



HiTAC - December 2018

Hi Folks, welcome to the latest issue of the HiTAC.

Comments / opinion and content can be forwarded to Hitac.tac@outlook.com

[View this email in your browser](#)

From the President's Desk



Thanks everyone for getting your entries in for the club's Annual Photographic competition. Judge Chris Hill will be at our December club night to present the photos and offer a few tips around outdoor photography. Really looking forward to catching up with everyone on this night and we'll have a few drinks to celebrate the end of 2018. Usual venue Blind Foundation rooms, Thursday 6 December at 7.30 pm.

The latest FMC bulletins have now arrived and you can collect yours at the above mentioned club night, or follow the link below to view online.

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

Organisation has begun for the 2019 Open Climb to be held Saturday 16 February 2019. If you have not had an email from me, and you would like to help out on the day, please get in touch. If you have friends/workmates who are wanting to register, you can let them know that registrations will be open from early December on the club's website.

The downstairs upgrade of Taurangi Lodge is progressing extremely well. Check out the photos on the club's facebook page – lots of volunteers working very hard! Just a reminder that only club members can use Taurangi Lodge at present, and all signage/instructions from the builder must be obeyed.

There will be no January club night, and the February Barbecue sees a new venue for us. Come along to Tupare Gardens, 487 Mangorei Road on Thursday 7 February at 6.00 pm. We will make use of the public barbecue facilities provided.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas with your families.

Elaine Sinton

President

president.tac@outlook.com

Reminder Open Climb February 16th

KEEP OUR WATERWAYS

PEST FREE

Some of New Zealand's fresh waterways have been contaminated with pests. Once established, they can spoil the recreational use of a waterway, as well as the way they look.



WITH YOUR HELP WE CAN STOP FRESH WATER PESTS FROM SPREADING.

PROTECT YOUR PATCH

✓ CHECK **✓ CLEAN** **✓ DRY**

For more information, talk to your regional council or visit www.mpi.govt.nz
For a suspected find of didymo, contact MPI on 0800 80 99 66.

New Zealand Government MPI 00318/APR2013

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua

SNEAKY LITTLE BUGGERS

Stealth is the main way these freshwater invaders travel. Sometimes a stream is infected but the pest isn't visible yet, so unaware, we spread the organism somewhere else.

These pests can start off microscopically small – just one drop of water on a bike spoke or one damp tramping sock can be its way in.

Once you're in the habit, it's not hard to stop them spreading – it just takes a bit of dedication to the cause.

Protect your patch – check, clean, dry.

WHAT ARE THEY?

The list of invasive plants includes didymo, hornwort, lagarosiphon, salvinia and hydrilla.

WHAT DO THEY DO?

- Form mats over waterways, affecting water quality
- Endanger fish and crowd out native species
- Create drowning risks for people and animals
- Aesthetically damage our clean, clear waterways
- Have significant economic impact
- Make recreational activities in the waterway difficult
- Block dams and irrigation systems

FOLLOW THESE STEPS FOR EVERYTHING THAT'S BEEN WET, WHEN YOU MOVE BETWEEN ANY WATERWAYS IN NEW ZEALAND.

✓ CHECK

Remove any plant matter. Check anything that's been in contact with the water, especially things like the tread of your shoe.

✓ CLEAN

Soak or scrub your equipment in water with detergent for at least a minute. Make sure the item is fully wet – without air-pockets or bits the water can't get to.



✓ DRY

Wait till the equipment is dry to touch, and leave it dry for at least 48 hours to make sure any invisible pests are completely dead.

WHICH STEPS WHEN?

A I'm only using one waterway
Great – you don't need to Check, Clean, Dry.

B I have several days between using one waterway and using another
✓ CHECK **AND** **✓ DRY**
As long as your gear is clear of plant debris and has been dry to the touch for at least 48 hours, you're ok.

C I'm moving between waterways
✓ CHECK **AND** **✓ CLEAN**
This is the prime time for spreading pests. Check and clean every item that has been wet.

If possible, leave to dry as well to be really sure.

CLEANING TIPS

- If you're cleaning something made of absorbent material, soak it for longer to make sure it's wet right through.
- Tip the cleaning water out well away from waterways. If you can, use a biodegradable detergent, and make sure it's safe for your equipment too.
- Freezing until solid is an effective alternative to cleaning.
- Use quick-dry or non-absorbent equipment where you can – you'll save on drying time.
- If there are two different waterways you use frequently, it might be easier to have a separate set of gear for each.
- For more cleaning tips go to mpi.govt.nz

Update on the Tahurangi Lodge

Downstairs Renovation Project

Since commencing the renovation works to the downstairs of Tahurangi lodge on 22 October there has been fantastic progress! Below is a brief update so far.

We are employing a builder, electrician, plumber for this project all of whom know the lodge really well. Also, to

floors, digging trenches, moving materials, cleaning up and, coordinating all manner of things, a **HOSE THANK YOU** goes to all of you who have helped, are helping, and are no doubt yet to help - we couldn't do this project without your hard work & dedication ☺

As at 25 November:

- The walls creating the old SAR & Maintenance 'rooms' are now gone, as is one of the walls by the entrance door, which has really opened up the downstairs space
- the old drying room is shaping up well to be our new bathroom, with works to this area almost complete including.... new toilets, shower, basins, internal/external drainage, windows, ventilation system, electrics, wall & ceiling linings, doors, floor coating
- the majority of materials were transported to the lodge by 4WD to the translator tower and then either by motorised wheelbarrow or the strong arms & legs of many volunteers; one helicopter trip was also completed to transport the largest materials to the lodge as well as remove demolition materials so far
- the NPDC building inspector passed the first inspection

With completion of the new bathroom almost complete, December will see complete demolition of the old/existing bathrooms fittings & walls which will complete the opening up of the downstairs space. This final demolition will then be followed by installation of new wall & ceiling linings, new lights & electrics, new floor coating & finish, and new club-member-handmade pack racks, cabinetry, seat benches..... all in time for Christmas we hope!



Club members may use the lodge during the day/overnight. However please bear in mind the below constraints.

- Non-members will not be granted overnight stays.
- One bunk room and all of upstairs is fully functional. Power & water may be off for very short periods.
- At least one toilet and one sink is available. The shower may be available.
- The dry room is not available.
- Places to put, hang, store gear & boots is not readily available. Please keep your boots & gear downstairs in an area that is suitably clear.
- The construction team will ensure safe access in/out of the lodge – please follow instructions from them and

downstairs layout, reducing future maintenance, and providing a new bathroom, more effective drying room, better gear storage and new lockers. Construction will take place from late October through to late January. The total budget of this major project for the club is \$125,000. Over 60% of the funds have been very kindly granted from TSB (\$50,000), New Zealand Community Trust (\$20,000) and Taranaki Electricity Trust (\$10,000).

Sophie Tucker, Project Manager, Taurangi Lodge Downstairs Renovation Project

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

December 6th Photo Comp & end of year shout.

January No Club night - Enjoy the break

February 7th 6-00pm

or 6-30 or whenever you want to turn up

BBQ at Tupare

Come and join us for the first Club night of the year.

Please note change in Location - Tupare on Mangorei Road

The club will provide the cooking machine - just bring your food, a few drinks, and whatever else you want to bring.

March 7th 7-30 AGM

Come and have a say on the running of your club.

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 Taurangi 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).

Upcoming Club Trips

A huge thanks, as always, is extended to those of our experienced club members who volunteer their time to lead & assist our club trips. We couldn't run our trips with you! 😊

Sat 24 & Sun 25 November 2018 - weekend trip

Fanthams Peak summit & Kapuni Lodge overnighter

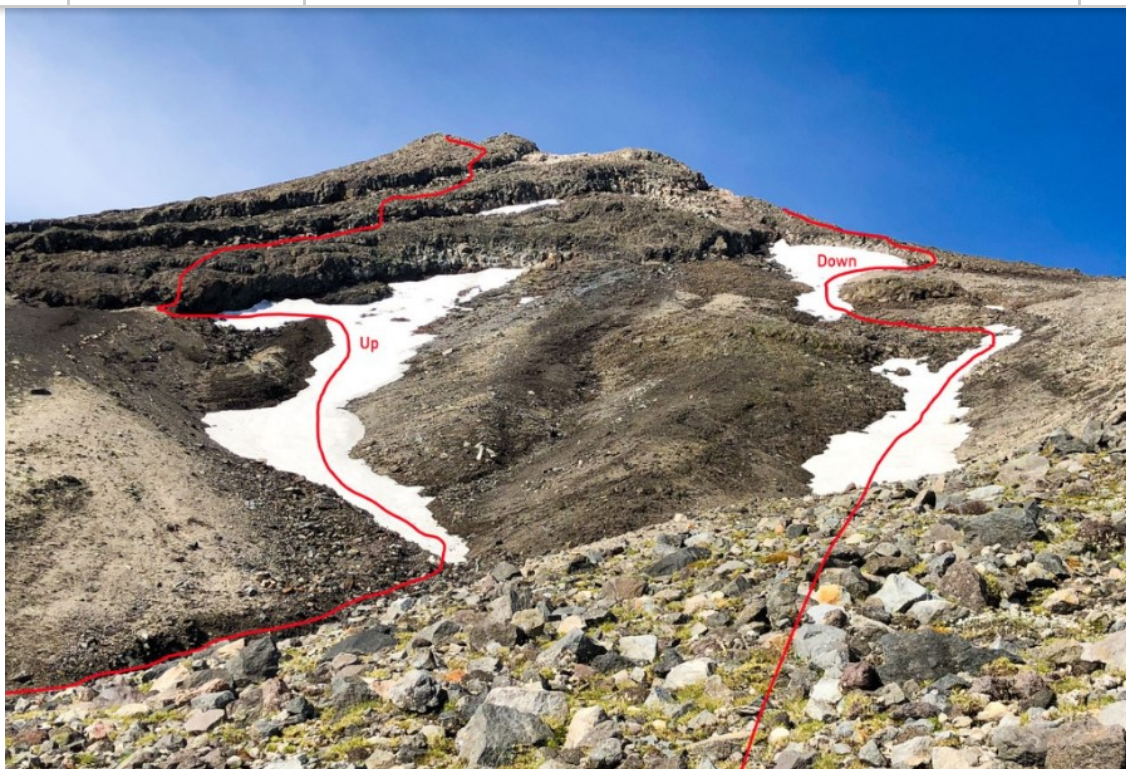
This trip was unfortunately cancelled due to pretty awful weather up there all weekend 😞 A huge thanks nonetheless to Glenys Grant for proposing the trip!

Sat 19 January 2019 – day trip

Mt Taranaki Sharks Tooth via Blondies & Surrey

This is a fantastic mid-summer route which picks the route via as much remaining snow as possible, from North Ridge across Snow Valley and up Blondies, Surrey and onto Sharks Tooth. Descent will be via the Chimney, Crater, Lizard with options to avoid scoria by descending Snow Valley snow lines. Making the most of the last snow means an early start (5.45am!) from Tahurangi Lodge, so please be prepared to stay at the Lodge on Friday night. This trip is open to all who have completed Snowcraft 1 and who have previously demonstrated suitable confidence/competence on crampons on soft snow, hard snow, rock, and have good rock scrambling skills & experience, all at varying degrees of exposure.

Please contact Trips Coordinator Sophie Tucker on committee2.tac@outlook.com if you're keen to attend this trip.



Summer & Autumn 2019 club trips

Here are the planned trips for February through to April/May. Final dates yet to be set so please watch this space and our facebook page 😊

- February / March 2019. Taranaki summit via Khybers Pass – a favourite easy alternative summit route for those not yet in the know of this local little secret
 - March/April 2019. Taranaki summit via Carrington Ridge – foiled by weather the last 2 years – we're hoping this year will be 3rd time lucky for this harder summit route!
 - April/May 2019. Froggatt / Castle Rock Climbing Weekend – similar to last year – just come along & enjoy a weekend of camping & climbing!
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Recent Club Trips

Sat 29 September 2018 – day trip

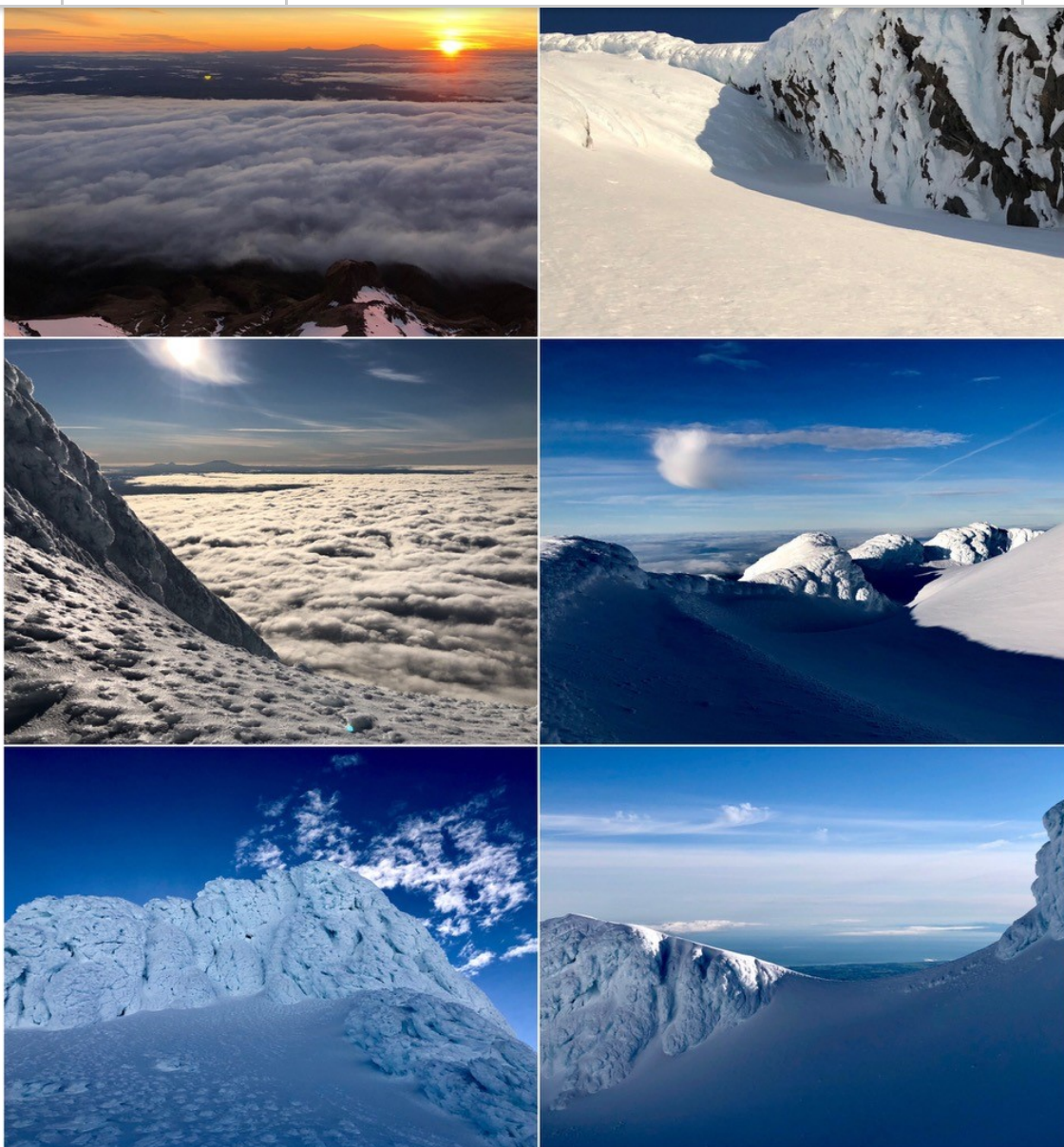
Fanthams Peak spring summit

Some pics below from our great club trip up Fanthams & Syme Hut in late September. Some early morning wind & drizzle quickly dissipated and we were treated to a pristine, calm, blue sky day. With medium-firm conditions underfoot the team of 13 club members, from beginner to experienced, worked brilliantly together for a great day up the mountain – well done team!



Members Trips ...

Glenn Hodges has been out there again -
This time in Teds Alley



New Members

We welcome these new members to the Club, and look forward to seeing them on the Mountain.

Craig Burrell 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;

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

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](#)

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