



## HiTAC April 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](#)



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## President's Report

Excitement is building for our special guest speaker Jamie McGuinness, and by the time you receive this issue the event will have been completed. So, I hope you managed to make it and maybe even come away filling inspired to explore further afield!

The club's business ticks over pretty much as usual currently, but this is the quiet before the storm for me, as I move into subscription & locker renewals! Please keep an eye out in your inbox for 2 invoices if you have a locker as membership & lockers are invoiced separately. Your prompt attention to paying your sub if you choose to remain a member is appreciated as it saves me making loads of phone calls over several nights!

Keep an eye out here for events & course announcements below.

Short & sweet team! See you on the maunga!

Ngā mihi nui ki a koe

[Sheryl](#)

Madam President

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## 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

There's still opportunities to get in some good days out in the summer boots. If you are keen on the idea of leading a group, please get in touch and let me help you coordinate a cool day out.

With the winter season approaching, I'll be looking to secure dates for Buddy Walks. Please if you can help lead any, keep us in mind when planning your winter schedule. Buddy walks are an essential part for our members to grow confidence, develop skills and add to their knowledge with the support of experienced members. It would be great to see a full calendar of Buddy Walks this year with loads of fun and learning on the white stuff.

Keep an eye out for updates in HiTAC and on our members only Facebook page

Rachel Alford

Taranaki Alpine Club – Trips Co-Ordinator

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

Mobile: 027 865 5916

## Trip Reports

### Taranaki Crossing

On 14th and 15th March, a group of 12 intrepid club members undertook the complete the "Taranaki Crossing" - an epic 2 day journey cutting a tangent across the side of the Maunga. It was Greg Bank's brainwave and necessitated a shuttle to take everyone from the Mangorei Road carpark to the start of the journey at Dawson Falls.

The first 15 minutes were very taxing indeed requiring a food and rest stop in a very pretty spot by the stream. Once we were fuelled up, continued towards the ski field carpark, over the suspension bridge by which time our bladders were full so we stopped at the toilet at the ski field.

Another push on the round the mountain track had us enjoying cups of tea at the lodge by mid-afternoon.

Sheryl popped down the puffer to check her traps and scraped out 2 weasels and 2 rats - all very decomposed.

The weather remained clement and we were back on the track by 8 am Sunday. (no early starts on this trip!)

The sky was cloudless and sun bright. The group were taken the the old Nissen hut site, then the old Tahurangi Hut site, before continuing on the RTM towards Holly Hut. The weather started to turn a little at this point, and before heading onto Ahukawakawa swamp, we needed to don our rain gear.

It remained grey and misty as we crossed the swamp, but started to clear as we did the climb out of the valley.

Lunch was about 1/2 way up the hill in a section of goblin forest.

We continued upwards, and reached the plateau in the early afternoon. Malea and Louisa did a side trip - a quick run to the tarns.

Sheryl had some DOC duties to perform at Pouakai hut, then we all began the descent of the steps back to our waiting cars at the Mangorei Road carpark. Not anyone's favourite part of the hike.

Although there were no technical challenges, a great time was had by all, including some of our newer club members.

Many thanks to the organisers for a great weekend.

Claire Jones



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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



### Dates to keep - More details Later

April 18th - Combined TAC / EAC dinner & walk - Tahurangi Lodge

July 25th - Movie & mid year Christmas dinner - Tahurangi 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: Dwrights 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.....



### 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

[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).



Women's

## 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:** 7.00pm

**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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## Social night - April

**Date:** Thursday 2nd April 2026

**Time:** 7.00pm

**Location:** Fitzroy Golf Club, 3 Record Street

Given the extra club night on 28th March, this Club night has no planned speaker, so we are having a social night where we can just chew the fat & have a chat.

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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](mailto:hitac.tac@outlook.com)

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## Club Information

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### 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)

Vacant - [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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