



HiTAC March 2024

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 Koutou Prospective and Current Members,

First up, big thanks to those members who blocked out Saturday 10th February 2024 to help out on the Annual Open Climb. Unfortunately, as you will know, it was cancelled. Some of us stubbornly still went up the mountain lower down and I can say from my experience it was less than pleasant even at 1633 metres on both the Saturday and the Sunday.

You should have seen the Notice of the AGM in your inboxes earlier this week which takes the place of our next regular club nights time and location. Also keep an eye on HITAC and Facebook for a potential bonus club night in the works for March.

One of the repeating items for this year at the AGM is the election of officers who are so crucial for supporting our active membership in all facets of club activities. Thanks to our current committee and active members, we have found replacements for most positions but there is still a space for one more as I write this, so if you are interested in getting involved with the committee in 2024, I encourage you to speak to a current committee member ASAP to find out what it's about being on a diverse team for a diverse club.

For those who missed it like myself, I have had reliable secondhand accounts that there was a great Health and Relaxation weekend held up at the lodge last weekend which a small group of members took up. After hearing what they got up to, or lack of getting up to in some instances, I am very disappointed that I could not make it. For myself I see these events as supporting the long-term health of our members, and by extension the community, as that is what the Taranaki Alpine Club is about - the escape of busy day modern life to get back to something pure and basic, being in nature. With the history of the club nearing a 100-year history in less than five years' time and some keen active members already in the early days of collating some written and photographic material for a publication marking the approaching occasion.

Since this will be my last HITAC as Club President as I step down after six years on the committee, I would like to thank others who are stepping down from the committee, who are also taking time for themselves, family and other commitments for their sacrifice. I would also like to offer my ongoing support to the club members stepping up into committee positions to fill the 8000m boots, bringing their own energy and skills to the benefit of the club and its members.

Given the size and diversity of backgrounds within the club, one tip for new committee members you could learn from my initial blunders on committees some years ago, would be don't take too much on yourself. There is great experience within our membership and if you give members just a small job of contributing to our club, that might just be the spark they want to more contributions in years to come.

With that out of the way I am very much looking forward to the upcoming 2024 club trips and will see you on the majestic maunga.

Conrad Murray

President

president.tac@outlook.com

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Notices

Rate increase

The cost to stay overnight at Taurangi Lodge for non-TAC members has increased from \$45 to \$55 per person per night.

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.
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Articles

Sheryl's First Overnight Tent Hike

Yes, that is correct, our tramp into Te Rerepahupahu Falls was Sheryl's first overnight tramp staying in a tent. But not just any tent, a brand-new tent, which Sheryl has bought for doing Te Araroa trail.

I am Sheryl's tenting mentor Greg B, and this is how I know it was Sheryl's first tenting overnighter. This was practice run number one! More adventures are to be had when time allows.

What a place to experience your first overnighter: the falls are located in the Waitaanga Forest one and a half hour north of New Plymouth. The first part of the walk is in planted pine trees across farm land. The next section was along a disused logging rail line following the Waitaanga Stream, a few tributaries and the main stream had to be crossed but these were bridged, making a dry feet trip.

A lot of regenerating native bush alongside the track. After about 3.5 hours the track started to climb up a long sweeping ridge then it was a very quick decent to the same stream and downstream of the waterfall. The bush in this area I would say is still the original with some magnificent trees. We could hear the falls before we could see them. I had been here before about 25 years ago so I was hoping the same campsite would be there, and it was, beside the pool at the base of the falls.

Before setting up the new tent we decided to change into the swimming gear and brave the waters below the falls. Well one of us did, a bit of a swim to the side of the falls and a scramble over some rock gave access to behind the fall. A very impressive site, thundering water and spray. Once refreshed it was the time to erect the new tent. All went together and we had our accommodation for the night. Time for a cup of tea and dinner.

After a night listening to the waterfall - falling water is a good relaxant for a good night's sleep - breakfast was cooked and the tent packed away; it was time to climb back up the steep track to a nice walk along the old railway. Yesterday's lunch was beside the stream where a friendly robin visited us so it was decided for the same spot but unfortunately no visit by the robin.

Leaving the regenerating bush, it was out into the pine plantation and back to the car, a little over 5 hours. It is great to explore one's backyard and detach one from the mountain.



Instruction Courses

Rock and Rope

16th - 17th March 2024

If you have ever wanted to have an experience on some of Taranaki's classic rock outcrops and gain the experience of using a rope then this activity is for you. We will start with rope skills at the lodge then move to Tegel Wall for abseiling practice. Next will be Warwick's Castle for a traverse to test our nerves and skills before making our way to Humphries Castle for another classic on Taranaki on the Sunday.

This trip is an opportunity for members to experience ropes on the mountain. No previous ropes experience necessary, only a head for heights and a fun attitude. Some gear will be provided by the club. Participants are

expected to have basic alpine clothing.

This activity is only available to TAC Members and is not available to persons who have previously undertaken the activity. The weekend is based at Tahurangi Lodge.

Cost for this course is \$50, which enables the club to maintain equipment.

To register and for further information please contact Lindsay at trips.tac@outlook.com

Club Trips

East Face Summit

Saturday 23rd or Sunday 24th March 2024

Looking for a different route to the summit, or a new challenge? Then this one is definitely for you.

Usually starting from Tahurangi Lodge, the route will side/climb over several valleys with a few rock scrambles over varying terrain before hitting the Shark's Tooth. Not a 'switch your mind off' kind of hike...



To register and for further information please contact Lindsay at trips.tac@outlook.com

Social Events

Keep an eye out for more social events coming soon!

Trek for Life

[Trek for Life](#) contacted the club to advertise a week-long walk from Kawhia to Tamarunui from March 23rd - 31st 2024.

The trek is between 20-40km each day, and can either be walked, mountain biked or ridden by horse! There are marshals on quad bikes, medics, and a halfway shuttle for those who want a ride for some of the way.

The trek is fully supported, with camp packing up each day and moving to the next spot. There are hot showers,

toilets, hot meals, and even bookable massage appointments, every day.

Walkers have the opportunity to trek through private land that is not otherwise accessible. The trek is 3 days on, one rest day, and then 3 more days on.

More information can be found on [this blog](#).

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 7th March 2024

Time: 7:30pm

Location: Fitzroy Golf Club

AGM

A quorum of 20 people is required. Please RSVP to the [Club Secretary](#) if you will attend. If we do not receive the responses required to make a quorum, we will have to postpone the AGM.

We have the election of officers and the committee to attend, amongst other business.

Please see special HiTAC from earlier this week for more details.

FMC

Printed FMC Quarterly Bulletins & 2023/24 FMC Membership Cards

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

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 fee is \$55 for non-members. Members free. Anyone who stays at Taurangi 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

Taranaki Alpine Club, PO Box 356, New Plymouth,

or email secretary.tac@outlook.com

Photograph Corner



That mountain light...

Photo credit: Nicole

Club Links

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

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