



HiTAC July 2023

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

For the brief moments the Maunga sheds its cloudy disguise this week along with a polar blast forecasted, there is hope for a good start and to the snow craft season(touch wood). So hopefully you have some family and friend points saved up to spend up large, on the mountain over winter, if you haven't it's not too late to get on top of the odd jobs around the house so that when the big dumps comes, you are ready to hit the snow. On the topic of snowcraft if you haven't secured a spot, you likely missed out for this year and a good reason to put it in your calendar now to try again next year earlier rather than later as well as making the effort to join some summer tramps and/or rock trips to really get the most out of snowcraft.

Whanganui Bay on the western shores of lake Taupo is open for another winter season strictly between 21st July and 1st December. This is possible thanks to the efforts in relationship building between climbers and the private landowners. Those who have climbed there previously over the decades will know what a true taonga it is to climbers and the locals alike. If you intend to make a visit please read all the relevant info at; <https://whanganuibay.acat.org.nz/> to ensure Taranaki Alpine Club members are not the reason for any hiccups of the privilege to climb there. I definitely plan on making multiple visits over the season, so feel free to ask me for a crag report.

For those doing snowcraft level two,. Some of our instructors have been giving up their precious time for some years now and while they love it, it is always good to be thinking of succession, so if you are doing snowcraft two this year(hopefully you have had a day or two reviewing last season's progress or have plans to do so before the course date approaches fast) or completed it in previous years please get in touch with finn, myself or don to find out what the requirements are to assist and lead a course and if your not scared off come to our train the trainers day next Saturday 8th July on the Maunga.

I have had very little feedback regarding how we select club instructors to date, so I assume one of the following:

- 1) We are doing a slightly above mediocre job
- 2) People are still mulling over their response
- 3) You are too trusting and may need to take a little more care in who you go winter climbing with.

As part of snowcraft we have a feedback form all participants must complete so our instructors can improve their skills for further intakes of students to come. But we are also interested from club members who attend trips with fresh graduates.

We have had a suggestion made to the committee to provide scholarships for courses for those who could not afford it. We don't sponsor memberships for various reasons one being this would detract from our life membership status for those who have put exceptional work into the club. We are also considering if there are other barriers to joining the club other than course costs with only one under 18 year old member not part of a family membership and the average age at a working bee being mature to say the least. I would encourage members to ask young members and people not on middle and top income brackets what barriers are there for them to join the alpine club and access trips and instruction and forward this onto the committee. Is it gear? Is it transport? Is it money or is it a perception that we are not aware of yet. We could take some learnings from other organisations like the NP

Tramping Club and Project Maunga who have both made very impressive efforts and success in reaching a much younger audience in recent years. Why I mention it is that sort of publicity helps massively when we renew our various concessions with DOC and Iwi partners.

If you haven't read it already and Te papakura o Taranaki is a special place to you, I suggest you read at the very least the summary of the Nga iwi o Taranaki and Crown Redress Document here:

<https://www.govt.nz/browse/history-culture-and-heritage/treaty-settlements/find-a-treaty-settlement/taranaki-maunga/>

See you on the mountain over the next month or two.

Conrad Murray

President

president.tac@outlook.com

www.taranakialpineclub.co.nz

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Sheryl is currently phoning those members with outstanding club fees.

If you are unsure if you have paid, you can sign into your Hello Club account and check that your membership is current.

We like to keep our membership records current as this affects our FMC fees.

Thanks to those who have promptly paid - much appreciated!

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!

Currently lockers 103, 413, 419 & 420 are padlocked and unallocated in our system. If any of these lockers have been claimed by you, please get in touch with Sheryl on (027) 243-1718 to update our records asap.

Non-action can result in the padlock being cut and the contents of the lockers being brought along to the next club night for collection.

BUDDY WALKS

Are you new to winter mountaineering and don't quite own 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 Wednesday so co-leaders can be arranged.
Any questions about buddy walks are welcome .

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 to register interest.

The annual Train the Trainer Day is set for 8th July. If you are considering helping om one of the snowcraft courses, please come along and we will allocate trainers to the available dates. Its a great day out with Don Paterson at the helm so please come along and get involved. Captains shout for cake a biscuits!

Finn Gable
Taranaki Alpine Club Captain
021-232-1310

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

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.

Thursday 6th July Club Night -

Trip Ideas workshop and/or social film night.
Bar will be open and finger food provided by the club
Bring your guide books, maps, notes and photos

TARANAKI ALPINE CLIFF RESCUE

recruitment

Taranaki Alpine & Cliff Rescue team are currently actively recruiting for new members to join our team. We're looking for competent alpine climbers with a good local knowledge of the Maunga.

Note that we operate in summer and winter! The ability to be able to work with a small team and take an active role on SAR operations.

We have a team mountain day planned for the 29th July as a get together and spend some time on the hill as a group. It will also be an opportunity for prospective new members to come along and see what we are all about. If you're interested our training coordinator is Don Paterson and the Team Leader is Michael Johns. You can contact either of us for more information and to register for the mountain day walk.

Mike; egmontpi@xtra.co.nz 0274540662
Don; don.advdyn@gmail.com 0272487858

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

Buddy Walks are back

Sunday 2nd July

Saturday 5th August

- Are you new to winter mountaineering and don't quite know how to gain some winter experience? Our buddy walks can help you!
- Snowcraft 1 is required or similar experience. 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 , 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.
- Meeting time and place will be confirmed by Buddy Hike Leader Glenys Grant closer to the date.

Please contact Glenys Grant on 0273670612 for further information and to register your interest.

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! 😊

No trips planned for May at this stage.

Buddy hike trips being planned for the upcoming snow season.

Social Events

Saturday 8th 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 (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



Trip and Social reports

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





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

Correspondance 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](#)

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