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HiTAC

February 2020

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 President's Desk

Hiya folks, happy new year, hope you all had pleasant summer break, but it feels like summer is only just getting started in Taranaki, so let's hope that the sun keeps shining on our mouna for a few months yet...

Firstly, our congratulations to George Mason for being named an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM) in this years New Years Honours list, for his service to conservation, philanthropy and his community. George is a life member of the Taranaki Alpine Club and his service to our club has been amazing and this a thoroughly deserved honour.

There's been a whole lot going on since the last HiTAC came out. The club trips have been cranking. The Kawakawa Bay climbing jaunt pre Christmas was a clear success, so too I hear was the recent East Ridge trip. Huge thanks to Mark Hall for stepping into the breach and leading that one, lots of positive feedback and everyone keen for another crack anytime.

Trips keep coming this month, with a rock and rope weekend booked on the weekend of the 15th of February care of Greg Banks and Captain Ritson, introducing some of the newer members to the local crags. Also coming up is a summit trip up the Khyber Pass route, watch the face book page for this one or contact Ange.

Then there's the Snotgobbler Challenge. Can the TAC climb every (guidebook)route on the Snotgobbler Wall in a single weekend? 12 routes, all trad, grade 17 or less. Revive some classics, experience a sandbagging, justify prematurely grey facial hair (guys and girls). Sometime late Feb/ early March. Again, watch the facebook page for details and hassle the old heads to make it happen... you know who they are, like mangey old dogs, they love the attention....

Club night this month is the annual barbecue, this year at the Ngamotu beach, because west is best. Come along and burn a steak, have a swim and tell outrageous lies about what you climbed over the summer break.

There's something else... The Open Climb is a sell out. So come Saturday the 8th of Feb, 200 unsuspecting punters are going to be queuing at Tahurangi to be guided, coerced, cajoled and cursed into making, what will be for most of them, their first and probably only summit.

Putting something like this together is a big team effort, it's an annual statement of how well this organisation functions as a club, and everyone who has signed up, or been strong armed to help, thanks for your support..... And please turn up.... no seriously.. turn up.

The funds raised from this event raises covers our insurance and most of the annual repairs bill for the lodge, without it we wouldn't be able to do half of what we do to make this such successful club.

If you have been signed up, please be at the Lodge the night before, if you haven't signed up yet but can be available, please contact me ASAP, we still have a few roles we need to fill on the day.

See you all up there,

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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

6th February 2020

BBQ - Ngamotu Beach 7-30

Club night this month is the annual barbecue, this year at the Ngamotu beach, because west is best. Come along and burn a steak, have a swim and tell outrageous lies about what you climbed over the summer break.

BYO treats, but barbe will be available.

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 J Our trips would not be possible without you!



Rock & Rope on Taranaki

Fri/Sat/Sun 14th – 16th February 2020 Weekend trip - **Limited spaces available**

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.

Khyber Pass Summit

Saturday 21st March 2020

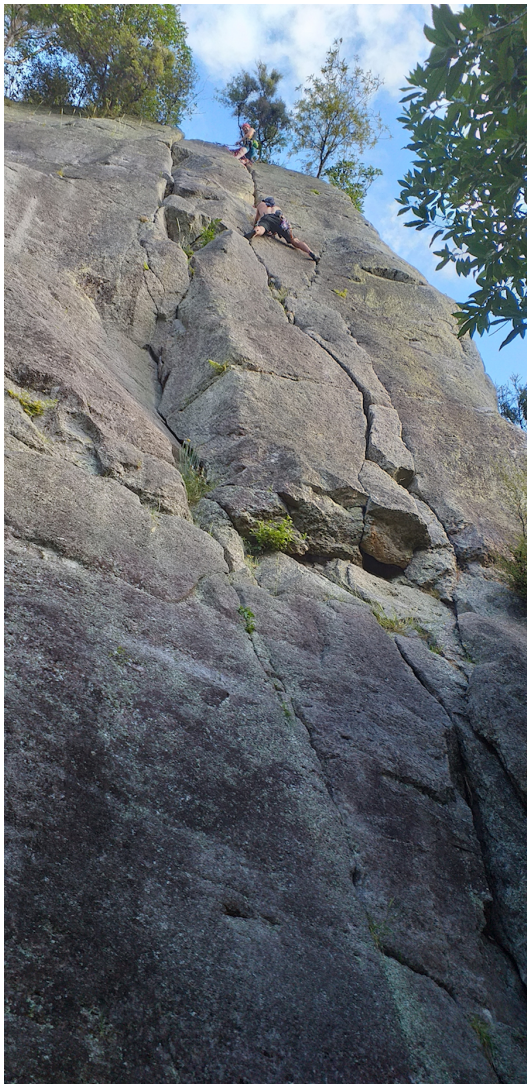
A favourite alternative summit route for those unaware of this local secret. It offers the quickest route to the summit and avoids the scree on North Ridge. After a cruisy walk up to Humphries Castle, the route will follow a rock scramble above & below small buttresses until the steep clean lava flow below Crater Valley. 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 Taurangi Lodge. General competence with rock scrambling is required.

Due to the large number of people using North Egmont carpark, a stay at Tahurangi Lodge the evening before is preferred, but will not be mandatory. For more information or if interested, contact Club Trips Coordinator Ange Hampton at committee4.tac@outlook.com.

Trip Reports

TAC Trip Report - Kawakawa Bay December 14 - 15, 2019

The last climbing trip of 2019 before the Christmas mayhem went off as planned, for a change. On an entirely unexpected weekend of fine weather, a baked dozen of TAC members biked and hiked into Kawakawa Bay for a weekend on some of the best sport climbing still accessible in the North Island. Big grins all round as some of the first timers soaked up the exposure on their first day on multi pitch routes. The older heads found new routes abounding, thanks to the works of the Dan Head and Kawakawa caveman crew (Ventura highway being my fav of the weekend); others removed a monster off their backs; one enormous whipper was had! Belayer to remain nameless. Not even my poorly moored rigger of cider floating off into oblivion could cast a dampener on the trip. This place is magic, highly recommended



Conrad - Ivan Gecko Groove



Lindsay - sending the Gecko

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Mike Keene Alpine Crack



Somewhere above Kawakawa



Conrad Gecko Groove



It's what we do

New Members

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

Matt Lash	Oakura
Katrina Cousins	New Plymouth
Eithne Mac Carthy	New Plymouth
Greg Misner	New Plymouth
Rob Pascoe	New Plymouth
Jo Pascoe	New Plymouth
Yumi Iwasaki	New Plymouth
Daniel Hermann	Whanganui

Club Information

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LODGE

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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.

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

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