



HiTAC - November 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



I hope you are all planning to get along to the Plymouth Hotel this Thursday at 7.30 pm to hear mountaineer Lydia Bradey's presentation. Lydia is being hosted by the Taranaki Alpine Club and this event takes the place of our usual club night.

In 1988 Lydia became the first woman to summit Everest without supplemental oxygen. Lydia is an IFMGA Mountain and Ski Guide, and guides in New Zealand and overseas, especially at higher altitude.

This is an evening not to be missed! We have invited members of the public to attend Lydia's talk as well, so make sure you get there early to get a good seat. The event is free and there is a cash bar available.

We've now held the induction for 2018 Open Climb, with the event scheduled to take place on Saturday 17 February. If you were unable to get to the induction but would like to help out on the day, please contact me. We'll be looking for another 20 or so people in addition to those 40 who attended the induction. Also, something that would really assist me – if you usually help but definitely can't make it this year, can you please let me know now. Club Photo Competition entries have started coming in. Don't forget to send yours in, and please remind others to do the same. See elsewhere in this HiTAC for all the details. We have some very fine photographers in the club - competition promises to be fierce!

[Elaine Sinton](#)
President

Notices

FMC offers safety training scholarships for new Pack-rafters

At the end of this news letter is an offer from FMC re garding training schoalarships for pack rafting.

Saturday 16 December 2017 -Potluck Festive Season Dinner at Tahurangi 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

Sunday 19 November - River Safety Course.

The course starts with understanding river dynamics and hazards. How to evaluate sites for safe crossing. Methods of crossing. Preparing clothing and equipment for a crossing. Managing a group crossing. Pack floating and how to self-rescue if swept away.

Lead Instructor most likely will be Neil Higgins and I can guarantee that you will get wet wet wet on this one – but your river crossing ability and confidence will go through the roof.

Saturday 02 December - Navigation Course.

An in-depth course to teach skills and knowledge to enable safe navigation both in the bush and above the bushline. Suitable for all levels.

Evening of Theory followed by a walk and practical experience.

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.

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..

TRIP REPORTS

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.

Teds Alley:

Taking advantage of some fine mid-week weather F Miles, S Cooper, & G Hodges completed an ascent of Teds Alley after an over night stay at Maunganui Lodge. The ice above 2000m was extremely hard and the wind in the crater very strong!! Well done Fletch and Sam for your first Teds!

Photo credits: G Hodges, F Miles



Fanthams Peak spring summit

Sat 14 October 2017

With all the recent rain, wind and general 'bleurgh' weather, the sun certainly shined for us on this 5-6 hour return trip ☺ With 19 club members declared 'ready to go' at 8am at Dawsons Falls car park, we trudged up the muddy Fanthams Peak Track and stairs at a healthy pace to the start of the scree. Hmmm. No snow here.... yet.

A lower tongue of snow was spotted over some tussock so with a hop and a jump onto the snow, we popped on our crampons and started our way up. With the sun shining, cloudless blue skies, hardly any wind and reasonably soft conditions underfoot, the group separated a little as everyone enjoyed getting into their own groove as they made their way up. As height was gained the soft snow got a little icier, until the final push that required some front pointing – a first for some of the group – which was completed with a freezing strong wind at the top. Sudden changes in conditions are a great reminder to bring the right gear and have it packed in the order you're likely to need it – something a few may have learned today! After a quick bracing walk over the beautiful icy flat to Syme Hut, food, drink (yep, beer for some!) and a little warm up in cosy Syme Hut was well deserved. The cloudless blue skies presented the snowy Mt Taranaki & Fanthams in all their spring glory and the stuff that memories are made of.

With everyone fed & watered, we made our way down albeit rather faster than the way up. A few bum slides may have taken place. And, before we knew it the icy wind was replaced with a boiling hot afternoon and layers were peeled off as we sweltered in the sun.

Our group of 19 club members was made up from seasoned climbers to some of this years Snowcraft 1 intake. A huge thanks goes to Ivan Bruce, Club Vice-President for taking the time to plan and lead this trip for such a large and varied skill group and enabling a fantastic day out for all. Thanks also to all those who came along, helped out and generally had an awesome day!



Upcoming Club Trips...

Surrey ascent with guest Lydia Bradey Full

This trip aims to give our developing club climbers a chance to climb Taranaki and gain valuable insights from famous New Zealand mountaineer Lydia Bradey. Route is via a Surrey Road ascent and Crater Valley descent. Places are limited and participants need to have sufficient experience and confidence to undertake this climb. This trip is full although there is a waiting list so please contact Club Trips Coordinator Sophie (committee2.tac@outlook.com) or Club Secretary Glen (secretary.tac@outlook.com) for further details. There is no reserve date.

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 be confirmed. This trip is full although there is a waiting list so please contact Club Secretary Glen (secretary.tac@outlook.com) for further details. Reserve date is Sun 17 Dec 2017.

Sat 27 January 2018:

Taranaki Organ Pipes Valley & Pleasant Valley ascent – 10 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.

Date tbc Jan / Feb 2018:

Taranaki Summit via Humphries Castle and Khyber Pass - spaces available

Every club member should know this route! It offers the quickest route to the summit and avoids the scree on North Ridge. After a brisk walk up to Humphries Castle via Razorback ridge, the route will follow a rock scramble above & below small buttresses until the steep clean lava flow below Crater Valley is gained. A final traverse onto the Lizard and summer entrance will be followed by the final scramble to the summit. Descent will be via North Ridge back to Tahurangi Lodge. General competence with rock scrambling is required. Please contact Club Trips coordinator Sophie (committee2.tac@outlook.com) for further details. Reserve date is tbc.

date tbc March 2018:

Curtis Ridge – Fanthams – Kapuni Gorge – 10 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. Reserve date is tbc.

date tbc March 2018:

Taranaki summit via Carrington Ridge ascent – spaces available

Welcome to the west side of Mt Taranaki! After walking round to Holly Hut on the RMC track, Carrington Ridge rises steeply immediately behind the 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, and very good fitness for a long day out, is required. Please contact Club Trips coordinator Sophie (committee2.tac@outlook.com) for further details. Reserve date is tbc.

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

Lydia Bradey Visit to TAC 2 - 4 November:

We are very fortunate to have Lydia Bradey visiting us in November.

Her visit has been organised to both promote mountaineering in Taranaki and motivate our members. The program for her visit is as follows:

- Our 2nd November club night will feature a talk by Lydia on her recent ascent of Dhaulagiri 8167m in Nepal.

This will be very entertaining and informative.

Please note the venue will be the Plymouth Hotel. The venue seats approximately 100. The talk starts at 7:30 pm and we recommend that you get there early as this will be a popular event and it is open to members of the public.

Admission is free.

On Friday morning, a group of school children will join us for an introduction to mountaineering with Lydia at the Crux Rock Gym

Lydia Bradey

Ascent of Dhaulagiri 8,167m

7:30pm Thursday 2nd November 2017

Quality Hotel Plymouth International,
New Plymouth

• Free Entry • Cash bar available



Come along and hear from Lydia Bradey about the first Kiwi ascent of Dhaulagiri 8167m. Lydia is the first woman in the world to climb Mt Everest without oxygen. She is an IFMGA Mountain and Ski Guide and guides both in NZ and overseas especially at high altitude.

Hosted by the Taranaki Alpine Club

Lydia summit Dhaulagiri, 8167m,
22th May 2017 Photo by Dean Staples

December 7 Photo Competition 2017

Our annual photo competition will take place at the December club night. Entries can be submitted from 1st October. Last day for entries is Sunday 19 November – please don't be late!!! Please ensure you meet the criteria as outlined below.

Image Format:

- > Sized between 1MB and 5 MB
- > Saved as a JPEG or JPG file
- > All images must be digital...

Submitting Images:

- > Email to president.tac@outlook.com
- > Send one photo per email

File Name:

- > Must start with the Category Code, then TAC, followed by the Caption, in that order
- > e.g. "ABNH TAC Frozen Aoraki.jpeg"

The revised categories for the 2017 competition (to align to FMC) are:

- > ABOVE BUSHLINE (With no Human Element), Cat Code: ABNH
- > ABOVE BUSHLINE (With a Human Element), Cat Code: ABH
- > BELOW BUSHLINE (With no Human Element), Cat Code: BBNH
- > BELOW BUSHLINE (With a Human Element), Cat Code: BBH
- > HISTORIC Code: HIS
- > NATIVE FLORA & FAUNA, Cat Code: NFF
- > HUMOUR, Cat Code: HUM

Conditions of Entry:

- > Adjustments for exposure, white balance, contrast & levels are allowed.
- > Cropping is allowed
- > Stitching for panoramic shots is allowed
- > Removal or insertion of features not in the original image is not allowed.
- > Entries for the contemporary categories must be taken after 1 Jan 2016. Any photos taken prior to this date will automatically be entered into the historic category.
- > What defines a "Human Element"?

"The definition of what is a "Human Element" is flexible but the general intention is: Where the photo contains as anything other than as a very minor feature: people, a hut, a track sign/marker, bridge, ice axe and anything else that has been introduced by humans into the environment then we would define that as having "a Human element". But if a photo has what could be called a Human Element but that element is very small, inconsequential and not a feature in the photo then you could count it as "No Human Element".
- > Multiple entries per category are allowed
- > The winning entries in each category will be submitted to the national FMC Photo Competition (where eligible).
- > Photo's taken outside of the New Zealand Exclusive Economic Zone (i.e. North Is, South Is, Stewart, Chatham, Kermadec, Sub-Antarctic) are permitted for the TAC competition, but are not permitted for the FMC competition
- > The humour section is TAC only (not FMC)

Entries Close Sunday 19 November

New Members.

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

Shahista Nisa & Christian Schneider
Emily McGimpsey

Palmerston North
Palmerston North

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

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](#)

FMC offers safety training scholarships for new Pack-rafters

FMC launched our 'Outdoor Community' campaign in 2015 to identify and enhance the diverse array of recreational pursuits that member clubs and individuals are passionate about. The campaign identifies a pursuit annually that, "takes place in the same environment as tramping and shares the ethos of exploration, companionship and appreciation of nature", and make its development a priority for FMC over a July – June period.

FMC is pleased to continue its support for Pack-rafting for 2017/18 by offering up to [15 safety training scholarships of \\$300](#). As Pack-rafts are so forgiving to paddle, a beginner can often make it down a grade 2/3 river with little technique. This is encouraging many new Pack-rafters on to rivers which are beyond their actual skill level. Our concern is that people will not have the skill to identify and avoid water hazards, the experience to fully understand the consequences, or the ability to perform a water rescue. The aim of the scholarship is to provide a kick-start to the spread of Pack-rafting water skills and safety awareness among FMC members who wish to take up Pack-rafting, but are not from a whitewater paddling background.

FMC has been working with Whitewater NZ and the existing Pack-rafting community to develop safety recommendations and training resources to help our members, and the wider outdoor community, get into Pack-rafting with a more informed and safer learning progression. As part of this collaboration, we've assisted with the formation of the Pack-rafting Association of NZ (PRANZ). These new resources will soon be shared via the [PRANZ website](#), Wilderlife.nz, [Backcountry](#) magazine and other channels. We're also assisting the organisation of a [Pack-rafting meet up 24/25 March 2018](#) to encourage the development of community and the sharing of knowledge.

We're currently promoting the training scholarship via our online channels as well as the November *Backcountry*, but with spring upon us, the window of opportunity to apply for scholarships for training this season is relatively short. So we're emailing all our clubs and individual supporters to ensure all our members have the opportunity to apply if they wish to. We encourage you to pass this email on to your members and friends.

Applications close by 31 November, with recipients announced early December. [Courses dates are on the providers website](#), and it will be the responsibility of the scholarship recipients to book themselves onto a [suitable course](#) with the

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Past Issues

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To learn more about the scholarships you can check out the [news release on FMC.org.nz](#), or [apply for a scholarship online](#).

For any other questions about the FMC Pack-rafting Scholarships, please feel free to email me; dan.clearwater@fmc.org.nz

**Kind Regards,
Dan Clearwater**

Development Officer
Federated Mountain Clubs
021 215 7059
PO Box 1604, Wellington 6104
<https://www.facebook.com/FMCNZ>

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