



HiTAC

October 2019

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

Hi everyone,

Well social media tells me it's been a good month for the TAC community, fb pages are loaded with gloating images of happy climbers on rimey summits, icy sunrises, and tales of springs first ski descents from the crater. Presidential tenure however seems to guarantee almost none of the above, mine coinciding somehow with a decline in appearances on the mounnga this month, however happy for all of you.. really...

So let's remedy that. Make this "take your president climbing" month, starting with the (delayed) club trip to Syme Hut (now) on the 6th of October - Check the FB page for details and let Ange know if you are keen to come along. Ideally suited for those who have finished SC1 courses and want to try out their gear with some supervision from some of the more experienced members. Axes and crampons required.

Club night this month is the induction for the open climb, please turn up if you are going to help out this year, even if you have been through it all before. Everyone's support is necessary to make the climb happen so attendance would be appreciated. Following the induction, Greg Banks and the snow caving crew will give us a short presentation and a collection of tall tales about the TAC snow caving trip this month.

Finally , you might have noticed the hoardings are up and the local body election is on the 12th of October. While TAC doesn't officially support any particular candidate, I'm going to walk the tightrope a little and thank our incumbent Councillor Stacy Hitchcock for her time on the TAC executive committee over the past four years and wish her the best of luck. It's always good to have council representation on a club committee. Just saying...

Spring conditions are here, get amongst it!

Ivan Bruce

El Presidente!

president.tac@outlook.com

OTNZ Taranaki Branch River Safety Training

Hi everyone, the club, along with OTNZ (Outdoor training New Zealand) is running a river safety day. This is free to all members and will be great learning or brushing the cobwebs off when it comes to crossing rivers and critical decision making when in the bush and faced with crossing rivers. To cross or not to cross!?!?...and where and how!?!?

get involved guys.

All going well, we will also run a bush day / weekend to learn about bushcraft, navigation etc.

Please see below for details and how to contact OTNZ to book a spot!!



OTNZ (Outdoor Training New Zealand) Taranaki Branch River Safety Training Sunday 17th November 2019 11 am – 3 pm.

Rivers have traditionally been the second biggest killer of New Zealanders in the back country.

This theory and practical training day provides:

- an understanding of rivers and hazards
- how to evaluate sites for safe crossing
- how to manage a group crossing
- practising crossing techniques, pack floating and how to self-rescue if swept away.

You do not need to be a confident swimmer to do this course.

Cost TAC will cover the cost for members.

Further information will be provided once registration is completed.

To register online please click on the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/RiverTarOTNZ>

For further information contact:

OTNZ Branch secretary at otnz.taranaki@gmail.com.

TAC BAKE OFF 2019



It is time to plan another bake off at Tahurangi Lodge.

Sweet and Savoury Scones, or muffins baked in the Lodge's oven will be judged and consumed.

To be in to win, have a lot to eat and have fun, be at Tahurangi Lodge on **Saturday 19 October** for the great TAC Bake Off.

Trophy for the best - "THE WOODEN SPOON" and prizes for the not so good baking.

Judging will be at 4.00 pm by all, judges need not be bakers, so come along and enjoy.

Plan to stay overnight at the lodge and enjoy a shared meal to make a full weekend of it.

Fine print:

All baking must be undertaken at the lodge.

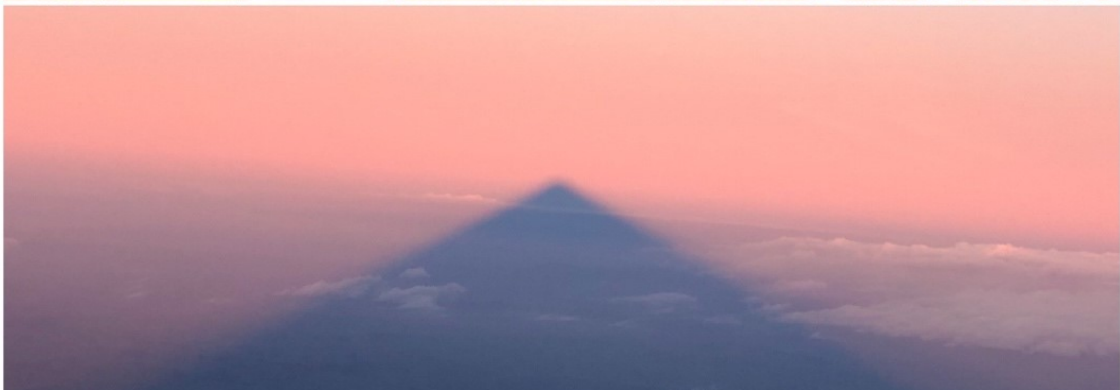
Maximum cook time is 20 minutes so keep mixture small.

Each bake will be rated from 1 to 5, 5 being the best score, Scores added up to be winner.

Judges decision will be final.

All baking is to be consumed at the lodge.

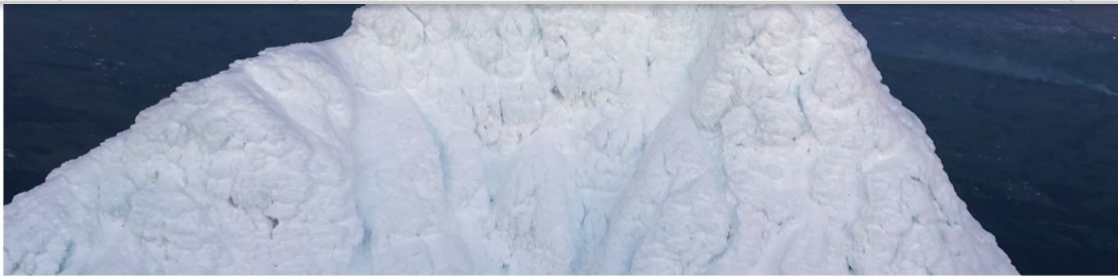
More Awesome Pics fromm Glen Hodges



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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 3rd October Open Climb Volunteer induction night

If you are planning on helping for the Open Climb, please come along to this induction night.

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'

Mt Taranaki buddy walks on slopes near Tahurangi 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.

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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.

Fanthams Peak Spring Summit

This Sunday – 6th October 2019

This is a great day out and a fantastic opportunity to experience exposure to steeper terrain and conditions on the colder side of the mountain. Lunch at Syme Hut depends how iced up it is. This trip is tailored as an excellent follow on from Snowcraft 1 (or equivalent) as well as for those with more experience to work together as an awesome team and learn from each other.

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

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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.

Please 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 Facebook 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.

Okahu Day Trip

Sat or Sun TBC November 2019 – day trip

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.

Other winter trips September - November 2019

Plans are also underway for these winter trips. Watch this space for dates & further details!

October: Surrey Road Summit – day trip.

More details to come for this trip – please keep an eye out on Facebook for more details when a date is confirmed or email Ange (committee4.tac@outlook.com) for more info.

New Members

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

Club Information

TAHURANGI 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, and a full 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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