



**Join us to celebrate TAHURANGI LODGE's birthday on Monday
3rd June (Queen's Birthday Weekend).
Cutting of the cake will take place at 1pm.
Meet other club members, share a few stories and enjoy the
mountain.**



Hi TAC

May 2013

The Trip Files May 2013

Despite the rather wet conditions, the **Maungatautari** trip in the Waikato proved very social and enjoyable. Though I hear there is unfinished business as the trip finished on the 'new' track instead of the planned, and more scenic, 'old' track. Maybe next year, Colin?

Check out the full trip report in this issue.

For those with good snow skills watch then how about stretching the legs and visiting the icebox, aka **Syme Hut**, in July. Either as an overnight or day trip depending what everyone wants to do. Traditionally this trip has proved adventurous as the weather and/or conditions have never played their part - from whiteouts to near gales to blizzards.....good character building (and gear testing) stuff. Accordingly grade will be 'hard'. Dates will be set to suit those interested. Give me a call or email to register your interest.

The traditional **Slush Summit** will be late October. Time to get booked on the snowcraft courses and then practice, practice, practice. The trip is graded 'hard' due to the skills requirements ie snowcraft and sufficient subsequent experience and being confident using those snowcraft skills.

The monthly picture challenge. Each month I will publish one photo in this column, and if you think you can identify what it is/where it was taken then email me your answer. Your prize is your name here, showing how clever you are.

When I run out of photos, the winner will be the one who got the most right. No prizes, just the glory.

The only clue is that all the photos are taken in Egmont National Park.

I thought last months might have been a bit too easy, and it seems it was. Congrats to Murray Peat, Greg Gale and Erik Larsen for all picking up the clues – and picking on poor Andrew in the photo.

Outdoors this time.



Bryan Krijger

Trip Coordinator

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TRIPS AT A GLANCE 2013.....

Date	Trip	Grade
July	Syme Hut	Medium
October	Slush Summit	Medium

Grading of trips. I have been asked about grading of trips, and that members maybe aren't sure whether they are up to a particular trip. Grading is a tricky and subjective thing, but what I have done is broken trips into three categories as follows:-

'Social' – Shorter, easier walks 3-6hrs. Average fitness, family friendly, as fast as the slowest. Eg you find walks like the Kokowai or Jacobs Ladder Circuit enjoyable and easy.

'Medium & Challenging' – Long, full day trips, but not especially hard. Good level of fitness. Eg able to summit and return in under 5hr30 (summer conditions) is a good benchmark; although stamina for a full day is the overriding thing here ie you can finish the day with a spring in your step.

'Big & Hard' – Multi day or particular experience required (such as good winter climbing skills). High level of fitness and strength. Eg able to carry a heavy pack (15kg+) for 6hrs or more and feel good the next day to do it all again.

These are fairly broad grades, and every trip is a bit different, so if in doubt call me to discuss.

Winter Instruction 2013

Grant Upson will be heading up the instruction again this year.
He may be asking some of you experienced members for some help, so be ready!

Course dates are:

Snowcraft 1

September 14-15

September 21-22

October 19-20

Snowcraft 2

August 24-25

We'll have updated information on our [website](#) and also on our [Facebook](#) page.
We'll also have a new online registration process this year that we'll let people know about through the website and Facebook. It will mean people can register and pay online.

Trip Reports

Summit, Sunday April 28th 2013

Scott Chamberlain, Matthew Penn and Grant Upson headed off from Tahurangi on Sunday morning.

While not strictly a club trip, Scott and I met Grant at Tahurangi, and headed off from there for the summit.

Local knowledge to the fore, Grant was adamant we wouldn't even attempt Summer Entrance and therefore might as well see some scenery if going to Heberley's.



We cut across from the Lodge to the top of the ridge at Humphries Castle and from there on to Kybers Pass.

Still pretty dry around, there were some pools of snow melt around which made for some refreshing stops as it was still a lovely warm day! With Grant as our intrepid leader, he took us up an awesome ladder that just made the day.

From Kybers we followed a

Crater Valley lava flow to the crater rim and then took a right heading toward Heberley's. It was at this point that we noticed the large number of people at Summer Entrance. A fine day and plenty of people were out intending to enjoy it. However, the snow and ice was treacherous through Summer Entrance and everyone just sat down to take in the views and eat lunch. All

the while ice was breaking off above them and crashing into Crater Valley.

We encouraged a few of them to get off the Lizard and head into Crater Valley and climb up from there, but most stayed where they were, then headed down.

Climbing into Heberley's we were met with some patches of snow and ice, and climbed through that to the top. Plenty of rime balls were around, and



an icy seat at the top greeted us for lunch.

It was nice and warm in the shelter, but out on the exposed top the wind was whistling through and it was pretty chilly! But some great opportunities for photo's and fantastic views were on hand with the fine weather allowing us to see around much of the province.

With lots of snow and ice around, it was time to break out the tools for the first time in a while and get to use them again!

We climbed down from the summit into the Crater heading back for Taurangi.

Still a large number of tourists were out on the mountain, and plenty of climbers 'running lite' with minimal gear.

A welcoming rest break at Taurangi and then off for home with memories of another great day on the mountain.

Matt Penn



New Members

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

New members approved as follows:

Mandy Adams, Meadowbank, Auckland.

MAUNGATAUTARI TRIP REPORT

An intrepid and rather wet and bedraggled group of eight emerged from the Maungatautari Ecological Reserve looking forward to a hot shower and refreshments at the "Out in the Styx" lodge. We had just completed a 6hour tramp starting from Hicks Road at the north end. With steady rain most of the way, visibility down to a few metres and the terrain reasonably rugged it was rather wet and slippery, although there were a number of yelps and sudden plonks down. We had intended to take the "old" track (graded as moderate to difficult) all the way, and we did until the saddle between Pukeatua Peak and Rocky Outcrop but because of the weather conditions and a turned ankle reverted to the "new" track (graded easy to moderate) for the last couple of hours. Maybe we might return some fine day to do the last bit over the Old track as we have been told the views are really worth it from Puketaua Peak and Rocky Outcrop.

The accommodation, hospitality and food at "Out in the Styx" really rounds off a great tramping day and we can recommend the experience to all members who have not been there. The menu is easy – two choices "Take it or Leave it" – we took it. To appreciate it one must visit www.styx.co.nz.

As no-one volunteered to write this report, here are a collection of comments:

"great camaraderie, hot showers, rain, clouds, great organisation, transport, track transport, FOOD!, sitting in front of fire with wine and nibbles, feijoa ice-cream, rhubarb cake, swede and orange mash, frittata, some mud, wet and slippery, well marked track, good bush, bird calls, early to bed!"

Members of the group: Kevin Bremner, Lester and June Barnes, Gail Geange, John and Margaret Jordan, Colin and Wendy Neighbours.

CMC



Committee Announcements

Jonathan Crane has stepped down as President for personal family reasons for the next 6 months and possibly longer.

Matthew Penn will be taking on the Presidents role until such time as Jonathan is willing to resume the role of President.

All communications for the President should now be directed to Matthew.

Phil Davies will be looking after the Club's hire equipment.

Club Nights ...

PLEASE NOTE Club nights start at 7-30

First Thursday of each month, 7-30pm @ Foundation for the Blind rooms, 131 Vivian St, New Plymouth

June 6th

Dr. Steve Finnigan

Mt Aspiring and outdoor medic

While he's not saving lives Dr Steve gets a bit of climbing done. He recently had a crack at climbing Mt Aspiring in January and the weather didn't play ball. Also, being a GP, he goes to an outdoor medical conference in Queenstown each year so he will share with us what he has learnt from that.



August 1st

TBA

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Club Nights .. Contd.

July 4th

Dave Bolger

Deep South adventures

For July, local climbing legend Dave Bolger will be delivering us a talk on one of his deep South adventures.

Dave has been getting some serious climbing done while living down south and his talk is bound to be an epic.



September 5th

Shelley Hersey

One of New Zealand's top female climbers - a must see

Shelley has been a rock climber and mountaineer for the past 15 years. In that time she has steadily improved her skills and decision-making ability over a broad range of climbing terrain. And in the past five years, Shelley has decided to take her climbing to the highest level she can achieve. In 2007, she was part of an expedition to the Indian Himalaya, and discovered that she performed particularly well at altitude, especially when compared to her more experienced team mates. Since then, Shelley has made strong inroads towards her goal of becoming one of this country's top female alpine climbers. Since the Himalayan expedition she has led a number of New Zealand alpine grade 5 climbs as well as putting up new routes, both alpine and rock. Shelley has led WI 4, and rock to grade 24 during trips to Moonarie, Arapiles and Thailand.



Shelley will be giving up here time, flying up from Dunedin to deliver her talk on women in climbing and show the video of their 'Backyard and Beyond' expedition.

Subs overdue

By the middle of May there still remained a large number of members who had not paid their subs. I am aware that some members deliberately leave payment to the last minute, and this may be OK, but it is worth knowing that subs become payable **IMMEDIATELY** after the AGM. This is stated in our Constitution, which also goes on to say (rather quaintly I might add) "If any member shall fail to pay his sub on or before the date one month following the AGM, notice shall be sent to him calling his attention thereto."

Thus over 100 members would have received a Membership Statement with these words in red "This account is now overdue". **Any subs not paid by 1st June shall incur a penalty of 20%**

At the end of June each paid up member will receive in the mail a FMC Membership Card, plus a pamphlet outlining member discount providers. For those members who do a bit of tramping/climbing around NZ the 30% discount off the DOC Annual Back Country Pass is worth the membership on its own. We generally try to get this posted with the FMC Bulletin and latest HITAC which is due about then.

Colin Neighbours

******Resoling old boots.******

If you have a pair of comfortable boots with good uppers and the soles have been worn and chopped out by the scoria- help is at hand!
I have just had a comfortable pair of Asolo boot resoled. The result is fantastic. I thought that I would share the contact to get this done.

The repair shop address is: Perrett Shoe Repairs
192 Burnett Street
Ashbuton
Phone 027 437 5840

Call and discuss your requirements with Alan Perrett. He will advise you, although he cannot necessarily give you a quote without seeing the boots. My Asolo boots cost \$180. He tells me that Asolo boots are a little more expensive than Meindls. This is certainly a better deal than buying new boots. You can get twice the wear out of your boots before having to purchase new ones. It does rely on having uppers that are still in good order. So look after the uppers with plenty of leather food!

Lyn White

Club Information

NEW MEMBERS & SOCIAL GATHERINGS

We welcome you to the TAC. Grant Upson is keen to help you integrate easily into club activities so give him a call if you have any questions. Joelle Xavier is our social co-ordinator and is open to any suggestions for a good get together.

TAHURANGI LODGE

This is the TAC's premier Lodge on Mt Egmont / Taranaki. It sleeps 24, has electric heating and cooking, all cutlery, pots and pans, etc. Just like home. To get an eKey you need to complete the application form by downloading from our website.

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 them 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 non-members or members taking a group of 5+ people should be made with the Lodge Booking Officer

The lodge subcommittee looks after all maintenance. Contact Danny Roguski 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 2012: FAMILY \$60, ORDINARY (single) \$40, STUDENT (under 18), \$30.

The subscription halves for those joining after 01 September.

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

Members with unpaid subs at end of April are sent an account overdue notice. If still unpaid by 1st June incur a penalty of 20%. Any members with unpaid subs at 1st July are removed from membership.

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.

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 the Club Captain, or would like to volunteer to lead a trip contact the Trips co-ordinator.

HiTAC— Newsletter of the Taranaki Alpine Club

A monthly newsletter emailed out to club members with an email address. Also available via the Clubs website www.taranakialpineclub.co.nz

Any trip reports, events, gear for sale can be sent to the Editor at

Taranakialpineclub.hitac@gmail.com

Each quarter the FMC (Federated Mountain Clubs) Magazine is posted with a paper copy of the HiTAC.

Club Contacts - OFFICERS & COMMITTEE

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Equipment Officer

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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

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 prefer not to pay on departure, then that is OK, because an invoice will be sent to you in due course – usually after the end of each quarter."

If you decide to take your immediate family (who normally reside with you) to the Lodge 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" then your family pay the full costs (\$20 or \$10). The alternative is to change membership status by contacting the Treasurer prior to staying at the Lodge.

Colin Neighbours (Treasurer)

