



HiTAC August 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](#)



President's report

Kia ora

Back from my travels, not everything went to plan sadly, freak snow locked us in for 5 days – couldn't go up or couldn't go down! The weather has its own agenda which didn't align with the trip plan. Oh well, just have to attempt another adventure another time!

Thanks to the Executive Committee for keeping things ticking over! From the June Club night, we now have the He Kawa Ora workshop in August, where you can bring any further questions about the plans for Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki moving forward. This is a great forum to seek clarification if you have any questions, however we must be mindful that it's early stages in the planning process.

Buddy walks are underway; Snowcraft courses are just around the corner. So, there are various activities it join in on. Contact our Trips Co-ordinator if interested.

By the time this reaches you, I will have applied for the Open Climb concession for 2027.

The proposed date is Saturday 13th February 2027, so please mark it in your calendars.

If the club can't provide the required mix of volunteers in various roles, we can't offer this to the public of course.

Hope you managed to join us for Mid-Winter Christmas & Movie night – I have a crystal ball for this event, and I boldly say it was fabulous night!

See you on the slopes!

Sheryl - Madam President

Trip Report - Movie Night

Mid-Winter Christmas & Movie night

Twenty intrepid members braved the snowy walk up to the lodge on Saturday afternoon. The drying room was pushed to its limits, but it coped brilliantly with the sudden influx of gear!

Tucked up in the lodge, hot heaters, great conversations, and plenty of snacks quickly chased away the cold – so much so that we were soon all complaining about how hot it was inside!

The potluck dinner was, as always, an outstanding feast. Everyone enjoyed the hearty dishes, and the warm mulled wine went down a treat. Unsurprisingly, the delicious leftovers made a welcome reappearance at breakfast!

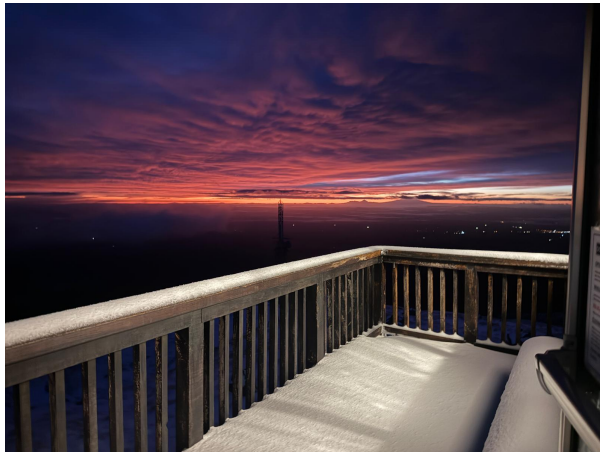
A big thank you to Glen for putting together another stellar lineup of movies and dedicating so many hours to making the evening a success for the Club.

We woke to a crisp, calm morning with untouched fresh powder outside, just waiting for footprints to be added. A few energetic souls headed out for a morning trot, while others opted for a more relaxing start to the day with morning tea at Simply Divine.

Another great event shared!

Report by Sheryl





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- such as August-see below for details.

August Club night 6th August- NZ

Mountain Film Festival at 4th Wall

Theatre- tickets for sale

Date - Thursday 6th August

Time - doors open 7pm, Film starts 7.30pm

Location - 4th Wall Theatre, 11 Baring Terrace, New Plymouth - ***note change of venue for our club night.***

The Taranaki Alpine Club is proud to be hosting the NZ Mountain Film Festival in August, featuring a selection of Kiwi-made films.

Tickets \$25 each. Follow link to purchase [Pure NZ Night](#).

From our Trips Co-Ordinator

Calling for leaders 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

2026 Snowcraft Instruction



Hi Climbers!

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

Snowcraft 1 courses are now full

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

Developing He Kawa Ora mō Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki

Are you curious to find out more about He Kawa Ora , the new park management plan? Would you like some input? TAC, with planners, Laura Buttimore and Sean Zieltjes, are holding a workshop on Tuesday 11th August at 6pm, where you can find out more.

Register here to attend: <https://forms.office.com/r/unNCm8JdwM?origin=lpLink>
Alternatively email: secretary.tac@outlook.com

Ngā mihi

Clarissa Benton
Secretary - Taranaki Alpine Club
email: secretary.tac@outlook.com
www.taranakialpineclub.co.nz

Alpine First-Aid Course

14th & 15th November 2026

Tahurangi Lodge

Looking to improve your first-aid knowledge in the outdoors? Wonder if you are equipped to deal with common first-aid scenarios in the alpine environment? Book your place on this course run by Taranaki Alpine Club with instructors, Stephen Ritson and Finn Gable. This is a weekend course held at Tahurangi lodge for club members focusing on first-aid scenarios in the alpine environment, Stephen Ritson and Finn Gable have extensive

experience in the Taranaki Alpine Cliff Recue team and Stephen is NZ Resus Council member and regularly teaches first aid and outdoor first aid. Numbers are limited. Note that this is not a certificated course.

\$20 per person. Register here: <https://forms.gle/cMydzR7RScJ3UyvH9>

Ngā mihi

Clarissa Benton
Secretary - Taranaki Alpine Club
email: secretary.tac@outlook.com
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River Crossing Course-25th October 2026 at the Meeting of the Waters.

Are you regularly active in the outdoors but have not completed a river-crossing course? River crossings claim lives every year in Aotearoa. Taranaki Alpine Club is offering a river crossing course this October with instructor Andy Thompson. Andy is a qualified instructor (NZOIA 2 Alpine, Bush, Sea Kayak, Whitewater Kayak, and Rock) with 39 years of experience teaching in the outdoors.

Programme will include:

River hydrology
River crossings - Bush, and in the mountains
Equipment selection
Communications
Self-rescue
Bank-based rescue
Swimmer-based rescue
River crossing and swimming techniques - with packs and without packs

The course will be held on 25th October 2026 at the Meeting of the Waters. This is a full-day course (8am to 5pm)

\$50 per person. This course is open to TAC members only

Register here: <https://forms.gle/PiNi9akqodRf11rw9>

Ngā mihi

Clarissa Benton
Secretary - Taranaki Alpine Club

email: secretary.tac@outlook.com
www.taranakialpineclub.co.nz

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".

New members

**The Club welcomes the following new members
We look forward to meeting them at Club events.**

Beatrice Bjorn - Individual + Lodge- NP

Rachel Cross - Family + Lodge - NP

Sarah Whitehead- Family + Lodge- NP

Seth Reilly- Individual + Lodge- NP

Cam Fraser - Family + Lodge- Auckland

Donated Gear - Free to Use

WANTED - DONATIONS OF USED CLIMBING / OUTDOOR GEAR TO HELP YOUNGIES / NEWBIES

Want to feel really good. Then how about donating some of your preloved climbing / outdoor gear that is no longer being used into a TAC long term loan gear pool that youngies / newbies can use until they decide they are addicted to climbing and can afford their own gear. The scheme works by: you donating preloved gear, identifying those real keen and active who will use the gear, loan gear to them (free, long term loan), they return the gear when they buy their own, or outgrow it. This hopefully will keep more youngies / newbies in TAC by removing some of the cost hurdle of getting into climbing and over time should build up an ever increasing pool of free / long term loan gear. It will also make you feel good that your preloved climbing / outdoor gear is back out doing what it enjoys and helping the next bunch of addicts into the mountains.

So, please, if you have pre loved climbing / outdoor gear that is no longer being used, donate it to help the next generation of climbers into the sport. If you have any questions / suggestions, or even better, want to donate gear, contact Alec Heilbron: 027 6536911 or bring it along to club nights. Note, that while your preloved gear may not be the latest fashionable item it is way good enough to get started. We will give it a cursory check before loaning it out.

GEAR AVAILABLE FOR LONG TERM FREE LOAN

So you are a TAC member still deciding whether you are going to become addicted to climbing, or gear is just too expensive, for you at present. Well this is hopefully an opportunity for you. As per, the ad asking for preloved Climbing/Outdoor gear in this HiTAC, we also want to loan it out to those who are going to use it. The ideal plan is: you ask for it, you loan it from the pool (free) for as long as you need it until you acquire your own gear, then return it for somebody else to use. So if this is going to help you talk to Fletcher Miles, Lucas Flay or Alec Heilbron 027 6536911 and we can see if it is already in the pool or maybe help you find what you need.

[illegible]

Arc'teryx Alpha SV Jacket – Excellent Condition. \$750.

This is Arc'teryx's top-of-the-line alpine hardshell, built with GORE-TEX PRO for exceptional waterproof, windproof, and breathable performance. Designed for climbing and severe weather, but equally great for hiking, skiing, mountaineering, or everyday wet-weather use.

- Premium GORE-TEX PRO waterproof shell
- Highly durable yet breathable
- Helmet-compatible StormHood™
- Pit zips for ventilation
- WaterTight™ zips
- RECCO® reflector
- Climbing-specific design with harness-compatible pockets

Paid \$1,500.

9/13



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

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

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)

