



HiTAC September 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

Kia Ora TAC Members,

Thanks heaps to those members who have had their input on lodge insurance options, especially Alec Heilbron who has put a great tool together to support this and future TAC committees. This tool lists and ranks the risks to the club and some promising solutions to keep the club going day to day if they were to occur.

Well winter is at its end, but with plenty of snow up high on the mountain so begins a promising spring season. The last of Level One snow crafts is due to be completed this weekend just gone by the time this goes out, The volunteer instructors and participants have been fortunate to not use a single backup weekend. Spring brings the opportunity for recent and previous year snowcraft graduates to get up higher than in winter when freezing levels go higher and avalanche risk lower. Slush Summit, a ingrained TAC tradition, is aimed at getting people to the top in ideal conditions turning around on the release or freezing level rise, the weather doesn't always bring the perfect conditions, so it would be great to have some experienced club members along to take a moderate pace up north ridge and back to support as they combine all their freshly learnt skills for most of them on their first spring snow summit. Lots of "top tips" and just general encouragement has helped plenty of people up in past years. See in the trips section for proposed dates for the slush summit.

It's great to see the usual mix of experience and confidence from Level one snowcraft participants. The second course which I assisted with, had the perfect balance with a couple of confident "young guns" and some "hardened trampers" both finding their winter alpine legs. I was personally impressed this year the most by the later pushing their skills and nerves to add mountaineering skills to their existing repertoire. I think it is because I could relate to them as when i did level one snow craft some 7 years ago. I was a conservative rock climber and trumper, pushing my nerves and wondering if I would ever get the experience and skills to do a winter summit. Now with a modest few winter summits and testing descents under my belt, I encourage those graduates to get some mileage lower down on the mountain in comfortable conditions and one day you may find yourself in a similar situation..

September Club night is a must not miss event, Especially if you want to be inspired to live temporarily in the boots of TAC Local Peter Leftbridge's overseas mountaineering recent expedition in the central Asia or even have grand plans to follow his footsteps one day. See clubnight section below for more details:

One important note to our recent snowcraft graduates in case you missed it on the course, The Club owns a mix of ice axe styles for hire so you can find the best style for you before you buy your own. Please be wary of someone telling you "what you need" whether that is a sales rep or club member if they don't genuinely ask what sort of climbing you intend to do with it. I have often seen new mountaineers fall into the trap of buying a long classic pick ice axe when they intend to do more steep or lighter travel and also seen people buy a technical tool when they may benefit from easily cut steps and leave the walking poles behind in favour of the longer ice axe. As always there is a bit of generational back and forth between which is best, but i suggest you do your own research first. What no experienced club members seem to debate about is the importance of good boots as you continue to hone your skills towards icier and more exposed conditions. They should be your first serious investment if you decide winter climbing is for you, and from my personal experience will make your climbing that much more enjoyable.

As a way to get the average age of our active members down a little, a likely barrier to new members not flush with cash to furthering their skills on the Maunga is sourcing decent boots. I have a spare pair of B3 size 6.5 Boots to loan if anyone wants to borrow them, If there are any other club members happy to lend to newcomers their spare boots so they can try out before they buy, then by all means email me your Name and best contact along with the size and i can create a modest directory.

See you on the Maunga soon

Conrad Murray

President

president.tac@outlook.com

www.taranakialpineclub.co.nz

ph 027 404 9868

BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS

Where: At next TAC meeting Fitzroy Golf Club

When: Thursday 7th September

Excess books, magazines and journals withdrawn from the TAC library are available to members. Come along to the meeting to check out. See you there....

For more details, read notice elsewhere in this newsletter.

John Jordan

Winter Wonderland Presentation

If you have recently attended a snowcraft course or are still repeating the same routes over and over and are wondering where to next, this is for you.

**Tuesday 12th October 7pm
Talk at Johns House Bell Block**

John Jordan will be talking about where to next, the opportunities available on our mountain and other adventures he has had including the South Island. He is an absolute expert who has some incredible experience on the mountain from over the years. We held this talk over the past few years and it was thoroughly enjoyed by those who attended.

Please contact John Jordan to register your interest johnmargaretjordan@gmail.com or

02768 21148.

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

Saturday 16th September, reserve date Sunday 17th

Buddy Walks are back!

- 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.
- 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.
- This month's Buddy walk is a whole day trip so bring enough food for lunch/ snacks /hydration and kit for the day.
- If the weather is bad Saturday the trip could be changed to Sunday.
- Meeting time and venue to be confirmed via text /message or phone call with those that have expressed interest by Wednesday evening, after weather checks etc.
- Need equipment? You can hire from the club. Contact the Equipment Officer with at least 3 days notice to pick up gear in the week prior.

Those interested please contact Stephen Miller 027 244 2753, before the Wednesday 13th evening so co-leaders can be arranged.

Any questions about buddy walks are welcome .



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 Taurangi 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).

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

This trip is limited to 10 participants.

Costs

- Accommodation has been booked at 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 027 2613199
Glenys Grant: glenys.grant@hotmail.com 027 3670612
Greg Sharman: committee5.tac@outlook.com 027 7156374



Mt Taranaki Slush Summit Proposed dates **weekends of 7th/8th Oct and 13th/14th Oct** **depending on availability of experienced club members.**

A popular trip that many members look forward to every year. If you have recently completed Snowcraft 1 with us, then this is the perfect trip for you! We specifically wait for suitable slush conditions for this trip to enable those who have recently completed Snowcraft 1 to have the opportunity to summit Mt Taranaki in 'beginner' conditions. Hence the option of two dates in case of bad weather.

To register your interest as a experienced club member or participant please contact Lindsay trips.tac@outlook.com



Kapuni Hut Overnight Stay Sat 28th/Sun 29th October

A popular yearly weekend outing where you get to spend 2 days exploring the south side which will include an overnight stay at Kapuni Lodge. Starting from Dawson Falls Saturday morning, 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.

If anyone has queries about the trip or venue, please contact lead **Glenys Grant** on 027 3670612.

Rock Climbing Whanganui Bay Weekend of 4th/5th November



I am so excited to organise a trip to this area that reopened in the last few years. A brilliant climbing spot (so I have been told and read heaps about) at New Zealand's North Island, located on the western shores of lake Taupo. Climbing, swimming, camping and a fire pit makes for a great weekend.

This will be a self-lead trip therefore outdoor experience is essential, everyone is responsible for organising their own gear. Minimum gear required, harness, PAS or cowstail, locking carabiner, helmet, ATC and HMS Carabiner, 45M rope and quickdraws. Some equipment may be available for hire from the TAC Club Captain or the YMCA.

Climbing access to this area is by the grace of Ngāti Te Maunga and the Whanganui Bay Māori Reservation Trust and in partnership with the Aotearoa Climbing Access Trust. Please take the time to read and comply with all access notices and restrictions in order for this privilege to continue into the future.

Please see the link below with the access terms, which helpfully explains where climbers are permitted to park, camp and walk. Too easy! Please do take the time to read this.

If you are intending to register, please do so through the link below and the trips coordinator know as well, as it will be great to socialise and climb together, also great for car-pooling.

Please email Lindsay at trips.tac@outlook.com

More info here - <https://whanganuibay.acat.org.nz/>

FMC

Printed FMC Quarterly Bulletins & 2023/24 FMC Membership Cards

Available on club nights or prior by texting president 0275552857 to arrange pickup.

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.

Feel free to bring a home baked 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 premises.

Next club night is Thursday 7th September 7.30pm

A return to Nepal late last year with a short walk in the Kumbu region crossing three passes, Kongma La, Cho La and the Renjo La plus trundling up to Everest Base Camp.

Our Life Member **Peter Lethbridge** will share his experience at Club night 7th September @ 7.30pm Fitzroy Golf Club.

See you there.



Trip and Social reports

Out there doing it!

Photo's from snowcraft courses and recent Buddy Hikes





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

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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