

# ALPINESPORT

## July Club Night

**Tuesday July 4th  
2023**

Our speaker will be Raewynn Robertson RLIANZA. Raewynn is Senior Librarian , Local History and Research Operations at Waitakere Library.

Raewynn will be presenting a selection of heritage photographs of Whatipu, Piha and the Waitakere Ranges.

## NZ Mountain Film Festival 2023

**Tuesday August 1st  
2023.**

August Club night, will be our third annual showing of the New Zealand Mountain Film Festival at Silky Otter Cinema in Orakei.

Remember **do not** go to St.Marks Hall for the August meeting!



## Ruapehu Winter season all go!

After much uncertainty, there is now a plan in place for skiing and boarding this winter. Season passes will be on sale on Monday for just two weeks. Please support the club by using the club lodges this winter and inviting your friends along too

### Note from you editor:

A slightly different look to the magazine this month due to your editor heading overseas for a few months with a Mac not realising that you can't use our usual magazine template on a Mac! Keep sending trip reports please.

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# COMMITTEE & CLUB CONTACTS

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# CLUB APPOINTMENTS

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# PRESIDENT'S REPORT



27<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Kia ora koutou,

Thank you to everyone who attended our AGM at the beginning of June. A new committee was voted in and I would like to thank a few people who have made significant contributions to the club over the past few years. Mark Roberts has been Tours Officer for the last five years and has organised Summer Camp, Snowcraft, Ngatuhua Lodge weekends, kayaking, rock climbing, Ruapehu trips, multi-day trips and coordinated the tours programme. Mark will still be involved in many of these activities but is stepping down from his committee role. Thank you Mark for the time and

effort you have put in to organising these trips. This is what we are all about – adventures in the outdoors with others.

A huge thank you also goes to Johann Schoonees for his work as Ruapehu Co-ordinator and Ruapehu Buildings Officer over the past two years. Johann has been instrumental in keeping our precious huts up and running, driving back and forth to Ruapehu countless times, organising working bees, tending to problems small and large and generally keeping a close eye on our wonderful assets on the mountain. He has also analysed the Ruapehu Co-ordinator role and divided it into job specific roles to make the workload more manageable.

On that note, we welcome Nicholas Roberts into the role of Ruapehu Buildings Officer for the coming year. Make sure you reserve a few weekends to join Nicholas at Ruapehu working bees in February and March 2024. We are also delighted to welcome Greg Munford as our new Tours Officer, welcome Greg. Johann Schoonees will remain on the committee in the role of Vice President.

The biggest news this month has been the watershed meeting and subsequent liquidation of RAL. Happily the Government has stepped in with a loan to ensure Ruapehu ski fields can open this winter, so book yourself some nights at our gorgeous huts and enjoy the mountain. I will be going for four nights these July school holidays. Snow or no snow, there is plenty to do in the Ruapehu region!

Other club activities continue: Marshmallows in the Bush at the Waitākere Hut, the July School Holidays at Ruapehu, July Club Night, Snowcraft in August, Women's Overnighter trips, Thursday Walks and Sunday Walks. See the following pages for more details. Also, keep an eye out for the next Baiting Day at the Waitākere Hut. All the best wishes to everyone for an active and enjoyable winter.

Ngā mihi,

Miranda Hutton.

# NOTICES & NEWS



## WANTED - BAITERS

Are you fit, young and strong???

Are you able to bush crash?

## THE BAITING TEAM NEEDS YOU!!

As you know ASC volunteers work to bait 9 lines in the area around the Hut. The baiting programme is organised by Ark in the Park and they supply the bait and other equipment with the aim of eradicating predators - rats, stoats and possums.

Baiting for rats consists of putting small plastic bags of bait pellets into plastic bait boxes. It does not involve seeing the rats or dealing with dead animals.

ASC undertakes to bait 9 lines of varying difficulty. It takes around 1 - 3 hours on a Sunday morning - usually 2 or 3 times a year.

The lines are not on tramping tracks but are marked with pink tapes. Volunteers work in pairs.

\*\*\*Some of the lines are quite demanding and it would be great if some of the younger members of the club could do these.\*\*\*

All bait lines are in closed areas of the Waitakeres and special precautions are required to protect kauri from kauri dieback disease. For this reason volunteers need to read a 'standard operating procedure' information online and do a small quiz online to show that they understand the requirements.

If you are interested contact Mike Frith for further details.

Mike Frith  
[mandcfrith@gmail.com](mailto:mandcfrith@gmail.com).



Two great events coming up on the same night that may be of interest to members, NZ Antarctic Society and The Himalayan Trust Cocktail evening - **Wednesday 5th July 2023**



# ANTARCTIC

AUCKLAND BRANCH EVENT

[www.antarcticsociety.org.nz](http://www.antarcticsociety.org.nz)



**Mid-Winter Dinner  
& Inspiring Explorer Speaker  
Skiing to the South Pole!**

**Date** Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023

**NEW Venue** Remuera Golf Course – Tui Room 120 Abbotts Way, Remuera, Auckland 1050

**Time** From 6:00pm for drinks & socialising. Dinner/Formalities commence 6:45pm

**Parking** There is ample parking at the clubhouse

**Hospitality** We have the exclusive use of the Tui Room, with two big screens for Laura's presentation and hopefully a video call with the Scott Base Winter Over Team. Cost for traditional buffet meal (including dessert) and facility hire is \$57.50 per head. There is a cash bar. Please advise me when booking of any special dietary requirements

Please pay into the below account before the evening (\$57.50 per person)

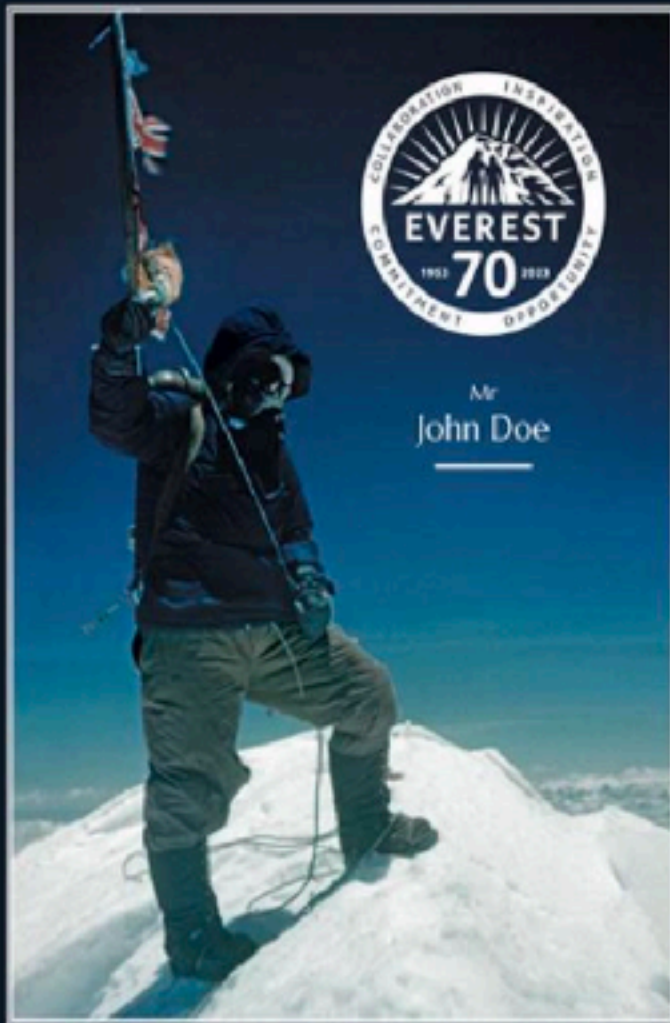
R McGarry 02-0240-0257382-025 Reference: (Your Surname)

**RSVP** Email: Roger McGarry: [auckland@antarcticsociety.org.nz](mailto:auckland@antarcticsociety.org.nz)

Or text 0274 373 404 by Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023

NZ Antarctic Society — Auckland Branch  
Membership Enquiries welcome

**Limited seating so book early!**



**DATE: WED JULY 5TH, 2023**

**TIME: 18:30-22:00**

**VENUE: AUCKLAND MUSEUM**

**FORMAT: COCKTAIL EVENING**

**TICKET COST: \$145**

## **EVEREST 70th ANNIVERSARY COCKTAIL EVENING**

Join The Himalayan Trust at the Auckland Museum rooftop dome for a cocktail event with special guest speakers **Norbu Tenzing** and **Peter Hillary**.

You'll enjoy a wonderful range of auction items as well as a never before seen photo exhibit on the women of the Himalayas by Virginia Woolf called **Sherpani**.

An incredible selection of drinks and canapes from **Urban Gourmet**.

<https://himalayantrust.org/everest70#eventtickets>



## Winter 2023 Update

Kia Ora

Thank you for sticking with us. But an even bigger thanks needs to go to the team at RAL, for whom this summer has been a bit of a mystery and misery at times. While it looks like part of that is set to carry on a bit longer yet, we'll now be able to focus on what is right in front of us, hosting you for a great winter 2023. This is good news and should allow us all to remember why we are here- the love of this maunga.

My favourite statistic of this summer came in learning that our permanent team members at RAL add up to a total tenure of around 500 years, with just over 10 years each on average - that we have managed to hold on to this team through summer is amazing and it is testament to their tenacity and passion for Mt Ruapehu. On September 1st we also tick up 70 years of RAL.

We are set to open both Tūroa and Whakapapa from July 1st as conditions and weather allows. We've not had that much snow yet but it's looking like we will get some falling into and over opening weekend. Enough to kickstart that winter feeling at the very least.

It is normal for us to be gradually phasing lifts and terrain into opening across July and even into August. With this earlier opening, we are also planning to operate more lifts at Tūroa when compared against our initial plan at the start of summer, in other words, we are now working to a plan of more lifts, more of the time. The only lift that will stay out of plan is the Nga Wai Heke - it has some maintenance work outstanding but there is a small chance it becomes an option later in the season. All other lifts on both sides are on track to open as soon as they are able.

At this stage, our team sizes are smaller than in some previous years, they are great in some areas and light in others, but we intend to continue to recruit and to ramp up to meet our new plan and demand.

We are aiming to have day passes available for purchase online from Thursday 29th June, and all going well, on Friday, we will be able to update you on a season pass offer which would be planned to go on sale on Monday 3rd July!

Lastly, one small matter...while RAL operates the season, Life Passes will remain active and useable.

Thanks once more, we can't wait to see you, and we will keep the information coming.

Ngamanaakitanga,

**Travis Donoghue**

**Chief Operating Officer**

**Ruapehu Alpine Lifts**

Some information on season pass pricing at Ruapehu, for full details go directly to the website **[www.mtruapehu.com](http://www.mtruapehu.com)**

This Season, an Adult Season Pass will be priced at \$599 (Anytime) or \$349 (Weekday).

There is also the option of two further passes – Season+ and SeasonFlexi – with the same Season Pass discount benefits and buddy passes.

A Season+ Pass will give you more assurance, with a partial or up to full refund in the case of unforeseen and serious injury or illness during the 2023 season. This pass will also cover you for pregnancy. An Adult Season+ Pass will be priced at \$649 (Anytime) and \$399 (Weekday).

A SeasonFlexi Pass gives you maximum assurance, with a “no questions asked” 50% refund should your priorities or plans change, meaning you cannot make the most of your 2023 season pass. If you are unable to use your 2023 season pass more than four times, they will refund half of your purchase price.

## **“Arthur's Pass tramper lucky to be alive”.**

The following RNZ interview makes good listening and again emphasises the importance of carrying a PLB. A solo tramper who was trapped by a boulder on June 18th was rescued thanks to his locator beacon. Helicopter and alpine rescue crews found the man on a track in Arthur's Pass. He had been stuck for several hours in icy conditions, unable to move his foot. Anna Scheirlinck led the Alpine Rescue team. She spoke to Corin Dann in the interview.

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/morningreport/audio/2018894913/arthur-s-pass-tramper-lucky-to-be-alive>

For many years St.Kentigern College have hired the A Frame every November as part of a large EOTC trip called Field Centre which involves up to 400 students accommodated all over the mountain in various ski lodges.

Will Gage-Brown who is the college's head of EOTC ( Education Outside The Classroom) wrote a report on the event in the February 2023 edition of "**Piper**" the St.Kentigern College magazine . This has been forwarded by member Warren Whyte and an excerpt follows which members may find interesting - an amazing feat of organisation !



"After the disappointment of cancelling Field Centre in 2021 due to the Covid -19 pandemic, it was fantastic that the 2022 edition could go a head with no restrictions!

Missing a year meant some momentum was lost, so getting the cogs turning to organise this behemoth event took a lot of effort from the planning team, but we got there in the end. In total we had almost four-hundred Year 10 students attend ( approximately two hundred each week ) with eighty staff involved. Everyone was accommodated in nine ski lodges on Mount Ruapehu over the two weeks.

The programme was relatively the same as the last edition with the students completing a three-day expedition either in the Tongariro National Park or the Kaimanawa Forest Park, doing the Tongariro Crossing, white-water rafting and environmental service, and an adventure day either rock climbing and abseiling, caving or a Tyrolean traverse.

Field centre is a jam-packed fortnight of adventurous activities aimed to challenge the students as well as help them form new connections and an appreciation of the surrounding environment. Horrendous weather in the first week threw everything at us, including high winds, heavy rain, thunder and lightening and even fifteen centimetres of snow overnight which closed the Bruce Road, meaning we were not able to do much except have a huge snowball fight one day. Despite that, the programme still ran to plan, except for groups not being able to complete the Tongariro Crossing that first week. Our students showed great resilience and remained in good spirits throughout this challenging week. The second week proved the total opposite with amazing weather and the programme running smoothly.

Field Centre would not happen if we didn't have the keen competent and supportive staff to help the students on their journey - so I want to thank all eighty staff and volunteers who gave it their all and ensured the students an amazing experience that they will remember for along time."

# NZ MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL NATIONAL TOUR



August Club Night on Tuesday August 1st will be our third annual showing of the New Zealand Mountain Film Festival 2023 selection at Silky Otter Cinema.

Once again we will have both theatres, giving total of 88 seats available. Tickets will be in the region of \$25 and once we have been advised by the cinema that tickets are on sale we will let members know by email.

# TRIP REPORTS

## Small People on Big Hills – Meola Reef and a Tram Ride

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2024



On a sunny and rainy Sunday in June six families (16 people) met at the Motat Aviation Hall car park. We set off down the road to Meola Reef and walked clockwise around the park. The lava flow was visible among the mangroves and we enjoyed bursts of sunshine and sprinklings of rain, both in good measure. Thank goodness we were well prepared! With raincoats and snacks the rain didn't disturb us. The adults and children between the ages of 4 and 8 explored the lava flow, negotiated a very muddy bush path and waded through long wet grass. We had a quick look at the Motions Creek Walkway but decided to continue through Jagger's Bush and back to the carpark. Some beautiful patches of coastal forest sheltered us until the heavens opened and we all went our separate ways. Some families took the tram to Motat while others explored the Aviation Hall or returned home. All in all, an enjoyable Sunday ramble in Central Auckland.

Families attending: Hanchard/Walters, Hutton, Jackson, Loo, Thomas/Winges, Wolfman

Leader and scribe: Miranda Hutton

# UPCOMING TRIPS

## **SMALL PEOPLE ON BIG HILLS— MARSHMALLOWS IN THE BUSH**

**Sunday 2nd July 2023: 10.30am—2.30pm**

Come and celebrate the start of the school holidays with Clara (9) at the Waitākere Hut. We'll meet at the gate on Anawhata Rd at 10.30am, park in the locked car park and walk up to the hut for some fun in the bush. Enjoy the climbing ropes, make bivvies in the bush, discover the hidden hut, look for wētā and of course, toast marshmallows!

This is a member's trip, due to numbers and space. The cost for a day visit to the hut is \$10 per adult, children are free. If you'd like to make a weekend of it, you can stay overnight Saturday - Sunday or Sunday - Monday. Bring lunch, marshmallows, warm clothes, raincoats and comfortable walking shoes.

Email [miranda@alpinesport.org.nz](mailto:miranda@alpinesport.org.nz) or text 022 6488733 to register

## **TOTARA PARK AND BOTANIC GARDENS, MANUREWA**

**Sunday July 9th**

10am meet at Visitor Centre near Café facing the lakes in Botanic Gardens. Entrance off Hill Road with parking inside Gardens.

Walk down through Gardens to Puriri Bush Track and other Puhinui Stream tracks then up Bridle Track to lookout over Airport and Manurewa for lunch break.

Back down to other tracks in Totara Park then weave back up to cars through the gardens. Possible side trip to view Sir John Walker sculpture in Manurewa township.

May be muddy in bush tracks.

Email leader Elisabeth Jobbins at [elisjobbins@xtra.co.nz](mailto:elisjobbins@xtra.co.nz)

## **TE ARAROA TRAIL RANGIRIRI TO MEREMERE 9KM**

**July 2023**

**Sunday August 6th**

Meet at Te Wheoro's Redoubt at Rangiriri at 9.30am. Explore the Redoubt and neighbouring Cultural Centre before driving to Te Kauwhata Pump house and walking TA Trail to Dragway Road alongside Waikato River.

Car shuffle required so let me know your car pooling arrangements.

This tramp requires favourable weather. If the forecast is adverse, I have a Plan B.

Email don.baker@xtra.co.nz or Ph 0274773834

## **SNOW CRAFT WEEKEND**

Friday August 25th - Sunday August 27th

Come and learn the skills required for above the bush travel and alpine crossings. An introductory course focused on gaining the skills and confidence for moving on snow and ice including ice axe and crampon use, self arrest, use of basic avalanche equipment.

This is based at our cosy Ruapehu Hut. Course includes one evening introductory session approximately 2 weeks prior to the course which will cover gear options. Cost \$295 per person (members) or \$445 non-member (includes main meals and accommodation). Transport is not included but will be co-ordinated between participants, travel down Friday evening back Sunday.

Participants need to have or hire a helmet, ice axe and crampons (\$25/ set for the weekend).

Contact: Mark Roberts mark2005roberts@yahoo.co.nz

## **DALY'S CLEARING LOOP - KAIMAI FOREST PARK 7.5KM**

**Sunday September 3rd**

Meet at end of Franklin Road at 10am

Follow Dean Track to Mangakino Pack Track to Daly's Clearing Hut for lunch. Return via Waitawheta Valley Track to carpark. About 4 hrs walking. Suitable for children so should be within our capabilities. I have not done this track so in Ron Bennett's vernacular it is known as an "Exploratory Walk".

This tramp agains requires favourable weather. If the forecast is adverse, I have a Plan B.

Email don.baker@xtra.co.nz or Ph 0274773834

## **WOMEN'S OVERNIGHTER - PARARAHVA VALLEY CAMPING**

**September 29th - October 1st**

Come and escape the city for 24 hours and join us in the beautiful Waitakere ranges for a night camping beneath the stars. This event is for Women, Non-binary and Trans folx . Adult only, no kids. Skill level – suitable for all levels of fitness. The camp ground can only be accessed by foot with either an easy walk in from Karekare beach or a slightly longer walk from Whatipu via the Gibbons and Muir tracks.

Contact me if you would like to meet and walk in together

Where Pararaha Valley campsite, Waitakere Ranges (cost \$9 per night) - book at <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/.../accommodation...>

If you would like to register contact the trip organiser Claire Caiger

clairecaiger@gmail.com / 02108699308, with:

Full name / contact details / location where you live and if you want to carpool / emergency contact & any medical details

## **CHANGE OF DATE**

### **MT EDEN TO EDEN TCE CIRCUIT WITH A FEW INTERESTING VISITS ALONG THE WAY.**

**NOW Thursday October 12th**

This is a walk through an historic part of Auckland passing by the homes of both the rich and not so rich, of which some are quite old and some quite modern.

We will do a complete circuit around the base of Mt Eden taking in the changing face of Auckland – so please take your time to enjoy.

Arrangements have been made to visit the City Rail Link Visitors Centre where one of their ambassadors will give a talk on the construction of the rail link and answer any questions you might have concerning the project. He will then lead a rim walk around the the Mt Eden project and after that we will walk back to the foot of Mt Eden for lunch. After lunch we will complete our circuit around Mt Eden and visit by arrangement the gardens around The Pines Apartments ( these gardens are Private Property and not open to the public).

Leaders:- Warren & Jocelyn Whyte



Small People on Big Hills under a rainbow on their recent walk