



HiTAC June 2025

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

President's Report May 2025

Kia Ora Koutou,

We have been teased with a bit of snow showing up and melting away just as quick! Be aware the conditions on the maunga are now changing quickly, so make sure you have those extra layers & that wet weather gear in your pack!

Our last big job of this year has been completed! We got the septic tank emptied! A big thanks to the small crew who knew what was required & got it organised. Also, our thanks go out to DOC for their support with loaning us the pump! This job is part of our concession requirements, so it's always good to ensure we are within our concession boundaries.

Mike Keene joins the Translator Road driver's pool. This brings our total to 3 people. We have to apply to DOC & Kordia for road access (as and when required) for us to transport goods and/or take up maintenance equipment to the lodge. We have limited road access, so we always take up as much as possible each trip.

I am hopefully that this winter we will have lots of snow to play in! Please support the trips on offer and let Rachel know if you can assist with offering any club events.

You may have noticed we have a new TAC Members Only page on Facebook. Once your sub has been paid you are welcome to put a request through, and I will approve it. This group is designed for you to let other members know what you are up to and when you're going out for a trot somewhere. You are responsible for yourself on these pop-up trips – they are not official club events.

Hope to see you at our next club night, on the maunga or at the lodge.

Ngā mihi

Sheryl - Madam President

Sheryl Hamilton

Madam President

president.tac@outlook.com

027 243 1718

New Members

A big Welcome to the following new members:

Lodi Amoores Individual - New Plymouth

Val Nicholas Individual & Lodge - New Plymouth

Jamie-Lee Holder Individual & Lodge - Taranaki

Notices

Septic tank

Recently we emptied the septic tank at the lodge, which hi-lighted the need to remind you that all sanitary products & so called "flushable wipes" need to be wrapped and carried off the maunga. Besides natural human waste, we only flush toilet paper!

Appreciate your support with this.

Ngā mihi

Sheryl Hamilton

President - Taranaki Alpine Club

Tahurangi Lodge Birthday -

2nd June (Kings Birthday holiday)

there will be cake!

On the 2nd June 1935 the Tahurangi Hut was official opened!

90 years on we have Tahurangi Lodge in a different location on the maunga.

Shared lunch on Monday 2nd June at midday to celebrate this milestone and acknowledge what a blessing our facility is!

I believe some members are going to stay overnight on the Sunday and go out for a walk on the Monday morning - want to join us?

Sheryl

Ngā mihi

Sheryl Hamilton
President - Taranaki Alpine Club
Email: president.tac@outlook.com
Phone: (027) 243-1718
www.taranakialpineclub.co.nz

New Private TAC Members only Facebook group!

We have created a closed group for members only where we can connect with others, ask questions, plot and plan adventures, provide up to date information, and promote events.

We feel this will be a great tool to get more people out and about enjoying our mighty maunga. Text your mates or more experienced members and invite them out for the day - go have some fun together! Makes those casual adventures super easy for planning!

So if you what to know who's going out for a trot check the page, drop in a comment & perhaps join them.

Help build our TAC community by clicking the link

<https://www.facebook.com/share/g/1BhHF7NiU6/>

Love you to share some photos and stories that inspire us or outright just make us laugh!

Rachel Alford

Taranaki Alpine Club

Email: committee4.tac@outlook.com

Mobile: 0278655916

Instruction Courses

2025 Snowcraft Instruction



Hi Climbers!

The temperatures are dropping and it's time to start thinking about our snowcraft courses.

Snowcraft 1

If you wish to be considered, can you please contact captain.tac@outlook.com, with the following information:

- Name, address, age [min age is 16 yrs.].
- Question 1: Where are you looking to take your climbing over the next 5-10 years
- Question 2 What is your current snow/ice experience:
- Question 3: What is your level of fitness
- Preferred course date:

Dates:

1st SC1

Starting Fri 25 July 7pm - Sun 27, with a pre-field get together Mon 21 July

No Backup Weekend exist for this

2nd SC1

Starting Sat 23 Aug 7am to Sun 24, with a pre-field get together Mon 18 Aug

Backup weekend Fri 22 - Sun 24 Aug

Note: .

- The pre-field evening (in New Plymouth) is compulsory

Snowcraft 2

For those considering to register interest for the Snowcraft 2, it is a pre-requisite that you have been undertaking sufficient climbing to a point where your alpine climbing progression is now requiring the use of ropes, protection, anchors to ascend the routes

you are wishing to climb. It is up to the discretion of the course leaders and trainers to accept the application.

Please do not be offended if it is declined, this is for climbers to take a significant step with their skills and it is pertinent that the attendees are confident with their abilities. Please contact captain.tac@outlook.com with your request to join the course detailing your climbing progress and accomplishments to date and aspirations.

Dates: Fri 1 August 7pm - Sun 3 Aug with a pre-field (rock gym) session Mon 28th July

Your Club Captain

Glen Hodges

captain.tac@outlook.com

Club Trips

From our Trips Co-Ordinator

Rachel Alford

Taranaki Alpine Club - Trips Coordinator

Email: committee4.tac@outlook.com

Mobile: 0278655916

I'm still new to this role so working through the processes this involves. Compiling a trips calendar is certainly a task. Ideas for trips come from YOU, our 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 other TAC members let me know.

Leaders 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.

Buddy walks;

Buddy walks are provided through the club for those wanting to gain confidence and skill with the support of experienced club members. These walks are not considered instruction courses but more of an informal, small group "buddy system" walk to enable club members to share knowledge and provide guidance for newer members as they develop their winter skills, safety and decision making

Participants are expected to have enough experience (ie Snow craft 1 or equivalent) and are responsible for their own fitness and acquiring of own gear. (this can be done through our gear hire system)

The plan is to run ½ day buddy walks fortnightly from the 19th of July

SO, WANTED:

Leaders, Trip ideas and Buddy walk leaders.

Below are some trip ideas for the 2025 snow season.

Dates to be arranged, and leaders for some of these trips wanted.

September: Tongariro trip, Overnight to Syme Hut

October: Mt Taranaki Slush summit.

Buddy Walks

July - September (while there is snow):

19th July – Lead by Greg and Glenys

9th August – Leader Required

23rd August – Leader required

13th September – Lead by Phil and Sheryl

27th September – Leader Required

11th October – Leader Required

25th October – Leader Required

Registrations for these walks will open from next month HiTAC but if you have any questions, please contact me.

If you could **LEAD** one of these walks, please get in touch

September: Tongariro trip, Overnight to Syme Hut

October: Mt Taranaki Slush summit

Rachel Alford

Taranaki Alpine Club – Trips Coordinator

Email: committee4.tac@outlook.com

Mobile: 0278655916

Hillary Outdoors Winter Skills Courses

Kia ora,

I hope you are well and looking forward to an adventurous winter!

I'm reaching out today as one of our team members had noted that the Taranaki Alpine Club may have some individual looking to participate in one of our Winter Skills Courses. Great news, we've officially released our Winter Skills Course dates, and they are now live on our website!

Please find links below to our different Winter Skills Course pages. Feel free to share these with anyone who is interested, our website explains about the courses and that is also where people can go to enrol if they are interested:

- [Alpine Skills Course](#)
- [Avalanche Skills Course 1 \(ASC1\)](#)
- [Avalanche Skills Course 2 \(ASC2\)](#)
- <https://www.hillaryoutdoors.co.nz/avalanche-skills-course-2/>

Places are limited, we work on a first in, first served basis, and will open a waitlist once spaces are full.

If you have any questions at all, feel free to get in touch. Otherwise, we hope to see some of our club members this winter! ❄️

Ngā mihi | Kind regards,

Shannon Nizniak | Programme Coordinator

Office Phone: 07 386 5511



Bookings@hillaryoutdoors.co.nz

Momentum Hub, Vector Wero Whitewater Park, 770 Great South Road, Wiri, Auckland 2104

8am – 4:30pm, Mon – Fri

www.hillaryoutdoors.co.nz

Articles

We're always on the lookout for interesting and informative articles for the newsletter. Please submit to Kathy, HiTAC editor - hitac.tac@outlook.com

BANFF film festival 2025

The NZAC Taranaki Branch are organising the annual Banff Mountain Film Festival New Plymouth screening on 13th June.

Would it be OK if TAC includes an advertisement for this event within the next Hitac? Something along the lines of the Below along with the attached banner.

Thanks

Matt Sullivan-Brown

TAC Member and NZAC Taranaki Branch Committee



BANFF Centre Mountain Film Festival World Tour - New Plymouth Screening

Date: 13 June 2025, 7pm

Location: 62C Poplar Grove, New Plymouth

This stop on the world tour is presented by the NZ Alpine Club Taranaki Section with the support of NZ Mountain Safety Council, Cycle Journeys, La Sportiva and Osprey and is a fundraiser for the New Zealand Alpine Club.

Since 1976, the Banff Centre Mountain Film and Book Festival has been an industry leader in the celebration of Mountain Culture. Following the festival held every October, the annual World Tour reaches more than 40 countries on 7 continents, making it the largest adventure film tour on the planet.

From approximately 375 films entered into the annual festival, the world's best mountain films are chosen for the World Tour. This year's tour features a collection of the most inspiring action, environmental, cultural and adventure films from the festival. In New Zealand, our programmes feature over 2 hours of thought-provoking films from the world's most prestigious mountain film festival!

Be moved. Be inspired. Don't miss out. Reserve your tickets today. For more information visit banff.nz or visit the NZAC Taranaki Branch [Event Page](#).

Social Events

80s Night

Saturday 3rd May 2025

Sixteen members gathered to celebrate the 80's in style at the lodge. There were some colourful outfits worn and everyone got into the theme! A superb meal was served that included curries, salads, sausage rolls and cold dishes. The mains were followed by two carrot cakes and a

pavlova.

After dinner the 80's music was played with some of us got up to break out the dance moves.

The next morning saw many having left overs for breakfast, while listening to the wind and rain outside. After a lodge tidy up we left to go down in the a chilly wind, rain and low cloud.

Another very enjoyable evening at the lodge!

Thanks to everyone who attended.

Gail and Sheryl



Saturday 28th June 2025

Tahurangi Lodge Mid-Winter Christmas &

Alpine Film Evening

Tahurangi Lodge - from 4pm onwards

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

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 only.

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



Club Nights

Club Nights are held on the first Thursday of each month, usually at 7:30pm at Fitzroy Golf Club, 3 Record Street, unless otherwise advertised.

No BYO alcohol, as this is a licensed premises.

Date: Thursday 5th June 2025

Time: 7:30pm

Location: Fitzroy Golf Club

Club Night - 5th June @ 7.30pm

A Himalayan Pilgrimage spread over 40 years through the eyes of Phil Whitwell.

Come along and see a glimpse of the wonders of trekking through 3 trips among the high peaks and people of Nepal and Ladakh/Zaskar.



FMC

Printed FMC Quarterly Bulletins & Membership Cards

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

Trip & Course Reports

Plane wreck/tarns...and a ferret 24/5/25

This was Rachel's first trip as trip coordinator, and despite not being able to make the event herself, she couldn't have done a better job, from arranging our very capable trip lead, Clarissa, enticing a good number of participants (ten altogether), and important details like great weather - blue sky (mostly).

Advertised as a trip to the plane wreck-I have learned that our Mouna is a veritable junkyard and there are actually four plane wrecks up there, and also the tarns, there were many other "side trips" segwayed into our day.

Phil Whitwell had kindly negotiated a 7:20 start from our trip lead (better to wait for the sun to get up.)

We were all abuzz, setting our Garmin watches, Strava and Topo GPS apps, and heading off the Pouakai track for an epic adventure.

A short way up the main track we peeled off to the left, where the terrain became more interesting - lots of steeply undulating track, with the occasional stream to cross or large fallen tree to negotiate.

After about 90 minutes, we came to the plane wreck - lots of unrecognisable bits of old metal smeared over the hillside. This particular wreck was an Airspeed Oxford, crashed 23 Oct 1942 but was not located till 1974.

After this small detour, we returned to the track, taking another small but steeply downhill detour further up to Mangorei waterfall. Well worth checking out although no one was up for a swim today.

We clawed our way uphill back to the main track - the main track being marked by blue triangles, with bits of red string to indicate a side trip.

The terrain flattened out to a more gradual ascent, then started to steepen again. On one of these steep sections, there was a trap, containing fresh kill. Sheryl got in there with her bare hands and hauled out her prize, a fresh, fluffy female ferret. She reset the trap (while we watched with bated breath, hoping that we would not need any first aid skills for partially amputated fingers).

With the furry friend bundled into a bread bag (yet another use for used plastic), we were off again.

The track started to steepen, with small (rather faded) looking ropes in a couple of places to aid the ascent. Eventually, we broke out above the bush line, heading through the tussock to creep up behind the dozens of people already waiting by the tarns for the mountain to make an appearance for that Instagram-worthy picture.

We headed along the main track to Pouakai hut, and on the rocky part above the hut, Phil pointed out some old rock graffiti from the 1960s. (Not his work.)

We had our lunch at the new, partially completed Pouakai hut...watch this space.

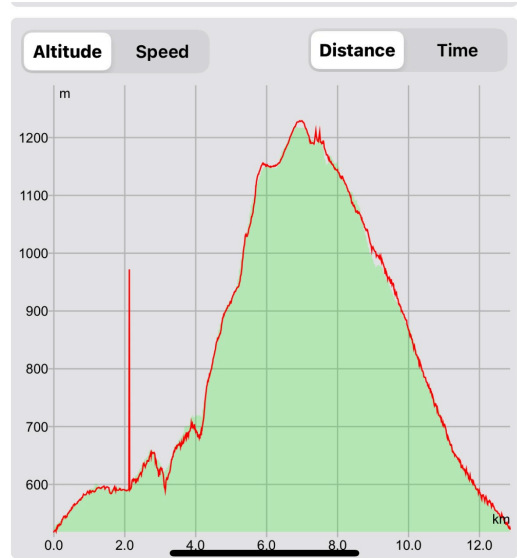
Then picked up the "tourist trail" back down, with Phil pointing out some more graffiti, this time from 1880, and further down, a short trail that led to the site where the old Mangorei hut had once stood.

We had also noticed some random rectangular cage-like structures on the trackside, and these, we learned from Phil, protect a type of parasitic flowering plant called *Dactylanthus* - on which the native bats feed.

From there, we continued down the wooden steps, reaching the carpark in the early afternoon - having walked for around five hours, buzzing from our adventure.

Thank you to Rachel for arranging this, to Clarissa for her excellent leading, Phil for his extensive knowledge and everyone on the trip who kept up interesting conversations on all manner of things including lots of inspiration for future adventures.

Claire





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, 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/register>

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:

Janica Amore - committee1.tac@outlook.com
Katyana Kowalchuk-Horn - committee2.tac@outlook.com
Andrea Jupp - committee3.tac@outlook.com
Rachel Alford - committee4.tac@outlook.com
Charlie Andrews - committee5.tac@outlook.com

or email Clarissa Benton - 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

HiTAC Editor:

Kathy Waterfield - hitac.tac@outlook.com
Submissions welcome from any club member. Please contact Kathy for submission info and deadlines.

Club Links

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

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