



HiTAC November 2023

Hi folks, welcome to the latest issue of the HiTAC.

Feedback and content can be emailed to hitac.tac@outlook.com

[View this email in your browser](#)



From the President's desk

Kia ora prospective and Taranaki Alpine Club members,

My condolences go out to those members booked on cancelled trips of late, and thank you to trip leaders for making the calls to cancel when conditions were far from ideal. You may have noticed a bit of media attention on recent alpine incidents around New Zealand which ended in fatalities. This is a reminder that our chosen sport requires respect for the mountain and is a team sport through and through, to make sure participants get themselves and others home to their whanau at the end of the day. I would like to specifically like to thank Greg Banks, Greg Sharman, Glenys Grant and Stephen Miller and his minions for attempting multiple weekends aimed at getting fresh snow crafters in the alpine in the right conditions for them to grow their skills.

Late October marks the end of the ski season for Ruapehu, but more excitingly for those initiated the start of the alpine rock-climbing early season. If you would like to get inducted into this great pastime or simply learn some basic introductory ropework skills for summer or winter, keep an eye out in the instruction section below for trips aimed at this.

Open Climb planning continues, and if you have helped in the last 2-3 years expect a call soon from the Open Climb Committee to check your availability for the 2024 event on Saturday 10th of February. Also see below for details on next club night around the open climb. If asked by members of the public: all going well, tickets should go on sale in late November/early December.

For those who made it to October's Club night you were treated to a lot of great images and an engaging speaker - Chris Prudden - keeping many past their bedtimes. Even if you're far removed from the mountain guiding industry, there is definitely a feeding relationship over the years of club members either going on to become qualified guides or even going on guided trips to maximise their time and experience in short time frames. While I wouldn't want to jump into the shoes of such guides, as it looks like a lot of hard work and responsibility, you have to admire the people who can guide on a particular route over and over again and contend with the internal struggles of balancing the environmental impact that big tourism brings with the education that can be provided to make sure our natural preserves are in a good state for future generations.

From my personal experiences as a rock climber, sometimes it's easier and more reliable getting permission to access private land with small numbers than public land. Some club members and I have put our hands up to help with this, and have been informed steady progress is happening in regard to the reopening of some local crags on private land. These private crags are so crucial given our local mountain doesn't have easy graded bolted climbs and for very good reasons. This can be a speed hump for climbers to progressively develop their skills without jumping straight into the mental, financial and time commitments of traditional climbing. So therefore, keep an eye out on the HiTAC and ACAT website for more updates as they come.

It may seem a long way out to the AGM in early March, but your current committee is proving to be a proactive one and putting it out there now that the club needs ongoing commitment and succession of key committee and non-

committee volunteer roles. Keep your eyes peeled for more information on what roles are in most urgent need to be filled from March 2024. It's not all mahi: there are a lot of social benefits to filling these roles as many friendships are formed also, speaking as someone who has served on the committee for the last six years. One role that hasn't been an official one, but we have been fortunate to have in the past, is a youth (U25yrs) representative on the committee and it would be great to have one again to keep the momentum going on having a diverse club of all ages and backgrounds for the many benefits it brings.

Conrad Murray

President

president.tac@outlook.com

www.taranakialpineclub.co.nz

ph 027 404 9868

Trip Report

The weather gods didn't line up with our planned trips for Tongariro and Slush Summit this year. So, on a bluebird day, a group of TAC members made their way out for a summit.



Notices

Thank you to our departing editor

Huge thanks to Phil "Charlie" Andrews, who volunteered to temporarily edit the HiTAC to help the club out 20 years ago and has done a great job since then. We hope you enjoy your retirement.

Kathy Waterfield will be taking on the role of editor. Please direct any contributions, suggestions or queries to her at hitac.tac@outlook.com

Gear

Kia Ora Climbers,

I will be overseas for the next 4 weeks, so please direct all gear hire enquiries to committee member Jeff Delilla. If you are considering attending the club trip to Whanganui Bay and require any equipment, please give Jeff plenty of notice in order to organise this.

Thanks team!

Finn Gable

Taranaki Alpine Club Captain

Jeff Delilla - 022 314 6534

Call for new committee members

Your club needs you! TAC is on the lookout for committee members for 2024-2025. Nominations are voted upon at the next AGM in March. You can nominate yourself, or a willing candidate.

Committee job descriptions will be shared in the near future. Please [email](#) the president with any queries in the meantime.

Reminder to all lodge users

- When you visit the lodge, please record your visit in the "Day Book" downstairs.
- If you stay overnight, please record this in the "Overnight Book" by the fridge upstairs.

Instruction Courses

Get some great skills under your belt with these fantastic courses run by OTNZ

River Safety Day

Sunday 12 November 2023 11 am to 3:00 pm at the Meeting of the Waters, New Plymouth.

\$35.00 per person

Rivers have traditionally been the second biggest killer of New Zealanders in the back country.

The River Safety training provides:

- understanding of rivers and hazards
- how to evaluate sites for safe crossing
- managing a group crossing
- practicing crossing techniques, pack floating and how to self-rescue if swept away.
- You do not need to be a confident swimmer to do this course.
- Further information will be provided once registration is completed.

Please [click here](#) to register.

For further information about these courses contact:

Club Trips

Rock Climbing Whanganui Bay

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-led 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 for car-pooling.

Please email Lindsay at trips.tac@outlook.com

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

Kapuni Hut Overnight Stay

Sat 11th November

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 Workshop

24th to 25th November, Wharepapa South

Dave Bolger (NZOIA Rock 2 and Alpine 2) is going to run a free introduction workshop on basic rock-climbing skills. This workshop is ideal for people who want to become more independent on the outside rock and learn current best practices. The initial focus will be on fixed or bolted climbs, including building anchors, cleaning anchors for lower or abseils and leading on bolts. However, if time allows, there may be an opportunity to go into basic self-rescue, climbing strategy and techniques. The initial plan would be a skills and climbing day on the first day and on the second day a climb day to put the new skills into practice.

Prerequisites: Have climbed and belayed before, can tie a re-threaded figure 8 knot, have abseiled before.

If interested, please email Lindsay at trips.tac@outlook.com

Social Events

TAC Photo Competition 2023

Snapped something amazing out on your adventures? Then make sure to send it in to our annual photo comp, with some great prizes up for grabs.

Below is all the info you need to know about the different categories, and please email photos to Greg Sharman: committee5.tac@outlook.com by Thursday 30th November.

Photos will be viewed and winners announced at the President's Shout Club Night on Thursday 7th December 7.30pm

CRITERIA AND INFO BELOW:

Please limit to **3 photos per person per category**, try to keep within reason to an alpine theme (obviously category dependent), 3rd place for each category has been added back. The 1st and 2nd place winners from EACH category will be submitted to the FMC photo competition. Please try to keep to the spirit of the TAC photo competition; it is a photo competition not a photo editing competition.

Please ensure you meet the criteria as outlined below.

Please note instructions for file name and file size, and ensure you follow the example given!

Image Format:

- Sized between 1MB and 5 MB
- Saved as a JPEG or JPG file
- All images must be digital
- Submitting Images:
- Email to committee5.tac@outlook.com (Greg Sharman)
- Send one photo per email
- Entries can be submitted from now
- **Submit your images by Thursday 30th November**

File Name:

- Must start with the Category Code, then TAC, followed by the Caption, in that order
- e.g. "ABN TAC Frozen Aoraki.jpeg"

To align with FMC, the categories are:

- ABOVE BUSHLINE (With no Human Element), Cat Code: ABN
- ABOVE BUSHLINE (With a Human Element), Cat Code: ABW
- BELOW BUSHLINE (With no Human Element), Cat Code: BBN
- BELOW BUSHLINE (With a Human Element), Cat Code: BBW
- HISTORIC Code: HIS
- NATIVE FLORA & FAUNA, Cat Code: NFF
- LONG EXPOSURE - Cat Code LXP
- HUMOUR, Cat Code: HUM (NB: TAC only, not FMC)

Three (3) entries per category are allowed.

The winning 1st & 2nd entries in EACH category will be submitted to the national FMC Photo Competition (where eligible).

Rules

1. Definition of a "human element"

The definition of a "human element" is flexible but the general intention is: Where the photo contains as anything other than as a very minor feature: people, a hut, a track sign/marker, bridge, ice axe and anything else that has been introduced by humans into the environment then we would define that as having "a Human element". But if a photo has what could be called a Human Element but that element is very small, inconsequential and not a feature in the photo then you could count it as "No Human Element".

2. Entries for the contemporary categories must be taken after 1 Jan 2020. Any photos taken prior to this date will automatically be entered into the historic category.

3. Definition of "historic"

The intention for the historic category is for entrants to go back through club and individual archives to select "old photos" rather than "photos of old things". As an example, a recent photo of a hut built in the 1950's is not a 'historic' photo. However, a photo of the same hut taken in the 1960's certainly is a 'historic' photo. Photos for the historic category must be taken before 1 Jan 2020. Judges tend to favour images which capture the essence of era's past, rather than images which qualify by date but illustrate a contemporary age. The prize for any winning photo from a club archive by a deceased member will go to the club. The prize for any winning photo from an individual archive by a deceased person will go to the person who entered the photo, whether through a club or as an individual supporter.

4. Definition of "Long Exposure"

The intention of the long exposure category is for photography of scenes that the naked eye cannot normally comprehend. These shots would require a very long exposure and the use of a tripod. The category is intended for highly technical images of shots taken at night, (including star trails), or in extremely low light situations such as caves or canyons. The category is not intended for normal dusk/dawn photography, or images where a long exposure is used to 'blur' the image (such as flowing water, or movement of the subject). The trial is intended to encourage more entries, by separating such highly technical photos into their own category. We hope to get more participation from entrants who are not put off by the thought of having to compete with such highly technical photos.

5. All photos must be taken within New Zealand, which is defined as within our Exclusive Economic Zone. This includes the following islands; North, South, Stewart, Chatham, Kermadec, Sub-Antarctic.

Photos taken outside of the New Zealand Exclusive Economic Zone (i.e. North Is, South Is, Stewart, Chatham, Kermadec, Sub-Antarctic) are permitted for the TAC competition, but are not permitted for the FMC competition.

6. The following photos are not eligible for entry;

- Those which have been previously published (apart from in FMC club magazines and the photographers personal publication online).
- Those which have won any prize in any other photo competition (apart from FMC club competitions).

7. Rules on post processing:

- Adjustments for exposure, white balance, contrast & levels are allowed.
- Cropping is allowed
- Stitching for panoramic shots is allowed
- Removal or insertion of features not in the original image is not allowed.

See the link to last year's FMC winners: <https://fmc.org.nz/photo-competition/>

Club Nights

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

Tea/coffee and hot water provided.
No BYO alcohol, as this is a licensed premises.

Date: Thursday 2nd November 2023
Time: 7:30 pm
Location: Fitzroy Golf Club

Our focus for November is on the OPEN CLIMB, which is planned for 10th February 2024.

Come along and find out what is involved and perhaps you could contribute to this event somehow?? Have a think about how you could support the Club to get this event off the ground. Cheers - see you there!

FMC
Printed FMC Quarterly Bulletins &
2023/24 FMC Membership Cards

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

Book Alert



EVERY EFFING INCH

Fear and loathing on Aotearoa New Zealand's
long trail – the 3012km **TE ARAROA**

TIM PANKHURST

Every Effing Inch will be published on Nov 8, rrp \$40.

A special pre-publication price of \$30 (plus p&p) is offered to TAC members.

It is available direct from the [Underground Bookstore](#) or major bookstores.

Club Information

TAHURANGI LODGE

TAC's lodge sleeps 24, has electric heating and cooking, 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 and can be contacted for help, feedback or suggestions. If you have trouble accessing the Lodge (e.g. due to eKey failure), phone either the Club President, or the Lodge Booking Officer. Contact info on Web page: <http://www.taranakialpineclub.co.nz/pages/contacts.html>

CURRENT SUBSCRIPTIONS

FAMILY \$80, ORDINARY (single) \$60, STUDENT (under 18), \$50.
Lodge access card \$20

Members with unpaid subs at end of April are sent an account overdue notice. If still unpaid by 1st June, a penalty of 20% will be incurred. 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 the club treasurer: treasurer.tac@outlook.com

GEAR HIRE

- Winter and summer equipment is available for hire by TAC Club Members. This includes: Personal Locator Beacon (PLB), ice axes, ice hammers, helmets, harnesses, quick draws, carabiners, etc.
- Each item costs \$5/day or a maximum of \$10/day for 2 or more items per person.
- To only pay for the days gear was used, return items promptly. Late returns will be charged for the entire hire period.
- Contact the Equipment Officer AT LEAST 2 days in advance to ensure availability: captain.tac@outlook.com

EVENTS PROGRAMME

Club nights, trips, instruction and social events are 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. If you would like to volunteer to lead a trip, contact the Trips co-ordinator: trips.tac@outlook.com

HiTAC— Newsletter

Sent monthly by email and also available on the Club's website at www.taranakialpineclub.co.nz
Any trip reports, events, or gear for sale can be sent to the Editor at hitac.tac@outlook.com

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please login to your Hello Club account to make any updates.

Contacting the Club

Correspondence can be sent to:
The Secretary

Photograph Corner



Club member Clarissa heads towards the summit of Mount Taranaki

Photo credit: Greg Sharman, October 2023

Club Links

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

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