

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

HiTAC

November 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

Hi folks,

Spring weather means predictable unpredictability in our mountain weather, but those who have managed to find the weather windows have been rewarded with nice crampon conditions in the early morning and softening descents by lunchtime. Good conditions now for those that participated in the snow craft courses to get amongst it. The skiers have been making the most of it as well, with a number of successful descents from the summit. Good work if you can get it! With more snow falling as I write there is no immediate end to the spring season in sight, so it looks like we'll be crampons well into November.

We'll make the most of the spring conditions by running a slush summit on the 9th of November. This is aimed at the snow craft graduates, giving you all a crack at a white summit with a bit of supervision from some of the more experienced club members, usually a really popular day, so let Ange know if you are keen.

Some bad news recently for the rock rats among us, in that the Mangaokewa crag has now been closed to the public for the purposes of rock climbing. The background in brief, is that the Waitomo District Council has handed ownership of the reserve to DOC, who will ultimately be returning the reserve to Iwi as part of treaty settlement. Future management of the reserve is still being worked out, however in the meantime, Iwi have requested that rock climbing at the reserve ceases, noting that the reserve contains pa sites and waahi tapu. DOC also have safety concerns about the state of the fixed rope lines on the crag. We may be able to negotiate access to the crag again; TAC have made contact with DOC outlining our interest in maintaining access and will collaborate with other organisations such as NZAC to find a solution. In the short term I would advise that we be respectful of the wishes of the Iwi and let the process work itself out. In particular please keep social media rants to polite tone, you might be surprised who reads them.

Access to crags and climbing areas has always been a background issue, but with the closing of prominent popular North Island crags such as Castle Rock (Coromandel), Whanganui Bay, and Mangaokewa, the reality for North Island climbers is that ensuring access to climbing areas should be pushed to the forefront of our clubs roles. We need to ensure the continued use of our climbing crags is addressed during any consultation process that might affect access. TAC members should take special interest in the review of the Egmont National Park Management Plan, which may take place sometime early next year. This should be seen as an opportunity to work with the new park management structure to not only ensure access to Taranaki's crags, but to improve their amenity. For example, what about setting aside Warwick Castle/ Organ pipes valley as a recognised rock and ice recreational area within the park, with managed bolting rights. We need to be talking about these things now, so when the time comes for submissions we are organised, supported and effective.

It'll be up to us, as climbers, to take the lead in tackling the problems around access. No one else is going to care. Climbers and their clubs need to get a grip on the background issues surrounding access, find common ground with Iwi and landowners and accept where our activities might not necessarily accord with tikanga we need to find acceptable alternatives. Otherwise the days of free climbing crag development in the North Island are probably over.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

See you out there,

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

Thursday 7th November Change of Venue - Decanta Bar

Climbing Quiz Night, with TAC quiz master Ross Eden.

To be Held at Decanta Bar from 7pm.

Bring your wisest friends - make a team, or trust no-one and go solo.

Spot prizes, bar and food available.

Club Events

The Great Scone Bake Off

The weather was a little 'damp' Friday night and most of Saturday, but that didn't stop 12 hardy TAC members making their way to the lodge Saturday afternoon to entry and/or judge scones and muffins that were baked in the lodge oven.

Once everyone dried out, and the drying room did its magic, it was a very enjoyable afternoon and evening. Seven people entered the bake off with a wide range of scones and muffin recipes being produced. The group found it very difficult to rank the baking but eventually the outcome resulted in a three-way tie between Sheryl Hamilton, Lyndia Banks and Alec Heilbron. The coveted prize of the wooden spoon gets shared this year.

A pot luck meal followed all the scone/muffin eating, everyone had to find another stomach, as no-one wanted to carry their food down.

Sunday morning was stunning, clear sky, no wind and a beautiful sunrise. Nine people left the lodge between 7-7:30 am heading up into the snow, with three summiting before the cloud began to close in.

Another very enjoyable club weekend at the lodge. Thanks to everyone who took part.

Gail Geange

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▾



[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

Trip Reports

Snowcaving

Sat/Sun 21-22 September 2019

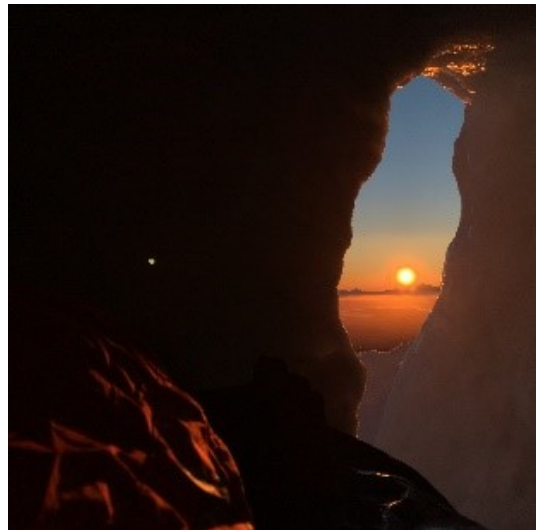
Those who were at our last club night would've heard of the adventure and fun had building and sleeping in a snow cave. We could not have asked for better weather with sunshine and low winds. You would not have thought we had been diggin for 4+ hours on seeing the smiles and laughter had throughout the building of the cave. 10 club members then spent the evening in our very cosy snow cave. We got such a good night's sleep we were able to then do some more climbing practise on top of our snow cave. See the pictures below for a snapshot of what was one incredible weekend on our maunga.

[Subscribe](#)

[Past Issues](#)

[Translate](#) ▼



[Subscribe](#)
[Past Issues](#)
[Translate ▼](#)


Fanthoms Peak.

Take your president climbing month got off to a good start, with 10 members starting out for Fathoms Peak from the Dawson Falls car park early in the month. Perfect fine weather once we left the car park that held all day, some high wind around Syme Hut. After a brief lunch in the ice box we had a quick traverse of the crater rim and then headed back down. Variable snow conditions on the day, with spring slush most of the way but still icy near the peak. Ice becoming thin in places and large bear traps starting to open up, one of which claimed an unwitting

[Subscribe](#)
[Past Issues](#)
[Translate ▼](#)

victim on the way up. However, everyone returned in one piece from an otherwise cruisey day on the slopes.
 cheers for the team everyone. Much appreciated.
 Ivan Bruce



Some photos from a trip that TAC members did up the Kahui Rd to Okahu Bluff on 01-09 2019.
 I do not think that this was an 'official' club jaunt but non the less, all participants were members of TAC.
 Peter Grant





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 Tahurangi 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 for further details. Be sure to keep an eye on our Facebook page for trip updates too.

Upcoming Club Trips

Our winter/spring trips programme. Thanks again to those of our experienced club members who have so far offered to lead & assist some of our trips 😊

Saturday half day 'buddy walks'

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▼

Mt Taranaki buddy walks on slopes near Tauranga Lodge

Are you new to winter mountaineering and don't quite know how to gain some winter experience? Our

buddy walks can help you!

- Our buddy walks help fill two key gaps for those who are pretty new to winter mountaineering, namely acquiring skills and being able to safely climb / walk on Taranaki's winter white stuff and, getting to know others to be out there with.
- The buddy walks are informal, friendly and typically aimed at those wishing to improve their beginner/basic snow travel skills (ice axe, crampons, weather/snow conditions assessment, different terrain/slopes, maybe simple pitching) with a more experienced person.
- Each buddy walk will be a few hours walk within ½ an hours walk of the lodge, very much tailored to what the group want to practice and their current skill level. You will also start to get to know others that you can meet up the mountain with.
- The emphasis is on Buddy, i.e. the Buddy does not take complete responsibility for participant's safety. The Buddy is there to help participants make mutually agreed reasoned risk judgements.

Let Ange know at least a week before that you will be there so that we can organize enough experienced buddies to help.

Upcoming Buddy Walk dates:

- October 19th October 2019

On the day:

Meet at the North Egmont Camp House 8am ready to enjoy the day. That means with your gear (includes helmet), food, water bottle filled, etc. ready to go straight out onto the white stuff. We probably won't visit the lodge until on the way home.

If you're keen, please contact Club Trips Coordinator Ange (committee4.tac@outlook.com) for further details.

On the day:

Meet at the North Egmont Camp House 8am ready to enjoy the day. That means with your gear (includes helmet), food, water bottle filled, etc. ready to go straight out onto the white stuff. We probably won't visit the lodge until on the way home.

If you're keen, please contact Club Trips Coordinator Ange (committee4.tac@outlook.com) for further details.

Kapuni Hut Overnight

Sat/Sun 2nd – 3rd November

This trip will include an overnight at Kapuni Hut. We may find ourselves up Fanthams or traversing around it, the climb route will be dependent upon conditions at the time. So bring your wine, sleeping bag, crampons, ice axe & helmet and we'll make the most of the weather and conditions. Open to anyone who has completed Snowcraft 1.

If you would like to join this trip, please get in contact ASAP as it is this weekend. Contact Club Trips Coordinator Ange (committee4.tac@outlook.com) if interested or for further details.

Mt Taranaki Slush Summit

Sat or Sun TBC November 2019 – day trip

If you have recently completed Snowcraft 1 with us, then this is the perfect trip for you! We specifically wait for suitable slush condition for this trip to enable those who have recently completed Snowcraft 1 to have the opportunity to summit Mt Taranaki in 'beginner' conditions. Because we wait for just the right conditions, it is likely the date will be announced at short notice and may not make a HiTAC edition. If you attended Snowcraft 1 this year you will be issued an email once the date is announced. Our TAC Facebooked page will also be updated so please keep an eye out!

Please contact Club Trips Coordinator Ange (committee4.tac@outlook.com) if interested or for further details.

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▼

Sat 30th November 2019

This trip is a great chance to explore and traverse Mt Taranaki's western slopes! We will be hiking up the Kahui Track past Kahui Hut and 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.

Mt Taranaki Winter Summit via Surrey Rd or Blondies

TBC: Late Nov – early Dec.

Rising immediately behind Tahurangi Lodge, a winter Taranaki summit via Surrey Road offers a new winter route. For those who have completed Snowcraft 1 and at least a couple of Mt Taranaki winter summits. You will need to have very good proven crampon technique & experience on frozen snow & ice as well as be confident on winter condition slopes of moderate exposure both in terms of steepness and hardness.

If interested, contact Club Trips Coordinator Ange Hampton at committee4.tac@outlook.com. Ange will be emailing those interested as soon as a date is confirmed.

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.

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.

New Members

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

Fon White

Jo, Andrew, Sophie and Tom Wilkinson

Henning & Lizette Kruger

Sandy, Perri, Marshall and Emett Schaare

Okato

New Plymouth

New Plymouth

Hamilton

Subscribe

Past Issues

Translate ▼

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 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,

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)or email secretary.tac@outlook.com[Translate](#) ▼

Club Links

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

Copyright © 2019 Taranaki Alpine Club Inc., All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

