

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)**HiTAC****December 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)[View this email in your browser](#)

## From the President's Desk

Kia ora folks,

Last one of these for the year or me. Boom 2019, you're over. That's right it's December already. November disappeared in a bang, literally, and all that's left is a shimmering haze, can't tell if it's Aussie bush fires or electrical smoke from Tahurangi, but we're cooking now, summer is here.

To recap... November was a bit crap in so many ways. Slush summit was cancelled due to bad weather on that weekend (who'd have thought?), however pleased to see a few of the snow crafties getting out there under their own steam and making the most of the spring conditions. Better hurry those that still have ambitions to get a snow summit this year, it won't last much longer. Better luck had by the overnight crew that visited Kapuni Lodge, and managed a morning mission up Fanthams, also looks like the weather is going to hold for the trip to the Okahu Gorge this weekend. Fingers crossed.

By far the most crap news was having the lodge hammered by our second lightening strike of the year. The lodge took a number of strikes, that caused what can only be described as a cluster#&%@ of electrical damage. Strikes caused multiple faults in our main feed from the translator (which was also hit); damage to bunch of electrical guff that I don't understand in the big white magic box by the door ; pretty much all the wireless gear and cables to the web cameras but not the cameras themselves; and more besides but I kinda glazed over when Pete and Greg were discussing it... Anyway, replacement for damage is under way, but it will be expensive, hope we sell lots of tickets for the open climb!

However, the power is back on. Take a bow Pete Lethbridge, Greg Banks, Dave Clough, Charlie and the rest of the crew who got up there worked it all out, took it on themselves to fix the problems, and got us up and running again. That lodge functions primarily on the institutional knowledge of a bunch of dedicated people, often fairly grumpy, but always there when it hits the fan. Thanks. I owe you a beer.

Which, by the way, they , and you dear reader, can claim at club night this month, the annual Presidents shout and the photo competition. **Change of venue** this year, we will be having the event at the function room at **Decanta Bar**, (opposite Macpac) 7.30 pm, first beer on me, meals available. Pick up some photographic tips from our judge Chris Hill.

Check the HiTAC for other trips coming up this month, but following my fairly miserable moan about the state of access to North Island crags last month's, TAC have decided to make the most of one of the best we've got, while we've got it, and we're going back to Kawakawa Bay on the 14th and 15th of December. Dump your gear at the boat at Kinloch and bike in to the crags, camp overnight and climb all weekend on some of the best sport and trad routes in the North Island. Contact me or Ange for details, don't miss out, K Bay is magic.

Finally, had the honour of belaying Fletch Miles on his first lead of Humphries Nose last weekend (which was way more fun than digging up fried cables). I'm not usually a very generous belayer but watching Fletch send one of his long time goals was one of highlights of the climbing year so far, and a timely reminder of what being in the Taranaki Alpine club is all about.

Merry Christmas all

**Ivan Bruce**

**El Presidente!**

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

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## 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

### Thursday 5 th December

#### Decanta Bar

Presidents Shout and 2019 Photo Competition

### February 2020

#### BBQ - Venue date & Time TBA

Our first meeting of 2020 will be BBQ

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## NOTICE

We have a family of rats living under our lodge.  
They're unwelcome, trash eating freeloaders. And as climbers, we don't need the competition. That's our thing.  
We have a trap set up outside the lodge, if you pass by, check it, set it, bait it with anything you have left over in your pack. Take their eradication into your own hands.  
Thanks.

Ivan Bruce  
El Presidente!  
[president.tac@outlook.com](mailto:president.tac@outlook.com)



## 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 website).*

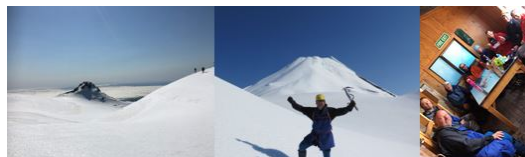
If you're interested in coming on any of the below trips, or would like to lead a trip, please contact Trips Coordinator Ange Hampton on [committee4.tac@outlook.com](mailto:committee4.tac@outlook.com) for further details. Be sure to keep an eye on our Facebook page for trip updates too.

## Trip Reports

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## Sat/Sun 2-3 November 2019

It was a trip jam-packed of adventures with Kapuni Hut as our base. An early start saw the team headed out to Skeets Ridge on Saturday with lunch sat enjoying the waterfalls courtesy of the lava flow and melting snow. The evening at Kapuni Hut was cosy with the fire and good company. Another early get up for our journey up Fanthams Peak where we enjoyed lunch in Syme Hut.



## Upcoming Club Trips

A massive thanks again to those of our experienced club members who have so far offered to lead & assist some of our trips. Our trips would not be possible without you!



## Rock & Rope on Taranaki

### Fri/Sat/Sun 14th – 16th February 2020

– Weekend Trip If you have ever wanted to have an experience on some of Taranaki's classic rock outcrops and gain the experience of using a rope then this activity is for you. We will start with ropes on the lodge then move to Tegel Wall for more abseiling practise. Next will be Warwick's Castle for a traverse to test our nerves and skills before making our way to Humphries Castle for another classic on Taranaki on the Sunday.

This trip is an opportunity for members to experience ropes on the mountain. No previous ropes experience necessary, only a head for heights and a fun attitude. Some gear will be provided by the club. Participants are expected to have basic alpine gear.

If interested, contact Club Trips Coordinator Ange Hampton at [committee4.tac@outlook.com](mailto:committee4.tac@outlook.com).

## Summer & Autumn 2020 club trips

Trips planning for summer & autumn 2020 is underway. If you have an idea for a trip that you would like to lead, please let our Trips Coordinator Ange know.

February/March 2020: Taranaki summit via Khybers Pass – a favourite easy alternative summit route for those not yet in the know of this local little secret.

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## New Members

We Welcome the following to the Club, and look forward to seeing them on the Mountain, and at Club events

Donna Bunyan

Onaero

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Lara Vork Leon Haslinger	New plymouth Stratford	
Grant Robinson	New plymouth	
Carissa Morris	New plymouth	
Josh Morris	New plymouth	
Paul Martin	Hamilton	

## 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 Taurangi 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.

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.

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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](#)

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