



HiTAC January 2026

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

Happy Holidays everyone! However you celebrate the summer holidays, and whatever family traditions you engage in, may it fill your heart!

My current project is organising the volunteers for Open Climb in February. If you haven't heard from me yet, the call maybe just around the corner! Please chat to friends that might be interested in doing some training for the event, and send them to our webpage to register.

The members only page on Facebook is functioning well, and people are making connections and getting out and about. So you have any ideas of places you would like to explore pop it on the page and see if anyone else is interested.

You will see below that we are seeking feedback from members in preparation for a meeting with Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangi in February. I look forward to hearing our members concerns.

We have new mattresses in bunk room #99. Please do not drag these out of the bunkroom! We spotted a couple of the new mattresses had been taken out onto the deck, very disappointing to see this! We would hate our new assets to get damaged - the message is please show some care and respect club equipment!

Enjoy your summer adventures on the maunga!

Sheryl Hamilton

Madam President

president.tac@outlook.com

027 243 1718

Notices

Consultation with Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangi

Please send comments/feedback to Madam President (details above), before February.

As many of you may remember TAC made a submission to the Taranaki Maunga Collective Redress Bill. This bill has since passed into law and now Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangi (the governance group that is tasked with providing the voice for Te Kāhui Tupua - Taranaki Maunga) is now in the process of undertaking preliminary discussions with relevant parties with the intention of getting an overview of the different groups that use the maunga, for the purposes of developing a new Park Management Plan.

TAC has been invited to preliminary discussions with the planner on the 26th of February 2026, which will be attended by El Pres and Vice Pres, maybe others.

This is an early opportunity for TAC to present our interests on the maunga and to ensure that TAC and mountaineering in general is adequately provided for in any forthcoming plan.

Obviously key interests will be ensuring access for climbers, the continuation of our lodge concession, open climb concession and other activities.

This is also an opportunity to inform Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangi, of the various forms of public service TAC provides.

Our submission to the Select Committee is appended below and our concerns outlined there will be discussed at this meeting.

If TAC members have points, they believe should be raised, other than those outlined in the submission, or even better, can remind us of the many positive contributions TAC have made to the park since 1930, please contact Sheryl prior to this meeting.

1. The Taranaki Alpine Club was formed in 1930. We have a membership of over 600 active members, including several life members. The club has been actively involved with Taranaki Maunga since its inception. We constructed our first Tahurangi Hut in 1935 which has since been replaced by our present Tahurangi Lodge constructed in 1967, at 1500m on the northern flank of Taranaki Maunga. Our lodge provides shelter for our membership and non-members can pay a small nightly fee to use the premises. The TAC also maintains a free public shelter at Tahurangi. We provide snowcraft and climbing courses to our membership and hold an annual public climb. We hold DOC concessions relating to the operations of our Lodge, and for the Annual Climb. Tahurangi Lodge was designed and constructed, and is carefully maintained by club members without financial assistance from DOC. All funds for the building have been raised by the TAC. The building has a replacement value of 2.6 million dollars.
2. Our lodge is used by several community groups at various times for projects on Taranaki Maunga including: the Taranaki Kiwi Trust; TOPEC; Scouts; School groups; and the NZ Alpine Club, to name a few.
3. Our membership are active climbers and alpinists, many of whom also serve as search and rescue teams (for example LANDSAR and TACR). The upper slopes of Taranaki Maunga provide training space and testing grounds for us and the wider climbing community.
4. TAC acknowledges the significance of the Taranaki Maunga to the tangata whenua of Taranaki and further acknowledges the importance of Tiriti o Waitangi as a constitutional document of Aotearoa. TAC is looking forward to fostering a positive relationship with Te Tōpuni Kōkōurangi and Ngā Iwi o Taranaki in the future. TAC is broadly supportive of the Bill and we acknowledge the importance of redress for tangata whenua of Taranaki; however, we have the following concerns:
 1. That our existing concession rights for Tahurangi Lodge and annual Open Climb event may be at risk.
 2. and that existing public access rights afforded members of the TAC, and mountaineers and climbers generally, to Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki in its entirety, may be limited.
5. Of particular concern is that the bill does not ensure that TAC, as a concession holder, is listed as a party to provide input into the creation of He Kawa Ora, the future park management plan. Or that any submission made by TAC regarding the He Kawa Ora will carry appropriate weight.
6. The future of our Tahurangi Lodge is dependent on the outcome of He Kawa Ora. We own and independently maintain this significant piece of the infrastructure within the future Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki and TAC members have invested significant funds into maintaining the Tahurangi Lodge since its construction. We are concerned that losing our concession for the Tahurangi Lodge will have significant negative implications for the club, both in terms of maintaining an engaged membership base and financially. Without ongoing access to the Tahurangi Lodge, we are concerned that our members will cease to be as active and involved with our club, and the club will lose out on a valuable piece of infrastructure it has always owned and maintained. The Tahurangi Lodge, and lodges owned by other clubs on Taranaki Maunga, will either need to be decommissioned, or maintained by another entity if they are to remain in place on the Taranaki Maunga. Either outcome will be a financially inequitable outcome for TAC and our members. TAC submits that special consideration of the interests of existing concessioners (such as TAC) should be included in any discussion of the management plan, so that our concerns can be explored in greater detail as part of the discussion of the management plan.
7. Our current 10-year concession for Tahurangi Lodge is due for renewal, we have a right of renewal for the next 20 years. This right of renewal is provided for in Section 102 (2a) of the proposed act, provided that this renewal is consistent with He Kawa Ora Section 102 (2b). Clearly this means our place on the mountain is dependent on this plan and this underlines our interest to ensure adequate opportunity to contribute to He Kawa Ora is provided to existing concession holders by this bill.
8. We also hold a concession to run an annual open climb to explore and appreciate Taranaki Maunga and have members of the public guided by our club members to the upper slopes of Taranaki Maunga. This is a special event, run annually since 1940 and is highly valued by the community. Each year, we have as many as 120 members of the public participate in the open climb, and they are supported by at least 70 volunteers from TAC. For many members of our local community, the annual open climb provides the safe and supportive environment required for them to have the confidence to attempt to explore and enjoy Taranaki Maunga. This event concession is also entirely dependent on the outcome of He Kawa Ora.

9. The TAC represents a large and dedicated group of climbers and alpinists for unrestricted access to all areas of the park is of paramount concern. We understand that this right is guaranteed largely by Part 1 Section 4 (e) of the National Parks Act, 1980. However, we note that this bill, Section 107 (1a,b) allows for specially protected areas to be established either via inclusion in He Kawa Ora, or with the agreement of Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī.
10. TAC notes that specially protected areas can preclude forms of public access. TAC, as a concession holder could be particularly affected by the provision of a special area which may, for example, exclude climbing access. This again underscores our concern that we should be specifically included as an organisation consulted in the development of this plan.
11. To ensure that current concession holders (such as TAC) have adequate input into what is included in He Kawa Ora; has adequate notice of any draft plan; and subsequent submission carries the appropriate weight, TAC submit that:
1. Current concession holders with a right of renewal (such as TAC) are specifically included on the list of organisations Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangī must consult with in Schedule 3 Clause 2.
12. I thank the Select Committee for the opportunity to submit on this Bill.
13. I wish to be heard in support of my submission.

Photo Competition 2025 Winners

First Overall: Jeremy Beckers - Syme Hut



Runner up: Syme Hut Loo - Brendan Larsen



Club Trips

From our Trips Co-Ordinator

It's great to see ideas starting to come in for some club trips and day walks for the new year. These will be advertised when solid plans are made.

Is there something you're keen to do but would rather go with a group? Let me know.

Have you done a great walk or trip and would be keen to help other members experience it? Let me know.

Calling on our experienced members to please get in touch and let me help you get a group together for a great day out or weekend away. These kinds of trips are important for our newer members to gain experience and develop their skills

Greg Banks has kindly offered to lead a 2-day club trip hiking Taranaki Crossing on 14-15th March. See below for information.

I'm looking forward to getting a calendar together with something for everyone; please help me make that happen.

Rachel Alford

Taranaki Alpine Club – Trips Co-Ordinator

Email: committee4.tac@outlook.com

Mobile: 027 865 5916

Taranaki Crossing - 14th-15th March 2026

Meet at Mangorei Rd car park to catch the shuttle/bus (at a cost of \$55-65, depending on numbers) that will drop us off at Dawson Falls. Walk from Dawson Falls with an overnight at Tahurangi Lodge, then back to our cars via the Pouakai Crossing.

Please contact the Trips Co-Ordinator (details above) to register.

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.

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

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

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[Club Contacts](#)

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

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Our mailing address is:

We no longer have a postal address.

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