

Don't miss Club Night this Tuesday Night !

A very interesting presentation from a group of Afghans from the Hazara ethnic community as they recount their story of developing sporting and cultural events in Afghanistan pre August 2021, their subsequent move to New Zealand and their present efforts to forge links between New Zealand and Afghanistan with a clear focus on providing opportunities for women and girls.



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PRESIDENT'S REPORT.



Miranda Hutton, Club President.

29th February 2024

Kia ora koutou,

February has been beautiful month this year with blue skies and warm weather. Club activities have included an enjoyable Club Night BBQ in Cornwall Park on Waitangi Day, two Working Bee weekends at Ruapehu and the first Thursday Walk of the year.

I attended one Working Bee with my family and it was a thoroughly enjoyable weekend away. It's amazing how much work we completed, but also how beautiful it was to be at the mountain.

Do put your hand up to help Nicholas Roberts get the much needed painting finished and other smaller jobs at the next **Working Bee** on March 16th and 17th ruapehu@alpinesport.org.nz

Upcoming trips in March and April include a weekend at the Ngatuhua Lodge in the Kaimais, Easter Camp in the Tangihua and Children's Bushcraft at our own Waitakere Hut. The Thursday Walks are also underway every fortnight.

Thank you to the volunteers who are already leading trips and activities. We need even more volunteers to fill up a varied tours programme throughout the year. If you have skills in any sport: walking, tramping, kayaking, climbing, caving, cycling, mountain biking contact Greg and offer to lead a trip tours@alpinesport.org.nz I'm also looking for leaders for Small People on Big Hills trips miranda@alpinesport.org.nz

If you would like to join the ASC Committee this coming year in June, we have two important roles which need filling: a **Treasurer** (Jackie will be stepping down after three years in the role) and a **Ruapehu Operations Co-ordinator** to liaise with the resident Hut Warden and help organise the smooth running of our Ruapehu ski huts over the winter.

Next week's **Club Night** looks to be special. We will be hearing from a group of former refugees from Afghanistan and I very much look forward to hearing what they have to say. See you there!

Ngā mihi,

Miranda Hutton

GENERAL NEWS & NOTICES

ALPINE SPORTS CLUB WELCOMES BACK

**CAROLYN BLACKFORD
WHO IS RETURNING TO AUCKLAND**



Arataki Visitor Centre

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM THE TEAM AT ARATAKI VISITORS CENTRE

From Tuesday 27 February, Auckland Transport will begin the much-needed repairs on the Scenic Drive slips closest to Titirangi Village. Unfortunately, that means that Scenic Drive will be closed from the Titirangi village roundabout to Woodlands Park Road for 3-4 months.

Please see on next page the diversion that will be in place from the roundabout. Other options for reaching us at Arataki Visitor Centre include coming from Shaw Road, or from Konini Road onto Scenic Drive.

Rest assured we continue to remain open every day from 9am – 5pm to welcome visitors, and please do continue to support us while these important works take place!



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| <p>5.5 km out 8 mins
 Titirangi Road to Scenic Drive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head west on Titirangi Rd/Rte 24 33 m • At the roundabout, take the 1st exit onto Huia Rd 3.2 km • At the roundabout, take the 2nd exit onto Woodlands Park Rd • Destination will be on the right 2.3 km | <p>5.5 km. About 8 mins
 Scenic Drive to Titirangi Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Head southwest on Woodlands Park Rd 34 m • Turn right to stay on Woodlands Park Rd 1.0 km • Turn right to stay on Woodlands Park Rd 1.3 km • At the roundabout, take the 1st exit onto Huia Rd • Destination will be on the right 3.1 km |
|--|--|



CLUB NIGHT TUESDAY 5th March 2024

7:30 pm, St Mark's Parish Hall, Remuera Road

On Tuesday evening a group of Afghans from the Hazara ethnic community will be sharing their experiences of evacuation from Afghanistan to New Zealand in September 2021 following the Taliban takeover.

Prior to that the group were employed on various livelihood enhancement projects delivered by the Aga Khan Foundation and funded by the New Zealand Government. NZAID/MFAT delivered the Aid programme in Afghanistan primarily in Bamiyan where the New Zealand Defence force NZDF had a provincial reconstruction team based there. One of the projects was the Bamiyan Eco tourism project which was very successful and resulted in a variety of activities/events including skiing tours, cultural activities, and organizing the first international marathon in Afghanistan (Bamiyan).

Since arriving in New Zealand the group has been focusing on ways to support the Afghan community integrate into New Zealand life with dignity to reach their full potential as educated, culturally informed citizens who can contribute to New Zealand society. Recently they established Timatan-gahou (New Beginnings) Foundation, a charitable trust which aims to do this through a variety of activities with a clear focus on women and girls. One of the first activities is organizing the Aotearoa -Afghanistan Marathon to be staged at Riverhead Forest on 17 November this year. Other New Zealand activities they hope to achieve include mountaineering and skiing programs for women and girls.

Outside of the Trust some members of the group have established A2A Journey – a tourist company aimed at promoting tours to Afghanistan and other central and south Asian countries. One of these tours is trekking in the Wakhan Valley in the Hindu Kush, one of the most remote and fascinating trekking locations anywhere. The group wants to share these activities with a view to sparking interest and support for this venture. These evacuees are a highly motivated and talented group of entrepreneurs who have achieved in a very challenging environment. Come and hear their story. You might like to get involved.

UPCOMING FILM FESTIVALS



The Hollywood Avondale

20 Saint Georges Road, Avondale, Auckland 0600, New Zealand

Tuesday 19th March

[*Tickets Here*](#)

[*Watch trailer here*](#)



Academy Cinema, Lorne Street

May 2nd, 3rd and 5th

[*Tickets Here*](#)

RUAPEHU WORK PARTIES — 2024

Thank you to the members and friends who have attended the work parties to date.



There is still one work party remaining and **the team needs your help!**

16th/17th March

Please let Nicholas know at ruapehu@alpinesport.org.nz if you can help.

Trip Report – Ruapehu Working Bee 3rd – 4th February 2024

This was the first Ruapehu working bee I've taken part in for a long time and I really enjoyed it. Preparation was the key and I was glad I'd packed all our ski gear, despite the sweltering weather in Auckland. After a pleasant drive down, we stopped opposite the Chateau and changed into all our warm gear. This was a good idea, because when we arrived at the Top o' the Bruce at 8.30pm the wind was so strong we could barely stand up. The visibility was also negligible. However, I was confident I knew the way and the marker poles were indispensable. Nicolas, Johann, John and Jackie arrived a few hours later and also had a scary walk up to the hut in dark and storm. We all knew the way very well, but it highlighted to us how dangerous the weather conditions on the mountain can be (even on the 3rd of February!) and that new club members who are arriving for the first time should always be met and guided by experienced members. Clara (10) and Lukas (7) were remarkably cheerful throughout the whole experience.



The bad weather continued on Saturday and we spent our time indoors, completing the stocktake and other indoor jobs.

At some point it hailed, and Clara and Lukas collected hail to make Raro slushies for the team. Later in the day it snowed, creating a beautiful picture the following morning. We worked hard on the Sunday morning then enjoyed a gorgeous walk to Silica Rapids in brilliant sunshine in the afternoon. Nicholas, Johann and John drove home on Sunday but the rest of us had the luxury of staying an extra night.

Working Bee participants: Nicholas Roberts, Johann Schoonees, John Munford, Jackie Hillman, Linus Harder-Barfoot, Christiane Bush, Annette Voll, Clara Voll (10), Lukas Voll (7) and Miranda Hutton (**scribe**)

Scenes from the recent work party on the next few pages.



From murky to clear—the ever changing mountain.....





Snow in summer





Jackie Hillman sorts the first aid kit, no doubt being entertained by Lukas and Clara!



The spaghetti is all sorted and standing to attention in orderly rows ready to be deployed for those hearty club breakfasts



Slushy making Ruapehu style



Annette Voll on the track



Heaphy Track walk a report by Bart Schroder

Bart Schroder and Brian Duffy along with a few others (including my sister) walked the Heaphy track in the middle of Feb. The weather was great, the track quality is a highway, the huts are magnificent. We walked it over 3 nights with a half day either side. Be prepared for some distance – the longest day was 24.5km, and I and my sister probably did around 83 km what with searches for good swimming and such.

Here is the DOC map:



The huts are magnificent compared with your average back country hut – flush toilets without having to go out in the rain (there wasn't any), gas cooking with gas, lighting in the kitchen/dining areas, and 8 bed bunkrooms. The Heaphy Hut was sited like a hotel, with an imposing wide sweep of lawn down to the spectacular Heaphy river.

We did it in the order Perry Saddle, James Mackay, then Heaphy hut and out. I think we should probably have done it in 4 nights instead, and stayed at Saxon Hut as well and done some side trips to smell the roses.

The highlight for me was the area around the Heaphy hut. The river is fabulous, and the meeting point between the river and the Tasman sea mesmerizing. The coastal track is a real West Coast one, you must fossick – there is much to find!

The two bridges near the very well appointed Lewis shelter are amazing structures. Talking to the DOC guy there we learnt of the night in Feb 22 as he watched the old Heaphy River bridge being turned over by all the debris in the river, and disappear down the river. Now they have two bridges – the first over the Lewis River and the second over the Heaphy opened late last year.

As you walk out you pass by the very well appointed Scotts Beach campsite – an excellent over nighter if you were coming up from Karamea for a day.

The walk up to Perry Saddle has some pretty good vistas:



We walked on up to Perry Saddle hut, with big verandahs around it, double glazed moszi proof windows, flush toilets and a pretty good view.

The walking was easy, all the inclines were gentle, and DOC had bridged every little creek.



The Goulard Downes were wide and flat with views, most of the rest of the time we were in the bush.



There were lots of little bridges and some good swimming
(Brian obscured on the right):



The Wekas were everywhere from Gouland on, and quite happy to eat anything you left around (including all my fresh dates!):



Mostly we had light bush around us. Admire the track quality (with Brian):



The forest after Goulard was positively primeval:



Little Robbins dotted the track:

At Lewis shelter we met an old DOC guy who told us all about the Cyclone Dovi storm that destroyed the swing bridges (in orange):



There were some enormous trees about the place – here is an old rata:



At the mouth of the Heaphy the Nikaus started – and it became clear they were the barrier trees just above the beach protecting everything behind them:



The Heaphy Hut was sited like a hotel:



With great views down to the Heaphy river meeting the sea:



Lots of fossicking to do on the coast around from the Heaphy River, :



There were plenty of little creeks leading down to the sea, with the Nikaus always there protecting us, finishing up with the last stretch to the Kohaihai Bluffs:



A good trip indeed!

UPCOMING TRIPS

SUNDAY TRAMP – MONTANA HERITAGE TRAIL.

Sunday 3rd March 2024

Recently reopened after a long closure due to Kauri die-back, this old favourite has had a major make over. It is Kauri HQ in this area with its many huge trees to marvel at.

The views across the valleys are also splendid. Some old Montana sign boards still remain telling of the early settlers and the area history.

Estimated trip time is 3.5 to 4 hours plus lunch.

Meet 9.30 am sharp in the car park at the end of Falls Road, Waitakere (through the Golf Course)

Trip leaders Jane 027 458 5750 and Bruce 027 499 3211 or landline 09 414 2021

NGATUHOA LODGE WEEKEND – KAIMAIS

Friday 1st to Sunday 3rd March, 2024

Surrounded by bush clad hills in the kaimais, our club weekend at this lodge includes the use of a mini confidence course, a flying fox, flat water kayaking and tubing in the stream. Further afield are walks to waterfalls, mountain bikes can be useful to access tracks uphill from the lodge.

Accommodation costs are \$50 per person for the weekend. Contact Eric to book, 50% deposit payable to confirm your place. Last summer this trip booked out very quickly, so please get in early to avoid disappointment. Members only weekend.

Bookings to **Eric Horn**: kerianderic@alpinesport.org.nz

WON (Womens Overnight Trip) - MAHURANGI CAMPING

Saturday 23rd March to Sunday 24th March, 2024

We are so excited to share that our Women's Overnighter Adventures are back! Our first adventure will be set in a beautiful Mahurangi Regional Park campground. We will walk into a campsite at low tide (approx. 30 mins) and set up camp. You will need to carry all your gear, so a backpack is ideal. There will be time to rest, explore, walk, swim, share kai, connect with likeminded outdoorsy women.

The event is hosted by Jeanine Scholey from the Alpine Sports Club and members of the public are very welcome to attend.

Join us for fuss-free 24-hour adventures with fun and friendly women (adults only please).

Please email womens.overnighter@gmail.com for all the details and to organise ride-shares.

We are looking forward to adventuring with old and new friends - it has been too long!



EASTER CAMP 2024—TANGIHUA LIONS LODGE

Friday March 29th—Monday April 1st, 2024

Join the ASC Easter Camp tradition—walks, activities and plenty of fun for all ages. This year we have hired the Tangihua Lions Lodge, near Whangarei. It is a 2 ½ hour drive north of Auckland, surrounded by native bush and situated in the middle of the Tangihua Ranges.

Cost: approximately \$25 per person for the entire weekend (all ages).

Accommodation: There are 54 beds and plenty of space to camp.

Contact **Jane Preston** to book a spot janeprestonnz@gmail.com

CHILDRENS BUSHCRAFT 2024— WAITAKERE HUT

Saturday April 13th and Sunday April 14th 2024

Children's Practical Bushcraft Weekend. 9:30 am Saturday to approximately 2:00 pm Sunday.

Waitakere Hut, Anawhata Road.

Aimed at 7-11 year olds with their adult caregivers.

Club members only. Limited numbers.

Cost: Pay only for your overnight stay at the hut.

Contact Sue Grant kiwiguide@xtra.co.nz

CALLING ALL SEA KAYAKERS IN THE CLUB

24th– 28th April 2024

A couple of ASC members will be attending the **KASK Sea Kayakers Surf Festival** in Waihi over **ANZAC weekend** and we encourage other members to join us.

You do not have to be an expert to attend these events and it is a great opportunity to learn some good skills for beach launch and landings with some excellent instructors.

This year there is a specific womens programme called **Surf Sirens** which is aimed at developing skills for women paddlers in a supportive environment. This is suitable for beginners with some experience and intermediate paddlers and is led by Deb Volturno—an excellent instructor from the US.

You do not have to be a member of KASK or any other club to attend. You do however need to have a sea kayak as sit on tops will not be suitable for the skills being taught. Accommodation is in the Waihi Surf Club and more details on the event can be found [here](#)

If you are interested in improving your skills at getting on and off beaches in your kayak and can not attend the event, there are some excellent videos [here](#)

If you are interested in joining the other ASC members going to Waihi, contact Fionaheenan@yahoo.com 021 633 834



Photo Nathan Pettigrew



Our annual club BBQ at Cornwall Park on our February 2024 club night.

We are back to St.Marks Hall this Tuesday night as usual.