



## HiTAC - July 2018

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 President's Desk



We had a very enjoyable occasion celebrating the 50th birthday of Tahurangi Lodge at the Camp house on Monday of Queens Birthday weekend. More than fifty members, both past and present had a lovely lunch and reminisced about many happy times spent on the mountain. Glen had a brilliant selection of photos on display and we celebrated with the usual delicious cake. Thanks to everyone who came along and helped to make this such a special occasion. We also took this opportunity for George Mason to tell us about the Axe that he has donated to the club which is now mounted on the wall at Tahurangi Lodge (copy included in this newsletter).

FMC Membership cards are now available for those who would like one. In the past we have mailed these out individually, but many members tell us they have no use for them. Given that this is a fairly costly and time consuming exercise, we have decided on a different approach this year. If you would like an FMC Membership card, please email the treasurer:

[treasurer.tac@outlook.com](mailto:treasurer.tac@outlook.com) and Andrew will get one in the post to you.

Alternatively I will also have a supply at club night. Your FMC Card provides valuable discounts on DOC's Annual Hut Pass and at many outdoor retailers including Bivouac, Gearshop and Macpac. Click the link below to find out more:

<http://www.fmc.org.nz/discount-card/>

Just an update on current Exec members – Glen Hodges has resigned from the role of Secretary in order to devote more time to the TACR team. After having several offers of assistance to fill this role, we are pleased to advise that Conrad Murray is our new Secretary.

For those of you who are unable to get to club night to pick up the latest FMC Backcountry publication, you may be interested in reading it online. There is usually a delay of a couple of weeks until an issue appears online:

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

**Elaine Sinton**

President

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## 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

### July 5th

Venue : The Good Home Restarant and Bar

Social Gathering 7-30pm

An opportunity to mingle and meet other club members, share your stories and maybe find a climbing buddy

# August 1st

## PLEASE NOTE WEDNESDAY 6:30pm

### Film evening at Top Town Event Cinema

Come and join us for the yearly TAC movie night. We have a selection from the best short feature films offered in the 2018 NZ Mountain Film Festival. Early bird tickets will be available on sale at our June Club night and will then be released through MacPac .

Keep an eye on the TAC Facebook page for updates.

## Club Winter Instruction

The field dates for this year's winter instruction have been set;  
 Note that all Club hire gear will be reserved for instruction courses for these weekends.

Contact Chris at [captain.tac@outlook.com](mailto:captain.tac@outlook.com) for more information or to register your interest.

**NOTE Snow craft courses are now full.**

### Snow Craft 1

Two intakes, each with 10 spaces

2018-07-21 AM to 2018-07-22 PM, pre-field 2018-07-16

2018-08-04 AM to 2018-08-05 PM, pre-field 2018-07-30

Based at Tahurangi Lodge

You must have stiff soled boots suitable for strap-on type crampons; the club will provide crampons, ice axes, and helmets for use on the weekend

\$75, strictly members only

### Snow Craft 2

8 spaces

Based at Tahurangi Lodge

2018-07-06 PM to 2018-07-08 PM, pre-field (will be an evening at the Crux climbing wall)

You must have completed Snow Craft 1 (or equivalent), and must have your own helmet, crampons, and ice axe; the club will provide hammers, harnesses etc. for use on the weekend

\$95, strictly members only

## 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.

*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).*

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](mailto:committee2.tac@outlook.com) for further details. Be sure to keep an eye on our facebook page for trip updates too!

**Welcome to our winter/spring trips programme!** A huge thanks is extended to those of our experienced club members who have so far offered to lead & assist some of our trips ☺

## Saturday half day 'buddy walks'

### Mt Taranaki buddy walks on slopes near & above Tahurangi Lodge Places available

- ✿ Are you new to winter mountaineering and don't quite know how to gain some winter experience? Our buddy walks can help you!
- ✿ Our buddy walks help fill two key gaps for those who are pretty new to winter mountaineering, namely acquiring skills and being able to safely climb / walk on Taranaki's winter white stuff and, getting to know others to be out there with.
- ✿ The buddy walks are informal, friendly and typically aimed at those wishing to improve their beginner/basic snow travel skills (ice axe, crampons, weather/snow conditions assessment, different terrain/slopes, maybe simple pitching) with a more experienced person.
- ✿ Each buddy walk will be a few hours walk within ½ an hours walk of the lodge, very much tailored to what the group want to practice and their current skill level. You will also start to get to know others that you can meet up the mountain with.
- ✿ The emphasis is on Buddy, i.e. the Buddy does not take complete responsibility for participant's safety. The Buddy is there to help participants make mutually agreed reasoned risk judgements.
- ✿ Group sizes are limited to 1-3 people on the following dates:
  - Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2018
  - Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2018
  - Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2018
  - Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> August 2018
  - September & October dates pending..... ☺

If you're keen, please contact Club Trips Coordinator Sophie ([committee2.tac@outlook.com](mailto:committee2.tac@outlook.com)) for further details.

## Sat 28<sup>th</sup> July 2018 – day trip

### Mt Taranaki winter summit via Surrey Road

Rising immediately behind Tahurangi Lodge, a winter Taranaki summit via Surrey Road offers a new winter route for those who have completed Snowcraft 1 and at least a couple of Mt Taranaki winter summits. You will need to have very good proven crampon technique & experience on frozen snow & ice as well as be confident on winter condition slopes of moderate exposure both in terms of steepness and hardness. An early start from Tahurangi Lodge will likely require an overnight stay the night before... and you'll hopefully catch a stunning sunrise too!

If the above sounds like you, please contact Club Trips Coordinator Sophie ([committee2.tac@outlook.com](mailto:committee2.tac@outlook.com)) for further details. There is no reserve day for this trip; we will have a wet weather plan in case of poor weather.

## Fri-Sun 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> August 2018 – weekend trip

### Mt Tongariro winter summit – Trip Full - waiting list available

Following on from our last 3 years hugely successful winter trips to National Park, this year will see us considering a summit of Mt Tongariro woo hooo! With a return to Mangetepopo car park we will aim to ascend & descend via different routes; there are a couple of ridges we're keen on so final route details will be fine-tuned nearer the day. This trip is beginner level and suitable if you have recently completed Snowcraft 1. TAC will provide avalanche transceivers, snow probes & shovels. You will organise all your other required gear as well as accommodation & transport.

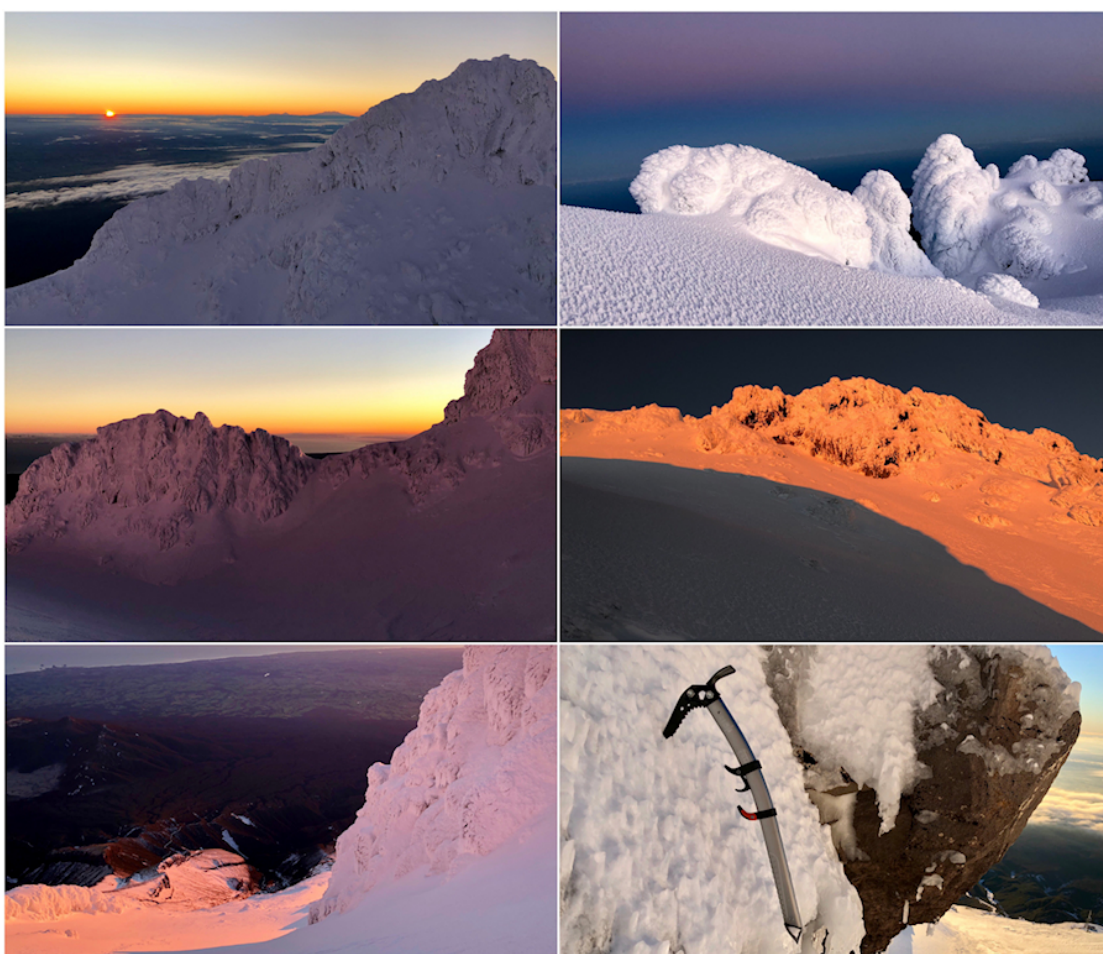
## Other winter trips September - November 2018

Plans are also underway for these winter trips. Watch this space for dates & further details!

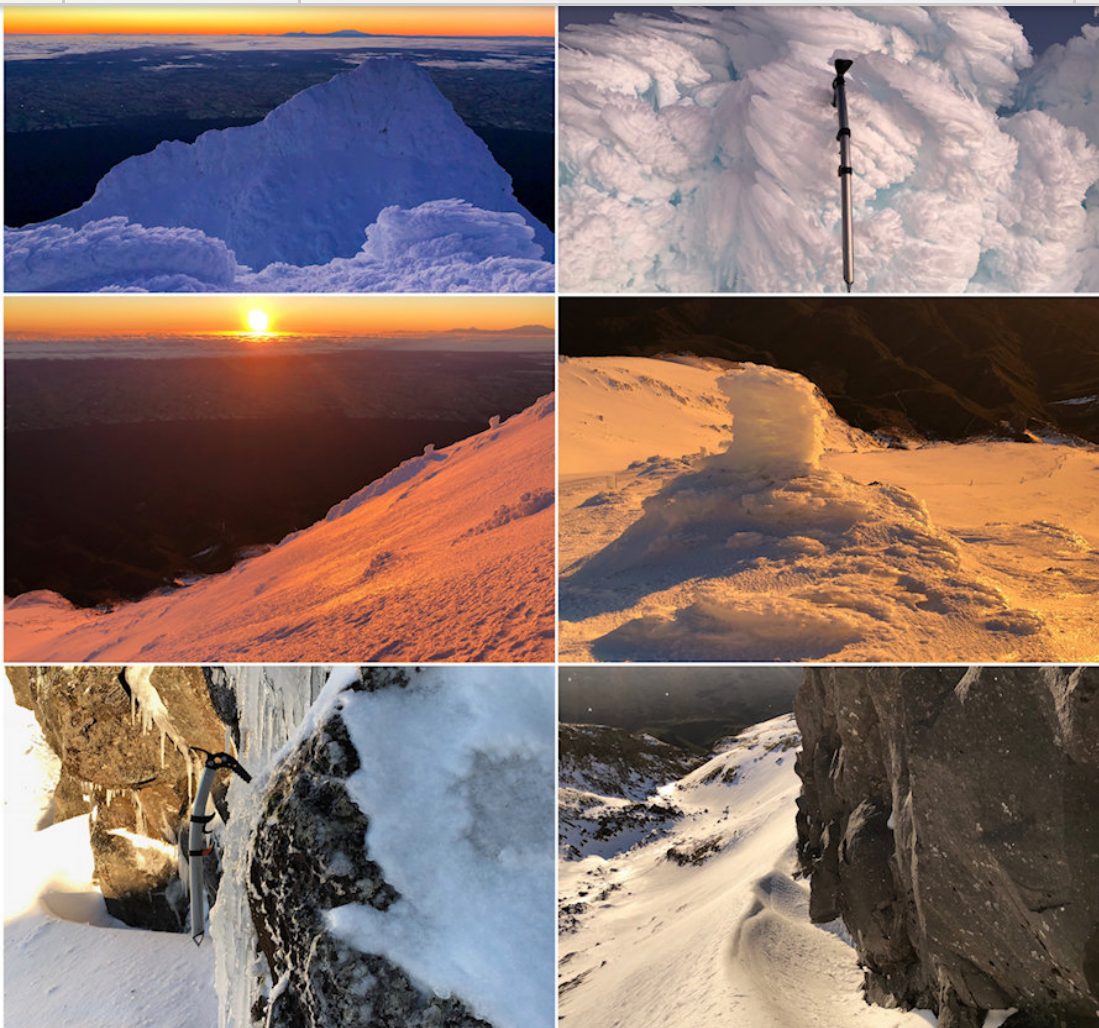
- **Fanthams Syme Hut – September - overnight trip**
- **Fanthams Spring Summit – early October - day trip**
- **Taranaki Slush Summit – late October/ early November - day trip**
- **Other trips? Maybe.....! J**

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## Members Trips ...







More Pictures from Glen Hodges - Recent sunrise ascent up Surrey Road entrance

## George Mason Axe Presentation

### 50<sup>th</sup> Taurangi Lodge Reunion - June 4<sup>th</sup> 2018

At the Queen's Birthday Celebrations at the North Egmont Camphouse, George Mason presented the Club with His ice axe.

The following is a transcript of George's speech.

#### George Mason Axe Presentation

A very good afternoon to you fellow TAC members.

President Elaine – I appreciate your invitation to present some further background on the story behind my vintage ice-axe.

I am celebrating with our club the same birthday year, 1930 – even so we have now both survived since then – it being also the start of the Great Financial Depression.

The real Club founder was our first Club Captain L.V. (Dan) Bryant, great uncle of Andy Bryant who is with us today. He was noted as the first NZ climber to be later invited to join the British Reconnaissance Himalayan expedition led by Eric Shipton in 1935. It discovered the Western Cwm as a new route to Everest. Dan had been climbing in Europe and was then noted for his ice climbing ability.

In 1930 Dan was a teacher at New Plymouth Boys' High School. He joined Rod Syme on the Syme Ridge first ascent of Mt Tasman. That classic route is still one of the most challenging on New Zealand peaks.

Returning to my vintage 90cm climbing ice-axe – it was manufactured in 1953 by the French alpine equipment

company Claudius Simond based in Chamonix, France. It has a forged steel head and spike with wooden shaft of European lindenwood which I maintained regularly with linseed oil.

It is of similar vintage to the original Ed Hillary axe, a replica of which is on display in the North Egmont Visitor Centre. Here it is included as part of the exhibit "Everest – The Taranaki Connection". This display presents a history of TAC members involved in Everest region climbs and can be viewed up at the display window of the centre.

If I recall correctly my axe came from Oscar Coberger's mountain equipment shop at Arthur's Pass in 1954. That year I moved from Auckland to work in New Plymouth, then joining the TAC.

My axe was used during many trips in the South Island, during the 1950's to the 70's. These included climbs in the Dart and Rees, Hermitage, Tasman Valley Spencer Mountains, the Wilkin Valley, Arthurs Pass, the Inland Kaikouras as well as the Tongariro National Park Peaks.

It also assisted me on over 100 ascents of Egmont by various routes. Later skiing from the summit was my early spring and summer activity on Egmont. "I must say in those days we could readily drive up to the Lodge".

So in conclusion I am delighted to bequeath my axe as a replacement for the missing axe owned by my predecessor and Club Patron Brian Scanlan. Incidentally, Brian was on my first winter ascent of Egmont in 1954 along with Rob Barham also here today.

President Elaine, on this fitting occasion of 50 years of the Tahurangi Lodge I leave this vintage Axe in your Club's good care on permanent display in our now half century old Lodge.

Thank you all for attending this special occasion.

# Help us find kiwi in Egmont National Park



*The Taranaki Kiwi Trust and Department of Conservation need more information on kiwi distribution in Egmont National Park – and you can help!*

*Kiwi (North Island brown kiwi, *Apteryx mantelli*) were once very numerous on Mt Taranaki; but in the last 30–50 years their population has fallen dramatically due to introduced predators.*

*It is important to understand where kiwi are present (and absent) to help us best protect them. Over 70 kiwi have been released in a 9,500 ha area on the eastern side of the park in the last 10 years to boost the remaining population.*

## Keep an eye out for kiwi sign



### Footprints

Keep an eye out for kiwi prints in muddy areas and in the snow.

An adult kiwi foot measures approximately 75 mm x 75 mm.

Kiwi have four toes: three front toes and one back claw. The kiwi's back claw is high up at the back

and doesn't leave an imprint except in very deep mud (this fourth toe is easily seen in other birds' footprints, e.g. pukeko, chickens, and pheasants).



### Probe holes

Kiwi probe the ground for food with their long bill. Kiwi probe holes are usually conical in shape, similar in width to an AAA battery, and up to 10 cm deep.

You may come across groups of shallow holes where a kiwi has been searching for food.



### Feathers

Kiwi feathers are grey and downy at the base with brown colouring towards the tip. They often have a wispy appearance, with no barbs holding each segment together.

### Kiwi poo

Kiwi poo has a very distinctive strong smell, and is usually dark grey speckled with white. The size of the poo depends on the age and size of the kiwi.

### Kiwi calls

Adult kiwi call at night to mark their territory and to stay in touch with their mate. Male and female kiwi have distinct calls:

- Male kiwi have a shrill, loud, high-pitched call.
- Female kiwi make a raspy, guttural, croaking sound.

Kiwi calls often repeat for 12 to 25 notes. Kiwi calls can often be confused with other animals, so pay attention to the number of repeated calls.

Visit the Taranaki Kiwi Trust's website at [www.taranakiikiwi.org.nz](http://www.taranakiikiwi.org.nz) to listen to kiwi calls and for more information about kiwi in Taranaki.



If you see or hear signs of kiwi, please email Taranaki

Kiwi Trust at [contact@taranakikiwi.org.nz](mailto:contact@taranakikiwi.org.nz) describing your experience.

Photos would be great too!

You can also text to 027-387-2442.

**Many thanks and enjoy your trip!**



## 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](mailto: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](http://www.taranakialpineclub.co.nz)

Any trip reports, events, gear for sale can be sent to the Editor at [hitac.tac@outlook.com](mailto:hitac.tac@outlook.com)

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](mailto:secretary.tac@outlook.com)

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## Club Links

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

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