



# HiTAC

## September 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](#)

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## From the President's Desk

Hi folks,

First on the agenda this month, we're changing our response to Level 2 at the Lodge to a more nuanced scenario, and overnight stays are once again allowed. However, (there's always a catch) the number of nocturnal inhabitants are to be limited to no more than 14 in the lodge overnight and no more than 7 per bunk room, to allow for social distancing.

To make sure that this has a chance of working, all overnight stays need to go through the booking officer. The booking officer will be giving preference to club members, but you might want to think about booking ahead to avoid missing out. So, don't just turn up with your bag and slippers and expect a bunk, even if you are a member. If this doesn't work out and we find the lodge becoming a writhing mass of unreserved, socially intimate humanity after dark, we'll have no option but to go back to closing the lodge, so best behaviour eh.

Please use the Covid QR reader that is now at the lodge and follow the instructions on the signage that's just been put up.

Which means that the final Snow craft 1 course this year can go ahead and stay in the Lodge, unlike the legends from the previous course who camped out around the lodge overnight in the snow. That's a committed bunch right there, clearly, we are attracting the right kind of punters!

Maybe it's another symptom of Covid, maybe no one wants to go out anymore, or maybe no one's been out, but getting speakers for Club nights has been a bit of a mission this year. So please, if anyone has ideas for club nights, or if there is anyone they'd like to hear from on a club night, please let us know.

But this month's night has been pulled from the abyss by the last-minute heroics of Andrew Jordan and Pete Lethbridge. So Club night this week will be a mixed session, with Andrew reporting on the Remarkables Rock and Ice festival that took place in Queenstown last month, and Pete is going to give us a talk on his trip to Mustagh Ata in Western China.

And as I write this, it's snowing again, yeeha!

See you all out there.

El Pres.

**Ivan Bruce**

**El Presidente!**

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

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

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**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**

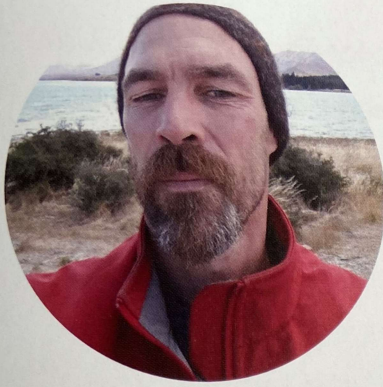
- All overnight stays require prior booking with the bookings officer.
- Overnight stays are limited to 14 people; with no more than 7 per bunkroom.
- Scan the NZ COVID Tracer QR code, or enter your details into the hut register provided, on both days.
- Maintain social distancing between separate groups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

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## **Club features in School Journal**

### **Level 2 School Journal, August 2020: Page 15**

Schools across New Zealand have received the August 2020 School Journals and this year the Level 2 edition features our President Ivan speaking on behalf of TAC. The page from the article titled 'Taranaki Views' by Steph Matuku can be seen below.



Ivan Bruce is the president of the Taranaki Alpine Club. He guides groups of climbers up the mountain and uses the cliffs and slopes to practise rock climbing and mountaineering. He says, “As a climber, you use the mountain to test yourself. It’s a really good

mountain to train on. It’s not an easy climb. It’s quite dangerous in some parts, especially if you’re climbing in winter.”

Ivan has noticed that there are more people wanting to explore the mountain, but that means there’s more rubbish left behind. More people also means more **erosion**, which is a problem because it can make slopes unstable and dangerous.

“I have a strong feeling of respect for our mountain. If you go climbing, and you’re unprepared, you could get hurt. People have died up there. The weather can change in an instant. It’s better to be safe than sorry.”



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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 (that's tomorrow folks)

Andrew Jordan and Pete Lethbridge present a mixed session.  
Andrew will be reporting on the Remarkables Rock and Ice festival that took place in Queenstown last month, While Pete talks about following in the footsteps of the British explorers Bill Tilman and Eric Sipton, on a journey on the Karakoram Highway and an ascent of Muztagh Ata 7546m .  
Non members welcome.





**Friday, 8th August**

**4th Wall Theatre**

**11 Baring Terrace, New Plymouth, New Zealand 4312**

### **NZ Mountain Film Festival**

Join us for an evening with John Palmer for a discussion on access and access issues in NZ; something that will become pertinent to the TAC in the near future (with the national park plan review).

As an introduction for the uninitiated; John is a former NZAC president, and the host of NZ's only (and by virtue, top) climbing specific podcast (The Powerband Podcast, [www.powerbandpodcast.com](http://www.powerbandpodcast.com)).

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**BANFF** CENTRE  
MOUNTAIN  
FILM FESTIVAL  
WORLD TOUR

**New Plymouth**  
16th October  
[www.banff.nz](http://www.banff.nz)

NEW ZEALAND  
ALPINE CLUB

MS  
OUTDOOR SAFETY  
NEW ZEALAND MOUNTAIN  
SAFETY COUNCIL

macpac

Uprising

Adventure  
South NZ

City West Church 7.00pm

NZAC Members - \$15 | General Admission \$20 | Youth (5-17 Years) \$15  
Tickets on sale at [www.banff.nz](http://www.banff.nz)

SCAN FOR TICKETS

## RECENT EVENTS

### No.1 Snow Craft of 2020 - 1st/2nd August

Departing North Egmont Visitors Centre for Taurangi on Friday night may for a more relaxed Saturday morning. Super nice not to have to deal with Covid on this one! Though we had wind and cloud on both days we were lucky not to have any precipcs and were able to cover everything we needed. The highlight of the course was the alpine movies on Saturday night!

TAC Crew: Glen (Lead), Conrad, Fletch, Greg S, & Andrew J (Assistants)

Students: Adhna, Victoria, Dane, Kelby, Leann, Nina, Matthias, Lindsay, Ashley, Jonathan



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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 Taurangi 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 Ange Hampton on [committee4.tac@outlook.com](mailto:committee4.tac@outlook.com) for further details. Be sure to keep an eye on our Facebook page for trip updates too.

## Upcoming Club Trips

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

If you would like to lead a trip, please get in contact with our Trips Coordinator, Ange Hampton. [committee4.tac@outlook.com](mailto:committee4.tac@outlook.com)



## Buddy Walk

## Saturday 12th September 2020

Our very popular Buddy Walks are back on for 2020! 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 want 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.

*Rain or shine, these buddy walks will go ahead. If you are lucky enough to get terrible weather, you can learn SO MUCH and really enjoy that cuppa and shower when you get home! I say this with experience from last month's Buddy Walk which was one of the best I have done thanks to the snow and gales - Ange*  
*Please contact Club Trips Coordinator Ange ([committee4.tac@outlook.com](mailto:committee4.tac@outlook.com)) for further details.*

## Ngauruhoe Winter Weekend Away

### Fri/Sat/Sun 28<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> August 2020 POSTPONED

*NB: This trip has been postponed due to severe weather. If you are on the waiting list, you will be contacted if a spot now becomes available on this new date. If you are interested in this trip on new dates, still let Ange know on the email below and she will add you to the waiting list.*

It was some crazy weather that kept us off Ngauruhoe last year, and of course we need to get up there, so this year will see us attempting a summit of Mt Ngauruhoe with the possibility of a crater rim traverse. This trip is beginner level and suitable if you have recently completed Snowcraft 1. TAC will provide avalanche transceivers, snow probes & shovels. You will organise all your other required gear as well as accommodation & transport.

Please contact Club Trips Coordinator Ange ([committee4.tac@outlook.com](mailto:committee4.tac@outlook.com)) for further details.

## Kapuni Hut Overnight

### Sat/Sun 31<sup>st</sup> October – 1<sup>st</sup> November

Very excited to let you all know that another favourite trip of the year is back for 2020!

This trip will include an overnight at Kapuni Hut.

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.

Open to anyone who has completed Snowcraft 1.

Please contact Club Trips Coordinator Ange ([committee4.tac@outlook.com](mailto:committee4.tac@outlook.com)) for further details.

# Other winter trips September - November 2019

Plans are also underway for these winter trips. Watch this space for dates & further details.

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## New Members

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

DanielMcIntyre	Cambridge
AgnesGerlei	Wellington
MaxGessler	Hamilton
JanHall	New Plymouth
SarahBrittan	Hawera

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## 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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