



October 2016

Welcome to the HiTAC.

Comments / opinion can be forwarded to

Hitac.tac@outlook.com

From the President's desk



As mentioned last month the induction briefing for the Open Climb will be held at the November club night, so that is Thursday 3 November, 7.30 pm at the Blind Foundation Rooms. To make this night a little more interesting for you, we're going to include the Gear presentation of Singing Rock Mountaineering equipment that was unable to go ahead at the September club night, thanks Steve! And due to popular demand Stephen Miller will also give a brief talk on how the Lodge downstairs upgrade is progressing. Remember that if you want to help out with the Open

Climb, you will need to attend the Briefing at the November club night.

All Snowcraft instruction has now been completed, including a second Level Two course. Sophie our Trips Co-ordinator has been very active in organising events where the participants of Level One Snowcraft can get out on the mountain and put their skills into practice. Thanks to everyone who is helping out with these trips.

Do make sure you get to the October club night. Past Club Captain Clarissa Benton will be presenting a different Nepal to what most of you will have experienced – with children!

Also just a note to Lodge overnights – do make sure you still enter your name in the upstairs book. Even though we no longer charge members on a nightly basis, it is sometimes helpful to know who has actually stayed the night. Even if it is just to praise that person who has left the Lodge so clean and tidy!

Elaine Sinton

President

Club Library of Mountaineering Books - new home urgently needed!

Could you look after the Club Library? Jeremy is unable to carry on this job, and the club library desperately needs a new home! We've got a great collection of Mountaineering books, many of which are useful reference material for trip planning. If you think you may be able to help out, please get in touch with me.

Elaine Sinton

Ph 755-0977 Mobile 027-352-3831



Trip Reports

Taranaki Snow Cave Weekend

Adventures were had and memories made during our Taranaki snow cave weekend on 27-28 August! With 13 of us in total, 6 went high into Hongis to build their cave whilst the other 7 stayed low in Hongis to build three small 2-3 person caves. The snow cave digging/construction was tougher than we thought. Yet after an afternoon of sweaty perseverance, much shovelling of snow and laughter in cold windy weather, our caves looked great with tunnel entrances, kitchenette areas for dinner, platforms for sleeping and beautifully smoothed walls to stop any drips. Once dinner was cooked, everyone settled into their many layers of thermals and sleeping bags. Despite the chilly howling wind outside in the dark night, the upper cave experienced cosy temperatures of some 4 degrees Celsius and were soon asleep about 9pm. Aaaahhhh. However, the lower caves remained awake for a while and saw that same howling wind blow huge snowdrifts into their caves - by 9.30pm their cave entrances were almost completely snowed in! So the lower caves team decided to abandon to the safety of Taurangi Lodge rather than spend the night snowed in.

Abandoning the lower caves into the dark night of such strong winds & snowdrifts was no easy feat and the team worked incredibly well together to get back safely to the lodge for a cosy night. The upper cave team woke the next morning to a completely snowed in cave entrance which took one and a half hours to dig out!

Sunday was a blue sky day and a hearty breakfast and swapping of stories back at the lodge completed our snow cave adventure. A huge thanks is extended to trip leaders Alec Heilbron and Greg Banks who made this trip happen - this was an awesome weekend and certainly one we'll want to have on our trips agenda next winter!



Tongariro Winter Summit.

A full trip of 22 was unfortunately reduced to 13 when atrocious weather forced us to go for our reserve weekend of 23-25 Sept.

Well done to all of those that re-organised travel plans to make it! With increasing showers forecast as the Saturday progressed, we started early from Mangetepopo car park at 7.30am and headed into a warm yet

slightly overcast and drizzly valley toward Soda Springs and the infamous loo stop.

The weather seemed to lift a little and clothing layers were removed as we warmed up walking up Devil's Staircase. But you guessed it, those layers were back on as we reached the saddle and temperatures dropped! South Crater was very wet and slushy and as we hiked up toward Red Crater in increasing wind, rain and lowering visibility, we wondered if and when snow or ice might appear.

Finally the snow appeared, with white out conditions to accompany, and with frequently changing snow depths over a hard ice base the crampons were finally on as we headed to the summit.

White out continued at the summit and despite no views, it felt amazing to be the only people up there. After a good feed, we went down the steep deep snow slope directly into South Crater and made our way back to Mangetepopo car park.

Woah, what a day! Which was of course finished off with good food & beer in front of the fire at Tussocks. A huge thanks to our Trip Leader Scott Chamberlain who, with the help of Murray Peat and Mike Bone, helped ensure a safe trip and awesome experience for all. Next year we'll be going for Ruapehu Crater Lake as our winter weekend away - keep an eye out for dates!



CLUB TRIPS

Taranaki Weekend Day Hikes September & October

Our trips are for club members who want to practice their alpine skills, get to know Taranaki (and in some cases other awesome NZ mountains), meet other like minded people and have some laughs! Although our trips are not instructional, they will be led by an experienced Trip Leader(s).

The trips are 'free' - except of course for your own costs of equipment, transport, fuel, food and accommodation. Car sharing is highly encouraged and we will suggest accommodation where necessary, so please be ready to

organise your transport & accommodation as necessary. Please note that trips in snow/ice conditions are for club members who have completed at least Snow Craft 1 (or equivalent).

Be sure to keep an eye on our website and facebook page for trips updates too.

Please contact Trips Officer Sophie Tucker, committee2.tac@outlook.com or 021 597 709 if you're interested in any of the below or if you have ideas for future trips, we're keen to hear from you!

October 2016 Trips

- Sat 01 October – Taranaki day hike, starting from Tahurangi Lodge, route pending weather & participants
- Sat 15 October (reserve Sun 16 October) - Taranaki day hike, Fanthams Peak summit
- Sat 29 October (reserve Sun 30 Oct) -Taranaki day hike, Slush Summit

November/December 2016 Trips

- no trips planned - our Trips Officer will be planning summer 2017 trips :-)

Jan-May 2017 - details pending

- Taranaki weekend hike trips will include various summit routes such as East Ridge, Curtis Ridge, Carrington Ridge - watch this space
- An away weekend will also be planned (to South or North island) - watch this space!

Sophie Tucker

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**

October 6th :Clarissa Benton – in Nepal with Children

November 3rd : Open Climb Induction / Lodge update / Gear evening

The Open Climb induction will be followed by a short presentation on the Lodge downstairs upgrade, and that will be followed by (drum roll)... a Gear presentation from Steve Ritson (Singing Rock Climbing equipment).

I know you were all disappointed when we had to cancel the September Gear club night, so your prayers have been answered!

December 1st : President's shout and photo comp

January Thursday 12th : Club Barbeque 6pm.

Merrilands Domain (Audrey Gale Reserve) 6pm BYO Food & Drink. BBQ cooker supplied.

February 2nd : Dave Clough – Crozier in Antarctica

Dave's talk will cover a number of Husky trips in the Ross Island area culminating in an attempted sled trip around Mt Terror to Cape Crozier on Ross Island, Retracing the sledging trip undertaken by Scott's men in the winter of 1911, as documented in Cherry- Garrard's Antarctic classic book "The Worst Journey in the World".

Outlining Captain Francis Crozier's place in Polar history and his part in the disastrous "Franklin Expedition".



New Members

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

Antonio Palma, Susana Carrusca & Ines Palma, Bell Block

Rob, Debbie & Jakob Stone, Stratford

Bryn Evans, Auckland

DOC Volunteer Hut Wardens Needed

Kia Ora

We are currently putting together a volunteer hut warden roster for Egmont National Park for the busy summer season. Ideally we are looking for wardens for Holly and Pouakai Hut. If you are interested in volunteering as a hut warden please have a look at the attached information and roster and let me know what dates you would like to volunteer for (first and second preference) and what

hut you would like to volunteer at. If you are wanting to do dates that are not listed or to stay longer - please get in contact.

To be a suitable hut warden you must have a high level of fitness, have experience tramping on Mt Taranaki and familiar with the tracks, be able to relate to range of people in a friendly manner, fluent in English and have a practical outlook.

There will be a group health and safety briefing prior to the beginning of the season.

Looking forward to hearing from you

Thank you for your help

Denise Goodman

Ranger Community- Kaitiaki, Āo Hāpori

Department of Conservation- *Te Papa Atawhai*

New Plymouth- *Ngamotu*

DDI: 06 759 7197

dgoodman@doc.govt.nz

Conservation leadership for our nature *Tākina te hī, Tiakina, te hā o te Āo Tūroa*

www.doc.govt.nz

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 Tahurangi 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

Tahurangi 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