



HiTAC December 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

It's been a great month for getting things signed off! Open Climb concession has been signed and stamped, and Glen has got the Qualworx renewal across the line too! So now what we need is you guys to volunteer your time and experience to assist getting the punters up and down the maunga safely on Saturday 14th February 2026. If you are keen, contact me and I will send you the necessary information.

Lodge maintenance crew met recently planning the summer jobs, which will include re-screwing the roof with longer screws with new rubbers on them, checking the window seals in a couple of specific areas, re-staining the lodge and a few other smaller jobs. If you can help with any of these, please contact Charlie.

The photo competition will look better this year as the club has just purchased a new projector, so the quality of the images will be sharper! This is always a great social event for us, so come along and catch up with some other clubbies. The BBQ will be on, and the bar will be open for President's Shout!

Short & sweet from me this time.

I hope you have a refreshing festive break, get some great adventures ticked off and keep free from injuries!

Sheryl Hamilton

Madam President

president.tac@outlook.com

027 243 1718

Notices

Gear for loan - asking and offering

Got Preloved Gear? Give it a New Life!

Help the next generation of climbers by donating your unused climbing or outdoor gear to the TAC long-term loan pool. Your gear will be lent (free) to keen newcomers until they can buy their own—keeping more young climbers in the club and your gear back doing what it loves.

Donate gear or find out more: contact **Alec Heilbron – 027 653 6911**, or bring items along to **club nights**.

Even if it's not the latest model, it's perfect for getting started!

Need Gear to Get Started?

If you're a TAC member keen to climb or get outdoors but gear costs are holding you back, the **TAC Loan Gear Pool** is here to help! Borrow preloved climbing and outdoor gear for **free, long-term use**—until you're ready to buy your own, then pass it on for others to enjoy.

We've currently got: crampons (suit rigid boots), ice axe & ice tools, snow stakes, avalanche probe, snow shovel, ice screws, rigid leather boots (women size 39), several pair rock climbing shoes, chalk bags, chalk, liquid fuel cookers + fuel bottles, gaiters, gauntlets, multiple sets of ski mountaineering kit (skis, bindings, skins, ski crampons) and maybe a bunch of rock cams.

Bonus: send a photo of you using the gear to make the donor smile!

To borrow gear or find out what's available, contact **Alec Heilbron – 027 653 6911**.

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

Rachel Alford

Taranaki Alpine Club – Trips Co-Ordinator

Email: committee4.tac@outlook.com

Mobile: 027 865 5916

Social Events

28th March 2026 - Pot Luck Dinner with Special Guest

Speakers

Jamie McGuinness and his partner, Esther

Following the special club night on 26th March 2026 (see below), a pot luck dinner at Tahurangi lodge will provide the opportunity to chat to Jamie and Esther, and ask them questions.

Jamie and Esther have a vast knowledge (a lot of it lived by being there) of Himalayan climbing history, trekking and climbing in Nepal, Ladakh, the Karakoram, etc. Jamie is also passionate about the 1924 Mallory/Irvine mystery. He may give us a talk on this at the lodge, including organizing the 2019 National Geographic Expedition which searched for Irvine's body. His insights into the 1924 mystery are fascinating.

The plan is:

- Mid-afternoon onwards – drinks and nibbles (bring a contribution).
- 6.30pm - pot luck dinner (bring a contribution).

Let's see how the evening develops. A great chance to socialize with Jamie and Esther and your fellow passionate hills people.

This evening is limited to TAC and NZAC (Taranaki Section) members only, due to limited lodge sleeping capacity.

Contact Alec Heilbron on 027 653 6911 for more information.

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.

December Club Night

Date: Thursday 4th December

Time: 7.30pm

Location: Fitzroy Golf Club, 3 Record Street

President's Shout and Photo Competition Viewing

The BBQ will be on and the bar will be open for President's Shout, plus viewing the Photo Competition winners on the brand new projector.

Extra Club Night in March 2026

Date: Thursday 26th March 2026

Time: 7.30pm

Location: Fitzroy Golf Club, 3 Record Street

Jamie McGuinness – Climbing 8000M Peaks

Jamie McGuinness has spent decades, and is still, climbing and exploring in Nepal, Mustang, Ladakh, Northern India, etc. He has summited Everest 6 times (from both sides), and other 8000ers. While he says he doesn't climb anymore - it's all about the exploration and photography now - he still pops up 6000+m peaks whenever the opportunity arises on his exploratory treks. We are privileged to have Jamie, accompanied by his partner Esther, give us a talk on Thursday 26 March 2026 – the brief being "give an inspirational talk on Climbing 8000ers".

Jamie has said "I will focus on inspiration of how to get into mountaineering in the Himalaya and Karakorum, with an intro on how I started, and the close shaves I had on my first expeditions, and how to hopefully avoid those experiences. These themes will be intertwined with my climb of the true summit of Broad Peak as the first Kiwi. I would also very briefly intro the different climbing and trekking opportunities in Ladakh, mentioning how in this heavily trekked world, we meet few/no other trekkers out there."

This evening is open to TAC, NZAC (Taranaki section) and EAC members only. The plan for the evening is:

- 7pm – 8pm Mix and Mingle – bar open, TAC provided BBQ, and some other kai.
- 8pm – 9.30pm Jamie McGuinness presentation and question time.



FMC

Printed FMC Quarterly Bulletins & Membership Cards

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

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

- [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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