



HiTAC November 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

Spring has washed the snow away greatly, however at the point of writing this the slush summit went ahead, and they had a great day!

We have had a few youth members join the club lately which is fantastic, as we need to keep building the foundation for future years. However, I have been disappointed with the lack of respect when it comes to taking mates who are not members and staying overnight at the lodge and not paying the minimal charge of \$25.00. I don't want to be making phone calls to these guys when I field calls from longtime TAC members voicing their concerns. So please respect that it's a privilege to have access to the lodge and all it has to offer. The bank account details for the additional payment for a mate is **15-3942-0007023-00**. I do know who the youths are so just put the money in, learn from your mistake and do the right thing moving forward – done!

Open Climb Saturday 14th February 2026 – mark it in your calendar please. This event can only be offered if we have enough TAC volunteers available. Should hear about our concession after Labour weekend. Tickets are on sale via our website now! Spread the word!

Sheryl Hamilton

Madam President

president.tac@outlook.com

027 243 1718

New Members

Welcome to the following new TAC members:

Siti Anurddin - Individual - NP

Notices

Photo Competition 2025

Entries now open

- Email submissions to Claire Jones - treetops00@xtra.co.nz
- Deadline 21/11/25
- Send one photo per email
- Photos must be sized between 1MB and 5 MB

Guidelines for submission:

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 entries per category are allowed. The winning 1st & 2nd entries in EACH category will be submitted to the national FMC Photo Competition (where eligible).

By submitting your photo to TAC competition, you are also consenting to any winning entries being submitted to FMC photo competition on your behalf.

N.B. Photos taken overseas are welcome in TAC , but will not be eligible for the FMC photo competition.

The definition of a "human element" is flexible, but the general intention is that the photo should contain something that has been introduced by humans into the natural environment. For example: people, a hut, a track sign/marker, bridge, ice axe etc. If the "human element" in your photo has only a very small or inconsequential role to play rather than being a main feature, then you could count it as "no human element".

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.



A big thank you to our experienced members for sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm — some of us newbies are still learning and loving it. Can't wait for next year!

With the snow melting fast, it's time to plan some summer adventures. Who's keen? Send through your ideas and let's get some cool trips on the calendar.

See you on the hill!

Rachel Alford

Taranaki Alpine Club – Trips Co-Ordinator

Email: committee4.tac@outlook.com

Mobile: 027 865 5916

Articles

Trip Report - TAC Annual Central Plateau trip 2025

Friday

With the group having arrived in dribs and drabs on a rainy Friday, only 4 of us decided to stretch our legs and perform a wet weather gear check by walking to Taranaki Falls in the rain, whilst everyone else got cosy and warm in Forest and Bird Lodge, that we were privileged to be able to use again this year. A collective thanks to Janica for arranging this.

Saturday

Despite there being more than 1 trip option, everyone was able to experience time in the snow.

A small group were led by Alec and Gail hiked as far as the top of the Sky Waka, and Ross Hoffman stuck to the original plan and climbed Tongariro.

The remaining 10 of us joined trip leader Steve Miller, to try our hand on Ruapehu, although there was no clear objective given the unfavourable forecast.

It was bitterly cold in the carpark, making some of us question our clothing layering. The snow was soft and riddled with bear traps, challenging fitness but also increasing body temperature.

Eventually crampons were required and we slogged through areas of soft snow over to the NZAC hut for a well deserved morning tea break.

(Next year, someone will have a door code so if we happen to go the same way, we can go inside!)

The weather was changeable (providing intermittent views) , with occasional blasts of wind and sleet, but was generally better than we had anticipated.

Once recharged we set off again, gradually heading upwards. There were a few areas where we needed to sidle and one small area that required front pointing to get up.

Mostly it was gradual uphill slog, eventually stopping for lunch - in the open but sheltered from the wind and pleasantly sunny.

Refuelled again, we made our final push to the high point. I'm unsure if it was due to altitude or lack of fitness, but this was hard work! Getting to the crater rim was a great feeling - there was lots of rime ice, and unusual snow formations and glimpses of the crater valley.

No-one in the main group had exceptions of getting very far, but thanks to great leadership and also support and encouragement within the group, we achieved an objective that exceeded our expectations.

We lingered in the icy wind long enough to get a few photos before heading back down in even mushier snow than before. We were grateful to be allowed on the Sky Waka to get down to the carpark.

Sunday

Daylight saving started, making it an early start to pack, clean the lodge and then head back to Ruapehu for some skill training - namely using our avalanche transceivers, probes and shovels.

Yumi was recipient of the mystery wonky transceiver which caused her to circle about in all directions whilst looking for the buried device.

We were obviously excellent students and were released early from class, as we needed to meet for a lunch debrief at Whangamomona pub.

All in all it was a very successful weekend - and I would like to extend thanks to the organisers and leaders who helped make this such a fun and memorable experience.

- Claire Jones



Trip Report - Slush Summit Attempt

6:30 a.m., at the lodge and the photos of the sunrise are still rolling in, and breakfast is being slowly made. The word of the day: wind. It's a windy day for the 2025 Slush Summit, and it's a hot topic in the lounge area. The first lesson: wind chill and the art of layering. Everyone here knows that when clambering up the side of a mountain, you tend to be on the warmer, sweatier side of life. But, as Steve points out, in a group climb the pace is slower and you tend to get colder quicker. I got dressed a second time, taking this into consideration.

8 a.m. and everyone has arrived — all 20 of us. Buzzing and ready for the day ahead, we make our way downstairs for the morning brief and roll call. It's not long before there is loitering outside the lodge. Phil takes charge — not wanting to wait around, he heads up the hill, setting the pace. The plan is in place: up Hongi's, go left of the steps, and up Snow Valley to the Lizard.

9 a.m., crampons on, and we zigzag up the snow — well, until we run out of snow about 15 minutes in. A quick (and for an ungraceful one) click-clack up the rocks and moss, we find more snow. Here on the dry, we take a breather and have some "fruit salad" (Yana's lollies) and head off.

10 a.m. and there's a clear split in the group. I am, of course, in the not-quite-as-quick group, and "WE NEED A BREAK!" we yell at the running-up-the-mountain group. Sod 'em — we'll just have a break here. Claire and I are relieved at this idea and have a munch and rehydrate, as a treat. The two groups eventually catch up with each other.

11 a.m. — we hit the Lizard. The ice is flying in sideways, and the wind is trying to knock us over. We watch as Lucas skis down the mountain. Lesson two: trusting your gut and sticking with others. It's my first time climbing the Maunga in snow conditions, which is hard enough without the wind having a personal vengeance against you. I know my limits and am very proud to say that I knew the summit wasn't for me that day — that's when "Team Rocks" formed. Team Ice headed onwards towards the summit whilst Claire, Louisa, Malea, Greg, and I took our crampons off and headed up the rocks of the Lizard as far as we could go.

Noon — and Team Rocks were a force to be reckoned with. As we descended the Lizard, we hugged the rocks and sheltered from the wind the best we could until we dropped over the side and plonked into Snow Valley. Lesson three: the descent. I had never been on a slope that steep, and through some false confidence, I started to follow Greg and the Swiss girls (Louisa and Malea) down the slope and fell face first. My Snowcraft training took over, and after a few metres I self-arrested — PHEW. I should've taken Claire's very smart approach and front-pointed down. I got back up to my feet, fell, and self-arrested again — yup, my ego was sufficiently bruised. I watched as Team Rocks made their way down and had the sinking feeling that there was no way I was going to make it down.

1 p.m. and lesson four: the absolute need for experienced leaders. Greg offered no healing cream for my bruised ego and insisted that said ego was rolling down the mountain and that I had better go catch it. His firm but oh-so-helpful instruction got me on my feet and trudging down the mountain in no time. And what would you know — I managed to catch my ego and got my confidence back.

2 p.m. — Claire and I had a celebratory snack and some verbal pats on the back at the bottom of Snow Valley. With the extra time we had in front of Team Ice, we had the perfect opportunity to have some extra lessons from Greg. Lesson five: ice climbing. Under Greg's guidance, we each took a turn heading down a small crevasse and had to climb our way up and out, learning how to use two axes and our front points to do so.

Lesson six: glissading. Crampons off, we cut steps up the slope, crouched down, and using our axes, we slid down the snow, making our way to the rocks and moss below.

3 p.m. — back at the lodge and listening to Team Ice's stories of the summit. They had a great time, and the wind was kind to them, letting them have idyllic calm in the crater and some great photo ops. Another amazing Slush Summit led by Steve, Greg, and Craig. Thank you to our experienced club members and TAC for the awesome opportunity and the lessons we learnt along the way.

- Lexy

Social Events

TBC

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.

November Club Night

Date: Thursday 6th November

Time: 7.30pm

Location: Fitzroy Golf Club, 3 Record Street

A combined event - Open Climb Presentation & Jeremy Beckers presenting some pictures of his recent South Island trip.



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/>

Copyright © 2025 Taranaki Alpine Club Inc., All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

We no longer have a postal address.

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

