



## HiTAC - September 2017

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)

[View this email in your browser](#)

---

## From the President's Desk



We've got an early start on publicizing the club's Photo Competition this year.

FMC have revised their categories so we've aligned ours accordingly whilst still retaining the Humour section for TAC competition only. Full details elsewhere in this newsletter.

You'll see that the new categories are either with/without a human element, so please have a read of these new definitions and make sure you submit all of those great photos!

Our winners go forward to the FMC competition which previously took place in April, but now happens in September. So last year's winning photos have been submitted and we await the outcome.

October club night once again sees the Open Climb induction. Attendance is essential for all of those club members who will help out with the Open Climb on Saturday 17 February 2018. Following the induction Glen has organised a climbing movie for us – The Long Hope – a good way to round off the evening.

I've just been looking at the photos on the club's facebook page of the Ruapehu trip weekend just gone. Brilliant photos everyone and looks like it was another great club trip!

*Elaine Sinton*

President

---

## Notices

### Department of Conservation

DOC and Taranaki Mounga are gearing up for an eradication of goats in the National Park. Understanding where goats may be located is important to developing their eradication plan. It would be much appreciated if any reports or sightings of goats around the National Park could be directed to Jared Coombes, Ngamoutu/New Plymouth Office ph 06 759 0350 [jcoombes@doc.govt.nz](mailto:jcoombes@doc.govt.nz)

### Tracks in Egmont National Park

Kia ora koutou katoa,

Recent weather events of snow fall, rain and wind has taken its toll on the track network in the Egmont National Park. I'm asking for feedback by yourselves or your club members on the track conditions in the Egmont National Park.

I have had a number of reports of track damage already and I'm trying to get a better picture of the current situation to determine how best to resource the work ahead of us to get the tracks open to the public.

There will be work DOC staff can get onto reasonably quickly and there will be work that I will contract someone to do. The information I need fed back to me is-

- The name of the track
- Slips that have affected the track (note; is clearing of debris required to get past or has a beaten track already been established)
- Is vegetation obstructing the track (note; do I need a handsaw or chainsaw to clear it and how much of each needs to be cleared off the entire track)
- Is there any other issues on the track that I may need to know.

Thanking you for your support

Heoi ano

David JE Rogers

Senior Ranger.

---

## GEAR HIRE

Please see below in the Club information section for changes to the Gear Hire Section.

See the poster at the very end of the HiTAC for a public event this Thursday

## NZ Recreation Association Outstanding Event Awards

The Taranaki Alpine Club Annual Open Climb in the running for NZRA Outstanding Event Award

A few weeks ago, The Taranaki Alpine Club sent a nomination to the NZ Recreation Association for the 2017 Outdoors Awards which "celebrate individuals and organisations that have been successful in significantly improving outdoor recreation outcomes for participants and clients."

TAC committee all agreed our iconic Annual Open Climb was worth entering in the Outstanding Event category.

Winners will be announced at a special Awards Function to be held in Wellington on Monday 4th September. Keep an eye on the TAC Facebook page and website for the results.

Last year's winner in the Outstanding Event Award went to YMCA Auckland for its Family Camps, held at Camp Adair held twice a year camps since 2014..

You can read more about the NZRA Outdoor Awards on <https://www.nzrecreation.org.nz/Site/quality/awards/outdoors-awards.aspx>

## TRIP REPORTS

### First Winter Ascent

In August our Treasurer Ben Blackmore achieved his first Winter Ascent of our mountain. A big congratulations Ben!!! Ascent via North Ridge and Shitters Ditch.

Photo credits: G Hodges & J Beckers.



## Club Trip - Ruapehu Crater Lake - Sat 26 August 2017

Wow, what an epic day!

Eleven club members met at Whakapapa / Iwikau Village for 7.30am on Saturday morning. After a quick transceiver exercise to remind us how to use this important gear, we made the best of available logistics (or we cheated ha ha!) and took the two chairlifts up to Knoll Ridge cafe. With the morning cloud clearing to a bright blue sky above we headed south up Knoll Ridge, above the ski field, and then south-east to bring us up onto Te Heuheu Ridge just west of Tukino Peak. Conditions up to Te Heuheu Ridge were soft deep snow with a thin crust making sweaty work for new steps. Calm conditions below the Ridge changed to an icy wind as we climbed onto the Ridge and looked across the amazing snowscape of Summit Plateau. With a quick stop to put more gear on and keep the chill out, we walked west and then south along the ridge to the Dome. The clear weather and firmer ridge conditions offered epic scenery along the impressive ridge, culminating in lunch at Dome Shelter with the fantastic view of the steaming Crater Lake below us. That biting wind meant we didn't stop for too long and our return route took us north down Whakapapa Glacier into cloud and much reduced visibility. We finally popped out below the cloud jumped back on the chairlifts down to the carpark. A well earned dinner, a few beers, and watching the All Blacks win over the Wallabies concluded an awesome day out! A huge thanks goes to Glen Hodges for his work as Trip Leader and ensuring the trip route and safety measures were brilliantly managed. Huge thanks also to Assisting Trip Leads Scott Chamberlain, Grant Upson and Dave Clough without whom we could not make our safety ratios and enable so many club members to enjoy the mountains and improve their skills on trips like this. (This trip was aimed at those who had completed a minimum of Snowcraft 1 (or equivalent) - if you'd like to see what other trips we offer please see the Club Trips section of HiTAC as well as our TAC facebook page.)

By Sophie, Club Trips Coordinator



## Remarkables Ice and Mixed Festival

Three club members (Ben, Amy, and Chris) made it down to Queenstown for the annual Remarkables Ice and Mixed Festival this August. This is an annual event organised by the Expedition Climbers' Club (who also run the NZ Alpine Team), and represents the best opportunity to get out and meet other winter climbers of all abilities in the Australasian scene. There were over 150 climbers in attendance this year, with in the order of 80 attending clinics for further instruction ranging from snow craft to leading mixed and ice terrain.

Friday night saw Australian legend Tim Macartney-Snape (of "Sea to Summit" fame) present an engaging talk on the 1984 Australian ascent of a previously unclimbed route on the north face of Mt Everest. The team climbed in a lightweight alpine style, without bottled oxygen, and without the help of high altitude porters. Tim himself was climbing in cross-country ski boots as substitutes for his high altitude climbing boots that had been lost in an earlier miscalculation in the chosen gear cache location!

On Saturday night, New Zealand's own Lydia Bradey gave a very lively presentation on acclimatisation and climbing at altitude. Don't miss out on seeing her at our November club night, when she presents on the (and her) first Kiwi ascent of Dhaulagiri (8,167m); the presentation is 7:30 pm Thursday 2nd November at Quality Hotel Plymouth International (New Plymouth), and entry is free.

This year's showreel (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ElAgoYCfShE>) features:

- Ben (club treasurer) picking his nose at 0:13
- Chris (club captain) climbing "Lovely Gully, M3" at 0:57-1:15

Dates and spaces for the for the 2018 RIMF open soon – why not get a group together and start planning to go down and have a great time climbing on the Remarkables at the next festival!

Photo: Gavin Lang Photography





## Club Trips...

Our trips are for club members who want to practice their alpine & mountaineering skills, get to know Taranaki (and in some cases other awesome NZ mountains), meet other like-minded people and have some laughs! Please contact Trips Coordinator Sophie Tucker, [committee2.tac@outlook.com](mailto:committee2.tac@outlook.com) / 021 597 709 if you're interested in any of the below and would like to reserve a place. Be sure to keep an eye on our website and Facebook pages for trip updates too.

Our trips are not instructional, yet are nonetheless led by an experienced Trip Leader(s) and spaces are limited accordingly. Trips are also weather dependent and 'free' - except of course for your own costs re gear/equipment, transport, fuel, food, accommodation. You will organise your own transport & accommodation as necessary, although we will suggest preferred options to help ensure everything is coordinated.

We're always seeking trip leaders & trip ideas. If you have an idea for a future trip and could lead it, including having sufficient experience of that route and leading others, please also contact Sophie, she'd love to hear from you!

And finally.... If you are eager to improve your winter skills confidence and mountain knowledge beyond Snow Craft 1, we recommend that you hike up to Tahurangi Lodge on a Friday night, or early Saturday morning, when reasonable winter 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](mailto:committee2.tac@outlook.com)

mobile: 021 597 709

## Sat-Sun 16-17 September 2017

### Snow Cave Weekend

4 spaces remaining

If last years snow cave weekend is anything to go by, this will be an adventurous 24 hours on Mt Taranaki! Come prepared to help select a safe site, dig, dig and dig some more to excavate and construct the team snow cave, cook dinner and sleep overnight in it. Expect hard work combined with great fun, and an unforgettable experience that may one day save your life. Places are limited and you must have completed Snowcraft 1 (or equivalent). Please contact Club Trips Coordinator Sophie ([committee2.tac@outlook.com](mailto:committee2.tac@outlook.com)) for further details and to confirm your place. There is no reserve date.

## Sat 14 October 2017

### Fanthams Spring Summit

Full, waiting list 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](mailto:committee2.tac@outlook.com)) for further details. Reserve date is Sun 15 October 2017.

## Late Spring 2017

### Taranaki Slush Summit

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 Tahurangi Lodge the night before to allow for an early start. Please contact Club Trips Coordinator Sophie ([committee2.tac@outlook.com](mailto:committee2.tac@outlook.com)) or Club Captain Chris ([captain.tac@outlook.com](mailto:captain.tac@outlook.com)) for further details

## 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](mailto:committee2.tac@outlook.com)) or Club Secretary Glen ([secretary.tac@outlook.com](mailto:secretary.tac@outlook.com)) for further details. There is no reserve date.

## Sat 16 December 2017

### East Ridge ascent

Full - Waiting list available

Timed to ascend the East Ridge during the magic window between becoming clear of snow yet the summit crater and Crater Valley still having some snow for a descent, 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 Trips Coordinator Sophie ([committee2.tac@outlook.com](mailto:committee2.tac@outlook.com)) or Club Secretary Glen ([secretary.tac@outlook.com](mailto:secretary.tac@outlook.com)) for further details. Reserve date is Sun 17 Dec 2017

## 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

### September 7th

On September the 7th we have the annual "Collaborative Club Night"

Come along to hear some short presentations from some of our club members on their recent trips.

Topics Include: "High Level Mt Taranaki traverse" with William Archibald, Sophie Tucker's Trip into the Mustang region of Nepal, and some Mt Taranaki trips from Fletcher Miles.

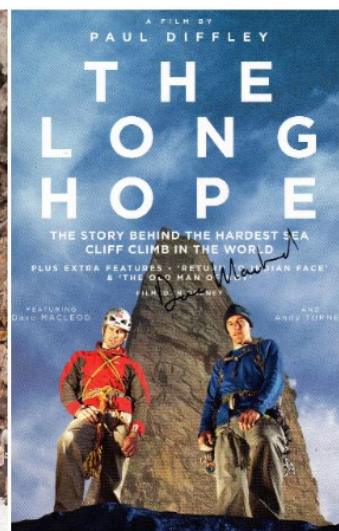
### October 5th

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



Mount Taranaki Crater - Photo by J Beckers



## 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...

### Submitting Images:

- > Email to [president.tac@outlook.com](mailto:president.tac@outlook.com)
- > 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

#### 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.

Karla Fordham	Auckland
Rachel Carter	Wanganui

## 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 availability.

### EVENTS PROGRAMME



## 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)

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

## Club Links

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

Copyright © 2017 Taranaki Alpine Club Inc., All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)





## Evening Lecture

AOTEA UTANGANUI  
MUSEUM OF SOUTH TARANAKI

### Antarctica: Living at the End of the World

Producer of award winning film *Antarctica: A Year On Ice*, Anthony Powell has spent 10 winters in Antarctica, working first as an engineer before becoming a photographer and filmmaker. Anthony will talk about his experiences living in Antarctica and his own personal journey to becoming a full time filmmaker.

Join us for this evening lecture with Q+A session with the producer Anthony Powell, with refreshments to follow.



**FREE ENTRY**

**Thursday 31 August 2017, 6.30pm**  
**Aotea Utanganui Museum of South Taranaki**