



HiTAC - HiTAC February

2019

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

Happy new year everyone and welcome to 2019.

First club night this year is the Club Barbecue on Thursday 7th February at 6.00 pm – new venue Tupare Gardens, 487 Mangorei Road. We will be using Tupare's free gas barbecue and picnic area down by the river. Just bring along your own meats, salads and drinks and don't forget your cricket gear and togs for a swim. Click on the link below for more information and a map of the venue:

<https://www.trc.govt.nz/gardens/tupare/>

The club's AGM is coming up on Thursday 7th March, and we need some new people to stand for Committee. I plan to stand down, and we'll also be looking for a new Trips Coordinator as Sophie will be standing down from that role. Plus we have Fletcher heading off to Uni, so we really do need new blood on the team. If you would like to be part of running the club, please either talk to myself or another Committee member about what's involved. We'd love to hear from you! For all club members, this is your opportunity to come along and have a say in how the club will be run for the next 12 months, so diary that date now. We need a quorum of 20 – your attendance will be much appreciated.

The Open Climb registrations opened in December and at the time of writing we have 147 participants registered. Registrations will close on 3 February, so if you have workmates contemplating this event, tell them to register promptly. For those helping out on the day, I will be forwarding an updated Crew plan and information relevant to your role shortly.

An update on the Lodge power situation - Kordia will be replacing a section of the cable next week. So all going well we expect to have the power reinstated late January/early February. We'll keep you posted. Meanwhile if you want to help with the Open Climb and I haven't emailed you, phone or text me now – 027-352-3831

Elaine Sinton

President

president.tac@outlook.com

Reminder Open Climb February 16th

Lodge Power update

We have some good news regarding the power situation at Tahurangi Lodge.

Kordia have advised us that they will be laying a replacement cable during the week of 28 January, so it is anticipated that power will be reinstated by the end of that week or the start of February.

In the meantime, continue to use the door code Previously emailed to you.

downstairs tap at the end of the long hose that we use for open climbs will still have water, so we'll leave a bucket there and you can do a "bucket flush" of the toilet, should you need to use it. This water is perfectly fine for drinking also.

Elaine Sinton

Tahurangi Lodge

Downstairs Renovation Project

Since commencing the renovation works to the downstairs of Tahurangi lodge on 22 October 2018, we are almost finished woo hoooo!

We are employing a builder, electrician, plumber for this project all of whom know the lodge really well. Also, to keep costs within budget we have relied on the extremely kind & generous free time & skills volunteered by some of our club members. From designing & making new cabinetry/furniture, grinding/polishing/coating the floors, digging trenches, hauling materials, cleaning up and, coordinating all manner of things, a **HUGE 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 23 January:

- The new bathroom is 95% complete. With a shower curtain & a few finishing touches left to go, this space is looking awesome and is already in use.
- The downstairs main area is 80% complete. The new lockers, new pack racks, new lighting, new ceiling, new floor coating are almost completely finished, with new seats & final finishing touches well underway. The walls & new /existing woodwork on the doors & windows are being either lined with new plywood or painted and this is coming along nicely.
- The new dry room fit out has commenced.
- There is a lot of dust everywhere – some of which has been cleaned by volunteers – although there is a still some cleaning help needed!

February will see completion of this exciting project. We still need volunteers for painting & cleaning to help us finish the project so **IF YOU'RE KEEN TO VOLUNTEER** please contact John Thomason at johnthomason242@gmail.com.

The project will greatly enhance and extend the life of the club's biggest asset by improving and upgrading the 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 2018 through to February 2019. 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) as well as a kind donation from some club members.





Finishing touches by Pete Lethbridge

Sophie Tucker, Project Manager, Tahurangi 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

January

No Club night - Enjoy the break

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.

Rock Climbing Tuition

Improving your Climbing through good technique

This skills workshop will take place on plastic but will translate to real rock also. The two hour workshop will provide theory and practical exercises for foot placement, various hand grips, body position, balance and active resting.

Cost: \$13.50 for TAC members, save \$2.70 with your own suitable harness. crux climbing members free.

When: Friday 1st March, 2019 6:30-8:30pm.

Where: The Crux Climbing Gym located at YMCA Taranaki, 83 Liardet st.

Registrations open 8th Feb(check the Crux climbing wall facebook event page), limited to 16 participants per workshop.

Womens Night

Providing ladies with an opportunity to meet, catch and make friends and maybe find a regular climbing partner while also climbing, improving technique.

Cost: \$13.50 for TAC members, save \$2.70 with your own suitable harness. crux climbing members free.

When: 2nd Friday of every month(8th of February and March) 6:30-9pm.

Where: The Crux Climbing Gym located at YMCA Taranaki, 83 Liardet st.

No need to resister just turn up on the night.

Kindy Tuatara's 2-5years, siblings and parents.

Children must be accompanied by an adult, and an instructor will run some games to provide accompanying adults an opportunity to climb also if they choose.

Cost: \$7 per climber, save \$3 with your own suitable harness. crux climbing members free.

When: 2nd Monday of every month(4th of February and March) 3:30-4:30pm.

Where: The Crux Climbing Gym located at YMCA Taranaki, 83 Liardet st.

No need to resister just turn up on the day.

Film Events

Women's Adventure Film Tour - 1st March 2019

Tickets

<http://www.4thwalltheatre.co.nz/onat4thwall/whats-on/womens-adventure-film-tour.html>

Trailer

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bjNoW_AKtys

Women's Adventure Film Tour features some of the world's most inspiring women in adventure.

This festival is a celebration of the fantastic women around us who are doing extraordinary things and is to be enjoyed by men, women and children of all ages.

Being adventurous doesn't always have to mean being the fastest, going the highest or doing the most extreme things. Adventure for the most of us is stepping outside our comfort zone and climbing our own personal Everest. For this season, we have a unique selection of films that have been carefully chosen to show awesome women

Film 11 is "Taranaki"; picture a terrifyingly steep, snow-covered mountain chute land mined with cliffs, trees and hidden drop offs. This is the sort of terrain Janina Kuzma navigates for a living. Kuzma represents New Zealand in free skiing at the Winter Olympics and is a 7-time New Zealand Big Mountain Champion, 2 time Canadian Freeski Champion, 2 time World Heli Challenge Champion and achieved second overall in the world for half pipe. This film follows Janina, Australian Olympic skier Anna Segal and Swedish free skier Evelina Nilsson on a journey to climb and ski New Zealand's largest volcano, Mt Taranaki. It celebrates the spirit of adventure and comradeship we enjoy in the outdoors.

Psycho Vertical - 29th March 2019

Tickets

<http://www.4thwalltheatre.co.nz/onat4thwall/whats-on/psycho-vertical.html>

Trailer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Id09niaA120>

Meet Andy Kirkpatrick

<https://andy-kirkpatrick.com/about>

Beautiful and emotive, Psycho Vertical explores the intricate mind of Andy Kirkpatrick, a world-class climber and alpinist who lives a life of conflicting desires, identities and responsibilities, inspired by his best-selling autobiography of the same name.

Firmly grounded by his impoverished upbringing in 1970s Hull, from a young age Andy's head has been in the clouds, filled with grand ideas of discovering who he is and what exactly he's made of, spurred on by his father's absence and translated into ascents of some of the world's most dangerous alpine routes.

Though he knows the pain of living in poverty, pursuing his dreams comes before making a living. While compelled to share his chaotic personal life and make audiences crumple with laughter on stage, he chooses to test himself on some of the world's longest and most difficult climbs totally alone.

A proud father, he cannot help but put ambition over security, even if that means risking his life time and again. By exploring his past, his present and his motivation for pushing his limits to the absolute extreme, we follow Andy on an 18-day, solo ascent of El Capitan, where life on the wall is precarious, tough and 'crushingly lonely', creating a raw and intimate portrait of one of climbing's most controversial, unpredictable and adored figures, and exploring themes of identity, fatherhood, and how our pasts shape us, drive us forward and stays with us all our lives.

Andy Kirkpatrick never takes an ordinary path. Whether it's risking his life as a mountain climber — once while climbing the Troll Wall in Norway, he waited to die while a "car-sized flake" he was standing on moved a few centimetres before stopping — or the route he took to hook up with his wife, Vanessa.

"I was invited to speak in Dublin," he says. Bear Grylls was also invited, but Kirkpatrick was far more affordable. "I only charge €1,000 so I got the gig. I ended up getting married to the woman who invited me to speak at the university. It was a good gig. Basically, I didn't go home again. I've stayed ever since. It's Bear Grylls' loss."

Andy has been touring his mix of comedy and motivational speaking on the perils and rewards of mountaineering to theatres since 2006. When he's not on the theatre circuit or hiking across some of the most forbidding landscapes on earth, he picks up some unusual commissions. He once spent two months working as Johnny Depp's "chocolate safety diver" during the 2005 re-make of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

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!

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 Taurangī 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](#)).

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!

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 9 Feb 2019 – day trip

Mt Taranaki Summit via Khyber Pass

An easy alternative summit route for those not yet in the know of this local little secret! It offers the quickest route to the summit and avoids the scree on North Ridge. After a cruisy 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 Taurangī Lodge. General competence with rock scrambling is required.

Please contact Club Trips coordinator Sophie (committee2.tac@outlook.com) for further details & to reserve your place on this trip.

Sat 30 March 2019 – Taranaki summit via

Carrington Ridge

Welcome to the west side of Mt Taranaki! After walking round to Holly Hut from North Egmont car park, Carrington Ridge rises steeply immediately behind Holly 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 at various angles & exposure, as well as extremely good fitness for a long day out, is required. (Foiled by weather the last 2 years – we're hoping this year will be 3rd time lucky for this harder summit route!).

Please contact Club Trips coordinator Sophie (committee2.tac@outlook.com) for further details & to reserve your place on this trip.

Froggatt Edge & Castle Rock, Waikato region

Similar to last year – just come along & enjoy a weekend of camping & climbing! Froggatt Edge has quickly become one of the biggest and best rock climbing crags in the Waikato region and most of the routes have been re-bolted with stainless steel ringbolts. Nearby Castle Rock is great for beginners with top ropes already in place and easier climbs. This is an informal family-friendly camping & climbing weekend where some of our advanced TAC climbers will be around to encourage your climbing, whether you're a beginner, intermediate or advanced. You will need to arrange your transport, accommodation, food etc and bring all of your gear - and we'll look forward to seeing you there!

- Gear can be hired from TAC Gear Officer Steve Ritson or locally from Bryces Rock Climbing <https://www.rockclimb.co.nz/hire-gear.php>
- Accommodation suggestion is via Bryces Rock Climbing <https://www.rockclimb.co.nz/accommodation.php> or camping at the nearby school grounds (details will be forwarded to those interested).

Once the date is set, this is a self-managed trip i.e. just 'rock' up & enjoy! Although please contact Club Trips coordinator Sophie (committee2.tac@outlook.com) if you have any queries.

Winter Trips Yet to be announced..... watch this space!

Recent Club Trips

19 January - East Ridge

A stunning blue-sky morning greeted the six of us as we departed Stratford plateau at 5 am. We headed directly up the old Manganui gorge track to the base of the top-tow, then up to the Policeman. Last winter's ice was sufficiently melted to allow us to access the gut and the upper mountain. With little wind and clear conditions it certainly was hot!! We summited Sharkstooth at 9:00 am. Exiting the Chimney is always fun and this time offered both rock and ice descent options. After a bite to eat in the crater we put on crampons to descended the upper crater valley. We then descended the lizard, the scree, then followed the old Tahurangi Hut summit route, to the RTM, the lodge, and eventually Stratford Plateau.

A big thanks to Glen for leading, and the excellent company of Alexandra, Peter, Jeanne, Glenys, and Phil. Well done team!



Members Trips ...

Mt Vinson – Antarctica – 4.892m

Glen Hodges

In early December I traveled to South America to join an Adventure Consultants trip to Antarctica. The departure point to the ice is Punta Arenas at the very bottom of Chile. Our team numbered only 3; with me was Andy Cole from Wanaka (leader), and KyQyan Phong from New York. To reach Union Glacier the expedition staging point in West Antarctica we had a 4 ½ hour flight in an Ilyusian-76 cargo transport. After 2 days of 'weather-waiting' we flew by Twin Otter aircraft to Vinson base camp (2100m) on the Branscombe Glacier. The next day towing sleds we made the 6-hour push to low camp (2700m). Though the Antarctica summer has 24-hr daylight, the proximity of low camp to Mt Vinson means it is in the shade between 3am and 10am when temperatures plummet to -30°C and below! It took 2 days for the winds to reduce enough for us to complete the 1000m climb to high camp (3700m). Part of the route is protected by fixed lines which were a lot of fun to ascend. The weather we experienced for most of our 3-day stay at high camp can be best described as "-25°C & 25 knots". We were fortunate however that summit day (16th December) started with light winds and mist that cleared to a beautifully calm day. Only 10 minutes after returning to high camp from the summit the ferocious winds returned. On the 17th we packed up high camp (again in strong winds), descended to low camp, collected our sleds, and traveled back to base camp. Antarctica is not immune from global climate change and this season it experienced some of





New Members

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

No New members this month

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.

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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