



e-magazine

of the Alpine Sports
Club Incorporated

*Ita Montium via Nostra - the
Mountain Path is Our Way*

August 2022



Above photo: Sunday walkers enjoy the view north from Mt Tamahunga



Marshmallows in the Bush at Waitakere Hut Photo credit: Miranda Hutton

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RUAPEHU BOOKINGS QUICK REFERENCE (by website only)

Book by selecting the 'Online Booking' option on the Club website and follow the instructions. Likewise, for changing or cancelling a booking, or applying for a refund, follow the website instructions.

To contact Booking Officer, email: bookings@alpinesport.org.nz. See more details in the back pages of this magazine.

Club Night 2 August 2021

We're off to the movies at Silky Otter Cinema, Orakei



This epic bunch of films, home-grown in Aotearoa, will not disappoint. Enjoy watching Kiwis fish, rock climb, bike-pack, sea kayak, mountaineer and ski-tour in the land of the long white cloud. We journey deep into NZ's Southern Alps, venture high up Aoraki, explore where no one has ever gone before, and ski further and faster than you might have thought possible.

Here are the details:

ASC members have been given early access to seats, but this event will be promoted to the wider public if ASC members haven't booked all the seats.

How to book: phone the cinema on 09 523 0400, or visit Unit 13B and C, Orakei Bay Village, 228 Orakei Rd, Auckland 1071 or buy your ticket online <https://www.silkyotter.co.nz/movies/e890d64c-30c0-4e8f-b692-b871b8fc4c4b>

There are two showings - at 7.30pm and at 7.45pm. Each theatre seats just 44 people in luxury leather recliners, so it will be like having our own private cinema. *Your ticket will be specific to the time you have booked and is not interchangeable.*

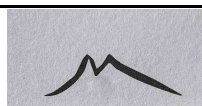
A great opportunity to see one of the great mountain film festivals without the hassle of travelling into the CBD.

Free parking onsite, easily accessible by bus or train (Orakei Station).

NEXT ALPINESPORT - OCTOBER 2022

An avalanche of last minute reports and photos arrived in the editor's inbox 3 days before the August issue was due for publication. Sorry folks, miracles are possible most of the time but some contributions will be held over for the October issue.

Do keep those photos, trips and stories rolling in but please let your editor get some sleep by keeping to the deadline of 15 September 2022. Content to be sent to media@alpinesport.org.nz.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Kia ora everyone,

This is my first report as President and I would like to welcome the new ASC committee on board for this year. I hope you are all keeping as well as possible during this extended wave of Covid-19? The new committee have been very busy keeping things ticking over and dealing with various issues.

Firstly, Covid-19 arrived at the A-Frame at the start of the school holidays, resulting in many families having to change their plans. We now have an updated Covid-19 policy, along the lines of other Clubs on the mountain. Please read it below, or you can find it on our website.

Secondly, the Waitakere Hut team, who take care of our wonderful asset close to home, also had issues with power to deal with.

After many hours of waiting in the rain to help Vector, Joe Scott-Woods and Paul Lyon have ensured the power is up and running again. The renovated kitchen cupboards and shelves at the hut are also a joy. Thank you Joe and Paul for all your efforts.

Also, a huge thank you to those who stepped forward and donated towards the Waitakere Hut's new woodburner. Our Waitakere team will keep us up to date with its purchase and installation.

Behind the scenes, fundraising continues to cover the significant and rising cost of insuring our three huts – Waitakere Hut and the A-Frame and Bunkhouse at Ruapehu. The loss of income due to cancelled bookings due to Covid-19 and low snow levels is worrying. However, our membership numbers are looking good and we have a lovely bunch of new members to welcome to the club.

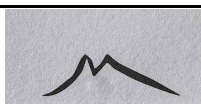
Our upcoming Club Night is something different from our usual format – a showing of the NZ Mountain Film Festival. Book your seat at the Silky Otter Cinema today!

2nd August Club Night – The Silky Otter Cinema, Orakei. Two showings 7.30pm and 7.45pm.

In this magazine you'll be able to read about successful trips, deep mud on Mt Tamahunga, many happy young trampers enjoying the Waitakere Hut during the Marshmallows in the Bush day and other trips from the past few months. If you have ideas for future trips or would like to lead a trip, get in contact with our Tours Officer Mark Roberts tours@alpinesport.org.nz

Ngā mihi,

Miranda Hutton

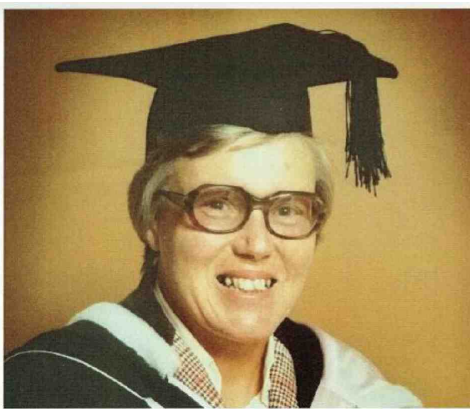


NOTICES

BETTY BENNETT

Betty Bennett, widow of Ron Bennett, passed away recently. She has never been active in the Club herself, but supported Ron over the many years of his tramping adventures. After Ron died, Betty joined the Club to keep in touch with what was such an important part of his life. R.I.P Betty

BEQUEST FROM THE ESTATE OF MARGARET O'CONNOR



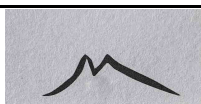
Long time ASC member Margaret O'Connor passed away on 24 June 2021, at the great age of 91. She was a very active tramper and skier in her younger days and enjoyed a multitude of other outdoor activities. The Club is very privileged and grateful to have received a bequest of \$5000 from Margaret's estate. The Committee intends to earmark this very generous gift for a purpose that will remain an enduring tribute to one of our most loyal members.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS CLUB MEMBERS

We had a great response to our appeal for donations to replace the Waitakere Hut fireplace with a logburner and soon hope to have enough funds to get this installed. Once completed, there will be a celebration event at the Hut. A huge thank you to:

Sherilyn Coney, Mike O'Sullivan, the Checketts Family, Janey Lu, David Chandler, Anthony Sidwell & Arwen Vant, Abi Raymond, Lucy & Madison, Alison Grey, Scott White Keith Adams, Urs & Marianne Reinhard

A special mention and thank you to those members who have made donations anonymously.



HELLO AND WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome the following new members and hope you have many great trips, adventures and tramps with the club.

- **Linda Webber**
- **Holly Scott and Toni McPhail**
- **Mazin Salim ('Maz')**
- **Chelsea Wilson**
- **Tong Khor and his wife Eng Khor**
- **Daphne Latzelsberger, husband Paul Seddon and children Felix Seddon (9) and Lucianna Seddon (6)**
- **Kody Morrell**
- **Georgianne Griffiths, David Welch and children Atom Griffiths (9) and Aotahi Griffiths (5)**

There is a great story about how Holly and Tony came to be members of ASC. *Beca Tauranga held a charity auction where all proceeds went to an organisation called Under the Stars (helping the homeless) and ASC gave them a membership to auction off. Parneet Kohli who books our Ruapehu Hut annually for a weekend every winter with his Beca group, told us they raised \$4320. Holly and Toni were the lucky membership recipients. Well done Beca!*

COVID PROTOCOLS

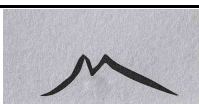
The new big 'C' seems to be conspiring against us, but the good news is that we are over the worst of the latest setback. Our wardens Charlee and Joe succumbed to - you guessed it - in the first week of the school holidays. Unfortunately we had to cancel all of the bookings for the A-Frame until Charlee and Joe were out of their isolation period. We wish them well as they continue to recover.

With the numbers of Covid cases remaining stubbornly high, we have updated our Covid policy, which is on our website **and set out in full on the back pages of this Alpinesport.**

FOR Parks AGM: Sunday 7 August 2:30pm Ferndale House, Mt Albert

The Next Five Years for Auckland's Regional Parks and the Hauraki Gulf: Progress or Problems?

Speakers: Scott De Silva, Manager Auckland Regional Parks
Trent Taylor, Principal Ranger, Southern District, Auckland Regional Parks
Alex Rogers, Executive Officer, Hauraki Gulf Forum



CLUB NIGHT TUESDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2022
7:30 pm, St Marks Parish Hall, Remuera Road



Our guest speaker will be Tony Walton, who will hold an information and discussion evening about the key areas of interest for FMC this year. Tony is an executive member of FMC and is currently the President of Auckland Tramping Club.

Key topics (as of right now) include stewardship land reclassification, the new Incorporated Societies Act, and the Auckland Regional Park Management Plan. He will also provide an update on the Kaimai project - what has been happening this year, and immediate plans / work in progress projects.

Come and hear more about the important work being done by FMC on our behalf.

FMC EXPEDITION SCHOLARSHIPS

FMC, with the support of the FMC Mountain and Forest Trust, wants to help you have an experience of a lifetime with scholarships of up to

\$1,500 cash

Applications close 15 September

Photo: Expedition Jackson
www.fmc.org.nz

www.fmc.org.nz/scholarship

Applications for the 2022 FMC Expedition Scholarships are now open.

Two types of scholarships are available:

- Youth Expedition Scholarships – for applicants under the age of 30
- Simon Bell Memorial Scholarship (no age restrictions)

Applications close by the end of the day on **Thursday 15 September 2022**; eligibility criteria and application forms are available online at <https://www.fmc.org.nz/scholarship/>

Also, for the 3rd consecutive year, FMC is offering training grants to support FMC clubs by making training opportunities more accessible.

<https://fmc.org.nz/members-area/fmc-training-grant/>

Closing date for applications is **Thursday 15 September 2022**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the FMC Executive Officer at eo@fmc.org.nz

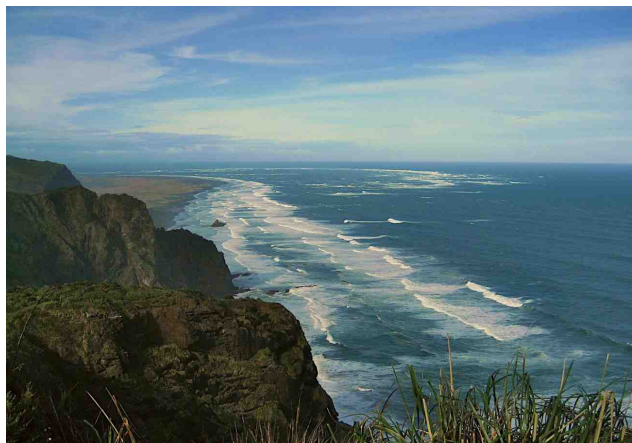


SUNDAY WALK - MERCER BAY TO KAREKARE AND RETURN

12 June 2022

We woke to penetrating rain from a slate grey sky. Nineteen booked on the walk including one new member from Bombay. Would the leader cancel as there were mutterings among the troops that we might have a wild wet walk with no views? "No - onwards", she said.

All 19 turned up on time and off we went. Warren Whyte pointed out the site for the memorial stone seat about to be built in honour of Bob Ussher overlooking Piha, which he so loved. All credit to Warren and the Ussher family who have persisted for more than 7 years in persuading Council to sign off on this special project.



The stunning view south to Whatipu

The coastal track past Mercer Bay has been beautifully upgraded. A rock face with chains, a reminder of the wild landscape, then down to beautiful overflowing Karekare Falls for lunch.

A sudden downpour, then it cleared and a sunny walk up the steady climb of the alternative track that has recently re-opened and is in mint condition.

Thanks to the loyal troops who supported their leader. We were all rewarded with a glorious walk with great views of one of the most beautiful beaches in New Zealand. Enough time left



A bit of a scramble in places...

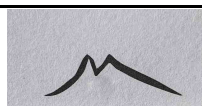


Looking down on Mercer Bay

over afterwards for chocolates as a reward, and enough of the day left for preparing a roast dinner on a wintry day for those so minded.

Elisabeth Jobbins (scribe and hopeful leader)
Warren and Jocelyn Whyte, Scott Houghton, Bryce Price (new member), John Mackay, Don Baker, Sue and Brian Fitzpatrick, Clive and Helen Bolt, Marjorie Buxton, Pat La Roche, Liz Rosie, Rosemary Wakeman, Jenny Hudson, Peter Loveridge, Jane and Bruce Rogers.

Photo credit: Don Baker, Clive Bolt





Karekare Falls

Footnotes:

When we turned off the Karekare Road to walk back up the Te Ahu Ahu track we were standing next to Winchelsea House and Karekare House, both of which have an interesting history. They are both featured in a short article in the Winter 2022 Edition of Heritage New Zealand's quarterly magazine.

Club member Christine Sidwell, who lives nearby, is one of Dorothy Butler's daughters.

The Bob Ussher Memorial Seat was completed soon after our walk. See photo below. What a great tribute to Bob, and to Warren's persistence.



Bob Ussher Memorial Seat

THURSDAY WALK - DEVONPORT - WEST SIDE STORY

9 JUNE 2022

Leaders: Hilary & Boyd Miller

Heavy rain at 5am and a doubtful weather forecast didn't deter 29 hardy souls who turned up for the Devonport – West Side Story walk, exploring the 'other side' of the peninsula from the usual Devonport walks.

The route wound through old established streets with plaques describing their historic features: a house that had been barged from Thames, houses built with bricks from one of the nearby

Duder brickworks, a residence in a former Salvation Army hall, and the house where Kathleen Niccol (later Sister Mary Leo) lived near St Leo's School.



The “Gothic Revival” style Catholic Church across the road contrasted with the architecture of the neighbouring Presbyterian Church, now a



residence after being a Chess Centre for a time after the church closed.

It certainly wasn't icecream weather, but the old Takapuna Dairy Company building we passed was the site where early milk pasteurising was set up, with refrigeration installed later. Eventually the business expanded to making Eldora icecream and set up extensive distribution networks.

As we looked in at the old Claystore by the brickworks (and gasworks...) site, the craftsmen invited us to come in and look around the community workshop and hear about some of the projects underway.

The Navy Band serenaded us as we walked around the edge of Ngataranga Park, passing through the Maori / Celtic Maze before entering Mary Barrett Glade below the William Sanders retirement village. The length of that track gave a good idea of the scale of the village development, still under construction at the western end.

Passing a quirky library in a colourfully-decorated bus stop, we slipped through a laneway to Hill Park, with a new Maori-themed playground where Sue tested the climbing wall. After a late



morning tea / early lunch there, we continued on through Plymouth Reserve to cross Bayswater Road and into O'Neill's Point Cemetery – which has enough stories for a visit in its own right.

With clouds gathering to the west, we scooted across the pipe bridge over the estuary, and up a shortcut into Eversleigh Rd – passing the Hillary Crescent land owned by Ngati Whatua, with some housing development completed and new blocks still under construction.

The croissant assembly line at Daily Bread bakery entertained the group, while Hilary checked the AT app and encouraged people to step out to reach Lake Road in time to catch the bus to Devonport. There was some concern about whether the driver would allow them all on,

As the bus left, the heavens opened marking a timely end to the trip.

Scribe: Hilary Miller

Photo credits: Clive Bolt, Garth Barfoot



THURSDAY WALK - TE ARA KI UTA KI TAI - THE PATHWAY OF LAND AND SEA

23 June 2022

After something like three years of construction work, the Pourewa Valley section of the Eastern Shared Pathway/Te Ara ki Uta ki Tai finally opened in May and it has been worth the wait.

On 23 June, which after a worrying week of rain turned out to be a perfect, sunny day for walking, 43 keen Thursday Walkers assembled beside Orakei Basin to try out this new path. The wide walkway sweeps in a series of curves



from the top of St Heliers Bay Road, across the Pourewa Creek on an impressively high bridge, alongside and across the railway line, and through Tahapa Reserve to Meadowbank railway



station, where it links with the walkway across

the Orakei Basin to the Orakei station. There are great views of city and suburbs on the way and impressive, though still very new, plantings on either side.

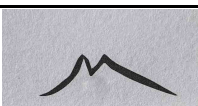


The route included a circuit of the Orakei Basin, the new walkway and the older section that continues to Glen Innes, lunch on a convenient sunny bank in Colin Maiden Park, and a zigzag back through the streets to Purewa Cemetery to rejoin the valley pathway. A serendipitous discovery in the cemetery was a mature Kohekohe (*Dysoxylum spectabile*) in full bloom, an amazing sight with the flower bracts emerging from the bare parts of trunk and branches.



Even those who live locally were introduced to by-ways that were new to them, so it proved a satisfying experience all round.

Jocelyn Whyte - Leader and scribe
Photo credits: Clive Bolt, Don Baker, Jocelyn Whyte



SMALL PEOPLE ON BIG HILLS – MARSHMALLOWS IN THE BUSH

Sunday 10 July 2022

On a mild and fine winter's day, eight families met at the Waitakere Hut for some fun in the bush. About half of the families hadn't been to the hut before, so it was a great chance to explore the hut and surroundings. The children immediately discovered the "spider's web" net and rope course and soon afterwards were busy adding to bivvies in the bush.



Adults and children gathered firewood from behind the water tank. We had a brief chat to the children about what to do if you are separated from your party – stay put, shout for help, and keep busy making a shelter if you're out for longer. The adults had started the marshmallow fire on arrival, so after lunch the children were ready for some serious marshmallow toasting.



Every child needed to bring an armful of logs to the wood box before they could start though! We also experimented with a scone-like damper dough, some with more success than others. The adults enjoyed the ambience of the log fire, looking through the 55 Year Anniversary ASC book and swapping stories. Though we didn't do much walking, it was an invigorating day none the less.

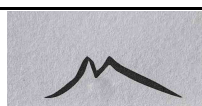
Families attending: Fang/Wang, Hanchard/Walters, Horn, Hutton/Voll, van Huyssteen, Lyons/Holter, Roberts, Rogers

Leader and scribe: Miranda Hutton

SUNDAY WALK - MOUNT TAMAHUNGA

3 July 2022

Our leader, David Roberts, described this walk in the Trips and Tramps section of *Alpinesport* as "following markers over farmland to the bush line". Then there would be a steep ridge to the summit before continuing on Te Araroa trail to Rodney Rd - a "fairly rough section", with some gorse before the open farmland. Another 1 km further along, a Council track would lead us back down to Schollum Rd where Marcia would be waiting to transport drivers back to the cars.



What we didn't know (those of us who haven't explored this area before) was that sections of the track are notoriously muddy - enough of a deterrent for some to stay home. Nonetheless, all of the hardy 15 Sunday Walkers that decided to ignore the threat of rain and the mud, enthusiastically tackled the ascent through the farmland, then stunning bush, before hanging on to fences and vegetation to get through the mud and gorse.



Some sibling rivalry? Rosemary and Warren make it look easy.





View south towards Omaha



A welcome stop to enjoy the view of Pakiri and beyond before tackling a steep downhill section

We were rewarded with stunning views of Omaha to the south and Pakiri to the north - and much boot cleaning when we returned home. Thank you David, for a real tramping experience and Marcia Roberts for patiently waiting with grandson James to come and pick up drivers.

Scribe: Jenny Hudson

Photo credits: Peter Loveridge, Jenny Hudson





Keep a look out for updates on trips in our newsletters, Facebook page and the next issue of Alpinesport.

Thursday Walks

Walks are held on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of every month (except January and December). For further information contact Clive Bolt thursday_walks@alpinesport.org.nz. For details of proposed multi-day trips see the Club's Bulletin Board under "Tramping and Trips" where members seek others to join them or help in planning in trips.

Please remember that we are a vulnerable group so don't come if you have any respiratory symptoms or have been exposed to anyone that does have symptoms. Please let the leaders know by email that you are coming.

The whole Thursday walks programme is available on the link below.

Note that we are coming up towards some gaps that will need leaders if there is to be a trip on those dates. The link is:-

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1HTGTP9K9aVEcroGvCjrrkF8xirLhCB3RpwC66cyCrU4/edit>

28 July 2022 Tahuna Torea

Leader: Bruce Dwerryhouse email dwerryh@xtra.co.nz

11 August 2022 TBA - **LEADER REQUIRED**

25 August 2022 Historic Walk, Parnell

Leader: Mary Metcalf email marymetcalf@xtra.co.nz

8 September 2022 Whangaparaoa

Leader: Colleen Brewer email candbrewer@hotmail.com

Sunday Walks

7 August 2022 Whatipu to Pararaha return

Auckland Regional Parks have recently upgraded and reopened the Te Araroa trail from Whatipu



through to Karekare. Take the opportunity to walk the trail from Whatipu to Pararaha for lunch and return. The scenery from along the cliff top track is superb.

Meet at Whatipu for 10 am start. Book with leaders Bruce & Jane Rogers

jane.rogers@xtra.co.nz

mob 027 499 3211 (Bruce) or 027 458 5750 (Jane)

Small People on Big Hills

Sunday 31 July 2022 - Karangahake Gorge Adventure from 10:30 - 14:30

Come along to join Freya (6) and Arlo (4) on an adventure through the old mines and 1km-long rail tunnel, at the beautiful Karangahake Gorge.

We'll meet at the Karangahake Reserve carpark at 10:30, then start off on the 2.5km-long (very flat!) Rail Tunnel Loop walk, taking us through the 1km tunnel and along the river's edge.

There will be plenty of stops on the way to re-fuel the kids, and after we stop for a bit of lunch on the trail we'll then switch to the Windows Walk track (2km, mostly flat) to see some of the most spectacular parts of the Karangahake Gorge.

Families and children of all ages are welcome (both walks start/finish at the same car park, so there's an easy bail out option if you need it!). Bring good walking shoes, raincoats, warm clothes, plenty of food and snacks, water, and torches for the tunnels!

Contact Keri at keri.l.horn@gmail.com to register. Please provide the names of all those attending, the ages of the kids, and a contact number should we need to get in touch on the day. Thanks!

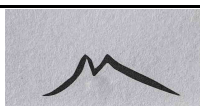
Sunday 21 August 2022 - two playgrounds in one day! Exploring the Green Bay and Blockhouse Bay coast

Meet Lukas (5) and Clara (8) at 10.00am at the Craigavon Park Carpark in Green Bay. After a quick play at the playground while the adults get organised, enter the search for the headwaters of the Whau River, an ancient canoe route between the Waitemata and Manukau Harbours. Then after a snack back at the cars, we'll rock-hop and slide around the rugged rocks from Green Bay to Blockhouse Bay, with lunch near a playground with an enclosed slide. We'll either return over the top of the cliffs via road, or perhaps take the steep but safe coastal path in dense bush. Bring lunch, snacks, drinks, raincoats and warm clothes. Contact Miranda miranda@alpinestport.org.nz 022 6488 733 to register.

CHILDREN'S PRACTICAL BUSHCRAFT WEEKEND COURSE AT WAITAKERE HUT, ANAWHATA ROAD

26 and 27 November 2022

This popular course is being run once again by one of our most experienced leaders, Sue Grant. Fun activities suitable for Primary School age and adaptable for others as required. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Please book with Sue (limited bunks) and pay the bunk-fee directly into the ASC account to secure your places. No course fee but adults are expected to assist. More info on request. Sue Grant kiwiguide@xtra.co.nz



GEAR AND EQUIPMENT

The Club's Directory and Membership list provides guidelines for participating in tramping, climbing and outdoor activities and a suggested gear list, food list and recipes can be found on the club website www.alpinesport.org.nz. The gear list below is an excerpt from the Directory - intended to act as a guide for beginners to tramping and a reminder to others of what is necessary, and what is optional if you are prepared to carry it. Keep the list in a place where you can use it as a checklist each time you go on a trip (best laminated and kept with your gear). Note that jeans are not suitable for tramping.

Bush Day Trip - Recommended Personal Gear

Day pack with gear in waterproof bags	Handkerchief
Waterproof parka with hood	Whistle (to blow if separated from group)
Sunhat and sunscreen	Torch
Warm hat and gloves	Watch
Fleece or wool jersey	Lunch, snacks and drinks (at least one litre)
Personal first aid kit and emergency blanket	Toilet paper and hand sanitizer
Personal medication	Ladies toiletries

Consider carrying: overtrousers, gaiters, plastic to sit on, trekking pole(s), mobile phone, map and compass, money.

Wear: quick-dry shorts, socks and boots or sturdy shoes, polyprop, woollen or silk tops (not cotton). Cut your toenails before the trip.

In the vehicle, leave: a small towel, change of clothes and shoes, plastic bag for dirty boots.

Personal first aid kit for day trips

Plasters 6 - 10	Cohesive bandage eg crepe or gauze
Plaster strip	Disposable gloves
Sticky tape	Triangular bandage
Safety pins	Personal medication including pain relief tablets
Scissors	CPR face shield
Tweezers or splinter probe	Paper and pencil
Non-alcohol wipes (or Betadine drops)	Sunscreen, lip balm, insect repellent
Non-adherent sterile dressings	

Leaders should have in addition:

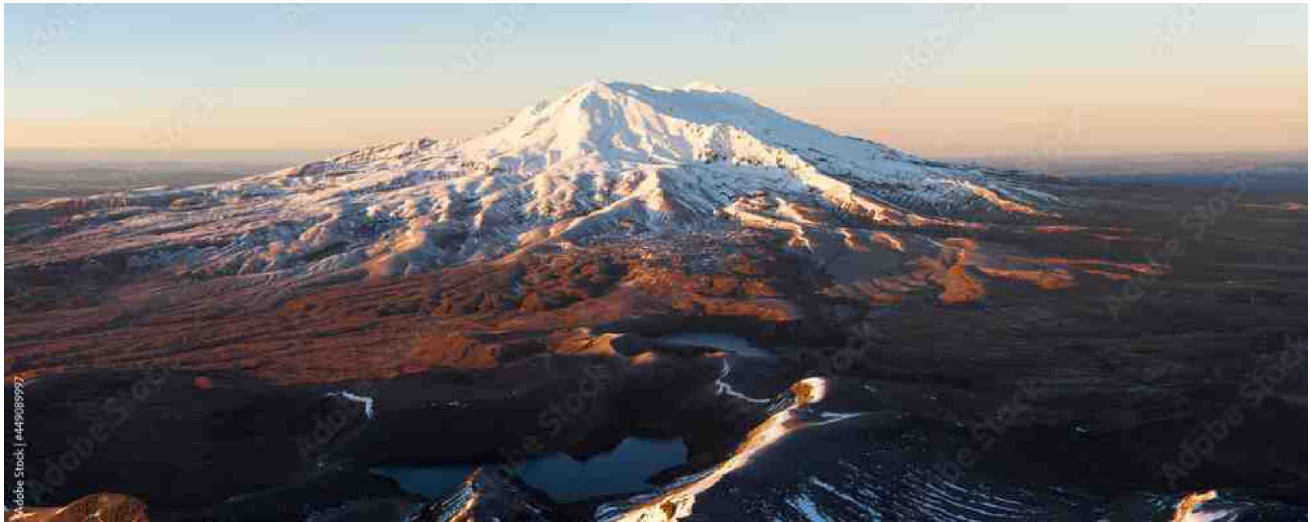
Map and compass	Pocket knife and cord
Communications appropriate for the trip eg mobile phone, PLB, radio	Paper, pen, pencil
Emergency shelter eg fly sheet	First aid kit
	Close cell foam pad (emergency splint)

Overnight list: refer to the website and discuss requirements with your trip leader.

RUAPEHU VOLCANIC ALERT LEVEL 2

Mt Ruapehu has a level 2 volcanic alert in place. For updates on the alert level go to: <https://www.geonet.org.nz/volcano/ruapehu>





AN UPDATE FROM OUR RUAPEHU OPERATIONS CO-ORDINATOR

Greetings to all our valued members. Some house keeping and notes to help everyone have the best possible experience on the maunga.

Unfortunately, this season we're unable to provide Wi-Fi to our guests and members. The internet at the A Frame is for the wardens and hut operations only, and is provided for the smooth operation of the huts, and safety and well being of all. If you intend to work or need internet, please bring your own data. There are technical challenges in providing unlimited internet on the mountain, which hopefully we can overcome in seasons to come.

Warm regards, Lloyd Lin (Hut operations)

Email, lloyd@alpinesport.org.nz

WINTER SKI LODGE BOOKING SYSTEM



You are expected to make your own bookings using the online booking system on the website, just as you have in the past. You will also need to make your own changes to the booking system. There is no one to do it for you.

Bookings for the winter season can be made at any time but you need to be a fully paid up member for the current year.

You can easily change your bookings, including the date, provided there are sufficient bunks available. Changing the date of a booking still requires that you cancel the old bunks and rebook the new dates and any changes to your number of bunks. Any new booking will be subject to availability on the new date.

Whereas in the past a cancellation surrendered the booking fee, now there is provision to automatically credit the cancelled booking fee against the cost of the new booking.

Net cancelled booking fees will accrue during the season. Refunds are not available for cancelled bookings except under exceptional circumstances. Any refunds will only be available at the end of the season. Refunds are entirely the decision of the committee and will always require reconciliation by the treasurer.



There are some changes to the system to make it clearer how to make and change bookings. There are two short instructional videos explaining how to make and how to change bookings on the website. Booking instructions can be downloaded from the website, on the Booking Instructions page under ASC Huts. Links to the instructional videos are also on the Booking Instructions page. You will need to be logged on to access it.

Go to Club website www.alpinesports.org.nz, click on "Mt Ruapehu Ski Lodge Bookings" and follow the prompts. You will need either your Credit Card or Bank Account number beside you.

WAITAKERE HUT BOOKINGS

Contact Joe Scott-Woods, for ALL bookings and payments email:

pjscottwoods@icloud.com



A male miromiro (tomtit) who regularly comes to check out what is happening around his 'hood' at the Waitakere Hut - photo credit Mike Frith



ASC HUTS COVID-19 POLICY

ASC Huts COVID-19 Policy

With the current outbreak of Covid-19 throughout New Zealand, this policy has been developed to minimise risk and ensure the wellbeing of members and guests staying at ASC huts.

While we wish to ensure that members and guests continue to enjoy the huts this season, it is important that members and guests take suitable precautions and are prepared for the possibility of a positive case in their party or another party, while staying at the huts. ASC huts are communal by design, with shared bathroom and kitchen facilities, and are located some distance from medical facilities. ASC huts do not provide suitable facilities for self-isolation.

Before travelling to an ASC hut, all members should be aware that use of the huts is subject to the following Covid-19 policy:

1. All members are welcome at the huts, regardless of vaccination status.
2. Each party should bring a personal supply of hand sanitiser, face masks and RAT tests to the hut, for use at your discretion. ASC is unable to supply RAT tests for member or guest use.
3. Please do not travel to the huts if you have any cold, flu or Covid-19 symptoms, including (but not limited to) fever, cough, headache, muscle aches, runny nose, sore throat, diarrhoea or vomiting.
4. If you present with Covid-19 symptoms, develop symptoms during your stay, or test positive to Covid-19 during your stay, you must notify the hut officer and wardens and leave the lodge to return home as soon as possible. If the person with symptoms is unable to drive, they must arrange for someone else to collect them from the hut as soon as possible. You and your guests should have a plan in place for urgent transport home, before you travel to the hut.
5. You agree that the hut officer can notify other members, their guests and the booking officer that you have developed symptoms or tested positive, so that ASC can take appropriate steps to limit the spread of the virus to other members and guests.



6. If another guest tests positive during your stay, you will be notified. All attempts will be made to isolate the individual until they are able to leave the hut and return home.
7. Following a positive case, members who are present at the hut will need to work together to ensure affected bathrooms are cleaned and rooms are aired. The hut officer and or the wardens will attempt to reallocate bunks away from affected areas, but bear in mind this may not be possible if the huts are full.
8. If you have made a booking you are unable to use in part or in full due to a positive case of Covid-19, the usual booking cancellation policies will apply. If in doubt, please refer to the ASC Handbook 2022.
9. If you develop symptoms within 72 hours of returning from the hut, and subsequently test positive for Covid-19, please telephone the hut to let the Wardens know.

While we know it's disappointing when Covid-19 gets in the way of your plans, please bear in mind that the last few seasons have been extremely difficult for clubs like ASC, and revenue has been significantly reduced due to the extended lockdowns. We are hopeful that with this policy in place and with your full cooperation, members can continue to enjoy the huts safely this season.

Thank you everyone for your understanding and support.

ASC Committee

