



## HiTAC March 2026

Kia ora, welcome to the latest issue of the HiTAC.  
Feedback and content can be emailed to [hitac.tac@outlook.com](mailto:hitac.tac@outlook.com)

[View this email in your browser](#)



## President's Report

A big thanks and congratulations to the TAC members who donated their time & passion for supporting the club on 14th February. We had 70 punters and 60 volunteers and NO incidents! Wahoo. We just managed to sneak the event in between two weather fronts! I have signed off the paperwork, washed all the vests and towels etc, so I can pack everything away until September when I will process all over again!

With the publicised rescue of 5 people on Sunday 22nd, it is a reminder not to underestimate Taranaki Maunga and how quickly the weather conditions can change. Turning back knowing that your adventure can be attempted again another day is the best choice!

I have completed an audit of our membership data base in preparation for the new financial year. Invoices for subscriptions will be automatically triggered by the Hello Club system on the 1st April. I have to manually trigger the locker fees, so keep an eye out for two invoices if you are a locker holder. FYI currently membership sits at 575 members.

We have a new HiTAC editor, Claire Jones has stepped into the role, so get those articles to her. Thanks to Kathy Waterfield who has kept HiTAC rolling over the last couple of years!

The club has a few options for trips to consider, let Rachel know asap, as some trips fill up quickly.  
That's it from me, see you at Club Night!

Ngā mihi  
Sheryl  
Madam President

## Annual General Meeting

**Thursday 5th March**

**Fitzroy Golf Club at 7.30 pm**

Please come along and support your club.

Our Annual General Meeting has rolled around again. Come along and have your say & vote for the Executive positions. Maybe you could contribute some time in this area?

### Open Climb Brief

You guys that volunteered your time ROCK!

The club couldn't offer OC to the public without you. I started the process back in October last year, so it's a relief to see everything line up and the event go so smoothly!

This is the first year for awhile that I had no injury reports to fill out - thanks for keeping the punters so safe on their adventure.

We had great conditions squeezed between two awful weather fronts; either side of the day would have stopped the event. Shh the wind as I type is awful! Plus it was snowing on the lizard in the early hours of this morning I have been advised!

As I reflect on the energy of you all yesterday, I sense the club spirit is alive & well!

I know some of you have young families and this restricts assisting at other times, so it was great to have you on board for this.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koe  
Sheryl  
Madam President

## FYI

A Working Bee on the lodge is coming up, dates are to be confirmed.

We have a few projects to get completed before winter to keep our lodge dry, exterior looking fresh (the stain protects our structure), plus re-screwing the roof (that one is a bit of a speciality thing), also a deep clean of the inside is on the cards.

When the dates are out please see if you can help us - may hands make light work!

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## Club Trips

### From our Trips Co-Ordinator

From The Trips Coordinator

Kbay trip 6th/9th March has been postponed. Keep an eye out for new dates later in the year.

Taranaki Crossing 14th/15th March - We have reached our max capacity for the shuttle. Happy to take names in case a space becomes available.

Overnight at Lake Dive - Trip leader still needed.

Day trip Kahui Hut to The Pyramids - Date in the planning stages.

Rachel Alford

Taranaki Alpine Club – Trips Co-Ordinator

Email: [committee4.tac@outlook.com](mailto:committee4.tac@outlook.com)

Mobile: 027 865 5916

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**Rock & Ropes - Introduction to Rock Climbing (RC1) POSTPONED, Date Pending and Expressions of Interest Required Please.**



The course is an introduction to using ropes for security on steep terrain. It explores more technical terrain on the mountain, and introduces the sport of rock climbing to the outdoor environment.

Course will run over a weekend, new date pending. Based at Tahurangi Lodge.

Limited to 10 participants. Please contact club captain [captain.tac@outlook.com](mailto:captain.tac@outlook.com) to join. Cost for course \$100.

#### Objectives

- Understand the basic equipment requirements for rock climbing, its selection, use, and care.
- Demonstrate a fundamental understanding of risk management through awareness of hazards, including equipment, environmental factors, and height hazards.
- Tie appropriate knots for rock climbing.
- Risk management in steep terrain, and near edges
- Direct and indirect belay for safeguarding a person on steep terrain
- Belay a top rope climb according to best practice
- Top rope climbing with good movement and technique
- Edge safety principles and techniques
- Rigging in situ anchors for top rope climbs and abseil
- Competently abseil down a climb using self-protection
- Demonstrate whanaungatanga - safety and care of the whole team.

#### Pre-requisites

- Must be over 16, or under with TAC approval and parental or guardian permission.
- Must have a reasonable level of fitness.
- Be a TAC member.

- Must disclose pertinent medical and injury information on registration.
- Decision on attendance is made by the lead instructor.

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## 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.

We have reached our maximum capacity for the shuttle. Happy to take names in case a space becomes available.

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

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## Social Events

### 28th March 2026 - Pot Luck Dinner with Special Guest Speakers at the Lodge

#### 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.

### 18th April 2026 - Shared Dinner at the Lodge



### **Blurb from FMC - Love our Huts**

**Love Our Huts web page - if people wanna know more:** <https://fmc.org.nz/what-we-do/campaigns/love-our-huts-and-tracks/>

**Love Our Huts facebook group - if people wanna follow and add their photos and be part of the LOH community:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/501807262360627>

**Love Our Huts video comp: submit a 45 sec video of your hut loving and be in to win prizes:**

- 1st prize: Rab Protium 35 Pack
- 2nd prize: Rab Expedition Kitbag 50L
- 3rd prize: Earth Sea Sky pico merino beanie, pair of merino socks, \$100 voucher
- Spot prizes: Dwights Outdoors \$20 vouchers

**Love Our Huts t-shirts: this [link](#) and check out the sizing charts etc on this bit of the t-shirt purchase page.....**



Women's



## Love Our Huts Fund Raiser T-Shirt for FMC

\$48.00

Style

Women's  Men's

Which side?

Print Front of Tee  Print Back of Tee

Size

XS  S  M  L  XL  2XL  3XL

- 1 +

[More payment options](#)

### Limited Edition Love Our Huts T-Shirts!

We've partnered with Federated Mountain Clubs to create these limited edition Men's and Women's Love Our Huts T-shirts. Whether you're heading out in the new year to complete your clean, you've already gone, or just want to wear your support, everyone can get their hands on these t-shirts and help out with FMC's awesome work!

For every T-shirt sold, \$20 will be donated to FMC to support their vital work and 'help protect an outdoor life worth living'. Grab yours before 15 March 2026. Find out more about Love Our Huts at [www.fmc.org.nz/loveourhuts](http://www.fmc.org.nz/loveourhuts)

Each Tee is hand printed to order in our studio, using Supacolour prints on A5 Colour 'Natural' colour organic tees. Please choose your style and size carefully as no returns are possible. Check out sizing, fabric details and care instructions etc here: [Men's Staple Organic Tee \(5001G\)](#) and [women's Maple Organic Tee \(4001G\)](#).

## Summit Story from Club Member

In January, husband, Angus, and I took our 6 year old son Tamawaru for a summit climb. We are both pretty experienced and done a fair bit of climbing and tramping in our time and our son is right into hunting and Tramping so we thought, "why not?" He completed the great walk on the Kepler last year at 5 years old super easily so it was time!

We stayed at Tahurangi Lodge on the Friday night as we thought we'd let him off having to tackle the Puffer and summit on the same day. We set off at around 4.30am on the Saturday morning. We met a few trampers along the way and Tamawaru was super keen and making great time. The scree was abit tricky for shorter legs but we worked out a good system of sort of going 1 for 1 and giving him a bit of a push when it was his turn! He scrambled up the lizard like he was, infact, a lizard and said he had a big energy spike so was all go - it was me who had to try and keep up with him!

He couldn't believe he was at the "tippy top" of the mountain and thought the view was spectacular. The walk down the lizard did prove slightly harder but the fun sliding down the scree made him forget about that. We picked up our stuff from Tahurangi and continued on to the carpark to go home.

He fell asleep in the car for about 5 minutes before waking and being starving!! Haha. When we got home, he was all go again, climbing trees and ripping around. He wasn't tired at all!

It was a great adventure and we were so proud of our boy and his endurance he showed both physically and mentally on the climb.

We got to Tahurangi in 1hr 20min

Tahurangi to summit in 3hrs

Summit to carpark in 3hrs

Thanks so much!

Adriana Thomas



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## 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.

## AGM

**Thursday 5th March**

**Fitzroy Golf Club at 7.30 pm**

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## Extra Club Night in March 2026

**Date:** Thursday 26th March 2026

**Time:** 7.00pm

**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.



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## **FMC**

### **Printed FMC Quarterly Bulletins & Membership Cards**

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

## **From the Editor**

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

Claire Jones, HiTAC editor  
hitac.tac@outlook.com

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## **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:committee4.tac@outlook.com)

## HiTAC— Newsletter

Sent monthly by email and also available on the Club's website at [www.taranakialpineclub.co.nz](http://www.taranakialpineclub.co.nz)

Any trip reports, events, or gear for sale can be sent to the Editor at [hitac.tac@outlook.com](mailto: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](mailto:president.tac@outlook.com)

## Contacting the Club

Committee:

Janica Amore - [committee1.tac@outlook.com](mailto:committee1.tac@outlook.com)

Katyana Kowalchuk-Horn - [committee2.tac@outlook.com](mailto:committee2.tac@outlook.com)

Andrea Jupp - [committee3.tac@outlook.com](mailto:committee3.tac@outlook.com)

Rachel Alford - [committee4.tac@outlook.com](mailto:committee4.tac@outlook.com)

Charlie Andrews - [committee5.tac@outlook.com](mailto:committee5.tac@outlook.com)

or email Clarissa Benton - [secretary.tac@outlook.com](mailto:secretary.tac@outlook.com)

Lodge Bookings:

Gail Geange - 021 733 281

Stephen Miller - 027 244 2753

[bookings.tac@outlook.com](mailto:bookings.tac@outlook.com)

Lodge Maintenance Officer:

Charlie Andrews - [committee5.tac@outlook.com](mailto:committee5.tac@outlook.com)

HiTAC Editor:

Claire Jones - [hitac.tac@outlook.com](mailto:hitac.tac@outlook.com)

Submissions welcome from any club member. Please contact Kathy for submission info and deadlines.

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## 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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We no longer have a postal address.

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