



## HiTAC June 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 Folks,

Well if you assumed from the missing president's report last month myself and the committee have been very busy and there is also a lot to update the membership on, then let the below be proof of that.

The Lodge now has Indemnity insurance Cover for up to just over one million dollars just in time before our previous policy expired. Thanks to the committee for coming together for an extra meeting to discuss options, our Treasurer Andrew Darney for helping the committee and membership understand the various options on offer to us and Ross Eden for putting detail into how much a replacement build would actually cost us if the worst was to happen.

Myself, Andrew Jordan (Vice president) and our experienced advisor Ivan Bruce represented the Club at the Nga iwi o Taranaki and Crown redress ceremony at Aotearoa Marae in South Taranaki. The Collective Redress Document which was initialled by both parties is available to download

<https://www.govt.nz/assets/Documents/OTS/Taranaki-Maunga/Taranaki-Maunga-Te-Ruruku-Putakerongo-Collective-Redress-Deed-31-March-2023.pdf> .

The biggest aspect that will impact the club's concession to have a lodge within Te Papakura o Taranaki is joint governance between Iwi and the Crown of the National Park. Bringing into question what is the Taranaki alpine club doing to stay relevant in modern times?. I am very much interested to hear members' thoughts on how we can make more accessible the fantastic opportunities in terms of instruction and resources available to all interested in alpine activities on Taranaki maunga. As an incorporated society as opposed to a public institution we don't currently record the ethnicity of club members on signing up but this has the potential to actually measure how inclusive the club is not just Maori but of various cultural backgrounds in general that choose Taranaki, Aotearoa New Zealand as their home.

Snowcraft is almost upon us. Last time I checked with our club captain there were a few precious spots left, so don't hesitate in securing one of these. Also a reminder to those already shown interest via email to Finn your spot is not secured until you have returned the paper work and paid the fee.

Another Committee member Don Paterson has been a busy man; between all his multiple hats has found the time to review our instruction document with the intention of making sure it is relevant to our organisation which uses all volunteer instructors and trip leads. We were also recently asked by FMC magazine to contribute information for an article on how we check the competency and currency of our instructors so I will include that written record in this Hitac even though we unfortunately missed the cut off for that article with everything else going on.

Club Nights are nearly booked out for the year thanks to your elected committee, check the HiTAC and Facebook for details for upcoming club nights.

Ngā mihi

## Conrad Murray

President

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

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

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## How we check competency and currency of our instructors.

### Q&A for FMC

*1. What is your process/requirements to identify suitable alpine leaders? Do you have a minimum requirement and how do you gauge the potential leader's experience?*

New trip leaders need to be advocated by more than one of the instruction team members with at least two years leading experience. They advocate that a potential trip lead has both the experience and skills to complete the proposed trip safely. A peer review model is used in addition, with the greater the risk of a trip, the more engagement with experienced instructors and leads is sought. We also have an individual paper record of this experience for winter/spring courses and trips.

*2. What is your process/requirements to screen trip participants for fitness skills and experience? Do you allow non-members on alpine trips?*

Our trips coordinator and trip leader may consult other club members who have been on previous trips about participant appropriateness. The final decision rests with the trip leader, but our instruction team can be helpful if they are undecided about any participants. We do not allow non club members to join our club trips as our trips are not guided but have shared planning and responsibility, which lies with individual participants. The only difference between a personal trip and a club trip is the added benefits of route-finding from someone who has completed the trip before and the additional safety net of going as a group.

*3. What other measures do you have in place to manage risks on alpine trips (e.g. mandatory club gear, trip planning processes etc)?*

We have a standard member/participant equipment list for any alpine club trip and/or courses which has been developed over the years by extensive input from our Instruction team, We also involve participants in the final stages of the trip planning, including a three day prior evening weather call and on the day objective hazard observations. There is club safety equipment available such as first aid, emergency shelter and PLB

*4. What mentoring or training processes do you have for potential alpine leaders or your existing alpine leaders?*

We have an annual train the trainer day which gets as many of our snowcraft instructors and trip leaders together as possible so they are teaching/modelling current evidenced based best practices. This training day is also very useful for aspiring instructors, trip leaders and Experienced Buddy Walk Mentors (who do very short walks on low angle aspects with only one to two participants to hone their skills further)

*5. Do you have any barriers to improving safety on alpine trips (e.g. access to training, gear etc)?*

We used to struggle to have enough fully functioning avalanche equipment for both instructors as well as participants but the club has invested further in this last year, Now the only barrier is that we are completely reliant on the same volunteers year in and year out, and while we always have an dedicated bunch with many having instructor qualifications due to their day jobs or side hustles we are not in a financial position at this stage to support further with formal qualifications other than considering applications for payments of peoples professional body membership fees. This is on the radar of our committee as well as organisations our members are also members of like Taranaki alpine cliff rescue, land SAR and NZAC Taranaki section.

Any member feedback on the above instructor selection process can be emailed to

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

and/or

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

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# Instruction

## 2023 Snowcraft

Kia Ora Climbers,

The Snowcraft applications have come in thick and fast. We now only have limited spaces available, so if you are a current member considering joining one of the courses, please get in touch before you miss out.

For those who have expressed interest, please remember to return your application forms before you lose your place on the course. As previously mentioned **"Your spot on the course is not guaranteed until these are returned"**.

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](mailto: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.

## 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

## Club Night Thursday 1st June at Fitzroy Golf Course

**A reminder club nights are open to members of the public and that this club night in particular may be of interest to non members**

## Michael Bishop

### Fullbright Scholarship Recipient

Known within the club as "Hawaiian Mike" he did not delay signing up as a member of our world famous in te Ika-a-Māui club. Originally hailing from Honolulu, Hawaii, Mike made himself immediately part of the club by attending a rock climbing trip to K-bay. Most of you wont know he is here in Aotearoa New Zealand for a year researching sacred ground, legal personhood, the rights of nature, and creative non-fiction writing. His timing couldn't be more perfect as Mike was supposed to arrive during covid lockdowns the content of his research couldn't be more relevant to the club's future with the Crown and Nga iwi o Taranaki reaching a milestone agreement only a couple months ago including joint governance of Te Papakura o Taranaki.

He will be running a workshop immediately following his talk for those interested(your president encourages you to participate). This is a very rare opportunity to make your fleeting memories within nature permanent by recording them in words which should hopefully encourage more club members to gain confidence to contribute their experiences to our various club publications and social media.

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## 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:egmontpi@xtra.co.nz) 0274540662

Don; [don.advdyn@gmail.com](mailto:don.advdyn@gmail.com) 0272487858

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## 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 Tahurangi 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](mailto: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.

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## Social Events

### LODGE BIRTHDAY

## King's Birthday Weekend: 3-5 June 2023

Weekends programme

### Sunday 4 June

A walk from the Lodge over to the Organ Pipes Valley, back to the lodge. Leaving the lodge at 12.30 pm. Leader: Greg Banks.

At 6.00 Pm.

Enjoy the Lodge with other Club members for Pot Luck 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 Tahurangi Lodge over to the two old TAC hut sites: Tahurangi Hut & Nissan Hut. He will give a talk about the history of these sites. Leaving the lodge at 12.30 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](mailto:bookings.tac@outlook.com)

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## Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> 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



## 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](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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