



HiTAC - October 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



Hi everyone

Just a reminder that the feature event for October club night is the Open Climb induction. Attendance is essential for all of those club members who would like to help out with the Open Climb on Saturday 17 February 2018. Following the induction we'll be watching a climbing movie called "The Long Hope". This weekend saw the first Snowcraft One course take place. Great weather on Saturday saw plenty achieved in the field, and although Sunday's weather took a turn for the worse, plenty of learning was still taking place inside the Lodge. Our club has great instructors who never let an opportunity go by to pass on their extensive knowledge, including what this weather does to the snow pack, avalanche risk etc. Another busy month for the bird life on Mount Taranaki, with six kiwi from Otorohanga and Rotorua being released in the park, thanks to the efforts of Taranaki Maunga and Taranaki Kiwi Trust. [Click here](#) to read more.

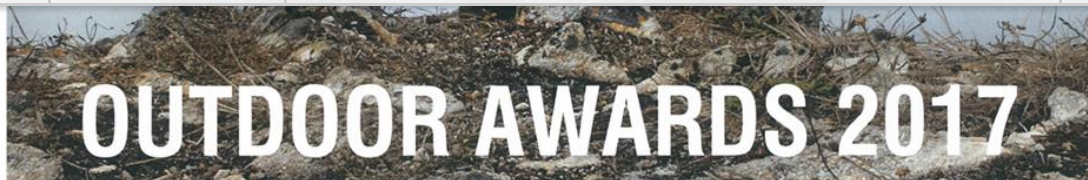
With summer weather just around the corner, it won't be long before the DOC huts get busy. DOC are always looking for volunteer Hut Wardens for Pouakai and Holly huts over the summer period so if you think this sounds like you, contact the staff at DOC's Rimu Street office.

Just a wee house-keeping note for Tahurangi Lodge: If staying overnight, please make sure you enter your name in the upstairs overnight book. Though we no longer bill club members for individual stays (key holders pay an annual flat rate), it is still essential that everyone who stays overnight enters their name in the book. This is the only record the club has of the use that the Lodge actually gets.

Elaine Sinton

President

Notices

**VISITOR
SOLUTIONS****Outstanding Event Award
Highly Commended**

Taranaki Alpine Club Open Climb

Congratulations Taranaki Alpine Club!

On 4th September our annual Open Climb received a Highly Commended at the 2017 NZRA Outdoor Awards. This is an award that all TAC members can be proud of. The judging criteria included:

- Commitment to safety
- Engaging the community
- Volunteer commitment
- Environmental responsibility

As you all know our Open Climb requires a huge team effort to ensure the safety of the people we take to the summit of Mt Taranaki. It's an event we have run since 1948, it's always had great club support and participation. It's awesome to receive this award!!

If any club members would like a copy of the award nomination submission please [click here](#) to email Glen Hodges.



Taranaki Tuataras take on the Bouldering National Championships!

Our local climbing team had amazing results at the Bouldering National Championships held in Wellington 23 -24th September.

Congratulations to the whole team!

Tayla Manning:	1st Place Under 16 Female
Matthew Jones:	2nd Place Under 16 Male
Eddie Waterhouse	5th Place Under 18 Male
Ariana Van Lith	6th Place Under 16 Male
Conrad Murray	6th Place Open Male
Claire Jones	2nd Place Master Female

First TAC Snowcraft 1 course complete for 2017

This weekend we held the first of this year's TAC Snow Craft 1 courses. These courses provide an excellent introduction to staying safe on the mountain in snowy conditions. Skills include how to self arrest, various foot work & ice axe techniques, an introduction to key equipment and how to use it, avalanche awareness, and reading the weather.

Look out for our courses next winter if you'd like to learn these skills and open up a whole new world of mountain time over the winter! Well done to all those who attended and a huge thanks to our volunteer instructors who take the time to plan and deliver these courses.



Lightning targets the lodge!

During one of the recent electrical storms we had a strike to the lodge and this has temporarily taken out the network switch for our web cameras. The team are working on fixing this and hope to have them up and running as soon as possible.



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 club volunteers who have kindly offered their time to share a route they know reasonably well and meet the above trip aims. Each trip participants is expected to be self-sufficient, 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 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.

And finally.... If you're eager to improve your winter skills confidence and mountain knowledge beyond Snow Craft 1, we recommend that you get up to Tahurangi Lodge on a Friday night, or early Saturday morning, when reasonable winter/spring conditions prevail. Other club members are often up there and may be willing to take you up & around the local terrain. ***So, what are you waiting for, get yourself up to the Lodge and experience some of the best our mountain has to offer!***

Sophie
TAC Trips Coordinator
email: committee2.tac@outlook.com
mobile: [021 597 709](tel:021597709)

Recent Club Trips:

Snow Caving Sat 16 / Sun 17 September 2017

With shovels, probes, transceivers, ice axes, crampons, helmets, many (many!) spare layers, sleeping gear, overnight food & cooking gear, and much gortex packed, eight club members met at North Egmont car park at a luxuriously mid morning time of 8am on Saturday. The preceding days had brought heavy snow (hurrah!), followed by heavy rain & high winds (not hurrah), and the avalanche risk had finally reduced from High to Moderate. With continued wet & windy weather forecast for the weekend, it was with some trepidation that the group made their way up the Puffer to Tahurangi Lodge wondering if there would be enough snow, in a safe location, to dig our snow cave.

With no snow at the Lodge we dumped our gear and quickly made our way into Hongis to dig trial pits to assess snow cave construction suitability and avalanche risk. The saturated snow layers gave way easily and after an excellent team discussion, over a cuppa back at the Lodge of course, around the hazards we unanimously decided that Hongis wasn't the place for a snow cave this time. But if we could find a more sheltered safer location, maybe that might work....?

By 12.45pm we hauled our full overnight backpacks on, covered up in full waterproof gear, and wandered onto the RTM track toward the old hut site. As luck would have it we found enough snow in a sheltered location in a gully just above the RTM and having secured our packs to the slope, we started digging our home for the night. It took just over 3.5 hours for eight of us to dig a 6-berth 2-entrance cave with outside dunny. The amount of digging, and volume of never-ending snow shovelling, seemed to go on forever and was a great lesson in team work and shovelling techniques!

By 5pm the snow cave was declared complete a well deserved and much appreciated hot brew was prepared. We returned to the lodge and by 7.30pm the remaining six had cooked and eaten our dinner, scooped some chocolate, carefully changed out of our wet layers (from sweat, rain and snow) into much cosier dry layers, set out tarpaulins and sleep mats and, shimmied into our sleep bags. Were we warm overnight? Did we sleep well? Was it cosy? If I told you that it'd give the game away heheh. Suffice to say we decided on breakfast at the luxury of the Lodge in the morning followed by a walk back down in howling wind and torrential rain. Did we have fun? Of course we did! And even better, we also learnt tons about ourselves and our gear in some tough conditions, and still came out smiling after an awesome 24 hours and 'some' sleep.

An enormous thanks goes to Greg Banks for taking the time to lead this trip and enabling such a fantastic experience on our very own mounsa and to those who came along and made it a great weekend: Alec Heilbron, Sophie Tucker, Murray Peat, William Chambers, Ian Lange, Callum Andrew, Mike Davis.





Sat 14 October 2017

Fanthams Spring Summit day hike - spaces available

This is a great day out and a fantastic opportunity to experience exposure to steeper terrain and conditions on the cold side of the mountain. Lunch at Syme Hut depends how iced up it is! You must have completed Snowcraft 1 (or equivalent). This trip is full although there is a waiting list. Please contact Club Trips Coordinator Sophie (committee2.tac@outlook.com) for further details. Reserve date is Sun 15 October 2017.

Late October/Early November 2017:

Taranaki Slush Summit - date tbc

If you have recently completed Snowcraft 1 with us, then this is the perfect trip for you! We specifically wait for suitable 'slush' conditions for this trip to enable those who have recently completed Snowcraft 1 to have the opportunity to summit Mt Taranaki in 'beginner' conditions. Because we wait for just the right conditions, it is likely the date will be announced at short notice and may not make a HiTAC edition. If you are attending Snowcraft 1 this year you will be issued an email once the date is announced; our TAC facebook page will also be updated so please keep an eye out! This trip will likely require a stay over at Taurangi Lodge the night before to allow for an early start. Please contact Club Trips Coordinator Sophie (committee2.tac@outlook.com) or Club Captain Chris (captain.tac@outlook.com) for further details.

Sat 4 November 2017:

Taranaki Surrey Road ascent, Crater Valley descent, 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. 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 16th December

Taranaki East Ridge ascent, Crater Valley/Khybers descent day hike - 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 Taurangi 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 Trips Coordinator Sophie (committee2.tac@outlook.com) or Club Secretary Glen (secretary.tac@outlook.com) for further details. Reserve date is Sun 17 Dec 2017.

January - June 2018

Various summer/autumn trips

Planning for our summer & autumn trips is well underway! We'll start to announce these trips from November HiTAC onwards. Please contact Club Trips Coordinator Sophie (committee2.tac@outlook.com) if you'd like to lead a trip ☺

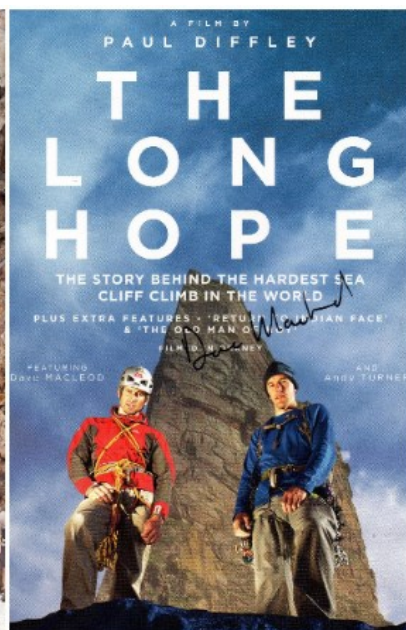
Club Nights...

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

(Extra note: Lydia Bradey club night on Thursday 2 November will be held at the Plymouth Hotel)

Come along to our annual open climb induction to brush up on everything TAC club members need to know for our 17th February 2018 Open Climb. This will be followed by The Long Hope (2011) 60min. The tells the story about the first free rock ascent of the 1150 ft 'The Long Hope' route on the St Johns Head sea cliff on the Island of Hoy; the hardest climb in the UK



November 2 Plymouth Hotel - Club night 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...

> Send one photo per email

- > Entries can be submitted from 1st October
- > Submit your images by Sunday 19 November

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.

- *Greg, Juliet, Harrison and Sylvia Larkin*
- *Eddie Waterhouse*
- *Andrew Gibb*
- *William Chambers*

Update from DOC

As you may know we have started our robin pre-breeding monitoring. Please keep your eyes peeled for robins and if you are lucky enough to see one please let us know straight away.

Purpose and context of the monitoring:

- To find the number of pairs and especially the number of females. We will then repeat this monitoring during the breeding season in Feb to count the number of females and juveniles.
- Females are vulnerable to predation in the breeding season as they sit on the nests.

- The two monitoring rounds will give us an indication of initial translocation success and will guide our decision on whether we release another 50 robin onto the mountain in Autumn next year.

If you see a robin please let us know as soon as possible. All sightings will be followed up soon afterwards, which is why the timing is essential.

If you see two birds, one feeding another this is super EXCITING!

Things to record:

- *Your name:*
- *Date:*
- *Time:*
- *Location:*
- *Number seen and/or heard:*
- *Colour band combination:*

See below on how to read colour bands – basically like a book – top to bottom from **bird's** left to their right.

Contact Emily King (details below) with any information:

Emily King

Senior Biodiversity Ranger - *Kaitiaki Matua (Kanorau Koiora)*

Department of Conservation - *Te Papa Atawhai*

VPN: 8975 | Mobile: 027 293 4673

eking@doc.govt.nz



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.

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 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

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