

## Club Night this Thursday President's Shout and Photo Competition



# HiTAC

## December 2020

Hi Folks, welcome to the latest issue of the HiTAC.

Comments / opinion and content can be forwarded to [Hitac.tac@outlook.com](mailto:Hitac.tac@outlook.com)

[View this email in your browser](#)

---

## From the President's Desk

Hi folks,

It's been a while, did y miss me.

It's still not December and I'm begging for January already, but here goes the last one of these before the pre-Christmas madness kicks in and renders me completely insensible.

We managed to get a few club trips away over the past couple of months, including a breezy mission to Syme Hut, followed by a horrendous, but probably successful slush summit (I think that's where we were) in white out conditions. The ever-popular Labour weekend rock trip to Kawakawa Bay lived up to everyone's high expectations despite a few showers.

There are no official club trips planned for this month but watch the facebook page for impromptu missions as they come up. Please let Ange know if you want to take a trip, or if you have an adventure in mind.

Outside of club trips, there's been plenty of action going on among the membership, with reports of climbing trips South completed, underway or planned for the near future. The rock rats have been spotted among the crags on Taranaki again so sending season is under way and there should be some tall tales told at the next club night.

Which is, by the way, El Presidente's shout, and the Club Photo night. So, come along and have a couple on me while you check out all cool things other club members did, the wild places they went and the weird people they hung out with..... while you were working.

Now, our club captain is already starting to field enquiries about the next seasons snow craft courses, and while everyone likes being popular, he respectfully requests that people hold off trying to book their place until, say March/ April next year. We'll give everyone at least a month's notice before advertising places but we aren't taking advance bookings. Good to know you all think we know what we're doing though.

However, we will reprise last year's club rock trip sometime after the Open Climb. Based at Tahurangi Lodge, the trip will be aimed at introducing new climbers to the local crags, so by all means hassle him about that instead. Open Climb tickets will go on sale this month, all going according to plan. I'll be spending plenty of spare time drawing up the rosters and sorting out the helpers for the climb, which will be held on, get this in your calendars if you don't already, THE 13th OF FEBRUARY 2021.

I'm currently short of about 40 volunteers and I'll be phoning every one of you unless my email box starts filling up with offers of help.

As the last club barbeque was a wash out, we will try again in January, see the face book page for details closer to the date.

Finally, have a great Christmas and a happy new year, let's face it, it can't be more of a shambles than this one was ... can it?

El Pres.

**Ivan Bruce**

**El Presidente!**

[president.tac@outlook.com](mailto:president.tac@outlook.com)

[www.taranakialpineclub.co.nz](http://www.taranakialpineclub.co.nz)

---

**Unite  
against  
COVID-19**



## Tahurangi Lodge

### Level 2 Access

#### DAY AND OVERNIGHT USE

- Scan the NZ COVID Tracer QR code, or enter your details into the hut register provided.
- Do not enter if you're unwell.
- Wash your hands on entry.
- Leave facilities clean and fit for use by others.
- Keep 2 metres' distance from people other than your party.
- Leave the lodge if you can't physically distance.

#### OVERNIGHT USE

- All overnight stays require prior booking with the bookings officer.
  - Overnight stays are limited to 14 people; with no more than 7 per bunkroom.
  - Scan the NZ COVID Tracer QR code, or enter your details into the hut register provided, on both days.
  - Maintain social distancing between separate groups while using the communal areas (e.g. pack room, lounge, kitchen).
- 
- 

## 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 August**

**Presidents Shout and Photo Competition**

# January Clubnight

Not confirmed yet - keep an eye on the FB page  
Usually a BBQ somewhere

---

---

## RECENT Club Trips

### Slush Summit

October 2020

The rain started exactly the moment I opened the car door at NEVC car park on the Friday night, so I pulled my rain coat out of the bottom of my pack, broke a beer bottle in doing so, and by the time I'd finished swearing at that my chips had got wet.. At which point I considered listening to the Universe and going home without delay... but then I remembered if I went home there might be kids sports to help with the next day, so I fled up to the Lodge in the rain.

We'd finally decided to get Slush done that weekend because the snow was disappearing fast after some balmy early spring weather this season and we weren't sure there'd be enough there to make the trip worthwhile. Also, I reasoned that no one likes burning up on slush in 30 degrees spring sunshine.

So as the horizontal sleet turned into driving snow at the top of the puffer I consoled myself in the thought that that maybe the burrito hadn't leaked through my pack after all and that I was semi confident there might still be a half bottle of rum in my locker. There was ... and a pleasant night in Lodge followed, confident as I was in the belief that I'd be able to lie in and sleep off any side effects as the rain and snow kept coming down.

But Greg Banks woke us up at about 6.30 with some perverse notion about going "for a look outside". We tried opening the window to show him the driving rain but he was not to be convinced. By 8am we were standing around in a damp circle discussing how far up Hongi's we might get before we gave up this fool's errand and went home. Again, Greg was not to be put off and we left, immediately broke into separate groups and began dispersing into the clouds in a generally upward direction. Somewhere near Drinking Rock there was a brief break in the clouds where we managed to converge, head count and disappear one by one into the white again.

After about another two hours of blindly wandering upward we hit a band of ice which Greg and I decided might be somewhere near the summit entrance, or potentially anywhere else on the mountain. We went up some more and then we kinda stopped going up at all. After 3 hours of walking up, this was different, we considered this might be significant. Then, very briefly, the cloud lifted and we found ourselves sitting the crater, with the rest of the crew emerging from the cloud below like white walkers.

"Great" I said, "we're here, now let's go back. It's crap and I can't see anything anymore". But yet again Greg was not to be deterred and everyone front pointed up to the summit. After about 5mins of taking selfies that could've been equally successful if they'd stood in front of a sheet of white cardboard, I convinced people to go back down, explained the descent, urged caution, impressed the general need for haste due to the weather, urged caution again...and then waited for a bit while Greg Banks soloed around on the Shark's Tooth.

We followed our tracks down off the mountain finally emerging from the lifting cloud somewhere above Hongis, roughly where we entered it, for the most part none the wiser as to where we'd been.

Many thanks to Greg Banks for leading the trip, thoroughly enjoyed by all.

---





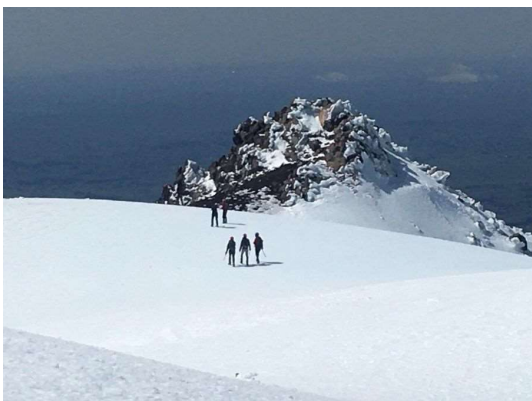
## **Kawakawa Bay, Labour Weekend**

TAC members converged on K-bay over the long weekend for another stint on one the North Island's best crags. This place is far from a secret these days and despite the poor forecast the campground was busy and tent space hard to find, but such is the scope of climbing available at K Bay once we left the for the rock walls there was nothing but line after line of great climbs, no crowded routes, no hassles. Thoroughly enjoyable weekend, even managed to spend Monday morning at the Kinloch (K1) Crag on the way home, which I can recommend for a short session or if you have kids to wear out. Looking forward to a return trip to the bay sometime in late summer/autumn.



## Syme Hut Trip

No report, but some great photo's courtesy of Ross Eden





---

## Upcoming Club Trips

We are currently working on upcoming trips. If you would like to lead a trip, please let us know!

Thanks again to those of our experienced club members who have so far offered to lead & assist some of our trips this year 😊😊

---

## New Members

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

Noah Van Greevenbroeck

New Plymouth

Brittany Aldridge

New Plymouth

---

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.taranakialpineclub.co.nz)

Any trip reports, events, gear for sale can be sent to the Editor at [hitac.tac@outlook.com](mailto: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](mailto:secretary.tac@outlook.com)

---

## Club Links

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

*Copyright © 2020 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](#)





