



## HiTAC July 2024

Hi folks, welcome to the latest issue of the HiTAC.  
Feedback and content can be emailed to [hitac.tac@outlook.com](mailto:hitac.tac@outlook.com)

[View this email in your browser](#)



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## From the President's desk

Kia Ora Koutou,

Short and sweet this month team.

As you are aware the Committee put in a submission for the Te Pire Whakatupua mō Te Kāhui Tupua/Taranaki Maunga Collective Redress Bill which has had its first reading and is now before the Māori Affairs Select Committee. On Monday 24th June our Vice President Ivan Bruce spoke to the bill at the New Plymouth District Council chambers on our behalf.

We are aware that Stratford Mountain Club are also speaking to their submission and Egmont Alpine Club put in a written submission but didn't request the right to speak. This carries the same message from all 3 clubs the requirement for having clear avenues of communication within the new management structure. We understand this is an ongoing matter and will keep you informed as it unfolds.

I have been connecting with members who had dropped the ball on renewing their membership. I am pleased to say this has now come to an end, unpaid members have now been archived and their fobs cancelled.

I am excited to have the new merino beanies, with our TAC logo on the front, for sale at next club night! Pictured below. You will need to bring good old-fashioned cash or do a bank transfer so I can keep track of things. These beanies will fit under your climbing helmet too.

Congratulations to Lucas Flay for being awarded sponsorship from the Andy Harris Trust. This will broaden Lucas's alpine knowledge and experience. A well-deserved applicant.

This month the Committee has been reviewing some of our policies that keep the club ticking over. Safety must be our priority, forms to be completed before we get to the fun stuff! Please bring a good attitude to these mundane tasks.

See you at our club night or on the slopes.



## ***Sheryl Hamilton***

Madam President

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

027 243 1718

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## **Notices**

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### **Welcome to our new club members**

Shilo Croad - New Plymouth  
Denise Robertson - New Plymouth  
Al Adamson - Okato  
Bryan McDonald - Paekakariki  
Bryden Ford - New Plymouth  
Rowan Moustaid - New Plymouth  
Belinda Martin - Hawera  
Cadence Azad - New Plymouth  
Kelly-Anne Cruikshank - New Plymouth

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### **A message from our Trips Co-Ordinator**

#### **WANTED:**

- Leaders
- Assistant leaders
- Helpers
- Trip ideas

Ideas for trips come from YOU, TAC members. Your individual suggestions are very much appreciated. So, if you have taken a trip and thought it would be great to share with TAC members let me know.

Leaders and assistant leaders/helpers are required for trips to go ahead. If you would like to step into this role with a trip that fits your comfort zone, let me know. Sharing your knowledge and skills is valuable for the growth of TAC. Personal involvement is what keeps the club ticking over.

Please note, we are planning leader/assistant/helper training - please keep an eye out for info.

Please contact me:  
Glenys Grant  
Email: [committee4.tac@outlook.com](mailto:committee4.tac@outlook.com)  
Mobile: 0273670612

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## YMCA Crux Courses Coming Up

There will be a generous 25% discount offered to TAC members for upcoming rock climbing courses at the Crux. Please see the links below for info.

<https://ymcaturanaki.org.nz/climbing-wall/climbing-courses/>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/971320061454920/971320074788252/>

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## 100th Jubilee

A small "working sub-group" is forming. Andrew Jordan has offered to drive the project with the assistance of Finn & Gail. Our focus on gathering stories (especially the funny ones), past events, photos, memories etc. and putting into a publication to reflect 100 years of the Club. I know a lot of you active members are our "living history books" but we require some of this content to be written down and shared. The information you hold is valuable to this project! It will take time to put this info together, hence the request now.

Are you interested in contributing to this Club project? Please email your interest to be involved to [secretary.tac@outlook.com](mailto:secretary.tac@outlook.com)

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## Lost and Found



These inner boots have been at Tahurangi Lodge since last year. They need to be collected by the owner ASAP, otherwise they will be removed.

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## Articles

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### Trip Report: Birthday Weekend Hut Sites, or a Tale of High Winds

**Barbara Hammond**

On 3rd June 2024, after a leisurely start to the day, seven of us set off from the lodge into the bracing wind, which was so strong on the path above the lodge there was talk of needing to hold some of us down. The cloud which had blown in around the maunga higher up sent some moisture our way but luckily nothing more eventuated than some very fine droplets.

Before long we reached the relatively flat site of the Nissan Hut, not far above the present-day Round the Mountain Track, and also fondly remembered as the site of this year's Mountain Wellness weekend's first yoga and pranayama session, and later, star gazing. The hut was built soon after WWII, and before it was completed, a strong wind blew it to pieces, with the corrugated iron disappearing down the mountain never to be seen again. It was rebuilt, and in 1953 was the base for the rescue and recovery effort for the tragic nurses' accident.

Then it was on up, and up, in the wind, until we stopped at a horizontal steel pipe sticking about 50 cm out of the slope. Was it the remnants of the machinery for the first ski area on the mountain? Ski area here? That was news to some of us. Or perhaps it was a pole for the wind turbine which provided electricity for the original Tahurangi Hut, until it blew apart in high winds: the wind speed recording reached 130mph, then dropped suddenly to zero. Something of a theme going on here. A few metres away in the direction of the hut site, some electrical cabling was visible, suggesting that the latter explanation was the most likely.

While investigating these historic artefacts, helmeted figures were spotted well above us: Stephen Miller and Mohammed coming down from their summit attempt.

We dropped down into the small gully beyond, where the original hut was, and clustered around the large rock with its plaque commemorating its opening by the Club Patron on June 2nd 1935. Hence the tradition of celebrating the Lodge birthday every Royal weekend. The hut was 'named for the legendary Māori Tahurangi, who lit a fire on the summit.' (<https://taranakialpineclub.co.nz/about/>)

While we were arranging ourselves for a photo in front of the rock, surprise! - deprived of the Taranaki summit, Stephen had summited the plaque rock from the far side.

The hut site is mostly now covered with material eroded from the slopes above, but the toilet foundations (aka Savage Hut) are still obvious. Charlie told us that the hut always had an issue with snow build up on the uphill side pushing it off its foundations.

After returning the long way around - traversing across to the Razorback Ridge then down to the Round the Mountain Track - the wind on that final ridge leading down to the Lodge once again nearly blew us off our feet. An excellent morning's outing before the birthday nibbles, mulled wine and cake.

Thanks to everyone for the company and motivation to get out there, to Greg Banks for leading the way, Sheryl for taking on the apprentice leader role, Charlie for the historical information and sharing his firsthand experience of the buildings, and Kyle, Gail, Glenys and Stephen.



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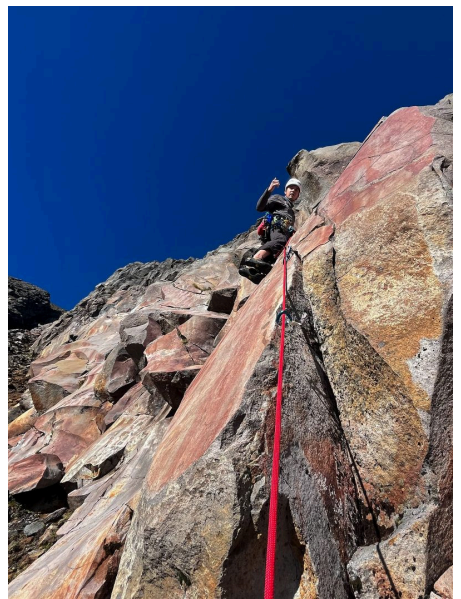
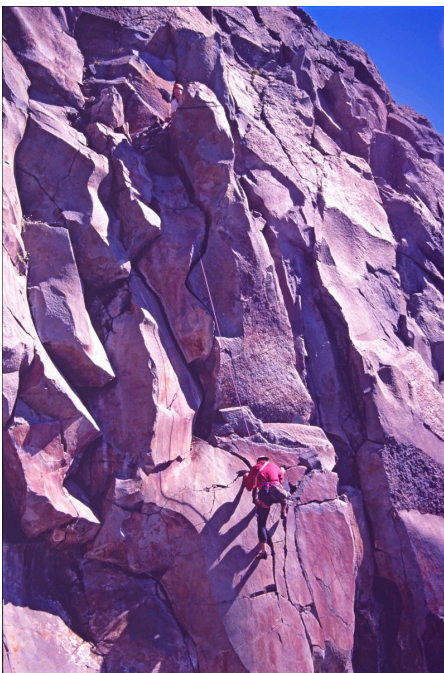
### Trip Report: Koala Bear – Strike mission to the Minarapa west flank Fletcher Miles

Years ago sniffing around the 1999 NZAJ archive, I came across a paragraph that spoke of a faraway wall on the maunga named "The Little Gramps Cliff". Located on the western flank of the Minarapa valley at 2000m elevation, this wall was said to contain mythical red stone and clean rock. Located in a valley that is said to promise hundreds of new routes, the only catch is that there is a 3 hour walk in. Over the years, the occasional photo from Chris Prudden of an unrepeatable rock climb on at Little Gramps called 'Koala Bear' graced my Facebook feed. After being first climbed in 1999 by the Young/Drew/Prudden party, it appeared to have never had a second ascent. Tentatively, it had been on my hitlist for a few years however never high enough up the list to feel psyched enough to go there. After an excellent summer season of regular Taranaki trad climbing mileage, Lucas Flay and I were feeling fit. Having already spent 20+ days rock climbing this season and

the window for prime conies having ended, the perfect ANZAC Sunday forecast reeked for an adventure onsite somewhere further afield. Having not climbed on a rope in the Minarapa Valley before, there was a strong curiosity to locate and repeat Koala Bear.

We left the Tahurangi Lodge at 7am, cruised over above the old hut site, up through Khyber Pass, past the drop-zone wall into the bottom of the crater valley lava flow. Then hooked a right and traversed around the flounder, across Kokowai lava flow to end up at a Minarapa col at 8:15am. As usual the atmospheric and shaded view over the Minarapa and lower Carrington ridge areas was a classic vantage. Sidling into the Minarapa side of the slowly eroding col, we walked up the valley on loose blocky ground to the 2000m contour. On the way past, the easy multipitch routes of summer shadows and wright route were located on the 'big buttress'. We were initially keen to onsite these but after seeing the underwhelming rock quality (probably better as winter routes) it was clear that the N/E facing little gramps cliff was the place to be. We crossed the Minarapa lava flow, then descended a slow-going loose gully to access the bottom of the little gramps cliff. Warm sending temps welcomed us, matched by fantastic views over the ranges and out to the Tasman Sea. We both ticked Koala Bear quickly and thought it was better than expected. While not the longest or hardest route in the park, the grade of 18 was true, and there was something special about climbing clean stone in a remote corner of the park. Leaving the little gramps cliff at 11am, we boosted it back through Minarapa col, down the Kokowai lava flow and out to NEVC via the AMC. Even moving fast, it still took 2h 45 mins from the crag to the car – (so the 3h from the road statement holds true). Maybe someday in 25 years some others will get psyched and get the 3rd ascent!





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## Instruction Courses

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### Snowcraft

All courses are now full, but a reminder of the details for those registered is below.

#### **Snowcraft 1**

Dates:

1<sup>st</sup> SC1 Starting Fri 26 July 7pm - Sun 28 pm, with a pre-field get together Mon 22 July  
*Backup weekend Fri 2 - Sun 4 Aug*

2<sup>nd</sup> SC1 Starting Fri 9 Aug 7pm to Sun 11 pm, with a pre-field get together Mon 5 Aug  
Backup weekend Fri 16 - Sun 18 Aug

3<sup>rd</sup> SC1 Starting Fri 23 Aug 7pm to Sun 25 pm with pre-field get together Mon 19 Aug  
Backup weekend Fri 30 Aug - Sun 1 Sept

Note:

- All course dates below have a backup date the following weekend if the course must be postponed due to bad weather.
- The pre-field evening (in New Plymouth) is compulsory
- If you wish to attend, please contact [captain.tac@outlook.com](mailto:captain.tac@outlook.com)

### **Snowcraft 2**

Dates: Fri 5 7pm - Sun 7 July with a pre-field (rock gym) session Mon 1st July



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## Club Trips

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### Tongariro Trip (formerly known as National Parks Experience)

#### 6th - 8th September 2024

Stephen & helpers will be running a trip Saturday and Sunday suitable for those who have done Snowcraft 1 or have equivalent experience, and have spent some time on the snow since their snowcraft training. The plan, at this stage, is to climb Tongariro Saturday and Ruapehu Sunday using the Sky Whaka for easy and quick access. The number of participants is limited; please send your expression of interest to Stephen Miller's email: [smiller@xtra.co.nz](mailto:smiller@xtra.co.nz)

When applying you will be required to advise what you have done on the snow since your snowcraft training. This will assist our leaders with their planning.

#### **Accommodation:**

[www.forestandbird.org.nz](http://www.forestandbird.org.nz) on Ruapehu (Tongariro National Park) has been booked.

The entire lodge is booked for Taranaki Alpine club Members. This sleeps 30; 16 beds are for Stephen and helpers' Tongariro Trips group (for those who have recently done Snowcraft 1).

This leaves 14 beds open for TAC members to run their own trip. First in first serve for those wanting a weekend away and taking responsibility for your own activities/arrangements.

Cost estimate only pp. \$100 for 2 nights, which may be discounted depending on numbers.

Payment to confirm booking is required 1 month prior.

Confirmation of those wanting bookings is required by 3rd August 2024.

Please contact Glenys Grant on 0273670612 before 3rd August.

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## Other dates for your diary

### Further information will be released in future HiTAC editions

#### **Syme Hut overnight**

Leader: Jeremy Beckers

Date: 28th September

### Kapuni Lodge overnight

Leader: Glenys Grant  
Date: 12th October

### Giant's Bum walk

Leader: Phill Whitwell  
Date: 30th November

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## Social Events

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### Mid-Winter Christmas & Alpine Film Evening

Tahurangi Lodge, 4pm, Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July

Come along and join us for our annual Mid-Winter Christmas & Alpine Film Evening at the lodge. Bring along your favourite Christmas dish to share (and please don't forget about dessert!)

There will be a snowman/person building competition and, as usual, we have an impressive line-up of mountain films; they are not to be missed!!

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



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## Buddy Walks

**Are you new to winter mountaineering and don't quite know how to gain some winter experience? The Club's buddy walks can help you!**

- 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 and walk on Taranaki's winter white stuff, as well as 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.
  - The emphasis is on 'buddy', i.e. the buddy does not take complete responsibility for participant's safety. The buddy is there to pass on knowledge and help participants make mutually agreed reasoned risk judgements.
  - Participants are required to have the necessary equipment. 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.
  - Participants are required to have done a Snowcraft One course or have mountaineering skills at least to that level, i.e. know how to use an ice axe and crampons.
  - These walks are (obviously) weather and snow condition dependent. If the weather is bad on Saturday the trip could be changed to Sunday.
  - The walk duration, the skills level required (novice or intermediate), and fitness required for a walk will be advertised in the week prior to the walk. Please let us know your skill level etc. so we can tailor the walks to suit. We will endeavour to run walks that suit the participants.
  - Communications with participants will be done using WhatsApp. If you are interested in going on a Buddy Walk this season, please contact Stephen Miller on 027 244 2753 well before the walk and you will be added to the Buddy Walk WhatsApp group.
  - Experienced leaders required! Please consider helping as we can do with some extra helpers and leaders.
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- **July**                      Saturday 20th, backup day Sunday 21st.
  - **August**                  Saturday 17th backup day Sunday 18th.
  - **September**              Saturday 21st backup day Sunday 22nd.



- **October** Saturday 19th backup date Sunday 20th.
- **November** If there is still snow, Saturday 16th backup Sunday 17th.

**Contacts:**

- Buddy walk key contact Steve: 027 244 2753
- Equipment Officer Clarissa for gear hire: [committee2.tac@outlook.com](mailto:committee2.tac@outlook.com) / 0272662330 (please contact at least 2 days' prior to ensure availability)

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## 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.

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**Date: Thursday 4th July 2024**

**Time: 7:30pm**

**Location: Fitzroy Golf Club**

**Two 'Polar' Summits 1998 – 2018**

*Climbing the highest peaks at the top and bottom of the globe 20 years apart*



Climbing Denali, Alaska (1998) and Vinson, Antarctica (2018) 20 years apart gives an interesting insight into how climbing has changed and hasn't changed over this time. For sure cold! and altitude! remain unchanged and present very real difficulties and dangers. But have advances with equipment and our physical and mental approach to climbing changed anything? Join Glen to hear two interesting stories on two epic 'polar' peaks.

And with ice beginning to form on the maunga, a quick history of ice climbing tool design from the 1960s to today!

- Glen Hodges – TAC Club Captain

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## FMC

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

Available on club nights or by contacting Club President to arrange pickup.

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# Club Information

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## 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 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, INDIVIDUAL \$60, STUDENT (under 18) \$50.

Lodge Access Fob Bond \$25.00 (a one-off payment).

Lodge Access Fob \$20.00 annually.

*Your membership will be forfeited if subs are still unpaid by the 1st of June. You will be removed from the database and your fob will be deactivated.*

## 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 Sheryl: [president.tac@outlook.com](mailto:president.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: [committee2.tac@outlook.com](mailto:committee2.tac@outlook.com) / 0272662330

## 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 Trips Co-Ordinator. If you would like to volunteer to lead a trip, contact the Trips Co-Ordinator: [committee4.tac@outlook.com](mailto:committee4.tac@outlook.com)

## HiTAC— Newsletter

Sent monthly by email and also available on the Club's website at [www.taranakialpineclub.co.nz](http://www.taranakialpineclub.co.nz)

Any trip reports, events, or 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 to make any updates. If you are unable to log in, please contact [president.tac@outlook.com](mailto:president.tac@outlook.com)

## Contacting the Club

Committee:

Don Patterson - [committee1.tac@outlook.com](mailto:committee1.tac@outlook.com)

Clarissa Benton - [committee2.tac@outlook.com](mailto:committee2.tac@outlook.com)

Andrea Jupp - [committee3.tac@outlook.com](mailto:committee3.tac@outlook.com)

Glenys Grant - [committee4.tac@outlook.com](mailto:committee4.tac@outlook.com)

Charlie Andrews - [committee5.tac@outlook.com](mailto:committee5.tac@outlook.com)

or email [secretary.tac@outlook.com](mailto:secretary.tac@outlook.com)

Lodge Bookings:

Gail Geange - 021 733 281  
Stephen Miller - 027 2442753  
[bookings.tac@outlook.com](mailto:bookings.tac@outlook.com)

Lodge Maintenance Officer:

Charlie Andrews - [lodge.tac@outlook.com](mailto:lodge.tac@outlook.com)

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## Club Links

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

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