

OOPS Made a couple of errors

Club night this week is 3rd February at Tupare 7pm - BBQ

Lodge working Bee for painting is 12th February, Not the 19th

Corrected HiTAC below

Open Climb 12th February 2022 has been cancelled As we are now at red light status Club night this Thursday - BBQ at Tupare 7pm



HiTAC February 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 katoa,

Happy new year everyone, and welcome to the brave new world that we're about to set out into.

One that begins without the open climb. Cancelled due to pandemic for the first time in its illustrious history.

Special thanks to Jon Crane, Sophie Tucker, Carey Clow, Glen Hodges, and Conrad Murray for the time they dedicated to the OC committee this year. The OC safety plan got a major overhaul; the ticketing system replaced; registrations taken; roles assigned; volunteers contacted; threats, bribes, and indiscretions leveraged, all to get this up and running. However, this year it was not to be. Fortunately, the revamped system should make it easier to run next year, so all the hard work isn't totally wasted. Thanks too, to all the volunteers that put up their hands to help.

On the plus side, you now have the weekend of the 12th of February free, and as you'd planned to be on the mountain anyway, have we got a deal for you. We're having a club working bee at Taurangi Lodge. Come along and grab a paintbrush, or a shovel and rake, or whatever implement of destruction that comes to hand. We plan to have a vehicle going up to the Lodge with supplies the Friday prior, so there may be room for a few extra supplies as well.

The rock rats were out and about all January, and tall tales are being told about Christmas trips to the South Island. The TAC trip to Pakeho in the Waitomo was, by all accounts, thoroughly awesome. On the same weekend, about 20 Taranaki Tuatara's and supporters turned out to Tahuna o tutawa/ Warwick's castle for what one old head described as the largest gathering of rock climbers seen there for 20 years. By the time this HiTac is out, Phil Whitwell's probably just taken a trip to perve at the Giants Bum last Saturday.

Lots to come this month as well, I might be convinced to slink off to the castle during the weekend of the working bee for a day on the local crags (paint goes on best in the evenings when it's cooler, y'know). There's a rock and rope trip on the weekend of the 26th, and Conrad's planning a rock trip to the west side Late Feb early March as well, hassle him for traction.

Club night this month will be a club barbeque, to be held on Thursday the 3rd of February, at Tupare Gardens, 7pm. The barbeque is located down on the river flat, with lots of space for social distancing, or bullrush, and there's a swimming hole nearby for those of us inoculated against Waiwhakaiho River water. A good chance to catch up and plan out the rest of the summers climbing trips over a beer and a burnt sausage. Follow the link below if you need a map of Tupare.

<https://www.trc.govt.nz/assets/facility-maps/Tupare-visitor-Map-2021.pdf>

Finally, a note from the lodge booking officer. Taurangi has been booked by the North Shore tramping club on the

weekend of the 29th of January. Space will be tight that weekend.

Ivan Bruce

El Presidente!

president.tac@outlook.com

www.taranakialpineclub.co.nz

Painting the Lodge - calling all Picasos

Tahurangi lodge 1520 meters, baking sun, freezing ice and sand blasting winds, its a tough location and needs regular painting, this summer its due for a lick of paint. We are planning a series of working bees. With the Open Climb being cancelled, we are planning the first on February 12th, with others to follow. Of course these will be weather reliant, brushes will be supplied but bring your own (old brush) if you wish, bring painting clothes as this is oil based and probably want come out of clothing. So if you can get more paint on the wall than on yourself we want YOU! Confirmation dates and times to will be posted soon.

Thanks Greg Sharman

NZAC Members - Rock climbing weekend

For NZAC members this is a weekend not to be missed!! The annual NZAC Taranaki Section climbing meet will take place at Manganui Lodge on the 18th to 20th of Feb. Come and crank some of the best trad climbing the North Island has to offer, or enjoy a scramble to the summit of Taranaki Mounga. Please note this is not an instruction weekend so be prepared for independent climbing. See the Event photo for sign up details.



Taranaki Climbing Meet 2022 18-20th Feb

Based at Manganui Lodge on the slopes of Taranaki Mounga.

NZAC Taranaki Section will subsidise some of the food and accomodation.
(Saturday night dinner is provided)

For information and sign ups contact:
Phill Davies: ascent.phill@gmail.com

Covid vaccination passports are required for this event

Unite against COVID-19

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 February BBQ At Tupare 7pm

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swimming hole nearby for those of us inoculated against Waiwhakaiho River water.

A good chance to catch up and plan out the rest of the summers climbing trips over a beer and a burnt sausage.

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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.

If you're interested in coming on any of the below trips, or 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.



UPCOMING TRIPS 2021/22

We have a pretty good line up of trips suited to all members and families planned for next year. Check out below and as always contact below email for info. 😊

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

Kids Family Hike to the Lodge Stayover Stratford Plateau round to Tahurangi Lodge Saturday 5th Feb to Sunday 6th Feb

A chance to get the kids hiking and yourself, socialise and meet other families too. Meet at 10am at the Stratford Plateau Carpark and sidle around to the lodge for lunch. Enjoy the rest of the day either hanging out at the lodge or going for a short walks nearby. Get the kids excited about a fun sleepover and hiking of course, they are our future TAC volunteers after all.

Rock & Rope on Taranaki Fri/Sat/Sun 25th – 27th February 2022 – 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 rope skills at the lodge then move to Tegel Wall for abseiling practice. 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.

This activity is only available to TAC Members and is not available to persons who have previously undertaken the activity. If interested, contact Club Trips Coordinator Lindsay Stones at trips.tac@outlook.com.



Trip Reports

Trip report - Giant's Bum 29/1/22

This little known route was led by Phil Whitwell and Peter Lethbridge to the little known "Giant's Bum" track.

If you look at the mountain from the visitor centre carpark on a clear day (like the 29th), you will be able to see the 2 mounds of the "bum" on the western slopes, about midway down, complete with a crack.

We all set off from the visitor centre at 6.30 am- having arrived barely early enough to secure some sort of parking - as many Aucklanders had fled south for their anniversary weekend.

The track started on the Holly Hut track, turned left at Jacob's ladder, then somewhere along this track, Phil located the secret portal to the entrance of Giant's Bum trail where we were joined by Glen Hodges coming towards us, who had somehow known exactly what time to expect us.

We ascended rapidly though the steep, uphill overgrown route, wondering if Phil was just making things up as he went. There were all manner of dainty sub-alpine flowing plants, some emitting a pleasant pine-like aroma.

The scrub did eventually give way to tussock and the objective became clearer and Phil was exonerated- we just needed to head west to the valley below Ambury Bluff, traverse a little, scramble round some rocks, let Lindsay wash her face in a puddle in a lava flow, walk a bit more and soon we were there.

Should anyone have forgotten food, there were abundant emergency supplies in the form of snowberries.

Having achieved the objective mid-morning, the way back to the lodge was actually to go up higher, through some rather loose stuff- then traverse above Ambury Bluff and avoid falling into it, then descended carefully down the ridge onto Khyber Pass route, which was once a popular route from the old Tahurangi Hut. (That route went through Khybers into Crater Valley and then followed the smooth rock in the base of Crater Valley to the Lizard. It avoided Scoria ridge.)

Humphries castle was visible from various perspectives throughout the morning.

As we descended, the loose gravelly track became covered in moss and vegetation, making descent much more pleasant. We could see the summit climbers to our east struggling up and down the scree, while we were relaxed and fresh.

We passed the old Tahurangi hut site, picked up the old summit track and were soon back at the lodge for lunch, coffee and a chat.

It was an extremely pleasant walk - not too challenging, very pretty with all the flowers, mosses and vegetation, good company and at a relaxing pace.

Sincere thanks to Lindsay for co-ordinating the trip including good advice to get an early start, and for Phil and Pete for showing us one of the mountain's hidden secrets. A very pretty walk despite the uninspiring title for this event.

Led by Phil Whitwell, Peter Lethbridge, with the group consisting of myself, Agnes Delarue, Adam Garrod, Conrad Murray, Lindsay Stones, Nicole Michelini, Martin Cartagena, Tess Pope, Dave Clough, Andrew Jordan, Glenys Grant and Glen Hodges.

Claire Jones





New Members

We welcome the following new members, and look forward to meeting them on the hill.

Miyuki Edwards	New Plymouth
Tess Pope	New Plymouth
Nick Casey	New Plymouth
Donna Stewart	New Plymouth
Jane Gower & Mark Johnson	New Plymouth
Ami Adams	New Plymouth
Dion & Bronwyn Philip	Otorohanga
Angela Fraser & Lucas Turner	Pungarehu

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. 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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