

# HiTAC

Newsletter of the Taranaki Alpine Club Inc.

Volume 97 Issue 2

## Coming Events

### Club Nights

**C**lub Captain - Duncan Kemsley announces :

#### 1st May

A welcome to the Club to new members from Ross Eden. For those of you who have not experienced an early winter on the hill, an outline of conditions you will encounter, climbs you can do, how

**“an illustrated, in-depth, 3-dimensional slide presentation on glaciers and volcanoes of Alaska...”**

to go further and what to take. In addition Ross will outline the Instruction Courses available to club members.

#### 15 May

A w e s o m e rock, bizarre wildlife and primo weather. No not the mall, but a tale of two Kiwis on a rock climbing trip to the Arapiles, Australia. Mecca to rock hounds downunder. Somehow Nick Eaddy & Ross Hoffman managed to tear themselves away long enough to scale Mt Kosciusko. The highest point in Oz at a mere 2230 metres. About as high as the Lizard.

Don't forget tea and biscuits afterwards. A bit of chat and a chance to catch up with old friends or an opportunity to make new ones, organise a climb or a lift up the hill. You make the Club night.



*What do Bizarre wildlife and Glaciers zooming at you have in common?  
Come to Club night and find out.*

## S P E C I A L

#### 12 June

Ever been to a 3-D slide show? Doug Dresser (Fletcher Challenge Energy Taranaki) will present :

“an illustrated, in-depth, 3-dimensional slide presentation on glaciers and volcanoes of Alaska” including Denali National Park. Sounds trippy, 3-D spectacles provided. Doug no doubt has put a lot of effort into his presentation and as a guest speaker we should all try to impress him with our attendance. This is a combined night with NZAC and is not the usual 1st or 3rd Thursday - so be on your toes. Not one to be missed.

### Instruction Courses

#### 3 May

##### Instructors Workshop

to be held at Tahurangi Lodge commencing at 08:30am. If your a bit rusty on your instructing techniques or want to be brought up to date on current teachings, you should attend. All Club instructors past and present and any wannabe instructors are urged to contact Ross Eden on 753-7937. The workshop will outline this year's instruction courses and will standardise on techniques. Those attending will then get the chance to put what they've learnt into practice on the Sunday. By the way food etc. provided and a free night at the Lodge on the Saturday 3rd for those instructing on Sunday.

#### 4 May

##### Mountcraft I Instruction Course

to be held at Tahurangi Lodge commencing at 08:30am. Highly recommended for all those that have done a basic course either snowcraft or rock. A must for those that are new to the mountains. The course will cover all aspects of travelling in alpine areas to an intermediate level. A nominal fee of \$5.00 will be collected to secure your place on the course. Contact Ross Eden on 753-7937 ASAP. Come along on Thursday, 1st May and find out more.

**Club nights held every 1st & 3rd Thursday at 8:00pm at the Blind Institute 131 Vivian Street.  
Lodge Booking Officer: Janica Chilcott Ph (06) 754-4404 or Fax (06) 753-7937  
or write to: Box 356 New Plymouth**

**Coming events cont..**

**18 May**

**SAR Competition**

Organised by NZ Police this annual event is a chance for SAR squads to compete against each other. Points are awarded for correct procedures and taken off for incorrect ones. Last year the TAC finished second but, for not making camp ie. taking out their sleeping bags at the right time they would have won. This time we hope to win. Its a simulated two day search and rescue operation condensed into 3-4 hours for the competition. A fun event with the Police SAR squad also competing. If your keen to kick some butt, contact Phillip Andrews Ph 751-3089. He has more details and went on last years event.

**Anytime**

**Firewood - cutting**

We still need a mountain of firewood to be cut up. Mostly milled slabs so no need to bring axes, only chainsaws. Getting bored doing all those urgent jobs around the home, working too hard, or just plain too busy, you like the rest of us may want to support your club in this endeavour to raise funds. If you can find just a couple of hours to help out please contact either Bruce Sinton Ph 755-0977 or Quin Amoores Ph 754-4404.

**Firewood - delivery**

Sometimne soon we will have some orders for the cut and split firewood. We are advertising it at \$30 a small trailer (6ft x 4ft) collected ie load it yourself. Or \$35.00 delivered. Quin has volunteered a tip-truck and will co-ordinate orders at \$50.00 a load. If necessary we may need a few bods to chuck a bit of wood on the truck. It is envisaged that all truck deliveries will be made on the same day. If you know of anyone interested in buying, collecting, delivering, chucking, driving or just helping with this firewood contact Quin Amoores on Ph 754-4404.

**You know your old when..?**

**E**verything hurts..and what doesn't hurt doesn't work. The gleam in your eye is from the sun hitting your bifocals. You feel like the night before and you haven't been anywhere. You get winded playing chess. You know all the answers but, nobody asks you the questions. You sit in your rocking chair... and

the alarm goes off.

Okay how times did you a think "Yeah that's right that's me. I know how that feels."

**For sale**

Fairydown Coulior Pack suit medium to

**Buy, sell, or swap.**

tall person, excellent condition suitable for alpine or tramping 70litre capacity - \$150.00

Mountaineering boots Dachstein hinged plastic boot ideal for Taranaki winters and Southern Alps fit size 10-11 top condition - \$200.00

Contact Chris Prudden Ph 758 8261

**Wanted**

2 litre ice cream lids for the local four wheel drive club.

Contact Ross Eden Ph 753-7937

**Getting bored doing all those urgent jobs around the home, working too hard, or just plain too busy, you like the rest of us**

can't get it going. Your knees buckle and your belt won't. Your back goes out more than you do. A fortune teller offers to read your face. You sink your teeth into a steak and they stay there. Your pacemaker makes the garage door go up when a pretty girl goes by. The best part of the day is over when

**Your committee working for your club.**

**R**emember - have your say contact a committee member.

<i>President</i>	Phillip Andrews	"Charlie"	Ph 751-3089
<i>Vice-President</i>	Ross Eden	"Nede"	Ph 753-7937
<i>Secretary</i>	Iain Young	"Scotsman"	Ph 757-5669
<i>Treasurer</i>	Harry Gaastra		Ph 757-8884
<i>Club Captain</i>	Duncan Kemsley	"Dunkos"	Ph 751-1191
<i>Lodge Bookings:</i>	Janica Chilcott		Ph 754-4404 Wt
<i>Social Co-ordinator</i>	Quin Amoores		Ph 754-4404 Wt
<i>Lodge Maintenance:</i>	Mark Francis		Ph 758-6310
<i>Instruction:</i>	Ross Eden	"Nede"	Ph 753-7937
	Nick Eaddy		Ph 278-6819 Hw
<i>HiTAC</i>	Phillip Andrews	"Charlie"	Ph 751-3089
	Ross Eden	"Nede"	Ph 753-7937
<i>Publicity</i>	Phillip Andrews	"Charlie"	Ph 751-3089
<i>Minister without portfolio</i>	Vaughn Keighley		Ph 753-9005

The committee meets on the 3rd Monday of every month, at 7:30pm.

Next meeting is at Iain Youngs residence on 18 May.

Sub- committees meet as required. Lodge maintenance sub-committee meets on the 2rd Wednesday of every month, at 7:30pm.

Next meeting is at Mark Francis's residence on 14 May.

# Mountain Scene by Chris Prudden

**T**he seasonal change for Mt Egmont is different every year, and we haven't seen so much snow fall on the Big E in April for a few. It's certainly fair to say the very active group are keen for a change of environment and activities, so get out your warm gear and hardware, winter is here!

In past years I would have seen mice appearing in my locker at Tahurangi Lodge, their arrival was always a clear signal that the first major snow fall was not far away. This year not one has showed up, maybe our eradication process has worked, however I found their presence a warm reminder that fauna can and does survive in an environment sadly devoid of indigenous animal life.

## ACTIVITIES (as reported)

A relatively quiet month with a few items of interest.

## SUMMIT ASCENTS

North Ridge- Davo Bolger, Chris Prudden and 2 clients, very cold conditions on snow from North Egmont. Deep snow via Crater Valley about minus 10 deg. C on top.

Surrey Road- Plumber McLean twice on different weekends. Hoffos with a variation of steep bouldering on Blondies Ramp.

Blondies Bluff-Davo Bolger and Guido Prudden starting via the ramp and on to the main cliff directly below Surrey. Davo led the first pitch on a rising traverse with a necky move above big air and a possible serious pendulum. The second fared slightly better locating a hidden under cling but the pendulum remained threatening. Sparse pro and bottom out cracks were features of the route and the weather was deteriorating as Guido led out a second pitch.

The second pitch was of good quality, solid blocks with square edges, good jug hauling and bridging, however lack of pro and the threatening weather prompted a 20 metre run out. The duo finished with a boulder route to the Summit and a wet descent to Tahurangi.

Sharks Tooth- Hoffos after the Surrey Ascent.

Warwicks Castle- Steve (Doc) Smith a traverse with Guido then climbed ,Anti Climax (16) with Davo leading ,followed with an attempt on, This one's a 22.....(16) by Steve.

Mike Watembach and Chris Wheatley did the Traverse with Guido and followed up with the same on Lion Rock, Plumber looked on and gave encouraging comments.

## GUIDE TALK

Davo Bolger is known for his high level of technical climbing ability and his many ascents in the Southern Alps. He

**As you can imagine there's plenty of detail in between, talk of getting wet and cold , lost in the ample scotch mist, and queues on the climbs.**

has recently joined Mountain Guides Mt Egmont as a Trainee Guide, where he will put his knowledge and skills into practice for direct benefit to others.

## OS.

Mal (Mark) Hall has been on the go again in the UK this time ICE CLIMBING in Scotland where he

notched up a number of routes in the Glenmore area. On Coire ant-Sneachda, Hidden Chimney grade(II/III), Goat Track Gulley (II), Runnel(II). On Coire an Locharn, The Vent (II/III). Climbed the peaks of Cairn Gorm, Cairn Lochan, Liathach (full traverse), Snorr Nan Gilleann (Skye). As you can imagine there's plenty of detail in between, talk of getting wet and cold , lost in the ample scotch mist, and queues on the climbs. Mal was heading to Turkey when he last wrote and planning to tour the Middle East for a couple of months. A Team (Aylene) Kemsley is reported to be getting nicely settled in London, but I'm sure she's saving hard for some further travel adventures in the northern hemisphere summer.

## Editor's note.

Chris is a regular contributor to the HiTAC and more than happy to include your climbing feats if you let him know. Contact Chris Ph 758 8261.

## West Side Story

**I**t all started many moons ago when bulldozers were being driven up the sides of mountains no one drove one up the West side of Mt Egmont, probably because they had no reason to.

Then the many stories started to flow and so we went there we walked for great distances , got mud on our boots and found snow of great similarity to elsewhere, amazingly the rock was also very similar.

Eager to solve the great mystery of the West side I questioned the super climber of the 1980's Warwick Humphries, and will note that no one has ever repeated his grade 26 Propagander on the Eiger Wall.

Some time ago he found and climbed an amazing 10 Pitch crag of superb quality on the West Side. Word soon spread and there was a huge up roar in climbing circles, apparently it was deemed unacceptable to have a crag of such size and quality on Mt Egmont, West Side or not.

So, without delay the crag was moved to the Southern Alps, (with DOC approval of course) and now stands proudly in the Darran Mountains. Warwick said he was extremely disappointed and immediately thought of moving the Little Eiger from the East to the West, however he never did. The reason was simple, if moved to the west side Little Eiger would grow from 50m to at least 150m, and would also have to be moved to the Darran Mountains. If you have time, think of a moral to this story.

## News from the Executive

**F**rom the Committee meeting held Monday, 21 April.

Duncan Kemsley has been nominated to attend a Federated Mountain Clubs (FMC) Instructor's Course at Ruapehu on Queen's Birthday weekend. These courses are good value and are held on a regular basis. If you want to be considered for the next one speak to a committee member.

The Lodge Maintenance committee reported that they were investigating several cladding options in more detail. Waterproofing of known troublespots has been targeted as an essential item to be detailed or minimised. If anyone wishes to comment or wants to be informed in more detail of developments, you can contact the Convenor, Mark Francis on Ph 758-6310. Mark is keen to speak with anyone out there who has had first hand experience with the Lodge construction and/or repairs. Taurangi is the Club's biggest asset and money earner. The sub-committee is determined in restoring the Lodge to top condition with expert

advice and sound materials and techniques.

Be advised that until you see it the downpipe on the Stratford side of the Lodge is missing and no longer assisting the roof to collect water for the water tanks. Please conserve water whenever possible.

Phillip "Charlie" Andrews reported that DOC funding had been approved for upgrading of the Manganui Gorge Track but not likely to be in time for repairs to be undertaken before the deadline of 1 June.

Quin Amooore (ph 754-4404) our new "Social Co-ordinator" is keen to here from anyone who has an idea for a "club event". He is presently working on a "paintball" challenge with other clubs.

Club night patronage and venue reared its head again. At the moment all replies to the questionnaire sent out in the last Hi-TAC (April issue) are in favour of Friday night. Based on the ground swell of opinion tabled at the meeting the Exec. has decided to take Club nights

back to Friday nights with the first and third Friday of the month starting on 4 July. There may be a change of venue as well. We will keep you posted.

Please note your subs invoice is enclosed and is now due for payment.

If you haven't already paid and do nothing - like the procrastination adverts - the next HiTac you receive will be your last.

You may also have other outstanding items under scrutiny of the Treasurer ie. locker fees, hut fees. Please help your club by posting a cheque promptly. For those without, Lodge keys are still available from Harry.

That's all for now folks. If you would to contribute contact the editors.

Phillip (Charlie) Andrews Ph 751-3089  
Ross (Nede) Eden Ph/fax 753-7937.

Charlie & Nede, your editors.

# HiTAC

POSTAGE  
PAID  
NEW  
PLYMOUTH

Taranaki Alpine Club  
PO Box 356  
New Plymouth

Affix address label here