



HiTAC May 2023

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](#)

Instruction

2023 Snowcraft

Kia Ora Climbers,

Well here we are, 2023 snow season is slowly creeping up on us. As we close the door on the 2022 season with a middle finger wave, let's hope this year we can make up for those lost days.

Much like previous years, however important to repeat, these courses are only available to members of the Taranaki Alpine Club. If you wish to attend any of the dates below, please contact me at captain.tac@outlook.com with your name, phone number and preferred course/date. **You will not be guaranteed a spot until the correct forms are completed, returned and a proof of payment is obtained (by screenshot/scan)**, so first in first served.

For those considering to register interest for the Snowcraft 2, it is a pre-requisite to have completed the Snowcraft 1 and made a concerted effort to further your skill with buddy walks, club trips etc. It is up to the discretion of the course leaders and trainers to accept the application. Please do not be offended if it is declined, this is for climbers to take a significant step with their skills and it is pertinent that the attendees are confident with their abilities.

I am also looking for expressions of interest for those who would be able to assist with instructing or helping on these courses. If this sounds like you, **please send me an email**. There will be a compulsory train the trainer day currently set for 8th July.

All course dates below have a backup date the following weekend if the course is cancelled due to bad weather.

Snowcraft 1

1: 29th-30th July

Pre field night 24th July

2: 12th-13th August

Pre field night 7th August

3: 26th-27th August

Pre field night 21st August

Snowcraft 2

1: 14th-16th July

Pre field night 10th July

Now all we need is snow! Fingers crossed for a winter of climbing, beers and good yarns at the lodge.

I look forward to seeing you all up there.

Your Club Captain.

Finn Gable

Club Nights

Club nights are held first Thursday each month
at the Fitzroy Golf Club, Record Street, Fitzroy 7-30pm start

Club Nights with supper.

Now we that we have new venue which invites people to mix and mingle abit more, we would like to request members to bring a small supper plate for sharing on each of our Club nights. We will continue to provide the tea & coffee etc.

Club Night 4th May at Fitzroy Golf Course

McKinley and Denali Traverse - 1984

A Kiwi / Australian 6 week expedition

Come and hear John Jordan talk about:

Big Mountains - Big Storms

Big Glaciers - Big Crevasses

Intense Cold - Avalanches

Trip Information

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.



CLUB TRIPS TRIPS 2023

To register for trips or for further information please email Trips Coordinator Lindsay Stones on trips.tac@outlook.com . Be sure to keep an eye on our Facebook page for trip updates too.

If you are keen to lead a trip or have any ideas for a trip that we could find a lead for please contact me and let's see if we can make it happen.

No trips planned for May at this stage.

Buddy hike trips being planned for the upcoming snow season.

Social Events

LODGE BIRTHDAY

King's Birthday Weekend: 3-5 June 2023

Weekends programme

Saturday 3 June.

Come to the lodge for the weekend events.

Sunday 4 June.

A walk from the Lodge over to the Organ Pipes Valley and to The Policeman, top of the ski field, back to the lodge. Leaving the lodge at 8.30 am. Leader: Greg Banks.

Sunday 4 June at 6.00 PM.

Enjoy the Lodge with other Club members for Dinner. Everyone to bring a yummy mains or dessert to share. And a few drinks to celebrate the "Spirit of Alpine".

Monday 5 June.

John Jordan to lead a trip from Taurangi Lodge over to the two old TAC hut sites: Taurangi Hut & Nissan Lodge. He will give a talk about the history of these sites. Leaving the lodge at 8.30 am.

Monday 5 June at 12.00 Noon.

Cake cutting for the Lodge Birthday. Food and refreshments will be supplied by the club. Warm Mulled wine.

This event is for TAC Club members only

For both walks/trips, winter experience may be required depending on the conditions.

There are NO non-members booked for this weekend at the Lodge so come up enjoy your Lodge, stay the night.

Please contact below if you have any questions.

Greg Banks: 027 2613199 bookings.tac@outlook.com

Saturday 8th July

Taurangi Lodge Mid-Winter Christmas & Alpine Film Evening

Taurangi Lodge 4pm

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

Snowman/person building competition (if we have snow...)

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



Scone Baking Competition 2023

Anyone hiking past Taurangi lodge on the afternoon of 29/4/23 was captivated by the delicious aromas emanating from the kitchen.

We were able to engage the services of food critic, April Kurijer, to judge the competition and await the Michelin star letter with anticipation.

It seems there were 3 categories - plant based, savoury and sweet.

Glenys Grant's original recipe for ginger-ale scones, was served with 2 types of tangy marmalade and topped with vanilla coconut cream (unless you were Greg Banks, and put the cream UNDER the marmalade, triggering Ange Robinson's (nee Hampton's) OCD.) This was a clear winner for the plant based section.

Claire Jones produced, in effect, a scone dough, rolled up pizza, light scones filled with tomato, cheese, onion and parsley. Savoury winner.

Greg Banks, almost disqualified as his entry appeared significantly after the 4 pm deadline, was able to secure a special dispensation, given he had been fixing the sewer drain outside prior to starting cooking. Time will tell in the next few hours if his hand hygiene was adequate....

His generously proportioned ginger and date creations, topped with jam and whipped cream (or, if you are Greg,

whipped cream topped by jam because that is what doughnuts look like, was a clear winner in the sweet category, and, if April can put in a good word, we hope his recipe can be served at the Coronation of King Charles III.

Phil Whitwell nearly lost fingers as he attempted to reduce the quantity of dates going into the mixture.

In order to build an appetite beforehand, some of us walked on the mountain, heading towards Lion rock, and jumping for joy in the last of the autumn sunshine. We covered varied terrain - steps, tussock, mossy slopes, rock (walking up "The Nose" near Organ Pipe Valley), some scree, and even a brief segment of bush bashing through leatherwoods.

After the competition, and shared dinner, with full bellies and energy to burn, an evening walk was discussed- as we are, after all, supposed to be mountaineers, not chefs. To prove this theory, Greg and Glenys were suddenly called to duty for an Alpine rescue. Fortunately, not too far from the lodge, and with a good outcome. The rescue was a team effort, principally Glenys and Greg, police and SAR, but also some of us providing head torch illumination so the rescuers could see the way down the last section of tussock below the old summit route.

Claire Jones





Trip Reports

Rock and Rope

Wow!!!...almost beaten by the weather gods but not quite!!

Our move up and Saturday training was hampered by horizontal rain so a last-minute decision was made to train in the YMCA and go through the basics and introductions!

This was kept simple and focused on a great way to learn "abseiling" but also highlighted there were other options available and you might see your mates doing things slightly different!!, but for beginners, lets learn a good way to start us off!!

Knots were tied, abseils carried out, discussions had and finally ropes coiled ready for a fast and furious Sunday silly o clock start on the mountain! (6am meet and walk up!!) coffee supplied by Finn!!

At the lodge whilst drinking more coffee and breakfast we rigged up more abseils, buddy buddy checked each other and practiced what we had learned again before heading over to Tegal Wall for the "real deal"!!

The weather was everything from rain, to cloud to boiling to damp and back to claggy again but this didn't stop the smiles, learning and fun!!

Abseils completed and then a hasty retreat over to Warricks for abseil no 2!!!...No time for lunch, this was a busy day!! eat on the go!!

From here after nibbles and drinks the second abseil was set up. All students moved over the traverse in a "real alpine move" being belayed and unclipping on the way (under supervision) after discussing if we should A. just solo it? B move roped up or C pitch it? what were our capabilities, was the rock wet? time restraints? safety?...all gear discussions and pros / cons to being a mountaineer and moving safely.

Once on the top and all safe, we abseiled off...(safety on, belay device on, not touching each other and whole system checks!!) which proved to be a great challenge and quite scary for some!! big drop down and vertical!!...great to see everyone focused on the task, ensuring everything was good and taking responsibility for themselves!! (under supervision!!)

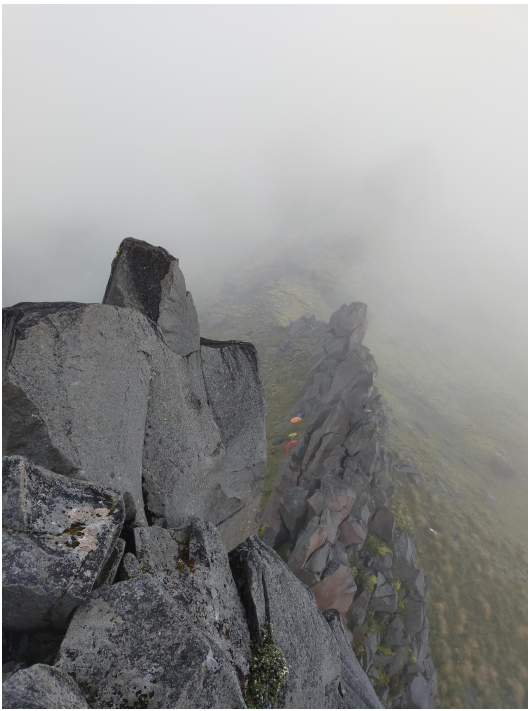
Thorough checks and remembering "ARCHER"...A...how's that anchor point?...R...Ropes, correct knots, free of obstructions, stopper knot etc? C. Carabiners...are they all locked and good? orientated correctly? H. Helmet and harness? all pre checked and secure? E...did we have any other Equipment we need to secure or deal with (possibly an ice axe in winter or a bag to go down) and finally, R...were ready to go!!!

So, there you go, a super fun day, great learning and experience to try playing with ropes, knots and learning to be safe in the mountains with a look at rock climbing.

Thanks everyone for organising, Finn for being wing man and everyone for participating and making it a great day!!

Geordie
AKA Steve Ritson





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 2022: FAMILY \$65, ORDINARY (single) \$45, STUDENT (under 18), \$35.

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.

MEMBERSHIP SYSTEM

Hello Club is our membership system. See the link below to login & update your details.

<https://taranaki-alpine-club.helloclub.com/login>

Through Hello Club, you are able to:

- Renew and pay for your membership or any other outstanding fees
- View past transactions and download invoices and receipts
- Update your email address and other personal details.

You will have received an email with instructions on how to setup your account for Hello Club.

For any questions or comments, please contact club treasurer **Andrew Darney** via treasurer.tac@outlook.com

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

Please login to your Hello Club account & make any updates

Contacting the Club

Co0rrespondance can be sent to:

The Secretary

Taranaki Alpine Club, PO Box 356, New Plymouth,

or email secretary.tac@outlook.com

Club Links

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

Copyright © 2023 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](#)

