HiTAC November 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 koutou,

What a mixed bag of weather, a snowfall a couple of weeks ago which I hope some of you were able to take advantage of! Plus, some sunshine to invite us to the slopes!

Open climb concession is in its final stages. My understanding is that Te Tōpuni Ngarahu has requested an extension so the application can go before the board. I should hear around the 11th November, so all going to plan, the tickets will go on sale then.

Please be aware that we can't offer this unique experience with the maunga without you, our loyal volunteers! See you at club night 5th Nov (note change of venue Beach Street Hall) to complete the safety presentation & register your willingness to help us with this event. If you are unable to attend, please contact me directly. Thanks!

Hope you get to enjoy some time as the lodge and on the maunga!

See you on the slopes.

Sheryl - Madam President
President - Taranaki Alpine Club
Email: president.tac@outlook.com
Phone: (027) 243-1718
www.taranakialpineclub.co.nz

Trip report- slush summit 24th October

Slush Summit Haiku:

The summit is nice,
Never eat the yellow snow,

Such a lovely day.

Slush Summit 2026 really started out with a fantastic evening at Tahurangi Lodge with the crew and some extra TAC gurus out on various adventures. The TAC mountain gurus mostly left for their adventures while the slush summit crew were still intently studying the interior of their eyelids.
A possibly marginal forecast was discussed in detail the evening before and the morning of said summit mission.
The precipitation was consistent throughout the day, which was dehydrated rain forms (a.k.a bluebird).
The snow level had climbed the Maunga swiftly in the week prior, but we were able to get on crampons at around 1971 metres.
Conditions were favourable, with very forgiving firmness for ascent. We were nicely sheltered from the prevailing westerly so ambient chat was plentiful.
We discussed some details of crampon set-up, spring cracks in the snow and the associated trip hazards, spotting the isobar lines in the cloud formations and gold fish surgery options.
We made the summit a little before midday and, after some further chat, settled in for a snack.
The descent was very pleasant as the snow released and neither crater valley or snow valley became a bowling alley to contend with.
Upon return to Tahurangi Lodge, it was noted that the group appeared to be well short of the numbers expected based on the show of hands in the group chat. Luckily it was firmly established that nobody had been left behind as they mostly hadn't arrived to start with…

Thanks a million to Jeremy for leading the trip and thanks to Clarissa and Martín for their trip lead assistance.

Mary Poppins









Trip Report - River Crossing Course 25 October

Today we saved some lives. It involved a lot of laughter.
Every year, lives are lost in New Zealand waterways from trampers attempting to cross flooded rivers and becoming swept down stream.
Andy Thompson, our knowledgeable instructor, demonstrated river features from stoppers to holes and undercuts to strainers.
Nine keen TAC members spent a morning floating down stream in wetsuits and life-jackets and the afternoon we practiced safe crossing strategies: we joined to form hydrodynamic caterpillar and joyfully marched through a waist deep wave train. We laughed a lot and learned even more. But most importantly, with our knowledge, we have hopefully prevented a future tramping tragedy.

Clarissa Benton





Photos supplied by Andy Thompson

Club Nights

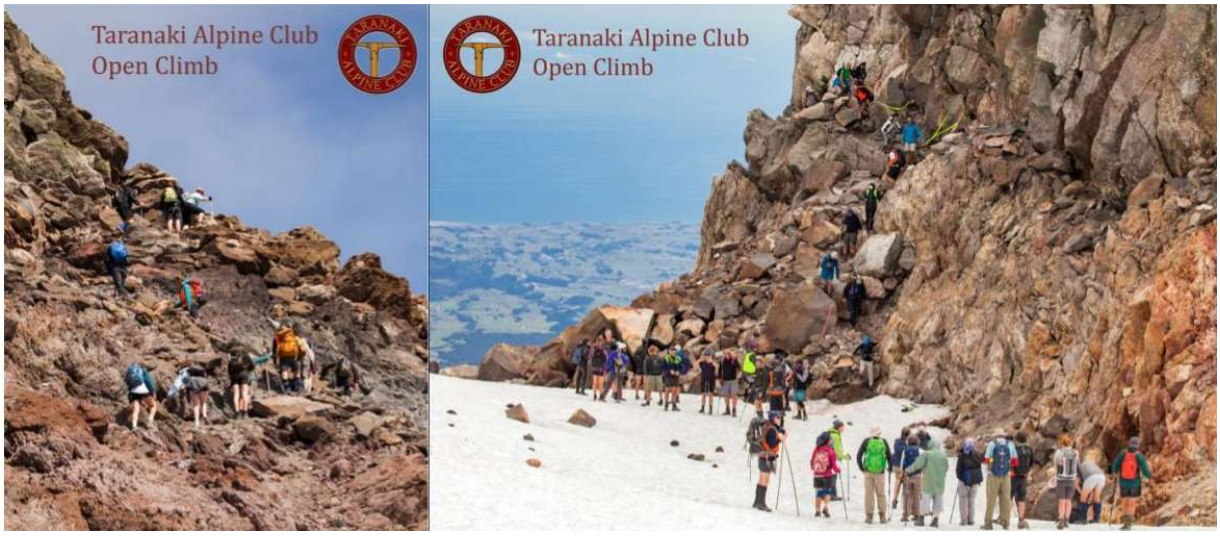
Club Nights are held on the first Thursday of each month, usually at 7:00pm at Fitzroy Golf Club, 3 Record Street, PLEASE NOTE November 5th meeting is at Beach Street Hall.

November Club night at Beach Street Hall -Thursday 5th-

Mt Vinson 4892m Ascent - Antarctica - Glen Hodges

and Induction - Open Climb 13 February 2027

Date - Thursday 5th November
Time - 7pm
Location - Beach Street Hall- ****Note change of venue this month**



Open Climb Induction for Saturday 13 Feb 2027

Hosts: President Sheryl Hamilton & Club Captain Glen Hodges



Mt Vinson 4892m Ascent - Antarctica - Glen Hodges

Presentation: Climbing the highest peak on on the Antarctic Continent

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From our Trips Co-Ordinator

With the winter season coming to an end I'd like to thank everyone who volunteered their time and skills to run trips and buddy walks. Giving our members opportunities to practise skills and gain confidence with experienced leaders. It is most appreciated by everyone involved.
As we are now looking forward to summer adventures. If you're keen to lead a day trip or weekend away, please get in touch, there's always members keen to join.

I'd like to say a big thankyou to John and Margaret Jordan, for hosting an evening for our members who had completed SnowCraft 1.
John has a wealth of knowledge and experience and our newer members were lucky enough to tap into that with some great advice and even better stories accompanied by a slide show from some amazing adventures.

Slush Summit saw a group head to the top on Saturday with what looked like a cloud fest from New Plymouth turned into a primo day above the clouds. Thankyou to Jeremy for leading and Clarissa and Martín as assistants at short notice and making it a fantastic day for everyone.

Rachel Alford

Taranaki Alpine Club - Trips Coordinator

Email: committee4.tac@outlook.com

Mobile: 0278655916

Park Survey - Summer monitoring

I have been asked if any of our members would be willing to support a Summer Monitoring survey, to see how Te Papa-Kura-o-Taranaki is being utilised.
This involves monitoring 4 park entries, Mangorei Road End, North Taranaki, East Taranaki (Stratford plateau), & Te Rere (Dawson Falls),by inviting the people who are entering the park to take the short survey.
We are thinking 2 people at each entry point.

This is scheduled for January 9 & 10th and January 16th & 17th with the following weekend being our backup dates.
We are hoping to complete 200 survey's at each entry point.
The information gathered will be used for future park management.
If you are willing to support this project please contact me (027) 243-1718 about what timeframe suits you.
I am hoping club members will be willing to work on this project! Hear from you soon.
Sheryl

Ngā mihi

Sheryl Hamilton
President - Taranaki Alpine Club
Email: president.tac@outlook.com
Phone: (027) 243-1718
www.taranakialpineclub.co.nz

Introduction to Rock Climbing (RC-1)



The course is an introduction to using ropes for security on steep terrain. It explores more technical terrain on the mountain, and introduces the sport of rock climbing to the outdoor environment.

Course Runs From Friday evening 26th Feb – Sunday afternoon 28th Feb 2027. Based at Tahurangi Lodge.

Limited to 10 participants. Please contact club captain captain.tac@outlook.com to join. Cost for course $100.

Objectives

· Understand the basic equipment requirements for rock climbing, its selection, use, and care.

· Demonstrate a fundamental understanding of risk management through awareness of hazards, including equipment, environmental factors, and height hazards.

· Tie appropriate knots for rock climbing.

· Risk management in steep terrain, and near edges

· Direct and indirect belay for safeguarding a person on steep terrain

· Belay a top rope climb according to best practice

· Top rope climbing with good movement and technique

· Edge safety principles and techniques

· Rigging in situ anchors for top rope climbs and abseil

· Competently abseil down a climb using self-protection

· Demonstrate whanaungatanga - safety and care of the whole team.

Pre-requisites

· Must be over 16, or under with TAC approval and parental or guardian permission.

· Must have a reasonable level of fitness.

· Be a TAC member.

· Must disclose pertinent medical and injury information on registration.

· Decision on attendance is made by the lead instructor.

Alpine First-Aid Course

14th & 15th November 2026

Tahurangi Lodge - 4 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

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 - looks like just once person made the cut this month!
We look forward to meeting them at Club events.

Duncan Carter- Individual -New Plymouth

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

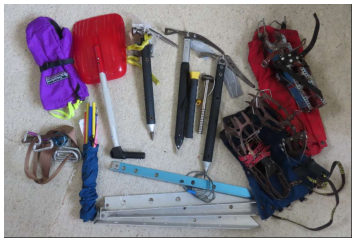
keep more youngies / newbies in TAC by removing some of the cost hurdle of getting into climbing and over time should build up an ever increasing pool of free / long term loan gear. It will also make you feel good that your preloved climbing / outdoor gear is back out doing what it enjoys and helping 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 loose 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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