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TAC Annual General Meeting
Date: 5 March 2020
Venue: Blind Foundation, Vivian St
Time: 7.30pm.



HiTAC

March 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

Presidents report - Feb 2020

The last one for this term folks - next week is our AGM, so I need to rattle off a big list of thanks you to everyone who has helped out this year, got involved and made for another successful year for the TAC.

There's been a bunch of highlights, and I'm probably doing a disservice to many by not mentioning them all but let's start with what I actually joined up to this club to do about what feels like a million years ago, and that is the getting out there, up there, onto the mountains, and climbing with like minded people. The club trips are a huge part of this and to Ange, our club trip organiser, and all the people that put their hands up to help out, lead trips and show others the ropes thanks a bunch, your efforts are greatly appreciated by all who attend and can be seen in the thriving new membership the club is fortunate to have.

Our (bloody!) lodge only continues to function due the committed crew of volunteers who rescue it from various natural disasters and nurse it through its annual demands. So again to everyone who has helped in many ways, large and small, thanks very much and in particular a huge thanks to Greg Banks, who has stepped up as bookings officers and de-facto maintenance organiser throughout the year.

I've been lucky to have a great committee to work with all year and I'd like to thank them all for their time this year. I'm sorry to say that Sophie and Stacy would like to step down this year and take some time out to go climbing. Their contributions over the past several years has been massive and they'll be missed, but not forgotten. See you up there ladies.

Finally, A huge thanks to everyone who helped out on the open climb this year, which after three years of rubbish weather and abortive attempts, was finally a success. It's the first time I've had anything to do with organising such an event, and I won't say it wasn't somewhat daunting, but administration was made much easier by the prior experience of wiser heads, particularly those who occupied the open climb control room and the crater crew. We managed to get 148 people to the summit this year. We've had nothing but good feedback from the punters and the event seems as popular as ever.

Historical note: I sent the club historians to the archives to find out when the first open climb was held. Turns out the summer season of 1948 - 1949 seems to be the date of the first open climb, and as far as we know it's been held every year since. I'm happy to stand corrected, but until I am, I'm claiming that at 71 years, the TAC open climb is the longest running alpine event of its kind in NZ (or anywhere else for that matter!). That it is run entirely by volunteers, says a lot about the expertise and club spirit that exists in the TAC and it's a credit to all of you.

As an example of the kind of dedication to the TAC that has made this event endure, John Jordan assisted on his 50th open climb this year, which is an amazing record. Thanks John, long may the legend of the adidas three stripe track pant climb on...

So I hope to see as many of you as possible at the AGM on Thursday 5 March, We have the prize giving for the club trophies, including the still to be named winners of the Dan Bryant and Maggie Brown photographic trophies.

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Ivan Bruce

El Presidente!

president.tac@outlook.com

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

TAC Annual General Meeting

Date: 5 March 2020

Venue: Blind Foundation, Vivian St

Time: 7.30pm.

Attendance: Mandatory.

Please come along to our AGM, attend the prize giving, help to elect next year's officers and executive committee and have your say in the running of the TAC.

Social Events 😊

LODGE BIRTHDAY

Queens Birthday Weekend. 30-31 May & 1 June 2020

The lodge will be available to club members to enjoy a celebration of the Lodge with events organised for Saturday and Sunday. Monday we will have the cake cutting

MID WINTER CHRISTMAS and FILM EVENING

Saturday July 11th

A mid winter Christmas function will be happening at the Lodge on the 11-12 July 2020.
The special event will include a Snow creation competition i.e. build your best snowman.
Come dressed up in your Santa suit and bring some Christmas food and drinks.

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!



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 Tahurangi Lodge. General competence with rock scrambling is required.

Due to the large numbers 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.

Take a Walk on the West Side

Saturday 16th May 2020

A chance to explore and traverse the west side of Taranaki! We will be seeing many features of the west side such as Black Rock and Okahu Gorge. If you are yet to explore the west, this is the perfect opportunity for you to do so!

Please contact Club Trips Coordinator Ange (committee4.tac@outlook.com) for further details. There is no reserve weekend; we will have a wet weather / gear test plan in case of poor weather.

Ngauruhoe Winter Weekend Away

Fri/Sat/Sun 28th - 30th August 2020

It was some crazy weather that kept us off Ngauruhoe last year, and of course we need to get up there, so this year will see us attempting a summit of Mt Ngauruhoe with the possibility of a crater rim traverse. This trip is beginner level and suitable if you have recently completed Snowcraft 1. TAC will provide avalanche transceivers, snow probes & shovels. You will organise all your other required gear as well as accommodation & transport.

Trip Reports

Rock & Rope 2020

Rocks, Ropes and Heaps of Fun!

Hello fellow TAC members, I'm Ashley and my partner Dane and I are locals who both have been a part of TAC for a couple of years. This was our first trip that we were able to attend and let me tell you, it has certainly set the bar high.

The Friday night started with food and getting to know our fellow TAC members at Tahurangi Lodge. It was nice to put faces to names! Later in the night Greg and Ivan went over knots, explanations of equipment and the activities planned for the weekend.

The next morning, we were on the mountain learning how to tie ourselves onto our ropes, understanding the use of a prusik rope, belaying devices, slings and the use of our bodies as we abseiled down the mossy hills just below the lodge. From there we moved over to our first proper abseil down Tegel Wall, located just below the Translator. This was where the real fun started!

We were able to get onto our ropes, under the supervision of the wonderful Greg Banks, Dave Bolger and Ivan Bruce, and hang about 15m up! It was amazing and a great learning experience, I couldn't wait to get up higher! Coming from a person with very limited experience, I felt super safe and comfortable during this course. It was really emphasized that no question was a stupid question and that you never had to do anything you didn't feel comfortable with.

After a brief lunch and cuppa to warm our bodies up we headed out to make them even warmer by trekking over

to Warwick Castle. Along the way Greg shared enticing stories we were even lucky enough to be introduced to the very elusive and elusive tarantula spider (if you haven't had the pleasure, make sure to let Greg know you'd love to have the same experience, I'm very certain he'd be happy to oblige).

After arriving at Warwick, Greg, Dave and Ivan set up a line for us to traverse across the top of the crescent. This was where we put the different types of knots we had learnt to use. Once we made our way over to Sunrise, we began our abseil down the ~30m face. Sunrise was the largest rock face that I have ever abseiled off and it was also the first rock face I ever managed to climb up...maybe not all the way to the top, but I'll get there one day! One of my favourite aspects of our group was the constant support and positive energy that was free-flowing. One of the most important aspects of climbing that was drilled into us over the weekend, was safety, safety, safety! After a full day of activities out on our beautiful maunga, and with some clear warnings from mother nature, we decided it was time to make our way back to the lodge for some food and to 'hang out'.

Reminiscing about our adventures over dinner, we decided that the night was far from over! With Greg and Conrad's guidance we set up the perfect 'hang out' spot in the lodge (see the pictures below). The night continued with heaps of laughter and some concerns about whether or not mother nature would play ball the following day. After we had finished our nightcap, we all headed to bed, falling asleep to the howling wind and unfortunate sound of rain!

The next morning when we woke up, much to our despair, the rain was still falling and the mountain was covered in a heavy cloud. The poor weather gave us the opportunity to learn different skills in the lodge, including the use of ribbon to make our very own safety harnesses and even more knots! Around mid-morning, we all agreed that it was best to make our way down the rainy mountain.

Our Rock and Ropes weekend was an absolute blast! We were all able to learn so much and had fun doing it! Our group was full of enthusiastic people from all over the world and with varying degrees of experience. We couldn't thank our volunteers enough for their great effort and smiles during the weekend, so we decided to make our way over to another mountain known as Shining Peak to celebrate... but one that served Fanny Fantham's favourite lager and hot chips!



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

Hasely Lobb	New Plymouth
Janica Amoore	New Plymouth
Victoria & Hamish Jull	New Plymouth
William Allen	Palmerston North
Deborah May	New Plymouth

Remote Area Trapping & Conservation Volunteering in East Taranaki

Interested in some conservation volunteering via remote area trap work out at the Purangi conservation area? If so, read on

Most people don't know, but we've got one of the largest & most successful kiwi conservation projects in the country on our doorstep - <https://www.experiencepurangi.co.nz/> Thousands of kiwi are out there with the population growing at 9% per year. It's a big area, 13,000 hectares, much of it in pristine native bush - beautiful rugged east Taranaki country.

A few TAC members are already actively involved – Jeremy Beckers, Scotty Morgan & Derek Stevens. We also get a few of the local LANDSAR team volunteering. It's a job well suited to outdoors types with a passion for conservation with the opportunity to tramp in areas the public don't get access to.

We've got an immediate project looking for a few extra sets of hands. We are doing a lure trial for Goodnature on their A24 re-setting traps in the area where kokako were released back into the field in 2019. There are plans to release more in 2020 and continue the project to bring them back to Taranaki. The trust needs to do extensive rat control over the coming years as the kokako re-establish their population. Jeremy has been working over Jan/Feb with the Ranger putting in new trap lines, so the traps can go in over Feb ready for the trial to start.

The volunteer work is on the 3rd Sunday of each month, next one being 15 March. The work is not too difficult, but the area is great and the project needs people who are fit/able and can spend the day out bush working in a small team.

If you are keen to be involved, contact Derek Stevens who coordinates the volunteers on derekjohnstevens@hotmail.com or 0278393556. Feel free to also contact the Trust directly <https://www.experiencepurangi.co.nz/support-us/volunteer/> . There's a project office in Inglewood next to Z Energy where you can pop in and visit to learn more.

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.

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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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