

TARANAKI SECTION



NEW ZEALAND ALPINE CLUB

SECTION NEWSLETTER
JULY 2022

UPCOMING EVENTS

1 Taranaki Climbing Meet

Location: Kapuni Lodge

Date: 10th & 11th of September

Description: Winter/Spring climbing meet on the southern aspect of Taranaki Mounnga. We will be based at Kapuni Lodge on Fanthams Peak (Panitahi). This is an excellent base for accessing the southern summit routes, or shortening the approach to the distant Bob's Bluff. Please note this meet is for independently led climbing. Contact Ange at angehampton@gmail.com to sign up. Spaces are limited!

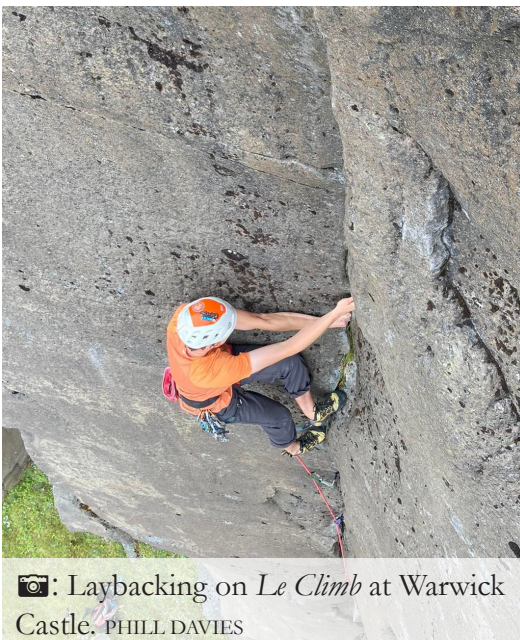
TARANAKI ROCK & ICE UPDATE

With the endless summer bluebird's, it was fantastic to see a small but dedicated crew of rock climbers regularly venturing to the local Taranaki crags. Warm and dry weather yielded awesome climbing conditions, with shady crags such as the south face of Warwick's providing a welcome escape from the hot sun. Chris Hayes and Fletcher Miles made use of the fine weather window to send the excellent *Le Climb* (20). Is this route the best trad 20 in the North Island? Get on it and decide for yourself! Other classic Taranaki routes received traffic with members making ascents of the classic *Menage a Trois* (18/19) and *Friend* (18) with excellent experiences reported. The new test piece *Last Night on Earth* (26) also proved popular with the strong folk and saw a number of attempts.

It has been great to see some of the younger Taranaki Tuatara out on the mountain and sampling the endless quality that is Taranaki trad climbing. With any luck these positive first experiences will drive future climbing trips in years to come. The Larkin and Bolger family climbing partnerships have been particularly active on the mountain building mileage with the youth.

Humphries Castle received some attention with the mega classic *Nose* (15) route receiving numerous laps. Although easy on paper, this timeless route is an excellent experience and certainly the best on the mountain for its grade. Mark Hall and Stephen Ritson took the opportunity and made an ascent of it via the *Mr Ski Off* variation. *Cat's Can Sing Too* (16) had some rare traffic and offered pleasant climbing (be aware of the loose blocks). This route starts as per the *Nose* with a mantle, before taking the wide crack straight up, and would be a worthy tick for anyone in the area.

The red slabs at Little Eiger received some rare attention on one particular finger numbingly cold autumn day, with *Imported Talent* (18) giving superb and interesting climbing for its grade. A repeat of this classic line would be a true test of a climbers head game given the lack of gear placements and death fall potential.



📷: Laybacking on *Le Climb* at Warwick Castle. PHILL DAVIES

A few members have ventured out to the western flank of the mounnga recently, with Dave Bolger making a reccie to Okahu Bluff to scope some future new routes. The 9km+ approach to this area from the park boundary certainly rewards good fitness, but unlocks spectacular terrain that is currently home to only a handful of adventure style rock climbs.

Unfortunately due to weather the annual rock meet was cancelled but we look forward to rescheduling to 2023. In the meantime, there are plans in the pipeline to host a 2022 Taranaki winter climbing meet later in the season. See the upcoming events section for more details on sign ups. This will be an event not to be missed!

With the onset of winter, we look forward to seeing our members out on the hill and enjoying our mounnga safely. A handful of whom have already got some early winter summit ticks and have reported generally awesome conditions. Mixed climbing season is now upon us which means taking opportunities and getting the rope out while conditions are on. Take care out there.



📷: Dave Bolger lapping the classic line
Snotgobbler. FLETCHER MILES

BANFF MOUNTAIN FILM FESTIVAL 2022

This years' edition of the BANFF mountain film festival yielded a near capacity turn out of keen viewers, who were treated to a wide variety of adventure films. As a local and relatively small section, seeing such a great turnout was a fantastic outcome after months of planning. With spot prizes in abundance, a stream of satisfied smiles were seen dispersing onto Poplar Grove at the conclusion of the night. We welcome feedback for this event, as we are committed to delivering a great night out for the community. See you all next year.

COMPETITION CLIMBING

There has been some successful recent performances from the Taranaki competition climbing contingent, with some of the biggest achievements coming from our Taranaki Tuatara team. These included Harrison Larkin and Conrad Bolger making the New Zealand development team for bouldering, along with Dave and Huxley Bolger placing third in their respective categories. Following a trial competition in Auckland, Harrison was selected for the New Zealand youth climbing team to represent our country at the World Youth Climbing Championships in Dallas, Texas, USA at the end of August. This is a fantastic achievement and we look forward to following his progress. On a more social note, the NIBS series is currently underway, and we encourage our members to participate in these popular events.

KEEP OUR CRAGS OPEN

Support ACAT (Aotearoa Climbing Access Trust) to keep our local crags open. Check out their website for information on how to get involved and donate.



<https://www.acat.org.nz/>



<https://www.facebook.com/AotearoaClimbingAccess>



RIGHT: Taranaki Tuatara competition team at the Auckland NIBS.
(From left to right: Lauren, Bebe, Huxley, Conrad and Harrison.)

JULIET LARKIN



📷: Harrison Larkin at the NZ youth team trials. JULIET LARKIN

NZAC TARANAKI SECTION CLIMBING GRANT

Applications for the 2022 NZAC Taranaki Section South Island climbing grant are open. This grant aims to provide a pathway to gain financial support for Taranaki climbers undertaking South Island climbing trips. Please contact the section chair Phill Davies at ascent.phill@gmail.com for further information regarding the application process. We look forward to hearing from you.

MEMBER TRIPS

Have you been on any exciting trips into the mountains or on the rock that are worthy of a write up? Contact the committee to feature in the next installment of the NZAC Taranaki Section newsletter. As a relatively small section, we enjoy hearing about our member's reports of successful (or unsuccessful) ventures into the mountains or ticks at the crag 📷.

LATEST NZAC UPDATES

Check out the New Zealand Alpine Club website for all latest updates, news, reviews and benefits.



<https://alpineclub.org.nz/>

Also be sure to follow our local NZAC Taranaki Section Facebook Page.



<https://www.facebook.com/nzactaranaki>

COMMITTEE

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Committee:	Ange Hampton	
Committee:	Fletcher Miles	027 753 2288



📷: Don Paterson enjoying recent crisp early season conditions on Taranaki Mouna. FLETCHER MILES