



HiTAC September 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

I have to admit that I have been overseas topping up my vitamin D in sunshine and have let the very capable executive team to keep the wheels of TAC turning!

I was pleased to see that nature supported us this year with great snow levels so both Snowcraft 1 courses could go ahead, plus the more challenging Snowcraft 2 course also. A big thanks to all the leaders and assistances that donate their time & knowledge so our members can feel more confident in the white stuff!

Some exciting news is I am currently working on a deal to purchase some new mattresses for the lodge! We will complete the upgrade in stages. Firstly, the top bunks will be furnished with the new ones – please don't remove them from the top bunk as the sleeping areas have been measured so they should fit well (fingers crossed). When the much-loved snow melts away from the translator we will be able to get the trusty land rover to that point and carry them up from there. If anyone is interested in the old mattresses, please get in touch with me.

Hope to see you at club night and joining in on other activities we offer.

Sheryl Hamilton

Madam President

president.tac@outlook.com

027 243 1718

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.



Club Trips

From our Trips Co-Ordinator

Buddy Walks

No buddy walks this month due to lack of leaders.

Leaders needed urgently.

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 leaders 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. If you can help, please call or message me. We can get a post on facebook and get a group together before the weekend.

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)

Buddy walks for September

13th September – led by Phil and Sheryl

26th-28th September - led by Stephen and Mohammed at Tongariro (costs involved)

If you'd like to register for these walks, please message me.

Keep an eye on our members only Facebook page for new updates and walks as they come to hand.

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).

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



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.

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

Snowcraft 2

Words by Martin Garcia Cartagena. TAC SC2 instructed by D. Bolger + F. Miles.

"Just wrapped up the SnowCraft 2 course, and it was a great experience. The syllabus covered all the essentials—snow and rock anchors, avalanche awareness, beacon searching, weather forecasting, and crampon skills. It had a solid structure but really needed to be adjusted on the fly to weather and mountain conditions. That flexibility really highlighted the instructors' skill—finding sheltered spots and making the most of days that had gale-force winds but somehow felt almost spring-like. As a result, we had an organically flowing course, in very good conditions, which covered a ton of topics and practice.

What really stuck with me were the "1%ers"—those little, precise tips and tweaks the instructors kept sharing throughout. Things like efficient rope and gear management, keeping your kit tidy and practical, moving smoothly as a team, and setting yourself up for success before you even start. The weather forecasting section was especially useful, breaking down key terminology and thresholds in a way that made things a lot clearer.

The group was fantastic—supportive, engaged, and keen to learn. The instructors were always open to questions and happy to dive deeper into whatever we wanted to explore. At times, it felt like a wānanga. This course isn't necessarily about suddenly being "ready" for advanced technical ascents, but it's a solid foundation to start building skills and confidence in safe terrain to start with. And then, the sky is the limit...

If you want to develop your alpine skills in good company with excellent guidance, I'd recommend it without hesitation. Go for it!"





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.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: 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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