



June 2016

Hi Folks

Welcome to the June issue of the HiTAC.

The FMC newsletter is also attached

Comments / opinion can be forwarded to

Hitac.tac@outlook.com



From the President's desk

I hope you're all looking forward to celebrating the Lodge Birthday on the Monday of Queens Birthday weekend. Let's hope the snow is still around!

There's just one week left to pay your sub without incurring a 20% penalty. There are still a few outstanding, so please get these paid promptly. On that note, one of our members has expressed an interest in taking on the Treasurer's role, so do your bit and make life easier for her!

Tahurangi Lodge lockers - Most of those members who have lockers at the Lodge make great use of them, however there are a few that probably haven't been touched for some time. If this is you, you may like to consider surrendering it so someone else who is more active on the mountain could use it. Please contact the Treasurer if you'd like to surrender your locker.

Club library - currently the Library is "in transit" so to speak. Jeremy has everything packed ready for transportation to it's new home. Again a club member has indicated that he can likely provide a home for our books. So in the meantime the books aren't readily accessible.

For anyone interested in knowing what publications the club holds, go to the club website, click on "Publications", and choose "Library". There's a bit of reading there!

Elaine Sinton

President

General Notices

Queens Birthday – Monday 6th June 1pm at Lodge

Tahurangi Lodge Anniversary

Come and join us on the mountain on Monday for a shared lunch followed by the cutting of the cake at 1pm.

The cake is usually cut by the oldest and youngest members at the event..... Let's see how far we can span the generations this time.

FMC Bulletins

There has been some feedback regarding the FMC Bulletins no longer being mailed out. If you'd like a Bulletin and you can't get to club nights, just email the Treasurer, treasurer.tac@outlook.com and we'll pop one in the post to you, no problem. There will also be some copies up at Tahurangi Lodge, so grab one if you're up there.

Lodge Lockers – Still need yours?

If there are any locker holder who are willing to relinquish their locker, please let Phillip Andrews know HiTAC.TAC@outlook.com or the Treasurer.

There are a limited number available, and we need to make best use of them.

Trip Report

Larapinta Trail

Robin and Bernice Southern

The Great Walks of New Zealand include the Milford Track among many others.

Google "Great Walks of Australia" and you will find the Larapinta Trail on the top of the list.

About the only similarity are the words "Great Walks"

In the second half of April 2016, Bernice and I completed the walk. Officially listed at 223km long, it seems by most accounts to be much longer than that. Indeed half of the trail that I GPS'd, I found longer. An Australian we spoke to that had GPS'd the trail twice found it 280 odd km. Together with side tracks etc., it is probable that our feet walked at least 300 km.

The Larapinta Trail begins (or ends) at Alice Springs which itself is almost slap bang in the centre of Australia and progresses west along the West McDonnell ranges.

The trail itself is organised into 12 sections. We split two - 30km sections in half, meaning we walked 14 days and one of these half sections was the only one not to have tanked water. For that half section, we had to carry enough water to last two days. All the tanked water still required filtering. For Kiwi's used to dipping into almost any river to replenish water, this takes a lot of getting used to. Not one of the many rivers/creeks we walked over had running water.

Anyway, after an almost 6000 km drive in a rented motor home, we arrived in Alice Springs earlier than planned. We put the "saved" time to good use by completing sections 1, 11 & 12 as day trips before we relinquished the motor home. This included the section 12 climb of Mt Sonder, a 16 km return climb, the highest point at 1379M on the trail.

On the 14th April, we started in earnest at section 2, with packs bulging with dehy from NZ, water, normal tramping gear plus an almost 3 kg tent. (Australia doesn't do huts). All this crammed into 45 & 50 L packs. The usual size appeared to be 70 – 90 L.

This 6 day tramp included two graded "very hard" sections which took us 11 hrs and 11 hrs 15 mins next day. On the first of these "very hard" days, we arrived at the camp called "birthday water hole" which coincidentally was the day of my (Robin's) 71st birthday. After dinner, we walked the 1 km to the actual water hole with a view to cooling down and freshening up sans clothing only to find some 4WD campers there that had driven in from the other end. So that stymied that idea!

Eventually we completed the sections to the half way point and at that point Bernice who had magnificently organised the entire trail, had organised a few days back in Alice Springs to reorganise and recharge before completing what was left of the second half. What a great idea that was.

Continuing on a few days later, we were buoyed by the fact that we had completed the most difficult sections and yes, we would indeed finish the entire trail. At the end of the first multi day sections, that was severely in doubt.

On the 27th April, we arrived at Ormiston Gorge, a place where there was a kiosk, showers and a swimming hole not mention rubbish bins. Iced coffees, pizza's and lots of other decadent food. Bernice had scheduled two nights there and we happily put the tent up for the last time.

Because we had already completed sections 11 & 12, all we had left was the short section 10 from Ormiston to Glen Helen which we completed by 11 am, and we had walked the whole trail. That evening we celebrated with an a la cart dinner and a soft bed.

Closing comments: Anyone wishing to complete this walk should spend much time doing their homework before setting out. One girl walking the same time as us had organised it in only one week. She abandoned the walk before the end. Another party we met, ran out of water only 1/3 along the section and had to camp. They sent the two fittest ones to get more water who got lost for a while going to get it. In the words of one of them "I thought we were going to die" You actually have to experience the heat & dryness to understand the comment.

The trail as a whole is more of a route, mostly, but not always well marked, with reflective arrows which show up well in pre-dawn starts.

Some positives:

Amazingly clear night skies on cloudless night after night. The stars were so bright.

The occasional breeze to "slightly cool" the extreme heat.

Spectacular red gorges and escarpments plus beautiful red mornings and evenings.

Makes us realise how fortunate we are in NZ with our plentiful supply of water.

Satisfaction that our aging bodies held together to complete the trail.

Some negatives:

The heat, heat and heat. Probably in the mid-thirties most days and much hotter on the body when the sun hits. We began most sections in the pre-dawn.

Carrying all the water you need for the day. Usually around 4L pp. Others carry about 7L pp.

Ants, Ants and Ants. Varying types. The big black ones could climb over your boots & inside your gaiters as you walked along. And they bite!

Flies and flies. The small bush ones. From about 9 am onwards. They seem to crave moisture on your face and the corner of your eyes. They keep returning to the same spot – very annoying.

Campsites rather primitive compared to NZ huts and toilets. Sometimes it was bush squatting.

Many, many thanks to Bernice, my super organising wife. Without your organising, I would never have done the trail.

Reports – Tahurangi Lodge

Working Bee Sunday 8th May

Mentioning our plans to fix the deck door on Sunday at Club Night saw the 'plan' grow into a working bee with the extra volunteers willing to help. Pete Lethbridge, Phil Whitwell and Stephen Miller took turns in carrying a 2m length of steel up to the lodge that was used to stiffen and straighten the deck door. The door was bent some time ago when it was left open in a storm. Despite being straightened it remained problematic and was becoming increasingly difficult to shut. The steel is now attached to the door and the door is closing again like it did when it was new. There are still some cosmetics to do and reattachment of the hook.



While Pete and Stephen worked on the door; Phil, John Jordan, Greg Sharman, Barbara Hammonds and Erik Larsen continued with the exterior painting of the lodge. The mountain side wall was completed. The deck and wall above the deck were also completed at which stage we ran out of 'George's brew' and couldn't paint the wall below the deck. Fortunately this wall is protected somewhat by the deck and it didn't need to be painted this year. So just in time for winter the exterior painting is complete for another year.

Lodge Renovations

At its last meeting the Executive Committee decided to re-start the Lodge renovation project. Renovating the upstairs area is not included as the focus is on the downstairs area and some specific items that need repairing or replacing. As you may recall the Club first started a renovation project in 2013 which collapsed in 2014 when the Chairwoman resigned. At that time we had preliminary plans drawn for the downstairs area that were subject to the likes of structural engineering etc. The new Lodge Sub-committee will work through these issues to get a final plan and price so the funding requirements are known. In due course, depending on funding the Club is able to get and the amount the Club will have to fund, the Executive Committee will decide whether to proceed with the project.

Stephen Miller

Club Nights...

PLEASE NOTE Club nights start at 7:30pm

First Thursday of each month, at the Foundation for the Blind rooms,
131 Vivian St, New Plymouth

June 2nd : Collaborative Club Night ,(see the Facebook event for details)

Sophie Tucker, Alec Heilbron, Phil Whitwell, Fletcher Miles will all be giving short presentation on some of their exploits.

July 7th : ?

August 4th :?

September 1st : 2017 Open Climb Induction

October 6th :?

November 3rd :?

December 1st : President's shout and photo comp

New Members

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

Francis Garrity Hamilton

Ellen Garrity Hamilton

John Fernando New Plymouth

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 \$45 for non-members. Members free.

Anyone who stays at Taurangi Lodge must write in the overnight book upstairs by the fridge;

1. Their surname and initials.
2. Say TAC or non-member.

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 the Lodge committee 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, or the Lodge Booking Officer.

Contact info on Web page. They may be able to help by supplying the current access code.

SUBSCRIPTIONS Annual subscriptions are set at the Annual General Meeting.

Subscriptions for 2016: FAMILY \$60, ORDINARY (single) \$40, STUDENT (under 18), \$30.

The subscription halves for those joining after September 1st

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

Taurangi Lodge

General info

<http://www.taranakialpineclub.co.nz/pages/lodge.html>

Bookings

<http://www.taranakialpineclub.co.nz/pages/bookings.html>

Club Contacts

<http://www.taranakialpineclub.co.nz/pages/contacts.html>



Follow us on Facebook for updates

Tomorrow belongs to those who can hear it coming"...David Bowie



FMC Change of Guard

Have a listen to a spot of David Bowie - [Changes](#). Nostalgic from the time it was released. Bowie got transience, at FMC we try to avoid it. Our history and attitudes are forged in the mountains, our advocacy hopefully shares some of their durability and the [FMC Bulletin](#) deliberately ch-ch-changes at what used to be known as 'glacial' pace.

But as the mountains change, witness the Young and Dart valleys in recent years, so must we. It is exciting to announce a new FMC leadership team. Peter Wilson is our new President, and Jan Finlayson our new Vice-President. We are also hugely fortunate to gain the services of Anthony Behrens, Julie Millar and John Beech as Executive members, and have Sally Johannesson returning to the Executive after a year focused on the establishment of the Kaimai Ridgeway project. [Meet our new team](#).

FMC, and the wider outdoor community, owe Robin McNeill a huge vote of thanks for his service as President for the last 3 1/2 years, building on his 20 years on the Executive. Robin will remain on the Executive as Immediate Past President and it is believed it will be sometime before Uncle Jacko kicks the bucket.

Mt Tutoko Landings

One thing that won't change is FMC's objection to increased daily helicopter landings on Mt Tutoko's Ngapunatoru Plateau, which will increase helicopter flights into Milford Sound and across the Darrans massif. If, as Bowie said, "Tomorrow belongs to those who can hear it coming", it will not belong to climbers on the Darrans or visitors to Milford Sound unless a wiser approach is taken.

FMC will not accept this illegitimate appropriation of public lands by business.

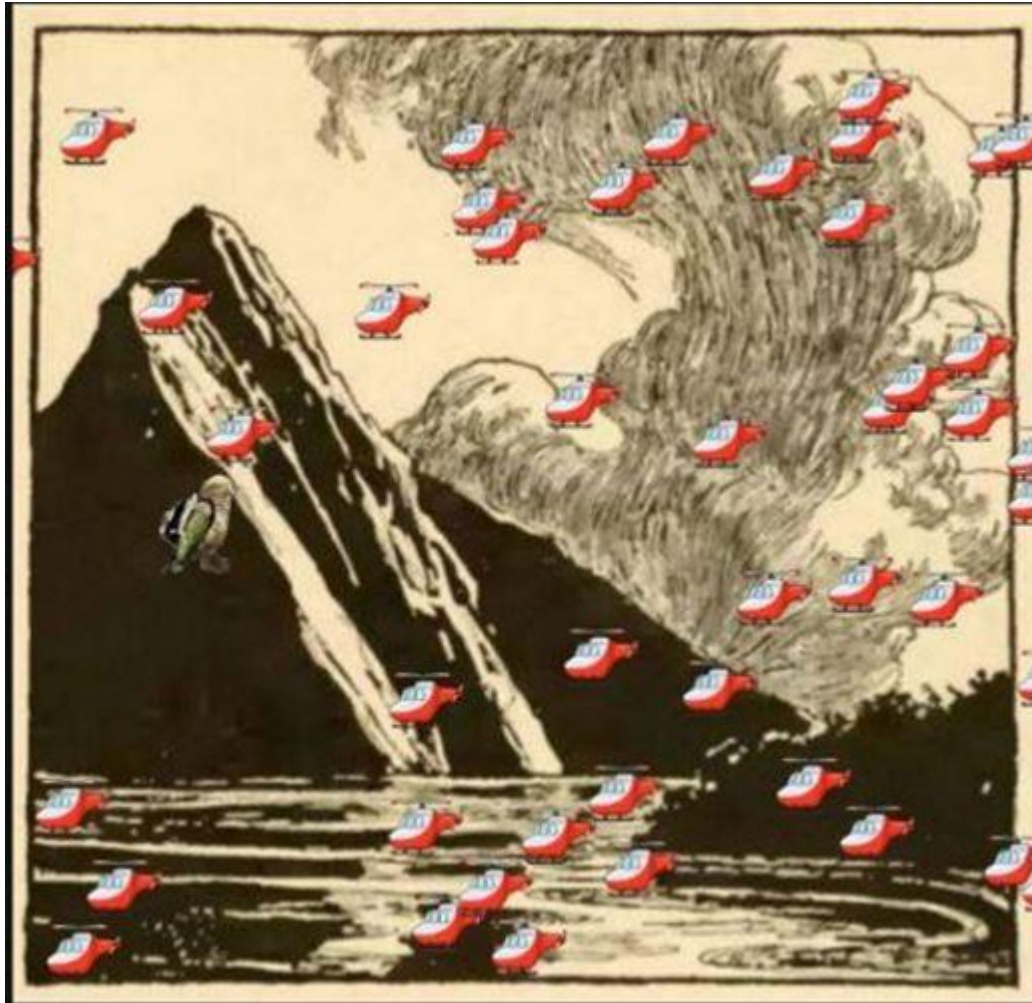
When [seeking a solution for the aviation industry](#), the Department of Conservation has dishonoured its "handshake with the community" in regards to management plans, flipped its statutory duty of advocating for conservation and recreation to the public, ignored the General Policy for National Parks, and disregarded the defined purposes of this place as in the Fiordland National Park Management plan.

It is hard to know what to make of DOC's haste in this decision, and their desperate rationale to either not apply a National Park Management Plan because it is due to expire in a years time, or justify an eight-fold increase in landings as "research". FMC is investigating this, but our latest hurdle is a [\\$1600 charge from DOC](#) for accessing required information through the Official Information Act

.

We see irony in being charged by DOC to do their job for them, and we are asking for assistance from any of you that would like to help us pursue this issue. [Donate to our Mt Tutoko Landings OIA](#) cause on Givealittle.

Or to let off some steam, join us in flinging our gumboots in disgust at the helicopter invasion of the Darrans and Milford Sound. [Play here](#) (pcs/laptops only).



Huts and Tracks

Eighteen months in and the Outdoor Recreation Consortium is really hitting its straps with numerous projects coming to fruition. Recent favourites include: [CUTC's Avoca Hut project](#), [NZDA - Malvern's Esk River catchment hut portfolio](#), [the University of Otago's Kay Creek Hut project](#) and [Roger Woods's Minchin Biv project](#). All sorts of people and groups doing great work for the future of our backcountry huts. We thank you all on behalf of the next generation.

On a similar note, the Soper Shelter was [officially opened recently](#). Built by the Golden Bay Alpine and Tramping Club the shelter is a tent camp that replaces the removed Smokey Drip Hut near Lake Stanley. Soper Shelter recognises the contribution of Frank and Berna Soper to the local outdoor community. Frank built

Lonely Lake, Trident and Boulder Lake Huts in the 1970's, and they were both influential in campaigning for first North-West Nelson Forest Park and then Kahurangi National Park. [Frank's speech](#) and [Ray Salisbury's video](#) capture the spirit of the day. The [FMC Mountain and Forest Trust](#) was very pleased to be able to provide substantial support to this project.

There is talk of calling the [Waingaro-Anatoki loop](#) the Historic Kill Devil Pack Track to promote the great history in this place, including the historic Riordans and Waingaro Forks Hut. It sounds like a great idea. Getting to know a place while sharing the bunks of the pioneers is a powerful experience.



Action: Donate to the FMC Mountain and Forest Trust and support projects like the Soper Shelter - Click here

Pathways to Adventure

On the 28th of May FMC is hosting a workshop at Waitawheta Camp, near Waihi, focused on Backcountry Recreation north of Taupo. Come along and meet with our

hunting, mountain biking, canyoning and DOC friends, over 60 registrations already. The [final programme is available](#).



MUAC
Welcome back to
[Massey University](#)
[Alpine Club](#) who
rejoined FMC recently.
Great to have you back



Annual Report
What does FMC do?
[Read our recent Annual](#)
[Report](#) and let us know
what you think!



Volcanic Alert
Its not erupting but the
[warning status](#) has
been lifted on Mt
Ruapehu with
increased activity



Around the Traps

The [Kaumatua](#)

[Tramping Club](#) is off to the world-famous in Wellington Big Rata today. Don't get lost!



Holdsworth Jumbo

We are interested in any feedback you have on the Holdsworth-Jumbo booking system. Get in touch.



Celebrate Charlie

[Book now](#) for the

Charlie Douglas commemorations at Queens Birthday weekend.



Kudos

This month to the [NZ](#)

[Mountain Film Festival](#)

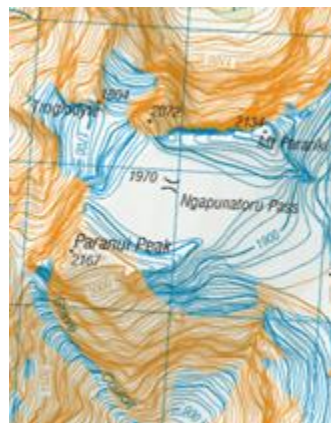
introducing a [Book and Literature event](#). Take a trip to Wanaka.



Photo Competition

The FMC Photo

Competition has been judged with 31 clubs participating, results in the June Bulletin!



OIA SOS

Support FMC

investigating the reasons for a sudden increase of Mt Tutoko landings. [Donate here](#)



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Editor: Jamie Stewart: administrator@fmc.org.nz

You are receiving this email because you are a member of Federated Mountain Clubs or are interested in the work of Federated Mountain Clubs.

Our mailing address is:

Federated Mountain Clubs NZ (Inc)
P O Box 1604
Wellington, Wgtn 6140
New Zealand

