

Just a reminder everyone

This Thursday is our annual BBQ - our first Club night of the year

Head on down to Audrey Gale Reserve from 6pm for some fun in the sun at our annual club BBQ!

BYO food & drink - BBQ supplied.

Here's to a sunny evening, good food, spot of cricket (or similar!) and catch ups



HiTAC - February 2018

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

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

[View this email in your browser](#)

From the President's Desk



Happy new year everyone and welcome to 2018. First up is the Club Barbecue on Thursday 1st February at 6.00 pm at the usual venue Audrey Gale Reserve, Merrilands Domain. The club will supply a barbecue, just bring along your own meats, salads and drinks and don't forget your cricket gear and togs for a swim.

The Open Climb registrations opened early December and at the time of writing there are 132 participants registered. Registrations are coming in steadily so it is quite possible that the event will be fully booked with 200 participants. For those helping out on the day, I will be forwarding an updated Crew plan and information relevant to your role shortly.

Plenty happening on the trips front – see this HiTac for further details and make sure you contact Sophie early to book your place. Some great photos on the club facebook page of last weekend's rock climbing trip over to Froggatt Edge and Castle Rock, Wharepapa South. Awesome to see both young and old (no offence!) enjoying this great rock climbing area.

Also just a reminder, the club's AGM is coming up on Thursday 1st March. Please diary this date, as a quorum of 20 is needed. This is your opportunity to come along and have a say in how the club will be run for the next 12 months. The club Trophies are also presented at the AGM.

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

Feb 1st Annual BBQ

Head on down to Audrey Gale Reserve from 6pm for some fun in the sun at our annual club BBQ!

BYO food & drink - BBQ supplied.

Here's to a sunny evening, good food, spot of cricket (or similar!) and catch ups

March 1st

AGM

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

A great week at the head of the tasman glacier. Bluebird weather provided mint conditions for learning. The biggest takeaway from the week was learning glacier travel and crevasse rescue systems which will prove a very useful skill to have in the toolbox for independent South trips in seasons to come. Great to venture out of the local taranaki mindset and see the bigger picture of NZ mountaineering.

Cheers Andy Harris Trust for the opportunity!

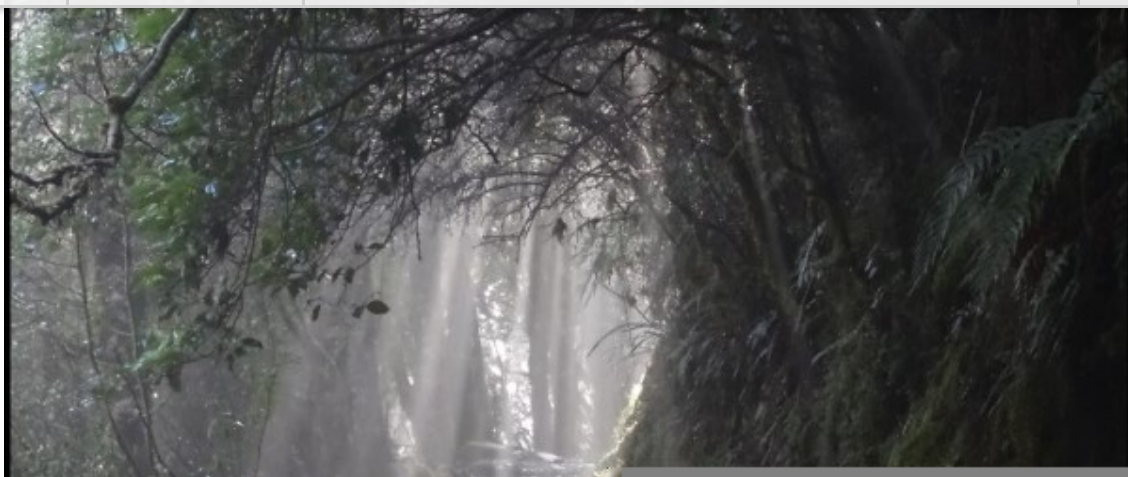
- Fletcher Miles



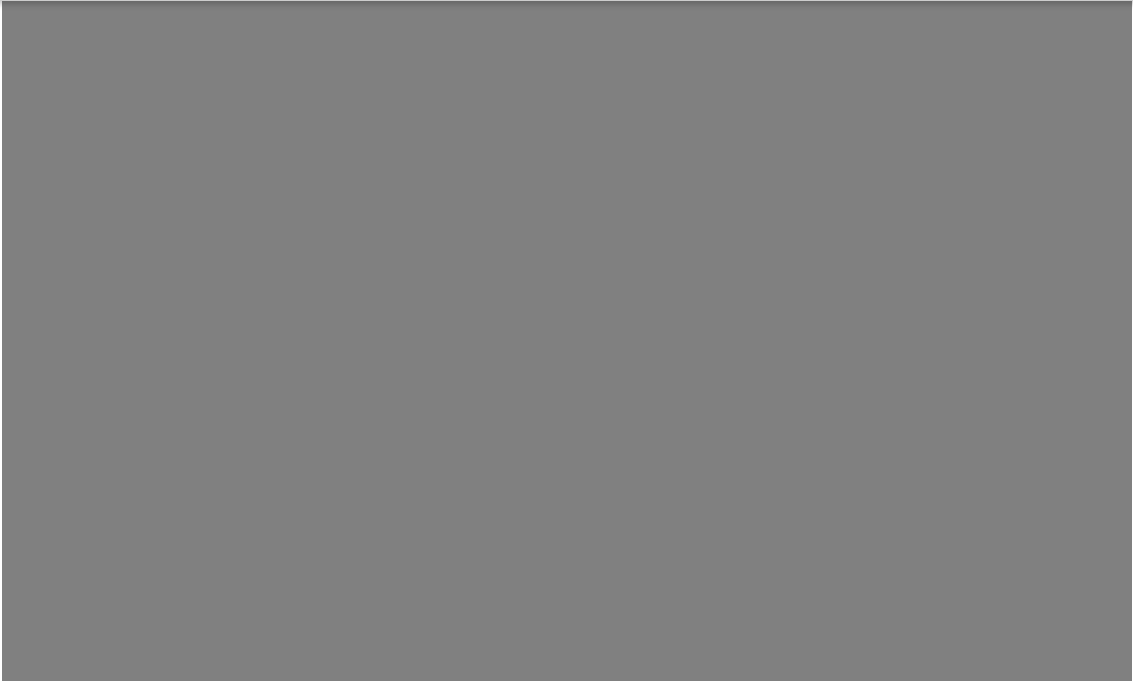
2017 Photo Competition Results



1st Place Overall: G. Hodges - *EPIC*



2nd Place Overall: G. Banks - *Path to Light*



Above the Bushline (with Human Element)



Above the Bushline (without Human Element)

Below the Bushline (with Human Element)



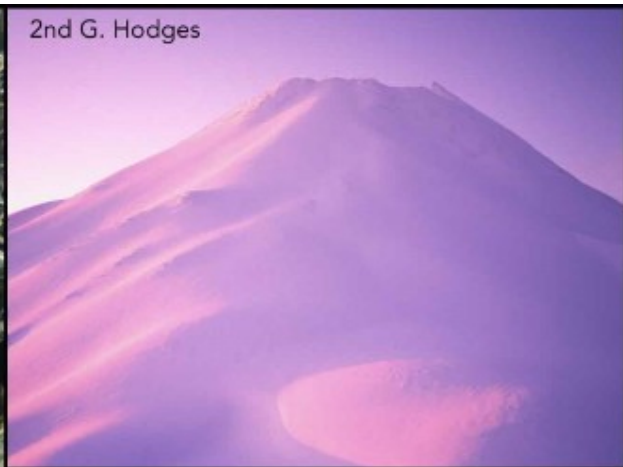
2nd G. Banks



Below the Bushline (without Human Element)



1st G. Sharman



2nd G. Hodges



3rd. S. Ritson

Historic

Humour

Native Flora & Fauna

.... and finally the Photoshop section winner

Club Trips

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 Tahurangi 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...

Sat 10 Feb 2018:

Taranaki Skeets Ridge – only 3 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 17 March 2018:

Fanthams Peak via Curtis Ridge – only 4 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.

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 Tahurangi 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

Recent Club Trips...

We've had a pretty active couple of months with the following club trips successfully undertaken:

- Sat 27 Jan 2018, Taranaki summit via Pleasant Valley
- Sat/Sun 20/21 Jan 2018, climbing weekend at Wharepapa South (Castle Rock & Froggatt Edge)
- Sat 16 Dec 2017, Taranaki summit via Surrey Road

Glen Hodges has also kindly provided a little insight into his own December 2017 summit trip to Aoraki/Mt Cook. See below for some brief write ups & pics. If you're keen to join some of our club trips, scroll down to 'Upcoming Club Trips' to see what's coming up!

January 20/21, Rock Climbing @ Froggatt Edge & Castle Rock

With Froggatt Edge & Castle Rock as our climbing bases, and Wharepapa South school campground & Bryce's adjacent cabins as our homes for the weekend, the hot dry weather provided some awesome albeit some extra-sweaty climbing! From beginners on Grade 12's to advanced technical climbers on grades in the 20's, some 20 club members and their families rocked up (get it?) for a couple of days of climbing & camping fun. Thanks to Chris Hayes, Ivan Bruce & Dave Bolger for suggesting this weekend and to all those that came along; the team work and encouragement all round was fantastic!

Surrey Road – Crater Valley – Khyber Pass 16th December

The initial objective was to ascent East Ridge but with there being so little rain to deplete the snow in November and December the ascent route was changed to Surrey Road. A stunning blue-sky morning greeted the six of us as we departed Tahurangi Lodge at 6 am. Progress up Surrey Ramp as rapid and excellent snow conditions allowed good cramponing from the height of the Apron to the Crater. We summited at 9:40 am but didn't stay long as the wind was 40 – 50 km/hr and blowing cold from the south. Our descent down crater valley was super fun in the softening snow. When the snow ran out and turned to a melt-water stream, we removed our crampons and joined the Khyber Pass trail. Both the old Tahurangi Hut and Nissan Hut sites were visited before returning to the lodge for a well-deserved lunch! A big thanks to Glen Hodges & Fletcher Miles for leading, and the excellent company of Barbara Hammonds, Stacey Hitchcock, Colleen Remus-Bodle, and Ben Blackmore. Well done team!

Sharks Tooth via Pleasant Valley 27th January

An overnight stay at Tahurangi allowed a 6 a.m. start to avoid some of the heat on a morning that dawned brilliantly fine with little wind. We made excellent progress up Organ Pipe Valley, past Top Tier, then up Pleasant Valley. Sharks Tooth was summited between 9:00 and 9:30 a.m.; we then descended the Chimney onto the crater, and headed back down the Lizard and North Ridge to Tahurangi. A big thanks to Glen Hodges, Fletcher Miles, Ivan Bruce, & Murray Peat for leading, and the excellent company of Colleen Remus-Bodle, Krystyna Foulkes, Sophie Tucker, Steve Finnigan, Andrew Jordan, Antonio Palma and Peter Terlinden. What an awesome climb in brilliantly fine conditions; and our first club trip of 2018!!

Members Trips

Aoraki Mt Cook 4th December - G Hodges

The 2017 and 2018 Mt Cook climbing seasons could not have been more different! Last December the constant barrage of southwesterly fronts allowed very few ascents. My attempt then was met with driving snow and bitter cold, but at least the Linda Glacier was super simple to ascend. This year I returned with my good friend and guide

JB for another attempt. The weather had been awesome but with so little snow the peaks were looking in a poor state with little snow. We flew into Plateau Hut on Sunday 3rd Dec and even though strong winds were forecast later the next day we agreed to depart at midnight after learning how fast the snow bridges in the Lindu were deteriorating. JB and I share a similar philosophy when it comes to climbing and especially where a high level of objecting danger exists; "you-need-to-go-fast!". Leaving around midnight and with only two stops to stash gear and layer up (other than some brief stops to belay), we summited at 7 am. Sunrise in the summit rocks and the good snow-free climbing there was a highlight of the ascent. We only spent 5 minutes on top. Our descent was also quick enabling a return to Plateau Hut by 12:30 pm. It was great feeling to have climbed to the top of NZ and return feeling pretty fresh.

New Members.

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

Ashley L'Heureux, Dane Fieldes & Aurora Fieldes	Urenui
Thibault vanderMosten	New Plymouth
Sarah Brooks	Auckland
Sam van Kan	Auckland
Katharina Vogl	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 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.

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

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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