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A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all

On behalf of the TAC Committee — Ed .

December 2011

Trip Reports

Tararuas – 13-16 October 2011.

Party members – Bryan Krijger, Karyn Humphries, Danny Roguski, Lodge Duck.

The Tararuas proved reliable in its alpine ruggedness – Rain, snow, wind, no vis, navigation. Every day had its own unexpected challenges except the last day of under 2hrs on flat tourist track. While I could go into it all in my usual analytical style, we all decided to go for a highlights package from each of our perspectives. Besides, what happens on trip stays on trip – you should have been there for what we aren't telling you!

Danny R.

Strange as it may sound, but simply reaching Mitre Peak (the highest point in the Tararuas) and 'bagging another peak' was one stand out.

But most rewarding for me was leading and picking route selection on the numerous steep and slippery snow covered very steep ascents/descents along Tarn Ridge and Kings Ridge. We'd elected to take one axe in case of snow conditions and I relished being up front with the axe finding 'bomber' holds amongst the slippery snow covered rock and tussock.

Bryan K.

It's the little things in life that make the difference. Arriving with wet boots and gear at a cat 3 hut on the exposed ridge top after 6hrs of rain, strong winds and stinging hail you're not expecting much, but finding a pot belly with coal no less, really was a wonderful surprise. It meant we could start the longest day with dry gear – yay!

Danny did a great job on what ended up a very long day, arriving at our 'bail out' option hut just on sunset. Surviving that very long day with one of my heaviest multi day packs is cause for quiet satisfaction.

I think the thing I'll remember most is not the trials and tribulations each day threw at us, but the laughs. And there were plenty of them with lots crazy banter as we went.

Highlights or "lessons" for surviving the Tararuas, by Karyn Humphries.

Day one began lazily, meandering along what seemed a commercial track of at least a metre wide before embarking intrepidly along what nature naturally gives us – tree roots, vertical climbs and slippery encounters.....with Bryan awkwardly demonstrating how not to hang onto a flexible tree branch. With backpack beneath him and that look in his eyes, I could see that the only way forward was to tumble into the stream. Unbeknown to me, this first hiking lesson was a forewarning of what was yet to come.

"Stay sharp Karyn" became my mantra.

Day two presented sleety rain, but for us three musketeers we were determined to reach Mitre Peak. Another robust hiker had set off before us with bigger intentions. However, he backtracked all windblown and drenched.

Knowing what gear we had (bothy bag and EPERB as extras) we thought we would give it a go. So we embraced the hail on the highest peak (Mitre Peak) of the Tararuas without a view, but a cairn to prove it, according to Bryan. Yehaaa! I was ecstatic to reach the summit!

Suddenly, without warning, Bryan presented lesson number two – 'the tussock tumble'. Superb self-arresting was witnessed. All I could do was watch and take note that, yes Bryan you chose a descent with a fairly good run out. Thank goodness for that as Bryan

was carrying The Bothy Bag and EPERB.

"Stay sharpER Karyn".

Reaching that second hut after encountering some epicly steep, slippery descents was rewarding enough, but, to be announced by Danny that it had a chimney, and, the boys getting a fire roaring, was heaven. Not to mention losing a sock and glove to overheating by the excitement of it all. Sorry Bailey, they were your gloves.

Day three we woke to snow.

"Cool" I thought. At least we were starting off dry.

We had to climb back up a peak barely 10 metres lower than Mitre with cooling temperatures. Some careful route tracking by Danny, whilst sharing one ice-axe got us to that peak. However, it then seemed no way forward and highly likely no way back.. Frozen tussock, high winds and no visibility. This day was especially epic for me. Bryan had forewarned us of this ridge, that in dry conditions we would have to be hugging the steep cliff tightly and be dependent on the tussock for hand grips. But, the tussock was frozen and we could not see this cliff. I was very thankful for Danny and Bryan's careful navigating skills. Couldn't believe what I had to traverse, with thoughts of no way down and no way back. My mantra to **"stay sharp"** and "you can do it" was used to its hilt. One precarious step after another whilst holding onto dare life, and sharing one ice-axe got me there.

This day was an enduring 10 hour up and down trek on steepish narrow ridges. But the clouds parted to reveal amazing views of what we had encountered, and still were to encounter.

I really look forward to conquering what we could not due to the weather and time constraints.

Cheers Danny and Bryan.

And Melanie, that Chocolate Bark recipe was magic for this epicly enduring 4 day hike....

Lodge Duck.

Dark, so very dark most of the time. Occasionally, briefly, I saw the light and a camera in my face before be stuffed unceremoniously back in the darkness of a pack. Oh the indignity of being treated as some sort of novelty item. Unacceptable for a duck of my standing. Next time I'm planning my own trip – solo!



The Trip Files...

The Trip Files – December 2011

It's been a busy time recently for trips. The **Tararuas** were in good form – so good in fact, that one of the main aims of the trip couldn't be achieved, so there will have to be a revised trip to 'finish some unfinished business'. Check out the trip report.

For those who took advantage of the **Winter Walks** and built up their confidence, **Syme Hut** was a good final test before the **Slush Summit**.

Half a dozen made their way to **Syme Hut** in poor visibility. Unfortunately the advertised ice encrusted Syme Hut wasn't to be – only a tiny bit on one corner. Danny may have some competition for keenness, as Peter & Myska elected to stay Friday night at Tahurangi and then a very early start on Saturday to walk round to Dawson Falls. I assumed Danny would do the same, but to my surprise he drove to Dawson Falls in the morning – Danny, I think you're going soft!

Once again the **Slush Summit** proved popular with ten keen climbers heading for the top in soft conditions. A couple of us were caught in 'bear traps' in crater valley – always something to be well aware of in spring. Such were the soft conditions, several opted for bumsliding on the way down. Even I partook in a couple of shorter bumslides.

We all celebrated our achievements that night at the yellow theme party. It was a fantastic night. You really should have been there, because what happens at the lodge stays at the lodge!

I guess everyone is happy with how they and their gear perform in s**t conditions, as the only interest I had was from hardy senior club members putting their hands up to help on the **Gear Testing Trip**. It is now too late for a decent testing trip. Watch out for it again next spring.

As I write this, **Central Plateau** is just a few days away and that will wrap up this years trips. For next years trips check out the schedule below. For more information, give me a call or check out the trips page on the website where you'll find the most up to date info on what's happening and when.

Feb & Mar. Interesting features and places on the mountain. Most will be easier 3-5 hour walks to places and features a little of the beaten track.

6 Feb. Sunrise Summit.

11 Feb. Surf to Summit to Surf Challenge. Cycle to the mountain, climb it and then cycle back to town. Race for glory or simply challenge yourself. Enter as an individual or a team.

10-12 March. Mount Damper. 2 Nights in the Mt Damper area.

If you have an idea for a trip or a favourite trip you'd like to share (lead), then don't be shy and give me a call, text or email.

Bryan Krijger

(06) 751 1449

(027) 2070880

Trip Coordinator

bryan.krijger@clear.net.nz

OPEN CLIMB 2012...

The annual Open Climb is the one time of year when the Club comes together to offer a service to the public.

To ensure a successful event, we need every available member to help on the day.

The TAC doesn't ask much from our membership, but we do ask for your help to make this event special each year.

The Open Climb has been tentatively set for January 28, 2012 pending date approval from DOC.

Jonathan Crane will be asking for your help in the coming months.

The Bandid Box – Gokyo Lakes Trek, Nepal 25 Mar – 19 Apr 2012

The Bandid Box Charitable Trust has been a long term medical aid project for the village of Kharikhola, in Nepal's Khumbu region.

Most years, a trek is also undertaken and next years trip is again to Gokyo Lakes (4750m), one of the most beautiful places in Nepal. The trip ascends from Paphlu, through rhododendron forest to Kharikhola and Namche Bazaar, thence on to Gokyo (with great views of Ama Dablam, Cho Oyu and Everest), before visiting the Tengboche Monastery en-route to flying out of Lukla. It is a great opportunity to get an insight into the sherpa culture, the Everest region and Nepal in general.

Trip Cost \$6900 ex Auckland.

For further information, contact Pat Sole at 06 7594689, pat@patsole.co.nz, or Robin Drake at 06 7567648.

Gear for Sale

Kathmandu Gore-tex Alpine climbing jacket - excellent condition - size large - \$80

Kathmandu Gore-tex Shell Glove - good condition - size L \$20

Salomon Super Mountain 9 mountaineering boots - UK size 11.5 - Excellent condition with loads of tread - \$200

Contact details - Lee Drew Mobile - 027 707 0308

Social events - Lodge Party

Saturday 29th October—The photo's tell the story—The theme was "YELLOW"



It started fairly quietly with some social banter

A few drinks

A pot luck dinner

A few more drinks



And we were joined by some very sociable people from Wanganui for those inevitable games that only occur in huts



Club Nights ...

PLEASE NOTE Club nights start at 7-30 (winter times)

First Thursday of each month, @ Foundation for the Blind rooms, 131 Vivian St, NP

December 1st President's shout & Photo Competition

January 12 th (Note DATE) 7-30pm

In line with past years, the first Club night of the new year will be the annual club bar-becue at Audrey Gale Reserve.

Bring your food, swimming gear, deck chairs, drinks and sense of humour.

A few more drinks and a few "FAIL" attempts in the games.



Murray Peat and Mel Glidden showing some TAC style.

All in all, another memorable party with some great people.

Plea for help - Help the Kiwi's

Kiwis helping Kiwi – Carry a trap

Through generous donations the Taranaki Kiwi Trust, together with interested individuals are progressing with a new Community trapline to connect the Mangorei Track to the existing Egmont National Park trap network, thus extending the protective area for kiwi and other native species.

26 stoat trap boxes are in need of re-locating from the Mangorei rd road-end to strategic places up the Mangorei track. This is a great opportunity to get some sneaky training in for your next epic into the wilds! What better way to enjoy the last rays of sunlight on these balmy evenings, than to lug a trap or two.

We also welcome keen volunteers to assist with trap checking (clearing, re-setting and re-baiting) of stoat traps on the Mangorei track. These traps need checking monthly (or even more regularly). Be in quick to take part in this exciting new roster, spaces are limited.....

For more details and to be involved please email Kris Grabow info@taranakikiwi.org.nz

Thanks
Kris

New Members

New members approved at the September meeting of the Committee as follows:

Matthew Penn, New Plymouth
Craig & Chania Hattle, New Plymouth
Jonathan Dobbie, Louise Bullen, Emma & Nicholas Dobbie, New Plymouth
Leonard, Janet, Liam & Emma Hawley, Bell Block

The Clubs extends a warm welcome to our new members, and we look forward to seeing you on the slopes.

Indoor Climbing nights.....

Indoor climbing, each Monday night at the YMCA climbing wall.
Come along and meet T.A.C climbing members and keep your hand in with climbing and rope work.

6:00pm to 8:00pm \$10 each.

If we have enough members climbing regularly we could look at having our own T.A.C members only nights.

Contact Phill Davies for anymore information Ph: 7594657

Club Information

NEW MEMBERS & SOCIAL GATHERINGS

We welcome you to the TAC. Mike Longstaff (756 6233) is keen to help you integrate easily into club activities so give him a call if you have any questions. Melanie Gliddon (753 4484) is our new social co-ordinator and is open to any suggestions for a good get together.

TAHURANGI LODGE

This the TAC's premier Lodge on Mt Egmont / Taranaki. It sleeps 26, has electric heating and cooking, all cutlery, pots and pans, etc. Just like home. To get an eKey you need to apply in writing to the Executive Committee. An application form can be obtained by contacting Colin Neighbours (ph 753 9900).

Overnight fees are \$5 for TAC members (under 18 years \$2.50) and \$20 for non-members (under 18 years \$10). Members can buy an annual lodge pass for \$40 (under 18 years \$20) which allows members unlimited sleeps until the next AGM. Anyone who stays at Tahurangi Lodge must write in the overnight book upstairs by the fridge;

1. Their surname and initials.
2. Say TAC or non-member.
3. If under 18 please state.

Bookings by people from other clubs or groups of 5+ people should be made with the Lodge Booking Officer; Stephen Miller (751 0272)

The lodge subcommittee looks after all maintenance. Contact Stephen Miller if you want to help, have ideas for improvements, or have found something wrong.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual subscriptions are set at the Annual General Meeting.

Subscriptions for 2011/2012: FAMILY \$60, ORDINARY (single) \$40 , STUDENT (under 18), \$30. The first subscription halves for those joining after 01 September.

For more info contact the Treasurer, Colin Neighbours (ph 753 9900).

GEAR HIRE - TAC EQUIPMENT OFFICER: JONATHAN CRANE (769 5432)

The following equipment is available for hire by TAC Club Members:

Ice axes, ice hammers, helmets, harness (incl. karabiners, etc). Each item costs \$5/day or a maximum of \$10/day for 2 or more items per person. Return the gear promptly after use and you only pay for the days you actually used it. Return it late and risk paying for the complete period; Your choice.

Club Information

A PLB (Personal Locator Beacon) is also available for hire and great for back country tramping or alpine climbing.

Contact the Equipment Officer AT LEAST 2 days in advance to ensure availability

EVENTS PROGRAMME

Club nights, trips, instruction and social events are all important functions of the Club's activities – they need both support from participants as well as volunteers to lead them. If you have suggestions for club nights contact Grant Upson (769 5970), or would like to volunteer to lead a trip contact Bryan Krijger (751 1449).

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Must be advised in writing – Send to the Secretary by mail to
Taranaki Alpine Club, PO Box 356, New Plymouth
or email taranakialpineclub.secretary@gmail.com

ELECTRONIC HITAC

While it's nice to get a bit of mail in the letterbox that isn't a bill, it's also great to get coloured photos through the email. Some members have asked if they can get the HiTAC via email only.

If this includes you, please email andrews.phillip@gmail.com & put in the subject line "eHiTAC subscription". Not only will you save trees, postage & the club's money, but you will have the advantage of receiving the HiTAC before everyone else.

If you have a beef, a soapbox, hobby-horse or something interesting to say, why not tell everyone. Just e-mail your copy to the editor and please use polite language.

STAYING OVERNIGHT IN THE LODGE?

If you do you must fill in the Overnight Register which is situated upstairs next to the fridge. Please read the instructions on what information is required, particularly if you decide to pay before departure. Record this beside your name and put the money in the envelope provided. If you don't do this then don't be surprised if you get an invoice requiring you to pay - perhaps a second time! Those who deliberately wish not to pay on departure, that is OK, because an invoice will be sent in due course-usually at the end of each quarter.

If you decide to take your immediate family to the Lodge and stay overnight, remember.....you can only claim member costs (\$5 or \$2.50) if you are registered with the Club as a "FAMILY" membership.

If you are an "ORDINARY" member then your family pay the full costs (\$20 or \$10). The alternative is to change membership status by contacting the Treasurer before going to the Lodge.

Colin Neighbours (Treasurer)

Club Contacts

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE

President

Jonathan Crane (769 5432)
taranakialpineclub.president@gmail.com

Vice President

Mark Francis (769 9376)

Club Captain & Club Nights

Phil Davies (759 4657)
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Committee

Danny Roguski (027 240 7044)

Tahurangi Lodge

Lodge Bookings

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taranakialpineclub.lodge@gmail.com

Lodge Committee Convenor

Stephen Miller (751 0272)

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*Starting Construction on Tahurangi Hut.
— Dave Rawson collection*

Sender:
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Please Deliver To: