



HiTAC - May 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 Presidents Desk



There's been some exciting news this month in that we now have robins back in Egmont National Park! The robins were relocated from [Pureora Forest](#) earlier in April, and to date 50 birds have been released on Taranaki. Reading from the Taranaki Mounga facebook page the day after release: "*Reports from the Mounga today is the toutouwai/robin released there are singing loud and strong, happy in their new home*". Check out Taranaki Mounga website and their facebook page for more info and some great photos: <http://taranakimounga.nz/50-toutouwairobin-now-call-mt-taranaki-home-after-110-year-absence/>

Update to FMC Photo Competition - FMC have looked at rules and timing of their photo competition and made a few changes. The club submits our winning entries to this competition, so some relevant points to note:

1. Previously judged in April, the FMC competition will now be judged in September
2. Categories have been revised as follows:
 - Above Bushline
 - With no Human Element
 - With a Human Element
 - Below Bushline
 - With no Human Element
 - With a Human Element
 - Historic (No change)
 - Native Flora & Fauna (No change)

So FMC have removed the "Hut & Camp Life" and "Outdoor Landscapes" categories. We will submit our winning entries into the above categories as appropriate, for this year. However it may be necessary to rejig some of the club categories to tie in with FMC. Any feedback from the club photographers would be very welcome!

If anyone is looking for the Club Library, it has moved from Jeremy's place to my place. Feel free to contact me if you would like to borrow any books. The library has grown in recent years with some very kind donations from past members and their families.

Elaine Sinton
President

Places will only be reserved once payment has been made, and emergency contact and allergy information has been received.

Snow craft 2

- Prefield: Evening 25 August (at the Crux climbing wall)
- Weekend: 1/2/3 September (starting Friday evening, based out of Tahurangi Lodge)
- Prerequisites: As per snow craft 1, plus snow craft 1 or equivalent training, and preferably a background of roped climbing (e.g. indoor lead climbing)
- Gear: As per snow craft 1, plus your own helmet/crampons/axe. The club will still provide hammers and so on
- Cost: \$95 for current TAC members only
- Places: 1 place remains (at time of printing)

As the SC2 course will involve rope work, in order to make the most of the course and get the greatest benefit from your instructors time, please familiarize yourself with basic rope skills, such as tying in to a harness using a figure 8 knot, safe use of a belay device and the basics of top rope and lead climbing. We recommend that participants in SC2 get down to the YMCA Crux climbing wall during public sessions to learn and practice these skills prior to attending the SC2 course.

The wall is open for public sessions under the guidance of a crux instructor on the following dates:

Thu 5.30-9.00pm, Fri 3.30pm-7.00pm, Sat 10am-4pm.

You might even enjoy it....

Snow Craft 1

[Translate ▼](#)

- Prerequisites: A good level of fitness – try to be able to get to the lodge with your pack on in an hour
- Cost: \$75 for current TAC members only
- Gear: Stiff soled boots suitable for crampons, plus weather-appropriate attire. The club will still provide crampons and so on

Weekend #1: 9/10 September (based out of Tahurangi Lodge)

- Prefield: Evening 30 August (at Sport Taranaki)
- Places: 10 places remain (at time of printing)

Weekend #2: 23/24 September (based out of Tahurangi Lodge)

- Prefield: Evening 13 September (at Sport Taranaki)
- Places: 10 places remain (at time of printing)

Short Film Featuring Mt Taranaki &Tahurangi Lodge

took pictures and made a short film about their adventure. Tahurangi Lodge features prominently. You can read and view at

<https://motionsickness.co.nz/blog/motion-sickness-adventures-mount-taranaki>

Welcome back. Enjoy that?

But wait there's more. The guy who wrote the article and made the film is also publishing a book on 25 awesome out-of-the way places you must visit in your lifetime or something like that and Tahurangi Lodge is one of them! Regard. Watch out for it (the book) on a coffee table near you.

TRIP REPORTS

Sat 22 April 2017 - (Not) Bobs Knob/Bluff via Ihaia

Track

With sunrise peeking above the horizon and a cloudy mountain ahead, ten of us set off from the end of Ihaia Road at 7.15am with our target set on [Bob's Knob \(1,780m\)](#) and perhaps Bob's Bluff (1,960m). The track was a tad muddy (to say the least) and with a few streams to cross, it was definitely a 'gaiter day'! After a quick snack and obligatory loo stop at Waiaua Gorge Hut we continued the upwards slog through winding bush, past a few adjacent drop offs & slips, and a decent view of Brames Falls. The hanging cloud above cleared a few times to tease us with views of Bob's Knob and Bob's Bluff ahead. By late morning we had reached a wonderfully steep muddy ridge - you know - the kind where you know it's going to be a mud-slide coming back down! With a little more scrambling, by midday the team had spread out a little and made it to between 1,300m-1,400m. Unfortunately this was our turnaround time and, with Bob's Knob lurking in the cloud 380m above us, we knew we would have to admit defeat (this time) and plan for an alternative route and summer timing next time! The long muddy wet walk back took a few hours and, having completed a round trip of 23km, we made it safely back to Ihaia Road. No doubt there was some muddy gear to clean up the next day! Huge thanks to Ivan Bruce for leading, and the good company of Will Johnson, Aaron Hickson, Bill Catrledge, Ian Lange, Chris Hayes, Mark Hall, Sophie Tucker, Amy Blackmore and Anjie Blair.



Trip Report - "Verdonified"

It's September, and Jason and I are in the Gorges Du Verdon with every intent of enjoying the fine French limestone. Of course, we want to jump on a classic Verdon multi pitch, so we look through the guidebook and find one; 160m, grades all inside our abilities, and relatively easy access. Sounds perfect.

To get to the climb, we have to walk about 50m from the road to the gorge rim, find the rappel anchor, and rappel down to the starting ledge. It took us nearly two hours of wandering around on the gorge rim just to find the rappel point, not quite where the guidebook suggested. An hour later and we'd made the two 60m rappels required to get to the ledge and found the start of the route, or at least what we thought was the route...

It's noon, and we're finally starting the route. Great. Jason leads the first pitch and it goes for him, while I dog up it wondering what's happened to me. The second pitch is mine and I get going. It's horrible. There's dirt all over everything, loose rocks, and the climbing is much harder than I expected for the grade we were meant to be on. I wind up aiding a large section until I reach a gap in the bolts; I can't climb it free and I can't reach the next bolt. Jason steps in with his sport climber's guns to pass the section and get us to the next anchor. Pitch three goes in a way quite reminiscent of pitch two.

Pitch four and I start out leading again, to now familiar results; choss everywhere, aiding, generally hating the climbing and rueing the decision to come to the Verdon. I reach another impasse and return to the anchor, again. Jason ties in to the sharp end and sets off up to also find it less than ideal, but steps up to the plate and traverses into an area that makes alpine choss look like solid granite. At this point it's about 5:30pm, we're somewhere around 230m above the gorge floor, with 180m down to the nearest escape ledge and a short 40m to the sweet, sweet freedom of the gorge rim.

Section passed and back on the bolt line, Jason finds new difficulties; after numerous 5m falls at one move, he returns to the anchor to consider our options. The bolts are too far apart to aid through directly, we've finally realised we aren't on "Belle Fille Sûre", we have no idea what is beyond this section, we have about two-and-a-half hours of light left, and we're buggered. A hasty retreat is decided upon, with the hope that we can scurry out of the gorge up what looks like an escape ramp nearby.

I aid back up to our high point with a begrudgingly chosen leaver biner, and set up for a single point lower. Back at the anchor, we set up our first rappel (off another leaver) and get going. A second rappel has us at the starting ledge, and it looks like a third will have us on a ledge we can escape off.

Off I go down the third rappel, passing a couple of mysterious tat stations in bushes half way down. Getting suspicious, I flick my rope tails out to check the ground distance. It looks like I'll be able to step off the rappel onto a small ledge just above the ground. Thinking perhaps others just had 50m ropes, I continue down my line to a metre from the end of the ropes, noting a bolt line about 10 or 12m out to my left.

I'm still 5m from the ground, the small ledge is out of reach, and the ground is far too broken to consider a jump. Looking around for options, I see some trees to my left, with the bolt line past these. After a quick survey of the nearby tree, I decide the safest option is to get to the bolt line, so I set about to begin an ascent of the ropes. Reaching for my long prusik, I realise that Jason still has it, 60m above me. A couple of sewn slings later I have a useable foot loop, and I stand up to clip my belay device from "rappel" to "auto-block" mode. Fifteen metres of ascent and endless running back and forth across the wall and I'm hanging from a single bolt, where Jason joins me.

After an eternity of pulling, the ropes are finally touching the ground. Jason goes first, and runs along the ledge to check our escape line out of the gorge in the last ten minutes of light while I coil the ropes - it's now past 8:00pm.

The escape line we thought we spotted from high on the route ends in a bluff to the gorge rim, leaving us with only the option of descent to the foot track next to the river at the gorge floor. Ever positive, we put our (already fading) headlamps on and start descending, only to get bluffed out at every attempt. Left

We reach the end of the ledge two hours after our touchdown, still with no obvious line to the gorge track through the bluff system. After a short discussion, we agree it safest to spend the night in a nearby cave, rather than make unknown rappels in the dark.

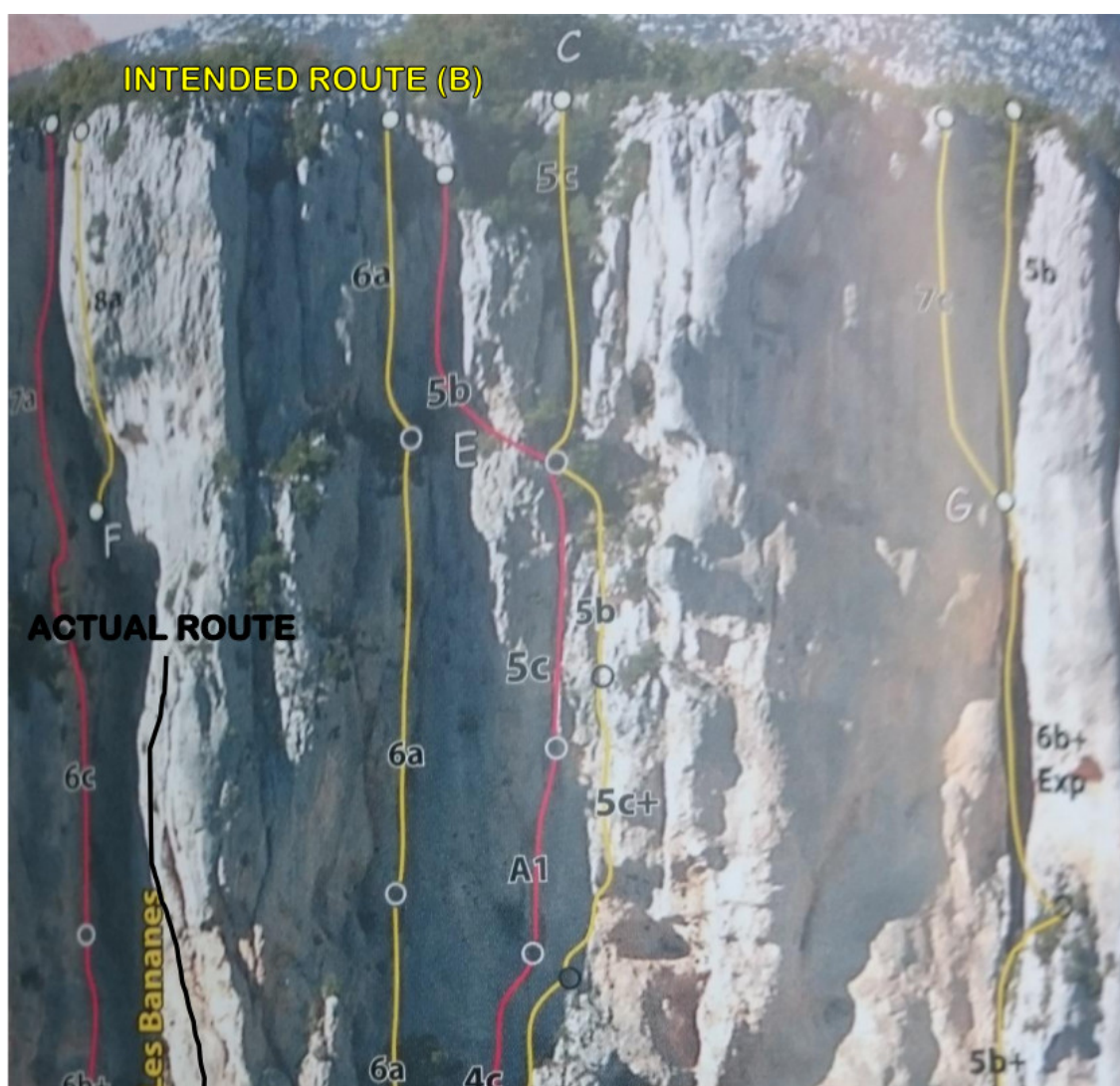
We set up in the cave; jackets on, ropes on the ground, and each picking spots with dignified separation to spend the night. Half eleven rolls around, and we're both freezing. Our social conditioning goes out the window and we start man-spooning for warmth; one rope as a seat, one as a poor blanket, and our backpacks to lean on.

By the time 2:00am arrives, we're both shivering again, and Jason remembers his lighter. A few minutes of scurrying around and we have fire! Cue man hugs, uncoordinated high fives, and Castaway-esque yelling of "fire". Alternating shifts of fire tending and sleeping on the adjacent rock brings us to dawn. Tired, dusty, reeking of wood smoke, but alive and cheerful.

We start looking around in the daylight, and a few short minutes later we find a way to easily walk down to the gorge track, a convenient 20m from where we spent the night. Hitting the gorge track at 8:00am starts us on an hour's stroll out including a couple of long tunnels, and leaves at the roadhead with only a 14km walk left to get back to the car above the gorge. Luckily for us, salvation from the impending ordeal was provided in a couple of Marseillais climbers, snack bars, and a ride to our car.

Two days later, while relaxing in camp, the camp manager dropped by to say hello. After hearing our story, she just shrugged and said "this is the Verdon".

We got the adventure we came for.





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 / 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!

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](#)).

Sophie

TAC Trips Coordinator

email: committee2.tac@outlook.com

mobile: 021 597 709

Sat 13 May 2017:

Fanthams Peak via Curtis Ridge

Only two places remaining! This day hike will provide an awesome alternative route up to Fanthams Peak via Curtis Ridge, and then back via Kapuni Lodge and a little steep scrub bashing via Kapuni Stream and popping out at Wilkies Pools. Winter conditions are not expected. Reserve date is Sunday 14 May.

Fri 30 June - Sun 2 July:

Annual North Island Ice Climbing Meet @ Ruapehu/Tukino

Keen on some epic ice climbing over at Ruapehu?

This ice climbing meet is based at Tukino Lodge over at Mt Ruapehu. The cost is \$89 for the weekend (covers accommodation Fri & Sat, brekkie & lunch on Saturday & Sunday, and Saturday night dinner). You'll need to make your own booking, be prepared to car share, have your own gear and, know who your climbing partner is going to be. You'll also need to be an NZAC member. Further info and booking details are here: <https://alpineclub.org.nz/parkside/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Vertigo-April-2017.pdf> . Please let Sophie know if you're keen - it would be fantastic to pull together a TAC team to represent us there!

Fri-Sun 18-20 August 2017:

Ruapehu Crater Lake winter weekend

Following on from the success of our winter weekends away the last two years, this year will see us attempting Ruapehu Crater Lake on the Saturday, woo hoo! If weather, conditions and energy levels remain favourable on the Sunday, we may also pick an adhoc route to make the most of the weekend. As numbers are limited for safety reasons, there are a number of pre-requisites before your place can be confirmed, including that you have completed Snowcraft 1 (or equivalent), have booked your accommodation and, have your own probe and snow shovel. Reserve weekend is 25-27 August 2017. Also, refer above special note for winter trips.

August to November 2017:

- **Snow Cave Weekend**
- **Fanthams Spring Summit**
- **Taranaki Spring Summit**

Plans are underway for these winter trips. Watch this space for dates & further details! Please contact Sophie if you'd like to lead a winter trip, the more trip leaders volunteering the better!

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

Club Nights...

May 4th: Dave Rogers from DOC

Dave Rogers, Senior Ranger from the Department of Conservation, will be speaking at this month's club night.

Come along and be enlightened about what is happening in our fantastic national park.

June 1st : Taranaki Tuataras Update

Join us for an evening with the Taranaki Tuataras, a sub-group of the TAC, as Peter Lofthouse and co. update us on the successes of the past year.

Since 2015, the Tuataras have been the only climbing club in Taranaki to be registered with Climbing NZ, and as such, represent Taranaki at the national (and international) level in climbing. Taranaki's own Peter Lofthouse is also an assistant to the NZ Youth Team.

Some of the results from the National Cup, held in Hamilton this April:

- Matthew Jones Youth B (Under 16) 1st Place in Bouldering
- Ariana Van Lith Youth B (Under 16) 1st Place in Bouldering
- Tayla Manning Youth B (Under 16) 1st Place in Lead and 2nd Place in Bouldering
- Conrad Murray Open Male 2nd Place in Bouldering



New Members.

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

- Steve Walton

JoAnne Morris

Nicholas Walton

Liam Walton
- New Plymouth
- Paul Scott
- New Plymouth
- Charles Colombo

Brigitte Colombo

Chiara Colombo

Luca Colombo
- New Plymouth
- Duncan Styles

Kevin Conaglen

Kath Conaglen

Sophie Conaglen

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. 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.

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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