



HiTAC June 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](#)



Editors note

With reference to the second part of Sheryl's report, for context::

It has come to the Executive committee's attention that a small group of people have recently been taking advantage of the lodge/not following club protocols/guidelines while using our facilities.

The committee is still navigating this situation

-Ed.

Charlie

President's Report

Kia ora team,

President's Report – May 2026

I am pleased to share that the roof project has been completed!

A small team of blokes plus me (as the kitchen staff) stayed at the lodge the previous night, and we assembled all the screws & rubber washers.

The next morning the weather was perfect, so harnesses went on; ladders were roped for safety and away they went. I drew the short straw and got to clean out the drains on the track, swept out the lodge & cleaned out the boot grate just inside the lodge door and collected rubbish around the lodge, but it's sparkling now! A big thanks to all those involved!

It is incredibly disappointing when members – especially the younger generation that we're trying to foster a good club culture with – treat shared facilities like a free hotel! We have every right to be disappointed; a club lodge relies entirely on mutual respect and everyone pulling their weight! It has come to our attention that a few standard lodge rules are not being followed, which is frustrating for the Committee & members who work hard to maintain this space. Reminder that guests of a current club members must pay \$25.00 per night, other non-members must book via our website.

Property stored in cupboards needs to be respected – if it's not yours don't use it! Our lodge is a home away from home for many members, and we pride ourselves on keeping it affordable & accessible, that only works when everyone respects other people's property and the rules! If you find yourself in a situation where you are aware the boundaries are not being adhered to please get in touch, so we can address this.

That's it from me for now; enjoy the Maunga, the people & respect our lodge & club!

Ngā mihi nui ki a koe

Sheryl

Madam President

New Members

The Club welcomes the following new members

We look forward to meeting them at Club events

Dee Turner NP - Family

Dave Abetz Stratford - Individual

Joanne Lourie - Te Popo - Family

Tiana Hancock - NP - Family

Tia Christiansen - NP - Family
Nadia Davy - NP - Individual
Kate McLean - Rahotu - Individual
Gia Williams - NP - Individual

Club Trips

Buddy Walk

27th June with Greg and Glenys.

Route to be determined closer to the time.

Please register your interest with the Trips coordinator

Rachel Alford

Taranaki Alpine Club - Trips Coordinator

Email: committee4.tac@outlook.com

Mobile: 0278655916

From our Trips Co-Ordinator

With the snow season arriving, 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

Mobile: 027 865 5916

Trip Reports

Trip report Mt Messenger and Whitecliff Walkway

On May 16th a group of 18 Taranaki Alpine Club members went on a trip up to Mount Messenger and to the white cliffs with Charmaine as our leader. We walked through the bush and made some interesting discoveries. Carpooling was arranged amongst us from New Plymouth to White Cliff Beach. From there Charmaine organised us 3 shuttles to the start of Mt Messenger track.

We track started full on by walking up a steep hill. From there we followed a wild and overgrown path to the top of Mt Messenger. On our way we found lots of full traps with instantly killed animals such as rats and possums.



At some parts we were as well able to see the destruction of wild pigs because there was strangely turned over mud next to the path.



The closer we got to the ocean the better views were. We were able to see the old highway, parts of the new built road, the long coastline with the steep cliffs and even Mount Taranaki behind the green mountain ranges.

As we came to the close end of the Mount Messenger walkway we had to crawl through bushes of gorse (a very scrubby weed). We finally got out of the bushes and landed on a weed overgrown road, where we got told to be quiet. We snuck along the old path for several, long feeling minutes and arrived in front of the famous Te Horo tunnel.

We turned our head lamps on and walked through the stock tunnel. The historic and handmade tunnel was built in the late 1800s and after 30 years of hard work it finally opened in 1889. It was then used for over 70 years to bring the stock up north from Urenui and Waitara.

The interesting thing about it is that it is built in an angle since the entry and exit aren't on the same level. Also, the muddy walls are being held together through a rusty grid through which sand has crumbled down and covered the old stony road.

After walking through the dark, wet and spooky tunnel we could see the most spectacular view of the white cliffs, the black sandy, the partly rocky beach and the blue flat ocean.

We walked along the beach and while we jumped from rock to rock, we had to watch out that we didn't slip and make our shoes all muddy. As soon as we passed the rocky part of the beach, we took our shoes off and enjoyed walking barefoot on the cold sand.

Close to the Pukearuhe boat ramp, where we had parked our cars in the morning, some of us decided to go for a quick dip in the freezing cold ocean. Some others cooled down through standing knee-high in the water.

After a big thank you to Charmaine and the three shuttle drivers, that had driven us to the start of Mt Messenger track we made our way to the Urenui Pub. There we all drank and ate something small. After goodbyes we all went home with a big smile on our face and lots of good memories.

Louisa Emilia Lindenberger







Trip Report- Four Generation Visit

Saturday 7 March saw Lynda (a Tuesday girl) and me Peter (both older TAC members) set off towards Kapuni Lodge, always a favourite spot on our mountain. Lynda with her regular tramping was making sure that I (Peter) didn't wear myself out getting there as it has been a while since I have climbed. Our packs were reasonably light. We were heading up for a family gathering to celebrate Lynda soon reaching the milestone of 80yrs of age. Following behind were others of the family: our daughter and her husband, her daughter and her husband (our grandchildren) and their two children, six and five years respectively (our great grandchildren).

Our grandchildren Adriana and Angus, also members of TAC, were the packhorses bringing all the food and some of our gear, so we were not burdened with heavy packs, as well as their own and their children's gear.

We arrived before the others and had to wait as they had the key, but it wasn't long before we heard the constant chatter of the little ones as they scrambled their way up the last part of the rough track just before the Lodge. Boots off and unpacking done the little ones were soon climbing bunks and exploring the lodge. One of the items in the heavy pack was a Lego package which Tama, the six-yr old, with the help of his father, soon had it looking like the helicopter it was meant to be. It was a detailed and complex construction, but they soon had it working.

Adriana and Raylene very efficiently organised tea, I got the fire started and we settled down to enjoy a happy evening in the Lodge. The logbook has been there a while, and we had fun looking up our previous entries. Unfortunately, the weather was not clear and there was very little to see outside. Excitement gradually died down and we all settled into our bunks for the night.

Early next morning the excited children began moving. Again, no view. It stayed that way until we left except for a short break when we got a brief view of a small area of the mountain below us, but it was a memorable weekend for us all.

Peter and Lynda Wilson



Dates to keep

Monday 1 June - Kings Birthday Tahurangi Lodge Birthday

In keeping with our Tradition, we will be having the usual cake cutting at 1pm, with a shared meal & maybe a couple of drinks.
A walk to the old hut sites will take place in the morning, weather and member interest willing.
See you all there

Saturday 25th July 2026 Tahurangi Lodge Mid-Winter Christmas & Alpine Film Evening Tahurangi Lodge - from 4pm onwards

Come along and join us for our annual Tahurangi Lodge Mid-Winter Christmas & Alpine Film Evening at Tahurangi Lodge. Bring along your favourite Christmas dish to share (and please don't forget about desert!!)

As usual we have an impressive line-up of mountain films; they are not to be missed!!

This event is open to existing club members only.

Do come prepared for winter conditions! Ice axe, crampons, and of course a healthy appetite are all a must.

For more details Contact:

Glen Hodges 021 843 047 Gail Geange 021 733 281



2026 Snowcraft Instruction



Hi Climbers!

The temperatures are dropping and it's time to start thinking about our snowcraft courses.

Snowcraft 1

If you wish to be considered can you please contact captain.tac@outlook.com, with the following information:

- Name, address, age [min age is 16 yrs.].
- Question 1: Where are you looking to take your climbing over the next 5-10 years
- Question 2 What is your current snow/ice experience:
- Question 3: What is your level of fitness
- Preferred course date:

Dates:

1st SC1 Starting Sat 1-Aug 7am NEVC to Sun 2-Aug ~4pm, with a pre-field get together 6pm Mon 27 Jul
(venue to be confirmed)

2nd SC1 Starting Sat 15-Aug 7am NEVC to Sun 16-Aug ~4pm, with a pre-field get together 6pm Mon 10 Aug
(venue to be confirmed)

Note: The pre-field evenings for each course (in New Plymouth at YMCA most likely) is compulsory

Snowcraft 2

For those considering to register interest for the Snowcraft 2, it is a pre-requisite that you have been undertaking sufficient climbing to a point where your alpine climbing progression is now requiring the use of ropes, protection, anchors to ascend the routes you are wishing to climb. It is up to the discretion of the course leaders and trainers to accept the application. Please do not be offended if it is declined, this is for climbers to **take a significant step with their skills** and it is pertinent that the attendees are confident with their abilities. We expect you to have done at least 3-5 winter Mt Taranaki summits or equivalent, SC1 only is not sufficient. Please contact captain.tac@outlook.com with your request to join the course detailing your climbing progress and accomplishments to date and aspirations.

Dates: Fri 21-Aug 7pm to Sun 23-Aug~4pm with a pre-field (rock gym) session 6pm Mon 17 Aug at YMCA

Your Club Captain

Glen Hodges

captain.tac@outlook.com

Tahurangi Lodge Roof

19th July saw some keen club members working under the direction of our Club Builder Mike Johns.

Mission was to replace the roofing screws with new ones fitted with storm washers, place sealing foam under the ridge and side flashings.

Our President provided scones and general back up for the roofers, as well as spending some time cleaning out drains around the Lodge.

A successful day, and an important job knocked off

Big thanks to Mike Johns, Pete Lethbridge, Greg Banks, Stephen Miller, Jeremy Beckers, Sheryl Hamilton, Charlie Andrews

**Photo Competition 2026****Entries now open**

- Email submissions to Claire Jones - treetops00@xtra.co.nz
- Deadline 20/11/26
- Send one photo per email

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)

ONE entry per person 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".

Club Nights

Club Nights are held on the first Thursday of each month, usually at 7:00pm at Fitzroy Golf Club, 3 Record Street, unless otherwise advertised.

No BYO alcohol, as this is a licensed premises.

Next Club Night

Date: Thursday 4th June 2026

Time: 7.00pm

Topic: Meet Te Topine Kokorangi

Location: Fitzroy Golf Club, 3 Record Street

Members mix & mingle at 7pm - presentation starts promptly at 7.30pm.

We will be hosting Laura Buttermore and Sean Zeiltjes, both planners and representatives for Te Topine Kokorangi, the statutory body established to represent the human face of Te Kahui Tupua (Mt Taranaki).

For more information about this organization follow the link below to the website.

<https://tekahuitupua.nz/>

This will be an opportunity for Laura and Sean to introduce themselves and lay out the process behind the production of He Kawa Ora, the new park management plan.

Opportunities for club and public submissions will be outlined during this presentation, but Te Topine Kokorangi are interested in hearing from TAC members about our interests, questions and concerns regarding the He Kawa Ora early in this process, hence this presentation.

This is a great opportunity to hear how this vital document will be developed and how we can contribute and ensure our interests are included. It's also an opportunity to highlight to Te Topine Kokorangi, all the many positive things this club does, and has done over the past 95 years.

The evening will include a slide presentation and an opportunity for questions and contributions from the membership.

It'd be great to see as many as possible there.

As a reminder, our submission on the Taranaki Maunga Collective Redress Bill follows.

Submission of the Taranaki Alpine Club on Te Pire Whakatupua mō Te Kāhui Tupua/Taranaki Maunga Collective Redress Bill.

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 Kōkōrangi 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:
 - 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.

July 2nd Club Night

Date: Thursday 4th June 2026

Time: 7.00pm

Topic: Gear Talk & Buy sell swap

Location: Fitzroy Golf Club, 3 Record Street

We'll be having our annual alpine gear talk by Geordie followed by a gear sale/swap; so gather any gear that you wish to sell and make sure everything is clearly labelled with name and price ready to roll for July 2nd.

Members mix & mingle at 7pm - presentation starts promptly at 7.30pm.

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

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.
 - PLB available for hire \$10 for each day that you use it
 - Contact the Equipment Officer AT LEAST 2 days in advance to ensure availability: secretary.tac@outlook.com / 027 266 2330
- I don't want to lose your message in junk-
text me when you send an email 0272662330 Clarissa

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:

Linda Lawley - committee1.tac@outlook.com
Katyana Kowalchuk-Horn - committee2.tac@outlook.com
Neil Mora - committee3.tac@outlook.com
Rachel Alford - committee4.tac@outlook.com
Charlie Andrews - committee5.tac@outlook.com

or email Clarissa Benton - secretary.tac@outlook.com
I don't want to lose your message in junk-
text me when you send an email 0272662330 Clarissa

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:

Claire Jones - hitac.tac@outlook.com
Submissions welcome from any club member. Please contact Claire for submission info and deadlines.

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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