



HiTAC August 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

Finally, we have some snow to play in. As I type, our first Snowcraft 1 course is in progress. Thanks to Andy & Jo Thompson for being our leaders for this one.

Snowcraft 2 is next weekend led by Dave Bolger & Fletcher Miles, then the last Snowcraft 1 with Steve Ritson & Finn Gable. Very grateful that we have such skilled leadership teams that are willing to grow & guide our members.

I have had a good cull of unpaid members this year and have cancelled the fobs so entry to the lodge is no longer available. It's disappointing that a lot of the late payers are names I recall from previous years. Our AGM is always March, and the subs price is set then and the invoice is produced on the 1st April for payment by 20th May. It's not rocket science team! I have spent hours on the phone, sending out the requested invoices again, assisted with some who were locked out of Hello Club. I am hopeful that next year this will improve. As a result, our membership has reduced to 587 from 635.

We have lots of Buddy Walk dates available, however we require some more leaders. These days are great fun. Have a look at the dates and see if you can give something back to the club.

Thanks to Charlie for baby sitting HiTAC over the last couple of months – good job bud! Great to have back crew for various jobs within the club!

That's it from me; enjoy the snow, get out there with your mates!

Sheryl Hamilton

Madam President

president.tac@outlook.com

027 243 1718

New Members

A big welcome to the following new members:

Blair Quickfall, Michelle Warren, Mikayla Warren, Jessica Quickfall, Hollie Quickfall	<i>Family + Lodge Use</i>	NP
Samuel Campos	<i>Individual</i>	NP

Notices

Gear for loan - asking and offering

TAC member Alec Heilbron has initiated a new system to assist members without their own gear.

He says:

Want to feel really good? Then how about donating some of your pre-loved climbing/outdoor gear into a TAC long term loan pool that people can use until they decide they are addicted to climbing and can afford their own gear.

This hopefully will keep more youngies/newbies in TAC by removing some of the cost hurdle of getting into climbing, and over time should build up an increasing pool of loan gear.

So, please, if you have pre-loved climbing/outdoor gear that is no longer being used, donate it to help the next generation of climbers into the sport.

If you have any questions/suggestions, or donations, contact Alec on 027 653 6911, or bring along to club nights.

Note that, while your preloved gear may not be the latest fashionable item, it is way good enough to get started. We will give it a cursory check before loaning it out.

GEAR AVAILABLE FOR LONG-TERM FREE LOAN

If you are a TAC member still deciding about your long-term commitment to the outdoors, or are unable to afford gear at present, the following gear is currently available (also pictured below):

- Crampons (x2, suit rigid/semi rigid boots)
- Ice axe
- Snow stakes
- Rigid leather boots (Women size 39)
- Rock shoes (x2, size 46?) / chalk bags (x2)
- Liquid fuel cooker + fuel bottles,
- Gaiters
- Set of ski mountaineering skis, bindings, skins, ski crampons. Set of ski mountaineering bindings for you to put on skis + ski crampons.

Contact Alec on 027 653 6911 to request the gear for as long as it is needed, until you acquire your own, then return it for somebody else to use.

If you're looking for a particular piece of gear, get in touch to see if Alec can help find it amongst members for loan.



Instruction Courses

2025 Snowcraft Instruction



Hi Climbers!

Winter is here! See below for Snowcraft details.

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:

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 Snowcraft 2, it is a pre-requisite that you have reached a point where your alpine climbing progression is now requiring the use of ropes, protection, and anchors. 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 attendees are confident and capable.

Please contact captain.tac@outlook.com with your request to join the course, detailing your climbing progress, 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

Buddy Walks

We've had some fantastic Buddy Walks go ahead. A huge thank you to Greg and Glenys for the most recent one. The photos looked amazing and everyone had a great day out.

Leaders needed urgently. At this stage, we have no leaders to assist with Buddy walks in August and only 1 planned for September.

We have a wealth of knowledge and experience within our club and Buddy Walks work as an important tool to help newer, less experienced members gain confidence as they develop their skills, safety and decision making.

If you can help with a leader role for Buddy Walks, please, get in touch and we will work around what you can offer. This club is all about supporting each other.

Participants are expected to have enough experience (i.e., Snow Craft 1 or equivalent) and are responsible for their own fitness and acquiring of own gear, which can be done through our gear hire system if needed.

At this stage, the only Buddy walk planned is for **September 13th**.

Keep an eye on our members only Facebook page for new updates.

Rachel Alford

Taranaki Alpine Club – Trips Co-Ordinator

Email: committee4.tac@outlook.com

Mobile: 027 865 5916

Tongariro Trip

26th – 28th September 2025

We have booked out the Forest & Bird Lodge at National Park for TAC members for the weekend, sleeps 30 so spaces are limited.

Stephen & Mohammed have offered to lead walks over the weekend. The plan, at this stage, is to climb Tongariro Saturday and Ruapehu Sunday using the Sky Waka for access.

Participants must have completed Snowcraft 1 or have equivalent experience. Alternatively, members are welcome to book their spot with the group at the lodge but make their own arrangements for daytime adventures.

Cost is estimated at \$100 per person for the 2 nights (this may be discounted depending on numbers). Payment to confirm booking is required 1 month prior.

Contact Rachel (027 865 5916) or Janica (021 072 7394) to register.

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

Social Events

Something is on the horizon for October - watch this space!

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.

NZ Mountain Film Festival

Date: Thursday 7th August

Time: doors open 7pm, films start 7.30pm

Location: 4th Wall Theatre, 11 Baring Terrace (NOT Fitzroy Golf Club as usual)

Tickets still available (TAC discount no longer available).

The Taranaki Alpine Club is proud to be hosting the NZ Mountain Film Festival in August, featuring a selection of Kiwi-made films. Tickets \$25 each.

Follow link to purchase - <https://bit.ly/4nGgr3x>



September Club Night

Date: Thursday 4th September

Time: 7.30pm

Location: Fitzroy Golf Club, 3 Record Street

Chris Pruden will inspire us with stunning photos and an interesting talk about his adventures on Mt Taranaki and his transition to Queenstown.

FMC

Printed FMC Quarterly Bulletins & Membership Cards

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

Trip & Course Reports

Buddy Walk 19/7/25

After what seemed like weeks of rain, the white stuff finally fell at the end of the week, the clouds parted and revealed an arc planted on the side of the mountain (not quite), but actually there was a pretty good rainbow that stayed with us for much of the day. The gold was being collected at the ski-field where punters turned up in droves for a rare taste of decent snow.

We were just a party of 6 people in the end - trip leaders Greg and Glenys, and me, Barbara, Janica and Miro.

Just getting from the bridge to the ski-field was the first challenge (where the path was in the shade) as the rain had solidified on the steps creating a slip hazard - and we had good boots unlike many of the public.

Crampons were applied early - and we began a gruelling ascent in soft, deep snow laced with bear traps. Although technically not too challenging, this did require considerable effort.

Greg had a go at cutting out a square of snow to check the snow pack - avalanche risk being in the back of our minds.

Temperatures were quite low too despite the sunshine, and our ascent was paused on several occasions as we added layers of clothing. Packing ski gloves was a good decision.

We eventually reached the wee hut at the top tow of the ski field and decided this would be the perfect spot for early lunch. A little bit of housekeeping was required at this point to evict snow that had gatecrashed the hut.

We replenished ourselves in shelter while the wind started to pick up momentum outside. It was just strong enough to make it a little unpleasant outside and the decision was made to head back down, finding a couple of small patches of firmer snow to practice downhill walking. Otherwise it was mostly very soft forgiving snow (but still laced with bear traps).

All in all it was a fun day out.

We are very grateful to Glenys Grant and Greg Banks for leading this trip and providing expert support along the way.

Looking forward to the next adventure.

Claire Jones



Club Information

Members Only Facebook group

When applying to join the group, your membership status will be checked by the admin team.

Help build our TAC community by clicking the link:

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

A place to share information, inspirational stories, and funny photos!

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 \$65 for non-members. Members free.

Under 18 rate of \$25.00 per youth per night when staying with a current club member

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.taranakialpinedclub.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: secretary.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](#)

Members only FB group <https://www.facebook.com/share/g/1BhHF7NiU6/>

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We no longer have a postal address.

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