above.

We will meet at 10 am for a 10.30 am start. The property address is 331 North Road, Clevedon.

There is a charge of \$30.00 to visit the park. The cost includes morning tea and a guided walk. Payable on the day, EFTPOS is available.

Estimated time to view the sculptures is two hours. Please wear suitable (preferably old) exercise shoes.

Afterwards we will picnic in the grounds. Bring your lunch and drink.

So that we can confirm numbers and to be advised of any changes to the plan please confirm your attendance with details of your mobile phone number and email address no later than Tuesday 24 February 2026 with Brian FitzPatrick

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

Join Jonathan and Janet Hodder for a late afternoon walk in Tawharanui Regional Park followed by a BBQ tea and early evening Kiwi spotting - 8.00 to 9.00 pm.

This is a walk with a difference so please note it in your diary now. Full details will follow in next month's Alpinesport.

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**Friday – Tuesday 3-7 April 2024 - Easter Camp @ Okataina Outdoor Recreation Centre – Jared Haslemore**

Join us for the ever-popular ASC Easter Camp located at the **Okataina Outdoor Recreation Centre** near Lake Okataina.

Easter camp highlights include our MEGA egg hunt through the bush, beautiful walks and mountain bike trails right from our lodge doorstep, and the glow worm grotto.

With the lake close by, kids can kayak and jump off the pontoon. Then we'll travel to one of the many local hot springs to warm up (Soda Springs, Lake Rotoiti Hot Pools and more..).

There's space for 90 people in a variety of cabins and dorms, plus space for campers as well.

Cost is \$18pp per night and is to be paid in advance.

Please register your interest with [tours@alpinesport.org.nz](mailto:tours@alpinesport.org.nz).

Please include:

- name and group size
  - arrival date and number of nights you want to stay
  - accommodation preference (cabin, dorm, camping)
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## **Sunday 12 April 2026 – Karekare – Linda Webber**

An exploration of the recently reopened Zion Hill track down to the Parahaha Valley and return along the coast

Starting from the Karekare Beach carpark we walk Pohutakawa Glade for a short distance before the steady climb up Zion Hill to reach the ridge. We will take this at a slow pace having a morning tea stop along the way.

Then it's down the other side all the way to the Parahaha Valley. Just before reaching the valley we will stop for lunch. There is now a very grand new boardwalk which winds its way through some magnificent kauri. It is here at a purpose built area we will have our lunch.

We then complete the remainder of Zion Hill and go directly to the coast using the sand dunes and tunnel track back to Karekare.

Total estimated time including lunch: 4.75 hours. Bring your poles if you use them.

Meet at 10 am Karekare Beach Carpark

Book with leader Linda Webber



*Summer Camp at Coroglen*



*Christmas Lunch at Waitakere*

## Trip Reports

### Friday 26 December 2025 – Saturday 3 January 2026 - Summer Camp 2025 – Coroglen – Miranda Hutton

We had an idyllic campsite on the bend of the Rangihau River upstream from Coroglen this year. It was familiar territory for many, as ASC has held several Summer Camps at a property just down the river in the past. The benefits of this site were many: plenty of space to camp, an easy-to-access waterhole for swimming, not far to drive to beaches (Hot Water Beach, Hahei, Cook's Beach and Whitianga) and friendly hosts.

122 people attended this year, comprising 63 adult members, 8 adult guests, 45 children in the 5-18 age category and 6 infants under 5.

After setting up camp, it didn't take long for everyone to discover the beautiful waterhole for a swim. Once the Town Hall Tent was erected, the notice-board became a popular meeting place to discuss trips for the following day.

On the 27th December Mark Roberts led a successful and scenic trip between Ferry Landing and Cook's Beach, ending with a swim for some at Lonely Bay. On the 28th December several parties walked and biked up Rangihau Rd to walk part of the Rangihau Track towards The Pinnacles. The weather packed up on the 29th December with high winds and persistent heavy rain. Some campers escaped to cafes in Whitianga while others kept watch at camp. Some tents and awnings suffered damage in the weather and the access road turned into a mud bath. The farmer showed us an alternative access route for our cars while we waited for the muddy track to dry.

On the 30th December we felt ready for a decent walk after all the rain and set off to Sailor's Grave. A party of about 30 enjoyed walking along the beach and over the headlands to two beautiful bush-fringed beaches. We put off swimming at the northern-most beach as it was rocky and wild, but the children and teenagers enjoyed playing beside the river and exploring the rocky headland. A small party of trampers chose to explore up the river while the rest of us took the track back to the carpark.

My family went to Hot Water Beach on the morning of 31st December while other campers visited Hot Water Beach at other times during the camp. Some members enjoyed a walk through beautiful bush from the Tapu-Coroglen Rd to the Waiwawa River. Several parties floated or kayaked down the Rangihau River, (see John Munford's trip report below). Whiti Farm Park was also a popular destination for families to see farm animals.

We were lucky with the weather on the 31st and the New Year's Eve celebrations were excellent. We were treated to an entertaining Talent Show from 7.30pm including dance, gymnastics, jokes, magic tricks, The Chase ASC-style quiz, and a grand finale theatre-piece involving many of the older children and teenagers. Many of the children had spent hours and days preparing their pieces for the show. It was heartwarming to see the children having fun, using their imaginations, having a good laugh and working together. After the Talent Show, we were able to light a small campfire and enjoy a sing-song and marshmallow toasting.



The traditional New Year's Games were organised by Nicholas Roberts on the 1st of January and there was a handsome table of recycled and donated medals and trophies for the prize-winners, many of them donated by Garth Barfoot who wasn't able to attend camp this year. The games were a great success with sprints, cycling, three-legged race, and tug-of-war. Guess who won in the children-against-adults tug-of-war?

Some campers packed up their tents on the 1st of January while others stayed until the final day, 3rd of January.

Thanks to Mark Roberts for organising the camp with me, Peter Jemmett for taking camp bookings and to Bruce Dwerryhouse for reconciling all the

payments and paying the farmer and the port-a-loo hire company. Peter and Bruce's jobs behind the scenes involve many hours of emails, spreadsheets, information-gathering and number-crunching. Please make sure you inform Peter and Bruce correctly as to your arrival and departure dates when you book, and later when you pay (especially if your dates and people have changed). Thanks to everyone else for making Summer Camp a success!

Miranda Hutton, camp co-organiser and scribe.

Campers who attended were:

Bolt, Blackford, Brumby/Hanchard/Walters/Miller, Chandler, Checketts, Christie, Chaplin, Cobb/Reddell, Comber/Benfield, Corbett/Haslemore, Crawford, Davidson, Dickinson, Dwerryhouse, Frater, Fitzpatrick, Greco, Gummer, Gordon/Whitmore, Hird/England, Hodder, Horn, Hutton/Voll/Mooij, Jackson/Jackson-Skiffington, Jemmett, Laga/Berryman, Lamont/O'Keefe, Loveridge/Hudson, Munford, Raymond/Baya-Raymond, Roberts/Lee Roberts, Rogers, Rolls, Sammons, Sutton, Waterworth, Wakeman, Williams.

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### **Coroglen River Adventure - John Munford:**

The sheltered campsite at Coraglen protected us from the worst of the heavy storms that heralded the end of 2026, but as the rains ceased, the swimming hole was transformed into a swirling, foaming maelstrom - creating ideal conditions for some riverine adventures.

After Mark Roberts had ridden the white water torrent of the Rangihau River, plucky pioneers Claire and Kathleen set out on the 30th December from the campsite to try and reach the Coroglen Tavern – 6km downstream.

This set the scene for an epic family adventure to mark New Year's Eve. A party of 15 campers departing in assorted craft from the swimming hole at around 10.30am and proceeded down the Rangihau River, dropping off 5 of the party at a convenient beach while the remainder progressed down towards the confluence with the Waiwawa River.

The combined flows of the two rivers tested the skills and endurance of the 10 remaining adventurers over a series of rapids interspersed with long stretches of deep, flowing water as the weather alternated between heavy rain and warm sunshine.

Given the age range of the party (8-81 yrs) and the effort needed to work the assorted craft through the rapids, it was not surprising that it was a tired but satisfied crew that reached the sanctity of the Tavern with its welcoming burgers and cooling drinks around 4 hours later. A fitting end to an epic ASC family adventure.

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## 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



*Summer Camp Fire*