



## HiTAC August 2023

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)

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## From the President's desk

Kia Ora Club Members,

With no shortage of snow and ice, I am sure plenty of you are making the most of it and getting up on the maunga. I have personally stepped up my cardio and strength training last week as my first non-ski field ski excursion of the season was very short lived. This was less to do with the gusting wind at the top of Hongis stairs but more the effort required from my legs with very firm snow conditions under a 10 cm layer of feathery snow that joined in on my descent. If you are interested in combining your mountaineering skills with backcountry skiing or boarding. While there are no current club trips or instruction locally, There are plenty of members enjoying this rewarding pastime. A proven way for members who want to get into this, is to join or set up facebook or text message group chats with a specific focus on the difficulty of terrain and/or conditions the group are comfortable within.

Snowcraft level two covering rope techniques for snow and ice was a success and as I write this snowcraft one is underway, which is a much better start than last year's dismal snowcraft course season. Be aware with most of the hire gear out on courses make sure you get in touch earlier rather than later to sort gear and not be disappointed.

With August upon us, so does start planning for Open Climb 2024, overall the 2023 event went very smoothly under the new format of smaller teams. If you are keen to volunteer a worthwhile day of your time to get up to 120 grateful members of the public up and down Taranaki Maunga, reserve Saturday the 10th February 2024! At the same time book in Thursday 5th October, 7:30pm club night when we will run through and take questions on the open climb crew induction presentation, this is great for new volunteers as well as seasoned ones who may have opportunities to step up into roles with more responsibility.

For lodge overnight users please take note of the important lodge update below on some small changes at the lodge to reduce the risk of fire at the lodge. A big thanks to Greg Banks and the rest of the very active volunteer team affectionately known as 'the lodgies'. If you thought doing work around your house was hard, add one hour of driving, 2.5 hours of walking, and the mental acuity to make sure you haven't left a crucial tool or material behind.

July club night was a great social catchup with heaps of familiar and new faces, some inspiring trip ideas and some returning and new trip leaders/organizers putting their hands up. We finished up with a film that will hopefully raise awareness of the weather/avalanche hazards regularly present on our testing mountain. Make sure you take note of our one off change of venue for August club night - see details below on our club member speaker.

**Conrad Murray**

President

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

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

ph 027 404 9868

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## **Lodge Electrical Work**

To reduce the risk of a fire in Tahurangi Lodge timed control have been installed to the following.

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### **Bunk Room Heaters**

On the bottom right-hand side of the switch plate there is a push button timer for the heaters. Push once for 30 minutes, a small **BLUE** light will flash,  
Enjoy the heater.



### **Cooking Elements**

On the element cooking bench there is a timer installed on the lefthand side for all three element sets. Push the timer once for 30 minutes for cooking a **GREEN** light will be on for the 30 min period. Each element set has if own ON/OFF switch. Cook safely.



## **LOCKERS at the lodge.**

Did you know that you have to **APPLY** for a locker at the lodge? Lockers attract an annual fee of \$20.00 which supports club expenses.

We would appreciate it if members respected this. We frown upon someone just taking their stuff up there and padlocking a locker and think that's that!

And sadly, a couple of lockers have been padlocked without application!

### **LOCKERS 103 & 420**

Lockers 103 & 420 will be emptied as the lockers have NOT been paid for. The content will be held by the Secretary till the end of August and then disposed of!

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# T.A.C. Tongariro Experience.

## Friday 22 September till Sunday 24 September 2023

The Purpose of this experience is for beginner TAC members to further their Alpine skills in a different environment from Mt Taranaki and around Taurangiri Lodge.

The experience would be to increase their skill in alpine travel, alpine navigation, use of an ice axe, crampons and working with a group of alpine like-minded persons.

Depending on the snow conditions and the weather the first plan would be to go to the Tongariro area and the backup would be to go to the Whakapapa Ski field area (Lift fees may apply).

Requirement: All participants will have completed and passed a TAC basic Snow Craft course and been out on the white stuff, snow, and practiced their skills.

This trip is limited to 10 participants.

### Costs

- Accommodation has been booked a Skotel Alpine Resort backpackers rooms. Approx \$110/night
- Transport to Ruapehu, to be arranged closer to date
- Food, there is a restaurant at Skotel, Saturday Night.
- Ski lift if required.
- Alpine gear, if required from TAC

### Contacts/ Leaders

Greg Banks: [banks3@xtra.co.nz](mailto:banks3@xtra.co.nz) 027 2613199  
Glenys Grant: [glenys.grant@hotmail.com](mailto:glenys.grant@hotmail.com) 027 3670612  
Greg Sharman: [committee5.tac@outollk](mailto:committee5.tac@outollk) 027 7156374



## 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 Taurangiri Lodge we'll suggest a preferred option as it's always great if everyone stays at the same place.



# Buddy Walks are back

## Saturday 5th August

- Are you new to winter mountaineering and don't quite know how to gain some winter experience ? You are welcome to join TAC buddy walks. Buddy walks offer the opportunity to gain experience.
- Snow craft 1 is required or similar experience. Buddy walks help with two key areas for those relatively new to Mt Taranaki winter terrain. Acquiring skills and being able to safely climb and walk on Mt Taranaki snow/ ice slopes. To have fun ,get to know others keen to get out and about. Buddy walks are informal, aimed at those wishing to improve snow travel skills ,ice axe, crampons, weather/ snow conditions assessment, different terrain/slopes.
- Duration of walks is usually a few hours so bring enough food for lunch/ snacks /hydration, kit for the day. Emphasis for the day is based on tailoring to what the group wants to practice and current skill levels. Buddy is there to help participants to make mutually agreed reasoned risk decisions, the buddy does not take responsibility for participants safety.
- Meeting time and venue to be confirmed via text /message or phone call with those that have expressed interest by Thursday evening , after weather check

Those interested please contact **Glenys Grant** 0273670612,  
before the Wednesday so co-leaders can be arranged.  
Any questions about buddy walks are welcome .

***Can you help, If you would like to be a buddy who can help a less experienced club member, please let Glenys know. A massive thank you to all of those who have been a buddy in the past! 😊***

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## Future TRIPS

Last months club night saw members studying maps and guide books with many discussions of dream trips they would like to see happening within the club and possibly be involved in leading/organising. We are working towards making some of these trips happen.

Here a few of the suggestions. If you have the experience to lead any of these please let me know.  
Contact [trips.tac@outlook.com](mailto:trips.tac@outlook.com) or 0204 120 9414

Snow caving  
Alternative routes to Tahuarangi Lodge  
Trad climb introduction  
Wild camp on a snow top mountain  
Winter trip to the South Island, Arthurs Pass, Mount Aspiring, Mount Cook.  
Castle Hill Bouldering  
Winter Summits  
Teds Alley Summit  
Bobs Bluff - Syme Hutt -Fanthams  
Turtle Traverse in Winter  
Whakapapa/Turoa/Tukino winter trips  
12 Summits via 12 routes in 12months  
Awakino Caving Trip

If you have the experience to lead any of these please let me know.  
Contact [trips.tac@outlook.com](mailto:trips.tac@outlook.com) or 0204 120 9414  
Looks like the trips coordinator is going to be very busy 😊 😊

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## Instruction

### 2023 Snowcraft

Kia Ora Climbers,

The Snowcraft Courses for 2023 are now full. If you would like to be placed on a wait list, please send an email to [captain.tac@outlook.com](mailto:captain.tac@outlook.com) to register interest.

Finn Gable  
Taranaki Alpine Club Captain  
021-232-1310

2: 12th-13th August

Pre field night 7th August

3: 26th-27th August

Pre field night 21st August

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## Club Nights

Club nights are held first Thursday each month  
at the Fitzroy Golf Club, 3 Record Street, Fitzroy 7-30pm start

### **Club Nights with supper.**

Bring a home baked vegan treat to share, (Thats dairy, honey, egg, meat free for those not in the know)

Tea and coffee, hot water provided,

No BYO as this is a licensed premise

## 2023/24 FMC cards

available on clubnight or prior by texting president 0275552857 to arrange pickup.

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## Please note change of venue for August only.

### **Next club night is Thursday 3rd August 7.30pm 38 Beach Street Hall, Fitzroy**

Please join us this Thursday with Mark Danenhauer of Predator Free Community Liaison Project.

In 2018 Towards Predator-Free Taranaki became one of five ground breaking projects across Aotearoa that embarked on large scale projects to control predators on the mainland. Since that time residents of Taranaki have embraced the goals of the project. Join Predator-Free community liaison Mark Danenhauer as he gives an overview of the project since its inception, updates where we are now, shares some of the positive outcomes that have been achieved, and gives tips on how we can all get involved.

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## Trip and Social reports

### **July Midwinter Christmas and Movie Night**

With a dismal weather forecast leading up to the movie night, many of us were thinking we would have to postpone this annual event. However, the weather gods came to our rescue and by Saturday the weather had improved sufficiently for the event to go ahead. It was a bit damp on the way up to the lodge, but not too breezy, and the snow didn't firm up too much until later that evening. 26 adults and 2 children made their way to the lodge with the last person arriving just in time for dinner. Once we had unpacked and settled down with a hot drink, Greg B suggested it was time to build a snow person in front of the webcam that points towards Hongi's valley. A hardy group of 6 took up the challenge and before long a large snow person was created complete with shovels for arms and red accessories. This group got back into the lodge just as the mulled wine was being served. We enjoyed an array of pre-dinner snacks, followed by a very impressive and varied first course. This was followed by a selection of mouthwatering desserts, including Christmas puddings fruit salad, cream puffs and other delectable treats. Once everyone had over-eaten, (as usual), the food and dishes were quickly cleared away and the grandstand built for the movie night. Then it was Glen's turn to enthrall us with a selection of movies that covered climbing, snowboarding, free climbing and other outdoor activities. The snowboarding terrain and free climbing by Alex Honnold were epic and a bit scary to watch at times for many of us.



By morning our snow person had lost its head, and I don't think it was due to the mulled wine!!!!  
After breakfast some went out for a walk or climb, while others stayed for the "Train the Trainers" training or headed back to the car.  
Many thanks to Glen for putting the movies together and for those club members who braved the weather to enjoy another midwinter Christmas and movie night at Tahurangi Lodge.



## 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 \$80, ORDINARY (single) \$60, STUDENT (under 18), \$50.

Lodge access card \$20

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.*

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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

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](mailto:secretary.tac@outlook.com)

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## Club Links

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

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