

NEW Clubnight Venue

Club nights are now being held at Fitzroy Golf Club, Record Street, Fitzroy



HiTAC August 2022

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

Kia ora koutou,

Those who made it to the NZ Mountain Film Festival were treated to some great films including a great video document of Maddy Whikatter and the alpine kids traversing the southern divide. Some members may remember their in person presentation at a club night last year. I have had some feedback that people enjoyed this film night more than banff which is either high praise and/or they just don't like big crowds. Either way with a bit more forward planning we can potentially get a second night of films sorted for next year.

I am getting the occasional message from green snowcraft one graduates asking where is a great place to go practice their cramponing depending on the current conditions and I am sure other experienced club members are getting these messages also. It's great to see that snowcraft is making people assess risks and what their limits are and getting out there doing it. Definitely don't be afraid to ask, as even experienced alpinists were inexperienced at some point. Just because we are fortunate to have experienced club members doesn't mean we should rely on this alone to and because snowcraft one only covers the basics, keep an eye on the trips/instruction sections of the HiTAC while we endeavor post snowcraft to get a club 2-3 day avalanche awareness course to meet this growing need.. In the meantime use those experienced contacts but also look for yourselves using these useful links

<https://www.avalanche.net.nz/>

<https://www.metservice.com/mountains-and-parks/national-parks/egmont#regional-forecast>

<https://www.mountain-forecast.com/peaks/Mount-Egmont-Taranaki/forecasts/2518>

<https://www.metvuw.com/forecast/forecast.php?type=rain®ion=nz&noofdays=5>

<https://avalanche.net.nz/education/>

A dedicated core of Instructors made it to our train the trainers session run by Don Paterson who is a professional guide and has had more and more input into how we run our courses as a volunteer based club over the last few years, The day was packed with simple but incredibly valuable information aimed at this years intake of snowcraft one students, Our courses endeavor to cover a lot of information and students often come with many different outdoor experience levels so it was great for the Instructors who were able make it to get on the same page on best practice. All we need now is some positive manifestation so the kaitiaki of the mouna will grant us some more snow.

The mid winter xmas meal and film night at the lodge was a hit with most, my only complaint is the food was so good and rich, i couldn't help myself but fill up on far too much, so can someone else please bring some salads next year other than me, thanks.

If you get this in time we do have our regular club night for existing and prospective new members tomorrow night, it will be a social one with some films if the technology can be mastered once again.

We also have some buddy walks, trips and navigation and river crossing courses coming up with spaces so make sure you check out that section below if you're interested before they fill up.

See you all on the hill soon

Conrad Murray

President

president.tac@outlook.com

www.taranakialpineclub.co.nz

Lodge Cell Phone

The Cell phone in the Lodge has been re activated

It is available for incoming /emergency calls only.

Social events

Snowcraft Courses 2022

This years snowcraft courses are now full

Finn Gable

Club Captain.

captain.tac@outlook.com

OTNZ Training courses

Training Courses

OTNZ (Outdoor Training NZ) are offering courses on River Safety and a Bush Navigation Course, please see details below. These courses will be free to TAC members and there will be limited numbers so please register asap

For further information on the above courses please contact: OTNZ Branch secretary at otnz.taranaki@gmail.com.
Phone 021 733281

Taranaki Branch Bush Navigation Training

Saturday 15 October 2022 8 am – 4 pm.

This course will teach skills and knowledge to enable safe navigation in New Zealand bush.

This theory and practical training day covers how to:

- Interpret and follow a map
- Use a compass
- Develop location awareness
- Navigate both on track and off track
- Use a GPS

Prerequisites: Participants must

- Be over 18 years of age OR over 14 if accompanied by a parent/caregiver
- Have a reasonable standard of fitness and be able to carry a daypack.

Registering

Further information will be provided once registration is completed. To register online please click on the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/yur2h6xv>

Please ensure you advise when registering you a TAC member.

Taranaki Branch River Safety Training **11 am – 3 pm Sunday 13th November 2022**

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.

Registering

Further information will be provided once registration is completed. To register online please click on the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/yukr7he9>

Please ensure you advise when registering you a TAC member.

CLUB TRIPS TRIPS 2022

To register for trips or further information please contact Lindsay Stones trips.tac@outlook.com

Be sure to keep an eye on our Facebook page for trip updates too. 😊

Buddy Walks

If you would like to be a buddy who can help a less experienced club member, please let Lindsay know. A massive thank you to all of those who have been a buddy in the past! 😊

Our very popular Buddy Walks are back in 2022!

Saturday 6th August 2022

Saturday 13th August

- Are you new to winter mountaineering and don't quite know how to gain some winter experience? Our buddy walks can help you!
- Snowcraft 1 is required or similar experience. You may have been instructed in the basics of ice axe and crampons and have had a play. Learning this from a friend in a non formal setting is fine. A great chance to get out on our maunga at this time of year!!
- 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 wants 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 Lindsay know at least a week before that you will be there so that we can organize enough experienced buddies to help.

Please contact Club Trips Coordinator Lindsay Stones (trips.tac@outlook.com) for further details

TAC Tongariro Experience (Still a few spaces available)
Friday 30 Sept 2022 till Sunday 2 October 2022.

The purpose of the Experience is for beginner TAC members to further their alpine skills in a different environment from Mt Taranaki, around the Lodge.

The experience would be the following format :

- Start with a walk up Mangatepopo Valley to South Crater,
- Some practice of alpine skills below the track along Red crater,
- Descending to Emerald lake. Lunch
- Traversing towards Mt Tongariro, possibly climbing Mt Tongariro.
- Descending into South Crater and back down Mangatepopo Valley
- Along the experience the trip leaders would be adding to the skills of the persons and keeping an eye on their safety.
- Depending on the snow conditions and the weather the above format may change i.e we may head to the Whakapapa Ski field and catch a lift to a suitable area.

Requirements: Members to have completed a Snow Craft one course and have been out on the white stuff, snow, practicing their skills.

Additional Costs

Transport: to be arranged closer to the date

Accommodation: Approx. \$100 each, accommodation is booked in for Adventure Lodge in National Park

Food: individuals to supply own.

Ski lifts: if required.

Gear hire-age: Individuals to pay for this

For more information and to register please contact Trips Coordinator Lindsay Stones (trips.tac@outlook.com)

Trip Information

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.



Trip Reports

Trip Report Buddy Hike

By Kathy Waterfield

On Saturday 2nd July, a good number of club members met at Stratford Plateau, eager to get back on the white stuff for the first time this season, and rugged up against the bitter wind. Wearing our winter boots, we inelegantly walked up through the ski field towards the Policeman. Noting icy conditions on the moss, we donned our crampons, ice axes and helmets, albeit in a slightly slow and rusty manner after summer. Protected from the wind for the rest of the outing, it turned out to be a bluebird day.

Expertly encouraged by Glenys, Greg, and Phil, we practiced various techniques for ascending on both icy and soft slopes, front pointing in harder conditions, cutting buckets, and descending, all framed by a brilliant rainbow.

Overall, it was a fun, informative and well-paced day, dusting off the summer cobwebs and building confidence, ready for the next winter adventure. Massive thanks to our buddies for volunteering their time and knowledge!







Recent Events

Midwinter Christmas and Alpine Film Evening Tahurangi Lodge Saturday 16 July 2022

With such a mild autumn and winter, the hill was looking very bare of snow except for the upper levels. Snowperson competition was not going to happen this year, and it looked like the crampons and ice axes were once again just going for a walk on our packs.

Twenty members arrived at Tahurangi Lodge during the afternoon and it didn't take long before an array of morish snacks and mulled wine were being enjoyed. This was followed by a delicious dinner that included bacon and egg pies, curries and vegetarian dishes. We all needed a little pause in the eating frenzy before the dessert course;

pavlova, ambrosia, Christmas pudding and other enticing sweet dishes.

Following such a delicious meal it did take us a little while to get to the second event of the evening, the films. After the grandstand was constructed, everyone settled down for a night at the movies. We were entertained by some very adventurous and daring people. The movies included mountain biking, snowboarding, rock climbing and mountaineering feats.

In the early part of the evening the weather finally obliged, and it starting snowing. A hasty 'snow mouse' as made on the deck and a few snow balls thrown. In the morning a group went for a walk above the lodge and enjoyed the fresh, although thin layer of snow.

A big thanks to Glen Hodges for putting another excellent selection of movies together and Andrew Jordan for showing these. Also, thanks to everyone for coming and making it another memorable night at the lodge.



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 2022: FAMILY \$65, ORDINARY (single) \$45, STUDENT (under 18), \$35.

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.

MEMBERSHIP SYSTEM

Our new member management system, [Hello Club](#), went live on **1st March**.

Through Hello Club, you are able to:

- Renew and pay for your membership or any other outstanding fees
- View past transactions and download invoices and receipts

You will have received an email with instructions on how to setup your account for Hello Club.

If you have changed your email address recently, please send us your up-to-date email address.

For any questions or comments, please contact club treasurer **Andrew Darney** via treasurer.tac@outlook.com

We are aware that membership reminders have already been emailed out automatically and has resulted in a lot of confusion so apologies for that.

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. trips.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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