



HiTAC September 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 tatou

It's been a busy month, with two Snowcraft Level 1 courses, and one Snowcraft Level 2 successfully completed. Our Snowcraft courses are now complete for 2026. A big acknowledgement to the trainers and their support crew gifting their time & expertise, and not forgetting our Club Captain, Glen, who deals with all the administration. It's on occasions like these that the true club spirit shines.

We also hosted the He Kawa Ora workshop and invited other clubs with an interest in the Maunga. The event was well supported, and some great questions were raised.

Laura and Sean kicked things off with the following questions:

- What are your collective dreams and aspirations for Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki?
- What are the key things or activities to enable in Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki?
- What are the key things or activities to avoid in Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki?
- What does success look like for Te Kāhui Tupua in 10 years, 20 years and 7 generations?

We would like to encourage our members to do the attached survey if you would like to <https://tekahuitupua.nz/he-kawa-ora-mo-te-papa-kura-o-taranaki-written-comments/>, comments close on the 20th of October.

The collective feedback has covered many of the concerns that I have heard members express. This is a great platform to start expressing our concerns, our hopes & aspirations for our ongoing relationship with Te Kāhua Tupua and the agencies that have connection

with him.

This winter the snow has been quite accessible with good dumping's falling low. I hope you have had a chance to get out with your mates & enjoy the white stuff safely, even if it's just a quick trot to the lodge for a cuppa.

See you on the slopes!

Sheryl - Madam President

Report - Snowcraft 2

The TAC snowcraft 2 was held over the weekend of 21 – 23 August under the leadership of Dave Bolger and Fletcher Miles.

A good portion of the Friday evening pre-field was spent discussing the mediocre forecast for Saturday and the decidedly terrible forecast for Sunday and how this would impact safety, snow conditions and the course plan. The clear plan would be to try for a big day outdoors on Saturday with the expectation that Sunday would be primarily inside the lodge.

Saturday conditions were quite reasonable for the most part so, after a good assessment of the weather and avalanche risk, we got outside. Recent snowfalls meant that we had good snow coverage near the lodge but also interesting conditions to assess.

We built on our existing foundation from previous avalanche safety courses with digging a pit and assessing the snow. Two weak layers were observed from both recent snow events being on top of a wet top layer, great information to build on for the rest of the day.

Next up was some advancement of crampon technique in hourglass valley on a variety of differing angles and conditions underfoot. Aspects which were firm on the top layer above nice soft snow turned out to be much more of a challenge than I had anticipated.

Moving towards the base of the Organ pipes valley, we set up for learning about snow stakes. The low instructor to student ratio was particularly apparent here and the learnings progressed with ever increasing detail and information.

As we reached the end of the day and the weather began to deteriorate, we moved back towards the lodge and conducted an avalanche transceiver search. The weather and a bit of mental overload really reinforced how important having the process dialled in is.

Sunday morning saw extreme winds and heavy rain, which provided the opportunity for a great weather session and a detailed work through of how the shifting weather would impact the snowpack. Being able to work through these elements when there are so many variables helped to build the base knowledge.

Tahurangi Lodge then became our makeshift slope to work through the process of multiple pitches building on the practical and theory work on snow stakes from Saturday. Being confined to the lodge actually meant that the focus could really lean into top quality rope work and knots with time to repeat and repeat and repeat.

By the time we concluded the training and had a debrief, the worst of the weather had started to clear and the walk back to NEVC was actually quite pleasant.

A big thanks to Dave and Fletcher for their energy and enthusiasm to run a fantastic and informative course.

Richie Marr



Weak layers in the snow pack



Setting up for Snow Stake Training



Ice Axe T slot snow stake

Photos from Snowcraft 1

Photos kindly contributed by Andy Thompson





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 3rd

September

Date - Thursday 3rd September

Time - 7pm

Location - Fitzroy Golf Club, 3 Record Street

Mike, Vaughan and Jeremy will be recalling the highs and lows of their 6 day high level Dragons Teeth adventure in Kahurangi National Park.

Being deemed by some as NZ's hardest tramping route, it was a trip that had to be done.

Naturally, there will be a selection of photographs showing the route and stunning landscape.

From our Trips Co-Ordinator- buddy walk 4th or 5th September

Calling for leaders for Buddy Walks. Now that Snow craft is over, we have lots of newbies keen to get their crampon mileage up so please if you can help lead any over the next month or 2, please get in touch. 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.

Buddy walk

4th or 5th September (Best day dependant) with Conrad.

To register, message Rachel by mobile 0278655916 or through the facebook post

Rachel Alford

Taranaki Alpine Club - Trips Coordinator

Email: committee4.tac@outlook.com

Mobile: 0278655916

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

Representatives from across Taranaki's outdoor and recreation community recently came together for a He Kawa Ora workshop, sharing their ideas and aspirations for the future of Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki.

The workshop brought together representatives from the Taranaki Alpine Club, Stratford Mountain Club, Egmont Alpine Club, Taranaki Trails Trust, Taranaki Alpine Cliff Rescue,

LANDSAR, New Plymouth Tramping Club, New Zealand Alpine Club and Hāwera Tramping Club.

Led by Sean Zieltjes, Laura Buttimore, Dr Te Aroha Hohaia and Rex Hendry, the workshop is part of a ground-up, participatory approach to developing He Kawa Ora – the new Park Management Plan. It provided an opportunity for organisations that regularly spend time on the Maunga to share their knowledge, experience and hopes for its future.

Participants explored some important questions:

- What are our collective dreams and aspirations for Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki?
- What activities and experiences should be enabled?
- What should be avoided?
- What does success look like for Te Kāhui Tupua in 10 years, 20 years and across seven generations?

There was excellent feedback from the organisations that work, recreate and spend time on the Maunga. Their knowledge and experience shared at the workshop will help inform the development of He Kawa Ora and shape a management plan that reflects the aspirations of the wider community.

Have Your Say

There is still an opportunity for everyone to contribute before 20th October 2026. If you have ideas about the future of Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki — including what you would like to see enabled, what should be avoided, and what success might look like for future generations — you can share your views by completing the He Kawa Ora survey <https://tekahuitupua.nz/he-kawa-ora-mo-te-papa-kura-o-taranaki-written-comments/> or emailing your thoughts directly to the project team.

info@tekahuitupua.nz

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 - 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- 3 spaces 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/PiNi9akgodRf11rw9>

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
- 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.

George Poole - Family & Lodge - NP
Chris Millar - Individual - Marton
Joel Dixon - U18 Student - NP
Nico Jordan - U18 Family - NP
Richard Harper - Family & Lodge - NP

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.

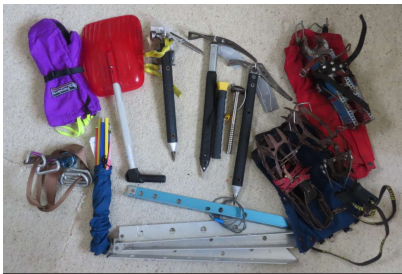
So, please, if you have pre loved climbing / outdoor gear that is no longer being used, donate it to help the next generation of climbers into the sport. If you have any questions / suggestions, or even better, want to donate gear, contact Alec Heilbron: 027 6536911 or bring it along to club nights.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