

Sunrise From Upland Road, Inglewood,
photo P Andrews

Hi TAC

August 2014

Trip Reports ...

From mountain to desert.....ocean to tropical jungle experience

Peru has it all

Those of you keen to tramp in Peru --I would recommend heading to Huraz city 8 hours bus ride north of Lima as a good starting place. It's a lovely city at 2500 meters making it a good place to



acclimatize with some beautiful tramping up to 5000 meters nearby in the Coldera Blanca range. It's a new tourist destination which is rapidly getting found but still cheap. There are good trekking companies there at half the price of the Cuzco area .

The Santa Cruz trek is a popular 4 day classic trail and a wonderful place to start your Sth. American holiday. Choose a good company for a good experience...you get what you pay for but the blog sites and trip advisor are a useful to research your backpacking holiday. Carrying a tablet is an invaluable tool for backpackers as wifi is readily available in cheap hotels and restaurants at no cost.

Backpacking s cheap and easy in Peru and alpaca souvenirs plentiful!

Jerseys to die for sell at \$12 NZ and are really warm and cosy.

The Machu Pichu area is very touristy and expensive now....if you don't want the hassle with 3000 other people....go to Huraz!

And if you haven't got organized to book the Inca trail there are lovely more isolated treks that are easy to organize as you go, like the Lares Trail which ends up at Machu Pichu Or the Condoriri trek out of La Paz Go for it...learn your Spanish as you go.
Sandy and I had a ball

Anne Brough



Mangakotukutuku Falls: a wee walk at the foot of the mountain

On a beautiful Sunday early in June, I decided to wander down, instead of up and explore the beautiful Maude's track up to the Mangakotukutuku Falls.

To get there, drive up Kent Road, directly opposite Lake Mangamahoe access and carry on until you meet Maude's Road. The walk starts a few kms further at the very end of that road.

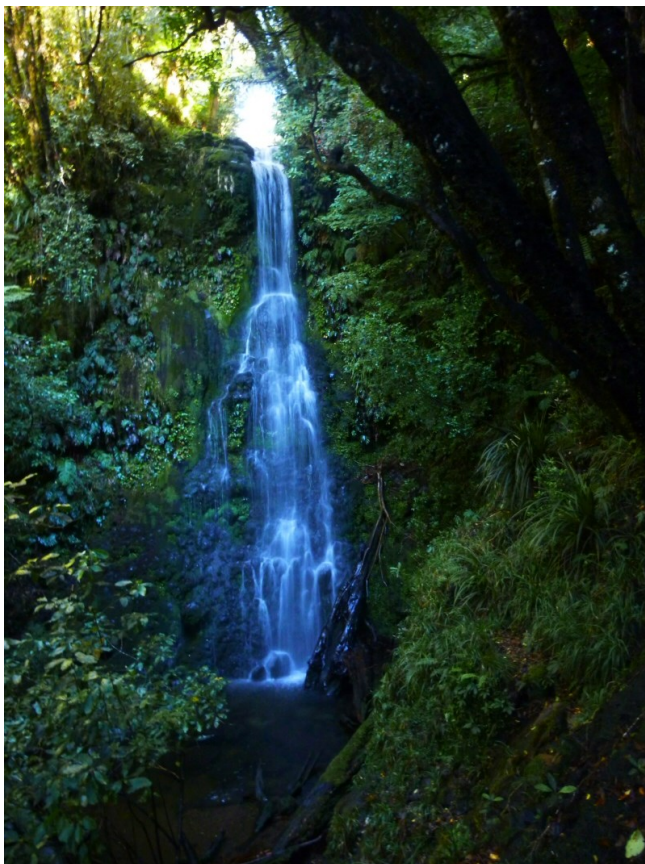
You will need to cross a couple of paddocks to access the track but it is well signed and the view from there is magnificent enough in its own right to justify the drive up: big sky country and lush rolling shades of green with Ruapehu, Ngauruhoe and Tongariro standing proud in the distance while Taranaki keeps watch behind you. God I love this country!

Just before entering the bush, a whiteywood smothered in a vast array of epiphytes and small shrubs is an arresting sight. Glyn, a friend who came along with me on the walk is an ex-nursery man and a mine of knowledge on both native and exotic fauna. We take a good

ten minutes having fun identifying the forest growing on that single short stumpy tree, from a variety of orchids, ferns and astelias to griselinia, coprosma and other shrubs trying to make their way to the light.

The walk proper starts a few metres further ahead and we step straight into the semi darkness of the bush. The path is pleasant underfoot and lined at first with a variety of shuttlecock crown ferns. We pass a massive stand of "Dr Seuss trees"; well, that is what I used to call them until Glyn tells me those funky hairstyle on sticks are in fact Freycinetia banksia, named after a French man at that: Freycinet... more commonly known as "kiekie" (the tree that is, not the French man...).

The number of birds we can hear surprises me at first but not for long: Coprosma, Alseuosmia and other small trees are ladden with glossy orange and red berries. Full tummies make for hap-



py birds and the call of tui and woosh of the wood pigeons flying past accompany us on the rest of our walk.

Apart from the odd mud patch, the track is easy going until we reach a spur which would get quite greasy in wet weather. We reach the turn off to the Falls a few minutes later just past a small mound of mossing round stones which are the remnants of an old Maori umu.

We climb down reasonably steeply to the Falls to reach them about 15-20 minutes later. It is truly magic, secluded and secret, the water gently cascading over a rocky wall before reaching a small pool below, tall ferns lining the bank. In stark contrast to the serenity of this scene, a chaos of huge black logs at the back of the pool give a small hint on the absolute mayhem this idyllic picture must turn into in heavy rain.

The whole walk, according to the DOC sign should take about 3 hours; we took 5 between stops for photos, a long lunch during which we discussed and solved the world's problems, plant identification...and tasting (the fiery Horopito or pepper tree, *Pseudowintera colorata* has a green leaf



sister: *Pseudowintera axillaris* which tastes just like sweet nutmeg and cinnamon with not a hint of pepper. Evidently, early settlers were told to use the leaves of the red version when cooking meat and the green ones when baking...).

If you do not already know that little gem of a walk, take the time to do it. Choose a nice clear day to take advantage of the glorious views from the top of the road. It may be a little muddy under foot after several days of rain.

Joelle

Club Nights ...

PLEASE NOTE Club nights start at 7:30

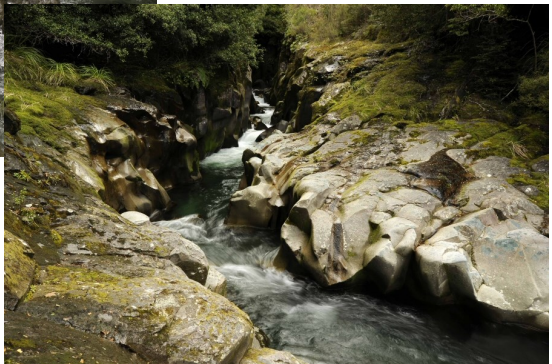
First Thursday of each month, 7:30pm @ Foundation for the Blind rooms, 131 Vivian St, New Plymouth

August 7th Shaun Barnett—

How to improve your out door photography
Shaun Barnett, one of this country's leading outdoor photographers, will be sharing his experience and knowledge on how to get the best from your photography.

Wellington-based Shaun Barnett has tramped and climbed throughout New Zealand, and photographed the backcountry extensively. With a background in zoology, he worked for the Department of Conservation for some years becoming a freelance writer and photographer in 1996. He edited *Wilderness* magazine for several years, is the current editor of the Federated Mountain Club's *Bulletin*, and has written six books. These include the award-winning *Classic Tramping in New Zealand* (co-authored with Rob Brown), *Shelter from the Storm* (co-authored with Rob Brown and Geoff Spearpoint) and *Tramping in New Zealand*. Shaun is currently working on a seventh book, *Tramping, A New Zealand History*, with Chris Maclean.

For a range of his images, see the Hedgehog House Photo Library: <http://www.hedgehoghouse.com/hedgehog/photo-galleries/?hhhGalleryID=9>



Instruction—Snow craft ...

We have snowcraft 1&2 happening in August.

Pre-Field Evening: August 5th

Field Phase: August 15th – 17th

Snowcraft 1 Objective

Our objective is for you to gain skills that will enable you to safely and confidently move in an alpine environment over easy to moderate terrain AND to have fun. The skills you learn on this course will form a base for you to gain experience by “doing”. These skills don’t just materialise; they need lots of practice, so don’t have overly ambitious expectations and be prepared to put in lots of time on the hill to hone your skills.

Snowcraft 2 Objective

Snowcraft 1 is a pre-requisite for the Snowcraft 2 course; you must have completed our Snowcraft 1 course before you can register for Snowcraft 2.

Our objective is for you to build on the skills you have learned and practiced from Snowcraft 1 in alpine hiking and climbing and rope work for mountaineering.

The skills you learn on this course will form a base for high alpine climbing and mountaineering, moving safely and working within a team when climbing.

Book online at the Instruction web page

<http://www.taranakialpineclub.co.nz/pages/instruction>



FMC Youth and Young Adults Scholarship Scheme: Second Round for 2014 closes 12th September

Further information and Application Forms are on the FMC website at
<http://www.fmc.org.nz/scholarship/>

Application forms must be posted no later than Friday, 12 September 2014

Club Website and Facebook page

Are you up to date with the latest Taranaki Alpine Club news? Don't forget the club has a fantastic Website and a brilliant Facebook page. Follow the links below and stay informed about what's happening on the mountain and what's coming up at club night! Plus you can see some wonderful photos on both of these sites. If you've got photos of recent adventures, do put one or two up on our Facebook page! We'd love to see them!

<http://www.taranakialpineclub.co.nz>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Taranaki-Alpine-Club/474005329305249?ref=hl>

From the President's desk ...

Preparations continue for our 85th Jubilee Event next year. We have information available on our website, and will also post updates on Facebook so keep an eye out for those.



Congratulations to all our Trophy winners this year, you can see all the winners in this edition of the HITAC.

Ivan and I met with DOC officers this month and had a very successful meeting with them.

DOC are motivated to work with us in protecting and restoring the vegetation along the 'Tahurangi Road' and reverting this to a walking track. The protection and restoration of plant life will take some seasons to complete, but we will be given the opportunity to help on these projects as they develop this season. DOC will provide some detail to the type of track that will be required, but will work closely with us.

We have upgraded the camera hardware at the lodge, and by the time of going to print, our cameras should be live on our website.

Tahurangi Lodge

The presentation at our July Club night went very well, and the work that the team has put in was clear for all to see, so a sincere thanks to all on the Lodge Committee.

The initial phase of work will be to address the ventilation and atmosphere control at the lodge. The lodge committee still have much work to do in this area and have no finite dates set yet, but we expect there will be no interruption to lodge users as this goes ahead.

Open Climb 2015

Our Open Climb next year will be held on Saturday February 7th with Sunday February 8th as the reserve day.

Our one-off induction and briefing will be held on November 15th at Sport Taranaki at 12 noon. Before you get ready to head away for the summer holidays, we'll all come together and go through our safety plan for the 2015 event.

Registrations have now opened Open Climb 2015 and we have our first climbers already!

Winter Instruction 2014

This year we aim to offer all our classes over one weekend, August 15th to 17th, so Tahurangi Lodge will be full to the brim; keep an eye on our bookings page for details.

Thanks to the whole team who have not only committed their time and expertise, but have also been working on a safety plan for instruction for the club; a fantastic effort from all involved!

We aim to follow up instruction with some alpine trips this year so do get in touch with Chris if you have ideas, or would like to help out on some we are planning already.

Matt Penn

President

2014 / 2015 Trophy Winners ...

| | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| Dan Bryant Trophy | Photo Competition | Jeremy Beckers |
| Maggie Brown Trophy | Photo Competition | Greg Banks |
| Ben Stephenson Trophy | Most Enthusiastic New Member | Peter Billing |
| Len Lovell Loyalty Trophy | Loyalty Trophy | Colin Neighbours |
| Barry Francis Trophy | Memorial Trophy | Danielle Billing |

New Members

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

Josh Cumberland , New Plymouth

Katrina Shepherd & family, New Plymouth

Gill Lambert & Andrew, Lisa & George Syme, New Plymouth

Lucy Blackbourn , New Plymouth

Brenda & Gary Szabo, Bell Block

Club Information

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. Members can request an eKey by completing the application available from the Club's website.

Overnight fees are \$5 for TAC members (under 18 years \$2.50) and \$22 for non-members (under 18 years \$11). 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, or by booking online via the Club's website.

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

If you find you can't get into the Lodge because of an eKey failure or you have locked yourself out etc., phone either the Club Secretary, Elaine Sinton, 755 0977, 027 352 3831 or the Lodge Booking Officer, Stephen Miller, 751 0272, 027 244 2753. They may be able to help by supplying the current access code.

SUBSCRIPTIONS Annual subscriptions are set at the Annual General Meeting.

Subscriptions for 2013: FAMILY \$60, ORDINARY (single) \$40, STUDENT (under 18), \$30.

The subscription halves for those joining after 01 September.

For more info contact the Treasurer.

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:

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 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 hitac.tac@outlook.com

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

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 secretary.tac@outlook.com

Club Contacts - OFFICERS & COMMITTEE

Officers

| | | | |
|----------------|---------------|--|-----------------|
| Club Captain | Chris Hayes | captain.tac@outlook.com | Ph 021-157-7932 |
| President | Matthew Penn | president.tac@outlook.com | Ph 751-0005 |
| Secretary | Elaine Sinton | secretary.tac@outlook.com | Ph 755 0977 |
| Treasurer | Elaine Sinton | treasurer.tac@outlook.com | |
| Vice President | Ivan Bruce | vicepresident.tac@outlook.com | Ph 751-1645 |

Committee

| | | |
|---------------|--|-----------------|
| Joelle Xavier | committee5.tac@outlook.com | Ph 769-5614 |
| Scotty Morgan | committee3.tac@outlook.com | Ph 755-0766 |
| Adam Millen | committee2.tac@outlook.com | Ph 027-862-7923 |
| Tim Swain | committee4.tac@outlook.com | Ph 757-8570 |
| Robin Drake | committee1.tac@outlook.com | Ph 756-7986 |

Lodge Services

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|--|-------------|
| E Key | Elaine Sinton | ekey.tac@outlook.com | |
| Lodge Booking | Steven Miller | bookings.tac@outlook.com | Ph 751 0272 |
| Lodge Committee | Robin Drake | | |

Services

| | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|--|----------------|
| Equipment | Phill Davies | davies.phillip@hotmail.com | Ph 759-4657 |
| HiTAC | Phillip Andrews | hitac.tac@outlook.com | Ph 027 2242308 |
| Instruction | | | |
| New Members | | members.tac@outlook.com | |
| Open Cimb | | openclimb.tac@outlook.com | |
| Social | | social.tac@outlook.com | |
| Trips | | | |
| Website | Matthew Penn | website.tac@outlook.com | |
| Library | Jeremy Beckers | | Ph 758 1413 |

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 (\$22 or \$11). The alternative is to change membership status by contacting the Treasurer prior to staying at the Lodge.