



HiTAC October 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

Spring has brought a lot of rain to our region with a good dump of snow, unfortunately the snow doesn't hang around that long. I do hope you got a chance to go and have a play on the hill.

My last trot up to the lodge was to retrieve George Mason's ice axe from the wall, to use in his guard of honour at his funeral. Sadly, George passed away on Friday 13th September.

He will be sadly missed and his contributions to the club over the years have been outstanding. A good number of TAC members attended his farewell and George's family was moved by the tribute.

As previously mentioned at club nights, the lodge committee is working on all the preparations for the deck maintenance project. This is scheduled to commence (if the weather permits) for Friday 1st November. Our first day will be taking gear from the translator up to the lodge by hand. Many hands make light work, so if you are available, please contact Charlie – email: committee5.tac@outlook.com

Also, the kitchen is going to have a spruce up too. A repaint of the cupboards and some other touch ups to keep the lodge looking fresh and clean. So, if you are handy with a paint brush or can offer to make morning/afternoon tea this would be gratefully received. I'm sure a few of us will be staying at the lodge while the projects are underway.

Keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates about club events and projects.

See you on the slopes!

Sheryl Hamilton

Madam President

president.tac@outlook.com

027 243 1718

Notices

Welcome to our new club members

Rebecca Frechtling - Inglewood

Mike Carter - New Plymouth

Wanted: Photo Competition Co-Ordinator

Over the last few years Greg Sharman has coordinated the club Photo Competition and is now seeking a new person to hand the reins to. Could this be you?

Here is a brief overview of what is required for the competition:

Criteria and Info for Entry:

Please limit to 3 photos per person per category, try to keep within reason to an alpine theme (obviously category dependent). 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 (contact person) • Send one photo per email • Submit your images by (Date)

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

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).

If you have the skillset and interest in supporting the club with this competition, please contact Greg Sharman directly via email: gsharman@xtra.co.nz

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

Gear For Sale

Marmot Diva 35l (used - good condition)

\$100 ono

A versatile backcountry pack designed for women and their gear for a range of sports: mountaineering, climbing, hiking, skiing etc.

Includes: tuck away ice axe straps, waist belt pockets, ski carrying system, hydration pocket/port, removable lid.

Extremely comfortable.

Please contact Kathy on hitac.tac@outlook.co.nz for more info.



PLB
\$400

3 x brand new PLBs for sale (RRP \$650).

See website for info: <https://www.acratex.com/products/bivy-stick/>



Articles

Trip Report - National Parks Experience
Words and photos by Barbara Hammonds



The weather was less than perfect, but we still had a good time, not least because of staying at Forest & Bird's Ruapehu Lodge. Multiple bunk rooms, spacious and well equipped kitchen and living areas, and exclusive use. And because it was made available to any club member to use for the weekend, not just those on the official trip, twenty two or so came

long, so there were good social opportunities as well.

7 September

Despite the misty start to Saturday and a forecast of rain for most of the day and wind later, most of the 'official' group braved the weather and set off for Tama Lakes, a wise decision given how bad the conditions were likely to be higher up. No snow for us today! No views beyond about 20 metres either, as we wound our way up and down and around the tussock, Dracophyllum, snow totara and other above-the-treeline vegetation, past the top of the Taranaki Falls, and up to the Lower Tama Lake. I'd not seen the lakes before, and I still haven't. Phil and I ventured to the edge of the steep drop off and we looked down into mist.

The wind had started to get up by now, blowing the drizzle at us, so after a huddle and a quick team photo by the sign we turned back. No point risking hypothermia just to say we'd got to the viewpoint for Upper Tama Lake. There definitely wasn't going to be a view!

At the Falls, we took the lower track and appreciated the shelter of the bush and the respite from the wind and rain. Our bedraggled gaggle of ten got back to the Lodge at about 12:30 after a 4.5 hour outing, having walked 17km (according to someone's app).

The Lodge drying room was soon cluttered with wet gear. Although nowhere near as effective as Tahurangi's, it did a passable job.

8 September

Sunday dawned fine, with a view from the Lodge of the upper slopes of Ruapehu shining in the sun, and fifteen of us drove up to the Top of the Bruce planning to catch the gondola up at 9am before we started our walk. Not so fast! It wasn't open yet, and if they did open it, it wouldn't be until 10am. Nothing for it but to walk up. We took the route under the gondola, which Greg and Lynda had done a few days prior. After being blasted by tiny ice particles from numerous snowmakers along the way, crampons went on before a particularly icy patch. Instruction starts now: check to see that they're on properly, and check each other's crampons; remember to walk with wide apart feet, as if you're riding a horse (or...). And how about those clothing layers? All good, or do you need to add or subtract?

Along with Steven, Glenys and Mohammed as our official leads, the group also included several other more experienced people, so there was a good ratio of experienced to less experienced. We found some steeper slopes with good runouts, safe for practicing on, e.g. our 'one, two, three' walk, along with step cutting practice on a slope untouched by the snow groomer, and, because the ski field was closed (plus the snow cover not going all the way to the bottom), no need to keep a lookout for skiers or snowboarders hurtling past.

The sun was shining, and although there was a wind, it wasn't too bad. Up we went, until the smell of hot chips wafted by from the Knoll Ridge Café, tempting some and perhaps putting a spring in the steps, especially once we could see the café above us. But it was not to be: time restrictions kept us on task and from the top of the gondola / café area it was on up and off to the west to Delta Corner. Somewhere along the way, we lost the sun completely.

We had a bit of serious fun looking for and finding a buried avalanche transceiver, by walking one step at a time in a line up the slope and then across it. After this, we were instructed to find our own line up the slope, more or less under the line of the Knoll Ridge T-bar, avoiding the small snow-covered gully which had water running into it at the top, and hence the potential to fall in a hole without warning.

Just as the weather started to really clag in, we gathered under the T-bar for photos, before a rapid but careful descent, shielding our faces from the ice crystals being driven at us by the now strong westerly wind.

Back at the top of the gondola, crampons off, and on we hopped for a smooth ride down. It was a relief to get out of that weather.

Thanks Steven, Glenys, Mohammed, Phil and Greg for all your guidance and Clarissa for the planning and support.

Trip Report - National Parks Experience

Words and photo by Claire Jones



Despite the unfavourable weather forecast, there was a good turnout for this trip; kudos to the trip co-ordinators, who seamlessly managed all the cancellations and last minute bookings.

Our accommodation was "Forest and Bird" Lodge - just up the road from Whakapapa village, and this was a well appointed, new, warm and spacious building nestled in the bush, away from the main road. Thanks to Janeke and Barbara who are F&B members for helping TAC with securing this booking.

How do a group of hardy TAC members cope with a dreadful forecast?
Wet weather gear testing.

Thus on Saturday morning we brightened the track to Tama lakes with technicolour raincoats and pack covers. Others opted for the shelter afforded by the bush with a walk to Silica Rapids.

We reached a sign that indicated we were at Lower Tama Lake (previous experience tells me the sign was correct, despite no lake being visible.)

Beyond that, exposed conditions and a strong wind, combined with the prediction that Upper Tama Lake would be equally invisible, led us to head back to the comfort of the Lodge with hot showers and a drying room.

We took a slightly different route, past Taranaki Falls, rapids, and then through bush alongside the stream, back in time for lunch.

With an afternoon to kill, some of us went indoor Rock Climbing at the nearby YHA in National Park, while others had a yoga session led by Glenys.

Sunday's forecast was more favourable, and getting some time on the snow was now possible.

The plan had been to take the earliest Sky Waka to the snow (9 am departure) - however, on arrival learned that it would not be operating till 10 am due to, I suspect, some mild wind.

There were some patches of snow on the road, so we set off on foot - practicing walking in our boots - there were some icy patches, and testing our gear again as the road led us into the path of several operating snow machines.

In one spot there was even a tiny snow bridge to cross - it handled the weight (individually) of all members of our party.

Further up we did the compulsory "step cutting and snow bucket cutting" - no TAC trip is complete without doing these activities!

Hot chocolate at the top of the gondola sounded very tempting - but our trip leaders were keen for us to have maximal time in the snow, so we ate our lunches outside, entertained by watching an avalanche rescue dog demonstration.

We ascended a little higher - and did practice finding a hidden transceiver. Ella was successful but our trip leader did not have any dog treats for her.

We did some more climbing - then the essential part of any climb - descent, initially walking down the slopes then catching the gondola just as the weather turned nasty.

A big thank you to Steve, Greg, Glenys and Mohammad for all their instruction and support during an enjoyable and successful weekend.

Taranaki Sports Awards

Nominations can be submitted at: www.sporttaranaki.org.nz



2024 Taranaki Sports Awards

The celebration of our sporting and active communities featured 13 categories spanning individuals, volunteers, clubs, teams and coaches.

Winners will be announced at our Awards dinner on Friday 22 November at The Devon Hotel, taking into account the achievement period of 1 October 2023 - 30 September 2024.

The 2024 Taranaki Sports Awards categories are:

- Silks Audit Chartered Accountants Ltd: **Overall Sportsperson**
- The Floatation Sanctuary: **Senior Sportswoman**
- Business Distributors Limited (BDL): **Senior Sportsman**
- New Plymouth Physiotherapy: **Senior Sports Team**
- QP Sport Protection: **Junior Sportswoman**
- Taranaki Secondary School Sports Association: **Junior Sportsman**
- TimberCo: **Junior Sports Team**
- OurCloud: **Masters**
- WR Phillips: **Coach**
- Marsh: **Game Official**
- Clelands Construction: **Volunteer**
- Taranaki Associated Cleaners Ltd: **Club**
- Sport Taranaki: **Impact Award**

More information and the criteria for each category can be found on the nomination form below.

If you have any questions please email awards@sporttaranaki.org.nz

Nominations close Friday 4 October at 5pm

Instruction Courses

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

Club Trips

Syme Hut trip (*full*)

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

Kapuni Lodge overnight

12th October 2024

Leader: Glenys Grant

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

Social Events

What other social events would you suggest for the club? Please send 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:

- **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 3rd October 2024

Time: 7:30pm

Location: Fitzroy Golf Club

South Island Reflections

Mike Andrews will be talking about climbing trips, firstly exploring the glaciers and peaks in the head of the Rakaia River, then a trip traversing the Liebig Ra (Mt. Cook NP) and finally a winter ski touring trip based from Centennial Hut.

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

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