



HiTAC September 2024

Kia ora, 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

Another month has rolled over with mixed weather conditions. I'm pleased to say the first of the three snowcraft courses was completed – thanks to Geordie, Finn, Glen & Pete for sharing your knowledge! Sadly the second course didn't get the same luck! Our last pre-field course of the season has just been completed, so let's hope those members get to go and learn in good snow conditions on the 24th August.

My focus has been on concession renewals – I've been advised that the lodge concession renewal paperwork should arrive this coming week, so that's great news.

I had a meeting with DOC last week for the Open Climb concession application. I'm grateful that our local DOC office is very supportive of this event. The application has now been sent off to the permissions office in Hamilton so in a few months we will hear back. However, our planning will begin before then. If you are interested in being involved in the Open Climb on 15th February 2025, please send me an email.

At the beginning of the month the live bait was dropped on the maunga; the bait are green in colour and stood out in the snow. Thankfully, no one was struck by any pellets being dropped. As a precaution our water tanks were disconnected during the baiting fly days, even though there is a 50 metre no fly zone around our lodge.

I wish to acknowledge and thank the work that our committee members do. They are working on projects that keep the club moving forward. Time is a valuable commodity these days balancing work, family commitments and other interests is no mean feat – thank you!

I sign off crossing my fingers for more snow!

See you on the slopes!

Sheryl Hamilton

Madam President

president.tac@outlook.com

027 243 1718

Notices

Welcome to our new club members

Danette Morresey - Korito
Silvia Croker - New Plymouth

Gear Hire Information

Please arrange hire 1-2 days prior to pick up. Drop items back within 2 days of use. Gear location: Westtown, New Plymouth.

Take a photo on pick up and on drop off. Send both photos via text or WhatsApp - 0272662330. This is so we both have a record of what was picked up and dropped off. I'm not worried about damage or wear.

Item costs \$5 per day or a maximum charge of \$10 per day per person for all equipment hired

Prusik Cord 6mm – For sale only (not hire) \$2.50 per meter to club members

Personal Locator Beacon 1 [\$10 minimum, \$15 per week]

Bank details: Taranaki Alpine Club 15-3942-0007023-00

Thanks,
Clarissa - Equipment Officer

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

Articles

Follow up from Te Aroha's August Club Night Talk

A note of thanks for the opportunity to share Hikoikoi: Te Araroa with our fellow members of the Taranaki Alpine Club. What an incredibly supportive crew and so encouraging.

In follow-up to a couple of questions, here's the link to a Google Sheet that lists my tramping gear. There are explanatory notes to explain it as I use it for all my haerenga as different walks and conditions require a different combination of gear. https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1CZ_o3jsaXrKEQkxCSktv0_I8YG3-y9K8-w_wOGRBJXY/edit?gid=882451156#gid=882451156

Also another question from the night that I'd like to give a better response to was 'what's the most important item of gear?' [Or something to that effect.] My answer on Thursday was far too general to be practical or helpful. But having had the question mull over in the back of my mind for the last couple of days, my view is that the most critical piece of kit is

having the right combination of socks and shoes for the terrain, season and skill. Oh - and the strength of feet and ankles.

The challenge with walking Te Araroa is the diversity of terrains (from hard and soft sand to poled routes across tops and tramping tracks down to roadwalks and city pavements) in our sometimes four-seasons-in-a-day weather. It must be more challenging for those walking it all in one go who for weight-saving reasons rely on having one pair of shoes at a given time. I've found that walking sections lets me choose a footwear combination that works for me for that section. For example, for the lowlands, beach walks and city streets between Whanganui and Pōneke, I was in trail shoes. But in the Tararua Range, I was back in my boots.

If our feet are all blistered up or tendons are tender, ankles swollen or skin is sloughing away for being so sodden, then we're done for!

Right - Greg and I are off for lunch on the deck of the Kapuni Lodge.

Ngā mihi,
Te Aroha Hohaia

Instruction Courses

Keep your eyes peeled for more courses to be announced in future HiTACs!

Club Trips

Tongariro Trip - *Updated*

6th - 8th September 2024

Thank you to those who are keen to support this weekend experience at Forest and Bird Lodge.

There is still some available accommodation for those club members wanting to make their own arrangements/activities.

Please contact Glenys Grant on 027 367 0612 to check availability and payment details. The cost is \$71 per person for 2 nights.

For participants on the club trip, please check WhatsApp group for updates. There may be a space, so if you wish to be added, contact Steve or Glenys.

If due to unforeseen circumstances you are unable to attend the weekend trip, and you are unable to find a replacement for your spot, no refunds will be issued.

Syme Hut

28th September 2024

Leaving via Dawson Falls carpark, ascending Panitahi for overnight stay in the fridge/Syme, with time to wander around the small peaks of Panitahi. Meeting time and further details will be arranged closer to event.

Contact person: Glenys Grant - 027 367 0612

Other dates for your diary

Kapuni Lodge overnight

Leader: Glenys Grant

Date: 12th October 2024

Walks both Saturday and Sunday weather permitting. Options include:

- 1) A scenic tussock /moss level walk on around mountain track towards Skeets and return to lodge.
- 2) Ascend Panitahi
- 3) Just chill out in lodge and do some shorter explorations/ walks around lodge/slopes

Contact person - Glenys Grant - 027 367 0612

Giant's Bum walk

Leader: Phil Whitwell

Date: 30th November

Information: This trip up the ridge west of Humphries Castle. It involves some off track sidling through light leatherwood and tussock, climbing to 1900m before traversing to North Ridge and down to the lodge for lunch; this takes about 4hrs.

Social Events

What other social events would you suggest for the club? Please sent your ideas to our president

Sheryl: president.tac@outlook.com / 027 243 1718

Buddy Walks

Are you new to winter mountaineering and unsure how to gain 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: acquiring skills and being able to safely climb and walk on Taranaki's winter white stuff, as well as getting to know others.
- 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 participants' safety. The buddy is there to share knowledge and help participants make mutually agreed reasoned risk judgements.
- Participants are required to have the necessary equipment. See below for hire details.
- Participants must 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 weather and snow condition dependent. If the weather is bad on Saturday the trip could be changed to Sunday.
- A consent form will be shared prior to the walk. The walk duration, skill level, and fitness required will be advertised prior to the walk. The consent form helps us tailor the walks to suit.
- Communications will be via 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 WhatsApp group.
- Experienced leaders required! Please consider helping as we can do with some extra helpers and leaders.

Dates:

- **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 / 027 266 2330 (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.

No BYO alcohol, as this is a licensed premises.

Date: Thursday 5th September 2024

Time: 7:30pm

Location: Fitzroy Golf Club

Three Passes - Talk by Steve Finnigan

In March 2024 I retired and a week later set off, with my son Andrew, for Nepal.

We completed the Three Passes Trek (Kong Ma, Cho La and Renjo) and went to Everest base camp in 14 days.

It was a fabulous cultural experience, but hard work and I found myself asking why put myself through this but...those BEAUTIFUL mountains and a great adventure meant the journey was well worth it!



Date: Thursday 3rd October 2024

Time: 7:30pm

Location: Fitzroy Golf Club

South Island Reflections

Mike Andrews discusses past climbing trips on the South Island.

FMC

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

Available on club nights or by contacting Club President 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 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

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 / 027 266 2330

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

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. If you are unable to log in, please contact president.tac@outlook.com

Contacting the Club

Committee:

Don Patterson - committee1.tac@outlook.com

Clarissa Benton - committee2.tac@outlook.com

Andrea Jupp - committee3.tac@outlook.com

Glenys Grant - committee4.tac@outlook.com

Charlie Andrews - committee5.tac@outlook.com

or email secretary.tac@outlook.com

Lodge Bookings:

Gail Geange - 021 733 281

Stephen Miller - 027 244 2753

bookings.tac@outlook.com

Lodge Maintenance Officer:

Charlie Andrews - committee5.tac@outlook.com

Club Links

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

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