



HiTAC October 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

Hope you have been able to get out and enjoy the snow and other adventures on the our maunga!

The Ruapehu trip was a great weekend away, with the main event being fun even though the weather turned just like last year. Great to see families there making the most of the opportunity to hang out with other club members. Some people went tamping, and some skiing as well.

We are so blessed that we have skilled people within the club who are willing to share their expertise so we can combine fun and learning! Thanks team! Keep an eye out for the Alpine First Aid course & River Crossing course in a few months' time too.

The executive has been ticking over quietly, with nothing pressing in currently. Ivan and I have a meeting with one of the Iwi representatives relating to our Open Climb Concession application shortly.

This summer we will be looking at painting the lodge to protect the building from the extreme elements that the lodge is exposed to. So, keep an eye out and come up and help if you are able. Many hands make light work.

A short & sweet report, see you at club night!

Sheryl - Madam President

President - Taranaki Alpine Club

Email: president.tac@outlook.com

Phone: (027) 243-1718

www.taranakialpineclub.co.nz

Tongariro trip 18-20 September

Trip report - Ruapehu Expedition Sept 2026

With doubtful looking weather reports, it is with unanimous gratitude that 12 TAC members were able to complete a wonderful trip up on Mt Ruapehu, beginning from Whakapapa. The day started with clear skies and excellent views across the volcanic plateau below. At the top of the ski field, three of the party decided to descend and the remaining nine continued on towards the

The settled conditions continued for the first couple of hours but after a morning tea stop, most people were adding a warmer layer while being buffeted by strong winds and loose snow mobilisation! These intermittent winds continued the rest of the way up and resulted in variable views at the final point! For a lot of members straight off SC1, this felt as much of a summit as we had anticipated despite being several hundred meters shy!

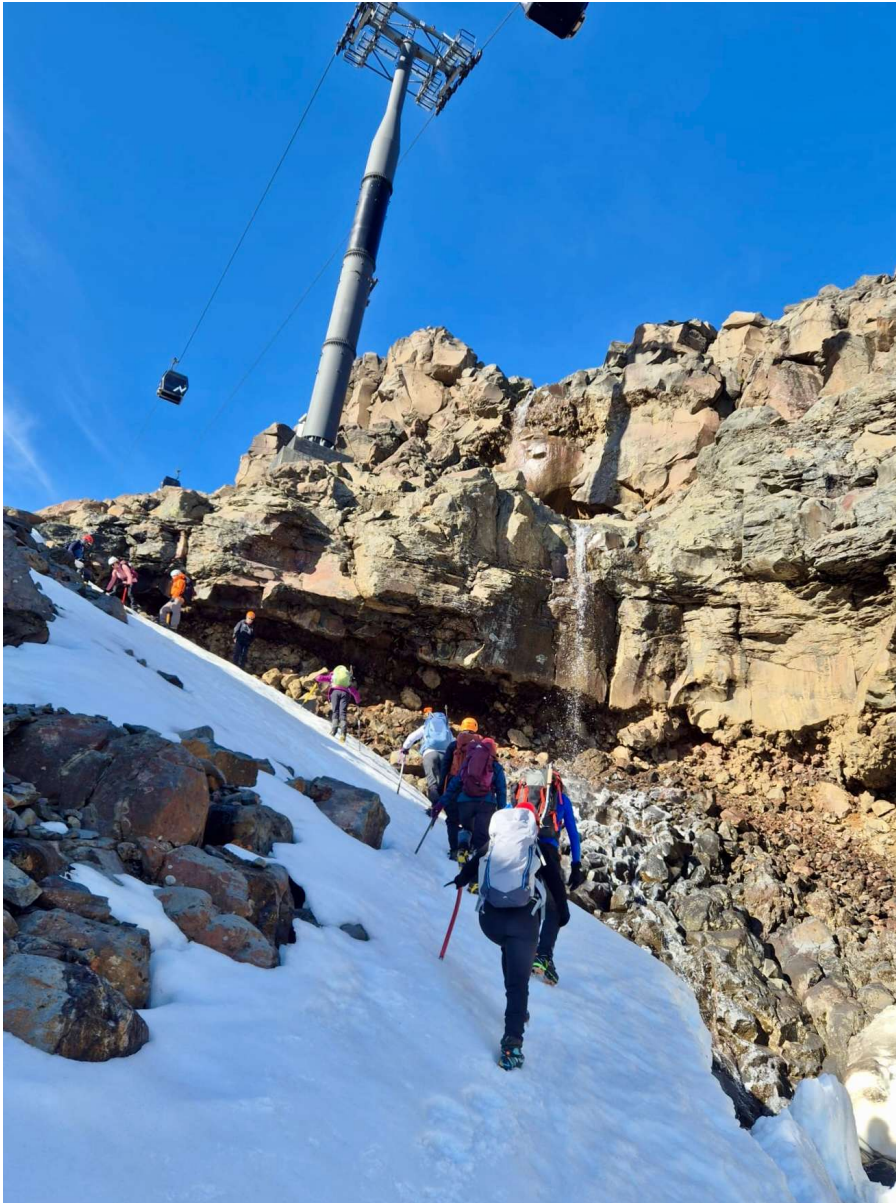
After a photography shoot, everyone agreed that this was as far as we could safely ascend, so we headed down, trying to retrace our route! This was quite challenging given the significant drop in visibility, so we stayed tight as a group and made it safely down to the Knoll Ridge cafe! Hot drinks and chips went down a treat before we stowed our alpine equipment and hitched a ride down on the sky waka!

A heartfelt thank you to both Stephen and Mohammad for leading this trip where we all got to build on our alpine experience, the majority of whom was their first time mountaineering on Mt Ruapehu. Great trip had by all.

Trip report kindly supplied by Tiana Hancock









More photos from August Snowcraft 2

Some addition photos from our August Snowcraft 2 course, we look forward to 2027's participant who have progressed their climbing and are looking to further their alpine climbing skills and experience"







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.

September Club night Thursday 1st

October- presenter - Stuart Skene

Date - Thursday 1st October

Time - 7pm

Location - Fitzroy Golf Club, 3 Record Street

Our October club night presenter is Stuart Skene.

Stuart climbed from late 1980 to early 1984. He was one of the pioneers that climbed and named many rock climbs on The Mountain for the first time. He also climbed in the South Island several times and was TAC Club Captain in 1983.

Stuart will be presenting to us about rock climbing in Taranaki and Auckland plus climbing in the Mt Cook area.



From our Trips Co-Ordinator

A big thankyou to everyone who joined our club trip to Ruapehu and especially Stephen and Mohammad for their leadership.

It's our leaders that make these trips possible to offer opportunities to members to develop their skills and gain experience with support of experienced members.

If you are an experienced member and could to lead a trip or buddy walk, please reach out. We have lots of members keen to get involved and upskill.

Slush Summit - the slush summit is our yearly lead trip to the summit of Mt Taranaki during winter conditions. Once a date can be secured for that, we will advertise it on our members only Facebook page so keep an eye out for that.

That's all from Trips this month. Happy mountaineering everyone 😊

Rachel Alford

Taranaki Alpine Club - Trips Coordinator

Email: committee4.tac@outlook.com

Mobile: 0278655916

Alpine First-Aid Course

14th & 15th November 2026

Tahurangi Lodge - 3 Spaces Left!!

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

www.taranakialpineclub.co.nz

River Crossing Course-25th October 2026 at the Meeting of the Waters- 1 space left!

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- new deadline

8/11/26

Entries now open

- Email submissions to Claire Jones - treetops00@xtra.co.nz
- Deadline 8/11/26- late entries will not be accepted
- Send one photo per email
- Image size between 1MB and 5MB

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.

Jen Closey, NP - Family & Lodge
Mark Hiller, NP - Family & Lodge
Theo Green, NP - Individual
Ruari MacFarlane, Wgtn - Individual

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.

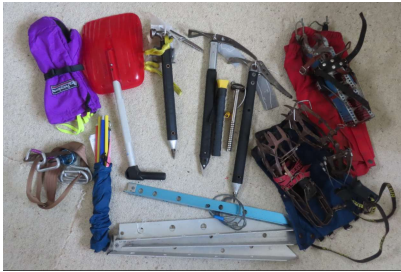
So, please, if you have pre loved climbing / outdoor gear that is no longer being used, donate it to help the next generation of climbers into the sport. If you have any questions / suggestions, or even better, want to donate gear, contact Alec Heilbron: 027 6536911 or bring it along to club nights. 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.

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).



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.

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