

Hunua Falls (Photo: Clive Bolt)



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

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President's Report



March 2026

Kia ora koutou,

I hope you are enjoying the beautiful weather and late-summer sunshine? There are plenty of club trips on offer, see later in the magazine or the What's On page on the website.

Come to Club Night on the 3rd of March and hear Bart Schroder talk about his travels in Patagonia.

Join in one of Nicholas Robert's upcoming Working Bees this March and do something good for the huts as well as securing a 10% discount on your bunk nights this winter. The Working Bee dates are 7/8th March, 21/22th March and 28/29th March. Contact Nick if you can attend at ruapehu@alpinesport.org.nz

We are looking for a new Club Night organiser and a Tramping Coordinator so if you have some spare time and are interested, please let the committee know secretary@alpinesport.org.nz .

Easter Camp at Lake Okataina is coming up, see details later in the magazine. This will be the third time we will have used this facility. It is a beautiful area with plenty to do for all ages and plenty of space on the grounds.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Ngā mihi

Miranda

Notices

Club Night

7:30 pm, Tuesday 3 March 2025

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

Bart Schroder will talk about his travels in Patagonia.

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 with your phone number and you can be added to the group.

Jared Haslemore

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

Ruapehu Hut Working Bees – Nicholas Roberts

The first Ruapehu hut working party in February was postponed due to the weather.

So there are 3 hut working parties coming up in March and there are spaces available on all 3 dates.

- 7/8 March
- 21/22 March
- 28/29 March

Again the focus of the weekends will be to finish off painting the roof of the A frame using ladders, harnesses and ropes. But there are a number of other much smaller tasks, including internal painting, cleaning and preparing for the coming season. There are a few compliance issues to be rectified for the building's warrant of fitness.

The bunkhouse roof suffered some damage recently and will be repaired. Fortunately, this roof is very flat and easy to access.

Families may attend the working bees if either the kids are old enough to be put to work or one parent can entertain them while the other helps with the working bee.

Please email ruapehu@alpinesport.org.nz if you are interested in attending any of these weekends.

Nicholas

PS - There will be the usual food drop working bee at Ruapehu in May. More details to follow.

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.

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

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 \$42.50 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 to plan your summer stay.

Upcoming Trips

Sunday 15 March 2026. Tāwharanui Regional Park & Kiwi Spotting -

Jonathan & Janet Hodder

Meet at the main Anchor Bay carpark at 2:45pm. Depending upon traffic and where you leave from, the journey from Auckland to Tāwharanui can take up to 1.5 hours.

For a little exercise we'll take in the sights along the South Coastal Track to Tokatu Point then back along the North Coastal Track. Alternative walks and deviations are available, for example the energetic amongst us can do the whole loop. We'll meet back at the carpark.

Sometime before sunset at 7.41pm we'll have a BBQ dinner. BYO sausages etc. (we probably need a second portable bbq). When we've tidied up, we will follow the Ecology trail leading to the main sanctuary area. Bring a red (infra-red spectrum) torch or place good quality red cellophane over your torch. The kiwis generally live in the sanctuary areas which is up the valley from the main car park (2+ km). Of course, no guarantee we'll spot anything!

You can exit Tāwharanui Regional Park after the gates close, as the main automatic gate on Takatu Road is designed to open for vehicles leaving the park at all times, even after hours.

The group is limited to <50 people. Please let me know if you are coming. See you there!

Resources:

Regional Park

<https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/content/dam/ac/docs/parks-recreation/map-tawharanui-regional-park.pdf>

Topo Map

<https://www.topomap.co.nz/NZTopoMap?v=2&ll=-36.370537,174.82132&z=14>

Tāwharanui Open Sanctuary

<https://www.tossi.org.nz/assets/pdf/map.pdf>

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.

Please include:

- name and group size
- arrival date and number of nights you want to stay
- accommodation preference (cabin, dorm, camping)

Sunday 12 April 2026 – Karekare – Linda Webber

Meet at 10 am Karekare Beach Carpark

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.

Book with leader Linda Webber

Saturday/Sunday 18/19 April 2026 - Sanctuary Mountain – Mark Roberts

Travel down on Saturday morning for a self-guided tour of the Southern Enclosure which includes 5km of walking tracks inside a predator proof fence. Entrance fees \$32 adult, \$16 children under 17.

The Sanctuary also offers other tours which can be viewed on their website below. Sunday we will be doing the Over the Mountain track (including Te Raki track and Te Tonga track) which takes the historic route to Pukeatua Peak, from Hicks Road on the northern side to Pukeatua on the south. Allow 5-6 hours. Walkers will enjoy wonderful views of the forest and lush Waikato landscape from the two southern peaks. Depending on numbers we will either organise our own self shuttle or use the Sanctuary shuttle \$20 per person. The Sunday walk could be done as a day trip from Auckland but as we plan to start walking at 9:30am an early start would be required.

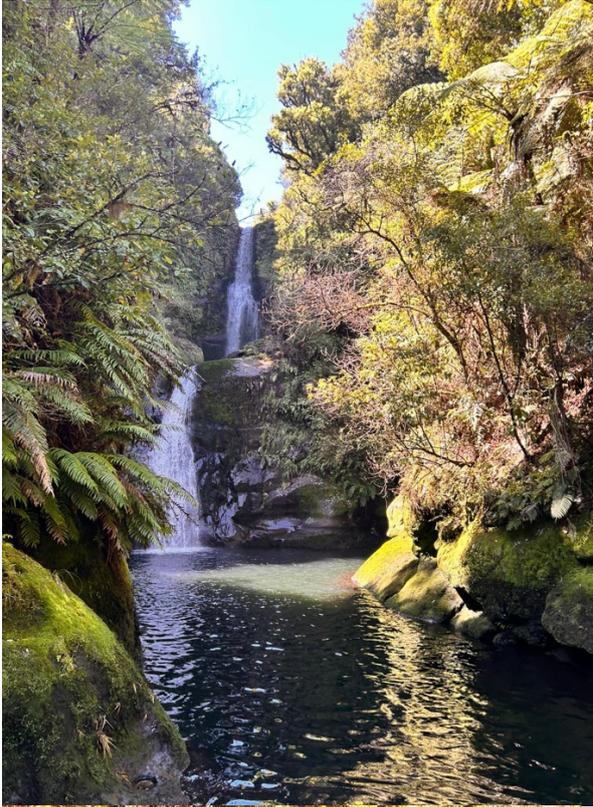
The Sanctuary advises the following caution: The 'Over the Mountain' track is not suitable for children under 12 years of age. This track is suitable for experienced hikers and adventurous walkers with a high level of fitness. This track is steep at times and will be very muddy and slippery in wet weather. We strongly recommend ensuring that you are fully kitted out with water, food, footwear, and clothing appropriate for hiking.

Our family plan to stay at the top 10 holiday park in Cambridge Saturday night.

Register your interest with Mark Roberts.

<https://www.sanctuarymountain.co.nz/>

<https://www.cambridgetop10.co.nz/camping-sites>



Ngatuhua



Cornwall Park BBQ

Trip Reports

Thursday 29 January 2026 – Hunua – Susan Stephens and Marion Browne

Eighteen members met in the Hunua range car park on Thursday morning to walk the eight kilometre Cossey-Massey Loop- Track. It was a beautiful sunny day so a walk through the bush was a great choice, with amazing views along the way.

We took the Massey Track to the Cossey Reservoir where we had lunch beside the reservoir.

We returned via the Cossey Gorge Track but due to a slip we could not take the first track into the gorge but continued along the road for another kilometre where we found a track signposted as the replacement entrance.

At the end of our walk we followed the track beside the Wairoa river to take in a close up view of the Hunua Falls, which were a solid white sheet of water after all the rain which has fallen in Auckland recently.

Thursday 12 February 2026 – Ōpanuku Stream – Murray and Jeanette Davidson

Nineteen members set off from Corban Estate Art Centre to walk up the shared pedestrian/cyclist pathway which follows the Ōpanuku Stream. After crossing Palomino Drive/Border Road the group had a wonderful spot for morning tea.



We then returned to the Palomino Drive/Border Road to follow the bush track on the opposite side of the Ōpanuku Stream. Lunch was at the grounds of the Corban Estate Art Centre in ample shade.

After lunch we continued to look at the historic sites of Henderson further down the Ōpanuku Stream.



Thomas Henderson built a 5-metre high wooden holding dam across the stream in the late 1840s to contain the kauri logs brought down from further upstream. The water wheel supplied power to the saw mills downstream.

The mill built in the late 1840s, operated for about 17 years, cutting 45,000,000 super feet (or 106,000 m³) of kauri from the eastern slopes of the Waitākere Ranges.

We continued beside Ōpanuku Stream down to Cranwell Park (once part of Thomas Henderson's farm). In around 1900, it was developed into an orchard by Ben Cranwell. At one end of Cranwell Park we came to Delta Point where Oratia and Ōpanuku Streams meet.

In the past this area had a landing - boats were the main means of communication with Auckland for the early mill settlement as Great North Road was unreliable and the railway arrived later, in 1880.



Tui Glen Wharf today as viewed from Cranwell Park with Tui Glen Reserve behind



Tui Glen Wharf 1920-1930: water transport was more efficient than by road

Tui Glen Reserve, originally part of Thomas Henderson's farm, was bought by Claude Brookes in 1912 and developed into New Zealand's first motor camp. It was known as Tui Glen Motor Camp and Amusement Park and was opened in 1924. Several of the original cottages have been restored.



Reconciliation Bridge in its original colours after recent repairs

The walk ended back at the carpark of Corban Estate Arts Centre.

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

It was a windy Sunday morning when 19 members arrived at the ferry terminal to travel to Waiheke where we boarded the bus to Rocky Bay. The bus ride was a mini tour of the island taking in the sights of Oneroa, Blackpool, Palm Beach and Ostend.



After arriving at Rocky Bay, and a morning tea break, we headed into the Whakanewha Regional Park where we skirted around the coastline through native bush before entering the beautiful, shady nikau track. Here we saw a wonderful grove of nikau palms before climbing up to the Mamaku Track and then down to the Cascade Waterfall for our lunch stop. After lunch we retraced our steps to the coast and returned to Rocky Bay via a beach walk. The return bus ride to Matiatia had us arriving just in time for the ferry ride back to Auckland. It was a lovely day and although a bit windy it certainly didn't stop us from enjoying a great club outing.



Back row: Cornelis Kater, Murray Davidson, Bruce Rogers, Bill Dobbie, Raquel Kater, Brian Bargh, Susan Stephens, Rosemary Wakeman, Warren Whyte
Front row: Elisabeth Jobbins, Therese Kermode, Jean Bertram, Carolyn Blackford, Jane Rogers, Barbara Carter, Marion Browne, Tim Carter, Jeanette Davidson
Photographer: Margaret Horsburgh

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

Over the weekend of Feb 20 to 22, five families visited Ngatuhua again this time staying at the camp site. This beautiful clearing located halfway between the kayaking and entrance to the Ngatuhua falls track had ample space for everyone to set up. We spent our time taking a walk to Ngatuhua falls on Saturday morning before enjoying the kayaks, swimming hole, and exploring the jumping hole too. Dinner was cooked over the open fire which was an absolute hit for the kids. Sunday was a bit cooler and we had a walk up to the south east lookout before heading back on a separate track back to the lodge. We saw lots of evidence of the extensive trapping programme that the lodge is running as well as the damage that wild pigs are causing. Lunch was again cooked over the fire before we headed back to the kayaking canal for a final swim. Kids enjoyed a hot shower, heated from the fire, before we departed just before 5pm. (see photos earlier in Newsletter)

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 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



Night Sky at Ngatuhua