



HiTAC - April 2018

Hi Folks, welcome to the latest issue of the HiTAC.

Comments / opinion and content can be forwarded to Hitac.tac@outlook.com

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From the President's Desk



Could all members please make sure you have submitted any Open Climb feedback to me. We are looking at a couple of important changes for future Open Climbs. The first is to make the starting point Stratford Plateau rather than North Egmont. Parking at North Egmont has become nigh on impossible, and those participants who did walk around from Stratford for this year's event gave positive feed back on their walk. Secondly we are looking hard at making a call on the Friday morning as to **which** day we will choose to hold the event, ie the Saturday **or** the Sunday. We feel this is a little fairer to club members regarding the commitment involved, and probably a bit easier on participants also. To have to get out of bed two mornings in a row at 4.30 is really hard for some participants and they just don't bother to try for the second day.

Club trips continue on our mountain with great success, despite some having to be postponed due to weather. We are finding our newer members relish the opportunity to explore new routes on the mountain.

Shortly after the AGM, the club found itself without a Treasurer, as Will had taken on some other commitments in his Stratford community. A plea for help via the club's facebook page brought two offers of assistance. Club member Andrew Darney has now taken on this role and we look forward to Andrew's input at our monthly Exec meetings.

A big thankyou to everyone who came along to the AGM to support the club. Fantastic attendance of 40+, and especially so since it meant a large number of club members were privy to what is planned for the Lodge Downstairs Upgrade. Thanks Sophie and all of the Lodge upgrade team for this thoroughly informative presentation.

Elaine Sinton

President

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

April 5th

Jonny Williams

Jonny Williams (AKA Commander 9.5) joined the Hot Rock climbing expedition in 2000 and spent the next 4 years travelling the world climbing at some classic locations, such as Yosemite and Hampi, as well as discovering and developing new areas and routes such as Misión Lunática in the Cordillera Blanca Peru, and rediscovering ancient climbs such as Mount Wehni, Ethiopia. This illustrated talk will give a snapshot of life on the road in a Big Red Truck as well as an insight into some of the great locations visited.

Fb page <https://www.facebook.com/events/591968567810104/>

www.youtube.com/watch?v=p3MpS1Y58p8

May 3rd

Antarctica - Shaun Norman

Expedition to Mt Erebus, Meteorite Hunting on the Polar Plateau, & Modern Tourism and the South Pole! These are some of the adventures that mountaineer, IFMGA mountain guide, and Antarctica expert Shaun Norman will share with us at our May Club Night. As well as having climbed and guided extensively in New Zealand, and worldwide, Shaun has worked regularly in Antarctica since 1966. This is a unique opportunity to hear about Antarctica from a foremost expert on the continent. It is sure to be very entertaining!



Mice in the Lodge

This time of year as the weather is getting colder, the mice have a habit of entering our nice warm lodge for the winter. Some years ago we had a major problem with mice all over the lodge.

I have a system to catch the incoming mice downstairs. I try and prevent them getting into bunkrooms and upstairs.

Yesterday, I caught 2 mice in traps. I expect that there will more coming in.

Please be aware that the mice also come into the lodge to get food.

Please remove rubbish, clean up all crumbs and any food that is dropped, wipe down the tables and benches and generally be aware of not providing the mice with a food source.

Cheers,

Lyn White

7th April at Tahurangi Lodge



Can you do better than this?

If so, be at Tahurangi Lodge on Saturday 7 April for the great TAC Scone Bake Off Challenge.

Challenge the winners of the last scone bake off.

Sweet Scones and Savoury Scones are all welcome and will be judged and consumed. Trophy for the best, "THE WOODEN SPOON".

Judging will be at 4.00 pm by all, judgers need not be scone makers, so come along and enjoy.



Bring your finest tea cup and saucer to complement your scone. Go to the opp shop to buy one.

Fine print:

All scones must be made at the lodge.

Maximum cook time is 20 minutes so keep mixture small.

Each scone will be rated from 1 to 5, 5 being the best score, Scores added up to be winner.

Judges decision will be final.

All scones are to be consumed at the lodge.

Contact: Gail Geange for any questions. 021733281, ggeange8@gmail.com

Our club trips aim to give you the opportunity to practice your alpine & mountaineering skills, get to know Mt Taranaki (and other awesome NZ mountains), meet other like-minded people and, have some laughs!

It is important to note that our club trips are not instruction courses or formal guided events. Our Trip Leads are experienced club members who kindly volunteer their time to share a route they know reasonably well and meet the above trip aims. Each trip participant is expected to be self-sufficient on the mountain, have the skills to undertake the trip, know the gear to bring, and participate under their own risk and responsibility.

Our trips are of course also weather/conditions dependent. Where possible we try to have a reserve date in case weather changes things. We do not charge for our trips although everyone pays for their own gear, equipment, transport, fuel, food, and in some cases accommodation. If we stay anywhere other than Taurarangi Lodge we'll suggest a preferred option as it's always great if everyone stays at the same place.

If you're interested in coming on any of the below trips, or would like to lead a trip, please contact Trips Coordinator Sophie Tucker on committee2.tac@outlook.com for further details. Be sure to keep an eye on our facebook page for trip updates too.

Upcoming Club Trips...

Saturday 7 April 2018:

Taranaki summit via Carrington Ridge – places available

Welcome to the west side of Mt Taranaki! After walking round to Holly Hut from Taurarangi Lodge on the RMT track, Carrington Ridge rises steeply immediately behind Holly Hut on an overgrown route. As the ridge is gained, scrub will eventually give way to tussock and then rock for some scrambling up to Mt Taranaki summit. General competence with rock scrambling at various angles & exposure, as well as very good fitness for a long day out, is required.

Please contact Club Trips coordinator Sophie (committee2.tac@outlook.com) for further details.

April – June 2018

No trips planned – we'll be organising our winter trips programme! ☺

Recent Club Trips...

Curtis Ridge Fanthams Peak Day Hike – Trip Report - by Gwen Hamilton

I had been excited about this hike since I read about it in the HiTAC last May, the route supposedly included both an alternative route up to Fanthams Peak and a "shortcut?" from Kapuni Lodge to Wilkies Pools. Attempts to find these trails on my own were wholly unsuccessful so I was pretty keen to get out there with our expert trip leaders to learn the secrets of these two hidden routes.

Saturday dawned clear and sunny in New Plymouth, foggy in Stratford (typical). None the less it was a comfortable cool temperature and perfect for hiking. Seven of us met at Stratford Plateau, mostly locals but with Mohammad taking the long route in from Auckland via Taurarangi Lodge. Our expert trip leads, Greg Banks and Phil Whitwell quickly proved themselves indispensable when us newbies had to be called back only 10 minutes into the hike because we had breezed past the track entrance. Greg gestured to a thick section of bush, indistinguishable from the rest, indicating the entrance to Curtis ridge track. Despite our skepticism we pushed through and sure enough, there were some stairs and a narrow overgrown trail winding its way up the ridge line.

The ridge hike was beautiful, with a pleasant gradient and interesting plants. The ridge topped out with a choose your own adventure rock scramble up, over and around the Priest Fingers rock formations. The lifting fog made for some beautiful photo opportunities captured with Sophie's expert camera phone photography skills.



(Curtis Ride and the Priest Fingers were not quite as precarious as this picture makes it look)

At about 2000 meters we picked our entry point and shuffled across the scoria to reach the next ridge, beyond which was the Rangitoto Plateau and some last remains of some hard packed ice and snow, surviving through the hot summer. Lunch was enjoyed at the old hut site on Fanthams while the clouds rolled in and out giving views of the summit.



(Greg ascends a steep ice ledge)



(The summit view from Fanthams, so close horizontally yet so far away vertically)

Now it was finally time to enjoy some downhill. The group spread out on the scoria heading down to Kapuni lodge a few racing down at top speed while Sophie and I choose to enjoy the social aspect of the hike at a more leisurely pace. We were roundly teased at the bottom when it turned out a couple with a baby in a front pack got down the hill faster than we did.

The trail down from Kapuni Lodge was every bit as elusive as promised. Phil seemed pretty pleased that no one was able to find it without his help. Sven, Mohammad and Rob maintained their breakneck downhill pace through the dense scrub with Phil to the river clearing where we found them settling in for a nap by the time Sophie, Greg (nicely taking on the role of tail end Charlie) and I made it down.



(the "trail" down to the river)

A pleasant surprise when the river brought us back to Wilkies and then the formed trail was a welcome relief as we made our way back to the Plateau. Mohammad had the longest day as he then needed to carry on around the mountain back to Tahurangi lodge and recover quickly to get ready for his summit trip on Sunday.

We can't thank Greg and Phil enough for taking us on this great adventure and Sophie for making it all happen. Looking forward to the next one.
- Gwen Hamilton

New Members.

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

Emily Prudhoe	New Plymouth
Wilhelm Erxleben & Rochelle Buys	New Plymouth
Grant, Michele, Kayla, & Aedan McQuoid	New Plymouth
Sheryl Hamilton	Inglewood
Louise McKenna	New Plymouth
Lavilla Dykeman	New Plymouth
Michael Dent	New Plymouth
Kate Terry	Hamilton

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 President, or the Lodge Booking Officer. Contact info on Web page. They may be able to help by supplying the current access code.

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual subscriptions are set at the Annual General Meeting.

Subscriptions for 2017: FAMILY \$65, ORDINARY (single) \$45, STUDENT (under 18), \$35. The subscription halves for those joining after September 1st. For more info contact the Treasurer.

Enquiries to : treasurer.tac@outlook.com

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. We also have (new) 6mm Prussic Cord for sale to club members at \$2 per meter. 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

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 Links

- [Club Homepage](#)
- [Lodge & Bookings](#)
- [Club Contacts](#)

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