



## HiTAC - HiTAC March 2019

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)

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### From the President's Desk

A big thank you to all those members who helped out with the Open Climb last weekend. Despite not being able to achieve the summit, I think everyone, both club members and participants had a good experience. For several of our club members this was their first Open Climb and I think the following comment embodies what the Open Climb means for many of us:

*Just wanted to say as this was my first open climb as a volunteer. I thought it went really well and the public I spoke to were very happy with the result despite not reaching the top. I also really enjoyed the event, the social and camaraderie. It was really well organised - well done.*

Just a reminder, the club's AGM is on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March. As well as the election of officers, we'll also be presenting the club trophies. We need a quorum of 20 so please come along! This is your chance to have a say in how the club will be run for the next 12 months. Four of the current Committee will be standing down, including myself. We have some keen people willing to fill those vacancies so come along and find out who your new Committee will be!

I would like to pass on some of the feedback from this year's Open Climb participants:

*Amazing experience this morning -The T.A.C. really looked after us! High winds turned us back at drinking rock, but a fine experience was had! Thanks so much for the opportunity to join the open climb today.*

*Thanks again for the tremendous effort today and wonderful alpine club staff. I am so impressed with the climb organisation and would love to join the climb again next year!!*

*Experience of a Lifetime. Without this open day I probably would have never gone up Mount Taranaki so thank you for this great experience. I would definitely recommend this to everyone.*

*An amazing experience and big thank you to the leaders of G5. A big thank you to Mark? who was one of the guides who stayed at the back with me to help me all the way. While it was disappointing because of the wind not being able to get to the summit, I'm not sure I would have made it. We both really enjoyed the experience. We may be back again next year.*

**Elaine Sinton**

President

[president.tac@outlook.com](mailto:president.tac@outlook.com)

### Photo Competition Results

Overall Winner	Jeremy Beckers	Syme post storm	
Overall Runner up	Greg Sharman	Beyond Footsteps	
ABN   Above Bushline No Human	Greg Sharman	Beyond Footsteps	1st
ABN   Above Bushline No Human	Glen Hodges	Sunset Rain	2nd
ABN   Above Bushline No Human	Glen Hodges	Doom	3rd
ABW   Above Bushline With Human	Jeremy Beckers	Syme post storm	1st

BBN   Below Bushline No Human	Ross Hoffmann	Dawson Falls	1st
BBN   Below Bushline No Human	Jeremy Beckers	Lake Rotoroa	2nd
BBN   Below Bushline No Human	Ross Hoffmann	Water fall	3rd
BBW   Below Bushline With Human	Jeremy Beckers	Nelson Lakes stream	1st
BBW   Below Bushline With Human	Murray Peat	Rapt	2nd
BBW   Below Bushline With Human	Glen Hodges	RockStudy2	3rd
HIS   Historic	Glen Hodges	Mustagh Ata Girl	1st
HIS   Historic	Glen Hodges	North Ridge	2nd
HIS   Historic	Glen Hodges	Mustagh Ata Descent	3rd
HUM   Humour	Greg Sharman	What does your camera taste like?	1st
HUM   Humour	Greg Sharman	Kiss my .....	2nd
HUM   Humour	Greg Sharman	The Ghost of Tahurangi	3rd
NFF   Native Flora and Fauna	Greg Sharman	Kea feathers	1st
NFF   Native Flora and Fauna	Jeremy Beckers	The supervisor	2nd
NFF   Native Flora and Fauna	Greg Sharman	Kea	3rd



ABN TAC Beyond footsteps



ABW TAC Syme post storm.

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## Tahurangi Lodge Downstairs Renovation Project

Since commencing the renovation works to the downstairs of Tahurangi lodge on 22 October 2018, we are definitely nearly just about finished!

Many of you will have seen the almost completed renovation to the downstairs of Tahurangi Lodge during the recent Open Climb weekend. With spacious pack racks, new bathroom, new lockers and an all together much roomier layout, your many positive comments were very welcome.



During March we will be completing the new dry room, finishing off some electrical works, and installing a few final cupboards for storage. In April / May we will have a small 'official opening' up at the Lodge one weekend so please keep your eyes peeled on HiTAC for the date.

We have employed a builder, electrician, and 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 - we couldn't have done this project without your hard work & dedication 😊

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. The total budget of this major project for the club is \$125,000 and 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.

*Sophie Tucker, Project Manager, Tahurangi Lodge Downstairs Renovation Project*



Some of our renovation volunteers giving their time.

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

## March 7th 7-30

### AGM

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

## April 4th 7-30

### NOTE: 4th Wall Theatre

Title: Keeping Sir Ed's Legacy Alive

How much: Free

What: Mike Gill from the Himalayan Trust speaking about his experience on the 1960/61 Silver Hut Expedition, plus guests

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## 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](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 achieving their adventurous goals. The films showcase real stories about women from a variety of cultures and sports with a strong focus on Australian and New Zealand 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 comradery 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.

or 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.

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## 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](#)).*

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](mailto:committee2.tac@outlook.com) for further details. Be sure to keep an eye on our facebook page for trip updates too!

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## 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! 😊

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 3<sup>rd</sup> time lucky for this harder summit route!).

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

## **tbc April / May 2019 – climbing / social weekend at 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](mailto:committee2.tac@outlook.com)) if you have any queries.

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

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## **Recent Club Trips**

### **Sat 9 February 2019 – Taranaki summit via Khyber Pass**

A bright sunny calm morning enabled a lovely walk up to Humphries via Razorback for this club trip. As seven of us strolled up through Khybers Pass (well, a few of us huffed & puffed!) and onto the smooth lava flow, the cloud curled in and dropped the temperatures a few degrees. This didn't deter the team from enjoying the quietness of this fantastic and easy route up to the Lizard. The cloud refused to budge as we continued our scramble up the Lizard and to the summit for a well-earned lunch, yet alas no views. Some post-lunch energy resulted in some interesting race-skidding down the scree to finish off a great day out including two new club

reading this trip ☺



## Members Trips ...

A view from the top by the Open Climb Crater team



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## New Members

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

Chris Vicars Inglewood

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## 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

## 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](mailto: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](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)

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## Club Links

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

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