



HiTAC July 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 team,

Our esteemed madam president has taken some well deserved time out (she is rising above the mundane and is trekking in India somewhere), so there is no president's report this month.

Claire Jones,

HiTAC editor

hitac.tac@outlook.com

Editor's Note

This was not the final copy of HiTac! Just one of many iterations as it was being compiled! Apologies for any confusion.

-Ed

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.

Club Night 2nd July -Gear Talk, buy sell and swap

Date: Thursday 2nd July 2026

Time: 7.00pm

Topic: Gear talk + buy, sell and swap

Location: Fitzroy Golf Club, 3 Record Street

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

We'll be having our annual alpine gear talk by Chris Prudden who will take us through a bunch of alpine gear to show what options there are to keep safe and warm while adventuring. This is a great night for anyone doing the Snowcraft courses this winter, as well as being a good refresher for all.

After this we will be having a buy, sell & swap, so gather any gear that you no longer need and make sure everything is clearly labelled with your name and price ready to roll!

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.

GEAR AVAILABLE FOR LONG TERM FREE LOAN

Currently available in the pool looking for keen TAC users we have: crampons (old/suit rigid boots), ice tools, snow stakes, avalanche probe, snow shovel, ice screws, rigid boots, several pair rock climbing shoes, chalk bags, chalk, liquid fuel cookers + fuel bottles, gaiters, gauntlets, multiple sets of ski mountaineering kit (skis, bindings, skins, ski crampons).



With the snow season finally 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.

<https://mailchi.mp/79385afd160c/hitac-18006087?e=6db4c63861>

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

Buddy Walk - 25th July

Buddy Walk

25th July 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

Mid-Winter Christmas & The 1520 Alpine Film Festival Tahurangi Lodge -Saturday 25th July 2026 Tahurangi Lodge from 4pm onwards

Come along and join us for our annual Tahurangi Lodge Mid-Winter Christmas & our 1520 Alpine Film Festival 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



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 \$15 each for TAC members. Purchase before the end of June to get discounted rate- please be in quickly so you don't miss out. We will be offering ticket sales to public after this date at \$25 each. Follow link to purchase [Pure NZ Night](#).

Tongariro Trip 18th - 20th September

Stephen & helpers will be running a trip Saturday and Sunday suitable for those who have done Snowcraft 1 or have equivalent experience, and have spent some time on the snow since their snowcraft training. The plan, at this stage, is to climb Tongariro Saturday and Ruapehu Sunday using the Sky Waka for easy and quick access. The number of participants is limited.

When applying you will be required to advise what you have done on the snow since your snowcraft training. This will assist our leaders with their planning.

Accommodation: www.forestandbird.org.nz on Ruapehu (Tongariro National Park) has been booked. The lodge is booked for Taranaki Alpine club Members, which sleeps 30. First in first serve for those wanting a weekend away and taking responsibility for your own activities/arrangements. Cost estimate only pp. \$100 for 2 nights. Payment to confirm booking is required 1 month prior. Confirmation of those wanting bookings is required by 9th August 2026. Please contact Rachel via the TAC Facebook page.

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

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

At the TAC club night in June, Laura Buttimore and Sean Zieltjes outlined the plan for He Kawa Ora (new park management plan), gave an outline of the organisational structure representing Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki and explained how the club members could be involved via a workshop. Sean and Laura were also accompanied by Te Aroha Hohaia in her capacity as a member of Te Tōpuni Kōkōrangi.

You can find more information about developing He Kawa Ora mō Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki in our recent special HiTAC. If you would like to be involved in the workshop, please express your interest to the secretary (secretary.tac@outlook.co.nz) with a brief outline of topics you have in mind as this will help us plan the framework for the [discussion](#). The workshop will be held in early August.

Ngā mihi

Clarissa Benton

Secretary - Taranaki Alpine Club

email: secretary.tac@outlook.com

www.taranakialpineclub.co.nz

Trip report- King's Birthday

I had the honour of cutting the cake at this year's celebration held at the old Mountain house. If it had not been held there, I probably wouldn't have made the celebration.

My thoughts went back over the years, and I felt I would like to share my most vivid memory of my time in the Club. This was made at the time of the 1963 Open Climb.

Before the days of consents and Health and Safety and DOC regulations the Club simply placed an advertisement in the local papers advised the date and encouraged sturdy footwear and suitable clothing. On the day enthusiastic members of the public turned up at the old hut from about 7:00am and were marshalled into groups of 15-20 people with a couple of club members and off they went. The Club didn't check what they were carrying, and I can't remember if we even took their names. That year approximately 300 members of the public turned up.

That particular year I was the Club Captain and with the company of Dave Rawson, a very experienced older member, I set off about half an hour or so ahead of the first party to check conditions and lead the way. As we approached the upper Lizard and Crater entrance the conditions began to change a little. There had been a light northerly wind, and cloud was beginning to come down; nothing immediate to worry about but very shortly snow began to drift down through this cloud and Dave, and I became very concerned that could herald a major change in conditions. Our concern grew by the minute, and it wasn't long before we decided to call the climb off. The first parties were not very far behind us and as the radio call went out to turn around, those relatively close to the summit were very reluctant to turn back when they were so close, but we were insistent.

Within ten minutes of us making that call the weather did change suddenly and violently. The mild northerly breeze turned into a howling southerly gale accompanied by snow, sleet, hail and freezing rain. At that stage no-one hesitated to turn around, and the effort of Club members was tested in stopping the public from fleeing headlong over the Staircase bluffs and keeping them on the track.

We did get all the members of the public back safely but there were a few who only had very light clothing that we had to put in sleeping bags when they got to the hut to warm them up sufficiently for them to continue down. We were very lucky not to lose someone with hypothermia that day.

The following day the mountain was clear, and it is the one and only time I have seen it just glazed over with ice – not a snowy peak just a cold, bluey icy glaze that made us realise how lucky we had been.

The Club learned some valuable lessons and have been much more vigilant in ensuring the public are properly equipped before they were allowed on any subsequent Open Climb. There has been the odd injury suffered by members of the public but to my recollection we have never lost any one of the thousands that have climbed the mountain under our watch. Well done TAC.

Peter Wilson



Supporting Local Talent: Conrad Bolger

The Taranaki Alpine Club is proud to support local climber Conrad Bolger as he prepares to represent New Zealand on the international stage.

Conrad has recently been selected for the New Zealand Youth Climbing Team and will compete at the IFSC Youth World Championships in Arco, Italy, as well as at international competitions in Australia. His selection follows several outstanding results at the New Zealand National Championships, where he placed 2nd in the U19 Boulder event, 3rd in the U19 Lead event, and 3rd in the Open Lead competition.

A member of the Taranaki Tuataras climbing team, Conrad's achievements are the result of years of dedication, training, and commitment to the sport. These international events will provide invaluable experience as he competes against some of the world's best young climbers while proudly representing both New Zealand and Taranaki.

We congratulate Conrad on his achievements to date and wish him every success in Australia and Italy.

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**

James McKillop - individual & lodge - NP

Romy van der Boom - Individual - NP

Emily Horgan - Individual- NP

Geoffrey Blake - Individual- Queenstown

Cloe Argentin - Individual, NP

Tumanako Zijlstra-Schmidt - Individual - Hamilton

Esther van der Harg - Individual - NP

William Iddon - Individual -NP

Jack Gerring - Individual -NP

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/>

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](#)

