

Small People on Big Hills - Rangitoto Island



AUGUST 2020

INSIDE...

- Meet the new team
- Waitakere hut and ranges updates
- Small people on Rangitoto
- Trips and Tramps
- Harper Pass trip report
- Rakiura trip report
- Farewell Marj Newhook

Photo by Jenny Hudson

The Alpine Sports Club Inc (est 1929)

PO BOX 131, AUCKLAND 1140, NEW ZEALAND

Website address: www.alpinesport.org.nz

Email address: email@alpinesport.org.nz

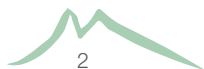
COMMITTEE AND CLUB APPOINTMENTS 2020 - 2021

COMMITTEE	NAME	PHONE NUMBER	EMAIL ADDRESS
President	Scott White	027 497 9017	president@alpinesport.org.nz
Vice President 1	Miranda Hutton	022 6488 733	miranda@alpinesport.org.nz
Vice President 2	Johann Schoonees	021 0240 52147	johann@alpinesport.org.nz
Secretary	Jenny Hudson	021 626 330	secretary@alpinesport.org.nz
Treasurer	Jackie Ponting	021 209 3120	treasurer@alpinesport.org.nz
Ruapehu Co-ordinator	Bart Schroder	021 177 7367	ruapehu@alpinesport.org.nz
- assisted by	Brian Duffy	021 859 829	bwd742@gmail.com
	Lloyd Lin	021 0221 3112	lloydlin74@gmail.com
Tours Officer	Mark Roberts	021 083 36285	tours@alpinesport.org.nz
- assisted by	Scott White	027 497 9017	info@taxsmart.co.nz
	Lesley Hawke	021 670 981	hawke.lesley@gmail.com
Ruapehu Booking Officer	Justine Checketts	027 240 4628	bookings@alpinesport.org.nz
Membership Secretary	Justine Checketts	027 240 4628	membership@alpinesport.org.nz
Advisor and Past Treasurer	Warren Whyte	027 675 2147	wandjwhyte@xtra.co.nz
Waitakere Hut Officer	Paul Lyon	027 421 8100	plyon.plm@gmail.com
Strategy & Recruitment Co-ordinator	Jodi Reddell	022 156 4279	jodireddell@yahoo.com
CLUB APPOINTMENTS			
Waitakere Hut Bookings	Joe Scott-Woods	022 385 2100	pjscottwoods@icloud.co.nz
Waitakere Regional Park Liaison	John Mackay	09 303 2774	john@urbs.co.nz
Alpinesport Editor	Jenny Hudson	09 427 6362	media@alpinesport.org.nz
Alpinesport Distribution	Annette Voll	09 521 0034	annettevoll@gmail.com
Website and database	Clive Bolt	09 534 2946	clive@alpinesport.org.nz
- assisted by	Dave Shorter	021 246 5815	dave@alpinesport.org.nz
Social Media Coordinators	Jeanine Scholey	022 500 8902	janscholey@gmail.com
	Abi Baya	021 934 715	abimaebaya@gmail.com
FMC magazine distribution	Warren Whyte	027 675 2147	wandjwhyte@xtra.co.nz
Club Evening Co-ordinator (key holder)	Lesley Hawke	021 670 981	hawke.lesley@gmail.com
Club Evening Co-ordinator (programme)	Sue Fitzpatrick	09 576 1069	suzette@knockbane.co.nz
Club Gear for Hire (personal locator beacons)	Murray Davidson	09 528 4504	ddjhmjnz@gmail.com
Club Gear for Hire (climbing & snowcraft)	Brian Duffy	09 528 3782	bwd742@gmail.com
Thursday Walks Co-ordinator	Clive Bolt	09 534 2946	cbolt@xtra.co.nz
Midis Group Co-ordinator	Sherilyn Coney	09 624 5447	sconey@xtra.co.nz
Summer Camp Co-ordinators	Mark Roberts	09 849 6563	tours@alpinesport.org.nz
	Miranda Hutton	022 648 8733	miranda@alpinesport.org.nz
RUAPEHU A-FRAME PHONE NUMBER		07 892 3710	

RUAPEHU BOOKINGS (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

REGISTERED AS A MAGAZINE AT THE C.P.O. WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND



PRESIDENT'S WELCOME – SCOTT WHITE

2020 Annual General Meeting

A new President and Committee were elected at the 2020 AGM held at the August club night. There was a great turnout with around 130 members in attendance. The hall was absolutely packed and many thanks to all of you who attended.

The AGM was eventful with some interesting comments being made at times.

Many thanks to Robert Oddy and the outgoing committee for their hard work during the past 12 months.

2020 Committee and Appointments

There was no need for any voting to take place and all those who were nominated for the various positions were duly elected.

Our new team and their contact details can be seen at the front of this magazine and on our website.

Do not hesitate to contact them if need be.

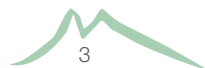
Brief Bio's of some of them, and mine, can also be seen in this magazine.

The Ruapehu Huts

Now is the time of the year to go down to the mountain and get out onto those ski slopes - well, if covid-19 lets us! It's a great place so make the most of it!

STOP PRESS - COVID-19

Here we go again! At the time of going to print the Covid situation was still unfolding. Please check the website for the latest information on our activities.



MEET YOUR NEW COMMITTEE FOR 2020 - 2021

President - SCOTT WHITE



I joined ASC in the 1970's after being active in the AUTC and NZAC, becoming Secretary and then President (1980 - 1984). I have extensive tramping and moderate climbing experience covering most areas of New Zealand as well as overseas.

In my private life I'm a Chartered Accountant in public practice with my own practice, offering business and taxation consultancy advice to the general public.

Vice President 1 - MIRANDA HUTTON



I'm a 2nd generation ASC member, attending my first summer camp at the age of 11 months. I'm a professional musician and music teacher who enjoys swapping concert clothes for tramping gear and taking my young family into the hills or snow. I have enjoyed re-starting Small People on Big Hills and helping organise Summer Camp. I look forward to representing the wide diversity within the club and helping to unify and grow the club into the future, encouraging a new generation's love of the outdoors.

Vice President 2 - JOHANN SCHOONEES



I joined ASC in 2010 after enjoying adventurous rock and alpine climbing, canyoning and running in my South African homeland. I enter the Auckland Half Marathon every year and run The Goat on Mt Ruapehu with other keen goats from ASC. I appreciate the opportunities through the club for my family (wife Kate and children now aged 21 and 17) to experience the great outdoors, especially the Ruapehu huts for skiing with more enthusiasm than grace!

Secretary - JENNY HUDSON



I joined ASC in 2000, enthused by trips in Alpinesport, which used to cross my boss's desk. The Club has enabled access to the outdoors in a way I had never dreamed of in my youth. I want to continue carrying a pack for a few years yet! I hope my young grandson will remember the summer camps and 'Small People' trips he has been on already, and develop a love of the outdoors into adulthood. Retirement from my job as a hearing commissioner leaves room for a role that helps with the running of the Club.

Treasurer - JACKIE PONTING



I've been in NZ for 15 years, have a kiwi passport and joined the club in 2009. I've taken part and led trips in tramping, climbing, skiing, helped at Ruapehu work parties, Waitakere baiting sessions and organised the climbing event linked to our 90th anniversary. I hope to continue to be an active participant taking as many opportunities as possible to interact with other members in the club. I'm a financial accountant familiar with the bookkeeping etc required for the Treasurer's role on the committee.

Tours Officer - MARK ROBERTS



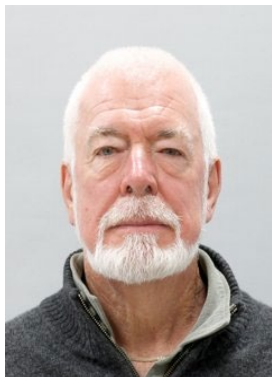
A second generation family member, I attended summer camp from a young age and now bring my own family along. I'm interested in tramping, skiing, rock climbing and mountaineering.

Ruapehu Co-ordinator - BART SCHRODER



I've been a member of ASC since 2006, and enjoyed the A-Frame with my two daughters, family and friends ever since. I have been the Ruapehu Co-ordinator in the past and done numerous work parties as well as a stint as Vice President. I like to ski and tramp, and I had a go at biking the Tour Aotearoa. I'm an engineer, and own a little cottage industry company making oscilloscopes, which keeps me busy. I'd like to thank Miranda for taking the bull by the horns and organizing the new committee.

Waitakere Hut Officer - PAUL LYON



Hi, I've been a trumper since the 60's and joined ASC in 2012 to maintain my interest in the outdoors, also serving as Secretary and Acting President. I enjoy the friendships I've made, as well as supporting this fine club.

My longest walk was an 81 km night/day tramp - this being part of completing my Queen Scout Award. I am now retired, but make use of my design engineering and practical building skills as a Technology Technician at Glendowie College.

Ruapehu Booking Officer & Membership Secretary - JUSTINE CHECKETTS



Hello, I have been the New Member Co-ordinator for a year now. I'm a stay-at-home mum to 8 yr old twins James and Daniel and 4 yr old Ben. I'm heavily involved in early childhood education and before kids worked as a civil engineer. Our Club is very special because my late parents met each other at our A frame. We went skiing every winter - a tradition that I'm continuing with my children. In the last 12 months we have been enjoying the Waitakere Hut, the 'Small People' walks, family weekends and the Summer Camp. I love it how our Club has so much to offer.

Strategy and Recruitment Co-ordinator - JODI REDDELL



I joined the ASC in November last year with partner Barry Cobb and our son Charlie (2). Recently returned from the UK, I was keen to introduce Charlie and British Barry to the great NZ outdoors. We first met the club at a Small People Big Hills expedition on One Tree Hill.

With a marketing background, I'm working on the club strategy and recruitment, so we can bring in a new generation, yet ensure we keep the essence of the club - great experiences with great people in the great outdoors!

Advisor and Past Treasurer - WARREN WHYTE



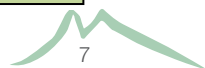
I joined the club 60 years ago and have had two terms as treasurer totalling 16 years. My interests lie in tramping, and a variety of other outdoor activities which I pursue with my wife Jocelyn. I was active in family camps when the family was growing up.

I have been ASC's representative and Treasurer of the Ruapehu Mountain Clubs Association for 11 years – a position I am retiring from this year.

NEWS FLASH - Summer Camp Found!

26th December 2020 – 3rd January 2021

1 ½ hours drive from Auckland, nestled in a beautiful secluded valley off the Kopu Hikuai Rd, next to the Tairua River. More details in Trips and Tramps.



HI FROM THE RUAPEHU HUT WARDENS

Charlee Hutcheson and Joe Smith

The latest additions to a long line of ASC Ruapehu hut wardens are Charlee Hutcheson and Joe Smith from the Island of Jersey.

"We are loving every aspect of living on the mountain - coming from such a warm tropical island, it has been an incredible challenge to adapt to mountain living, one we are very much enjoying.

We have been incredibly busy since the outset, we wanted to go beyond normal Hut duties and give back to the Club.

We have achieved so much in our first few months at the hut. Arguably one of our more difficult tasks was the construction and erection of four new trail markers, accompanied by some trail maintenance to make it easy for club members to access the hut on days with poor visibility. We have also done a few food runs to stock up the hut on essentials, and Charlee's famous ANZAC cookies have gone down well with the club members.

We have met many club members already and enjoyed a fantastic school holidays. A treat for all was first class entertainment from the



photo: Joe Smith Photography@thesmithster

children. We are looking forward to meeting new members as the season progresses.

As well as our hut duties, we work at RAL six days a week with Joe in the workshop and Charlee in rentals. It has been a challenging season already due to Covid. RAL has reduced staffing by 70% in some sectors meaning we are often working late or on our days off. So plenty to keep us busy! All in all, it is turning out to be a very unique season!

We look forward to welcoming club members up to the Maunga".

WAITAKERE HUT REPORT



by Joe Scott-Woods, 30 June 2020

"Is the ASC Waitakere Hut available? The family would like a change of scene."

Just one of several enquiries since the Covid-19 Lock Down. Yes. Fortunately the Haven is open to all. Do not delay in booking as demand is high.

Recent users include:

- Groups of mothers who have left their husbands/partners to look after their children at home for a night. A popular scheme organised by Fiona Heenan.
- Richard Christie had a "full house" for his 50th birthday celebration on June 13.
- Kokako volunteers from "Ark in the Park" are out early morning to monitor the endangered birds who reside within a couple of kilometres of the hut.
- Families visit Karekare, Piha, Whites Beach, but the favourite haunt is the Anawhata beach, lagoon and stream. Accessible

from the car park at end of Anawhata Road.

- A lone writer sought the peace of the hut to himself for a few nights.
- Two groups are booked in for the July school holidays. The "Got to Get Out" organisation led by enthusiastic Robert Bruce promised a camp fire singsong at the hut in mid-July, after tackling the scenic Te Henga Walkway.
- Possibly twenty young folk eager to sing "Kum by Yar My Lord, Kum by Yar ...

Rust rarely sleeps. One side of the nearest dunny roof was replaced last week. Window latches were carefully riveted in place. So easy to crack the glass. Thanks Paul Lyon and Brian Bargh. All the pillow slips were washed and ironed by Pat. Others in the Service Crew split logs. Ross Henderson enjoys chainsawing fallen trees.

Regular maintenance includes: weed spraying; grass taming; drain

clearing; path trimming; window cleaning and spiders moved on. Thanks Owen Sprosen, Mike Frith and Urs Reinhard. Also thank you to

key holders who deal with interesting users.

Most return keys promptly, some occasionally forget!

Please call Pat or myself: 022 385 2100 for more information and reservations.

Members' rates remain the same. Non-members: Adults \$30 per night. Juniors \$20 per night. Under Fives free. Hopefully new members can be tempted to join.

PS Please turn water OFF fully. About seven turns. It is precious. Tap at ground level by wooden tank. Thank you.

WAITAKERE TRACKS - PROGRESS ON REGAINING ACCESS

John Mackay

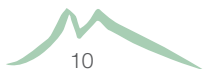
Like the world in general, I suspect the wheels are spinning at the moment. We had the initial success of getting Cutty Grass Track put onto the list for re-opening, and have backed the suggestion that a future loop could be achieved by connecting the Scenic Drive end of Cutty Grass Track through to Fairy Falls Track. It would then head north-west using the Montana Walk around Waitakere Dam and through the Pae o Te Rangi Farm campground to connect back to the Hillary Trail.

We also advocated for a connection from near the Waitakere Hut to the coastal tracks or to Kitekite Falls Track but have had no success with that so far. Any suggestions on how to progress that idea would be welcome.

We try to keep in touch with Stuart Leighton, the incredibly patient Principal Ranger who is responsible for liaising with all the characters involved in kauri dieback politics and then making recommendations to Council on the priorities for upgrading and re-opening tracks.

You may have noticed in the Herald, however, that the Council is now making hefty cuts in its budgets (including the Parks Dept activities) and is also undertaking a comprehensive restructuring that is likely to see staff cuts across the board. I'm afraid COVID has probably eclipsed much progress on kauri dieback and walking tracks for a while.

In the meantime we aim to keep up-to-date with information and



continue to be seen as responsible users and custodians of the park.

This includes such activities as:

- resuming the pest-baiting days in Ark in the Park's kokako block (12 July organised by Mike Frith)
- taking responsibility for the official track inspections of Coman's Track (last done 29 June after the big storm). This is to ensure that the promised track standards are maintained and

there is no pressure to re-close tracks.

- joining *Friends of the Waitakere Ranges*, a loose alliance of individuals and clubs, including Auckland Tramping Club, who have been taking some constructive initiatives
- keeping in touch and supporting the work and track re-opening strategies of rangers such as Stuart Leighton and Dan Real.

If you have any suggestions or queries please feel free to contact John Mackay (john@urbs.co.nz) or Joe Scott-Woods (pjscottwoods@icloud.com)

Editor's note: Just prior to publication of this magazine (but before the latest Covid announcements), John commented: **"Track re-openings have been delayed by COVID and now the costs and difficulties of upgrade work during winter, but it seems my pessimism over funding and staff cuts may have been unfounded as per this article:**

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/environment/122375760/kauri-dieback-more-auckland-regional-park-tracks-to-open-by-end-of-year>

which says, amongst other things:

.... by the end of 2020, nine tracks in regional parks will re-open thanks to funding from the Natural Environment Targeted Rate. These tracks are the Waharau Loop in the Hunua Ranges, part of Glenfern on Aotea Great Barrier Island, and Omanawanui, Puriri Ridge, Donald McLean, Karamatua Loop Walk, Winstone and Ahuahu in the Waitākere Ranges.

The popular two-kilometre Spraggs Bush track in the Waitākere Ranges re-opened in July. Tolich said \$6.6 million has been set aside for regional park track upgrades this year, a \$4.8m increase from the previous year.

Here's hoping the latest Covid outbreak doesn't change things too much!



TRIP REPORT - SMALL PEOPLE ON BIG HILLS - RANGITOTO

Sunday 28th June 2020

Leader and scribe: Miranda Hutton

Twelve excited families gathered at the downtown ferry terminal on a breezy Sunday morning.

Forty-three people were in the group with 21 children ranging in age from 2 to 12 years.



The first attraction - tree climbing

After a short and enjoyable ferry ride we disembarked onto the island in sunshine. The children climbed a pohutukawa tree while we waited for everyone to gather. The party split into two groups, a “fast” and “medium” speed group, designating a leader for each.

While counting heads we quickly realised one of the children, a 9 year old boy, was missing. It turned out the boy, despite being told by his mother to stay close to her, had set off immediately from the ferry and raced to the top of

Rangitoto by himself. He had been making plans the night before about getting to the summit of the volcano, climbing the highest tree, and getting back in time for the ferry.



What is this stuff?

Not knowing what had happened at this point, the ASC party quickly split into search parties. Two fit fathers volunteered to run ahead of all the passengers in case the boy had gone on ahead. One person stayed near the ferry, searched the area, and phoned Fullers to check the boy hadn't returned on the ferry back to Auckland. Mobile phones proved useful in co-ordinating the search. An hour after disembarkation, the boy was found returning from his successful summit of the mountain.



Happy summiters

While the sub-group of searchers was working to locate the boy, the other happy family groups proceeded up to the summit in good time. Many of the 2-3 year olds tramped much of the way under their own steam, buoyed along by the group.



Checking out a trap

After lunch at the summit and jubilation at finding the missing trampler, the quicker group decided to explore the caves as well. The children enjoyed crawling through the caves and repeated it on their own, helping each other along. Everyone arrived back in time for the 2.30pm ferry and rode back to Auckland together.



Entering the cave

Reflecting on the drama of the day, the adults discussed how the mishap could have been averted. There was general agreement that attending more trips with the club and training the children in tramping etiquette and bushcraft were important steps to help avoid or minimise chances of future incidents. All the children and adults came away with a great sense of achievement having reached the summit of Rangitoto.

Here are some impressions from a few of the younger trampers:

:

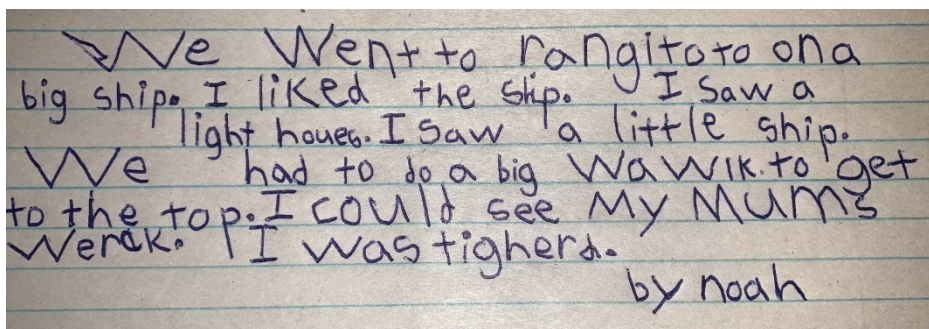
Clara, aged 6

I liked that we went to the lava caves. It was really, really cool. There were tree roots in the lava caves. There were sparkly little lights there too. I liked the ferry ride, the summit and the lava caves.

Lukas, aged 3

I liked the plants because I liked the green leaves. I liked the blue water.

Noah, aged 5



↗ We Went to Rangitoto on a big ship. I liked the ship. I saw a light house. I saw a little ship. We had to do a big Wawik to get to the top. I could see my Mums Werak. I was tigher. by noah

James, aged 8

We went into some caves, they were a 15 minute walk from the main track to the summit. The cave entrance was small so I took my back pack off and put my head torch on. To get into the entrance I had to sit down and crawl on my hands and knees, I followed my brother in and Malcolm followed behind me. Once I got into the cave I managed to stand up and could walk a good length of the cave. The caves were dark and damp, there were tree roots hanging from the ceiling. I was surprised how big the cave was inside and I managed to climb out of the cave at the exit point. After the visit to the caves we walked down to meet the ferry, I walked with Malcolm and we talked the whole way about our favourite game Minecraft.

Daniel, aged 8

I enjoyed walking up to the summit of Rangitoto with my friend Clara and my brother James. We were in the fast group leading the way, there was a foot path clearly marking the trail up the volcano. We could see lots of volcanic rock which was black and sharp, not many trees. As we got higher up the volcano we noticed that the trees got thicker. We didn't hear many bird calls,

perhaps they have migrated for winter. It was a cloudy and showery day, the track was slippery and some places there were puddles. As we got closer to the summit the track got steeper and we started to get tired and needed more frequent rest stops. On the last stretch there was a little cave that I liked to sit in to catch my breath. Just before the summit we saw the crater, we stood on the viewing platform and wondered what it would look like when the volcano erupted, currently there are lots of trees in the crater. We then reached the trig at the top and looked out over the sea and Auckland city. In the stretch of water in the sea we could see a light house with a big boat beside it.

Justine's highlights:

I really enjoyed catching up with the club members and meeting some of our newer members. Miranda did a great job leading this trip. I hadn't been to the summit of Rangitoto for 30 years so it was great taking my kids. I didn't explore the caves 30 years ago so that was an added bonus for this trip. My highlight was the ferry ride, following the children around the boat as they checked out the various areas that they could sit or stand. It was lovely being out on the water again.



Happy trampers returning from Rangitoto - the Baya, Bryant, Checketts, Cobb/Reddell, Deelen/de Blaaij, Hudson/Stevenson, Hutton/Voll, Jones, Raymond, Roberts and Scholey families

Photos provided by Kathleen Roberts and Jenny Hudson

TRIP REPORT - HARPER PASS CROSSING

MARCH 2020

After two brilliant days at the Greymouth Global Village backpackers recovering from the Paparoa Great Walk (Alpinesport June 2020 issue), our group was joined by other club members at Aickens corner to make a party of eight. Over many years I had pondered the 5 day tramp from Arthurs Pass to Lewis Pass and finally had the time and weather to begin.

Crossing the Otira river at the start is the crux of the whole journey, as ample rain makes it a 'no go' as you won't get over the Taramakau River further upstream. We had an easy crossing and relaxed walking up the flats with views a long way ahead to the saddle. Wide grassy flats, upwards to beech forest then bare alpine tops is my vision of the iconic South Island tramp. The main river was comfortably crossed, accompanied by canada geese and paradise ducks - a very easy but long day. Large logs lay about to remind us of other more boisterous weather. As we passed Kiwi hut the valley narrowed but with such easy travel we didn't always bother following the track.

As the valley became gorge-like there was one serious crossing to arrive at the Locke Stream Hut. This is one of the 2 remaining huts built in the 1930's by the government to copy the popularity of the Milford Track. Not carrying tents proved

not to be an issue as the only people we met were intrepid Te Araroa trail walkers. We later felt for them as the country was soon shut down.

With an average age of 70 years, we did take longer than the published times but with such beauty around us the longer the better. My philosophy these days is that boasting how quickly you did a tramp is like gloating about winning a 7 day holiday to Fiji but doing it in 3 days.



Taramakau Valley from the pass (day 2)

Day two revealed a rougher and steeper track but soon we gained the Harper Pass with views all the way back down the Taramakau valley in the direction we had come

up. The ground about us was carpeted with ribbonwood petals amongst dracophyllum trees - the odd robin visiting as well. Clear views of the alpine tops would have been tempting if the legs were a bit younger.



Some strenuous effort needed up Harper Pass...

The pass at 962 metres was certainly not mountaineering stuff. Easy descending led passed the cosy Harper Pass bivouac, and eventually the valley widened out to grassy flats with Hereford cattle wandering about. The second ancient hut known as Hurunui No 3 was a welcome site but sun-bathing outside was the best option on arrival.

Day 3 was wandering along more grassy river flats criss-crossing the low Hurunui River. Lesley found the start of the short clamber up through the forest to a wonderful hot spring where most of us could soak in the pleasure together.



.... with a relaxing soak in the Hurunui hot springs. Left to right: Margaret, Jocelyn, Jane, Mike, Jan

Once back in the forest we came upon a huge pink fungus as large as my pack.



Check out the size of the fungus!

Further down-valley, a short climb led to the more modern and large Hurunui hut, but no view nowadays as the beech trees have grown upwards.

Another blue sky dawned as a long swing bridge led us over the main river which can get quite large with such a large watershed upstream. Late summer is normally time for honey dew and wasps but vespex poison seemed to have removed all

our troubles with only a few wasps seen on two of the days. With views of Lake Sumner the easy hike through open red beech forest led over Kiwi Saddle and descended to the swampy grassland of Kiwi Valley - a beautiful place to be.

Our final night at Hope Kiwi Lodge included interesting chats with TA walkers from Germany and France.

The fifth day was another sunny stroll crossing the high Hope River swingbridge with a gentle climb through the forest to be much higher than the river below. This led

to views to the main highway and civilization. Our Hanmer Shuttle driver was right on time and told us how the world had turned upside down but the soak in the hot pools and a good feed were our immediate priorities. One thought was we would be better off returning to the mountains for our isolation!

Trampers - Owen (scribe) and Jan Sprosen, Mike and Margaret Bradbury, Lesley Hawke, Bruce and Jane Rogers, Jocelyn Magness.

Photos by Owen and Lesley



Lake Sumner

Trips and Tramps

Editor's note: due to the evolving situation with Covid-19, please refer to the website to check whether events are still on.

Kiwi Esplanade, Mangere Bridge	Sunday stroll	23 August 2020
---------------------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------

Meet at 1.00pm in the car park at the corner of Coronation Road and the Kiwi Esplanade, Mangere Bridge.

An easy 2 hour walk along the Manukau Harbour foreshore to Ambury Farm Park and return and ideal for the kids and their bikes. Following part of Te Araroa, the national walkway, with scenic and volcanic beauty, harbour views, rare birdlife, evidence of early Maori occupation and tragic maritime history.

Leader: Scott White 0274-979-017 or info@taxsmart.co.nz

Golflands & Meadowlands Waterways	Thurs	27 August 2020
--	--------------	-----------------------

Meet at Lloyd Ellesmere Park at 10:00am. Take the Ellesmere Drive entrance to the first carpark on the left after the small roundabout. Note that there are no public toilets in the park although there is one part way round. There are public toilets in the Highland Park Town Centre along the road.

Leader: Clive Bolt cbolt@xtra.co.nz 534-2946 or 021 897 844

 Small People on Big Hills Waikowhai	Sunday	30 August 2020
--	---------------	-----------------------

All ages welcome! Meet at 10am at the Manukau Domain on Halsey Drive, Lynfield. Join Lukas (3) and Clara (7) for a scenic walk through regenerating native bush with views of the Manukau Harbour, down to secret coves and along hard sand beaches and tidal mudflats. Picnic/early lunch along the way. Up

steps and through more native bush to finish at the Waikowhai playground with its huge slide. A short car shuffle will bring the cars back to Waikowhai Park while the children play. Bring lunch, warm/waterproof clothing and good walking shoes. A walking pole may be useful for exploring the tidal coastline.

Contact Miranda Hutton to register mirandajhutton@gmail.com 022 6488 733

Snowcraft weekend Ruapehu	Fri - Sun	4 - 6 Sept 2020
----------------------------------	------------------	------------------------

Come and learn the skills required for above the bush travel & alpine crossings. An introductory course focused on gaining skills and confidence for moving on snow and ice including ice axe and crampon use, self-arrest, safe terrain selection, snow shelters & construction, use of basic avalanche equipment and techniques. The course is based at our cosy Ruapehu Hut and the adventurous may choose to sleep in a snow cave overnight. Cost (incl main meals and accommodation \$265/person (members) or \$365/person (non-member). Participants need to have or hire a helmet, ice axe and crampons (\$20/set for weekend).

Contact: Brian Duffy brian@contrado.co.nz

ASC climbing weekend - Ruapehu	Sat-Sun	5 Sept 2020
---------------------------------------	----------------	--------------------

Sharon Hunter-Smith is organising a series of climbing weekends to encourage more mountaineers to get out onto the hill, based at the A-frame. The trips will be weather dependant. The weekends will be open to anyone but are not organised/guided trips. Anyone coming along is responsible for sorting their own transport, gear, bunk bookings, decisions, safety.

Contact Sharon for more details shuntersmith@gmail.com

Highbrook Park including Pukekiwiriki Crater	Sunday stroll	6 Sept 2020
---	----------------------	--------------------

Meet at 1.30pm outside Westpac in Business Parade South. Car park on the corner of Business Parade South and Sir Woolf Fisher Drive.

We do a large circular walk, initially past many modern and large commercial buildings and then into a waterside reserve on the south side of the Highbrook or Waiouru Peninsula.

We then traverse westwards and around Pukekiwiriki Crater which is a breached explosive crater and tuff ring. It means "the hill with the associated

small lagoon". The crater floor is now salt marsh and mangrove forest. From there we cross Highbrook Drive and follow the path along the water's edge. Traverse ancient river terraces and pass many fantastic ponds which have a great selection of wild life.

Leader: Scott White Ph. 0274 979 017 or info@taxsmart.co.nz

Whangaparaoa	Thurs	10 Sept 2020
---------------------	--------------	---------------------

Colleen and Warren will lead a walk through Shakespear Regional Park featuring bush, beach and farm tracks. If coming by car, please be at the Army Bay carpark at the end of Whangaparaoa Road at 10.15 am.

Most people will catch the 9.30 am ferry from Auckland to Gulf Harbour and return back to Auckland on the 1.30 pm ferry. Gold cards will cover the cost of both the ferry trips and the connecting ferry bus.

Leaders: Colleen & Warren Brewer: candwbrewer@hotmail.com 09 424 7301, 020 414 40571

Onehunga Bay to Lynfield	Sunday	13 Sept 2020
---------------------------------	---------------	---------------------

An urban coastal walk to stretch our legs. This enjoyable 4 – 5 hour walk offers a little bit of up and down, a bit of a turn here and there, harbour beaches, bush tracks, walkways and urban streets.

It commences at the Taumanu Reserve in Onehunga Bay and follows the Manuukau Coastal track through to Lynfield.

Come prepared to enjoy a day of interesting vistas and enjoyable company with Warren & Jocelyn Whyte ph 528 4824 or 027 675 2147

ASC climbing weekend - Ruapehu	Sat-Sun	12-13 Sept 2020
---------------------------------------	----------------	------------------------

Sharon Hunter-Smith is organising a series of climbing weekends to encourage more mountaineers to get out onto the hill, based at the A-frame. The trips will be weather dependant. The weekends will be open to anyone but are not organised/guided trips. Anyone coming along is responsible for sorting their own transport, gear, bunk bookings, decisions, safety.

Contact Sharon for more details shuntersmith@gmail.com

Panmure Basin	Sunday stroll	20 Sept 2020
----------------------	----------------------	---------------------

Meet at 1.30pm outside 160 Waipuna Road East. This is the last house on the left hand side at the end of the road.

We will circumnavigate the Panmure Basin and it is approximately 5km in distance. As the path is well formed and level most of the way, it is a great opportunity to bring along your younger family members together with their scooters and bikes.

Organiser: Scott White 0274-979-017 or info@taxsmart.co.nz

Manukau Harbourside	Thurs	24 Sept 2020
----------------------------	--------------	---------------------

Meet in Papakura at 10.15 am. Starting point and return route to be advised later. Bring AT Hop Card.

Leader: Bruce Dwerryhouse 575-0480, 022 123 9507, dwerryh@xtra.co.nz

	Small People on Big Hills - the Winter Christmas Special @ the Ruapehu Hut	Sat - Sun	26-27 Sept 2020
---	---	------------------	------------------------

There's no need to travel to Europe for the family and little ones to experience the wonders of a wintry Christmas. Tinsel, Christmas Jumpers, Mince Pies, Mulled Wine, Christmas Roast, Secret Santa, Real Snowmen, a Reindeer hunt and of course a bit of sledding. Join Charlie (2) and book a spot at the Ruapehu Hut.

Email Jodi Reddell jodireddell@yahoo.com to say you are coming and to be added to the mail list so you know what to take to bring the festivities to life.

Blockhouse Bay to Green Bay and Craigavon Park	Sunday stroll	4 October 2020
---	----------------------	-----------------------

Meet at 1.30pm in the car park 100 metres up from the beach in Endeavour Street. Covers part of Blockhouse Bay Beach Reserve and the Manukau coastal walk route. The path of which rises up behind the playground to Taunton Terrace and along a track marked Te Ara O Tiriwa (The Pathway of Tiriwa - the legendary high priest of the Waitakeres). This is a little known route from Blockhouse Bay beach up to and then down and along the cliff face towards

and then down to Green Bay. Great sea views and very steep with many steps. From there we go through to Craigavon Park and return via Motu Moana.

Leader: Scott White

Ph. 0274-979-017 or info@taxsmart.co.nz

TBA	Thurs	8 October 2020
------------	--------------	-----------------------

Leader Tom Speed tomspeed@xtra.co.nz ph 378 4595

 Small People on Big Hills - Wenderholm	Sunday	11 October 2020
---	---------------	------------------------

All ages welcome! Meet at 10am at the car park closest to historic Couldrey house. Join Lukas (3) and Clara (7) to walk up through magnificent coastal forest and enjoy picturesque views of the mouth of the Puhoi River estuary. There should be lots of kowhai flowering and many native birds to spot. We'll take the Maungatauhoro Te Hikoi loop track which is 2.9km return. This should take 1.5 hours at a moderate pace, but we'll allow more time for little legs and to enjoy the sights. Return to the cars, beach, second lunch and a tour of Couldrey House which is open between 1-4pm and costs \$5 per adult. Bring lunch and warm/waterproof clothing.

Contact Miranda Hutton to register mirandajhutton@gmail.com 022 6488 733

Te Ara Hura – Te Whau loop, Waiheke Island	Sunday	18 October 2020
---	---------------	------------------------

Catch the 9:00 am ferry from Pier 2 to Waiheke and then by bus past the Rangihoua Onetangi Sports Ground. The day includes 2 or 3 very steep hill climbs and rock hopping for short distances along beaches.

We will start by looking at the iconic, eclectic houseboats. During the day we walk past vineyards, olive groves and an alpaca farm. Enjoy a coastal and cliff top walk, past beaches then finish with a bush walk. Road walks, panoramic views, walking poles recommended. Bring lunch and drink. Return on the 4:00 pm ferry.

For more information and to ensure space on the bus please book in by 14 October 2020 with Sue or Brian FitzPatrick, Ph: 576-1069; or suzette@knockbane.co.nz

Palm Beach to Matiatia, Waiheke Island	Thurs	18 October 2020
---	--------------	------------------------

We will catch the 10am ferry from Downtown Auckland and return on the 3pm. Take the bus to Palm Beach and walk back to Matiatia, around the coast, on part of the Te Ara Hura walkway. There are some steep hills and steps but the views are spectacular.

Leader: Barbara Lamont 638 8046, 021 259 7019, barblam61@gmail.com

Womens Overnight Trip to the Pinnacles	Sat -Sun	31 October 2020
---	-----------------	------------------------

It's the Halloween Hike so bring your dress up gear, broomsticks optional! Book your bunk directly with DOC, there are ten ASC women already booked along with a further ten friends so we have already filled ¼ of this large hut.

Contact fionaheenan@yahoo.com for further information and to arrange car pooling etc.

Hobson Bay & 6 Adjacent Reserves	Sunday stroll	1 Nov 2020
---	----------------------	-------------------

Meet at 1.30pm in the Shore Road Car Park, the entrances are opposite 25 and 35 Shore Road, Remuera. Meet at the end away from the city.

We will walk through the Thomas Bloodworth Reserve and then into the Ayr Reserve. At the top we will then come down and cross Brighton Road and come to a foreshore boardwalk. We will continue along the foreshore and in effect circle the Shore Road Reserve. We then cross Shore Road and enter Waitaramoa Reserve. We will then continue up the valley and then up into another reserve, the Wharua Reserve, and then back down to where we started.

Leader: Scott White Ph. 0274-979-017 or info@taxsmart.co.nz

Motutapu Island Weekend	Sat-Sun	14 - 15 Nov 2020
--------------------------------	----------------	-------------------------

ASC weekend - to Motutapu Camp at Administration Bay. The cottage sleeps 10 and the lodge sleeps 34.

Options to travel to the island are Fullers Ferry, sea kayak, water taxi or private boat. Water taxi based on ten sharing is \$49 return, Fullers Ferry is \$36 per adult return, \$18 per child with some family and early bird fares – see Fullers website or keep an eye out on Grab One.

Rangitoto Wharf to the camp is an easy 3 hour fairly flat walk. You can arrive

on Friday afternoon or Saturday morning. Activities on the island are kayaking, Flying Fox, Survivor Challenge, exploring the old WW2 tunnels and gun emplacements, snorkelling and various tramping tracks.

Accommodation is in rooms for 4-6 people and costs will be confirmed once we know how many are keen to attend so please email fionaheenan@yahoo.com if interested and I will provide further information

Contact: Fiona Heenan 021633834

LOOKING AHEAD

Ngatuhua Lodge Family Weekend	Sat-Sun	26-28 Feb 2021
-------------------------------	---------	----------------

Surrounded by bush clad hills in the Kaimais this lodge includes use of a mini confidence course, a flying fox, flat water kayaking, tubing in the stream and an abseiling wall. We will make use of the local activities on Saturday and do a hike Sunday. Accommodation costs are \$44 per person for the weekend. Contact Mark to book, 50% deposit payable to confirm your place.

Leader Mark Roberts mark2005roberts@yahoo.co.nz

RECURRING WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Thursday Walks – Walks are held on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of every month (except January and December). For further information contact Clive Bolt cbolt@xtra.co.nz. For details of other 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.

Club Night - Tuesday 1 September 2020

Peter and Margaret Jemmett's trek to Everest Base Camp and the Three Passes

Well that was the plan! In 2018 Margaret and I prepared for our trip to Everest Base Camp and the Three Passes.

We embarked on a fitness program and with the Waitakere's effectively closed we set our sights on Mt Te Aroha, Mt Karangahake, all over Great Barrier Island and in between we walked the streets. We check out the sights of Kathmandu, the food, shops, traffic and the people. We fly to Lukla where our trip really starts and we find out if all our preparations have been enough.

NEWS FLASH - Summer Camp Found

26th December 2020 – 3rd January 2021

1½ hours drive from Auckland in Coromandel, nestled in a beautiful secluded valley off the Kopu-Hikua Rd, next to the Tairua River. Plenty of campsites and a large swimming hole. Plenty to do including swimming, kayaking, easy and challenging tramping, mountain biking, fishing, horse riding and exploring the old mining tunnels at Broken Hill. Easy driving distance to Thames, Tairua and Whangamata. More details to follow; contact Mark or Miranda if you want to know more.

TRIP REPORT - STEWART ISLAND (RAKIURA)

December 2019

Party: Jane Adams (scribe), Keith Adams, Jenny Hudson and Peter Loveridge

During 2 1/2 weeks on Rakiura, we completed the Rakiura Track (Great Walk), explored Oban, and sampled the North-West Circuit.

As a party of four it was possible and efficient to charter water taxis and small planes, enabling sampling the NW Circuit rather than doing the full 10 to 12-day hike.

5th to 6th December: Oban. We flew from Invercargill to Oban which gave us a wonderful birds eye introduction to the island and its rugged coast. Due to luggage restrictions on the flight we had to provision in Oban (population 400) and were relieved to find the local 4 Square was well stocked for all our requirements (including cooking gas) and at reasonable prices.

7th to 11th December: Bungaree Hut to Oban via Rakiura Track. 8am on 7th December we met our water taxi at Oban wharf and bounced our way out of Halfmoon Bay and northwards around the coast to Big Bungaree Bay. It was then off with our boots and into the shallows of the beach as we hastily disembarked over the stern.

Bungaree Hut (on the NW Circuit) was one of my favourite huts on this trip. Situated on a grassy platform above the sandy beach it had extensive views over the bay and a backdrop of pink kamahi (in full flower) and rimu forest behind. As we arrived at Bungaree we disturbed two white tailed deer feeding close to the hut.



Photo: Jane on Bungaree Beach

The next day we walked south east to Port William Hut (Rakiura Track) and encountered our first of the notorious Stewart Island mud pools not far from the hut. The rest of the track was generally good, back country standard through mature rimu/kamahi forest. There were numerous stops to admire and

photograph flora, especially many hanging orchids in bloom.



Photo: Keith, Jenny and Peter on track from Bungaree to Port William

We stayed two nights at Port William hut, pleasantly situated overlooking the bay. Here we encountered the first of many feral cats we saw on our two tramps - rather disturbing to see. On our spare day we walked to Maori Bay and back, and explored sawmilling relics nearby.

We completed the Rakiura Track over the next two days, spending a night at North Arm Hut on Patterson Inlet. The track was very variable, from 'Great Walk' to 'back country with mud' standard, and undulated through forest - some beautiful virgin podocarp forest with magnificent rimu and some revegetating forest after logging. The highlight for Keith at North Arm hut was sighting a kiwi running down the track toward the hut one morning- his only sighting. I

unfortunately missed this and also did not see kiwi elsewhere. Jenny and Peter caught a glimpse of one on our next tramp. We found that sighting kiwis depended more on luck than planning.

12th to 14th December: Oban. Three days of washing, resting, provisioning and exploring. We loved Oban and its surrounds; the birdlife was prolific and we were entertained by kaka by day and little blue penguins hopping ashore in the evening near the Oban wharf. A day trip to Ulva island sanctuary was rewarding to see flora and fauna protected from pests.

15th to 21st December: East Ruggedy Hut to Freshwater Hut (Western section of NW Circuit). One of the highlights of our whole trip was our flight from Oban to West Ruggedy Beach in a small, single-engine, five-seater plane. We had amazing views of most of Stewart Island. The flight took us over Patterson inlet and the Freshwater catchment, and then up and over the Ruggedy Range (well named) for a sharp descent to an expert landing on West Ruggedy Beach.

From the beach we had a 45-minute walk to East Ruggedy Hut (The Ritz) snuggled in rimu forest with a peek view down to East Ruggedy Beach. Later in the day

we explored this beach and the amazing sand dunes behind, and saw plenty of evidence of kiwi foraging on the dunes but no sighting of them this time. The following day we back tracked over the dunes to West Ruggedy Beach thence started our climb up onto Ruggedy Range toward Hellfire Hut (situated on top of a huge 200+m high sand dune).

The section of the NW Circuit from West Ruggedy to Mason Bay is said to be the most arduous on the Circuit, due not just to the distance between huts and many steep ascents and descents, but mostly to the state of the track which in many places had deep mud pools and was often highly eroded. Jenny and Peter had greater tramping fitness and more confidence in negotiating the mud than Keith and I and for these two days forged ahead in the afternoon to secure bunks and prepare much welcome dinners for us.

We all had a well-earned rest day at Mason Bay Hut. Despite wind and showers we explored the dunes and the historic homestead nearby. Numerous attempts to sight kiwi here during day and evening - but no luck. We found that sighting kiwis depended more on luck than planning.



Photo: 'The Ritz'

Our final days tramp was across the Freshwater swamp to Freshwater Hut (much of this track is boardwalk, or an old road built across the swamp). Despite the lower South Island having heavy rain and floods in December, Stewart Island escaped the worst of the weather and our last day tramping was the only one where we experienced any significant rain whilst on the track. We were fortunate the rain had not come earlier for the next day the track was flooded and impassable.

Freshwater Hut is a 16-bunk hut, with seating and cooking facilities for eight, so very cosy! Keith and I stayed two nights here and on the second night had a very entertaining evening with 16 fellow travellers in the hut. We returned to Oban the next day by an exhilarating water taxi ride down Freshwater river and across Patterson inlet.

Despite some arduous tramping we loved Stewart Island, its rugged scenery and its wildlife. Sometime we'd love to go back and explore more of Oban and the southern coast. We discovered that there are many backcountry huts on

Stewart Island (mostly hunters') which can be booked and would provide a pleasant place to stay for a few days.



Photo: Mason Bay

OBITUARY - FAREWELL TO MARJORIE NEWHOOK (1921 - 2020)



Marjorie with daughter Cath

Right from infancy, Marjorie was a keen walker, cutting her childhood teeth on day walks the length of Waiheke Island and back with her father. University days found her forming lifelong tramping friendships with the likes of Beverley Williamson, and the arrival of her family, in the early 1950's, provided many camping and walking adventures with her husband Frank and their three children.

The highlight was a week spent on Hauturu in May 1958, while Frank did some botanical research, which saw the whole family climb to the summit. Some years later, she headed to the South Island with her daughter Cath, who took her over Copland Pass after some snow skills training on Mount Ruapehu the previous winter.

In the mid-1970's, Marjorie became an active member of the Alpine Sports Club, and went on many short and long trips with the club, while continuing to tramp and botanise with other friends and family. Walking to work in the city and back, from her home in Landscape Rd, was too easy, so she would climb over Mt Eden on the way. Not surprisingly, her fitness and spirit saw her living independently in her own home, negotiating 22 steps on the way to her front gate every morning, until after her 98th birthday.

by Cath Mayo (daughter)

A photograph of four people standing on a muddy, reflective beach. The people are wearing outdoor gear: a blue jacket with a pink hat, a blue jacket with a white hat, a red jacket with a white hat, and a brown jacket. Their reflections are clearly visible in the wet sand. In the background, there are dark, rugged mountains under a cloudy sky. The foreground shows the texture of the wet sand and some sparse vegetation.

Keith Adams, Jane Adams and Peter Loveridge at East Ruggedy Beach,
Stewart Is Rakiura - photo by Jenny Hudson.

ALPINE SPORTS CLUB PO BOX 131, AUCKLAND www.alpinesport.org.nz