



HiTAC February 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 Editor

Happy New Year!

A special HiTAC this month to showcase the exciting trips and social events coming up.

If any members have stories or photos from summer adventures they wish to submit for future editions, please reach out using contact details below.

Kathy Waterfield, HiTAC editor
hitac.tac@outlook.com

Club Trips

From our Trips Co-Ordinator

Please see below for upcoming trips.

Trip Leaders Wanted:

- Overnight at Lake Dive
- Day trip Kahui Hut to The Pyramids

We have some members requesting these great group trips. If someone is keen to lead either of them, please contact the Trips Co-Ordinator and we will make a plan.

Rachel Alford

Taranaki Alpine Club – Trips Co-Ordinator
Email: committee4.tac@outlook.com
Mobile: 027 865 5916

Kawakawa Bay - 6th-9th March 2026

Experience great outdoor rock climbing suited for all levels and well over 100 routes to choose from!. Kawakawa Bay is situated amongst native bush with stunning views and when you're not climbing there's great camping and swimming to be had. Kawakawa Bay can only be accessed via boat, bike or walking. Which means you drop off your gear with the boat in Kinloch that TAC has arranged and paid for, then a lovely hike/bike to the bay where your gear can be collected. It is approximately 1½ hours walk or a 45min bike ride from Kinloch to reach the camping area at KBay. This is a self-led trip with no instruction, therefore experience in outdoor climbing is a must along with basic climbing equipment. You can hire out climbing equipment from the Gear Officer.

Boat times: leaving Kinloch Friday 6th at 2pm and returning Monday 9th at 9am.

For more information regarding this trip, please contact Lindsey Stones 020 4120 9414.

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 Taurangi 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 Taurangi 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.

18th April 2026 - Shared Dinner at the Lodge



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.

February Club Night

Date: Thursday 5th Feb 2026

Time: 6pm

Location: Aubrey Gale Domain

BYO BBQ

As per tradition, join us for our annual summer barbeque. Please note the change of time and location.

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/>

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](#)

