

**Club Night this Thursday**  
see inside for details



**HiTAC**

**June 2021**

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](#)

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## From the President's Desk

President's Desk- June 2021

Kia ora folks,

Not the best month on the Mouna, and our thoughts go out to the families of Richard Phillips and Peter Kirkwood who fell and died near the summit this month.

Thanks, and much respect are due to the rescue team, who recovered the climbers in the difficult conditions.

This time of year can be especially dangerous as the mountain transitions from summer to winter conditions, so please everyone be careful up there. It's crampons, ice axes and the know how to use them at all times on the upper mountain at all times from now on.

It's kind of a phony month for alpine stuff, the snow's almost there but a bit thin to be compelling. I've dragged a file over my crampons just in case, but until the white stuff arrives en mass, at least the rock-climbing season never really ends. Even though looks like this weekend I'm going to sitting inside a wet hut near a crag watching it rain...

Not a problem for the 7 Tuataras, who are competed in the National Indoor Bouldering Series, in Wellington this month, with Harrison Larkin placing 5th in his very competitive age group. The tuataras team of 27 are training hard for the national youth and masters bouldering championship due to take place in Queenstown during October this year. This will be expensive to attend (it's in Queenstown after all), so TAC and the tuatara's will be looking for sponsorship to assist getting kids and support crew down there. Let us know if you have any ideas.

Also looking for ideas are DoC, who are holding a Visitor Experience Design Workshop for the Taranaki Crossing Project. This is an opportunity for DoC to discuss aspirations, provide an update on the project and gather any additional feedback we want to share. TAC will attend. If you are interested, or have ideas you think we need to air, please email me (don't phone!) and I'll pass them on.

Yes, we know the web cams are down and Greg Banks has been clocking up the kms on the puffer replacing various bits of the system. We expect to have these up and going sometime very soon.

Club night is this Thursday, 3rd of June, which will be back at the Blind Foundation, despite the many demands we go back to the pub! Our 2020 Ben Stevenson Cup winner, Lottie Borra, returned to Italy last year and appears to have spent most of her time ski mountaineering and rock climbing while Covid raged around her. She's back with a bunch of tall tales from the Italian alps, should be a great night. See you there!

EI Pres.

**Ivan Bruce**

**EI Presidente!**

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

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

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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 of June**

## **Lottie Borra - tales from the Italian Alps**

Our 2020 Ben Stevenson Cup winner, Lottie Borra, returned to Italy last year and appears to have spent most of her time ski mountaineering and rock climbing while Covid raged around her.

She's back with a bunch of tall tales from the Italian alps, should be a great night. See you there!

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## **Gear for Sale**

### **Black Diamond Ice Axe 55cm**

I have a like new, used only one, ice axe I would like to sell. It was found to be too short for me, I bought a longer one

Interested? Let me know

Louise McKenna 0212137813

[taranaki99@hotmail.com](mailto:taranaki99@hotmail.com)

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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](mailto:trips.tac@outlook.com) for further details. Be sure to keep an eye on our Facebook page for trip updates too.



## Winter Trips Coming Soon

**With all the snowcraft courses going ahead in the winter we are scoping out some ideas for an epic winter snow trip. Will keep you posted.**

**Maybe here when there is more snow????**



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## Recent Trips & Events

### Formal Dinner

The crew gathered and it was good to see 2 new members join in.

Murray blew us all away with his formal attire being his kilt!

Yes, that usually question was asked.... but we will never know ;)

The food was amazing, good mix of healthy & sweet treats.

with following morning breakfast frittata and cheesecake!

How does it get any better than that?



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## Upcoming Club Trips and Events

A massive thanks again to those of our experienced club members who have so far offered to lead & assist some of our trips. Our trips would not be possible without you!



**Queens Birthday - Monday 7th June**

**A midday pot luck luncheon at Tahurangi Lodge.**

This is to celebrate the club turning 91 years old.  
Come and join in and meet other club members.  
(This is how I got involved.)

See you on the maunga!  
Sheryl Hamilton (Secretary)

## West side of the Mountain

### Sat-Sunday 26-27 June 2021

The trip will start from the road end at Upper Kahui Road and we will make our way up and past Kahui Hut getting onto the moss slopes. From here depending on conditions snow level and weather we will continue up to below the Okahu Bluff possibly continuing up higher. We will be returning the same way. The last time we did this trip we did over 20 km's of walking so a reasonable fitness level is required.

This is an alpine trip so anyone thinking of coming should have the necessary equipment and skills to be able to walk on steep snow slopes.

The trip is dated Saturday or Sunday depending on the weather.  
If anyone has questions they can contact Greg Banks 027 2613199

To register for this trip please contact Trips Coordinator Lindsay ([trips.tac@outlook.com](mailto:trips.tac@outlook.com))

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## Buddy Walks

### Saturday 17th July 2021

Our very popular Buddy Walks are back in 2021! Our first one happens to fall on the same day as our Film Night so will go via the lodge first for those needing to drop off their overnight stay gear. Read below for what our buddy walks are all about.

- Are you new to winter mountaineering and don't quite know how to gain some winter experience? Our buddy walks can help you!
- Snowcraft is not needed. 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 Ange know at least a week before that you will be there so that we can organize enough experienced buddies to help.

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! 😊

Please contact Club Trips Coordinator Lindsay ([trips.tac@outlook.com](mailto:trips.tac@outlook.com)) for further details

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## Events



## Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July Tahurangi Lodge Mid-Winter Christmas & Alpine Film Evening Tahurangi Lodge 4pm

Come along and join us for our annual Tahurangi Lodge Mid-Winter Christmas & Alpine Film Evening at Tahurangi Lodge. Bring along your favourite Christmas dish to share (and please don't forget about desert!).

Snowman/person building competition

As usual we have an impressive line-up of mountain films that will not have seen; they are not to be missed!! 2 hrs of some of the best!

This event is open to existing club members. Do come prepared for winter conditions! Ice axe, crampons, and of course a healthy appetite are all a must.

For more details Contact:

Glen Hodges 021 843 047

Gail Geange 021 733 281



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## Mountain Safety Council Plan My Walk Kia ora Taranaki Alpine Club Inc

This is the moment we have been looking forward to for many months - we are so excited to announce that [Plan My Walk](#) is now live!

Below we have some details about Plan My Walk and how you can help us share the app. This world-first app will provide the walking, hiking and tramping community with the most advanced trip planning tool available. Planning a New Zealand adventure just got a whole lot easier.

Start your adventure the right way, it's planning made easy. Enjoy!



## PROJECT UPDATE

### Plan My Walk is LIVE

After months of research, development and testing, we're proud to present Plan My Walk. Thanks to everyone behind the project: our funders, our data partners, Somar Digital the outdoor community who helped take it to next level.

#### What is it?

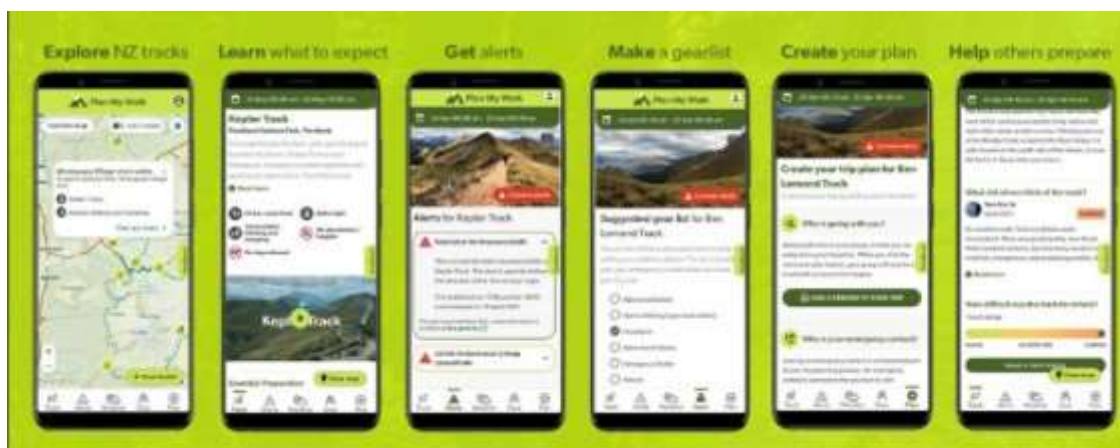
**We have been helping people explore New Zealand's outdoors safely for over 50 years, and here's the next step.** Plan My Walk is a brand-new app developed as a free one-stop shop for trampers and walkers alike.

The convenience of the tool takes the guesswork out of the important planning phase by bringing together a key range of information a walker needs when planning a trip in the outdoors, including track information, gear lists, alerts and weather forecasts.

Plan My Walk makes planning easy.

#### Create a login and explore the app features:

- **Get weather and track alerts**
- **Customise your gear list**
- **Add your trip members**
- **Save and edit later**
- **Share with a trusted contact**
- **Comment on how it went!**



#### How can you help?

To get this useful tool to the right people, we are looking to partners to help share it.

#### You can:



## DOWNLOAD WEB BANNERS

View assets for the App version and Website version [here](#).

## SHARE IT ON SOCIAL MEDIA

### Text:

*The new Plan My Walk app is here and ready to help you take charge of your next adventure!*

*Plan My Walk takes the guesswork out of the critical planning phase by bringing together the information you need.*

*The easy-to-use app, brought to you by the NZ Mountain Safety Council, includes more than 1000+ NZ tracks, weather warnings, watches and forecasts, track specific alerts, interactive gear lists and other useful planning advice such as track reviews from other users.*

*You can create a trip plan, add group members, assign an emergency contact, and share your plan with others.*

*It's planning made easy.*

*Download the app or check out [planmywalk.nz](http://planmywalk.nz).*

**Tags:** Instagram: @mountainsafetycouncil Facebook: @NZMSC #MakeItHomeNZ

[Try Plan My Walk](#)

Try Plan My Walk

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## New prices for some DOC products and accommodation



Tēnā koutou

The Department of Conservation has completed our annual review of prices for Great Walks, huts, campsites and other DOC products.

**New prices apply for booking dates and Backcountry Hut Pass purchases from 1 July 2021. A list of all price changes is listed on [this fact sheet](#).**

The changes are:

- Weekend and seasonal pricing for ten popular non-Great Walk huts.
- A price reset and differential pricing for international visitors on seven of the Great Walks. Differential pricing was approved some time ago but put on hold last year due to COVID-19. Great Walks price changes for New Zealanders are minimal.

- Price increases for sole occupancy accommodation and for huts on the Greenstone-Caples Track, Travers-Sabine Circuit and Rees-Dart Track.
- Price increase for the Backcountry Hut Pass (the first since 2012).

Setting fair prices helps DOC maintain outstanding recreational facilities and experiences for visitors. It also encourages mid-week and off-peak travel, spreading the demand for popular sites and limiting overcrowding.

Although these changes include some modest price increases, there are still options at different price points to suit travellers of every budget.

If you have any questions about the changes, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Ngā mihi

Natasha Hayward

Director Planning, Permissions and Land

## 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)

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## Club Links

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

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