



## HiTAC - April 2017

Hi Folks, welcome to the latest issue of the HiTAC. Comments / opinion and content can be forwarded to [Hitac.tac@outlook.com](mailto:Hitac.tac@outlook.com)

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## From the Presidents Desk



There's been plenty of activity on the mountain this month, as club members photos on our facebook page will show you. And by all accounts the recent club trip led by Chris, up the Kokowai lava flow left a huge impression on participants! It is great that people are offering their time to lead trips, and also very rewarding that the opportunity to venture to lesser known areas on the mountain is being taken up by a good number of club members.

And an update on recent works undertaken by DOC staff - new numbered marker poles have now been installed to Syme hut, on the Fanthams Peak Summit route like those on the North Ridge Summit route. There are around 70 poles starting with number 1 outside Syme hut and number 70 finishing at the top of the staircase just above Kapuni lodge.

To prevent confusion for visitors to the mountain, it is intended that all of the old poles be removed. To this end DOC staff would be very grateful if club members could pull out the few remaining old poles and bring them down off the mountain.

At the AGM held earlier this month, the subs were all increased by \$5.00. This was to cover the increase in the Affiliation fee that we pay to Federated Mountain Clubs (FMC). Annual invoices for subs, locker rental and ekey hire will be mailed out shortly. So watch out for this in your physical mail box, and make your online payment promptly.

*Elaine Sinton*  
President

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## New Life Members

At the 2017 AGM, Three members were nominated and made Life Members of the club. Life membership commendation address, given by Ivan.

### Alec Heilbron

Alec joined the club in 1990, almost 27 years ago now, and is exceptional in that he hasn't bought any new gear since.

Alec is a regular face on the mountain, and in the Lodge, someone you can expect to see on or around the slopes on any given day. As a club member he has and continues to advise, encourage and mentor club members, In my time at the club and well before that, he has been a regular participant in club trips, presented at club nights, led parties on the open climb and is an annual volunteer for the snow cave parties, or any party on the mountain for that matter. He's a very popular, well liked club figure, who epitomises those values of camaraderie and friendship this club seeks to promote. He has served as club captain in 1995, Club president in 1999 and Vice president in 2001. He has also been custodian of the club library and archive. The committee has no hesitation in recommending he be made life member.

## Lynette White

One Lynette Hearn joined the club, as a fresh faced student in 1964. The surname may have changed but Lyn had been a stalwart of this club ever since. In regular attendance of club functions and activities Lyn is another often sighted and popular face on the mountain and at the lodge. By way of example of Lyn's dedication and service to this club, I am reliably informed that Lyn, has volunteered as medic/ possibly even crater medic, on the club open climb for forty years. Which is a frankly in this day and age a remarkable record of service unlikely to ever be bested. Furthermore, she has been the Patron of the club for the past three years and is nominated again today. I must confess that when I was approached about nominating more life members Lyn didn't enter into our initial consideration, this oversight on my behalf was simply because I assumed she was already a life member, she is such a fixture of the club that this status was taken for granted and we the committee would like to take this opportunity to rectify what we consider a glaring omission to the clubs life membership.

## Elaine Sinton

Finally we also nominate Elaine Sinton. Elaine is another long serving club member, she joined in 1987, almost thirty years ago.

Elaine has an outstanding record of service to this club.

She has been a member of the executive since at least 2007, when she became a club secretary, a position she held for the next 9 years, which according to the club records is the longest tenure for a secretary in the club history. Furthermore during her last two years as secretary she also filled the ever vacating role of club treasurer at the same time. Elaine not only attends every club night but provides baking as well, a member of the lodge committee, tirelessly advocates for and helps with the maintenance of the lodge, helps on open climbs and never misses club events. Elaine became President of the club last year, and she is the first woman to be elected to this role. And while that sounds like a record of less than equal opportunities, if the currently favourable ratio of women in the executive is anything to go by, we as a club are more progressive than our presidential record suggests, and this is due in no small part to the example Elaine provides as a role model in our organisation. Elaine is and has been a dedicated, hard working servant to this club and thoroughly deserves this nomination today.

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## Trophy Winners 2017

Dan Bryant Trophy	Photo Competition Overall Winner	Jeremy Beckers
Maggie Brown Trophy	Photo Competition Runner up	Ivan Bruce
Ben Stephenson Trophy	Most Enthusiastic New Member	Ben Blackmore
Len Lovell Trophy	Club Loyalty	Glen Hodges
Barry Francis Memorial Trophy	Most Enthusiastic Climber	Samuel Cooper
Richard Kirk Trophy	Rock Climber of the Year	Chris Hayes

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## Presidents Report 2016 -2017 Year

This year has been another busy one for the club. The Committee began the year a little short-handed, but soon brought on board Ben Blackmore to cover the Treasurer's role, and Stephen Miller to fill the Committee vacancy.

April saw the reinstatement of a walking track between the Translator and Tahurangi Lodge, as planned by DOC and agreed to by ourselves. The cost of the earthworks for the project was met 50/50 between the club and DOC. The club has undertaken to relocate some plants to the area to assist with erosion control.

As most of you will be aware the weather did not turn out the best for Open Climb day last month. Despite that, we went ahead as planned, and our participants thanked us for it! For most of these people it is their first time ascending the mountain and they were hugely grateful to have had the opportunity to actually be out there accompanied by us. As usual our Open Climb is a major event and would not be possible without all of the volunteers so I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for the huge effort on Sunday 19 February. Thank you!

Chris Hayes again led the team for Winter Instruction. The Snow craft courses continue to be a drawcard for new members with 28 people completing courses with the club this winter. Chris was ably assisted by Dave Bolger, John Jordan, Ivan Bruce, Grant Upson and Scott Chamberlain. We are also grateful to Steve Ritson for picking up the role of Gear Officer, obviously an important liaison for the instruction courses. Thank you to all of these people for your help.

We've had a big influx of new members with 43 families and individuals joining the club over the last 12 months. Membership currently stands at 294, and if you count all family members that is over 500 members!

This year saw us take a further step to streamline the HiTac distribution, with all issues now being emailed only. In hand with this, we also ceased mailing out the quarterly FMC bulletin, and made these

available to collect at club night and you'll also find a supply at the Lodge. On the matter of the HiTac I'd like to thank Phillip Andrews for his continued work as the HiTac Editor and Carey Clow for looking after the club's Website.

The club were fortunate to have two nominees accepted for sponsorship by the Andrew Harris Trust. Ivan Bruce and Liam Todd both completed the Technical Mountaineering course in the South Island mountains in January.

The Lodge downstairs upgrade saw regular meetings held by the Lodge Committee, culminating in the submission of plans to the New Plymouth District Council for approval. Unfortunately the Council has now requested an Engineer's report prior to approving the planned work and this will now prevent the job going ahead this April. A lot of work and planning has gone into the project, and we will see it through to fruition. A big thank you to Stephen Miller who has spear headed the efforts and contributed a significant amount of time to this.

The appointment of a Trips Officer has seen an unheralded level of participation in club events. Sophie Tucker's enthusiasm for this role saw the regular winter trip over to Central Plateau, a Snow Caving trip up in Hongis plus several winter day walks on our mountain. It was pleasing to be able to offer the Snowcraft participants the opportunity to practice their skills. Once the snow went, Sophie organised day trips via some of the more challenging summer routes. We have the South Island in our sights, and it is the Committee's intention that a club trip will take place.

Club nights continue to be popular, evidence of the interesting line up of speakers and activities we've had this year. Thanks to Chris, Joelle and others for organising these.

In closing I would like to thank the Committee for their support and hard work keeping the club running. After a hesitant beginning, I have enjoyed the role of President and would gladly accept nomination for the coming year.

Thank you

Elaine Sinton

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## Trip Reports...

### Khybers – Minarapa – Carrington – Turtle – Tour

18 March

G Hodges & F Miles

A day on the mountain is always an adventure and it's even more fun if you haven't covered the ground for a decade or two. Our objective was to make our way from Tahurangi to the foot of the Turtle to do a traverse. As it turned out we decided it would be more fun to be innovative! and join up as many routes as possible!!!! Fletch in his usual style led us through the Khybers Pass route and up onto the Flounder at a fast pace. Getting to Minarapa Col and the rising sun took a bit of careful route finding due to the increased erosion our mountain is facing. We were surprised how high we had to go to get up onto the Minarapa lava flow. Rather than drop all the way down to below the Hammer we decided to sidle up onto the upper Carrington Ridge. With a bit of careful rock climbing we gained access up onto the Turtle itself at its 3/4 height. The sheer size of this major feature certainly impressed!! A 15m abseil in a very strong southerly and an ascent of Heberley Ridge saw our 'join-up' route complete!!



## Club Trips...

Our trips are for club members who want to practice their alpine & mountaineering skills, get to know Taranaki (and in some cases other awesome NZ mountains), meet other like-minded people and have some laughs! Please contact Trips Coordinator Sophie Tucker, if you're interested in any of the below and would like to reserve a place. Be sure to keep an eye on our website and Facebook pages for trip updates too.

Our trips are not instructional, yet are nonetheless led by an experienced Trip Leader(s) and spaces are limited accordingly. Trips are also weather dependent and 'free' - except of course for your own costs re gear/equipment, transport, fuel, food, accommodation. You will organise your own transport & accommodation as necessary, although we will suggest preferred options to help ensure everything is coordinated.

If you have ideas for a future trip and could lead it, including having sufficient experience of that route and leading others, please also contact Sophie, we're always seeking trip leaders & ideas!

Special note for winter trips in snow/ice conditions. These trips are for club members who have completed at least Snow Craft 1 (or equivalent). If you need to hire equipment please do so in advance via TAC Gears Officer (contact details at end of this HiTAC and on our [www](#)).

*Sophie*

TAC Trips Coordinator

email: [committee2.tac@outlook.com](mailto:committee2.tac@outlook.com)

mobile: [021 597 709](tel:021597709)

## Saturday 22 April 2017

### Bobs Knob/Bluff via Ihaia Track

On the west side of the mountain, this ~16km day hike (return) will take in an increasingly steep old track, past Brames Falls and then up to Bobs Knob 1780m. For those of you keen, a final steep scramble up to Bobs Bluff ~1960m may be an option too. Great views of West Ridge should reward if the weather is clear! Reserve date is Saturday 29 April.

## Saturday 13 May 2017



## Fanthams Peak via Curtis Ridge

This day hike provides an awesome alternative route up to Fanthams Peak via Curtis Ridge, and then back via Kapuni Lodge and a little steep scrub bashing via Kapuni Stream and popping out at Wilkies Pools. Reserve date is Sunday 14 May.

## June 2017 - No Trips Planned

## July/August 2017

### Ice Climbing Central Palteau

Annual North Island Ice Climbing Meet @ Ruapehu/Tukino

Keen on some ice climbing over at Ruapehu? This meet is based at Tukino Lodge over at Mt Ruapehu. We'll let you know details as soon as they are released. Last year's event was early July, with a cost of \$89 for the weekend (covered accommodation, brekkie & lunch on Saturday & Sunday, and Saturday night dinner). 4WD plus snow chains are required to get to the lodge. You'll need to have your own gear and know who your climbing partners are going to be. You'll also need to be an NZAC member. Please let Sophie know if you're keen - it'd be great if we can represent TAC over there!

### August to November 2017 - Winter Trips

Plans are underway for a number of local winter day hikes and a snow cave weekend on Taranaki, as well as our annual away weekend to Ruapehu/Tongariro. Watch this space for further details! Please contact Sophie if you'd like to lead a winter trip, the more trip leaders volunteering the better!

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## Club Nights...

### April 6th: Mike Johns

Join us for an evening with Mike Johns as he gives us an overview of the roles of LandSAR and TACR in Taranaki. A must attend night for all curious about how to get involved, and what can go wrong in the outdoors.



### May 4th: Dave Rogers from DOC

Dave will again be addressing the Club and discussing topics of interest. Details to follow...

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## New Members.

The Club welcomes the following new members, and we look forward to seeing them on the mountain.

Charlotte, Kurt, Cailin & Jeremy Ward	New Plymouth
Callum MacKenzie	New Plymouth
John Salisbury & Gael Gordon	Auck land
Ian Lange	Hamilton
Phoebe Fang	New Plymouth

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## 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

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