

Club Night this Thursday



HiTAC

April 2021

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 Folks,

Kia ora folks,

First things first. A huge thanks to everyone who helped and is still helping run the 74th open climb. It's a massive undertaking and requires ridiculously large contributions of time and resources from at least 70 club members every year. There's always a sense of "bloody hell, why are we still doing this", but hopefully the expressions of immense gratitude and accomplishment on the faces of those punters that had a once in lifetime experience they couldn't have done without us, still makes this event relevant and worthwhile.

Minor admin point. There are several first aid kits and poo pots (y' weirdo's) that haven't come back. These may be sitting in your packs if you were in a party. Can these please be returned at the coming club night?

The AGM has been and gone and looks like you're all stuck with the same Pres for another year. ~~However, on the bright side we've managed to finally get rid of~~ Unfortunately, after 5 years as Captain and another couple as VP, Chris Hayes will be stepping down from the role of VP to work on his new career in the fields of community engagement and corporate diplomacy. Also stepping aside is Ange, our trips organiser and Taranaki Base Hospital facilities reviewer, now completely given over to the joy of home ownership, renovation and resulting penury. A huge thanks to both for their time on the exec, which was appreciated by us all.

New to the exec this year are our new trips coordinator, Lindsay Stones. And we welcome back Jonathan Crane, ever the sucker for punishment, who re-joins us this year. We have a new VP in former secretary Conrad Murray and Sheryl Hamilton picks up the secretarial role. Otherwise, the same crew continue in their previous roles. Bloody hell, Dave Bolger (NZOIA Rock 2 and Alpine 2 quals) has offered to run an introduction to rock climbing course at Kinloch Crag on the weekend of the 17th and 18th April! The course is aimed at all climbers but ideally would suit those who have done the rock and rope course, have started doing a bit already and perhaps looking to move on to leading in the outdoors. The course will deal with bolted sport climbing, setting safe anchors etc, some trad basics if time allows.

Everything taught here is relevant for the Snow Craft 2 course we're going to hold at Ruapehu later in the year and preference to that course will be given to those that have shown interest in this one. So, get in touch with Lindsay ASAP. I expect this course will be in high demand and numbers will be limited.

Club night this month is a gear up for winter guide from our Club Captain, if you are interested in doing the snow craft courses this year, or just want to make fun of the way he talks, I suggest this should be a useful night out. Also, this month, the dreaded cable replacement works will start this month, VOLLIE'S are required! So scroll down and please read the notice regarding the works and make yourselves available if you can. Obviously, you can expect some disruption to lodge life as this work is undertaken.

Finally, from me... it's time to pay people, invoices for this year have been emailed out and are due by the first of June. Check your spam if you haven't received it or contact the treasurer if you've changed your email. We're onto you. You can't fool us. We've heard it all before. There will be a savage audit of paid-up members on the second of June and fobs of all non-payers will be automatically neutralised. Late payment penalties will apply to the tardy, a curse shall be laid upon them all and demons summoned to haunt their dreams...

Winter is coming.
El Pres.

Ivan Bruce

El Presidente!

president.tac@outlook.com
www.taranakialpineclub.co.nz

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

April 1st

"Pre Winter Gear and Equipment checks & Release of Snow Craft Courses 2021...get there or miss out!!!"

I will be holding a Pre winter equipment checks for everyone from total novice to winter Ninjas!! we will look at what boots to buy, and why. Crampons for the boots and what types? Ice axes...technical to classic, lightweight fast and efficient to long lasting but heavy bags and equipment?. All of the pros and cons, ever debatable questions on what and why to buy and "what do you think!?!?"

Please come along before you purchase your newest and best new winter and mountaineering gear and see what different opinions are flying around the room and why. I will give my professional opinion and "best practice" advice along with my "what I would use" tips for beginners being bombarded with advice from retail shops and the internet.

More than one way to skin a cat so come along for a chat and Ill show you heaps of gear to discuss and chat about!!

Steve / Geordie

Club Captain

Want to help your Club out?

We need some volunteers for the Cable Replacement Project, which is taking place the week of the 12th April weather permitting.

You may be aware that due the lightning strikes to our old cable (original installed in the 60's) it has seen better days and now is the hour to remedy the situation.

We are looking for people who know how to having a working relationship with a shovel or spade, be prepared to get abit grubby and have a good sense of humour while slaving away.

Also, we require some other key people to keep the crew fed and watered as required.

Just let Sheryl know which part of the puzzle you wish to contribute to by a text or call to **(027) 243-1718** and she will keep you up to date with the events as it gets closer to the time.

Thanks for be willing to be actively supporting TAC, many hands make light work!

From the Cable Replacement Crew.

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.



Recent Trips

Rock and Rope Weekend Kindly written by Claire Jones.

I heard plenty of good things about the 2020 rock and rope course, which I had been unable to attend due to diary clashes, so was determined to get to the 2021 trip.

Having gathered the necessary supplies for the weekend, our group slogged up the puffer looking forward to a nice rest after a busy week at work.

Greg Banks our trip lead - had other ideas. We were launched straight into instruction on knot tying, tying a prusik and much more, all the while Greg's inflatable blow up toy* was watching the proceedings.

Seems as COVID-19 limited many of our winter trips in 2020, mother nature smiled kindly upon us and sent an icy wind blasting through, chilling the lodge to below freezing. As we looked out into the swirling mist on Saturday morning, we were more than happy to receive more indoor instruction before venturing out.

We also had an unofficial demonstration of the experienced rescue team (Pete Lethridge et al) who unexpectedly had to manage an unfortunate young woman who came staggering down from high up the lizard, assisted by her climbing partner, with a very crooked ankle. (We later learned she had 2 broken bones). her stoicism was legendary.

Once her transport was co-ordinated, we were off outside to try our newfound skills with some abseiling - first on the grassy slope just below the lodge which drops down to the road near the translator, then, once this was mastered, we headed to Tegel wall for some more vertical abseils (along with a sketchy walk through some rather loose rock to get back to the top of the wall.)

With a more real risk involved, we had to really concentrate on getting our knots right, making sure we connecting things to the right part of our harnesses, our buddy checks and getting everything right - inevitably forgetting something that needed correction by our capable tutors! then once checked, had to steel our nerves as we reversed ourselves over the top of the precipice to start our abseil. This step was invariably the most difficult - just getting the courage to lean back and let the equipment do it's job!

After a break for lunch, we headed over to Warwick castle. There were definitely a couple of parts of this traverse where we were very glad to be attached to extra protection as we traversed around narrow ledges and overhangs. Then, once we finished the traverse- nerves still jangling - we were reminded that we still had to get down - by abseiling - only this was from a greater height than Tegel wall! Again we connected our prusik and safety - and braced ourselves at the precipice ready for the drop. The paparazzi were documenting our inelegant descents from below.

Of course, one turn was not enough adrenaline so we all went back for seconds!

Mercifully, by this time the biting wind had abated somewhat and the sun started to shine. Because there were

more challenges in store after that - the option of top-rope rock climbing 2 "easy" routes- Sunrise wall and Cardinal.

The definition of "easy" makes me shudder to think what a "medium" might be. Without climbing shoes, using boots instead, it was a serious struggle to get up even the easiest wall- boots sliding on mossy damp rock, and using every muscle in my body, wedging limbs into anything, and egged on by the encouragement of those below, I was able to get to the top. Others completed this same feat with fewer Adam Ondra grunts than me, and Conrad meanwhile climbed a harder route the traditional way- by placing equipment as he went. I have renewed respect for trad climbers!

By later afternoon we were happily trotting back to the lodge after a fun, successful day to rest and enjoy our dinners. Not so- Greg had other ideas - again. Ropes were rigged up and prusik attached and with harnesses on, we created our own "Cirque-de Soleil" (we were entertaining, although perhaps lacked the finesse of real acrobats- although I expect Lindsay Stones will be signing her contract soon....)

Sunday dawned clear and significantly warmer. Crowds of hikers marched past on their pilgrimage to the summit. planned adventure today was to conquer Humphrey's castle. John Jordan gave us a club history lesson as we walked past the sight of the old WW2 Nissen hut (which ended to be erected twice after getting blown to bits by the wind the first time), then to the site of the old Tahurangi lodge - nestled in a spot where it was guaranteed to fill with snow to the top of the doorway in heavy snowfall.

Once we reached Humphrey's, another "Via Ferrata" was set up from the lowest (North) end of the formation. We were challenged to walk to the top with our packs on - mostly this was OK but one spot - which was effectively a chimney, required some unusual body contortions to allow one to progress upwards (again accompanied by grunts). Greg had suggested we use a prusik and a locking carabiner on this climb - we soon ditched the prussic in favour of 2 carabiners instead. Once again, you get to the top, breathed a sigh of relief- then realise the way down is to abseil. Below are many pointy irregularities that needed to be avoided - not a "straight down" descent. For many of us, the learnings from the previous day went out the window! Ivan -who had been patiently waiting for us all - helped as we fumbled with our gear and made sure things were safe before we took the plunge downwards.

It was certainly a challenging weekend both mentally and physically - but with sincere thanks to all our instructors and helpers - especially Greg Banks, Conrad Murray, Ivan Bruce, John Jordan, Phil Whitwell, and Peter Lethbridge, everyone was rewarded by exciting and adrenaline filled experiences, the gaining of new skills and camaraderie of a great group of people.

If this opportunity comes up again in 2022, then I would definitely recommend you make time to participate.

* A plastic tyrannosaurus rex.







Upcoming Club Trips

Plans are in the making for Winter Trips, watch this space!

If you would like to lead a trip, please contact Trips Coordinator Lindsay Stones on trips.tac@outlook.com for further details. Be sure to keep an eye on our Facebook page for trip updates too.

New Members

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

Ethan Taswell

Jeremy Steven Shelley & Karina Linan Landa

Niels Piebenga & Nicky Nelson

Penny & Jason Cullen

Sandra & John Rutherford

Lidia Abenza Belando & Joshua Patrick Herlihy

Steve Hobson & Tania Archer

Graeme Hamilton & Andrew Sykes

Stratford

Auckland

New Plymouth

Okato

New Plymouth

New Plymouth

New Plymouth

Egmont Village

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 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. committee4.tac@outlook.com

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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