

No Club Night this Thursday
see inside for details



HiTAC October 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

Kia ora folks,

Well that one flew by fast.

First up congratulations to all the snow crafters who completed their SC1 and 2 courses this year. Hopefully you're all now inspired for greater things and chaffing to get above the snow line while it lasts. Huge thanks to the volunteer club trainers and helpers who put in the time to run the courses and big pat on the back for the Club Captain for organising this for another year.

For those that completed the courses, and any old heads who are interested, this year's slush summit is on the 16th of October and presents the perfect opportunity to test out your newfound skills under supervision. Spring conditions and Greg Banks will be leading this one, so be prepared for all weather, chances of a summit are high. Lindsay is really cramming the trips in this month, making up for lost time. So check out the trips section that follows and get amongst it. There'll be something there for everyone, from buddy walks to overnights in cosy cabins. Fanthams Peak spring climbs, and the Labour Weekend rock trip to Kawakawa Bay. No excuses for staying home!

The lost September Club Night is now our October Club Night and NZ Mountain Film Festival, **WILL** be held at the 4th Wall cinema on the 7th of October. Numbers will be limited to 100 people, so get those tickets now, if you purchased for September, the 4th Wall should have notified you already that those tickets are valid for this October session.

Finally from me, we are now taking entries for the club photo competition. Fame and prestige await those who can endure wet feet and foggy lenses. Winners announced on December Club night.

Ivan Bruce

El Presidente!

president.tac@outlook.com

www.taranakialpineclub.co.nz



Media release

September 2021

Mt Taranaki's Holly Hut moving to online booking

Trampers hiking Taranaki's popular Pouakai Circuit will soon have the security of a confirmed bed for the night with both huts along the busy track moving to online booking.

From November 1 2021 Mt Taranaki's Holly Hut will join Pouakai Hut becoming bookable online via the Department of Conservation's (DOC's) website.

The 32-bunk backcountry serviced hut is along the scenic Pouakai Circuit, and the larger Around the Mountain Circuit tracks.

"Being at the junction of both popular tracks Holly Hut can get really busy during peak season on the mountain. Pre-booking online will ensure people get a bunk for the night," says DOC Taranaki Recreation/Historic Supervisor Andy Johnston.

"To date, it's been left to chance for visitors as to whether they will get a bed, or the hut is too full. The hut is a 3 – 4-hour tramp in from road ends. The added security of pre-booking will hopefully encourage people to get out and enjoy this hut without fear of missing out on a bunk and having to backtrack."

Pouakai Hut moved to online booking in November 2020. Feedback from users has been positive, says Andy Johnston: "People appreciate knowing they will get a bed at the end of their tramp."

From November 1, trampers wanting to overnight at either hut need to register and book on the DOC website prior to setting out. Trampers should carry proof of their booking with them

Backcountry hut tickets will no longer be valid at Holly Hut or Pouakai Hut, but they may be used at any other hut in the park. Pricing remains the same, with adults \$15, youth (11-17 years) \$7.50 and children 10 and under free of charge. Backcountry hut pass discounts apply.

Signs have been installed at track entrances and key huts in the park alerting trampers of the changes.

For further information check out www.doc.govt.nz or phone North Egmont Visitor Centre ph 06 756 0990.

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 7 October

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.



Trips Update

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!



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! 😊

Fanthams Peak Spring Summit Sat 9th October 2021 - Day Trip

This is a great day out and a fantastic opportunity to experience exposure to steeper terrain and conditions on the colder side of the mountain. Lunch at Syme Hut depends how iced up it is. This trip is tailored as an excellent follow on from Snowcraft 1 (or equivalent) as well as for those with more experience to work together as an awesome team

Mt Taranaki Slush Summit Saturday 16th October 2021 – day trip

A popular trip that many members look forward to every year. If you have recently completed Snowcraft 1 with us, then this is the perfect trip for you! We specifically wait for suitable slush conditions for this trip to enable those who have recently completed Snowcraft 1 to have the opportunity to summit Mt Taranaki in 'beginner' conditions.

Rock Climbing Labour Weekend Kawakawa Bay - northern shores of Lake Taupo 22nd to 24th October

A definite must do! Experience great outdoor rock climbing suited for all levels and well over a 100 routes to choose from!. Kawakawa Bay is situated amongst native bush with stunning views and when you're not climbing there's great camping and swimming to be had.

Kawakawa Bay can only be accessed via boat, bike or walking. Which means you drop off your gear at the boat in Kinloch that TAC will arrange. It is approximately 1.½ hours walk or a 45min bike ride from Kinloch. Then it is up to you to decide how to get into the bay!

Kapuni Hut Overnight Stay Sat 30th/Sun 31st October 2021

A popular yearly weekend outing where you get to spend 2 days exploring the south side which will include an overnight stay at Kapuni Lodge. Starting from Dawson Falls Saturday morning, we may find ourselves up Fanthams or traversing around it, the climb route will be dependent upon conditions at the time. So bring your wine, sleeping bag, crampons, ice axe & helmet and we'll make the most of the weather and conditions.

If anyone has queries about the trip or venue, please contact lead Glenys Grant on 027 3670612.

To register for any of the above trips or if you would like further information please contact Lindsay, trips.tac@outlook.com.

Events

2nd/3rd October 180 Party at the Lodge

Time: Shared dinner 6.00pm

Why: Greg Banks, Sheryl Hamilton & Claire Jones
are turning 60 years old!

The playlist is under construction, so if you wish to join in

whether you know these crew members or not, just come and play!

Recent Events

Tongariro Trip: 17-19 September 2021.

By Claire Jones

For a variety of reasons (like leaving it too late to register), I had not joined this annual TAC trip since 2018. It is definitely not a case of doing it once so there is no need to go back - this year's trip was a completely different experience to the last one and there are effectively infinite variations on how the trip can be led.

The weather on the days leading up to this event was atrocious, making one reconsider one's packing (extra hats, gloves and layers) as well as sanity (avalanche risk....according to met-service....considerable).

The 13 members of the group, including leaders Greg Banks, Glenys Grant and Andrew Jordan all met up the previous evening at Adventure Lodge in National Park and discussed our plan - we were handed transceivers (TAC only have 13, which effectively determines how many individuals can go on these trips). These devices were tested, and then we were given shovels and avalanche probes as well as discussion on how to survive an avalanche. If the thought of climbing on snow slopes in crampons for prolonged periods after a lockdown is not intimidating enough, then having to consider the real and life-threatening possibility of an avalanche just adds to that anxiety.

The next day dawned clear and crisp (-1°C), and we were all geared up, gear checked, and ready to leave Mangatepopo carpark at 7.15 am.

We meandered alongside the Mangatepopo stream, past a small frozen pond on the left and spectacular views of Ngauruhoe to the right, all the while gradually climbing till the obligatory stop at Soda Springs toilets, then began the ascent up Devil's staircase to test our post-lockdown fitness. The absence of Aucklanders meant we were almost the only people on the crossing, save another group or 2 on hiking tours. Looking west we could see in the far distance the peak of Mt Taranaki.

Finally reaching some snow, we were able to dust off the crampons and try to remember how to attach them to feet. Greg gave us a run down on snow conditions visible on Ngauruhoe - and with recent rain, snow and strong wind, as well as little knowledge of ability of the group (many had just completed SC1), made decision that we would walk to Emerald Lake rather than knock off Mt Doom.

Instead of following the tourist track across South Crater, we veered north east to a snowy slope, where we were first made to cut steps (this is requisite on TAC trips!). We also cut "rest buckets" and then carried on upwards, while hot sun beat down on us.

We re-joined the track, and then made some test pits to assess avalanche risk, before heading down the scree then down a steep mushy slope towards Emerald Lake.

We were rewarded with dramatic scenery - fumaroles (a new word for many of the group) belched hot steam, and the lake itself was 1/3 frozen over, reflecting the snowy peaks.

A perfect spot for a rest, food, boot and crampon adjustments and blister management, and photo opportunities (watch this space at photo comp).

Once rested we returned to the track junction, then traversed southwest following the ridge-line towards the Tongariro Summit.

Fatigue was now starting to factor in (myself included) and we decided to descend rather than summit Tongariro - down another slope towards south crater - experimenting with different techniques for descent including some front pointing.

Despite dark sinister skies on the horizon all day, we were blessed with perfect weather all day, retracing our footsteps back to the carpark, arriving just before 5 pm - tired, but happy.

The varying snow conditions made the alpine experience more challenging with soft snow, slushy snow and frozen snow. These conditions made it a great learning experience.

On Sunday, after a more leisurely start in the morning, we did a gentle but very pretty walk to Silica rapids just to warm up the muscles that were stiffened by Saturday's exertions.

All in all, the weekend was very enjoyable, with excellent leaders for whom we are very grateful, appreciating their planning, guidance and tuition, and just keeping us safe while we honed our alpine skills. The group was great company and I am looking forward to the next adventure.

The group was Greg Banks, Glenys Grant, Andrew Jordan, Claire Jones, Mark Hatch, Barbara Hammonds, Jeff and Kathy Wakefield, Victoria Gates, Pilar Robinson, Charlotte Littlewood, Ashley L'Heureux, Dane Fields.







Kia ora koutou Taranaki climbers!

The Aotearoa Climbing Access Trust (ACAT) was formed earlier this year to address the access crisis unfolding around the country. This has been especially severe in the central North Island, with incredibly popular crags like Whanganui Bay and Mangaokewa being closed to climbers.

In the past 12 months ACAT has:

1. Saved climbing access at Waipari (Froggatt Edge), Wharepapa Rock, Ti Point, and Maungarei Springs crags.
2. Formed the Trust and selected a diverse group of trustees from around Aotearoa.
3. Secured charity status so all donations are 100% tax free and donors are eligible for tax credits!
4. Created a part time General Manager position to lead the organisation and work on access issues every week.
5. Developed a team of committed volunteers to help build ACAT's capacity.

We have managed this on a shoestring budget with a lot of hard work by volunteers. However, there are many more access issues that desperately need attention.

Half of the crags in the Wharepapa South region are closed. Other crags, such as Kawakawa Bay, are under threat because climbers do not have permission from the landowners to be climbing there. TAC's Kawakawa Bay trip is coming up on Labour Weekend, and this sort of trip could become a thing of the past if we don't sort out issues around environmental impact and work towards establishing a relationship with the landowners (DOC and iwi).

We need to keep growing and developing to meet the challenge and we can only do this with your support. Please consider making a donation today, this will directly increase our capacity to keep New Zealand climbing.

We're excited to be on this journey towards sustainable climbing access, and we would love to have you on board. Go to www.acat.org.nz to find out more and become a supporter.

Ngā mihi nui

Edwin Sheppard
Project Lead – ACAT Development

New Members

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

Emily	Bolam	New Plymouth
Anna	Crawford	New Plymouth
Peter	Crawford	New Plymouth
Luke	Stock	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

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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