



HiTAC - December 2017

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



We've had a huge number of entries for the club's Annual Photographic competition and these are now with the judges. There are some incredibly beautiful photos in the competition. We'll view these and have a few drinks to celebrate the end of 2017 at the December club night, usual venue, Thursday 7 December at 7.30 pm.

The latest FMC bulletins have now arrived and you can collect yours at the above mentioned club night, or follow the link below to view online. FMC actually had the online Bulletin available prior to the hard copy being delivered to clubs. You can see the results of the FMC Photo Competition in this edition. Unfortunately our own club entries did not place on this occasion, but there are certainly some brilliant photos to view!

<https://www.fmc.org.nz/backcountry/>

As mentioned in the last column, if you usually help out at our Open Climb event, but definitely can't make it this year (Saturday 17 February), can you please flick me an email and let me know. If you have friends/workmates who are wanting to register, you can let them know that registrations are open from Friday 1 December on the club's website.

Don't forget to put your name down early if you would like to take part in some of the awesome trips that Sophie has organised. A big thank you to those club members who have put their hand up to lead trips. Club members have an impressive knowledge of our mountain and it is very rewarding to see their enthusiasm to introduce others to some of the lesser known areas.

Elaine Sinton
President

Notices

As mentioned in the Presidents column, the latest FMC magazine is available.

online version here

<https://fmc.org.nz/backcountry/>

Saturday 16 December 2017 -Potluck Festive Season Dinner at Taurangi Lodge

The festive season is upon us so time for a pot luck dinner at the lodge. Bring pre-dinner nibbles, whatever you want to drink and something for the pot luck dinner (mains or dessert). Also bring a pressie (maximum value \$5) which goes in to the secret santa sack (humorous or wind up is good).

Hope to see you up there.

Dinner (that is the eating phase thereof) is planned for about 7pm.

Got any ideas or questions, call Gail Geange 06 7534302, or ggeange8@gmail.com.



Taranaki Alpine Club brings you Subsidised training with OTNZ (Outdoor Training NZ)

TAC subsidized OTNZ skills acquisition courses – River Safety, Navigation, Bushcraft

Outdoor Training New Zealand (OTNZ) is a volunteer organization dedicated to providing us with the skills to enjoy the wilds safely. Check out their website <https://www.outdoortraining.nz/index.php> if interested. Anyhow long story short we have arranged for OTNZ to run a series of skills courses for TAC.

So check out the following and get your name, and contact details to Chris Hayes captain.tac@outlook.com , 021 1577932. Each course is limited to about 10, is fully subsidized by TAC and highly recommended to really improve your skills in the outdoors. OTNZ's website repeatedly uses the Benjamin Franklin quote: "Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn." So be prepared to learn these skills by going over the theory and then doing. Works great. TAC Subsidised courses with OTNZ

24/25 February – Bush craft course. - will include a preparation day/evening

Depending who is keen it can be one of the following or a blend, or if a lot of you are keen we can see if more than one course can be run. Lead Instructor most likely will be Terry Baldwin.

Introduction to Bushcraft.

This course teaches basic bushcraft skills. Suitable for all (minimum age 14 years old).

Preparation Day/Evening covers Safety Requirements, First Aid, Clothing, Equipment, Food and Cooking, Map Reading, Trip Planning

Weekend in the Bush allows group to have hands on experience with environmental Care, Food and Cooking, Map reading, Leadership, Survival & Shelters, Stoves and Fuels. Campcraft, Emergency Fire lighting, Navigation Practical and River Safety.

Intermediate Bushcraft.

Suitable for people who have some experience in the bush and want to develop their skills further.

Preparation Day/Evening covers basic bushcraft preparation topics.

Weekend in the Bush provides basic bushcraft experience as well as Night Travel, Route planning, Off-track Navigation & Leadership, Route Finding and Compass Use.

Advanced Bushcraft.

Suitable for people who have extensive experience in the bush and want to really develop their skills.

Preparation Day/Evening covers basic bushcraft revision and extended trip planning.

Weekend in the Bush provides intermediate bushcraft experience as well as advanced Navigation & Group Management..

Our club trips aim to give you the opportunity to practice your alpine & mountaineering skills, get to know Mt Taranaki (and in some cases 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 Taurangi 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.

Slush Summit

Sat 28th October

A huge thanks to Chris Hayes Club Captain and Ivan Bruce Vice President for coordinating this trip and enabling many of this, and recent, years Snowcraft 1 intake to safely complete their first slush summit. Accompanied by a few of our most experienced club climbers this was a great team effort of over 20 people supporting one another in slush conditions (knee deep on the way down!), low visibility (or barely any visibility at the top!), and a chilly bracing wind at the top (well, we couldn't actually see the summit but I promise you we were there!).



Members Trips and Club Events

Surrey Road Sat 28th October

Congratulations Greg Sharman on your first winter ascent of Surrey! And though conditions were very cold, the ice formations in the south side of the crater were spectacular!!



Lydia Bradey Visit 2 – 4 November

Our November Club night was attended by a huge crowd of approximately 140! I'm sure all those that attended will agree it was an awesome and inspiring talk. The following morning 10 club member children (and 5 adults) attended an introduction to climbing session with Lydia at Crux Rock Gym. As well as scaling walls and ropes, Lydia presented another amazing slide show from climbs all over the world. Despite the very wet weather our Friday evening dinner with Lydia was lots of fun! The poor weather continued and though it didn't allow our ascent of Surrey Road, a number of us were able to did get out for a climb over to Organ Pipe Valley, up to Top Tier, then return to Taurangi via Hidden Valley and Surrey Road ramp.

Thank you to all those that made this event happen!!

A few parting words from Lydia "Thanks so much everyone. I had a really great time and it's a privilege to share what you have in your club, comradery, motivation, generosity and a love of the outdoors.

Thanks again, I will be back

xxx Lydia"

Overseas Trips

Following Lydia Bradey's visit to us in early November Lydia has suggested two possible trips she would be prepared to lead if there was sufficient interest from TAC members or friends:

1. Dhaulagiri BC and two summits (circa 6000m)

Post monsoon October 2018 or 2019. As well as a trek to Dhaulagiri Base Camp an ascent of two 6000m peaks from base camp could also be included.

Lydia is still working on the duration and cost ex Kathmandu as there is a lot she needs to factor in; this will be advised when known.

2. Peak Lenin, 7101m, Kyrgyzstan

Suggested to occur in July 2018 or 2019. Lenin is one of the famous Snow Leopard Award peaks given to Soviet mountaineers that completed the five highest peaks in the Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, & Kazakhstan region.

Again Lydia is still working on the duration and cost; this will be advised when known.

If any club members may have an interest in either of these please contact Glen Hodges
secretary.tac@outlook.com

Upcoming Club Trips...

Sat 16 December 2017

Taranaki East Ridge ascent, Crater Valley/Khybers descent - full

Timed to hit the magic window between East Ridge becoming clear of snow yet the summit crater and Crater Valley still having some snow, this is one of the best circuits on the mountain. A very early start is planned so a stay at Tahurangi Lodge the night before is prudent. You must have completed Snowcraft 1 (or equivalent). In addition, you will also need to have further experience/technical skills which we will confirm with you before your place can

Sat/Sun 20/21 January 2018:

New Trip! Climbing Weekend at Froggatt Edge, Waikato region

Froggatt Edge has quickly become one of the biggest and best rock climbing crags in the Waikato region and most of the routes have been re-bolted with stainless steel ringbolts. This is an informal family-friendly camping & climbing weekend where some of our advanced TAC climbers will be around to encourage your climbing, whether you're a beginner, intermediate or advanced. You will need to arrange your transport, accommodation, food etc and bring all of your gear - and we'll look forward to seeing you there! Please let Club Trips Coordinator Sophie (committee2.tac@outlook.com) know if you'll be coming along or if you have any queries.

- Gear can be hired from TAC Gear Officer Steve Ritson or locally from Bryce's Rock Climbing <https://www.rockclimb.co.nz/hire-gear.php>
- Accommodation suggestion is via Bryce's Rock Climbing <https://www.rockclimb.co.nz/accommodation.php> or camping at the nearby school grounds (details will be forwarded to those interested).

Sat 27 January 2018:

Taranaki Organ Pipes Valley & Pleasant Valley ascent – 4 spaces available

This trip will show off some great features of Mt Taranaki. After a traverse over to Organ Pipes Valley, the ascent will continue adjacent to the Eiger Wall, taking the left hand exit gully adjacent to Snot Gobbler Wall. The climb will then progress up to Top Tier and pick up the Pleasant Valley water course to finish on the crater rim at the Chimney. Descent will be via North Ridge back to Tahurangi Lodge. General competence with rock scrambling is required. A very early start is planned so a stay at Tahurangi Lodge the night before is prudent. Please contact Club Trips coordinator Sophie (committee2.tac@outlook.com) for further details. Reserve date is Sun 28 Jan 2018.

Sat 10 Feb 2018:

New Trip! Taranaki Skeets Ridge – 9 places remaining

Do you know where Skeets Ridge is? No? Then come along and have a look! After an easy walk up Fanthams Peak Track, along Upper Lake Dive Track and further around Fanthams Peak, the route will skirt the top of the Punehu Gorge (the highest point on the Around the Mountain Circuit at 1540m) before reaching Skeets Ridge and, for those who'd like, a scramble up some of the Ridge. Return will be via the same route. (Note. Skeets Ridge can be followed all the way to Taranaki summit, and whilst we won't be doing that on this trip, you can come back in your time now you know where it is!). General competence with rock scrambling is required. Please contact Club Trips coordinator Sophie (committee2.tac@outlook.com) for further details. Reserve date is Sun 11 Feb.

Sat tbc March 2018:

Curtis Ridge – Fanthams – Kapuni Gorge – 8 places remaining

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 down Kapuni Gorge/Stream, popping out at Wilkies Pools. We attempted this trip in May 2017 yet the start of icy conditions prevented the full route from being undertaken. Hence this time we're going earlier for success! General competence with rock scrambling is required. Please contact Club Trips coordinator Sophie (committee2.tac@outlook.com) for further details. We hope to announce exact date for this trip in January 2018 via HiTAC & TAC facebook page.

date tbc March 2018:

Taranaki summit via Carrington Ridge ascent – spaces available

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 down Kapuni Gorge/Stream, popping out at Wilkies Pools. We attempted this trip in May 2017 yet the start of icy conditions prevented the full route from being undertaken. Hence this time we're going earlier for success! General competence with rock scrambling is required. Please contact Club Trips coordinator Sophie (committee2.tac@outlook.com) for further details. We hope to announce exact date for this trip in January 2018 via HiTAC & TAC facebook page.

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

December 7

Photo Competition 2017

Our annual photo competition will take place at the December club night.
Entries have all been submitted, and are with the judges.
Come along and be inspired!

January

No Club night - We are all off Climbing

Feb 1st Annual BBQ

Usual location - Audrey Gale reserve, first Thursday in Feb, 6.00 pm start

March 1st

AGM

Foundation for the Blind rooms, 131 Vivian St, New Plymouth

New Members.

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

Jody Samuel & Peggy Preston , 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 President, or the Lodge Booking Officer. Contact info on Web page. They may be able to help by supplying the

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.

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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